

## Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

*December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

### INFORMS Members In The News

- [A Vaccine Is Coming Soon, but Questions Remain for Rural America \(U.S. News & World Report\)](#)  
Member: Julie Swann
- [How Pfizer plans to distribute millions of vaccines at ultra-cold temperatures \(KCBS Radio\)](#)  
Member: Burak Kazaz

### Federal Policy Update

- Negotiations for another coronavirus relief package have reportedly stalled due to a lack of bipartisan agreement on the inclusion of liability protections in the package. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) emphasized that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) “wants his proposal,” and “it’s proving to be very hard to find any mutually acceptable alternatives.”
- The Food & Drug Administration announced that the agency is “rapidly working towards finalization and issuance” of an emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine. Health & Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced that they could begin vaccinations as early as Monday or Tuesday of next week.
- The Department of Health & Human Services announced that they’re planning to purchase an additional 100 million doses of the vaccine candidate under production by pharmaceutical company Moderna.
- The Treasury Department published Secretary Steven Mnuchin’s [statement](#) before the Congressional Oversight Commission, testifying that the department has approved 11 loans worth approximately \$736 million thus far through the National Security Loan Program.
- The White House published [remarks](#) from Vice President Mike Pence at a roundtable discussion on coronavirus vaccine progress and distribution efforts.

### State Update

- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) announced that indoor dining services would be banned beginning this upcoming Monday, with outdoor dining services and takeout still permitted.
- Mississippi State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs announced that they would suspend all elective procedures in hospitals across the state, from December 15<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The city of Miami is implementing a curfew for all residents beginning this weekend, requiring them to be home from midnight to 6 AM every night.

### Global Response

- World Health Organization Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan announced that the WHO will be reviewing the vaccine candidates produced by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca “over the next couple of weeks,” to determine if they will receive pre-qualified

licenses. These emergency licenses are essential to several countries and international agencies in disseminating vaccines around the world.

- The WHO also published an [updated checklist](#) to support students attending and returning to school, with safety measures including: mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing, sanitation, and isolation.
- The Canadian government announced that they will begin vaccinating citizens beginning early next week.
- Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz announced that they are lifting limits on gatherings to allow as many as ten people for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. After this, the country will revert back to only permitting a maximum of two families.
- Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced that their government has signed a procurement agreement to buy 15 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine from Pfizer-BioNTech and Sinovac.
- The vaccine candidate under production by British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline and French pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur reportedly has shown interim results that it produces “an insufficient immune response.” Thus, the two companies have announced that the vaccine would be delayed until later in 2021.
- Singapore announced that they would lift the border restrictions on travelers coming into the country from Taiwan on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Economic Update**

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite fell by 0.23%, while the S&P 500 fell by 0.24% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 0.10%.

### **Latest Impact Data**

- In the United States: Over 16,197,946 cases and 301,866 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 71,290,820 cases and 1,598,752 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

### **In the News**

- [White House warns FDA chief to quickly authorize Covid vaccine or risk removal \(Politico\)](#)
- [Coronavirus relief talks stall as liability issue foils negotiators \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Senate Averts Shutdown as Covid-Aid Talks Continue \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [U.S. readies vaccine rollout as deaths hit 3,000 per day \(Reuters\)](#)