Good evening,  
  
Please find today's Daily COVID-19 Update below and attached. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.  
  
Thank you,  
  
Ashley Smith

**INFORMS Members in the News**

* [Did Big Ten football need to shut down? Professor dives into COVID-19 data (Indy Star)](https://www.indystar.com/story/sports/college/indiana/2020/08/13/big-ten-football-professor-says-data-doesnt-support-shutdown-iu-football-indiana-hoosiers/3368291001/)

Member: Sheldon Jacobson

* [As COVID-19 spikes in some ZIP codes, causes aren’t always clear (WBTV)](https://www.wbtv.com/2020/08/13/covid-spikes-some-zip-codes-causes-arent-always-clear/)

Member: Julie Swann

* [Opinion: Here's how college basketball should play this season during COVID-19 (The Detroit News)](https://www.detroitnews.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.detroitnews.com%2Fstory%2Fopinion%2F2020%2F08%2F13%2Fopinion-heres-how-college-basketball-can-play-covid-19-season-sports-baseball-football%2F3364155001%2F)

Member: Sheldon Jacobson

**U.S. Federal Policy Update**

* The White House Council of Economic Advisers published a [release](https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/reopening-schools-key-unlocking-full-potential-americas-children/) emphasizing that “reopening schools is the key to unlocking the full potential of America’s children.”
* Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf [announced](https://twitter.com/DHS_Wolf/status/1294272922559930370?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1294272922559930370%7Ctwgr%5E&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2Fworld%2Flive-news%2Fcoronavirus-pandemic-08-14-20-intl%2Findex.html) that the U.S., Canada, and Mexico “have agreed to extend the limitation of non-essential travel at the shared land ports of entry through September 21st.”
* The Department of Defense [announced](https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2313808/trump-administration-collaborates-with-mckesson-for-covid-19-vaccine-distributi/) that the McKesson Corporation would be a major distributor of future coronavirus vaccines and related supplies.
* President Trump [tweeted](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1294308655718969345) this afternoon that he has “directed Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to get ready to send direct payments - $3,400 for families of four – to all Americans,” adding that “Democrats are holding this up.”
* The Department of Health & Human Services [announced](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/14/trump-administration-to-begin-distributing-1.4-billion-in-relief-funds-to-childrens-hospitals.html) that they will begin distributing $1.4 billion in relief funding for the coronavirus response at certain children’s hospitals.
* Housing & Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson [published](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_124) an announcement that they will be allowing new flexibility for communities to be able to utilize CARES Act funds through the Community Development Block Grant Program to support those impacted by the pandemic.

**Global Response**

* The United Kingdom announced that travelers entering Britain from the Netherlands, France, and Malta will be required to quarantine for two weeks.
* The UK government also announced that they’ve entered an “in-principle” agreement to receive early access to 30 million doses of the Janssen vaccine and 60 million of the Novavax vaccine.
* The World Health Organization published a statement, emphasizing the need for more equitable access to medication amid the COVID-19 pandemic – stating that a number of “patients around the world face barriers to accessing controlled medicines.”
* Argentinian President Alberto Fernández announced that the country’s quarantine measures will be extended up until August 30th.
* New Zealand’s Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that the country would extend their current coronavirus restrictions for an additional 12 days.
* The Indian government announced that they are creating a “travel bubble” with the Maldives, beginning August 18th.
* The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics announced that their economy declined by 10.98% in the second quarter of this year.

**State Update**

* Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D) announced that four million free masks would be distributed among the state’s most at-risk and disadvantaged residents – through a partnership with FEMA and Ford Motors.
* West Virginia Governor Jim Justice (R) announced that the state is implementing a color-coded rating system for each county to convey their positivity rates.
* New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (D) announced that the state would be implementing a hybrid model for their November elections, in which voters will be able to decide whether they vote by mail or in person.
* Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear (D) announced that they were offering expanded voting eligibility for absentee voting and a longer time period for early voting – in an effort to offer more voting options amid coronavirus concerns.
* New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) announced that New York City’s museums and cultural institutions will be allowed to open at 25% occupancy – beginning August 24th.
* Seattle public schools announced that the city’s school system will begin their academic year with a remote learning model.

**Economic Update**

* U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing the day with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.3%, while the S&P 500 fell by 0.2% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.3%.

**Latest Impact Data**

* In the United States: Over 5,474,044 cases and 171,454 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
* Worldwide: Over 21,332,553 and 762,346 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

**In the News**

* [Negotiators 'miles apart' on COVID-19 funding, with little hope for deal until September (Politico)](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/08/13/coronavirus-relief-talks-394829)
* [Stocks close flat amid lack of progress for stimulus deal (The Hill)](https://thehill.com/policy/finance/512093-stocks-close-flat-amid-lack-of-progress-for-stimulus-deal)
* [Senate backlash on pandemic aid sets up September stopgap fight (Roll Call)](https://www.rollcall.com/2020/08/14/senate-backlash-on-pandemic-aid-sets-up-september-stopgap-fight/)
* [Hispanics, African Americans hit hard in U.S. COVID-19 hotspot counties, says CDC (Reuters)](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-race/hispanics-african-americans-hit-hard-in-u-s-covid-19-hotspot-counties-says-cdc-idUSKCN25A2IU)
* [McKesson Tapped to Distribute Coronavirus Vaccines in U.S. (The Wall Street Journal)](https://www.wsj.com/articles/mckesson-tapped-to-distribute-coronavirus-vaccines-in-u-s-11597438018?mod=hp_lead_pos6)