



COVID-19 Outbreak Update

18 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

The death toll has passed 1,800 after 98 new fatalities were recorded on the 17 February. Ninety-three of the fatalities were recorded in the Hubei province, of which 72 of those were registered in Wuhan. Authorities also indicated there were 1,807 new confirmed cases. In total, there have been 1,873 fatalities globally with all but four of those being in China. Liu Zhiming, director of the Wuchang Hospital in Wuhan at the heart of the outbreak, has died from the virus. Additionally, HSBC plans to cut 35,000 jobs over the next three years as the bank struggles to revive business due to its reliance on China for growth.

In the United Arab Emirates, the Ministry of Health and Prevention confirmed there are now nine confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus nationwide. The new patient, a Chinese national, is in a stable condition and is undergoing observation and treatment. Meanwhile, South Korea has just confirmed a case in Daegu, its 31st.

Various countries including Israel and Seychelles have imposed new travel restrictions to prevent the outbreak of the virus. The Israeli government has imposed new restrictions on travellers from China with non-Israeli citizens who have visited China (including HK and Macau), Thailand and Singapore in the last 14 days being barred from entering the country. Israeli citizens travelling from these countries will be placed into immediate quarantine. Seychelles is now barring non-residents who have travelled to HK and Macao, as well as those who have travelled to mainland China, in the last 14 days.

The United Kingdom, South Korea and Canada have begun preparations to evacuate the British nationals on board the *Diamond Princess* docked in Yokohama, Japan. There are 32 Canadians on board the ship who are confirmed as having tested positive for the virus. Various other countries such as America and Australia have evacuated their citizens already.

Current Statistics (numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	73,335 (+2,098)	Suspected Cases	6,242 (+1,432)	Total confirmed Deaths	1,873 (+143)
Current Total Infected Outside China	686 (+91)	Deaths outside of China	4	Total Confirmed Recoveries	12,821 (+1,821)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	Singapore (77), Japan (66 + 454 on <i>Diamond Princess</i>), HK (60), Thailand (35), South Korea (31), Malaysia (22), Taiwan (22), Germany (16), Vietnam (16), Australia (15), USA (15), France (12), Macau (10), UK (9), United Arab Emirates (9), Canada (8), 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, South Korea, 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				
Chinese 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, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait (including SARs), Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, N Korea, Philippines (including SARs), Seychelles, Singapore, Sierra Leone, Taiwan, Trinidad & T., US, Vietnam. To those travelling directly from China: Gabon, India, Iraq, 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.