



COVID-19 Outbreak Update 20 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 COVID-19 outbreak appears to be stabilising in central China, where the virus originated. An additional 349 cases were confirmed in Hubei, more than 1,300 fewer than the day before. Outside of Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak, the daily count of patients who have been treated and discharged has exceeded the number of newly confirmed cases for four consecutive days. However, the virus continues to spread quickly in a number of locations outside of Hubei, notably Japan and South Korea.

The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 1 travel alert for Japan following a spike in COVID-19 cases in the country. While the alert advises that travellers take normal precautions to prevent infection, its issue is a sign that the CDC is concerned about the spread of the virus in Japan and believes there is a risk associated with travelling to the country.

Two passengers who contracted COVID-19 onboard the Diamond Princess have died. Authorities have confirmed that the victims were an elderly Japanese couple who had been removed from the ship and hospitalised on 11-12 February. Both were understood to have had pre-existing health conditions. There are now 621 cases aboard the vessel, though hundreds of passengers are being evacuated.

The Chinese Central Bank has announced a series of economic measures to assist small businesses that have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Given that small businesses make up 60% of the Chinese economy and employ 80% of the workforce, the country is unable to sustain anything but a short-term hit to these businesses without suffering major ramifications.

Current Statistics (Numbers Vary Between Sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	75,725 (+393)	Suspected Cases	4,922 (-1,277)	Total confirmed Deaths	2,130 (+116)
Current Total Infected Outside China	1149 (+463)	Deaths outside of M. China	10 (+4)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	16,822 (+2,276)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	<i>Diamond Princess</i> (621), South Korea (104), Japan (91), Singapore (84), HK (67), Thailand (35), Taiwan (24), Malaysia (22), Germany (16), Vietnam (16), Australia (15), USA (15), France (12), Macau (10), UK (9), UAE (9), Canada (8), Iran (5), 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.