

# American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Monday, September 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

- 2pm: Trump gives update on coronavirus testing

### CONGRESS

- House returns Tuesday, with first votes expect at 6:30 p.m.
  - A last-ditch attempt by Democrats and the White House to restart negotiations on a new stimulus has drawn skepticism in Congress
  - Separately, House Democrats have started work on what would be a roughly \$2.4 trillion stimulus proposal that they could take into negotiations
- Senate convenes for pro forma session at 2:45 pm

## Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Bloomberg Government: Stimulus Talks Not Dead Yet:** Pelosi said there's a chance she and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin can still reach a deal on a coronavirus stimulus package, and that Democrats will unveil a new "proffer" shortly. "I trust Secretary Mnuchin to represent something that can reach a solution, and I believe we come to an agreement," Pelosi said on CNN's "State of the Union."
  - She added if a deal isn't struck soon, Democrats might vote on a House-only version of a coronavirus relief package, including funds for airlines and restaurants, and more Paycheck Protection Program funding. "The public is going to have to see why \$2.2 (trillion), or now \$2.4 (trillion), perhaps, is necessary," she said, adding Trump's "denial of the virus, and resistance to do anything to crush it, has made matters worse."
  - Discussion of a potential fresh House vote on stimulus follows weeks of resistance by Pelosi to suggestions from moderate members that Democrats need to show Americans they've taken some additional action since passing their Heroes Act in May.
- **The Hill: Trump Seeks Boost From Seniors With \$200 Drug Discount Coupons:** President Trump is throwing a pre-election curveball aimed at seniors with a surprise announcement on Thursday that his administration will send \$200 coupons to 33 million seniors on Medicare to use to pay for prescription drugs. The move raises legal questions, given that Congress has not authorized the roughly \$7 billion in spending, and Democrats and some health experts said it would be an unprecedented use of the Medicare program for political gain ahead of the election.
- **Bloomberg Government: Novavax Kicks Off 10,000 Patient Vaccine Study:** Novavax announced plans to start enrolling participants for a late-stage study of its experimental

shot for the coronavirus in 10,000 patients in the U.K. The drugmaker joins the ranks of AstraZeneca, Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna as its vaccine candidate enters the final stretch on the path toward regulatory approval. There are about 38 shots being tested in humans around the world and over 140 others in earlier stages of trials, World Health Organization estimates show.

- **CIDRAP: Demographics, Underlying Conditions Tied To Worse COVID In Health Workers:** Today's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) provides updated information from voluntary reports on 100,570 healthcare personnel (HCP) with COVID-19 from February to July that shows variations in risk, including higher death rates in minority workers. The authors analyzed data from standardized case report forms containing HCP demographic characteristics, including newly reported occupation type and job setting, underlying medical conditions, hospitalizations, and intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths.