



COVID-19 Outbreak Update

23 February

SOLACE GLOBAL

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

Confirmed COVID-19 cases have rapidly increased in both Italy and South Korea. Health officials have reported that the number of cases in Italy has jumped to at least 79. Cases have been reported in Lombardy (57), Veneto (17), Emilia-Romagna (2), Lazio (2), Piedmont (1). Sources report that ten towns in Lodi Province (Lombardy) are on partial lockdown. So far, two fatalities have been confirmed.

In South Korea, official figures indicate there are 602 confirmed cases, including at least five fatalities. This is the largest number of COVID-19 cases outside of China and the government has raised the country’s disease alert level to its highest. The worst affected areas are Daegu and Cheongdo in North Gyeongsang Province. Reports indicate that nearly two-thirds of new cases were connected to a religious sect, the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, based in Daegu. Residents in the province have been advised to stay indoors, while those with COVID-19 symptoms have been urged to seek medical attention. The United States State Department has raised its travel advisory to South Korea, while the United Kingdom has also advised against all but essential travel to Daegu and Cheongdo.

On Saturday night, authorities at Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel, refused to let non-Israelis disembark from a plane that had arrived from Seoul. This measure was announced after it emerged that nine South Korean tourists were diagnosed with the virus whilst in Israel. South Korea’s Foreign Ministry has condemned this decision as excessive and unreasonable. At present, there are no travel restrictions for South Korean nationals.

Current Statistics (Numbers Vary Between Sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	78,771 (+855)	Suspected Cases	4,148 (-1217)	Total confirmed Deaths	2,461 (+101)
Current Total Infected Outside China	1,816 (+210)	Deaths outside of M. China	18 (+3)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	23,196 (+2,057)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	<i>Diamond Princess</i> (634), South Korea (602), Japan (135), Singapore (89), Italy (79), HK (70), Thailand (35), USA (35), Iran (28), Taiwan (26), Malaysia (22), Australia (22), Germany (16), Vietnam (16), United Arab Emirates (13), France (12), Macau (10), UK (9), Canada (9), Philippines (3), Sweden (1), Lebanon (1), Israel (1). All cases have recovered in: India (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.