COVID-19 Outbreak Update
19 February

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

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

Latest Updates

The number of COVID-19-related fatalities has surpassed 2,000 globally after health authorities in Hubei Province confirmed that 132 people had died in the province through Tuesday, representing a 40% spike in deaths compared to the previous day. Outside of mainland China, there have only been six fatalities; the sixth fatality was announced in Hong Kong, marking the second confirmed fatality in Special Administrative Region of China.

Authorities in Russia announced that as of 20 February, all Chinese nationals will be barred from entering Russia; however, the restriction does not apply to Chinese nationals transiting through the country. Mongolia has extended its school closures by another week after also suspended the delivery of coal to China until 2 March.

The number of cases outside mainland China has surpassed 1,000, mainly driven by the 542 cases on the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship. Authorities in Japan have begun evacuating approximately 500 passengers from the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship in Yokohama after they tested negative for the virus and were quarantined for a 14-day period. Elsewhere in Cambodia, around 1000 people are still onboard the *Westerdam* cruise ship. Thus far, 781 have tested negative for the virus and are set to return home over the coming days; however, both Malaysia and Thailand have said they will not allow *Westerdam* passengers to transit through their countries.

Finally, South Korean officials have confirmed that there are 15 new cases in the country's North Gyeongsang Province, bringing the total number of cases to 46. South Korea has so far placed restrictions on Chinese nationals from Hubei and has suspended visa-free entry to Jeju island but has stopped short of barring all entry to Chinese tourists.

Current Statistics (Numbers Vary Between Sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	75,223 (+2,122)	Suspected Cases	6,242 (+1,432)	Total confirmed Deaths	2,012 (+143)
Current Total Infected Outside China	686 (+91)	Deaths outside of M. China	6 (+1)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	14,629 (+1,821)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	Singapore (81), Japan (78 + 542 on *Diamond Princess*), HK (63), South Korea (51) Thailand (35), USA (29) Malaysia (22), Taiwan (23), Germany (16), Vietnam (16), Australia (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), Russia, 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.