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**

- 9:45am: President Trump departs White House en route to Supreme Court; Trump, first lady Melania Trump pay respects to late Justice Ginsburg
- 2:40pm: Trump departs White House for Charlotte, N.C.; delivers remarks on the America First Healthcare Vision at 4:30pm before traveling to Florida
- 7pm: Trump holds rally in Jacksonville, Florida; stays in Florida overnight

**CONGRESS**

- Senate will meet at 10am; resumes consideration of nominees
- House meets at 9am; first vote expected 12:30pm

**Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News**

- **Bloomberg Government: Thousands Driven to Obamacare Couldn’t Pay:** A significant portion of people who signed up for Obamacare during the pandemic—usually because of job loss—aren’t getting health coverage because they couldn’t pay their initial premiums. Almost one-third of some 20,000 Maryland enrollees from March through August didn’t activate their plans. In Washington, one-fifth of a 27,000-enrollee sample are still without coverage due to lack of payment, a sign that Obamacare subsidies may not be enough to help uninsured people get coverage in a public health emergency.
  - Twelve states that operate their own Affordable Care Act exchanges have opened special enrollment periods outside the normal year-end window in response to Covid-19. In other states, uninsured people who lost their jobs are eligible for Obamacare now, but others must wait until November. People are enticed to sign up, but many are having trouble paying the first premium to start the coverage, Trinity College economics professor Gerardo Ruiz Sanchez found in a recent paper.

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- **Bloomberg Government: Vaccine to Be Widely Available by April, Redfield Says**: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield told lawmakers that he didn’t mean to imply last week that it could take into the second half of next year for enough vaccines to be available to inoculate all Americans. At a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing yesterday, He said around 700 million doses should be available by April, echoing a timeline provided by HHS Deputy Chief of Staff Paul Mango last week.
  
  - The vaccine candidates furthest along in development will require a two-dose regimen. Redfield’s comments last week, in an appearance before a different Senate panel, were “alluding to how long I thought it would take to get those doses into the American public,” he said. It could take through July to disburse the vaccine to all Americans that want one, Redfield said. Trump said last week that he had called Redfield after his earlier testimony to tell him his comments weren’t correct.

- **CIDRAP: Routine Blood Test Predicts COVID-19 Mortality Risk, Study Finds**: A study today in JAMA shows that a routine blood test predicts increased risk of COVID-19 death in hospitalized patients. The study points to elevated red blood cell (RBC) distribution width (RDW), a measure of RBC volume variation and a standard part of a routine complete blood count test, as a tool to identify patients at higher risk of COVID-19 complications. Senior author John M. Higgins, MD, of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), said in an MGH news release, "We wanted to help find ways to identify high-risk COVID patients as early and as easily as possible—who is likely to become severely ill and may benefit from aggressive interventions, and which hospitalized patients are likely to get worse most quickly."

- **The Wall Street Journal: Some Covid-19 Patients Show Signs Of Heart Damage Months Later**: The new coronavirus can leave some patients with signs of heart inflammation and injury months after they get sick with Covid-19, even in cases where their illness wasn’t severe, researchers say. The findings could help explain the symptoms of recovered Covid-19 patients, some of whom are struggling with such issues as shortness of breath, chest pain and heart palpitations, scientists say.