

US Executive Branch Update

May 16, 2020

This report provides a snapshot of the US Executive Branch priorities via daily schedules and the prior day's press releases.

POTUS' Schedule*

THE PRESIDENT has no public events scheduled.

VPOTUS' Schedule*

THE VICE PRESIDENT has no public events scheduled.

*The US President (POTUS) and Vice President's (VPOTUS) daily schedules are subject to change.

Recap of Friday, May 15, 2020

Note: All colored text denotes hyperlinks. Purple colored hyperlink spotlights COVID-19 developments.

The White House

- Remarks by President Trump on Vaccine Development
- Remarks by President Trump at Presidential Recognition Ceremony: Hard Work, Heroism, and Hope
- Executive Order (EO) on the Establishment of the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force Under Section 741 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act
- Transcript: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany | 5/15/2020
- Statement: New Members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Announced
- Statement: White House Announces Comment Period for Emerging Drug Threats Criteria
- Nominations: President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate Individuals to Key Administration Posts (re: State, Transportation)
- Proclamation on Emergency Medical Services Week, 2020
- Proclamation on Armed Forces Day, 2020
- Proclamation on World Trade Week, 2020
- Proclamation on National Safe Boating Week, 2020

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

COVID-19 webpage

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- Press Release: Trump Administration Announces Framework and Leadership for 'Operation Warp Speed'
- Statement from Secretary Azar on National Hospital Week

Department of Defense (DOD)

- Transcript: Assistant to the Secretary of Defense Hoffman Updates Reporters on DOD Operations
- Article: Army General to Co-Lead 'Operation Warp Speed' for COVID-19 Vaccine
- Article: Space Force Flag Unveiled at White House
- Article: NATO Nations Face Threats Together, Including Pandemic
- Readout of Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper's Phone Call With Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono
- Article: Top Enlisted Leaders Answer Questions on Stop-Move Process
- Contracts for May 15, 2020

Department of State

- May 15: Transcript | Briefing On Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation's Intent to Invest \$12 Billion In the U.S. and on the CCP's Ability to Undermine U.S. Export Controls
- May 15: Statement | The United States Protects National Security and the Integrity of 5G Networks
- May 15: Statement | The International Criminal Court's Illegitimate Prosecutions
- May 15: Transcript | Briefing On the Road to Nuuk: Economic Cooperation
- May 15: Transcript | Briefing With Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad
- May 15: Readout | Special Representative Jeffrey's Call with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin

- May 15: Statement | First Shipment of U.S. Oil to Belarus
- May 15: Fact Sheet | This Week in Iran Policy

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

 Press Release: Statement on International Day of Families from USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa

US Mission to the United Nations (UN)

- Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Working Methods of the Security Council (via VTC)
- Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation in Burma (via VTC)

Department of the Treasury

- Press Release: SBA and Treasury Release Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Application
- Press Release: Treasury International Capital Data for March

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

- Press Release: Police Week 2020 | A Video Message from FPS Leadership
- Press Release: DHS Issues Environmental Waiver to Expedite New Border Wall System in Texas (Washington DC)
- Press Release: COVID-19 Spread Doesn't Slow Down Human Smugglers (Washington DC)
- Press Release: Border Patrol Agents Find Narcotics Concealed Inside Snack Bag (California)
- Press Release: CBP Port of Nogales Officers
 Encounter Unusual Concealment Method (Arizona)
- Press Release: CBP Seizes Large Marijuana Load At Columbus Port (New Mexico)
- Press Release: DHS partners coordinate to seize nearly 500 pounds of marijuana (Washington)
- Press Release: CBP Announces Delay of Summer Hours for Wild Horse Port of Entry (Montana)
- Press Release: CBP Announces Delayed Opening for the Port of Chief Mountain (Montana)
- Press Release: CBP Announces Delay of Summer Hours at Lancaster Port of Entry (Minnesota)
- Press Release: Pittsburgh CBP Seizes Counterfeit and Potentially Harmful Cat and Dog Flea Collars (Pennsylvania)
- Press Release: Counterfeit Pokemon Action Figurines Can't Go Past Harrisburg CBP (Pennsylvania)

 Press Release: Police Week | Cleveland CBP Honors VA Employees (Ohio)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Press Release: FEMA Releases State-by-State PPE Data (Washington DC)
- Press Release: State, Federal Disaster Dollars Help Utility in Dunn Damaged by Hurricane Dorian (North Carolina)
- Press Release: More Than \$1.7 Million Approved for Fayetteville Utilities (North Carolina)
- Press Release: South Carolina Disaster Assistance Applicants: Understand FEMA Determination Letters, How to Appeal Them (South Carolina)
- Press Release: After a Disaster: Replacing Lost or Damaged Documents in Mississippi

Department of Justice

Daily Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Press Releases

- Press Release: Department of Justice Supports National Pork Producers Council's Ability to Combat Meat Shortage
- Press Release: President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice Holds Hearing on Law Enforcement Recruitment, Training, and Retention
- Press Release: Federal Grand Jury Returns Indictment Charging Pakistani Doctor with Attempting to Provide Material Support to ISIS
- Press Release: Alleged Narcotrafficker and High-Ranking Cartel Member Extradited from Uruguay to the United States
- Press Release: Georgia Woman Arrested for Role in Scheme to Defraud Health Care Benefit Programs Related to Cancer Genetic Testing and COVID-19 Testing
- Press Release: California Man Pleads Guilty to Production of Child Pornography

Department of Commerce

- Press Release: Commerce Addresses Huawei's Efforts to Undermine Entity List, Restricts Products Designed and Produced with U.S. Technologies
- Press Release: Department of Commerce Issues Expected Final 90-Day Extension of Temporary General License Authorizations

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Press Release: USDA Begins Accepting Applications for Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program Grants Today
- Press Release: USDA Approves Program to Feed Kids in Louisiana and Indiana
- Press Release: USDA Extends Flexibilities, Paves the Way for Meals for Kids to Continue through Summer

Department of Interior

- Press Release: Honoring Interior's Law Enforcement
- Press Release: Secretary Bernhardt Announces Grants for Protecting American Battlefields in 11 States

Department of Transportation

 Press Release: U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine
 L. Chao Appoints Industry Leaders to Women in Aviation Advisory Board

Department of Labor

- Statement by U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia on Being Added to the White House Coronavirus Task Force
- Press Release: U.S. Department of Labor to Offer Families First Coronavirus Response Act Webinars to Educate Employees, Employers, State and Local Governments
- Press Release: U.S. Department of Labor Awards Over \$26 Million in Dislocated Worker Grants in Response to Coronavirus Public Health Emergency
- Press Release: U.S. Department of Labor Announces Award of Four Contracts for Job Corps Operations Using New Firm-Fixed Price Approach
- Press Release: U.S. Department of Labor Advances Protection for Religious Liberty

US Government (USG) COVID-19 Webpages

- Department of Defense COVID-19 webpage
- Department of State COVID-19 Travel Advisory webpage
- Office of Personnel Management COVID-19 webpage
- Food and Drug Administration COVID-19 webpage
- Department of Homeland Security Employee COVID-19 webpage
- Department of Labor COVID-19 webpage
- USAGov COVID-19 webpage

Non-USG COVID Webpages

Johns Hopkins University & Medicine

- Coronavirus Resource Center
 - COVID-19 Interactive Map

Synopsis of President Trump's Tweets

- May 16: "95% Approval Rating in Republican Party. 51% Plus, overall. But you NEVER read or see this in the Fake News Media. Always hearing bad, made up numbers on how badly I'm doing. Lamestream Media is unhinged and CORRUPT!"
- May 16: "Mexico must take control of this very big problem!" Retweet: Judicial Watch ♀@JudicialWatch
 17h · Mexican drug smugglers are really getting bold. A cross-border tunnel recently discovered by U.S. authorities exits in a San Diego warehouse right next to a busy Customs and Border Protection (CBP) port of entry. Read: http://jwatch.us/v9vv7g
- May 16: "Lou, this is just one of numerous concepts being considered under which we would pay 10% of what we have been paying over many years, matching much lower China payments. Have not made final decision. All funds are frozen. Thanks!" Retweet: Lou Dobbs @LouDobbs · 10h · Top WH Advisors are working for whom exactly? Surely not for our historic President or this great nation: Trump set to restore partial funding to WHO after pause to investigate coronavirus response #MAGA @realDonaldTrump #AmericaFirst #Dobbs https://foxnews.com/media/exclusive-white-house-setrestore-partial-who-funding
- May 16: "Scandal has defined the Obama Administration.' @LisaMarieBoothe @ffweekend"
- May 16: "The Radical Left is in total command & control of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Google. The Administration is working to remedy this illegal situation. Stay tuned, and send names & events. Thank you Michelle!"
- May 16: "So true!" Retweet: Oversight Committee Republicans @GOPoversight · May 14 · 'The fact is that we already have more compelling evidence that the Obama administration engaged in misconduct than we ever did for opening the Russian-collusion investigation.' Fact check: True https://nationalreview.com/2020/05/trump-russiainvestigation-obamagate-not-conspiracy-theory/
- May 16: "Happy Birthday Tom!" Retweet: Sara A. Carter @SaraCarterDC · 18h · Happy Birthday @TomFitton Hope you have the most wonderful day ever my friend!!! twitter.com/judicialwatch/...

- May 16: "I'll do it again!" Retweet: The White House @WhiteHouse · 17h · .@realDonaldTrump: "We built the greatest economy in the world—I'll do it a second time."
- May 16: "My Hero. New York's Finest!" Retweet: Team Trump (Text TRUMP to 88022) @TeamTrump · 16h · President @realDonaldTrump to NYPD officer who recovered from #Coronavirus: "You're my hero."
- May 16: "Another Fake Whistleblower. Republicans must do something about these terrible people, and now!" Retweet: Paul Sperry @paulsperry_ · 21h · BREAKING: Records show HHS "whistleblower" and media darling Dr. Rick Bright is a Democrat who's donated to a liberal Democrat PAC that's raising money for Joe Biden with the pitch: "Will you rush a donation now to make sure Joe Biden defeats Donald Trump?"
- May 15: "FAKE NEWS IS NOT ESSENTIAL!"
 Retweet: Kevin Vesey @KevinVesey · May 14 · The
 level of anger directed at the media from these
 protestors was alarming. As always, I will tell a fair and
 unbiased story today.
- May 15: [Proclamation on Armed Forces Day, 2020]
- May 15: "Such a wonderful reception yesterday in Pennsylvania. Thank you! #MAGA" [Video]
- May 15: "I am proud to announce that the United States will donate ventilators to our friends in India. We stand with India and @narendramodi during this pandemic. We're also cooperating on vaccine development. Together we will beat the invisible enemy!"

Contact

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- May 15: "Today I was presented with the brand new @SpaceForceDoD flag in the Oval Office. I will take Great Pride in displaying it at the @WhiteHouse!"
- May 15: "Chicago's @CTA has big federal resources heading its way to keep the transit system operational and to keep people moving where they need to go. \$817M will aid in the economic recovery — buy Made in the USA!"
- May 15: "I am proud to announce that @NJTransit will receive \$1.4B in CARES Act funding to assist in their continued operations and to keep people moving in the NY/NJ area! The LARGEST single Federal transit grant to New Jersey Transit ever. Together, we will prevail!"
- May 15: "Thank you to @foxandfriends for covering, supremely, the greatest political scandal in the history of the United States, OBAMAGATE. Fake News @CNN and Concast's own MSDNC are only trying to make their 3 year Con Job just go away. They are embarrassed and don't know what to do...."
- May 15: "....Likewise, the @nytimes and @washingtonpost are a disgrace to journalism. They are all Fake News, and they know it better than anyone else. History is unfolding, and it is not a pretty picture for 'journalism'."

Daily Public Policy Group Reports

For additional global public policy insights related to COVID-19, we offer a daily COVID-19: Public Policy Group Report. Please follow us on Twitter (@SPB_CapThinking) for our daily reports. See here for the latest editions of these reports.

Capital Thinking Blog

In the coming weeks, we will unveil a blog dedicated to global public policy focused contents. Follow us on Twitter for the launch announcement.