

## Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### INFORMS Members in the News (8/20/2020)

- [NC State moves undergraduate classes to online-only; two new clusters identified by university \(WRAL\)](#)  
Member: Julie Swann
- [NSU professor: If students hadn't congregated together we could have kept this at bay](#)  
Member: Julie Swann

### U.S. Federal Policy Update

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) confirmed this evening that she will not support efforts to pass a “skinny” coronavirus relief bill – stating that she “doesn’t think strategically it’s where [they should go right now,” as “Republicans would like to pass something like that and forget about” any other COVID-19 relief priorities.
- The Department of Labor’s weekly unemployment claim report [found](#) that 1.1 million Americans filed for first-time benefits in the past week.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [published](#) the fourth version of their critical infrastructure workforce guidance with several new changes, notably including the classification of teachers as essential workers.
- Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) has tested positive for coronavirus.

### Global Response

- The Department of Defense [announced](#) that their Southern Command Joint Task Force has donated critical COVID-19 supplies to Honduras.
- The United Kingdom announced that travelers from Portugal will no longer be required to quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival into the UK. However, this mandate will now apply to travelers from Austria, Croatia, and Trinidad & Tobago.
- The European Commission announced that they have agreed to an “initial purchase of 225 million doses on behalf of all EU member states” for a potential coronavirus vaccine from German pharmaceutical company CureVac.
- Costa Rican Tourism Minister Gustavo Segura announced that US travelers from six states – Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont – will be permitted to enter the country, beginning next month.
- The Brazilian legislative body ruled that masks would be mandatory in all closed public places, workplaces, and schools – overturning President Jair Bolsonaro’s previous veto on a mask mandate.

### State Update

- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo (D) signed an executive order extending the state’s moratorium on any commercial foreclosures and evictions due to COVID-19 through September 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves (R) announced that the state would require certain social distancing and mask measures for collegiate game day events. This includes a mandate for all attendees over the age of 6 to wear masks, as well as to observe social distancing protocols with people outside of their households.
- Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont (D) stated that the state is on track to reopen their schools in the next two weeks.
- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (R) cautioned in his press conference this evening that state officials have “unfortunately seen [coronavirus] numbers go up in rural areas” – a discrepancy which is due in part to “a larger percentage of people wearing masks for longer periods of time” in urban areas.
- Philadelphia Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley announced that the city would allow indoor dining services to resume on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Economic Update**

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing the day with increases. The Nasdaq Composite climbed by 1.06%, the S&P 500 by 0.32%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.17%.

### **Latest Impact Data**

- In the United States: Over 5,742,901 cases and 177,319 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 22,808,801 and 795,807 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

### **In the News**

- [Blue Dogs call for restart of relief negotiations \(Roll Call\)](#)
- [Unemployment claims jump back over 1 million \(Politico\)](#)
- [COVID-19 fatality rates fall as treatments improve \(The Hill\)](#)
- [Covid-19 Data Will Once Again Be Collected by CDC, in Policy Reversal \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [Flu and COVID-19: In the face of a looming double threat, U.S. expands access for flu shots \(The Washington Post\)](#)