

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

Date: 3/29/21

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 3/29/21 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.

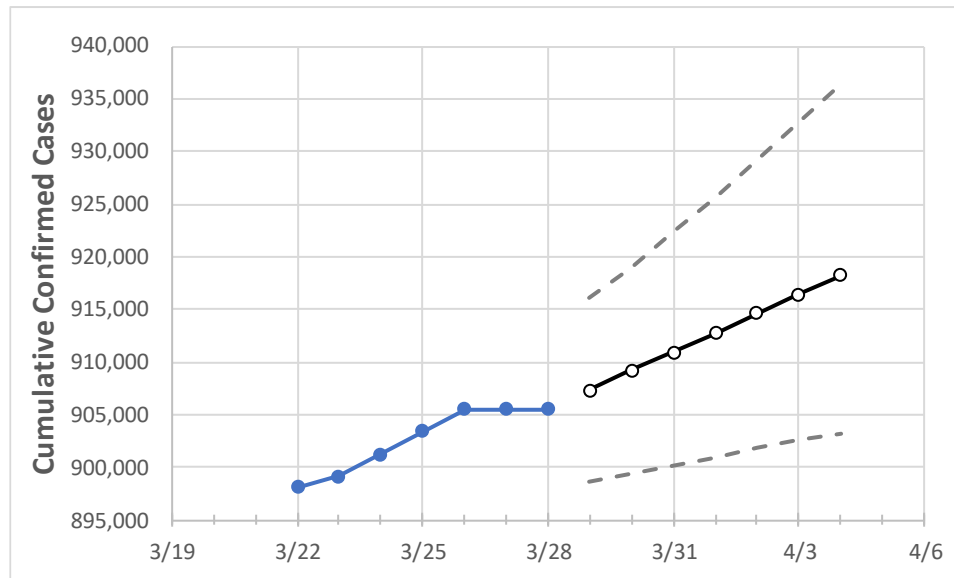
IEM's Modeling Lead

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:						
	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28	3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1	4/2	4/3	4/4
North Carolina	903,374	905,528	905,528	905,528	907,329	909,169	910,932	912,761	914,577	916,385	918,188

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:						
	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28	3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1	4/2	4/3	4/4
Cumberland	25,489	25,555	25,555	25,555	25,609	25,665	25,721	25,777	25,833	25,889	25,944
Durham	22,830	22,922	22,922	22,922	22,995	23,074	23,155	23,235	23,319	23,403	23,487
Guilford	42,188	42,309	42,309	42,309	42,430	42,557	42,687	42,815	42,950	43,081	43,221
Mecklenburg	101,328	101,603	101,603	101,603	101,841	102,079	102,322	102,569	102,824	103,086	103,360
Orange	7,987	8,006	8,006	8,006	8,024	8,042	8,061	8,080	8,099	8,120	8,140
Union	22,062	22,122	22,122	22,122	22,192	22,264	22,335	22,410	22,487	22,563	22,638
Wake	79,294	79,559	79,559	79,559	79,805	80,054	80,312	80,564	80,826	81,087	81,353

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:											
	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28	3/30				4/1				4/3			
Cumberland	25,489	25,555	25,555	25,555	25,665	(5,133)	[1,232]	{616}	25,777	(5,155)	[1,237]	{619}	25,889	(5,178)	[1,243]	{621}
Durham	22,830	22,922	22,922	22,922	23,074	(4,615)	[1,108]	{554}	23,235	(4,647)	[1,115]	{558}	23,403	(4,681)	[1,123]	{562}
Guilford	42,188	42,309	42,309	42,309	42,557	(8,511)	[2,043]	{1,021}	42,815	(8,563)	[2,055]	{1,028}	43,081	(8,616)	[2,068]	{1,034}
Mecklenburg	101,328	101,603	101,603	101,603	102,079	(20,416)	[4,900]	{2,450}	102,569	(20,514)	[4,923]	{2,462}	103,086	(20,617)	[4,948]	{2,474}
Orange	7,987	8,006	8,006	8,006	8,042	(1,608)	[386]	{193}	8,080	(1,616)	[388]	{194}	8,120	(1,624)	[390]	{195}
Union	22,062	22,122	22,122	22,122	22,264	(4,453)	[1,069]	{534}	22,410	(4,482)	[1,076]	{538}	22,563	(4,513)	[1,083]	{542}
Wake	79,294	79,559	79,559	79,559	80,054	(16,011)	[3,843]	{1,921}	80,564	(16,113)	[3,867]	{1,934}	81,087	(16,217)	[3,892]	{1,946}

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.