

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

December 14th, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [Sheldon Jacobson: Effective treatments, not vaccines, are light at end of covid-19 tunnel \(TRIB Live\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Dry ice shortage concerns create COVID-19 vaccine distribution challenges \(ABC 7\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [With release of COVID-19 vaccine imminent, distribution plan to be tested \(AJC\)](#)
Member: Pinar Keskinocak
- [Women, mothers facing brunt of pandemic's economic toll \(MSNBC\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [These containers used to ship fresh tuna. Now they'll deliver Covid-19 vaccines \(CNN Business\)](#)
Member: Burak Kazaz
- [COVID-19 vaccines are being injected in Canada now, so when am I getting mine \(Toronto Star\)](#)
Members: Opher Baron and Andre Cire

Federal Policy Update

- Lawmakers from the bipartisan, bicameral effort to reach a coronavirus relief package officially published two relief measures – a [broad \\$748 billion measure](#), accompanied by a \$160 billion measure with [liability protections](#) and [state/local funding](#).
- The United States launched vaccinations today with the candidate produced by pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech. Accordingly, the Food & Drug Administration published a [statement](#) regarding its Emergency Use Authorization of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.
- A group of Senate Democrats sent a [letter](#) to Operation Warp Speed officials, emphasizing their concern that the U.S. could potentially be facing a shortage of coronavirus vaccine doses. The lawmakers wrote that they “are concerned the failure to secure an adequate supply of vaccines will needlessly prolong the COVID-19 pandemic in this country, causing further loss of life and economic devastation.”
- Officials from Operation Warp Speed announced that the U.S. is planning to ship 6 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine produced by pharmaceutical company Moderna, once an emergency authorization is granted by the FDA.
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci predicted that Americans will not be able to travel safely without masks until late next year – adding that it is unlikely for residents with no underlying health conditions to be vaccinated by March or early April.

State Update

- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) warned that the state could potentially face a second shutdown if the current trajectory of COVID-19 cases continues.
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) echoed Governor Cuomo's sentiments – stating that New York “is seeing the kind of level of infection with the coronavirus that we haven't seen since May and we must stop this momentum.”

Global Response

- The World Health Organization officially launched the “Global Youth Mobilization for Generation Disrupted” campaign, which is an initiative to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the global youth.
- The Canadian government has begun the vaccination process for the country's citizens.
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that the country is anticipating to receive 11 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine by March of next year.
- The New Zealand government announced that they have entered an agreement with the Australian government to create a travel bubble between the two countries, although specific details of the agreement have not yet been reached.
- Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini – who serves as the Prime Minister of the southern African country of Eswatini – has died due to COVID-19 complications. He is the first head of state to die from the virus.
- South Korean health officials warned that the country is preparing for an incoming third wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.50%, while the S&P 500 fell by 0.44% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.62%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 16,890,031 cases and 307,641 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 73,108,554 cases and 1,626,176 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Bipartisan group unveils two-part \\$908 billion coronavirus package \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Congress warms to possible Covid stimulus deal \(Politico\)](#)
- [First COVID-19 Vaccines Given to U.S. Public \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [White House, Congress, judiciary prioritized for COVID-19 vaccines due to continuity-of-government protocols \(Roll Call\)](#)
- [Scientists pinpoint genes common among those with severe infections \(The Washington Post\)](#)