WEEKLY COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE (REPORT #16)

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 suspended not to have been logged, mis-diagnosed or masked by other conditions.

Global COVID-19 Cases and Deaths: As of 7 July 2020 (WHO)

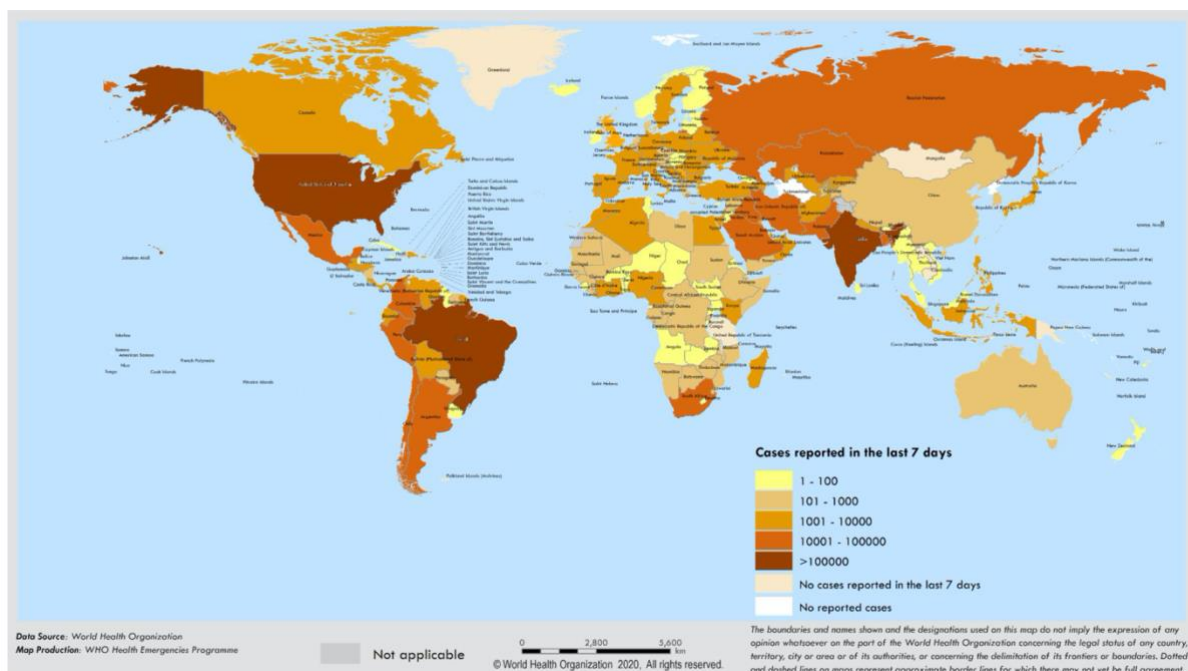*11,500,302 confirmed cases*

535,759 deaths

As of 7 July, 11,500,302 cases have been confirmed globally (172,512 new cases in last 24 hours) with 535,759 deaths reported (3,419 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."

Countries, territories or areas with confirmed COVID-19 cases (7 July 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 (85,345 total cases confirmed), Philippines (46,333), Singapore (44,983), Japan (19,981), Korea (13,181), Malaysia (8,668), Australia (8,586), New Zealand (1,186), Vietnam (369), Guam 9293), Mongolia (220), Brunei (141), Cambodia (141), French Polynesia (62), Northern Mariana Islands (31), New Caledonia (21), Fiji (19), Lao (19), Papua New Guinea (11)

- 229,590 total confirmed cases (2,708 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 7,499 (10 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

EUROPEAN REGION

Russia (694,230 total cases confirmed), United Kingdom (285,772), Spain (251,789), Italy (241,819), Turkey (206,844), Germany (196,944), France (159,568), Sweden (73,061), Belarus (63,804), Belgium (62,058), Netherlands (50,602), Kazakhstan (49,683), Ukraine (49,607), Portugal (44,129), Poland (36,155), Switzerland (32,230), Israel (30,055), Armenia (29,285), Romania (29,223), Ireland (25,531), Azerbaijan (20,837), Austria (18,326), Moldova (17,906), Serbia (16,420), Denmark (12,878), Czech Republic (12,566), Uzbekistan (10,459), Norway (8,930), Kyrgyzstan (8,141), Finland (7,257), North Macedonia (7,124), Tajikistan (6,262), Bulgaria (5,914), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5,393), Luxembourg (4,542), Hungary (4,189), Kosovo (3,660), Greece (3,562), Croatia (3,220), Albania (3,038), Estonia (1,994), Iceland (1,866), Lithuania (1,841), Slovakia (1,765), Slovenia (1,716), Latvia (1,127), Cyprus (1,004), Georgia (958), Andorra (855), Montenegro (841), San Marino (713), Malta (672), Isle of Man (336), Jersey (320), Guernsey (252), Faroe Islands (187), Gibraltar (179), Monaco (99), Lichtenstein (85), Greenland (13), Holy See (12)

- 2,809,848 total confirmed cases (16,900 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 200,651 deaths (413 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

India (719,665 total cases confirmed), Bangladesh (165,618), Indonesia (64,958), Nepal (15,964), Thailand (3,195), Maldives (2,491), Sri Lanka (2,078), Myanmar (316), Bhutan (80), Timor-Leste (24)

- 974,389 total confirmed cases (26,870 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 25,619 deaths (583 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Iran (243,051 total cases confirmed), Pakistan (234,509), Saudi Arabia (213,716), Qatar (100,345), Egypt (76,222), Iraq (62,275), United Arab Emirates (52,068), Kuwait (50,644), Oman (47,735), Afghanistan (33,384), Bahrain (29,821), Morocco (14,379), Sudan (9,894), Djibouti (4,822), Palestine (4,786), Somalia (3,006), Lebanon (1,885), Yemen (1,294), Tunisia (1,199), Jordan 91,167), Libya (1,046), Syria (372)

- 1,187,620 total confirmed cases (16,900 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 28,102 deaths (536 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

United States (2,877,238total cases confirmed), Brazil (1,603,055), Peru (302,718), Chile (298,557), Mexico (256,848), Colombia (105,536), Canada (105,536), Argentina (77,815), Ecuador (62,380), Bolivia (39,297), Panamá (38,149), Dominican Republic (38,128), Honduras (23,943), Guatemala (23,248), Puerto Rico (8,585), El Salvador (8,027), Venezuela (7,169), Haiti (6,333), French Guiana (5,054), Costa Rica (4,996), Paraguay (2,456), Cuba (2,380), Nicaragua (2,182), Uruguay (956), Jamaica (732), Suriname (604), Guyana (273), Martinique (249), Cayman Islands (201), Guadeloupe (184), Bermuda (146), Trinidad and Tobago (133), United States Virgin Islands (112), Aruba (105), Bahamas (104), Barbados (98), Sint Maarten (78), Antigua and Barbuda (68), Turks and Caicos Islands (48), Saint Martin (44), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (29), Curaçao (25), Grenada (23), Saint Lucia (22), Dominica (18), Saint Kitts and Nevis (16), 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)

- 5,915,551 total confirmed cases (94,711 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 266,736 deaths (1,712 new deaths reported in past 24 hrs)

AFRICAN REGION

South Africa (205,721 total cases confirmed), Nigeria (29,286), Ghana (20,085), Algeria (16,404), Cameroon (14,524), Ivory Coast (10,966), Kenya (8,067), Senegal (7,478), Democratic Republic of Congo (7,431), Ethiopia (6,666), Gabon (5,743), Guinea (5,610), Mauritania (4,879), Central African Republic (4,033), Madagascar (3,250), Mayotte (2,679), Mali (2,331), South Sudan (2,098), Malawi (1,818), Guinea-Bissau (1,790), Zambia (1,632), Republic of Congo (1,557), Sierra Leone (1,547), Cabo Verde (1,463), Benin (1,199), Rwanda (1,113), Niger (1,093), Equatorial Guinea (1,043), Mozambique (1,012), Eswatini (1,011), Burkina Faso (1,000), Uganda (953), Liberia (891), Chad (872), Zimbabwe (734), Togo (680), Réunion (550), Tanzania (509), Namibia (485), São

Tomé and Príncipe (401), Angola (353), Mauritius (342), Botswana (314), Comoros (311), Eritrea (215), Burundi (191), Lesotho (91), Seychelles (81), Gambia (61),

- 382,563 confirmed cases (12,635 new cases reported in past 24 hrs)
- 7,139 deaths (165 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
Burundi
6 July - On Monday, Burundi launched a campaign of mass screening for COVID-19 in a move that indicates that the new president is changing policies to more assertively combat the spread of the virus. The new programme was launched in three centres in the north, centre and south of Bujumbura, the country's largest city.

1 July - The country's new President Evariste Ndayishimiye has declared the COVID-19 pandemic the country's "biggest enemy" in what is a major about-turn for a country that has largely ignored the dangers of the virus. Speaking after the swearing in of his new government in parliament, President Ndayishimiye called for "the strict respect for preventative measures which the health ministry will from now on display across the country." He reminded citizens that COVID-19 tests were free, as was treatment, warning those who did not get tested when they had symptoms. The president further announced that the screenings will be launched wherever clusters of cases are suspected and that soap prices and water bills will be reduced. Until now, former president Pierre Nkurunziza, who died suddenly last month, and even President Ndayishimiye himself, had downplayed the gravity of the pandemic, saying that God had spared Burundi from its ravages. The country held a campaign ahead of the May presidential election and unlike its neighbours, which have imposed lockdowns and curfews, Burundi has taken few measures to combat the spread of the virus. Officially the country reported only 170 cases and one death in two months.

Gabon
1 July - On Wednesday, the Gabonese government announced that European tourists and business travellers would not be granted visas after the European Union excluded it from a 'safe list' of countries from which the bloc is allowing non-essential travel. On Wednesday, the EU reopened to leisure or business travel from fourteen countries beyond its borders based on their success in containing COVID-19.

30 June - Gabonese authorities announced on Tuesday that a number of restrictions, previously implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19, will be lifted or eased on 1 July. Hotels will be permitted to reopen as well as restaurants with outdoor dining terraces. Commercial air travel may resume, with two international flights per airline per week, in addition, the resumption to travel by air, boat and train within the country is also allowed. Gabon's land and sea borders however will remain closed to travellers and a reduced curfew from 20:00 - 05:00 will remain in place. Face masks and social distancing measures are still required in public spaces. Gabonese authorities have also announced that restrictions may be reimplemented in certain areas of the country if new OCVID-19 outbreaks occur.

Gambia
2 July - Gambia on Thursday extended a nationwide state of emergency for another week as part of its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. President Barrow announced that the move was taken as a result of consultations with ministers in order to prevent the spread of the virus in the country.

Kenya
6 July - President Kenyatta announced on Monday that movement restrictions introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be lifted in Nairobi, Mombasa, and Mandera counties from 04:00 on 7 July. The president stated that movement into and out of these areas will be permitted, though he warned that restrictions could be re-

imposed if necessary. The government has also extended the current curfew in place between 21:00 - 04:00 by another 30 days as of 6 July and public gatherings also remain banned for a further 30 days.

Madagascar
5 July - Authorities announced on Sunday that full lockdown measures that had been previously imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be reintroduced in the Analamanga region, including Antananarivo, from 6 July. These measures will remain in place until 20 July. Under these restrictions, only one person per household may leave their homes between 06:00 - 12:00. Overland travel outside the region will also be suspended from Monday.

Nigeria
2 July - Authorities in Kano state have announced the lifting of lockdown measures as of Thursday. However as is the case nationwide, a curfew between 22:00 - 04:00 will remain in place.
1 July - On Wednesday, Nigerian authorities eased COVID-19 restrictions nationwide. Travel between Nigeria's states is now permitted and airports have reopened for domestic flights. While bus transportation has resumed, railways will remain closed until health guidelines are in place. Schools will also reopen for students in their final year in order for them to prepare for exams. Despite the easing of measures, President Buhari has extended the phased lockdown, with the 22:00 - 04:00 curfew remaining in place. Restrictions on gatherings of more than 20 people and sporting events are still in force while the mandatory wearing of facemasks still applies.

Rwanda
4 July - The Ministry of Infrastructure announced that airports, including Kigali International Airport, will reopen for commercial flights from 1 August. The Ministry of Health has developed guidelines that must be followed upon the resumption of commercial flights. All passengers, including those in transit, will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of arrival in Rwanda, and those staying in the country will have to take a second test upon arrival and stay in designated hotels at their own cost until the result is confirmed. They will also have to fill out a Passenger Location Form prior to arrival. Hand sanitizers, social distancing and other measures will be in place at airports. It has not been confirmed if land borders will reopen alongside the resumption of commercial flights.

Seychelles
3 July - Seychellois authorities announced on Friday that the resumption of commercial passenger flights will begin from 1 August amidst the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The resumption of passenger flights will be open to visitors from approved countries only. Seychelles airport is currently open to private jets and chartered passenger flights with passengers from low-risk countries.

South Africa
2 July - South African health authorities announced on Thursday that the country has recorded its highest daily increase in COVID-19 cases. Authorities reported that 8,124 new COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the preceding 24-hours, with 92 related fatalities - the highest single-day increase since the disease was first confirmed in South Africa in March. The Western Cape province remains the most affected area in the country with 64,377 cases.

Togo
3 July - Togo has extended its health emergency until 16 August in a bid to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ASIA
China
1 July - On Tuesday, authorities in Beijing lifted lockdowns in five neighbourhoods following a decrease in COVID-19 cases. The neighbourhoods leaving the lockdown will be required to exercise strict social distancing measures, and entry will remain restricted to residents. The lockdowns were implemented in dozens of neighbourhoods last month following a surge in cases, which sparked fears of a resurgence of the virus in the city. However on 1 July, only three new cases were identified. The majority of Beijing's new COVID-19 cases have been traced to the Xinfadi market in the Fengtai district, which supplies Beijing with 80% of its fresh food and meat.

India

5 July - Indian authorities on Sunday reported the highest daily increase of COVID-19 cases to date. The country reported 24,850 new COVID-19 cases on 4 July. As of Sunday, 673,165 cases have been confirmed in the county with 19,268 associated deaths. Maharashtra remains the most affected state with 200,064 cases and 8,671 associated deaths.

4 July - On Saturday, officials from Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in West Bengal State announced that at the request of the West Bengal government, no flights will operate to the city from six major cities between 6 - 19 July or until further orders are given. The cities in question are Delhi, Maharashtra state's Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur, Chennai in Tamil Nadu state and Ahmedabad in Gujarat state. The restriction is only in force for arrivals, though departures to these cities are also likely to be heavily affected. The measure has been taken to contain the spread of COVID-19. The state reported its highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths on 3 July, with 669 cases and 18 deaths. In a bid to try and halt the surge in cases, the government has requested aviation authorities halt flights from areas with a high prevalence of COVID-19 cases.

4 July - On Saturday, authorities introduced a total lockdown in Bengaluru, Karnataka state, due to a rise in COVID-19 cases. The total lockdown commenced at 20:00 on Saturday and is due to end at 05:00 on 6 July. The sale of essential goods will still be permitted during this period. The decision comes after the number of cases in the area increased by almost 1,000 within 24 hours.

3 July - The Indian Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has announced the extension of the ban on international flights until 31 July in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. Only cargo flights and those approved by the DGCA are permitted to operate during this period.

Myanmar

3 July - Myanmar authorities have announced that the suspension of international flights will remain in place until 31 July. Special flights, medical evacuations and cargo flights remain exempt. Further restrictions within the country will remain in place until at least15 July, with an overnight curfew in Yangoon from 00:00 - 04:00 and a 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 this period. Facemasks are compulsory in public places.

Pakistan

2 July - The Balochistan government announced on Thursday that the lockdown currently imposed has been extended until 15 July following a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. Under the lockdown restrictions, shopping malls, markets, warehouses, auto-repair shops and hair salons will be allowed to remain open from 09:00 - 19:00 on Thursdays and Saturdays, and all businesses will remain closed on Fridays. Educational facilities throughout the province will remain closed until the end of the lockdown, while cinemas, wedding halls and farmhouses will remain closed indefinitely. Additionally, public gatherings of more than ten people remain prohibited, as well as political rallies and social and religious events.

Philippines

7 July - On Tuesday, the Philippine government announced that non-essential travel abroad can resume with immediate effect, under certain conditions imposed to ensure traveller's safety. Despite a recent rise in COVID-19 cases, all outbound travel restrictions have now been removed. Those travelling abroad must observe any restrictions in place at their final destination and will have to undergo a COVID-19 test and a mandatory quarantine period on return to the Philippines. They will also be required to submit confirmation of tickets, visas and health insurance prior to travel, as well as signing a declaration form. The Philippines has yet to open inbound tourism, with only returning Filipino nationals, their families and foreign diplomats amongst the few permitted to enter the country.

Thailand

1 July - On Wednesday, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) lifted a ban on international flights, though restrictions will remain in place, with entry limited to business travellers, work permit holders, permanent residents and foreign teachers and students, amongst others. All travellers will be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine period at their own expense.

EUROPE

Ireland

5 July - Irish authorities will ease foreign travel quarantine measures from 20 July. A list of 'green' countries, which are considered to represent a low risk of infection, will be released on 20 July. Those arriving from a

country in the 'green list' will no longer be subject to the 14-day self-quarantine requirements. However, quarantine requirements will remain in place for all countries that are not included on the 'green list.' Those arriving from higher risk locations will still be required to fill out a Passenger Locator Form on arrival and self-isolate for two weeks. Authorities may contact people to confirm that they are following the required procedure.
2 July - The country's health minister has reported that there has been a significant increase in the percentage of COVID-19 cases in the country, which have come from international travel. Stephen Donnelly disclosed that in the last few months, about 25 of new cases came from international travel, noting that this has "gone up to 17% in the last week." He further disclosed that public health experts have "a real concern" about the possibility of a second wave of the virus if there is an increase in foreign travel. This comes as from Wednesday, EU borders will be reopened to 15 non-EU countries.

Italy
7 July - Authorities announced on Tuesday that flights from Bangladesh have been suspended after multiple passengers on a flight from Bangladesh to Rome tested positive for COVID-19. The suspension will last at least one week and authorities will be working to introduce new precautionary measures that will apply to all arrivals from outside the EU and Schengen area.

Romania
30 June - Authorities announced on Tuesday that some COVID-19 restrictions scheduled to be relaxed on 1 July have been extended due to a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. In addition to the postponement, the government has adopted sanctions, including the suspension of permits, for event organizers who do not comply with social distancing and hygiene measures.

Spain
5 July - Galician authorities on Sunday re-imposed a lockdown in La Mariña, located in Lugo province in Galicia region, due to a rise in COVID-19 cases in the area. The lockdown is initially set to remain in place until 10 July. La Mariña residents will be confined to the region and will only be able to leave La Mariña for work reasons. However, residents will not be required to go on a full quarantine within their confined area and bars and restaurants will remain open during the lockdown, though will be limited to a 50% capacity. Wearing a face mask in public is also obligatory. The decision comes as 117 of the 258 new COVID-19 cases reported in Galicia were confirmed in Lugo province.
4 July - On Saturday, authorities re-imposed a lockdown in Segrià municipality, Catalonia region, including the city of Lleida, due to a rise in COVID-19 cases in the area. The measure will affect around 200,000 residents of the municipality. Movement in and out of the area is prohibited, with the exception of travel for work or due to force majeure. Gatherings of more than 10 people, whether private or public, are also forbidden. The Minister of the Interior has announced the deployment of security forces to the area. The decision comes after the Ministry of Health reported 4,030 COVID-19 cases had been detected in the area as of 3 July.
1 July - On Wednesday, Spain opened its border with Portugal, allowing all travellers after a three-month closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This comes after all travel restrictions within the EU were lifted last week.

United Kingdom
4 July - On Saturday, a number of COVID-19 restrictions were eased in England, with restaurants, pubs, cinemas and hotels being permitted to reopen. Places of worship and outdoor gyms will also reopen while gatherings of more than 30 people will remain prohibited.
3 July - On Friday, UK authorities announced a list of over 50 countries and territories from which travellers will be able to travel to England from 10 July without facing a mandatory 14-day quarantine period upon arrival. The countries and territories listed by the British government have all been classified as 'low risk' in regard to COVID-19. Britons will be allowed to travel to the selected countries from 4 July, however quarantine measures may still be in place for travellers entering from the UK. Additional restrictions are in place for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which may include mandatory quarantine measures or bans for international travellers.

MIDDLE EAST
Iran
5 July - From Sunday, the wearing of face masks in public places is mandatory and the measure will remain in place until 22 July, though it may be extended. The government cited covered spaces where the public gather as specific areas where masks should be worn. The government has also indicated that that authorities in areas that are identified as 'red,' the highest level on Iran's color-coded scale of COVID-19 risk, may re-impose

lockdown measures if necessary. The provinces of Bushehr, East Azerbaijan, Hormozgan, Kermanshah, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Lorestan and West Azerbaijan are classified as 'red,' with high numbers of cases. Authorities have also cited the provinces of Golestan and Sistan and Baluchestan as areas of concern.

4 July - Authorities on Saturday introduced further restrictions due to a rise in COVID-19 case in Iran, as a further 148 fatalities were reported by the Health Ministry. The Iranian government disclosed that those who do not comply with the rule of wearing a face mask in indoor public spaces will be denied state services. Additionally, businesses failing to adhere to health and safety protocols will be ordered to close.

Iraq

4 July - On Saturday, local authorities in the northern province of Erbil began easing restrictions in place amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Authorities announced the reopening of shops and restaurants (for delivery only) from 5 July between 05:00 - 20:00. All establishments will be closed on Fridays, except for pharmacies and bakeries. Government offices have also reopened at a 30% capacity between Sunday and Wednesday from 09:00 - 13:00. Strict health restrictions and hygiene measures will be in place and civil servants and visitors will be required to wear face masks. Public transport and private clinics will be allowed to resume operations, following strict precautionary measures. Restrictions will continue to apply at mosques, churches, wedding venues, public baths, language centres, condolence halls, gyms, cafes, bars, swimming pools and all public parks and spaces, which will remain closed. There will be no restrictions on traffic and movement within the province, however the travel ban between Erbil province and other provinces of the region and the rest of the country remains in place until further notice.

2 July - The Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority (ICAA) announced on Thursday that the current ban on regular commercial flight operations has been extended until at least 15 July in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. The ban includes both domestic and international flights, though medial and freight operations are exempt from the ban. A further exception to the ban will allow Iraqi Airways to resume commercial flights between Baghdad and Beirut from 2 July.

Israel

3 July - On Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a "major outbreak" of COVID-19 as active cases passed 10,000 for the first time. The health ministry on 2 July reported an increase of 1,130 cases, which is a single-day record. New restrictions have now come into force, including the immediate closure of gyms, event halls, bars, night clubs and cultural events. Restaurants will only be allowed a maximum of 20 customers indoors and 30 outdoors, while synagogues will only be allowed to host 19 worshippers at a time. The passenger limit on public transport has also been significantly reduced.

Jordan

30 June - Jordanian authorities on Tuesday announced that the suspension on regular commercial international flights would be extended until at least 14 July in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Kuwait

3 July - The Kuwait government announced on Friday that the current lockdown in Mahboula and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh will be lifted on 9 July amidst the easing of some COVID-19 restrictions. Both areas had been previously declared COVID-19 hotspots. Furthermore, a partial curfew remain in effect between 19:00 - 05:00 daily. The total lockdown in Hawally, Nuqra, Maidan Hawally and some blocks in Khaitan will also be lifted.

Oman

2 July - Omani Health Minister Ahmed Al-Saidi announced on Thursday that the stricter implementation of COVID-19 measures need to be applied in the country in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. Al-Saidi further announced in a press conference that during the first four months of the virus's presence in the country, 7,700 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed, however during the month of June, over 27,000 new cases have been confirmed in Oman. Additionally, Minister of Transport Ahmad Al-Futaisi announced that land and air borders would remain closed and Omani residents would not be permitted to go outside the Sultanate. Anyone who enters Oman will be subject to a 14-day quarantine period.

United Arab Emirates

7 July - On Tuesday, authorities in the UAE emirate of Dubai eased travel restrictions for international tourists, permitting their arrival for the first time in months follow a ban due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All arrivals must have travel insurance with COVID-19 medical cover, as well as proof of such coverage, or declare that they are

willing to bear the cost of treatment and isolation if necessary. All passengers are expected to produce a negative COVID-19 test prior to boarding flights to Dubai that is less than 96 hours old. Failing this, a PCR test is available on arrival and passengers must self-isolate until they receive the results of the test.

THE AMERICAS (NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH)

Bahamas
1 July - On Wednesday, the Bahamian government reopened the country's borders to international tourists following its closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those arriving before 7 July must provide negative COVID-19 test results that are no more than 10 days old. After 7 July, arrivals must provide a test result that is no more than seven days old. Travellers must also upload an electronic Health Visa prior to departure. There will be no quarantine period for arrivals, however those showing symptoms may be subjected to further testing.

Brazil
7 July - President Jair Bolsonaro has disclosed that he has tested positive for COVID-19. The Brazilian leader, who has previously dismissed the virus as a "little flu," indicated that he began feeling unwell on Sunday, though he has insisted that his condition has improved since having treatment. He disclosed that he is currently taking the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and the antibiotic azithromycin. In recent months, President Bolsonaro has downplayed the severity of COVID-19 and has often appeared in public shaking hands with supporters and mingling with crowds, at times without a mask.

2 July - Brazilian authorities announced on Thursday that the current closure of borders has been extended for an additional 30 days following a rise in COVID-19 cases. All air, land and sea borders will remain closed to foreign nationals until 29 July. Travellers arriving by air must arrive at either São Paulo International Airport, Tom Jobim International Airport, Viracopos International Airport, or Brasília International Airport, and must present a medical declaration that shows that they have not tested positive for COVID-19 from a doctor or health authority.

Colombia
7 July - President Duque has announced that measures in place to stem the spread of COVID-19 in Colombia have been extended until 1 August. A number of measures, including travel restrictions under the nationwide quarantine, had been due to be lifted on 15 July however a continued increase in the rate of new COVID-19 infections prompted the government to extend the lockdown.

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.

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References are always available.

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