



**Paladin  
Risk Solutions**

# **INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



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## 1. CURRENT SITUATION

**Travel Restrictions.** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced today that Air Canada, WestJet, Sunwing and Air Transat will suspend service to some Caribbean and Mexican destinations until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. The companies will help arrange flights home for their customers who are currently in these regions. The government will be introducing mandatory PCR testing at airports for those returning to Canada in addition to pre-boarding tests that are already required. Travellers will subsequently have to wait up to three days at an approved hotel for their test results, at their own expense, which is expected to be more than \$2,000. Those with a negative test result will then be able to complete their 14-day quarantine at home, with increased surveillance.

Starting next week a significant change to air travel will include all international passenger flights being made to land at only four airports - Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, and Montreal. Furthermore, in the next few weeks, non-essential travelers will have to show a negative test before entry at the land border with the United States. There are many professionals that live in US border towns and commute from their primary residence to work in Canada. Lawyers, doctors, and police officers are just a few of these professionals.

The aforementioned measures are in tune with Australia who has been requiring most travellers to quarantine at a government-arranged hotel for 14 days at a cost of AUD \$2,800 per adult and \$4,620 for a family of four. Additionally, the U.K. instituted similar measures yesterday and now requires citizens arriving from many of the high-risk countries to quarantine in hotels for 10 days, at their own expense.

Since March 2020, Canada has banned non-essential travel into the country for anyone who is not a citizen or permanent resident.

**Right Wing Extremism (RWE).** Concerns persist, and are evidenced in mainstream media, around increasing RWE activity in the US and Canada. The Guardian reported this week that the leader of the Proud Boys, 36 year old Enrique Tarrio, a high-profile figure who organizes and leads the rightwing Proud Boys, was an FBI informant<sup>1</sup>. Tarrio assisted investigations by working under cover following his 2012 arrest. Tarrio was also arrested in early January when he arrived in the city two days before the Capitol Hill riot. He was charged with possessing two high-capacity rifle magazines and burning a Black Lives Matter banner during a December demonstration by supporters of Donald Trump. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors U.S. extremists, has recorded a 55% increase in the number of white nationalist hate groups since 2017. The Capitol Hill riot is very significant as it indicated the level of interconnectivity between RWE group members, supporters, and followers. Among the participants that day were members of the Oath Keepers - who often recruit current and former military, police and other first responders; the Proud Boys - a neo-fascist group; and followers of the cult QAnon - which spreads bizarre conspiracy theories and alleging that a secret cabal of Satan-worshipping, cannibalistic pedophiles is running a global child sex-trafficking ring and plotting against former U.S. president Donald Trump. It is further disturbing that a 30 May 2019 FBI "Intelligence Bulletin" identified QAnon-driven extremists as a domestic terrorism threat.

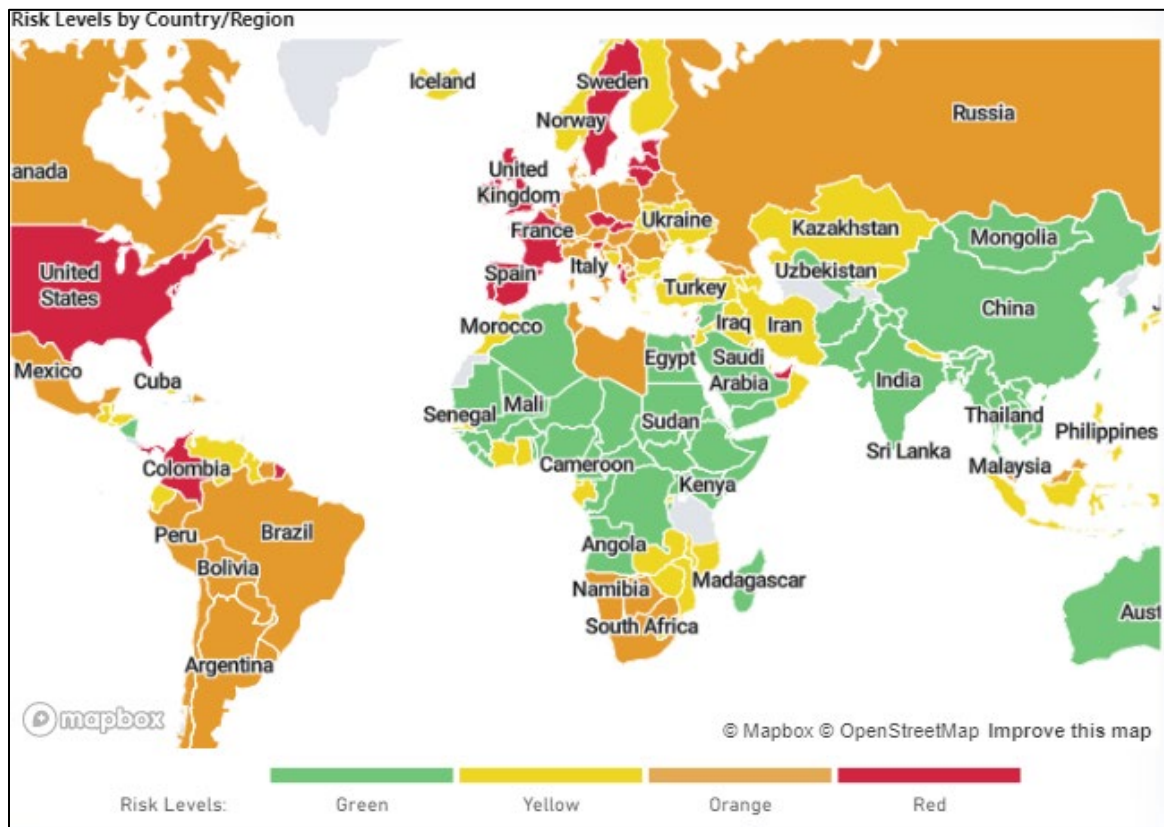
With these groups coordinating and appearing at public events together, there is additional concern that opposing Left Wing Extremist groups may come into conflict at any future public events. Paladin Risk Solutions, in cooperation with Welund, continue to monitor these developments and are available for further consultation.

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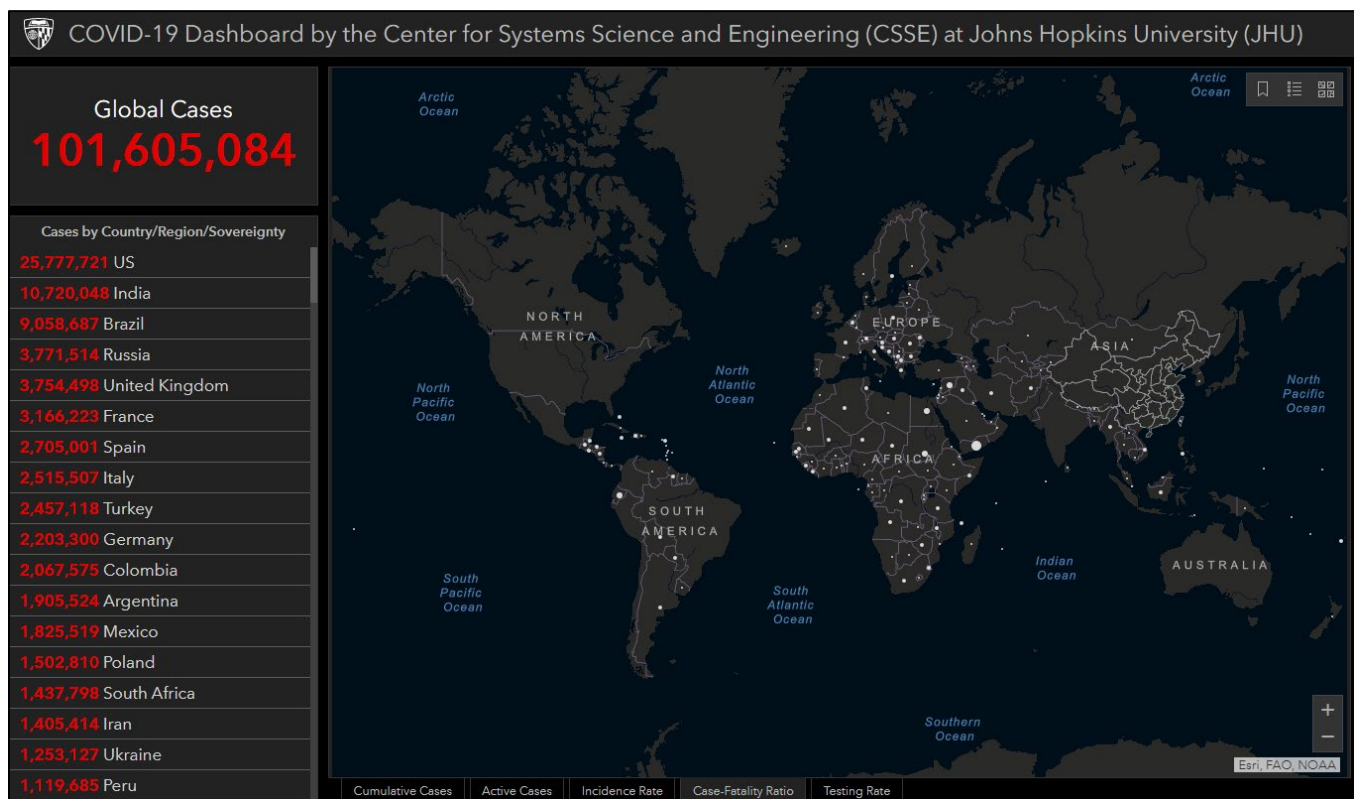
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/27/proud-boys-leader-enrique-tarrio-fbi-informant>

## 2. GLOBAL

### 2.1 COVID UPDATE



#	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	102,185,019	+170,985	2,203,975	+4,520	74,030,582	25,950,462	109,339	13,109	282.7			
1	<a href="#">USA</a>	26,350,122	+11,415	443,970	+190	16,073,346	9,832,806	25,483	79,338	1,337	306,576,893	923,078	332,124,463
2	<a href="#">France</a>	3,130,629		74,800		220,570	2,835,259	3,107	47,900	1,144	42,973,978	657,525	65,357,167
3	<a href="#">UK</a>	3,743,734		103,126		1,673,936	1,966,672	3,937	54,980	1,515	70,872,402	1,040,830	68,092,190
4	<a href="#">Brazil</a>	9,060,786		221,676		7,923,794	915,316	8,318	42,453	1,039	28,600,000	134,000	213,432,042
5	<a href="#">Belgium</a>	702,437	+2,775	20,982	+49	48,556	632,899	313	60,457	1,806	8,097,062	696,893	11,618,801
6	<a href="#">Russia</a>	3,813,048	+19,238	72,185	+534	3,255,462	485,401	2,300	26,122	495	101,100,000	692,605	145,970,742
7	<a href="#">Italy</a>	2,515,507		87,381		1,953,509	474,617	2,288	41,640	1,446	31,886,202	527,828	60,410,226
8	<a href="#">Serbia</a>	392,354	+1,717	3,983	+18	31,536	356,835	158	45,011	457	2,600,004	298,271	8,716,916
9	<a href="#">Mexico</a>	1,825,519	+18,670	155,145	+1,506	1,376,073	294,301	5,692	14,073	1,196	4,595,309	35,427	129,713,456
10	<a href="#">Germany</a>	2,195,824	+1,230	56,288	+68	1,898,900	240,636	4,437	26,160	671	38,533,736	459,068	83,939,021
11	<a href="#">Poland</a>	1,502,810	+6,144	36,780	+336	1,257,352	208,678	1,400	39,733	972	8,562,280	226,380	37,822,558
12	<a href="#">Switzerland</a>	521,320	+1,916	9,343	+35	317,600	194,377	267	59,983	1,075	4,295,607	494,250	8,691,170
13	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>	1,211,593	+5,181	22,479	+128	1,003,341	185,773	177	27,801	516	6,184,320	141,904	43,580,891
14	<a href="#">Portugal</a>	698,583	+13,200	11,886	+278	504,886	181,811	806	68,627	1,168	7,104,260	697,903	10,179,440
15	<a href="#">India</a>	10,720,971		154,047		10,394,352	172,572	8,944	7,725	111	195,081,079	140,566	1,387,827,050



## 2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [The Proportion of SARS-CoV-2 Infections That Are Asymptomatic](#)

A recent not yet peer reviewed or published study had conducted a meta-analysis of studies which looked at asymptomatic patients. The researchers only included studies which conducted PCR testing, as well as studies which looked at antibody testing to detect a previous infection. For studies looking at longitudinal data, out of those who tested positive but did not have symptoms at the time of testing, about 75% never developed any symptoms. Other data suggests that about one third of infections are asymptomatic. Furthermore, age did not appear to be a factor in frequency of asymptomatic infection, showcasing that there is a group of individuals who appear to have negative reactions to the virus, but health care professionals are unable to predict who is in that group that may face a severe infection.

- [Vaccinated People Are Going to Hug Each Other](#)

Despite vaccinations being hailed as the solution to the virus, until COVID-19 cases are virtually nonexistent, even those who are vaccinated may still transmit the virus, get mild infections which may become chronic, with the vaccine possibly not as effective against the new variants. For these reasons, it is unclear when, or even if, officials will stop recommending safety precautions for the vaccinated. These types of risk mitigation strategies will still be required in public and especially indoors places until infections reduce. However, telling people that nothing changes after vaccination except the reduction in the possibility of personal infection or severe disease, creates the impression to the public that vaccinations do not have any benefits. This is especially true for those who do not see any possible negatives from getting COVID-19, with so many infections having little impact of a person's life or health, or even go unnoticed. For many, the reasons for getting a vaccine are literally so that they are able to participate in life's normal activities which they can no

longer do. Therefore, other than self-protection, the vaccine may appear to some that it does not currently offer any benefits to those who are of low risk to having negative consequences from COVID-19. This will be a factor in increasing vaccine hesitation, as for many, staying infection free is not the only thing that matters in their overall lives. Vaccinations were supposed to portray the end of the pandemic, and for many, they are not satisfying that need, causing further pandemic fatigue.

- [How can we get more vaccines faster? Experts say 'it's just not that easy'](#)

With only so many vaccines manufactured and delivered, officials are advising that it is not as easy as expected to get more vaccine doses. Some ingredients have never been produced before at the volume required, factories need to be retooled or expanded, and syringes and vials need to be produced. Additionally, tools for one vaccine may not be required for the other, and even just one material missing will prevent the vaccine from being ready. As work is completed 24/7, any time lost cannot be made up and the same capacity of vaccine manufacturing is lost forever.

- [Coronavirus variant sweeps South Africa, exhibiting 'terrifying' dominance](#)

Even before the new variant surfaced, South Africa was already one of the countries which saw the brunt of the pandemic. Six weeks ago, a new variant was detected, which has since become a dominant variant, accounting for about 90% of the cases sequenced for it. Scientists called the variant's ability to dominate "amazing and terrifying", suggesting other countries will see similar fates. The variant has already been seen in at least 33 countries and caused many countries including the USA to impose travel bans on South Africa. The USA is already reporting community transmission cases of the variant in people who have no travel history. Moderna has recently advised that its vaccine is less effective with this variant and are currently developing a booster shot to see if it helps reduce the spread of this specific variant. Dozens of cases of individuals who have had a previous infection of the main strain of COVID-19, suggesting anyone that had a mild case or has a low antibody count may get reinfected. South Africa has also seen an increase in excess deaths in the past couple of weeks, with reports of people waiting up to six hours to be able to receive oxygen. It is imperative to ensure the containment of this strain in other countries in an effort to avoid a similar outcome as being seen in South Africa.

- [Some European Countries Move To Require Medical-Grade Masks In Public](#)

Not all masks are created equally, and some European countries including Germany and Australia are requiring that people wear surgical grade respirators. Germany has implemented a law making medical masks (surgical masks, KN95 or FFP2 masks) are to be used in stores and on public transit and is noting that these offer greater protection than cloth masks, which are not "subject to any standards with regard to their effectiveness". Austria put similar rules into effect on Monday, now requiring FFP2 masks or the equivalent in settings including transit, carpooling, businesses open to the public and indoor and outdoor markets. To ensure wide adoption of the new regulations, Austria said it would distribute 1.2 million free masks. Large supermarket chains will also hand out free masks in the first days of the new rules. The WHO has suggested that fabric masks are suitable for people under 60 who do not have underlying health conditions.

- [Sanofi to help produce 100 million Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine doses](#)

Sanofi, a French company currently conducting clinical trials for their own vaccine, advised that their vaccine has not shown sufficient immune response in older adults and delayed its launch to later this year. Pfizer and AstraZeneca are struggling to meet the world's demand for the vaccine, so instead, Sanofi will assist Pfizer in making 100 million doses of their vaccine in Sanofi's facility. Sanofi is still working on another COVID-19 vaccine candidate using similar technology to Pfizer, mRNA, and is committed to its clinical trials, starting soon.



- [What the COVID-19 variants could mean for masks, lockdowns and vaccines](#)

Despite the new variants possibly having more effect on the healthcare system, it does not make much of a difference on personal dealing with the virus. Dr. Anthony Fauci recommended wearing two masks instead of one, but overall keeping the same measures of keeping distance, washing hands, and not touching one's face, and wearing a mask will assist in protecting people from the new variant.

- [China rolls out anal swab coronavirus test, saying it's more accurate than throat method](#)

## 2.3 Global Awareness

- [Saudi Arabia's Ousted Spymaster Is Accused of Embezzling Billions Lawsuit filed in Canada by Saudi state-owned companies targets a long-time ally of the kingdom's former crown prince](#)

State-owned companies of Saudi Arabia have sued the country's former spymaster in a Canadian court, alleging he embezzled billions of dollars, in a case that throws a spotlight on a bitter royal feud. Ten companies owned by Tahakom Investments Co., a subsidiary of Saudi Arabia's sovereign-wealth fund, filed the civil suit in Ontario Superior Court against Saad al Jabri, who fled the kingdom and is now living in Canada. Mr. Jabri is the former top aide of Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, known as MBN, who was removed as crown prince in 2017 by King Salman in favor of his son, Mohammed bin Salman, or MBS. Saudi authorities detained MBN last year and accused him of plotting a coup.

- ["GameStop effect" could ripple further as Wall Street eyes short squeeze candidates](#)

A group on Reddit decided to try to come together to increase the stock price of Game Stop, a publicly traded fund which was struggling for a lengthy amount of time. Many investors have bet on the stock declining even further, in a bet known as a "short sale" where investors borrow a share and sell it in hopes of buying it back later at a lower price and pocketing the difference, with GameStop being one of the most shorted stock on Wall Street. However, if the opposite occurs, the investors are forced to buy back the stock at a loss. However, a group of investors on Reddit came together and increased its share from under \$20 to over \$340, showcasing the power of people crowdfunding on the internet and its effect on stock markets. A number of Hedge funds closed out short positions in GameStop earlier this week after buying pressure pushed up the company's shares. GameStop shares were recently down 25% on Thursday as retail brokerages Robinhood Markets Inc and Interactive Brokers Inc, restricted purchases of the stock, along with several others that have catapulted in recent days, including AMC Entertainment Group Inc and BlackBerry Ltd. Even so, the video game retailer's shares have gained more than 500% since last Thursday.

- [Israel's Early Vaccine Data Offers Hope](#)

Israel's early vaccine data shows that those amongst those who received the two doses, positive infections dropped significantly, with only 0.014% of vaccinated contracting the virus. Additionally, those who received one dose only saw between a 33% to 60% reduction in infection. Israel is reportedly being moved to the front of the line for Pfizer vaccines as it was willing to share its anonymous health data with Pfizer. It additionally also paid almost double what the EU paid for its vaccine, but Israel advised that it was only looking for 10 million while the EU was negotiating for a much larger amount.

- [China sharpens language, warns Taiwan that independence 'means war'](#)
- [UK's Johnson welcomes Novavax trial result, regulators will assess it](#)
- [U.N. chief Guterres hopes for 'reset' in U.S.-China relations](#)

## 2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

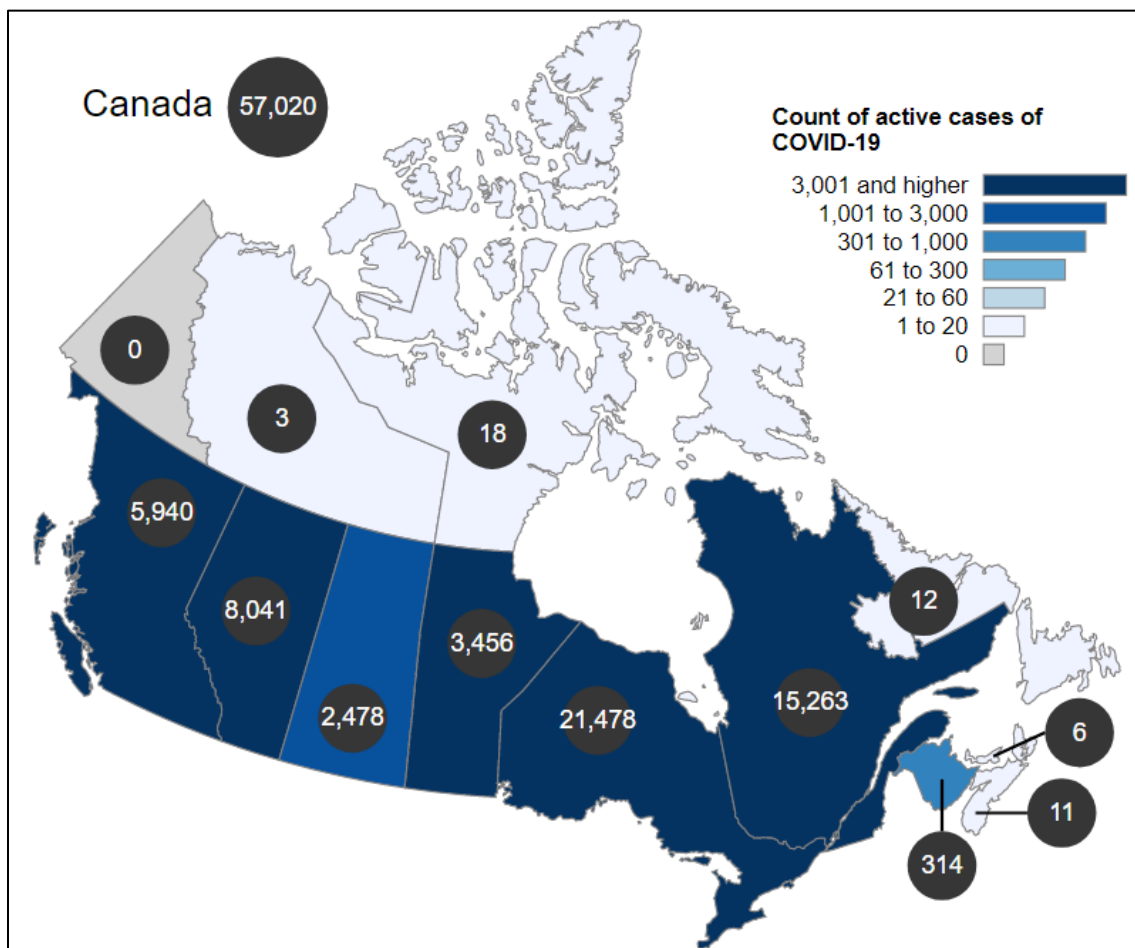
- [Poland: Thousands protest as abortion law comes into effect](#)

Wednesday saw Poland's new abortion law go into effect, which outlaws the practice. Abortions will only be allowed when they involve rape, incest, or danger to the mother's life. Poland already sees very little abortions performed due to doctors refusing to perform the procedures due to their religious beliefs. However, about 200,000 Polish women seek abortion each either, many of whom go abroad or may seek illegal abortions at home. Thousands took to the streets, most of whom were women, demonstrating against the law and attempting to sway public opinion.


- [Euston tunnel protest: Activists 'risk being drowned or suffocated'](#)
- [Tension at Delhi border as farmers told to vacate protest sites](#)

## 3. CANADA

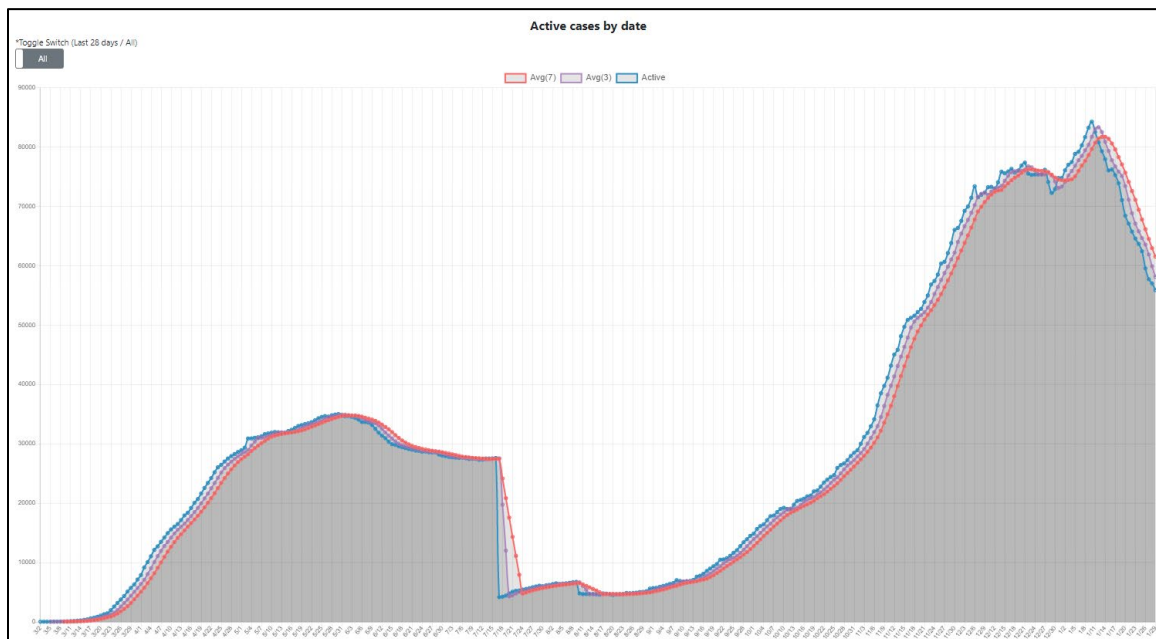
### 3.1 COVID UPDATE





Prov.	Total Confirmed	Total Deaths	Total Recovered	Total Active
<b>Total</b>	<b>767,939</b> (↑1,837)	<b>19,722</b> (↑58)	<b>692,321</b> (↑2,900)	<b>55,896</b> (-1121)
BC	66,265	1,184	59,141	5,940
ON	264,300 (↑1,837)	6,072 (↑58)	237,871 (↑2,900)	20,357 (-1121)
QC	258,698	9,667	233,768	15,263
AB	122,821	1,606	113,174	8,041
MB	29,128	821	24,851	3,456
NB	1,202	16	872	314
SK	23,038	285	20,275	2,478
PEI	110	0	104	6
NL	404	4	388	12
NS	1,576	65	1,500	11
YT	70	1	69	0
NT	31	0	31	0
NU	283	1	264	18
 Rate of change	↑ 0.2%	↑ 0.3%	↑ 0.4%	-2.0%

Prov.	Total Test	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,724,883</b>	-	-	-
BC	1,691,612	-	291	75
ON	9,495,531	48,386	1291 (-47)	360 (+2)
QC	5,758,183	-	1264	212
AB	3,142,545	-	591	112
MB	471,624	-	124	25
NB	193,956	-	4	2
SK	500,043	-	208	37
PEI	87,355	-	-	-
NL	79,067	-	1	0
NS	280,462	-	1	0
YT	6,264	17	-	-
NT	11,879	40	0	0
NU	6,362	344	0	0
Rate of change	↑ 0.0%	-	-	-



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

### 3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Canada-China vaccine collaboration began to fall apart days after Ottawa announced clinical trials](#)

An effort between Canada and China to jointly develop a COVID-19 vaccine began to fall apart just days after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Ottawa had given the green light for clinical trials. Trudeau told Canadians on May 16 that a Halifax research team to work with a Chinese manufacturer, CanSino Biologics Inc., was run the first Canadian clinical trials for this possible COVID-19 vaccine. The Ad5-nCoV vaccine candidate was backed by CanSino and China's Institute of Biotechnology of the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, and a collaboration agreement with Canada's Natural Research Council had been signed in early May. But as of May 19, Canada learned something went wrong, the government learned that a shipment of Ad5-nCoV vaccine candidate seeds destined for Canada was being held by the General Administration of Customs of China at Beijing Capital International Airport. The vaccine candidate seeds, a strain of virus that is the first step to developing a viable vaccine, never made it to Canada. However, this information was never made public until late August.

- [Dr. Bonnie Henry tells British Columbians to 'do more.' But many wonder, what more can they do?](#)

British Columbians pushed back against Dr. Bonnie Henry's Monday message, that requested people do more for the next two weeks. Recent numbers in BC show a plateau, with numbers not increasing or decreasing, but daily cases and hospitalizations remain high. However, the Leader of the Green Party, Sonia Furstenuau, wondered whether the advice was helpful, as most people are staying home and restricting their dealing with others. Dr. Henry referenced the new variants and the importance of limiting travel in the next few weeks to ensure the variants do not spread. BC has not implemented a COVID-zero approach, unlike other jurisdictions, meaning that they are not looking to eliminate cases of the virus, likely due to the understanding that as long as borders are open, which are very difficult to close from a legal perspective, the virus cannot be eliminated,

and public health policy should reflect such. BC has more entry points than most other provinces with smaller populations, and is not remote, or an island like many of the Atlantic provinces.

- [Ontario reports nearly 2,100 new coronavirus cases, death toll surpasses 6,000](#)  
Ontario's numbers have fluctuated this week, with the province seeing anywhere from 1,670 cases to 2,093 cases. The Ontario death toll has not surpassed 6,000, and 89% of cases have been resolved. Currently, there are 1,338 people hospitalized in Ontario with COVID-19, while 377 patients are in the ICU. Ontario is seeing its test positivity rate decrease by 1% from the week before, currently sitting at 3.3% for Thursday's numbers.
- [Number of deaths jumped 10% in Quebec in 2020 due to coronavirus, agency reports](#)  
Quebec has reported its deaths in 2020 was approximately 10% more than those reported in 2019. The usual yearly increase in deaths is about 2%, due to aging population, but an increase of this magnitude is exceptional and is related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Pfizer pushes Health Canada to stretch vaccine doses per vial as demand mounts](#)  
Pfizer recommended that Health Canada increase the number of doses it can extract from a single vial of the COVID-19 vaccine, from five to six. This will reduce the number of vials sent to Canada but increase the number of doses. The contract had reportedly been based on doses and not vials. Regular syringes can only draw out five doses from a vial, with some excess left. A special syringe called a low dead volume needle, can extract six doses. However, out of Canadian 145 million syringes ordered, only 37.5 million have been low dead volume needles. Without this specialized syringe it is unlikely that six doses can be extracted from a vial and pooling more than one vial's leftovers into one syringe is also not possible. The USA has already announced it will attempt to get the sixth dose out of the vial, suggesting that Canada may try to follow suite. Vaccination goals by the government continue to be September 2021 for all Canadians who wish to become vaccinated.
- [Rise in travel-related COVID-19 cases coincides with holiday vacation period, data suggests](#)  
Recent COVID-19 cases related to travel have increased, appears to occur after the holiday season, suggesting people may have travelled and transmitted the virus upon arrival. The numbers correspond with a recent increase of travel by air. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has warned that stronger measures may be coming to international travelers, and said that country specific bans may occur without notice, possibly stranding some Canadians should they occur.

### 3.3 Canada Awareness

- [More than \\$636M in CERB benefits paid to 300,000 teens aged 15 to 17, documents show](#)  
Over the course of the CERB program in Canada, the Canadian government paid almost \$636 million dollars to 300,000 Canadian between the age of 15 to 17. The criteria for CERB required that individuals who made \$5,000 the year prior were eligible for the benefit, and many teens with part time jobs fit the conditions. The program provided \$500 a week for 26 weeks, totalling \$13,000 per recipient. The group which was hit by the highest unemployment rate was 15- to 24-year-olds; however, many did not work full time or worked for minimum wage. The federal government has already sent letters to 500,000 Canadians regarding their eligibility and raising concerns that they may have to repay the benefits in December, also when Trudeau advised that about one million Canadians had already repaid their benefits after ineligibility. The CERB was touted as a quick response benefit to ensure that no Canadian goes without groceries or rent but had encompassed so many groups which may have not fit that criteria.

- [Chinese police training in B.C. an espionage risk, critics say](#)

Since 2013, The Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) has accepted close to 2,000 Chinese law enforcement students, recruits and officials, plus dozens of Chinese state judges, to its purported education and training programs. China, whose criminal conviction rate stands at 99.5%, partnered with JIBC to provide two-week training programs, and even included 19 judges from the Higher People's Court of Jiangsu, who received "an introduction to the Canadian legal and justice system." Human Rights Watch suggests that the "Chinese Communist Party maintains authority over all judicial institutions and coordinates the judiciary's work through its political and legal committees". The Chinese recruits would take tours of local police detachments, gained hands on training, and learned from specialized local police force units. JIBS advised that the Chinese are only interested in learning about Canadian police in Canada and have not been interested in programs done in Canada. This may facilitate espionage as those who attend are handpicked and have the duty to report on everything, including everyone they are meeting. Reportedly, SFU has faced similar pressures from China who wanted access to high level cyber security courses, but the course was blocked to students outside of the Five Eyes group of countries (New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, and the United States).

- [Opposition calls on Canadian government to stop contracting out visa applications to China-backed company](#)

Opposition MPs are urging the Canadian government to stop contracting out the work of processing visa applications, saying they are concerned that one of China's largest state-owned investment funds is among the biggest backers of a company the Canadian government currently entrusts with this task.

As first reported last December, VFS Global, which processes visa applications in dozens of countries for Canada, is majority-owned by EQT VII (No. 1) Limited Partnership, whose registered office is in Edinburgh.

Documents filed with Britain's corporate registry, Companies House, show Chengdong Investment Corp. as one of the backers of EQT VII. Chengdong is a subsidiary of China Investment Corp., a Chinese state-run giant with more than USD \$1 trillion in assets. Another investor is Eight Finance Investment Co. Ltd., which belongs to the Hong Kong sovereign wealth fund. VFS Global's Canadian website lists 83 countries where foreigners can use its services to apply for a Canadian visa. Another company it owns, TT Services, also has a contract to provide visa application services. These include collecting fingerprints, photos, biographical information, and other personal data.

- [How rapidly is Canada rolling out COVID-19 rapid testing?](#)

Despite the government approving the COVID-19 rapid tests months ago, pilot programs using the newly approved tests include people living on Vancouver's downtown east side, people who attend a pop-up site in Nova Scotia and staff and visitors in various long term care homes. The government does not have a published plan for the deployment of these tests and is yet able to procure large numbers of these. Over 40 million have been purchased and about 15 million have been delivered to Canada, which have been distributed across the various pilot projects. Experts do agree that these tests are not as effective as traditional PCR tests but can be done quickly and cheaply but contains up to a 30% false negative rate. Despite that, they are still effective in assisting in places where tests would otherwise not be given, such as in select high risk populations.

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



During the week of 21-28 January 2021, the majority of activist activity noted by Welund in Canada took place in the government sector (43%), followed by oil and gas (15%). Protests made up the majority of activity (28%), followed by critical commentary (26%).

Welund is projecting continued low activity in Canada over the next week, as campaigns respond to changing conditions after the change in US government and continuing, or increasing, covid-19 lockdown measures.

**Protests:** Protests in solidarity with the ‘Global Day of Action for Yemen’ resulted in activists targeting defense contractors and transport companies for their perceived role in manufacturing and supplying weapons to military groups involved in the War in Yemen. Protesters gathered outside the offices for the Canadian divisions of Raytheon and BAE Systems in Eastern Canada, as well as at a warehouse and shipping terminal for Paddock Transport in Hamilton.

Activists opposing the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) and Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipelines were motivated by President Joe Biden’s cancellation of KXL pipeline permits to urge the Canadian government to follow suit with similar action against pipeline infrastructure in Canada. A coalition of campaign groups sent an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau listing off their demands to have TMX and CGL cancelled immediately.

Anti-lockdown protesters continued their weekly campaigns, but experienced a more prominent response from law enforcement, especially in large cities. Marches and rallies were shut down and participants were arrested and fined for breaching various public health and emergency covid-19 measures.

**Outlook:** Opposition against TMX, CGL, and other fossil fuel or extractive resource infrastructure will likely see greater focus in the wake of the perceived victory over the KXL pipeline project. Activist groups have also welcomed permit cancellations for coal mines in Alberta and will likely attempt to continue the ‘momentum’ moving forward. The Edmonton chapter of the Council of Canadians will hold an Alberta-wide virtual ‘Say No to Coal’ townhall on 10 February to discuss opposition. The level of enforcement by police against anti-lockdown protests has done little to deter the weekly protests organized by larger activist groups. Arguably, this response has been exacerbated by increased uncertainty surrounding when lockdown measures will be lifted and the strain on small businesses, which has led groups to plan large-scale protests in upcoming weeks. The covid-19 inoculation program in Canada will also likely see increased focus from activists. Organizers have called for equitable access to the vaccine and have criticized provincial governments for unspent covid-19 emergency funds.



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

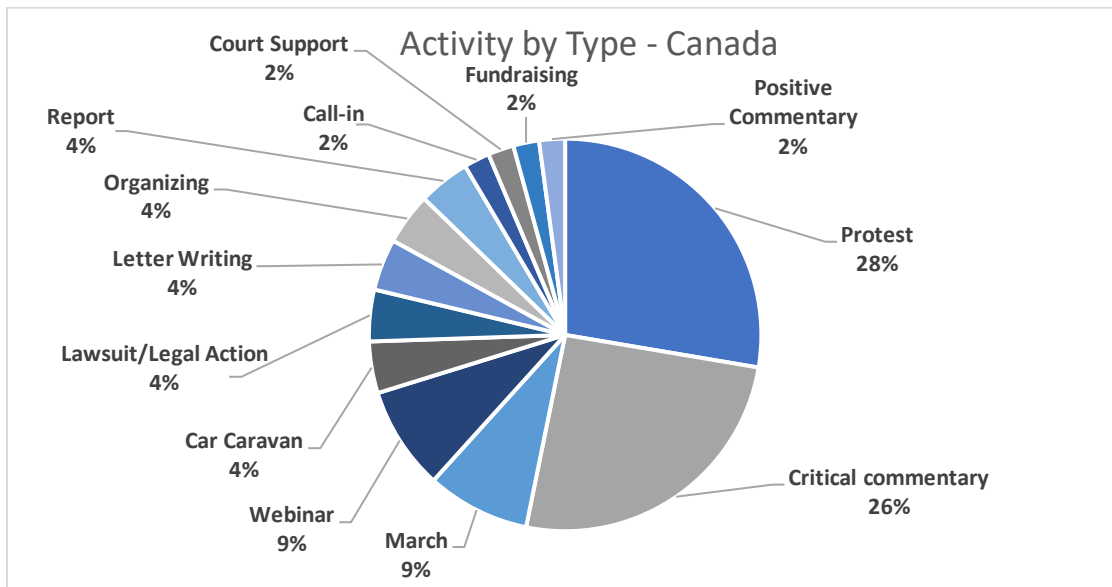


Figure 2 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund



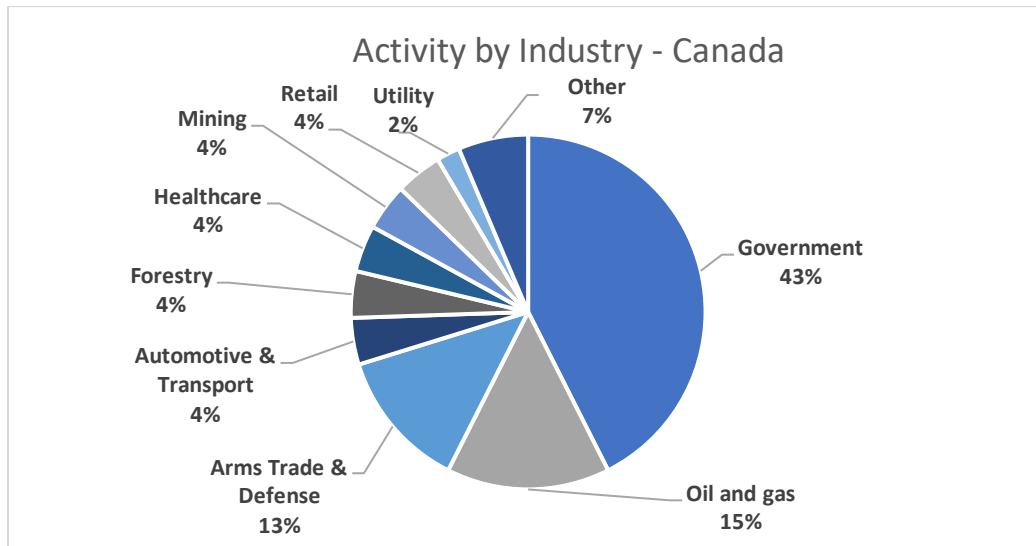
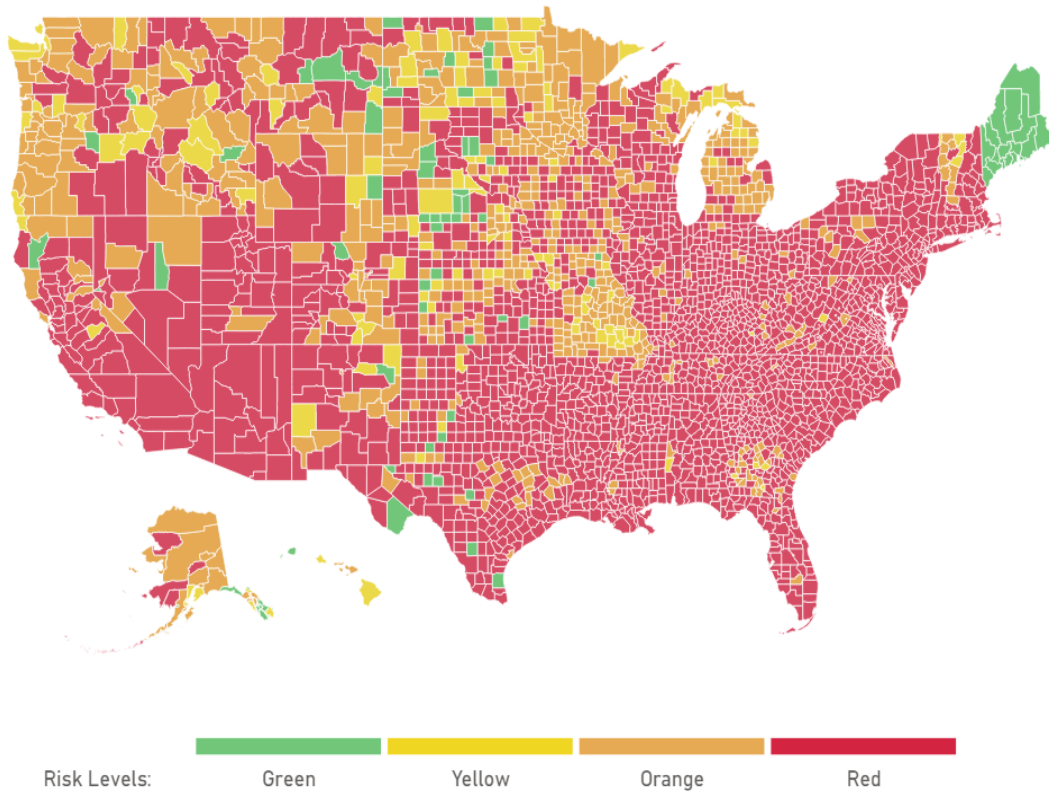


Figure 3 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

## 4. USA

### 4.1 COVID UPDATE

Risk Levels by County



#	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	26,350,122	+11,415	443,970	+190	16,073,346	9,832,806	79,607	1,341	306,576,893	926,207	
1	<a href="#">California</a>	3,260,175		39,576		1,525,809	1,694,790	82,511	1,002	41,470,634	1,049,565	39,512,223
2	<a href="#">New York</a>	1,419,485		43,200		535,198	841,087	72,968	2,221	31,378,817	1,613,011	19,453,561
3	<a href="#">Florida</a>	1,687,594		26,037		856,012	805,545	78,574	1,212	18,765,200	873,705	21,477,737
4	<a href="#">Arizona</a>	743,232		12,819		101,104	629,309	102,110	1,761	3,824,629	525,454	7,278,717
5	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	892,957		13,827		387,984	491,146	84,103	1,302	6,777,877	638,373	10,617,423
6	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	497,912	+4,238	6,379	+71	38,597	452,936	58,334	747	6,419,713	752,117	8,535,519
7	<a href="#">Texas</a>	2,336,841		36,530		1,926,595	373,716	80,592	1,260	19,593,108	675,720	28,995,881
8	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	350,629	+1,880	7,076	+39	9,482	334,071	57,997	1,170	6,918,308	1,144,339	6,045,680
9	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	355,877		3,611		42,684	309,582	79,656	808	3,985,343	892,040	4,467,673
10	<a href="#">Missouri</a>	491,868		7,305		182,515	302,048	80,142	1,190	4,815,665	784,639	6,137,428
11	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	391,699		5,569		101,901	284,229	68,018	967	2,375,776	412,552	5,758,736
12	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	681,283		21,301		375,834	284,148	76,702	2,398	9,270,072	1,043,670	8,882,190
13	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	431,169		6,903		191,902	232,364	83,743	1,341	4,799,498	932,174	5,148,714
14	<a href="#">Indiana</a>	619,995		9,879		401,700	208,416	92,094	1,467	6,884,491	1,022,618	6,732,219
15	<a href="#">Alabama</a>	452,734		7,340		242,143	203,251	92,335	1,497	2,220,172	452,802	4,903,185

## 4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [Potential Solutions to the COVID-19 Oxygen Crisis in the United States](#)

Oxygen shortages are occurring because a large number of patients require oxygen therapy as part of their COVID-19 treatment. Over the course of the pandemic, medical providers have seen the survival benefits of providing high flow nasal oxygen, rather than mechanical ventilation, to many COVID-19 patients. The challenge is that high flow oxygen therapy uses roughly 5 to 10 times the amount of oxygen as a mechanical ventilator. Some hospitals have come up with novel solutions including making a new, secondary oxygen line that bypass the current one, allowing more oxygen to flow without freezing the vaporizers. Improvising the water sprinkler system can also keep the external vaporizers from freezing. Hospitals are also conserving oxygen by lowering the saturation threshold adequate for patient care. Solutions are still required with regards to having healthcare professionals conserve oxygen when not needed, sharing oxygen related equipment across states, basing their resources on patient surges.

- ['This is fantastic': Mass vaccination clinics to play key role in ending COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Biden is looking to vaccinate as many as 1.5 million people a day, which will require logistical assistance like never before seen. New high-volume vaccination centers will assist in ending the pandemic in the USA and will be assisted by the federal government despite each state having its own mass vaccination plans dependent on the amount of people they can get into the vaccination clinics. As such, careful planning, and execution of these is an important aspect of ending the pandemic.

- [Just as Covid-19 numbers were dropping, a concerning strain detected in South Africa is now in the US](#)
- [Biden announces purchase of 200M vaccine doses](#)

#### 4.3 USA Awareness

- [U.S. terrorism alert warns of politically motivated violence](#)  
The Department of Homeland Security issued a national terrorism bulletin Wednesday warning of the potential for lingering violence from people motivated by anti-government sentiment after President Joe Biden's election, suggesting the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol may embolden extremists and set the stage for additional attacks. The department did not cite a specific threat but pointed to "a heightened threat environment across the United States" that it believes "will persist" for weeks after Biden's Jan. 20 inauguration.
- [Biden struggles to define his 'unity' promise for a divided nation](#)  
If Biden has a slogan for what he is offering Americans, it is unity. However, even a definition of unity cannot be agreed upon, as Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren said the unity was for democrats being "unified against insurrection", while others heard the message as unity between the two parties. Republicans are worried that many of the executive orders signed by President Biden, with the exception of some COVID-19 related measures, have been the policies of the far left, and do not affect Americans, showcasing that he may not interested in discussion with Republicans in regard to some of the content within the measures. With a slim margin of majority and a large number of Americans criticizing his actions, Biden must ensure he is not alienating his opponents, whether Republicans who he may require for measures to pass, or the Americans who did not vote for him.
- [As Biden vows monumental action on climate change, a fight with the fossil fuel industry has only begun](#)  
President Biden had previously expressed his desire the climate president, and in line with his promise, he signed a number of executives order this week that shift the USA away from fossil fuels, creating jobs in renewable energy, and conserve federal lands and waters by banning oil and gas permitting on those them. A letter to Biden written by Republican attorney general from six states suggests that the states have had successfully challenged unauthorized executive, including some against the Obama administration. Federal fossil fuel leasing has provided the government with over \$8 billion in tax revenue in 2020 alone, a number which will be reduced overtime as the leasing is compacted.
- [Biden reopens online health insurance marketplaces, citing 'damage' from Trump](#)  
President Joe Biden on Thursday reopened the nation's online health insurance marketplace for people who cannot obtain coverage through their employers, in a move he said was aimed at undoing "damage" done by his predecessor Donald Trump. In an executive order, Biden restored access to healthcare.gov, allowing Americans to sign up for insurance through the government exchange for four months starting in February. Biden additionally directed federal agencies to "re-examine" Trump-era policies like work requirements that made it more difficult for people to qualify for Medicaid, the government-run health insurance program for the poor.
- [Weekly initial jobless claims fall slightly to 847,000 vs. estimates of 875,000](#)
- [California lawmakers agree to help cover some unpaid rent](#)

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



During the week of 21-28 January 2021, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (52%), followed by oil and gas (22%) and utility (10%). Protests made up the majority of activity (36%), followed by webinars (12%) and critical commentary (7%). Overall, there has been less activity since President Biden's inauguration.

Activist campaigns have been focused on the Biden administration and the issues that the administration will and will not address. Left-wing campaigners are pressuring Biden to follow through on promises of change and be a 'climate president.' There was a notable decline in activity from the far-right, which may be attributed to the widespread de-platforming earlier in the month.

**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, Massachusetts, and Washington saw the most protests this week.

There has been continued opposition, direct actions, and protests against Enbridge's Line 3 in Minnesota. On 22 January, two anti-Line 3 activists were arrested after they entered trenches at a worksite and delayed work on the pipeline. Activists repeated the tactic of entering trenches to obstruct work on 25 January and 26 January.

On 23 January, over 100 protesters gathered outside the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Portland to "demand the abolition of the agency." Anti-ICE activists claimed that "DHS & police attacked the demonstration, using toxic amounts of tear gas and making targeted arrests of medics & press."

**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 2020 and those taking place in Canada. Activists will continue to build on Keystone XL (KXL) success, and use the decision to call on Biden to cancel other pipelines, like the Dakota Access Pipeline and Line 3 pipeline. On 8-14 February 2021, the Build Back Fossil Free (BBFF) campaign will host a 'week of action' demanding that President Biden "build back fossil free" and hold him "accountable to his promises for bold climate action."

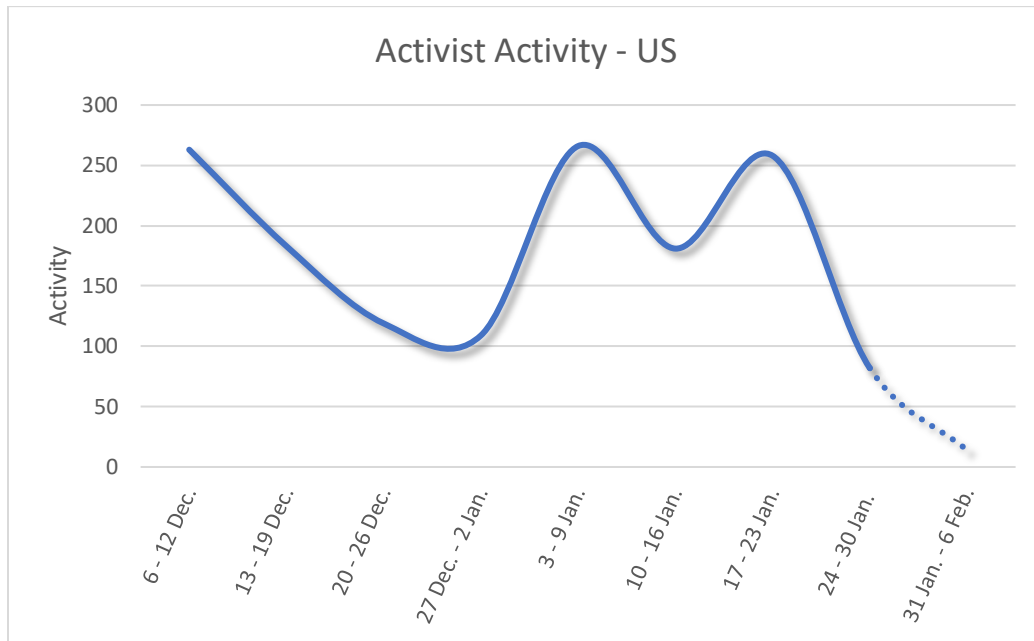


Figure 4 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund North America.

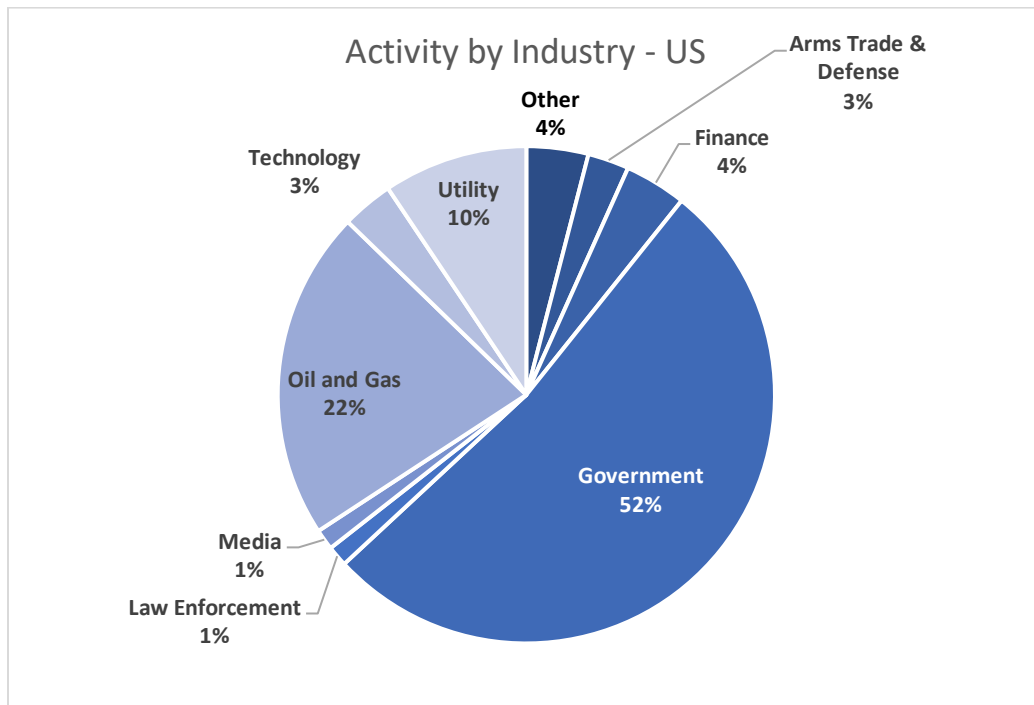


Figure 5 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

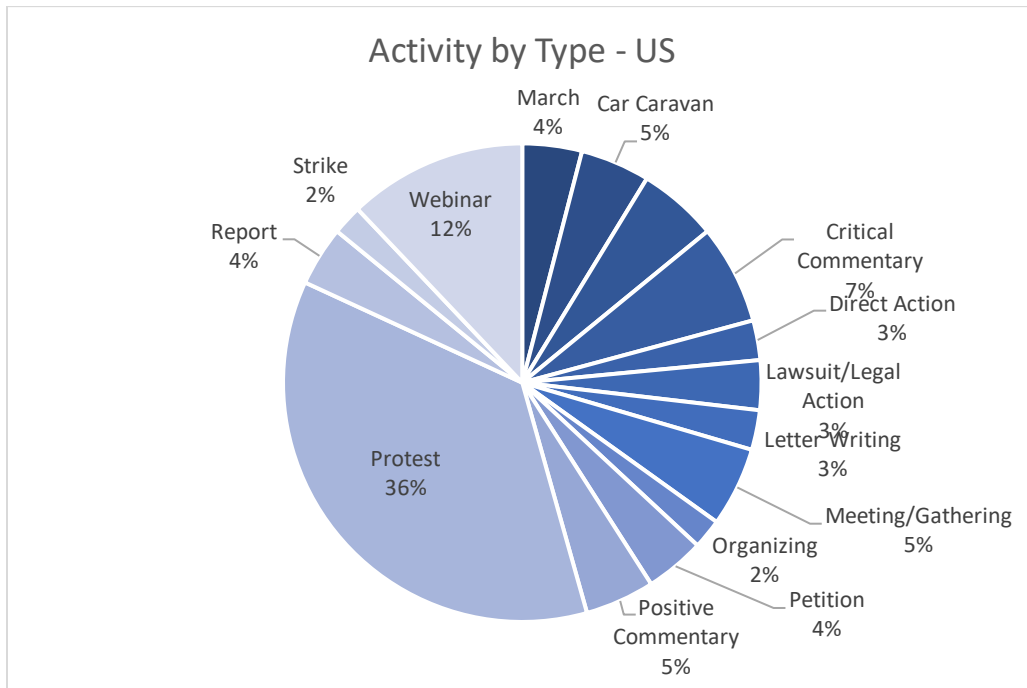


Figure 6 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund North America.

## End Report

Please submit feedback to:



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