

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 22nd, 2020

INFORMS Members In The News

- [COVID-19 vaccine distribution — challenges and perhaps opportunities \(The Hill\)](#)
Member: Julie Swann
- [Non-pharmaceutical interventions can reduce spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus \(News Medical Life Sciences\)](#)
Member: Pinar Keskinocak

Federal Policy Update

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) encouraged in her [weekly press conference remarks](#) that she is “optimistic that [they] will be able to reach a compromise,” and they “continue to be engaged in negotiations.” However, she added that they have been unable to reach an agreement on liability protections, and also on state & local funding.
- The Department of Labor released their [weekly unemployment insurance report](#), finding that there were 787,000 first-time jobless claims filed in the past week.
- The Food and Drug Administration announced that they’ve [approved](#) the antiviral drug remdesivir to be used to treat COVID-19 in adult and pediatric patients that weight more than 40 kgs and are older than 12 years of age.
- The White House published an [update](#) from its Council of Economic Advisers on their regulatory reform agenda. In the update, they highlighted that the “the administration has taken swift and vigilant deregulatory actions to help the American people weather the difficulties that the pandemic has imposed.”
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that they would be using a cell phone-based monitoring system to track vaccine safety assessments. The program – V-SAFE (Vaccine Safety Assessment For Essential workers) – will function as a “new cell phone-based active surveillance program for COVID-19.”
- The CDC’s latest ensemble forecast has projected that there will be up to 247,000 COVID-19 deaths by November 14th.
- Health & Human Services Secretary Alex Azar encouraged that “all Americans” could have a coronavirus vaccine ready for access by early April 2021.

State Response

- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (R) announced that the state legislature would advance forward a \$774 million economic recovery plan, intended to stimulate economic stability in the state.
- Utah Governor Gary Herbert (R) warned that hospitals in the state are “starting to fill up” due to a rise in coronavirus cases.
- Despite testing negative for COVID-19, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy (D) announced that he would continue to quarantine for the next two weeks.

Global Response

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the European Union would be sending 30 ventilators to the Czech Republic due to their record numbers of coronavirus cases.
- The Indian government announced that they would lift their suspension on issuing student, work, and medical visas.
- Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced that they would implement a nighttime curfew for high-risk areas, as well as a mask mandate. These enhanced restrictions will take effect in several cities, including the capital city of Athens.
- United Kingdom Chief Scientific Adviser Patrick Vallance warned that it is likely impossible that there will be a coronavirus vaccine prior to spring 2021.
- The Bulgarian Health Ministry announced that the country would implement a mask mandate across the country.
- Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Sophie Wilmès has been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit for treatment due to having COVID-19.
- Brazilian Senator Arolde de Oliveira died today due to complications from coronavirus.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with the three indices closing with minor gains. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.19%, the S&P 500 by 0.52%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.54%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 8,652,200 cases and 228,274 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 41,932,828 cases and 1,141,506 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [FDA approves remdesivir as first coronavirus drug \(Politico\)](#)
- [Pelosi, White House see progress on COVID-19 aid talks; Senate Republicans wary \(Reuters\)](#)
- [Jobless Claims for Month So Far Fell to Lowest Levels Since March to 787,000 Last Week \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [COVID-19 trials risk excluding those most vulnerable to virus \(Roll Call\)](#)
- [Azar says COVID-19 vaccine could be delivered to vulnerable people by January \(The Hill\)](#)