

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](#).

This week the Senate was in a pro forma session. The House was also on August recess. The Senate returns next week to session and the House will be returning the week after.

Two big issues will dominate in debates September: COVID relief and a Continuing Resolution to fund the government. Congress has to pass a government funding bill by September 30th.

On Capitol Hill:

1. Senate Republicans have continued discussions during the recess holding almost daily conference calls with Secretary Mnuchin and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. There is some talk of the Senate trying to vote next week on the slimmed down version of COVID relief they released in early August. The price tag of the slimmed down COVID relief is around \$500 billion and included: unemployment insurance, post office funding, additional PPP funding, health/education funding and the liability language.
2. The Senate is slated to be in session for four weeks in September and returns on September 8th with the first vote scheduled for 5:30 p.m.
3. The House is slated to be in session for three weeks in September. The House returns on September 14th with votes beginning around 6:30 p.m.
4. This week [HHS released the Rural Action Plan](#), to provide better access for healthcare in rural America.

Important Dates Ahead

- September 29th – Presidential debate in Cleveland, OH
- September 30th – deadline for Congress to fund the government