

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

December 2nd, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [Midwest has yet to see peak of latest COVID-19 surge, experts fear \(The Washington Examiner\)](#)
Member: Oguzhan Alagoz
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution, Shipping Present Challenges \(NBC DFW\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Study Finds Rise in US Deaths Beyond COVID-19 in 2020 \(WTTW\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [Vaccine Poses Immense, Unprecedented Distribution Challenges \(Manufacturing.Net\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [Delivering Pandemic Vaccine Poses Extraordinary Logistical Challenges \(YubaNet\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai
- [Planes, dry ice, pharmacies: the logistical challenges of COVID-19 vaccines \(The Japan Times\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [A winter surge in COVID-19 cases seems inevitable. Can we stop it? \(Los Angeles Times\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann

Federal Policy Update

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) issued a [joint statement](#) endorsing the \$908 billion framework released yesterday by a bipartisan group of Senate lawmakers. They wrote that this framework “should be used as the basis for immediate bipartisan, bicameral negotiations” and urged “Leader McConnell to sit down with Democrats” and begin this effort.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) published a [summary](#) of his “targeted” coronavirus relief package.
- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin stated that he hopes that a coronavirus relief package would be agreed to prior to lawmakers leaving DC in the latter half of December. He also stated in the interview that another round of direct stimulus payments are not included in the deal that is being currently negotiated.

- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention is reportedly planning to shorten the length of quarantine time after coming into contact with COVID-19 from 14 days to 10 days without a COVID test, and to 7 days with a negative test result and no symptoms.
- The Food & Drug Administration [reissued](#) its Emergency Use Authorization concerning the use of convalescent plasma to treat hospitalized patients with COVID-19.
- CDC Director Robert Redfield indicated that certain industries could benefit from a vaccine mandate, stating that “there are certain industries where it would be important to protect their workforce,” and others “where it may be important to make sure that they protect their customers and consumers.”
- The Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) that all Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations have selected how they will receive the COVID-19 vaccine, whether through their state or the Indian Health Service.
- Operation Warp Speed Chief Adviser Moncef Slaoui urged that 100 million Americans could potentially be vaccinated by the month of February. However, Army General Gustavo Perna – who is the Chief Operations Officer for Operation Warp Speed’s vaccine distribution – stated that they are aiming to not pressure the Food & Drug Administration for their plans to authorize and distribute a vaccine.
- Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler has been exposed to coronavirus, and will thus quarantine until he has “gone through the proper testing protocols.”

Global Response

- The British government granted an emergency authorization for the vaccine candidate under production by pharmaceutical company Pfizer. United Kingdom Health Secretary Matt Hancock stated that the vaccine would begin distribution next week. However, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned that citizens should “not get carried away with optimism.”
- UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore urged that the world “must overcome vaccine hesitancy, if we’re going to actually protect the world.”
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that the country would extend its current partial lockdown for an additional 3 weeks.
- Spanish Health Minister Salvador Illa announced that the country would ban all movement between regions, effective from December 23rd to January 6th.
- French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that the country would impose random border checks and impose seven-day quarantines for any citizens that are found to be skiing abroad.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite fell by 0.05%, while the S&P 500 rose by 0.18% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.20%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 14,270,305 cases and 279,334 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 64,743,134 cases and 1,497,010 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Last-minute snags complicate massive spending deal \(Politico\)](#)
- [CDC says coronavirus quarantines can be shortened from 14 days \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Mnuchin Defends Decision to End Fed Lending Programs \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [As COVID soars, U.S. cheers Britain's vaccine approval \(Reuters\)](#)