

IEM's AI Modeling: Short-term COVID-19 Projections

Date: 12/30/20

Leveraging over 15 years of support to HHS for medical consequence modeling and our proprietary artificial intelligence (AI) models, IEM believes that our Coronavirus model outputs can be used to assist localities and their medical facilities to better prepare for an increase in hospitalizations, to better plan for and locate drive-through testing facilities, and to determine where increased levels of transmission may be occurring.

We have been refining our AI model over the past month and are confident in its ability to provide accurate 7-day projections that can be used for operational and logistical planning.

AI-based Model Background

IEM is currently using an AI model to fit data from various sources and project new cases of COVID-19. We do not assume the average number of secondary infections (R-value) stays the same over time. IEM's AI model finds the best R-value over time to evaluate how it changes over the course of the outbreak. The IEM modeling team is running ~11 million simulations to fit each state's data and using the best fit for the R-value to project new cases over the next 7 days. The AI models are executed on a daily basis to evaluate the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our projections have typically been within 10%, and are often within 5%, of actual confirmed cases.

The projections shown in this document are based on data pulled in as of 12/30/20 9 a.m.

Please provide any feedback or send any questions that you might have to us. We are continually updating and improving the model, so your feedback is critical.

Also, if you have more current or refined data for your State, Commonwealth or Territory that you would like IEM to factor in, please let us know.

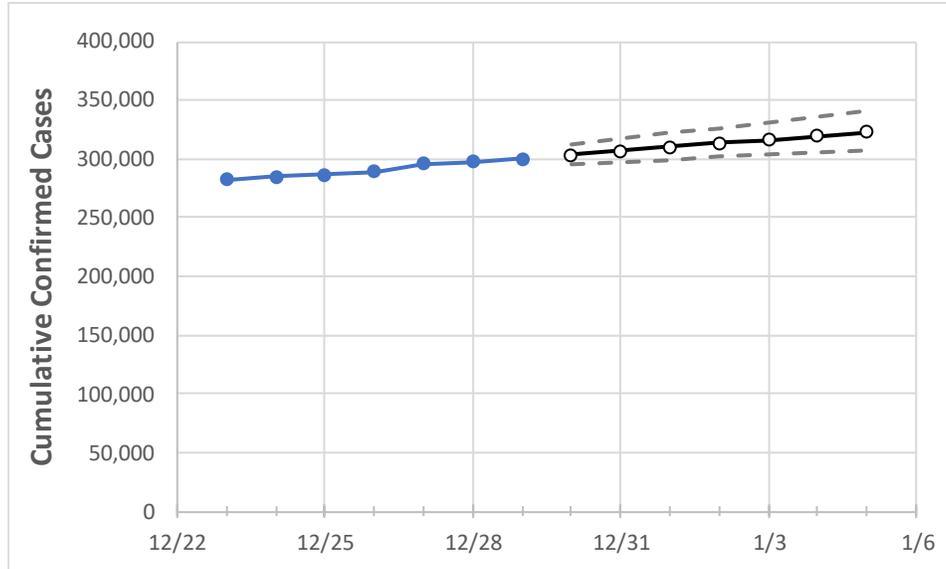
IEM's Modeling Lead

Dr. Prasith "Sid" Baccam is a **Computational Epidemiologist expert** at IEM with more than **20 years of experience in medical consequence modeling and simulation of disease outbreaks** and medical consequences following hypothetical attacks with biological agents or emerging infectious diseases. He develops key simulation models and decision support tools at IEM, specializing in public health, disaster response, and medical countermeasures (MCM) to enhance data-driven decision making and improve modeling assumptions.

Upon receiving his **Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and Immunobiology** at Iowa State University, Dr. Baccam worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Los Alamos National Laboratory where he focused on researching viral and immunological modeling. After his stint at Los Alamos, Dr. Baccam has served as Task Lead in multiple public health projects have allowed him to develop expertise as a mathematical biologist and a leader on high-performance modeling and simulation teams.

He has worked with state and local public health officials as well as Federal agencies, including **HHS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**), and the Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**). Dr. Baccam has published numerous papers on public health response models and implications on policy and has been invited to participate in workshops and symposiums held by the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Health). His modeling results have been briefed to the **Executive Office of the President** and informed two presidential policy actions.

South Carolina State Projections



	Actual Confirmed Cases On:				Projected Cases For:						
	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5
South Carolina	288,892	296,179	298,050	300,602	303,747	306,932	310,143	313,363	316,615	319,876	323,171

Note: The State's projection shows a "best estimate" curve (the solid line with circles) and the dotted lines are the upper and lower estimates around that best estimate. Our projections have typically been within 20%, and are often within 10%, of actual confirmed cases.

South Carolina Counties

	Actual Confirmed Cases On:				Projected Cases For:						
	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5
Beaufort	9,051	9,223	9,266	9,320	9,404	9,490	9,577	9,662	9,748	9,836	9,927
Charleston	23,221	23,511	23,598	23,761	23,898	24,036	24,178	24,318	24,461	24,605	24,750
Greenville	34,541	35,719	35,987	36,390	36,881	37,397	37,906	38,438	38,982	39,525	40,063
Kershaw	3,705	3,762	3,778	3,807	3,839	3,870	3,901	3,933	3,963	3,994	4,026
Lexington	15,478	15,961	16,051	16,244	16,449	16,661	16,870	17,082	17,296	17,511	17,732
Richland	25,200	25,583	25,695	25,804	25,980	26,147	26,309	26,472	26,639	26,809	26,970
Spartanburg	18,477	19,121	19,283	19,455	19,720	19,982	20,257	20,523	20,790	21,070	21,347
York	14,279	14,613	14,692	14,818	14,973	15,134	15,293	15,450	15,607	15,761	15,910

Some recipients of our daily COVID-19 short-term (7 day) projections have requested projections of demand for: hospital bed, intensive care unit (ICU) beds, and mechanical ventilation. We realize that different states and localities will have different characteristics for hospital demand of COVID-19 cases, and we are presenting the best assumptions we could find for those medical demands based on scientific literature and health data reporting. Specifically:

- **Beds:** For hospitalization, we use a range of 10% and 20% of cases require hospitalization based on CDC's report ([MMWR, March 18, 2020](#)) and state reports of COVID-19 cases.
- **ICU:** The CDC report found that 24% of hospitalized cases require ICU care.
- **Ventilators:** Based on clinical data from China and state reports, we assume that 50% of ICU cases require a ventilator.

If you have other estimates for these assumptions, please share them with us as we work to refine our modeling, assumptions, and data on a daily basis.

The medical demands shown in the table assume 20% of **cumulative** confirmed cases require hospitalization. To get the medical demand for the assumption that 10% of confirmed cases require hospitalization, simply divide the demand by 2.

South Carolina Medical Demands by County

	Actual Confirmed Cases On:				Projected Cases (Hospitalized) [ICU] {Ventilator} For:											
	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/31				1/2				1/4			
Beaufort	9,051	9,223	9,266	9,320	9,490	(1,898)	[456]	{228}	9,662	(1,932)	[464]	{232}	9,836	(1,967)	[472]	{236}
Charleston	23,221	23,511	23,598	23,761	24,036	(4,807)	[1,154]	{577}	24,318	(4,864)	[1,167]	{584}	24,605	(4,921)	[1,181]	{591}
Greenville	34,541	35,719	35,987	36,390	37,397	(7,479)	[1,795]	{898}	38,438	(7,688)	[1,845]	{923}	39,525	(7,905)	[1,897]	{949}
Kershaw	3,705	3,762	3,778	3,807	3,870	(774)	[186]	{93}	3,933	(787)	[189]	{94}	3,994	(799)	[192]	{96}
Lexington	15,478	15,961	16,051	16,244	16,661	(3,332)	[800]	{400}	17,082	(3,416)	[820]	{410}	17,511	(3,502)	[841]	{420}
Richland	25,200	25,583	25,695	25,804	26,147	(5,229)	[1,255]	{628}	26,472	(5,294)	[1,271]	{635}	26,809	(5,362)	[1,287]	{643}
Spartanburg	18,477	19,121	19,283	19,455	19,982	(3,996)	[959]	{480}	20,523	(4,105)	[985]	{493}	21,070	(4,214)	[1,011]	{506}
York	14,279	14,613	14,692	14,818	15,134	(3,027)	[726]	{363}	15,450	(3,090)	[742]	{371}	15,761	(3,152)	[757]	{378}

For additional information from IEM, please contact Bryan Koon, Vice President of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at bryan.koon@iem.com or 850-519-7966 or Stephanie Tennyson at stephanie.tennyson@iem.com or 202-309-4257.