

## Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

*August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020*

### INFORMS Members in the News

- [Coronavirus Remains Persistent And Somewhat Unpredictable \(NPR\)](#)

Member: Larry Wein

### U.S. Federal Policy Update

- In an interview yesterday, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn pledged to make the agency's review of a coronavirus vaccine transparent and driven by data.
- White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx pointed to university testing as an example of how to conduct aggressive testing to identify asymptomatic patients. She also urged students isolate on campus, saying "Do not return if you're positive and spread the virus to your family, your aunts, your uncles, your grandparents."
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration chief spokeswoman was let go after FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn told reporters that convalescent blood plasma could save 35 out of 100 patients. Commissioner Hahn later retracted this statement.
- Tomorrow, the House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis will hold a [hearing](#) with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to "examine the urgent need for additional economic relief for children, workers, and families and the Administration's implementation of key stimulus programs passed by Congress earlier this year."

### Global Response

- The World Health Organization (WHO) published a [survey](#) looking at the impact of COVID-19 on health care systems, finding that 90% of the 105 countries "experienced disruption to its health services, with low- and middle-income countries reporting the greatest difficulties."
- The European Commission will participate in the COVAX facility to equitably distribute vaccines around the world. The Commission pledged €400 million to support this mission.
- Government officials in Paris, France are establishing three permanent laboratories and two mobile laboratories for the city to administer free coronavirus tests. On Friday, French authorities warned that the virus was spiking in the city with an increase of 7,379 new daily cases last Friday – right before the start of the Tour de France, a 23-day event that will finish in Paris.

## State Update

- New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio (D) announced in a news conference today that New York City will not lay off municipal employees that were expected to be let go today. DeBlasio looked to Albany and Washington, DC for a relief package to allow the city to continue paying the city's employees.
- Florida reported the lowest number of new cases since June 16. The state reported 1,885 new cases today.
- Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner (D) advised residents to avoid large gatherings over Labor Day. He said in a press conference today, "You know what happened during Memorial Day and the Fourth of July weekend. People came together, and then the virus took off, and then you saw the numbers go up,"
- Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont (D) announced today that the state will extend its coronavirus emergency declaration through February 9, 2021.

## Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were volatile today, with the three indices closing the day with mixed results. The Nasdaq Composite rose today by 0.68%, and the S&P 500 fell by 0.22%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.78%.

## Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 6,209,955 cases and 187,707 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 25,618,881 and 854,202 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

## In the News

- [6 states set single-day coronavirus case records last week \(Axios\)](#)
- [European Leaders Weigh New Lockdowns as Cases Rise \(New York Times\)](#)
- [Critical deadlines loom for highways, airlines and transit \(Roll Call\)](#)
- [Meadows blames Pelosi for impasse on coronavirus relief \(Politico\)](#)