

## Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

### *December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

#### **INFORMS Members In The News**

- [These Vaccine Stocks Must Pull Off 'Mind-Boggling' Distribution Feat \(Investor's Business Daily\)](#)  
Member: Julie Swann
- [What the Dippin' Dots 'cold chain' can teach us about COVID-19 vaccines \(Popular Science\)](#)  
Member: Julie Swann
- [How to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine: Lessons from Amazon and Walmart \(Fast Company\)](#)  
Member: Christopher Tang and Tinglong Dai

#### **Federal Policy Update**

- Congressional negotiators are reportedly very close to reaching a finalized \$900 billion coronavirus relief package, which would include another round of direct individual checks valued at \$600-\$700. However, it is unlikely that this package would include state and local government funding or liability protections for employers. Speaking on the negotiations, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stated that Capitol Hill leaders "have made major headway" on package, but emphasized that a stimulus vote could stretch into the weekend.
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci predicted that the COVID-19 vaccine candidate produced by Moderna could potentially receive an emergency use authorization from the Food & Drug Administration as early as tomorrow evening.
- The Federal Reserve published an [official guidance](#) indicating that they plan to extend their efforts to curb the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, by permitting interest rates to remain near zero – likely for the next three years.
- Health & Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced that 2 million Pfizer doses and 5.6 million Moderna doses are scheduled to be distributed next week. Furthermore, he announced that 20 million doses of the Moderna candidate should be delivered by the end of the month, pending an emergency use authorization from the FDA.

- Operation Warp Speed Chief Operating Officer Gustave Perna announced that the team is "on track" with the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [announced](#) that the agency would distribute over \$24.5 billion in Provider Relief Funding, in recognition that “this pandemic has upended the health care system and caused significant financial hardships.”
- Assistant Health Secretary Brett Giroir encouraged Americans to continue to stay alert with masks and social distancing, even while vaccination efforts are underway.
- Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that he is quarantining after having come into contact with someone has tested positive for COVID-19.

### State Update

- States have begun their efforts to track the first week of administered vaccinations in the U.S. For example, both Idaho and Michigan have released public dashboards showing that 119 and 10 doses have been issued in the two states, respectively.
- Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds (R) announced that the state is lifting all bar and restaurant curfews, as well as ending all limitations on social gatherings. However, residents are still encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing protocols.
- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) announced that the state would likely begin vaccinating members of the general public by late January, if all goes according to plan with federal deliveries.

### Global Response

- The European Union announced that travelers from the country of Uruguay would be removed from the list of countries from which it is permitted to visit the EU during the coronavirus pandemic. This list now only allows entry for travelers from: Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand.
- French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that the country would receive 1.16 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine by December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Indonesian President Joko Widodo announced that the country would provide free COVID-19 vaccines to their residents.
- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that they’re aiming to vaccinate the entire population of the country against coronavirus by the second half of 2021.
- Spanish Health Minister Salvador Illa announced that the government would grant the country’s regional administrations the ability to implement local restrictions and size limitations for Christmas gatherings.

- The Chinese Civil Aviation Administration announced that they will suspend inbound international flight routes if 5 or more people test positive for COVID-19.
- The Chilean Public Health Institute has approved emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine to be used for residents that are 16 and older.
- The Saudi Arabian government announced that they have received their first shipment of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- The European office of the World Health Organization is warning that there is still a "high risk of further resurgence" of coronavirus cases across Europe for early next year.
- The city of London is set to reinstitute a strict lockdown this week, starting at 12 AM tonight after a rise in coronavirus cases.

### **Economic Update**

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.50% and the S&P 500 by 0.18%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 0.15%.

### **Latest Impact Data**

- In the United States: Over 17,315,741 cases and 313,724 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 74,418,587 cases and 1,652,882 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

### **In the News**

- [Sweeping COVID-19, spending deal hits speed bumps \(The Hill\)](#)
- [FDA says Pfizer vaccine vials hold extra doses, expanding supply \(Politico\)](#)
- [Fed Reinforces Plans to Provide Open-Ended Stimulus to Spur Recovery \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [U.S. negotiating with Pfizer to secure additional vaccine by spring \(The Washington Post\)](#)