

COVID-19

# NEWS UPDATES 03/17/20

---

## McConnell says Senate will pass House coronavirus bill without changes

Source: The Hill

Publication: 3/17/19, 3:30 PM

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said Tuesday the upper chamber will pass the House's second coronavirus funding package without changes. The decision comes despite some vocal GOP opposition to the measure over concerns about its impact on small businesses.

"With regard to the bill that came over from the House, there was some discussion about whether to amendment that with a bigger proposal, because we all know a bigger proposal is necessary. But I've decided we're going to go on and vote as soon as the Senate can get permission to vote on the bill that came over from the House, send it down to the president for signature," McConnell told reporters. Asked about pushback from within his caucus, he added, "My counsel to them is to gag and vote for it anyway."

Continue reading [here](#).

---

## Emergency stimulus to soar over \$1 trillion

Source: Politico

Publication: 3/17/20, 11:40 AM

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will meet with Senate Republicans behind closed doors on Tuesday to present lawmakers with options for aid to airlines, hotels, casinos and small-to-medium-sized businesses. The White House was pushing for a package of more than \$800 billion, [POLITICO reported Monday](#), and on Tuesday the Treasury Department was preparing to unveil a package of \$850 billion including more than \$50 billion for the airline industry, \$250 billion for small-business support and \$500 billion for a payroll tax holiday. A senior administration official acknowledged the proposal could climb above that Tuesday by the time it's unveiled.

The Trump administration is pushing to [send direct payments](#) to Americans in the next two weeks as huge parts of the economy shut down. "Americans need cash now," Mnuchin said. "And the president wants to get cash now. And I mean now in the next two weeks." He planned to discuss the move with lawmakers and announce details later Tuesday. Democrats are pushing their own package of provisions that don't overlap entirely with the GOP pitch. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and other Democrats are [pitching a package](#) of "at least" \$750 billion that is expected to include more emergency aid for hospitals, expanded unemployment insurance, more funds for small business, help with child care, and food assistance for seniors.

Continue reading [here](#).

---

## **Paid sick leave: Who gets it during the coronavirus outbreak**

Source: Washington Post

Publication: 3/17/20, 11:18 AM

*Note: This story was updated after the House passed major changes to the bill on Monday, March 16. The latest version of the bill limits eligibility for 12 weeks of paid family leave only to parents who are caring for children whose schools have closed. The tweaked legislation also has a bigger loophole that allows more companies to get out of paying for two weeks of sick leave. Small businesses under 50 employees and many health care providers can now be exempted from paying sick leave.*

There's growing consensus that Americans need to [stay home to help prevent the spread](#) of covid-19, especially if they feel sick or have a suspected or confirmed case of the [coronavirus](#) that causes it. The health of the nation comes first, experts say, but will workers still get paid?

About a quarter of U.S. workers currently get no paid sick leave at all. Many are low-wage workers who live paycheck to paycheck. On Saturday, the House [passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#). The bill, supported by President Trump and headed to the Senate, aims to give paid leave to workers who did not have it and extend paid leave for workers who only got a few days. These benefits are not forever. They would only apply to workers stuck at home due to the coronavirus.

Continue reading [here](#).

---

## **Senate to take up coronavirus package after House passes revised bill**

Source: Politico

Publication: 3/16/20, 9:14 PM

The House passed by unanimous consent Monday evening the revised coronavirus emergency bill, sending it to the Senate to take up as the coronavirus continues to spread across the U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin worked out the "technical corrections" bill Monday and were able to get it through the House without objection.

Continue reading [here](#).

---

*If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please email [jhoffman@bosepublicaffairs.com](mailto:jhoffman@bosepublicaffairs.com).*