



July 8, 2020

To: Distribution

From: Pandemic Working Group

Re: **COVID-19: Fauci ~ Tennessee & Testing ~ Alabama ~ US Leaving WHO**

Fauci Speaks Out. Today, as reported by USA Today, Dr. Anthony Fauci urged the American public to take personal account of their role in helping to control the pandemic. With over 3 million total cases and yesterday's daily record-high of 60,000 cases in the US, Dr. Fauci stated that in all his decades of chasing infectious diseases, he has never seen one that was so "protean" in respect of its variable effect on different people. He noted that 40% of the victims have no symptoms, some mild, some more serious, some go to the hospital, some go to the ICU and some die. Regarding coronavirus vaccines, he doubts that there would be a mandate to be vaccinated, with some exceptions, such as hospitals that may mandate vaccination for employees. He also cautioned against focusing on the relatively low death rate because the virus is still deadly, it can cause long-term or permanent damage to the health of survivors, and is extremely disruptive to businesses, schools, and the economy. He added that "if infected, you are part of the dynamic of propagating the pandemic" and "will ultimately affect someone who is vulnerable." Dr. Fauci closed by saying that each of us has an individual responsibility to ourselves and a societal responsibility to others; in short, "we can either be part of the solution or part of the problem."

The Tennessee Testing Experiment. Stories on infection testing abound in the media, covering a host of angles - reliability, strength of supply chain, scale of testing and who should pay. As



reported by the New York Times, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee (pictured here courtesy of Times Free Press) took this issue to heart in mid-April and announced that any Tennessean could get tested, regardless of symptoms, and that the state would pay. After embarking upon this plan, his state reported over 50,000 cases, the virus overwhelmed local governments' abilities to trace infected persons' contacts, and the positivity rate spiked up from 5% to 8%. Governors in Georgia, Oklahoma and Ohio also urged residents to get tested, and all those states have had sharp increases in infections. As Adm. Brett P. Giroir, US assistant secretary of health said, "We cannot test our way out of this – testing alone is almost never the answer." At this stage, University of Minnesota's Dr. Michael T. Osterholm is calling for a national blue-ribbon panel to

devise a "smart testing" strategy. This might help get local governments focused on the concept of "test, track and trace," and serve as an antidote to what former CDC director Dr. Thomas R.

Frieden called a kind of collective “attention deficit disorder” where we “can only focus on one thing: a travel ban, stay at home, testing.” For now, much of our domestic infection testing is generating information, but not effectively facilitating control of the pandemic.

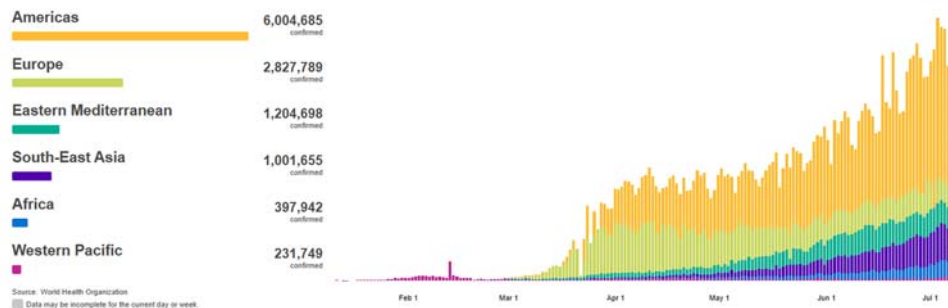
Numbers in Alabama. Over the past three consecutive days, Alabama set new daily highs of people currently hospitalized with COVID-19, while also reaching recent highs for positivity rate, according to the Alabama Department of Public Health. Today, 1,110 people are hospitalized with COVID-19, up from 775 a week ago, and testing results show a 7-day average positivity rate of 14.69%, indicating community spread of coronavirus. On Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, D-Alabama held a press call, joined by Dr. Anthony Fauci, to discuss the coronavirus outlook in the state. Jones stated that 30% of the state’s cases have come in the last two weeks and over 1,000 Alabamians have died from COVID-19.

Alabama began relaxing stay at home restrictions on April 30 and was among the first states in the U.S. to do so. Fauci said many parts of the economy were opened ‘a bit too soon’ and the U.S. is adding over 57,000 COVID-19 cases per day. While the cases and hospitalizations are rising, Fauci urged the state to take advantage of the current ‘window of opportunity’ to prevent exponential rates of infection. Fauci strongly urges Alabamians to wear face coverings and practice social distancing, as the best ways to avoid becoming infected by those around you, or to avoid transmitting the virus to others if you are already unknowingly infected.

As reported by Alabama Political Reporter, many cities and counties in Alabama have implemented mask requirements, but the state has not issued a state-wide mask requirement and urges all Alabamians, “in the strongest manner I can, to incorporate COVID-19 cautions into your daily routine.” As members of the company’s Pandemic Working Group, we can attest to the tireless efforts of our colleagues in HR, Safety, Manufacturing, and management to prepare for and respond to quickly changing government orders, CDC and other guidance, and employee concerns. Give them thanks for their work to keep all of us safe during this pandemic.

US to Withdraw from WHO. As reported by the Wall Street Journal, the US formally notified the World Health Organization that it will be terminating its 72-year membership effective in July 2021. Following comments of President Trump to the effect that the WHO was unduly influenced by China and had provided the US with “a lot of bad advice” about the pandemic, the State Department called for the WHO to demonstrate “significant progress and the ability to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks with transparency and accountability.” Presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden stated that if he is elected, the US would remain a member. President Trump stated that he intended to redirect funding to other “deserving, urgent global public-health needs.”

Of the 194 member states in the WHO, the US is the largest donor, giving about \$450 million per year. Interestingly, no government has ever withdrawn from the WHO in its history. As the largest global health organization in the world, the WHO has followed a broad



mandate to prevent and control many infectious diseases other than coronavirus (this photo is their global dashboard as of today), including polio, smallpox, malaria, hepatitis B, tuberculosis, meningitis, HIV and Ebola as well as seeking to ensure safe water and sanitation in third world countries. According to WSJ, if the US were to complete its withdrawal, the WHO would likely become more dependent upon private donors, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, its second-largest donor. For the next several months, at a minimum, we can expect relations between the US and the WHO to be somewhat strained.

If you have any questions or comments on this advisory, please contact either kellyw@amvac.com or timd@amvac.com.