# Global – COVID-19 Pandemic

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

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<td>Date</td>
<td>October 27, 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:

### Africa
- Africa will receive over 110 million COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- South Africa begins vaccinations for adolescents.
- Senegal and Rwanda team up with BioNTech to build COVID-19 vaccine factory.

### Americas
- El Salvador this week banned large gathering events, with exceptions allowing for cultural and sporting events.
- On October 25 the US President Joe Biden announced that beginning November 8 foreign national air travelers to the US would be required to provide proof of being fully vaccinated for entry.
- In the US an expert committee has advised the FDA to authorize the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11.

### Asia-Pacific
- China locks down Lanzhou due to COVID-19 outbreak.
- South Korea introduces a 3-phase reopening strategy.
- Inner Mongolia Region tightens travel restrictions.

### Europe
- Slovenia Health Minister warns that a lockdown may be necessary.
- Astra-Zeneca vaccine chief says UK is reporting more cases because of more testing.
- Russia institutes hospitality ban

### Middle East & North Africa
- Bahrain authorizes the Sinopharm vaccine for use in children.
- Children 19 years and under made up 35% of COVID-19 cases in Turkey.
- Oman adds the Covaxin vaccine to its list of approved vaccines for travelers.
- Iran held its first Friday prayers since March 2020.
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 27 October, there have been 244,644,699 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally with 4,965,597 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

Africa will receive up to 110 million doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to distribute throughout different countries, according to the vaccine manufacturer. The company is prepared to deliver 15 million before the end of the year, 35 million in the first quarter of 2022 and 60 million in the second quarter. In addition to this agreement with Moderna, Africa also has an agreement with the United States whereby the US will defer a shipment of up to 33 million doses so that the African Union can purchase them instead.

South Africa has started vaccinating adolescents ages 12-17 earlier this week. The country wants to increase its vaccination rate which has fallen behind their daily goal. South Africa set a target of giving out 300,000 vaccine doses daily but have only been able to administer about 185,000 doses each day. On the first day vaccinations of adolescents were allowed, only 38,000 people in the entire country got vaccinated. People in the age group will receive one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, according to recommendations given by an advisory committee which advises the government on its COVID-19 response.

Senegal and Rwanda have made an agreement with the COVID-19 vaccine producer BioNTech for the construction of factories to make and distribute vaccines in Africa. According to BioNTech, construction for the project will begin in the summer of 2022. The facilities will be able to produce about 50 million doses of the vaccine per year with the capacity set to increase. These manufacturing hubs will help reduce Africa’s dependence on imports, which makes up about 99% of its vaccine supply.

AMERICAS

El Salvador this week banned large gathering events. The restriction has been labeled a COVID-19 prevention measure, however, it has in place broad exemptions for cultural and sporting events. A number of opposition leaders accused the government of implementing the measures not to contain COVID-19, but to stem a series of large political marches and rallies against President Nayib Bukele.
On October 25 the US President Joe Biden announced that beginning November 8 foreign national air travelers to the US would be required to provide proof of being fully vaccinated for entry. The requirement of a negative viral test result from within 3 days of arrival remains a requirement. Exceptions to the vaccination requirement are limited to things like crew members of airlines and those who can prove a medical contraindication to being vaccinated.

In the United State, an expert committee advised the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday to authorize the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11. The experts cited reports that the vaccine is effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 in the age group, a benefit they argued outweighed the rare risk of side effects. The FDA must now issue a final decision, likely in the coming days, after which an advisory panel at the CDC would consider the question and ultimately decide, likely next week. There are 28 million children in the US who would become eligible for the vaccine should it be authorized.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Officials in China ordered the lockdown of the northwestern city of Lanzhou amid a COVID-19 outbreak. The city, home to about 4 million people, reported almost 40 new cases this past week. China has a ‘zero Covid’ policy, resulting in widespread lockdowns to eliminate outbreaks. On Monday over 12 million people were tested in Gansu Province. Residents were told to stay at home and avoid unnecessary outings.

Due to a flare up in COVID-19 cases, North China’s Inner Mongolian Region, Ejin Banner, has tightened travel restrictions for residents and tourists. This order came right after the city fired the party chief due to insufficient COVID-19 response. Dai Qin, the newly appointed party chief has vowed to curb the virus spread that has already expanded to multiple provinces throughout China. Under the new lockdown policy, residents will be required to stay home and police forces will patrol the streets of residential neighborhoods. Anyone caught not complying with new regulations will be subject to legal action.

South Korea revealed a 3-phase strategy to bring the country back to normal and eliminate all social distancing measures by February. The strategy begins next Monday and will run until February 20th, by then all social limits will be eliminated except for the mask-wearing mandate. In the first phase of the plan, all limits on operation hours of bars, nightclubs and restaurants will be dropped, however, nightclubs will still have to close at midnight. Visitors to high-risk areas, such as gyms, karaoke bars, and saunas will have to be fully vaccinated to enter, while private gatherings can hold up to 10 people, regardless of vaccination status.
EUROPE

Slovenian Health Minister Janez Poklukar announced Wednesday that the country could face a Covid lockdown if the virus is not contained soon. Hospital beds have been reaching capacity over the past week and daily case counts are growing closer to the numbers seen during Slovenia’s last peak in January.

Professor Sir Andrew Pollard, one of the United Kingdom’s vaccine chiefs and creator of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine Professor Sir Andrew Pollard, has claimed that the reason Britain is reporting more Covid cases is due to more frequent testing. According to Pollard, the United Kingdom conducts approximately 10 times more Covid tests daily than most European countries. Case counts have been averaging approximately 40,000 a day for the past week.

On Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a nationwide hospitality ban set to begin November 1. Under the new restriction, hospitality events and catering will be banned from 11 pm to 6 am in an effort to control the Covid-19 pandemic. Putin’s statement called for the "strengthening of control over compliance with all restrictive measures" and "the introduction of a ban on the holding of entertainment and entertainment events and the provision of catering services from 23:00 to 6:00 in the morning." Case counts and Covid-related deaths continue to climb each week as the Kremlin struggles to convince Russian citizens to receive vaccinations.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Bahrain authorizes China’s Sinopharm vaccine for children. Children aged three to 11 can receive doses of the Sinopharm vaccine starting October 27. The country’s coronavirus task force is urging children to receive the vaccine to protect themselves, their families, and friends.

Children 19 years old and under made up 35% of COVID-19 cases in Turkey last month. Reports show a majority of those cases were children between the ages of 10 and 19 and 6% were babies and children up to 9 years old. Children 15 years and older are currently eligible for the vaccine. Children between the ages of 12 and 14 are eligible for the vaccine if they have a chronic illness.

Oman adds Covaxin to the approved list of COVID-19 vaccines for travelers entering the country from abroad. Travelers who received the Covaxin vaccine that were once required to quarantine upon arrival in Oman will no longer need to.

Iran held public Friday prayers on October 22 for the first time since March 2020. The service was held at Tehran University. Worshippers attending the Friday service were required to practice social distancing and wear a face mask.
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.