

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

Date: 2/26/21

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 2/26/21 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.**

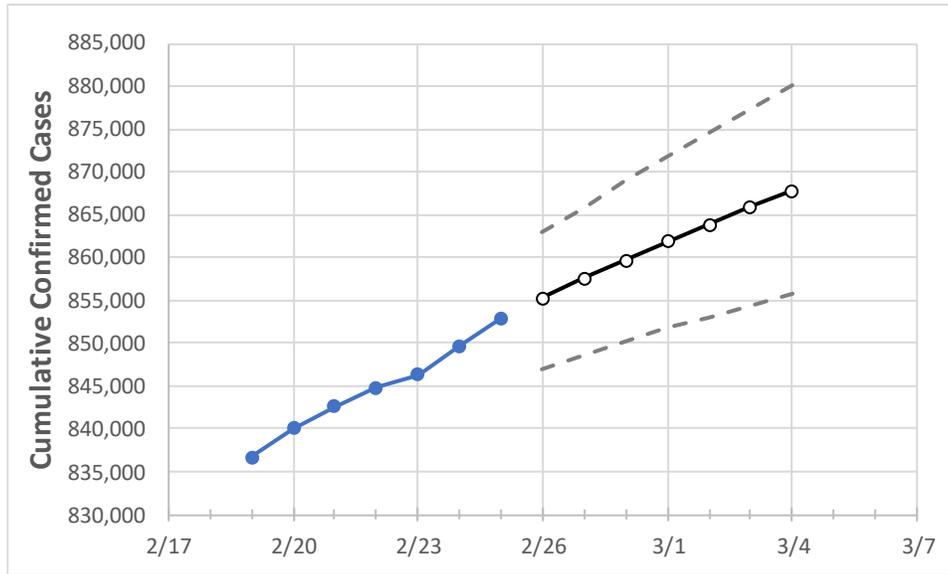
### IEM's Modeling Lead

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.

### North Carolina State Projections



	Actual Confirmed Cases On:				Projected Cases For:						
	2/22	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/26	2/27	2/28	3/1	3/2	3/3	3/4
North Carolina	844,770	846,284	849,630	852,981	855,304	857,549	859,721	861,831	863,853	865,893	867,798

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 10%, and are often within 5%, of actual confirmed cases.

### North Carolina Counties

	Actual Confirmed Cases On:				Projected Cases For:						
	2/22	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/26	2/27	2/28	3/1	3/2	3/3	3/4
Cumberland	23,610	23,650	23,788	23,911	23,998	24,078	24,157	24,236	24,307	24,380	24,450
Durham	21,245	21,297	21,378	21,425	21,481	21,536	21,590	21,640	21,690	21,738	21,784
Guilford	39,089	39,157	39,323	39,483	39,580	39,673	39,764	39,847	39,931	40,009	40,083
Mecklenburg	95,109	95,323	95,626	95,952	96,192	96,426	96,654	96,874	97,081	97,289	97,494
Orange	7,586	7,601	7,623	7,657	7,677	7,697	7,715	7,734	7,752	7,768	7,785
Union	20,313	20,351	20,457	20,555	20,616	20,675	20,733	20,790	20,845	20,899	20,955
Wake	73,195	73,304	73,474	73,761	73,943	74,124	74,301	74,468	74,634	74,782	74,931

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.

### North Carolina Medical Demands by County

	Actual Confirmed Cases On:				Projected Cases (Hospitalized) [ICU] {Ventilator} For:											
	2/22	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/27			3/1			3/3					
Cumberland	23,610	23,650	23,788	23,911	24,078	(4,816)	[1,156]	{578}	24,236	(4,847)	[1,163]	{582}	24,380	(4,876)	[1,170]	{585}
Durham	21,245	21,297	21,378	21,425	21,536	(4,307)	[1,034]	{517}	21,640	(4,328)	[1,039]	{519}	21,738	(4,348)	[1,043]	{522}
Guilford	39,089	39,157	39,323	39,483	39,673	(7,935)	[1,904]	{952}	39,847	(7,969)	[1,913]	{956}	40,009	(8,002)	[1,920]	{960}
Mecklenburg	95,109	95,323	95,626	95,952	96,426	(19,285)	[4,628]	{2,314}	96,874	(19,375)	[4,650]	{2,325}	97,289	(19,458)	[4,670]	{2,335}
Orange	7,586	7,601	7,623	7,657	7,697	(1,539)	[369]	{185}	7,734	(1,547)	[371]	{186}	7,768	(1,554)	[373]	{186}
Union	20,313	20,351	20,457	20,555	20,675	(4,135)	[992]	{496}	20,790	(4,158)	[998]	{499}	20,899	(4,180)	[1,003]	{502}
Wake	73,195	73,304	73,474	73,761	74,124	(14,825)	[3,558]	{1,779}	74,468	(14,894)	[3,574]	{1,787}	74,782	(14,956)	[3,590]	{1,795}

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