# Global – COVID-19 Pandemic

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

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<td>May 26, 2021</td>
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<td>Issued by</td>
<td>On Call International Global Security &amp; Medical Teams</td>
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## NOTABLE WEEKLY UPDATES:

### Africa
- Guinea-Bissau reduces its nationwide ‘State of Calamity’ to a ‘State of Alertness’.
- Kenya delays administering second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine until June.
- The Seychelles announces it will not impose new restrictions even as COVID-19 cases are on the rise.

### Americas
- Argentina began a new lockdown Saturday to last until May 31 as the President recently described the current epidemiological situation as the “worst moment since the pandemic began.”
- Chile Monday began easing restrictions on fully vaccinated individuals, allowing such people to travel more freely within the country, though they must still follow curfew measures and wear masks.
- Panama Thursday announced that it was temporarily closing its border with Colombia in response to Colombia’s decision to reopen most of its borders with neighboring countries.

### Asia-Pacific
- Melbourne, Australia is placed under lockdown until 4 June due to the discovery of locally transmitted COVID-19 cases.
- Nepal extends its COVID-19 lockdown in the Kathmandu Valley until at least 3 June.
- Taiwan extends its nationwide Level 3 restrictions until at least 14 June.

### Europe
- European Union announces COVID-19 certificates will allow travel on July 1.
- Germany and France restrict entry from the United Kingdom.
- Italy launches “Covid-free” island campaign to boost tourism.

### Middle East & North Africa
- Israel plans to resume some flights to and from India starting 31 May.
- Bahrain bans travel from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal starting 24 May.
• The UAE extends a ban on flights from India until 14 June.
• Egypt has started vaccinating workers at airports across the country.

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 May 26, there are 167,930,620 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with 3,487,908 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

Guinea-Bissau has announced it is lowering its nationwide ‘State of Calamity’ to a nationwide ‘State of Alertness’. This comes as the country’s daily COVID-19 infection rate has drastically declined following a spike in cases through February and March 2021. Currently, only approximately .3% of Guinea-Bissau’s population has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Due to a shortage of COVID-19 vaccines, Kenya has announced that it will not begin administering second vaccine doses until at least June. To date, Kenya has only provided approximately 1.8% of its population with the first vaccine dose, primarily the Astra-Zeneca vaccine. The country has ordered an additional 30 million doses of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine but they have yet to be administered to the Kenyan population.

The Seychelles has reported a surge in COVID-19 cases following the country’s decision to reopen its borders to non-essential international travelers approximately one month ago. The decision to reopen was made as the country has excelled in vaccinating its population with approximately 64% of residents already being fully vaccinated. Health officials have stated that the surge in cases is likely related to complacency amongst the population since vaccination rates have been so high in comparison to other countries in Africa. Health officials have also indicated that they do not plan to impose new restrictions due to the surge.

AMERICAS

Argentina began a new lockdown Saturday, set to last until May 31, as the President recently described the current epidemiological situation as the “worst moment since the pandemic began.” The lockdown sets a
6:00pm curfew, closes non-essential businesses, and requires people to stay near their homes except for essential purposes.

**Chile** Monday began easing restrictions on fully vaccinated individuals, allowing such people to travel more freely within the country, though they must still follow curfew measures and wear masks. The closure of the Chilean borders was also extended until June 15.

**Panama** Thursday announced that it was temporarily closing its border with Colombia in response to Colombia’s decision to reopen most of its borders with neighboring countries. Panama cited the risk that decision poses for the epidemiological situation in both Colombia and Panama. Colombia last Wednesday reopened its borders with Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, and Panama. Its border with Venezuela remains closed.

**ASIA-PACIFIC**

Authorities in **Australia** have announced a snap-lockdown in Melbourne due to the discovery of limited COVID-19 cases in the city. Australia is known to impose strict city/regional lockdowns on short notice after the discovery of any locally transmitted COVID-19 cases. Currently, the lockdown is planned to be lifted on 4 June.

**Brunei** has announced it will suspend its restriction-free travel bubble with **Singapore** as the city-state grapples with a minor COVID-19 outbreak. It is unclear at this time when restriction-free travel between the countries will resume.

Daily COVID-19 case rates have continued to decline in **India** over the previous week but still remain exceedingly high with approximately 200,000 cases being reported daily. Individual Indian states continue to impose varying lockdown measures amidst a shortage of vaccines and medical supplies.

**Nepal** has extended its COVID-19 lockdown in the Kathmandu Valley until at least 3 June as COVID-19 cases continue to rise. Under the current lockdown order, non-essential travel in the Kathmandu Valley is restricted and non-essential businesses must curtail their operations. Nepal still maintains its suspension of international commercial flights until at least 31 May.

**Sri Lanka** plans to impose a nationwide lockdown between 31 May until 7 June due to rising COVID-19 cases. During this time, residents are forbidden from departing their accommodations for all but essential purposes, public transportation is suspended, and non-essential businesses must curtail their operations.

**Taiwan** has extended its nationwide Level 3 restrictions until at least 14 June as COVID-19 cases continue to rise. Under the Level 3 restrictions, facemasks must be worn in public spaces at all times, non-essential gatherings are restricted, non-essential businesses must curtail their operations, and enhanced hygiene protocols must be maintained. Additionally, foreign travelers are restricted from entering and transiting Taiwan until at least 18 June.
EUROPE

On Friday, European Union representatives approved the proposed COVID-19 digital certificate which could allow free movement across European Union countries for vaccinated citizens. The proposal is expected to be approved by the European Parliament in the second week of June and implemented July 1. The certificate will include a QR code and a digital signature, which when scanned will display proof of vaccination, negative test, or recovery from COVID-19. Individual member states retain the right to additional quarantine or testing requirements but have been advised by the European Commission to only implement travel restrictions out of a public health necessity. The European Commission also agreed last Wednesday to ease restrictions for vaccinated travelers from outside the EU, but no updates have been provided concerning which countries will be included.

As the latest COVID-19 variant continues to spread in the United Kingdom, Germany and France are taking precautionary measures. On May 23 Germany restricted most travel from the U.K. with the exception of German citizens, who are still required to quarantine for two weeks upon arrival. On Wednesday, France announced that travelers from the U.K. would be subject to a quarantine as well. Specific quarantine details have not yet been announced, but France currently requires 10 days of self-isolation for travelers from 16 countries.

While Italy began allowing U.S. and Canadian tourists over a month ago, their latest tourism strategy has shifted to “Covid-free” islands. Since April, Italy has focused on fully vaccinating various island populations, claiming that nine popular tourist islands are now Covid-free. Several small Italian islands near Sicily have remained Covid-free since the beginning of the pandemic, and in the past several weeks multiple islands along the Italian coastline have been fully vaccinated. With most Islands expected to be fully vaccinated by mid-June, the next push for tourism is fully vaccinated mountain resorts.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Israel plans to resume some flights to and from India starting 31 May. The plan to resume flights aims to aid with the repatriation of stranded travelers with visas issued on or after 1 May. Incoming travelers to Israel must produce a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of travel.

Bahrain bans travel from multiple South Asian countries on 24 May. Entry is suspended for travelers arriving from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Nationals of Bahrain and residency visa holders will be permitted to enter the country but will be required to present a negative PCR COVID-19 test before boarding and quarantine for 10 days upon arrival.
The United Arab Emirates extends a ban on flights from India until 14 June. Travelers who have been to India within 14 days prior to arrival will also be barred from entering the UAE. UAE nationals are exempt but must quarantine for 10 days and take a PCR COVID-19 test on day four and day eight after arrival.

Egypt has started vaccinating workers at airports across the country. The Egyptian Airports Company says that “protecting workers, their families, and passengers arriving and departing from Egypt is one of the nation’s top priorities.” EgyptAir has also started vaccinating members of the flying crew as they deal with passengers on a daily basis.

STANDING ADVICE FOR TRAVELERS:

• 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.