INFORMS Members in the News

- We’re in the Calm before a New Storm of COVID-19 Infections and Deaths (Scientific American)
  Member: Pinar Keskinocak
- Georgia Tech model predicts jump in COVID cases, deaths in state by mid-August (Gwinnett Daily Post)
  Member: Pinar Keskinocak
- In Kansas, contact tracers listen to the fears of the exposed in race to contain virus (The Wichita Eagle)
  Member: Julie Swann
- U of T Engineering team develops tool to help hospitals redeploy staff amid COVID-19 pandemic (University of Toronto)
  Member: Timothy Chan

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) sent a Dear Colleague letter to House Democrats, stating that it is imperative to “think big” for a possible next coronavirus relief package. Speaker Pelosi’s letter specifically details that such a package must include more direct payments, enhanced unemployment benefits, loan assistance, and more.

- Regarding a possible next package, President Trump stated in today’s White House press briefing that he would like to see a payroll tax cut and other priorities included, and that his administration will be working with Democratic leadership to reach a consensus. Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) stated that Senate Republicans “haven’t yet felt the urgency of acting immediately,” but indicated that they will remain unified with the White House – stating that “if [they] decide to go forward, [they] will go forward together.”

- Also at this afternoon’s White House press briefing, HHS Assistant Secretary Brett Giroir stated that $11 billion in funding is being delivered to stated for “the sole support of testing.”

Global Response

- France began easing their strict lockdown measures today, with small shops and hair salons reopening in the country.

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern stated that the country is working to reopen restaurants, gyms, and movie theaters by this Thursday.

- The World Health Organization announced that approximately 110 different COVID-19 vaccines are currently in development around the world.

State Update
• A group of 18 Republican state attorneys general sent a letter to House and Senate leadership urging them to conduct an investigation into China’s role in the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The lawmakers wrote that they “must hold China accountable for the devastation and destruction caused by COVID-19.” The state attorneys general are from the following states: South Carolina, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

• The five states in the “Western Pact” – California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and Nevada – sent a letter to the federal government asking for $1 trillion in funding, according to an announcement from California Governor Gavin Newsom.

• New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a four-phase plan to reopen the state, which will begin this Friday. In order to begin the reopening process, the state’s regions are required to meet a set of seven metrics.

• Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker also unveiled a four-part approach to reopen the state, which will commence next Monday. The first phase will allow limited contact to reopen, as long as they implement “sever restrictions.”

• Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards announced that they would commence phase one of the state’s reopening, which will permit restaurants to resume business at 25% of normal capacity along with several other guidelines.

• Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo announced that restaurants with outdoor dining areas will be permitted to reopen starting next Monday, May 18th.

• Vermont Governor Phil Scott announced that retail stores will start gradually reopening also next Monday, May 18th.

• West Virginia Governor Jim Justice provided an update on the state’s reopening benchmarks, stating that indoor dining and retailers will be permitted to reopen on May 21st. After this, no-contact recreational facilities can reopen on June 8th.

**Economic Update (as of close of the markets)**

• U.S. stocks closed the day with various, minimal changes. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 0.4%, the S&P 500 rose by less than 0.1%, and the Nasdaq Composite gained by 0.8%.

**Latest Impact Data**

• In the United States: Over 1,380,773 cases and 81,467 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.

• Worldwide: Over 4,231,897 million cases and 285,480 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

**In the News**

• [White House pushes states to test 2 percent of their populations for coronavirus](https://www.politico.com) (Politico)

• [The 8 key provisions expected in Democrats’ next COVID-19 bill](https://thehill.com) (The Hill)

• [Economists Expect Recovery Will Be More of a ‘Swoosh’ Than V-Shaped](https://www.wsj.com) (Wall Street Journal)

• [Coronavirus causing scheduling havoc, but Senate presses ahead with other business](https://www.rollcall.com) (Roll Call)

• [More Americans return to work as concerns grow of a second virus wave](https://www.reuters.com) (Reuters)