# Incident Brief

## Global – COVID-19 Pandemic

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Global</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>March 9, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issued by</td>
<td>On Call International Global Security &amp; Medical Teams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NOTABLE WEEKLY UPDATES:

#### Africa
- Moderna signs agreement with Kenya for vaccine manufacturing facility.
- Mozambique records first day with zero COVID-19 cases.
- South African company signs agreement with Johnson & Johnson.

#### Americas
- Belize has announced fully vaccinated travelers will no longer need to provide a negative test result to enter the country.
- Costa Rica has announced that beginning April 1 unvaccinated travelers will no longer be required to purchase travel insurance.
- In Mexico every state but Querétaro is now designated green on the national stoplight (Semáforo) system as of Monday.
- The US state of Hawaii has announced it will cease its mask mandate March 26, making it the last state in the US to do so.

#### Asia-Pacific
- Bali, Indonesia relaxes COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- Japan to start easing travel restrictions.

#### Europe
- Romania lifts all COVID restrictions.
- Austria suspends vaccine mandate.
- France to ease rules on facemasks and vaccine passes.

#### Middle East & North Africa
- Saudi Arabia is lifting most COVID-19 restrictions.
- Egypt’s Health Minister says the country has passed the difficult phase of its fourth wave of COVID-19.
- Students in Abu Dhabi, UAE are no longer required to wear face masks during outdoor recess.
- Qatar will begin easing some COVID-19 restrictions on 12 March.
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 March 9, 2022, there have been 450,174,901 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with 6,017,018 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

Moderna has signed an agreement with Kenya for its first mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility in Africa. The company said its goal is to produce up to 500 million doses of vaccines a year for the entire continent. Moderna is also working on plans to produce and distribute its COVID-19 vaccine in Africa as early as 2023.

Mozambique has recorded its first day of zero COVID-19 infections, zero COVID-19 related deaths, and no hospitalizations, earlier this week. The authorities have attributed this reduction in cases and deaths to the mass vaccination campaign and compliance with social distancing rules. Over 23 million doses have been administered in Mozambique.

A South African drug production company, Aspen Pharmacare, has announced an agreement with Johnson & Johnson to sell and distribute their COVID-19 vaccine under its own brand in Africa. The announcement comes just after J&J’s rival Moderna announced its agreement with Kenya to build a facility in Africa.

AMERICAS

Belize has announced fully vaccinated travelers will no longer need to provide a negative test result to enter the country. Unvaccinated travelers will still need to provide a negative test result, either from a PCR test within 72 hours or an antigen test within 48 hours. Additionally, masks are no longer required when outside in Belize.

Costa Rica has announced that beginning April 1 unvaccinated travelers will no longer be required to purchase travel insurance. Additionally beginning April 1 travelers will not be required to complete the online health pass and businesses will not need to require proof of vaccination to enter.

In Mexico every state but Querétaro is now designated green on the national stoplight (Semáforo) system as of Monday. Mexico designates risk levels with corresponding containment measures for each of its states according to their respective incident rates and hospital capacity. Under the green level there are no restrictions on business operations and masks are recommended rather than required in indoor public spaces (still required on public transport). Case counts in Mexico have been declining since peaking in late January and are now at lower levels than at the August 2021 and January 2021 peaks.
The US state of Hawaii has announced it will cease its mask mandate March 26, making it the last state in the US to do so. States across the US took varied approaches in response to COVID-19 over the past two years, with all but 11 at some point instating a mask mandate. Masks remain required in some settings in some states, including at school in Hawaii and on public transportation in many others.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Earlier this week, Bali, Indonesia relaxed its COVID-19 restrictions and no longer required travelers to quarantine upon arrival. Under this pilot program, fully vaccinated tourists can skip a mandatory three-day quarantine, though they need to remain on the island for at least four days. According to the minister overseeing the COVID-19 response in Bali, if the pilot program goes well, starting April 1, all foreign travelers to Indonesia can skip the quarantine period upon arrival.

Japan will ease its COVID-19 border restrictions starting 14 March, by raising its daily cap on entrants to 7,000 from the current 5,000. This new scheme was put in place to give priority to student travelers who have been waiting to enter Japan after two years of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

EUROPE

Romania lifted all remaining COVID restrictions on Wednesday, March 9. Romanian Health Minister Alexandru Rafila announced Tuesday that all remaining COVID restrictions would be dropped, including the digital health pass and face mask mandate. While there are no government mandates for social distancing, the government still recommends observing social distancing protocols if citizens test positive. Romania is currently holds the second-lowest vaccination rate in the European Union.

On Wednesday, Austrian health and constitutional affairs ministers announced that the COVID-19 vaccine mandate would be suspended. The mandate was set to be enforced on March 15, but the Austrian government decided that the mandate was an infringement of fundamental rights. Austrian Health Minister Johannes Rauch stated that the mandate could be reintroduced with the next review in three months if it is deemed necessary.

French Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that facemask and health pass restrictions would be eased starting March 14. Facemasks will only be required on public transportation, and vaccine passes will only be required to enter hospitals and retirement homes. The infection and hospitalization rate has been slowly declining in France. Approximately 50,000 new cases were reported Wednesday, compared to 70,000 new cases reported last week.
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

On 7 March Saudi Arabia announced it was lifting most COVID-19 restrictions. This includes social distancing in public places and quarantines for vaccinated travelers. Masks will now only be required in closed spaces. The decision was implemented on the same day as the announcement.

Egypt’s Health Advisor, Dr. Mohamed Awad Tageddin says the country has passed the difficult phase of its fourth wave of COVID-19. Dr. Tageddin still asks citizens to continue to follow precautionary measures until the situation is more stable. He also said that he believes all eligible individuals should receive a third booster dose when given the chance.

Students in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates are now allowed to remove their face masks during outdoor recess. Face masks were previously required in all areas for students in Year 2 and above. Students in kindergarten and Year 1 have not been required to wear face masks. Additionally, private schools no longer require close contacts of COVID-19 to quarantine. Close contacts will still be required to take a PCR test.

Qatar will begin easing some COVID-19 restrictions starting 12 March. Face mask will no longer be required in open public spaces. Unvaccinated individuals will no longer be banned from public spaces. They will, however, be restricted to 20% capacity of businesses and must present a negative rapid antigen test. This applies to businesses such as wedding halls, restaurants, amusement parks, and cinemas.
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 maintain entry/exit restrictions, applicable to citizens and non-citizens alike. Review a country’s specific travel restrictions prior to making travel arrangements.
- Consider that commercial flight availability may be 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 social distancing 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.