



COVID-19 Outbreak Update 17 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

In the last 24 hours, 106 deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported, with most of them occurring in Hubei Province. Similarly, the majority of new cases, estimated at around 2,168, were reported in Hubei province. The Chinese authorities are insisting they have the 'confidence and capacities to win against the epidemic', with the state-media reporting that life imprisonment will be handed out to individuals selling face masks or goggles not up to national specification. People in Hubei have now been banned from leaving their homes.

Large public gatherings in several East Asian countries have been cancelled in an effort to arrest the spread of COVID-19. Japanese authorities have announced that public celebrations to mark Emperor Naruhito's birthday have been cancelled as fear over the spread of the virus in the country grows. Separately, China's legislative body is discussing postponing the country's annual congress, the National People's Congress (NPC). A postponement would be the first since China adopted the current March schedule in 1995. Further cancellations of large events are expected in the countries' worst affected by COVID-19.

Elsewhere, a protest has been planned in Karachi to demand that the country's government evacuate citizens currently trapped in Hubei Province after the Pakistani government ruled out evacuating the more than 1,000 Pakistanis in the province. Many in Pakistan have expressed fears for the safety of Pakistanis in China as the death toll rises. Given that neighbouring Bangladesh and India have evacuated their citizens from Hubei, unrest on this issue is likely to continue.

The global economic impact of the outbreak is expected to be worse than that of the 2003 outbreak of SARS. The outbreak is threatening to push the Japanese economy into recession with many Chinese companies that buy parts from Japan closed and a complete stop in the flow of Chinese tourists to the country. Singapore has also anticipated a significant economic impact from the virus, cutting its 2020 growth forecast.

Current Statistics (numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	71,434 (+2,168)	Suspected Cases	7264 (+1,563)	Total confirmed Deaths	1,775 (+106)
Current Total Infected Outside China	781 (+95)	Deaths outside of China	4	Total Confirmed Recoveries	10,975 (+1,720)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	Singapore (75), Japan (59 + 454 on <i>Diamond Princess</i>), Hong Kong (57), Thailand (34), South Korea (30), Malaysia (22), Taiwan (20), Germany (16), Vietnam (16), Australia (15), USA (15), France (12), Macau (10), UK (9), United Arab Emirates (9), 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), Egypt (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, Georgia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mozambique, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, United States				
Countries advising against non-essential travel to China	All Schengen countries, Bahrain, Canada, India, Israel, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Oman, Palau (HK, Macau), Russia, 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), Singapore, St Vincent and the Grenadines				
Flight restrictions	Majority of international flights to China have been cancelled, Chinese airlines continue to operate a limited schedule globally				
Countries denying entry	To those who have recently been to China: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain (including SARs), Bangladesh (including SARs), Belize, Cook Islands, Egypt (will impose quarantine), El Salvador (Chinese nationals), Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait (including SARs), Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, N Korea, Philippines (including SARs), Singapore, Sierra Leone, Taiwan, Trinidad & T., US, Vietnam. To those travelling directly from China: Gabon, India, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, New Zealand, Samoa, Vietnam. To those who have visited Hubei Province: Bhutan, Brunei, Ethiopia, Japan (also includes those arriving from Zhejiang), Macau, Malaysia, South Korea				

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.