



# INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 20-009

15 January 2021

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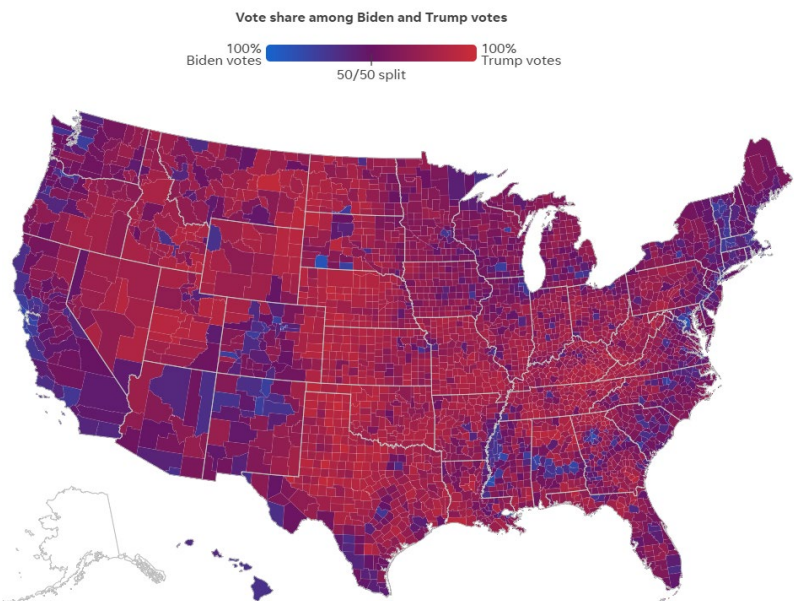
## 1. CURRENT SITUATION

**US Political Unrest.** The concerns around the threats that could affect the impending inauguration of the US president elect have many facets. This is indeed a wicked problem. There is an immense amount of discussion around the right-wing extremist movements as well as the left-wing extremist groups. These conflicting movements appear to back political parties through propaganda, donations, and support for initiatives. The notable division in the voting public has taken on a new level of interest which appears to have deepened the distrust as well as given some a voice to those that have historically been passive. The silent voters who do not post their beliefs on social media for fear of retribution or judgement are being pulled into a vortex of conflict between complex political agendas. The disparity in republican and democratic geographic voting areas is noteworthy and will be of concern to security analysts as they plan for the transition on the 20th of January around a multitude of protests, civil unrest and activism that is expected across the country.

Although the majority of concerns in media are being focussed on right wing extremist groups, there are significant concerns of counter-protests and the hijacking or co-opting of planned events by left wing extremist groups as well as anarchists who seek to pit both sides against one another. Additionally, the threat of foreign interference through direct and indirect action or support is assessed as highly likely. This includes the provision of funding, resources and information that could be used by these groups or individuals to further the discord and widen the division of the larger US population.

The all-agency approach to securing the nation against these threats will be tested this week. Not only will the world be watching how the US handles these growing threats, so will the adversaries of democracy.

**COVID Vaccine.** A vaccination model that could be considered by western countries is seeing success in Israel; currently the world leader in COVID-19 vaccinations with over 25% (over 2 million people) of the population having been vaccinated to date. Data from Israel may showcase the field results of the vaccine's efficacy due to the high number of people vaccinated, which is growing. Israel is providing vaccinations not only to the elderly, but also to anyone who attends a vaccine clinic with an elderly person. Israel is also not waiting to give vaccines to only vulnerable populations, as vaccines which require refrigeration can spoil at the end of the day. While in North America, criticisms of providing the vaccine to non-vulnerable populations have occurred, Israel has found that it is difficult to find appropriate recipients to a vaccine later in the day and administration to anyone is better than no one. Additionally, Israel is a small country that does not require extensive vaccination logistics, and many of the elderly live with family members or have caretakers who can bring them to a vaccination clinic. Additionally, Israel also has the benefit of its military, the Israel Defence Forces, for being trained and prepared to assist the



country in a variety of logistical difficulties. The military has played a vital role in the timely set up of COVID-19 vaccination sites.

Preliminary data from Israel vaccination program suggests that the vaccine may have stopped infections by about 50% at 14 days after the first shot was received, based on information from people who have received and did not receive the vaccine. However, other data released by Israeli health organizations have found the reduction was at 33% at 14 days after vaccination, and other medical organization putting it at 60% at 14 after the first shot. Israel has also pointed out that approximately 17% of those who only received one shot ended getting COVID-19, suggesting that having the first vaccine dose does not provide full protection and that only until a week after the administration of the second dose is there the expected 95% protection from the virus. In the meantime, regular protection measures should be taken nonetheless, even by those who have been vaccinated.

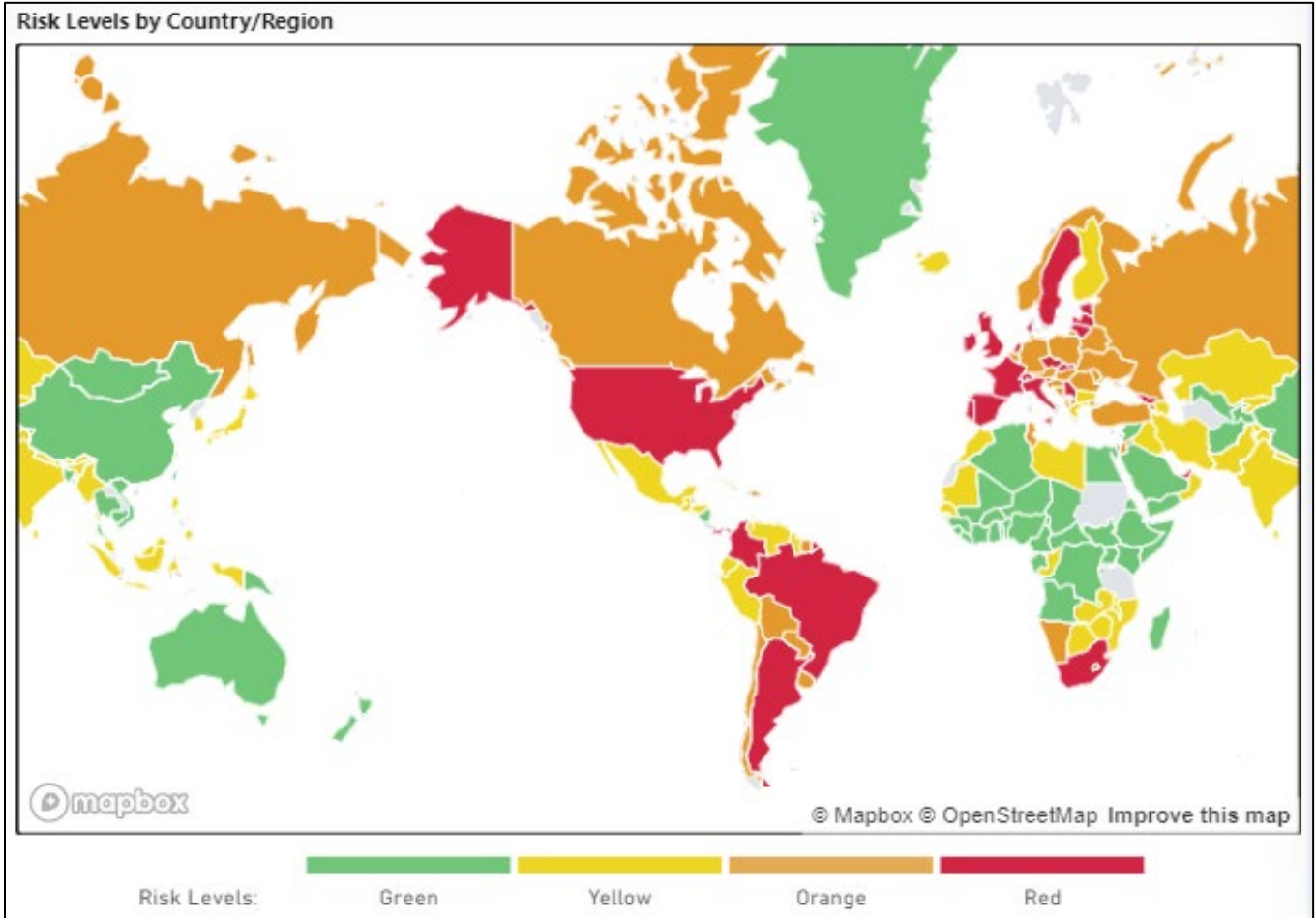
So far, there is no evidence to suggest that the vaccine stops transmission of the virus, as some people may still be able to spread it to others if it is located in the nasal cavity, where it may not be enough to yield a positive test result of any symptoms. Israel is seeing an increase in cases as believed to be related to the spread of the UK variant in Israel. Despite its high vaccination numbers, with about 73% of Israelis over 60 years old and others in high-risk categories having received their first shot, its nationwide lockdown has continued, with a hope that the vaccination campaign will make an impact on the transmission. Israel's goal is to vaccinate 5.2 million out of 9 million by the end of March 2021, and continues to receive vaccine doses from Pfizer, although in the recent week the campaign slowed down due to a smaller supply of doses.

Israel has also only reported three cases of anaphylaxis; however, the country has an overall lower incidence of allergies than the global average. Additionally, the country has only reported 0.06% incidents of side effects, which included pain in the injection site and fever.

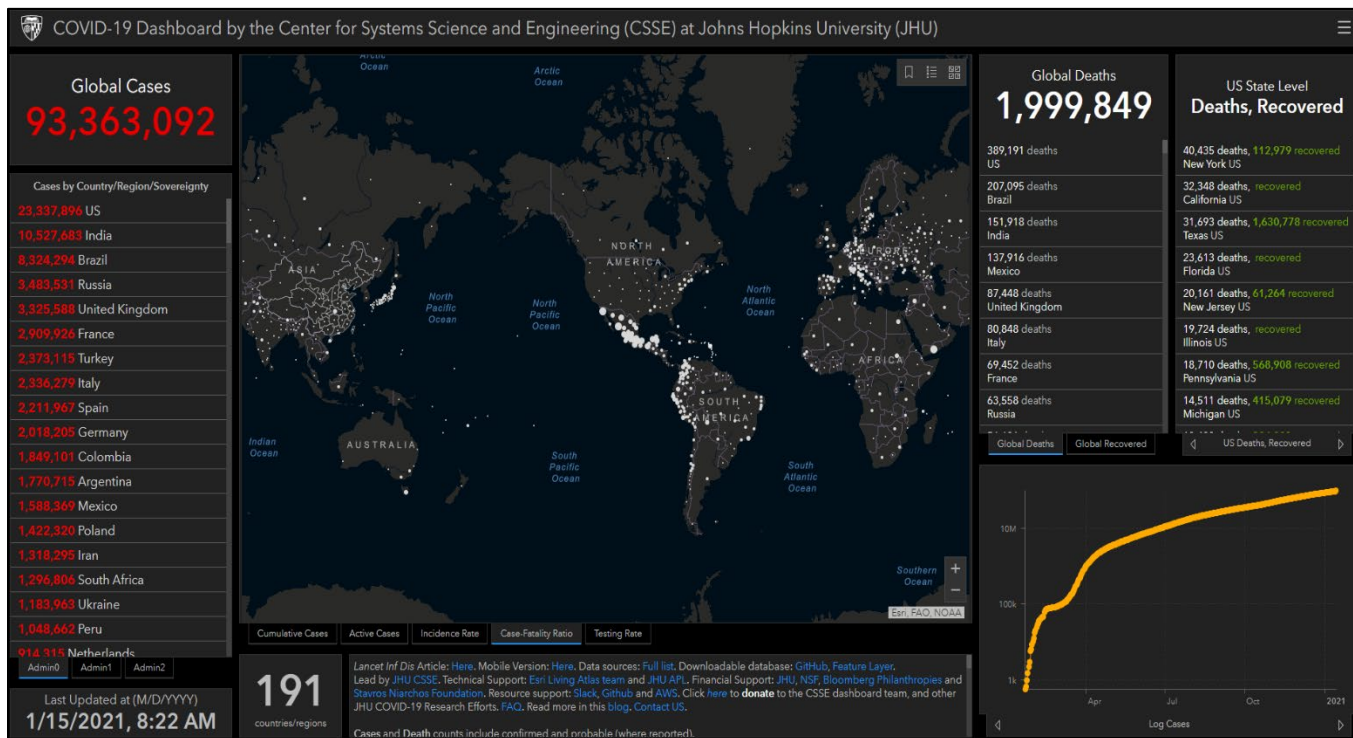
Israel plans to introduce vaccination certifications when the economy reopens, which will allow those who have been vaccinated or have an up-to-date negative COVID-19 test to attend events and take part in activities that others will not be allowed to. Israel is reportedly working on easing their lockdown in stages; in the first stage, a partial reopening of kindergartens and grades 1 to 4 as well as grades 11 to 12 and street front stores, while in the second stage, grades 5-10 will resume in person learning, and passports will be given to the vaccinated. The last stage will allow for restaurants and cafes to reopen.

## 2. GLOBAL

### 2.1 COVID UPDATE



#	Country	Confirmed	Deaths	Recov.	Mort.	Critical	Active	Cases /1M	Active /1M	Deaths /1M
1	USA us	23,894,346 (↑41,970)	398,871 (↑804)	14,116,882	1.7%	29,224	9,378,593	71,960	28244	1,201
6	France FR	2,851,670	69,313	206,802	2.4%	2,726	2,575,555	43,636	39411	1,061
9	Spain ES	2,211,967	53,079	n/a	2.4%	2,849	2,158,888	47,300	46165	1,135
5	UK GB	3,316,019 (↑55,761)	87,295 (↑1,280)	1,406,967	2.6%	3,672	1,821,757	48,709	26760	1,282
19	Netherlands NL	901,696 (↑6,009)	12,868 (↑94)	n/a	1.4%	690	888,828	52,561	51810	750
3	Brazil BR	8,326,115	207,160	7,339,703	2.5%	8,318	779,252	39,021	3652	971
24	Belgium BE	672,886 (↑2,637)	20,294 (↑44)	46,417	3.0%	346	606,175	57,923	52181	1,747
8	Italy IT	2,352,423 (↑16,146)	81,325 (↑477)	1,713,030	3.5%	2,522	558,068	38,939	9237	1,346
4	Russia RU	3,520,531 (↑24,715)	64,495 (↑555)	2,909,680	1.8%	2,300	546,356	24,118	3743	442
30	Sweden SE	523,486	10,323 (↑34)	n/a	2.0%	365	513,163	51,660	50642	1,019
10	Germany DE	2,009,219 (↑5,208)	45,792 (↑300)	1,641,200	2.3%	5,230	322,227	23,940	3839	546
17	Ukraine UA	1,146,963 (↑8,199)	20,542 (↑166)	847,391	1.8%	177	279,030	26,312	6401	471
13	Mexico MX	1,588,369 (↑16,468)	137,916 (↑999)	1,185,621	8.7%	5,270	264,832	12,250	2042	1,064
14	Poland PL	1,422,320 (↑7,795)	32,844 (↑386)	1,164,650	2.3%	1,628	224,826	37,604	5944	868
2	India IN	10,541,760 (↑13,252)	152,086 (↑132)	10,175,895	1.4%	8,944	213,779	7,599	154	110
16	South Africa ZA	1,296,806	35,852	1,049,740	2.8%	546	211,214	21,718	3537	600



## 2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [Initial Israeli data: First Pfizer shot curbs infections by 50% after 14 days](#)
- [How can countries stretch COVID vaccine supplies? Scientists are divided over dosing strategies](#)



Countries are trying to make the best of the vaccine doses received by them, with some regions giving all doses to new patients instead of saving them for the second dose. The UK has decided that 12 weeks in between doses is sufficient, despite the clinical trials seeing three weeks between the two doses. President Elect Biden's new administration is looking into the possibility of following suit, and is currently considering the situation. This week, WHO recommended that the doses should not be given more than six weeks apart. Some immunologists suggest that from a perspective of how the body trigger an initial immune response, it is possible that delaying a little bit can even be beneficial. Others have referenced the possibility that since a single RNA vaccine usually produces little antibodies, those who may have only received one COVID-19 shot may be more susceptible to emerging mutations and thus variants of the vaccines, as seen in the UK and South Africa.

- [WHO: Won't achieve 'herd immunity in 2021' despite vaccines](#)  
Despite 30 countries beginning their vaccination campaigns, WHO advised that global herd immunity will not be reached in 2021. Although it may be seen in a few countries, it will not be protecting people across the world, suggesting that health officials must continue to focus on other measures including hand washing, mask wearing and physical distancing.
- [Johnson & Johnson Expects Vaccine Results Soon but Lags in Production](#)  
The Johnson & Johnson vaccine trial results are expected to come in the next two weeks. The vaccine, which only requires one shot, will be advantageous over the double dosed vaccinations as they require less time and logistics. Additionally, the vaccine can be refrigerated for months, making it more appealing than other vaccines which require dry ice and subzero temperatures. However, the company is advising that it is about two months behind its vaccine manufacturing and is expected to catch up by April.
- [6-month consequences of COVID-19 in patients discharged from hospital: cohort study \(not peer reviewed\)](#)  
A Chinese study's findings suggest that after 6 months of infection, those who had COVID-19 have mostly reported muscle weakness or fatigue (63%), sleep difficulties (26%) and anxiety or depression (23%).
- [India to kick off one of the world's largest Covid vaccination drives this weekend](#)
- [Moderna looks to test Covid-19 booster shots a year after initial vaccination](#)

## 2.3 Global Awareness

- [After aborted attempt, sensitive WHO mission to study pandemic origins is on its way to China](#)  
China has finally provided visas to the WHO team assigned to look into the origins of COVID-19. Despite a previous hiccup, the team is now travelling to China. The team is not interested in placing blame but rather understanding how the virus jumped from animals to humans. It is believed that due to the passage of time it will be much more difficult to understand, if even possible at all, how the virus became a world pandemic. The WHO team will first quarantine for 14 days, conducting work via calls and then will subsequently visit various sites in Wuhan before returning home in mid February. It is believed that China will try to hide some information from the WHO team, due to their fear of the team placing guilt on the country or individuals, despite the group specifically indicating otherwise. Furthermore, it is feared that China will attempt to choose what the team sees, thus deciding what will be found in the team's report. Furthermore, Chinese officials suggest that the virus didn't even start in Wuhan, and point to studies suggesting that COVID-19 has been found in Italy as early as November or September, as per sewage and blood test data; however, this information has not been confirmed.

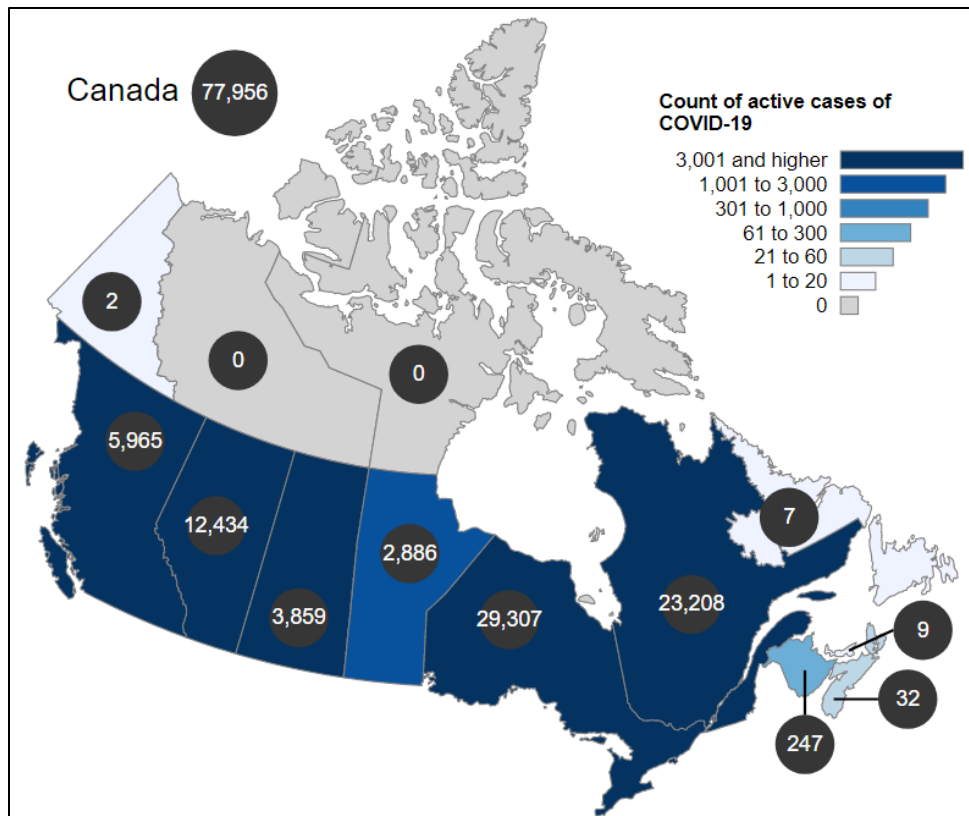
- [WhatsApp's new privacy policy sparks outcry. Here's what you need to know](#)
- [China steals march on West in developing nations' vaccine rollout](#)
- [In victory for privacy activists, France is banned from using drones to enforce coronavirus rules](#)
- [North Korea holds huge military parade as Kim vows nuclear might](#)

## 2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism


- [India's top court suspends implementation of new farm laws that led to mass protests](#)  
On Tuesday, India's top court put a temporary hold on the enactment of the new Indian agricultural reform laws, after months long protests by Indian farmers.
- [Hong Kong authorities arrest 11 over activists' attempted Taiwan boat escape](#)
- [As Europe's governments lose control of Covid, revolt is in the air](#)  
Fears of civil unrest grow as people across the continent no longer trust leaders to protect them during the crisis.
- [Haiti braces for unrest as opposition demands new president](#)

## 3. CANADA

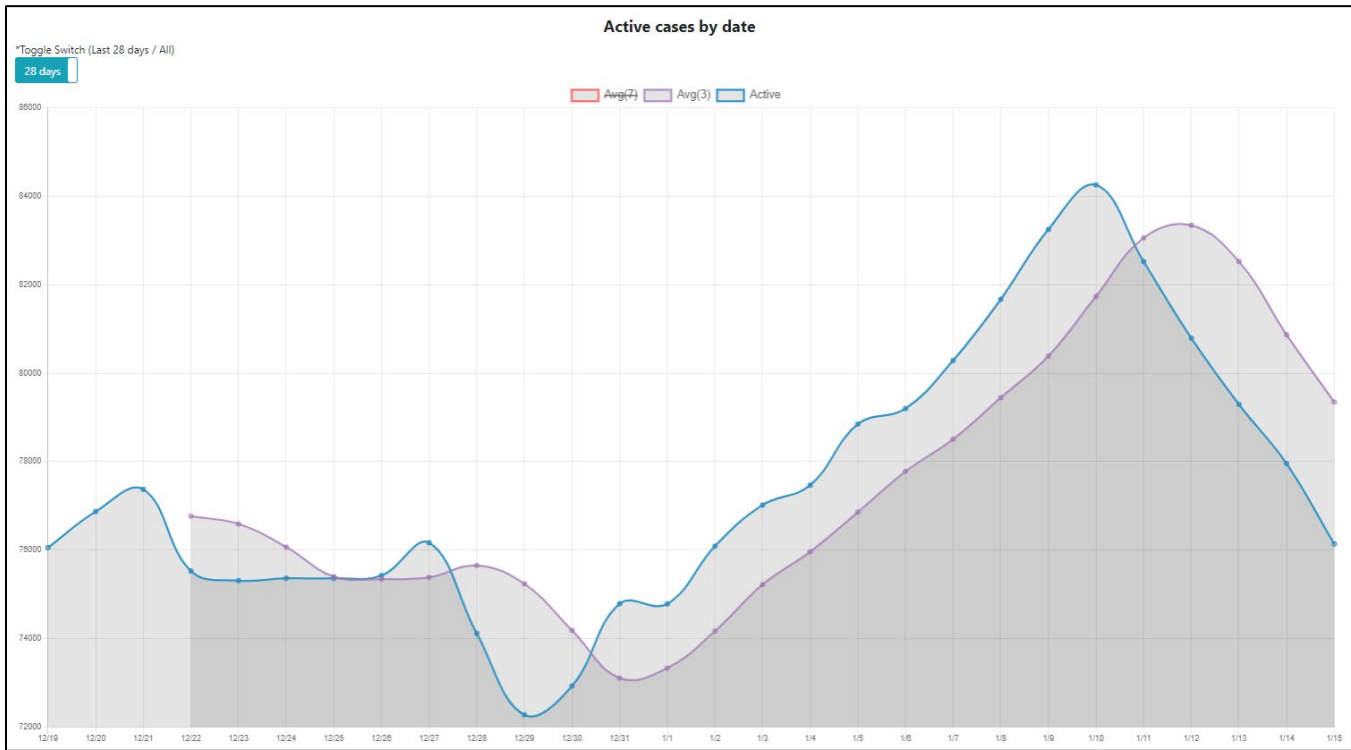
### 3.1 COVID UPDATE





Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
<b>Total</b>	<b>691,888</b> (↑2,998)	<b>17,638</b> (↑100)	<b>596,777</b> (↑3,380)	<b>77,473</b> (-48)
BC	59,608	1,038	52,605	5,965
ON	231,308 (↑2,998)	5,289 (↑100)	197,194 (↑3,380)	28,825 (-482)
QC	236,827	8,878	204,741	23,208
AB	114,585	1,389	100,762	12,434
MB	26,954	755	23,313	2,886
NB	859	12	600	247
SK	19,329	206	15,264	3,859
PEI	103	0	95	8
NL	394	4	383	7
NS	1,548	65	1,451	32
YT	70	1	67	2
NT	24	0	24	0
NU	266	1	265	0
	13	0	13	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.4%	↑ 0.6%	↑ 0.6%	-0.6%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,169,733</b> (+76,472)	-	-	-
BC	1,566,986	-	362	74
ON	8,791,388 (+76,472)	63,728 (-3212)	1647 (-10)	387 (-1)
QC	5,314,149	-	1523	230
AB	2,982,611	-	806	136
MB	446,018	-	117	16
NB	167,776	-	3	0
SK	461,935	-	206	33
PEI	81,756	-	-	-
NL	75,777	-	1	0
NS	258,702	-	0	0
YT	6,141	16	-	-
NT	10,495	62	0	0
NU	5,999	328	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.4%	-	-	-



**Vaccination doses administered in Canada**

It might not be accurate since some data are not available.  
 Today

Prov.	Today	x / 1M
<b>Total</b>	<b>474,225</b> <small>(<sup>^</sup> 15,609)</small>	<b>12,514</b> (1.25%)
BC	69,746	13,646 (1.36%)
ON	174,630 ( <sup>^</sup> 15,609)	11,870 (1.19%)
QC	115,704	13,552 (1.36%)
AB	66,953	15,171 (1.52%)
MB	12,409	9,008 (0.9%)
NB	7,732	9,913 (0.99%)
SK	11,985	10,142 (1.01%)
PEI	4,226	26,720 (2.67%)
NL	5,291	10,148 (1.01%)
NS	3,831	3,919 (0.39%)
YT	685	16,676 (1.67%)
NT	512	11,402 (1.14%)
NU	521	13,326 (1.33%)

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

### 3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Canada to receive one million COVID-19 vaccine doses a week starting in April: general](#)
- Maj.-Gen. Dany Fortin, the military commander leading Canada's COVID-19 vaccine logistics, said today that manufacturers are expected to deliver up to one million doses a week starting in April. In the spring, Fortin

said, the country will shift from phase one of the vaccine rollout, immunizing particularly vulnerable people, such as long-term care home residents, some Indigenous adults and health care providers, to a wider rollout as deliveries become larger and more frequent. The Canadian immunization campaign has gotten off to a slow start. A month into the inoculation efforts, barely one per cent of the population has received at least one shot of the Pfizer or Moderna products. Only 710,000 doses have been delivered to the provinces and territories. Two additional vaccines are being reviewed by Health Canada and with approval of those, Canada is expected to have as many as 20 million people vaccines between April and June.

- [Ontario issues stay-at-home order as COVID-19 models show province is at 'dangerous point'](#)  
Ontario issued stay at home orders this week, which began on Thursday. People are to stay at home unless venturing outside for essential purposes such as going to the grocery store, pharmacy, for healthcare reasons and for essential work or, exercise. Gatherings are restricted to five people with limited exceptions, masks are to be worn indoors and all non-essential retail stores must close no later than 8pm. In some areas, schooling will only continue remotely until at least February 10. Ontario Premier Doug Ford stopped short of imposing a curfew, advising that he is against curfews and that he believed that Ontarians can follow the new rules without having to impose a nighttime curfew.
- [Federal government lists COVID-19 testing services abroad after new rule strands many travellers](#)  
Canada's new travel rules requiring travelers to show a negative COVID-19 case has left travellers unable to fly due to an inability to find an approved laboratory that conducts the test. The government has now included a list on their website of legitimate laboratory locations where tests can be done. Travelers report even finding fake tests such as a PDF template that can be filled with their names to a negative COVID-19 test, yet not knowing which laboratory tests are allowed. In the first four days, WestJet states that it has refused entry to 363 travelers due to no testing done, illegitimate testing or testing which was done earlier than 72 hours prior to flying.
- [In 29 days, Canada has given enough COVID-19 vaccine doses to cover 1 per cent of population](#)  
As of the end of Tuesday, Canada has vaccinated 387,899 people, about 1.02% of the population. Canada's goal of vaccinations includes providing a vaccine to anyone who wants one by September, with 40% to 50% of the population vaccinated by the end of June. Canada will have more ability to vaccinate once the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is approved, which only requires one dose. The faster Canada vaccinates its vulnerable population, the quicker a difference will be seen on death and hospitalization numbers.
- [Ontario couple faces charges over 1st cases of new COVID-19 strain, detected only by fluke](#)  
An Ontario couple are facing charges under the Health Protection and Promotion Act for having contact with a UK traveller who later tested positive for the new COVID-19 variant. Health officials were first advised by the couple that they had no contact with any travellers. However, just by chance, their COVID-19 sample was sent to the laboratory that also conducts random testing for the new variant, where their sample was tested for the variant and was found positive for it. As the couple lied and met with a UK traveler who tested positive for the new variant, they were charged and will be appearing in court in March.
- [Seven Quebecers test positive for COVID-19 despite first vaccination - questions over delayed boosters](#)  
Seven seniors at a Quebec long-term care home who received their first dose of the vaccine have now tested positive for COVID-19. Quebec is one of the provinces that wants to provide initial protection for as many people as possible, using all its initial doses for first doses, having those who have already received one dose wait while more first-time patients receive the first. This comes as no surprise, as clinical trials for the vaccine

show it becomes the most effective about a week after the second dose. It is about 50% effective after the first dose. Some of the patients at the long-term care centre are threatening to sue the province for this reason, as consent was provided under the impression that it was going to be administered as per clinical trial dosages and time lengths.

- [Ontario broadcasts emergency stay-at-home alert as province records 3,326 new COVID-19 cases](#)

### 3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Alleged RCMP mole accused of selling secrets to kingpin money launderer and terror-financier's network](#)  
Cameron Ortis, one of the most senior civilian intelligence officials at the RCMP, has been accused by Canada for selling intelligence information the crime ring of Altaf Khanani, who laundered money on behalf of terror groups such as Hezbollah and some transnational drug cartels. Ortis is being charged with eight charges pertaining to information security and a breach of trust charge. Reportedly, at one point he had the most access to intelligence than anyone at the RCMP, including reports from the Five Eyes, a group of countries' intelligence alliance. Khanani's money laundering ring involved an old and known of money exchange where a customer can deposit money in a bank accounts in one country, and then withdraw the same amount from a bank in another country. The money itself doesn't cross borders and since it does not have documentation of transactions, it can be used to hide tax evasion and money laundering. Khanani, who was the target of intelligence services, was finally charged in 2017 for allegedly laundering more than \$100 million in one year, ended up returning to Iran before facing trial. It is unclear how he evaded justice and whether it has anything to do with regards to the charges against Ortis. Ortis was discovered after the FBI arrested a Richmond, BC, company owner for providing encrypted communications services to criminals, and when he was arrested it was discovered that he was being leaked to by an RCMP mole. This eventually led to an internal hunt for the mole, finding Ortis as the likely source. Reportedly, Ortis was having difficulties with money and other warning signs in his life that should have been identified by the RCMP.
- [Anti-government website hosted in Montreal shut down after promoting armed protests in U.S.](#)  
The website Tree of Liberty, which claims to be the press platform for the Boogaloo Movement, a belief embraced by people who support the Second American Civil war. The company boasted that it is located in Montreal and was recently shut down by its cloud server host. This same movement is threatening to hold demonstrations before the January 20 inauguration ceremony, and the FBI is of the belief they may cause disruptions to the transition of power. The movement is non-hierarchical and appears to have individualistic methods of organizing, making it difficult to track and understand. Additionally, it is difficult to categorize this movement politically, as it is related to white supremacists, yet some members participated in some Black Lives Matter protests last year. Due to their ideological fluidity, they are able to attract an assortment of extremists who prefer violence for their method of negotiation.
- [Montreal woman says officer insisted on searching her lunch bag during curfew stop](#)  
A woman in Montreal is reporting that she was stopped by police at night on her way to her essential job, and despite proving her right to be travelling despite the curfew, she believes she was treated unfairly by the officer. She advised that when she showed him the piece of paper suggesting she is an essential snow removal worker, the police office threatened to give her a ticket regardless, unless she shows him the contents of her lunch bag. Despite refusing at first, the officer persisted and the female finally showed him the contents of

her lunch bag. Montreal Police released a statement suggesting that police officers should use “good judgement” when stopping someone for COVID-19 infractions, but it is up to the police officer to decide whether their explanation for being out during curfew is sufficient or whether a ticket should be written. The discretionary power provided to police in these matters has been worrisome to civil rights activists, including the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, who is collecting information on the enforcement of public health restrictions. Public education is likely more important for first offences instead of fines, as fining people for activities that are of no danger to public health, such as driving alone in a car, people will begin to question why the rules are even there and defying them in areas they know they will not be caught, wearing away the trust and confidence in our government.

- [Is it time for Western intelligence agencies to treat pandemics as security threats?](#)
- [Federal sickness benefit falls short of paid sick leave protections, advocates say](#)
- [Canada has secured more vaccine doses per capita than anyone else, but it's been slow to administer them](#)

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



welund

During the week of 7-14 January 2021, the majority of activist activity noted by Welund in Canada took place in the government sector (67%), followed by oil and gas (9%). Protests and petitions made up the majority of activity (14% each), followed by critical commentary, letter-

writing, and car caravans (12% each).

Welund expects low activist activity for the upcoming week as campaign groups continue to organize and launch 2021 campaigns.

**Protests:** Anti-lockdown and anti-mask protests continued this week, as provincial governments either continued or implemented new lockdown restrictions amid rising covid-19 infection and hospitalization rates. Coalitions claiming to represent small business owners and those who are financially impacted by the lockdowns protested in most major cities across Canada to demand government leaders reopen businesses. Protests were also held by frontline workers, and those who believe their profession should be considered frontline work, to demand better government support programs such as increased wages and paid sick days.

Anti-Trans Mountain expansion (TMX) opposition campaigns also continued over the past week. Activists have renewed calls for protests and blockades near Burnaby, BC along the pipeline's proposed route. They have also called for supporters to pressure the Canadian federal government to halt construction and cancel the pipeline project outright.

**Outlook:** The decision by most provincial governments to continue, increase, or implement new lockdown restrictions will likely further exacerbate anti-lockdown campaigns. Activists have called for larger weekly in-person protests, marches, and car-caravans to protest against their respective provincial and municipal governments. The next large protest has been organized in Toronto on 16 January, with smaller events being organized in other cities. Anti-lockdown and anti-mask campaigns have also started to shift narratives to include a wider range of grievances. Many groups, which have seen steadily growing support from small business owners, have emphasized their perception that lockdown measures infringe on constitutionally protected rights and freedoms. They are also incorporating more tangentially connected issues such as the anti-vaccination movement,

which is opposing the federal government’s covid-19 inoculation program. Groups opposing the TMX project will likely remain active in their campaigns while construction is currently halted due to recent safety incidents and the risk of covid-19 infection at construction sites. There may be some Canadian support for pro-Trump movements leading up to the 20 January Inauguration Day for President-elect Joe Biden. US law enforcement and other social media sites have warned of a new series of potentially armed protests between 16-20 January. Similar to the protests in Canada on 6 January, Canadian pro-Trump supporters may organize solidarity protests leading up to and on Inauguration Day.

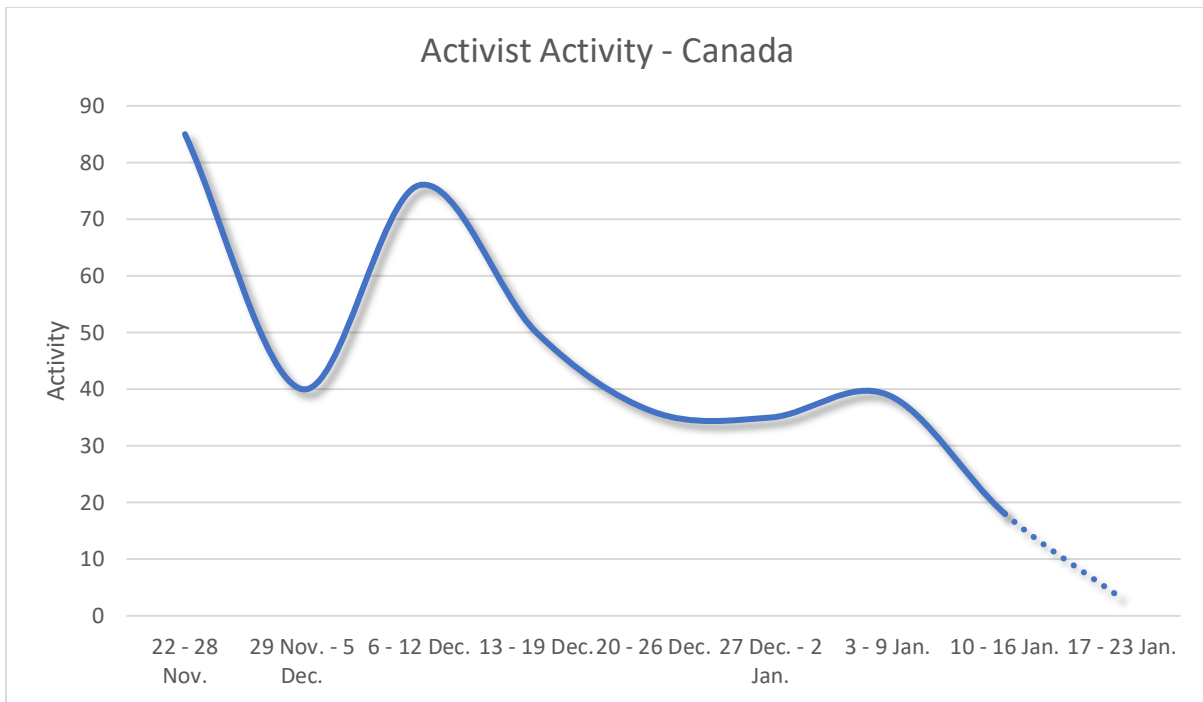


Figure 1 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

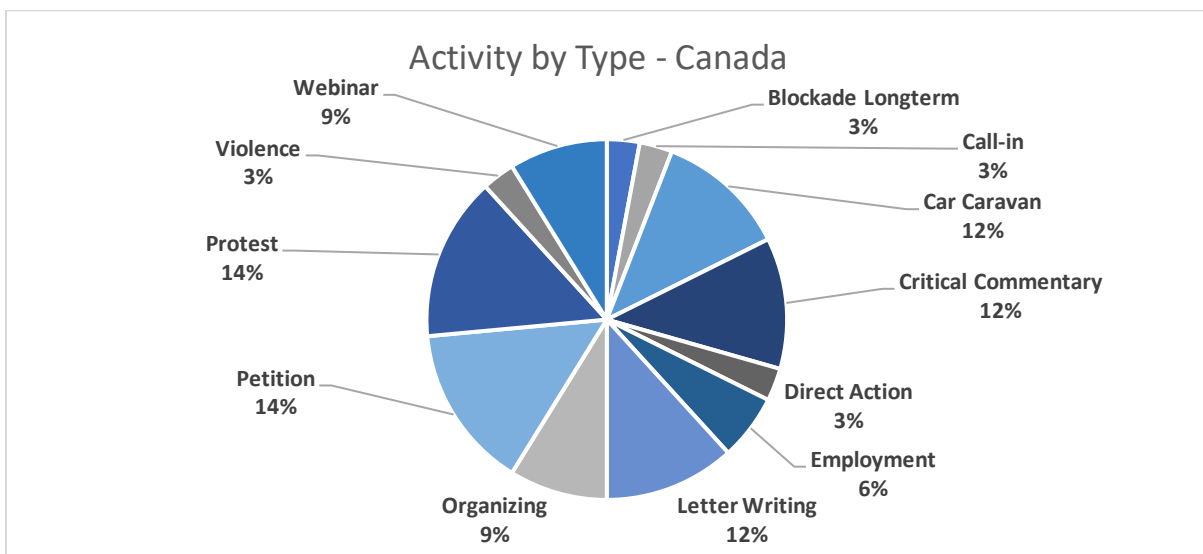


Figure 2 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund



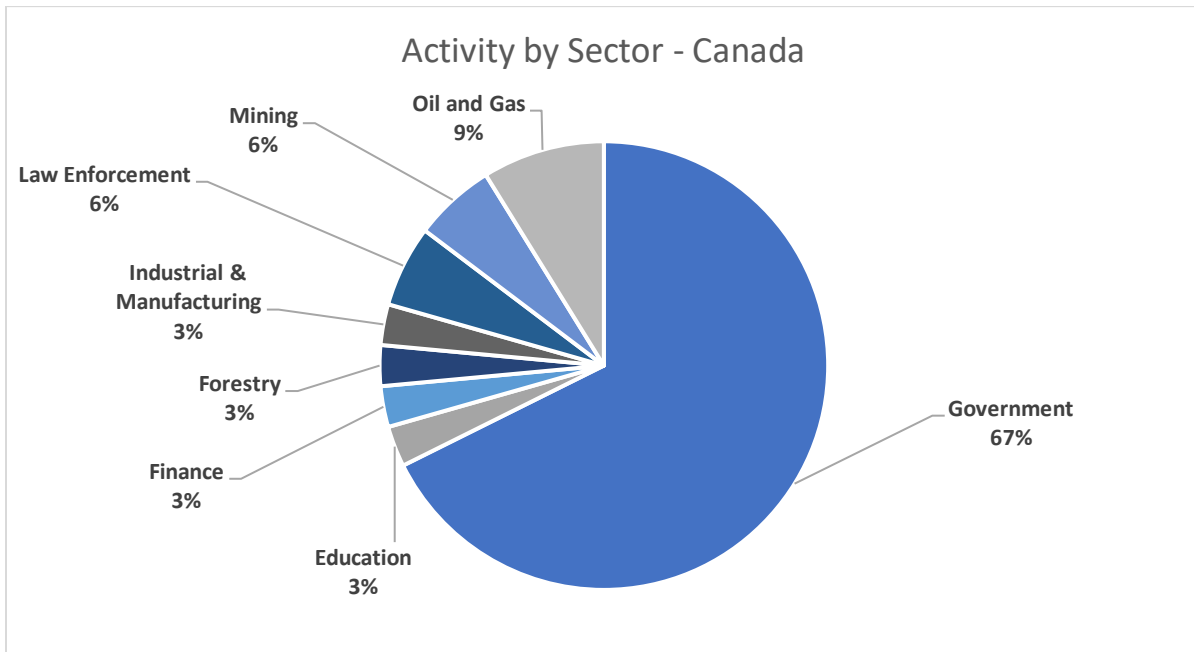
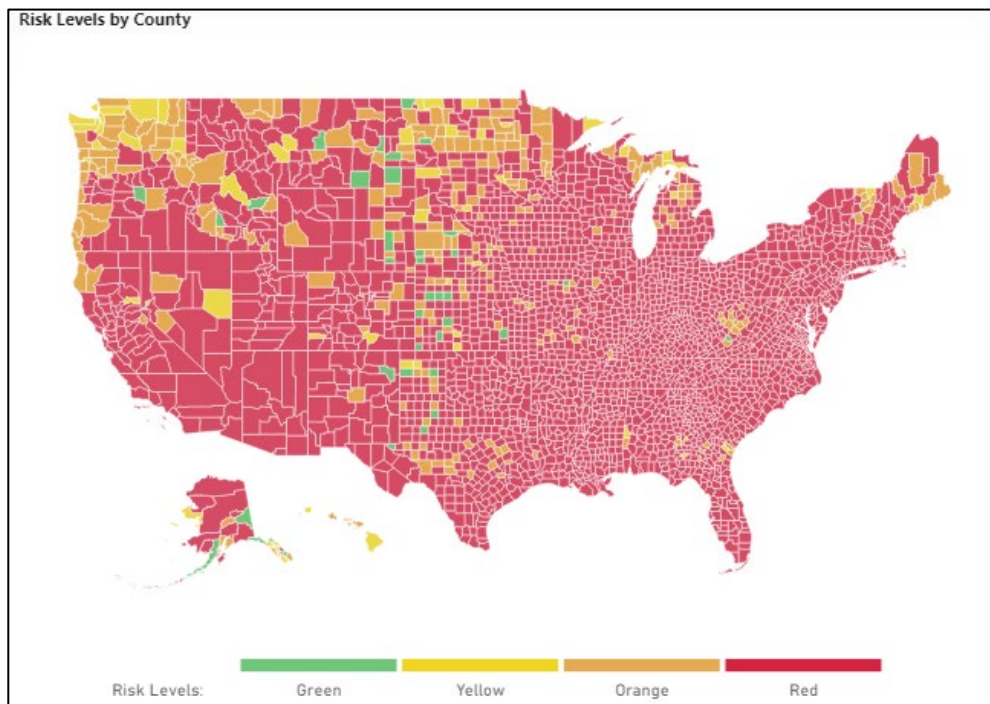


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

## 4. USA

### 4.1 COVID UPDATE



#	USA State	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	22,152,595	374,391	13,147,747	8,630,457	66,926	1,131	265,521,160	802,172	
1	<a href="#">California</a>	2,577,458	28,511	1,088,423	1,460,524	65,232	722	34,760,355	879,737	39,512,223
2	<a href="#">Florida</a>	1,429,722	22,491	758,758	648,473	66,568	1,047	16,451,278	765,969	21,477,737
3	<a href="#">New York</a>	1,116,929	39,149	487,698	590,082	57,415	2,012	26,572,232	1,365,932	19,453,561
4	<a href="#">Arizona</a>	584,593	9,741	82,155	492,697	80,315	1,338	3,384,395	464,971	7,278,717
5	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	723,630	11,230	353,342	359,058	68,155	1,058	5,979,704	563,197	10,617,423
6	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	387,917	5,312	32,368	350,237	45,447	622	5,440,271	637,369	8,535,519
7	<a href="#">Texas</a>	1,916,872	29,724	1,550,400	336,748	66,108	1,025	16,566,000	571,323	28,995,881
8	<a href="#">Missouri</a>	445,074	6,411	141,496	297,167	72,518	1,045	4,240,702	690,958	6,137,428
9	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	295,874	6,173	9,404	280,297	48,940	1,021	5,972,432	987,884	6,045,680
10	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	352,923	5,102	74,401	273,420	61,285	886	2,207,688	383,363	5,758,736
11	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	564,798	19,748	280,160	264,890	63,588	2,223	8,060,903	907,536	8,882,190
12	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	291,430	2,843	38,173	250,414	65,231	636	3,565,044	797,964	4,467,673
13	<a href="#">Illinois</a>	1,008,045	18,941	753,882	235,222	79,550	1,495	13,803,946	1,089,342	12,671,821
14	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	699,045	17,272	499,022	182,751	54,604	1,349	7,761,244	606,253	12,801,989
15	<a href="#">Michigan</a>	555,747	13,873	363,611	178,263	55,648	1,389	8,946,658	895,843	9,986,857
16	<a href="#">Indiana</a>	546,499	8,823	360,087	177,589	81,177	1,311	5,950,922	883,947	6,732,219
17	<a href="#">Alabama</a>	394,287	5,191	211,684	177,412	80,414	1,059	2,035,708	415,181	4,903,185
18	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	338,112	5,661	159,700	172,751	65,669	1,099	3,895,919	756,678	5,148,714
19	<a href="#">Washington</a>	267,779	3,762	111,883	152,134	35,165	494	3,987,138	523,597	7,614,893

## 4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [Dollar General plans to pay employees to get COVID-19 vaccination](#)  
 Dollar Giant is reportedly offering its frontline employees four hours of pay for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, to compensate for the time away from work to receive the vaccine. Front line dollar store employees likely receive close to minimum wage, and four hours of their time may be worthwhile for the company to pay for in an effort to ensure reduction of sick days and possible transmission for employees. It is unclear whether this incentive is enough for employees who do not want to receive the vaccine. It is likely that many employees would have taken the vaccine regardless, therefore not requiring the company to pay for their time. The company's best efforts should be focused on those who are less likely to take the vaccine without incentive. As previously suggested in the report, it is best to make it difficult for employees to not take the vaccine; for example, to have them jump through hoops including filling in forms as to why they do not want to take the vaccine. It is easy to make an inaction, such as not taking a vaccine; however, if this inaction becomes an action, such as requiring a form to be filled, it may cause more motivation to complete the task to begin with.
- [CDC Expands Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement to All Air Passengers Entering the United States](#)  
 This week, the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have made the requirements for a negative COVID-19 test for all air passengers who are entering the USA. Both pre- and post-air travel testing is recommended as a critical layer to ensure reduction in the transmission of COVID-19. CDC also recommends

being tested three to five days after arrival, as well as staying home for seven days after arrival. Those that cannot provide documentation to the airline will be denied boarding to the flight. Although testing does not eliminate all risks, when combined with the above precautions as well as masks and social distancing, it is an important pillar of an effective overall strategy. This order is effective starting January 26, 2021.

- [USA Virus death toll surpassed 375,000](#)
- [US reports record-setting 4,300 Covid deaths in a single day](#)
- [Air Travel Hits Pandemic High, Adding to Fears of Yet More Case Surges and the New Variant](#)

### 4.3 USA Awareness

- [Trump condemns Capitol Hill violence in video that does not mention impeachment](#)

After the congress voted to impeach President Trump for a second time, a first for any President in US history, condemning the attack on the Capitol last week. President Trump told his supporters that anyone who uses political violence is not a supporter of his, and that doing the things that happened at the Capitol is against what America is about, and that those who participate in those activities “do not support” the movement. He additionally told federal agencies to use all necessary resources in an effort to maintain order during the transition. As President Trump can no longer post on Twitter, this video was uploaded by the White House profile. It is believed that President Trump will attempt to maintain the transition of power. However, the inauguration is now so heavily under the microscope, that it is possible other groups may try to hijack any protests and make an attack appear to be coming from the Trump supporters or other activist groups. It is likely that the unknown threats may be more dangerous than the currently feared possibilities. Proper security measures are expected to be utilized at inauguration which will ensure a smooth transition. Possible injuries may increase hospital numbers and together with COVID-19 difficulties, it is possible hospitals and other organizations may experience disruptions or difficulties during the demonstrations. Hiring of security professionals may assist in the smooth operation of businesses in spite of protests and other disruptions. With President Trump now quiet on a stolen election, it is possible his followers will act in a way that reflects that they are proud to be American; freedom of speech, democracy, due process, and the ability to protest regardless of future outcome. Although demonstrations are planned in cities all over the US, it is unlikely these will make an impact on the transition.
- [Donald Trump becomes 1st U.S. president to be impeached for a 2nd time](#)

U.S. President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives for a historic second time Wednesday, charged with "incitement of insurrection" over the deadly mob siege of the Capitol in a swift and stunning collapse of his final days in office. With the Capitol secured by armed National Guard troops inside and out, the House voted 232-197 to impeach Trump. The proceedings moved at lightning speed, with lawmakers voting just one week after violent pro-Trump loyalists stormed the U.S. Capitol, egged on by the president's calls for them to "fight like hell" against the election results.
- [F.B.I. Urges Police Chiefs Across U.S. to Be On High Alert for Threats](#)
- [Biden's \\$1.9 trillion rescue package offers bridge for hard-hit economy](#)
- [Dozens of people on FBI terrorist watch list came to D.C. the day of Capitol riot](#)

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



During the week of 7-14 January 2021, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (72%), followed by oil and gas (12%). Protests made up the majority of activity (52%), followed by critical commentary (9%) and marches (6%).

Overall activity decreased through the holiday period, but has increased in recent weeks, especially following the occupation of the US Capitol. This uptick in activity is expected to continue in advance of Inauguration Day.

**Protests:** Despite the pandemic, activists continue to organize in-person protests to broadcast their campaigns and demands. Many organizers have incorporated physical distancing and mask-wearing adaptations to limit the risk of gathering for protests. California, New York, Texas and Washington saw the most protests this week.

In the wake of the 6 January occupation of the US Capitol building, left-wing activists, particularly those affiliated with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) campaign, have continued to criticize the differences in how police responded to the Pro-Trump protesters and BLM protesters after George Floyd's death.

There has been continued opposition, direct actions, and protests against Enbridge's Line 3 near Palisade, Minnesota. On 9 January, hundreds of anti-Line 3 campaigners gathered to protest against the construction of the pipeline. Eight activists were arrested during the protest.

On 19 January, Build Back Fossil Free (BBFF) will hold a day of action to demand the Biden administration takes action to address climate change. The campaign recommended three actions: banner photos, a 'Twitterstorm', and signing a petition.

An upcoming protest of interest will take place on 20 January. Far-right groups have promoted a 'Million Militia March' in Washington, DC to protest against the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. However, it is unclear how organizers will adjust to the new security measure in the capital. There are also several far-right 'patriot' actions organized on 16 January and warnings of Boogaloo-inspired protests on 17 January at US state capitols.

**Outlook:** Welund continues to monitor covid-19 cases across the US for indications that additional lockdown measures may inspire protests and demonstrations, similar to those that attracted nationwide media attention in April and May. The lead up to the presidential inauguration will see continued activism by activists on the far left and right between now and Inauguration Day on 20 January. The 6 January incident at the Capitol and impeachment of Donald Trump is likely to fuel even further conflicts. Welund anticipates that Inauguration Day will see protests by activists on the left and right of the political spectrum. It is unlikely that far-right protesters will be able to recreate the conditions necessary for a dramatic action like the one seen during the occupation of the US Capitol. Organizers will need to contend with the additional security measures put in place since that event. Beyond Washington, DC, state capitols are a potential target for far-right activists before and on Inauguration Day. There were scattered protests at state capitols by pro-Trump protesters on 6 January. The occupation of the US Capitol may inspire a new wave of counter-protesting by anti-Trump and anti-fascist groups.



Figure 4 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund North America.

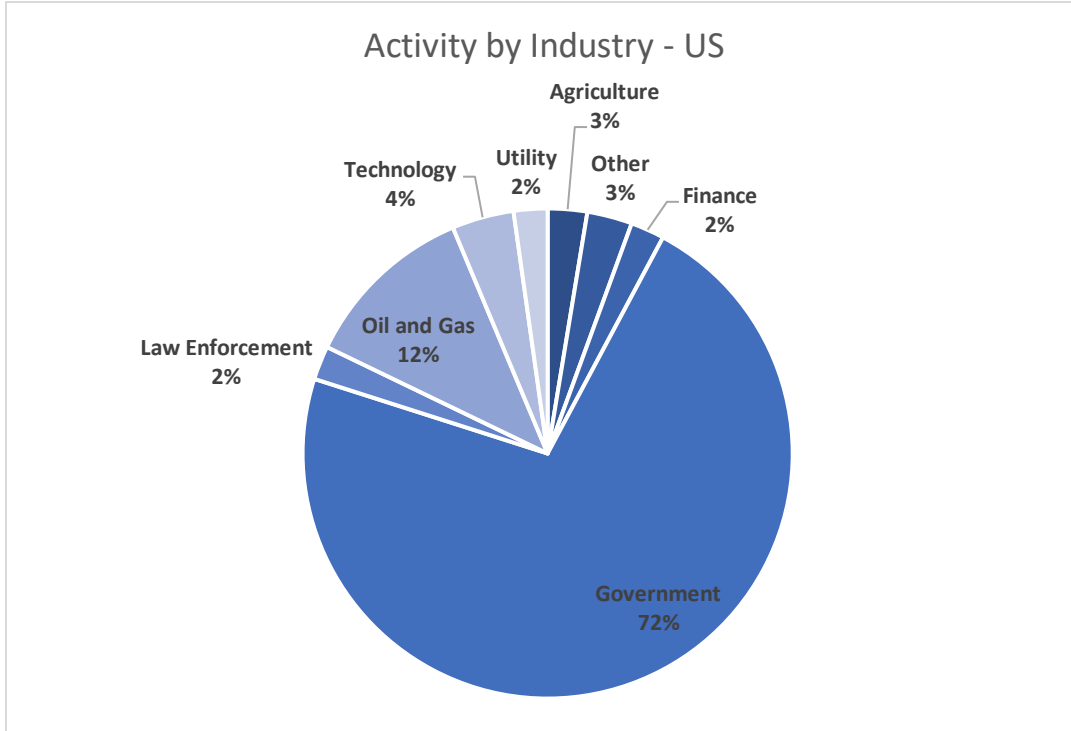


Figure 5 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

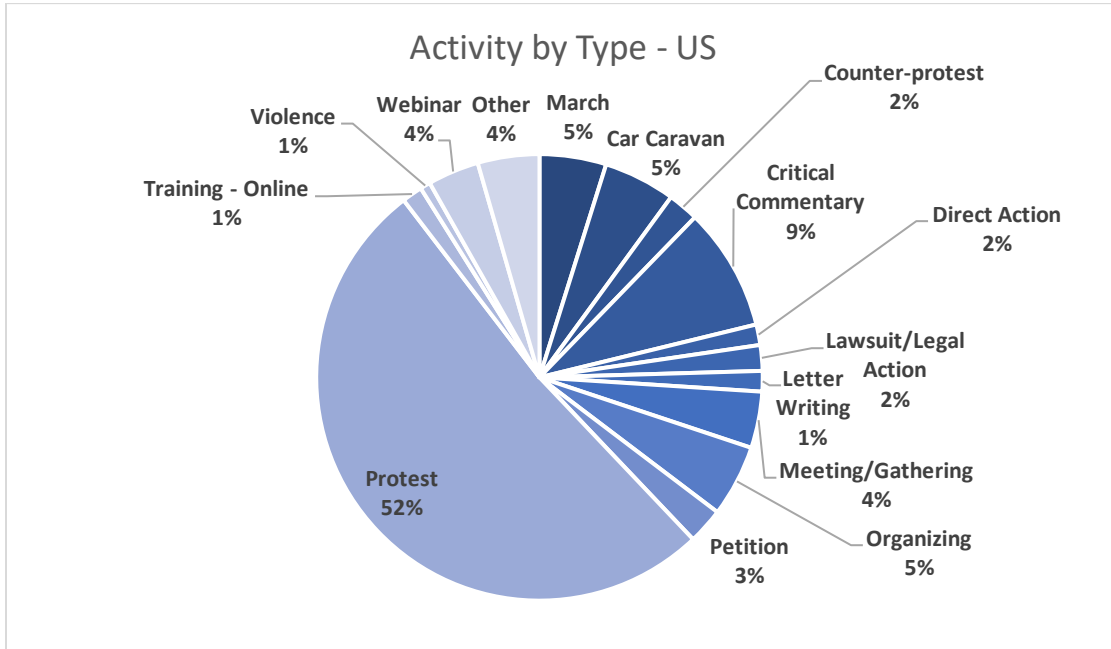



Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund North America.

## End Report

Please submit feedback to:



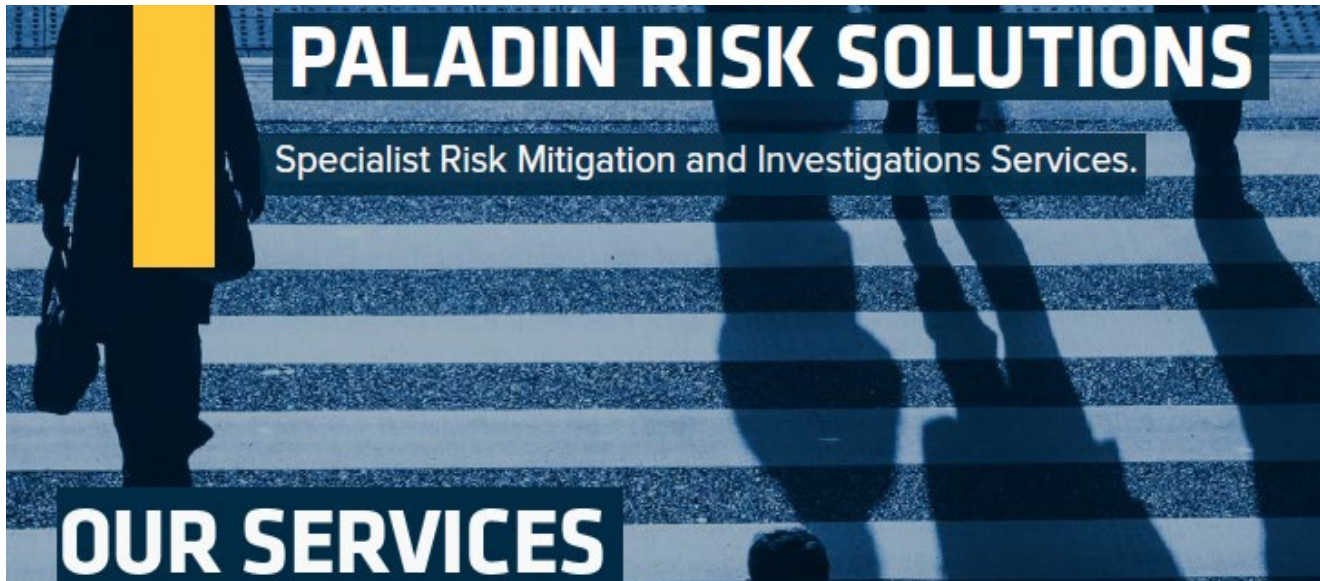
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