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**Front Cover:** an overview of the upcoming FAOPMA-Pest Summit 2020 Virtual Conference. Complete program, speaker list, and exhibitors are on Pages 3-9.

# COVID-19 Goes On...

**A**s COVID-19 continues its reign of terror across the globe most nations are now experiencing something unexpected; a second spike in infections. This has led to many more cases than the initial wave. The simple reason for the second spike? Complacency!

When COVID-19 cases decline people think they are safe. WRONG! Simple preventative measures (face masks, physical distancing, and hand hygiene), are quickly forgotten. It is important to remember that COVID-19 is a preventable disease through these very basic measures.

It is quite possible that we are only *one third* of the way through this nightmare. Medical experts suggest that it will not be until late 2021 before an effective vaccine is available. Thus repeatable waves of infections are likely to occur.

As cases go down, Governments are quick at easing COVID-19 restrictions claiming that they wish to kick start the economy. However this highlights another weakness; short sightedness. A recent study revealed that one COVID-19 case costs the economy an astonishing USD\$46,000. Thus at 8/Oct/2020, the pandemic has cost the global economy USD\$1.6 trillion, (yes \$1,600,000,000,000!). And we are a long way from its end. It is much cheaper in the long run to try and completely stop the virus, no matter how harsh the methods seem at the time, than to kick start the economy too early. But few politicians possess the political will, or are just too short sighted, to do the right thing.

The combination of complacency and short sightedness has led to a bleak economic future for so many industries in society and especially the pest management sector. Never before has a more timely meeting been announced than this year’s FAOPMA Pest Summit Virtual Conference. *This is quite probably the most important event that you will ever attend.*

As noted on the front cover of this issue, the theme is “SURVIVE COVID-19; PROTECT YOUR FUTURE – Safeguarding the Pest Management Industry Through and Uncertain World”. This is a meeting with the single aim of helping you and your business to survive in this uncertain world. The USD\$50 registration fee is a small but critical investment to your future. Make sure you join the event and do not succumb to complacency and short sightedness! ■

*Stephen Doggett* (Chief Editor)