



COVID-19 Measures in Effect in Latin America

March 27, 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 has been shut down except for security, health and grocery services. Circulation is restricted both on national routes and within cities across the country. Transfers will only be allowed for exceptional reasons, such as to guarantee essential production, supply, health services and all essential services.

All repatriation efforts have been cancelled. All borders are closed to both Argentine and foreign citizens. 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.

With the aim of guaranteeing supplies and controlling the abuse regarding the increase of prices during the health emergency, the Ministry of Productive Development ordered that starting March 20 and for the next 30 days, the prices of basic food, beverages, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies will be maintained, at the price they were being sold on March 6, before the COVID-19 outbreak. This measure will be applied to supermarkets, retail and wholesale supermarkets, mini-markets, warehouses and self-service markets.

The Argentine government launched an app to conduct a coronavirus self-test based on the answer to some questions. The same self-diagnosis tool is also available through the application and the MiArgentina site. The app is called 'Covid19-Ministerio de Salud' and is accessible through argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus on the web, as well as in its version for mobile devices that can be downloaded from the official Android and iOS application stores.

On March 23th, several simultaneous riots started in various jails in the Province of Santa Fe resulting in numerous injuries and three deaths. The inmates were demanding greater measures to be protected from the Coronavirus.

On March 24th, the head of the Buenos Aires Government, Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, indicated that they will be "inflexible" with those who do not comply with the isolation due to the Coronavirus and

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said that they will ensure circulation for the 250,000 people authorized to work in "essential services", creating exclusive lanes at some entrances to the City of Buenos Aires.

Police officers carry out car-by-car and motorcycle-by-motorcycle controls at the Panamericana avenue to check that all the vehicles that transit the road have the permit to do so. The delays that this causes are estimated to be up to 5 hours during the day. In Argentina, at least 70 municipalities have decided to close their respective borders in order to prevent the expansion of the COVID-19 virus.

As of March 25, more than 4,800 people were detained by federal security forces across the country for failing to comply with the mandatory isolation. An increase in fines for violators of the quarantine was announced, with the new limits between \$10,700 Argentine pesos (approximately USD \$166) and \$79,180 Argentine pesos (approximately USD \$1,232.86).

The Argentine government decided at dawn this Friday, March 27, to extend the preventive measures against COVID-19 and decreed the closure of all its borders until March 31st. The new decision affects both nationals and foreigners. The few exceptions will be flights that are already in transit and whose date of entry into Argentina does not exceed 48 hours from the effective date of the decree. This border closure measure can be extended or reduced in time, depending on the evolution of events related to the control of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Argentinian government has indicated that anyone caught violating the quarantine can be charged with defying measures meant to impede the introduction or propagation of an epidemic, or defying a public official. The former offence comes with a prison term of six months to two years. Some individuals have reportedly been placed under house arrest as they complete their quarantine, with a trial coming at a later date. Tourists who refused to remain were deported before the closure of borders.

The government will likely announce the extension of the mandatory quarantine through April 12 over the weekend.

CHILE

The government of Chile have announced a lock down of the entire population from 22:00 – 05:00 daily starting Sunday March 22.

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.

Political parties and the Electoral Service agreed on March 19 to postpone the constitutional referendum to October 25 amid the coronavirus pandemic crisis.

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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.

The President of the Republic, Sebastián Piñera, ordered the total closure of the entertainment venues nationwide, which applies to all cinemas, theatres, pubs, restaurants, discos and even independent sporting events, with the sole purpose of preventing the spread of the virus. Authorities have announced that the measure will begin to apply as of this Friday, March 20, 2020, for an unspecified period based on an evaluation of the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic in Chile.

Those people who arrive in Chile or want to pass through Chile are subject to registration by the Sanitary Customs officials (Seremi).

On March 24, President Sebastián Piñera announced a new labor law regulating and facilitating remote work, including mandatory requirements that stipulate work vs. personal time. In addition, the government established a maximum cost of \$30 for the COVID-19 test in private healthcare facilities. Undersecretary of Public Health Paula Daza announced a curfew from 2 p.m to 5 a.m. on Easter Island after confirming a first case in the territory.

On March 25, 2020, the Chilean Government extended the suspension of classes for all educational establishments and the anticipation of winter holidays through the last two weeks of April.

On March 26, the Government of Chile decreed a total quarantine for seven communes in the Santiago Metropolitan Region (northwest zone) on Wednesday, as a measure to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The residents of the towns of Independencia, Vitacura, Lo Barnechea, Providencia, Ñuñoa, Las Condes, Independencia and Santiago must remain in their homes for seven days, with exceptions of health or emergencies.

URUGUAY

All international flights originating from Europe were suspended on 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.

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The Uruguayan Medical Union (SMU) recommended that the government decree a "general quarantine". The idea of the union is that the government decrees a general quarantine that governs in principle until April 12 inclusive, which would limit the movement of people.

Uruguay agreed to close their borders for the next 30 days after 23 new cases were reported in Montevideo. The Social Welfare Bank (El Banco de Prevision BPS) has received more than 40,000 applications for unemployment insurance so far in March due to loss of income from COVID-19.

The Foreign Ministry and the Chilean Ambassador in Uruguay agreed to send 46 Uruguayans back to their home country on the morning of March 26th.

President Luis Lacalle Pou announced a two-month reduction in retirements and salaries of public officials for the creation of a fund to cover expenses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The discounts will reach salaries exceeding 80,000 Uruguayan pesos net (approximately USD \$1,900) and will range between 5 and 20 percent, depending on the amount. These discounts, which will also apply to military managers and retirees, will not affect health officials and will be valid for two months, with the possibility of being extended

PARAGUAY

Paraguayan President Mario Abdo Benítez announced March 20th the extension of the coronavirus quarantine until April 12th, as well as a greater time restriction on the movement of people, for a week. The president indicated that the measure of "social isolation", which was limited to night hours, would extend to 24 hours a day from March 21st, until March 28; this implies a minimum circulation on the streets, limited to emergency or need situations such as buying food, going to hospitals or pharmacies, etc.

All land and air border crossings have been closed. Schools have been closed as have been all shopping centers.

Last week, the Civil Aeronautics Directorate (DINAC) announced a ban on airlines from boarding foreigners bound for Paraguay, and on Thursday, March 19th, the DINAC warned that all flights would be suspended by March 22.

The Paraguayan government decreed on Tuesday, March 24, the complete closure of its borders until Sunday, March 29.

The Civil Aeronautics Directorate (Dinac) announced that airports will also be closed starting March 24 for all commercial and private flights from abroad. The exception to the restriction is cargo services to guarantee the supply of goods in general. They further added that aircrafts that provide medical services within the framework of combating coronavirus, such as foreign planes sent to evacuate their nationals, will be allowed to disembark at local airports.

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At the request of the Interior Minister, the Department of Immigration closed all 13 ports of access to the country by land, allowing only those arriving by ambulance or who need medical treatment to cross the border.

On March 25, the Única Central de Empresarios de Transporte del Área Metropolitana de Asunción (UCETRAMA), expressed its concern about the risk that bus drivers run and asked President Abdo Benítez to cancel all public transport services to avoid the pandemic from spreading any further.

The Paraguayan Prosecutor's Office has charged 368 people for violating the mandatory quarantine due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Interior Ministry urged citizens to exercise extreme caution in the face of the massive amount of information that circulates through all channels. Minister Euclides Acevedo recommended ignoring and denouncing false audios reporting alleged conspiracies to loot supermarkets and shops in the cities of Luque and Hernandarias. he further added that the individuals who spread false information like the above will face criminal charges.

BOLIVIA

The government of Bolivia has declared a total lockdown for the entire country starting at 00:00 this Sunday, March 22 for a period of 14 days. Government Minister Arturo Murillo ordered that Bolivians remain in their homes for the duration of the total quarantine. The movement of one person per family is only allowed in the morning from 07:00 to 12:00 noon, in order to purchase food or medicine.

During the weekend of March 20 – 22, 2020, 591 people in the country who were circulating freely during restricted hours have been arrested. Government Minister Arturo Murillo urged the population to stay home so as not to increase the number of patients with Covid-19 and indicated that he will ask the president, Jeanine Áñez, to consider the declaration of a state of siege in situations where the quarantine is not carried out.

The Electoral Tribunal has decided to delay the Presidential elections, originally scheduled for May 3rd, to a later date.

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 went into effect as of Friday March 20. No crowds in excess of 100 people permitted. 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.

Classes have been suspended across the country starting on Thursday, March 19 through March 31. On March 20, the surveillance and protection of the country's borders will be strengthened by the presence of the Armed Forces. All modes of transportation across the Titicaca River have been closed.

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On March 25, 2020, two buses arrived in Cochabamba with 74 Bolivians from Chile. The head of Epidemiology of the Departmental Health Service reported that these people were subjected to a medical review were sent to their homes to be quarantined. Authorities confirmed that another bus with Bolivians living in Brazil will arrive this afternoon.

On March 26, 2020, the interim President of Bolivia, Jeanine Áñez, decreed a state of sanitary emergency at the national level from 00:00 on Thursday, March 26 until April 15. The objective is to tighten the quarantine measures already in place in the country and prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Among other items, it includes the total prohibition of movement of public and private vehicles, with the exception of health and safety services. Further, nobody will be allowed out of their homes except for a security or medical emergency. President Jeanine Áñez declared that anyone who breaks the quarantine will spend 10 years in prison.

More than 100 Bolivian citizens are stranded in the city of Miami when a BOA flight was canceled.

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. The governor of Rio de Janeiro recommended that shopping centers - with the exception of pharmacies and supermarkets - be closed.

On March 18, the governor of São Paulo, João Doria, had announced that all shopping malls in the capital and cities in the metropolitan region should be closed until April 30. The measure does not apply to shopping malls in the interior and the coast of São Paulo. The announcement is another measure to try to slow the progress of the coronavirus pandemic.

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

Health Minister Luiz Mandetta acknowledged that the situation is critical and cited the possibility that municipal elections in October may be postponed. President Jair Bolsonaro, on the other hand, seems to be far from sharing the concern of the Brazilian Governors. In a recent interview, Bolsonaro stated that closing the international airport in Rio “generates a climate of terror in the population that can lead to depression and lower immunity.” In another interview Bolsonaro acknowledged that the coronavirus will cause deaths in his country, but pointed out that it is more important not to make decisions that would harm the economy. His government prioritizes the economic situation over the health of Brazilians: “People are going to die; sorry. But we cannot create that climate: it hurts the economy.”

As of March 25th, a total of 680,000 people had signed a petition calling for the impeachment of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro due to his inaction in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The petition was circulated last week by three PSOL (Socialism and Liberty Party) federal deputies: Fernanda Melchionna, Sâmia Bomfim and David Miranda.

Petrobras announced on Thursday, March 26th, that it would donate 600,000 tests for the diagnosis of the Covid-19 to the Unified Health System (SUS). The kits are being imported from the U.S. and should reach Brazil in April.

On March 27, 2020, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro again downplayed the risks of the coronavirus pandemic, stating that Brazilians have such a high level of resistance that they "don't get infected or jump into sewage."

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.

The new Minister of Health to Victor Marcial Zamora Mesía, a physician specializing in public health policies, replaced Elizabeth Hinostroza in office and the oath ceremony was held at the Government Palace. 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 move freely.

On March 21, President Martín Vizcarra said that approximately 8,000 people had been arrested for violating the curfew and restriction-of-movement measures. Further, the president stated that the government is in the process of purchasing 1.4 million coronavirus quick test kits.

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Two Peruvian Army aircraft arrived at the Inca Manco Cápac airport in Juliaca with medicine and protective protection equipment such as masks and gloves for the Armed Forces who are providing security and humanitarian assistance during the outbreak.

On March 25, 2020, President Martín Vizcarra stated that a benefit of the curfew is that crime levels in general in the country have been reduced by 84%. However, domestic violence has increased, with over 600 calls made to the police claiming violence against women. According to the president, 169 cases have been verified. Authorities are working hard to protect women and minors from domestic violence during the lockdown.

On March 26, 2020, President Martín Vizcarra confirmed that the state of emergency and full lockdown is extended through April 12th.

Defense Minister Walter Martos stated that they will criminally charge and request pre-trial detention for anyone who resists or attacks the authority that ensures compliance with the state of emergency restrictions.

ECUADOR

The Ecuadorian government has extended its decree allowing only home-based work for the public and private sector through March 31, 2020. All inbound flights cancelled through April 5 except those repatriating Ecuadorian citizens. Restricted movement for the population as of March 17 – can only leave residence to purchase food or medicine, or to go to and from work. Curfew put in place from 9:00 PM – 05:00 AM. Restaurants and cafes to remain open for delivery only.

As of March 20th, Ecuadorian authorities have reported that they will prepare and condition shelters for the homeless to take refuge and be quarantined to prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading further.

Ecuador authorized its Armed Forces to take control of the province of Guayas, located in the southwest of the country, which is the sector most heavily hit by the coronavirus. The Executive's Emergency Operations Committee (COE) authorized the Armed Forces to manage the province of Guayas as a zone of national security.

On Monday 23rd, the new Health Minister, Juan Carlos Zevallos, mentioned that the Health Ministry is moving to Guayaquil, one of the cities most affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Public transportation has been suspended in the city of Guayaquil.

During the emergency, the administration is ordering that no one have their utilities cut off for lack of payment. The government is also providing increased internet and cell phone data service, as well as free coronavirus tests for anyone with symptoms.

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The Ecuadorian airline Tame reported yesterday that it had reached an agreement with the United States to provide special flights for U.S. citizens who want to return to their country. No specific information on the dates or other details of the flights were provided.

China committed to deliver protective equipment and medical supplies to the Ecuadorian health sector.

President Lenín Moreno announced the extension of the curfew hours on Tuesday, March 24, and ordered more drastic measures for the province of Guayas, in an attempt to stop the expansion of the coronavirus. Starting March 25, the curfew will begin at 14:00 PM and run through 05:00 AM, creating a drastic change to the measure that was in force since the middle of the month. The President also declared that people who do not comply will have financial sanctions and that repeat offenders will go to prison.

The Ecuadorian government announced that they have arrested 841 people for violating the mandatory quarantine. On March 26 the Ecuadorian government dictated the closure of roads in several localities to prevent further infections, including in Esmeraldas, Azuay, Imbabura and Tungurahua. In addition, all mining activities have been suspended. Between 1,700 and 4,000 Ecuadorians continue to be stranded abroad without means for repatriation.

The Ecuadorian president has indicated that he would consider as terrorists those who do not comply with the preventive measures that the government has taken against COVID-19. The President indicated that he has ordered that fines, penalties and prison be applied to violators, and that these actions equal the commission of a crime and constitute acts of terrorism.

COLOMBIA

The government of Colombia has ordered a full lockdown starting at 00:00 on Tuesday, March 24 – April 13. Exceptions to the curfew include security services, health professionals, call centers, banks, food and supply chain, fuel and government personnel related to social, health, security and safety tasks. Shopping centers can open but only to supply food or medicine. All land and air borders closed to non-citizens and non-residents through to May 30th. All citizens and residents arriving in Colombia are subject to a 14-day quarantine. Schools are closed through April 20.

On March 21, 23 prisoners were stated to have been killed and 83 injured following a riot in the ‘La Modelo’ prison in Bogota, which started due to fears over the spreading of the Coronavirus. It has been said that prisoners across the country were protesting against overcrowding in prisons, as well as poor health services ever since the outbreak of COVID-19.

On March 25 the Colombian government announced that any company seen to be putting their employees at risk unnecessarily will be fined and sanctioned.

On March 25, thousands of Colombians across numerous cities defied the quarantine order to march against the government, calling for economic assistance to help those in need.

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Colombia is said to be one of the most dangerous places in the world to be an activist. As such, it is said that Colombian ‘death squads’ are exploiting the COVID-19 lockdown to kill such activists. Marco Rivadeneira was murdered in the southern Putumayo province, Angel Ovidio Quintero was shot dead in the Antioquia region and Ivo Humberto Bracamonte was killed close to Colombia’s border with Venezuela. All were high profile activists.

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. The government of Venezuela stated that it would utilize hotel rooms to isolate patients with COVID-19.

The government announced that they have prohibited all job losses until 2021 and suspended the payment of rent for residents and commercial stores, as well as credit card payments for six (6) months.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo demanded that the government release six (6) Citgo executives, held in prison since 2017 on humanitarian grounds due to the virus having the potential to spread rapidly within the prison. Experts are also worried that the Venezuelan refugee crisis could worsen the spread of the virus.

On March 21, three men in Caracas were murdered by a dozen members of the criminal gang “Tres Raices” while playing dominoes during the quarantine.

On March 24, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet called for any sanctions imposed on Venezuela and other countries facing the pandemic, including Cuba and Iran, be urgently reevaluated to avoid pushing their strained medical services into collapse.

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.

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President Laurentino Cortizo ordered the temporary closure of all stores and businesses around the country for thirty (30) days as of 00.00 AM on Friday March 20, 2020, On March 23rd this was extended to 17.00 PM until 05.00 AM. Exceptions to include producers and suppliers of food, hygiene products, safety equipment, construction materials, agricultural supplies, medical equipment distributors, private security workers, gas distributors and bank employees. In general, any work which is non-essential has been stopped in the country. All international flights to the country have also been suspended.

Schools and universities are now closed nation-wide until April 7. Sporting events, festivals and large gatherings have been banned. As of March 22, 2020, the government suspended ALL international Commercial flights in and out of Panama. They also announced a plan where when/if total quarantine is put in place, people will only be allowed to leave their house to purchase food/medicine on a schedule according to their national identification card/passport numbers and will only be allowed to leave the house for up to two hours.

Given that six (6) percent of global trade passes through Panama, financial analysts have warned that Panama will feel the impact as the virus continues to affect trade.

On March 25, the government announced that all domestic flights within the country are now suspended.

EL SALVADOR

The Salvadorian government announced a total lockdown of the population for 30 days starting at 00:00 on Sunday, March 22. The total lockdown applies to the entire population. The national Army and Police are enforcing these measures across the country.

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. Hospitals suspend all visitation rights to decrease the spread of COVID-19.

On March 21, in conjunction with imposing quarantine, the President announced a subsidy of roughly \$300 per house for about 75% of Salvadoran households. He also threatened against corruption related to economic relief measures, saying 60 auditors would be reviewing disbursement and that he will imprison anybody found to be taking money illegally from these funds. In addition, the President has frozen the prices of basic goods and warned against price gouging. **No new updates.**

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HONDURAS

The government declared a full lockdown from Friday at 6:00 PM through Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 PM. 26 people have been arrested to date for violating this lockdown. Borders closed to all non-citizens or non-residents as of March 16. An 8-day nationwide quarantine is in effect. Schools are closed through the end of March. All sporting and social events of more than 50 people are prohibited. Visitation rights to prisons have been suspended. State of emergency has been declared.

The government of Honduras ordered the closure of all markets and just residence deliveries are allowed, as a measure to avoid the crowding of people who generate the spread of the coronavirus. Through a statement, the Secretary of Security, indicated that as of midnight on Monday, March 23, accesses to all the markets of the country will be closed to the general population, but they will continue to be open to supply grocery stores.

Coronavirus cases in Honduras continue to rise (68 infected cases and 1 death), which has led authorities to intensify controls in markets to prevent the spread of the virus. Authorities have also limited the use of public transport service, excepting staff working in the emergency sector, food industry and employees of the media. All service stations are allowed to open 3 days a week during 4 hours. Banks will open 3 days week (full day schedule).

Individuals from Las Tapias, in the Central District, carried out a protest complaining about the lack of food in that sector, making it difficult for them to comply with the quarantine. The protesters have asked the government to distribute food in that sector.

Individuals from the town of Támara, on the outskirts of the Central District, protested on March 27 refusing to transfer patients with suspected coronavirus to the facilities of the National Police Academy (ANAPO). The protesters werer dispersed after a few minutes.

GUATEMALA

The government of Guatemala has declared a curfew from 16:00 – 04:00 daily starting on March 22 for a period of 8 days. On the first day of the curfew, approximately 900 people were arrested for violating the curfew. All shopping centers are closed and transportation services have been suspended.

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.

As of March 25, 2020, Guatemala has 24 confirmed cases and over two thousand people detained for not compiling with the curfew.

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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. The Nicaraguan government is largely ignoring the coronavirus pandemic and is preparing for Easter with massive social activities and events.

Although the government decided to keep their air borders open, at least six airlines announced that they will cut all their flights to/from Nicaragua due to the pandemic. Nicaragua is one of the few countries in Latin America that has not limited the entry of international travelers, however, most airlines have already set a suspension date. **No new updates**

COSTA RICA

As of Monday, March 23rd, after confirming that the COVID-19 virus has spread to all seven of Costa Rica's provinces, President Carlos Alvarado announced the closing of all of the country's beaches, as well as the suspension of all religious services. Further, as of March 24, personal vehicles will be restricted from moving between the hours of 10:00 PM – 05:00 AM. Finally, all foreigners residing in Costa Rica who leave the country will automatically lose their immigration status.

The government also reinforced that elderly adults should remain home and limit contact with others as much as possible. In addition, they asked that everyone limit non-essential use of water to minimize shortages.

State of Emergency declared. All border crossings will be closed from March 18 – April 12. Passengers arriving before March 18 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.

The Costa Rican government has informed that the violation of the health order of not going out constitutes a crime punishable by imprisonment of one to three years or a fine of 50 to 200 days. The Costa Rican Health Minister has indicated that it is necessary for Costa Ricans not to expose themselves to public places, maintain preventive isolation, and follow the preventive hygiene protocol in order to combat COVID-19. The Minister has also heavily encouraged homeworking as a way to prevent the expansion of the virus.

Costa Rica's national emergency commission received a \$1 million aid package from the Central American Bank for economic integration to combat the virus in the country. The government has prepared a package with measures that include alleviating loan and social security payments, deferred tax payments, and price controls on certain products to avoid price gouging.

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Immigration Police in Los Chiles, Alajuela, detained more than 500 people who entered the country illegally in recent days. The majority entered Costa Rica from Nicaragua at unauthorized border crossings, according to immigration authorities. The Vice Minister of the Interior and Police, Carlos Andrés Torres, said authorities are increasing their efforts near Costa Rica's borders in anticipation of heavier undocumented migration patterns during Easter Holy Week.

Starting at 10 p.m. Tuesday, the majority of vehicles will be banned from Costa Rica's roads in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting nonessential travel. With some exceptions, vehicles will be banned between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. beginning tonight. Violators will be fined 22,188 colones (about \$40).

The Costa Rican government has announced that it is expected that a new medical center specializing in COVID-19 will be opened later this week at the National Rehabilitation Center (CENARE) in San José.

President Carlos Alvarado decided to close all land, sea and air borders for any foreigner for the next 26 days starting on March 25. The Director of Immigration warned that any foreigner who tries to cross the border line will be detained and deported to their country of origin.

Engineers from the state University of Costa Rica (UCR) are using 3D technology as an ally to combat the coronavirus pandemic by printing low-cost face shields for the country's medical personnel and eventually respirators for patients.

On March 25, Minister of Security Michael Soto confirmed that 274 traffic tickets were issued in the first night of the vehicular restrictions. The restrictions will continue nightly from 10 pm to 5 am until April 12, at which time it will be reassessed. The Minister reiterated that the restrictions apply "from border to border, from sea to sea."

Due to the Costa Rican ban on non-resident foreigners entering the country, commercial carriers are slowing and stopping regular flights. As of March 25, most carriers have suspended service to and from both San Jose and Liberia airports.

The Ministry of Health continues to ask people of all ages to remain home whenever possible and to practice social distancing.

MEXICO

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. Sanitation and hygiene areas have been intensified \ throughout the country, especially in public areas like the Metro Station.

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No air restrictions have been enacted by the Mexican government to date. The Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that personnel and policies have been added to Mexican airports to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The U.S. continues to pressure Mexico to adopt flight restrictions.

On March 20, the United States announced a partial closure of the land borders with Mexico, allowing only essential travel. These restrictions go into effect at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on March 20, 2020 and will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. EDT on April 20, 2020.

As of March 23, 2020, the coronavirus pandemic has spread to 31 States in the country and Tlaxcala is the only State with no confirmed infections.

The government announced the suspension of classes through April 17, called for remote work, cancellation of massive events and cessation of operations in closed spaces such as cinemas or bars. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced that he will sign a decree so that both in the public and private sectors grant permission to older adults so that they can remain at home. The government also suspended the issuance of passports from March 27 through April 19 in an effort to slow international travel.

On March 24, Mexico announced the cancellation of a series of internal flights to prevent the expedition of COVID-19.

On March 25, calls on social media called for widespread looting to be carried out in shopping centers in the city of Veracruz for tonight, as happened three years ago. In response, security was deployed and barricades were installed to stem these threats.

President López Obrador called on the UN, during his participation in the virtual meeting of the G20, to intervene "so that all people and countries are guaranteed equal access to medicine and equipment that, due to the emergency, are being hoarded by those who have more economic possibility. "

PUERTO RICO

On March 15, a mandatory lockdown was announced through March 30. Individuals are only allowed to leave their residence between the hours of 5:00AM to 9:00 PM for the purpose of buying food or medicine.

Puerto Rican authorities announced that the island's 134,000 public employees will receive their wages during the shutdown and that the government will offer payments of \$1,500 to small and medium-sized businesses with fewer than 50 employees who do not meet the conditions for receiving federal aid. **No new information**

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BELIZE

The government of Belize closed its borders with Mexico on March 21 at 11:59 p.m. for all personal crossings. Transportation of cargo remains open. The border will remain closed for nationals and residents who wish to travel outside of Belize except for emergencies.

On March 23, Belize reported its first confirmed case of COVID-19 in San Pedro Town. The patient is a 38-year-old woman who returned from the U.S. on March 19.

On March 27, the Belize Audubon Society (BAS) announced that as a part of the national response to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries co-managed by the society have been closed for public visitation.

CUBA

Cuba initiated the Novel Coronavirus Plan for Prevention and Control on March 2, regulating and protecting the country's borders with international health measures at all entry points in order to control the arrival of travelers infected with the coronavirus, as well as ensuring strict compliance with monitoring and control measures over those arriving from infected areas.

On March 21st, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel announced that the island will close its borders to international tourism starting on Tuesday, March 24th. The closure does not apply to Cubans who return to the island, nor to foreigners residing in Cuba, who must remain in quarantine for 14 days after arrival in the territory.

Cuba's Prime Minister indicated that commercial operations would not be interrupted. The arrival of cargo planes and ships will continue, but their crews will not have freedom of movement and will be concentrated in places with medical surveillance.

The Cuban government suspended the school year as of March 24 to prevent the expansion of COVID-19. The closure will extend for three weeks. The fourth week is the one corresponding to the school break. Therefore, starting on Tuesday, March 24th, and for a month, teaching activities will stop. Classes would resume on Monday, April 20, depending on the epidemiological situation at that time.

The Cuban government made other decisions such as the closing of discos, in addition to control measures in gastronomy, limiting recreational activities and closing swimming pools and gyms to avoid crowds and contact between people. These measures will also be adopted in the non-state sector: discos, bars, nightclubs, swimming pools and private gyms must remain closed.

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic has put in place a number of measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 including:

- On March 20th, a national curfew that prohibits all traffic and movement of people from 8 pm to 6am was imposed.
- Creation of a national hotline for questions relating to COVID-19 if you have been exposed or are experiencing severe symptoms.
- Cruise arrivals have been suspended at all ports and coasts.
- Public transportation, including buses, shared minibuses (guaguas), metro trains, and cable cars have suspended services, limiting the public's ability to move freely in urban areas.
- Events and public gatherings of all kinds have been suspended.

Effective at 6 am on March 19, the President of the Dominican Republic suspended the arrival of incoming passengers and has effectively closed the borders of the Dominican Republic for an initial period of 15 days. While the President announced that outbound flights will continue to ferry foreigners out of the Dominican Republic to their home countries.

On March 26th, President Danilo Medina issued decree N° 138-20, which ordered the increase in the time for the curfew. Starting March 27 through April 3, a new curfew is established starting from 17:00 pm to 06:00 am throughout the country.

The National Police reported that through March 26, there were 9,886 arrests of citizens who failed to comply with the directive not to go out between 20:00pm and 06:00am.

On the eve of the new curfew coming into force, the Government ordered the application of the state of emergency as part of the measures in the face of the coronavirus health crisis.

JAMAICA

People who return from or have been to China are subjected to a minimum period of quarantine for 14 day.

From March 12 through today, government measures have escalated, beginning the closure of all schools and has now escalated to a stay-at-home order being imposed by the Jamaican government starting on March 25. All public sector workers over the age of 65 must also work from home. All people who entered the county after March 18 will be placed on an additional 14-day quarantine.

As of March 21, all sea and airports are closed to incoming traffic for at least 14 days.

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HAITI

On March 19, President Jovenel Moise announced that all airports, schools, factories and seaports would be closed in response to the arrival of COVID-19 in the country (first cases on March 20). Health workers argue that this could prevent the arrival of important medical supplies and volunteer doctors for the country which has around 11 million citizens. Many of the measures taken worldwide to avoid the spread of the virus (washing hands) have been made extremely difficult for the people of Haiti with around 35% of citizens lacking basic drinking water services, two-thirds have limited or no sanitation services.

It is said that gas stations are largely running out of fuel. The country is also currently under a curfew of between 8 PM until 5 AM. Citizens are worried that the spread could affect the country badly due to their lack of provisions and their informal economy/ They predict that the outbreak will hit countries like their own much worse than China, Italy, Spain etc if the virus is not contained which in turn will likely lead to a rise in riots and violence in general.

BAHAMAS

On March 18, 2020, Governor General C.A. Smith declared a state of public emergency in The Bahamas due to the presence of COVID-19 in the country.

The regulations also empower the prime minister to, by an order, prohibit the assembly of two or more persons in a public space in any area specified, in the interest of public health safety. Under these circumstances, all educational and religious institutions would be closed. Certain businesses and other entities catering to the public may be ordered closed. Visits to residential care establishments such as senior care facilities would be prohibited. Visits to correctional facilities would be prohibited. Trips to the grocery store, gas station, pharmacy, doctor, hospital may be regulated or limited to certain times. This suspension can cover an assembly of as little as two persons in public areas.

The Bahamas government implemented travel restrictions that apply to four countries. Non- Bahamian residents travelling to the Bahamas from Italy, South Korea, China, and Iran in the last 20 days will be denied entry. On the other hand, Bahamian citizens and residents will be subject to quarantine for a maximum of 14 days if they are returning from those countries.

On March 26, 2020, the Office of the Prime Minister also declared an exemption for construction companies carrying out hurricane relief, reconstruction and restoration efforts in Ragged Island and its cays.

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GUYANA

Guyana's two main airports, the Cheddi Jagan International Airport at Timehri and the Eugene F. Correia International Airport, located at Ogle, will remain closed to incoming international flights, except for technical stops for aircraft that require fuel, and specially authorized flights. The Guyana Civil Aviation Authority on Tuesday, March 17, announced that both airports will be closed to all international flights for 14 days from midnight (local time). Ferry service between Guyana and Suriname suspended from March 14, 2020 until further notice.

All schools have been closed from March 16 – April 20, 2020. The Giftland Mall has announced that it will be temporarily closed till April 1st until further notice.

The Linden Mayor and Town Council implemented a regional curfew beginning Saturday, March 28th, as it joins the national effort. A release from the municipality on Thursday stated that all businesses must be closed from 6pm to 6am, except for supermarkets and pharmacies who were given a 7pm to 6am curfew. Only essential workers including nurses and police officers will be allowed on the streets beyond 8pm. Other residents must be indoors from 8pm to 6am.

The National Covid-19 Task Force (NCTF) is warning individuals, particularly in the Corentyne region to avoid travelling to Suriname by boat. NCTF issued a warning for citizens to desist from entering the neighboring country illegally in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

SURINAME

On 13 March 2020, Suriname's Vice President Ashwin Adhin announced the first confirmed case of coronavirus in the country: an individual who arrived from the Netherlands multiple days prior to testing positive. As a result, the country announced that its borders and all airports would shut down at midnight on 14 March.

The district commissioner's office Marowijne Noord-Oost has announced a lockdown starting on March 24, 2020. As of this date, the East-West connection near the Streekzienhuis Marwina will be closed to all traffic from 00:00 to 06:00.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

According to Governor Jaspert, the curfew from 8:00pm on Friday to 6:00am on April 2, 2020 is in effect a shutdown of the Territory and one in which “we are asking people to stay at home. Shops, including supermarkets and pharmacies will not be opened. Businesses will not be open. Support will be available to those who need it.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Carvin Malone (AL) has unveiled the list of essential services persons that would be allowed to exit their homes during the upcoming 24-hour Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) curfew. The round the clock curfew comes into

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effect at 8:00pm tonight, Friday, March 27, 2020, and will be lifted at 6:00am on Thursday, April 2, 2020.

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