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Biden, Yellen to talk with Dems on virus aid

 By Lisa Mascaro, Josh Boak
and Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will join Senate Democrats for a virtual lunch Tuesday to discuss his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue plan as Congress sets up votes to fast-track the sweeping aid package toward eventual approval with or without Republican support.

Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will meet with the senators during the private session, both having urged lawmakers to act big in confronting the pandemic and economic crisis.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced the meeting as he, too, said Congress must take bold action toward “America’s long-awaited come back.” He set up a procedural vote for later Tuesday in the Senate, launching a lengthy budget procedure that would allow Democrats who have a slim majority to pass Biden’s proposal on their own if Republicans object.

The swift action on next steps comes after Biden told Republican senators during a lengthy two-hour meeting he’s unwilling to settle on an insufficient coronavirus aid package after they pitched their slimmed

down \$618 billion proposal.

No compromise was reached night during the Monday night meeting, Biden’s first with lawmakers at the White House. The president made it clear that he won’t delay aid in hopes of winning GOP support.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said that while there were areas of agreement, “the president also reiterated his view that Congress must respond boldly and urgently, and noted many areas which the Republican senators’ proposal does not address.”

She said, “He will not slow

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President Joe Biden meets with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday in Washington. [EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Backus Emergency Department physician Theresa Adams carefully wraps a newborn baby into blankets before quickly carrying the little girl into the Norwich hospital during Monday’s snowstorm. Kaitlyn Vacchina and her husband, David, of Lebanon made it as far as the parking lot behind the Backus Emergency Department but the baby was born in their car as staff rushed out of the hospital to assist. [JEFF EVANS]

Lebanon couple delivers baby outside Norwich hospital

 John Penney
Norwich Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Theresa Adams, a doctor at The William W. Backus Hospital was inside the facility’s emergency department Monday morning when she heard what she described as “a commotion.”

“I heard someone say ‘Get the baby...’ so I began running, following the staff heading out to the parking area,” she said. “Then someone shouted, ‘The baby’s out. The baby’s out.’ I realized that it was

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Kaitlyn and David Vacchina of Lebanon hold their new baby girl, Molly Joyce, who was born unexpectedly Monday morning in the front seat of their vehicle immediately after they pulled up behind The William W. Backus Emergency Department. [JEFF EVANS]

Lamont offers reprieve to restaurant owners with later curfew

 By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant (TNS)

Connecticut restaurants that have seen their dining capacity and hours of operation slashed by precautionary restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic will get a reprieve, after Gov. Ned Lamont moved to relax the curfew Monday.

Lamont announced that the 10 p.m. curfew for customers to leave restaurants, in place since November, will be extended to 11 p.m. starting “in the next couple of days.” This also applies to bowling alleys.

“Restaurants in particular are really operating professionally” to keep customers safe, Lamont said.

Scott Dolch, executive director of the Connecticut Restaurant Association, said “any roll forward is a good thing for us.”

“Typically restaurants try to get three turns in the dinner service, at 5, 7 and 9.

When it was ending at 10 it was very difficult to get that third turn,” Dolch said.

Viron Rondo, who owns Viron Rondo Osteria in Cheshire, said a later curfew would be “extremely helpful.”

“Perhaps on weekends we will have another seating, especially on the special holidays,” Rondo said. “Valentine’s Day is coming up in two weeks.”

At the same time, Dolch added, he wonders why there must be a curfew at all. “Why extend it by just an hour? Why not lift it completely, like other states?” he said.

Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo announced on Friday that that state’s restaurants could resume their normal hours. In Massachusetts, the restaurant curfew expired on Jan. 25.

Marissa Bramato, who owns Esca in Middletown, also believes the curfew

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Gov. Ned Lamont announced on Monday that the state’s restaurant curfew would be moved from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. [TNS]

CVS will add a dozen more COVID-19 vaccination sites next week in CT

 By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant (TNS)

CVS Health, one of two major pharmacy chains administering the COVID-19 vaccine in Connecticut, said Tuesday it will add a dozen more locations

next week.

The pharmacy locations will include Avon, Bristol, Coventry, Glastonbury, Guilford, Hamden, North Haven and Uncasville. The rest of the towns and cities were not immediately available Tuesday.

The list of specific stores will be available on CVS.com as stores receive shipments of vaccine and appointments become available, CVS said.

Last week, CVS opened its

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