Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

• Coronavirus and the Flu (Spectrum News 1)
  Member: Julie Swann

Federal Policy Update

• The House of Representatives passed the updated Heroes Act by a mostly party-line vote of 214-207. However, eighteen Democrats broke party lines to vote with all Republicans against the measure.

• The Food & Drug Administration announced that they will no longer oversee the distribution of remdesivir in the U.S., with the responsibility now falling back on the producer of the drug – pharmaceutical company Gilead. Agency spokesperson Dr. John Redd stated that “the supply of remdesivir now outweighs demand and there is no need for the federal government to oversee allocation.”

• The Labor Department published their weekly unemployment insurance claims report, finding that 837,000 Americans filed for first-time unemployment benefits in the past week.

• The National Institutes of Health announced that the agency has awarded $234 million towards expanding COVID-19 testing opportunities for disadvantaged and underserved populations. Their RADx Underserved Populations program will support 32 institutions across the U.S. to serve those disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

• The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention announced that they would extend their no-sail order for cruise ships through October 31\textsuperscript{st}.

State Update

• New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) warned that the COVID-19 positivity rate in 20 of the state’s hotspots has increased, and that the state’s overall positivity rate has raised to approximately 5.5\% - 6.5\%. He cautioned that “an infection today can easily become a cluster tomorrow.”

• Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers (D) announced a new executive order allowing out-of-state healthcare workers to work in the state due to new “alarming trends” in COVID-19 cases. He emphasized that “the longer it takes for everyone to take Covid-19 seriously, the longer this virus will linger.”

• Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (R) announced that today – for the first time in 187 days – there were no COVID-related deaths in the state.
The Pennsylvania state legislature’s voting session was abruptly cancelled this morning due to a state representative testing positive for coronavirus.

**Global Response**

- The European Medicines Agency announced that it has begun a review process of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine candidate, stating that this is “one of the regulatory tools that the Agency uses to speed up the assessment of a promising medicine or vaccine during a public health emergency.”
- The German Foreign Ministry announced that the country was lifting its blanket caution against traveling to countries outside of the European Union.
- Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced that he is requesting the Italian Parliament to extend the country’s coronavirus state of emergency through the end of January.
- Peruvian President Martín Vizcarra announced that the country would resume their flight service to and from seven South American countries beginning this upcoming Monday, October 5th. These seven countries are: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- The Spanish government placed the city of Madrid into a lockdown of sorts – requiring people to stay home expect for going to work, classes, or fulfilling legal obligations.

**Economic Update**

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing with gains. The Nasdaq Composite increased by 0.13%, the S&P 500 by 0.53%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 1.42%.

**Latest Impact Data**

- In the United States: Over 7,493,803 cases and 212,628 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 34,463,610 and 1,023,659 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

**In the News**

- [House approves $2.2 trillion COVID measure as talks remain stalled](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/01/house-approves-2-2-trillion-covid-measure-as-talks-stall-3233546131) (Politico)
- [Company layoffs mount as pandemic heads into fall](https://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/553630-company layoffs-mount-as-pandemic-heads-into-fall) (The Hill)