

FROM ICBA

- Please see coverage above and below of ICBA's (and IBANYS') opposition to Professor Saule Omarova, President Biden's nominee to be Comptroller of the Currency.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

- Coronavirus cases are rising, nationally and in most states — an ominous trend heading into the week of Thanksgiving, Axios' Caitlin Owens and Kavya Beheraj [report](#). Two-thirds of Americans plan Thanksgiving gatherings that resemble their pre-pandemic festivities, according to [Monmouth University polling](#). But as cases rise, travel and indoor celebrations will put the millions of unvaccinated Americans at risk. Cases rose by 20% over the last two weeks, and increases were particularly sharp in some parts of the Upper Midwest and New England. Daily deaths dropped by 13%. But the virus is still killing more than 1,000 Americans per day, on average.
- Only 59% of Americans are fully vaccinated, [according to the CDC](#). Just 37% of adults 65 and older have gotten a booster dose, leaving millions of older Americans vulnerable to more severe breakthrough infections. 10% of children ages 5 to 11 have received a dose — the vaccines were only authorized for that age group this month, but still a small percentage. Rapid tests can be a useful tool ahead of travel and gatherings, but they're often in short supply and hard to find. [Share this story](#).
- Saule Omarova, President Biden's nominee to head the OCC, will testify before the Senate Banking Committee today. She faces opposition from some of the Committee's Republicans, including ranking member Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), and from the banking industry. In her prepared testimony, Omarova looks to appeal to community banks, describes her childhood in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan and its "oppressive state-run system, with no free enterprise and no economic opportunity for people like me." https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/17/business/saule-omarova-banks-capitalism-occ.html?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGA0i6PqwtPAG6-oH6GV18G7a2hmLqTvHbV2gn7cAQcIJy8OVBuVgZoUYZjlQR2rZxd4RSlawgtWAF7oU6QlA_bPSD3tS9shmCWsVFvtF295NEvH
- The Independent Community Bankers of America made the unusual move of urging senators not to confirm Saule Omarova to lead the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. The group argued that some of her proposals could have drastic consequences for the industry. [Read story](#) →
- Democrats are privately reaching out to Republicans to cinch a separate, bipartisan deal for paid family leave after Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) crushed hopes of including it in President Biden's \$1.75 trillion social spending plan. https://www.axios.com/democrats-draw-up-plan-b-for-paid-leave-after-manchin-veto-d5aa4382-44b8-45d3-a391-325f2385b1bf.html?mkt_tok=ODUwLVRBQS01MTEAAAGA0i6Pq1K_eECnzYtvolyzgbqZo4wV_94egylavTpgKyxYi_R9wEQ2mqPrgKZHEN0BvAl5fSBrTXHTwvMQ7kyM8t0vcwB984G_tphEljjzXrt
- The Biden administration, under pressure to increase the supply of coronavirus vaccines to poor nations, plans to spend billions to expand manufacturing capacity, with the goal of producing at least one billion additional doses a year beginning in the second half of 2022, [The New York Times reports](#).

FROM NEW YORK

- Gov. Hochul delivered her latest update on this week's COVID trends Wednesday. As of November 16, there are 2,102 New Yorkers hospitalized with COVID-19. The 7-day percentage positivity average was 3.47%, which is up from 2.78% last week. Per the CDC as of November 17, 2021, 89.3% of adult New Yorkers have at least one vaccine dose. So far, 28,627,601 total vaccine doses have been administered, and 95,434 doses were administered over the past 24 hours.
- Gov. Hochul urged New Yorkers feel at risk for COVID and are already fully vaccinated to get the booster. Those unsure about the booster shots should talk with their health care provider. Visit ny.gov/boosters to learn more about the COVID boosters and determine eligibility.
- New York City is urging residents to get tested for Covid-19 before traveling or gathering with family for the holidays. The city said it will double its mobile testing fleet to 70 vans and issued new guidance recommending testing ahead of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas celebrations. The new recommendations apply regardless of vaccination status. [NYC urges Covid-19 testing ahead of holiday gatherings, travel](#)
- Multiple landlord and tenant groups -- rarely on the same side of an issue -- are together urging the state to reopen its rent-relief program. Gov. Hochul recently announced the state's \$2.4 billion *Emergency Rental Assistance Program* has no more available money and would stop taking applications in most parts of the state. <https://www.crainsnewyork.com/real-estate/landlord-tenant-groups-decry-states-decision-close-rent-relief-portal>
- Canada is about to relax its requirement that returning Canadians pass a Covid test before coming home, but it allows Americans in without first getting tested. In a private meeting with about a dozen House members, Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau said Canada would announce its new border plan in a day or two. Rep. Brian Higgins (D-Buffalo) attended the meeting and said Trudeau indicated the prime minister said the testing requirement would be ended for Canadians first, then visiting Americans at a later date, and at a still later point for others from around the world. [Canada to ease testing for returning citizens – but not Americans](#)
- Nursing homes in the state are reportedly lifting COVID-19 visitation restrictions within their facilities effective immediately now that the New York State Department of Health adopted federal guidance requiring the change. The new guidance updates the September 2020 rules, which allowed for limited visitations and required mask-wearing. Under the updated state guidance, nursing home residents will now be allowed unabridged access to visitors, regardless of their vaccination status. https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/capital-region/news/2021/11/17/state-nursing-homes-lift-visitation-restrictions?cid=share_twitter
- Rep. John Katko of Syracuse survived a push yesterday by conservative Republicans to remove him from his leadership post on the House Homeland Security Committee, [the Post-Standard reports](#).

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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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