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

Date: 3/11/22

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 3/11/22 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.

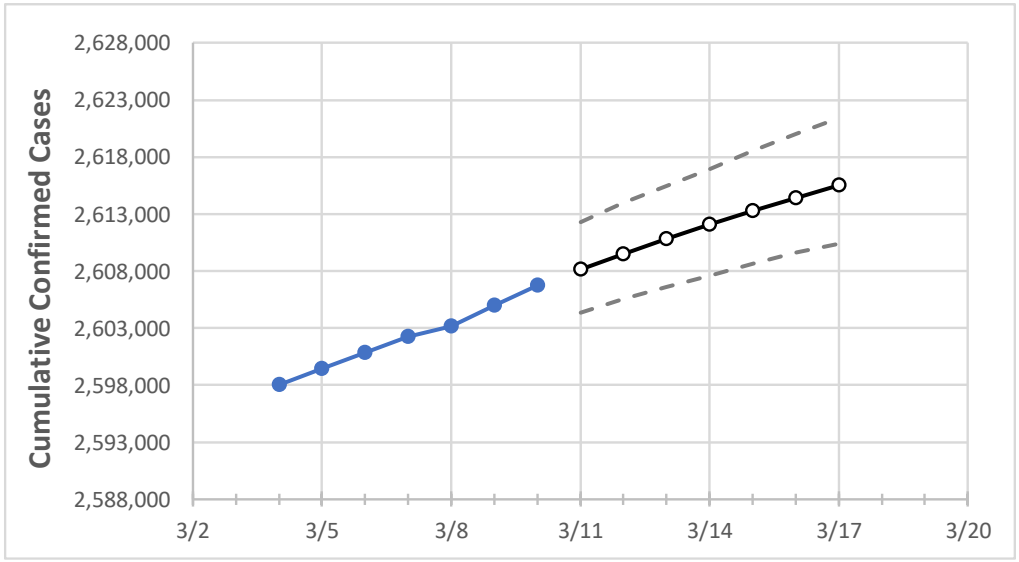
IEM's Modeling Lead

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:						
	3/7	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17
North Carolina	2,602,244	2,603,138	2,604,971	2,606,754	2,608,175	2,609,483	2,610,785	2,612,080	2,613,241	2,614,424	2,615,523

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:						
	3/7	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17
Cumberland	82,042	82,102	82,172	82,270	82,318	82,366	82,409	82,454	82,500	82,541	82,580
Durham	69,385	69,430	69,494	69,580	69,628	69,673	69,717	69,760	69,800	69,841	69,882
Guilford	115,110	115,121	115,213	115,316	115,393	115,467	115,542	115,607	115,673	115,740	115,800
Mecklenburg	275,663	275,730	275,821	275,930	276,017	276,100	276,176	276,252	276,322	276,395	276,458
Orange	25,604	25,631	25,656	25,673	25,692	25,710	25,727	25,745	25,761	25,778	25,792
Union	61,254	61,272	61,292	61,324	61,348	61,369	61,389	61,409	61,429	61,447	61,464
Wake	287,060	287,173	287,434	287,665	287,828	287,988	288,141	288,293	288,433	288,575	288,706

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:											
	3/7	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/12				3/14				3/16			
Cumberland	82,042	82,102	82,172	82,270	82,366	(16,473)	[3,954]	{1,977}	82,454	(16,491)	[3,958]	{1,979}	82,541	(16,508)	[3,962]	{1,981}
Durham	69,385	69,430	69,494	69,580	69,673	(13,935)	[3,344]	{1,672}	69,760	(13,952)	[3,349]	{1,674}	69,841	(13,968)	[3,352]	{1,676}
Guilford	115,110	115,121	115,213	115,316	115,467	(23,093)	[5,542]	{2,771}	115,607	(23,121)	[5,549]	{2,775}	115,740	(23,148)	[5,556]	{2,778}
Mecklenburg	275,663	275,730	275,821	275,930	276,100	(55,220)	[13,253]	{6,626}	276,252	(55,250)	[13,260]	{6,630}	276,395	(55,279)	[13,267]	{6,633}
Orange	25,604	25,631	25,656	25,673	25,710	(5,142)	[1,234]	{617}	25,745	(5,149)	[1,236]	{618}	25,778	(5,156)	[1,237]	{619}
Union	61,254	61,272	61,292	61,324	61,369	(12,274)	[2,946]	{1,473}	61,409	(12,282)	[2,948]	{1,474}	61,447	(12,289)	[2,949]	{1,475}
Wake	287,060	287,173	287,434	287,665	287,988	(57,598)	[13,823]	{6,912}	288,293	(57,659)	[13,838]	{6,919}	288,575	(57,715)	[13,852]	{6,926}

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.