

Dentons Flashpoint

Daily Global Situation Report

August 12, 2021

Global Situation Update: August 12, 2021

KEY TAKEAWAYS

US inflation steadied at a 13-year high in July, as the consumer price index rose slightly above analyst expectations.

US intelligence has reportedly assessed that the Taliban could take Kabul within 90 days.

The European Medicines Agency is studying three new possible side-effects with COVID-19 shots from Pfizer and Moderna.

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WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

Boards of companies listed on Nasdaq's US exchanges must begin to plan how to comply with The Board Diversity Rule recently approved by the SEC. Companies are now required to publicly disclose board-level diversity statistics by 2022, or explain why they do not have, at least one diverse director on their board by 2023 and a second diverse director in 2025 or 2026. The initiative aims to promote greater gender, racial, and LGBTQ+ diversity among boards, as well as promote transparency and accountability in corporate decision-making.

It is important for companies to carefully consider their approach to complying with the new rule, including formulating explanations in instances where they will be unable to comply. Companies will need to explore and determine appropriate methods with respect to both self-identification of racial/ethnic and LGBTQ+ for directors, including how such data can be collected as well as consider steps for identifying a pool of qualified candidates for meeting such new standards.

Board Diversity Matrix (As of [Date]) Foreign Issuer under Rule 5605(f)(1)				
Country of Incorporation:		[Insert Country Name]		
Board Size:				
Total Number of Directors	#			
Gender:	Male	Female	Non-Binary	Gender Undisclosed
Number of directors based on gender identity	#	#	#	#
Number of directors who identify in any of the categories below:				
LGBTQ+	#			
Underrepresented Individual in home country jurisdiction	#			
Undisclosed	#			

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 203.9 million with 4.3 million deaths; more than 4.3 billion vaccine doses have been administered.

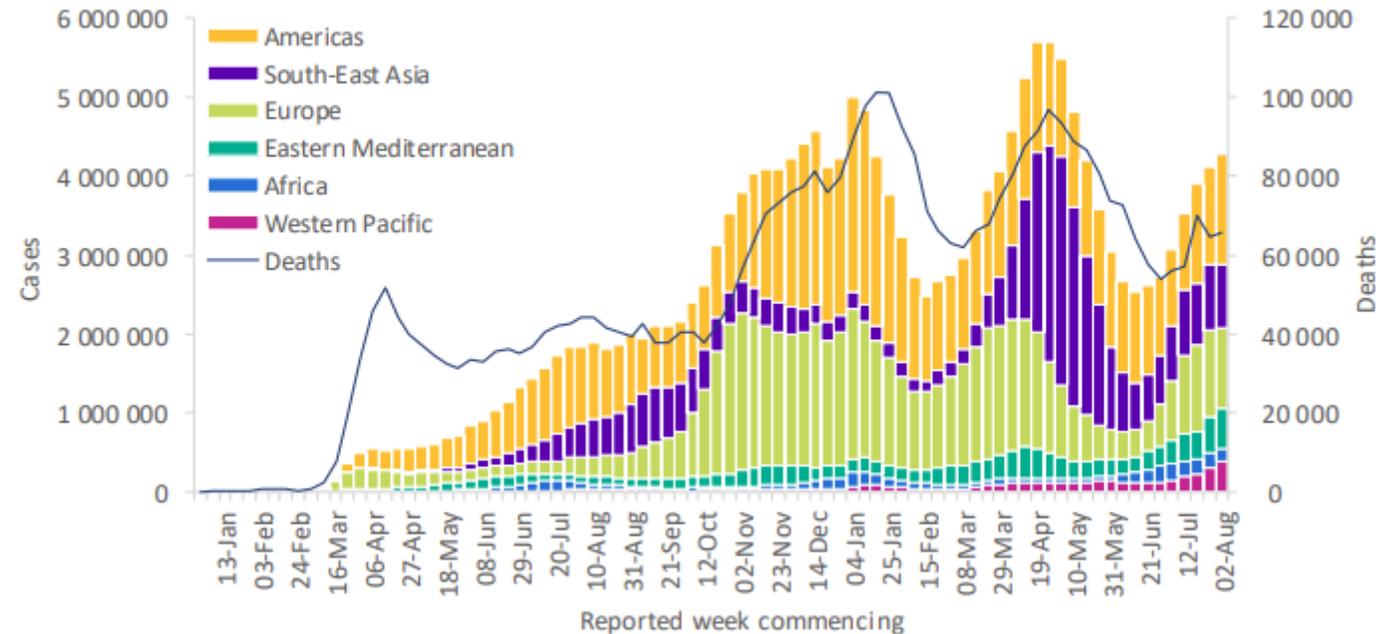
- The Delta resurgence is continuing to hamper the **return to live entertainment**: Stevie Nicks announced she would cancel all performances this year, while the Melbourne Film Festival scrapped in-person screenings.
- About one-third of people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, according to a review of data from more than 350 studies published through April 2021. **Asymptomatic infections** were more common in children than in the elderly or in people without preexisting medical conditions.,

Global

On 5 August, the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases globally surpassed 200 million, just six months after reaching 100 million cases.

Of the 228 WHO member states and territories, 38 (17%) reported more than a 50% increase in new cases as compared to the previous week and 34 (15%) reported a more than a 50% increase in new deaths.

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 8 August 2021**



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COVID-19 Vaccine

The US FDA is expected to authorize extra doses of coronavirus vaccines for patients with weakened immune systems, with boosters available to vulnerable population as soon as this weekend.

- **Turkey's** health minister said that a study of 30 million vaccinated citizens showed that three doses of Sinovac were more effective than two doses of **Sinovac** and one of **Pfizer**.
- **Chile** began administering **booster shots** to elderly residents already vaccinated with the SinoVac shot.
- The CDC recommended the COVID-19 vaccine for **pregnant women**, after saying data from **Pfizer and Moderna** did not show any increased risk of miscarriage.
- Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said that **Sputnik V** is only 83 percent effective against the Delta variant, lower than previously thought.
- The **Philippines** approved for emergency use the Hayat-Vax COVID-19 vaccine manufactured in the UAE, a version of Sinopharm's vaccine.
- The European Medicines Agency is studying three new possible **side-effects** reported by a small number of people after vaccination with COVID-19 shots from **Pfizer and Moderna**: Erythema multiforme, a form of allergic skin reaction; glomerulonephritis or kidney inflammation; and nephrotic syndrome, a renal disorder characterized by heavy urinary protein losses.

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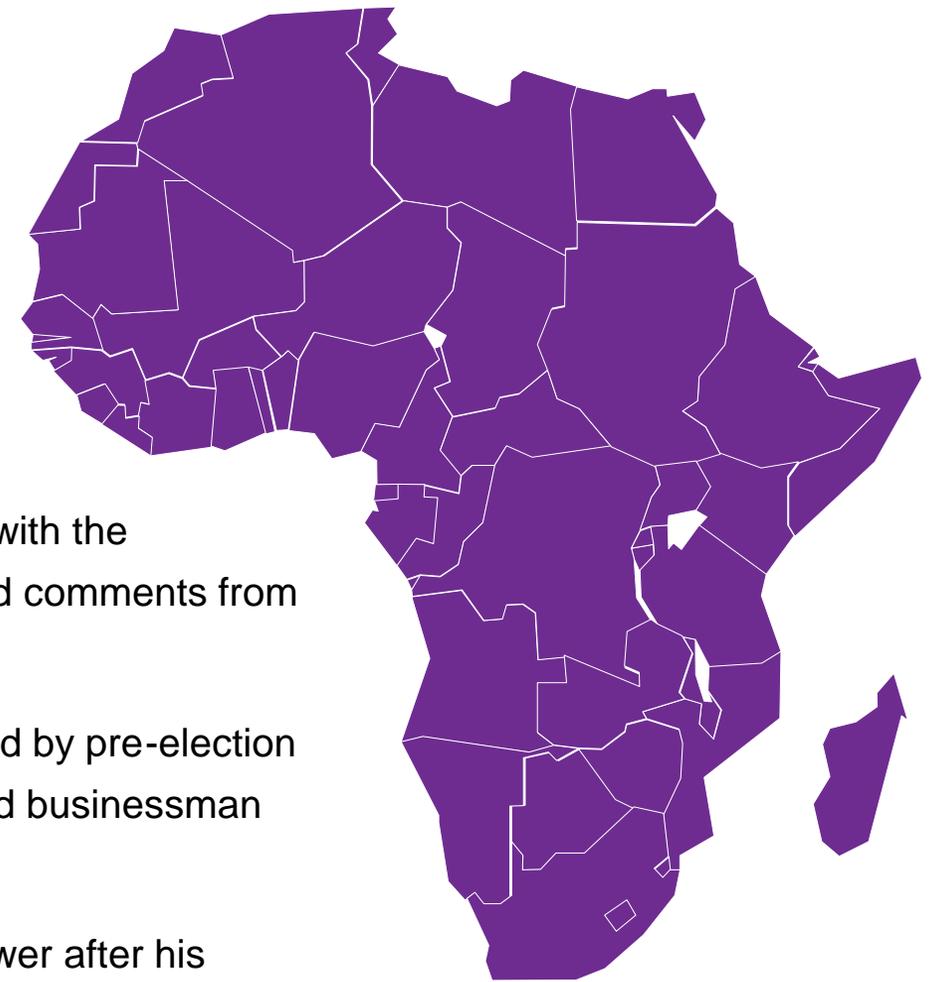
Markets & Business

China has released a five-year plan to strengthen regulatory control over strategic sectors including technology and healthcare.

- **US inflation** steadied at a 13-year high in July, as the consumer price index rose slightly above analyst expectations.
- The **New York Stock Exchange** will require vaccinations for access to the trading floor starting September 13.
- **Wendy's** said it would expand its footprint of “dark kitchens” - delivery only kitchens in parking lots – across the US, UK and Canada.
- The US called on OPEC to increase production in order to ensure affordable **oil prices**.
- Rising **demand for oil** abruptly reversed course in July and is set to proceed more slowly for the rest of the year due to the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant, per the International Energy Agency.
- Hackers returned up to \$250 million in stolen funds to the **cryptocurrency** platform Poly Network, after the platform warned the hackers that it would constitute a major economic crime.

Africa

- **Sudan** agreed to give former dictator Omar al-Bashir and other officials to the International Criminal Court to answer charges for crimes against humanity during the conflict in Darfur.
- **Nigeria** said that it would soon lift its ban on Twitter after successful talks with the company. The ban was originally put in place in June after Twitter removed comments from President Buhari that it claimed incited violence.
- **Zambia** votes today in a presidential election that has already been marred by pre-election violence and is expected to be a close race between incumbent Lungu and businessman Hichelima.
- **Chad's** transitional president, the son of late President Deby who took power after his father was killed by insurgents, invited Islamist jihadists to participate in a national dialogue on the future country, reversing the previous government stance.
- Sources within the Tigrayan forces in **Ethiopia** said that the group is seeking a military alliance with the Oromiya region, the country's most populous state.



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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:

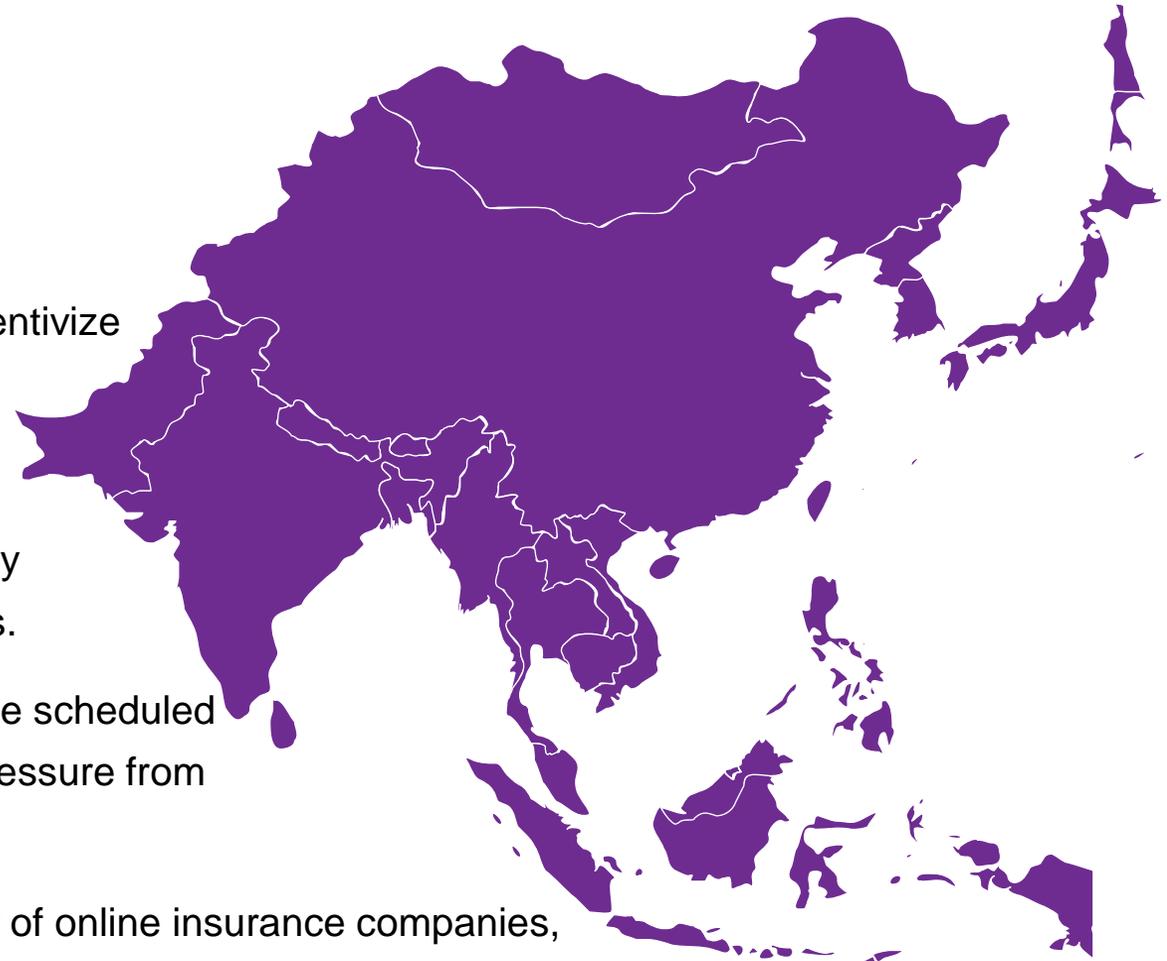
- ❖ Ransomware tabletop exercises
- ❖ Post-tabletop action reports
- ❖ Maturity assessments for preparedness
- ❖ Supply-chain attack simulation
- ❖ Comprehensive incident response plan
- ❖ Threat analysis and monitoring

All interaction with Dentons is attorney-client privileged

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

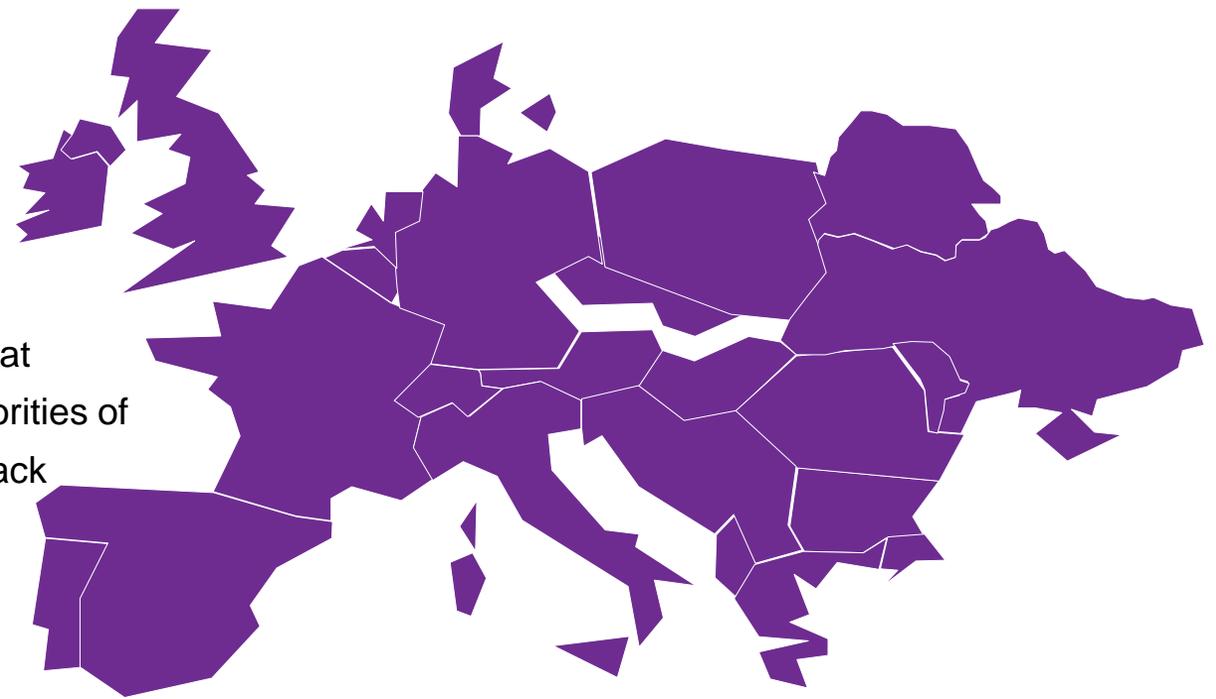
Asia

- **Australia** is considering lottery prizes and cash handouts to incentivize faster vaccinations.
- **India** is in talks to buy 50 million Pfizer doses.
- **Hong Kong** may begin recognizing vaccine certificates issued by **Indonesia** and the **Philippines** amid a shortage of local workers.
- **Malaysia's** King asked Prime Minister Yassin to bring forward the scheduled parliamentary confidence vote in his leadership amid growing pressure from Yassin's opponents.
- **China's** banking and insurance regulator will step up its scrutiny of online insurance companies, targeting misleading marketing practices, forced sales and inflated fees, aimed at "*purifying the market environment*" and "*protecting the legal interests of consumers.*" The Chinese government has asked automakers to strengthen data protection and store locally generated key data in the country.



Europe

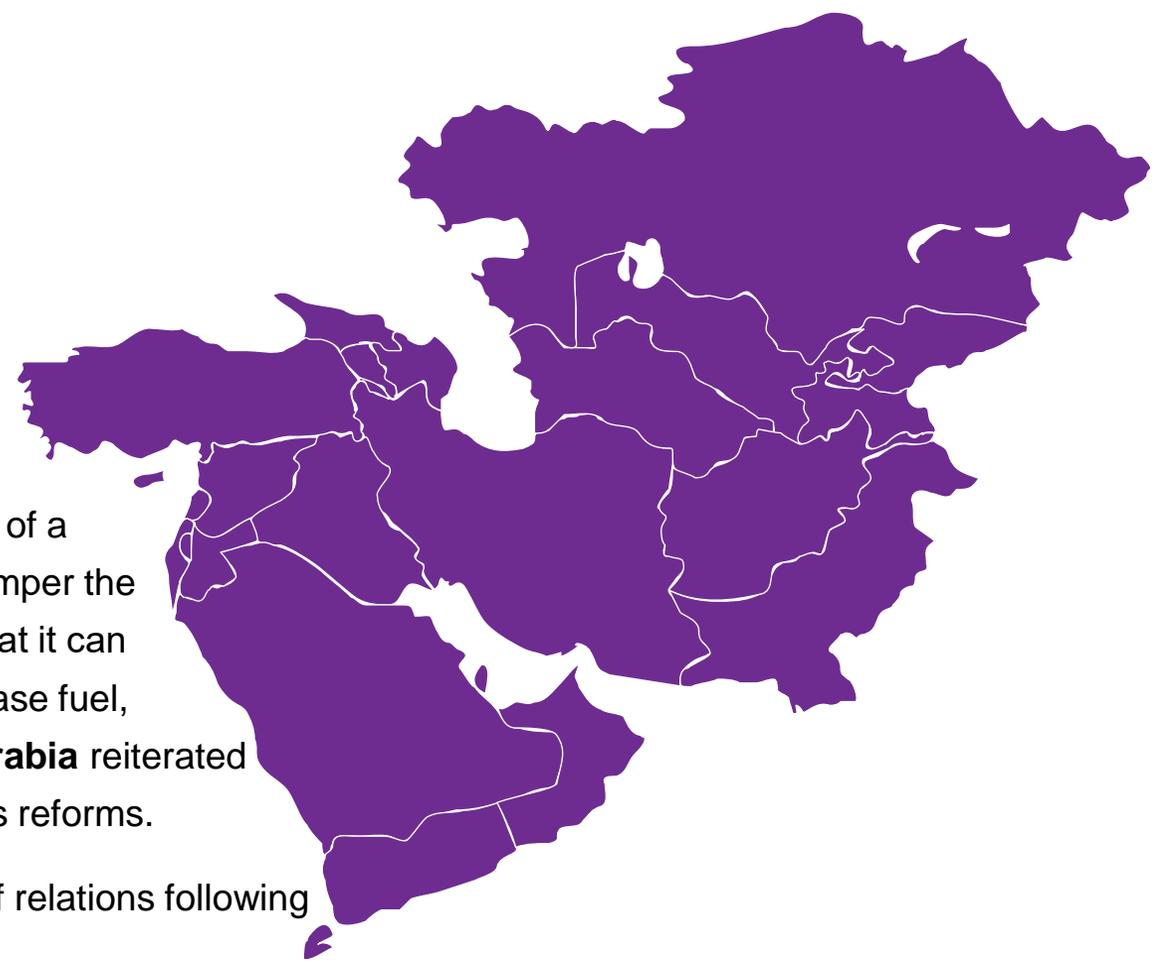
- **Poland's** lower house of parliament passed a controversial bill that would prevent companies from outside **Europe** from owning majorities of Polish media companies. The legislation is widely seen as an attack on TVN, a broadcaster owned by the **US** media company, which provides often critical coverage of the government.
- **Belarus** revoked its approval of the appointment of the **US** Ambassador to Minsk in retaliation to US sanctions.
- **Lithuania** will recall its ambassador to **China** in a continuation of a bilateral row over Lithuania's opening of a **Taiwanese** representative office. Analysts have speculated that Beijing may fear a domino effect of more European countries opening Taiwanese offices, assessing China may seek to come down hard on Lithuania to make an example.
- Vandals have attacked more than 20 **French** vaccination centers and other health facilities, tagging some with Nazi-themed slogans, in protest of the new COVID-19 health pass.
- A weather station in Syracuse on the island of Sicily, **Italy** recorded a blistering temperature of 119.8 degrees Wednesday, which would establish a new European heat record if verified by the World Meteorological Organization.



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Middle East

- **Israel's** foreign minister arrived in **Morocco** on his first visit since the two countries normalized relations.
- Christian and Druze political parties in **Lebanon** announced a boycott of a parliamentary session called to discuss a measure they say would hamper the investigation of the Beirut blast. Lebanon's central bank announced that it can no longer afford the fuel subsidies that allows most suppliers to purchase fuel, endangering fuel supplies amid shortages and a fiscal crisis. **Saudi Arabia** reiterated its policy that any support to Lebanon would be conditioned on serious reforms.
- **Qatar** appointed an ambassador to **Saudi Arabia**, a further thawing of relations following the resolution of the Gulf rift earlier this year.
- **Iran's** supreme leader called for military intervention to aid the country's COVID-19 response. Iran's new President Raisi announced his cabinet, including a hardliner for foreign minister.
- US intelligence has reportedly assessed that the Taliban could take Kabul within 90 days. The **Netherlands and Germany** halted deportations to **Afghanistan**.



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Americas

- **Canada** is developing a digital vaccine passport to aid citizens traveling abroad.
- Tropical Storm Fred approached the **Dominican Republic** Wednesday, bringing heavy rains.
- A once-a-century drought has lowered the water level of **Argentina's** main grains transport river, reducing farm exports. Argentina is the world's third largest corn supplier and largest exporter of soymeal livestock feed and are Argentina's main source of hard currency.
- **Norway** confirmed that it is involved in coordinating upcoming talks between **Venezuelan** President Maduro and the opposition. Venezuelan opposition leader Capriles urged the opposition to participate in the next election.
- **Cuba** is bringing back hundreds of doctors working abroad and converting hotels into isolation centers and hospitals due to a surge in COVID-19 cases.
- **Spain** recalled its ambassador for **Nicaragua** after the country accused Madrid of interfering with its internal politics.



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Americas: US

- Across the nation, 196.1 million have received at least one dose of the **vaccine**, or 59.1 percent of the total population. **Amtrak** will require employees to be vaccinated or submit to regular testing.
- **California** became the first state to mandate vaccinations – or regular testing – for teachers. **Oregon** reinstated an indoor mask mandate in the wake of a daily record in COVID-19 infections. In **Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia instituted indoor mask requirements for businesses that do not require proof of vaccination.
- A bipartisan pair of Senators introduced a bill that would impose **new rules for app stores** aimed to boost competition and consumer protection.
- A New Jersey woman became the first person affiliated with the “Three Percenters” militia to plead guilty to charges related to the **January 6 riots**.
- President Biden reaffirmed his decision to withdraw from **Afghanistan** even as the Taliban seized three more provincial capitals. Secretary of State Blinken called on **China** to immediately release **Canadian** citizens Micael Spavor and Kovrig, following Spavor’s sentencing.



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Visualizing Risk: Wildfires Pose Growing Threat Across the World

From the bushfires that devastated Australia in early 2020 to blazes surrounding the Mediterranean in recent weeks, wildfires are posing increased risks in a growing number of regions, threatening lives, impacting public health, and devastating the environment.

Currently wildfire hotspots throughout the Mediterranean, Pacific Northwest, and Siberia are driving news coverage - but the risks posed by fires are not limited to these parts of the world. Fire risks are growing in a number of regions across the world, and even blaze-free areas can experience air quality impact from wildfire smoke traveling hundreds or thousands of miles.

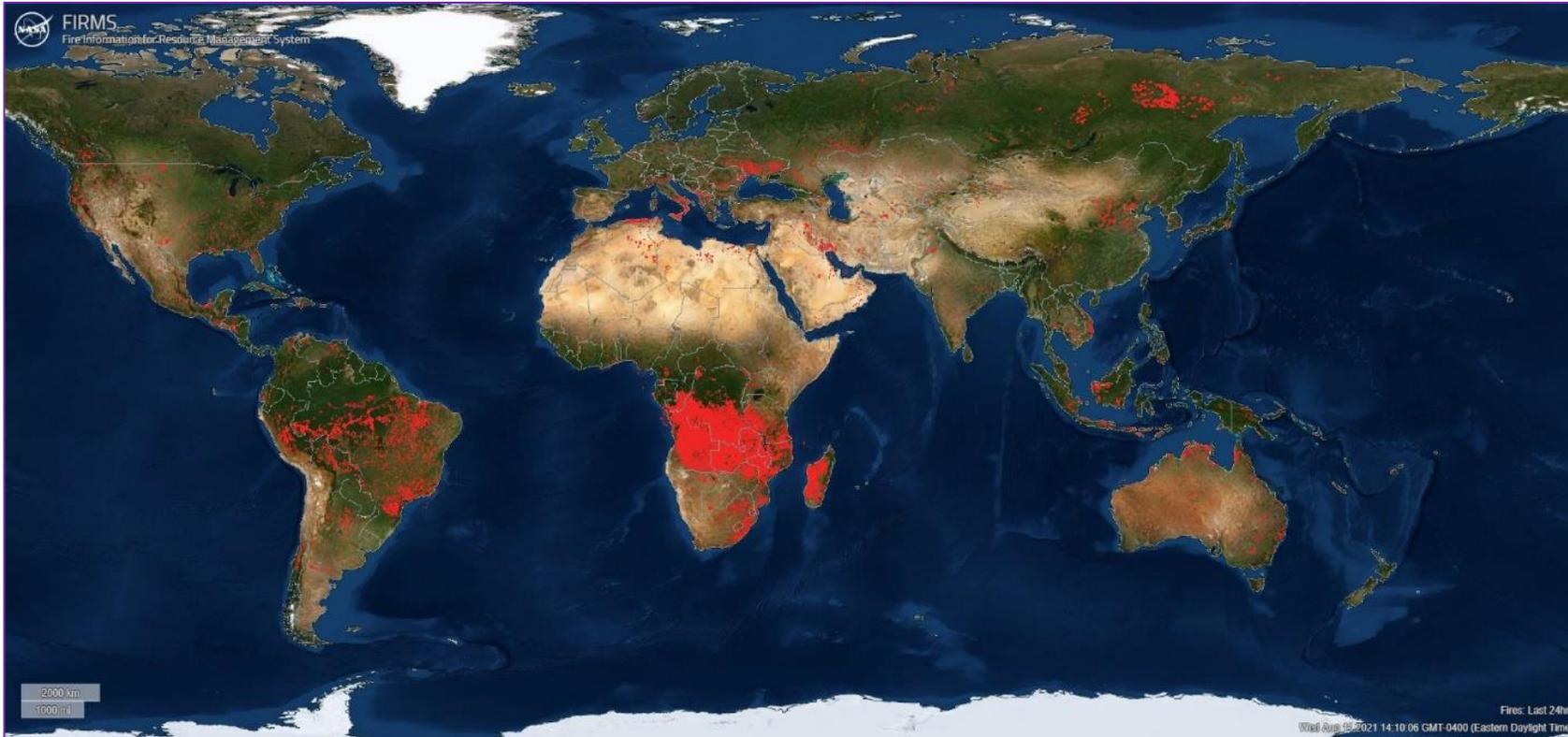
It is important to note that NASA's FIRMS map does not filter for the cause of fires, including deliberate burns alongside wildfires. In Central Africa, for example, many of the fires pictured may be control burns by farmers, who use fire to aid agricultural land use. While these fires also come with risks, such as creating smoke that degrades air quality, the environment and element of human control make them much different from wildfires elsewhere. As fires in central Africa often occur in sparsely wooded savannahs, they are

less of a concern for deforestation and carbon impact. In 2019, when massive wildfires in the Amazon drew global attention, widespread fires in Sub-Saharan Africa also drew some international notice, prompting NASA to clarify that the data seen on Central African fires indicate they were "*deliberately set to manage land.*"

Currently, fires in the Mediterranean, Siberia, and western United States are drawing much higher concern. The EU atmosphere warned last week that hot and dry conditions have made the Mediterranean a "wildfire hotspot" after Turkey was hit by its most intense fires on record. Currently burning wildfires in Algeria have killed over 65 people, while Greece's Prime Minister Mitsotakis is calling the 586 fires burning in his country a "*disaster of unprecedented proportions.*" Wildfires in the Mediterranean are not an unknown summer occurrence, but the intensity of fires this year is highly unusual.

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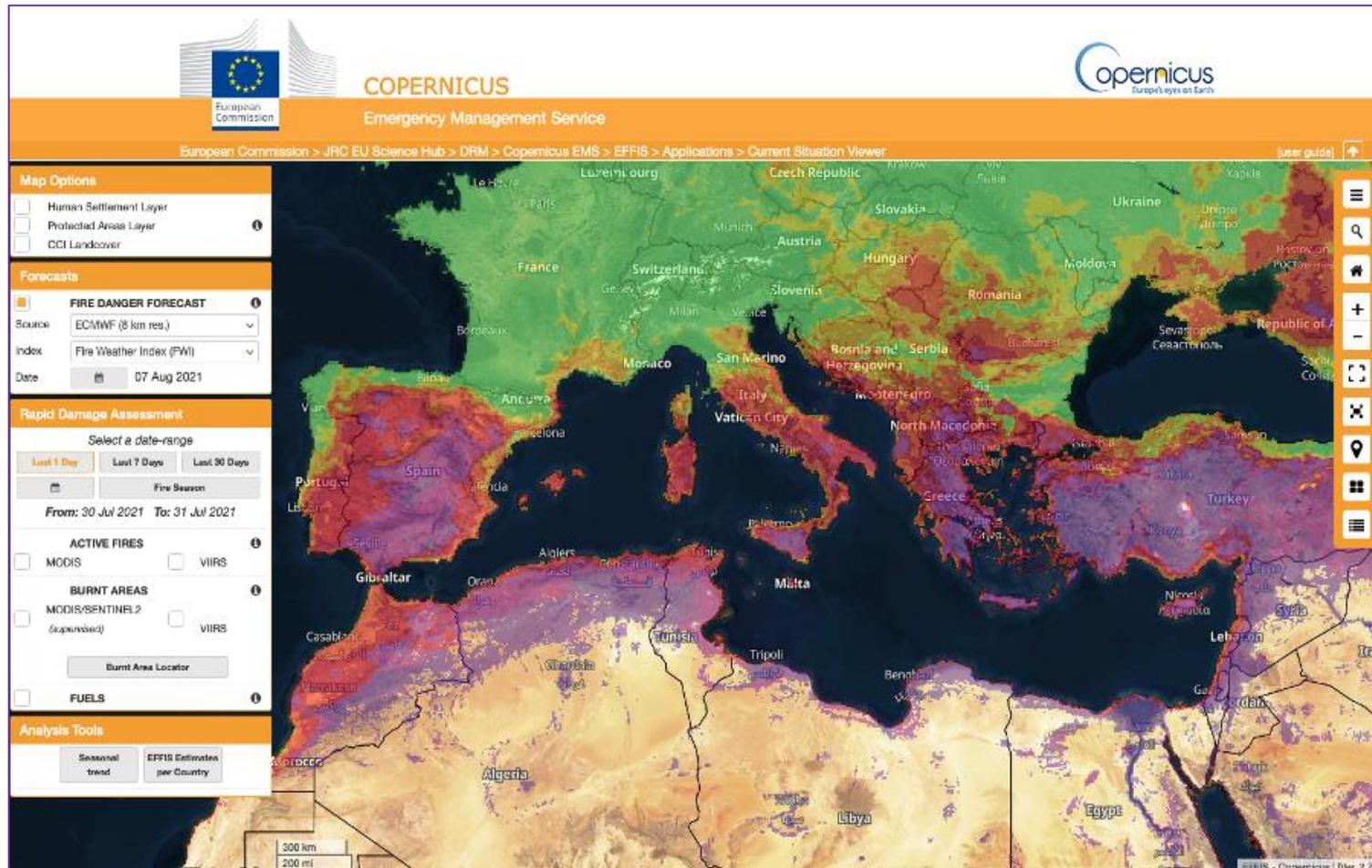
Visualizing Risk: Wildfires Pose Growing Threat Across the World



NASA's Earthdata Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS) map paints a picture of burn sites across the world, drawing on real-time data of active fires and other "thermal anomalies" such as gas flares or volcanoes.

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The EU's Copernicus Programme published this image with the press release "Mediterranean region evolves into wildfire hotspot, while fire intensity reaches new records in Turkey." The purple shading indicates "very extreme" fire danger.

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Visualizing Risk: Wildfires Pose Growing Threat Across the World

Elsewhere, fires in California and Siberia are draw headline concern. Though California has yet to reach 2020 levels of burning - so far, only 579,614 acres have burned, compared to 4.2 million acres last year - months of fire season are still ahead. In Siberia, Russia is fighting over 190 forest fires, which have sent smoke across most of the country and all the way to the North Pole - for the first time in recorded history. While some Siberian fires are part of an annual cycle, climate experts are extremely concerned about the intensity and breadth of current blazes, which risk accelerating overall global warming through the amounts of carbon emitted from the fires.



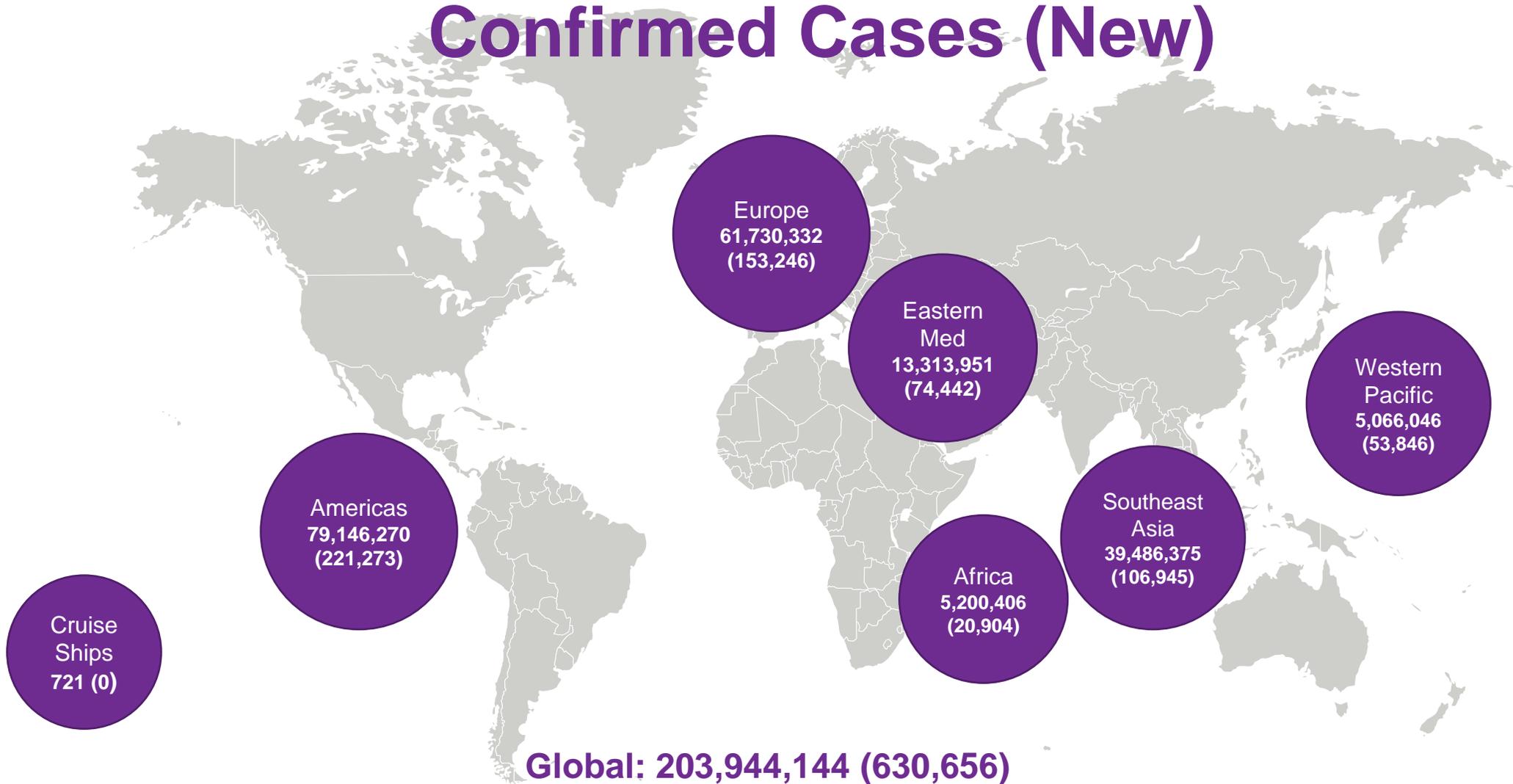
NASA released this aerial view of smoke covering most of Russia on August 6. Other media reports indicate that the smoke extended as far as Mongolia to the south and Canada to the west - distances of over 1,000 miles.

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Coronavirus Condition Updates

As of 6:39 pm CEST on August 11, 2021

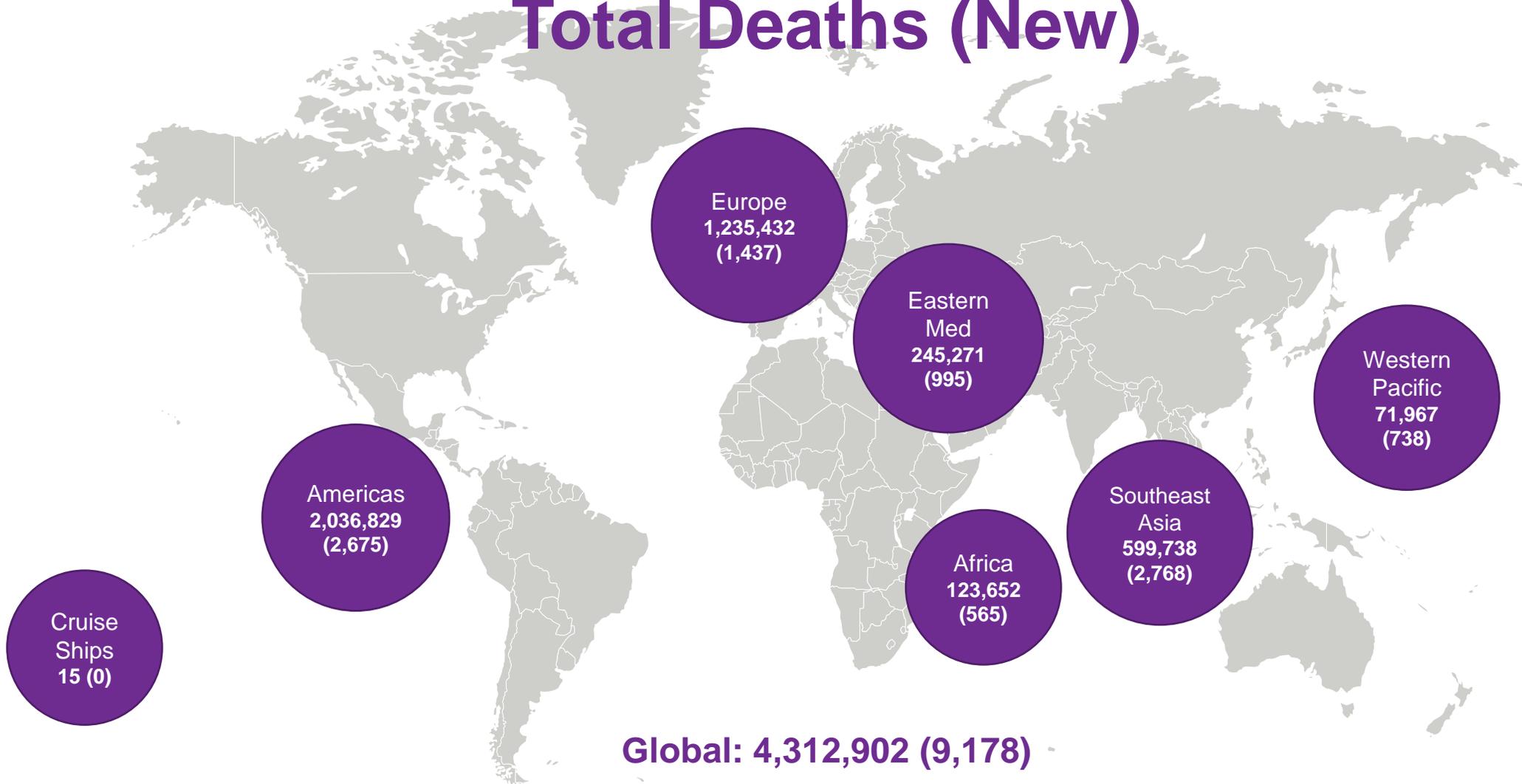
Confirmed Cases (New)



Reflects data as of 639 pm CEST on August 11, 2021.
Data Source: World Health Organization

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Total Deaths (New)



Reflects data as of 6:39 pm CEST on August 11, 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.

To read additional analysis, visit the [Dentons Flashpoint portal](#) for insights into geopolitics and governance; industry and markets; cyber and security; science, health and culture; and economic and regulatory issues.

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