



Daily Update on the Coronavirus Outbreak

October 29th, 2020

INFORMS Members in the News

- [Plan to detect coronavirus in wastewater may help pinpoint contact tracing needs \(Fox News\)](#)
Member: Dick Larson
- [The Pandemic Could End Waiting in Line \(The Atlantic\)](#)
Member: Dick Larson
- [Testing Sewage Can Provide an Early Warning of COVID-19 Outbreaks \(Yale Insights\)](#)
Member: Ed Kaplan
- [Quarantines and Other Non-Medical Tactics Cut COVID Deaths \(Futurity\)](#)
Member: Pinar Keskinocak
- [Rising infections complicate rules for New York-area travel \(The Hour\)](#)
Member: Sheldon Jacobson
- [Testing sewage to home in on Covid-19 \(MIT News\)](#)
Members: Dick Larson, Oded Berman, Mehdi Nourinejad
- [Amazon Consumer Science Summit goes virtual \(Amazon\)](#)
Member: Anna Nagurney
- [COVID-19 stories and experts: Detecting COVID-19 pneumonia, challenge trials, Halloween \(University of Wisconsin-Madison\)](#)
Member: Oguzhan Alagoz

Federal Policy Update

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) sent a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin this morning, writing that Democrats are still waiting for compromise language from the Trump administration on the following issue areas: state & local governments, liability protections, unemployment insurance, schools reopening safely, childcare support, and tax credits.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis published its [quarterly estimation](#), finding that the U.S.'s real GDP grew by 7.4% in the third quarter of this year.
- The U.S. recorded its highest single-day infection count since the pandemic began – with 83,757 new coronavirus cases reported today, according to Johns Hopkins University data.
- Scientists at the National Institute [published](#) that they have discovered the pathway by which the COVID-19 virus infects cells. The announcement indicates that they hope that by targeting this pathway, they can curb infections.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services published an [announcement](#) that they are “acting now to remove bureaucratic barriers while ensuring that states, providers and health plans have the information and direction they need to ensure broad vaccine access and coverage for all Americans.” The announcement added that the agency “has developed a comprehensive plan to support the swift and successful distribution of a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19.”

- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci announced that of the six COVID vaccines currently in development in the U.S., the two candidates in Phase 3 trials by pharmaceutical companies Moderna and Pfizer seem to be “neck and neck” in the race for approval for a coronavirus vaccine.
- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention [updated](#) its ensemble forecast, now projecting that there could be up to 256,000 COVID-related deaths in the U.S. by November 21st.

State Response

- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine (R) cautioned residents regarding the coronavirus situation in the state – warning that “the virus is raging throughout the state, adding that “there is no place to hide.”

Global Response

- Czech Medical Chamber President Milan Kubek warned that “the Czech health system has never faced such a challenge before,” adding that “there is an increase of over 1,000 sick health care workers everyday.”
- United Kingdom Housing Minister Robert Jenrick indicated that it is still possible that a second lockdown in the United Kingdom will not be necessary.
- The Greek government implemented more regional measures to combat the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the country, with the cities of Thessaloniki, Larissa, and Rhodope set to enter lockdown starting this Friday.
- Singapore’s Civil Aviation Authority announced that they would lift their border restrictions for essential travel from mainland China and the Australian state of Victoria.
- The Taiwanese Centers for Disease Control announced that the region has gone over 200 days without a local coronavirus transmission.
- French Sports Minister Roxana Maracineanu told the French National Assembly that professional sports will continue to operate despite the country’s current lockdown measures.

Economic Update

- U.S. stocks were on the rise today, with all three indices closing with increases. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 0.52%, the S&P 500 by 1.19%, and the Nasdaq by 1.64%.

Latest Impact Data

- In the U.S.: Over 9,207,030 cases and 234,111 deaths in 50 states, 4 territories, and D.C.
- Worldwide: Over 45,301,015 cases and 1,185,629 deaths in at least 204 countries and territories.

In the News

- [Jobless Americans face debt crunch without more federal aid as bills come due \(Politico\)](#)
- [Winter COVID-19 wave poses threat to nation's hospitals \(The Hill\)](#)
- [U.S. economy posts record growth in third-quarter; COVID-19 scarring to last \(Reuters\)](#)
- [Stocks Close Higher with Bets on Biden Stimulus Fueling Small Stocks \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)
- [Schools weigh plans for rapid COVID-19 tests \(Roll Call\)](#)