## Global – COVID-19 Pandemic

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

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Global</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>November 10, 2021</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>
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<th>Region</th>
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| **Africa**              | • J&J vaccine trial set to start in South Africa despite concern from the South African Medical Association.  
                           • Rwanda reopens for international travelers.  
                           • Uganda eases travel restrictions. |
| **Americas**            | • Costa Rica announced Friday that it would make COVID-19 vaccines a requirement for all people under the age of 18.  
                           • On Monday the US lifted country specific restrictions regarding nonessential travel and pivoted to entry requirements focused on vaccination status.  
                           • Nonessential overland travel across US borders from Mexico and Canada was permitted for the first time in 20 months Monday. |
| **Asia-Pacific**        | • Japan partially reopens as of 8 November.  
                           • Malaysia announces plans for travel bubbles with Singapore and Indonesia.  
                           • Restrictions are eased in Auckland and Northland, New Zealand. |
| **Europe**              | • Morgues in Romania reaching capacity.  
                           • European travelers flood airports for US-bound flights.  
                           • Germany considers bringing back restrictions. |
| **Middle East & North Africa** | • Morocco announced changes to current COVID-19 restrictions.  
                           • Popular Egyptian Actor dies from COVID-19.  
                           • Turkey’s Health Minister released data suggesting the country’s northern provinces are under a higher risk of COVID-19 than the rest of the country.  
                           • New clinical trials are set to begin in the United Arab Emirates. |
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 10 November, there have been 251,029,971 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with 5,067,975 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
The South African Medical Association (SAMA) is raising concerns after Johnson & Johnson won the right to run research on half a million healthcare workers who took their vaccine. Their initial ‘Sisonke Trial’, which gave healthcare workers in South Africa the vaccine before the official rollout, will now be extended with healthcare providers being offered a second round of the J&J vaccine. SAMA is concerned that healthcare workers are not being given a choice between boosters and only have J&J available. The deputy director-general of the South African health department, who is working with J&J, states that an alternative booster is not being offered as it would set the process back and delay their trial by six weeks.

Rwanda has stated earlier this week that it is reopening its borders for international travelers, effective immediately. All foreign travelers, regardless of vaccination status, must provide proof of a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before their departure to Rwanda. Upon arrival in Rwanda, travelers must take another PCR test. Travelers who are unable to provide proof of vaccination are required to quarantine in designated hotels until test results are back. Negative PCR tests will also be required to stay at hotels as well as visit tourist destinations around the country.

Uganda eases travel restrictions for incoming travelers. The Ministry of Health stated that passengers no longer need to wait at the airport for their test results. Upon arrival, their sample will be collected, and they are free to proceed to their destination to self-isolate. Test results will be sent to them via phone or email. Previously, travelers had to wait several hours at the airport for their results before they could leave.

AMERICAS
Costa Rica announced Friday that it would make COVID-19 vaccines a requirement for all people under the age 18. The announcement makes Costa Rica the first country in the world to require the vaccine for children. Due to supply constraints only children 12 and older are currently eligible for shots, with supply for children 5 to 11 expected to be distributed by next year.

On Monday the United States lifted country specific restrictions regarding nonessential travel and pivoted to entry requirements focused on vaccination status. Under this new strategy restrictions on nonessential travel from Europe, China, and numerous other countries will be lifted. Instead, travelers (US citizens and immigrants exempt) will only be permitted entry if they are fully vaccinated (limited exceptions) with a
COVID-19 vaccine approved by the US or WHO regulators. Testing requirements have also been adjusted for all incoming travelers with a negative COVID-19 viral test result from within a single day of flight departure now required for entry. For those who are fully vaccinated a negative result is still required, but it can be from up to three days prior to flight departure.

At the land borders nonessential travel from Mexico and Canada into the US was permitted for the first time Monday. While increased traffic at border entry points between the US and Canada was reported this start of week, traffic was actually lower than recent volumes in Tijuana on Monday. No severe bottlenecks were reported and the first day seemed to go off without incident despite the new vaccine requirements being implemented.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Japan has partially eased its border restrictions as of 8 November. As of this date, foreign nationals will be able to apply for entry into Japan for business and academic reasons. The government estimates that the application processing time will be about two weeks; however, due to an influx of new applications, the processing time will likely be extended for the next several weeks.

Officials in Malaysia and Singapore have announced they will gradually introduce a travel bubble between the two countries as of 29 November. Initially, only fully vaccinated travelers from either country will be permitted to travel between Singapore’s Changi Airport and Malaysia’s Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Upon arrival in either location, the travelers will be subject to PCR testing. Both governments have stated that they plan to expand the travel bubble after assessing the success of its initial implementation. Malaysia has also stated that it is working with officials in Indonesia to implement a similar travel bubble.

As of today, officials in New Zealand have announced an easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Auckland and Northland. Retail locations are now permitted to open with social distancing measures in place. The same goes for most public facilities. Outdoor gatherings of up to 25 people are also now permitted. The decision to ease COVID-19 restrictions comes as New Zealand reports its highest daily infection rate since the Pandemic began with the country averaging approximately 150 new COVID-19 cases daily. Also in New Zealand, demonstrators marched in Wellington on 9 November to protest the government’s COVID-19 restrictions and plans for vaccine mandates. The protest remained largely peaceful.

EUROPE

Romania is currently experiencing its highest death rate in the Covid-19 pandemic. Romanian health officials have announced that most hospitals are above capacity, and the morgues no longer have room for bodies. The daily death rate reached its peak on November 2 at 591 deaths, and daily case counts continue to increase. Romania is currently one of the hardest hit countries in Europe with a significantly lower vaccine rate than their neighbors in western Europe.
Thousands of travelers in **Europe** boarded flights to the US as the US ban on foreign travel was lifted on November 8. Travelers from the **United Kingdom** and the **European Union** can now enter the United States with proof of a CDC approved vaccination, or a vaccine listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (such as the AstraZeneca vaccine), and a negative coronavirus test taken within three days of departure.

**German** officials have proposed new Covid restrictions that will be presented to Parliament on Thursday. This comes as Germany currently faces another rise in Covid-19 cases, with nearly 40,000 new cases reported on Tuesday. The new restrictions would not be voted into law until next week and German health experts have complained that the proposed restrictions will not be enough to effectively curb rising case counts.

**MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA**

**Morocco** announced changes to current COVID-19 restrictions. The nightly curfew is now lifted, and inner-city travel will no longer require authorization. Funerals and parties are now permitted in compliance with other health and safety protocols. The previously implemented vaccination pass requirement will remain in place. Possession of the vaccine pass or official documentation of vaccine exemption will remain mandatory for travel abroad and for access to public spaces such as cafes, restaurants, shops, tourist establishments, and workplaces.

Popular **Egyptian** actor Ahmed Khalil has died from COVID-19 at the age of 80. The veteran actor is famous for TV drama roles. He was hospitalized with COVID-19 recently. He left the hospital for a short time before being readmitted after deteriorating health. Khalil reportedly contracted the virus while filming.

**Turkey’s** Health Ministry released new data suggesting the country’s northern provinces are under a higher risk of COVID-19. Northern provinces of Karabük, Yalova, Ordu, Zonguldak, Kocaeli, Bursa, and Bolu have recorded the highest incidence of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people. Southeastern and eastern provinces have shown the lowest numbers, with Şırnak, Batman, Van, Mardin, and Siirt having the lowest.

China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation, commonly referred to as Sinopharm, will soon begin COVID-19 clinical trials in the **United Arab Emirates**. Sinopharm’s subsidiary China National Biotec Group (CNBG) previously revealed it was working on the development of two COVID-19 medicines based on monoclonal antibodies and human immunoglobulin. The human immunoglobulin drug received authorization for clinical trials in the UAE. The trials are expected to begin any day.
STANDING ADVICE:

- Review On Call International’s [COVID-19 Travel Outlook Map](https://www.oncallinternational.com) 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](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [WHO’s website](https://www.who.int) 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.