



COVID-19 Measures in Effect in Latin America

March 19, 2020

Below is a brief overview, country by country, of some of the measures adopted in response to the COVID-19 virus in Latin America. This is not meant to be an all-encompassing document of every measure taken in each country, but rather a quick snapshot of the situation today. As with everywhere in the world, this is a fluid situation and measures will likely change over the coming days and weeks.

ARGENTINA

The Argentine government announced a total lockdown of the country starting at midnight on March 19 through March 31. Everything will be shut down except for security, health and grocery services. Specific details of the lockdown will be announced in a press conference later this evening.

All inbound and outbound flights are restricted to repatriating Argentine citizens or residents to Argentina, or foreigners in Argentina to their respective countries. All borders are closed to non-Argentine citizens or residents. Returning citizens are subject to a 14-day home quarantine. All shows have been cancelled and no groupings over 50 people are permitted. Schools have been cancelled through the end of March but commerce remains open. The government is currently considering a forced 10-day quarantine for the entire country.

The national government decided to suspend domestic flights and long-distance buses starting midnight March 19th through March 25th to discourage travel during the long holiday weekend.

The Minister of Labor has established that employees over the age of 60, pregnant women and individuals with existent threatening conditions such as respiratory or cardiac illnesses should be excused from work. The Minister also recommended working virtually from home to avoid large grouping of people.

CHILE

All land and border crossings have been closed as of March 18 for passengers, but remain open for cargo and for repatriation of Chilean nationals and residents returning to Chile. Schools have been suspended for two weeks and visitation to geriatric facilities has been limited. As of March 18, no public gatherings in excess of 200 people will be permitted. The Chilean government has announced fines and jail sentences as punishments for those who do not comply with the quarantine indications.

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All people arriving to Chile from countries classified as High Risk by the World Health Organization will have to be in quarantine for 14 days upon entering the country. There are eight high-risk countries: Iran, China, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, South Korea and Japan. Maritime ports are closed to cruise ships.

All public officials over the age of 75 or who are part of the higher risk group will be allowed to carry out their work from home.

URUGUAY

All international flights originating from Europe will be suspended on March 20. From now until March 20, only Uruguayan citizens or residents will be allowed to enter the country. Flights to the U.S. will be suspended as of Wednesday March 18. Schools have been closed and the government is urging people not to travel and to stay at home. All shopping malls have been ordered closed.

The Uruguayan President asked that those over 65 years stay at home since they are the most exposed to infections. Likewise, he urged employers to search for the possibility of remote work and noted that the government has already adopted measures in this regard.

PARAGUAY

Most of the land and air border crossings have been closed, with the remaining crossings to close at midnight on March 16th. Schools have been closed as have been most shopping centers. As of March 16th, a curfew has been imposed from 8:00 PM – 04:00 AM where nobody will be allowed out on the streets. Many companies and private enterprises have closed. Staggered working hours have been established for public officials. The government has established the order to suspend all public or private events and shows of massive attendance, such as musical concerts, sports events, political and social gatherings, religious as well as recreational activities for a period of two weeks that could be extended depending on the development of the virus.

BOLIVIA

Flights originating from China, Korea, Iran and Europe have been cancelled. Arriving passengers forced to provide medical information and temperature taken. A lockdown of all travel nationally and internationally goes into effect as of Friday March 20. No crowds in excess of 100 people permitted. Stores and commerce close at 1:00 PM daily. Public transportation is restricted between 18:00 and 05:00 daily. The departments of Potosi, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba and Oruro have decreed a self-quarantine through March 31.

All gyms and clubs have been closed. The Bolivian President is encouraging the people to remain in their residences. Classes have been suspended across the country starting on Thursday, March 19 through March 31, and all public events with more than a thousand people have been banned, such as musicals, sports, cultural and religious events.

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BRAZIL

Brazil closed land borders with Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Guyana, French Guayana and Paraguay for individuals for 15 days starting March 19. The borders remain open for commerce. The land border with Uruguay remains open, but could be closed shortly. Air transport restrictions have yet to have been enacted, Brazil has adopted several economic measures to ensure that the country continues to produce. The State of Rio de Janeiro closed all schools as of March 16th and the State of Sao Paulo will begin shutting schools down gradually. The State of Sao Paulo has also decreed that all state employees over the age of 60, except for those working for public safety or public health, should work from their homes. Sao Paulo also recommended closing museums, libraries, theaters and cultural centers for 30 days, as well as convention centers for 60 days. The state of Brasilia has cancelled all schools and public events as well.

On March 17, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro created a “Crisis Committee” to manage the impact of Covid-19 in Brazil. State-level authorities from several cities and states, including Rio de Janeiro and Paraíba, have declared a state of emergency. Several states have started suspending classes in public schools as a way to prevent the expansion of the virus as well. Brasilia has issued a recommendation that tables be placed a minimum of two meters apart at restaurants.

On March 19, large portions of the Brazilian population began banging on pots and pans within their as a means to protest the inaction of the government with regards to the COVIT-19 virus. As of today, over 500 cases have been confirmed in Brazil, with 4 deaths.

PERU

State of emergency declared. Borders to be closed as of midnight of March 16th. Individuals are required to remain at home for the next 15 days. Supermarkets, pharmacies and banks remain open. Public transportation is limited. Schools are closed and all social events have been cancelled. The Peruvian government has established that only workers in the health system, food supply, those who work in pharmacies and in the financial system are allowed to transit.

ECUADOR

All inbound flights cancelled through April 5 except those repatriating Ecuadorian citizens. Repatriation ended on March 16th at midnight. Restricted movement for the population starting March 17 – can only leave residence to purchase food or medicine, or to go to and from work. Restaurants and cafes to remain open for delivery only.

As of March 17th, the Ecuadorian government has imposed a curfew from 09:00 PM – 05:00 AM where nobody will be allowed on the streets. Pedestrian and vehicular circulation in general will be restricted as well.

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COLOMBIA

All land and air borders closed to non-citizens and non-residents through May 30th. All citizens and residents arriving in Colombia are subject to a 14-day quarantine. Schools are closed through April 20. No events over 500 people permitted. State of emergency has been declared through March 30. The government is urging all Colombians to stay at home over the weekend in an attempt to stem the spreading of the virus.

As of March 17th, certain Colombian departments such as Cundinamarca and Quindío have imposed a curfew from 09:00 PM – 05:00 AM, with a few exceptions.

VENEZUELA

Travel from Europe, Colombia, Panama and the Dominican Republic suspended. Quarantine in effect for all passengers arriving from Europe. Further quarantine in effect for 7 provinces in Venezuela. All schools and sporting events have been cancelled and public gatherings prohibited. All restaurants are closed except for deliveries.

Starting on March 17th, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has imposed a nationwide quarantine for all 23 states and the capital district in Venezuela, including closure of all work except those related to the distribution of food, military and police security, sanitary, health and transport services.

PANAMA

The Panamanian government announced a lockdown of the population from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM daily starting on Friday, March 20. Restricted air travel for those coming from Europe and Asia. As of March 16, only Panamanian citizens and legal residents are allowed to enter Panama. All commerce is closed except for supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations and hospitals/clinics. The government has declared national state of emergency.

EL SALVADOR

The Salvadorian government announced a lockdown of the population from 08:00 PM to 5:00 AM daily. Borders closed to all non-citizens or non-residents of El Salvador. All citizens/residents arriving in El Salvador must remain in quarantine for 30 days. There is a 21-day national quarantine in effect for the rest of the country. Schools and commerce are closed. Gatherings of more than 200 people have been prohibited. The Salvadorian President has ordered mandatory quarantine of all pregnant women and people over 60, and has also decided to close the national airport for passengers.

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HONDURAS

The government restricted the movement of all non-essential personnel for a period of 7 days. Borders closed to all non-citizens or non-residents as of March 16. A 14-day quarantine is in effect for all travelers. Schools are closed through the end of March. All sporting and social events are closed. Visitation rights to prisons have been suspended. State of emergency has been declared.

GUATEMALA

All foreigners are restricted from entering Guatemala for a period of two weeks. Schools are closed for 21 days and all social gatherings of more than 100 persons have been suspended, including religious activities.

NICARAGUA

No flight restrictions have been implemented. All international arriving passengers subject to a 14-day quarantine. No restrictions of movement or public gatherings implemented. The Ministry of Health has decreed that anybody dying in Nicaragua must be buried immediately, with no wake or funeral to avoid the spread of any infectious disease.

COSTA RICA

State of Emergency declared. All border crossings will be closed from March 18 – April 12. Passengers arriving before March 18 will be subject to a 14-day quarantine. School has been suspended and the government recommends that people stay at home. Additionally, the government has ordered the closing of bars, casinos and discotheques in the country and established that the local soccer championship be played behind closed doors.

MEXICO

No travel restrictions are in place, but arriving passengers will be subject to spot-checks for health issues. Schools will close from March 20 – April 20. No public events will be permitted from March 23 – April 19. Professional soccer will continue to be played but behind closed doors with no public.

People suspected of having been infected with coronavirus will be quarantined for a period of two weeks. Events with more than 1,000 people in attendance are prohibited. Sanitation and hygiene areas have been intensified \ throughout the country, especially in public areas like the Metro Station.

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