

## Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### INFORMS Members in the News

- [Is the pandemic an opportunity for more personalized learning? \(Marketplace\)](#)  
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Study Reveals that Non-Medical interventions Also Reduce Severe COVID-19 Outcomes \(The Weather Channel\)](#)  
Member: Pinar Keskinocak

### Federal Policy Update

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Spokesperson Drew Hammill [announced](#) that Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin spoke this afternoon in their ongoing discussions for a broader relief package. The announcement stated that House Democrats "continue to eagerly await the Administration's acceptance of [their] language," and they are "hopeful the response will be positive as [they] also await the outcomes of talks between committee chairs. Hammill added that Speaker Pelosi is still optimistic that they will be able to reach an agreement prior to the election next week.
- Regarding the aforementioned negotiations, White House Economic Adviser Larry Kudlow stated that the discussions "have certainly slowed down, but they're not ending" – adding optimism that "committee chairmen on both sides, in the Senate and the House, have been meeting and discussing various aspects" of a potential relief measure.
- The Departments of Defense and Health & Human Services [awarded](#) a \$33 million contract to Tecan to bolster its U.S. production capacity for disposable pipette tips essential for fully automated COVID-19 testing systems.
- The Department of Agriculture [announced](#) that the Farm Services Agency (FSA) has approved over \$7 billion in payments agricultural producers hindered by Covid-19 in the second round of its Coronavirus Food Assistance Program.
- Food & Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn said in a [video](#) stated that their "promise to the American people is that when [the FDA] looks at the science and data, [the FDA] will make the absolute best decision for the people in terms of safety and efficacy of a vaccine."

### State Response

- 32 states and the District of Columbia have [announced](#) more specific details as to how they plan to use the 150 million COVID-19 tests that have been distributed by the Trump administration.
- Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine stated that she would warn against families gathering for the holidays, stating that we should all "think about more and more gatherings being virtual or only staying with the family that you live with."

### Global Response

- Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that 1 in 5 members of their Russian Parliament have either had or currently have coronavirus.

- Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced that he intends for the country's state of emergency to be kept in place through May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- French Scientific Council Advisor Jean-François Delfraissy estimated that the country is seeing approximately 100,000 new coronavirus cases each day.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that schools for grades 1-4 are set to reopen next week, with students to be set on a rotating schedule of attending classes on alternate days.
- The Chinese government announced that they are rolling out a mass coronavirus testing program for nearly 5 million residents in the Kashgar prefecture.
- Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz announced that the government is considering a second lockdown due to the increase of coronavirus cases in the country.

### **Economic Update**

- U.S. stocks were on the decline today, with the three indices closing with negative results. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 2.3%, the S&P 500 by 1.9%, and the Nasdaq Composite by 1.6%.

### **Latest Impact Data**

- In the United States: Over 8,960,078 cases and 231,036 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 43,767,825 cases and 1,164,227 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

### **In the News**

- [Senate packs up with coronavirus relief bill on ice until after elections \(Roll Call\)](#)
- [Pelosi: COVID relief deal could still happen before Election Day \(Politico\)](#)
- [Stocks Slide on Virus Rise, Fading Stimulus Hopes \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [Wave of new COVID-19 cases crashes across U.S. and Europe as winter looms \(Reuters\)](#)
- [Meadows doubles down on White House pandemic response: 'We're not going to control it' \(The Hill\)](#)