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December 10, 2020

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## Africa

## **BURKINA FASO (CSAR: High) - Authorities Maintain COVID-19 Restrictions Nationwide**

As of Dec. 9, authorities in Burkina Faso continue to maintain longstanding measures introduced to curb the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

### *International Travel*

International commercial air travel resumed from Thomas Sankara International Airport (OUA) and Bobo Dioulassa Airport (BOY) Aug. 1. All travelers arriving in Burkina Faso must present a negative COVID-19 test certificate taken up to five days before arrival. Travelers without a test certificate will require testing at the port of entry and face up to 14 days of quarantine at home or in a hotel of choice if positive. Authorities will also perform temperature checks at the airport. Travelers departing the country will also have to present a negative COVID-19 test taken up to five days before travel. Land borders remain closed; essential cargo transport continues but will likely be subject to delays.

### *Domestic Measures*

Domestic air services resumed in Burkina Faso July 24, with Air Burkina (2J) running at least two flights a day between OUA and BOY. The resumption of domestic and international flights follows the expiration of a nationwide 2100-040 health curfew June 3. The wearing of facemasks in public remains mandatory nationwide, and all security-related curfew in areas under a state of emergency will continue. Affected areas include Est, Sahel, Boucle de Mouhoun, Nord, Haut Bassins, and Centre-Est regions. Amendments and updates to the restrictions are possible in the coming days.

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (CSAR: High) - Five People Killed, Four Kidnapped in Armed Attack by Suspected Militia in the Djugu Territory**

Suspected militiamen from the Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO) killed at least five people, injured four others, and kidnapped another four in the village of Bwanga, Djugu territory, Ituri Province, Dec. 8. Preliminary reports indicate that armed men raided the village at approximately 1900. Authorities are in contact with the leaders of CODECO to obtain the release of the kidnapped individuals.

## **GAMBIA (CSAR: Moderate) - Authorities Maintain Minimal COVID-19-related Restrictions**

As of Dec. 9, Gambian authorities have eased restrictions as part of efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The related nationwide state of emergency expired Sept. 17.

### *Domestic Measures*

Authorities have ended the nationwide nightly curfew, and all markets are allowed to operate. Nonessential shops have also resumed regular operations, including hotels, motels, lodges, bars, restaurants, video clubs, museums, public swimming pools, nightclubs, and gyms. All businesses that reopen must adhere to strict hygiene and social distancing measures. Schools and educational institutions have also been allowed to reopen. Limited religious gatherings are permitted, provided health protocols are adhered to. The use of protective facemasks is mandatory in public spaces.

### *International Travel*

Authorities have also reopened land and sea borders. All travelers must present evidence of a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test obtained no more than 72 hours before arriving in the country. Travelers who fail to produce a valid test certificate will be quarantined at a state facility at personal cost.

## **GHANA (CSAR: Moderate) - Authorities Report at Least Five Killed in Election-related Violence**

At least five people have died in election-related violence across Ghana following the country's polls held on Dec. 7. Up to 21 incidents, including clashes involving firearms, were reported by authorities nationwide. It is currently unclear which groups were involved in the violence; however, recent elections in Ghana have remained relatively peaceful despite the fatalities.

**Analysis:** Further protests and associated gatherings are likely ahead of the possible announcement of results Dec. 9-10. Heightened security and transportation disruptions are likely in the vicinity of all election-related gatherings. Protesters and activists may gather near government buildings, in city or town centers, and along major road routes in Accra and other large cities.

## LESOTHO (CSAR: **Moderate**) - Authorities Reopen Land and Air Borders

As of Dec. 9, authorities in Lesotho have partially reopened borders as they relax measures imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

### *International Travel*

- The land border crossing points at Maseru Bridge, Caledonspoort (Butha Buthe), Maputsoe Bridge, Qacha's Nek Bridge, and Van Rooyen's Gate (Mafeteng) are open.
- Flights between Johannesburg, South Africa, and Maseru are allowed to operate; however, flights remain limited.
- All categories of travelers, including tourists, are permitted entry. However, all visitors to Lesotho must transit via South Africa.
- Travelers entering or exiting Lesotho will need to present a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test COVID-19 test, taken no longer than 72 hours before arrival or departure.
- Travelers showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate at their permanent or temporary residence or may be placed in a government isolation facility at their own expense.
- Anyone permitted entry is required to provide details of where they will be staying during their stay.
- Truck drivers, Basotho students studying in South Africa, and others who cross the border daily are permitted to cross for 14 days before another PCR COVID-19 test is required; however, Basotho nationals and residents who exit Lesotho less frequently will be permitted re-entry within seven days of the original test.

### *Domestic Restrictions*

- Schools are permitted to open with appropriate social distancing and sanitization methods; however, not all have reopened.
- All businesses and offices are permitted to operate, provided they adhere to social distancing and sanitization requirements.
- All restrictions on cafes and restaurants are lifted, though they must avoid overcrowding and ensure frequent cleaning.
- Religious activities are permitted to resume but must not be longer than two hours. Indoor capacity is limited to 50 percent and 500 people at outdoor venues.
- Funerals are permitted but must be completed by 1000.
- All outdoor sports are permitted with a 50-percent spectator capacity.
- Gyms are permitted to reopen; however, all equipment must be sanitized after each use.
- The wearing of protective facemasks is mandatory in all public places.
- Public transport has been permitted to operate at full capacity, provided that social distancing measures adhere.

The partial lifting of restrictions began Aug. 23. Security forces have been deployed to enforce compliance, with additional security deployed to border areas to prevent travelers from entering the country from South Africa. Those caught contravening COVID-19 measures and restrictions will face penalties, such as fines.

## **MOZAMBIQUE (CSAR: Moderate) - Security Forces Clash with Militants in Mute, Palma District, Cabo Delgado Province**

Defense and Security Forces (SDS) forces clashed with suspected Islamist militants in the village of Mute in Palma District of Cabo Delgado Dec. 7-8. According to local media reports, assailants attacked security forces in the late afternoon Dec. 7. Several casualties have been reported. Clashes were reportedly ongoing late Dec. 8. Most inhabitants of the town have reportedly fled to the district capital, Palma.

Mute is located approximately 25 km (15 miles) southwest of Palma, which is host to several large energy projects in the Afungi peninsula and offshore fields in the Rovuma Basin.

**Analysis:** The coastal Palma, Mocimboa da Praia, and Macomia districts are likely to remain the focus of insurgent activity through early 2021. Recent attacks on larger coastal towns, including Mocimboa da Praia and Quissanga, signal an increased militant intent and capability to attack larger and more complex targets, as well as confidence in their ability to gain and hold territory. Despite this, no conventional military attacks have been carried out against facilities linked to natural gas exploitation in the area, mainly in the Afungi Peninsula. Onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities have government protection and private security force support. Insurgent activity currently poses a severe threat to ground travel in Cabo Delgado Province, including along the N380 and N381 highways.

## **NIGERIA (CSAR: High) - Militants Kill 10 Soldiers in Borno State**

Suspected militants linked to the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) killed 10 Nigerian soldiers and kidnapped one in Alagarno village of Borno State, Dec. 7. Authorities confirmed the attack and abduction, stating that the two sides fought and sustained casualties before the militants overtook the soldiers.

**Analysis:** ISWAP remains a deadly force in Nigeria's northeast. Efforts to clamp down on militant attacks have largely failed to halt the proliferation of militancy in the region. Deadly attacks and kidnappings are very frequent, posing extreme challenges to locals and foreigners in the area.

## **RWANDA (CSAR: Low) - Officials Maintain Several Domestic Measures Put in Place to Curb the Spread of Coronavirus Disease**

As of Dec. 9, Rwandan authorities are maintaining the nation's 2200-0400 curfew as part of domestic measures put in place to curb the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Authorities have previously eased several COVID-19 restrictions. Domestic and international flights have resumed. International passengers arriving at Kigali International Airport (KGL) airport must present a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken within 120 hours prior to departure. In addition, all arriving passengers are required to quarantine at a designated hotel for a minimum of 24 hours in order to complete a second COVID-19 test. A similar test certificate is required upon departure from Rwanda. Restaurants, hotels, shops, and tourism services have resumed limited operations but must comply with social distancing guidelines. Officials require all traders to accept digital payments as alternative forms of payment. Places of worship are permitted to resume services. National parks are now open to visitors who have tested negative for COVID-19.

The following measures remain in place:

- Individuals are required to wear protective face coverings while in public.
- Land borders remained closed except the border with DRC; the country's borders with Uganda, Burundi, and Tanzania are open for goods and cargo traffics, as well as returning Rwandan citizens and legal residents. A returnees are subjected to mandatory quarantine in accordance with existing health guidelines at their own cost.
- Bars are closed until further notice.
- Some academic activities have resumed, with authorities conducting mass testing at schools.
- Funeral attendance may not exceed 75 persons.
- Government offices will remain open, albeit with only 50 percent of their staff working on-site at a time, while other employees work from home.

- Malls and markets may operate at 50-percent capacity.
- Worship/religious services will increase to 50 percent of venue capacity.
- Church wedding ceremonies should not exceed 75 persons; COVID-19 tests will not be required for reception with fewer than 75 guests.
- Meetings and conferences must not exceed 50 percent of venue capacity; participants will not require proof of COVID-19 tests.
- Public transportation will continue to operate at full capacity for seated passengers and 50 percent for standing passengers.

All establishments that reopen and activities that resume are subject to strict health directives aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19. Rwandan authorities review the country's preventive measures every 15 days and could reimpose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

#### **SOMALIA (CSAR: Severe) - Suspected Militias Kill at Least Five Military Personnel in Guri-EI town, Galmudug**

Unidentified militants have reportedly killed at least five military personnel and wounded three others in Guri-EI town, Galmudug, Somalia, late Dec. 9. Preliminary information indicates the attackers ambushed the officers while returning from a training workshop.

**Analysis:** No group has claimed responsibility for the incident; however, Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab frequently carries out attacks on civilian and military targets in the area. Security forces will likely establish security checkpoints and roadblocks in the impact area. Further clashes are possible.

#### **SOMALIA (CSAR: Severe) - Unidentified Militants Attack Security Checkpoints in Kaaraan and Wardhigley Districts**

Unidentified militants reportedly launched attacks on at least three security checkpoints in Mogadishu's Kaaraan and Wardhigley districts late Dec. 9. A preliminary report indicates the attackers targeted the installations using rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, automatic weapons, and grenades. Casualty figures are currently unclear. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident; however, Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab frequently carries out attacks in the city.

**Analysis:** Heightened security and localized transport disruptions are likely in the impact area in the coming hours as the security forces' response is ongoing. An investigation into the incident is likely once the situation is under control. Business disruptions are possible if additional security incidents occur.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA (CSAR: Moderate) - Opposition EFF Calls Protest March from CPUT to Department of Labour in Cape Town**

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) opposition group has called for a protest in Cape Town from 0900 Dec. 10. Participants will gather at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) before marching to the Department of Labour, located on the corner of Riebeeck Street and Long Street. Attendance will likely be in the low hundreds.

**Analysis:** An increased security presence is likely near the protest area. Police may move to disperse protesters if they are deemed to be in breach of COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. Transport disruptions are also possible in the vicinity of the protest location.

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## Asia

### CHINA (CSAR: **Moderate**) - Officials Downgrade Zhangjiang and Zhuqiao Areas of Shanghai

Authorities have downgraded 450 Hangcheng 7th Road and Xinsheng community in Zhuqiao Township and 126 Shunh Road in Zhangjiang Township to low-risk for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as of Dec. 9, following no new COVID-19 cases within those communities in the past 14 days. City officials have declared all areas of Shanghai as low risk.

Governments in several other provinces and cities require individuals traveling from affected communities in Pudon Area to undergo increased health screenings. Such measures could remain in place for several days, despite the reduction in risk level.

### CHINA (CSAR: **Moderate**) - Officials Tighten COVID-19 Controls in Pidu District, Chengdu

Officials in Chengdu are tightening restrictions in Pidu District due to ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) transmission as of Dec. 9. Taiping village, located approximately 24 km (15 miles) northwest of central Chengdu, remain a medium-risk location. Localized movement restrictions are ongoing; residents cannot depart the area without proof of negative nucleic acid COVID-19 test result. City officials have launched a mass testing campaign in the district; testing could also occur in other areas of Chengdu if additional cases emerge. Education officials have ordered teachers and students to quarantine at home and undergo testing. Authorities are also restricting capacity at public entertainment venues to 75 percent. It is unclear how long the controls will remain in effect; however, measures typically last around two weeks, depending on COVID-19 activity.

Numerous security and emergency response personnel have deployed to Taiping village and nearby areas to conduct health screenings. Authorities will conduct temperature scans and ensure people wear protective face coverings on public transport in nearby areas. Additional business and transport restrictions are possible in Pidu District in the coming days. If officials discover a significant outbreak, the government could impose restrictive measures throughout Chengdu.

Authorities in most other provinces and cities will require people traveling from Taiping Village to undergo increased health screenings. Provincial and municipal governments could advise residents to avoid all nonessential travel to Pidu District. Controls on long-distance transportation services could occur at short notice.

### INDIA (CSAR: **Moderate**) - All Assam Students' Union to Hold Protests in Assam State

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) plans to hold statewide protests across Assam Dec. 12 to mark the one-year anniversary of the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The CAA eases the pathway to Indian citizenship for persecuted foreign religious minorities who entered India before the end of 2014; Assamese groups have opposed the CAA because an influx of foreigners may change demographics in tribal and border regions. Demonstrators will likely gather in urban centers, including the state capital, Dispur, as well as other major cities such as Guwahati.

**Analysis:** Protesters will probably demonstrate at popular protest locations, such as government buildings and public squares. AASU members have also marched along roadways during previous protests. Hundreds of people will likely participate in larger gatherings. Security personnel will likely monitor protests and may enforce coronavirus disease (COVID-19) gathering restrictions. Clashes between protesters and police are possible, especially if security forces forcibly attempt to disperse demonstrators. Localized transport disruptions are also possible, as protesters may march along roadways.

## **INDONESIA (CSAR: Moderate) - Protests Likely Nationwide through mid-December, after Police Name Cleric a Suspect for Health Rule Breaches**

Islamist activists, especially members of the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI), will likely stage protests through mid-December to denounce the police's Dec. 10 decision to name cleric Rizieq Shihab as a suspect for alleged coronavirus disease (COVID-19) health protocol violations. The largest protests will probably occur in Jakarta, especially at FPI headquarters in Petamburan, Tanah Abang, and outside the Jakarta Metro Police (Polda Metro Jaya). Smaller demonstrations will likely occur at police offices, government buildings, and popular protest sites in other cities nationwide, including Bandung, Makassar, Medan, and Surabaya. Hundreds to thousands of people may participate in any gathering.

**Analysis:** Authorities will almost certainly increase security, including erecting roadblocks and security cordons, at any protest sites. Localized road closures and business disruptions are likely during any gathering, especially if activists occupy or blockade any streets. Groups that oppose FPI and Shihab may stage counterrallies near any demonstrations. Clashes between protesters and security forces or between opposing groups of activists are possible. Mass arrests may occur if security forces consider any demonstrator to violate COVID-19 restrictions.

Officials claim the health rule breaches occurred during a Nov. 14 event that Shihab organized at FPI's headquarters in Jakarta. The police's announcement came days after a Dec. 7 incident in which police officers shot and killed six alleged FPI members. FPI activists claim that authorities are unfairly processing the case against Shihab without also prosecuting other instances of health control breaches in Indonesia, including during local election campaigns. Various civic groups have held demonstrations against FPI and Shihab, claiming that the FPI is not tolerant of other religions and does not adhere to COVID-19 health protocols.

## **MYANMAR (CSAR: Moderate) - Clashes between Arakan Army and Security Forces Continue in Northwestern Rakhine State**

Clashes between the Arakan Army (AA) and government forces continue to pose a threat in northwest Rakhine State as of Dec. 10. Fighting, which includes the use of artillery and airstrikes, between the two sides has persisted since the conflict escalated in January 2019. Clashes have occurred in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung townships; fighting has periodically spread to southern parts of Chin State, especially Paletwa Township. The military has reportedly detained locals suspected of being members of the AA; some detainees have reportedly been shot dead. Clashes have displaced at least 130,000 people from Rakhine State. Additionally, the AA has frequently staged kidnappings, including that of three election candidates from the ruling party National League for Democracy (NLD) in October. While the AA and the Myanmar government have frequently engaged in ceasefire discussions, there have been no clear indications that the talks have resulted in a permanent reduction in violence in the region.

**Analysis:** The threat of violence by Rohingya militants in northwest Rakhine State has diminished in recent months; however, further clashes or attacks may still occur. There have been no reports of notable security incidents since the militants staged attacks on security posts in August 2017; the attacks prompted a military crackdown, resulting in hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh. The Rohingya militants have mainly targeted border checkpoints and other security installations in the northwestern townships. Past militant attacks have also contributed to ethno-religious tensions between the majority Rakhine Buddhists and the minority Rohingya Muslims.

Security forces remain on high alert in Rakhine State, especially in the northwestern region. The state government has banned the UN and all NGOs from visiting Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung; exemptions are in place for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and World Food Programme (WFP). Authorities may implement curfews in the affected areas. Other enhanced security measures may include checkpoints, roadblocks, ID checks, and intensified screenings of visitors at transport hubs like Sittwe Airport (AKY). Increased security could result in localized disruptions and travel delays. The violence has also prompted travel advisories. As of Dec. 10, the U.S. government continues to warn its citizens against traveling to Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung in Rakhine State and Paletwa in Chin State. The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) continues to advise against all but essential travel to Rakhine State, except selected southern townships, and Paletwa.

While officials lifted a blockade on internet access in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung, as well as Paletwa in August, locals said 3G and 4G networks remain inaccessible in the region, preventing them from making basic internet searches. Authorities also said they could reimpose localized restrictions in areas with significant AA activity. Localized controls and poor service may continue to affect organizations' ability to operate, and additional business disruptions are possible in the affected areas. Locals may stage protests over the alleged continued poor internet service in the region.



## **PAKISTAN (CSAR: Severe) - Activists Plan Nationwide Protests to Denounce Human Rights Abuses**

Human rights activists plan to hold protests across Pakistan Dec. 10 to mark the International Day of Human Rights. Participants intend to denounce alleged human rights abuses committed against Christians and other minority groups in the country.

**Analysis:** Demonstrators will probably gather in urban centers, where protests are likely at government buildings, monuments, and public squares. The biggest protests are likely in Punjab province as well as the Islamabad Capital Territory, which have relatively larger Christian populations. Protests will likely involve dozens of people. Security personnel may monitor larger protests. Localized transport disruptions are possible, especially if demonstrators attempt to march along roadways. Gatherings will likely proceed peacefully.

## **PHILIPPINES (CSAR: Moderate) - Authorities Bolstering Security through at Least Jan. 1 for Holiday Season**

Authorities are bolstering security across the Philippines through at least Jan. 1, 2021, for the holiday season, which includes Christmas Day (Dec. 25), Rizal Day (Dec. 30), New Year's Eve (Dec. 31), and New Year's Day (Jan. 1). The Philippine National Police (PNP) will likely deploy thousands of additional personnel in Metro Manila and other major cities to secure crowded public spaces, including shopping malls, open markets, transport hubs, and major religious sites, manage traffic on major roads, and enforce coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions. The PNP is likely to increase patrols in residential areas and around churches during the Simbang Gabi observance Dec. 16-24, when Catholics typically attend pre-dawn masses. Several localities, including Metro Manila, have banned Christmas parties and caroling events as part of COVID-19 measures. Islamist militants and insurgent groups could attempt to stage attacks, particularly against Christian targets, during the holiday period. President Rodrigo Duterte may order the suspension of work in government offices and classes in public schools beyond the announced public holidays at short notice, particularly for Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

**Analysis:** Authorities are likely to increase security measures at transport centers, including ports, and on long-distance passenger vessels nationwide. Unattended bags could prompt security operations at transport hubs and facilities. Increased criminal activity, especially theft and robbery, is possible at transport hubs nationwide. Use caution if driving, as safety remains a significant concern on major highways during the holiday season. Police could establish checkpoints along major highways to and from Metro Manila, as well as on the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA).

### *Crime*

While overall criminal activity has declined during the holiday period in recent years, the threat of pickpocketing, bag snatching, and robbery remains elevated during the holidays. Police will likely increase patrols and deploy additional personnel at public facilities, including malls, banks, hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues, to intensify anti-crime measures. Tighter security is highly likely at banks and other financial institutions, which have been targets of armed robbers and organized criminal groups in the past. Residential burglaries are also common during the holiday season.

### *Terrorism*

Authorities may issue terror warnings due to threats posed by militant groups, including Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and the New People's Army (NPA), in Mindanao. The groups may attempt to stage bombings in major cities like Davao and Zamboanga, as well as Basilan and Jolo islands. While officials have not identified any specific terrorist threat to the holiday period as of Dec. 9, officials will probably still intensify measures like checkpoints and random motorist searches, particularly in Mindanao. Potentially disruptive bomb threats may occur at shopping centers, bus terminals, metro rail stations, ports and ferries, and religious sites.

## **PHILIPPINES (CSAR: Moderate) - Officials Continue Enforcing Tight Security Measures in Mindanao**

Officials continue to enforce heightened security measures in Mindanao. Proclamation 55, ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte in September 2016, remains in effect. The proclamation placed Mindanao under a state of emergency due to persistent violence in parts of the region. Security forces have remained on high alert due to ongoing extremist activity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the New People's Army (NPA), counterterrorism operations, and continued clashes with militant groups.

Increased security measures have included additional checkpoints along major roads, at regional airports, port transport hubs, provincial and city borders, shopping malls, and other crowded places and key installations. Security forces may continue to conduct more intensive screenings of travelers and vehicles; authorities may detain individuals who fail to display valid identification cards. Local officials have advised residents against intercity and interprovincial overland travel, particularly during nighttime.

**Analysis:** Overnight curfews are possible, though the timing and enforcement may vary by location. Significant business operations are unlikely, especially in major cities like Davao, General Santos, and Zamboanga. However, local authorities may require 24-hour businesses to issue work schedules with contact details of the company and signed by an authorized officer to employees working overnight. Officials have also advised night employees to work on a buddy system. While these measures could pose minor inconveniences to day-to-day schedules, significant business impact is unlikely.

Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao in May 2017 following the armed conflict in Marawi; the martial law expired in December 2019. While officials say the order achieved its objective and that militant groups are unable to launch further large-scale operations such as the Marawi siege, armed groups continue to carry out attacks in Mindanao, prompting the continuation of Proclamation 55. Duterte is unlikely to lift the proclamation in the near term, as authorities continue to cite militant groups, including ASG and NPA, as threats in the region. Additionally, Duterte said, Dec. 7, that he would not allow any ceasefire between the government and the NPA during the rest of his administration through 2022.

#### **SRI LANKA (CSAR: Moderate) - Emergency Water Outage Affecting Parts of Colombo**

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) said an emergency water supply outage would affect Colombo's zones 12, 13, 14, and 15 through 0700 Dec. 11 due to pipeline maintenance works. Residents in zones 0 and 11 may also experience a low-pressure water supply during the period.

**Analysis:** While residents have relied on private water suppliers during previous water shortages, such services may be affected due to measures related to the control of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Some business disruptions are possible, especially for companies that rely on large quantities of municipal water to maintain operations. Prolonged and recurrent water supply disruptions are possible in the coming days, due to an ongoing nationwide weather-related water shortage.

#### **TAIWAN (CSAR: Low) - Authorities Move Australia to COVID-19 Low-risk Location List**

Taiwan continues to adjust restrictions on international travelers amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as of Dec. 10. Officials have tightened testing requirements for migrant workers from Thailand and Vietnam. Workers from these countries will have to undergo a reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) COVID-19 test before departing quarantine, bringing them in line with workers and domestic staff from Indonesia and the Philippines. Authorities continue to prohibit migrant workers from Indonesia through at least Dec. 17 due to the prevalence of cases from the group in recent weeks. Officials already require most migrant workers from Indonesia to undergo two-week quarantine at government facilities. Indonesian travelers with entry visas are exempt from the rule.

The government allows essential, short-term business travel for specific activities for residents from countries on the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC)'s low- and medium-risk location list. Travelers must remain in their home location for two weeks before departure and provide documentation from a local entity detailing the reason for the trip, full travel itinerary, a disease prevention plan, and the results of a COVID-19 test to apply for reduced quarantine. The CECC has moved Australia to the low-risk country list due to reduced transmission of COVID-19 activity in the country. As of Dec. 10, the CECC classifies Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Laos, Macau, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam as low-risk. There are no medium-risk locations. Business travelers arriving from low-risk areas must quarantine for five days at government-designated facilities, while those traveling from medium-risk destinations must quarantine for seven days. All travelers must undergo a COVID-19 test at their own expense before their release from quarantine.

Inbound travel for tourism and social reasons remains banned; however, the following exceptions to the entry ban and quarantine requirements are in effect:

- Officials allow mainland Chinese spouses of Taiwan citizens and resident foreign nationals to enter the island provided they hold reunion permits. Underage children of these travelers can also enter Taiwan. Authorities already allow children under six years old from mainland China with residence permits to enter Taiwan with one parent, provided they can complete the 14-day self-quarantine requirement.
- The Ministry of Education allows entry for all primary and secondary international students, including mainland China. Entry for foreign university students remains restricted to attendees from low- and medium-risk countries, excluding mainland China.
- The government is allowing international travelers to apply for entry to Taiwan for essential medical care. Applicants must apply at their local Taiwan diplomatic mission and present evidence of adequate health insurance, an affidavit for mandatory quarantine of 14 days, a health declaration, and a disease prevention plan from the treating facility.
- Residents from Hong Kong and Macau can apply for entry for humanitarian and emergency reasons, to fulfill contractual agreements, or as part of a transfer within multinationals.
- Officials permit foreign nationals possessing Alien Resident Certificates (ARCs), as well as Hong Kong and Macau citizens with residence permits, to enter the island without a negative COVID-19 test.
- Foreign nationals can apply to enter Taiwan for internships and training programs, conferences and trade shows, exchange programs, volunteering, missionary activities, and job searches, among others.
- Officials will allow people in self-isolation or quarantine to apply to leave for up to two hours every other day for compassionate reasons, such as to attend or plan a relative's funeral or visit a severely ill relative. The option is only available if the returning traveler has been in isolation for at least five days, asymptomatic, and pays for a COVID-19 test before leaving isolation.

Officials require most inbound passengers, including Taiwan citizens and residents, to present a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test obtained within three business days before their departing flight. Taiwan citizens and foreigners - including travelers from Hong Kong, Macau, and mainland China - with Alien Resident Certificates (ARC) who cannot obtain a test are exempt from the rule. The CECC will also grant exceptions for short-term travelers departing and returning to Taiwan within three days, children under six years old, and passengers with old test results due to flight cancellations or delays. Authorities will also grant an exception in emergency situations, but these passengers must pay for a COVID-19 test upon arrival. All travelers seeking exemptions to pre-departure testing must provide supporting documents or face penalties.

Health officials continue intensified screenings for arriving passengers, and all inbound travelers who had COVID-19 symptoms within the previous 14 days must undergo a PCR test upon arrival. Passengers testing negative must take another PCR test 24 hours later. Officials require these travelers to stay at a government quarantine facility until both results are available and see a physician before release to complete the remainder of the quarantine period. Passengers bound for Taiwan who do not accurately report their travel and medical history could face fines of up to NTD 150,000 (USD 5,300).

Most arrivals, except those from low- and medium-risk countries, must self-quarantine for 14 days. Authorities require some inbound travelers from Southeast Asian countries to undergo a 14-day quarantine at government-designated hotels; officials will direct arriving passengers living with people with chronic illnesses, children below six years old, and adults above 65 years old to the facilities. All travelers must pay for a COVID-19 test before their release from quarantine.

#### *Domestic Restrictions*

The CECC continues to mandate social distancing measures islandwide. Companies must ensure customers can maintain 1.5 meters (5 feet) of distance inside establishments, require patrons to wear facemasks when distancing is not possible, implement temperature checks, and participate in contact tracing efforts. The government is enforcing a facemask mandate at healthcare facilities, business and office locations, public transport, restaurants and bars, educational centers, sports and exhibition sites, entertainment venues, and religious spaces. People violating facemask regulations could face fines of NTD 3,000-15,000 (USD 106-531). Officials have installed thermal scanners at train stations, airports, ports, post offices, and bus hubs. Staff will deny entry to any passenger with a fever. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications requires passengers at transport hubs, inter-city buses, and highway rest stops and customers at Chunghwa Post offices to wear facemasks. Enhanced screening measures could cause delays at transport hubs across the island, especially at airports and main railway stations.

Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport (TPE) allows transit passengers; however, travelers must connect with the same airline through TPE and limit connections in Taiwan to eight hours. Officials have cleared China Airlines (CI), EVA Air (BR), and Cathay Pacific (CX) to operate transit flights, but connecting flights to or from mainland China remain banned. Taiwan is maintaining limits on flights to mainland China indefinitely. Under the measures, airlines are only allowed to fly to airports in Beijing (PEK), Shanghai (SHA, PVG), Xiamen (XMN), and Chengdu (CTU), though officials are reportedly planning to approve more cities in the coming weeks. China Airlines and EVA Air continue to cancel most flight service to mainland China. Taiwan is maintaining a ban on cruise ships.

#### **TAIWAN (CSAR: Low) - Magnitude-4.9 Offshore Earthquake Strikes East of Taiwan**

A magnitude-4.9 offshore earthquake occurred in the Philippine Sea, east of Taiwan, at around 1329 CST Dec. 10. The epicenter was approximately 65 km (40 miles) south of Hualien. The tremor occurred at a depth of about 35 km (22 miles), and probably caused moderate-to-strong shaking in coastal areas of eastern Taiwan; moderate and weak shaking reportedly occurred in other areas of the island. There have been no initial reports of damage or casualties, but some damage is possible in eastern coastal counties. It could take several hours until authorities can conduct comprehensive damage assessments, especially in remote areas. Aftershocks are likely over the coming days. The event did not prompt any tsunami advisories.

**Analysis:** Officials may temporarily shut down transportation infrastructure in areas where shaking occurred to check for damage. Minor disruptions could occur during shutdowns, but service will likely resume quickly if authorities do not find any damage. Utility outages are possible, particularly near the earthquake's epicenter.

#### **THAILAND (CSAR: Moderate) - Pro-democracy Activists to Gather at 14 October 1973 Memorial and United Nations Building in Bangkok**

Pro-democracy activists have called for supporters to gather at 14 October 1973 Memorial in Bangkok from 1000 and at United Nations Building from 1030 Dec. 10. The rallies are occurring the same day as Thailand's Constitution Day and International Human Rights Day. Hundreds to thousands of people could participate in each action.

**Analysis:** Authorities will almost certainly heighten security, including erecting roadblocks and security cordons, near the demonstration sites. Pro-government groups may stage counterprotests near the locations. Police will probably disperse demonstrators if they attempt to bypass security cordons. Clashes between rival groups, as well as between protesters and security personnel, are possible. Mass arrests may occur if security forces consider any demonstrators to violate coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, lese majeste laws that ban alleged insults against the monarchy, or requirements for public gathering permits. Officials may close nearby train stations to facilitate security measures. Localized transport disruptions are likely, especially if activists occupy nearby roads.

Royalist and pro-democracy activists have staged multiple rival demonstrations in Bangkok and other cities nationwide since July. Pro-democracy groups are denouncing the current government's alleged non-democratic policies and are demanding political reforms, such as rewriting the constitution and Prayuth's resignation. However, royalist groups claim that pro-democracy agendas undermine the monarchy and state institutions and have demonstrated against actions of organizations that they deem are disrespectful of the monarchy.

### **VIETNAM (CSAR: Moderate) - Authorities Enforcing COVID-19 Curbs**

Vietnam continues to enforce restrictions to stem the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as of Dec. 10. Inbound commercial flights remain suspended until further notice. Chartered flights may operate on a case-by-case basis to transport Vietnamese citizens and foreign nationals who are allowed to enter the country. Officials require people who can still enter Vietnam to test negative for COVID-19 within five days before the travel date, isolate at designated facilities for at least five days, and test for COVID-19 twice at the quarantine sites, with limited exemptions.

Additionally, authorities plan to remove quarantine requirements for business travelers from South Korea who would be in Vietnam for less than 14 days beginning Jan. 1, 2021. The visitor must test negative for COVID-19 within five days before the trip, undergo additional tests upon arrival, and adhere to a pre-agreed itinerary while in Vietnam.

The central government is allowing public transport to operate nationwide with precautions in place. Safeguards include requiring passengers to wear facemasks, complete health declaration forms before the trips, and frequently sanitize the hands. However, areas with COVID-19 activity may implement additional transport restrictions, such as reduce operating hours or vehicle capacity.

Parts of Vietnam have relaxed controls due to decreased local COVID-19 activity, though several areas have maintained some restrictions. The central government has given provincial or city authorities discretion to modify curbs to local conditions. Tourism activities are ongoing in various areas, including Hoi An and Phu Yen Province. Precautions in tourism sites typically require visitors and workers to wear facemasks, maintain physical distancing, and clean the hands regularly. Additionally, in various locations, including Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, people have to wear facemask when in public; violators may face fines of VND 100,000-300,000 (USD 4-13). Central and local officials may reintroduce or implement additional controls if new COVID-19 activity increases further.

Foreigners remain banned from entering Vietnam, except foreign experts, investors, managers, skilled workers, and resident diplomats, among others. While short-term trips to Vietnam for leisure purposes remain banned, officials have started to reissue electronic visas to foreign nationals from 80 locations, including Australia, mainland China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, the UK, and the US.

Vietnamese and Japanese authorities allow reciprocal travel arrangements for business and official purposes. While the passengers will be exempt from quarantine requirements, they must test for COVID-19 before the trips and upon arrival in the destination country and have to comply with a pre-agreed travel itinerary.

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[Central/South America](#)

## **ARGENTINA (CSAR: Moderate) - Pro-abortion Activists to Protest in Several Urban Centers**

Pro-abortion activists affiliated with various groups, including the National Campaign for Safe, Legal and Free Abortio (Campa'a Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto Legal, Seguro y Gratuito), plan to rally and protest in multiple cities across Argentina on Dec. 10-11. The purpose of the action is to show support for a bill President Alberto Fernandez sent to the Legislature on Nov. 17, which seeks to legalize abortion.

The largest demonstration will take place in Buenos Aires, with a rally outside of the National Congress beginning at 1000. Protesters in Buenos Aires plan to remain on-site through the duration of the Congressional voting session on the proposed abortion bill, which is expected to last approximately 30 hours. Other confirmed demonstrations that are likely to draw large crowds will start at the following locations:

- **Bahia Blanca:** Plaza Rivadavia, 1900
- **Bariloche:** Civic Center, 1700
- **Cordoba:** Plaza Velez Sarsfield, 1800
- **Jujuy:** Plaza Belgrano, 1700
- **Parana:** Casa de Gobierno de Entre Rios, 1830
- **Rosario:** Plaza San Martin
- **Salta:** Plaza de la Legislatura, 1000
- **Santa Fe:** Plaza San Martin
- **Santiago del Estero:** Plaza Libertad
- **Tucuman:** Casa Historica, 1800

**Analysis:** Unannounced, spontaneous, or impromptu demonstrations could occur in other cities and towns nationwide. Anti-abortion groups plan to hold counterprotests, especially in Buenos Aires. Participation at events is likely to vary by location. Disruptions are likely near all large gatherings. Significant violence is not likely; however, isolated skirmishes are possible if opposing groups are near each other, or if police attempt to clear any potential roadblocks.

## **CHILE (CSAR: Low) - Officials Amend Coronavirus Disease-related Restrictions**

As of Dec. 9, officials in Chile have amended national and local restrictions put in place to limit the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Specific measures imposed vary by location and intensity based on local disease activity. A multiphase quarantine system remains in effect. In areas under Phase-1 quarantines, all individuals must remain in their homes every day unless they possess a safe-conduct pass. For those under Phase-2 quarantines, individuals must stay in their homes during weekends and holidays unless they possess a safe-conduct pass. Some locations have advanced to Phase 3 or Phase 4, under which there are no quarantine mandates; in these areas, nationwide restrictions remain in effect and nonquarantine orders, such as capacity limits in businesses and school closures, continue to be enforced. Persons in areas under Phase-1 and Phase-2 quarantine orders are not permitted to travel to other regions in the country, and those in areas not under quarantine orders may not enter regions that are subject to quarantines.

#### *Nationwide*

A nightly 0001-0500 curfew is in effect indefinitely; residents must remain in their homes during curfew hours. All persons over the age of 75 must stay in their homes; exceptions are in place for limited outings and depending on COVID-19 activity levels in the area. Events with more than 50 people remain prohibited. Nonessential businesses, including theaters, bars, and public gymnasiums, are closed until further notice. Restaurants may only operate for delivery and carryout services; seated dining remains banned.

Those traveling to the country must fill out a health questionnaire before departure. Nonresident foreigners must present negative results from a COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken no more than 72 hours before departure and purchase a health insurance policy that will cover at least USD 30,000 of COVID-19-related medical costs in Chile.

Chilean citizens and residents may enter without taking a PCR test but must quarantine for 14 days if they do so. All persons must fill out a form reporting on their health daily for their first 14 days in Chile. Until further notice, Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (SCL) in Santiago will be the only airport accepting foreign nationals arriving from abroad.

Individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 must quarantine for 14 days or until they no longer present symptoms, whichever is longer. Anyone who has had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact or prolonged exposure (two or more hours in a shared home, hotel, or office) with a person confirmed to have COVID-19 must quarantine for at least 14 days.

All persons must wear facemasks while in public, including parks, mass transit vehicles, and elevators. Health officials recommend medical-grade masks, but improvised or homemade coverings are permitted as long as they cover both the nose and mouth.

All persons must adhere to social distancing standards by keeping at least one meter (three feet) away from others. Exceptions are in place for individuals sharing vehicles and residences or engaged in work or other activities where maintaining such a distance is impossible.

#### *Santiago Metropolitan Region*

The boroughs of Cerro Navia, La Granja, La Pintana, Lo Espejo, Los Ríos, Paillaco, Pedro Aguirre Cerda, Pudahuel, and San Joaquín are under a Phase-2 quarantine. Additionally, authorities have announced that they will declare the entire Metropolitan Region to be under Phase 2 effective 0500 Dec. 10.

#### *Araucanía Region*

The boroughs of Cholchol, Curarrehue, Freire, Lautaro, Padre Las Casas, and Temuco are under a Phase-1 quarantine. Authorities have announced that Los Sauces and Angol will be declared to be under a Phase-1 quarantine effective 0500 Dec. 10.

The boroughs of Angol, Collipulli, Galvarino, Los Sauces, Perquenco, Tolten, and Vilcun are under a Phase-2 quarantine. Authorities have announced that Renaico will be declared to be under a Phase-2 quarantine effective 0500 Dec. 10.

#### *Bio-Bio Region*

The boroughs of Canete and Curanilahue are under a Phase-1 quarantine.

The boroughs of Arauco, Chiguayante, Concepcion, Florida, Hualpen, Hualqui, Lebu, Los Angeles, Nacimiento, Negrete, San Pedro de la Paz, Santa Juana, Talcahuano, and Tome are under Phase-2 quarantines.

The boroughs of Concepcion, Coronel, Chiguayante, Hualpen, Hualqui, Lota, Penco, San Pedro de la Paz, Talcahuano, and Tome are under an expanded curfew requiring residents to remain at home 2000-0500 nightly.

#### *Los Lagos Region*

The boroughs of Calbuco, Chonchi, Puqueldon, and Queilen are under a Phase-1 quarantine, as are the urban areas of Ancud, Maullin, and Quemchi.

The boroughs of Castro, Dalcahue, Hualaihue, Los Muermos, Osorno, Puerto Montt, Puerto Varas, and San Juan de los Costa are under a Phase-2 quarantine, as are the rural areas of Ancud, Maullin, and Quemchi, and the urban areas of Purránque, Quinchao, and Rio Negro.

Chiloe Province remains cordoned off, with no one being allowed to enter or leave except for persons in possession of a safe-conduct pass.

Osorno and Puerto Montt are under an expanded curfew requiring residents to remain at home 2000-0500 nightly.

Persons entering or exiting the region must undergo health screening and present an affidavit attesting to their health and travel history at established checkpoints.

Persons entering Chiloe Island from any point of departure, or entering or exiting Ancud, must undergo health screening and present an affidavit detailing their health and travel history.

Public transportation throughout the region may only operate at 50-percent capacity; the number of passengers allowed in taxis remains restricted.

#### *Los Rios Region*

The boroughs of Futrono, Los Lagos, and Valdivia are under a Phase-1 quarantine.

The boroughs of Lago Ranco, Lanco, La Union, and Rio Bueno are under a Phase-2 quarantine, as is the urban area of Panguipulli.

#### *Magallanes Region*

The boroughs of Natales and Punta Arenas are under a Phase-1 quarantine. Authorities have announced that Puerto Williams will also be declared to be under a Phase-1 quarantine effective 0500 Dec. 10.

The borough of Porvenir is under a Phase-2 quarantine.

The urban area of Punta Arenas remains cordoned off, with no one being allowed to enter or leave, except for persons in possession of a safe-conduct pass.

The city of Puerto Williams remains cordoned off, with no one being allowed to enter or leave, except for persons in possession of a safe-conduct pass.

Natales, Porvenir, and Punta Arenas under an expanded curfew requiring residents to remain at home 2000-0500 nightly.

Persons entering the region must undergo health screening and present an affidavit detailing their health and travel history at established checkpoints throughout the Strait of Magellan area.

#### *Maule Region*

The borough of Parral is under a Phase-2 quarantine.



Authorities have set up checkpoints on Route J-30, Route J-60, Route J-70, Route M-80, Route M-910, Route 5 South and Route 126. All persons crossing the checkpoints must have their temperature taken and submit to any further medical examination authorities deem necessary to check for symptoms of COVID-19.

Additionally, authorities have banned events of 50 or more people and prohibited all religious gatherings.

#### *Nuble Region*

The urban areas of Chillan and Chillan Viejo are under a Phase-2 quarantine, as is the borough of Quillon.

#### *Tarapaca Region*

The borough of Iquique is under a Phase-2 quarantine.

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## Europe

### **ALBANIA (CSAR: Moderate) - Protests Condemning a Police-involved Shooting in Tirana Likely to Continue**

Protests condemning a police-involved killing are likely to continue in Tirana through at least Dec. 13. Activists are protesting the killing of a Tirana resident by security forces on early Dec. 8. Demonstrations have been occurring in front of the Ministry of Interior Headquarters and the Albanian Government building since Dec. 9. Police deployed riot-control tactics, including tear gas and baton charges, after demonstrators began throwing projectiles at security forces. As many as nine police officers and at least three demonstrators have been injured.

**Analysis:** Authorities will almost certainly heighten security during any demonstrations. Localized transport and business disruptions are likely, especially at any protests with a large attendance. Clashes between police and gathering participants are possible.

### **BELGIUM (CSAR: Low) - Activists to Demonstrate in Urban Centers**

The General Labour Federation of Belgium (FGTB/ABVV) plans to lead demonstrations in urban centers nationwide Dec. 10. The purpose of the action is to denounce a criminal conviction against participants at a 2015 strike that critics argue undermines the right to demonstrate and strike. Demonstrations have been confirmed at the following times and locations:

- **Brussels:** Place de la Liberte, 1130
- **Arlon:** Palais de Justice, 1030
- **Bruges:** Courthouse, 1000

- **Charleroi:** Tribunal de Charleroi, 1000
- **Ghent:** Bridge between Belgicastraat and Skaldenstraat, 1100
- **Liege:** Place Saint Lambert, 0845
- **Mons:** Palais de Justice, 1100
- **Namur:** Palais de Justice, 1100
- **Tournai:** Palais de Justice, 1000
- **Verviers:** Palais de Justice, 0730

**Analysis:** Further actions are possible in additional towns and cities Dec. 10, with local courts being the most likely locations. Participation will vary by location but will likely be in the hundreds at larger gatherings.

Additional police will likely deploy to monitor the actions. The demonstrations themselves and associated security measures may prompt localized transport disruptions. Current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) measures in Belgium restrict public gatherings; police may attempt to disperse demonstrations if activists are deemed to be breaching these restrictions. The events are likely to pass off peacefully, though isolated clashes between activists and police cannot be ruled out.

#### **EUROPE (CSAR: No Rating) - Heavy Precipitation, Strong Winds, and Possible Flooding Forecast across Southern and Eastern Europe**

A low-pressure system is forecast to bring heavy precipitation (including rain and snow), thunderstorms, strong winds, and possible flooding across southern and eastern Europe through at least Dec. 11. The affected areas include Italy, Albania, San Marino, Vatican City, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, southern Austria, southwestern Hungary, Malta, Kosovo, Greece, Serbia, western and central Bulgaria, southwestern Romania, and North Macedonia. Forecast models indicate the most intense storm activity will occur in southern Austria, where authorities have issued red-level (highest level) warnings for snowfall, and northern Serbia, where authorities have issued red-level (highest level) warnings for strong winds. The European Meteorological Agency has issued orange- and yellow-level warnings for heavy rainfall, strong winds, thunderstorms, avalanches, snowfall, and rough seas across the affected areas. Authorities will likely issue new alerts, or update/rescind existing advisories, as weather conditions change over the coming days.

**Analysis:** The system could produce rounds of heavy precipitation (including rain and snow), strong winds, and isolated thunderstorm activity across southern and eastern Europe. Where precipitation falls as rain, flash, and areal flooding is possible. Such flooding is possible in low-lying communities near watercourses and other large bodies of water, as well as in urban areas with easily overwhelmed or a lack of stormwater drainage systems. Sites located downstream of large reservoirs may be subject to flash flooding after relatively short periods of intense rainfall.

Precipitation could fall as snow in the higher elevations, including the Alps over the coming days. Wind gusts could cause blowing and drifting snow; decreased visibility is likely in mountainous areas. Rain-induced landslides cannot be discounted in areas of elevated terrain; there is also the possibility of avalanches in mountainous areas where the snowpack has become unstable due to heavy snowfall. Power outages could occur throughout the affected area through at least Dec. 11.

Floodwaters and related debris may render some bridges, rail networks, or roadways impassable, impacting overland travel in and around the affected area. Flooding in urban areas could also result in significant traffic congestion. Heavy snow will likely make driving hazardous in some areas; authorities could implement temporary road closures or detours in such locations. Mountain passes and tunnels could be closed as a precautionary measure during periods of intense snowfall.

The disruptive weather will likely cause some delays and cancellations at regional airports. Authorities may temporarily suspend port operations along the Mediterranean, Adriatic, Ionian, Aegean, and Tyrrhenian Seas if strong winds trigger hazardous sea conditions, impacting freight and passenger maritime traffic. Flooding/snow could block regional rail lines; freight and passenger train delays and cancellations are possible in areas that see heavy rainfall and potential track blockages.

Disruptions triggered by inclement weather and resultant hazards, such as flooding or avalanches, could persist well after conditions have improved - it could take days before any floodwaters recede and/or officials clear debris. If there is severe damage to infrastructure, repair or reconstruction efforts may result in residual disruptions.

### **FRANCE (CSAR: Low) - Authorities Maintain Plan to Ease Domestic COVID-19 Restrictions Incrementally**

Authorities in France are maintaining the current schedule of easing domestic coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related restrictions as of Dec. 9 despite infection rates remaining high. As of Nov. 28, nonessential shops are permitted to reopen provided they implement strict hygiene and social distancing requirements, and individuals may travel up to 20 km (12 miles) from their home for outdoor exercise.

Individuals are still only permitted to leave their homes for limited purposes and must fill out a certificate available online for each trip. Working from home remains compulsory where possible. Public gatherings of more than six people remain prohibited. Facemasks remain mandatory in enclosed public spaces nationwide, including shared workspaces, while some number of local jurisdictions, including Paris, also require their use in outdoor public spaces.

Subject to the nationwide daily infection rate of new COVID-19 cases being below 5,000, further relaxation of restrictive measures are planned in the following stages:

- **Dec. 15:** A daily 2100-0700 curfew will be implemented, except for Dec. 24 and 31; internal movement restrictions will be lifted and museums, cinemas, and theaters will be permitted to reopen.
- **Jan. 20, 2021:** Bars, restaurants, and gymnasiums will be permitted to reopen subject to strict social-distancing mandates. University students will be able to return to their place of study.

#### *International Travel Restrictions*

International travel restrictions on most foreign nationals remain in effect. International arrivals from the European Economic Area (EEA), as well as Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Rwanda, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, and the UK, are permitted to enter without restriction. Most travelers from other locations remain barred from entry, though exceptions are made for French nationals and residents, as well as for persons traveling on whom authorities deem to be essential reasons, including certain necessary workers, diplomats, students, and those visiting for urgent family reasons. All such arrivals are required to complete a form declaring themselves to be COVID-19 free and present a certificate declaring their reason for travel.

Permitted travelers arriving from Algeria, Bahrain, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Panama, South Africa, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, the US, and Zimbabwe must present proof of having tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours prior to boarding. Permitted arrivals from other countries must meet the same condition or take a test on arrival. Permitted travelers from all other locations are able to present a negative COVID-19 test taken within the previous 72 hours or take a test on arrival; otherwise, they are required to self-isolate for seven days.

### **GERMANY (CSAR: Low) - Taxi Drivers to Stage Vehicular Go-slow Protest in Hamburg**

Taxi drivers will hold a vehicular go-slow protest in Hamburg Dec. 10 to demand financial support to mitigate loss of income due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions. Participating taxi drivers will gather in their vehicles on Glacischaussee around 1100 before departing for Gansemarkt Square in the city center at 1130. The protest will traverse several major roads including Jungfernstieg, Ballindamm, Glockengiesserwall, Steinstrasse, and Willy-Brandt-Strasse.

**Analysis:** Additional police will deploy in the city center to monitor and facilitate the protest. The procession and related security measures, such as rolling road closures, will likely cause significant ground travel disruptions. Increased traffic congestion is likely in the city center, and public transport may be canceled or diverted. Although current COVID-19 measures in Germany restrict public gatherings, authorities will likely permit the protest to continue provided participants adhere to the applicable restrictions.

### **SPAIN (CSAR: Low) - Human Rights Activists to Protest Cuban Government in Barcelona**

Cubans, human rights activists, and supporters plan to demonstrate in Barcelona on Dec. 10. The purpose of the demonstration is to denounce alleged human rights abuses by the Cuban government and demand the EU designate Cuba as a dictatorship. Participants will gather in front of the European Commission Office on Passeig de Gracia starting at 1800; participation in the event could reach the low hundreds.

**Analysis:** Law enforcement officials will likely deploy to monitor the demonstration. The demonstration and associated security measures may prompt localized transport and traffic disruptions in the area around the European Commission Office. Current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) measures in Spain restrict public gatherings; police may attempt to disperse the action if participants are deemed to be breaching these restrictions. The event is likely to pass off peacefully.

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## **Middle East/North Africa**

### **IRAQ (CSAR: Severe) - Explosive Devices Set Fire to Two Wells at Khabbaz Oilfield in Kirkuk Governorate**

Iraqi security officials reported that explosive devices set fire to two oil wells in the Khabbaz oilfield, located approximately 20 km (12 miles) southwest of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, early Dec. 9. The explosives were set off half an hour apart, sparking fires at the wells at around 0130 and 0200. Oil production at the field was reportedly not affected. The Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for the attack but provided no evidence to support this claim; Iraqi officials have given no information about the identity of the assailants.

**Analysis:** Increased security and localized business and transport disruptions are likely in the vicinity of Khabbaz oilfield as authorities continue to investigate the incident. Additional similar attacks cannot be ruled out.

Despite Baghdad's efforts to crack down on IS, the group still poses a significant threat and will likely remain a potent force for the foreseeable future. While IS was territorially defeated in Iraq in December 2017, the militant group maintains cells throughout western and northern Iraq, which are well-equipped, highly mobile, and likely retain the support of marginalized Sunni communities in the region.

## **ISRAEL (CSAR: Moderate) - Authorities Reopen Malls, Outdoor Markets, and Museums Nationwide**

Israeli authorities approved the reopening of malls, outdoor markets, and museums nationwide from Dec. 9 as part of gradual easing of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related restrictions. Health officials specified that the reopening of these locations is subject to social distancing requirements and reduced occupancy in stores. Open-air shopping centers and standalone shops were previously permitted to reopen across the country. Places of worship, bed and breakfasts, hair and beauty salons, nurseries, kindergartens, public parks, and beaches are also open. Many schools have reopened for in-person classes. Restaurants can provide carryout services.

Health officials in Israel have declared the towns of Zalafa, Musmus, and Daliyat al-Karmel as restricted zones and imposed increased measures due to a localized increase in COVID-19 activity in those areas. The measures will go into effect 1900 Dec. 9 and will remain until at least 1900 Dec. 14. Authorities previously declared Sakhnin and Kfar Kanna as restricted zones through at least 1900 Dec. 13 and Kfar Manda and Yafia as restricted zones through at least Dec. 12. The northern town of Shefa-Amr will remain a restricted zone through at least Dec. 10. Traffic and business activity, as well as movement in and out of restricted zones, are limited.

The tourist areas of Eilat along the Red Sea and Ein Bokek along the Dead Sea have reopened to domestic travelers. Hotels, restaurants, strip malls, zoos, and other attractions in these areas have resumed operations. All visitors to these areas must present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival; local residents and workers must present a negative COVID-19 test taken within a week of entry or undergo a free, rapid test at one of the city's entrances. Other tourist sites throughout the country will remain closed until further notice.

Most public transportation in Israel has returned to regular operating hours. Israel Railway services will continue operating 0500-2200 Sunday-Thursday until further notice. Railway lines to Ben Gurion Airport (TLV), Jerusalem, Raanana, Hod Hasharon, and Kfar Saba remain suspended. Facemasks are required on public transportation.

Israel's ban on entry by nonresident foreign nationals remains in effect. However, there are currently no restrictions on citizens and permanent residents returning to the country. Cargo and emergency flights remain unaffected. Israeli citizens and residents returning from certain pre-approved countries with low COVID-19 infection rates are exempt from the nation's mandatory 12-day quarantine. However, Israeli citizens and legal residents returning from other destinations are subject to the quarantine requirement. Arriving travelers who cannot demonstrate that they can self-quarantine at home will be isolated at a government-established facility.

Gatherings remain limited to 20 people outdoors and 10 people indoors. The government reserves the authority to shut down any establishments that fail to comply with mandates, including the compulsory use of facemasks, daily temperature checks of employees, and regular sanitization of communal surfaces, among others, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Authorities could reimpose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

## **ISRAEL (CSAR: Moderate) and PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES (CSAR: High) - Authorities to Increase Security for Hanukkah Celebrations**

Authorities will likely increase security throughout Israel and the Palestinian Territories during the Hanukkah holiday Dec. 10-18. In Israel, security forces will probably establish roadblocks and checkpoints at the entrances to major cities and other heavily populated areas. Nonetheless, increased security and major traffic disruptions are likely throughout the region.

**Analysis:** In the West Bank, authorities will almost certainly restrict the freedom of movement during the celebrations, as it is the standard practice for Israeli festivals and holidays. Israeli forces will likely close checkpoints outside Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Jericho, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Tulkarm through Dec. 18. Palestinians may clash with Israeli security forces at checkpoints throughout the West Bank. Clashes between Israeli settlers and Palestinians in the region

are also possible. Authorities will almost certainly close all crossings along the Israel-Gaza border.

Israeli officials could also restrict access to the Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem during the holiday period. Large groups of Jewish worshippers will likely visit the Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa Mosque Complex. The increased numbers could incite Palestinian Muslim activists to protest in the area; rival groups could clash with each other or the police. Heightened security and transport and commercial disruptions are likely in areas near the Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa Mosque complex. Israeli officials may pre-emptively block or otherwise restrict access to the site as clashes appear imminent.

Most Israeli businesses will close for some or all of the days of Hanukkah. Historically, many people travel to visit family during the holiday period, increasing traffic on main roads. However, Israeli authorities may impose movement restrictions to limit the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). While discussions have been ongoing in the Knesset in recent days, lawmakers have yet to finalize any restrictions.

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem following the conquest of Jerusalem from the Seleucid Empire by a group of Jews known as the Maccabees.

### **JORDAN (CSAR: Moderate) - Authorities Announce Friday Curfew and Nightly 2200-0600 Curfew Will Remain in Effect**

Authorities in Jordan confirmed Dec. 8 that the nation's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions will remain in place through at least the end of 2020 as part of ongoing efforts to combat the spread of the disease. These restrictions include a 24-hour curfew on Fridays and a nationwide nightly curfew between the hours of 2200-0600 for individuals and 2100-0600 for businesses. Individuals in Jordan are required to stay in their homes and limit nonessential movement during curfew hours.

Exempted parties for the Friday curfew include the following: persons arriving in the kingdom via land border crossings; health sector employees; pharmacy owners; fuel distribution companies; employees working night shifts; commercial and food transport trucks; hospital patients; mechanics; and pet store owners. Officials permit Friday prayers 1115-1215 so long as worshippers travel to the mosque on foot, wear protective face coverings, and adhere to social distancing measures. Pharmacies are permitted to operate 1000-1800 on Fridays for deliveries only. Travelers departing the kingdom on Fridays will be required to show a copy of their ticket to the police.

Authorities have closed entertainment facilities nationwide until further notice; affected facilities include billiards and snooker halls, electronic game arcades, sports centers, and sports academies. Authorities previously closed gyms, public swimming pools, and indoor play areas throughout the country.

The Al-Mudawara, King Hussein Bridge, and Sheikh Hussein Bridge border crossings have reopened. Travelers who wish to transit the land border crossings must complete a Travel Declaration Form, where they will be required to submit personal information and obtain a QR code. Travelers must also provide a negative COVID-19 test taken within five days prior to their travel date; a second COVID-19 test will be administered at the border crossing. Instructions for self-quarantine will vary according to the traveler's country of origin. The number of travelers will be limited to between 100-150 travelers per day at each of the crossings. The Omari border crossing will continue receiving cargo shipments and diplomatic missions. Authorities previously reopened the Nasib-Jaber border crossing with Syria to trade.

International commercial flights have resumed at Queen Alia International Airport (AMM). All travelers entering Jordan must download the AMAN COVID-19 tracking application and complete a Travel Declaration Form, where they will be required to submit personal information and obtain a QR code. Travelers must present proof of having tested negative for COVID-19 no more than five days before their scheduled flight. Travelers are required to test again at their own expense upon arrival in Jordan. Institutional quarantine is no longer required for arriving passengers as of Sept. 23; all travelers are required to quarantine at their residence for a period of seven days. Another COVID-19 test will be conducted on the seventh day of home quarantine at the expense of the traveler. International travelers are required to have valid health insurance for the duration of their visit.

Domestically, nonessential travel between governorates is now permitted. Hotels, restaurants, and tourist sites nationwide have resumed operations. Public transportation is operating at reduced capacity. Across the country, residents must wear face coverings and gloves while in public places; violators may be subject to fines. Authorities could reimpose, extend, further ease, or otherwise amend any restrictions with little-to-no notice depending on disease activity over the coming weeks.

### **SAUDI ARABIA (CSAR: Moderate) - Al-Houthi Weaponized Drone Reportedly Intercepted and Destroyed**

Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces (RSADF) reported that they intercepted and destroyed an Al-Houthi-launched weaponized drone targeting an unspecified location in southern Saudi Arabia Dec. 9. Al-Houthi cross-border attacks frequently target the southern provinces of Asir, Najran, and Jazan. It remains unclear whether the drone was intercepted and destroyed over Yemeni or Saudi airspace. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

**Analysis:** Localized disruptions to transport and business operations are possible near impact sites; additional cross-border attacks are almost certain to occur in the coming days. The lack of objective sources covering the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and Al-Houthi rebels makes it challenging to independently verify reports of longer-range weaponized drone and ballistic missile attacks or intercepts inside Saudi Arabia. Each side relies heavily on propaganda and misdirection in the media to shape the narrative to its policy objectives. As is often the case when reports of an alleged drone or ballistic missile attacks or intercepts emerge, neither Riyadh nor the Al-Houthi rebels provide much, if any, verifiable proof to support their respective claims. The Al-Houthi rebels have demonstrated an intent to target major population centers in Saudi Arabia with weaponized drones and ballistic missiles. While their precise tactical capabilities are unclear, the rebel group claims to possess several short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) with ranges from 30 km (18 miles) to 1,000 km (620 miles). The group, with help from Iran, also claims to possess several indigenously produced drones with ranges from 15 km (9 miles) to 500 km (310 miles). Nevertheless, the Saudi military employs a wide array of air defense platforms and appears to have significantly mitigated the drone and ballistic missile threat in its southern border provinces; however, falling debris post-intercept remains a potentially lethal hazard. Previous Al-Houthi cross-border attacks have resulted in civilian casualties; however, most are due to shorter-range mortar and rocket attacks that concentrate near areas within 10 km (6 miles) of the Saudi-Yemeni border.

### **SAUDI ARABIA (CSAR: Moderate) - Naval Forces Intercept and Destroy Two Suspected Al-Houthi WBIEDs in Southern Red Sea**

Saudi naval forces reported that they intercepted and destroyed two waterborne improvised explosive devices (WBIEDs) in the southern Red Sea, late Dec. 9. Though no group has formally claimed responsibility for the attempted attack, Saudi officials have attributed the incident to the Al-Houthi rebels. The WBIEDs were reportedly launched from Al Hudaydah Governorate in Yemen. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

**Analysis:** Saudi authorities will likely increase naval and aerial surveillance in the coming days. The incident will likely prompt heightened security measures and could possibly disrupt shipping and maritime transport in the area. Saudi authorities have condemned Al-Houthi activities in the Red Sea as a threat to navigation and global trade. The Al-Houthi rebels continue to pose a threat to civilian institutions in southern Saudi Arabia and may launch operations from along the coastline. The Saudi government previously reported Nov. 12 that Al-Houthi forces had attempted to attack a port terminal in Jazan on Nov. 11; the incident resulted in a limited fire at the facility after Saudi forces managed to intercept and destroy two WBIEDs that perpetrated the attack. The Al-Houthi rebels also continue to launch weaponized drones and missiles targeting Saudi southern provinces of Jazan, Asir, and Najran. However, the Royal Saudi Air Defense Forces (RSADF) intercept and destroy most projectiles before they strike their intended targets.

### **TUNISIA (CSAR: Moderate) - Unionized Journalists Suspend their Plan to Hold a Nationwide Strike**

The National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT) suspended their plan to hold a nationwide strike, initially scheduled for Dec. 10, after they reached an agreement with the government regarding the reform of media institutions and increased protection for journalists' rights.

**Analysis:** Strikes and labor-related protests are common throughout Tunisia. Labor unions frequently use strikes, or the threat of a strike, to pressure government officials into concessions; however, most strikes are quickly averted after last-minute negotiations. The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted concerns over the nation's stability; the global response to the pandemic has negatively impacted Tunisia's tourism industry, which constitutes almost 10 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP). The current unemployment rate of 15 percent will likely rise as the economic impact of COVID-19 is felt throughout the country, exacerbating issues. Eastern and southern governorates will be particularly susceptible to demonstrations and strikes in the coming weeks and months due to the scarcity of employment opportunities and lack of development.

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## North America

### **UNITED STATES (CSAR: Low) - Activists Commemorating International Human Rights Day to March in Miami**

Activists affiliated with various groups, including Cuba Decide and the San Isidro Movement, will hold a protest march in downtown Miami on Dec. 10. The purpose of the demonstration is to commemorate International Human Rights Day and to condemn the alleged human rights abuses of the Cuban government. Demonstrators will gather at the Freedom Tower around 1700 then march to the Gesu Catholic Church.

**Analysis:** Hundreds of people could participate in the event, which is likely to remain peaceful. Police will almost certainly deploy to monitor the demonstration and march. Localized business and transport disruptions are likely.

### **UNITED STATES (CSAR: Low) - Officials in Massachusetts to Tighten Restrictions Statewide**

Officials in Massachusetts have issued orders to tighten restrictions statewide, effective Dec. 13, due to increases in coronavirus disease (COVID-19) activity. The restrictions move the state back to Step 1 of Phase 3 of its economic recovery plan, with certain amendments. Current travel restrictions remain unchanged.

Under the new directives, indoor private gatherings must be limited to 10 people, and outdoor private gatherings to 2 people. In public venues, indoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 25 people, and outdoor gatherings to a maximum of 50 people, but organizers must inform local health officials of any outdoor gathering larger than 25 people. Political and religious gatherings are exempt. Gatherings of all kinds must end nightly by 2130.

Indoor theaters, performance venues, and higher-contact indoor recreation businesses (such as trampolines, and roller skating) must close. Bars, nightclubs, amusement parks, and large capacity venues must also remain closed. Multiple other businesses may remain open, but must reduce their maximum capacity to 40-percent, including indoor recreation businesses (such as bowling alleys and driving ranges), libraries, museums, retail stores, common areas in lodging businesses, and places of worship. Movie theaters must also limit operations to 40-percent capacity or a maximum of 50 people. Gyms and office-based businesses may also open at 40-percent capacity, but employees and customers must wear facemasks at all times. Companies are encouraged to allow their employees to work from home whenever possible.

Restaurants and other food establishments may offer in-person services without specific capacity limits, but must keep tables separated by at least 1.8 meters (six feet), and allow a maximum of six people per table; customers must wear facemasks at all times, except when eating or drinking, and customers may spend no more than 90 minutes seated at their table. Music performances at restaurants are banned, and food courts at malls must close.

Facemasks are required for individuals over the age of five in any public setting statewide. Authorities continue to recommend all individuals to remain at home between 2200-0500, except to perform essential tasks, including going to work and responding to emergencies.

Officials in Massachusetts also maintain travel restrictions in place. Travelers entering the commonwealth from international destinations or any US state or territory not designated as lower risk for COVID-19 infection must complete a travel form and self-quarantine for 14 days. As of Dec. 9, only Hawaii is designated as lower risk state. Persons entering the commonwealth from a state or territory not designated as lower risk can avoid the quarantine requirement by providing proof of having tested negative for COVID-19 within the 72 hours prior to their arrival. Travelers can also be tested upon arrival but must remain in self-quarantine until they obtain a negative test result. Failure to comply with the order is punishable by a fine of USD 500 per day. Persons traveling through the state, frequently commuting for work crossing state borders to receive medical treatment, or working at essential businesses are exempt.



## **UNITED STATES (CSAR: Low) - Officials in New Mexico Maintain Most Counties under Highest Levels of Restrictions**

As of Dec. 9, authorities in New Mexico maintain the highest levels of restrictions in 32 of the state's 33 counties, due to high coronavirus disease (COVID-19) activity. San Miguel county is the only one under the intermediate level of restrictions. Authorities continue to use a system of county-level restrictions based on local COVID-19 activity. The framework consists of three levels. The green level denotes the lowest COVID-19 activity and least severe restrictions; the yellow level indicates moderate COVID-19 activity and restrictions; and the red level denotes the highest levels of disease activity and the most severe restrictions. Counties are assigned a level depending on the rate of new cases per 100,000 residents and the test positivity rates per county over a two-week period. Authorities will review the disease activity in the state's 33 counties every two weeks. Statewide, individuals must continue to wear protective face covering in public settings.

At the green level, most businesses can operate at 50-percent capacity, including retail stores, personal care businesses, outdoor recreational facilities, and indoor dining at food and drink establishments. These businesses can open at 75-percent capacity in outdoor settings. Houses of worship may also allow 50-percent capacity, while lodging businesses may allow up to 75-percent occupancy if they have completed the New Mexico Safe Certified training; if not, they can allow up to 40-percent capacity. Public gatherings of up to 20 people are allowed. Close-contact recreational facilities must remain closed. Essential businesses other than retail stores have no capacity limit, but operations must be limited to those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions. Currently, no county is at the green level.

At the yellow level, most businesses can operate at 25-percent capacity or a maximum of 125 customers at one time including retail stores. Food and drink establishments can open indoor dining at 25-percent capacity, or 75-percent capacity outdoors, but the sale of alcohol must cease nightly at 2200. Personal care businesses can also open at 25-percent capacity or a maximum of 20 customers. Houses of worship and outdoor recreational facilities may also open at 25-percent capacity, while lodging businesses may allow up to 60-percent occupancy if they have completed the New Mexico Safe Certified training; if not, they can allow up to 25-percent capacity. Public gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed. Close-contact recreational facilities must remain closed. Essential businesses other than retail stores have no capacity limit, but operations must be limited to those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions. As of Dec. 9, San Miguel county is at the yellow level.

At the red level, most businesses can operate at 25-percent capacity or a maximum of 75 customers at one time including retail stores. Food and drink establishments cannot open for indoor dining, and can only offer 25-percent capacity outdoors; the sale of alcohol must cease nightly at 2100. Personal care businesses can also open at 25-percent capacity or a maximum of 10 customers. Houses of worship and outdoor recreational facilities may open at 25-percent capacity, while lodging businesses may allow up to 40-percent occupancy if they have completed the New Mexico Safe Certified training; if not, they can allow up to 25-percent capacity. Public gatherings of up to five people are allowed. Close-contact recreational facilities must remain closed. Essential businesses other than retail stores have no capacity limit, but operations must be limited to those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions. As of Dec. 9, the remaining 32 counties in the state are at the red level.

Essential businesses include healthcare operations, childcare facilities, farms, and other companies for the production and distribution of food, infrastructure, and manufacturing operations, media, utilities, security services, as well as banks, grocery stores, and pharmacies.

Additionally, officials continue to require anyone entering from states with a case rate higher than 80 per 1,000,000 residents or a test positivity rate of five percent or higher on a seven-day rolling average to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in New Mexico. As of Dec. 9, all US states, except Hawaii, are considered high risk, requiring that arriving travelers self-quarantine for 14 days. The quarantine requirement also applies to travelers from Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and international destinations.

Travelers entering from states with case rates of lower than 80 per 1,000,000 residents or a test positivity rate lower than five percent on a seven-day rolling average are advised to self-quarantine. All New Mexico residents are advised to take a COVID-19 test within 5-7 days of their return from these states. The quarantine order does not apply to New Mexico residents who visit another state for medical attention or individuals who leave the state for less than 24 hours for parenting responsibilities. Airline employees, federal employees, first responders, public safety workers, healthcare workers, military personnel, and essential workers who need to conduct business in New Mexico are also exempt.

## **UNITED STATES (CSAR: Low) - Officials in North Carolina Issue Nightly Stay-at-home Order**

As part of ongoing efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), authorities in North Carolina are requiring all residents to stay at home nightly between 2200-0500. The nightly curfew will go into effect on Dec. 1. Additionally, health officials have extended other previously imposed orders until at least Jan. 8.

Under the new requirements, residents must remain at home nightly between 2200-0500, except for essential purposes including traveling to work, obtaining food or basic goods, receiving medical treatment, or providing family care. Most businesses must close nightly between 2200-0500, including in-person services at restaurants, bars, entertainment centers, personal care businesses, and nonessential retail stores. Grocery stores, pharmacies, fuel stations, may remain open.

Other previously imposed restrictions have been extended through at least Jan. 8. Individuals five years of age or older must wear protective face coverings whenever they are with someone from outside their household and social distancing measures cannot be maintained, indoors or outdoors. The use of face coverings is mandatory while individuals exercise or attend businesses or organizations, such as retail stores, restaurants (except when eating and drinking), gyms, personal care businesses, schools, transport services, and other locations.

Additionally, indoor gatherings of more than 10 people are banned, while outdoor gatherings of up to 50 people continue to be allowed. Gatherings for work or for religious ceremonies are exempt, while gatherings for activities such as tours and receptions are limited to 25 people. Indoor recreation centers and businesses, such as movie theaters, conference centers, amphitheaters, and restaurants may continue operating at 30-percent capacity or 100 people; gyms may operate at 30-percent capacity. Bars may offer only outdoor services at 30-percent capacity. Large outdoor venues with seating for over 10,000 people can open at 7-percent capacity. Bars and restaurants must cease the sale of alcohol for on-site consumption between at least 2100-0700.

Open establishments must adhere to certain mandates aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19, such as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), compliance with social distancing standards, and enhanced sanitization procedures. All businesses must allow employees to work from home whenever possible. Local authorities may impose additional restrictions within their jurisdictions if they believe it is necessary for public health.

Additionally, state authorities have released a County Alert System, to monitor counties with high COVID-19 activity, and recommend actions they can take to reduce the spread. The system has three categories: Yellow, for significant community spread; Orange, for substantial community spread; and Red, for Critical community spread. In counties under the Orange or Red levels, individuals are encouraged to avoid in-person interactions, ordering delivery services from restaurants instead of dining in person; employers should allow all employees to work from home as much as possible. As of Dec. 9, there are 48 of the state's 100 counties at Red level, including Guilford, Forsyth, Union, Onslow, Gaston, and Cabarrus. Another 34 counties are at the Orange level, including Mecklenburg, Wake, Cumberland, Durham, and Pitt.

## **UNITED STATES (CSAR: Low) - Officials in Washington State Extend Current Restrictions**

Officials in Washington State issued orders to extend current statewide restrictions through at least Jan. 4 to curb the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Under the current directives in place since Nov. 16, indoor gatherings with people from outside the household are banned, and outdoor gatherings of more than five people are banned. Gyms and fitness centers must close for indoor operations but can offer outdoor services for a maximum of five people. Indoor entertainment centers, such as movie theaters, bowling alleys, and museums, must close. Office-based businesses must mandate employees to work from home; however, those that need to maintain in-person services can do so at 25-percent capacity. Restaurants and bars must cease indoor dining services; outdoor dining services are allowed with a maximum of five people per table. Delivery and pickup services can also continue.

Personal care businesses, such as hair salons and barber shops, as well as retail stores, can operate at 25-percent capacity. Religious services can have in-person ceremonies at 25-percent capacity but not more than 200 people. Weddings and funerals for up to 30 people are allowed but indoor receptions associated with them are banned. Youth and adult sporting activities indoors are banned, and outdoor activities are limited to internal team practices, with players and coaches wearing facemasks.

Authorities in Washington State have also issued a travel advisory, urging residents to remain home as much as possible and encouraging travelers entering the state from other US states or international destinations to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

## South Pacific/Oceania

### AUSTRALIA (CSAR: **Low**) - Environmental Protests Planned in Multiple Cities

Environmental activists plan to hold protests in four cities in Australia Dec. 11-12 to demand the national government do more to address climate change. Demonstrations will occur in Hobart, Melbourne, Newcastle, and Sydney. Organizers are denouncing the government's continued investment into the fossil fuel industry while neglecting the renewable energy sector. Demonstrators have announced the following actions:

- **Hobart** : A protest will occur at Elizabeth Street Mall from 1200 Dec. 11.
- **Melbourne** : Organizers have called on protesters to block roadways at pedestrian crossings from 1230 Dec. 11. Locations for protests have not been specified; however, activists will likely block roads in the central business district (CBD).
- **Newcastle** : Activists plan to blockade the coal port from 0900 Dec. 12 on kayaks. Organizers state that 5 kayaks will be used for the blockade.
- **Sydney** : Demonstrators will gather outside Sydney Town Hall from 1200 Dec. 12.

**Analysis:** Participation in protests will likely be impacted by ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) gathering restrictions. Larger demonstrations will likely involve dozens of people. Security personnel will probably monitor large gatherings and may enforce COVID-19 gathering restrictions at bigger rallies. Localized transport disruptions are possible, especially for the protests in Hobart, Melbourne, and Sydney. Demonstrations will probably proceed peacefully. The Newcastle blockade is unlikely to cause major shipping disruptions, as police have cleared kayak protests at the port in previous related protests.

### AUSTRALIA (CSAR: **Low**) - Tropical Low Three Weakens in Southern Indian Ocean

Tropical Low Three has weakened as it tracks southeast in the southern Indian Ocean, Dec. 10. As of 0200 AWST, the storm's center of circulation was approximately 653 km (405 miles) southeast of Christmas Island, Australia. Forecast models indicate the storm will largely maintain its strength as a tropical low or may strengthen into a Category-1 tropical cyclone equivalent storm as it tracks southeastward in the Indian Ocean over the coming days. The system would then be given the name Imogen. The system is forecast to make landfall in Western Australia on Dec. 11, possibly near Port Hedland. Some uncertainty remains in the track and intensity forecast, and significant changes could occur in the coming days. Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has issued a severe weather warning for Pilbara District, Western Australia for damaging winds and heavy rainfall in advance of the system; depending on the track, the warning could be expanded to include other districts. Weather warnings could remain active even after the system's immediate threat has diminished, as some areas may still be highly susceptible to rain-induced hazards. The possibility of localized evacuations cannot be discounted if weather conditions prove particularly hazardous.

**Analysis:** Tropical Low Three will bring heavy rainfall, strong winds, and rough seas to areas of Western Australia beginning Dec. 10. Forecast models indicate 5-10 cm (2-4 inches) are possible in the hardest-hit areas of Western Australia near where the system makes landfall, including portions of Kimberley and Pilbara districts. Lower amounts are expected farther away from the center of circulation. Sustained heavy rainfall could trigger flooding in low-lying communities near streams, creeks, and rivers, as well as in urban areas with easily overwhelmed or a lack of stormwater drainage systems. Sites located downstream of large reservoirs could experience flash flooding after relatively short periods of intense rainfall, especially in areas of Western Australia currently experiencing heavy rainfall from the antecedent tropical low. Rain-induced landslides cannot be discounted in steeply sloped terrains. Flooding could isolate some communities for several days. Coastal flooding and abnormally high tides are possible along Australia's western coast.

In addition to the heavy rain, flooding, and storm surge, the system may produce damaging wind gusts as it approaches landfall. Gusts reaching 90 kph (60 mph) are possible, especially in areas near the center of circulation. Widespread and prolonged power outages due to uprooted trees and toppled utility lines are possible.

Inclement weather associated with the storm could trigger localized business, transport, and utility disruptions through at least Dec. 10. Floodwaters and debris flows may render some bridges, rail networks, or roadways impassable, impacting overland travel in and around affected areas. Areal flooding in urban locations could also result in severe traffic congestion, while strong winds will pose a hazard to high-profile vehicles. Heavy rain and low visibility may trigger flight disruptions at regional airports including, but not limited to, those serving Broome (BME). Disruptions caused by inclement weather and resultant hazards, such as flooding, could persist well after conditions have improved. If there is severe damage to infrastructure, repair, or reconstruction efforts may exacerbate residual disruptions.

## **AUSTRALIA (CSAR: [Low](#)) - Western Australia to Ease Border Controls for Travelers from South Australia**

The Western Australian government continues to adjust restrictions to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) transmission as of Dec. 10. The state remains in Phase Four of its six-step recovery roadmap. Officials have ended density limits of one person per every two square meters (21 square feet) for places of worship; however, capacity will remain limited to 60 percent. The same rule is in place for venues with seated events, such as cinemas, concert halls, and theatres. Most other businesses remain subject to the two-square-meter density rule. The government also mandates these sites, as well as gyms, cultural and leisure establishments, personal service providers, and restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, to collect contact information for patrons. Operators can use either the SafeWA mobile application or collect the data manually. Individuals who do not follow contact tracing requirements could face fines of up to AUD 50,000 (USD 36,817), while officials could fine companies flouting the regulations AUD 250,000 (USD 184,000). Authorities could alternatively pursue jail time of up to 12 months for people violating the contact tracing mandate. Officials continue to ban travel to most remote Aboriginal communities throughout the state, though a few have partially reopened or reopened to visitors.

### *Domestic Border Controls*

Western Australia plans to classify South Australia as "low risk" from 0001 Dec. 11, allowing travelers from the state to enter without advance permission. However, visitors from South Australia must self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival and take a COVID-19 test on day 11 of the period, if still in the state. Travelers from the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, and Victoria can enter Western Australia without quarantine.

All arriving passengers must complete a G2G PASS declaration to enter the state. Officials will continue health screenings and temperature checks and confirm G2G PASS declarations at Perth Airport (PER) and land border checkpoints.

### *International Quarantine Requirements*

All passengers entering Australia must quarantine in government-designated facilities for 14 days in the city of arrival. Western Australia charges all arriving travelers, including Australian citizens and permanent residents, for quarantine payable after the quarantine period. Quarantine fees are AUD 2,520 (USD 1,805) for one adult or AUD 3,360 (USD 2,407) for two adults in the same room. Additional people in a party cost AUD 840 (USD 602) per room, except for children under six years old. People entering the state must quarantine for 14 days and take a COVID-19 test before release.

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