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

Date: 9/20/21

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 9/20/21 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.

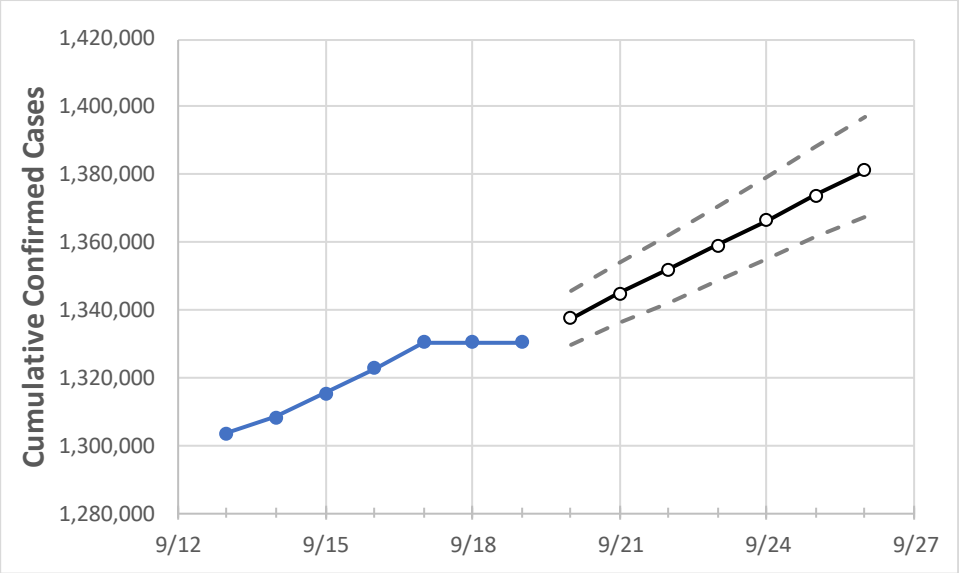
IEM's Modeling Lead

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:						
	9/16	9/17	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
North Carolina	1,322,587	1,330,492	1,330,492	1,330,492	1,337,579	1,344,842	1,351,955	1,359,211	1,366,372	1,373,800	1,381,183

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:						
	9/16	9/17	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26
Cumberland	40,229	40,418	40,418	40,418	40,594	40,768	40,948	41,123	41,300	41,480	41,661
Durham	31,839	31,970	31,970	31,970	32,067	32,157	32,249	32,341	32,431	32,523	32,608
Guilford	59,932	60,325	60,325	60,325	60,580	60,826	61,082	61,339	61,599	61,865	62,114
Mecklenburg	144,158	144,795	144,795	144,795	145,313	145,836	146,365	146,893	147,413	147,939	148,469
Orange	10,666	10,706	10,706	10,706	10,744	10,787	10,825	10,864	10,905	10,944	10,984
Union	32,693	32,905	32,905	32,905	33,123	33,338	33,558	33,782	34,002	34,233	34,465
Wake	117,772	118,343	118,343	118,343	118,830	119,329	119,798	120,279	120,761	121,257	121,747

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:											
	9/16	9/17	9/18	9/19	9/21				9/23				9/25			
Cumberland	40,229	40,418	40,418	40,418	40,768	(8,154)	[1,957]	{978}	41,123	(8,225)	[1,974]	{987}	41,480	(8,296)	[1,991]	{996}
Durham	31,839	31,970	31,970	31,970	32,157	(6,431)	[1,544]	{772}	32,341	(6,468)	[1,552]	{776}	32,523	(6,505)	[1,561]	{781}
Guilford	59,932	60,325	60,325	60,325	60,826	(12,165)	[2,920]	{1,460}	61,339	(12,268)	[2,944]	{1,472}	61,865	(12,373)	[2,970]	{1,485}
Mecklenburg	144,158	144,795	144,795	144,795	145,836	(29,167)	[7,000]	{3,500}	146,893	(29,379)	[7,051]	{3,525}	147,939	(29,588)	[7,101]	{3,551}
Orange	10,666	10,706	10,706	10,706	10,787	(2,157)	[518]	{259}	10,864	(2,173)	[521]	{261}	10,944	(2,189)	[525]	{263}
Union	32,693	32,905	32,905	32,905	33,338	(6,668)	[1,600]	{800}	33,782	(6,756)	[1,622]	{811}	34,233	(6,847)	[1,643]	{822}
Wake	117,772	118,343	118,343	118,343	119,329	(23,866)	[5,728]	{2,864}	120,279	(24,056)	[5,773]	{2,887}	121,257	(24,251)	[5,820]	{2,910}

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.