

Below is this week's government and legislative affairs update. All previous legislative guidance and other affiliate resources are stored via the [VillageMD Affiliated Practices COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

The Senate was in session this week and working on the fourth COVID-19 relief package negotiations with the House. Members will be given a 24-hour notice to return to D.C. should Congress finalize a deal on the 4<sup>th</sup> COVID Relief Package. The House has also sent members home with a 24-hour call notice by the Speaker of the House to vote on the package.

### On Capitol Hill:

- The House of Representatives and White House Principals - Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Chuck Schumer, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Secretary Steven Mnuchin failed to reach a deal on the COVID-4 Relief package this week.
  - Sec. Mnuchin and the White House have placed a deadline for today to reach a deal. If they cannot agree, the President said he will take Executive Action on expiring provisions.
  - Should a deal be reached today, it will take 4-7 days to craft and vote on a final legislative package.
- On Tuesday, President Trump signed an [Executive Order \(EO\) on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access](#).
  - The EO outlines four broad policy proposals aimed at:
    - Increasing access to healthcare services in rural areas
    - Expanding certain temporary regulatory flexibilities beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE)
    - Creating a new payment model to help rural providers move to value-based arrangements
    - Improving telecommunications infrastructure; and reduce regulatory burdens for rural providers.
  - Final rule will be announced on these policies in 30 days.
- On Thursday, President Trump signed an [Executive Order on "buy American" products](#) that will speed domestic approvals of essential medical products, loosen continuous manufacturing regulations, identify supply chain vulnerability and target dangerous counterfeit drug and medical product imports.
- CMS released their [physician payment rule](#) which would eliminate Inpatient Only lists, and expands physician-owned hospitals.

### In the news:

- COVID cases up to 4.8 million in the U.S. (new records for infections), and 160,000 deaths.
- Democratic Presidential Candidate Biden announces he will not attend Democratic Conventions and give his acceptance speech from Delaware.
- Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) tested positive for COVID-19 using a rapid-result test shortly before a scheduled meeting with Trump in Cleveland.