

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

March 20, 2020

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- At a White House briefing earlier today, President Trump announced that he would be using the powers afforded by the Defense Production Act, which he invoked on Wednesday. Under these powers, President Trump is directing American manufacturers to produce more masks and ventilators due to a national shortage of both supplies. These additional supplies will be disseminated directly to states upon production.
- Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated that he hopes to have bipartisan consensus on the \$1 trillion stimulus package ([S. 3548](#)) by today, saying that he has “tasked the bipartisan team to reach an agreement by the end of the day.” Additionally, Majority Leader McConnell stated that he hopes that Congress can pass the legislation by Monday, which will then be signed into law by President Trump. However, it remains to be seen how exactly Republicans and Democrats will come together on the legislation, as Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer released a [statement](#) yesterday night that this third package “is not at all pro-worker and instead puts corporations way ahead of workers.”
- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced today that the IRS filing deadline would be moved from April 15th to July 15th, in order to allow Americans more time due to economic disruption caused by the coronavirus. This will apply both to individuals and to businesses.
- This afternoon, Defense Secretary Mark Esper reported that over 4,000 members of the National Guard have been activated across 31 states to support the governmental response to the pandemic.

Global Response

- Officials from the U.S. and Mexico announced this afternoon that they had come to an agreement to partially close the border between the two nations. This will especially impact immigration, as Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf noted during today’s aforementioned White House briefing. However, trade will continue as Secretary Wolf stated that “a strong and secure economic supply chain” will be maintained across the border and “essential commercial activities will not be impacted.”
- Saudi Arabia also announced today that almost all forms of transportation would be suspended for the next two weeks, including all domestic flights, train service, public

transportation, and taxis. However, transportation functions related to healthcare, humanitarian aid, and other essential functions will remain available.

State Update

- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo made an announcement today mandating that all of New York's workforce stay home, except for personnel involved in "essential" occupations. This will take effect on Sunday.
- Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced a similar measure, ordering residents to stay at home except for essential activities. This will take effect on Saturday, and will last until April 7th as of now.
- Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont also announced a similar action – that all workers for nonessential businesses must stay home.
- New Jersey Governor Philip Murphy has stated that he plans to issue an order tomorrow for nonessential businesses to close.
- Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb announced this afternoon that the state would postpone its presidential primary due to the coronavirus pandemic. The primary was originally scheduled for May 5th, and will now take place on June 2nd.

Economic Impact (as of close of the markets)

- Although stock indices opened slightly higher this morning, U.S. stocks fell again today despite several actions by central banks attempting to ease stock market volatility. Today's drop was largely associated with investor worry surrounding heightened measures from New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, as well as from the aforementioned closing of the U.S.-Mexico border.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 4.6%, the S&P 500 by 4.4%, and the Nasdaq Composite by 3.8%. The Wall Street Journal estimates that all three indices are likely to close the week with losses of 11%, at least.

Latest Numbers

- In the United States: Over 15,650 cases and 202 deaths in 50 states, 3 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 250,800 cases and 10,368 deaths in at least 150 countries.

INFORMS Members In The News (3/10/20 – 3/20/20)

- [Middleton develops plan to respond to coronavirus \(WKOW\)](#)
- [Vicki Bier on COVID-19 Risk Analysis \(WORT News\)](#)

- [Amazon's Pandemic Savior Complex \(Medium\)](#)
- [The Modern Supply Chain Is Snapping \(The Atlantic\)](#)
- [How to Triage Patients Who Need Intensive Care \(Scientific American\)](#)

Other News (3/20/20)

- [Who wins in the Senate GOP's big bailout \(Politico\)](#)
- [Congress, White House Negotiate Over Cash Payments, Business Aid \(Wall St. Journal\)](#)
- [Trump says national lockdown won't be necessary \(Roll Call\)](#)

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