**INFORMS Members in the News**

* [Covid-19 Vaccines to Be Stored Secretly Under Tight Security (The Wall Street Journal)](https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-19-vaccines-to-be-stored-secretly-under-tight-security-11603278002)

Member: Anna Nagurney

* [Pfizer Sets Up Its ‘Biggest Ever’ Vaccination Distribution Campaign (The Wall Street Journal)](https://www.wsj.com/articles/pfizer-sets-up-its-biggest-ever-vaccination-distribution-campaign-11603272614)

Member: Julie Swann

* [Nevada's average COVID-19 infection rate climbing steadily (NBC News)](https://mynews4.com/news/local/nevadas-average-covid-19-infection-rate-climbing-steadily)

Member: Julie Swann

**Federal Policy Update**

* House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin reconvened for coronavirus relief negotiations this afternoon, exchanging legislative language. Speaker Pelosi’s spokesperson Drew Hammill [stated](https://twitter.com/Drew_Hammill/status/1319007349579853838) that “differences continue to be narrowed on health priorities,” while “more work needs to be done to ensure that schools are the safest.” Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Mnuchin will continue their discussions tomorrow afternoon, with more guidance from committee leadership of jurisdiction.
* Food & Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn said that while the agency does not have a scheduled timeline for review of a coronavirus – stating that “career scientists in the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research will be making this decision, and they will be making it solely upon the science and data that come from the clinical trials.”
* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its definition of “close contact” to include “multiple exposures adding up to a total of 15 minutes spent six feet or closer to an infected person.”
* The Environmental Protection Agency [announced](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epas-list-approved-sars-cov-2-surface-disinfectant-products-passes-500) that it has now approved over 500 disinfectant products for use against Sars-CoV-2, which is the coronavirus that causes Covid-19.
* The FDA posted a new ["FDA Insight" podcast](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-insight/fda-insight-advisory-committee-covid-19-vaccines) and a new ["FDA voices" update](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-voices/fdas-vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-and-its-role-advising-agency-covid) concerning the Vaccines and Related Biological Advisory Committee's upcoming October 22nd meeting.

**State Response**

* Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo (D) warned that the state “is not in a good place,” adding that “these are not the trends that we would like to be seeing and it’s clear we have community spread all across the state.”
* New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy  (D) and his wife have tested negative for COVID-19 after having come into contact with a COVID-positive staffer this past weekend.
* New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) confirmed that “coronavirus vaccines will be prioritized for frontline and essential workers, as well as the most vulnerable.”
* Boston Public Schools announced that all of the city’s public school instruction would be moved to virtual instruction due to a rise in coronavirus cases.

**Global Response**

* The Czech Republic announced that all free movement across the country would be banned, effective tomorrow through November 3rd. Additionally, Czech Deputy Prime Minister Jan Hamacek has tested positive for coronavirus.
* The country of Scotland announced that they would introduce a new five-tier coronavirus system, starting on November 2nd.
* German Health Minister Jens Spahn has tested positive for COVID-19.

**Economic Update**

* U.S. stocks were on the decline today, with the three indices closing with minor losses. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.3%, the S&P 500 by 0.2%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.4%.

**Latest Impact Data**

* In the United States: Over 8,516,599 cases and 226,053 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
* Worldwide: Over 41,018,127 cases  and 1,128,792 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

**In the News**

* [Power players play chess match on COVID-19 aid (The Hill)](https://thehill.com/homenews/house/522146-power-players-play-chess-match-on-covid-19-aid)
* [Coronavirus Stimulus Vote Could Come After Election Day (The Wall Street Journal)](https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-stimulus-vote-could-come-after-election-day-negotiators-say-11603307413?mod=hp_lead_pos2)
* [CDC broadens definition of who's at risk of getting coronavirus (Politico)](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/21/cdc-coronavirus-risk-guidance-430986)
* [Coronavirus tightens grip on U.S. Midwest (Reuters)](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa/covid-19-tightens-grip-on-u-s-midwest-six-states-report-record-daily-deaths-idUSKBN2762FT)