



Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

April 15, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [Dual supply chains: How the pandemic is creating an artificial food shortage \(Fox KTVU\)](#)
Member: Ramesh Bollapragada (San Francisco State University)
- [The industry says we have enough food. Here's why some store shelves are empty anyway. \(Washington Post\)](#)
Members: Karen Smilowitz (Northwestern University) & Ananth Iyer (Purdue University)
- [How Fast Governments Should Get Back to Work \(CNN\)](#)
Member: Pinar Keskinocak (Georgia Institute of Technology)
- [In rare move, Gilead gives up 'orphan' status for experimental coronavirus drug \(Bio Pharma Drive\)](#)
Member: Christopher Tang (University of California Los Angeles)
- [COVID-19 is still spreading — is your city ready? \(The Hill\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann (North Carolina State University)

Signal Group Webinar Tomorrow: The Next Phase of COVID-19 Response: What Will Congress Prioritize? ([registration link](#))

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- The Treasury Department released updates on the \$1,200 direct payments that they've begun the process of sending to Americans. Their first [release](#) announced that they've launched the free "Get My Payment" web application, which "allows taxpayers who filed their tax return in 2018 or 2019 but did not provide their banking information on either return to submit direct deposit information." The second [announcement](#) directed Supplemental Security Income recipients that they will receive their payments directly in their bank accounts.
- Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) [tweeted](#) this evening that "sadly it appears the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will grind to a halt tonight as the limit on funds allocated to guarantee PPP loans is about to be hit." Senator Rubio added that this is "inexcusable."
- Yesterday evening, President Trump [announced](#) the formation of "Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups," which have been formed for a variety of industries. These industries are: agriculture, banking, construction/labor/workforce, defense, energy, financial services, food & beverage, healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing, real estate, retail, technology, telecommunications, transportation, sports, and thought leaders.
- The White House released a [fact sheet](#) on President Trump's announcement yesterday that the U.S. would be suspending payments to the World Health Organization. In response, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a briefing today that "the U.S. has been a long-standing and generous friend to the WHO," and they are "reviewing the impact of withdrawal of U.S. funding on the WHO's work."

- Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) led a coalition of 37 Democratic senators to send a [letter](#) to President Trump asking him “to automatically extend work authorizations for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients and other impacted immigrants,” stating that this “will save American lives and avoid further disruptions to the economy.”
- The Treasury Department has ordered the Internal Revenue Service to print President Trump’s name on the \$1,200 stimulus checks they’re sending to Americans.

Global Response

- Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from G20 countries convened today to release an [action plan](#) on overcoming the coronavirus pandemic. The financial officials “support further adoption and swift implementation of a strong financial response to help countries in need and to uphold global financial stability and resilience.”
- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian stated that China has “serious concerns” on President Trump’s decision to withdraw funding support for the World Health Organization, emphasizing that the “U.S. decision will weaken the WHO’s capability and undermine international cooperation.”
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that the country is beginning the process of lifting coronavirus restrictions, with nonessential stores slated to reopen next week and schools to reopen in May. In her announcement, Chancellor Merkel stated that the country has achieved “fragile, intermediate success,” but are continuing to exercise “extreme caution.”
- Austria is the first European country to have officially eased coronavirus-related restrictions. The country announced that they are reopening some nonessential businesses, with Spain to follow suit with their construction and factory workers. Additionally, Denmark is anticipated to allow children to return to school shortly.
- Although Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced yesterday that the country’s lockdown measures would be extended until May 3rd, the Indian government has issued [new guidelines](#) that some of those restrictions will be eased on Monday.

State Update

- President Trump is scheduled to speak with governors tomorrow on the schedule for reopening states. President Trump said in this evening’s press conference that they’ll “be opening up some states much sooner than others,” and that the administration still thinks “some of the states can actually open up before the deadline of May 1st.”
- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan outlined the four requirements for the state to lift stay-at-home orders, which are: 1) a drastic increase in testing, 2) an expansion in hospital capabilities, 3) an uptick in personal protection equipment acquisition, and 4) a greater amount of people deployed to track every COVID-19 case in the state.
- Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy announced that he will lift the state’s ban on elective surgeries, allowing Alaska’s hospitals to resume those procedures.
- California Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the state is creating a \$125 million disaster assistance fund to help undocumented residents who are not allowed to benefit from unemployment or stimulus benefits included in federal aid packages.
- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an executive order requiring residents to wear masks anywhere that social distancing protocols cannot be practiced. Governor Cuomo stated that New York may make this a civil violation if citizens do not comply.

Economic Update (as of close of the markets)

- According to a Commerce Department [report](#) released today, retail sales across the United States fell by 8.7% in March – signaling the largest decline to have ever happened in a month.
- All three major indices closed the day with losses: the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 1.9%, the S&P 500 by 2.2 %, and the Nasdaq Composite by almost 1.4%. Additionally, oil prices sank to an 18-year low.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 636,591 cases and 27,808 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 2,047,731 cases and 133,354 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Chaotic search for treatments reveals another shortcoming in pandemic preparation \(Washington Post\)](#)
- [Wall Street falls on dour economic data, corporate earnings \(Reuters\)](#)
- [GOP senators push for quick, partial reopening of economy \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Trump's WHO cutoff sends officials, allies scrambling \(Politico\)](#)
- [For These Small Companies, Stimulus Was No Solution \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)