

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

December 10th, 2020

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 \(Reuters\)](#)