

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

August 17th, 2020

INFORMS in the News (8/11/20 – 8/17/20)

- [Pros are proving the bubble can work; is college basketball next? \(Star Tribune\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [College Towns Brace for a New Wave of COVID-19 \(The Verge\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [As we battle a pandemic, getting a flu shot imperative \(MassLive\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [Delaying college football until the spring will guarantee no college football in the spring \(Des Moines Register\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Column: COVID-19 is putting the 'student' back in student-athlete \(The Columbus Dispatch\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [The Biggest Unanswered Questions About a Covid-19 Vaccine \(Gizmodo\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Professor who predicted multiple CFB deaths revises calculation \(247 Sports\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Mayors, it's time to step up \(The Hill\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- The Department of Defense [announced](#) that they are awarding \$750,000 to Plasma Technologies, LLC for the production of optimized, higher-yield convalescent plasma products to support COVID-19 response efforts.
- The White House published [remarks](#) by Vice President Mike Pence and West Virginia Governor Jim Justice (R) from a coronavirus briefing over the weekend.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated their projections to there being nearly 189,000 COVID-related deaths in the United States by September 5th.
- The Treasury Department published a [readout](#) from Secretary Steven Mnuchin's discussion with finance ministers from G7 countries, which mainly centered on their respective efforts to respond to the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams encouraged that while the federal government is addressing testing delays, Americans should be more focused on prevention. He stated that enhanced testing delays limits the government's ability "to isolate and contact trace, which is something that [they] feel is important to contain the virus."

Global Response

- Czech Health Minister Adam Vojtěch announced that facial coverings would once again be mandatory at nearly all public indoor places – except for restaurants, offices, and classrooms – beginning on September 1st.
- After an uptick in cases, the New Zealand government postponed the country's election by four weeks in order to prevent further spread of the virus.
- Nigerian Aviation Minister Hadi Sirika stated that the country will reopen their airports for international travel beginning August 29th.
- Hong Kong's Food and Health Bureau announced that they will extend their social distancing measures and mask mandate through at least August 25th.
- The Japanese government reported that the country's economy – which is the third largest in the world – shrank by an additional 7.8% in the second quarter, as compared to the first quarter of the year.

State Update

- South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem (R) [announced](#) that the state would be the first to officially decline the unemployment benefits extended by President Trump's executive actions last week.
- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) announced that gyms would be able to be opened in the state on August 24th, at 33% capacity.
- The Maryland State Police announced that they have created an inter-agency COVID-19 prevention line to monitor circumstances that violate social distancing and group gathering guidelines set by the state. Their announcement states that "individuals violating the governor's executive orders could be charged with a violation, which carries a penalty of up to one year in jail, a \$5,000 fine, or both."

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing the day with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 1.0%, while the S&P 500 fell by 0.27% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.31%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 5,442,181 cases and 171,190 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 21,268,000 and 775,993 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [McConnell not certain there will be a fifth coronavirus package \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Senate Republicans to introduce smaller COVID package that includes billions for Postal Service \(Politico\)](#)
- [Schools Are Reopening, Then Quickly Closing Due to Coronavirus Outbreaks \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)