

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

September 2nd, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

- [‘Urgent’ request sent to states in push for coronavirus vaccine delivery by Nov. 1 \(McClatchy DC\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Flu Season and Covid-19 Are About to Collide. Now What? \(WIRED\)](#)
Members: Julie Swann and Tinglong Dai

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) expressed his doubt on Congress being able to reach a consensus on a fourth coronavirus relief package, stating that he “[doesn’t] know if there will be another package in the next few weeks or not.” This doubt was echoed by a [statement](#) released from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), in which she wrote that “Democrats and the White House continue to have serious differences.”
- Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro requesting that the GAO issue an expedited Congressional Review Act ruling on the Trump administration’s payroll tax deferral. They wrote that the action “is forcing hardworking federal employees to take on a huge tax debt starting in 2021 that many can’t afford,” adding that the “plan will also bankrupt Social Security and endanger the retirements of millions of Americans.”
- Furthermore, House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) announced that he is planning to introduce a bill to address President Trump’s payroll tax deferral – stating that “[he thinks] the answer is for Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to make clear that these payroll taxes will be forgiven.”
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci emphasized his optimism that there will be a coronavirus vaccine by the end of 2020 – stating that federal officials “feel comfortable that [they] will have a safe and effective vaccine.”
- The Congressional Budget Office published an [updated federal debt forecast](#) today – projecting that the U.S. government will add \$3.3 trillion to the federal deficit in FY2020, and a total of approximately \$13 trillion to be added over the next decade.
- The National Institutes of Health [announced](#) that they are investing an additional \$129.3 million in its Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative, which is intended to enhance “scale-up manufacturing support for a new set of COVID-19 testing technologies.”

- The Federal Reserve released its [Beige Book update](#) – a report on current U.S. economic conditions which is published eight times each year. The report released today conveyed that although the economy has displayed progress, there has continued to be ongoing struggles due to the pandemic. The Federal Reserve wrote that while “economic activity increased among most districts,” the “gains were generally modest and activity remained well below the levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

State Update

- Illinois Governor JB Pritzker (D) warned that nine of the state’s eleven regions “have continued to see their positivity rates creep upward,” with four of these regions “seeing more than one full percentage point increase in positivity rate.”
- Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear (D) encouraged the state’s residents to keep their Labor Day gatherings to 10 or less attendees. He emphasized that “this is the only year [officials] are asking [residents] to do that and it's in the middle of a pandemic.
- Los Angeles County health officials announced that hair salons and barbers would be able to reopen their indoor operations at 25% capacity – effective immediately.

Global Response

- The Chinese government announced that they would resume flights to and from Beijing, with a phased approach set to start this Thursday. The process will begin with passengers permitted to fly to and from “Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Sweden, and Thailand.”
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics announced that their GDP shrunk by another 7% in the second quarter – forcing Australia into a recession for the first time in nearly 30 years due to the ongoing ramifications of the pandemic.
- Hong Kong Secretary for Food and Health Sophia Chan stated that they’re planning to relax restrictions on restaurants and other public places beginning this Friday, due to a decrease in cases. They stated that this would include an extension of dine-in services to be permitted until 10 PM.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing the day with increases. The Nasdaq Composite climbed by 0.98%, the S&P 500 by 1.54%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 1.59%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 6,295,733 cases and 189,892 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 26,150,138 and 866,020 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [CDC asks states to have vaccine sites ready by Nov. 1 \(The Hill\)](#)
- [A Tenth of the World Could Go Hungry While Crops Rot in Fields \(Bloomberg\)](#)
- [U.S. deficit triples in 2020 to highest percentage of GDP since WWII \(Politico\)](#)
- [A Top Fed Official Warns That Economic Risks Aren't Over \(The New York Times\)](#)
- [Pelosi says Democrats, White House have 'serious differences' over coronavirus aid after call with Mnuchin \(CNBC\)](#)