

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

August 28th, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

- [Covid-19 and the impact on election security \(Engage TU\)](#)
Member: Natalie Scala

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- Following a call between White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Meadows said today, “the president right now is willing to sign something at \$1.3 trillion.” Prior to today, the White House had not agreed to go above a \$1.1 trillion for a coronavirus package.
- Leaders of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the Big Cities Health Coalition sent a [letter](#) to Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Center for Disease Control, and Admiral Brett P. Giroir, an Assistant Secretary of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services urging the CDC to “pull the revised guidance” on testing and reinstate recommendations for all Americans to be tested if exposed to COVID-19 regardless of whether they are showing symptoms.
- Moderna, a U.S.-based drug company working towards a COVID-19 vaccine, failed to disclose financial support from the federal government in any of its 126 patents, according to a [report](#) by Knowledge Ecology International (KEI). In a letter from KEI to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) which has funded about \$25 million in grants to Moderna, KEI said, “To protect taxpayer investments, the funding agency should remedy the failure to disclose by at a minimum requiring a correction to the patent and more appropriately by taking title to the patents themselves, as the sanction for the failure to disclose.”
- Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at the US Department of Health and Human Service, Paul Mango, told reporters today that Operation Warp Speed will continue if Joe Biden wins the presidential election. Mango said: “The vast majority of folks who are working on Operation Warp Speed are not political appointees of the Trump administration,”

Global Response

- A Chinese pharmaceutical company, CanSino Biologics Inc., has begun negotiations with Russia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, to grant emergency approval to distribute this vaccine before the company conducts large-scale trials. China’s military has already approved this vaccine.

- Hungary will close its borders to foreigners on September 1 due to “due to the development of the coronavirus epidemic situation.” Hungarians returning home will have to quarantine for 14 days unless they can show two negative coronavirus tests to enter the country.
- India is leading the world in new coronavirus cases, with 75,000 new cases per day over the last three days. As of today, the country has reported 3.3 million cases and over 61,000 deaths.
- French health officials warn that COVID-19 cases are "growing exponentially" as France reported its largest increase since March with 7,379 new daily cases on Friday.

State Update

- Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards (D) voiced concerns about residents slowing down testing following Hurricane Laura. In a press conference today, he said: “Frankly we cannot afford to lose sight of our testing, because it was about three weeks ago that our schools came back.... [I]t takes about two weeks after behavior changes to see if there is any changes in positivity which will lead to more hospitalizations and deaths. So this is a very bad week for us not to be doing robust testing,”
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) said today that schools are scheduled to begin in-person learning on September 10.
- New York reported its lowest coronavirus infection rate to date with 0.65% of the nearly 98,000 coronavirus tests reported positive.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks climbed today, with the three indices closing the day with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose today by 0.6%, S&P 500 by 0.67%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.57%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 6,088,485 cases and 185,704 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 24,859,081 and 839,721 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Four people at Republican convention in Charlotte test positive for Covid-19 \(Politico\)](#)
- [Coronavirus cases in some European countries are rising again, but with fewer deaths. For now. \(Washington Post\)](#)
- [Democrats and White House are at a 'tragic impasse' on coronavirus stimulus after Pelosi-Meadows call \(CNBC\)](#)
- [Many infected children show no symptoms but may spread the virus, a South Korean study finds. \(New York Times\)](#)