



### **Senate approves stimulus package; House passage expected Wednesday**

On Saturday, the Senate passed a version of President Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan. No Republicans voted for the bill. The final version approved by the Senate includes [\\$1,400 stimulus checks to those making up to \\$75,000 \(\\$150,000 for couples\) and continues the current \\$300 per week in federal unemployment assistance](#). It also exempts up to \$10,200 in unemployment benefits received last year from federal income taxes for households making less than \$150,000.

Among the other provisions to help families, the American Rescue Plan increases the child tax credit to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under age 6), significantly expands subsidies in the ACA marketplace to help people purchase health insurance, provides a 100% subsidy for COBRA coverage for those who lose their job and continue their employer-based health coverage, additional financial incentives for states like Tennessee that have not expanded Medicaid, and additional housing/rental and food assistance.

The measure also includes \$70 billion for increasing vaccinations and for a testing, tracing, and treatment program; \$130 billion to help K-12 schools safely reopen; \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments; additional small business assistance including new targeted programs to restaurants; and more.

The House is expected to give final approval to the measure on Wednesday and it will be sent to President Biden for his signature before the end of the week. The first stimulus checks are expected to be sent out before the end of the month.



### **Biden signs executive order on voting rights as state pass restrictive laws**

On the 56th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," when state troopers attacked civil rights activists in Selma, Alabama, [President Biden signed an executive order aimed at promoting voting rights](#). The order directs the heads of federal agencies to submit plans to expand voter registration, as Republican-controlled states across the country have introduced over 250 pieces of legislation to make it harder for people, specifically Black and Brown individuals, to vote.

In Georgia, [State Senate Republicans passed an election bill that would repeal no-excuse absentee voting, limiting registration days and ballot drop boxes and other restrictions](#). Voting rights groups say such measures target Black voters, similar to those used during the Jim Crow

era, like limiting registration days and ballot drop boxes. [A number of bills designed to make it more difficult to vote have also been introduced in Tennessee.](#)

+Jim [said](#), "Voting rights continue to be under attack in America. It's been 56 years since [#BloodySunday](#) in Selma, AL. To strengthen our democracy, we must fully [#RestoreTheVRA](#) and I look forward to voting for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in the House."

+Jim also [said](#), "Tennesseans shouldn't be subjected to the most suppressive voting laws in the U.S. We need a federal law to override them, just as the original [#VotingRightsAct](#) was necessary to protect everyone, and particularly Black voters, in the era of Jim Crow."



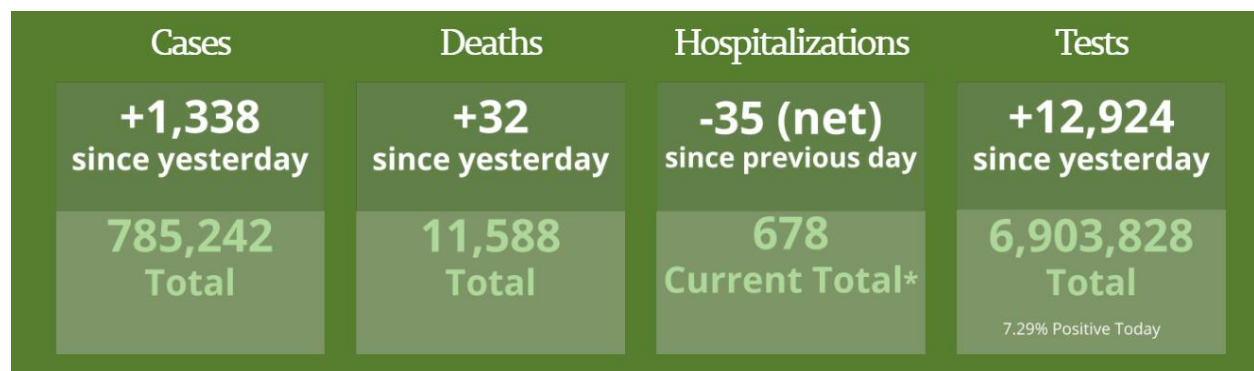
### President Biden directs review of Title IX program

President Biden directed the Department of Education to review all policies on sex and gender discrimination and violence in schools, which stems from President Trump's overhaul of the Title IX program. The review comes after the Obama administration issued guidance to schools and universities that critics said leaned too heavily toward accusers and the Trump administration swung back and offered more protections for the accused.

+Jim sent multiple letters to Secretary DeVos opposing the Trump administration's changes that rolled back protections for survivors of sexual assault and harassment.

### Confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, vaccinations in Tennessee

Today, the [Tennessee Department of Health](#) reported 1,338 new cases, bringing the total to 785,242 confirmed cases. More than 11,588 people have died, including at least 32 people yesterday. There are approximately 678 people currently hospitalized with the virus statewide. There have been 6,903,828 tests statewide, more than 12,924 since the day before, with a 7.29% positivity rate. As of today in [Davidson County](#), there are 90,984 confirmed cases, and 652 deaths.



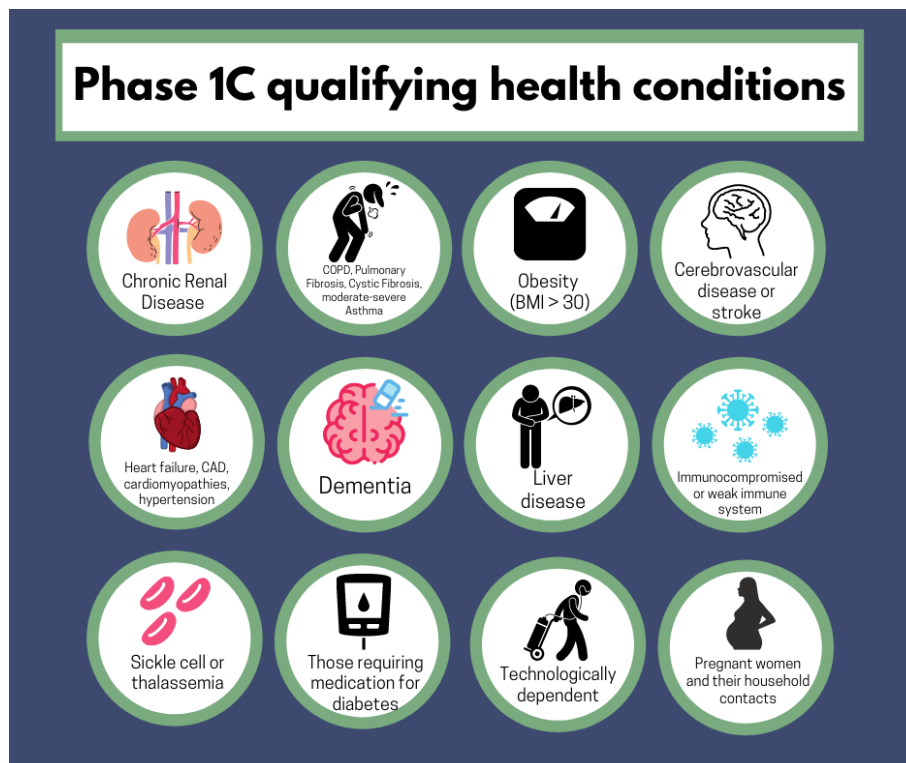
As of March 8, [1,648,092 vaccinations have been administered in Tennessee](#). About 15% of Tennesseans have received at least one dose of the Pfizer/Moderna and 8.4% have received a second dose or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson and are fully vaccinated. The state began vaccinating phase 1c and it is [estimated that 30-40% of Tennesseans are now eligible](#) for the vaccine.

To date, more than 123 million doses of vaccine have been delivered and 93.69 million shots have been given nationwide. [Approximately 18% of Americans have received at least one dose of Pfizer/Moderna and 9.7% of Americans are fully vaccinated](#). You can visit the CDC's Vaccine Tracker here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>.

To register for a COVID-19 vaccination and book an appointment at your county health department, visit [Vaccinate.tn.gov](https://vaccinate.tn.gov) or [covid19.nashville.gov](https://covid19.nashville.gov) (615-862-7777). There are also hundreds of vaccination locations throughout the community available at [VaccineFinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org).

### Largest vaccination event scheduled for March 20 at Nissan stadium

[Nashville is planning to vaccinate 10,000 people at a drive-thru event at Nissan Stadium on March 20](#). The event will last from 6am to 7pm and exclusively use the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. **Registration begins at 10am on Wednesday at [covid19.nashville.gov](https://covid19.nashville.gov)**. Anyone over the age of 65 or people older than 16 years of age with the following health conditions are eligible to receive a vaccine :



### CDC issues new guidelines for those who have been vaccinated

The CDC has released [new guidelines saying people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can safely visit with other vaccinated people and small groups of certain unvaccinated people in](#)

[some circumstances](#). They define people who are fully vaccinated as those who are two weeks past their second dose of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines or two weeks past a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The new CDC guidance says fully vaccinated people [can visit other vaccinated people indoors in small groups without masks or physical distancing](#). And, in some cases, they can visit indoors with unvaccinated individuals from one household who are at low-risk. However, guidelines stress that people who are fully vaccinated still need to take precautions, including wearing a mask, distancing, only small gatherings, especially when around people that are unvaccinated or at high-risk. Though the vaccine protects against severe illness and death from COVID-19, people who have been vaccinated can still contract the virus. [Vaccinated or not, people should get a test if they are feeling sick](#). [These new guidelines do not change the CDC's guidance on travel](#), recommending that people should avoid travel and stay at home.

See the CDC guidelines [here](#).



### **Security review of Capitol released**

[A review of Capitol security procedures reveal that U.S. Capitol Police were understaffed, lacked proper equipment, and were inadequately trained to secure the Capitol](#) during the January 6 attack on the building. The review, prepared by a 16-member commission led by retired Army Lt. General Russell Honoré, recommends more police and better coordination with the National Guard. The commission's report also recommends a permanent retractable perimeter fence, more intensive background checks on new hires to decrease the risk from "insiders," and the creation of a Quick Reaction Force to protect the Capitol and other federal buildings in and around Washington.



### **Surge of immigrants at border**

[U.S. border agents have arrested or encountered a surge of over 100,000 immigrants fleeing poverty and violence and who unlawfully crossed into the country in the past four weeks](#). That number includes more than 3,200 unaccompanied children who are now in the custody of Customs and Border Patrol. President Biden has reversed the rules of the previous Administration by allowing the unaccompanied children to remain in the country. Emergency housing centers have been reopened to provide shelter until the children can be placed with family members already here. The number of immigrants arriving at the border has increased dramatically since Biden's election and his promise during the campaign to create a more humane immigration process.

