



Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

May 13, 2020

INFORMS in the News (5/12/20)

- [Want to stop consumer hoarding in times of crisis? New research may provide the answer \(The Fox Magazine\)](#)
Member: Andrew Ching and Matthew Osbourne
- [Bookmark deep digs into what's next with Covid-19 and its impact on medicine \(JD Supra\)](#)
Member: David Simchi-Levi
- [Would airport coronavirus testing get people flying? Not alone, experts say \(WCSJ News\)](#)
Member: Laura Albert

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) formally introduced rule changes ([H.Res 965](#)) that would allow for proxy voting and virtual committee proceedings amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution is the result of a consensus between Republicans and Democrats, through the work of a bipartisan task force.
- Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell stated in a videoconference this morning that “additional fiscal support could be costly, but worth it if it helps avoid long-term economic damage and leaves us with a stronger recovery.”
- The Labor Department announced that food prices for groceries have risen by 2.6% in the month of April – its largest increase since February 1974.
- The White House issued a [fact sheet](#) on the actions President Trump has taken “to provide support to underserved communities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.”
- This morning, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) attempted to pass a resolution by unanimous consent through the Senate mandating the release of highly-anticipated CDC guidance on reopening the economy. However, the effort was blocked by Senator Mike Braun (R-IN), who argued that this was just a Democratic effort to “shutter the economy” and add “bureaucratic hurdles.”
- House Republican Conference Chairwoman Liz Cheney (R-WY) [tweeted](#) in support of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, stating that the United States “needs his expertise and his judgement to defeat this virus,” and “he is not partisan.”
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office released a new [report](#), entitled “Social Distancing During Pandemics.”
- Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon will begin to partially reopen next week.

Global Response

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released a [report](#) predicting that global trade will decline by 27% in 2020's second quarter.

- Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte unveiled a new economic relief package aimed towards countering the economic impact caused by the pandemic – valued at over 55 billion euros.
- German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said that the country intends to reopen all of its borders next month, stating that they're "able to do this because the infection rates have decreased due to restrictions and the public's discipline."
- The Saudi Arabian government announced that they would resume a total lockdown for the five-day holiday marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.
- South Africa's Trade and Industry Ministry issued official guidelines for what can be sold in retail stores.
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that they're planning to be very careful about when to reopen the U.S.-Canada border. Prime Minister Trudeau also suggested that the Canadian government may begin using contact tracing apps or questionnaires to keep track of the people crossing the border.

State Update

- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (R) and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) – the Chair and Vice Chair (respectively) of the National Governors' Association – issued a [statement](#) again urging that Congress appropriate \$500 billion to state governments. They wrote that there is "widespread bipartisan agreement on the need for this assistance," and this funding is necessary "for state budgetary shortfalls resulting from the pandemic, enhanced FMAP funding to provide healthcare to our most vulnerable, and 100 percent federal cost share for FEMA response and recovery efforts."
- Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds announced that all 99 counties in the state will be lifting their coronavirus restrictions starting this Friday.
- Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced that the state's stay-at-home order is scheduled to be lifted this Friday at 5 PM EST.
- Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced that nonessential retail will be allowed to reopen also this Friday, at 50% capacity.
- District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that Washington, DC's stay-at-home order is now going to be extended through June 8th.
- California Governor Gavin Newsom announced that ten of the state's counties are now moving towards phase two of the reopening process, where they will be allowed to operate curbside retail services and other services – but, close-contact services such as gyms and hair salons will not be permitted to reopen.
- Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton wrote letters to several counties in Texas, warning them not to enforce stricter restrictions as the state begins to reopen. In his letter, Attorney General Paxton writes that "unfortunately, a few Texas counties and cities seem to have confused recommendations with requirements and have grossly exceeded state law to impose their own will on private citizens and businesses."

Economic Update (as of close of the markets)

- U.S. stocks fell today, with all three indices closing the day with a range of losses. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined by 2.2%, the S&P 500 by less than 1.7%, and the Nasdaq Composite also by 1.6%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 1,427,587 cases and 85,029 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 4,417,903 million cases and 297,382 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Trump vs. the skeptics: Reopening fight highlights polar opposite outcomes \(Politico\)](#)
- [Pelosi pushes to unite party on coronavirus bill despite grumbling from left \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Fed chair warns of long, painful downturn if Congress does not provide more relief \(Washington Post\)](#)
- [Soaring Prices, Rotting Crops: Coronavirus Triggers Global Food Crisis \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [U.S. governors call for less partisanship, more aid to fight pandemic \(Reuters\)](#)