

Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

December 8th, 2020

INFORMS In The News (12/4/20 – 12/7/20)

- [After health care workers, who's next in line for the vaccine? \(St. Louis Post-Dispatch\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Eyewitness Wants To Know: Buying strategies to save you on holiday shopping \(KENS5\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [States Craft Vaccine Plans in a Haze of Changing Information \(BNN Bloomberg\)](#)
Member: Tinglong Dai

Federal Policy Update

- President Trump signed an [executive order](#) aimed towards ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccine candidates approved by the U.S. The executive order directs the Secretaries of Defense and Health & Human Services to distribute the vaccines in coordination with state and local authorities, with a priority given to the most vulnerable U.S. populations.
- Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) spoke this evening regarding another COVID-19 relief proposal, with Secretary Mnuchin offering a \$916 billion counteroffer to the \$908 billion bipartisan package currently under consideration. Secretary Mnuchin [stated](#) that the administration's latest proposal "includes money for state and local governments and robust liability protections for businesses, schools, and universities" – adding that the proposal has been discussed with President Trump, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA).
- The Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines & Related Biological Products Advisory Committee published a [briefing document](#) regarding its examination of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate created by Pfizer-BioNtech. The document confirmed that the vaccine's efficacy was 95%, and that the proposed regimen would be to administer two doses three weeks apart.
- President-elect Joe Biden pledged in an event this afternoon that his administration's first 100 days would include a distribution of 100 million coronavirus vaccinations, a reopening of most schools, and a mandate of facial coverings on all airplanes and federal buildings.
- The White House Coronavirus Task Force urged that the U.S. will have to continue implementing travel restrictions and social protocols into late spring next year. They warned that "the current vaccine implementation plan will not substantially reduce viral spread, hospitalizations, or fatalities until the 100 million Americans with comorbidities can be fully immunized, which will take until the late spring."

- At today's White House Summit on the COVID-19 Vaccine, Vice President Mike Pence urged Americans to "practice social distancing or wear a mask when it's not possible or whenever local authorities indicate that it's appropriate," adding that "it's the way through until the coronavirus vaccine that will likely be approved this week will be widely available for every American."
- The Department of Defense announced that they are planning to prioritize medical personnel and critical military personnel in rolling out their distribution of the coronavirus vaccine.

State Update

- North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper (D) announced that the state would enter a modified stay-at-home order, effective nightly from 10 PM to 5 AM.
- Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced that the state would rollback their reopening process, with all public facilities required to comply with a mandate allowing only 50% capacity.
- Texas Governor Greg Abbott (R) announced that the state is launching a COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program through the Texas Division of Emergency Management, aimed towards front-line employees for small businesses throughout the state.
- Washington Governor Jay Inslee (D) announced that they would extend their COVID-19 restrictions by three weeks – now expiring on January 4th. These restrictions include a ban on indoor dining and a tightened protocol for social gatherings.
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that he is expecting enhanced coronavirus restrictions to be implemented "in a matter of days."

Global Response

- The United Kingdom announced that they have started administering the first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine candidate to British citizens. When the vaccination program launched this morning, UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced that they could lift their coronavirus restrictions by the spring if enough people are vaccinated by then.
- Due to a rise in coronavirus cases, the government of Switzerland announced that they would ban nearly all public events and decrease the number of people allowed at private gatherings to a maximum of 10.
- The Japanese government approved a \$708 billion stimulus package aimed towards helping their economy from the ramifications of the coronavirus pandemic, with \$177 billion dedicated specifically for economic growth.
- Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard announced that healthcare workers in the country would receive the highest priority in their vaccine distribution efforts.

- The Indian Health Ministry announced that they're anticipating to give licenses to several vaccine candidates within the next few weeks, including the one being produced by AstraZeneca.
- South Korean Health Minister Park Neung-hoo announced that the government is planning to buy 44 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine – prioritizing the ones under production by AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna, COVAX, and Janssen.
- Hong Kong Secretary for Food and Health Sophia Chan announced that they would restrict restaurants, by only allowing food to be provided via takeaway services between 6 PM and 5 AM.
- Panamanian health officials announced that the country would impose a mandatory curfew from 9 PM to 5 AM every night.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing with gains. The Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.50%, the S&P 500 by 0.25%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.31%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the United States: Over 15,534, 563 cases and 292,687 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 68,442,410 cases and 1,559,973 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Mnuchin says he offered Pelosi \\$916B coronavirus relief deal with Trump's approval \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Biden pledges to vaccinate tens of millions, reopen schools in first 100 days \(Politico\)](#)
- [Fragile Covid-19 Vaccine Rolled Out in the U.K. Tests Global Supply Network \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [FDA review confirms safety, efficacy of Pfizer vaccine, putting it on cusp of approval \(The Washington Post\)](#)
- [Wall Street closes higher on vaccine lift; S&P 500, Nasdaq at records \(Reuters\)](#)