INFORMS Members In The News

- Can your employer force you to get a COVID-19 vaccine? Yes, usually (CBS News)
  Member: Carri Chan
- Ultracold temperatures protect the potency of COVID-19 vaccine (The Berkshire Eagle)
  Member: Julie Swann
- US Military Starts Vaccinating Troops, Behind Russia and China (Defense One)
  Member: Tinglong Dai
- Testing dysfunction is fueling the COVID-19 wildfire (The Washington Examiner)
  Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- The Post-Pandemic, Digitally Driven Marketplace Requires Creative Innovation (Inside Sources)
  Member: Vishal Ajuha
- Dr. Julie Swann Discusses the Logistics of Controlling the COVID-19 Pandemic (Doc Wire News)
  Member: Julie Swann
- US Military to Start Vaccinating Troops, Behind Russia and China (Government Executive)
  Member: Tinglong Dai
- As 2020 comes to an end, here’s what we still don’t know about COVID-19 (Science News)
  Member: Julie Swann
- Vaccine Delivery Across the Country Faces Complex Supply Chain Challenges (Marketplace)
  Members: Anna Nagurney and Julie Swann

Federal Policy Update

- The Food & Drug Administration’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted to endorse the emergency use authorization request for the vaccine candidate produced by Pfizer and BioNTech this morning by a vote of 17-4. The process will continue with an official decision from the FDA, which could be issued as early as later today or tomorrow.
- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) announced that members from the House of Representatives would depart D.C. until Tuesday next week, with members to return to focus on a coronavirus relief package and on an omnibus spending bill. Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has reportedly emphasized that it is unlikely for Senate Republicans to support the $908 billion bipartisan relief proposal.
- The Department of Labor published their weekly jobless data, finding that over 853,000 Americans filed for first-time unemployment insurance benefits over the last week.
- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention updated its COVID-19 projection, estimating that there will be approximately 362,000 deaths in the U.S. by January 2nd.
National Center for Immunization & Respiratory Diseases Director Nancy Messonnier stated that health officials in the U.S. have been collaborating with counterparts from Canada and the United Kingdom to share coronavirus vaccine information.

The Federal Aviation Administration published a statement that they would prioritize flights transporting coronavirus vaccines – writing that “the FAA Command Center will closely track the flights along their routes to ensure they are given priority to the highest degree possible.”

**State Update**

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf (D) announced that the state would now prohibit operation of all indoor dining services, as well as indoor gyms and fitness facilities – effective from December 12th through January 4th.

San Francisco Health Director Grant Colfax warned that the city is projected to potentially run out of hospital beds within the next 17 days.

**Global Response**

The European Union has indicated that travelers from the United Kingdom could be subject to EU COVID-19 travel restrictions starting in January, once the Brexit transition period comes to an end.

The Mexican Health Ministry has officially signed a deal to procure 35 million doses of the CanSino Biologics vaccine candidate from China.

The Saudi Arabian government has officially registered the vaccine created by Pfizer and BioNTech to be imported and locally used in the country.

India’s Central Drugs Standard Organization announced that they’ve reached the phase of consideration for AstraZeneca’s coronavirus vaccine candidate – requesting the an update on safety data from Phases 2 and 3 of their clinical trial.

**Economic Update**

U.S. stocks were volatile today, with all three indices closing with varying results. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.54%, while the S&P 500 fell by 0.13% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.23%.

**Latest Impact Data**

In the United States: Over 15,991,334 cases and 299,174 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.

Worldwide: Over 70,628,977 cases and 1,586,640 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

**In the News**

- [FDA panel votes in favor of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](The Hill)
- [Economic relief talks in disarray as congressional bickering intensifies](The Washington Post)
- [Mnuchin pushes relief checks over jobless aid](Politico)
- [U.S. Unemployment Claims Rise to Highest Level Since September](The Wall Street Journal)
- [Wall Street shakes off labor market data with stimulus in focus](Reuters)