

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

December 1st, 2020

INFORMS In The News (11/17/20 – 11/30/20)

- [What will it take to get a covid-19 vaccine to the world? \(New Scientist\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [Pfizer's COVID vaccine comes with a chilly complication. But that may change \(Fortune\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai
- [Vaccine resisters could derail Island's COVID-19 recovery, experts say \(Newsday\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [What's the science behind COVID business capacity limits? \(Las Vegas Review-Journal\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Some companies will make big money off their COVID-19 vaccines — but not as much as they could \(CBC\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai
- [5 ways to strengthen your supply chains \(Bank of America\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [Don't count on finding toilet paper on your next run to Target or Walmart: COVID-19 panic buying is on a roll again \(USA Today\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [Controlling the spread of coronavirus via repeat testing and isolation \(Significance Magazine\)](#)
Member: Ed Kaplan
- [For a faster, cheaper way to identify new COVID-19 cases, look in the sewer \(Rotman\)](#)
Member: Dick Larson
- [Scientists warn even small Thanksgiving gatherings could spread COVID-19 \(WKOW\)](#)
Member: Oguz Alagoz
- [COVID-19 has brought health care system to 'the brink of failure,' doctors say \(Yahoo! Life\)](#)
Member: Oguz Alagoz
- [Why experts say Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine holds an advantage over Pfizer's candidate \(Chicago Tribune\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai

- [What transporting ice cream across Canada tells us about vaccine logistics \(CBC\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai
- [Coronavirus Vaccine Approval Will Launch Unprecedented Public Health Initiative \(Georgia Tech Research Horizons\)](#)
Member: Pinar Keskinocak
- [Study Explores How Telemedicine May Ease ER Overcrowding \(First Word MedTech\)](#)
Member: Information Systems Research
- [How testing helped Cornell University become a model of COVID-19 prevention \(CBC\)](#)
Member: Peter Frazier
- [A COVID Resurgence \(Diverse\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Solutions in Sewage \(Yale Engineering Magazine\)](#)
Member: Ed Kaplan

Federal Policy Update

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) indicated that any deal reached on a coronavirus relief will be added to the omnibus spending package at the end of the year. He emphasized that lawmakers “just don’t have time to waste,” stating that “it does require bipartisan support [as] it will all likely come in one package.”
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) published a [statement](#) following the resumption of bipartisan coronavirus relief negotiations between Congress and the administration. Speaker Pelosi emphasized that bipartisan progress has been made between Senate Appropriations Chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) and House Appropriations Chair Nita Lowey (D-NY). According to the statement, the various parties involved are reviewing a proposal from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), a proposal from Speaker Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and a bipartisan proposal from lawmakers in the Senate.
- As mentioned above, a bipartisan group of lawmakers from the Senate unveiled the [framework](#) for a \$908 billion coronavirus relief package. The proposal was introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Mark Warner (D-VA), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Angus King (I-ME).
- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Advisory Panel voted today to recommend that long-term care facility residents and frontline healthcare workers be the first priority to receive coronavirus vaccine doses.
- Moncef Slaoui, who is the Chief Advisor for Operation Warp Speed, stated in an interview that “within 24 hours – maybe at most 36-48 hours – from the approval, the vaccine will be in people’s arms in the U.S.”

- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell [appeared](#) before the Senate Banking Committee this morning to deliver their quarterly CARES Act report to Congress. Much of their testimony focused on Secretary Mnuchin's recent decision to close the \$454 billion in emergency lending facilities authorized by the CARES Act. During the hearing, Chairman Powell stated that the Fed's "thinking is that we would have left facilities in place to be backstops," but this is "entirely Secretary Mnuchin's decision to make." In response, Secretary Mnuchin stated that this decision "was not an economic decision," and that it did not make sense "to invest \$500 billion to make loans in perpetuity."

State Response

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency granted over \$3 million to [Maine](#) and over \$1 million to [Vermont](#), to help the states cover costs associated with their recovery from COVID-19.
- New data found that coronavirus cases were on the rise in 47 states in the U.S. over the course of the month of November.
- Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds (R) warned that although the state's hospitalizations have been on the decline over the past two weeks, they're "not out of the woods."
- San Francisco Mayor London Breed (D) suggested that more strict measures may be implemented soon in the city, cautioning that "this spike is unlike anything we've seen since the beginning of this pandemic."

Global Response

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the government would allocate \$77 billion more in economic stimulus to revitalize their economy after the impact of COVID-19.
- The Dutch government implemented a mask mandate with a 95 euro fine for non-compliance – effective today.
- Austria launched its mass COVID-19 testing program for its 9 million citizens, with an aim to create an "inventory of active infections, faster and broader localization of active cases of infection and thus a more efficient break in the chains of infection."
- The air travel bubble that was originally planned between Hong Kong and Singapore has officially been postponed until 2021.
- The Denmark government announced that they would implement restrictions upon their capital city of Copenhagen, including extended work-from-home guidelines and mandatory limits on how many customers can visit a store at any time.

- French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that the government's vaccination strategy would vaccinate nursing home personnel and residents first, with vaccinations for "the more general public" to become available between April and June.
- Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc announced that the government would stop all international commercial flights to and from the nation.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with the three indices closing with gains. The Nasdaq Composite grew by 1.28%, the S&P 500 by 1.13% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.63%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 14,082,967 cases and 276,717 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 64,130,353 cases and 1,485,092 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Coronavirus urgency grips divided Capitol Hill \(Politico\)](#)
- [CDC Panel Advises Giving First Vaccines to Health Workers, Nursing Homes \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [U.S. reveals rapid rollout plan for vaccine after record coronavirus surge \(Reuters\)](#)
- [Bipartisan group in Senate unveils \\$908 billion stimulus plan \(The Washington Post\)](#)
- [Partisan split on Senate panel over end to Fed lending programs \(Roll Call\)](#)