



# COVID-19 Outbreak Update

## 13 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 both China and Asia are possible.

**Latest Updates**

Officials in China have recorded over 15,000 new cases of COVID-19 and several hundred deaths in the past 24 hours; however, this is largely due to an expansion of the diagnostic criteria. Previously, only infections confirmed by specialised testing kits were considered accurate, but as such kits are in short supply, authorities are now also recording cases identified by computerised tomography (CT) scans of symptomatic patients.

On Wednesday, 12 February, Formula 1 and the sport’s governing body, the FIA, announced the Chinese Grand Prix - scheduled to take place on 17-19 April in Shanghai - had been indefinitely suspended. Formula E has already cancelled its Chinese Grand Prix, which was due to take place in Sanya on 21 March.

While in a district of Shiyan, in China’s worst-affected Hubei Province, officials have implemented “wartime control measures” for the next 14 days, including, but not limited to, the closure of all buildings, vehicle restrictions and 24-hour working shifts for each community in the district. Additionally, the Chinese Communist Party has replaced the leaders of Hubei Province and Wuhan. The director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office has also been replaced in the reshuffle. The replacement comes as Hong Kong announced the extension of the closure of its schools until at least 16 March.

Australian officials have extended the ban on tourists travelling from China, originally due to expire on 16 February, by an additional week. Elsewhere, the cruise ship *MS Western* docked in Cambodia, having previously been denied docking rights in Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Guam and the Philippines. Cases continue to be reported on the *Diamond Princess*, quarantined in the Port of Yokohama, Japan, with officials now stating that they will let elderly passengers who test negative for the virus disembark ahead of schedule.

British Airways and Singapore Airlines have cut the number of flights from the UK and Singapore respectively to Hong Kong due to weak demand. Many other airlines are extending their suspension of flights to China to March or April due to weak demand and travel restrictions.

<b>Current Statistics (numbers vary between sources)</b>					
Current Total Infected (change)	60,376 (+15,0185)	Suspected Cases	13,435 (+2,807)	Total confirmed Deaths	1,369 (+254)
Current Total Infected Outside China	570 (+53)	Deaths outside of China	2	Total Confirmed Recoveries	6067 (+1,310)
<b>Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China</b>	Hong Kong (50), Singapore (50), Thailand (33), Japan (29 + 218 on Diamond Princess), South Korea (28), Malaysia (18), Taiwan (18), Germany (16), Australia (15), Vietnam (16), US (14), France (11), Macau (10), UK (9), 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)				
<b>Travel Restrictions (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)</b>					
<b>China</b>	<b>Quarantined cities/regions</b>	Majority of Hubei Province, Wenzhou, Nanchang			
	<b>Limited restrictions on public transport services (i.e. long-distance bus services, ride-hailing services, inter-city travel)</b>	Majority of Chinese cities, additional health screenings at all public transport hubs			
<b>Countries advising against all travel to China</b>	Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, United States				
<b>Countries advising against non-essential travel to China</b>	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)				
<b>Notable countries with flight cancellations to China</b>	Majority of international airlines have cancelled all flights to China, Chinese airlines continue to operate limited schedules at this time.				
<b>Countries denying entry</b>	<b>To those who have recently been to China:</b> Australia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait (including HK), Madagascar, Malaysia, N Korea, Philippines (including HK and Macau), Singapore, Taiwan, US, Vietnam. <b>To those travelling directly from China:</b> Bangladesh, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, India, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica. New Zealand, Samoa, Vietnam. <b>To those who have visited Hubei Province:</b> Brunei, Japan (also includes those arriving from Zhejiang), South Korea. <b>Border closure:</b> Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Vietnam.				

**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.