

# Dentons Flashpoint

## Daily Global Situation Report

September 30, 2021

# Global Situation Update: September 30, 2021

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS

A new study shows long COVID symptoms in over one-third of COVID-19 patients.

France warned Mali that it would lose the support of the international community if it agreed to a deal with Russian mercenaries.

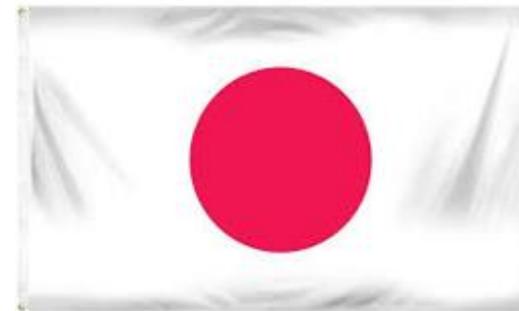
Central bank heads throughout the world warned that supply bottlenecks will persist.

# Global Situation Update: September 30, 2021

## WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

Today, outgoing Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will formally resign and hand the reins of the world's third largest economy over to former foreign minister Fumio Kishida who won a runoff election within the Liberal Democratic Party. Kishida told lawmakers that before the end of the year he intends to forge an economic package in the size of trillions of yen for pandemic relief.

If the ruling LDP is also victorious in the November 2021 elections for the House of Representatives (lower house of parliament), there will be broad policy continuity in Japan. Kishida will have the legislative support he needs for large-scale fiscal spending plans, but they may yield limited results because of the continued spread of COVID-19 both domestically and globally which is dampening consumption and exports.



*Note: This report is based on sources and information deemed to be true and reliable, but Dentons makes no representations to same.*

# Global

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**Globally, confirmed coronavirus cases topped 232.6 million with 4.7 million deaths; more than 6.1 billion vaccine doses have been administered.**

- A new study from University of Oxford and the National Institute for Health Research found that over one-third of **COVID-19 patients** still had at least one symptom of long COVID three to six months after initial infection.
- **AstraZeneca Plc's COVID-19 vaccine** demonstrated 74 percent efficacy at preventing symptomatic disease, a figure that increased to 83.5 percent in people aged 65 and older, according the results of the US clinical trial published on Wednesday.
- The G20 will hold an extraordinary meeting on **Afghanistan** on October 12.

# Markets & Business

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**YouTube will remove any anti-vaccine content, expressing concern that misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine is spilling to impact views on vaccines in general.**

- US Federal Reserve Chairman Powell warned that **supply bottlenecks** are expected to persist, causing cycles of price rises; European Central Bank President Lagarde, Bank of England Governor Bailey and Bank of Japan Governor Kuroda echoed his concerns.
- The International Chamber of Shipping warned that **global supply chains** are at risk of collapse unless governments restore freedom of movement for transport workers, in a letter to the UN.
- **Dollar Tree** said it will start raising prices slightly above \$1 for many products in the US as it faces higher prices, freight costs and wages.
- **Walmart** is aiming to hire an additional 150,000 US workers ahead of the holiday shopping season.
- China **Evergrande Group** missed paying bond interest due on Wednesday; with liabilities equal to 2 percent of China's GDP, Evergrande has sparked concerns its woes could spread through the financial system.

# Africa

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- **South African** President Ramaphosa released a report finding that several government figures benefitted from the award of a media contract to a South African firm; the event has led to significant public dissatisfaction, resulting in resignation of the former health minister in June.
- **Rwanda** denied reports that it had detained dozens of poor, gay, or transgender Rwandans ahead of a high-profile international conference in an effort to “*clear up the streets.*”
- **France** warned **Mali** that it would lose the support of the international community if it agreed to a deal with **Russian** mercenaries, amid a conflict between the ruling military junta in Mali and Paris as it winds down its Sahel counterterrorism presence.
- **Russia** is delaying the appointment of panels of independent experts to monitor violations of UN sanctions on **South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic (CAR) and Mali**, seeking greater Russian representation and influence.



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# Asia

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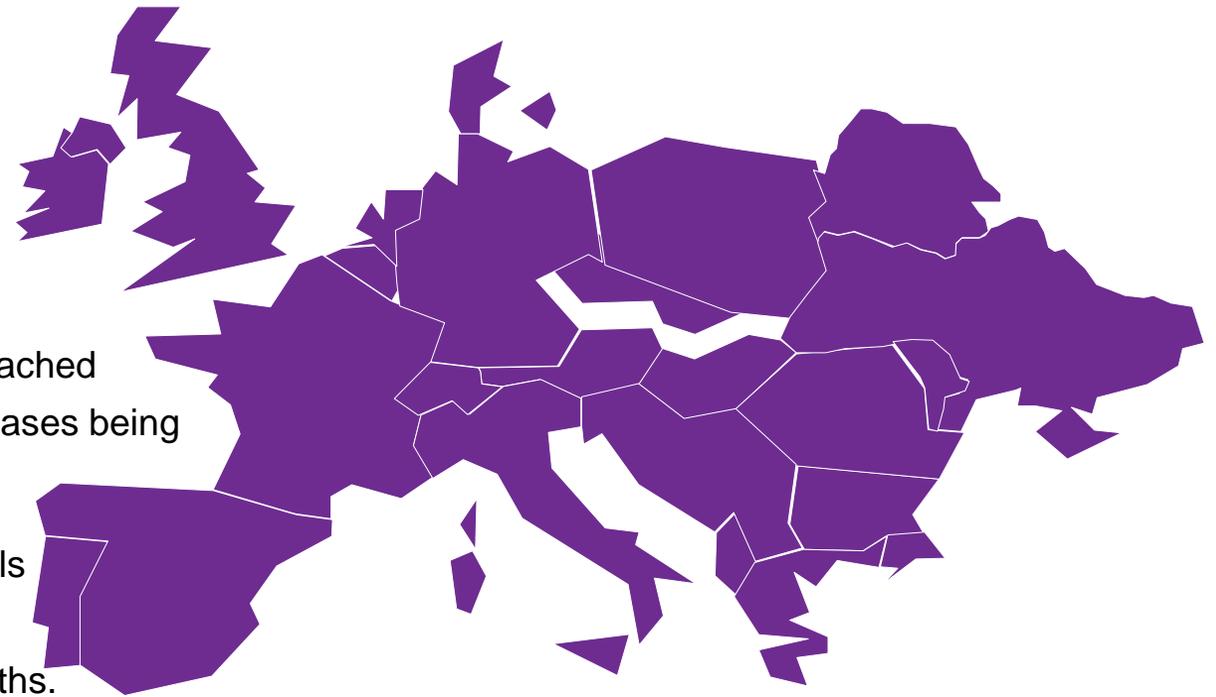
- The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics will admit only spectators from mainland **China** due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. China's Golden Week holiday this year is unlikely to see domestic travel rebound to pre-COVID levels, per industry estimates.
- Unidentified shooters killed a top Rohingya community leader in **Bangladesh's** Cox's Bazar refugee camp.
- Heavy rains from Cyclone Gulab have damaged summer crops in **India**, including soya beans, cotton and vegetables in several key regions.
- **Vietnam's** commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City will start relaxing its coronavirus curbs on Thursday, allowing more business and social activities after four months of measures to contain the spiraling death rate.
- **Malaysia** has made it mandatory for all federal government employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.



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# Europe

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- Lava from the volcano on **La Palma** in the Canary Islands has reached the ocean, raising environmental concerns about potential toxic gases being generated.
- The **EU** is planning to make it more difficult for **Belarusian** officials to get EU visas, following accusations that Belarusian President Lukashenko facilitated illegal migration into the EU in recent months.
- **Russia** arrested the founder of one of the country's largest cyber security companies, Group-IB, over allegations of passing secret information to foreign intelligence agencies.
- **Switzerland** appointed a new federal prosecutor, restoring a key position for fighting white-collar crime in the country.
- **Swedish** Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson was nominated as the next leader of the Social Democrats, putting her on track to become the country's first female prime minister.
- Next month, the **French** government plans to extend the state of emergency that grants it powers to impose lockdowns and other virus restrictions through the summer of 2022. **Slovenia** temporarily suspended the use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine as a precautionary measure following the death of a 20-year-old woman.

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# How do You Manage Cyber Risks?

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*Today, there are more risks for cybersecurity and a wider array of threat actors capable of doing damage to organizations due to rapid advances in technology. A single cyber breach risks dealing irrevocable harm to businesses and their critical assets.*

*Dentons offers business leaders a full complement of counseling and advice, regulatory and litigation services, analysis and intelligence products for cyber risk management that helps them thrive in complex operating environments, including:*

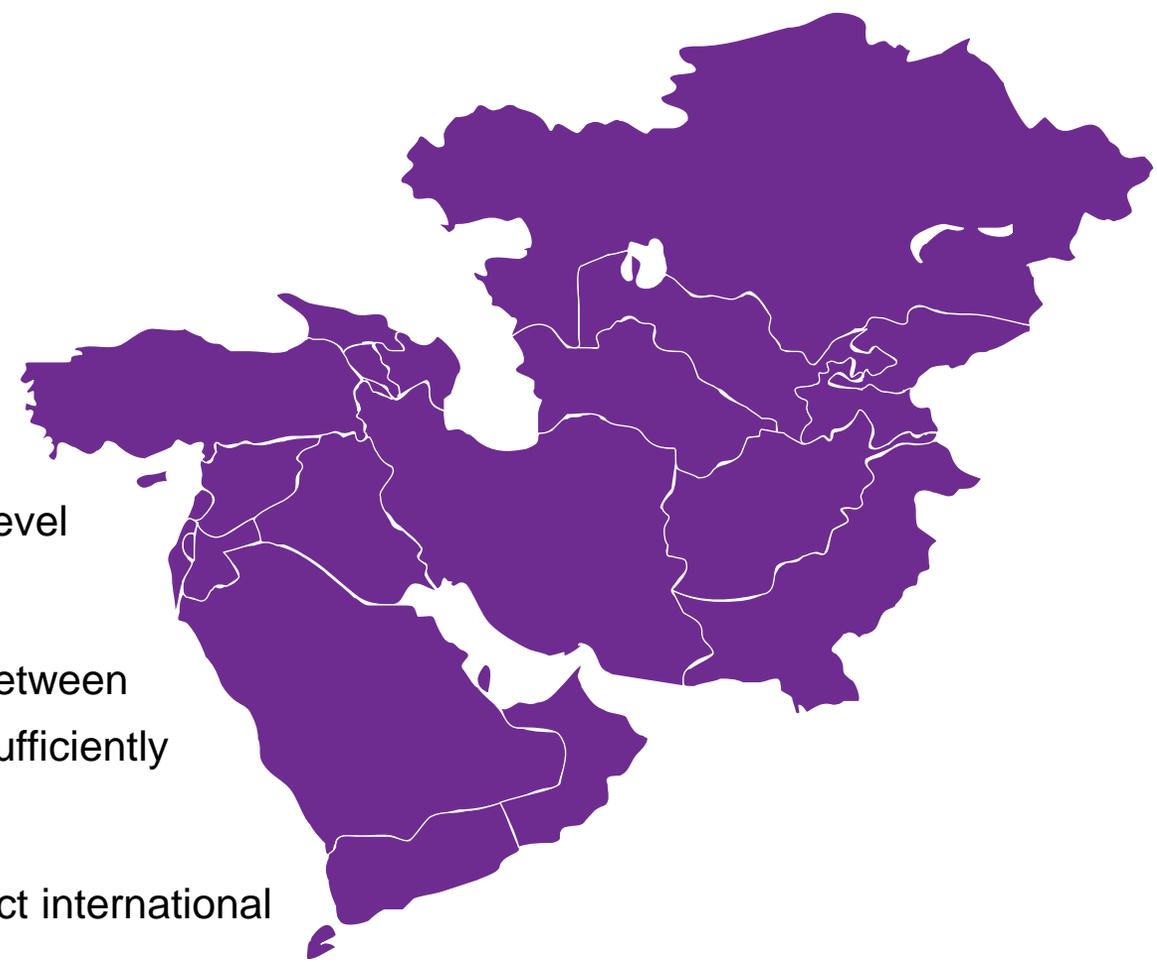
- ❖ organizational cyber risk assessment
- ❖ crisis management for cyber incidents
- ❖ privacy law and compromised data advice
- ❖ self-reporting, liaising with law enforcement following cyberattack
- ❖ ransomware attack guidance
- ❖ cybersecurity readiness and remediation
- ❖ cyberattack source and method identification

*All interaction with Dentons is attorney-client privileged*

*To learn more about the bespoke intelligence and risk services from Dentons, contact [Karl Hopkins](#).*

# Middle East

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- The **Afghan** Taliban threatened the **US** with “*negative consequences*” unless drone overflights are ceased.
- **Israel’s** foreign minister will visit **Bahrain** today, the highest-level Israeli visit since the two countries normalized relations.
- An **EU** court struck down two trade and fishing agreements between the bloc and **Morocco** as judges found that the EU had not sufficiently gained consent from the **Western Sahara**.
- The **UAE** relaxed its block on internet voice calls to help attract international businesspeople during its 2020 Expo.
- The **US and Qatar** took coordinated action on Wednesday targeting a **Lebanese** Hezbollah financial network in the Arabian Peninsula.

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# Americas

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- The Pan American Health Organization announced it is in advanced talks with vaccine makers, including among them China's Sinovac, to buy millions of additional COVID-19 shots for its member states to complement bilateral deals, donations, and doses they are receiving via the COVAX mechanism. Over a billion COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the Americas and 35 percent of people in **Latin America and the Caribbean** have been fully vaccinated.
- Thousands of women marched throughout the region this week, including in **Mexico City, Colombia, Chile, and El Salvador**, in support of abortion.
- A new study by a university in **Venezuela** found that the extreme poverty rate in the country has risen to 76 percent. The **EU** will send observers to regional elections in Venezuela scheduled for November 21, on the invitation of the country's National Electoral Council.



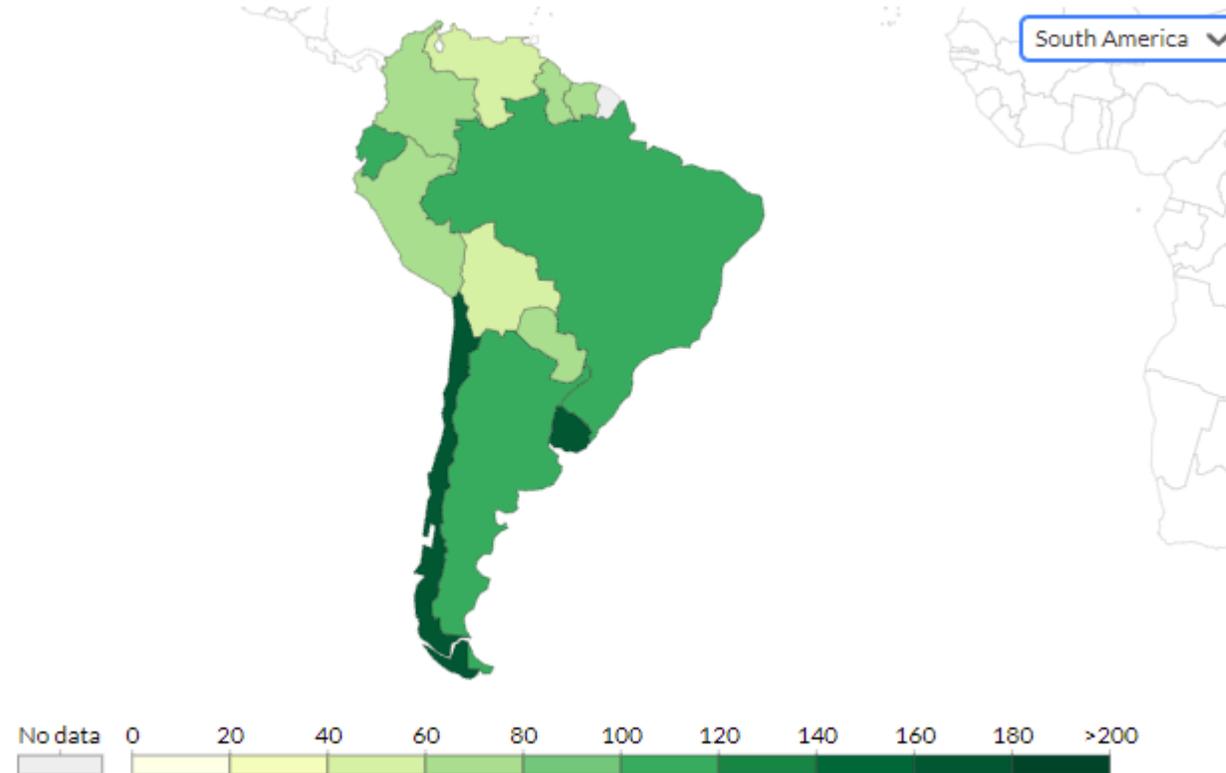
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# Americas

## COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per 100 people, Sep 29, 2021

For vaccines that require multiple doses, each individual dose is counted. As the same person may receive more than one dose, the number of doses per 100 people can be higher than 100.

Our World  
in Data



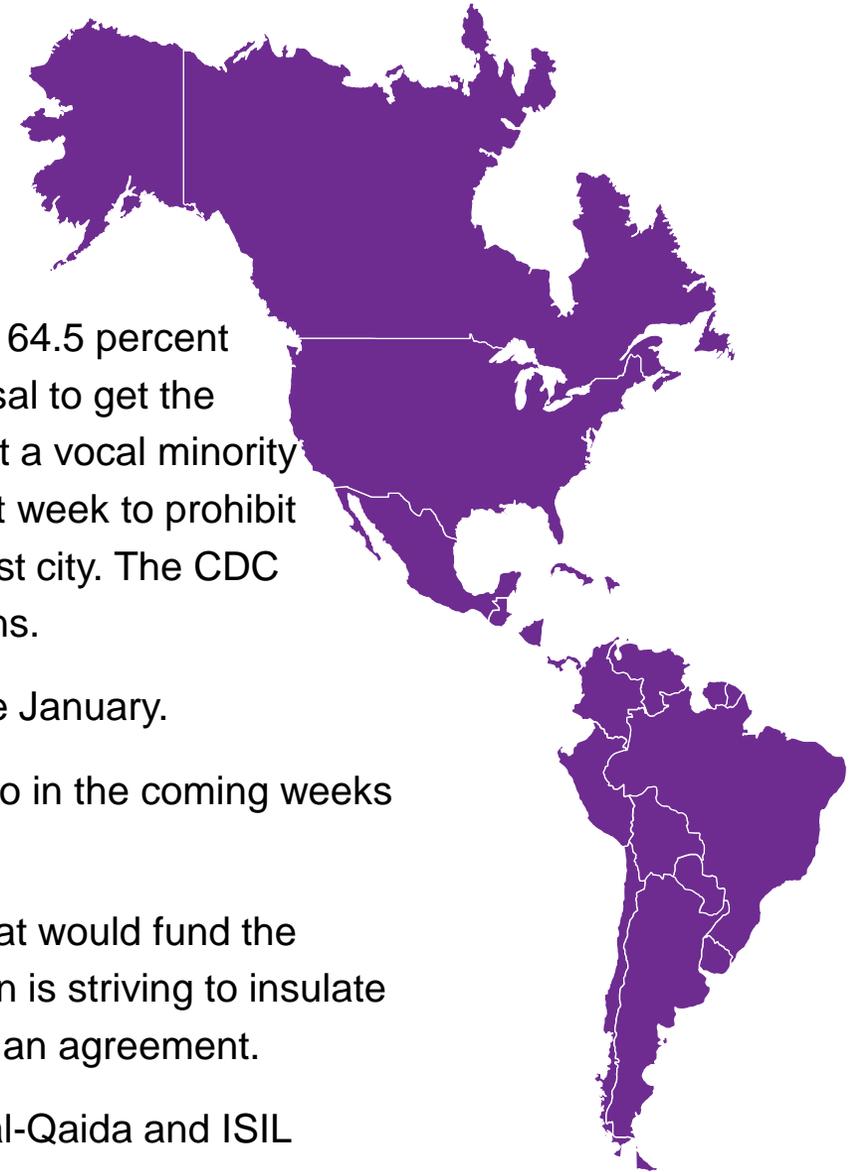
Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data - Last updated 30 September 2021, 11:00 (London time)  
OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

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# Americas: US

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- Across the nation, 214 million have received at least one dose of the **vaccine**; or 64.5 percent of the total population. **NBA players** will lose pay for missing games due to refusal to get the COVID-19 vaccine; more than 90 percent of NBA players are fully vaccinated, but a vocal minority is still protesting the vaccine. **Los Angeles** officials signaled they would vote next week to prohibit unvaccinated people from entering most businesses in the nation's second-largest city. The CDC issued a health advisory calling on more **pregnant women** to receive vaccinations.
- **Pending home sales** rebounded in August rebounded to their highest level since January.
- The Department of Homeland Security announced it intends to issue a new memo in the coming weeks ending the "*remain in Mexico*" **immigration program**.
- The House and Senate are rushing to vote today on a short-term spending bill that would fund the government into early December, avoiding a **shutdown**. The Biden administration is striving to insulate the federal response to the pandemic from a shutdown if Congress cannot reach an agreement.
- In continued Congressional hearings, Joint Chiefs Chairman Milley warned that al-Qaida and ISIL could reconstitute in **Afghanistan** in 3-6 months.



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# Visualizing Risk: Coups, Coup Attempts, and Transfers of Power

By Briana Boland

***Over the past year, a number of countries around the world have experienced coup d'états, coup attempts, or violent transfers of power, altering regional political landscapes and increasing risks of instability and repression where governments were overthrown.***

Beyond clear-cut military takeovers, numerous alleged coup attempts, and incumbent seizures of power have driven debate around the world about what constitutes a coup d'état and how accusations of coup intentions can be used for political ends. From the January 6 Capitol insurrection in Washington, to Tunisian President Saied's recent seizure of expanded powers, to Jordan's arrest of top officials and members of the royal family under accusation of plotting against the government, discussion of coups and what should be called a coup has become a major point of national conversation around the world. As coups occupy a growing space in the public imagination, invoking the threat of a coup may become even more common as a political strategy to crack down on opposition elements. Meanwhile, militaries and armed groups in unstable countries may look to the examples of

successful coups to encourage further violent government takeovers.

Along with transfers of power through coups and violence, elections in a number of major geopolitical players mean that the majority of the G7 is now has a leader who took office within the last year. While democracies are expected to change leaders regularly, the concurrence of key leadership changes brings heightened uncertainty to the world stage. Along with the new presidency of Joe Biden in America and Mario Draghi's ascendance to prime minister after Giuseppe Conte's resignation, Japan and Germany each lost their longest-serving leader within the same year. Both Prime Minister Abe and Chancellor Merkel played key personal roles in reshaping their country's foreign policy, leaving large shoes for their successors to fill.

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# Coups and Violent Transfers of Power in 2021

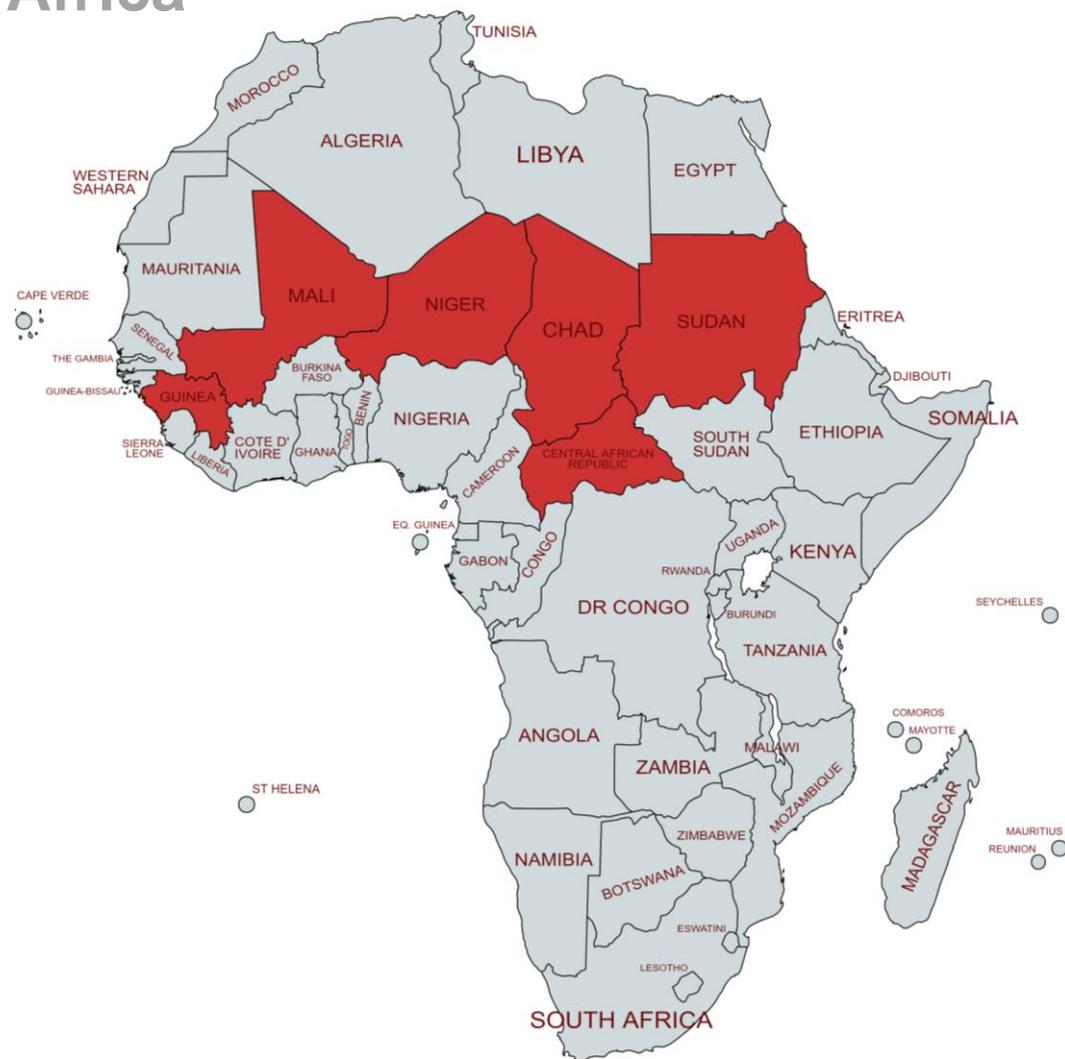


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# Thwarted and Alleged Coups Across Africa

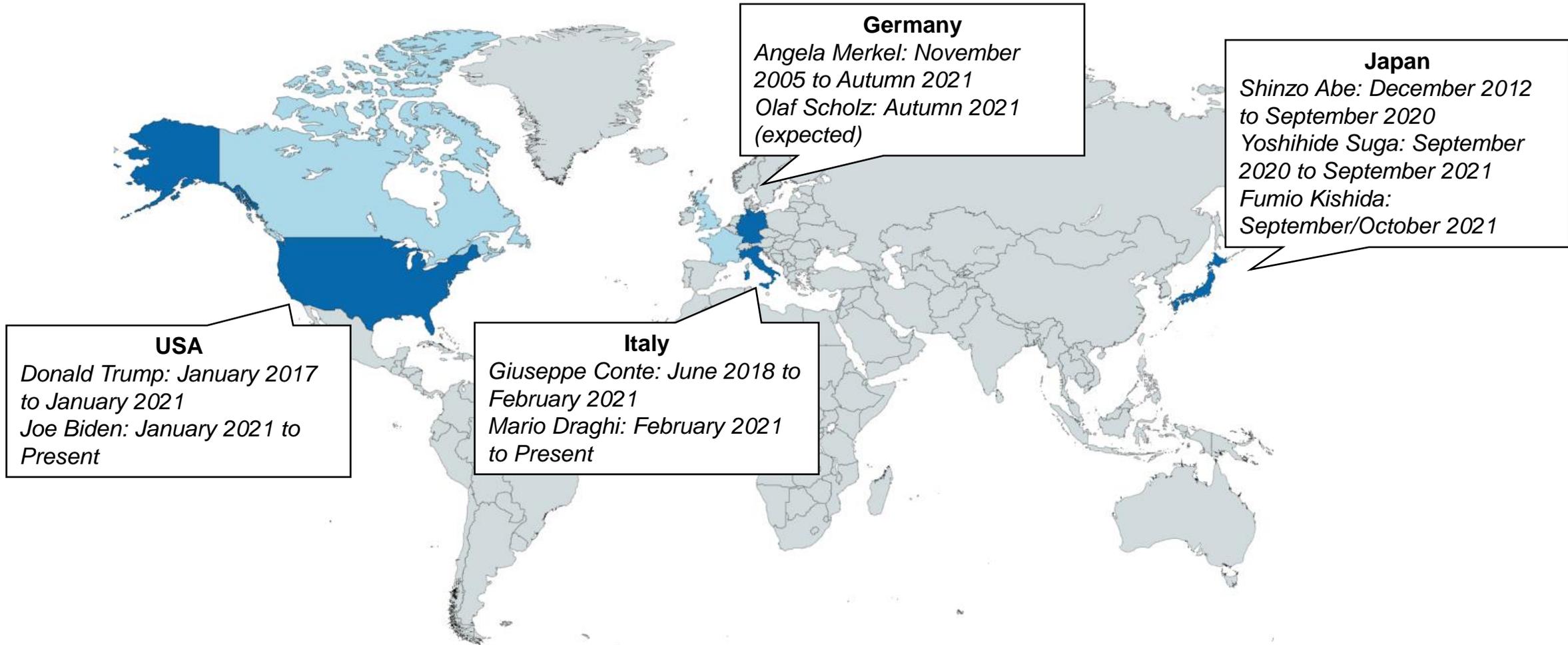
In addition to coups in Mali and Guinea, four other African nations have seen coup attempts or violent transfers of power over the past year:

- Most recently, Sudan's transitional government announced on September 21 that they had thwarted a coup attempt by loyalists of the deposed dictator Omar al-Bashir.
- Earlier in the year, elements of the Nigerien military attempted to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power two days before the inauguration of president-elect Mohamed Bazoum, on March 31.
- On April 21, Chad's President Idriss Déby died from battlefield injuries after clashing with rebels in the country's north. After his unexpected death, a Transitional Military Council led by one of Déby's sons assumed control of the government in a move decried by the opposition as an *"institutional coup."*
- In December 2020 and January 2021, a coalition of rebel groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) accused the country's president of trying to rig the December 27 elections and stated intent to march on the capital. CAR forces pushed back the rebel advance in January, with the backing of Russian mercenaries and troops from Rwanda.



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# A Majority of G7 Countries Change Leadership in 2021

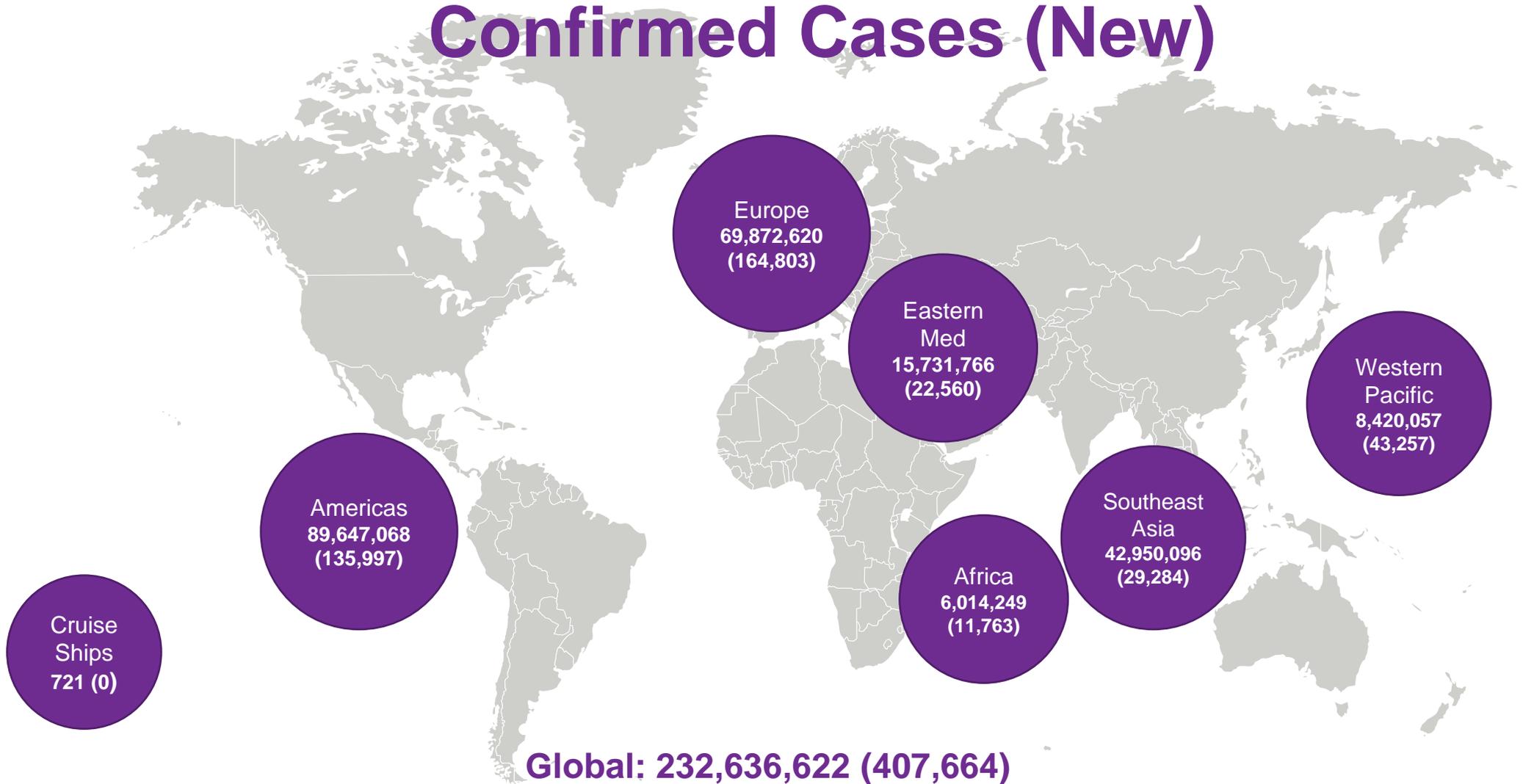


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# Coronavirus Condition Updates

As of 5:31 pm CEST on September 29, 2021

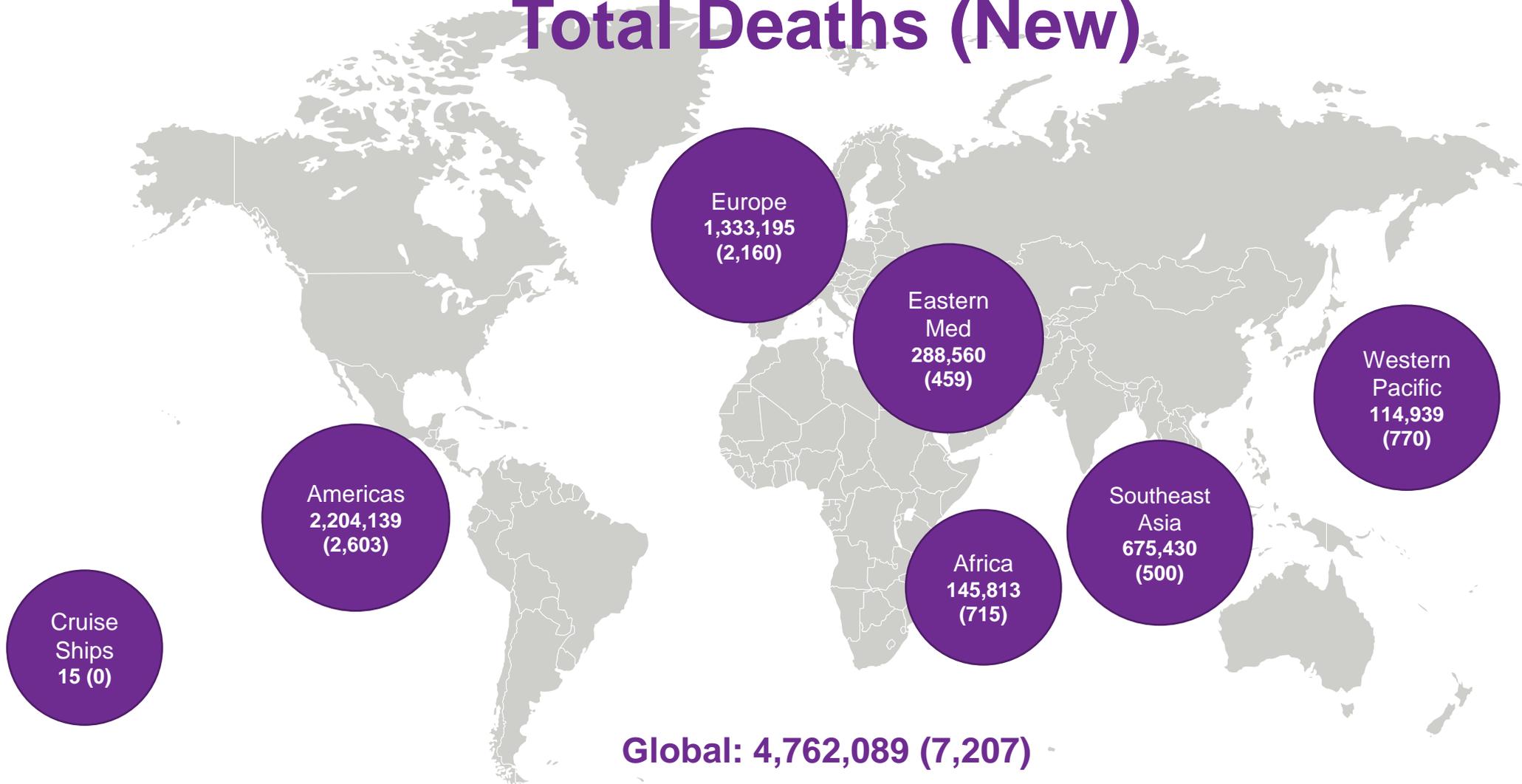
# Confirmed Cases (New)



Reflects data as of 5:31 pm CEST on September 29, 2021.  
Data Source: World Health Organization

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# Total Deaths (New)



Reflects data as of 5:31 pm CEST on September 29, 2021  
Data Source: World Health Organization

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# Contacts

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*This summary is based on reports sourced from among the 75 countries in which Dentons currently serves clients as well as from firms in other locations, some of which will formally join Dentons later in 2020. We are pleased to share this complimentary summary and contemporaneous assessment, with the caveat that developments are changing rapidly. This is not legal advice, and you should not act or refrain from acting based solely on its contents. We urge you to consult with counsel regarding your particular circumstances.*

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