Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak  
May 6, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

- Matching COVID Care Workers with Open Massachusetts Jobs (Northeastern University College of Engineering)  
  Member: Ozlem Ergun
- Opinion: With the right focus, telemedicine can improve continuity of care (Statesman)  
  Member: Vishal Ahuja
- States could save lives by sharing ventilators with each other (Chicago Booth Review)  
  Member: Dan Adelman

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- President Trump tweeted this afternoon that “the Task Force will continue on indefinitely,” and that the administration “may add or subtract people to it as appropriate.” President Trump also confirmed that National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Deborah Birx will remain on the task force.
- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) stated that while there is no concrete return date for the House of Representatives to return to DC, they will return depending on the next package of coronavirus legislation. Majority Leader Hoyer stated that “timing will be dictated by the negotiations and the committee actions in putting together a bill, who are “going to have to determine priorities” as they “will not be able to do them all.”
- Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and John Cornyn (R-TX) led a bipartisan group of senators to write a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza, urging them to increase the cap on using Paycheck Protection Program funds for non-payroll expenses (i.e. utilities, mortgage interest, rent payments, etc.) from 25% to 50%.
- The Defense Department announced that it has signed a deal with 3M in conjunction with the Health & Human Services Department for increased production of N95 masks. This $126 million contract mandates production of 26 million masks per month, beginning October this year.
- White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany stated in this afternoon’s press briefing that the U.S.-China relationship is one “of disappointment and frustration because the President has said how frustrated he is that some of the decisions of China put American lives at risk.”

Global Response

- European Union Economic Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni warned that “the EU has now entered the deepest economic recession in its history,” and they are working to prepare a comprehensive recovery plan – which should be ready within a few weeks.
United Nations Secretary General António Guterres released a policy brief on how the coronavirus is adversely affecting people with disabilities. The brief states that “the global crisis of COVID-19 is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing the extent of exclusion and highlighting that work on disability inclusion is imperative.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced a new set of rules, authorizing restrictions to be lifted for retail and restaurants. However, she stated that the country will reimpose restrictions if there’s a spike in infections.

**State Update**

- New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced that the state’s public health emergency will be extended for an additional 30 days.
- Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt stated that the state is going to move towards phase two of their reopening plan on Friday, May 15th – which will allow for the resumption of nonessential travel and organized sports.
- Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo stated that she is planning to allow the statewide stay-at-home order to expire as scheduled this Friday, May 8th.
- Michigan’s Republican-led legislature officially filed a lawsuit against Governor Gretchen Whitmer over the state’s stay-at-home order, stating that the legislature was excluded from the decision-making process.
- Vermont Natural Resources Agency Secretary Julie Moore announced that outdoor recreational facilities will be allowed to reopen.
- Maryland schools will officially remain closed for the rest of the academic year.
- California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order allowing workers who test positive for coronavirus to be extended compensation eligibility.

**Economic Update (as of close of the markets)**

- Stocks had a volatile trading session today, with two indices closing the day with minor losses while another closed with minor gains. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid lower by 0.9% and the S&P 500 by 0.7%, but the Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.7%.

**Latest Impact Data**

- In the United States: Over 1,256,639 cases and 74,121 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 3,810,714 million cases and 264,021 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

**In the News**

- [Deficit Fears Put Senate Republicans and Trump on Collision Course](https://www.wsj.com) (Wall Street Journal)
- [Trump outlines new focus for White House coronavirus task force](https://www.politico.com) (Politico)
- [Fauci’s absence from hearing draws bipartisan rebuke from House lawmakers](https://www.thehill.com) (The Hill)
- [Coronavirus Casts Deep Chill Over U.S.–China Relations](https://www.wsj.com) (Wall Street Journal)