

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

July 28th, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

- [Meat companies refuse to get specific about Covid-19 caseloads, record exports during height of pandemic \(The Counter\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [As Universities Prepare To Bring Students Back, Some Turn To Mass Coronavirus Testing \(WBUR\)](#)
Member: Jag Chhatwal

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) published a [Dear Colleague letter](#) criticizing the Senate Republicans' \$1 trillion proposal for the fourth coronavirus relief package – the HEALS Act, which was unveiled yesterday. In the letter, Speaker Pelosi wrote that “Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and [she] will meet with the [Trump] administration again tomorrow,” but she remains skeptical of Majority Leader McConnell’s “liability-on-steroids proposal.”
- The White House published a [fact sheet](#) on President Trump’s “commitment to ending America’s reliance on foreign countries and vital supplies.”
- The Departments of Energy, Health & Human Services, and Veterans’ Affairs [announced](#) the COVID-19 Insights Partnership – an initiative aimed towards coordinating, sharing, and analyzing health data, as well as cooperating with their research and expertise to aid in the fight against COVID-19.
- President Trump [directed](#) the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation to provide a \$765 million loan to the Eastman Kodak Company to launch a pharmaceutical arm of the company under the Defense Production Act. The launch of their pharmaceutical team is an effort to “collaborate with the Department of Defense in support of the domestic response to COVID-19.”

Global Response

- Belgian Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes announced that the country would reimplement certain social distancing protocols due to an uptick in coronavirus cases. One of these new rules is a mandate that every household form social bubbles that include only 5 additional people maximum.
- The Bolivian government issued an official state of public calamity decree, which allows government officials to utilize extra funds to help with the economic impacts of the coronavirus.
- The Kenyan government banned the sale of all alcohol in restaurants, and mandated that all of the country’s bars remain closed.
- Officials from the Portuguese islands announced that they will make masks mandatory in all indoor and outdoor public spaces. However, all children under 10 years old and all people that are “incapacitated with the lack of ability to place or remove the mask” will be exempted from the requirement.

State Update

- Vermont Governor Phil Scott issued an executive order announcing that students in the state would resume in-person instruction in the fall, starting on September 8th.
- Virginia Governor Ralph Northam issued an executive order that will require all restaurants to close by midnight and for alcohol consumption to be banned after 10 PM.

- Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont unveiled the state's new "Everybody Learns" initiative, with a \$43.5 million investment in virtual learning systems for students in the state – stating that "it is paramount that every Connecticut student has access to high-speed internet, quality digital learning content, and a reliable and effective learning device."
- North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper announced that restaurants in the state will be required to stop selling alcohol from 11 P.M. onwards.
- The Philadelphia Superintendent of Schools is proposing that all students in the school system participate in classes through virtual learning through November 17th at least.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks fell today with all three indices reporting losses. The Nasdaq Composite finished lower by 1.3%, the S&P 500 by 0.6% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.8%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 4,494,319 cases and 152,145 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 16,871,505 and 661,985 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [After Reopening, Coronavirus-Hit States Chart Their Own Paths to Close Up Again \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [Democrats, GOP appear far apart on COVID-19 relief deal \(The Hill\)](#)
- [‘It’s a mess’: Republican senators deride key proposals in GOP virus package \(Politico\)](#)
- [Lawmakers probe White House pressure over schools reopening amid coronavirus \(Reuters\)](#)
- [Trump calls new Senate GOP coronavirus bill ‘semi-irrelevant’ \(The Washington Post\)](#)