



# COVID-19 Measures in Effect in Latin America

**March 30, 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. On March 29, the government extended the lockdown through April 12. All commerce 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. The link to request a pass to circulate during the quarantine is as follows:

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/politica/coronavirus-como-es-tramite-acceder-al-certificado-nid2348615>

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. As of March 30, more than 33,000 people were arrested by security forces for failing to comply with the mandatory isolation. One couple was arrested while trying to evade a police barricade with their two children hidden in the trunk of their car.

All repatriation efforts have been cancelled. All borders are closed to both Argentine and foreign citizens, including the Iguazu-Foz de Iguacu land border, which was previously open. Schools have been cancelled through the end of March but commerce remains open. The government has guaranteed the supply chain for food and has frozen the price on basic food, beverages, personal hygiene and cleaning supplies for 30 days.

The Argentine government launched an app to conduct a coronavirus self-test based on answers to some basic 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 [www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus](http://www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus) or downloaded from the Android and iOS app stores.

On March 23, 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.

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## **CHILE**

The government of Chile have announced a lockdown of the entire population from 22:00 – 05:00 daily starting Sunday March 22. The Chilean government has announced fines and jail sentences as punishment for those who do not comply with the quarantine. So far, 339 individuals were taken into custody for violating the curfew.

On March 26, the Government of Chile decreed a total quarantine for seven communes in the Santiago Metropolitan Region (northwest zone) 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.

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, as well as foreigners returning home. Maritime ports are closed to cruise ships.

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

Schools were initially suspended for two weeks and later extended through April 17. Visitation to geriatric facilities has been limited. 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. As of March 18, no public gatherings in excess of 200 people are permitted. All entertainment venues to include cinemas, theatres, pubs, restaurants, discos and even independent sporting events are closed.

On March 19, political parties and the Electoral Service agreed to postpone the constitutional referendum until October 25.

## **URUGUAY**

No quarantine is in effect in Uruguay. The Uruguayan Medical Union (SMU) recommended that the government decree a "general quarantine" through April 12, which would limit the movement of people, however this has not been adopted.

All international flights originating from Europe have been suspended since March 20. All borders are closed, with only Uruguayan citizens or residents allowed to enter the country. All shopping malls have been ordered closed.

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The Uruguayan President asked that those over 65 years stay at home since they are the vulnerable, and urged employers to allow the possibility of remote work, noting that the government has already adopted measures in this regard.

A group of private businessmen raised USD \$3,000,000 to aide in the fight against COVID-19 in the country. The #NosCuidamosEntreTodos campaign was launched and within 48 hours had already raised a million dollars. A few days later, that number multiplied by three. They have now increased the goal to reach \$5 million. With this money, they intend to acquire diagnostic kits medical clothing and respirators to strengthen the health system in their country.

## **PARAGUAY**

There is a full quarantine in place in Paraguay through April 12. All commerce has been shut down except for security, health and grocery services. All land and air border crossings have been closed and all passenger flights have been suspended. Cargo flights are still operating to ensure the supply of goods, in general. Only those arriving by ambulance or who need medical treatment will be allowed to cross the border. Schools have been closed as have been all shopping centers.

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 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. The Paraguayan Prosecutor's Office has charged 551 people for violating the mandatory quarantine.

The Paraguayan government reported that around 500 Paraguayans are waiting to return to the country, many of them from Europe, with Spain as the main destination from which the majority will return.

## **BOLIVIA**

The government of Bolivia has declared a total lockdown for the entire country starting at 00:00 on March 22 for a period of 14 days, later extended through April 15. 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, is limited by the individual's document number. Individuals with document numbers ending in 1 and 2 can go out on Mondays; documents ending in 3 and 4 on Tuesdays; 5 and 6 on Wednesdays; 7 and 8 on Thursdays; and 9 and 0 on Fridays. Nobody is allowed out of the house on Saturdays or Sundays. Over 1,500 people have been arrested for violating the quarantine. The link to request a pass to circulate during the quarantine is as follows:

<https://permiso.agnetic.gob.bo/#/formulario>

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

State Chancellor Karen Longaric reported today that the repatriation of more than 70 Bolivians stranded in the Chilean region of Huara has been suspended and that the country's borders will remain closed.

## **BRAZIL**

No national quarantine is in effect in Brazil. Brazil closed land borders with Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Guyana, French Guayana and Paraguay for passengers on March 19. The borders remain open for commerce. Air transport restrictions have yet to have been enacted. Brazil has adopted several economic measures to ensure that the country continues to produce.

While the President continues to deny the need for a quarantine, or even social distancing, several Brazilian States have enacted their own measures. The State of Rio de Janeiro closed all schools as of March 16th and the State of Sao Paulo announced that all schools were closed as of March 26. 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.

State-level authorities from several cities and states, including Rio de Janeiro and Paraíba, have declared a state of emergency. The governor of Rio de Janeiro recommended that shopping centers, with the exception of pharmacies and supermarkets, be closed. The governor of São Paulo 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.

Health Minister Luiz Mandetta acknowledged that the situation is critical and cited the possibility that municipal elections in October may be postponed.


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. On March 27, President 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**

A country-wide quarantine has been in effect since March 16, including the closure of all borders. On March 26, the President extended the quarantine through April 12. Supermarkets, pharmacies and banks remain open. Individuals with identity document numbers ending in an even number can leave their homes to purchase on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, whereas those ending in an odd number can leave on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

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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. Permits to transit can be obtained here: <https://www.gob.pe/pasedetransito>

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.

## **ECUADOR**

A nation-wide curfew has been in effect since March 17 from 14:00 – 05:00 each day. 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. Restaurants and cafes to remain open for delivery only. Public transportation has been suspended in the city of Guayaquil. The government has also decided to regulate the entry of people to supermarkets and pharmacies only during certain permitted hours.

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. Despite these measures, almost 1,000 arrests have been made for failing to comply with the curfew.

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.

All inbound flights cancelled through April 5 except those repatriating Ecuadorian citizens. The Ecuadorian airline Tame reported 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.

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.

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## COLOMBIA

A country-wide quarantine has been in effect since March 24 through April 13. Exceptions to the quarantine 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 are 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, thousands of Colombians across numerous cities defied the quarantine order to march against the government, calling for economic assistance to help those in need.

Colombian ‘death squads’ are exploiting the COVID-19 lockdown to kill 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.

The ELN (Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional) have declared a ceasefire due to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that the military actions of the group will be suspended from April 1 until April 30 – a self-described ‘humanitarian gesture’.


## VENEZUELA

Starting on March 17 through April 12, 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.

All schools and sporting events have been cancelled and public gatherings prohibited. All restaurants are closed except for deliveries. 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

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within the prison. Experts are also worried that the Venezuelan refugee crisis could worsen the spread of the virus.

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**

On March 25, a full quarantine was initiated in Panama. 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. People are only 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. The scheduled hours are as follows:

- Last number is 7 – 6:30 – 8:30am
- Last number is 8 – 7:30 – 9:30am
- Last number is 9 – 8:30 – 10:30am
- Last number is 0 – 9:30 – 11:30am
- Last number is 1 – 12:30 – 2:30pm
- Last number is 2 – 1:30 – 3:30pm
- Last number is 3 – 2:30 – 4:30pm
- Last number is 4 – 3:30 – 5:30pm
- Last number is 5 – 4:30 – 6:30pm
- Last number is 6 – 5:30 – 7:30pm
- There is a special window for those over 60 years old, regardless of cedula or passport numbers, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm.

All international and domestic flights have been suspended and only Panamanian citizens and legal residents are allowed to enter Panama. Schools and universities are closed nation-wide through April 7. Sporting events, festivals and large gatherings have been banned.

## **EL SALVADOR**

The Salvadorian government announced a total quarantine of the population for 30 days starting at 00:00 on March 22. One member of each family is only allowed out of their residence to purchase food, medicine or to seek medical attention. Schools and commerce are closed. Hospitals have suspended all visitation rights. The Army and Police are enforcing these measures across the country. Approximately 4,000 people have been arrested to date for violating the quarantine.

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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.

## **HONDURAS**

The government extended the nationwide curfew through April 12, announcing more stringent restrictions. The new curfew restrictions limit Honduran citizens and foreign residents or visitors to be out and about only during the hours between 09:00 and 15:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, depending upon the last digit of their Honduran ID card, their foreign resident permit or foreign passport number as follows:

- Monday, 0900-1500 hours – numbers 1,2,3
- Wednesday – 0900-1500 hours – numbers 4,5,6
- Friday – 0900-1500 hours – numbers 7,8,9,0

Exceptions to this include law enforcement, military, private security, public utility personnel, medical personnel, pharmacies, banks, food production and distribution workers, etc.

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).

International airports at San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa remain open only for cargo import/export and commercial and general aviation charter flights to evacuate expat personnel. Seaports remain open only for cargo import/export.

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 were 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, which was later extended through April 12, except for hospitals, clinics, health centers, public hygiene and hygiene services, cargo transportation, pharmaceutical, food and product

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industries for personal health and hygiene. 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.

## **NICARAGUA**

There is no mandatory quarantine in effect in 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 Nicaraguan government is largely ignoring the coronavirus pandemic and is preparing for Easter with massive social activities and events.

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.

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.

## **COSTA RICA**



A nationwide curfew for vehicular has been instituted from 10:00 PM – 05:00 AM and a state of Emergency was declared. All land, sea and air border crossings are closed from through the end of April. Passengers arriving before March 18 subject to a 14-day quarantine. School has been suspended and the government recommends that people stay at home.

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. All beaches are closed and all religious services have been suspended. 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.

Immigration Police in Los Chiles, Alajuela, detained more than 500 people who entered the country illegally. 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

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authorities are increasing their efforts near Costa Rica's borders in anticipation of heavier undocumented migration patterns during Easter Holy Week.

Costa Rica's Immigration Directorate stated to have transferred 2,600 extra-continental migrants from its southern border with Panama to the north with Nicaragua. These migrants, who were mostly Asians, Africans and Haitians, were seeking to reach the United States. The measure was taken after a border closure to non-resident foreigners.

## **MEXICO**

No nationwide quarantine has been decreed in Mexico.

Schools are closed 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. The government has recommended that people stay at home.

No air restrictions have been enacted by the Mexican government to date, however a series of internal flights were cancelled starting on March 24. 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 government also suspended the issuance of passports from March 27 through April 19 in an effort to slow international travel. The U.S. continues to pressure Mexico to adopt flight restrictions.

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."


The governor of Yucatan announced that fines will be imposed, and possibly jail time, for those who have COVID-19 symptoms and fail to report these symptoms and comply with isolation measures.

## **PUERTO RICO**

A mandatory quarantine is in place through April 12. 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.

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## **BELIZE**

On March 26, a nationwide quarantine was decreed, limiting the size of gatherings to 10 persons or less and calling for social distancing. All casinos and gaming establishments, spas, beauty salons, barber shops, gyms, sporting complexes, markets, discotheques, bars, night clubs, restaurants and diners were ordered closed (delivery services from restaurants permitted). In addition, public transportation was limited to the seating capacity of a particular bus. The government has also established social distance protocols

The government of Belize closed its borders with Mexico on March 21 for all nationals and residents who wish to travel outside of Belize except for emergencies. Transportation of cargo remains open.

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**

No mandatory quarantine has been enacted in Cuba. Restaurants are still open and public transport continues.

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 24, Cuba closed its borders to international tourism starting. 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 to 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.

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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Shortage of food, hygiene products and basic necessities are reported in stores across Cuba. Large crowds at these stores of people trying to buy basic items play against the social distancing measures enacted by the government.

## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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

- On March 20, a national curfew that prohibits all traffic and movement of people from 8:00 PM to 06:00 AM 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.

Since March 19, the arrival of incoming passengers was suspended which effectively closed the borders for an initial period of 15 days. 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 established a new curfew April 3, from 5:00 PM to 06:00 AM throughout the country. The National Police reported that as of March 26, there were 9,886 arrests of individuals who failed to comply with curfew.

## **JAMAICA**

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.

## **HAITI**

Haiti is under a nationwide curfew between 8:00 PM and 05:00 AM. On March 19, President Jovenel Moise announced that all airports, schools, factories and seaports would be closed in response to the

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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 inhabitants. Many of the measures taken worldwide to avoid the spread of the virus (washing hands) have been 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.

Haiti also closed its borders, including with the Dominican Republic, and all international flights, except for those coming from the USA. Citizens are worried that the spread could affect the country badly due to their lack of supplies and their informal economy. Many 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 empowered the prime minister to prohibit the assembly of two or more persons in a public space in any specified area in the interest of public health. 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.

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 cay.

## **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.

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

The Linden Mayor and Town Council implemented a regional curfew beginning Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 Streekziehuis 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 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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