



COVID-19 Outbreak Update 12 February

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

Solace Global advises against all travel to China at this time due to the ongoing travel restrictions, cancelled flights, confirmed cases of the virus and government warnings. Business operations in China continue to face significant disruption and further travel restrictions in China and within wider Asia are possible.

Latest Updates

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given the current coronavirus disease a name: COVID-19, while the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses has defined the virus that causes the disease is SARS-CoV-2. The virus behind the SARS outbreak in 2002-2004 was known as SARS-CoV, with the two strains being very closely related. Chinese health officials have expressed hope that the outbreak will be over by April; however, WHO officials are less confident. Additionally, the Bank of England governor, Mark Carney, has said the virus is "already bigger than SARS" from an economic perspective.

On 11 February, authorities in Jordan have announced that several of its citizens returning from China have been quarantined. At this time, no one in Jordan has tested positive for the virus, though there have been a few cases of the virus in the Middle East. Officials fear that should the disease appear in densely populated urban areas (such as Cairo, Baghdad or Tripoli) it could spread rapidly.

A third flight evacuating South Korean citizens from Wuhan has arrived in Seoul. The flight was notable as it was the first flight to carry Chinese nationals married to, or who are immediate family of, South Koreans. The evacuees will spend several weeks in quarantine. In the US, 200 previously quarantined individuals have been released. In Singapore, the city state's biggest bank, DBS, evacuated 300 staff from its head office following a confirmed coronavirus case at the lender.

The number of coronavirus infections on the quarantined cruise liner, the *Diamond Princess*, continue to rise, with dozens more testing positive for the disease. There are now at least 174 confirmed cases on the ship, which is currently docked in the port of Yokohama, Japan, with around 3,700 passengers aboard. The ship is the site of the largest number of infections outside mainland China. Those infected have been taken ashore to receive medical treatment.

Current Statistics (numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (24 hr increase)	45,191 (+2,046)	Suspected Cases	16,067 (+2,242)	Total confirmed Deaths	1,115 (+98)
Current Total Infected Outside China	527 (+63)	Deaths outside of China	2	Total Confirmed Recoveries	4,807 (+809)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	Hong Kong (49), Singapore (47), Thailand (33), South Korea (28), Japan (26 + 174 on Diamond Princess), Malaysia (18), Taiwan (18), Germany (16), Australia (15), Vietnam (15), United States (13), France (11), Macau (10), UK (8), United Arab Emirates (8), Canada (7), India (3), Italy (3), Philippines (3), Russia (2), Spain (2), Nepal (1), Cambodia (1), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1), Finland (1), Belgium (1)				
Travel Restrictions (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)					
China	Quarantined cities/regions			Majority of Hubei Province, Wenzhou, Nanchang	
	Limited restrictions on public transport services (i.e. long-distance bus services, ride-hailing services, inter-city travel)			Majority of Chinese cities, additional health screenings at all public transport hubs	
Countries advising against all travel to China	Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, United States				
Countries advising against non-essential travel to China	France, India, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, South Korea (the SK government is also asking citizens to refrain from trips to countries in Southeast Asia), Taiwan, United Kingdom (the UK is advising citizens to leave China if they can)				
Notable countries with flight cancellations to China	Majority of international airlines have cancelled all flights to China, Chinese airlines continue to operate limited schedules at this time.				
Countries denying entry	<p>To those who have recently been to China: Australia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait (including HK), Malaysia, N Korea, Philippines (including HK and Macau), Singapore, Taiwan, US, Vietnam. To those travelling directly from China: Bangladesh, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, India, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica. New Zealand, Samoa, Vietnam.</p> <p>To those who have visited Hubei Province: Brunei, Japan, South Korea. Border closure: Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Russia (partially), Tajikistan, Vietnam.</p>				

Solace Global Advice

- Solace Global advises against all travel to China due to travel restrictions currently in place and the current outbreak. There is limited flight availability and further travel restrictions, both within China and to and from home countries, may be implemented with little or no notice.
- Solace Global advises against non-essential travel to Hong Kong and Macau.
- Continue to monitor the situation closely, the situation remains fluid and new travel restrictions and further outbreaks may occur with no warning.
- Do not travel if ill, as you may be subject to additional screening, delays and even quarantine, regardless of destination or country of origin.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms, should you suspect that you have contracted the virus, self-quarantine and immediately call your relevant embassy and/or the local authorities.

If currently in or travelling to China:

- Strictly monitor all updates via both local and international media, Chinese and other government authorities and Solace Secure.
- Always maintain a good hygiene level, use hand sanitizer and wash hands regularly, and wear a surgical mask whilst in public places.
- Travellers and residents should be prepared for further travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advanced notice.