

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

December 7th, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [Many are asking if their employers can force them to get a COVID-19 vaccine \(KNX 1070\)](#)
Member: Carri Chan
- [States Craft Vaccine Plans in a Haze of Changing Information \(Bloomberg Quint\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai
- [What's driving coronavirus vaccine hesitancy in US? \(Fox News\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Fact check: Did North Carolina voting sites have any clusters of COVID-19 cases? \(The Charlotte Observer\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Minnesota-based company will protect COVID-19 vaccines on supply chain \(KARE\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Can your employer force you to get a COVID-19 vaccine? \(Wink News\)](#)
Member: Carri Chan
- [Study Examines non-COVID Deaths \(Alton Daily News\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Ultracold temperatures protect the potency of COVID-19 vaccine \(Egypt Independent\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [NOT REAL NEWS: False stories from this week about COVID vaccines, election results, more \(ABC 7\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Second Time Around \(Hamodia\)](#)
Member: Ed Kaplan, Carri Chan, and Awi Fedegruen
- [Zoom Fatigue: How Your Brain Is Worn Out \(MBA MCI\)](#)
INFORMS
- [States Craft Vaccine Plans in a Haze of Changing Information \(Bloomberg\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai

Federal Policy Update

- President Trump is planning to kick off a “vaccine summit” tomorrow, with an aim to highlight the ongoing efforts underway by the federal government. However, executives

from pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna – the two companies that have submitted their respective vaccine candidates to the FDA for emergency use authorizations – will not be present at the event.

- The Food & Drug Administration issued an [authorization](#) for the first combined, at-home test for COVID-19 and the flu, with samples to be self-collected at home and then mailed to Quest Diagnostics for analysis.
- The Federal Aviation Administration announced that they are “prepared to evaluate the use of each vaccine by medical certificate holders as soon as an emergency-use authorization is issued” for a possible coronavirus vaccine.

State Update

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that they would grant over \$2 million to [Connecticut](#) and nearly \$12 million to [Rhode Island](#) in COVID-19 related aid.
- Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon (R) issued a new COVID-19 response plan, which requires face coverings to be worn in public indoor settings. However, the plan offers a caveat that certain counties “can opt out of the requirements if local conditions move to safer levels in accordance with White House metrics.”
- Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D) announced that the state would extend its partial lockdown through December 20th.
- The California government announced that they would launch a contact tracing app developed by Google and Apple to track the spread of cases in the state.
- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) ordered hospitals in the state to increase their capacity by 25%, due to the spike in coronavirus cases.
- The territory of Puerto Rico is implementing new coronavirus restrictions, including imposing a lockdown on Sundays and banning the sale of alcohol on the weekends. These restrictions will run through January 7th.

Global Response

- World Health Organization Emergencies Programme Director Mike Ryan urged that they “would rather avoid mandatory vaccination as a means of getting people vaccinated,” adding that the world is “much better served to present people with the data and the benefits to let people make up their own minds.”
- The German government is reportedly aiming to vaccinate 10 million citizens in the first quarter of 2021.
- The Canadian government announced that they have increased their COVID-19 vaccine from pharmaceutical company Moderna from 20 million doses to 40 million doses.
- The United Kingdom is planning to vaccinate the most at-risk British citizens this month, after their approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine last week.

- Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederikson announced that the country would implement a partial lockdown on 39 of its 98 counties, where their cases are highest. These restrictions include closing schools for 5th grade and over, as well as the closing of many public recreational areas.
- The Indonesian government announced that they would be vaccinating 9 million citizens this month with the COVID-19 vaccine being created by China.
- Stelios Petsas, who currently serves as the Spokesperson for the Greek government, announced that the ban on inter-region travel and the ongoing curfews have been extended – remaining in effect until January 7th, 2021.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.45%, while the S&P 500 fell by 0.19% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.49%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 15,339, 176 cases and 290,303 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 67,881,029 cases and 1,549,364 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Lawmakers face hurdles to COVID relief deal \(The Hill\)](#)
- [States defer to health providers on who gets first vaccines \(Politico\)](#)
- [President Trump to hold White House COVID-19 summit as pressure mounts for FDA vaccine approval \(USA Today\)](#)
- [U.S. records highest weekly deaths since April \(Reuters\)](#)
- [Hospitals Race to Assess Who Gets Virus Vaccine First \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)