

American Nephrology Nurses Association

Daily Capitol Hill Update - Tuesday, September 29, 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

- 2:10pm: President Trump departs White House for Cleveland
- 9pm: Trump participates in presidential debate with Joe Biden
- 10:10am: Vice President Mike Pence holds meeting with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Judge Amy Coney Barrett at U.S. Capitol
 - Barrett will also meet with Senate Judiciary Cmte Chairman Lindsey Graham Tuesday
- 2pm: Pence leads White House coronavirus task force meeting
- 6:50pm: Pence speaks at campaign event and presidential debate watch party in Lititz, Pa. in evening

CONGRESS

- Senate meets at 3pm; set to resume consideration of H.R. 8337, the continuing resolution
- House meets at noon; first votes expected at 6:30pm; set to consider 26 bills
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin to speak again today after House Democrats released an updated stimulus proposal
 - House Democrats Release New \$2.2 Trillion U.S. Stimulus Proposal

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- **Politico: Pelosi And Mnuchin Make One Final Attempt At Covid Talks Before Elections:** Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are making one final attempt at striking an agreement on a massive coronavirus relief deal on Monday night, even as House Democrats race ahead with their own partisan stimulus package lacking GOP support. Pelosi and Mnuchin spoke Monday evening, according to Drew Hammill, Pelosi's spokesman, and they plan to speak again Tuesday morning. If no agreement seems likely – and it hasn't been despite months of on-and-off negotiations – Pelosi and House Democratic leaders will hold a vote on their own \$2.2 trillion bill as soon as Wednesday and then go home, guaranteeing that Congress won't send more help until after Election Day, said the sources.
- **Stat: Insurers Move To Stop Waiving Telehealth Copays This Week:** Starting Oct. 1, several private health insurers will no longer fully pay for virtual visits under certain circumstances – effectively reinstating costs for patients reliant on the virtual care that has been heralded as a lifeline at a time when Covid-19 is still killing more than 700 Americans each day.
- **Bloomberg Government: Gottlieb Says Vaccine Likely 'Partially Protective':**

Coronavirus vaccines now in development are likely to be “partially protective” but won’t prevent everyone who’s inoculated from infection, according to Scott Gottlieb, a former Food and Drug Administration commissioner. He compared the vaccine to a flu vaccine, “where for certain people it will provide full immunity, but for other people it’s not going to provide as much protection.

- **Bloomberg Government: Covid Volunteers Should Track Symptoms, FDA Says:** Drug companies testing Covid-19 treatments should minimize the burden on volunteers by focusing on key symptoms they have to report day to day, the FDA recommended. The FDA released guidance yesterday to clarify how to assess symptoms, such as a runny nose and fatigue, for any patients who don’t require hospitalization.
- **USA Today: Health Care Provider United Health Services Hit With Cyberattack:** The King of Prussia, Pennsylvania-headquartered health care giant's operations include 26 acute care hospitals, 328 behavioral health facilities and 42 outpatient facilities across the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.K. No data belonging to patients or employees "appears to have been accessed, copied or misused," the company said in its statement. "We implement extensive IT security protocols and are working diligently with our IT security partners to restore IT operations as quickly as possible. In the meantime, our facilities are using their established back-up processes including offline documentation methods. Patient care continues to be delivered safely and effectively."
- **Politico: Trump Admin Begins Shipping Rapid Coronavirus Tests To States:** The White House said last month that it was buying 150 million of the tests, made by Abbott Laboratories. Each costs \$5 and can be analyzed in 15 minutes without the use of laboratory equipment. The first shipments, totaling 6.5 million tests, will be sent this week, and the amount each state receives will be based on population data. Although governors will be in charge of deciding how to use the rapid tests they receive, Trump and HHS testing czar Brett Giroir encouraged state leaders to deploy the tests to help reopen schools.
- **CIDRAP: FDA Approves Cefiderocol For Hospital-Acquired, Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia:** Japanese drug maker Shionogi, with US headquarters in Florham Park, New Jersey, announced today that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the company's supplemental New Drug Application for cefiderocol. The FDA's approval means that cefiderocol, sold under the brand name Fetroja, can be used to treat patients who have hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia (HABP/VABP) caused by gram-negative pathogens. The antibiotic was initially approved for treatment of complicated urinary tract infections.