

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

September 23rd, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [25 Investigates: Will there be a second surge of the novel coronavirus in Massachusetts? \(Boston 25 News\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [If approved by the government, should NC schools mandate a COVID-19 vaccine for students? \(The Fayetteville Observer\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Operation Warp Speed Plan Released for COVID Vaccine Distribution \(Managed Healthcare Executive\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai
- [Ozarks Tonight: Herd immunity \(Ozarks First\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Commentary: Rural Illinois must embrace CDC guidelines and more testing for COVID-19 \(Chicago Tribune\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [200,000 coronavirus deaths: How the country got here and what's next \(WKOW-TV\)](#)
Member: Oguz Alagoz

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions held a [hearing](#) on the COVID-19 federal response – with testimony from Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Director Robert Redfield, Assistant Health Secretary Brett Giroir, National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, and Food & Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn. During the hearing, CDC Director Redfield stated that they're aiming to have 700 million doses of a coronavirus vaccine prepared by late March or early April – adding that "it's going to take us April, May, June, possibly July, to get the entire American public completely vaccinated."
- The Treasury Department released a [statement](#) regarding the payroll tax deferral executive order announced by President Trump last month – clarifying the order's implications on social security funds.
- The Department of Health & Human Services announced that the CDC will provide [\\$200 million](#) to 64 state jurisdictions to prepare for the arrival of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Chief Pentagon Spokesman Jonathan Hoffman published a [statement](#) clarifying the Department of Defense's use of CARES Act funding – writing that the agency used the funds "to prepare for, prevent, and respond to the coronavirus" by "supporting vital national security industries that were devastated by COVID."

State Update

- State officials from California announced that the state's coronavirus positivity rate has fallen lower than 3% for the first time since the start of the pandemic.
- Virginia Governor Ralph Northam (D) detailed a new plan to provide relief to public education institutions in the state, by implementing lower and more favorable interest rates for the colleges and universities.
- Missouri Governor Mike Parson (R) announced that he and his wife have both tested positive for coronavirus.
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) announced that they will mandate a five-day furlough period for city employees – starting in October, through March.

Global Response

- French Health Minister Olivier Véran announced that major cities in the country will implement new restrictions, due to a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases. In various cities, bars will close early, social activities will be limited in size, and employees will be encouraged to work from home.
- The Chinese government announced that they would loosen the restrictions on foreign visa policies, beginning on September 28th. These visa holders will be able to enter the country starting then without applying for new documentation.
- The Indian government announced that they will adjourn their legislative session a week early, due to a continuing increase in coronavirus cases in the country. Their release stated that the government will “have to conclude this session eight sittings ahead as the COVID pandemic continues to challenge humankind across the globe.”
- Singapore Coronavirus Task Force Co-Lead Lawrence Wong stated that the city will start issuing “get-out-of-quarantine” cards for high-level business executives. Wong explained that the “whole idea of a travel pass is to allow senior executives who are based in Singapore with extensive regional or international responsibilities to have a bit more flexibility to travel for their work.”

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the decline today, with all three indices closing with steep losses. The Nasdaq Composite fell by 3.02%, the S&P 500 by 2.37%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 1.92%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 7,131,679 cases and 206,343 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 32,050,848 and 980,164 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Johnson & Johnson launches phase three trials for potential coronavirus vaccine \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Mnuchin, Kudlow split points to leadership vacuum behind coronavirus stimulus stalemate \(The Washington Post\)](#)
- [Companies shed workers, paid dividends after getting Fed aid, panel finds \(Politico\)](#)
- [Dow Industrials Fall More Than 500 Points after Fresh Wave of Coronavirus Cases \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [Flu could strain health system already burdened by COVID-19 \(Roll Call\)](#)

