

Daily COVID-19 Update

March 19, 2020

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- Senate Republicans released the [bill text](#) for their third coronavirus response package this evening. The package – entitled the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – which provides: direct payments to individuals and families, small business interruption loans, assistance for distressed economic sectors, broader business relief, resources for an enhanced healthcare response, and additional workforce-related provisions. Upon the bill’s release this evening, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stated that the “Senate is not going anywhere until [they] act,” and that Senate Republicans will be working with Democrats and the Trump administration “to get results as soon as possible.” The package was introduced by Majority Leader McConnell, as well as the following committee leaders:
 - HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
 - Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID)
 - Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
 - Small Business Committee Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL)
 - Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL)
 - Commerce Committee Chairman Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- The Department of State announced a “[Global Level 4 Health Advisory](#)” today, which officially directs all Americans to avoid all international travel. The advisory also directs U.S. citizens who are currently abroad to return to the U.S. immediately, if those options remain.
- The Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) held a stakeholder conference call this afternoon, giving an update on the agency’s actions during this time. To that end, CISA issued a guidelines [document](#) for “critical workers.”
- Speaker Nancy Pelosi urged President Trump to immediately use the capabilities provided by the Defense Production Act, after President Trump signed the measure yesterday. President Trump followed up his action yesterday by tweeting that he will only utilize the powers “in a worst case scenario in the future,” but that “hopefully there will be no need.” In [her statement](#) to President Trump, Speaker Pelosi stated that he should use the powers immediately “to mass produce and coordinate distribution of critical supplies, before the need worsens.”

Global Response

- The closure of the U.S.-Canada border for “all nonessential travel” will likely go into effect either Friday or Saturday, according to a statement made today by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- India has banned all incoming commercial flights for the next week, including for Indian citizens.
- The United Arab Emirates announced today that expatriates who are outside the country will not be permitted to re-enter the UAE for at least the next two weeks. UAE citizens have also been banned from traveling internationally.

- Additionally, Australia and New Zealand announced that they would close their borders to all non-citizens.

Economic Impact

- Stocks closed higher today, after several central banks took action to boost markets. The Federal Reserve increase bond buying further, and the European Central Bank announced a new bond-buying program. Additionally, the Bank of England slashed its benchmark interest rate to an all-time low.

Latest Numbers

- In the United States: Over 10,822 cases and 172 deaths in 50 states, 3 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 233,000 cases and 9,818 deaths in at least 148 countries.

INFORMS Members In The News (3/16/20 – 3/19/20)

- [In 'coronapocalypse' the worst shortages could be deadly \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Why the WHO Was Afraid of Crying 'Pandemic' \(Yale Insights\)](#)
- [Inslee says now not the time for a coronavirus 'shelter in place' order in Washington \(The Seattle Times\)](#)
- [Maps show how most hospital beds across the US could will be full with coronavirus patients in just six months - but 'flattening the curve' will stop wards being completely overwhelmed \(Daily Mail\)](#)
- [Experts offer advice on avoiding coronavirus \(The Daily Star\)](#)
- [Georgia Tech professor explains how social distancing slows spread of COVID-19 \(Atlanta Journal Constitution\)](#)
- [Travel bans can't stop this pandemic \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Coronavirus: Let's Come Together, by Staying Apart \(HillRag\)](#)

Other News (3/19/20)

- [Coronavirus response hinges on McConnell and Schumer \(Politico\)](#)
- [McConnell introduces third coronavirus relief proposal \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Coronavirus projections: What will America look like in coming months? \(Washington Post\)](#)

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