## Global – COVID-19 Pandemic

### On Call International’s Incident Level: WATCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Global</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>January 5, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issued by</td>
<td>On Call International Global Security &amp; Medical Teams</td>
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### NOTABLE WEEKLY UPDATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Updates</th>
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| Africa             | • Botswana’s President tests positive for COVID-19.  
                     • Ivory Coast records highest daily infections.  
                     • Mauritania’s President tests positive for COVID-19. |
| Americas           | • Canada’s Ontario province Monday announced the closure of indoor dining and resumption of remote learning for schools as cases in Canada surge.  
                     • Jamaica Tuesday adjusted its isolation requirements for COVID-19 positive patients, reducing the mandatory isolation period from 10 days to 5.  
                     • Puerto Rico is now requiring all incoming travelers (including from the US) to provide a negative COVID-19 test result from within 48 hours of arrival. |
| Asia-Pacific       | • Second Chinese city placed under lockdown following three positive cases.  
                     • Australia’s daily case counts surge due to Omicron.  
                     • Hong Kong imposes new restrictions and travel bans. |
| Europe             | • Poland may soon implement new restrictions.  
                     • Britain to maintain current restrictions.  
                     • Macron plans to crack down on unvaccinated in France. |
| Middle East & North Africa | • Iran’s national airlines bans travelers from the UK, France, Norway, and Denmark.  
                             • Kuwait urges citizens to return from European countries including Italy, Spain, and Germany.  
                             • Israel will allow travelers from 199 ‘medium risk’ countries entry starting January 9.  
                             • Syria received one million COVID-19 vaccine doses from China. |
GLOBAL SUMMARY:

The On Call Security & Medical Teams are continuing to monitor the global outbreak COVID-19. As of the issuance of this report on Wednesday January 5, there have been 295,447,802 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with 5,460,449 deaths. For updated information on individual countries’ travel advisories, COVID-19 case trends, travel restrictions, and healthcare capabilities review On Call International’s COVID-19 Travel Outlook Map.

REGIONAL SUMMARIES:

AFRICA

Botswana’s President, Mokgweetsi Masisi, is in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 earlier this week. The current Vice President will assume his responsibilities until further notice. The President currently does not have any symptoms and is being monitored closely by his doctors. New cases in Botswana have risen significantly from about 300 new cases per day to over 2,500 since the discovery of the Omicron variant. Although infection rates have spiked in Botswana, hospitalization rates have not. Botswana will soon offer the booster shot to anyone over the age of 12 to combat the spread of Omicron.

Earlier this week, Ivory Coast reported its highest COVID-19 infections with 1,578 new cases recorded. Due to this sudden rise in cases, the government expanded its testing site hours in Abdijan. The Health Minister, Pierre Dimba, has also urged all citizens to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Mauritania’s President, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, has tested positive for COVID-19 earlier on Tuesday and is displaying mild symptoms, including a fever. Mauritania has recorded its highest daily infections on Monday with over 490 new cases.

AMERICAS

Canada’s Ontario province Monday announced the closure of indoor dining and resumption of remote learning for schools as cases in Canada continue to surge. In Quebec similar measures were announced Thursday closing indoor dining and also imposing a nightly curfew from 10:00pm to 5:00am. The measures are expected to remain in place at least through January.

Jamaica Tuesday adjusted its isolation requirements for COVID-19 positive patients, reducing the mandatory isolation period from 10 days to 5. However, the isolation period can only be reduced to 5 days if the patient is asymptomatic and provides a negative PCR test result. While the adjusted rules allow an avenue for shortened quarantine periods, the fact that some people can continue to test positive on PCR tests weeks after an infection means there is no guarantee an asymptomatic positive patient will be able to shorten their isolation period.
Puerto Rico is now requiring all incoming travelers (including from the US) to provide a negative COVID-19 test result from within 48 hours of arrival. Either PCR or antigen is accepted. Arriving travelers who cannot show proof of vaccination will be required to quarantine for 7 days following arrival. Additionally, as of Tuesday all non-essential businesses are required to close from 12:00am to 5:00am and restaurants are required to operate with capacity limits.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Another city in China has shut down following the discovery of three asymptomatic cases. Yuzhou, which has a population of just over a million, went into complete lockdown overnight with nothing but essential food stores remaining open. It follows the city of Xi’an, which has been shut down since 23 December with over 13 million people under strict orders to stay in their homes. While lockdown measures seem to reduce outbreaks, they have caused other issues such as food and supply shortages.

Australia’s daily cases have surged significantly this past week due to the Omicron variant. For a year and a half Australia used a system of regular testing and contact tracing to contain outbreaks, but on Wednesday, the country recorded up to 64,767 new infections. Hospitalization rates have also surged and are higher than they have been at any point during the pandemic. In Victoria, authorities state that one in four people showing up for testing came out positive. Victoria recorded over 14,000 new cases, nearly double the previous day's count.

Hong Kong’s leader, Carrie Lam, said that the government will introduce new restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19, starting 8 January. These new rules include a two-week travel ban from eight countries: the US, UK, Australia, Canada, Pakistan, Philippines, France, and India. In addition to the travel ban, the government also announced that it will be imposing restrictions on indoor dining, making it forbidden after 6pm, for the next two weeks. Arcades, bars, and other entertainment venues will also be closed during this time period. The new restrictions came after clusters of positive cases due to Omicron emerged over the past week.

EUROPE

Polish health minister Adam Niedzielski announced Monday that it may be necessary to implement new Covid restrictions to combat the Omicron variant. The country added new restrictions in December to combat the fourth wave that is currently creating a steady rise in cases. The health minister said schools and shopping malls may be closed as part of the new restrictions. The decision is expected to be announced later this week.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced Tuesday that the United Kingdom will “ride out” the Omicron variant without implementing additional Covid restrictions. He stated that he would urge the cabinet to maintain the current “Plan B” restrictions that have been in place since early December. Current restrictions include mask mandates and work from home instructions. Schools were reopened Tuesday with mask and testing requirements.
French President Emmanuel Macron said in an interview Wednesday that he intends to introduce heavier restrictions from unvaccinated French citizens. Vaccine Health Passports are currently required for entry to most establishments in France, but to combat the Omicron surge and remaining vaccine hesitancy, the president is proposing more pressure on unvaccinated citizens. Macron faced harsh criticism from his opponents for his remarks in the interview.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Iran’s national airline bans travelers from four European countries in response to the surge of the omicron variant. IranAir will not allow travelers entry to Iran from the UK, France, Norway, and Denmark. The new restriction applies to individuals traveling from the four countries, not necessarily citizens from those countries. Iranian citizens traveling from the four countries are exempt from the restriction.

Kuwait urges citizens to return from several European countries. Kuwaiti embassies in Italy, Spain, and Germany advised its citizens to return home due to rising cases and potential lockdowns.

Israel will allow travelers from countries deemed ‘medium risk’ entry starting January 9. Travelers from 199 ‘medium risk’ countries will be allowed entry if they have been fully vaccinated or have recently recovered from COVID-19. Travelers from the US and the UK are still restricted as Israel considers both countries ‘high risk’.

Syria received one million COVID-19 vaccine doses from China. It is not yet clear which vaccine was donated. Syria’s Health Minister stated the donation “is an indication of the Chinese leadership’s interest to enhance and maintain relations with Syria.” This latest donation is the fourth one the country has received from China.
STANDING ADVICE:

- Review On Call International’s [COVID-19 Travel Outlook Map](#) for updated information on individual countries’ travel advisories, COVID-19 case trends, travel restrictions, and healthcare capabilities.
- Maintain enhanced personal hygiene. This includes washing your hands often with soap and water, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe, wear a face covering at all times while in public locations, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice good cough etiquette by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing. Do not use your hands because subsequent contact of your hands to surfaces or other people can spread the infection.
- If feeling ill, remain indoors and limit your contact with others.
- Be advised that many countries are implementing complete entry/exit bans, applicable to citizens and non-citizens alike. Review a country’s specific travel restrictions prior to making travel arrangements.
- Consider that commercial flight availability is limited. Even if a country does not restrict entry, it may be difficult to find flights to the area.
- Expect enhanced health screening procedures to be conducted at transportation hubs such as airports.
- Many countries have imposed domestic lockdown measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If traveling to a country, review its domestic restrictions prior to setting out.
- If you believe you may be infected with COVID-19, contact a medical facility by phone or email prior to arrival to ensure the medical facility have the proper time to prepare for your arrival. Be advised that due to the volume of confirmed cases in some locations, medical workers may advise you to self-isolate at home if your symptoms are not severe.
- Review the [CDC’s website](#) and the [WHO’s website](#) for the most up-to-date information relating to COVID-19 exposure, risk, and prevention.
Incident Classification

**MONITOR**
Definition: Continue to conduct normal operations without significant security concerns.
Conditions:
- Standard security operations protocols are in place
- Operating environment is considered stable
- Daily activities within the locality are proceeding as normal
- Operations expected to proceed with no impediments
Advice: Continue to follow best practices and travel safety tactics. Follow standing advice indicated in briefing.

**WATCH**
Definition: Continue to conduct normal operations. Indicators and warnings suggest heightened awareness and additional precautions may need to be implemented.
Conditions:
- Noticeable changes in daily activities within the locality
- A small-scale increase of civil unrest or crime
- Natural Disaster seasons are approaching
Advice: Review Emergency Action protocols, liaise with embassy sources and trusted local contacts to ascertain latest on the ground information, and report any pertinent information to travelers and security provider. Follow standing advice indicated in briefing.

**WARNING**
Definition: A specific threat or threats have been identified determined by accurate intelligence and assessment of the situation. The threat has the potential to be ongoing or escalate.
Conditions:
- State Department or relevant health authority issues a warning
- Significant natural disaster is forecast
- Significant intelligence indicating a potential disruptive incident
Advice: Consider restricting movement of personnel in impacted areas, have choice of action in place if situation worsens, ensure constituents have adequate emergency supplies, and establish daily communication windows with constituents in country.

**TAKE ACTION**
Definition: The current, credible, and specific threat is imminent, occurring or has occurred and has caused significant disruption to daily operations and activities in country.
Conditions:
- A major event occurs with significant economic, political or security disruptions expected over a short or long term period
- Large presence of military or police in streets with continuing presence expected; state of emergency declared
- US State department raises the travel rating or evacuates non-essential personnel or staff
Advice: Establish immediate communication with personnel, consider communicating with affected personnel’s emergency contacts and family, and liaise with both local and non-local authorities and like-minded organizations to support your response.
The information provided to you within this briefing has been compiled from a multitude of available sources and is based on current news and analysis at the time of writing. The security team at On Call International, LLC. has provided this analysis, supporting advice, and recommendations in good faith to assist you in mitigating risks that could arise. However, no implied or express warranty against risk, changes in circumstance, or other fluid and unforeseen events can be provided. Based on your request for this assessment, you agree that any reliance you place on this information is therefore strictly at your own risk and that you will not hold On Call International, LLC. or the authors responsible for any inaccuracies, errors or oversights herein.