

WEEKLY COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE (REPORT #15)

CONTEXT

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in December 2019 and subsequent pandemic, specialists around the world have been grappling to find solutions for detection, treatment and prevention. Since the pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March, just over 10 million cases have been officially logged around the world, with many other cases suspected not to have been logged, mis-diagnosed or masked by other conditions.

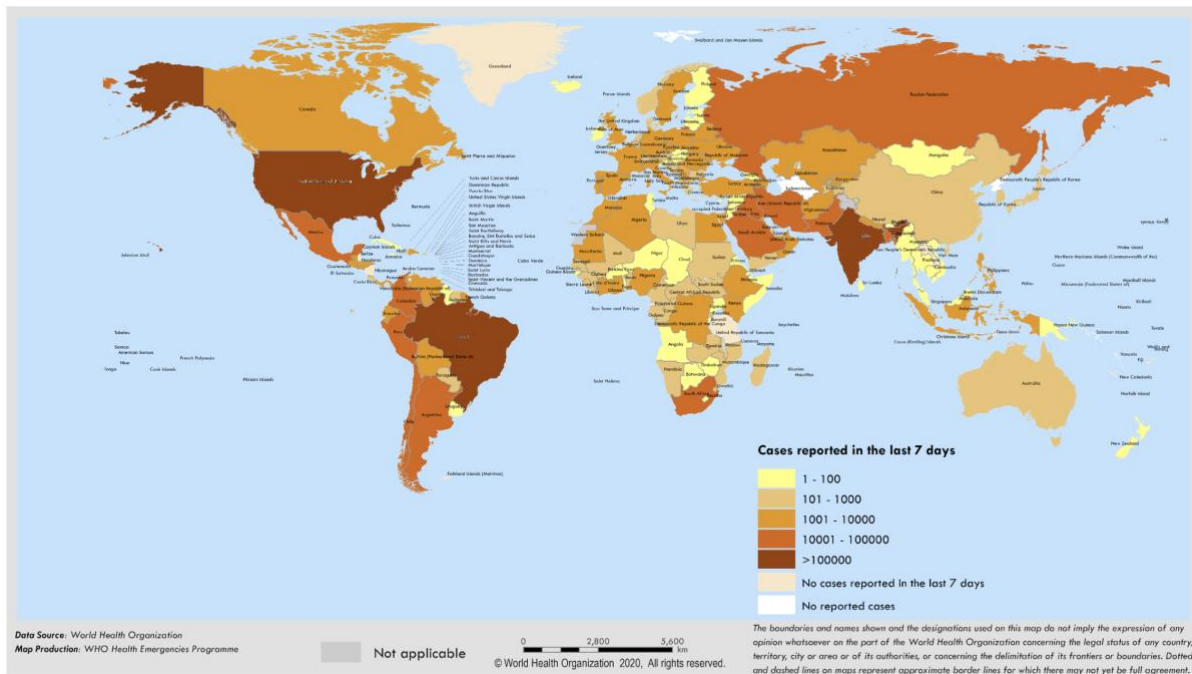
As of 30 June, 10,185,374 cases have been confirmed globally (163,865 new cases in last 24 hours) with 503,862 deaths reported (3,946 deaths reported in last 24 hours). The WHO notes however that “the number of confirmed cases reported by countries reflects the national laboratory testing capacity and strategy, thus the interpretation of the number of cases reported should take this into account.”

Global COVID-19 Cases and Deaths: As of 30 June 2020 (WHO)

10,185,374 confirmed cases

503,862 deaths

Countries, territories or areas with confirmed COVID-19 cases (30 June 2020):



Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

*****note that the figures below are confirmed cases of COVID-19, due to undertesting, actual COVID-19 case figures are likely to be significantly higher*****

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

China (85,227 total cases confirmed), Singapore (43,661), Philippines (36,438), Japan (18,593), Korea (12,800), Malaysia (8,637), Australia (7,767), New Zealand (1,178), Vietnam (355), Guam (247), Mongolia (220), Brunei (141), Cambodia (141), French Polynesia (623), Northern Mariana Islands (30), New Caledonia (21), Lao (19), Fiji (18), Papua New Guinea (11)

- 215,566 total confirmed cases (1,460 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 7,440 (11 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

EUROPEAN REGION

Russia (647,849 total cases confirmed), United Kingdom (311,969), Spain (248,970), Italy (240,436), Turkey (198,613), Germany (194,259), France (156,930), Sweden (67,667), Belarus (61,790), Belgium (61,427), Netherlands (50,223), Ukraine (44,334), Portugal (41,912), Poland (34,154), Switzerland (31,569), Romania (26,582), Armenia (25,542), Ireland (25,462), Israel (23,830), Kazakhstan (21,819), Austria (17,666), Azerbaijan (16,968), Moldova (16,357), Serbia (14,288), Denmark (12,751), Czech Republic (11,805), Norway (8,855), Uzbekistan (8,298), Finland (7,209), North Macedonia (6,224), Tajikistan (5,900), Kyrgyzstan (5,296), Bulgaria (4,831), Bosnia and Herzegovina (4,343), Luxembourg (4,256), Hungary (4,145), Greece (3,390), Kosovo (2,756), Croatia (2,725), Albania (2,535), Estonia (1,987), Iceland (1,840), Lithuania (1,816), Slovakia (1,665), Slovenia (1,585), Latvia (1,117), Cyprus (996), Georgia (928), Andorra (855), San Marino (713), Malta (670), Montenegro (501), Isle of Man (336), Jersey (319), Guernsey (252), Faroe Islands (187), Gibraltar (177), Monaco (99), Lichtenstein (83), Greenland (13), Holy See (12)

- 2,692,086 total confirmed cases (18,847 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 197,254 deaths (416 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

India (566,840 total cases confirmed), Bangladesh (141,801), Indonesia (55,092), Nepal (13,248), Thailand (3,171), Maldives (2,337), Sri Lanka (2,042), Myanmar (299), Bhutan (77), Timor-Leste (24)

- 784,931 total confirmed cases (24,115 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 21,593 deaths (515 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Iran (225,205 total cases confirmed), Pakistan (209,337), Saudi Arabia (186,436), Qatar (95,106), Egypt (66,754), United Arab Emirates (48,246), Iraq (47,151), Kuwait (25,524), Oman (39,060), Afghanistan (31,238), Bahrain (26,239), Morocco (12,290), Sudan (9,258), Djibouti (4,656), Somalia (2,904), Palestine (2,443), Lebanon (1,745), Tunisia (1,172), Yemen (1,132), Jordan (1,128), Libya (762), Syria (269)

- 1,058,055 total confirmed cases (16,281 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 24,423 deaths (535 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

United States (2,537,636 total cases confirmed), Brazil (1,344,143), Peru (279,419), Chile (275,999), Mexico (216,852), Canada (103,250), Colombia (91,769), Argentina (59,933), Ecuador (55,665), Dominican Republic (31,816), Panamá (31,686), Bolivia (31,524), Honduras (18,082), Guatemala (16,930), Puerto Rico (7,250), El Salvador (6,173), Haiti (5,847), Venezuela (5,297), French Guiana (3,774), Costa Rica (3,130), Cuba (2,340), Paraguay (2,127), Nicaragua (2,014), Uruguay (929), Jamaica (696), Suriname (492), Martinique (242), Guyana (230), Cayman Islands (196), Guadeloupe (182), Bermuda (146), Trinidad and Tobago (126), Bahamas (104), Aruba (101), Barbados (97), United States Virgin Islands (81), Sint Maarten (77), Antigua and Barbuda (65), Saint Martin (43), Turks and Caicos Islands (41), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (29), Belize (24), Curaçao (24), Grenada (23), Saint Lucia (19), Dominica (18), Saint Kitts and Nevis (15), Falkland Islands (13), Montserrat (11), British Virgin Islands (8), Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (7), Saint Barthélemy (6), Anguilla (3), Saint Pierre and Miquelon (1)

- 5,136,705 total confirmed cases (94,219 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 247,129 deaths (2,338 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

AFRICAN REGION

South Africa (144,264 total cases confirmed), Nigeria (25,133), Ghana (17,351), Algeria (13,571), Cameroon (12,592), Ivory Coast (9,101), Democratic Republic of Congo (6,938), Senegal (6,698), Kenya (6,190), Ethiopia (5,846), Gabon (5,394), Guinea (5,351), Mauritania (4,149), Central African Republic (3,613), Mayotte (2,603), Mali (2,173), Madagascar (2,138), South Sudan (2,006), Guinea-Bissau (1,654), Zambia (1,568), Sierra Leone (1,450), Republic of Congo (1,245), Malawi (1,224), Benin (1,187), Cabo Verde (1,165), Niger (1,075), Equatorial Guinea (1,043), Rwanda (1,001), Burkina Faso (959), Mozambique (883), Uganda (870), Chad (866), Eswatini

(795), Liberia (770), Togo (642), Zimbabwe (574), Réunion (522), Tanzania (509), São Tomé and Príncipe (393), Mauritius (341), Comoros (293), Angola (276), Eritrea (191), Namibia (183), Botswana (175), Burundi (170), Seychelles (81), Gambia (47), Lesotho (27)

- 297,290 confirmed cases (8,943 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 6,010 deaths (131 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

UPDATES AND TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Measures adopted by the local governments are evolving quickly and are typically effective immediately. Depending on the further evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic globally, local authorities are likely to modify the list of countries whose travellers are subject to border control measures or entry restrictions upon their arrival to the territory in question, and such modifications are likely to occur at very short notice. At this time, MS Risk advises individuals to postpone non-essential travel due to the risk that travellers may be refused entry or be subject to quarantine upon their arrival or during their stay.

AFRICA

Democratic Republic of Congo

29 June - On Monday, Congolese authorities lifted quarantine measures in Kinshasa's business district of Gombe, which had been sealed off from the rest of the city since April in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. Shops, cafes, bars, restaurants and government offices have reopened in Gombe, however the central market remains closed. Residents of Kinshasa have been urged to limit their movements and wear masks at all times when in public. The city remains isolated from the rest of the DRC. Schools, universities and places of worship are to remain closed. The state of health emergency currently in place is to remain through 5 July.

Egypt

27 June - Egypt on Saturday lifted many restrictions put in place against the COVID-19 pandemic, including reopening cafes, clubs, gyms and theatres after more than three months of closure, despite a continued upward trend in new cases. Authorities' are also allowing the limited reopening of mosques and churches, and have lifted a night-time curfew. The easing of restrictive measures has been met with criticism given the fact that Egypt is still recording relatively high new COVID-19 infections and deaths, which has raised concerns that the country's healthcare system could soon become overwhelmed. Last month, the Egyptian doctors' union warned that the country was careening toward a catastrophe. From 2 July, the government is also planning the reopening of select tourist destinations to international charter flights, allowing travellers from around the world to return to parts of the country that have been less hard-hit by the virus. Those include the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula, which is home to the major resort and beach destinations of Sharm el Sheikh, the Red Sea resort areas of Hurghada and Marsa Alam, as well as Marsa Matrouh on the Mediterranean coast.

Guinea-Bissau

25 June - Guinea-Bissauan President Umaro Sissoco Embaló announced on Thursday that the country's state of emergency has been extended for a further 30 days, through 25 July, in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The nationwide night-time curfew between 20:00 - 06:00 has been lifted.

Madagascar

27 June - On Saturday, Malagasy authorities extended the national health state of emergency until 12 July amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions remain in place in the five most affected areas of the country - the province of Analamanga, and the districts of Toamasina I and II, Fénérive-Est and Moramanga. However on Saturday, authorities announced the easing of measures in the districts of Toamasina I and II, Fénérive-Est and Moramanga. Restrictions in Analamanga province, including the capital Antananarivo, remain unchanged. An overnight curfew will continue in the aforementioned locations, in effect between 22:00 - 04:00. It was also announced on Saturday that in Analamanga province, businesses in Toamasina I and II, Fénérive-Est, and Moramanga districts may now operate until 17:00 daily. Similarly in these locations, public transportation will now run until 19:00. There remain limits to passenger capacity, including up to three allowed in taxis. Gatherings of up to 50 people are permitted across the country, though social distancing measures should be adhered to and face masks remain mandatory for all individuals outdoors.

Morocco

27 June - In a statement released on Saturday, the Ministry of Health disclosed that the epidemiological situation in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic remains under control despite the country seeing daily surges in new COVID-19 cases. The number of cases has risen in the wake of the easing of lockdown measures. The country has been recording hundreds of cases every day, and several days have seen more than 400 new cases, with the highest daily case increase since the start of the outbreak occurring on 24 June, when 563 new cases were reported. The ministry however has reported that the recent uptick in case numbers is due to the expansion of proactive COVID-19 testing as part of the country's gradual deconfinement measures.

27 June - Morocco's land, air and sea borders are expected to reopen in July following the lifting of the country's nationwide state of emergency on 10 July.

Mozambique

28 June - President Filipe Nyusi announced on Sunday that Mozambique's state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will be extended by 30 days until 30 July. Level three lockdown measures will remain in place during the extended state of emergency, with residents urged to stay home, except for essential reasons, and the use of face masks being mandatory on public and private communal transport and at gatherings. The president however announced that some restrictions will begin to be eased in the coming days, including the reopening of schools. Lockdown measures on key economic sectors, including tourism, culture and business services, will also be eased, allowing some businesses, resorts and restaurants to reopen. However, social distancing and hygiene measures must be adhered to and more stringent restrictions may be reintroduced in response to local COVID-19 outbreaks. In order to support international business and tourism, the suspension of international flights to and from Mozambique has also been lifted, allowing business travellers, tourists and essential personnel to enter the country from a number of designated 'safe' countries. However, the president did not specify which countries would see the resumption of commercial flights and it currently remains unclear what quarantine or testing requirements will be in place for international arrivals.

Republic of Congo

23 June - Congolese authorities announced on Tuesday that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country has passed 1,000. Since the first infection in the country was identified on 14 March, 1,087 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed by Congolese authorities, with 37 related deaths. Nine of the country's 12 departments have now reported COVID-19 cases, though the disease has not yet been confirmed in Niari, Plateaux, and Likouala. The Congolese government has extended the country's state of health emergency by 20 days until 11 July. The state of emergency has seen tight restrictions imposed on non-essential travel, with most people prohibited from leaving their homes, and a nationwide 20:00 - 05:00 curfew. Non-essential businesses, schools, and places of worship also remain closed, and gatherings of more than 50 people are banned. People are also required to wear face masks at all times in public places, with the requirement and other COVID-19 measures being vigorously enforced by security forces. The country's land, air and maritime borders remain closed and international commercial flights remain suspended. Local public transportation is only authorized to operate in some areas and at reduced capacity.

Rwanda

25 June - On Thursday, the Rwandan government placed six areas of Kigali back under lockdown following a rise in COVID-19 cases. The measures came into immediate effect on Thursday evening and will last through 10 July. The areas are located in Nyarugenge and Kicukiro districts. In Kicukiro district, the affected villages are Kamabuye and Zuba in Nyarurama cell in Kigarama sector, Nyenyeri in Bwerankori cell, also in Kigaram sector, and Rugano in Kanunga cell, Gikondo sector. In Nyarugenge district, the affected villages are Kadobogo and Gisenga in Kigali cell, Kigali sector. Under the lockdown measures, all workers will be required to work from home and movement into and out of these areas will be prohibited, with exemptions for medical reasons or other emergencies. The restrictions follow the detection of 21 confirmed COVID-19 cases since 21 June, including four on Thursday.

Senegal

30 June - The Senegalese government has announced that both the state of emergency and the nightly curfew imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be lifted at 23:00 on Tuesday 30 July. The government has also stated that Senegal will open its borders to international flights under certain conditions from 15 July, though the country's land and sea borders will remain closed.

Sierra Leone

23 June - On Tuesday, President Julius Maada Bio announced the lifting of some COVID-19 measures across the country. The current ban on inter-district travel has been removed, and commercial flights are scheduled to resume shortly. President Bio further announced that under the new restrictions, the daily nationwide curfew has been adjusted to 23:00 - 06:00. Places of worship and schools and universities will remain closed, while public gatherings of over 100 people are also prohibited.

South Africa

28 June - South Africa's health minister has disclosed that the country's current surge in COVID-19 cases is expected to dramatically increase in the coming weeks and push the country's hospitals to the limit. Health Minister Zwelini Mkhize disclosed in a statement issued on Sunday that more than 4,300 people have been hospitalized out of the country's 138,000 confirmed cases. He warned that this number is expected to rise quickly, noting that "we are seeing a rapid rise in the cumulative number of positive COVID-19 cases indicating that, as we had expected, we are approaching a surge during the...months of July and August." He further disclosed that "it is anticipated that while every province will unfortunately witness an increase in their numbers, areas where there is a high economic activity will experience an exponential rise," adding that the cities of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban will see the biggest increases.

Sudan

28 June - Sudanese authorities have extended the ongoing lockdown restrictions in Khartoum state introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic until 7 July. Individuals are only allowed limited movement within their neighbourhoods to purchase necessities. Only essential services are open, with supermarkets and pharmacies operating on limited hours. The ban on travel between Khartoum and other parts of the country has also been extended. Officials are planning to gradually relax lockdown rules from 8 July, however a curfew between 18:00 - 05:00 will remain in place.

27 June - State media reported on Saturday that the Sudan Civil Aviation Authority has further extended the closure of Khartoum's International Airport until at least 02:00 on 12 July. Flights carrying cargo, humanitarian aid, oil workers, or repatriating foreigners continue to be exempt from this measure.

Tunisia

27 June - On Saturday, Tunisian authorities reopened the country's air, sea and land borders after three months of closure as part of precautionary measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. International airports have also reopened and international flights to and from Tunisia resumed on Saturday.

Uganda

29 June - The Ugandan government will lift lockdown restrictions imposed on Gulu district, northern region, on Monday 29 June. Gulu is the only non-border district that remains under lockdown measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Local officials reportedly met with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health on 24 June, where it was agreed that the lockdown would be lifted. Vehicular traffic will be able to resume and face masks will be distributed to residents now that they are allowed to leave their homes.

Zambia

25 June - On Thursday, President Lungu announced the immediate reopening of all international airports. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all regional airports have been closed, while Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka never closed, limited passenger and cargo flights by Ethiopian Airlines have been operating. The decision to reopen the rest of the country's airports has been made to encourage tourists to return in an attempt to revive the country's economy following the COVID-19 lockdown. Domestic carriers are now able to operate, though as yet it is not clear if any other international airlines will also resume operations.

ASIA**China**

28 June - On Sunday, Chinese health officials announced that authorities were imposing a strict lockdown on Anxin county in Hebei province due to a rise in COVID-19 cases. The same measures as those witnessed during the height of the pandemic in Wuhan earlier this year will be imposed, meaning that only one person per household will be allowed to go out once a day to purchase essential supplies.

27 June - On Saturday, Beijing issued new guidance on COVID-19 containment in response to the outbreak in the capital. Authorities called on residents to wear masks, maintain social distance, and wash hands frequently. The wearing of masks has been made compulsory in hospitals, busy tourist areas, and on public transport. Those

with respiratory issues are advised to avoid going to public places and to always wear a mask if this is unavoidable. A further 17 COVID-19 cases were reported in Beijing on Sunday. Bringing the number of cases since the recent outbreak emerged in mid-June now over 300.

India

28 June - Authorities have announced that a full lockdown will be enforced every Sunday from 5 July in Karnataka state due to a spike in COVID-19 cases in the region. Authorities will only allow essential services to operate on Sundays. Additionally, a stricter curfew will be introduced in the region from 6 July, taking effect between 20:00 - 05:00. Authorities are also working to equip the region with medical resources, including ambulances.

27 June - Authorities have announced that a two-week lockdown will be imposed in Guwahati, Assam state, and the entirety of Kamrup Metropolitan district from 19:00 on 28 June until 18:00 on 12 July due to a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases identified in the area. During this period, individuals are banned from entering public spaces. All non-essential government and private offices, and all businesses, including shops selling food, will be closed. Public transport will also be suspended, and the use of private vehicles will be prohibited. Schools and places of worship will also be closed. Hospital and pharmacies will remain open during this period, and the transport of essential goods will continue. Authorities have stated that some measures may be relaxed following seven days of lockdown. A curfew will also be in place between 19:00 - 07:00 in addition to a complete lockdown on weekends, during which only emergency services will be allowed to circulate.

27 June - As of Saturday, Indian health authorities have confirmed 508,953 COVID-19 cases nationwide, with 15,685 associated fatalities. Cases have been rising in the main cities of India, including New Delhi, with experts expecting the number of infections to continue growing steadily.

Japan

29 June - The Japanese government announced on Monday that it will add another 18 countries, including Algeria, Cuba and Iraq, to its entry ban list as part of its border control measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. According to the government, starting from 1 July, foreign nationals who have been to the countries within 14 days of their arrival in Japan will be denied entry in principle. The other fifteen countries include Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Senegal - all of which have seen a rise in COVID-19 cases. The decision by the National Security Council now brings the total number of countries and regions on the list to 129. Japan will also maintain other border control measures, including the suspension of visa issuance by its embassies in the listed countries and regions until the end of July.

Myanmar

27 June - On Saturday, Myanmar's Central Committee on COVID-19 Control released a statement announcing that measures in place to control the spread of COVID-19, including the suspension of international flights, will be extended until 15 July. As well as the continued flight suspension, a ban on issuing visas and visa-exemptions services will be extended, as well a mandatory three-week quarantine period for returning Myanmar nationals. The overnight curfew in Yangon from 00:00 - 04:00 will remain in place throughout this period, as well the lockdown in Insein township. A ban on gatherings of more than five people, with exceptions for funerals and work-related necessities, will also apply during the extension period. Face masks are compulsory in public places.

Nepal

30 June - On Tuesday, Nepalese authorities announced that COVID-19 lockdown measures have been extended until 22 July. During the extension period, only some businesses and activities are permitted to operate as long as they adhere to social distancing measures. Borders will remain closed while domestic and international flights remain suspended. In addition, educational facilities, gyms and religious places will remain closed until the extended lockdown deadline.

Pakistan

25 June - Officials on Thursday declared local lockdowns in at least 40 areas of the Punjab city of Lahore as COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the city. Travel to and within the areas, including the major residential districts of Johar Town, Gulberg, Model Town, Garden Town, Faisal Town, Askari 10 and the Defence Housing Authority, is to be severely restricted, with security forces establishing checkpoints on roads leading in and out of the areas. Residents will only be allowed to leave their homes to shop for essential supplies or seek medical attention, although law enforcement personnel, health workers, and journalists are exempt from these restrictions. All non-essential businesses in the lockdown areas have also been ordered to close. As of 25 June, Punjab, and

Lahore in particular, have been at the centre of Pakistan's COVID-19 epidemic, with 71,191 cases and 1,602 deaths from the disease. The latest lockdown measures come two weeks after the government placed Lahore and 19 other cities in Pakistan with more than 300 confirmed COVID-19 cases under two-week lockdowns.

Philippines

30 June - President Duterte announced on Tuesday that the lockdown in Cebu City will be extended until 15 July amidst a rise in COVID-19 cases. The lockdown was extended following the advice from the health secretary after Cebu City was announced the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. Additionally, President Duterte further announced that the general community quarantine (GCQ) has been extended by one month in Metro Manila due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. The extension is expected to end on 31 July. Metro Manila has joined a number of areas in Luzon and Visayas that are currently under the GCQ.

Thailand

30 June - Thai authorities announced on Tuesday that the state of emergency has been extended until 31 July despite no domestic transmission of COVID-19 being reported in the country for over a month. The latest announcement is the third extension of the state of emergency, which allows the Thai government to limit people's rights, including public gatherings.

EUROPE

Belgium

24 June - On Wednesday, Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes announced that Belgium will further ease COVID-19 lockdown restrictions on 1 July, allowing swimming pools, theme parks and party venues to reopen, though noting that social distancing measures will remain. She disclosed that Belgians will be allowed to go to the cinema or theatre again while respecting social distancing rules, and up to 200 people will be allowed to attend indoor events, such as religious services. Up to 400 people will be allowed to attend gatherings outside, including demonstrations, but are not supposed to move around while doing so. Belgians will also be able to meet as many as 15 friends a week - an increase from the current 10. Large gatherings such as music festivals remain banned and nightclubs will remain closed until at least the end of August.

European Union

30 June - The EU has named 14 countries whose citizens are deemed "safe" to be let in from 1 July, despite the pandemic, however the US, Brazil and China are excluded. Those named include Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. Diplomats have indicated that the EU is ready to add China if the Chinese government offers a reciprocal deal for EU travellers.

Greece

29 June - Greece has announced that it was suspending all direct flights from the United Kingdom and Sweden until 15 July because of the epidemiological data on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in both countries. This comes after Greek officials announced on Monday that from 1 July, "we are taking the final step to return to normalcy, as all the country's airports will open for international flights."

Ireland

29 June - According to Chief Medical Officer Dr Tony Holohan, there is a "worrying trend" of rising cases of COVID-19 in Ireland and "some new clusters." While no deaths were recorded in Ireland in the last 24 hours, 24 new COVID-19 cases have been confirmed, with Dr Holohan stated that a new cluster, in the north-west, was travel-related and originated in Iraq. He urged people who have made bookings to travel abroad for holidays "not to go ahead with that booking" rather than risk picking up COVID-19 or bringing it back to their community.

28 June - As Ireland is due to enter phase 3 of its plans to reopen the country as restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic are further relaxed on 29 June, face masks will be compulsory on public transport, restaurants and shops. Barbershops, churches, theatres, cinemas and gyms will also be allowed to reopen under certain hygiene conditions. People will also be allowed to resume domestic travel. By 9 July, the government will publish a "green list" of countries to which people will be able to travel without having to undergo a 14-day self-quarantine period upon their return to Ireland.

25 June - Acting prime minister Leo Varadkar announced on Thursday that Ireland plans to lift from 9 July a 14-day quarantine for people arriving from countries that have also suppressed the COVID-19. Speaking at a news conference, the prime minister disclosed that Ireland will produce a "green list" of countries where the 14-day

quarantine will not apply by the 9 July resumption date. Varadkar disclosed that the list of countries and criteria for so-called “air bridges” would be co-ordinated at an EU-level, though he also cautioned prospective holidaymakers that the list would be reviewed and may change every two weeks. Asked if the quarantine measures would remain in place with Britain, Varadkar stated that while the incidence of the disease seemed to be going in the right direction there, it would not currently meet the criteria.

Romania

25 June - On Thursday, Romania reported its highest number of daily COVID-19 infections in two months as the country prepares to assess a new phase of relaxation of measures next week. The government reported that over the past 24 hours, it recorded 460 new cases. To date, the country has recorded 25,286 COVID-19 infections and 1,565 related deaths. One third of the country’s cases are concentrated in three cities - the capital Bucharest, the northern town of Suceava and in Transylvania’s medieval city of Brasov.

Spain

28 June - On Sunday, Spain registered 301 new COVID-19 cases as the region of Madrid celebrated its first day without any virus-linked deaths in months. The number of new infections registered broke a five-day streak of increases cases in Spain, with 564 new cases confirmed on Saturday. While new daily cases have fallen, the weekly number of contagions continues to inch up. The number now stands at 1,915, whereas a week ago it was 1,668. Spain also recorded a further 2 deaths on Sunday, bringing the total number of COVID-19 fatalities to 28,434, with Madrid recording no related deaths for the first time. Meanwhile around twenty active outbreaks continue across the country as Sunday concludes the first weekend in which people could travel freely throughout the country. This is also the first full weekend that visitors from other EU countries have been allowed to enter Spain.

26 June - Spanish virologists have found traces of COVID-19 in a sample of Barcelona waste water that was collected in March 2019 - nine months before the COVID-19 disease was identified in China. If confirmed, the discovery of virus genome presence so early in Spain would imply that the disease may have appeared much earlier than the scientific community thought. The University of Barcelona team, who had been testing waste water since mid-April this year to identify potential new outbreaks, decided to also run tests on older samples. They first found the virus was present in Barcelona on 15 January 2020 - 41 days before the first case was officially reported there. They then ran tests on samples taken between January 2018 - December 2019 and found the presence of the virus genome in one of them, collected on 12 March 2019. The research has been submitted for a peer review. Occasion

United Kingdom

29 June - On Monday, authorities announced that some restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be re-introduced in Leicester, Leicestershire, from 30 June due to an increase in locally detected cases. On Tuesday, non-essential shops will close and schools will close to the majority of pupils on 2 July. The easing of restrictions on pubs and restaurants, which are occurring in other parts of England on 4 July, will be postponed in Leicester. Authorities have clarified that the measures will be in place for the entirety of the city, in addition to the suburb areas of Birstall, Glenfield, and Oadby.

28 June - As of 6 July, the UK government will relax rules that have forced all arriving travellers to quarantine for two weeks. Instead, UK officials will introduce a traffic light system, with countries grouped together based on their COVID-19 infection rates. Holidaymakers are expected to be allowed to travel to certain European countries without having to spend 14 days in quarantine when they return. They are thought to include Spain, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Turkey, Germany and Norway though not Portugal or Sweden. The full list of travel corridors with the UK will be published in the coming days.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

30 June - Authorities have announced that a total lockdown will be imposed in Erbil from 30 June due to an increase in locally-detected COVID-19 cases. The order will come into effect as of 06:00 and will remain in place until 23:59 on 4 July. The lockdown prohibits all civilian movements, with residents only being permitted to travel to purchase food and collect medicine. Only military, humanitarian, diplomatic, emergency services and transport linked to the oil industry will be permitted to move freely during this period. Non-commercial transport between Erbil province and other areas of the Kurdistan region is also prohibited.

25 June - Iraqi authorities have further extended the suspension of commercial flights until 1 July to limit the spread of COVID-19. The decision includes all domestic and international flights in Iraq and the Kurdistan region, except for cargo, medical relief, and repatriation flights.

24 June - On Wednesday, Iraqi authorities reported the highest daily increase in COVID-19 cases, with 2,200 new cases and 79 associated fatalities reported in 24 hours. This brings the total number of COVID-19 cases in the country to 34,502, with 1,251 deaths.

23 June - On Tuesday, authorities in multiple Iraqi provinces introduced a comprehensive curfew and closed their borders in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19. The provinces affected are Karbala, Qadisiyah, Babel, Dhi Qar, Maysan, Basra, Nineveh and Anbar. The new measures will remain in place for seven days. The 18:00 - 05:00 curfew remains in place in Iraq's remaining provinces. The decision comes following consistently high rates of COVID-19 infections.

Jordan

27 June - On Saturday, Jordan's Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply granted approval for entertainment and recreation activities within tourist resorts to resume. Amusement parks and arcades will also be allowed to reopen. The minister stated that international exams could be held and special needs education centres could resume providing educational services within the terms of certain social distancing and health and safety criteria.

27 June - On Saturday, the Crisis Cell responsible for Jordan's response to the COVID-19 pandemic decided to suspend efforts being made to repatriate Jordanian nationals from abroad until 10 July. The cell cited an increased in cases amongst already returned citizens who are undergoing quarantine as the reason behind pausing efforts to allow for the arrival, quarantine, and medical examination procedures in place to be reorganized. Those already booked to return however will still see their trips go ahead.

Lebanon

30 June - Lebanese authorities have announced that measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 are to be extended until at least 2 August, in what is the 7th extension of the measures which were initially implemented in mid-March. Public gatherings are to remain banned and cultural venues will not reopen. Social distancing measures should be observed in public. A curfew between the hours of 00:00 - 05:00 remains in place, though it is expected to be reviewed shortly, with the Higher Defence Council recommending that the government lift the curfew. This comes as the country prepares to reopen Beirut's Rafic Hariri International Airport on 1 July. Under new government rules, arrivals will not be required to undergo a quarantine period though they will be asked to undergo a COVID-19 test 96 hours prior to arrival, as well as once more in Beirut. A 100 USD fee will be payable to the airline for the test. Arrivals must have an insurance policy that covers the potential cost of COVID-19 treatment. The airport will operate at 10% capacity following its reopening, permitting for 2,000 travellers per day.

THE AMERICAS (NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH)

Argentina

26 June - On Friday, President Alberto Fernández announced that the lockdown in place in the Buenos Aires metropolitan area to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be extended until 17 July. The president also disclosed that due to a rise in COVID-19 infections, some restrictions which had previously been eased would be re-imposed. From 1 July, only those working in essential services will be able to use public transport and everyone will be asked to stay in their homes. Most of those non-essential businesses which resumed operations on 8 June will be required to close again. Restrictions have been eased in many other areas of the country, however Buenos Aires remains the epicentre of the country's outbreak, accounting for 97% of the cases detected on Friday, according to the president. President Fernandez also urged residents in the capital not to show their anger at the necessary measures, as protests have been witnessed in recent months as people grow tired of the restrictions.

Brazil

26 June - São Paulo's Governor announced on Friday that the existing quarantine restrictions will be extended until 14 July. Despite the extension of quarantine orders, the city of São Paulo and 14 municipalities in Greater São Paulo are due to enter the "yellow phase" from 6 July, and restaurants, bars, and beauty salons will be able to reopen. Most parts of São Paulo state however remain in the "red phase," which is the most restrictive. Several regions have also regressed into the "red phase" following a recent rise in COVID-19 cases. These regions include Aracatuba, Rio Preto, Sorocaba, Bauru, and Franca.

Mexico

30 June - Authorities on Monday further relaxed restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Mexico City. Businesses have been given permission to reopen and the city's metro service will resume. Around 1 million face shields will be handed out to metro passengers in an attempt to lower infection rates. Additionally, from 30 June Mexico City's historic centre will reopen and as of 1 July, hotels and restaurants will be able to resume operations at a 50% capacity.

Panamá

30 June - Panamá continues to record high numbers of COVID-19 cases, with the country registering 765 new cases of the coronavirus infection on Tuesday, bringing the total number in the country to 33,550, while deaths climbed by 11 to 631 overall.

Peru

26 June - Peruvian authorities announced on Friday that most lockdown restrictions introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be lifted as of 1 July in most parts of the country, including Lima. The announcement comes despite the extension of the nationwide state of emergency until at least 31 July. From 1 July, supermarkets and banks will be allowed to reopen at a 50% capacity, enforcing a 1m social distancing rule and the mandatory use of face masks. A night-time curfew will be in effect between 22:00 - 04:00 and all-day Sunday curfews will be lifted. The curfew orders will remain in place for children under 14 and adults who are older than 65 or have underlying health issues, considered to be more at risk. The government is still considering whether to allow domestic land or air travel to resume, though borders will remain closed for international travel. Authorities are also debating whether restaurants will be allowed to resume operations. The above mentioned relaxation lockdown rules however will not apply for seven regions that have higher infection rates - Arequipa, Ica, Junín, Huánuco, San Martín, Madre de Dios and Áncash regions. In these regions, the curfew will be in effect as of 20:00 - 04:00 and all day Sunday curfews will continue.

United States

30 June - In recent days, a number of US states have reversed course on reopening their economy as COVID-19 cases spike in certain states and nationwide. Arizona is the latest to reverse the move, with the state's governor ordering the closure of bars, nightclubs, gyms, cinemas and water parks. Florida and Texas have also made U-turns on relaxing restrictions as the whole US Sun Belt region becomes a new virus epicentre. At least sixteen states within the US have either paused or rolled back reopening's after their infection caseloads increased. Some jurisdictions are also opting to shut down for the upcoming 4 July Independence Day weekend amidst fears that packed beaches and bars could fuel new outbreaks.

HOW TO STAY SAFE

The following symptoms may appear 2 – 14 days after exposure:

- A cough
- A high temperature
- Shortness of breath

These symptoms however do not necessarily mean that you have the illness as they are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. As the coronavirus is a new illness, medical officials do not know exactly how it spreads from person to person though similar viruses are spread in cough droplets. Currently there is no specific treatment for coronavirus and no vaccine is available.

To avoid catching/spreading coronavirus, it is advised that you:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitizer gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

If you are experiencing fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care urgently and share your previous travel history with your health care provider.

SELF-ISOLATION

If there is a chance that you have coronavirus, you will be asked to stay away from other people (self-isolate). This means that you should remain at home; not go to work, school or public places; not use public transport or taxis; ask friends, family members or delivery services to do errands for you; try to avoid visitors at home. The self-isolation period lasts up to 14 days and aims to help reduce the possible spread of infection.

ABOUT MS RISK

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MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

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- Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
- Planning and management
- Due diligence and investigations

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- Interim security
- Training
- Special assignments

CRISIS RESPONSE

- Crisis management
- Business continuity management
- Hostile operations support to commercial interests

VIRTUAL SECURITY DIRECTOR SERVICE

- For clients lacking a full-time security executive

References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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