

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

November 20th, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [Study investigates non-COVID-19 deaths during the pandemic \(MedicalNewsToday\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [More people are dying in U.S. this year than last year, even without COVID: studies \(Daily News\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Why Trump's Operation Warp Speed is credited with helping race for COVID-19 vaccine \(CBC\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Tinglong Dai
- [Hospitals scramble to get ready for coronavirus vaccines \(Healthcare Dive\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Julie Swann
- [Practical hurdles, cultural distrust in Native communities could hamper vaccine distribution \(NBC News\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Julie Swann
- [The challenge of distributing COVID-19 vaccines that need to be frozen \(PBS News Hour\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Julie Swann
- [Why Even A Small Thanksgiving Is Dangerous \(FiveThirtyEight\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Pinar Keskinocak
- [Who is the Supply Chain Planner in the Age of AI? \(USSCMC\)](#)
INFORMS Member: Polly Mitchell-Guthrie

Federal Policy Update

- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) met to discuss a coronavirus relief package this afternoon, with an agreement for a \$580 billion measure. After the talks, Majority Leader McConnell published a [statement](#) writing that Senate Republicans support funding to be allocated for another round of the Paycheck Protection Program, vaccine distribution, and other medical necessities.
- White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Deborah Birx encouraged Americans to limit their indoor gatherings only to their immediate household this Thanksgiving.
- Pharmaceutical company Pfizer announced that they requested an emergency use authorization for their coronavirus vaccine candidate today.
- The Department of Homeland Security announced that the United States would extend the current travel restrictions on the northern and southern borders with Canada and Mexico, respectively – through December 21st.
- Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) has tested positive for coronavirus.

- Food & Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn signaled optimism for the vaccine candidates under production by Pfizer, stating that the results thus far “are really exciting and give us great hope.”

State Response

- The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services [launched](#) a pilot program in the following five states in order to examine how to best integrate portable, rapid COVID-19 tests into existing disease control measures – Alaska, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Texas.

Global Response

- The World Health Organization updated its guidance on coronavirus treatments, advising against using the pharmaceutical drug remdesivir to treat patients that have been hospitalized due to coronavirus.
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the European Union could authorize the respective vaccine candidates currently under production from pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna by mid-December.
- Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez stated that the government hopes that “a very substantial” portion of the population will be able to be vaccinated in the first six months of 2021.
- South Australian Premier Steven Marshall announced that it would lift its lockdown ahead of schedule, with restrictions to be removed on Saturday.
- United Kingdom Health Secretary Matt Hancock stated that the British government is seeing “encouraging signs” that the number of coronavirus cases are beginning to decline and the curve is flattening.
- The Swedish government announced that bars and restaurants in the country will be banned from serving alcohol after 10 PM as of today.
- The Canadian government granted interim approval to pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly’s COVID-19 monoclonal antibody.
- Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato announced that despite a rise in COVID cases, there is no need to impose a state of emergency.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the decline today, with all three indices closing with losses. The Nasdaq Composite fell by 0.42%, the S&P 500 by 0.68%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.75%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 12,238,876 cases and 259,946 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 57,840,127 cases and 1,376,047 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Pfizer is first coronavirus vaccine maker to seek FDA authorization \(Politico\)](#)
- [Pentagon to impose new coronavirus restrictions: report \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Europe Hopes Mass Testing Could Ease Lockdowns Before Christmas \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)