Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 5th, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

• ‘If you play with fire, you get burned.’ Is a COVID-19-safe political event possible? (The News & Observer)
  Member: Julie Swann

• Using technology to tailor lessons to each student (The Seattle Times)
  Member: Sheldon Jacobson

Federal Policy Update

• The White House published a fact sheet on measures they’ve taken to support mental health initiatives during the time of the coronavirus pandemic.

• The Senate announced that they would postpone their return to DC, with the chamber scheduled to reconvene for regular session in two weeks – on October 19th.

• The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention updated its guidance on how coronavirus spreads through the air – stating that the “CDC continues to believe, based on current science, that people are more likely to become infected the longer and closer they are to a person with COVID-19.”

• The Department of Defense published their ”Evaluation of Department of Defense Medical Treatment Facility Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic” report, which examines the challenges and needs of employees working to treat COVID-19 at DoD Medical Treatment Facilities.

• White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany announced that she has tested positive for COVID-19.

State Update

• New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) announced that they are closing schools in nine zip codes in New York City, due to a lack of data on coronavirus testing in schools.

• New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (D) has called for enhanced federal cooperation on contact tracing efforts, highlighting that their state has taken the lead on the effort at both the state and local levels.
Global Response

- World Health Organization Health Emergencies Programme Director Mike Ryan stated that while the number of cases worldwide will “vary depending on country,” the “best estimate” is that 1 in 10 people have contracted COVID-19 thus far.

- Iceland announced that they are implementing new coronavirus-related restrictions – ranging from gyms and bars being mandated, to gatherings being limited to 20 people.

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that she is entering a self-quarantine due to having “participated in a meeting last Tuesday attended by a person who tested positive for COVID-19.”

- The Russian Ministry of Education announced that schools in Moscow will enter a distance-learning format due to a rise in coronavirus cases.

- The team that created Russia’s Sputnik-V vaccine urged that “now would be a good time for the U.S. to seriously consider the Russian vaccine to defend themselves against COVID-19.”

- Because of an uptick in coronavirus cases, the city of Paris will close all bars for at least the next 15 days.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing with gains. The Nasdaq Composite climbed by 2.32%, the S&P 500 by 1.80%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 1.68%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 7,676,946 cases and 214,970 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.

- Worldwide: Over 35,691,492 and 1,045,807 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- CDC Acknowledges Covid-19 Can Spread Via Tiny Air Particles (The Wall Street Journal)
- Senate leaves town for two weeks amid coronavirus outbreak (The Hill)
- Stocks jump on stimulus hopes, Trump's hospital departure (Politico)
- Supreme Court functions in midst of COVID-19 chaos on first day of new term (Roll Call)