

Global – COVID-19 Pandemic

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

Location	Global
Date	November 17, 2021
Issued by	On Call International Global Security & Medical Teams

NOTABLE WEEKLY UPDATES:

Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderna offers discount on COVID-19 vaccines to the African Union. • African leaders will meet to discuss Africa's COVID-19 recovery process. • Africa Travel Inc. will require guests to be fully vaccinated starting 2022.
Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada may soon eliminate the test requirement for vaccinated travelers overland crossing the US/Canada border. • Jamaica on Thursday will adjust its entry requirements to allow fully vaccinated travelers to enter "non-Resilience Corridor" areas without being required to quarantine. • Mexico announces plans to begin vaccinating children aged 15 to 17.
Asia-Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia expands vaccine eligibility children aged 5 to 11. • Booster shots to be administered in Japan as of 1 December. • South Korea reports surging COVID-19 cases in Greater Seoul Area.
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe named the epicenter of Covid pandemic as Covid death rate increases. • Austria brings back lockdown for unvaccinated. • Ireland to impose curfew on bars and restaurants.
Middle East & North Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahrain approves emergency use of the Covaxin vaccine. • Morocco will conduct rapid tests on all travelers upon arrival at airports and ports and will deny entry for any traveler who tests positive. • Qatar announced all individuals who received the second COVID-19 vaccine dose at least six months ago are now eligible for a booster shot. • Oman has no intention for any closure of borders with any country at the moment.



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 17 November, there have been 254,562,905 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with 5,118,632 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 Inc. has offered to sell the COVID-19 vaccine to the **African Union** for \$7 a shot, which is a substantial discount compared to what the US and other buyers like the European Union paid for the vaccine. The announcement comes days after Moderna agreed to sell 110 million shots to African Union Member Nations. This is the first insight into the prices Moderna is prepared to charge poorer countries for the vaccine.

Presidents from five African nations are set to meet in **Cape Verde** for the African Economic Conference of 2021. The event is organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and will feature more than 100 speakers from various African governments and leading academics. The focus of the meeting will be to develop new ways to finance and accelerate Africa's COVID-19 recovery.

Africa Travel Inc., a safari operator operating across several **African** countries, will require all travelers in 2022 to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All guests traveling in non-family groups of 10 or more people will need to provide proof of an approved vaccination prior to joining the safari. The list of approved vaccines includes Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson.

AMERICAS

Canada may soon eliminate the test requirement for vaccinated travelers overland crossing the US/Canada border according to policy makers. The rule is set to expire on November 21 if not renewed and has received criticism from many in the business and tourism sectors. Officials report a gradual easing may occur in which the test requirement is initially eliminated only for those who are out of the country for less than 72 hours. Further information is expected later this week.

Jamaica on Thursday will adjust its entry requirements to allow fully vaccinated travelers to enter the "non-Resilience Corridor" areas without being required to quarantine. Previously all entering travelers who wished to go outside the Resilience Corridors were required to quarantine. The nightly curfew continues until at least December 9, though it has been shortened to 9:00pm to 5:00am LT.



Mexico announces plans to begin vaccinating children aged 15 to 17. The announcement was made Tuesday by the lead health official Hugo Lopez-Gatell who specified that children within the age range who have no underlying health conditions would now be eligible for the shot. 58% of the total population has received at least one dose of vaccine while 49.2% is fully vaccinated.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Officials in **Australia** announced Sunday that children between the ages of 5 and 11 will likely be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine as of January 2022. To date, approximately 71% of Australia's entire population is fully vaccinated. This high vaccination rate has largely driven the elimination of lockdown measures across the country. It has also prompted the recent partial reopening of the country's international borders in New South Wales, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory.

Health officials in **Japan** approved the administering of COVID-19 booster shots on Monday. As of 1 December, healthcare workers will be eligible for a booster shot with the elderly expected to be eligible beginning January 2022. During the initial rollout of the booster shots, only the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be used; however, anyone who has received a full dosage of another COVID-19 vaccine will still be eligible to receive the Pfizer booster shot. To date, approximately 76% of Japan's population is fully vaccinated. The country's high vaccination rate coupled with a declining COVID-19 infection rate has prompted the government to begin partially reopening borders, initially only for international students and foreign business travelers.

South Korea has reported a surge in COVID-19 cases in the Greater Seoul Area following the recent easing of restrictions. The government had hoped that case rates would remain minimal due to the country's relatively high vaccination rate (approximately 78% fully vaccinated) but infection rates have nonetheless been rising, primarily amongst those who have refused the vaccine and the elderly whose immunities to COVID-19 have waned since they received their initial vaccine doses. South Korea's surging infection rates have prompted the government to speed up the approval process for booster shots which are anticipated to curb rising case rates. There is nothing to indicate that the recent surge in COVID-19 cases will prompt the government to impose additional border restrictions.

EUROPE

Europe was the only region in the world that saw an increase of Covid-related deaths last week according to the World Health Organization's weekly report. While all other regions remained stable or saw a decline in death rates, Europe experienced a five percent increase in Covid-related deaths. The highest case counts were recorded in Russia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The United Nations health agency is now warning European leaders to take immediate action to avoid higher death rates over the winter.

Austria has become the latest European nation to reinstitute a full lockdown for unvaccinated citizens as case counts have significantly increased and hospitals are reaching capacity. Under the new restrictions,



unvaccinated people over the age of 12 can leave their homes for essential reasons only such as work or grocery shopping. Citizens who can show proof of vaccination or proof of recovery can still move about freely.

Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin announced that starting Thursday there will be a midnight curfew on bars and restaurants. Additionally, a vaccine pass will now be required for entry to theaters and businesses are encouraged to have more people work from home. Ireland currently has one of the highest vaccination rates in Europe with over 89% of people over the age of 12 fully vaccinated, but the country is still experiencing a rise in cases.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Bahrain approves emergency use of India's Covaxin vaccine. Bahrain's National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) gave its permission for the emergency use on November 12. In accordance with the government's guidelines, travelers who have received a COVID-19 vaccine approved by Bahrain or the World Health Organization will not be required to quarantine upon arrival.

Morocco will conduct rapid COVID-19 tests on passengers arriving in the country's airports and ports. The test will be free of charge. Visitors with a positive result will be denied access. The respective airline will be required to arrange for the COVID-positive traveler to immediately leave Morocco.

Qatar announced all individuals who received the second COVID-19 vaccine dose at least six months ago are now eligible for a booster shot. The Ministry of Public Health made the announcement on November 14. In a statement the ministry said, "all individuals who meet the new criteria are now eligible for the COVID-19 booster vaccine, regardless of age, and are encouraged not to delay their appointment to ensure they continue to have high levels of protection against COVID-19."

Oman has no intention at the moment for any closure of borders with any country. The government could decide on classification of countries by red, yellow, or green categories based on the COVID-19 situation if required. Oman's Health Minister has said there had been no consensus reached yet on a "health passport" for citizens of countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (**Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.**)



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.



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