

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

December 15th, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [Health experts warn of false sense of security as vaccine rolls out \(KOLD 13\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [COVID-19 vaccines are being injected in Canada now, so when am I getting mine \(The Toronto Star\)](#)
Member: Opher Baron
- [Can You Get a Covid Test at Home? \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [What vaccine distribution planners can learn from Amazon and Walmart \(The Conversation\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai & Chris Tang
- [Coronavirus and the College Experience This Spring \(U.S. News & World Report\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson

Federal Policy Update

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was adamant during his weekly policy press briefing this afternoon that lawmakers “are not leaving here without a COVID package” – adding that “no matter how long it takes, [lawmakers] will be in DC.”
- The Food & Drug Administration published a [briefing document](#) with details regarding the efficacy of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which will be under consideration by the Vaccines & Related Biological Products Advisory Committee this Thursday. The FDA also released a [review memorandum](#) for its authorization of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine earlier today.
- The Department of Health & Human Services [announced](#) that states and territories across the U.S. will receive \$140 million to launch COVID-19 vaccine campaigns, as well as \$87 million for tracking and testing efforts.
- House Administration Committee Ranking Member Rodney Davis (R-IL) sent a [letter](#) to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, urging that they develop a comprehensive vaccine program for Capitol Hill. He wrote that “offering immunity vaccinations to the House’s high-risk and frontline essential workers is not only fundamental to the institution’s continuity of operations but is its duty to care for the health and safety of its staff and Members.”

State Update

- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (R) announced that the state will be receiving 98,475 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine this week. Next week, they are expecting to receive another 123,000 doses from Pfizer, as well as 201,900 doses from Moderna.
- New York Health Commissioner Judy Persichilli announced that the state is planning to receive 76,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, with approximately 20,000 doses reserved for long-term care facilities.
- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) announced that two weeks of the Pfizer vaccine shipments have been placed “on hold right now” – a delay which has been caused by “a production with Pfizer.”
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) announced that the city has administered 73 first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to healthcare workers.

Global Response

- German Health Minister Jens Spahn urged the European Medicines Agency to issue an emergency authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine candidate prior to Christmas, emphasizing that the “goal is to be able to start vaccinating this year.”
- Pharmaceutical company Moderna announced that they have reached an agreement with the Singapore Health Ministry to supply 500 million doses of their coronavirus vaccine.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing with gains. The S&P 500 rose by 1.29%, the Nasdaq Composite by 1.25%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 1.13%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 17,118,453 cases and 310,641 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 73,759,991 cases and 1,640,046 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [McConnell says lawmakers won't leave until COVID-19 relief aid is passed \(NBC News\)](#)
- [FDA clears path for second coronavirus vaccine, from Moderna \(Politico\)](#)
- [Lawmakers grapple with implementing COVID-19 vaccine on Capitol Hill \(The Hill\)](#)
- [U.S. COVID-19 immunization rollout expands as officials avow vaccine's safety \(Reuters\)](#)
- [U.S. Stocks Rise as Investors Track Stimulus Talks \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)