

May 8, 2020

P&G External Business Partners:

The strength of our relationships has demonstrated immense value throughout the years and specially during these times. Protecting our people, serving consumers and supporting communities continues to be P&G’s key priorities of our Force for Good strategy. Shipments around the world remain strong and most of our Supplier’s and P&G sites remain operational – a big thanks to all of you for the continuous partnership and commitment to make this happen.

We are all learning the best way to maneuver the COVID-19 pandemic and your feedback through the recently launched survey will help us tremendously to get better, together. Thanks to those of you who have already replied. We will keep the survey open until Friday May 15, for those who have not had a chance to respond. You can use this link to capture your response: “**Getting Stronger after COVID 19 - Survey for External Business Partners”** [link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KxmWNfX9LE6m-qy3Bslj2H0uc14r3hNBrL0Y9N9A4_tUNkdURlY1NzIzMlEySzlNWDhTQjVSVUo3RC4u). Once closed, we will analyze the input in the survey and will share with all of you.

As the overall situation is starting to stabilize to certain degree, we will be shifting to bi-weekly publications of the COVID-19 Bulletin. If there is something urgent that we need to communicate, we will of course share it with you out of this biweekly cycle.

As every week, the key developments below have global and regional information of the most recent COVID-19 Government’s information.

I’m very thankful for your partnership.

Best Regards,

Ana Elena Marziano

P&G Chief Purchasing Officer

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS:**

**Global Update**

* **UN**: The UN announced that it is [increasing its appeal to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in fragile and vulnerable countries from $2 billion to $6.7 billion](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001mTDIH15_4R41mPQPTPdAmTGFjrro2MlX-TXN6DOgoTY-1VrsVxAPdQ-rxHj4ZORc11MVMcdFUCDT1fKmnR1VlPimNNrfNI8KHlBJw0X3A9K72LZuzbZDF3dlI3j9T13K0fV2rQR4wOZyeCuZRBdikkcADK9segEApU6Di4LhXIpUN8sjhksYpcXwtxDyHWiarL_O8ZI9Y_XHZN9oluF4VbqIlTKcIXbuRoQ7v5PsMhabxYlS8LWRa0VO2NQIoxyhwWjEG4d_NrGy8boVa4KCnvWOZx_X7OtbUmHDwOd_K0btapCpu6UhJproNdVvkf6FcEYMnxtWHupY3ilI37rCV1nG5ErOM6tPnKo6OVwQrEE=&c=srmHPDzMuw0Zwz-07vP6TW6mLDbvp71ubW9Eow7GSzx4vcUD816aww==&ch=uiDfiD7AC8Pneeh0H5K5w9F_P_nAqRgYDiXZItg86MzIxWJzby_UTg==). Since the initial appeal on March 25, the UN raised $1 billion to support efforts across 37 fragile countries. The updated appeal includes nine additional countries.

**US Federal Update**

* **President Donald Trump** and Vice President Mike Pence said Thursday they [would be tested daily for COVID-19](https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/trump-pence-virus-free-after-white-house-worker-tests-positive) after a member of the US military who works on the White House campus contracted the virus
* 'Not nearly enough' coronavirus testing to safely reopen, Senate Health Chairman Alexander (R-TN) says. [Millions more coronavirus tests will be needed to safely reopen the country](https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/07/senate-reopen-coronavirus-243536), the chairman of the Senate HELP Committee said at a hearing Thursday.
* **Labor Department**: reported 3.2 million unemployment claims filed last week, pushing past [33.5 million the total estimated number of jobs lost](http://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=5229fc1f755d606c773f7a775c2f41c4c0115d3bfb2c7b17d9ff532d8ef85e1ef8ba440c1f2ee4f614976ea5dcaf7db9) during the past seven weeks.
* **NIH:** The coronavirus [pandemic will cost the National Institutes of Health (NIH) about $10 billion in taxpayer-funded research](https://news.bloomberglaw.com/pharma-and-life-sciences/?_pxhcb=1588852800069), the agency’s director told a Senate panel Thursday. That estimate comprises nearly a quarter of the NIH’s more than $41 billion budget, more than 80% of which goes to research grants at universities and other research institutions

**US State Update**

* **California**: Gov. Newsom announced his [Resilience Roadmap](https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/) (Stage 2), which contains industry guidance for reopening (starting May 8).
* **Texas**: Gov. Abbott issued [Executive Order GA-21](https://lrl.texas.gov/scanned/govdocs/Greg%20Abbott/2020/GA-21.pdf) on May 5th. This new order further outlines when businesses may begin to reopen and lays out social distancing requirements.

**Other US News**

* A Cincinnati neighborhood, [beset by economic collapse and lifted by generosity](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/05/07/cincinnati-over-the-rhine-coronavirus-pandemic/?arc404=true)
* Costco's [sales fell last month](https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/07/business/costco-stores-shopping-retail-grocery/index.html) as panic buying slowed

**Canada Update**

* Today, Ottawa announced it has reached a $4 billion agreement with all the provinces and territories. It is part of the plan to boost the salaries of essential workers who make less than $2,500 a month.
* Quebec will postpone the reopening of elementary schools, daycares and businesses in the Montreal area by one week.
* B.C. Government laid out [B.C.’s phased approach](https://shawglobalnews.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/goforward_techbriefing-1.pdf) to re-open parts of the economy, schools and health services, with some restrictions to be lifted by mid-May.
* A team of researchers based in London, Ont. is the first in the world to attempt treating critical COVID-19 patients with a modified form of dialysis, which is essentially treating a patient’s blood outside of the body.
* As the end date for thousands of Canadians who’ve been receiving financial aid draws closer and the death toll from COVID-19 continues to climb, Treasury Board says the government "will continue to be there for Canadians."
* Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau](https://globalnews.ca/tag/justin-trudeau/) rejects the claim made by Green and Bloc Quebecois leaders that “oil is dead” and should get no further government support amid the [coronavirus](https://globalnews.ca/tag/coronavirus) pandemic.

**Latin America Update**

* **Argentina:** 5208 cases, 273 deaths, 1601 recovered. Lockdown extended until May 10th but easing restrictions in provinces where there have been few cases and less populated areas. Most likely to continue the lockdown but some activities will reopen (private construction and other commercial activities) as long as the health system can respond. The government continued to expand some measures to contain the economic impact. An additional AR$10M bonus should be paid in May to those that were eligible in April. Unions and companies, with government support, are looking to negotiate suspensions and salary reductions to prevent a massive spike in unemployment, as the government continues to extend the nationwide lockdown. Concerns over a default, low real interest rates and high monetary issuance have led to a continued weakening of the exchange rates companies and individuals can access. Regarding the external debt, bondholders are not accepting the government’s offer but economy minister does not intend to counter-offer, deadline is expected to be extended. More restrictions to Access “formal” dollars.
* **Brazil**: 125,218 infected. 9% growth in 24 hours (increased from 114,715 to 125,218: 10,503 new cases). 8,536 confirmed deaths. 8% growth in 24 hours (increased from 7,921 to 8,536: 615 new cases). Health Minister Nelson Teich announced today that lockdowns may be necessary tools in critically afflicted regions. According to him, the Ministry’s recommendation will be specific to each location, which may include recommendations to ease isolation. The Central Bank reduced its basic interest rate (SELIC) to 3% annually, the lowest level in history. The Bank is considering furthers reductions in the future, to compliment actions against the pandemic. Draft Constitutional Amendment (PEC) 10/20, which creates the so-called “War Budget” was approved. All separate voting remarks were rejected. The PEC will likely be promulgated in a joint session of Congress tomorrow, May 7. The Senate accepted the House’s changes to Bill 39/20 (former Mansueto Plan), which provides credit and financial support to states and municipalities. It now proceeds to President Bolsonaro to be vetoed or signed into law. The Supreme Court ruled that states and municipalities may adopt restrictive measures on inter-city transport, isolation, and quarantine without the need for authorization from federal government bodies. The adoption of such measures is dependent on technical recommendations and must safeguard the transport of essential products and services. Lockdown |\* The Amazonas Prosecution Service requested that courts adopt a total ban on non-essential activities for a 10-day period. Governor Wilson Lima has said he will comply with the request if the court decided favorably. A similar request was made by Rio de Janeiro’s State Prosecution Service as well. The NE Scientific Committee published the bulletin defining criteria for states in the region to adopt selective restrictive measures according to the situation in specific cities and regions, particularly those with over 80% of hospital beds occupied and an accelerating deaths curve. (source:Patri)
* **México:** 27,634 cases (+1,609 vs yesterday). 2,704 decreased (+197 vs yesterday). Mexico City has reached 77% of its hospital capacity for COVID19 patients. Today the President held a meeting with his Cabinet to agree on measures for lifting lockdown. Yet no specifics have been announced. Government has also requested proposals by Trade Associations to coordinate efforts. The Business Coordinating Council (highest representative body of the private sector) launched 68 proposals to address the health and economic problematic due to pandemic. They will seek to meet with President AMLO to present their proposals. FX closed at $24.29pesos per USD.
* **Venezuela:** 12 new cases tested positive yesterday, for a country total of 379 cases. The country case breakdown goes as follows: 176 patients already discharged; 193 patients remain hospitalized (75 at Comprehensive Diagnostic Centers / 98 at public hospitals / 20 at private clinics); and NONE at home isolation. Still only 10 deaths recorded. 112 patients are asymptomatic, 70 have mild respiratory insufficiency, 10 moderate respiratory insufficiency and just 1 patient is in ICU. According to local authorities, 495.730 tests have been carried to far in Venezuela.

**Europe Update**

* **Germany’s** federal government released more details about its upcoming contact-tracing app, following yesterday’s meeting of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s with the country’s 16 heads of states. Using the app will be based on a principle of “dual voluntariness.” That means Germans can decide for themselves whether to use the app. In a second step, they can also opt in for some of their information being shared with Berlin’s disease control center for analysis. Existing European and German privacy rules are “to be strictly respected.” The app will be based on a decentralized approach, meaning that only “epidemiologically relevant” information from the previous three weeks is use. Data is stored on phones instead of a central server, “without capturing a movement profile.” The code underlying the application will be made freely available.
* **Spanish** lower house approved the extension of the state of emergency until May 23 but the main opposition party (PP) did not support the extension. From May 9, Spanish regions can ask the national health ministry for approval to begin the first phase of the deconfinement plan.
* In **Russia**, Moscow authorities are introducing the 1st stage of deconfinement measures for industrial and construction enterprises. Industrial and construction enterprises will resume work starting May 12. However, strict sanitary and social distancing requirements will remain in place. Only workers whose presence at the workplace is technologically necessary will return to their physical workplaces, the rest should continue working remotely. Workers with chronic diseases, respiratory infection symptoms and fever, as well as pregnant employees should not return to their workplaces. Wearing masks and gloves in stores and on public transport will become mandatory starting May 12. Restrictions on the work of retail trade, catering facilities, service providers, cultural and educational institutions, sports and other non-manufacturing facilities and public events will be prolonged until May 31.
* **Croatian** Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic declared that the opening of borders and partial tourism this summer will be possible between Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria and Germany provided the successful management of the coronavirus crisis continues.
* **Danish** expert group on coronavirus sent its report to the Parliament on the current epidemiological situation of the country. It states that the outbreak is now under control and will slowly die out if strict sanitary guidelines and social distancing are successfully enforced upon lifting of all coronavirus restriction measures. Consequently, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen announced the government will propose the re-opening of the entire retail sector including shopping malls, cafes and restaurants from next Monday. Older schoolchildren would also be authorized to return to school. Denmark was one of the first countries in Europe to start the deconfinement process.
* **Finnish** government presented its lockdown-easing strategy. Border traffic for commuters and essential traffic will be allowed from 14 May, but recreational travel abroad is not recommended. Schools will reopen on May 13 and restricted outdoor recreation is allowed from the following day. Restaurants will reopen on June 1.

**AMA Update**

* **Australia**: 6895 confirmed cases with 97 deaths. Continues its steady decline in new cases.  Government is eager to reopen businesses and workplaces - Tuesday’s national cabinet deliberation focused predominantly on a relaxation of restrictions expected to be unveiled on Friday. Materials have also been prepared for business to [guide employers in how to maintain Covid-safe workplaces](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces) (USEFUL RESOURCE)
* **Botswana:** Will start a phased lifting of its lockdown on May 8. On Wednesday, May 6, lawmakers returned to the chamber to discuss issues relating to emergency powers that allowed the president to impose measures aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19. Government has issued legislation that makes it compulsory to wear masks/face coverings in public places, businesses and common areas of residential buildings
* **Ethiopia:** Recorded its highest single-day spike with 17 new cases confirmed on Wednesday, May 6, it brings the national tally to 162. Northern Tigray regional state, the first to declare a COVID-19 state of emergency have announced a relaxing of the measure. Under the relaxed regime, civil servants will be returning to work whiles inter-state movement will resume. Bars and restaurants are allowed to open but to serve customers on take-away basis. The region has, since April 12 been implementing a 14-day mandatory quarantine for all arrivals at its main airport Alula Aba Nega airport. Ethiopia is currently under a five-month state of emergency declared earlier this month to fight the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
  + - * **India**: 35902 active cases, 15266 cured, 1783 deaths. Ministry of Health and Family welfare has released document on appropriate management of suspect/confirmed cases of COVID-19. Considering the possibility of increase in cases of COVID-19, a view is being taken to utilize Railway coaches for COVID Care Centre. Railway coaches will be used for the cases suspected/ confirmed, and categorized into very mild/ mild cases. Ministry of Railways, as its contribution to national cause, has initiated conversion of Railway Coaches into COVID Care Centers to provide additional beds for COVID-19 patients as and when required. The special train coaches, after formation shall be cleaned, and disinfected as per protocol for disinfection of quarantine facilities issued by Ministry of Health and Family welfare
* **Malaysia**: 57 chambers of commerce and industry in Malaysia released a joint statement stating it was "critical for businesses to resume operations nationwide" as states continue to defy the government’s reopening order. **While businesses have welcomed the move to “revive” the economy, many have questioned the timing of the government’s announcement saying they are ill-prepared to reopen this week.** For the first time, both opposition Pakatan Harapan (PH) and ruling Perikatan Nasional (PN) state governments (Sabah, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Pahang as well as Perak, Kelantan) declined to immediately or fully apply the federal government’s decision and policies under the CMCO citing the need for further study. International Trade and Industry Minister Azmin Ali responded by warning that state governments could be sued by companies if they refused to reopen.
* **New Zealand**: 1,489 confirmed cases with 22 deaths. Approximately 1142 have recovered. Shops, barbers, bars and cafes can open under alert level 2, while domestic travel will open up and national rugby and netball seasons can start again. But Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern says physical distancing measures will still need to be maintained, large parties will be banned, sports events will be crowdless, and higher risk elements might be phased in depending on public health advice. That means that gatherings up to 100 people - indoors or outdoors - and travel around the country will be allowed, but maybe not as soon as level 2 starts. Cabinet will decide on Monday whether the country is ready to move alert levels, but Ardern outlined today what level 2 life will look like.
* **Nigeria:** 3,145 confirmed cases, 532 recoveries, 103 deaths. The presidential task force on COVID-19 also extended the ban on all local and domestic flights by four weeks – effective Wednesday, May 6. President Buhari has also waived import duty on all medical supplies. The blanket waiver on equipment and supplies is part of government’s efforts to strengthen health infrastructure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this announcement, importers were only granted tax reliefs.

Patients in some of Nigeria’s top most infected states - Gombe and Niger - protested poor treatment and basic facilities at the COVID-19 isolation wards. In Gombe, isolated patients blocked a road as part of their protests.

* **Philippines**: 10,343 confirmed cases, 1618 recoveries, 685 deaths. To reduce the transmission of COVID-19, workers and employers in the private sector will be mandated to observe strict health protocols as the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and General Community Quarantine (GCQ) remain in effect. In the Interim Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19 signed by Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, workers and employers will be required to follow total precautionary measures as the country grapples with the containment of the deadly COVID-19.
  + Before entering the workplace, all employers and workers must have face masks, and it must be worn at all times and remove the same only when eating/drinking.
  + Employers shall provide the appropriate face masks for workers, according to the guidelines.
  + All are also required to accomplish daily health symptoms form, undergo temperature check, and have them recorded in the health symptoms questionnaire.
  + The employer must provide the labor department and the health department the monthly reporting of illness, diseases, and injuries.
  + As a rule, if a worker has a temperature of > 37.5°C, even after a 5-minute rest, or if his response in the questionnaire needs further evaluation by the clinic staff, the person shall be isolated in an area identified by the company and will not be allowed to enter the workplace premises.
  + Clinic staff assigned to assess the workers held in the isolation area shall be provided the appropriate medical grade PPEs by the establishment which shall include but not limited to, face masks, goggles/face shields, and or gloves.
  + Disinfection must also be done for equipment or vehicle entering the establishments, including facilities, and touched objects, such as doorknobs and handles, at least once every two hours.
  + On top of observing at all times physical distancing, proper respiratory etiquette and disinfection protocols, eating in communal areas are also discouraged, and if this is not possible, the employer shall ensure a one worker per table and one-meter distance per worker scheme.
  + Workers are also discouraged to engage in conversation, as well as prolonged face to face interaction with workers and clients.
  + Establishment visitors must accomplish the ‘Visitor’s Health Checklist Form’
  + Meetings needing physical presence must also be reduced or avoided.
  + Private establishments are also mandated to implement alternative work arrangements, such as working-hour shifts, work from home (WFH), where feasible, and on a rotation basis.
  + If feasible, employers must also provide shuttle services and/or decent accommodation on near-site locations to lessen travel and people movement.
  + Employers may test workers for COVID-19. Testing kits used and procured shall be the responsibility of the employer.
  + Most ‘at risk’ workers and vulnerable groups, or those 60 years old or of any age with co-morbidities or pre-existing illness, such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, or with immunocompromised health status; or with high-risk pregnancy are encouraged to do work from home arrangement.
  + A work agreement is required to be developed by employers which would detail the deliverables from these employees and there shall be no diminution in wages or benefits.
* **Singapore**: 20939 confirmed cases, 1634 recoveries, 20 deaths. Singapore reported 2 more deaths from COVID-19 yesterday and confirmed 741 new Covid-19 cases today, of whom 5 are Singaporeans and PRs. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM), National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and the Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF), together with relevant sector agencies and associations, will be publishing Tripartite Advisories (TA) to guide service buyers and service providers on measures to adopt to ensure the sustainability of their sectors in view of COVID-19.
* **South Africa:** 7572 confirmed cases, 2746 recoveries, 148 deaths. Cases continue to rise despite with the lockdown release which came into effect on May 1.  Following the President’s announcement of a level 4 lockdown release, additional clarification has been issued on the 5 lockdown levels as below:
  + Level 5: Drastic measures are required to contain the spread of the virus
  + Level 4: Some activity allowed to resume subject to extreme precautions required to limit community transmission and outbreaks
  + Level 3: Involves the easing of some restrictions including work and social activities
  + Level 2: Involves the easing of some restrictions, but the maintenance of physical distancing and restrictions on some leisure and social activities to prevent a resurgence of the virus.
  + Level 1: Most if not all activity can resume with precautions and health guidelines followed at all times.

P&G employees continue to work from home and the plants are running at full capacity.

* **South Korea**: Reported 4 new cases including the first local case in 4 days amid relaxed social distancing. The new infections brought the nation’s total infections to 10,810. The number of daily new confirmed cases has stayed below 20 for 20 consecutive days.

*Government Measures*: Finance Minister said South Korea will provide KRW 1.5 trillion ($1.2 billion) in subsidies to temporary workers who lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Korean War Commemoration Committee said a total of a million masks will be delivered to Korean War veterans globally to recognize their sacrifice amid the pandemic. While preparations to reopen schools this month are underway, worried parents are demanding the plan to be further postponed due to lingering concerns over the coronavirus that has infected more than 10,000. Korean Air plans to resume flights on 19 international routes on June 1. The reopening routes include Washington D.C., Seattle, Vancouver, Toronto, Frankfurt, Singapore, Beijing and Kuala Lumpur. Korea Immigration Service shared the number of foreigners staying in South Korea both short-term and long-term collectively, stood at 2.2 million as of March. The number of short-term visitors fell by 30.4% in March, 2020 vs. a year ago. In contrast, the number of long-term visitors, allowed to stay for 91 days or more, climbed 1.8 % over the corresponding period.

* **Vietnam:** No new cases,271 confirmed, 229 recovered. **Debate continues on the Ministry of Planning and Investment’s umbrella policy for economic stimulus.** The Ministry of Finance has pushed back on VAT and CIT reductions for 2020 and introduced its own sector-specific fee reduction packages. The government is also formulating a program reducing and simplifying regulations for businesses between 2020 and 2025. However, it remains unclear how the government will square these relatively limited policy maneuvers with the Prime Minister’s demand at the April monthly government meeting that Vietnam achieve 5% economic growth this year, nearly double IMF projections of 2.7%.