

COVID-19 Fact Sheet:

Sub-Saharan Africa – July 17, 2020



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OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

Over the past two weeks, the number of confirmed novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in sub-Saharan Africa has risen to over 500,000. The number of fatalities has also increased to nearly 9,000. While the region continues to account for less than four percent of all cases globally, the pace of new infections appears to have increased slightly compared to July 2, when the last Fact Sheet was published, and officials with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have warned that the pandemic is just reaching “full speed” in the region. This recent surge in infections is due in large part to the spike in cases in South Africa, which accounts for approximately 60 percent of the region’s caseload and broke into the list of the top ten worst-affected countries in the world earlier this week. However, a number of other countries have also reported significant increases in cases, notably Lesotho, Namibia, and Madagascar, and community transmission is becoming more widespread. As countries continue to relax their lockdowns and other restrictions on movement, the situation appears likely to worsen, as the virus could spread to new rural areas with limited access to healthcare, and new imported infections could add to the caseload. A resurgence in cases has already been reported in several countries, including South Africa and Namibia, after they relaxed restrictions beginning in April and May. This in turn has prompted an increasing number of governments to re-introduce anti-infection measures, though these have generally been more localized and less severe.

A number of other factors could potentially contribute to a rise in infections over the coming weeks and months. First is a growing emphasis on improving testing in the region and monitoring of burial activities. A few countries, including Ethiopia, Senegal, and Rwanda, have launched projects to monitor burial activity for any surges in unregistered deaths that could point to more widespread underreporting. This could help identify new clusters and coupled with the expanding testing abilities, will likely lead to a rise in the case count. Additionally, several countries across the region have experienced widespread protests over the past weeks, drawing thousands to the streets and

nullifying efforts to encourage social distancing. Affected countries include Ethiopia, Mali, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, all of which could see new clusters of cases over the coming weeks. A third factor that could potentially contribute to a rise in infections is the upcoming Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha (also known as Tabaski), which is scheduled to begin on July 30. During this holiday, Muslims traditionally gather in large crowds at mosques and other locations, which create ideal conditions for virus transmission, especially in Muslim-majority countries.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Sub-Saharan Africa, July 17, 2020

Country/Territory	Confirmed Cases July 2	Confirmed Cases July 17	Percentage Change	Deaths July 17	Case Fatality Ratio
South Africa	159333	324221	103%	4669	1%
Nigeria	26484	34854	32%	769	2%
Ghana	18134	26125	44%	139	1%
Cameroon	12592	16057	28%	369	2%
Cote d'Ivoire	9499	13403	41%	87	1%
Kenya	6673	11673	75%	217	2%
Sudan	9258	10527	14%	668	6%
Ethiopia	6048	8803	46%	150	2%
Senegal	6925	8481	22%	156	2%
Democratic Republic of Congo	7122	8199	15%	192	2%
Guinea	5404	6359	18%	39	1%
Gabon	5394	6121	13%	46	1%
Madagascar	2303	6089	164%	53	1%
Mauritania	4472	5564	24%	149	3%
Djibouti	4704	4993	6%	56	1%
Central African Republic	3745	4373	17%	53	1%
Somalia	2924	3106	6%	93	3%
Mayotte	2643	2782	5%	34	1%
Malawi	1342	2716	102%	51	2%
Mali	2181	2440	12%	121	5%
Republic of Congo	1443	2358	63%	48	2%
Equatorial Guinea	1043	2350	125%	41	2%
Zambia	1632	2283	40%	82	4%
South Sudan	2007	2191	9%	43	2%
Guinea-Bissau	1710	1927	13%	26	1%
Cape Verde	1267	1894	49%	19	1%
Sierra Leone	1498	1678	12%	64	4%
Eswatini	840	1552	85%	21	1%
Rwanda	1042	1473	41%	4	0%
Benin	1199	1463	22%	28	2%
Mozambique	903	1383	53%	9	1%

Source: World Health Organization

Country/Territory	Confirmed Cases July 2	Confirmed Cases July 17	Percentage Change	Deaths July 17	Case Fatality Ratio
Zimbabwe	605	1362	125%	23	2%
Niger	1075	1102	3%	69	6%
Liberia	804	1070	33%	68	6%
Uganda	893	1051	18%	0	0%
Burkina Faso	962	1038	8%	53	5%
Namibia	285	1032	262%	2	0%
Chad	866	886	2%	75	8%
Togo	661	749	13%	15	2%
Sao Tome and Principe	715	740	3%	14	2%
Reunion	531	612	15%	3	0%
Angola	291	607	109%	28	5%
Botswana	227	522	130%	1	0%
Tanzania	509	509	0%	21	4%
Mauritius	341	343	1%	10	3%
Comoros	303	328	8%	7	2%
Burundi	170	310	82%	1	0%
Lesotho	35	256	631%	3	1%
Eritrea	203	251	24%	0	0%
Seychelles	81	108	33%	0	0%
Gambia	49	78	59%	3	4%
Total	321370	540392	68%	8892	2%

Source: World Health Organization

COVID-19 IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA BY THE NUMBERS

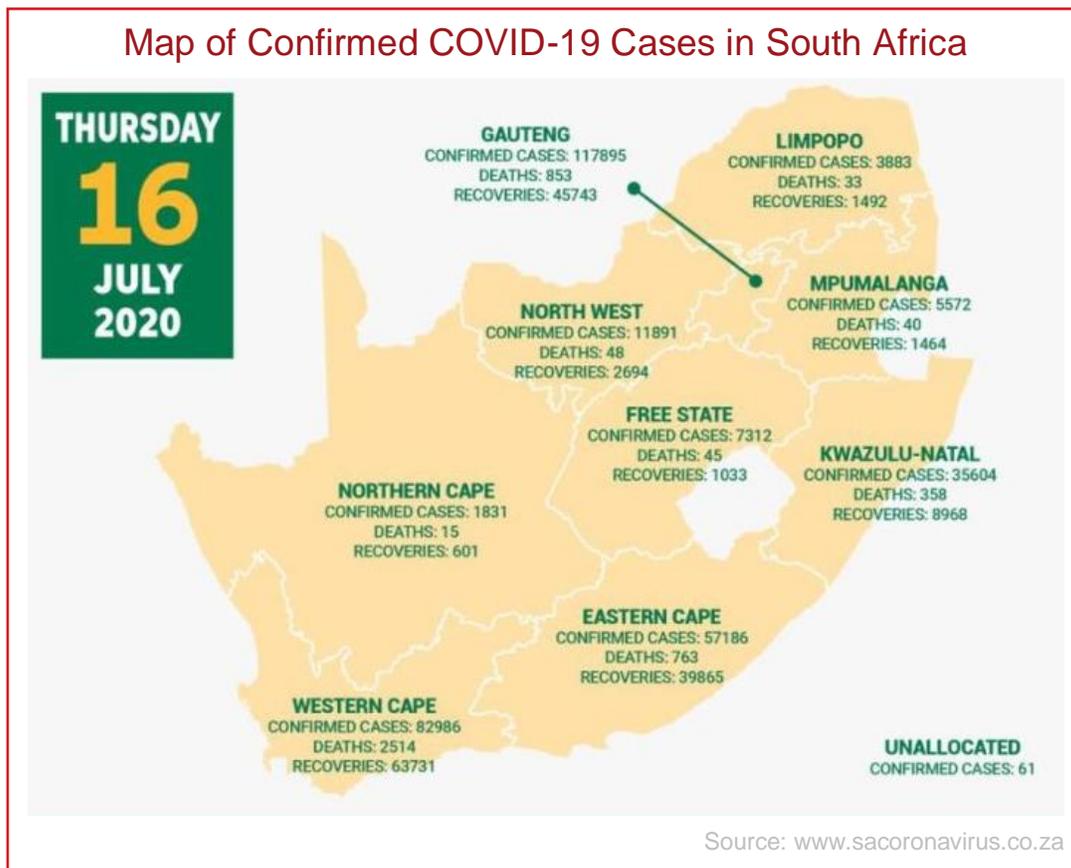
- + As of the morning of Friday, July 17, at least 540,392 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded across sub-Saharan Africa, including 8,892 fatalities.
- + The number of confirmed cases has increased by 68% compared to July 2, when the last Fact Sheet was published. This is higher than the 56% increase reported during the previous two-week period ending on July 2.
- + The weekly increase in confirmed cases has remained steady over the past two weeks at 26% during the week ending on July 17 and 33% on the week ending on July 10. These are similar to the 27-30% weekly increases in cases recorded since early June.
- + The number of countries and territories experiencing community transmission has increased to 35. Only four countries continue to report only sporadic cases (Mauritius, Eritrea, Seychelles, and the Gambia) and 12 have clusters (Malawi, Cape Verde, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Namibia, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Botswana, Burundi, Lesotho, Mayotte, and Reunion).
- + The most significant increases in confirmed cases over the past two weeks have occurred in Lesotho (631%), Namibia (262%), Madagascar (164%), Botswana (130%), Equatorial Guinea

(125%), Zimbabwe (125%), Angola (109%), South Africa (103%), and Malawi (102%). This suggests that the situation is worsening in these locations.

- + Only Tanzania reported no new confirmed cases over the past two weeks, but the country has not released any updated data since April and is widely believed to be under-reporting.
- + Minimal increases in cases have been reported in Mauritius (1%), Chad (2%), Niger (3%), Sao Tome and Principe (3%), and Mayotte (5%). This suggests that the outbreak is stabilizing in these locations.
- + The top three worst-affected countries (South Africa, Nigeria, and Ghana) account for 71% of all confirmed cases, while the top ten (including Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Senegal, and the Democratic Republic of Congo) account for 86%.

WORST-AFFECTED COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES

SOUTH AFRICA



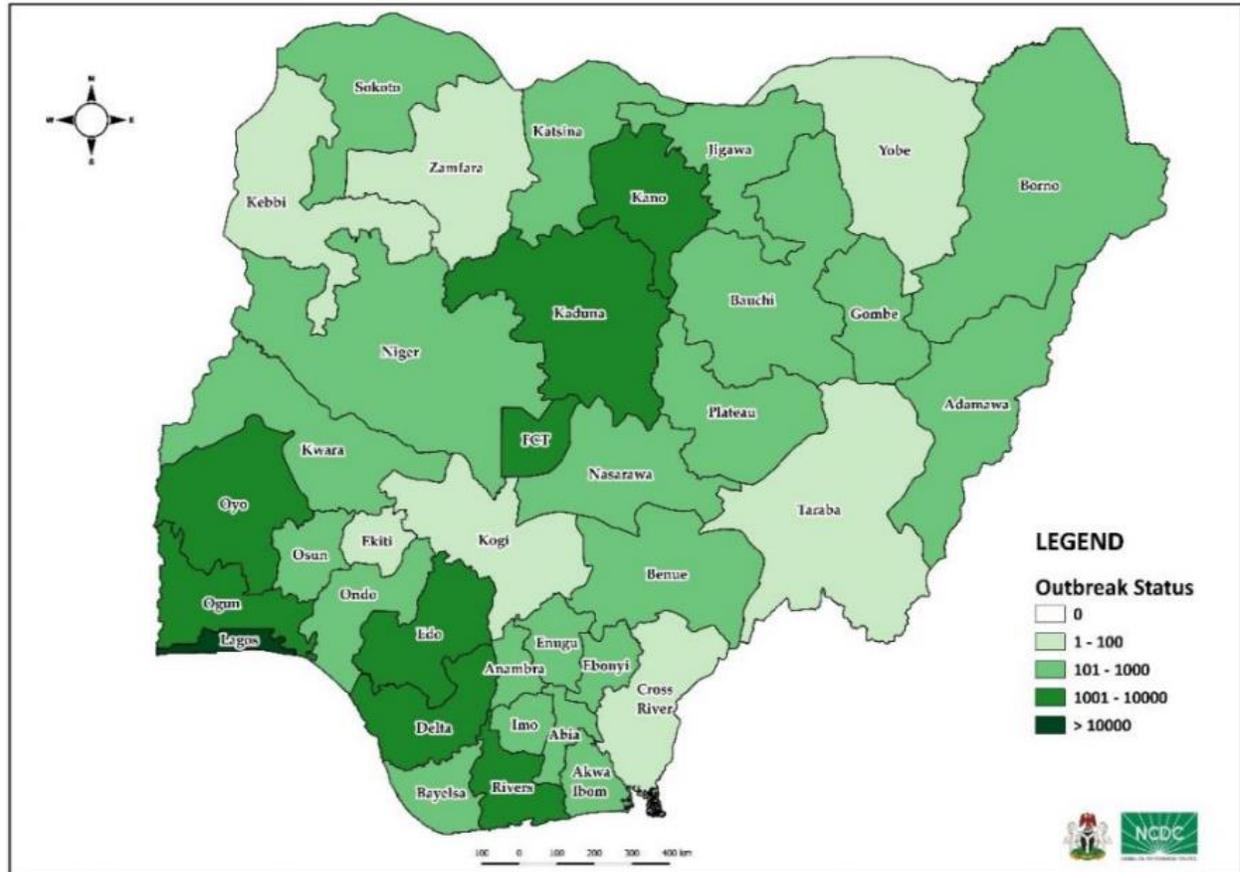
- + South Africa remains the worst-affected country in sub-Saharan Africa, recording at least 324,221 confirmed COVID-19 cases, as of the time of this writing. This accounts for approximately 60% of all cases in the region and 53% of all fatalities.
- + At least 4,669 cases have been fatal, and 165,591 patients have recovered from the virus.

- + South Africa broke into the list of the top-ten worst affected countries globally earlier this week and currently holds the number seven position for most cases recorded. However, its case fatality ratio remains lower than many other countries on the list at approximately 1.44%.
- + The number of confirmed cases in the country has increased by 103% compared to July 2, when the last Fact Sheet was published. This is higher than the 90% increase recorded during the previous two-week period that ended on July 2, suggesting the situation could be worsening.
- + South Africa continues to record new daily high increases in confirmed cases, reaching up to 13,674 new cases on July 9.
- + The positivity rate (the number of positive tests compared to the total number of tests conducted per day) has continued to steadily rise, reaching a new record high of nearly 29% on July 12.
- + South Africa has conducted the most tests in the region at 2,324,923, or over 39,000 tests per one million people.
- + Gauteng province has officially become the new epicenter of the outbreak, recording nearly 118,000 confirmed cases.
- + South Africa remains under level 3 lockdown; however, authorities strengthened anti-infection measures last weekend, re-introducing a nighttime curfew and banning the sale of alcohol, citing a surge in new infections. President Cyril Ramaphosa has also extended the deployment of 20,000 soldiers to help enforce the anti-infection measures.
- + Although authorities have allowed taxis to operate at full capacity, some unions have denounced the decision, claiming it could put drivers at risk, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions has threatened to strike over the move.
- + The National Income Dynamic Study has estimated that over three million South Africans lost their jobs between February and April of 2020 due to the pandemic and lockdown.
- + Minerals Council South Africa continues to report delays in returning foreign workers to mine sites, which could continue to hamper operations. Earlier this week, the council reported that the 10-day plan to return some 12,500 foreign workers to mine sites could be delayed by an additional ten days due to bottlenecks at border crossings.
- + Earlier this week, the Lebombo border post connecting South Africa and Mozambique was temporarily closed after an official on the South African side tested positive for COVID-19. This has highlighted the continuing high risk of transmission along trucking corridors and the potential disruptions to supply chains.

NIGERIA

- + Nigeria remains the second worst-affected country in sub-Saharan Africa, recording at least 34,854 confirmed cases, or approximately 6% of all cases in the region.
- + At least 769 cases have been fatal, while 14,292 patients have recovered from the virus.

Map of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Nigeria



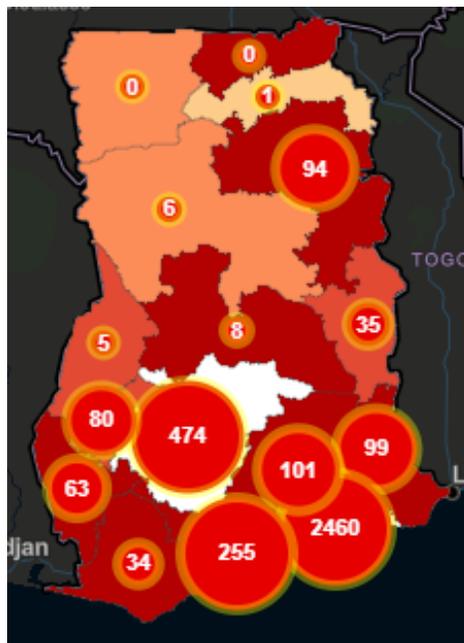
Source: <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/>

- + The number of confirmed cases has increased by 32% compared to July 2, when the last Fact Sheet was published. This is slightly lower than the 43% increase in cases recorded during the previous two-week period ending on July 2. While this could suggest that the situation is improving slightly, testing remains a significant concern in Nigeria.
- + Nigeria has tested 206,422 samples, or less than 1,000 tests per one million people.
- + Lagos state remains the epicenter of Nigeria’s outbreak, accounting for approximately 38% of all confirmed cases. All states have now recorded confirmed cases.
- + Nigeria has delayed plans to allow some students to return to school, citing an increase in cases. Students due to graduate this year were expected to return to school ahead of exams scheduled to begin in August; however, Education Minister Adamu Adamu has warned that schools will only reopen when it is “safe.”
- + Domestic commercial flights resumed on July 8, but it remains unclear when international flights will restart.

GHANA

- + Ghana remains the third worst-affected country in sub-Saharan Africa, recording at least 26,125 confirmed cases, or around 5% of all cases in the region.
- + Only 139 fatalities have been recorded, giving Ghana one of the lowest case fatality ratios at approximately 0.5%.
- + Some 22,270 patients have recovered from the virus.
- + The number of confirmed cases rose by 44% compared to July 2, when the last Fact Sheet was issued. This is slightly higher than the 40% increase recorded during the previous two-week period that ended on July 2.
- + Ghana recorded a new daily high record increase in confirmed cases at 1,254 on July 3.
- + Ghana has conducted the second highest number of tests in sub-Saharan Africa at 339,491, or approximately 10,900 tests per one million people.
- + The Greater Accra region remains the epicenter of the outbreak, accounting for over half of all confirmed cases.

Map of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Ghana



Source: <https://www.ghanahealthservice.org/covid19/>

OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN

- + While many countries have continued to lift their lockdowns and other restrictions on internal movement, some have re-introduced or strengthened them, citing a rise in cases. This has highlighted the high risks involved in relaxing restrictions and continued threats to business operations, travel, and supply chains.

- Rwanda has placed six additional areas in Southern and Western provinces under a 15-day lockdown. This includes the Kigeme cell in Gasaka sector, the Ruhunga cell in Kibirizi sector in Nyamagabe district, and the Mubuga, Butare, Gitwas, and Jarama cells in Gihombo sector in Nyamasheke district.
 - Angola has ordered businesses in Luanda and Cazengo, which remain under a cordon sanitaire, to close earlier and introduced more stringent punishments for those violating anti-infection measures.
 - Madagascar has re-introduced a lockdown in the Analamanga region for 15 days beginning on July 6.
 - Namibia has strengthened restrictions in the Erongo region, including banning all nonessential movement into and out of Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, and Arandis.
 - Zimbabwe has delayed plans to reopen schools and the economy and has threatened to introduce localized lockdowns in hotspot areas.
- + An increasing number of countries have allowed commercial flights to restart, but many are imposing new entry restrictions to mitigate the risk of new imported cases.
- International commercial flights have resumed in Senegal and the Central African Republic and were expected to restart in Guinea and Djibouti on July 17.
 - Some countries are requiring negative COVID-19 tests in order to enter, including Sudan, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea.
 - Senegal and Guinea have announced that they have closed their airspaces to commercial flights from the European Union in a reciprocal move after the latter excluded them from the list of “safe” countries for travel.
 - Some countries, such as Kenya and Cape Verde, have allowed local commercial flights to resume, but have maintained the ban on international commercial flights.
- + Resistance to quarantine measures remains a significant issue that could hamper efforts to contain the pandemic.
- In Zimbabwe, over 200 people have allegedly escaped from mandatory quarantine centers, potentially exposing others to the virus.
 - In Kenya, there have been persistent concerns that the government’s strict enforcement of quarantine measures and poor conditions at isolation facilities could scare residents away from getting tested or seeking treatment. On Friday, police confirmed that a prison warden at an isolation facility in Busia was arrested after raping a female patient. This could further fuel allegations of mistreatment and deter residents from seeking treatment and/or testing.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REOPENING GUIDANCE

Country/Territory	Movement Restrictions; Expiration Date (if available)	Curfew; Expiration Date	Business Reopening Status; Expiration Date	Compulsory Face Mask	International Commercial Flight Status
Angola	local confinements	none	limited restrictions	yes	suspended
Benin	lifted	none	open	yes	open
Botswana	restrictions on internal travel	none	limited restrictions	yes	suspended
Burkina Faso	lifted	lifted	open	yes	suspended
Burundi	none	none	open	no	suspended
Cameroon	none	none	open	yes	open
Cape Verde	lifted	none	open	select locations	suspended; Aug. 1
Central African Republic	none	none	open	yes	open
Chad	lifted	localized; July 20	limited restrictions	yes	suspended; Aug. 1
Comoros	none	nationwide	limited restrictions	yes	suspended
Cote d'Ivoire	lifted	lifted	limited restrictions; July 31	select locations	open
Djibouti	lifted	none	open	yes	open
Democratic Republic of Congo	lifted	none	limited restrictions	select locations	suspended
Equatorial Guinea	lifted	none	limited restrictions	yes	open
Eritrea	lifted	none	significant restrictions	no	suspended
Eswatini	lifted	none	open	select locations	suspended
Ethiopia	localized restrictions on travel	none	limited restrictions	yes	open
Gabon	lifted	nationwide	limited restrictions	yes	open
Gambia	none	none	open	no	suspended
Ghana	lifted	none	limited restrictions; July 31	yes	suspended; July 31
Guinea	localized restrictions on travel; Aug. 15	localized; Aug. 15	limited restrictions	yes	open
Guinea-Bissau	restrictions on internal travel; July 25	lifted	open	yes	suspended
Kenya	lifted	nationwide; Aug. 6	limited restrictions	yes	suspended; Aug. 1
Lesotho	lifted	none	limited restrictions	yes	suspended
Liberia	localized restrictions on travel; July 21	nationwide; July 21	limited restrictions; July 21	yes	open
Madagascar	localized lockdowns; July 20	localized; July 20	moderate restrictions	yes	suspended
Malawi	none	none	open	no	suspended
Mali	none	lifted	limited restrictions	yes	suspended
Mauritania	lifted	lifted	open	no	limited

Mauritius	lifted	lifted	open	yes	suspended; Aug. 31
Mayotte	lifted	lifted	limited restrictions*	yes	open
Mozambique	none	none	limited restrictions	yes	open
Namibia	localized lockdowns*; Aug. 3	none	limited restrictions*	yes	suspended; Sept. 18
Niger	lifted	lifted	open	select locations	suspended; July 25
Nigeria	lifted	nationwide; July 27	limited restrictions*; July 27	yes	suspended
Republic of Congo	lifted	nationwide; July 30	limited restrictions*; July 30	yes	suspended
Reunion	lifted	none	open	select locations	open
Rwanda	localized lockdowns	nationwide	limited restrictions*	yes	suspended; Aug. 1
Sao Tome and Principe	lifted	lifted	open	yes	open
Senegal	lifted	lifted	open	select locations	open
Seychelles	lifted	none	open	no	suspended; Aug. 1
Sierra Leone	lifted	nationwide	limited restrictions	yes	suspended; July 21
Somalia	none	localized	open	no	suspended
South Africa	lifted	nationwide	limited restrictions*	yes	suspended
South Sudan	none	nationwide	limited restrictions	select locations	open
Sudan	lifted	nationwide	limited restrictions	no	limited
Tanzania	none	none	limited restrictions	no	open
Togo	none	lifted	open	no	open
Uganda	lifted	nationwide	limited restrictions	yes	suspended
Zambia	none	none	limited restrictions	yes	open
Zimbabwe	lifted	none	limited restrictions	yes	open

*indicates that the restrictions are being lifted in phases

Phase 'date' indicates the date that specific phase is expected to end

Strict restrictions indicate that only essential businesses are open

Moderate restrictions indicate that some nonessential businesses are open

Limited restrictions indicate that most businesses are open, but select facilities, such as entertainment and sports venues, may be closed

About the Author

Kimberly Doyle earned her B.A. in Middle East Studies from the University of Virginia and her M.A. in Middle East Studies from the George Washington University, with a concentration in Security Studies. Kimberly has extensive experience abroad, including several years living in Ethiopia, and speaks proficient Arabic and Spanish, as well as basic French. Kimberly previously held a position at Chemonics International and has extensive experience as a real-time international analyst. She can be reached at Kimberly.Doyle@everbridge.com.