

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

To: New York Community Banks

FROM ICBA

Fed outlines vision, key pillars for FedNow Service

Federal Reserve Bank Chief Innovation Officer Dan Anthony will outline the agency's technology strategy and next steps in preparation for the rollout of its FedNow Service during a 90-minute webinar next month. Slated for 1 p.m. (Eastern time), Tuesday, May 4, participants will receive an overview of the final ISO 20022 message specs, FedNow Pilot Program highlights, and upcoming engagement opportunities. [Learn more and register.](#)

Romero Rainey discusses ICBA advocacy issues during WHF Luncheon

ICBA President and CEO Rebeca Romero Rainey discussed the efforts of community banks to support small businesses and consumers during the pandemic at a Women in Housing and Finance Public Policy Luncheon yesterday. Romero Rainey fielded questions about de novo formation and discussed ICBA's legislative and regulatory agenda, including efforts to promote regulatory relief and fairness and equity in our financial system so that community banks can continue to meet the needs of their customers and local communities.

Consumer prices rise in March

The Consumer Price Index increased a seasonally adjusted 0.6 percent in March after rising 0.4 percent in February—the largest increase in nine years, the Labor Department [reported](#). The index of consumer inflation is up 2.6 percent over the past 12 months.

Daily COVID-19 update from FS-ISAC

The daily coronavirus update distributed by the Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center is available on ICBA's [Pandemic Response resource center](#).

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- Biden administration officials are preparing for the possibility that the pause in use of the Johnson & Johnson's coronavirus vaccine could last for weeks - and perhaps longer for certain portions of the American population. https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/13/j-j-vaccine-supply-disruption-481180?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF8b1hFtUOWBVMkGwaLZO5QgzgPxSHSA_jdUoaEs7HQSKc6aTDaQoq980zUEJd-UzeVRB70lzFLhuP6lGJVY5Q_ARCIeZtm-V3pxoBOH5k5rg-L
- A last-minute provision added to the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package is leading to a showdown between states and the Treasury Department over the limits of the federal government's fiscal authority. The American Rescue Plan provided \$195 billion for state governments to help offset costs related to the pandemic and plug budget holes stemming from the economic downturn. Democrats inserted that states cannot use the money directly or indirectly to cut taxes. GOP legislators and Attorneys General say that's overly vague, unconstitutional and would unfairly penalize states in good fiscal health. https://www.wsj.com/articles/states-were-told-they-cant-use-u-s-covid-19-aid-to-cut-taxes-they-sued-11618392600?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF8b0If4Z_hED_49xJbD7pjdIfV-BD6uyBnb9JbvpZbq4WPKJnNWNQoPFiDQXQgik3qs_wdmsUYdmVptf5GbFCc-Npk1xrUBQ_-FRQsDZCvVXuK
- Seventeen of the nineteen Democratic members of the New York Congressional Delegation [said they will not support proposed tax increases](#) to pay for President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan unless it also rolls back a 2017 tax change that limited to \$10,000 the state and local taxes (SALT) that households itemizing deductions could write off their federal returns. The group is led by Representatives Tom Suozzi (D-L.I.) and Jerry Nadler (D-

Manhattan). <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-congress-tax/new-york-lawmakers-threaten-bidens-infrastructure-tax-hikes-without-local-tax-break-idUSKBN2C02YK>. [Forbes reports.](#)

- State and local authorities are grappling with how to allocate \$25 billion in federal rental relief, leaving many tenants and landlords waiting weeks or months for their share. https://www.wsj.com/articles/billions-in-coronavirus-aid-is-slow-to-reach-renters-and-landlords-11618324561?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF8b0If4X-4REee4T_Nw9tH5oGy1y6b0KjG8AgjFx_yRkkmiDqb45eyclYjddAx88sjiuVWR8Xbq3lhlejrlzOgkTXMjUwiORjztoKJtD218H8T
- Consumer prices moved 2.6% higher in March compared with a year ago, fueled by a strengthening economy and comparisons to last spring when the coronavirus pandemic set off unprecedented upheaval. The consumer price index climbed 0.6% from February to March, the U.S. Labor Department reported. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/04/13/consumer-price-index-march/?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAF8b0If3-5riJmWf4QY3k53K_MKt9Gjz6gdqcUyOOwc5YV4gV0btPg4HrDbuueegg3YoTgci6g5277O98x6bhJqW6lBHcISWzbuJ-pP-CFxMvs

FROM NEW YORK

- Governor Cuomo reported Tuesday that COVID hospitalizations rose to 4,175. Of the 128,912 tests reported Monday 5,029, or 3.90%, were positive. The 7-day average positivity rate was 3.16%. There were 869 patients in ICU yesterday, up nine from the previous day. Of them, 564 were intubated. 58 New Yorkers lost their lives to the virus. <https://www.governor.ny.gov>. New York had administered 12,253,659 total doses, with 38.6% of New Yorkers had completed at least one vaccine dose and 25.5% of New Yorkers completing their vaccine series. See data by region and county on the State's Vaccine Tracker: ny.gov/vaccinetracker.
- The state has [halted distribution of the vaccine](#) developed by Johnson & Johnson to give health care providers more time to figure out how to evaluate safety concerns. The pause in distributing the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine [will likely impede efforts](#) by New York City and New York state to vaccinate people, especially those who face barriers to accessing vaccines. [Read More](#)
- The number of new coronavirus cases in New York City has remained alarmingly, and stubbornly, high for weeks, even as tens of thousands of people are vaccinated daily. A likely reason is that more contagious variants have displaced the original forms of the virus, public health officials have said, accounting for more than 75% of new cases, according to a recent analysis. Until this week, the city had not said which variants were more common in which neighborhoods. But newly available ZIP code-level data [provides some insight into the mix of variants circulating in the area.](#)” This map shows [where coronavirus variants are spreading](#) in New York City's five boroughs.
- Attention has been focused on Midtown Manhattan to see if and when office workers and tourists will return to what have been eerily empty streets, and whether the businesses that line them will regain customers lost during the pandemic. But other retail corridors are also important barometers of the City's economy, as well as key to its recovery; A survey of five of them, one in each borough, [showed signs of resilience.](#)
- Mobile vaccination sites will be set up at farms and other agribusinesses in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday announced. [Read more.](#)
- The New York Times Magazine has a lengthy profile on Governor Cuomo as he continues leaning on his [longtime “white knuckle” instincts](#) to get him through ongoing scandals. The article the Governor's current status, state of mind, political past and future as he continues to perform his duties while the subject of high-profile investigations and allegations. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/13/magazine/andrew-cuomo.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>

- Governor Cuomo is showing no signs of leaving office anytime soon, but some top aides have left his inner circle in recent weeks amid a growing litany of scandals. For a list of staffers heading for the exits, [read more here](#).
- State lawmakers in New York want to lay down the regulatory framework for municipalities to create local public banks in order to extend and expand access to communities of color in the post-COVID-19 economy. [Read More](#)

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IBANYS will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available. Thank you all for your continued participation and support.

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