Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 6th, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

• The Challenges of Vaccine Cold-Chain Distribution Must Be Met to End the Pandemic (Global Bio Defense)
  
  Member: Anna Nagurney

Federal Policy Update

• President Trump tweeted this afternoon that he has “instructed [his] representatives to stop negotiating” for a coronavirus relief bill – adding that should he win, they “will pass a major stimulus bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and small business” after the election. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) published a Dear Colleague letter that she sent to Democrats in response to the announcement.

• The Census Bureau released data this morning finding that the country’s trade deficit has widened by more than $67 billion in the month of August – its highest level in the last 14 years.

• The Food & Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization stating that pharmaceutical companies must provide data that they tracked their clinical trial participants for an average of two months after their final vaccination.

• National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins stated that he is “optimistic that the U.S. will have one or more vaccines that turn out to be safe and effective by sometime around the end of this year, maybe a little bit into January.”

• The Department of Homeland Security released a first-of-its-kind Homeland Threat Assessment, which examines the dangers COVID-19, among other threats, poses to US national security.

• Officials from the Department of Health & Human Services announced that U.S. hospitals are now required to report their flu data to the federal government. If they fail to do so, they will be at risk of losing their federal funding.

State Update

• New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) announced that local entities will be responsible for enforcing the new COVID-19 cluster protocols announced by the state today.

• Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine announced that they would open a new testing clinic in Indiana County, due to a “recent rapid increase in COVID-19 cases.”

Global Response

• World Health Organization Essential Medicines Coordinator Socorro Escalate stated that “China has already approached the WHO for a preliminary discussion whereby China may participate in the Emergency Use Listing of these vaccines,” through which “the quality and safety of the vaccine and efficacy could be assessed in a facilitated way and then this could be made available for our licensing in countries.”
• The European Medicines Agency launched a rolling review of the coronavirus vaccine candidate that is currently being jointly developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.

• Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza announced that the government would require masks to be worn in all outdoor areas of the country.

• The German government announced new restrictions for the capital city of Berlin – requiring that bars, stores, and restaurants must be closed between 11 PM to 6 AM, effective Saturday.

• The Indian Education Ministry issued new guidelines for schools in the country to be able to reopen, beginning October 15th.

• The Czech Republic announced that it would enter a second state of emergency.

• The UK Department of Health & Social Care requested the National Health Service to “temporarily patients to ensure those most likely to benefit from using the antiviral drug remdesivir can access it.”

Economic Update

• U.S. stocks sharply fell at the end of the day, with all three indices closing with overall losses. The Nasdaq Composite decline by 1.57%, the S&P 500 by 1.40%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 1.34%.

Latest Impact Data

• In the United States: Over 7,717,917 cases and 215,729 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.

• Worldwide: Over 36,026,801 and 1,053,926 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

• Trump ends coronavirus relief talks amid stalemate with Pelosi (Politico)

• FDA asking COVID-19 vaccine developers for two months of safety data, raising doubts about approval by Election Day (The Hill)

• Stocks End Lower After Trump Puts Halt to Stimulus Talks (The Wall Street Journal)

• Six U.S. states report record COVID hospitalizations, new restrictions in place (Reuters)

• COVID-19 threatens Senate chaos, but no pause in Barrett confirmation process (Roll Call)