

## Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### INFORMS Members in the News

- [Point-Counterpoint: College football this fall is too dangerous \(The Pitt News\)](#)  
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [College Football Players Are Unpaid Stars on the Field - and Have No Power Off It \(Vanity Fair\)](#)  
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [The University of Illinois COVID-19 testing plan is so aggressive that it accounts for 20% of the state's tests \(Insider\)](#)  
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [EMPOWER researchers look into effect of COVID-19 mitigations on student well-being \(The Daily Iowan\)](#)  
Members: Julie Ivy and Julie Swann

### U.S. Federal Policy Update

- Reports have emerged that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows are expected to hold a call later this evening on potential coronavirus relief legislation.
- The Labor Department released [weekly data](#) indicating that 1 million Americans filed for first-time unemployment insurance benefits last week.
- The Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) that they would be distributing \$2.5 billion in COVID-19 relief funds to nursing homes.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield issued a statement assuring that “the updated CDC guidelines, coordinated in conjunction with the White House Coronavirus Task Force, received appropriate attention, consultation and input from task force experts.” He added that they “are placing an emphasis on testing individuals with symptomatic illness, individuals with a significant exposure, vulnerable populations including nursing homes or long term care facilities, critical infrastructure workers, healthcare workers and first responders, or those individuals who may be asymptomatic when prioritized by medical and public health officials.”
- White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany [announced](#) that the White House has entered a \$750 million deal with Abbott Laboratories to purchase 150 million rapid tests.

## Global Response

- World Health Organization Coronavirus Technical Lead Maria Van Kerkhove stated today that the WHO is developing new guidance “to expand testing where necessary to really look for potential cases so that they can be isolated and contact tracing can ensue.”
- U.S. pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson announced that it would be extending its Phase 3 vaccine trials for COVID-19 to Chile and Argentina. The countries join Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Mexico, who have already signed on.
- The United Kingdom issued changes to their “travel corridor” list – removing the Czech Republic, Jamaica, and Switzerland from the list, meaning that those travelers will now be required to quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival into the UK.
- French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that 19 more areas around France have been labeled as “coronavirus red zones” – which are regions where the virus is “actively being spread.”
- German authorities announced that they’re expecting their COVID-19 vaccine to be prepared by early next year.
- The New Zealand government announced that it would implement fines on people that do not wear appropriate facial coverings on public transportation.
- Spanish Health Minister Salvador Illa and Education Minister Isabel Celaá issued a joint statement that facial coverings will be mandatory for all children over the age of six years old while in school.

## State Update

- Alabama Governor Kay Ivey (R) extended their Safer at Home Order for an additional five weeks, which also extends the state’s mask mandate.
- Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds (R) announced that they will be closing all bars and clubs in six counties – effective today.
- Hawaiian Governor David Ige (D) approved an emergency stay-at-home order request from Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, which requires all residents on the island of Oahu not to live their homes unless it’s for essential activities.
- California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D) published a [statement](#) announced that state Senate Republicans are banned from entering the state Capitol due to Republican Senator Brian Jones testing positive for COVID-19. He stated that the “California Senate Rules Committee has arranged for Republican colleagues to debate and vote from their residences as [they] work to conclude [their] business by the August 31<sup>st</sup> constitutional deadline.”
- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (R) announced that the state is seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases in their rural areas, stating that they’re “seeing a real movement towards [their] rural counties.”

## **Economic Update**

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing the day with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite fell by 0.3%, while the S&P 500 climbed by 0.2%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.6%.

## **Latest Impact Data**

- In the United States: Over 6,038,811 cases and 184,471 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 24,572,172 and 833,922 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

## **In the News**

- [‘We’re not budging’: Efforts to restart coronavirus talks sputter \(Politico\)](#)
- [CDC director clarifies change in coronavirus testing guidelines after backlash \(The Hill\)](#)
- [U.S. Announces Deal With Abbott Laboratories for Rapid Covid-19 Tests \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [California, Florida, New York, Texas will not follow new U.S. COVID-19 testing plan \(Reuters\)](#)