**Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak**

*January 22nd, 2021*

**INFORMS Members In The News**

* [President Biden's national mask mandate: What it means for you (WSOCTV)](https://www.wsoctv.com/news/local/bidens-national-mask-mandate-what-it-means-you/33MO34GMNNGUZBOZ2YVYD4A6IY/)

INFORMS Member: Julie Swann

* [How engineering can contribute to a reimagining of the US public health system (My Plainview)](https://www.myplainview.com/news/article/How-engineering-can-contribute-to-a-reimagining-15887108.php)

INFORMS Member: Pinar Keskinocak

* [You Might End Up Getting Your COVID Vaccine From a Dentist or Veterinarian (VICE News)](https://www.vice.com/en/article/epdqbn/you-might-end-up-getting-your-covid-vaccine-from-a-dentist-or-veterinarian)

INFORMS Member: Anna Nagurney

* [What Biden can do to fix America’s Covid-19 vaccine mess (Vox)](https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/22217281/biden-covid-strategy-vaccine-rollout-coronavirus-pandemic)

INFORMS Member: Julie Swann

* [Miscommunication and logistics keep some older NC residents waiting on COVID vaccines (The Fayetteville Observer)](https://www.fayobserver.com/story/news/2021/01/22/covid-vaccines-still-havent-arrived-some-nc-long-term-care-centers/4227829001/)

INFORMS Member: Julie Swann

* [Member of Biden transition team says efforts to ramp up COVID-19 vaccine distribution will work (WSB-TV 2)](https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/atlanta/member-biden-transition-team-says-efforts-ramp-up-covid-19-vaccine-distribution-will-work/NDWG22HEMFCSZFCZCGU5HF526A/)

INFORMS Member: Pinar Keskinocak

* [MIT PhD on Supply Chain Resiliency in the Face of COVID-19 (Healthcare Packaging)](https://www.healthcarepackaging.com/logistics-distribution/logistics-supply-chain/video/21220122/supply-chain-resiliency-in-the-face-of-covid19)

INFORMS Member: David Simchi-Levi

* [How engineering can contribute to a reimagining of the US public health system (The Conversation)](https://theconversation.com/how-engineering-can-contribute-to-a-reimagining-of-the-us-public-health-system-152063)

INFORMS Member: Pinar Keskinocak

* [Biden’s COVID-19 plan creates more vaccination sites, speeds through priority groups (The Olympian)](https://www.theolympian.com/news/coronavirus/article248672345.html)

INFORMS Member: Julie Swann

**Federal Policy Update**

▪ President Joe Biden signed an [executive order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/22/executive-order-economic-relief-related-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/) aimed towards providing economic relief to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – directing executive agencies to “promptly identify actions they can take within existing authority to address the current economic crisis resulting from the pandemic.”

▪ Senate Republicans stated that late last night that they would not get on board for the Biden administration’s $1.9 trillion proposal, with Senate Minority Whip John Thune (R-SD) stating that he thinks “the price range is going to be out of range for the people on our side.”

▪ National Institutes of Allergy & Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci predicted that the U.S. should be able to vaccinate between 70% to 85% of the country’s population by the fall.

▪ The Food & Drug Administration published a [COVID-19 update](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-january-22-2021), detailing several actions including their recent issuing of emergency use authorizations for decontamination systems.

▪ The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention [updated](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html) their vaccine data, reporting that approximately 39.9 million doses have been distributed and 19.1 million doses have been administered.

▪ The Department of Veterans’ Affairs [announced](https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5609) that they would provide COVID-19 testing and vaccines to veterans’ caregivers through the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

▪ The Department of Agriculture [announced](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/01/22/biden-administration-expands-p-ebt-benefit-millions-low-income-and) that it would be expanding their Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program by 15%, and urged Congress to take further measures to extend the emergency increases to nutrition funding through the end of the pandemic.

▪ Nearly 200 members of the National Guard that were deployed to Washington, DC for this week’s inauguration have tested positive for COVID-19.

**State Update**

▪ The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that they’ve allocated [$340 million](https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210122/340-million-obligated-maryland-covid-19-protective-gear-and-safety-measures) to the Maryland Department of Public Health for personal protective equipment – especially for frontline workers.

▪ Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards (D) is urging the state’s residents to wear masks after a case of the UK COVID variant was reported in the state.

▪ Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D) announced that the state’s residents could resume dining at indoor restaurants starting on February 1st.

▪ New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) stated that the state will have exhausted its supply of vaccine doses by the end of the day today, and will now be going “week to week” on vaccinations.

**Global Response**

▪ World Health Organization Africa Director Matshidiso Moeti announced that the WHO would deliver 600 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to African countries by the end of this year.

▪ British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that he would not consider lifting the United Kingdom’s national lockdown until their cases decrease – in fact, they’re actually considering a full closure of their borders.

▪ The Spanish Health Ministry reported that today marked the highest weekly rise in COVID-related deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.

▪ Hungary has secured a deal to purchase a “large quantity” of the Russian Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine.

▪ The French government announced that they would be requiring negative coronavirus test results from European Union travelers within 72 hours of their arrival – beginning on Sunday.

▪ Sri Lanka announced that they would reopen their borders for international travelers.

▪ The Paraguayan government announced that they’ve arranged a purchase agreement for three million doses of coronavirus vaccines from two pharmaceutical companies, with plans to begin vaccinations in the middle of February.

▪ Denmark announced that the country is suspending flights from the United Arab Emirates for the next five days.

▪ The Ukrainian capital of Kiev is in negotiations with several manufacturers to purchase one million doses of the coronavirus vaccine.

**Economic Update**

▪ U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.09% and the S&P 500 by 0.30%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 0.47%.

**Latest Impact Data**

▪ In the United States: Over 25,337,383 cases and 422,971 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.

▪ Worldwide: Over 98,648,180 cases and 2,113,032 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

**In the News**

▪ [Republicans bludgeon Biden’s big stimulus plans (Politico)](https://www.politico.com/news/2021/01/21/biden-coronavirus-stimulus-plan-461216)

▪ [Biden Signs Executive Orders to Boost COVID-19 Aid, Expand Worker Protections (The Wall Street Journal)](https://www.wsj.com/articles/biden-to-sign-executive-orders-to-boost-pandemic-aid-expand-federal-worker-protections-11611309603?mod=hp_lead_pos2)

▪ [COVID-19 has reached every United States county (The Hill)](https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/535367-covid-19-has-been-reported-in-every-united-states-county)

▪ [More than 150 National Guard in Washington for inauguration test positive for COVID (Reuters)](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-military/more-than-150-national-guard-in-washington-for-inauguration-test-positive-for-coronavirus-idUSKBN29R2N2)