



# INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 21-029

14 May 2021

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## 1. CURRENT SITUATION

As the week went on, the world witnessed an escalation of tension in the Palestine – Israel relations. Rockets and heavy artillery were fired from both sides and significant casualties were reported. Palestinian militants launched rockets from Gaza and Israel retaliated with new air strikes against them this week, an escalation triggered by increasing conflicts in Jerusalem and days of clashes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque -- a site sacred to Jews and Muslims in the holy city.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, the overall death toll since the escalation of the conflict is 65 people including 16 children. At least 365 people have been wounded. 6 people have been killed on the Israeli side by rocket fire, including the first death of an Israeli soldier in this round of conflict. The other deaths have been that of civilians, including three women and two children, one of them a six-year-old wounded in a rocket attack on an apartment building in the city of Sderot. Dozens in Israel have been wounded. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the brigade commander for Gaza City was among 15 other Hamas members who had been killed on Wednesday. "This is just the beginning. We'll hit them like they've never dreamed possible," he said.

Earlier in May, PM Netanyahu who is currently on trial for corruption charges, failed to form government by deadline which has prolonged a political deadlock in the country. This armed escalation of the conflict between Israel and Palestine seems to have shifted some attention from Netanyahu's previous political failures to his response to the conflict.

Global leaders around the world are watching the conflict closely as the death toll rises. The majority of them have pleaded for conflict de-escalation from both sides. Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marc Garneau issued a statement on the issue:

*"Canada urges all parties to take immediate steps to end the violence, de-escalate tensions, protect civilians, and uphold international law. We stand firmly with the Israeli and Palestinian peoples in their right to live in peace, security, with dignity, without fear, and with their human rights respected."*

*"The indiscriminate barrage of rocket attacks fired by Hamas into populated areas of Israel is absolutely unacceptable and must cease immediately. Canada supports Israel's right to live in peace with its neighbours within secure boundaries and recognizes Israel's right to assure its own security."*

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded by asking all sides to protect civilians and end the violence, saying rocket attacks against Israel as well as violence at an iconic mosque are "unacceptable." "Canada supports Israel's right to assure its own security," he said. "Places of worship are for people to gather peacefully and should never be sites of violence."

On Tuesday, Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole put out a statement condemning rocket attacks by Hamas militants as "indiscriminately targeting civilians."



US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said Wednesday that he is sending a top diplomat to meet Israeli and Palestinian officials in a bid to de-escalate soaring violence. Blinken further called on Israel to take additional measures to avoid civilian casualties saying it has an "extra burden in trying to do everything it possibly can to avoid civilian casualties even as it is rightfully responding in defense of its people."

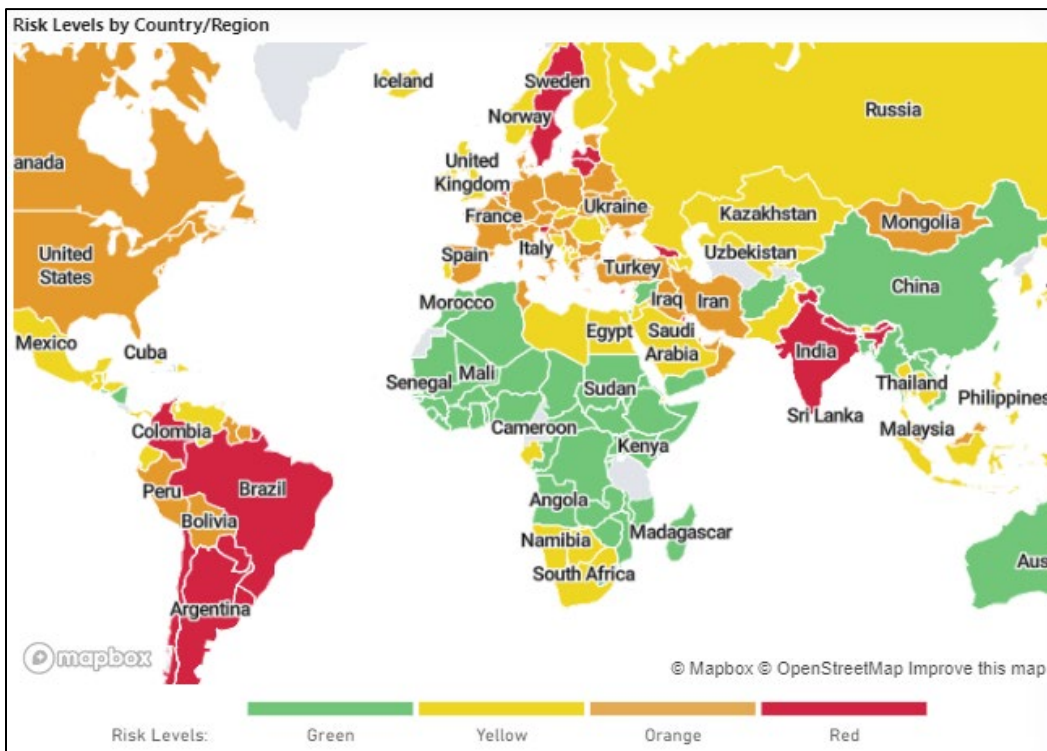
In a call Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Biden "condemned the rocket attacks by Hamas and other terrorist groups, including against Jerusalem and Tel Aviv," the White House said in a readout of the conversation. Biden also "conveyed his unwavering support for Israel's security and Israel's legitimate right to defend itself and its people, while protecting civilians," it said.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Wednesday called for an immediate end to violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territories. "Everything must be done to prevent a broader conflict, which will, first and foremost, affect the civilian populations on both sides," Josep Borrell said in a statement that condemned actions by both sides.

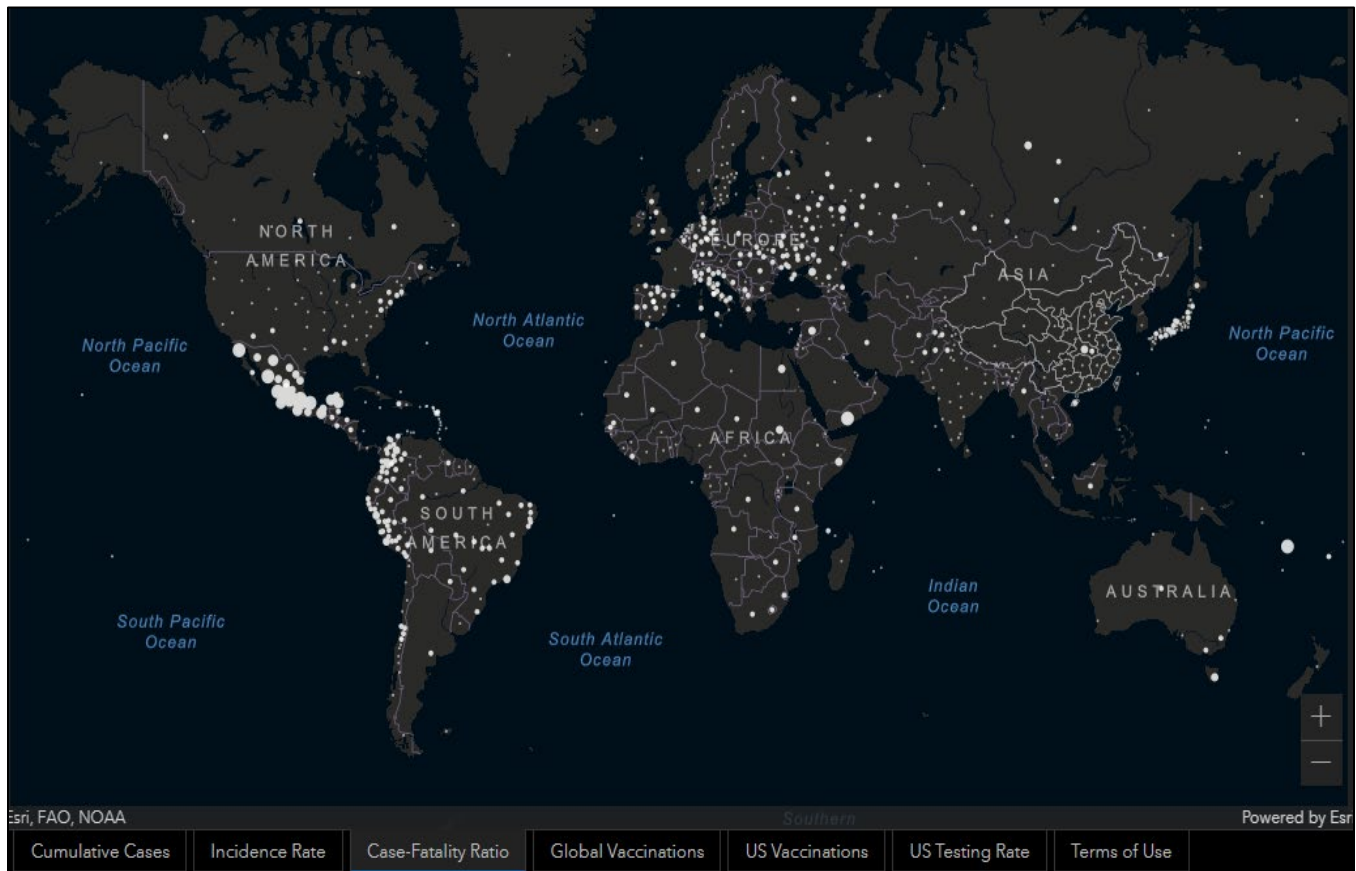
## 2. GLOBAL

### 2.1 COVID UPDATE

Country/Region		Canada	Country/Region		United States
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)		18.8	Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)		11.5
Risk level		Orange	Risk level		Orange
Total cases		1,299,572	Total cases		32,844,376
Total deaths		24,714	Total deaths		584,184



#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	World	161,830,359	+746,869	3,358,210	+13,427	140,657,766	17,814,383	104,231	20,761	430.8			
1	USA	33,626,097	+39,825	598,540	+762	26,667,199	6,360,358	8,611	101,076	1,799	462,795,300	1,391,111	332,680,263
2	India	24,046,120	+343,288	262,350	+3,999	20,073,367	3,710,403	8,944	17,278	189	309,448,585	222,350	1,391,716,282
3	Brazil	15,436,827	+75,141	430,596	+2,340	13,979,329	1,026,902	8,318	72,180	2,013	46,970,130	219,625	213,864,852
4	France	5,841,129	+19,461	107,250	+131	4,999,210	734,669	4,442	89,316	1,640	80,214,807	1,226,555	65,398,484
5	Turkey	5,083,996	+11,534	44,059	+238	4,856,763	183,174	2,765	59,726	518	50,259,943	590,444	85,122,228
6	Russia	4,913,439	+8,380	114,723	+392	4,527,878	270,838	2,300	33,656	786	132,400,000	906,920	145,988,633
7	UK	4,444,631	+2,657	127,651	+11	4,258,298	58,682	136	65,176	1,872	169,007,195	2,478,319	68,194,286
8	Italy	4,139,160	+8,085	123,745	+201	3,669,407	346,008	1,893	68,546	2,049	62,107,222	1,028,524	60,384,820
9	Spain	3,598,462	+5,701	79,281	+73	3,297,340	221,831	1,931	76,939	1,695	47,213,067	1,009,463	46,770,455
10	Germany	3,575,644	+17,496	86,276	+267	3,240,300	249,068	5,049	42,559	1,027	58,093,759	691,463	84,015,677
11	Argentina	3,242,103	+26,531	69,254	+447	2,891,435	281,414	5,420	71,171	1,520	12,142,248	266,547	45,553,852
12	Colombia	3,067,879	+19,160	79,760	+499	2,874,656	113,463	6,582	59,743	1,553	15,711,926	305,972	51,350,926
13	Poland	2,845,726	+3,694	71,022	+343	2,584,751	189,953	1,772	75,262	1,878	15,017,415	397,174	37,810,712
14	Iran	2,722,007	+14,246	76,231	+297	2,179,890	465,886	5,481	32,054	898	17,616,446	207,447	84,920,057
15	Mexico	2,371,483	+3,090	219,590	+267	1,893,236	258,657	4,798	18,228	1,688	6,791,913	52,205	130,101,834



## 2.2 COVID-19 World News

- ['Impossible' to hold Olympics during pandemic, Japan doctors union warns](#)
- [Scientists have taught bees to smell the coronavirus. They can identify a case within seconds](#)
- [Nepal Wants Everest Climbers To Bring Their Oxygen Tanks Back for COVID Patients](#)
- [India's COVID-19 death toll exceeds 250,000 after deadliest 24 hours of pandemic](#)  
India's coronavirus death toll crossed 250,000 on Wednesday in the deadliest 24 hours since the pandemic began, as the disease rampaged through the countryside, leaving families to weep over the dead in rural hospitals or camp in wards to tend the sick. Deaths grew by a record 4,205 while infections rose 348,421 in the 24 hours to Wednesday, taking the tally past 23 million, health ministry data showed. Experts believe the actual numbers could be five to 10 times higher. Funeral pyres have blazed in city parking lots, and bodies have washed up on the banks of the holy river Ganges, immersed by relatives whose villages were stripped bare of the wood needed for cremations. Earlier it was reported that more than 860 medics have died in India since the COVID-19 pandemic began, 116 of them in less than a month during the ongoing second wave, according to the head of the Indian Medical Association.
- [Indian doctors warn against cow dung as COVID-19 cure](#)
- [Brazil sees nearly 2,500 more COVID-19 deaths in the last 24 hours](#)  
Brazil registered 2,494 more deaths from COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 428,034, the Ministry of Health said Wednesday. The ministry said that tests detected 76,692 new cases, raising the national count to 15,359,397. According to the ministry, Brazil now has a death rate of 204 per 100,000 inhabitants and an incidence rate of 7,309 per 100,000.
- [Over a quarter of EU adults would refuse COVID-19 shot, survey says](#)
- [Tourism minister says Spain will be ready for COVID travel certificate in June](#)

## 2.3 Global Awareness

- [Bolsonaro's approval falls to 24%, the lowest ever, says Datafolha poll](#)
- [Uber used 50 Dutch shell companies to dodge taxes on nearly \\$6 billion in revenue, report says](#)
- [Dozens of German priests will defy the Vatican and live-stream blessings of gay couples](#)
- ['Out-of-control' Chinese rocket has landed in the Indian Ocean](#)
- [China urges U.N. states not to attend Xinjiang event next week](#)  
China has urged United Nations member states not to attend an event planned next week by Germany, the United States and Britain on the repression of Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in Xinjiang. China charged that the organizers of the event, which also include several other European states along with Australia and Canada, use "human rights issues as a political tool to interfere in China's internal affairs like Xinjiang, to create division and turbulence and disrupt China's development." Beijing denies the forced labour accusations and describes the camps as vocational training centers to combat religious extremism.
- [Evidence of nine Neanderthals found in Italian cave](#)
- [Taiwan denounces China's 'shameless lies' about WHO access](#)
- [9 Dead in Russia School Shooting](#)

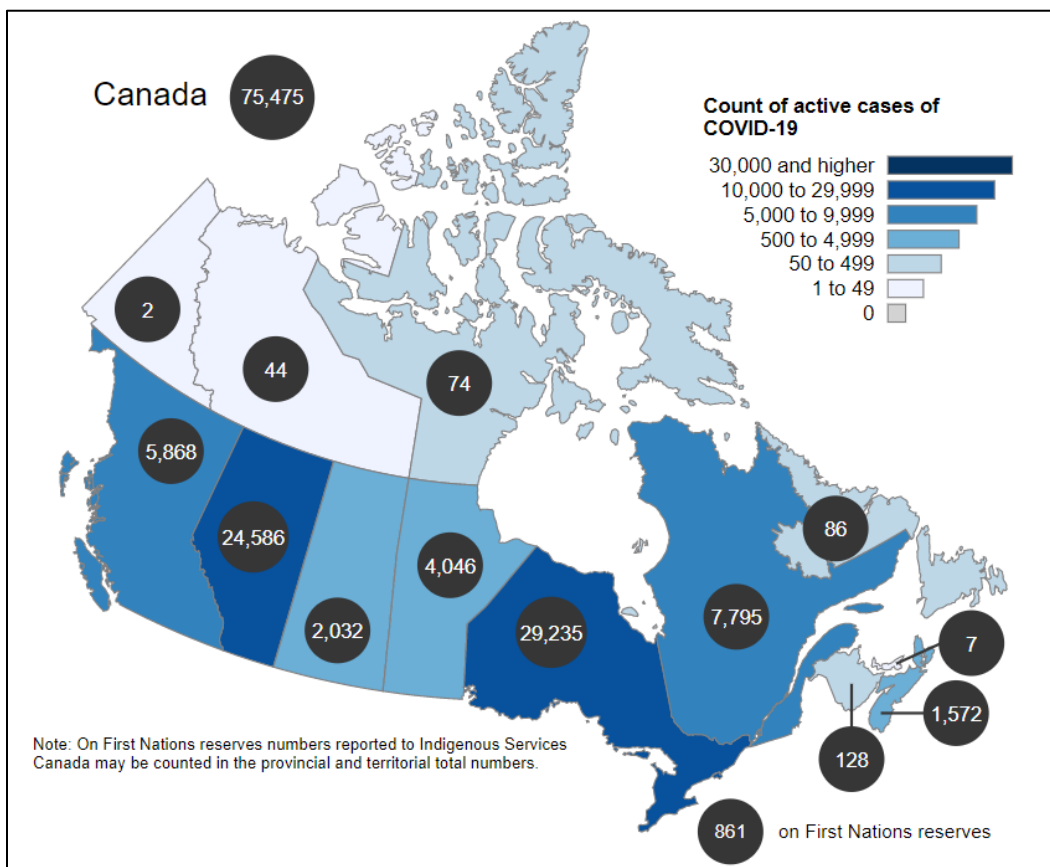
## 2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Largest residential building in Gaza collapses after Israeli airstrike](#)
- [Instagram, Twitter blame glitches for deleting Palestinian posts](#)
- [67 killed in Gaza, 7 killed in Israel as UN warns conflict could turn into 'full-scale war'](#)
- [Israel rejects Hamas truce offer; ministers vote to intensify Gaza strikes](#)
- ['We're watching a lynching': Jewish crowd in Israel beats Arab man as country erupts in unrest](#)
- [More than 50 people, many of them female students, killed in bomb attack near Kabul school](#)


The death toll from an explosion outside a school in Afghanistan's capital Kabul has risen to 58, with doctors struggling to provide medical care to at least 150 injured. The bombing on Saturday evening shook the city's Shi'ite Muslim neighbourhood of Dasht-e-Barchi. The community, a religious minority in Afghanistan, has been targeted in the past by so-called Islamic State militants. An eyewitness told Reuters all but seven or eight of the victims were schoolgirls going home after finishing studies.

## 3. CANADA

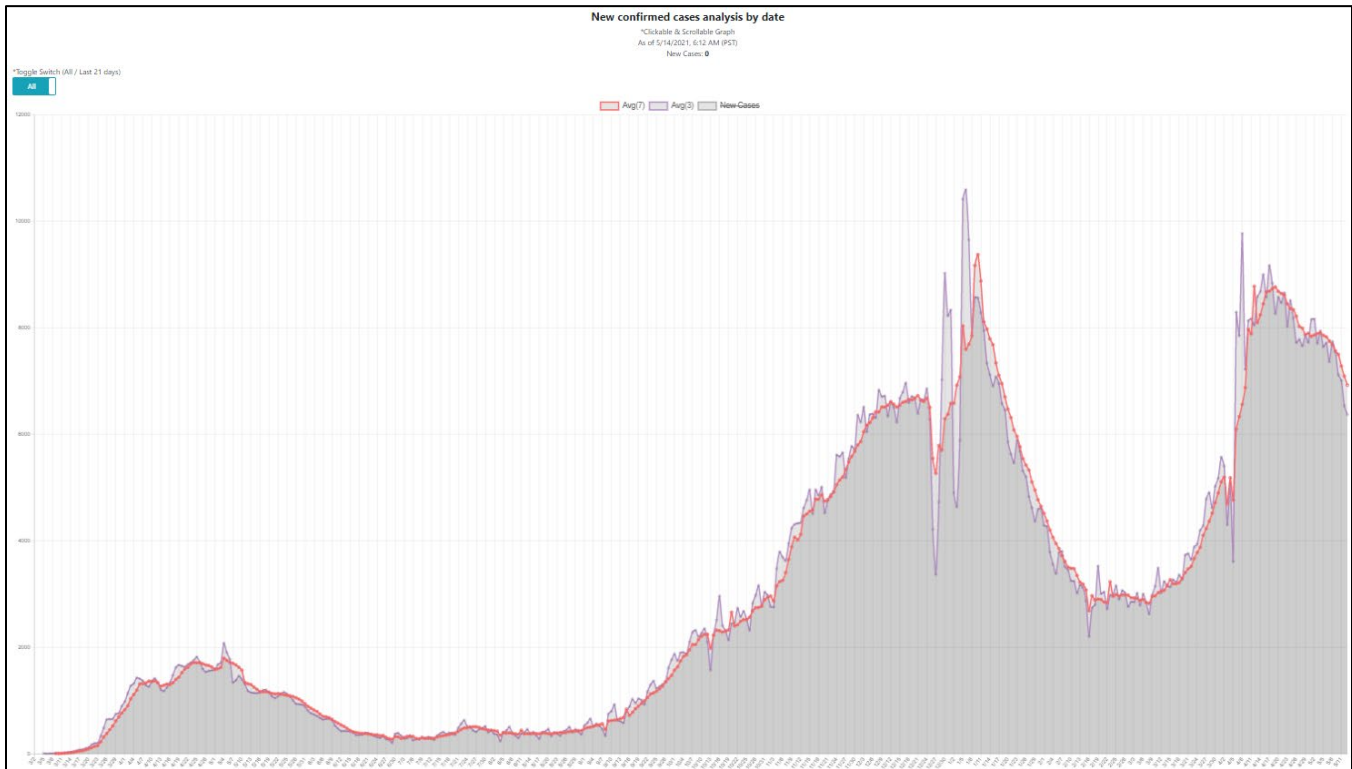
### 3.1 COVID UPDATE





Prov. ↕	Total Confirmed ↕	Total Deaths ↕	Total Recovered ↕	Total Active ↕
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,315,625</b> (↑3,212)	<b>24,859</b> (↑34)	<b>1,216,594</b> (↑4,482)	<b>73,981</b> (-1304)
BC	137,810	1,632	130,310	5,681
ON	504,533 (↑2,362)	8,431 (↑26)	468,033 (↑3,502)	28,069 (-1166)
QC	361,820 (↑838)	11,025 (↑8)	343,142 (↑972)	7,653 (-142)
AB	215,193	2,132	188,475	24,586
MB	43,700	1,002	38,652	4,046
NB	2,040	41	1,871	128
SK	43,926	513	41,381	2,032
PEI	187	0	179	8
NL	1,173	6	1,081	82
NS	4,407	71	2,764	1,572
YT	84	2	80	2
NT	121	0	77	44
NU	618 (↑12)	4	536 (↑8)	78 (↑4)
	13	0	13	0

Prov. ↕	Total Test ↕	Total Waiting ↕	Total Hosp ↕	Total ICU ↕
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,644,311</b> (+44,186)	-	-	-
BC	2,642,333	-	413	141
ON	14,695,084 (+44,040)	22,237 (-2128)	1582 (-50)	777 (+1)
QC	9,059,859	-	530 (+10)	123 (+2)
AB	4,375,995	-	722	177
MB	710,248	-	183	49
NB	318,498	-	10	3
SK	812,142	-	161	35
PEI	147,375	-	-	-
NL	137,572	-	0	0
NS	700,627	-	85	15
YT	9,117	18	-	-
NT	21,351	73	0	0
NU	14,110 (+146)	437	0	0



Source: <https://www.covid-19canada.com>

### 3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Health Canada authorizes Pfizer vaccine for adolescents](#)
- [B.C. to refuse driver's licence renewals to people with unpaid COVID-19 fines](#)  
 The B.C. government says people who don't pay COVID-19-related fines could be refused driver's or vehicle licences. Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth announced the move Wednesday, which will be accomplished by amending the Motor Vehicle Act. The change would empower ICBC to refuse to issue or renew licensing due to unpaid fines associated with B.C.'s Emergency Program Act and COVID-19 Related Measures Act.
- [Ontario's stay-at-home order extended to June 2](#)
- [Future of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in question in Canada over blood clots, supply issues](#)
- [COVID-19: B.C. man hospitalized with AstraZeneca vaccine-induced blood clot](#)  
 A second British Columbian has been hospitalized for a blood clot after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine. Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, said the patient, a man in his 40s who lives in the Fraser Health region, is listed in stable condition after developing vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia. "For some reason, in some people, the vaccine seems to stimulate an immune response that develops antibodies against our platelets. This causes a type of clotting that is different from other types of blood clots. ... It is a very challenging one to treat," said Henry.
- [COVID-19 could be a cause in public nature of Metro Vancouver gang violence, expert says](#)
- [Canada unlikely to follow U.S. approach to easing COVID-19 masking rules: doctor](#)
- [80% of Canadians support COVID-19 vaccine passports for travel: poll](#)

- [Ontario reports 2,759 new COVID-19 cases, lowest positivity rate in nearly six weeks](#)
- [PM says Canada will have enough COVID-19 vaccines for a 'one-dose summer'](#)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed Tuesday that there will be enough COVID-19 vaccines coming into the country to offer every eligible and willing Canadian their first shot by this summer, and enough doses for everyone to be fully vaccinated “by September.” “A one-dose summer sets us up for a two-dose fall, when we’ll be able to talk about going back to school, back to work, and back to more normality,” said the prime minister. Though, questions remain about when the federal government will be issuing clear guidance around what degree of risk certain activities pose to vaccinated people, and what Canadians can, and can’t do safely after their first and second COVID-19 shots. “We can’t ease public health restrictions until cases are way down. We all want to have a summer where we can see our loved ones and invite friends over for BBQs. We can have that summer,” said the prime minister. “That’s what I’m excited about.”

- [Alberta surpasses 2M COVID-19 vaccine doses administered as 1,558 new cases identified Thursday](#)

### 3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Indigenous leaders launch \\$2.1 billion class-action lawsuits against Canada over lack of drinking water](#)
- [‘Go back to your teepees’: First Nations people protecting old growth forest on Vancouver Island say they were attacked by forestry workers](#)
- [Greyhound Canada to Cut All Routes, End Operations](#)

Greyhound Canada is permanently cutting all bus routes across the country, shutting down the intercity bus carrier’s operations in Canada after nearly a century of service. The motor coach company said its remaining routes in Ontario and Quebec will cease permanently on Thursday. Its American affiliate, Greyhound Lines, Inc., will continue to operate cross-border routes to Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver once the border reopens. The decision comes a year after Greyhound Canada temporarily suspended all service due to a sharp decline in passengers and mounting travel restrictions amid the first wave of COVID-19. The bus carrier has struggled for years with declining ridership, increasing competition and deregulation. But the complete loss of so-called farebox revenue during the pandemic has forced the company to permanently cease operations, said Greyhound Canada senior vice-president Stuart Kendrick.

- [Liberal seek answers on naked photo of colleague, demand that Bloc MP testifies at committee](#)
- [Bill Morneau broke ethics law three times during WE Charity affair, ethics commissioner rules](#)
- [Internal dissent boils over into open call for Alberta Premier Jason Kenney to resign](#)
- [Commission examining N.S. mass killing announces inquiry participants](#)

### 3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism



welund

During the week of 6-13 May, the majority of activity in Canada noted by Welund focused on the government sector (48%), followed by finance (12%), mining (9%), and oil and gas (9%). Protests and webinars made up the majority of activity (24% each), followed by critical commentary (19%), and letter writing (12%).

Covid-19 restrictions continue to be a primary influence on activism in Canada. While the activity of many groups has been constrained by ongoing lockdowns and restrictions on gathering, most in-person protests continue to be organized by anti-lockdown groups and individuals. Increased enforcement has begun to impact some anti-lockdown organizing. The ongoing pandemic continues to inform labour and human rights organizing, with a significant focus remaining on support for healthcare professionals and other essential workers.

### **Protests:**

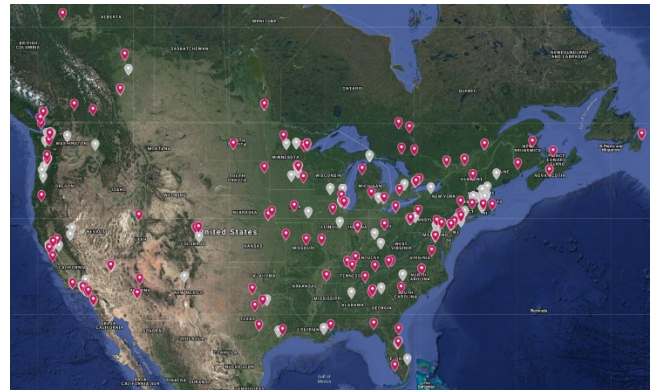
On 7-8 May, activists went ahead with a protest against ongoing restrictions and the shutdown of the Whistle Stop Café in Mirror, Alberta despite a pre-emptive injunction issued against the owner. Hundreds of people gathered at the café and the event resulted in the arrest of owner Chris Scott and dozens of tickets being issued to protestors by the RCMP.

A Calgary, Alberta Pastor and his brother – Artur and Dawid Pawlowski – were also arrested for organizing a gathering in opposition to ongoing public health restrictions.

Anti-restriction organizers and groups have increasingly been more cautious in how they choose to promote or organize rallies due to the above court order and recent arrests of protestors and organizers. Prominent Calgary anti-restriction group Calgary Freedom Central recently shifted its narrative from that of a group organizing protests to an ‘independent news outlet.’ Walk for Freedom Alberta also recently announced it will be altering a 15 May ‘Walk for Freedom’ protest to a ‘Drive for Freedom’. Other campaigners have claimed that change was due to “fear of reprisal.”

Activism demanding enhanced restrictions and government supports also continues, particularly in provinces with the highest number of confirmed cases or the most restrictions. These groups are campaigning for paid sick days, wage increases, rights for immigrant workers, and other protections from the provincial and federal governments. Climate change activists in Canada continue their opposition to oil and gas pipelines, although overall activity remained low this week. The Community Nest Finding Network has expanded its activities against the Trans Mountain expansion project into the interior of BC, seeking other nests like the one along the Burnette River in Burnaby that has resulted in a temporary halt to logging in the area. Campaigners also joined calls from US campaigners for a shutdown of Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline. A letter signed by 16 climate justice campaign groups was sent to the Government of Canada demanding it support the decommissioning of the pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac.

**Outlook:** Ongoing covid-19 restrictions across the country will likely result in continued anti-lockdown activism, although increasing enforcement may see activists adapt their tactics or limit their gatherings. Organizers of the ‘Worldwide Rally for Freedom’ continue to state that the event “is a go” and to call for solidarity rallies as part of a second global anti-lockdown action on 15 May.



*Figure 1: Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 6-19 May 2021*

Campaigners in support of public health restrictions will continue to advocate for support and protections for higher risk groups, and for healthcare and essential workers. On 18 May, the Ontario Health Coalition will engage in an online ‘blitz’ action to demand the provincial government answer questions regarding the conditions at long-term care facilities in the province.

On 23 May, Climate Pledge Collective will host a webinar to announce its 2021 ‘Bankswitch’ fossil fuel divestment campaign, targeting TD Bank, RBC, BMO, CIBC, and Scotiabank. It will look to build on the perceived success of its 2020 campaign.

Welund is also starting to see early organizing for ‘Shut Down Canada’ actions around Canada Day. Protests and other actions as part of this campaign are focused on a call for fundamental systemic change to address definitions of land ownership and Indigenous disenfranchisement. This ‘Shut Down’ focus has been a recurring theme within Indigenous led activism within Canada and the US for many years.

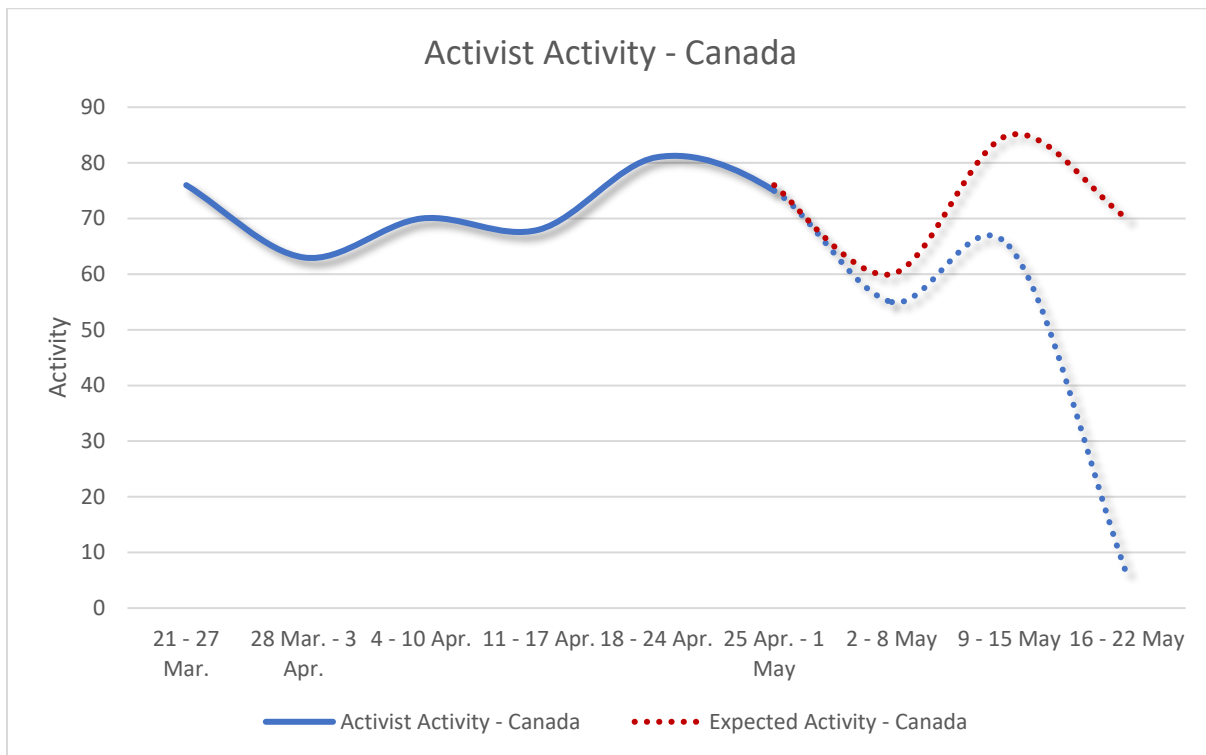


Figure 2 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

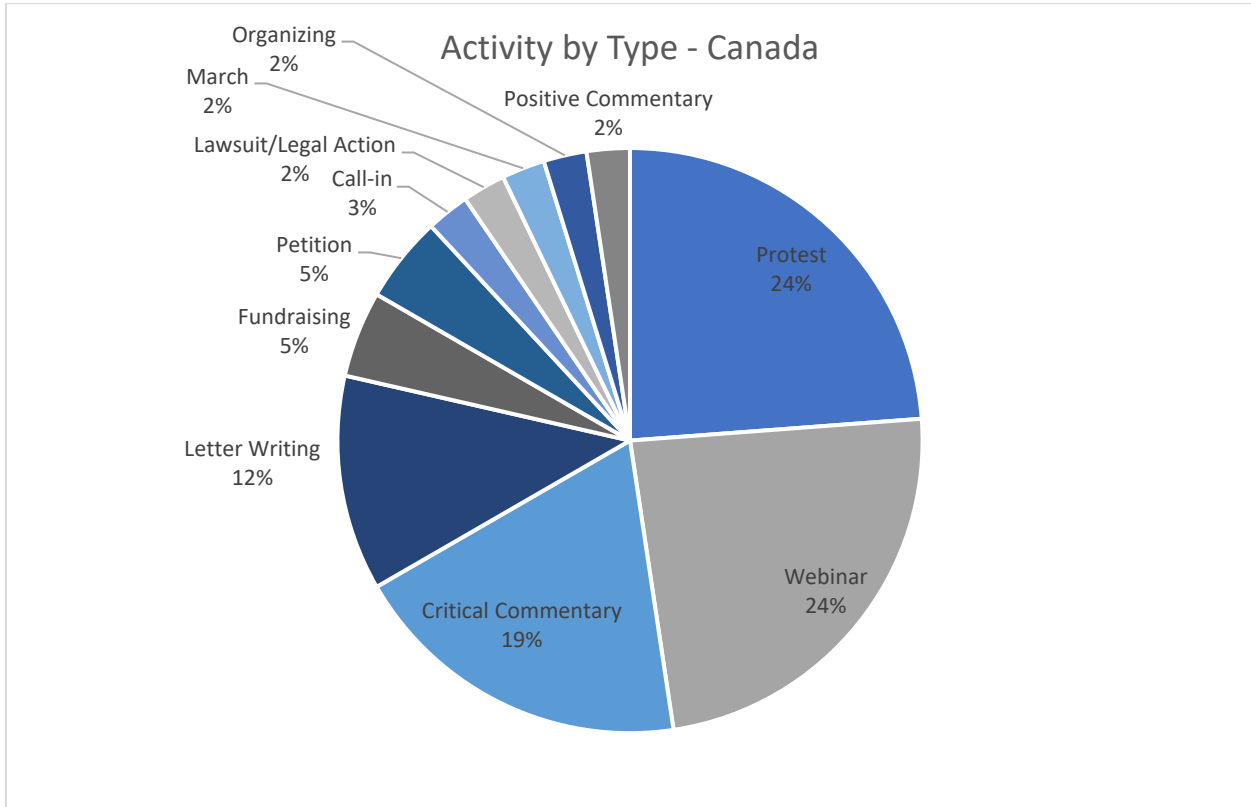


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

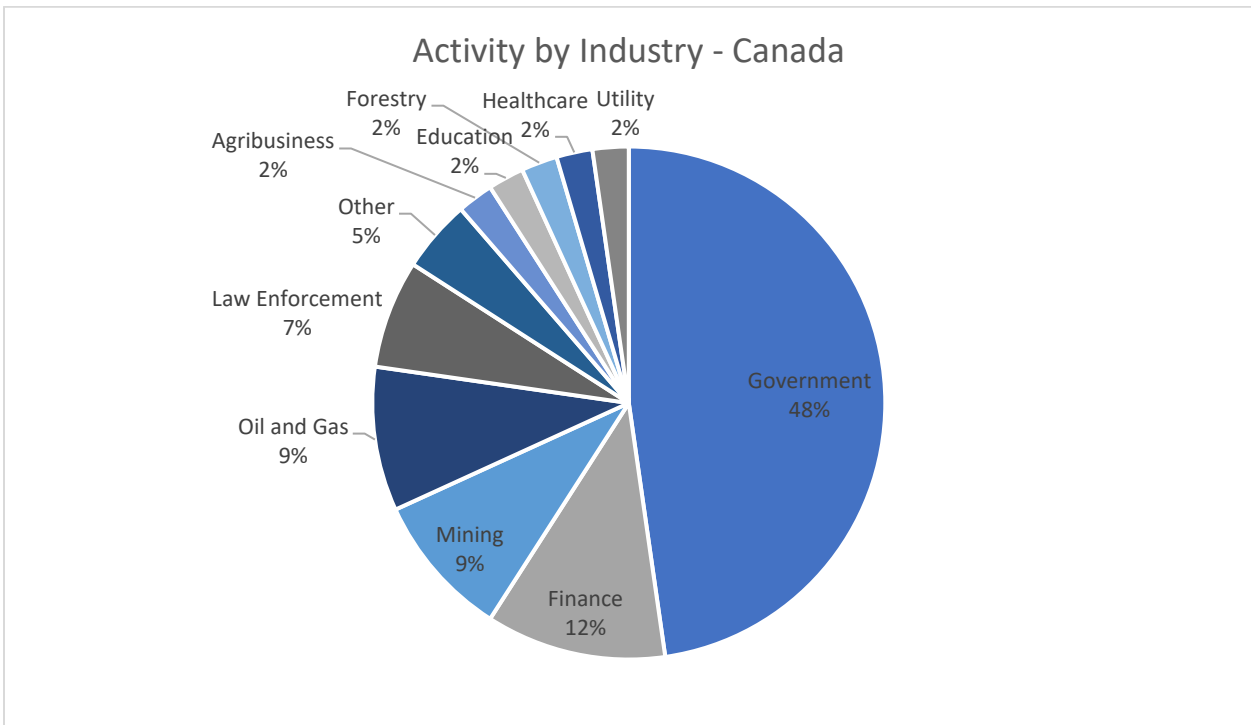
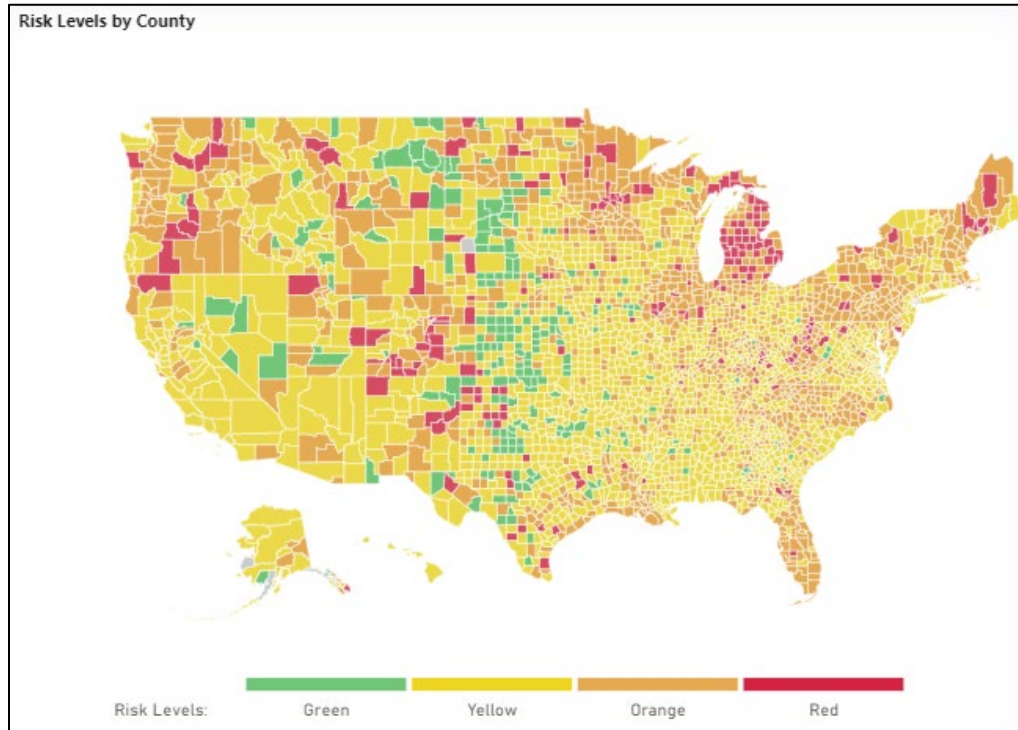


Figure 4 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

## 4. USA

### 4.1 COVID UPDATE



#	USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/1M pop	Deaths/1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/1M pop	Population
	USA Total	33,626,097	+39,825	598,540	+762	26,667,199	6,360,358	101,589	1,808	462,795,300	1,398,162	
1	<a href="#">California</a>	3,765,732	+1,955	62,572	<b>+103</b>	2,008,779	1,694,381	95,305	1,584	62,470,790	1,581,050	39,512,223
2	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	668,726	+579	10,961	<b>+27</b>	55,440	602,325	78,346	1,284	9,509,623	1,114,124	8,535,519
3	<a href="#">New York</a>	2,129,182	+2,515	53,164	<b>+42</b>	1,585,548	490,470	109,449	2,733	53,410,186	2,745,522	19,453,561
4	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	454,745	+474	8,896	<b>+17</b>	10,420	435,429	75,218	1,471	10,015,044	1,656,562	6,045,680
5	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	451,213	+672	6,637	<b>+7</b>	52,076	392,500	100,995	1,486	6,392,849	1,430,912	4,467,673
6	<a href="#">Florida</a>	2,282,613	+4,064	35,946	<b>+49</b>	1,870,952	375,715	106,278	1,674	28,326,797	1,318,891	21,477,737
7	<a href="#">Michigan</a>	972,746	+2,370	19,646	<b>+118</b>	703,746	249,354	97,403	1,967	13,911,248	1,392,956	9,986,857
8	<a href="#">Washington</a>	421,721	+1,335	5,679	<b>+13</b>	204,513	211,529	55,381	746	6,760,218	887,763	7,614,893
9	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	1,009,521	+428	25,906	<b>+25</b>	823,511	160,104	113,657	2,917	13,967,625	1,572,543	8,882,190
10	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	150,231	+149	2,698	<b>+2</b>	9,110	138,423	141,813	2,547	4,167,720	3,934,183	1,059,361
11	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	1,113,411	+1,114	20,450	<b>+18</b>	955,211	137,750	104,866	1,926	9,058,816	853,203	10,617,423
12	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	528,533	+1,846	6,556	<b>+10</b>	405,829	116,148	91,779	1,138	2,982,250	517,865	5,758,736
13	<a href="#">Illinois</a>	1,361,666	+1,918	24,671	<b>+31</b>	1,249,117	87,878	107,456	1,947	23,594,096	1,861,934	12,671,821
14	<a href="#">Texas</a>	2,930,336	+2,626	51,064	<b>+55</b>	2,794,709	84,563	101,060	1,761	29,218,583	1,007,680	28,995,881
15	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	1,186,310	+2,563	26,808	<b>+37</b>	1,074,963	84,539	92,666	2,094	13,528,846	1,056,777	12,801,989

## 4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [Vaccinated Americans Can Now Go Without Masks in Most Indoor and Outdoor Places, CDC Says](#)  
Americans who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can now be indoors or outdoors without masks or social distancing in most cases, the Centers for Disease Control said Thursday. The announcement marks a major shift in public health guidance more than a year into the pandemic. The CDC, which had said last month that fully vaccinated Americans can stop wearing masks outdoors in small groups, cited the strong protection from the vaccines and the steep decline in new COVID-19 cases in their announcement. "The science is clear: If you are fully vaccinated, you are protected, and you can start doing the things that you stopped doing because of the pandemic," the CDC said in a statement on Thursday.
- [Washington Governor: State on Track to Fully Reopen June 30](#)
- [Kids 12 and up Are Eligible for COVID Vaccine in Virginia](#)
- [U.S. schools unlikely to push for mandatory COVID-19 vaccines anytime soon](#)
- [U.S. COVID-19 deaths hit lowest level in 10 months](#)
- [Amazon to offer \\$100 more to new U.S. hires with COVID-19 vaccination proof](#)
- [U.S. administers 266.6 mln doses of COVID-19 vaccines - CDC](#)
- [Biden Extends U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada COVID-19 Border Restrictions Through May 21, 2021](#)
- [U.S. CDC identifies 28 clotting cases after J&J vaccine](#)  
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Wednesday it had found more cases of potentially life-threatening blood clotting among people who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine and sees a "plausible causal association." The CDC said in a presentation the agency has now identified 28 cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) among the more than 8.7 million people who had received the J&J vaccine. TTS involves blood clots accompanied by a low level of platelets - the cells in the blood that help it to clot. So far, three of the 28 have died. Previously, as of April 25, the CDC had reported 17 cases of clotting among nearly 8 million people given vaccines.

## 4.3 USA Awareness

- [US officials believe Russia may be behind the suspected directed-energy attacks that are getting government employees sick around the world, report says](#)
- [Open carry of weapons now prohibited at rallies, Capitol](#)
- [Secret Service seizes \\$2 billion in fraudulent Covid unemployment payments, returns funds to states](#)  
The Secret Service has confiscated and returned to states about \$2 billion in stolen Covid unemployment relief funds, agency officials said Wednesday. Programs in at least 30 states received the money after the agency determined recipients had fraudulently applied for pandemic-related unemployment. "This is typical of the cyber fraud we deal with annually. It's just compounded based on additional funds (from) Covid relief," Roy Dotson, Secret Service assistant special agent in charge, told CNBC. "The criminals did take full advantage of the programs to try to steal from them." He said the \$2 billion returned to the states was a "conservative estimate" and that pandemic-related fraud investigations are ongoing. He said last year that the Secret Service sent advisories to financial institutions to flag possibly fraudulent accounts where the money may have been deposited.
- [Corruption probe of NYPD officers reveals 'unabashedly racist' texts, officials say](#)



- [More than 40 attorneys general urge Facebook to stop plans for an Instagram for kids](#)
- [1 million people sign up for Affordable Care Act coverage after Biden reopens exchange](#)
- [US restores transgender health protections denied by Trump](#)
- [US millionaire CEOs saw 29% pay raise while workers' pay fell, report finds](#)
- ['Do not fill plastic bags with gasoline' U.S. warns as shortages grow](#)
- [Colonial Pipeline paid hackers nearly \\$5 million in ransom, sources say](#)

Colonial Pipeline Co. paid nearly US\$5 million to Eastern European hackers on Friday, contradicting reports earlier this week that the company had no intention of paying an extortion fee to help restore the country's largest fuel pipeline, according to two people familiar with the transaction. The company paid the hefty ransom in untraceable cryptocurrency within hours after the attack, underscoring the immense pressure faced by the Georgia-based operator to get gasoline and jet fuel flowing again to major cities along the Eastern Seaboard, those people said. Once they received the payment, the hackers provided the operator with a decrypting tool to restore its disabled computer network. The tool was so slow that the company continued using its own backups to help restore the system, one of the people familiar with the company's efforts said.

#### 4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund)



welund

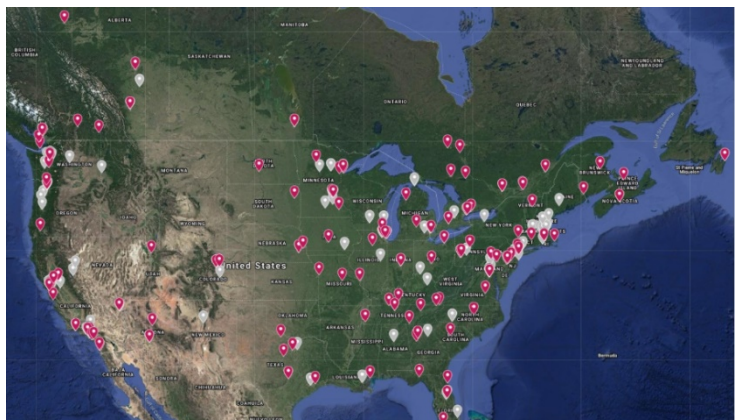
During the week of 6-13 May, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (45%), followed by finance (24%) and oil and gas (10%). Protests made up most activity (62%), followed by webinars (7%), and meetings/gatherings (5%).

There was a large increase in activity targeting the financial sector this week. The increase can be attributed to protests and activity related to Stop the Money Pipeline's (STMP) 'Defund Line 3' day of action on 7 May. The day of action represented an escalation in fossil fuel divestment activity, which had declined from a period of numerous protests in March.

This week, Colonial Pipeline, the operator of a major pipeline system that transports fuel across the East Coast, was the target of a ransomware attack and halted all pipeline operations. The shutdown caused gas shortages in several eastern states. The cyber-attack is one of the most disruptive digital ransom operations ever reported and has highlighted the vulnerabilities of US infrastructure to hackers.

**Protests:** As US vaccinations against covid-19 increase, organizers continue to emphasize physical distancing and mask-wearing adaptations to protests. California, New York, and Massachusetts saw the most protests this week.

On 7 May, protests were held in multiple cities across the US targeting the financial institutions connected to Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline as part of the 'Defund Line 3' day of action.



*Past (grey) and upcoming (red) protest activity as noted by Welund between 6-19 May.*

On 12 and 13 May, there were protests against Line 5 to ‘evict’ Enbridge in Michigan. Anti-Line 5 campaigners gathered at Line 5 transfer sites of the Mackinac Straits to “show solidarity in support of Tribal Leaders and State Officials protecting the Great Lakes” in Mackinaw and St. Ignace. 13 May was the deadline that Governor Whitmer gave Enbridge to shut down its pipelines.

Campaigners have continued to demand that the Biden administration and vaccine makers ‘Free the Vaccine’. On 11 May, Global Justice Now (GJN) protested on the day of AstraZeneca’s AGM to “send the company one clear message: we demand a People’s Vaccine.”

**Outlook:** Shareholder season has continued to attract attention from activists organizing anti-corporate campaigns. Events have been organized to prepare for upcoming shareholder meetings.

On 12 May, the BlackRock’s Big Problem (BBP) coalition hosted a webinar to launch a new campaign against Vanguard – titled: ‘Vanguard’s Very Big Problem’. Welund expects an increase in activism against Vanguard.

Welund has observed an increase in solidarity protests and actions with activists in Colombia. On 15 May, activists in Seattle will hold ‘autonomous actions’ in solidarity.

Analysts have noted pro-Israel and pro-Palestine protests across the US in relation to the ongoing conflict in the region. Welund expects to see continued Black Lives Matter-related activism leading up to the anniversary of George Floyd’s death on 25 May and Derek Chauvin’s sentencing in June.

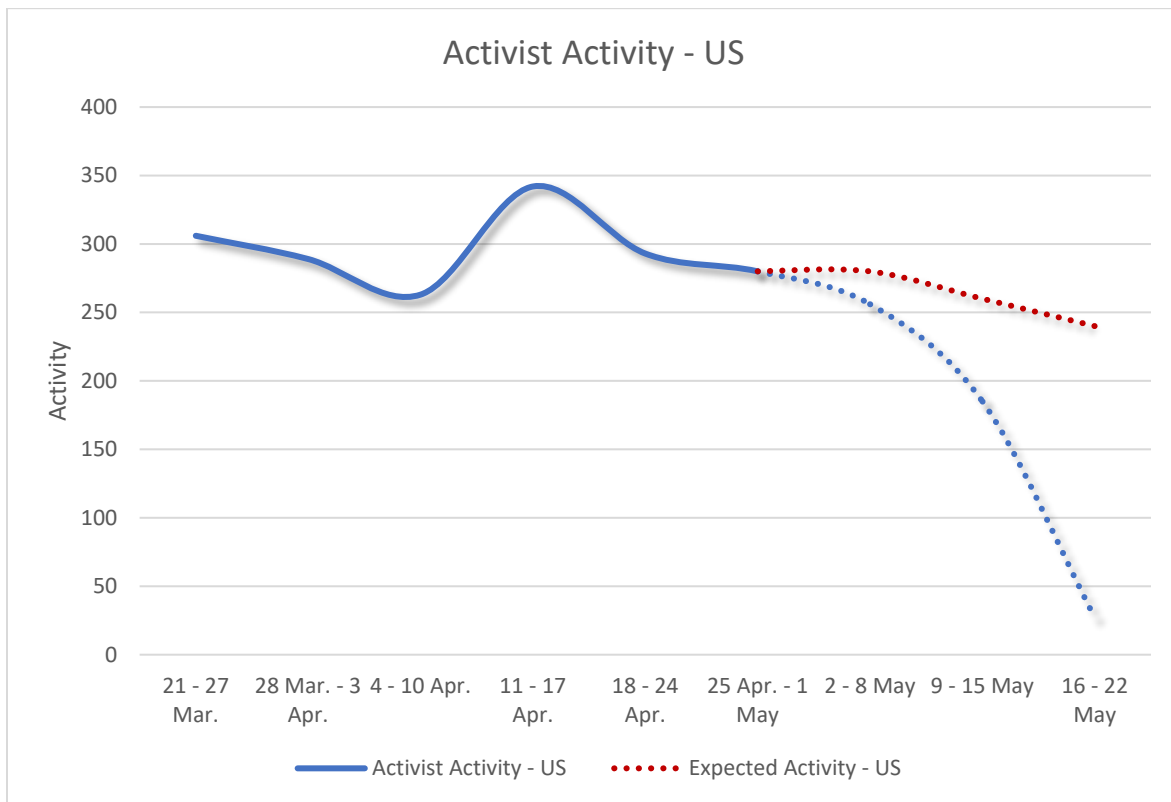


Figure 5 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund.

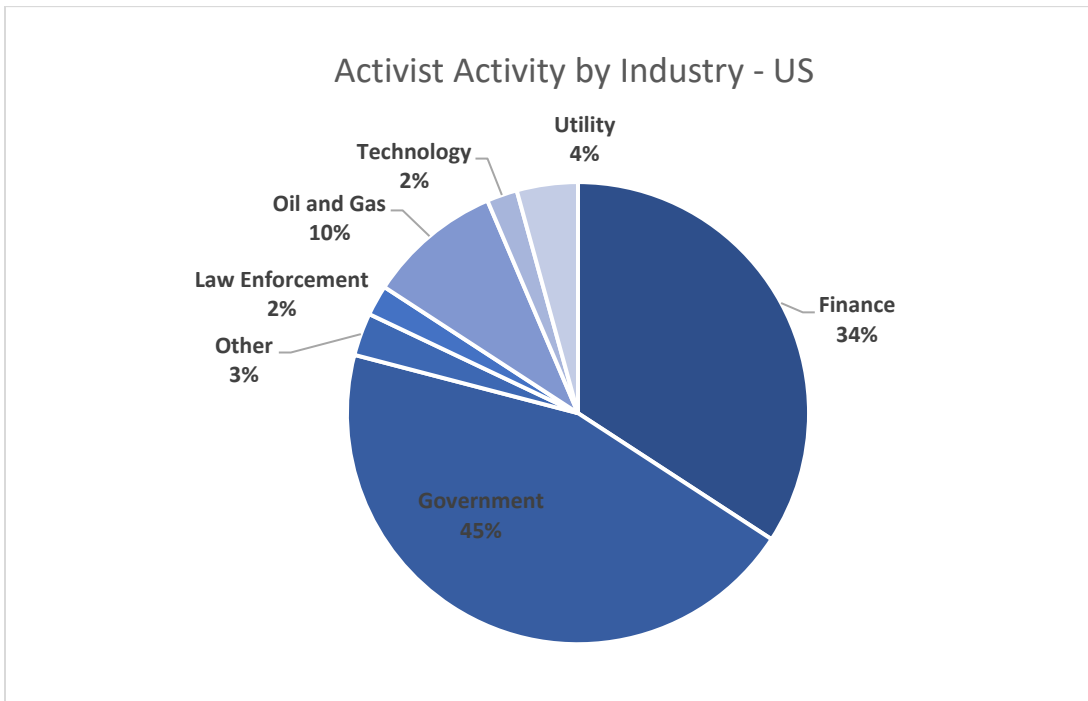


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

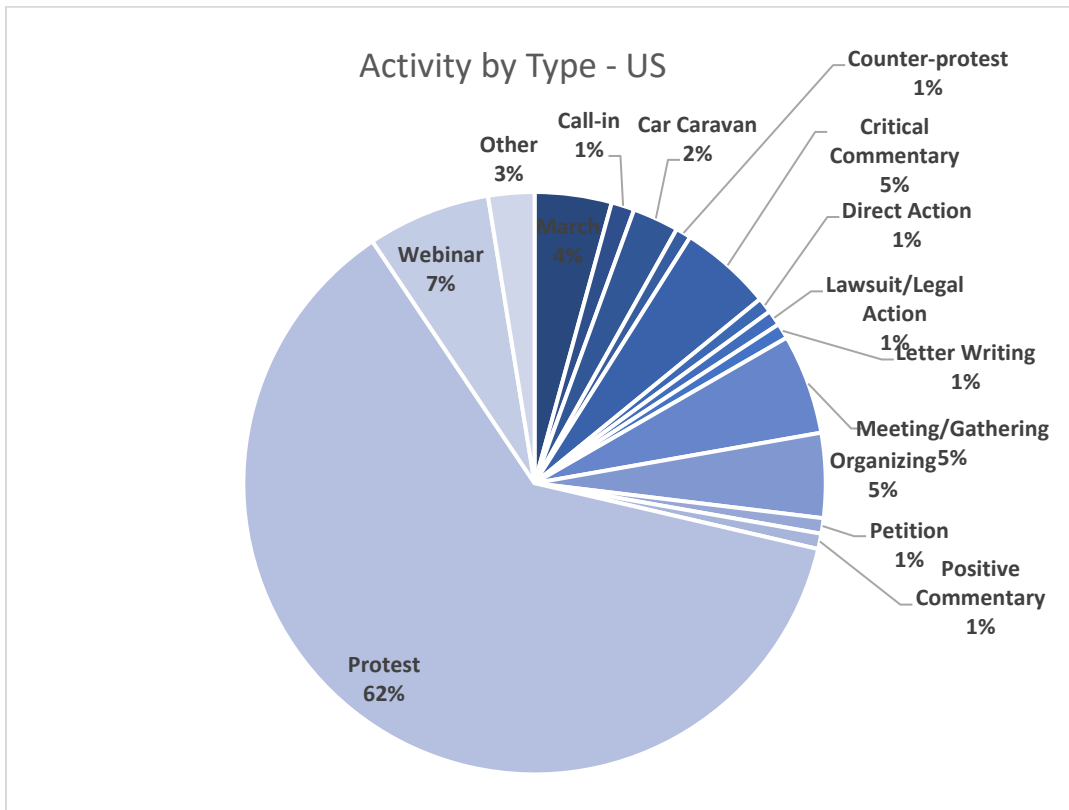


Figure 7 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund.

End of Report

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Please submit feedback to:

**Scott McGregor, CD, BCom**

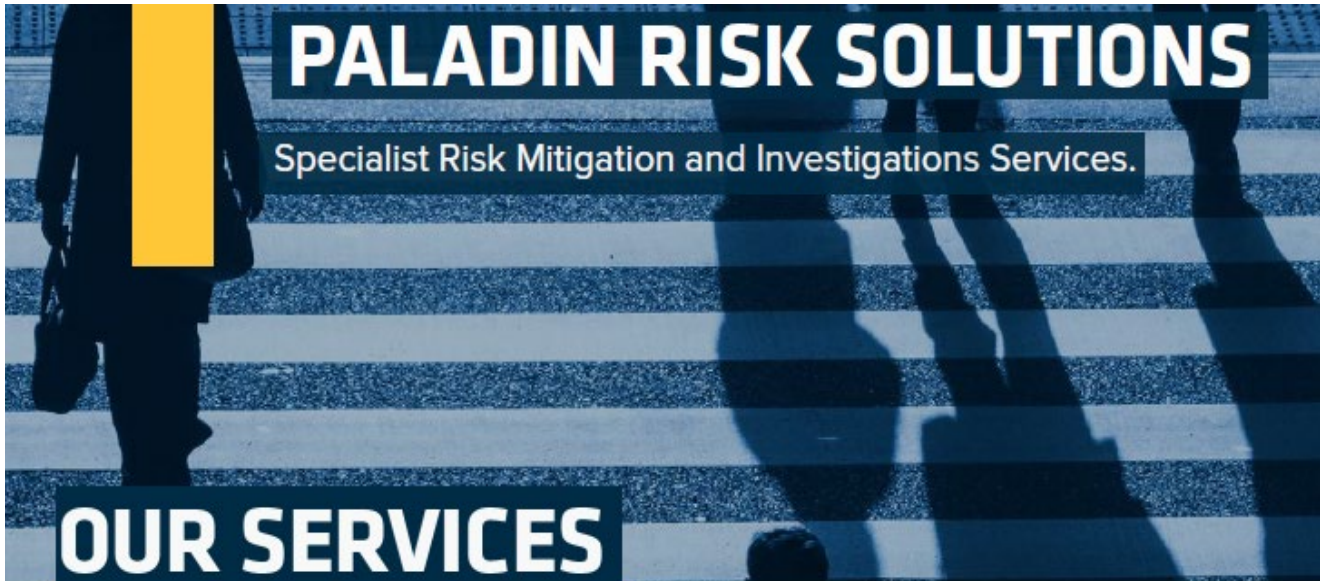
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## 5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



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- Risk assessments for extractive industries, airports, seaports, pipelines, water, buildings and assets
- Complete Security consulting and audits, technology audits, project oversight and commissioning
- Emergency management and business continuity programs, consulting and training
- Cybercrime and Digital Investigation, Data Privacy and Protection, Cyber Security issues
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