



Biden takes more executive action on a range of issues

President Biden has signed more Executive Orders on a range of issues, including non-discrimination, the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy, the environment, and racial equity.

- Yesterday, the President [repealed the previous Administration's ban on openly transgender service members](#) in the military. In signing the order, the President said the order will allow all "[qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform.](#)"
- President Biden [reinstated travel restrictions](#) on non-U.S. citizens who have been in Brazil, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and most European countries in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. He will also institute a ban on most non-U.S. citizens traveling from South Africa.
- Tomorrow, the President is expected to take action to [re-open the ACA Marketplace for enrollment](#) to people who have lost their employer-based health insurance. The order will also lower eligibility requirements so more people can access Medicaid.
- President Biden signed an Executive Order to impose [tougher Buy American rules in government procurement](#).
- President Biden will sign a [moratorium on new oil and gas leases on federal lands](#) delivering on his promise to take steps to address climate change. The order does not affect any existing leases.
- Finally, the President signed several orders today to [address systemic racism and increase equity](#). The orders strengthen anti-discrimination housing policies, end federal contracts with private prisons, and increase the sovereignty of Native American tribes.

The President is expected to issue more Executive Orders in the coming week.

A complete list of Executive Orders signed so far is [here](#).

+Jim [said](#), "The [#transban](#) hurts our military. Anyone who is willing to serve should be able to do so and I'm glad [@POTUS](#) rescinded the ban today." [#TransBanRepeal](#)

Senate confirms more Biden nominees

The Senate has confirmed two more of President Biden's cabinet nominees. Last night, former Federal Reserve Chair [Janet Yellen was confirmed by a vote of 84-15](#). Yellen will become the first woman to hold the position of Treasury Secretary. She was sworn in earlier today. Former Deputy Secretary of State [Antony Blinken was confirmed as Secretary of State earlier today](#) by a vote of 78-22. Tennessee Senator Bill Hagerty voted to confirm both Yellen and Blinken, but Senator Marsha Blackburn opposed both confirmations. **Senator Blackburn has yet to support any of President Biden's cabinet nominees.**



Senate leader reach agreement on power-sharing

[Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell \(R-Ky.\) agreed to move forward with a power-sharing agreement that will allow Democrats to take full control of the Senate.](#) The deal came after two Democratic Senators, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Joe Manchin of West Virginia, said they would oppose removing the filibuster, a major sticking point in the negotiations. McConnell's demand that Democrats promise not to kill the filibuster temporarily blocked Democrats from taking the reins of Senate committees, even though they had won control of the chamber. In the evenly divided Senate, Democrats will need 60 votes to pass most legislation instead of 51, meaning in order to pass any legislation they'll need nine Republicans to join them. Democrats insisted that McConnell agree to a power-sharing agreement similar to the one in place in 2001 when the chamber was evenly divided and the Vice President has tie-breaking powers.



DOJ Inspector General to investigate attempts to interfere in election results

Yesterday, the Inspector General at the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced he is [launching an investigation to examine whether any former or current department officials improperly attempted to overturn the results of the November election.](#) Inspector General Michael Horowitz said the investigation will look into allegations concerning the conduct of former and current DOJ officials. The investigation will be limited to the DOJ and will not cover any other agencies. The investigation comes after reports that a former Assistant Attorney General, Jeffrey Clark, had been discussing a plan with former President Trump to fire the acting Attorney General, try to challenge the results of the Electoral College, and falsely promote claims of widespread election fraud.



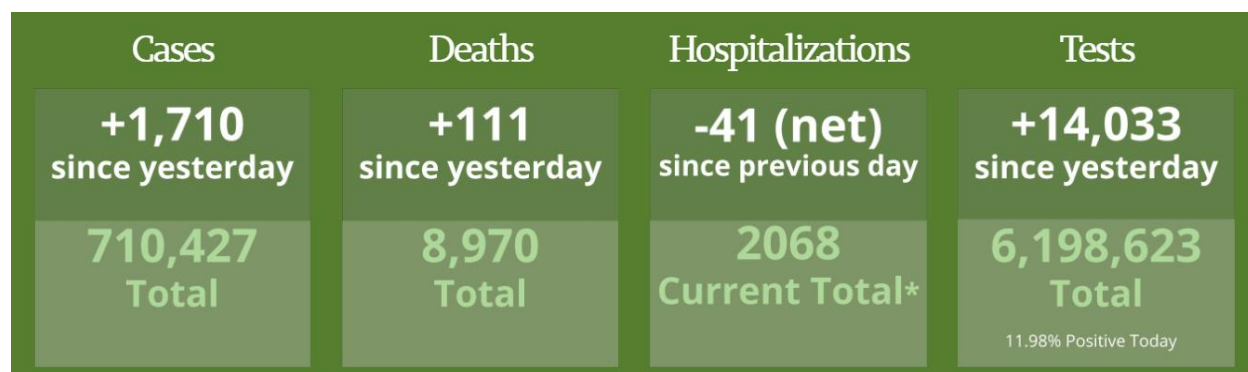
Administration announces vaccine distribution plan

[The Administration has informed Governors that the weekly allocation of vaccine doses will increase next week.](#) The number of doses released from the federal supply will increase from 8.6 million doses to 10 million doses. The doses will be allocated to all 50 states, as well as

eight territories and six major cities. Allocation will be based on population. The announcement comes as [President Biden has raised the goal to have vaccinate 1.5 million people vaccinated per day.](#)

Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccinations in Tennessee

Since yesterday, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 1,710 new cases, bringing the total to 710,427 confirmed COVID-19 cases statewide. There have been 8,970 deaths, an increase of 111 since yesterday. There are 2,068 people currently hospitalized with the virus. There have been 6,198,623 tests statewide, more than 14,033 since yesterday, with a 11.98% positivity rate. As of today in [Davidson County](#), there have been 83,068 confirmed cases, and 559 total deaths.



As of Monday, [486,197 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee.](#) Of all people vaccinated in the state, 104,875 have received a second dose.

To find out your phase your and book your appointment for a vaccine visit [covid19.tn.gov.](#)

Protests spread across Russia following arrest of opposition leader

Over the weekend, [protests spread across Russia after the arrest of opposition leader, Alexei Navalny.](#) Tens of thousands of protesters demanded Navalny's release. Navalny was arrested upon returning to Russia last week after being treated in Germany for being poisoned by a nerve agent. Nearly 2,000 people, including Navalny's wife, have been arrested so far in connection with the protests, which took place across all eleven of the country's time zones. [President Biden has called for Navalny's immediate release during a call with Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier today.](#)

NEW: Cooper Staff will host "Let's Talk: Conversations to Ensure Equitable & Just Policies" every Monday starting February 1 at 6:00pm CST. The first in the series: "The Global Pandemic: The New National Response & What it Means for Nashville and Middle TN." Register here: <https://forms.gle/s5b1td8KtbhE5Q3B7>