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**

- President Biden returns from Camp David
- Vice President Kamala Harris travels to Oakland, California
- 11:00am: Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and public health officials
- 1pm: Biden delivers remarks on the tradition of Easter at the White House
- 1:30pm: White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki holds press briefing

**CONGRESS**

- Senate, House adjourned until the week of April 12

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

- **Bloomberg Government: Variant Dominates Areas With Two-Thirds of U.S. Population:** The B.1.1.7 variant of the coronavirus is now predominant across an area containing two-thirds of the U.S. population, with one of Biden’s top Covid-19 advisers saying it spreads more easily and likely leads to more serious Covid-19 symptoms. The variant, initially found in the U.K., is dominant in five of 10 regions into which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention groups the U.S population. The CDC identified those regions Friday, saying they include much of the Eastern seaboard, from New York south to Florida, as well as the Midwest and most of the Sunbelt. About 220 million people, or two-thirds of the U.S. population, live in those five regions.

- **Bloomberg Government: GOP May Support a Much Smaller Infrastructure Plan:** Republicans may be ready to support limited infrastructure funding in Biden’s spending proposal, which would require scaling back the $2.25 trillion plan by more than two thirds, a senior GOP senator said. With Biden’s “Americans Jobs Plan” on the table for less than a week, administration officials and Senate Republicans took to the Sunday news shows to lay out opposing positions. As Biden faces calls from parts of the Democratic Party to go bigger, Republicans are focusing their opposition on a corporate-rate increase they say will hold back job creation.
  
  o Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) said he could envisage bipartisan support on improving facilities like roads and airports, and possibly water systems and expanding broadband access — if the administration pared the package to something like $615 billion.

- **Bloomberg Government: Democratic Governors Urge Biden to Remove SALT Deduction Cap:** Democratic governors from seven states, including New York, New Jersey and California, wrote to Biden urging him to remove the cap on state and local tax deductions enacted by Donald Trump. The governors said in Friday’s letter that the
$10,000 limitation on state and local tax, or SALT, deductions “disproportionately” hit Democratic-run states. “We must go further and undo the cap placed on state and local tax deductions by the Trump administration” through the 2017 tax law, they wrote.

- **Bloomberg Government: Exiting GOP Old Guard in Senate Jeopardizes Deals With Biden**: Biden’s window to strike deals with Senate institutionalists who practiced traditional deal-making is steadily narrowing as more veterans prepare to head for the exits. As Biden starts a push to enact ambitious plans to invest $4 billion into the nation’s infrastructure, Republicans known for negotiating large bipartisan spending agreements are entering the homestretch of their Senate careers. Five have already said they won’t seek re-election in 2022.
  
  o Veteran congressional watchers say the planned departures of GOP Sens. Richard Shelby (Ala.), Roy Blunt (Mo.), Rob Portman (Ohio), Richard Burr (N.C.), and Pat Toomey (Pa.) signal a continuing shift away from the kind of lawmakers who have long cobbled together bipartisan deals. Likely to take their place are hardliners less inclined to work with Democrats on expansive legislation, they said.

- **CIDRAP: CDC: Fully Vaccinated Americans Can Travel In US, Abroad**: Fully vaccinated Americans can now travel at low risk of COVID-19 infection, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced [Friday]. People who have had two COVID-19 vaccine doses at least 2 weeks prior can travel within the United States and don't need to take a coronavirus test before travel or quarantine after, as long as they wear a face covering, avoid crowds, physical distance, wash their hands often, and take extra care around unvaccinated people—particularly those at high risk for severe COVID-19, the guidance said.

- **Modern Healthcare: UnitedHealthcare Sued For Allegedly Bribing Providers To Avoid Out-Of-Network Referrals**: U.S. Anesthesia Partners sued UnitedHealth Group in two states on Wednesday, calling the nation’s largest insurer a "boa constrictor" that allegedly squeezed the 4,000-member physician practice out of so much business it went to the courts to regain its clients. "United and its affiliates have extended their tentacles into virtually every aspect of healthcare, allowing United to squeeze, choke, and crush any market participant that stands in the way of United's increased profits," the physician group's lawsuit in a Texas state court reads.

- **Stat: Research On Therapies For Herpes And Diabetes Win STAT Madness**: From curing herpes to treating diabetes in a new way, their innovations might one day treat some of the world’s most prevalent health problems. This year’s two finalists in STAT Madness, a bracket-style competition that showcases cutting-edge research across the biomedical sciences, harnessed new approaches to devise possible therapies that could help millions of people with all-too-common maladies.