Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

June 9, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

• **Forgetting Contagion, Stocks Recover Their Losses (New York Times)**
  
  Member: John Birge

U.S. Federal Policy Update

• The Trump administration officially published an [executive order](#) on the Federal Register, aimed towards “accelerating the nation’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 emergency by expediting infrastructure investments and other activities.”

• The U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority announced that they would award $23.6 million to pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca – for the “development of a monoclonal antibody combination product against COVID-19.”

• Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) sent a [letter](#) to the Pandemic Accountability Response Committee requesting that they open an investigation on Project Air Bridge – the Trump administration’s initiative to distribute personal protective equipment and medical supplies for COVID-19 response. In the letter, the lawmakers write that the initiative “has been marked by delays, incompetence, confusion, and secrecy involving multiple federal agencies,” and thus the committee must “conduct a detailed investigation of the program using [the] authority granted under the CARES Act.”

• Yosemite National Park officials [announced](#) that they will reopen the park on Thursday, with limitations on visitor capacities and restrictions on how many vehicles are permitted to enter the park.

Global Response

• World Health Organization Expert Maria Van Kerkhove issued a clarification of previous statements made on asymptomatic transmission – stating that while “the majority of transmissions that [they] know about is [that] people who have symptoms transmit the virus to other people through infectious droplets,” but they “do know that some people who are asymptomatic can transmit the virus on.”
• United Nations General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande announced that for the first time in 75 years, the assembly would not meet in person this September due to ongoing concerns surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

• Spanish Health Minister Salvador Illa announced that the country’s government would mandate face masks be worn in public places until the coronavirus pandemic is officially established to be over.

• The Russian government announced that nonessential businesses will be permitted to reopen – with nearly all restrictions scheduled to be lifted by June 23rd.

• The French government announced that they would be providing a $16.9 billion economic rescue package for its aviation industry.

• The country of Slovakia announced that they would permit travelers from within the European Union to enter the country beginning tomorrow.

• Beginning June 15th, the Greek government will permit travelers from Italy to visit the country.

• Parisian officials announced that the Eiffel Tower would reopen for visitation beginning June 25th.

State Update

• The following 14 states have recorded their highest seven-day averages of new COVID-19 cases over the past week: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Kentucky, New Mexico, North Carolina, Mississippi, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

• New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy officially lifted the state’s stay-at-home order, and announced that nonessential retail and outdoor dining would resume operations beginning June 15th. This will be followed by close contact businesses – such as personal care, fitness, and salon facilities – reopening on June 22nd.

Economic Update (as of close of the markets)

• U.S. stocks had a volatile day, with indices closing the day with varying results. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined by 1.1% and the S&P 500 by 0.8%, while the Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.3%.

Latest Impact Data

• In the United States: Over 2,043,241 cases and 114,060 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.

• Worldwide: Over 7,302,526 million cases and 412,709 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News
• Republicans' big bet on the economy and in no rush to dole out more coronavirus relief (Politico)

• White House Adviser Sees Another Stimulus Bill From Congress Before August Recess (Wall Street Journal)

• S&P 500, Dow ease as focus shifts to Fed; tech pushes Nasdaq to closing record (Reuters)

• WHO seeks to clarify widely criticized statement on asymptomatic spread (The Hill)