

Dentons Flashpoint

Daily Global Situation Report

August 5, 2021

Global Situation Update: August 5, 2021

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The WHO calls for a pause on booster shots as lower-income nations face vaccine shortages.

ASEAN appointed Brunei's second foreign minister Erywan Yusof as special envoy to Myanmar.

Top US Federal Reserve officials began outlining the conditions for scaling back pandemic-era monetary support.

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WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

Today, another crackdown by Turkish authorities on suspected supporters of exiled Muhammed Fethullah Gülen, accused of orchestrating the 2016 coup attempt against President Erdoğan, continues. The latest mass arrest warrants and police operations target members of Turkey's military as 33 of 51 names currently wanted for arrest are military cadets and officers with alleged links to Gülen.

The purge of suspected Gülenists from Turkey's government bureaucracy, military and civil society since 2016 includes over a half million people investigated by authorities. In the US, where Gülen lives in exile, prominent Turks like NBA player Enes Kanter continue to lobby Congress against support for Erdoğan.



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

Global

Globally, confirmed coronavirus cases topped 199.4 million with 4.2 million deaths; more than 3.9 billion vaccine doses have been administered.

- Last month was one of the world's hottest Julys on record, behind only 2019 and 2016, with **unusually high temperatures** seen in regions from Finland to the US.
- The world is still far away from preventing catastrophic **climate change**, experts say, noting that major polluters including China and Russia have yet to submit revised plans before a major UN climate summit in November.
- Japan expanded its COVID-19 emergency curbs to cover more than 70 percent of the population, as a surge in cases strained hospitals in the **Olympics** host city Tokyo and other parts of the country. Games organizers on Thursday reported 31 new Games-related COVID-19 cases, bringing the total since July 1 to 353.

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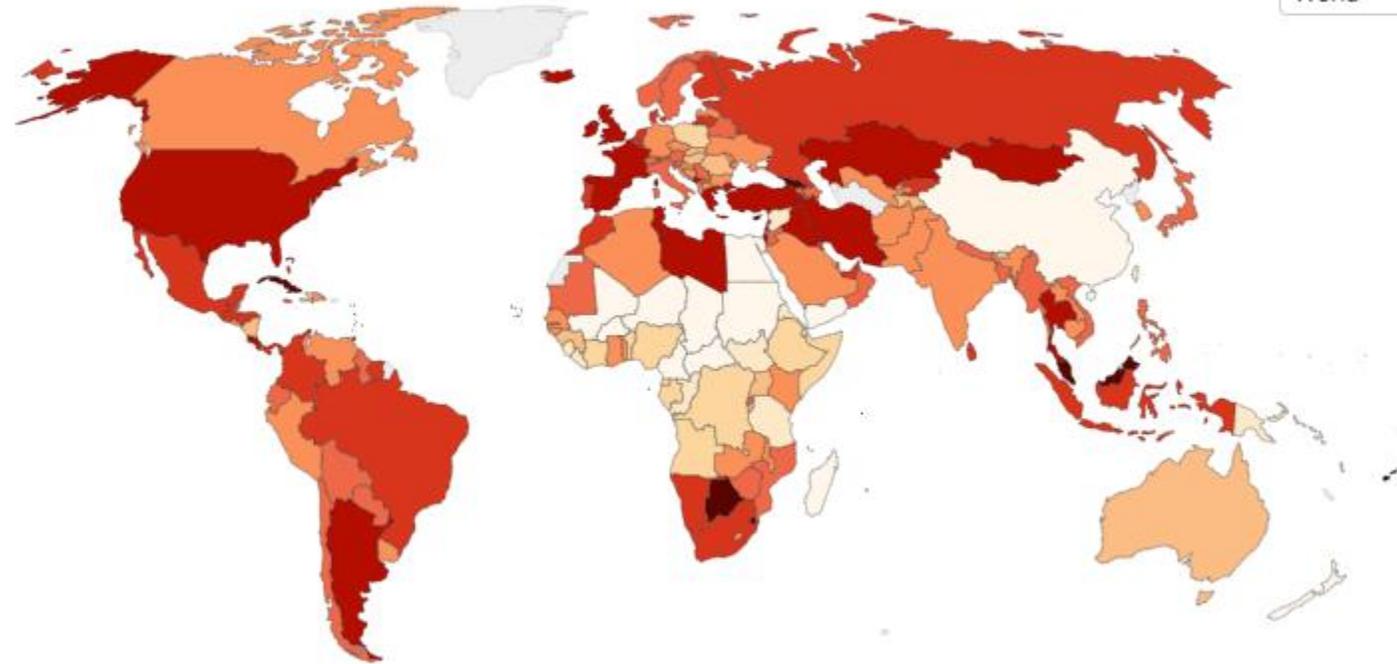
Global

The Delta variant has spread to 135 countries, driving up the rate of new infections in most regions. Many countries are resisting new public health restrictions, focusing instead on increasing vaccination rates. China is an outlier, committed to its elimination strategy with new lockdowns.

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people, Aug 4, 2021
Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World in Data

World



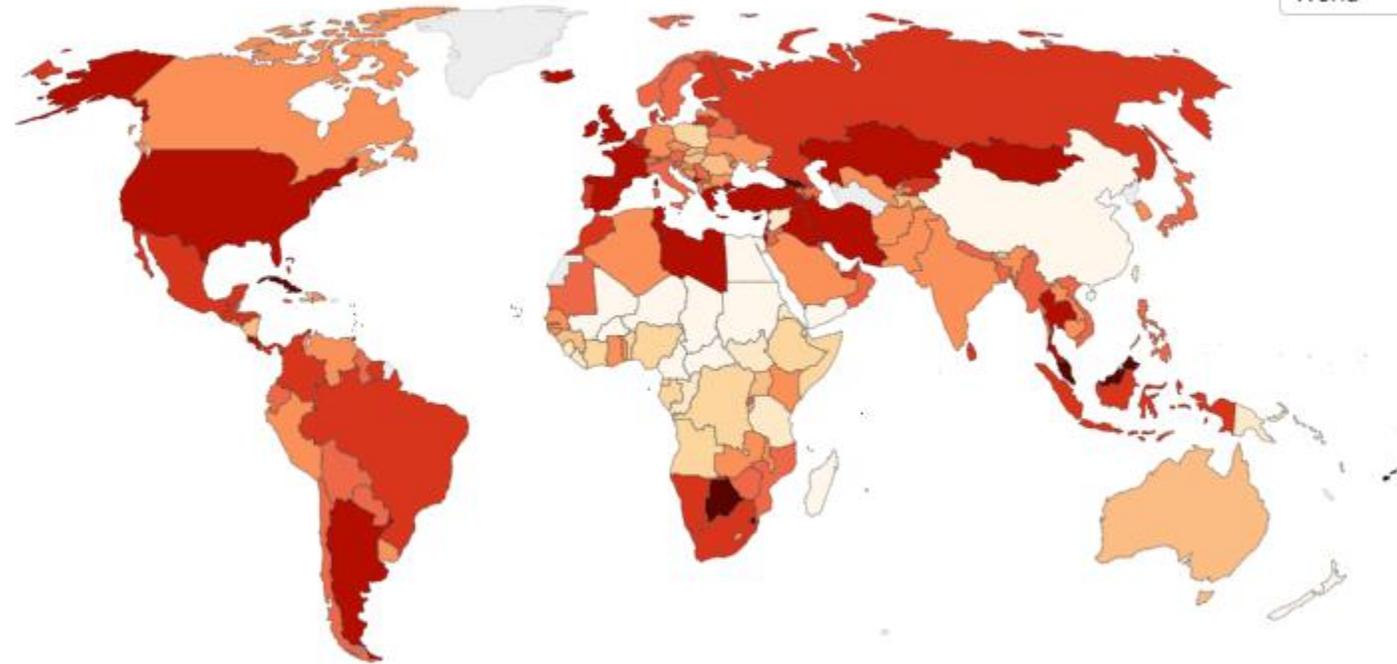
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COVID-19 Vaccine

The US is developing a plan to require nearly all foreign visitors to the US to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as part of eventually lifting travel restrictions.

- The WHO called for a global moratorium on **booster shots** through at least September as lower-income countries continue to face severe vaccine shortages.
- Despite the WHO's call, **France** is working on rolling out **booster shots** for the elderly and vulnerable in September. The **US** called the decision to give booster shots and the need to aid the global vaccination effort a "*false choice*."
- The COVID-19 death rate for people in the **Indonesian** capital of Jakarta who were not vaccinated was more than three times higher than those who were, according to new health ministry data.
- The **EU** ordered 200 million doses of **Novavax's** yet-to-be-approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- In the **US**, major drugstore CVS Health has stopped offering **Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine** in its pharmacies, now only making the shots available in roughly 10 percent of its retail locations, while still offering the two-dose **Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna** COVID vaccines nationwide.
- **South Korea** plans to invest 2.2 trillion won (\$1.9 billion) to become one of the world's five largest COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing bases by 2025.

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Markets & Business

Top US Federal Reserve officials began outlining the conditions for scaling back pandemic-era monetary support, saying economic recovery is strong despite rising cases.

- **DoorDash** is in talks to invest in Berlin-based grocery delivery app **Gorillas**.
- **Foxconn** bought a chip plant from Taiwan chipmaker **Macronix International** for T\$2.52 billion (\$90.8 million), as the electronics giant looks to make auto chips amid its foray into the electric vehicle market.
- **GM** posted strong second quarter results and raised its full-year outlook, but still said that the semiconductor shortage would weigh on results for the rest of 2021.
- Some **airlines in the US** are betting on a return of business travel as they reset routes for the autumn, despite ongoing skepticism about corporate travel's comeback.
- French asset manager **Melanion Capital** is set to launch the first EU-regulated fund that tracks the price of bitcoin.
- A group of NYU researchers studying **Facebook's** political advertising practices accused the company of “*silencing*” them after cutting their access to the platform.

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Africa

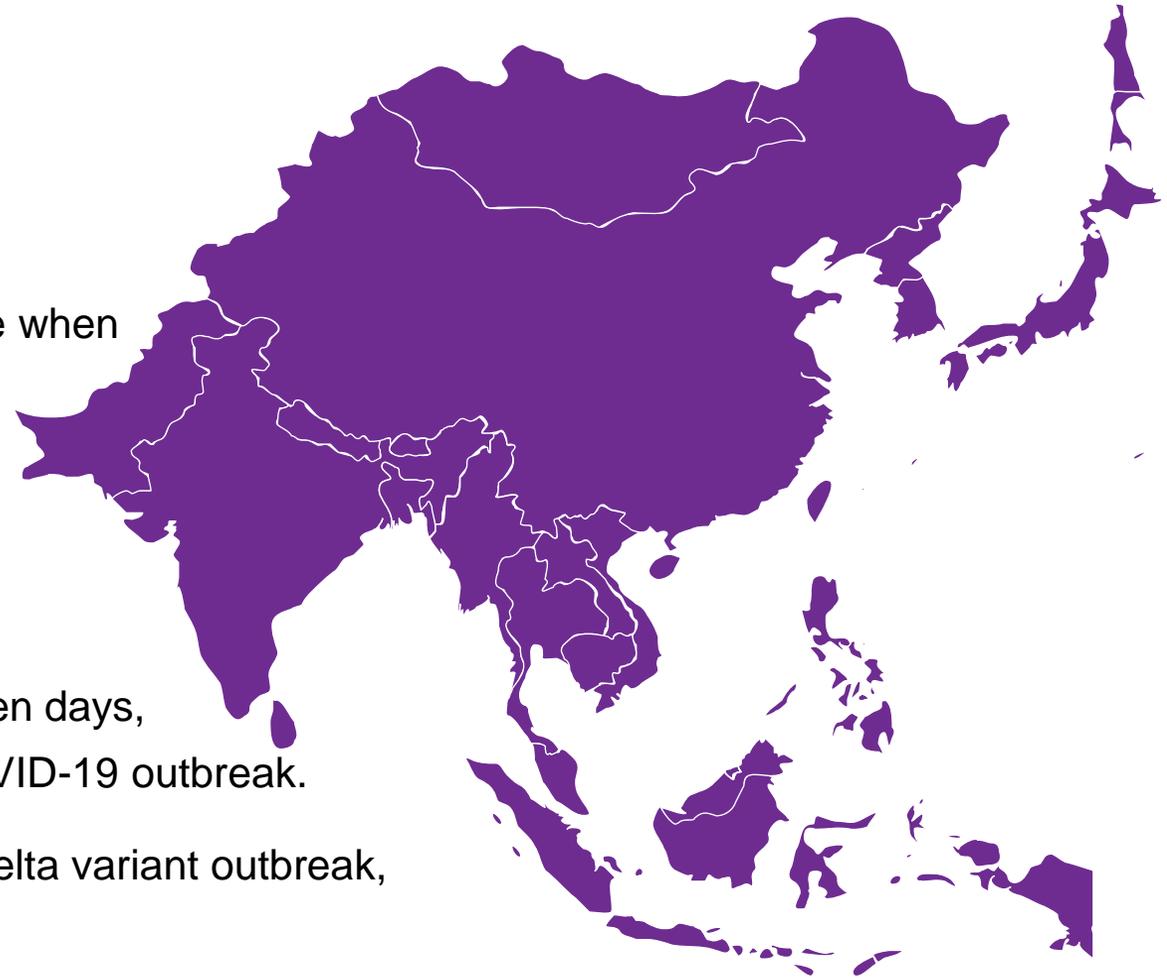
- Current **South African** President Ramaphosa is set to testify against former president Zuma in his ongoing state capture case set to resume next week. Zuma will be allowed out of prison for the trial and is expected to appear in court on Tuesday.
- Thousands of protestors took to the streets of **Ghana's** capital Accra to protest the government, under the slogan #FixTheCountry.
- Two international aid groups said that the **Ethiopian** government had suspended part or all of their operations in Tigray.
- Doctors without Borders (MSF) withdrew from **Cameroon**.
- Kidnappers are demanding a ransom of one million naira (\$2,400) each to release around 80 children snatched from a boarding school in northern **Nigeria** last month.



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Asia

- **Malaysia's** Prime Minister Yassin will face a confidence vote when Parliament reconvenes in September, setting the coming month to become a period of political horse trading.
- ASEAN appointed **Brunei's** second foreign minister Erywan Yusof as special envoy to **Myanmar**.
- **Vietnam** will cut the period for mandatory quarantine to seven days, even as the country struggles to contain its largest-ever COVID-19 outbreak.
- **China** is tightening border controls as the country faces a Delta variant outbreak, temporarily blocking new passports for most citizens.
- **Taiwanese** authorities are planning to bar workers in key technology positions from working in mainland **China** without permission in an effort to protect core technologies.

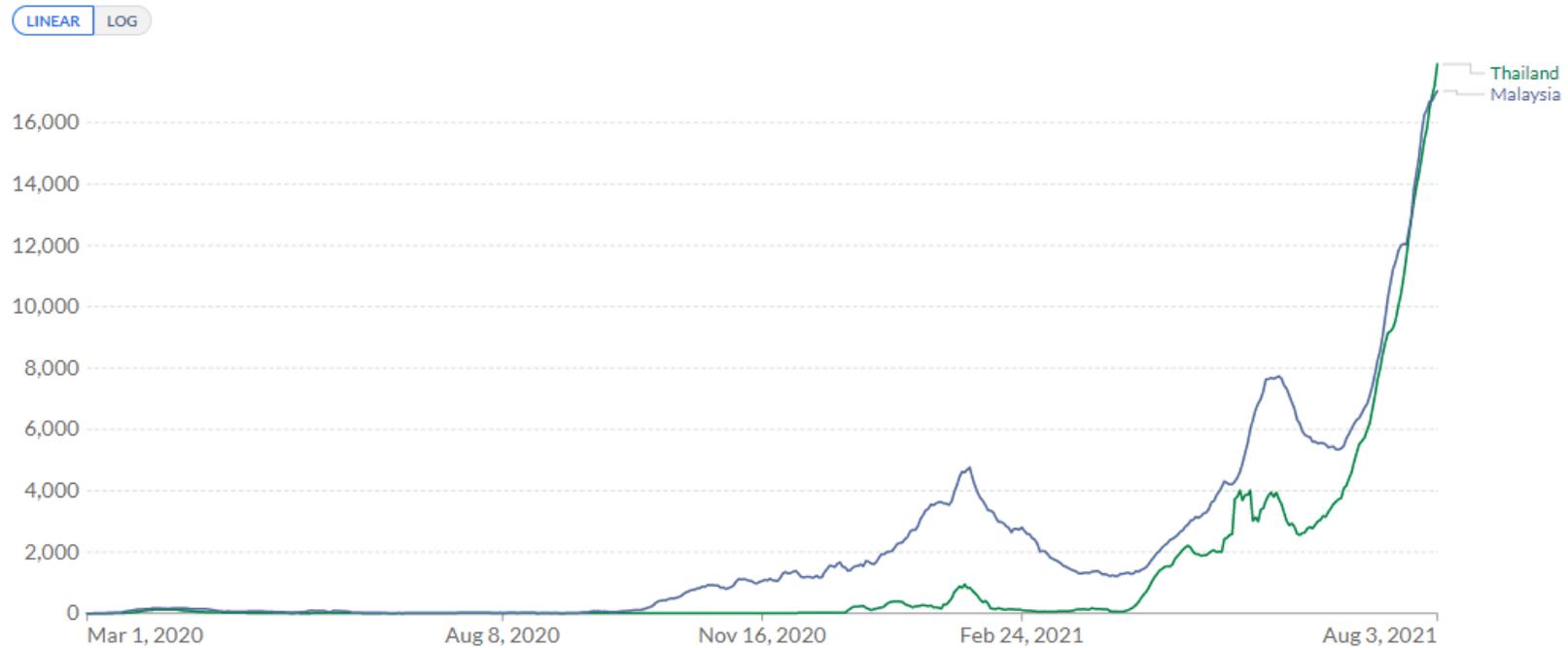


Asia

Thailand's daily COVID-19 cases have surpassed 20,000 for the first time; Malaysia new cases reached record highs above 15,500.

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



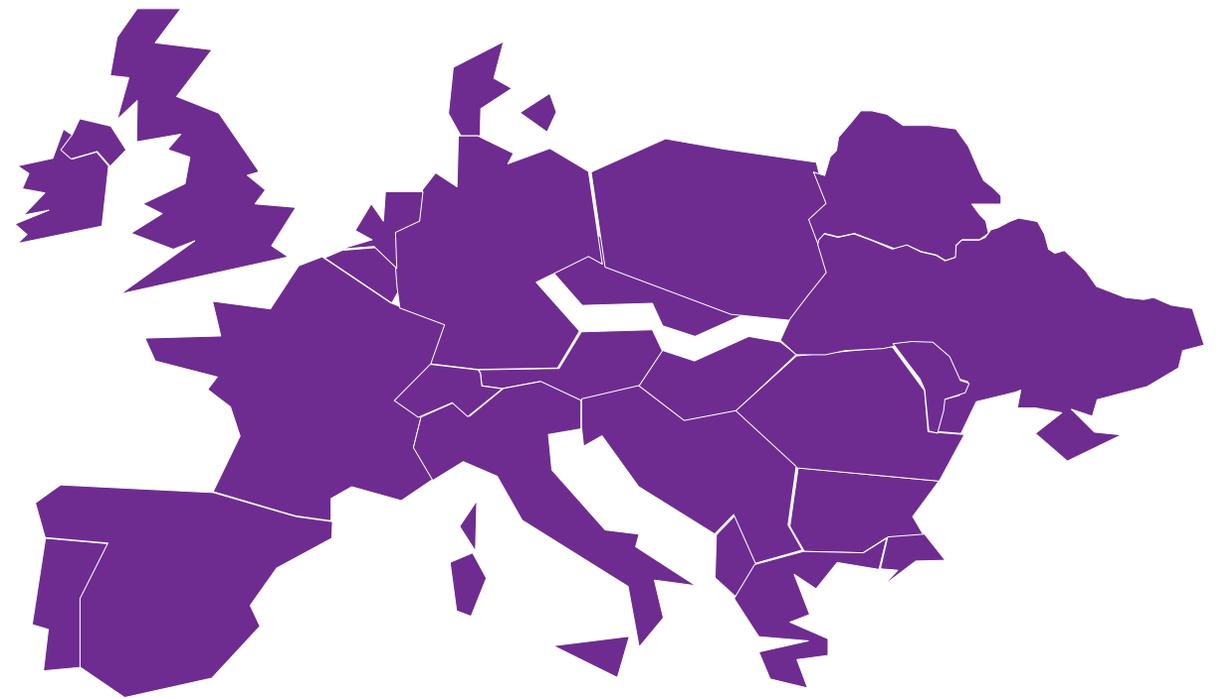
Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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Europe

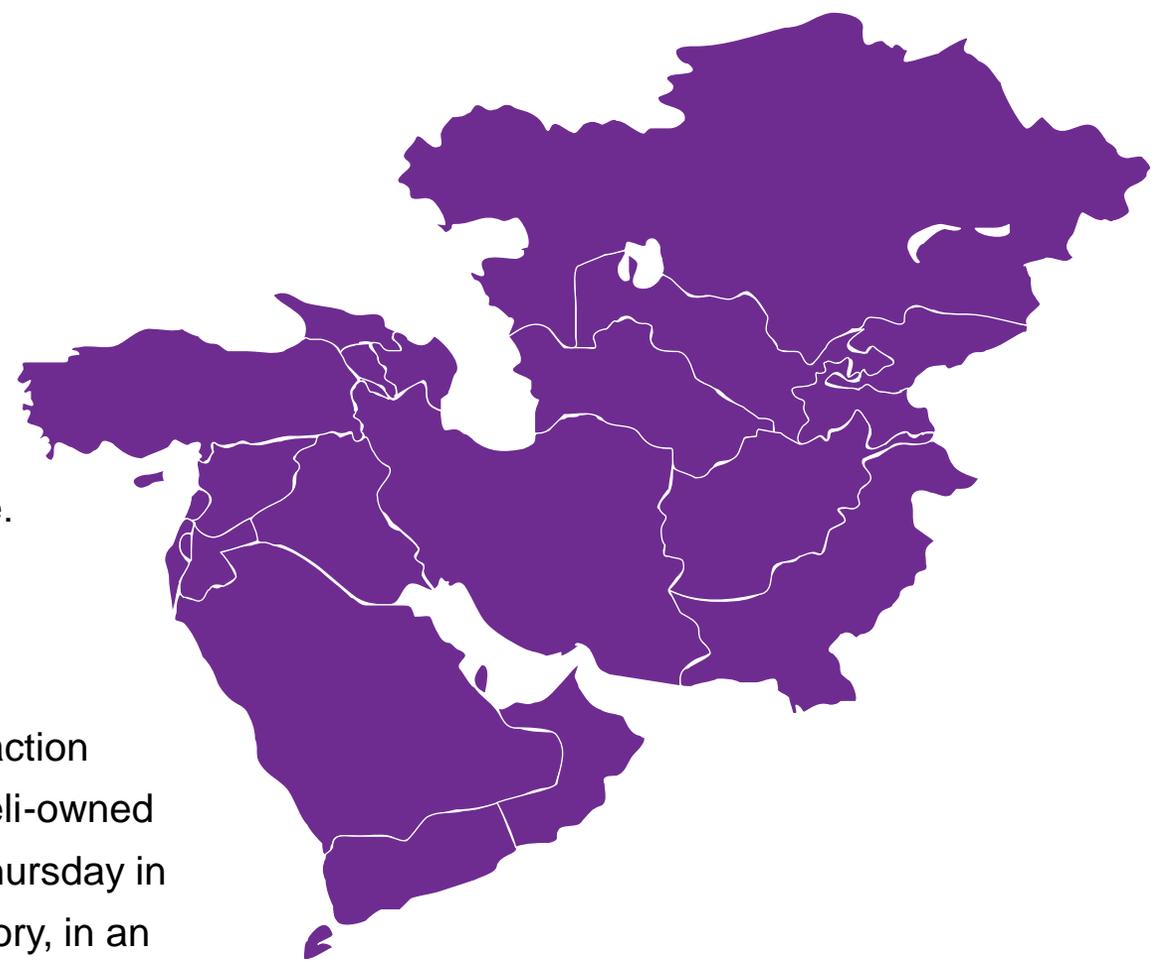
- A group of MPs urged the **UK** government to fix “*chaotic scenes*” in airports.
- Service sector activity grew strongly last month in **Spain** and **Italy**, despite a slip in business confidence attributed to Delta’s rise.
- **German** industrial orders rose more than twice as much as expected in June, but weaker turnover suggested that supply bottlenecks continued to hold back production.
- **Turkish** President Erdogan predicted that the country’s economy would grow more than 7 percent this year.
- **Greek** authorities ordered more evacuations on an island near Athens on Thursday and battled a blaze near the site of the ancient Olympic Games in the western Peloponnese as wildfires burned for a third day. The Mediterranean has become a wildfire hotspot, with **Turkey** hit by its most intense blazes on record and a heatwave producing a high risk of further fires and smoke pollution around the region, per a European Union atmosphere monitor.



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Middle East

- **Tunisia's** moderate Islamist party Ennahda called for President Saied's seizure of power to be turned into a "stage of the democratic transition" in a significant softening of language.
- **Israel** will reinstate outdoor mask requirements for large groups amid Delta's spread.
- **Israel** called on the international community to consider military action against **Iran** following the fatal drone attack last week on an Israeli-owned ship. Israeli jets struck rocket launch sites in Lebanon early on Thursday in response to two rockets fired towards Israel from Lebanese territory, in an escalation of cross-border hostilities amid heightened tensions with Iran.
- An international aid conference raised some \$370 million in humanitarian aid for **Lebanon** on the anniversary of Beirut's port explosion. Security forces fires water cannons and tear gas on protestors marching near the country's Parliament to mark the anniversary. **Saudi Arabia** said that Hezbollah's insistence on power is a major cause of Lebanon's crisis.



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Americas

- The **Mexican** government sued US gun manufacturers and distributors, saying their commercial practices contributed to violence in Mexico. Mexican President Lopez Obrador said he would call in the national guard to protect gas delivery trucks after drivers went on strike to protest government price controls.
- **Nicaraguan** police arrested Berenice Quezada, a former beauty queen and opposition vice president candidate, two days after she registered to run in November's elections.
- The first cruise ship docked in **Puerto Rico** since the pandemic began.
- Salvatore Mancuso and Rodrigo Londono, former enemies from **Colombia's** internal conflict, appeared together before the country's truth commission to ask victims for forgiveness and recognize mistakes they made during the war.



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How do You Manage Incident Response?

2021 has already seen business disrupted by extreme weather, ransomware attack, the ongoing pandemic and more. The common refrain “It’s not if, but when” rings truer than ever for disruptive incidents that will impact business as usual.

Working with Dentons, you can effectively develop an organizational incident-behavior adopted by all your team members. Dentons will help you build muscle memory through tabletop exercises, which are crafted to fit the business strategy of every client.

Our team plays events and incidents of different severities and complexities and accounts for real-world factors such as inconclusive evidence, mistakes by responders, and the business impact of eradication steps. Our tech-savvy lawyers continuously revise the playbooks per the evolving sector-specific threat landscape.

Dentons tabletop sessions are fluid, and designed to enhance preparedness with services, including:

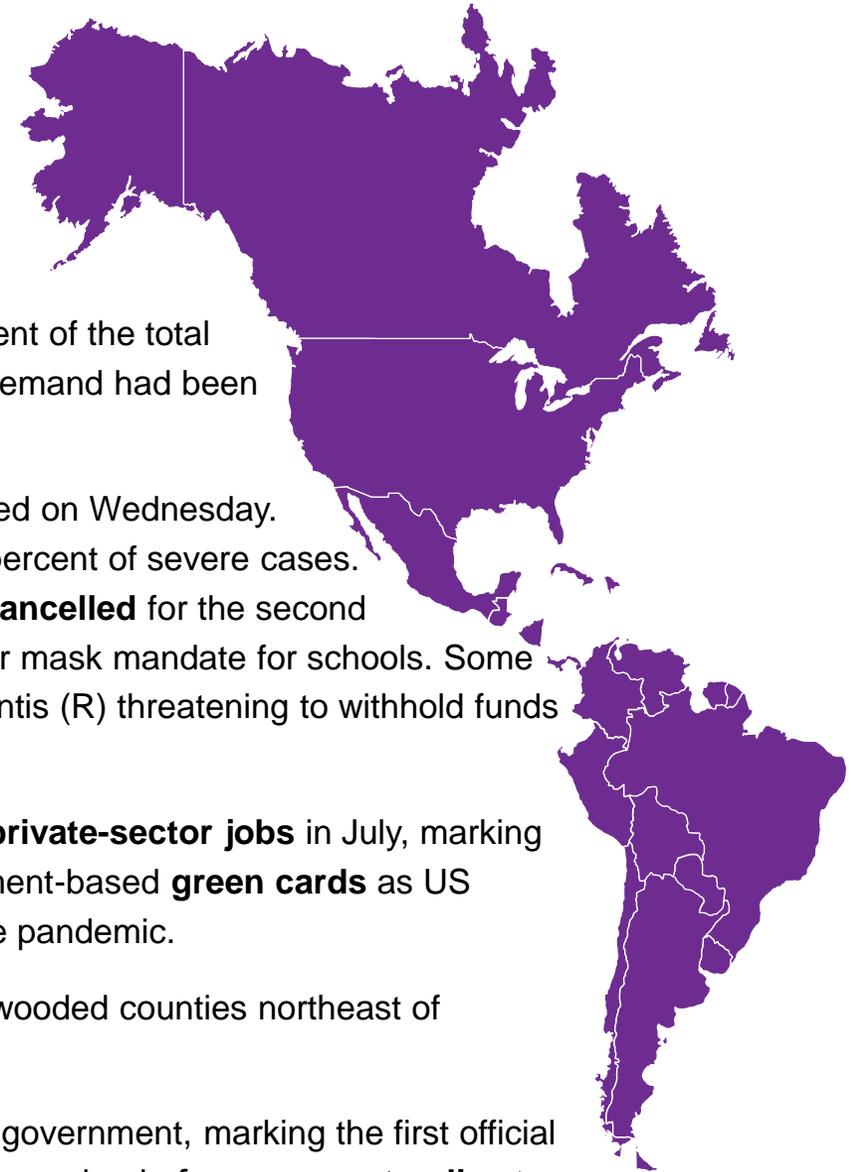
- ❖ Ransomware tabletop exercises
- ❖ Post-tabletop action reports
- ❖ Maturity assessments for preparedness
- ❖ Supply-chain attack simulation
- ❖ Comprehensive incident response plan
- ❖ Threat analysis and monitoring

All interaction with Dentons is attorney-client privileged

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

Americas: US

- Across the nation, 192.6 million have received at least one dose of the **vaccine**, or 58.0 percent of the total population. Walgreens reported a surge in COVID-19 vaccinations in states where previous demand had been slow. Pfizer will require US employees and contractors to get vaccinated or be tested weekly.
- The US recorded a six-month high for **new COVID cases** with over 100,000 infections reported on Wednesday. **Deaths** increased 33 percent over the past week. Unvaccinated people represent nearly 97 percent of severe cases. The New York International **Auto Show** and Chicago's Hyde Park **Summer Fest** were both **cancelled** for the second straight year amid tightened restrictions due to the Delta variant. **Illinois** announced an indoor mask mandate for schools. Some of **Florida's** largest school districts have announced new mask mandates despite Gov. DeSantis (R) threatening to withhold funds from school districts if they mandate face coverings.
- A measure of **US services sector growth** hit a record level in July. The US gained 330,000 **private-sector jobs** in July, marking weaker growth than was expected. The US government could waste some 100,000 employment-based **green cards** as US Citizenship and Immigration Services slowly processes a years-long backlog worsened by the pandemic.
- A rapidly spreading **wildfire** burned homes and forced thousands to evacuate in two heavily wooded counties northeast of Sacramento in Northern California. The River Fire is completely uncontained.
- Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman met with a representative of **Myanmar's** shadow government, marking the first official US contact with the country's exiled representatives. The Biden administration is preparing an overhaul of **arms export policy** to increase the emphasis on human rights.



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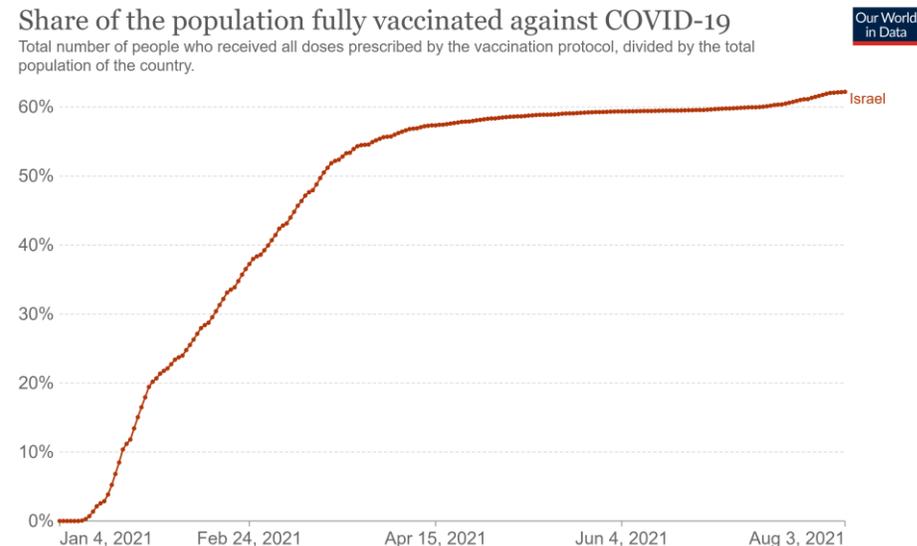
Charts in Focus: Vaccine Plateaus Around the World

The explosive spread of the Delta variant among unvaccinated populations is driving concerns around the world about the dangers of failing to vaccinate large swaths of the public. Even in the world's most vaccine-advanced countries, 30-40 percent of the population remains unvaccinated. Given the heightened risks of Delta and persistence of vaccine hesitancy, a growing number of countries face the issue of overcoming a "vaccine plateau" - a point at which new vaccinations fall off and authorities must work ever harder to convince the remaining population to get the jab.

Israel provides the starkest example of a vaccine plateau, as new vaccinations began severely dropping off in April and the percentage of the population that is fully vaccinated has hovered around 60 percent for over three months.

Recently, heightened concerns about the Delta variant and new restrictions on the unvaccinated - from a series of companies announcing that a vaccine would be required to return to the office, to New York City's new vaccine requirements for indoor activities - have shown some encouraging signs for overcoming vaccine plateaus. The US has seen a modest uptick in daily vaccination rates, particularly in some areas with low vaccine numbers. However, vaccine plateaus will continue to be a persistent issue for governments around the world as long as significant numbers of people continue to resist the shot. As a number of countries reach advanced stages in their vaccine rollout, the rate of vaccination

progress provides insight into which countries around the world are struggling most with vaccine resistance, and which are more likely to reach high thresholds for immunization.



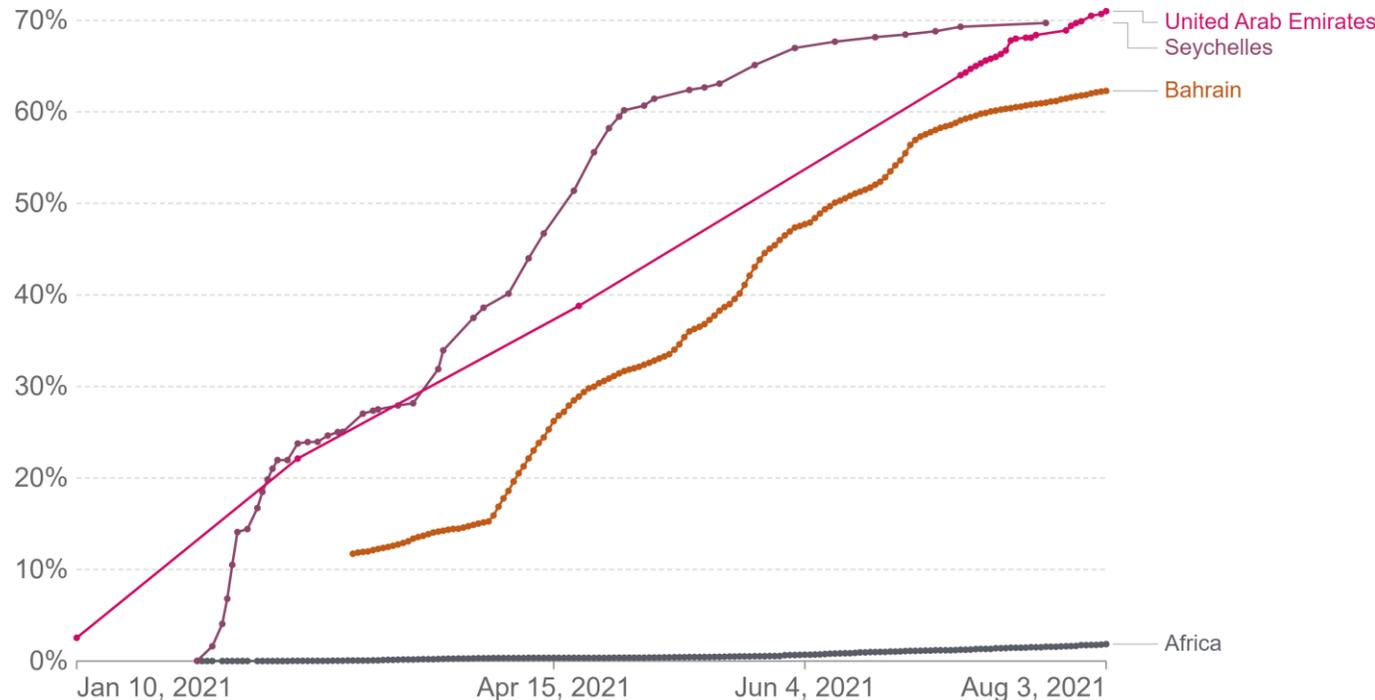
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The Middle East and Africa: Small States Lead

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Total number of people who received all doses prescribed by the vaccination protocol, divided by the total population of the country.

Our World
in Data



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data – Last updated 4 August 2021, 18:10 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

Note: This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses. Alternative definitions of a full vaccination, e.g. having been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and having 1 dose of a 2-dose protocol, are ignored to maximize comparability between countries.

Bahrain and Seychelles both show signs of hitting a vaccine plateau at around 60-70 percent of their small populations. The UAE, with a larger population of 9 million, recently became one of the world's first countries to approve a vaccine for children, which may help it avoid a plateau in the near term.

**The charts included here display vaccinations within total populations, including children, who lack access to an approved vaccine in most countries. Once child COVID-19 vaccines are more widely approved, countries will be able to vaccinate a higher share of their populations.*

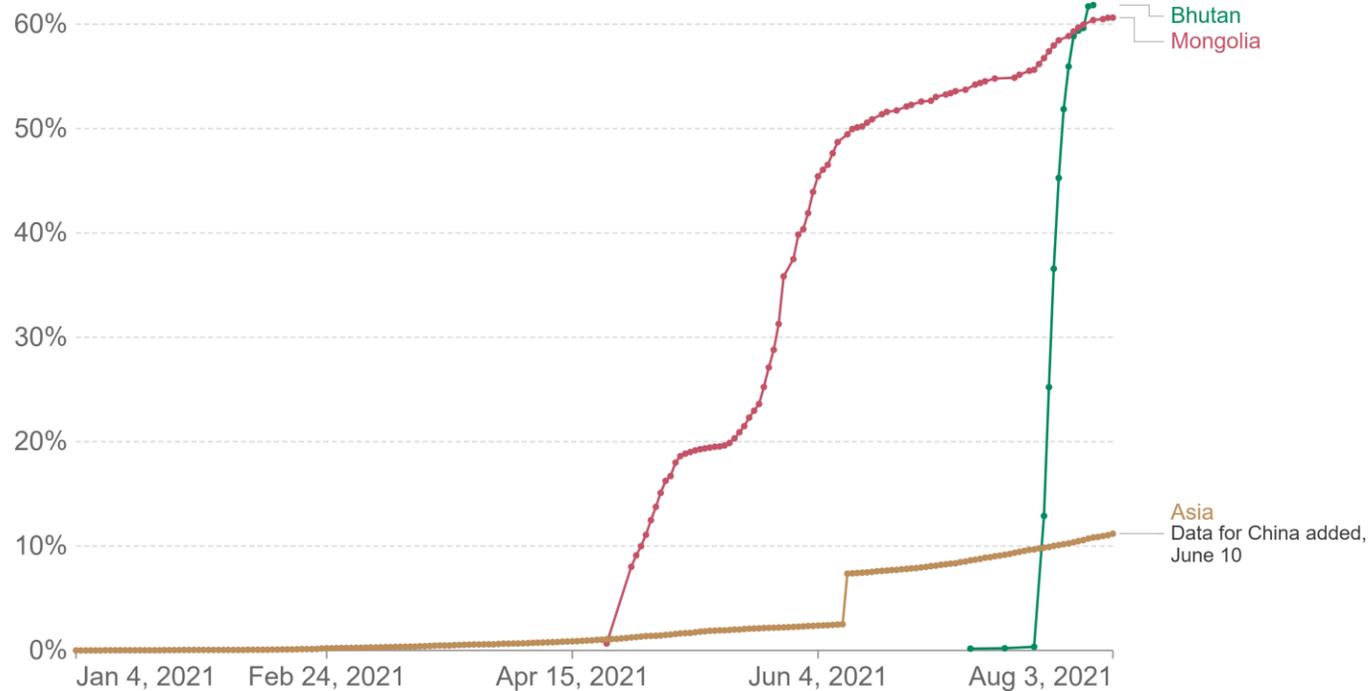
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Asia: Bhutan and Mongolia Hit Highest Rates

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Bhutan's highly unusual process of vaccinating its tiny population essentially in two bursts (for each dose) mean that over 90 percent of eligible adults are vaccinated - but its process would be hard to replicate elsewhere. In Asia's other vaccine standout, Mongolia, the spread of Delta may have reinvigorated the vaccine rollout.

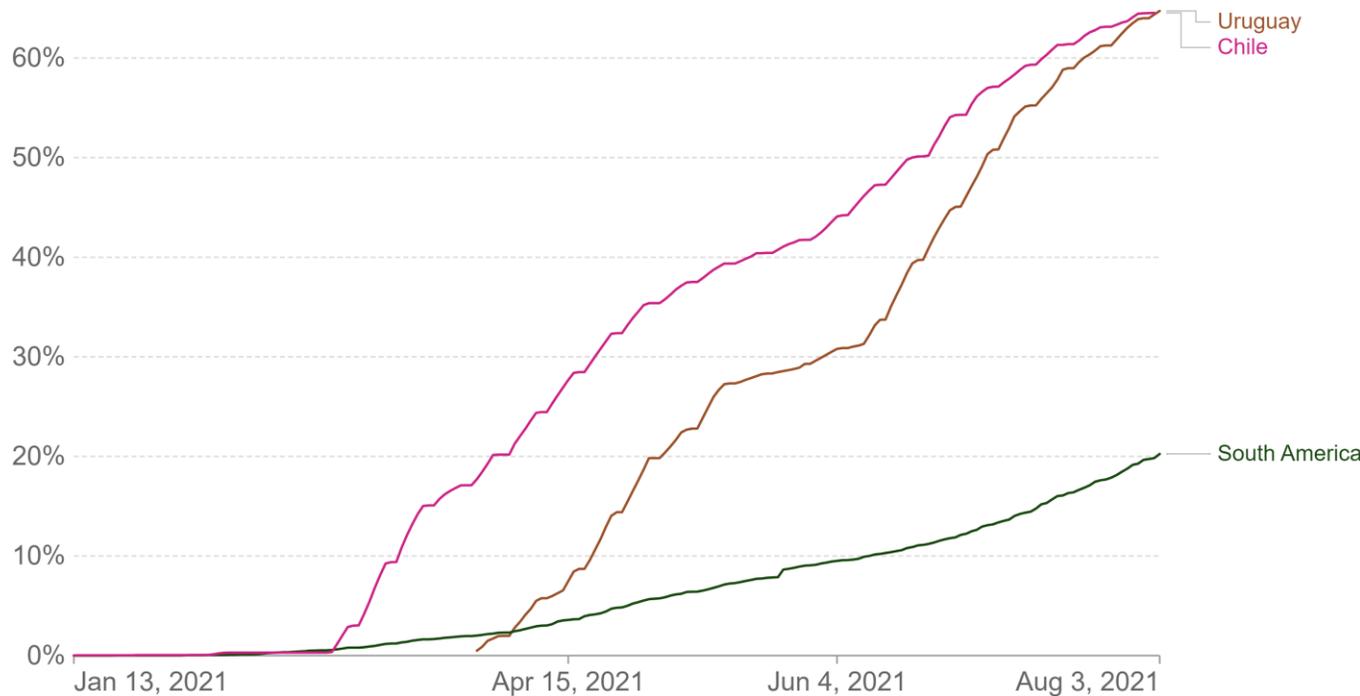
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South America: Uruguay and Chile Approach 70 percent

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19

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Our World
in Data



South America's two standouts in vaccination rates, Uruguay and Chile, have maintained a relatively steady pace of vaccinations as they approach 70 percent of the population, in an encouraging sign for ongoing rollout in both countries.

Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data – Last updated 4 August 2021, 18:10 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY
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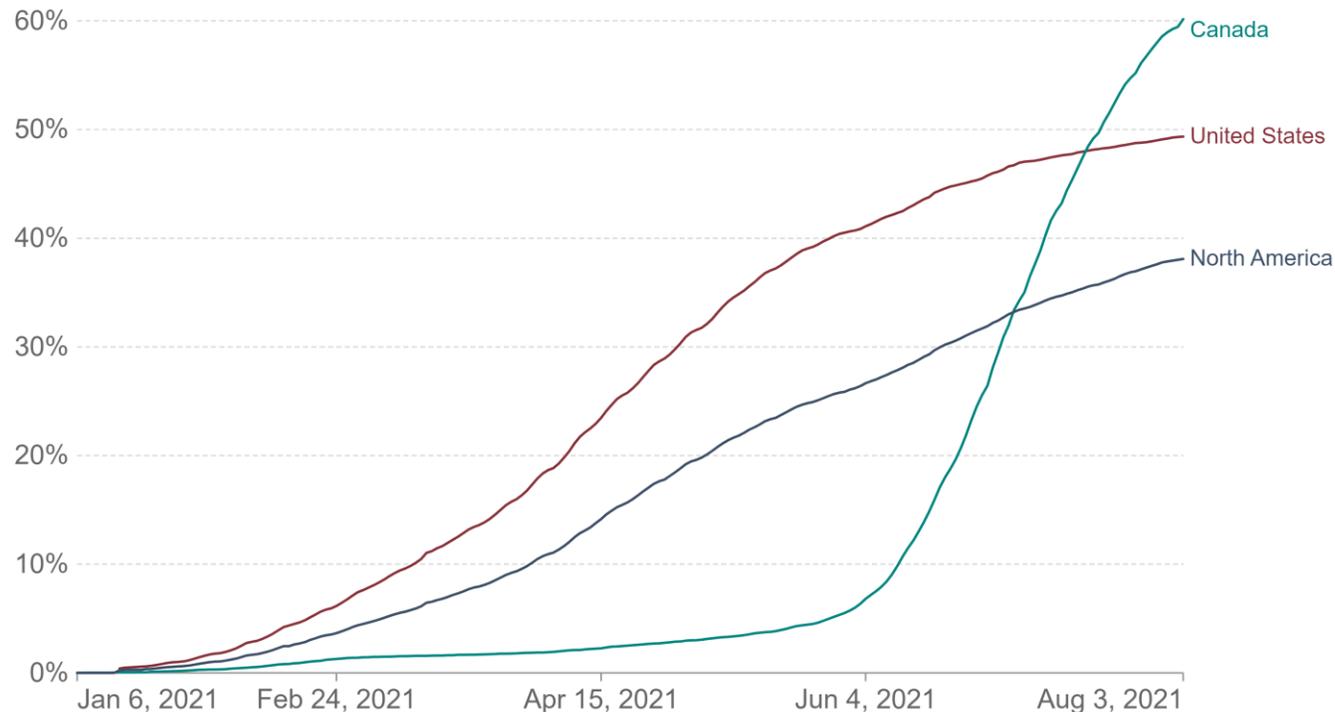
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North America: Canada Surpasses Plateaued US

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Total number of people who received all doses prescribed by the vaccination protocol, divided by the total population of the country.

Our World
in Data



The United States shows clear signs of a vaccine plateau, despite some increases in daily vaccinations following recent announcements on vaccine requirements (from employers and local governments) as well as elevated concerns about Delta. The slowing rate of US vaccinations has allowed Canada to quickly surpass its neighbor as vaccinations accelerated over the summer, which have yet to plateau.

Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data – Last updated 4 August 2021, 18:10 (London time) OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

Note: This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses. Alternative definitions of a full vaccination, e.g. having been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and having 1 dose of a 2-dose protocol, are ignored to maximize comparability between countries.

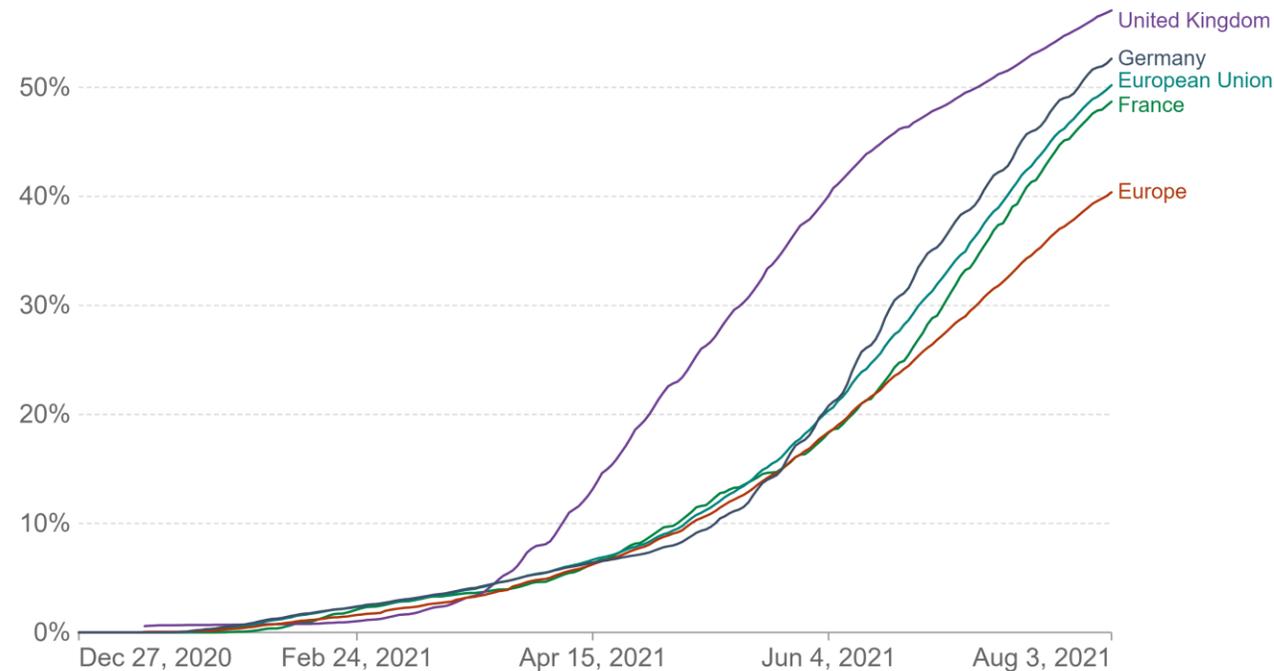
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Europe: The EU Chases Britain's Lead

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19

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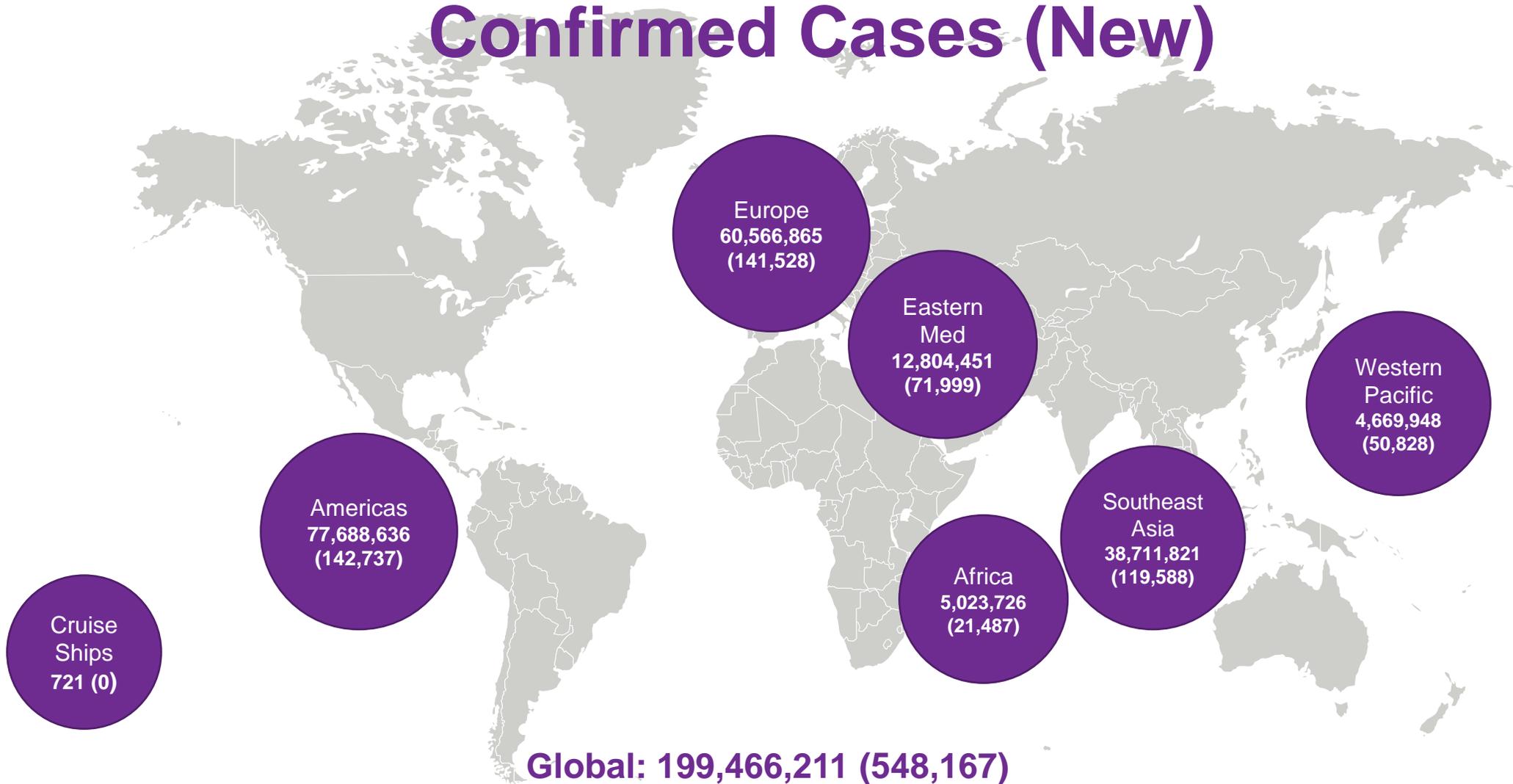
Overall, vaccinations continue to rise in the European Union, which is gaining on the UK's early lead in vaccination numbers. However, surveys across Europe have also warned that vaccine hesitancy is high in many countries, potentially warning that more obvious vaccine plateaus are yet to come.

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Coronavirus Condition Updates

As of 6:44 pm CEST on August 4, 2021

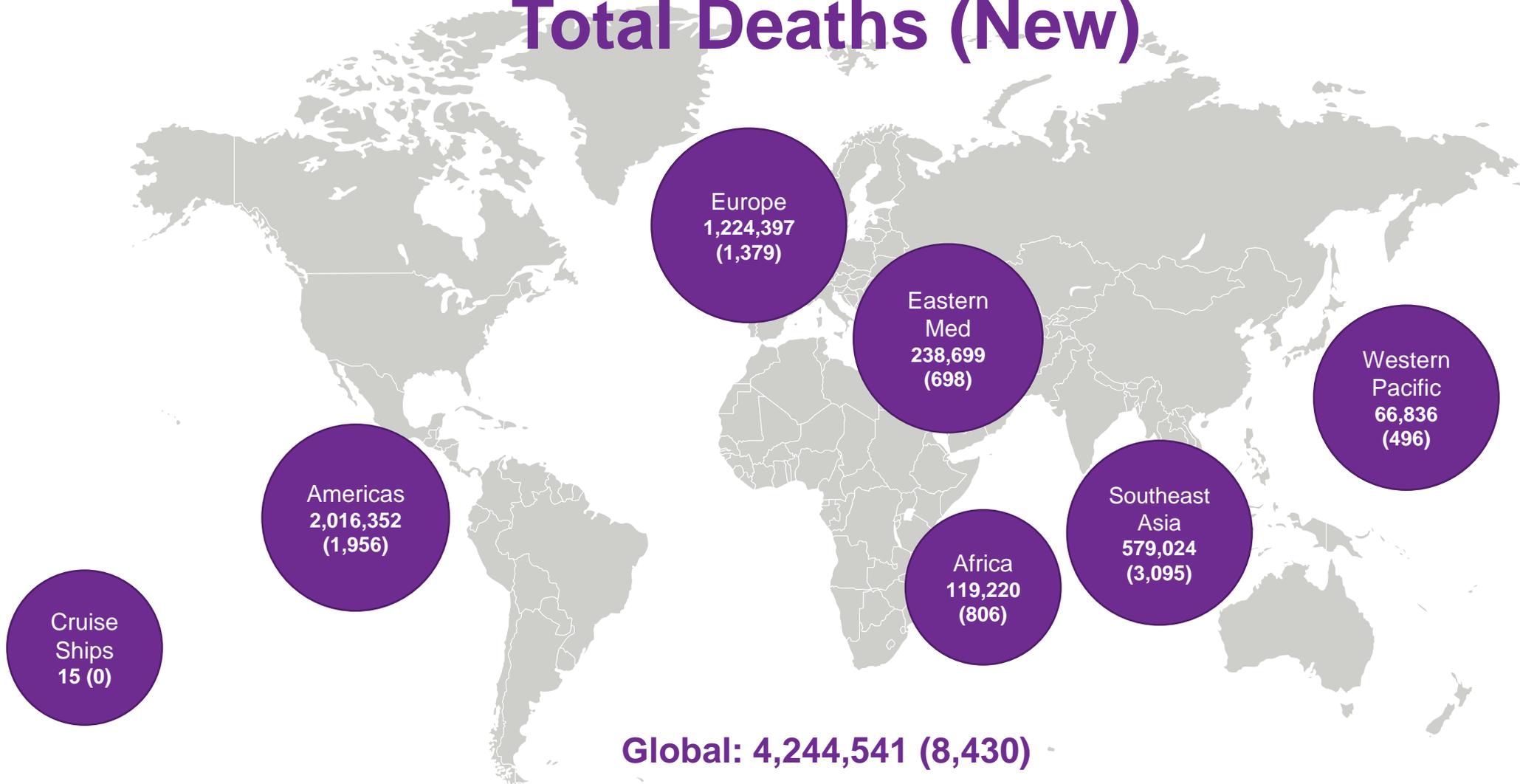
Confirmed Cases (New)



Reflects data as of 6:44 pm CEST on August 4, 2021.
Data Source: World Health Organization

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Total Deaths (New)



Reflects data as of 6:44 pm CEST on August 4, 2021
Data Source: World Health Organization

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Contacts

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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