Global – COVID-19 Pandemic

On Call International’s Incident Level: WATCH

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<td>Date</td>
<td>January 26, 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:

### Africa
- COVID-19 vaccine plant launched in South Africa to help with the continent’s vaccine shortage.
- Zambia receives COVID-19 vaccines from China
- Uganda lifts curfew after two years.

### Americas
- Chile purchase two million vaccine doses from Moderna.
- Belize will be requiring travelers to purchase COVID-19 insurance.
- US CDC raises COVID-19 advisory for almost all Caribbean Islands and other Latin American Countries.

### Asia-Pacific
- China lifts Xi’an lockdown in lead up to the Olympics.
- Japan expands quasi emergency measures to 34 of 47 prefectures.
- Discontent over COVID-19 measures prompts protests in South Korea.

### Europe
- Travel restrictions to be dropped for vaccinated European Union citizens.
- The Netherlands lifts Covid restrictions.
- United Kingdom to drop international travel restrictions.

### Middle East & North Africa
- More than 200 people in Qatar have been charged for not wearing a mask in public.
- Egypt approves the Merck COVID-19 pill for emergency use.
- Oman imposes new COVID-19 restrictions.
- All schools in Algeria have been ordered to close for 10 days to curb the spike in cases.
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 26, there have been 359,059,307 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with 5,617,922 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

A vaccine plant was launched in South Africa by South African-American businessman, Patrick Soon-Shiong. The plant, which is located in Cape Town, will produce a billion COVID-19 vaccine doses a year by 2025. Soon-Shiong hopes to manufacture these vaccines for Africa, and eventually export them for the rest of the world. Throughout the Pandemic, Africa has struggled to obtain vaccines and has only inoculated about 10% of its population.

On Monday, Zambia received its second batch of COVID-19 vaccines from the Chinese government. About 400,000 vaccine doses were received by the Chinese Ambassador to Zambia. This current donation was in addition to another 100,000 vaccines donated last year. The two countries have collaborated to fight the pandemic and China has agreed to donate up to one million vaccine doses to Zambia, to combat COVID-19 in the country.

Earlier this week, Uganda lifted its COVID-19 curfew, after two years, allowing bars and other nightlife venues to reopen. The curfew was imposed in March 2020, in an effort to limit the spread of the virus. All businesses were required to shut down every night after 1900 local time and no cars were allowed on the street. Although the curfew has been lifted, there are still some restrictions in place. Masks must be worn and proof of vaccination must be shown upon entry to bars and restaurants.

AMERICAS

On Monday, Chile agreed to purchase two million COVID-19 vaccine doses from Moderna Inc. The agreement with the vaccine manufacturer is subject to approval by the Institute of Public Health, which will review the details in the coming weeks. The vaccines will arrive in Chile in three shipments over the next couple of months. 93% of Chile’s adult population has been fully vaccinated and it is now offering a fourth shot of the COVID-19 vaccine, making it the first country in Latin America to do so.

Earlier this week, the Belize Tourism Board released new safety measures for travelers entering the country. Effective 15 February, all visitors are required to apply for Belize Travel Health Insurance, a mandatory insurance which will protect travelers against medical and non-medical expenses if they contract COVID-19 during their stay. This insurance policy not only covers emergency assistance, but also covers trip
cancellations and expenses incurred by extended stays for travelers in isolation. Authorities believe this measure will further protect tourists and locals from COVID-19.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has warned travelers to avoid visiting almost every Caribbean Island, moving Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and others to its level 4 Travel Advisory, due to very high levels of COVID-19. In addition to these locations, the Bahamas, Aruba, Colombia, and Costa Rica, were among other nations that were moved to the CDC’s level 4 advisory on Monday.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Officials in China have lifted lockdown measures in Xi’an as of 24 January after first locking the city down on 22 December 2021. This announcement comes just weeks before China is set to host the 2022 Beijing Olympics. China has taken a ‘Zero-COVID’ approach to the Pandemic and is known to lockdown regions/cities reporting only minimal cases of COVID-19. Currently, several locations within the country remain under lockdown, including parts of Tianjin, Henan, Shaanxi, Guangdong, Shanghai, Heilongjiang, and Xinjiang. There is a distinct possibility that China’s COVID-19 case count will increase during and following the Olympics due to an influx of international visitors to the Games.

Japan announced on 24 January that it would increase the number of prefectures under quasi emergency measures to 18, bringing the total number of prefectures under such measures to 34 of Japan’s 47 prefectures. The implementation of quasi emergency measures allows regional governments to impose restrictions on certain establishments deemed to be high-risk, primarily restaurants and bars. Additionally, Japan’s borders remain closed to most international travelers until at least 28 February. Currently, Japan is recording its highest case counts since the Pandemic began with an average of nearly 50,000 new cases being reported daily.

Discontent over South Korea’s social distancing measures has been on the rise in recent days even as the country’s new daily infection rate reaches its highest peak since the Pandemic began, with an average of over 8,000 new cases now being reported daily. Several small business owners in Seoul held rallies this week to protest the mandatory 2100 local time closing mandate and other measures that are negatively affecting their businesses. While these protests remained peaceful and generally not disruptive, they nonetheless show the ambivalence that many South Koreans have towards current domestic restrictions.

EUROPE

The European Commission announced Tuesday that vaccinated European Union citizens should no longer need to self-isolate or provide Covid test results when traveling within EU member states. This comes after the World Health Organization announced Monday that the Omicron variant could make the pandemic more manageable. The European Commission recommended additional restrictions for unvaccinated citizens and declared that initial vaccines will expire after nine months, requiring booster shots to stay current. The new regulations are set to begin February 1.
The Dutch government announced Tuesday that several restrictions would be eased despite a steady rise in Covid cases. The Netherlands was the only European country to go back into full lockdown to fight the Omicron variant and all non-essential businesses had been closed since December 19 until the Dutch government allowed some stores to open two weeks ago. Starting Wednesday all restaurants, bars and stores will be allowed to open until 10 pm.

The British government announced Monday vaccinated travelers to the United Kingdom will no longer need to provide negative Covid test results beginning February 11. This announcement comes one week after most internal Covid restrictions were dropped in the UK. Travelers will still need to submit a Passenger Locator Form and unvaccinated travelers will be required to take a PCR test prior to departure and two days after arrival.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

More than 200 people have been charged in Qatar for violating measures aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19. 286 people have been charged with not wearing a face mask in public. Another three people were charged with not downloading Qatar’s contact tracing app.

Egypt approves the Merck COVID-19 pill Molnupiravir for emergency use. Health authorities announced the approval and stated the drug will be produced locally by five companies with the intention of adding additional manufacturing companies in the future.

Oman imposes new COVID-19 restrictions to curb the recent spike in cases. The new restrictions go into effect today and are expected to last until 6 February, although the restrictions could be extended. Restaurants and shops will be limited to 50% capacity. Additionally, 50% of government and public sector employees will work from home.

Algeria’s President ordered all schools to close for 10 days due to a surge in COVID-19 cases. The decision came after an emergency meeting was held with school officials and COVID-19 committee members. The President said university staff and students can decide themselves whether to continue in-person classes or to close in-person as well. The Minister of Health also urged people to get vaccinated to save hospitals from collapse. The omicron variant now accounts for 60% of all COVID-19 cases in the country.
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.