

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 16th, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [Georgia faces enormous challenges to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine \(AJC\)](#)
Members: Pinar Keskinocak & Julie Swann
- [Africa: Coronavirus Vaccine - What We Know So Far - a Comprehensive Guide By Academic Experts \(all Africa\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney

Federal Policy Update

- Health & Human Services Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Paul Mango announced that federal officials are hoping to begin vaccinations for Americans within 1-2 days of a vaccine receiving an emergency authorization from the Food & Drug Administration.
- Officials from Operation Warp Speed announced that the federal government will authorize CVS and Walgreens to distribute the coronavirus vaccine that is authorized by health officials.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a [new report](#), which found that “people above the age of 65 and members of minority racial and ethnic groups are disproportionately represented in deaths associated with COVID-19.”
- The White House published President Trump’s [remarks](#) on efforts to enhance protections for senior citizens against the coronavirus pandemic.

State Response

- A bipartisan group of state public health officials sent a [letter](#) to Congress, calling for at least \$8.4 billion in emergency funding to be allocated towards coronavirus vaccine distribution – a substantial increase in comparison to the \$200 million currently allocated by the CDC.
- Tennessee Governor Bill Lee (R) announced that the state is planning to remove all “negative consequences for schools” in terms of testing and assessments due to the pandemic.
- Texas Governor Greg Abbott (R) announced that the state’s Department of Health would send supplementary emergency resources to the Amarillo area, due to a rise in coronavirus cases.
- Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Lisa Herring announced that the city will postpone their reopening for in-person learning, with the current virtual model to be maintained until January 2021 at least.

Global Response

- World Health Organization Europe Director Hans Kluge warned that the organization is “very worried” about the second wave of coronavirus cases in Europe – warning that “national lockdowns are the last resort.”

- German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that they would be cancelling the European Union's upcoming Special Summit on China, which was originally scheduled for November 16th in Berlin.
- Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford announced that they are considering a shorter "fire-break lockdown" – stating that "the shorter the period, the sharper the measures will have to be."
- United Kingdom Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced that they are removing the countries of Italy and San Marino from their travel corridor list, which will mandate that travelers from there must quarantine upon arrival.
- The travel bubble between New Zealand and Australia officially opened today, which allows quarantine-free travel to occur between the two nations.
- The Russian government announced that they had a record-high number of cases in a single day, with over 15,000 new coronavirus cases.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing with varying results. The Nasdaq Composite fell by 0.36%, while the S&P 500 climbed by 0.01% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.39%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 8,285,824 cases and 223,612 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 39,544,938 cases and 1,108,175 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Future of coronavirus relief bill uncertain as White House and Democrats continue negotiations \(CBS News\)](#)
- [Trump administration announces vaccine deal for long-term care facilities \(Politico\)](#)
- [Kudlow confident that Trump can 'round up' Senate GOP behind coronavirus relief deal \(The Hill\)](#)
- [U.S. Budget Gap Tripled to a Record in Last Fiscal Year \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [COVID-19 cases surge in Wisconsin, Trump to campaign there \(Reuters\)](#)