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

- Biden, First Lady Jill Biden and Education Secretary Miguel Cardona are scheduled to visit a local school in Washington at 9:30 a.m. before delivering remarks at 10:20 a.m. on keeping students safe from Covid-19 in classrooms.

CONGRESS:

- Out of Session

Congressional, Health Policy, and Political News

- The Hill: House Democrats Unveil Proposals On Drug Prices, Medicaid Expansion: House Democrats on Thursday unveiled a range of health care measures to be included in their coming $3.5 trillion package, including provisions to lower prescription drug prices and expand Medicaid in the 12 GOP-led states that have refused to do so. The measure unveiled by the House Energy and Commerce Committee ahead of consideration next week includes House Democrats’ signature legislation to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower drug prices, known as H.R. 3.

- Bloomberg Government: Wyden Seeks to Overhaul Partnership Taxes: Senate Finance Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) — a key player in the tax and social spending agenda — has introduced a bill to tighten tax reporting requirements around business partnerships. Partnership “rules are too complex for working people who don’t have armies of lawyers and accountants,” said Wyden in a release touting the new legislation. Wyden’s likely to include the tax bill in the tax section of the reconciliation bill. The complexity of the partnership rules allow, “the wealthiest individuals and most profitable corporations to decide when, and whether, to pay taxes at all,” he said.

- Politico: Biden Admin Backs Direct Government Drug Price Negotiations: A new Biden administration plan aimed at lowering prescription drug prices endorses giving the government sweeping power to directly negotiate the cost of medicines, calling it one of the key steps Congress could take to make drugs “more affordable and equitable” for all Americans. The plan — developed by the Department of Health and Human Services and released on Thursday — largely backs Democrats’ ongoing efforts to lower drug prices as part of a $3.5 trillion reconciliation proposal, and mirrors a range of legislative options that both House and Senate lawmakers have floated in recent years.
Bloomberg Government: Medical Care, Public Health Need to Be ‘Welded’ for Next Crisis: The U.S. must better integrate the public health system into the delivery of medical care as the nation looks to overhaul its response to future outbreaks in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, former HHS emergency preparedness chiefs said. “Medical service and public health interventions have to be welded together if you’re going to make improvements in the health of the people that you serve, and you’re going to be ready for the disaster that comes your way,” W. Craig Vanderwagen, who was the founding assistant secretary for preparedness and response within the Department of Health and Human Services, said yesterday.

The Washington Post: Rep. Don Beyer Introduces Bill To Require Vaccines Or Negative Coronavirus Test For Domestic Travel: Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) introduced a bill on Thursday to require all domestic travelers to show proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test at airports or for Amtrak trips, seeking to revive largely stagnant discussions among federal officials about more restrictive pandemic travel requirements. The bill, the Safe Travel Act, would also require all Amtrak, airport and air carrier employees or contractors to be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. Unvaccinated travelers would have to present a negative test within 72 hours before travel.

Bloomberg Government: House Panels Approve Paid Family Leave: President Joe Biden’s economic agenda took a step forward yesterday as House Democrats advanced several major expansions of the safetynet, with tougher battles ahead on how to pay for the new benefits.
  - The House Ways and Means Committee voted to approve 12 weeks of paid family leave for American workers and a mandate to enroll employees in tax-deferred retirement accounts. The committee also approved child care grants to states to expand access to child care by improving buildings and raising wages.
  - In addition, the Education and Labor Committee is on track to approve today $761 billion in benefits, including $450 billion for child care and universal pre-K education and $111 billion to provide two free years of community college.