

# Dentons Flashpoint

## Daily Global Situation Report

June 7, 2021

# Global Situation Update: June 7, 2021

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The G7 reaches an agreement on taxing multinationals, in an effort to create further momentum for a global deal.

The US will send 750,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Taiwan.

Mexican President Lopez Obrador is set to keep his Congressional majority after midterm elections, but lose his two-thirds majority.

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## WHAT WE'RE WATCHING

Today marks the end of three days of official state mourning in Burkina Faso for more than 160 civilians massacred by suspected Islamist insurgents in a northern village over the weekend. Dozens of civilians were injured, while homes were burnt down along with the village market. The death toll is set to rise further as search operations proceed.

UN chief António Guterres condemned the bloody attack, which follows an uptick in attacks elsewhere around Burkina Faso over the past couple of months. Since 2015, more than 1,000 people have been killed and over 1 million displaced by attacks.



*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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**The G7 reached an agreement on taxing multinationals, in an effort to create further momentum for a global deal.**

- Big Japanese donors of the **Tokyo Olympics** are calling for the games to be postponed for several months to allow more spectators.
- The WHO said that the pandemic underscores the urgency of addressing **global food insecurity**.

# COVID-19 Vaccine

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**A senior Chinese health official called on the WHO to drop late-stage clinical trials as a criterion for its emergency use listing, and instead focus on antibody response.**

- Russia's **Sputnik V** shot could soon be produced by The Torlak Institute of Virology, Vaccines and Sera in Belgrade, per **Serbian** state media. **Senegal** could begin producing COVID-19 vaccines under an agreement with a Belgian biotech firm. **Kuwait** signed deals with Moderna and Johnson & Johnson to supply their vaccines.

# Markets & Business

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**Google agreed to pay French regulators a fine of nearly \$270 million, settling one of the first global antitrust cases over the company's digital advertising tactics.**

- **Walmart** will close US stores on Thanksgiving Day for the second year in a row, as a “thank you” to employees.
- **Royal Caribbean** will restart cruises from Miami and Texas ports over the next six weeks.
- **Booking Holdings**, parent of **Priceline**, **Kayak** and **OpenTable**, will return \$110 million in COVID-19 aid received from governments.
- **Flex**, the world's third largest electronics contract manufacturer, warned that the global semiconductor shortage will last at least another year.
- Prices for **soybean oil** hit a record high last week, driven by growing demand in the biofuels sector. Options traders have bet on the return of \$100 oil.

# How do You Manage Risks?

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*The coronavirus pandemic has not just added a new layer of risk for business leaders to navigate, but has accelerated drivers of change, including disruptive technologies, political and economic realignments and cultural priorities on equality, justice and conservation, while increasing vulnerabilities that bad actors seek to exploit.*

*Dentons Intelligence and Security Services Group offers bespoke services to provide business leaders with the intelligence they need to understand and thrive in complex operating environments.*

- ❖ due diligence and compliance investigations
- ❖ physical and cyber security assessments
- ❖ country and political risk assessments
- ❖ enterprise risk management and organizational resiliency advice
- ❖ crisis and incident response (physical security breaches and cyber incidents, insider threats and reputational impacts)

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

# Africa

- ISIS West African Province confirmed in an audio recording that the head of **Nigeria's Boko Haram** had died in a battle last month, which has yet to be independently confirmed.
- Gunmen killed over 100 civilians in an attack on a village in northern **Burkina Faso**, a border region that has become a locus of extremist activity.
- **Nigeria** blocked the use of **Twitter** in the country, a few days after Twitter deleted a tweet from President Buhari threatening violence against rebels.
- Two opposition parties in **Somaliland** won a majority of seats in the first parliamentary elections in 16 years.
- The **Namibian** vice president rejected Germany's offer of \$1.22 billion in reparations for its role in genocide in the country, which had previously been accepted by Namibian tribal leaders.
- The World Bank temporarily paused payments to operations in **Mali**, citing the second coup.
- **Uganda** re-imposed a strict lockdown amid a new surge in COVID-19 cases including a travel ban and closure of all schools, to last at least 42 days.

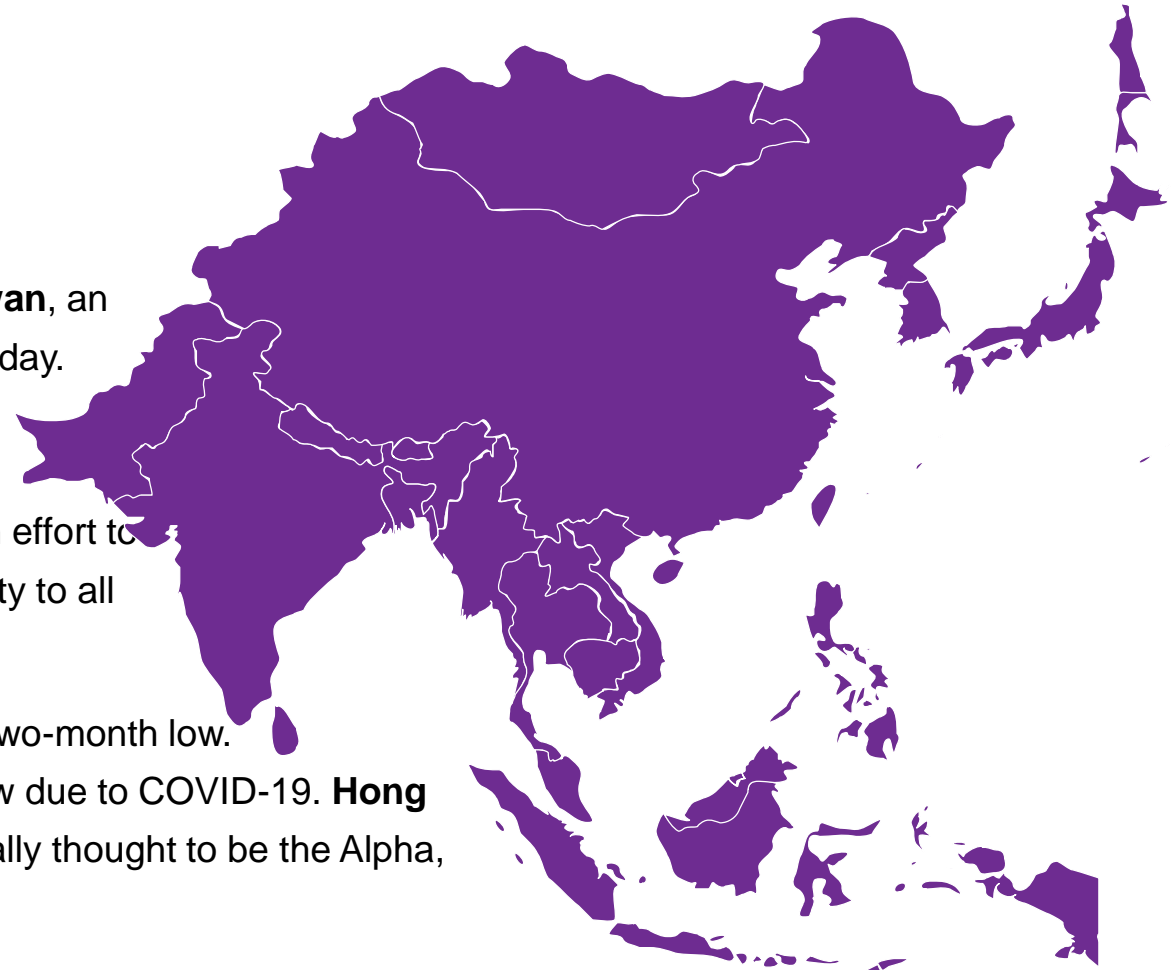


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# Asia

- The US said it would send 750,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to **Taiwan**, an announcement that came as three US Senators arrived in Taipei Sunday. **Thailand** will launch its mass vaccination campaign today, primarily using the AstraZeneca jab locally manufactured by Siam Bioscience. The **Philippines** government will host Israeli experts this month in an effort to boost their vaccination program. **Australia** extended vaccine eligibility to all people over 40.
- **India** announced plans to ease lockdowns as new cases reached a two-month low. The **Singapore** Grand Prix was canceled for the second year in a row due to COVID-19. **Hong Kong** investigators continue to probe a mystery variant that was initially thought to be the Alpha, B-117 strain of the coronavirus, but was later found to be dissimilar.
- The IAEA said Monday that it has seen indications in **North Korea** of possible reprocessing work to separate plutonium that could be used in nuclear weapons.
- **China's** exports and imports rose at a slower than expected pace in May, raising questions about the recovery of global demand.
- ASEAN officials completed a visit to **Myanmar** on Saturday, following two days of discussions with military leaders. **Singapore's** foreign minister visited **China** for meetings with counterparts from ASEAN and China.

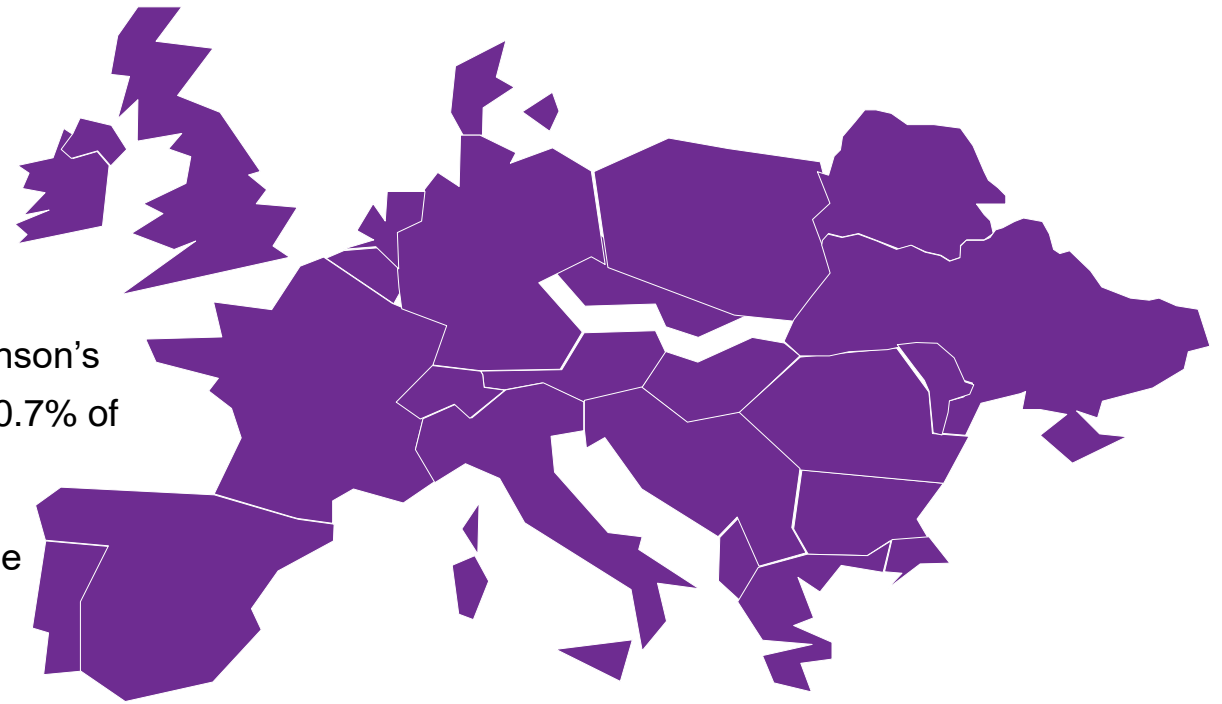


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# Europe

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- A number of **Tory MPs** rebelled against Prime Minister Boris Johnson's announcement that he would abandon the UK pledge to provide 0.7% of gross national income as international aid.
- **UK** health minister Hancock said it is "too soon" to determine if the country will lift its lockdown as planned on June 21. A former UK health minister warned of a possible fourth wave coming.
- **Russia** warned that it may continue with export curbs on key food products due to recent price rises. Russia completed the laying of the **Nord Stream 2** pipeline on Friday. Russia's weekly COVID-19 caseload hit a three-month high.
- **Germany's** Christian Democrats won a decisive victory in a state election in the eastern Saxony-Anhalt, providing a boost for Armin Laschet as he seeks to succeed Merkel in September.
- **Belarusian** opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya called on the US, EU and UK to put more pressure on Lukashenko following the detention of Roman Protasevich.
- **Sweden's** Left Party threatened to join forces with the far right to oust the current centrist government over changes to rent regulations they say will raise prices for renters.

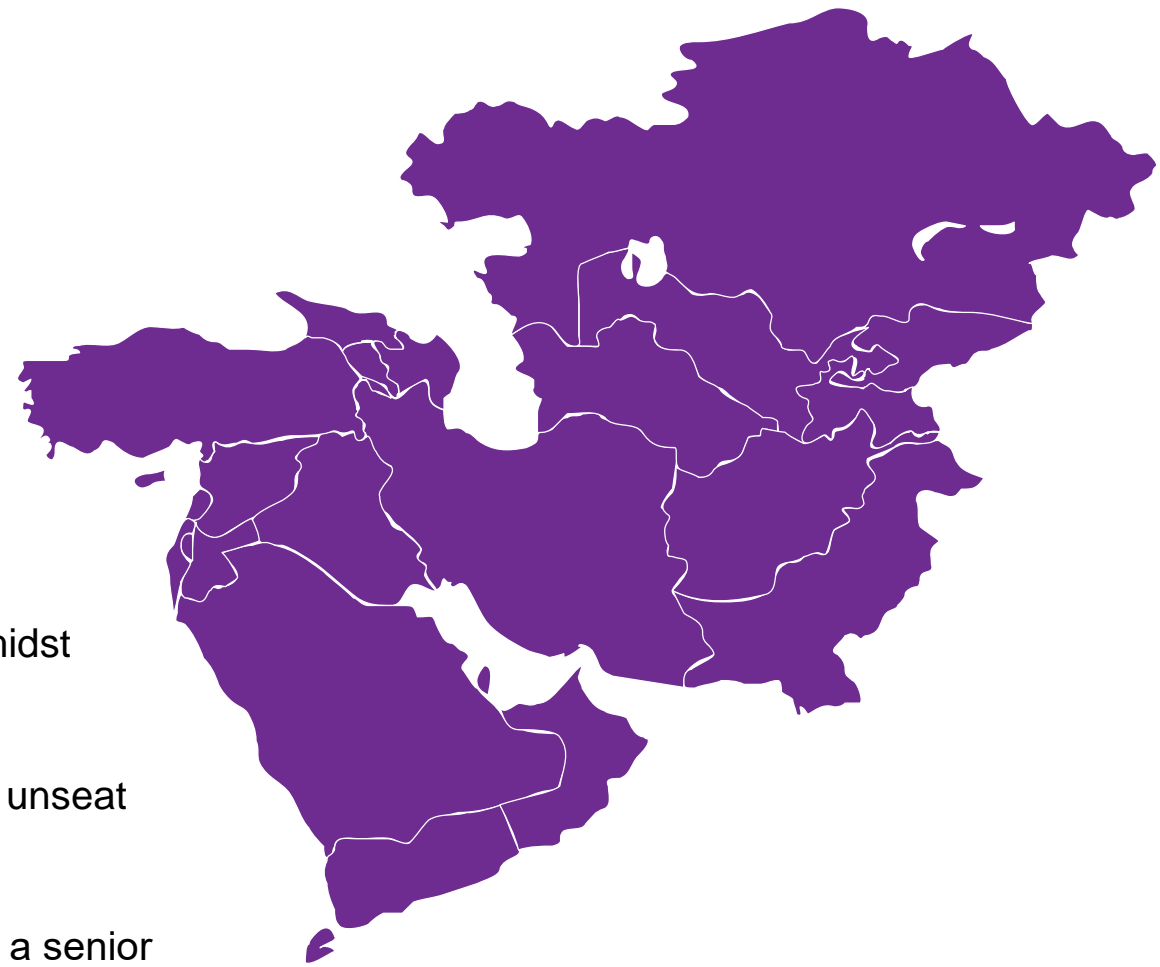


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# Middle East

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- The US and regional powers called for de-escalation in **Yemen** after a reported Houthi attack against a gas station in **Marib** killed at least 17.
- **France** opened an investigation into the personal wealth of Riad Salameh, head of the **Lebanese Central Bank**, currently in the midst of a severe financial crisis.
- **Israeli** Prime Minister Netanyahu claimed that the coalition set to unseat him is the result of “the greatest election fraud” in history.
- **Turkish** President Erdogan claimed that Turkey had “neutralized” a senior **PKK** official in a strike on a refugee camp in northern Iraq.
- **Afghanistan’s** health minister said the country is facing a deepening oxygen shortage. **Saudi** health authorities warned of a rising COVID-19 caseload.
- **Saudi Arabia** hired banks to arrange its first issuance of sukuk, Islamic bonds, in dollars.



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# Americas

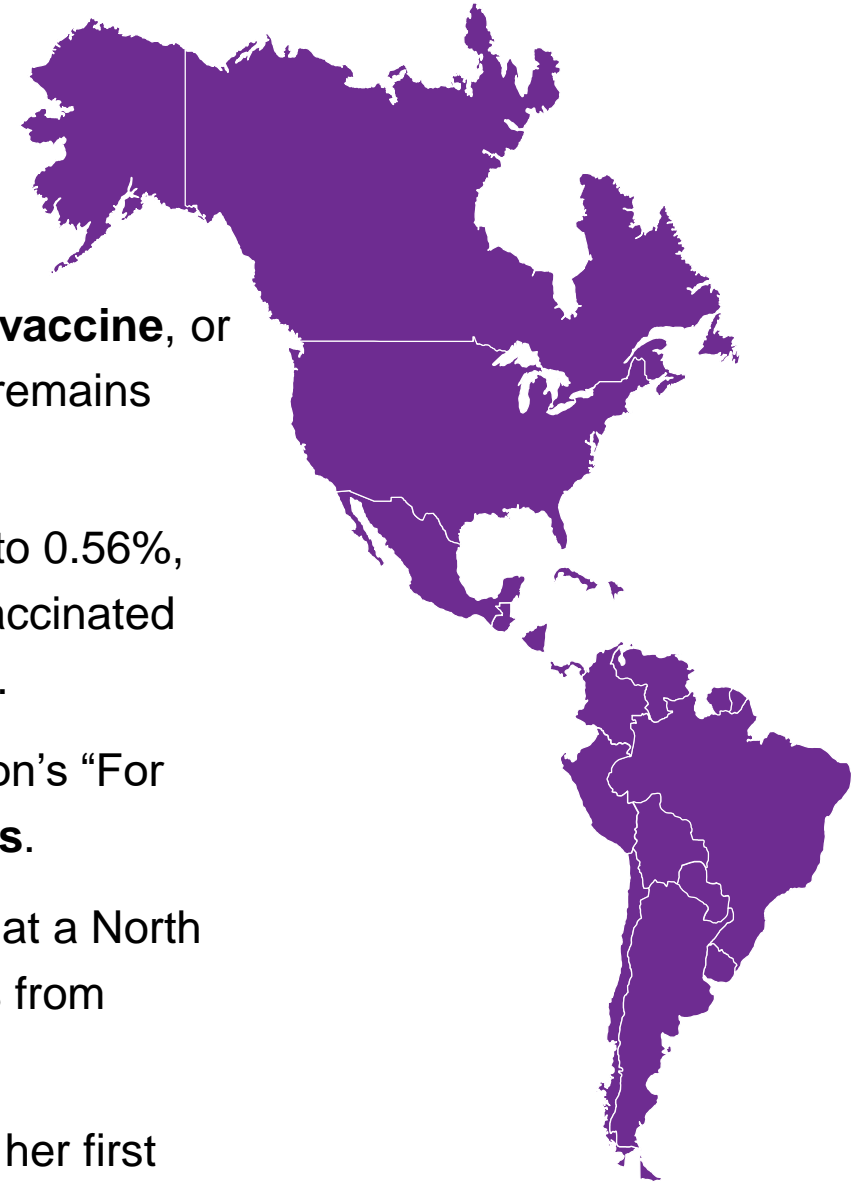
- **Mexican** President Obrador kept his Congressional majority in early results from midterm elections, but lost his two-thirds majority to opposition parties challenging him on the economy and crime.
- Early results show **Peru's** presidential election too close to call with conservative Keiko Fujimoro holding a razor thin lead over Socialist Pedro Castillo, with most of the later votes predicted to go to Castillo.
- **El Salvador's** president announced plans to introduce a bill to make bitcoin legal tender in the country.
- **Brazil** approved the Russian Sputnik V and Indian Covaxin vaccines for import. **Venezuela** announced plans to purchase and manufacture Russia's EpiVacCorona vaccine.
- **Colombia's** president asked the legislature to approve better human rights training for Colombian police following accusations of police brutality in long-running anti-government protests.



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# Americas: US

- Across the nation, 170.8 million have received at least one dose of the **vaccine**, or 61% of the eligible population. However, the pace of daily inoculations remains slow enough to jeopardize President Biden's **goals for July 4**.
- **New York State's** rolling seven-day statewide positivity rate has fallen to 0.56%, nearing nine weeks of consecutive daily declines. New York City has vaccinated 118,000 adolescents, just weeks after they became eligible for the shot.
- Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) promised to block the Biden Administration's "For the People Act," in a major setback for Democratic **voting rights efforts**.
- In his second public appearance since inauguration, **President Trump** at a North Carolina rally denounced Dr. Anthony Fauci and demanded reparations from China for damages from the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Kamala Harris** headed to Guatemala and Mexico over the weekend in her first foreign trips as vice president. The US is expected to announce new **anti-human trafficking** and drug smuggling measures during her visit.



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# Ongoing Risks from Protest Against Vaccine Requirements

***As vaccine rollout accelerates across many countries, vaccines are becoming the subject of an increasing number of protests and demonstrations, posing growing risks to institutions that seek to promote or mandate vaccines. Along with a number of anti-government protests against mismanagement, corruption or inequality in vaccine distribution, the past few months have seen heightened numbers of both small and large demonstrations against the vaccine itself.***

As both governments and private institutions seek to navigate a return to fully open operations through promoting the vaccine and creating different rules for the vaccinated, these protests give a picture of the backlash that may continue to challenge efforts to reach herd immunity.

Many vaccine-related protests take aim at governments, particularly where government policy attempts to enforce different sets of rules for vaccinated versus unvaccinated individuals – namely, the policy of so-called “vaccine passports.” On May 29, hundreds of anti-vaccine protesters stormed the Westfield shopping center in west London, specifically taking issue with vaccine passports. Elsewhere, other localities that have pushed vaccine mandates were met with protests: the mayor of Walbryzch, Poland, found protestors surrounding his house after issuing a vaccine mandate for the town,

even though the mandate was not legally binding. Meanwhile, mid-May protests in Bucharest, the capitol of Romania, demonstrated the variety of conspiracy theories driving anti-vaccine sentiment, including extreme claims of “vaccine genocide” and reports that unvaccinated individuals are being sent to camps in the US.

While these and other demonstrations happened within different local contexts, many contain common features – an unsurprising fact given the role of cross-border misinformation flows on the internet in anti-vaccine sentiment. Of particular concern is the frequency of anti-Semitic symbols and conspiracy theories, which have emerged in anti-vaccine protest imagery and rhetoric in both the US and Europe. Polish protestors in Walbryzch waved signs comparing their mayor to a Nazi death camp physician, while some protestors in Romania wore yellow Stars of David.

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# Ongoing Risks from Protest Against Vaccine Requirements

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Anti-Semitic imagery and comparisons have also been used by anti-Vaxxers in the US. A hat store in Nashville suffered backlash after briefly selling “not vaccinated” yellow Star of David patches, while more famously, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) compared proof of vaccination and mask mandates to Nazis forcing Jews to wear yellow stars – language later was condemned by both Republican and Democratic leaders.

Along with general demonstrations against government policy or the vaccines themselves, a number of demonstrations have targeted particular schools or businesses. In particular, university vaccine mandates have been a common target, as a growing number of US colleges are mandating the shot for students returning in the fall semester, prompting backlash both among students who do not want to get vaccinated and among adults who have seized on the issue as a focal point in vaccine protest. A student protest at Rutgers University in May, for example, was largely populated with non-university adults opposed to the vaccine rules. Schools have also been targeted for facilitating vaccinations – one high school in

Washington became a protest site for its decision to host a vaccine clinic, even though it had issued no vaccine requirements. Demonstrators have also gathered outside businesses that have vaccine requirements; last week, the entrance to Disneyland was marked by a number of protesters dressed as Marvel characters and carrying signs that claimed COVID-19 vaccines are unsafe.

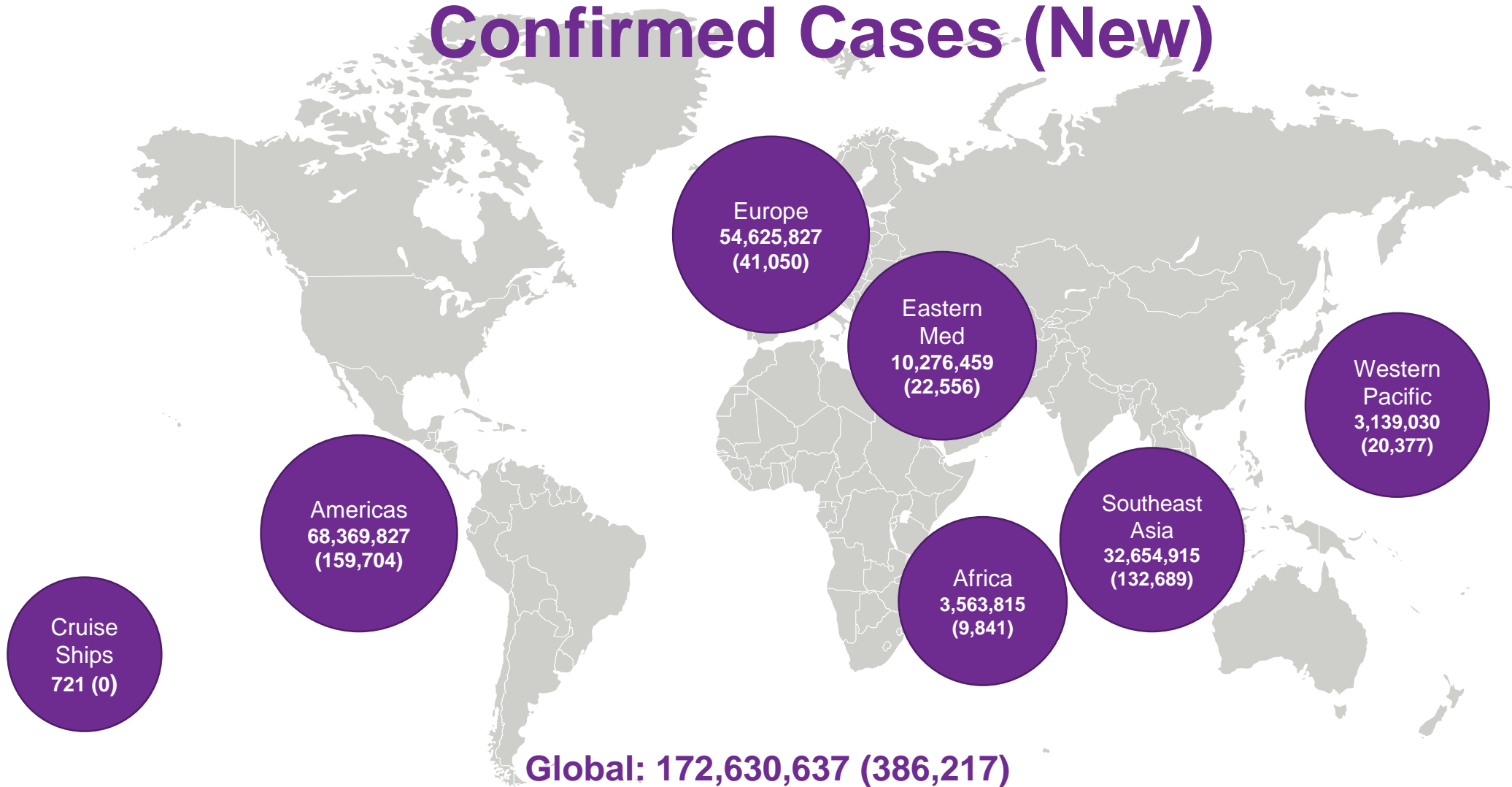
Anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine protests have been a feature of the pandemic almost since its very start. But as those countries that are most advanced in their vaccination campaigns reach the end of groups that are eager or willing to get the jab, the vehemence of vaccine resistance is likely to continue manifesting in demonstrations. Countries and private entities alike have stepped up their efforts to promote vaccinations in countries like the US, pivoting from simply providing vaccines to actively trying to persuade people to get them through incentive programs and in many cases, new requirements. These efforts are on a collision course with determined resistance to the vaccine – even if dedicated anti-vaxxers only constitute a slim percentage of the overall population.

# Coronavirus Condition Updates

As of 2100 hours US EDT on June 1, 2021



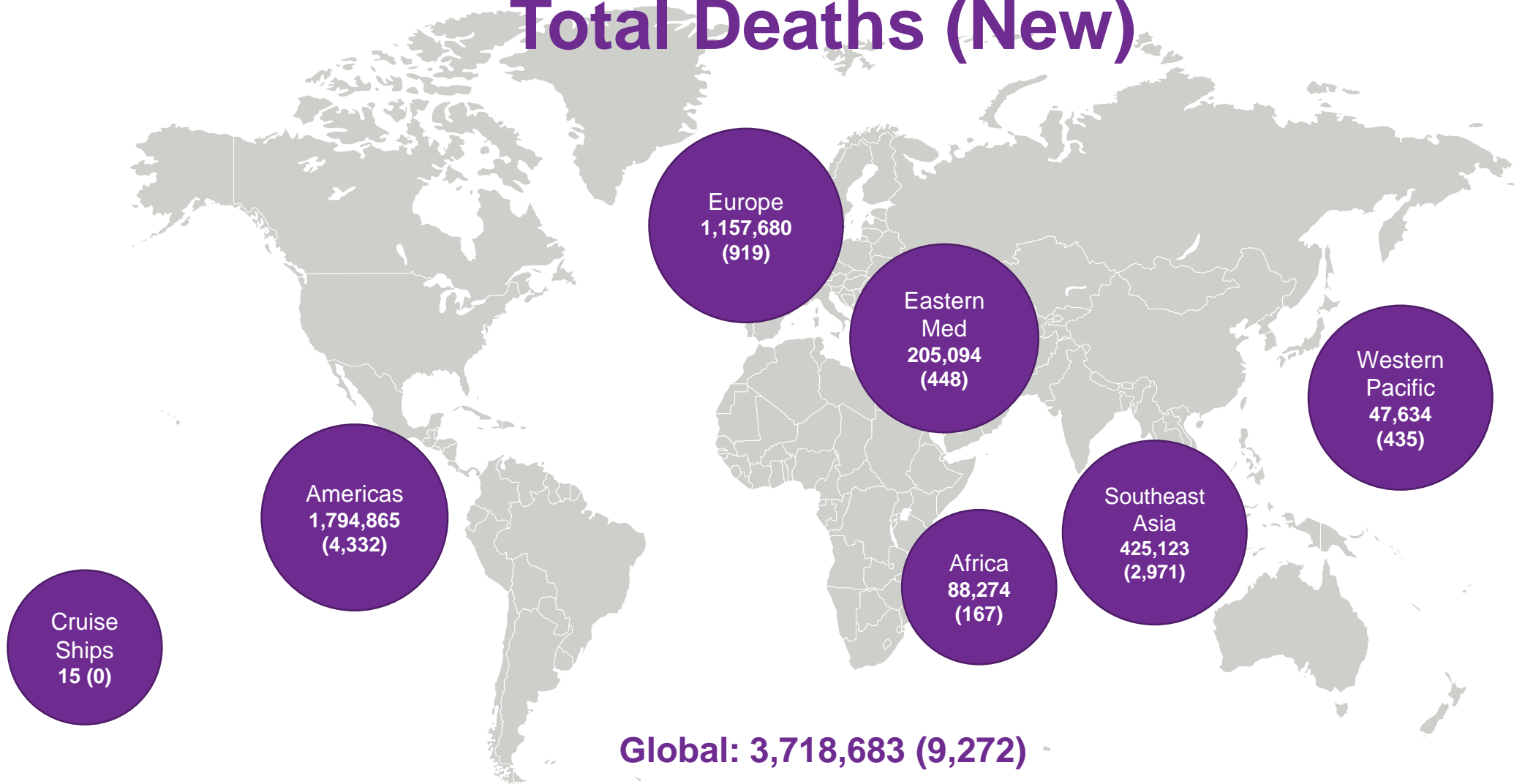
# Confirmed Cases (New)



Reflects data as of 2100 hours the evening before the date of the situation report.  
Data Source: WorldOMeter

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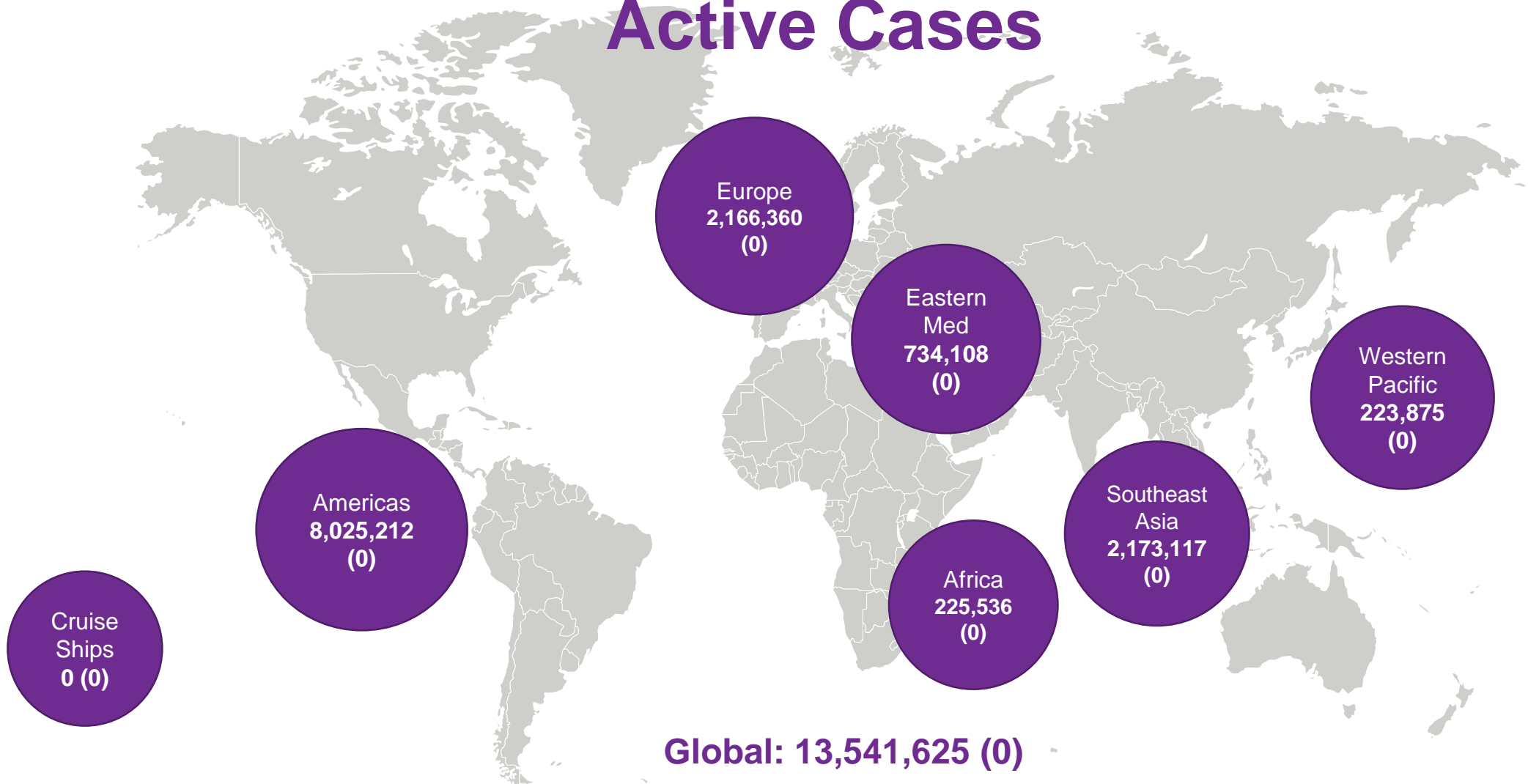
# Total Deaths (New)



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Data Source: WorldOMeter

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# Active Cases



Reflects data as of 2100 hours the evening before the date of the situation report.  
Data Source: WorldOMeter

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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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