

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

August 21st, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

- [Who will get the first doses of a coronavirus vaccine? Johns Hopkins experts have some ideas \(The Baltimore Sun\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai
- [Stocked out: Why cleaning product supply chains struggle to meet demand \(Supply Chain Dive\)](#)
Member: Sridhar Tayur

U.S. Federal Policy Update

- A group of 117 House Democrats sent a [letter](#) to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Democratic leadership – in which they urged the leaders to bring the Worker Relief and Security Act to the floor. The measure is a stand-alone bill that would extend unemployment benefits through the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Speaker Pelosi has spoken against bringing the individual measure to the floor – indicating that they are still focused on pushing forward a larger relief package. Meanwhile, Senate Republican leaders are still working to prepare a “skinny” \$500 billion measure, which includes: unemployment benefits, another round of Paycheck Protection Program loans, and other relief funding.
- The Defense Department [announced](#) \$17.4 million in Defense Production Act actions, which are aimed towards enhancing the domestic industrial base and to manufacturing products in response to COVID-19.
- The Department of State published an [updated fact sheet](#) on the United States’ ongoing efforts to lead the global response and offer humanitarian assistance to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an updated guidance for schools, with more details for administrators on reopening schools and limiting the risks.

Global Response

- World Health Organization Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove stated that the WHO and UNICEF will issue a guidance next week on the use of facial coverings in children.
- Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced that their mass coronavirus testing program – which is going to be run on a voluntary basis – will begin on September 1st.

- Paraguay Health Minister Julio Mazzoleni announced that they will be implementing a “social quarantine” in order to restrict movement in the next two weeks.
- Officials from Beijing determined that residents would no longer be required to wear a mask in public, beginning this weekend.
- The Lebanese government implemented a curfew as of today, to start at 6 PM every evening and last until 6 AM every morning.

State Update

- New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu [announced](#) this afternoon that all of the state’s restaurants are allowed to resume indoor dining at 100% capacity – effective immediately.
- Hawaiian Governor David Ige signed an executive order that allows tourism to continue through a 14-day quarantine period to be allowed in a “resort bubble.”
- The Dallas Independent School District announced that the school system will begin their academic year with fully remote learning when students return to school on September 8th.
- The Boston Public Health Commission announced that the city’s public schools will begin their school year with completely remote learning – starting September 21st. After this, they will use a phased approach to bring students back to the classroom.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing the day with increases. The Nasdaq Composite climbed by 0.42%, the S&P 500 by 0.34%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.69%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 5,791,009 cases and 179,035 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 23,069,215 and 801,524 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Pelosi axes idea of Saturday vote on additional COVID relief \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Inside Biden's plan to take on coronavirus \(Politico\)](#)
- [Economic Data Points to Pause in Recovery as Aid Programs Expire \(The New York Times\)](#)
- [Limited transmission of COVID-19 found in U.S. childcare study, CDC says \(Reuters\)](#)