

COVID-19

NEWS UPDATES 03/19/20

Trump signs coronavirus relief legislation into law

Source: CNN

Publication: 3/19/20, 6:55 AM

President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed into law a coronavirus relief package that includes provisions for free testing for Covid-19 and paid emergency leave. The Senate had earlier Wednesday approved the House-passed bill. The move allowed the upper chamber to devote its full attention to passing the next relief package in response to the coronavirus crisis.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other Senate Republicans had been critical of the House-passed legislation, but emphasized that it is urgent to get relief to the American people amid the coronavirus crisis.

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Senate to begin negotiating third massive coronavirus package

Source: Politico

Publication: 3/19/20, 3:13 PM

The Senate is inching closer to negotiating a third, trillion-dollar stimulus package to confront the coronavirus pandemic. Senate Republicans are expected to unveil their proposal Thursday to deal with the crisis, after days of preliminary discussion. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has vowed the Senate will stay in until a bipartisan deal is reached.

McConnell, speaking on the Senate floor Thursday, outlined the Republican proposal to assist small businesses by providing federally guaranteed loans; direct cash payments, as well as lending to industries such as the airlines that are hit hard by the coronavirus. In addition, Republicans are looking to get more resources for the health care system, which could be overloaded as the virus continues to spread throughout the U.S.

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Hoyer: House will alter voting procedures amid coronavirus threat

Source: The Hill

Publication: 3/19/20, 12:18 PM

The House is poised to adopt new voting procedures designed to curb the spread of the coronavirus, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) announced Thursday. The specific strategy remains undecided, Hoyer said in a letter to fellow Democrats, but appears ready to feature a mechanism of staggered voting to diminish crowding on the chamber floor.

"I share the concerns of many Members regarding the number of Members on the House Floor at any one time," Hoyer wrote. "I therefore expect that the House will adjust our voting procedures in order to follow the CDC's recommendations."

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Mnuchin proposes \$1,000 checks in \$1 trillion stabilization plan

Source: The New York Times

Publication: 3/19/20, 3:38 PM

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Thursday that the White House wants to send \$1,000 payments to every American adult and \$500 per child within three weeks to prop up the United States economy as it has been rocked by the coronavirus pandemic.

The proposal is part of a \$1 trillion economic stabilization plan to help weather a potentially deep recession prompted by the crisis, which would require congressional approval. Lawmakers were racing on Thursday to reach an agreement on the measure, which would constitute a third phase of a government rescue package whose cost has already soared into the hundreds of billions of dollars.

And Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, suggested that the emerging measure could be followed by a fourth relief package as lawmakers grasp for ways to respond to an extraordinary situation.

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