

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Friday, August 28, 2020

The following information comes from directly from news sources including Bloomberg Government, Kaiser Health News, and other news sources.

Schedules: White House and Congress

WHITE HOUSE

- 2:30pm: President Trump receives briefing on Hurricane Laura
- 3:50pm: Trump departs White House for New Hampshire
- 5:40pm: Trump arrives in Manchester, N.H.; delivers remarks at 6pm
- 9:30pm: Trump arrives back at White House
- VP Mike Pence travels to Minnesota, Michigan

CONGRESS

- House, Senate out
- Noon: House Homeland Security Committee holds virtual hearing on election security
- 1pm: House Admin. Committee holds hearing on voting safely in a pandemic

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **The Washington Post: White House Announces Deal To Provide 150 Million Rapid Coronavirus Tests:** “This is a major development that will help our country to remain open, get Americans back to work, and kids back to school!” White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany tweeted late Thursday afternoon. The move is the federal government’s biggest step into testing for the virus that has killed more than 177,000 Americans and infected more than 5.8 million. Almost since the pandemic arrived on U.S. shores in January, Trump has insisted that testing was mainly the province of state and local authorities.
- **Teva Leans on Total Denial on Price Fixing Charge:** Total denial may be Teva Pharmaceutical’s strongest play as the generic drugmaker fights off allegations by the Justice Department that it conspired to fix prices and divvy up the drug market, lawyers predict. “Even if there were exchanges of information, whether those actually rise to the level of an agreement to set prices, or an agreement to follow one another’s price increases, is the question,” one antitrust expert said.
- **Laura Fades to Depression With Wreckage Trail:** Hurricane Laura, one of the most powerful storms ever to hit Louisiana, left a path of chemical fires, wrecked buildings, flooded roads and what could be more than \$15 billion in insured losses, with reports of at least six people dead.
 - Still, the storm mostly spared the region’s oil refineries and other energy infrastructure, muting its impact on global markets. Laura weakened to a tropical depression about 10 p.m. local time yesterday, less than 24 hours after coming ashore near Cameron, La., with record-tying maximum winds of 150 miles per hour.

- As Hurricane Laura slammed the U.S. Gulf Coast with nearly 150 mile-per-hour winds, wildfires in California were still raging across more than a million acres, the result of a heatwave that spiked as high as 130 degrees Fahrenheit – possibly the hottest temperature ever sustained on Earth.
- More than 890,000 homes and businesses were without power as of last night following Laura’s landfall, according to utility websites. Most were in Louisiana, and the outages have now spread north with about 54,000 in Arkansas.