



COVID-19 Outbreak Update 25 February

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

At this time, Solace Global advises against all travel to China due to the ongoing travel restrictions, cancelled flights, government warnings and confirmed cases of the virus. Additionally, Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel to HK, Macau, Iran and Daegu and Cheongdo in South Korea. Further travel restrictions and disruption to business operations in globally are possible in the coming days and weeks.

Latest Updates

The World Health Organisation (WHO) believes the current outbreak of COVID-19 has the potential to become a pandemic, although certain criteria have not yet been met. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has raised its travel advice to South Korea to the highest level. US citizens are now being advised to avoid all non-essential travel to the country, which has the highest number of confirmed cases outside of China.

Four days ago, there were only three confirmed cases of the virus in Italy. There are now over 270, making it the largest known outbreak outside of Asia. The majority of these cases have been in the country's north; however, a confirmed case in the south of the country has seen the person's immediate family and friends being placed in quarantine. Thus far, all those who have died in the country had underlying health problems. The country may also need to call on the EU to offer leeway on its budget targets as the country prepares for the potential impact of the outbreak. Elsewhere in Europe, a hotel with 1,000 guests on the Spanish island of Tenerife is reportedly in lockdown after an Italian tourist tested positive for coronavirus. Police have since cordoned the hospital off.

In Iran, concerns are mounting amongst Iranians and the international community that the country's regime is hiding the extent of potential cases of COVID-19. The head of a medical school in Qom has said authorities have warned the city not to release figures relating to the outbreak. Fears are high that as Iran struggles to contain the outbreak, and the country's borders are relatively porous with many of its neighbouring countries in the region ruled by weak and ineffective governments possessing fragile health systems, a second focal point for the outbreak is set to emerge, greatly impacting the already volatile region.

Beijing, along with Japan and South Korea, has announced a strengthening of the countries' joint response to the outbreak. In Hong Kong, the suspension of schools has been extended until after the Easter holidays with 20 April now being the earliest that schools can now go back.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	80,289 (+560)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	27,789 (+2,810)	Total confirmed Deaths	2,707 (+79)
Current confirmed case numbers	China (77,663), South Korea (977), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (691), Italy (270), Japan (160), Iran (95), Singapore (90), HK (81), USA (53), Thailand (37), Taiwan (31), Malaysia (22), Australia (22), Germany (16), UAE (13), UK (13), Canada (11), Macau (10), Kuwait (8), Spain (3), Israel (2), Afghanistan (1), Bahrain (1), Sweden (1), Lebanon (1), Iraq (1) Oman (1). All cases have an outcome in: Vietnam (16), France (12), India (3), Philippines (3), Russia (2), Nepal (1), Cambodia (1), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1), Finland (1), Belgium (1), Egypt (1)				
Deaths	China (2,664), Iran (15), South Korea (11), Italy (7), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (4), HK (2), Japan (1), Taiwan (1), France (1), Philippines (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 and lockdown cities/regions	Majority of Hubei Province, Wenzhou, Nanchang, Zhengzhou, Linyi, Harbin, Fuzhou some cities in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces.
	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
	Flight Restrictions	Majority of international airlines have ceased operations to and from Chinese mainland. Flight operations to and from HK and Macau are also being impacted.
Countries that have some form of warning or ban on travel to China	Schengen Countries, Australia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Czech R., DRC, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, S. Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, UK, Ukraine, US	
Italy	Current restrictions	11 northern Italian cities mostly in Lodi Province, are in lockdown.
South Korea	Current restrictions	Daegu and Cheongdo cities

Solace Global Advice

Advise against all travel:	China	Advise against all but essential travel:	Hong Kong, Macau, Iran, Daegu and Cheongdo (Both in South Korea)
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- Solace Global advises to monitor countries experiencing outbreaks due to currently in place travel restrictions.
- Ensure your healthcare and insurance providers are aware of any essential travel to China.
- Continue to monitor the situation closely, as 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 consult your doctor.
- Maintain a good hygiene level, use hand sanitizer and wash hands regularly if travelling in the coming days.
- Regularly check updates via your respective government agency and the World Health Organisation for travel information and potential restrictions.