

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update – Wednesday, September 2, 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

- 11:45am: President Trump departs White House for Wilmington, N.C.
- 1:55pm: Trump arrives at Battleship N.C.
- 2pm: Trump speaks on designating Wilmington, NC as the first American World War II Heritage City
- 4:45pm: Trump arrives back at White House

CONGRESS

- House, Senate out

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Mnuchin Talks With Pelosi, Signals Stimulus Urgency:** Mnuchin said the U.S. economy urgently needs additional fiscal stimulus to fully rebound from the Covid-19 crisis, and he initiated a conversation with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) amid stalled negotiations on a relief package. Although the U.S. is recovering from government-imposed shutdowns and jobs are returning, Mnuchin said parts of the economy still need additional support. But he stopped short of offering a fresh proposal to get Democrats back to negotiations.
 - Following yesterday's House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing, Mnuchin called Pelosi, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person gave no detail about the conversation or how long it lasted. There have been no negotiations since the last round broke up almost a month ago.
 - Meanwhile, The Federal Reserve has snapped up \$1 trillion of mortgage bonds since March, a record pace of purchasing, as the U.S. central bank tries to blunt the impact of the Covid-19 recession on American homeowners. The Fed now owns almost a third of bonds backed by home loans in the U.S
- **Bloomberg Government: Assisted Living Facilities Eligible for Federal Virus Help:** Assisted living facilities that may have been previously ineligible to apply for pandemic relief under the federal Provider Relief Fund Phase 2 General Distribution allocation will now be able to do so, the Trump administration announced yesterday. The financial assistance, which will help minimize hardships associated with the Covid-19 outbreak, was made possible through the CARES Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.
- **Reuters: Trump Administration Sending Rapid COVID Tests To States, CDC Bars Evictions:** The Trump administration will send most of its newly purchased 150 million rapid COVID-19 tests to U.S. states for schools and critical services, a White House official said on Tuesday, as New York City pushed back reopening

classrooms in a deal with union leaders. ... In announcing that the “overwhelming majority” of 150 rapid antigen tests purchased from Abbot Laboratories (ABT.N) would be sent to state governors, U.S. Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary Admiral Brett Giroir said top priorities included day care centers and first responders.

- **Stat: Congressional Committee To Subpoena AbbVie In Drug Pricing Investigation:** A Congressional committee plans to subpoena AbbVie (ABBV) for documents about pricing practices for two of its best-selling medicines, after the drug maker failed to provide information lawmakers requested when an investigation was launched in January 2019. At the time, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform sought data from a dozen large pharmaceutical companies about their pricing tactics for some of the most expensive medicines in response to nationwide angst over the rising cost of prescription drugs.