Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 30th, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

• Researchers Create Tracker for Football-Related Coronavirus Spread (The Harvard Crimson)
  Member: Jagpreet Chhatwal

• New models can help hospitals stay ahead of COVID-19 surges (The Hub)
  Member: Kimia Ghob

• Colleges need to look beyond stopping parties to safely reopen in spring 2021 (STAT News)
  Member: Jagpreet Chhatwal

Federal Policy Update

• Leadership of the House and Senate indicated two different timelines for a coronavirus response package in media appearances earlier today. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) indicated that he’s expecting another relief package to move “right at the beginning of next year.” Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated that she was hoping a deal could be reached in the lame duck session later this year.

• Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin sent a letter in response to yesterday’s letter from House Speaker Pelosi, criticizing that her “all or none approach is hurting hard-working Americans.” He requested Speaker Pelosi to bring to the floor stand-alone legislation for the aviation industry, legislation to enhance the Paycheck Protection Program, and a measure to offer supplemental Direct Payments.

• Democrats from the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis released an interim staff report investigating the coronavirus pandemic response conducted by the Trump administration – entitled “Inefficient, Ineffective, and Inequitable: The Trump Administration’s Failed Response to the Coronavirus Crisis.”

• The U.S. Census Bureau published their Household Pulse Survey which found that due to the economic ramifications of the coronavirus pandemic, approximately 9.9 million Americans are not currently up-to-date on their mortgage or rent payments.

• Doran Fink, who currently serves as the Deputy Director of the FDA’s Vaccine Division, announced that the agency is in the “early stages of considering whether using expanded access to distribute a potential COVID-19 vaccine would be an appropriate mechanism.”

State Response

• San Francisco Mayor London Breed announced that the city would temporarily halt the planned reopening of businesses and activities in the city, due to “the slight uptick in the number of hospitalizations, which puts the city in a situation where things could possibly get worse than what they are.”

Global Response

• The European Union announced that they have earmarked 220 million euros to fund the transfer of coronavirus patients across the bloc’s borders, to prevent hospitals within the European Union from becoming overwhelmed.
• World Health Organization European Director Dr. Hans Kluge warned that “Europe is at the epicenter of this pandemic once again.”

• The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that they would lower the travel risk advisory for the following eight countries: China, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, New Zealand, Brunei and Vietnam. This lower advisory rating will now allow essential, urgent travel to take place.

• The French government announced that their economy grew by 18.2% in the third quarter of this year.

• Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo announced that the country would implement stricter lockdown measures for the next six weeks, ranging from non-essential stores being closed to working from home being mandated.

• The city-state of Monaco is planning to enter a nighttime curfew for the next month, from 8 PM to 6 AM – beginning Saturday.

Economic Update

• U.S. stocks were on the decline today, with all three indices closing with losses. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 0.59%, the S&P 500 by 1.21%, and the Nasdaq Composite by 2.45%.

Latest Impact Data

• In the United States: Over 9,301,591 cases and 234,998 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.

• Worldwide: Over 45,835,228 cases and 1,192,191 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

• McConnell says Congress will take up stimulus package at start of 2021 (The Hill)

• The next blow for businesses: Tax hikes that threaten more layoffs (Politico)

• Oversight report calls Trump administration response to the pandemic a ‘failure’ (The Washington Post)

• With election looming, U.S. faces record surge of coronavirus cases (Reuters)