



# COVID-19 Outbreak Update 2 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

At this time, Solace Global advises against all travel to China and Daegu in South Korea 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 Hong Kong, Macau, Iran; Cheongdo in South Korea; and 11 towns in northern Italy. Further travel restrictions and disruption to business operations globally are possible in the coming days and weeks.

**Latest Updates**

The Director-General of the World Health Organisation has said the spread of COVID-19 to countries with weaker health systems is one of his biggest concerns. All people over the age of 60 are now being advised to avoid crowded areas or places where they might interact with people who are sick. In Israel, voting is going ahead despite fears of the virus, with officials stating that it is safe to do so.

In Japan, the operator of one of Japan’s largest restaurant cruise ships has filed for bankruptcy after a large number of cancellations related to the outbreak. The country’s sports teams are also being impacted by the outbreak, with baseball teams playing games behind closed doors and hardly any crowds turning out to watch the Tokyo Marathon 2020. This has sparked concerns that the Summer Olympics in the country may be impacted by the virus, either making the event TV-only or cancelling it altogether.

The UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office is withdrawing dependents and non-essential staff from Iran. The country’s state media is reporting that 978 people have contracted the virus, with official reports of 55 deaths. Commentators and Iranian sources have claimed that the actual figure may be much higher, alleging a cover-up. Several Iranian politicians - including the minister in charge of overseeing the outbreak - have been infected, with one understood to have died.

Australian travel advice to Italy has changed, raised to level two for the whole country, and level three for towns across the north. Level two advises travellers to exercise caution, and level three to reconsider travel. Elsewhere in the country, the Australian dollar is sinking rapidly amid speculation that the impact of the virus will continue to worsen, weakening demand for the country’s commodities. Several other countries are also experiencing similar downturns, including Brazil, Canada, Japan and South Korea. Monday has, however, seen a stabilisation in the markets after the heavy losses that they witnessed last week.

<b>Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)</b>					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	89,778 (+2,786)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	45,501 (+2,470)	Total confirmed Deaths	3,069 (+60)
<b>Current confirmed case numbers</b>	China (80,026), South Korea (4,335), Italy (1,704), Iran (1,501), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (705), Japan (256), Germany (150), France (130), Singapore (106), HK (100), USA (88), Spain (86), Kuwait (56), Bahrain (47), Thailand (43), Taiwan (40), UK (36), Australia (30), Malaysia (29), Canada (24), Switzerland (24), UAE (21), Iraq (21), Norway (19), Vietnam (16), Austria (15), Sweden (14), Macau (10), Israel (10), Lebanon (10), Netherlands (10), Belgium (8), San Marino (8), Croatia (8), Greece (7), Oman (6), Pakistan (4), Mexico (5), India (5), Denmark (4), Pakistan (4), Philippines (3), Algeria (3), Azerbaijan (3), Czechia (3), Georgia (3), Iceland (3), Qatar (3), Romania (3), Russia (2), Brazil (2), Egypt (2), Afghanistan (1), Armenia (1), Dominican Republic (1), Cambodia (1), Estonia (1), Monaco (1), North Macedonia (1), Nepal (1), Nigeria (1), Sri Lanka (1), Belarus (1), Lithuania (1), New Zealand (1) Sri Lanka (1)				
<b>Deaths</b>	China (2,835), Iran (34), South Korea (17), Italy (21), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (6), Japan (5), HK (2), France (2), Taiwan (1), Philippines (1)				
<b>Travel Restrictions (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)</b>					
<b>China</b>	<b>Quarantined and lockdown cities/regions</b>	Majority of Hubei Province, Wenzhou, Nanchang, Zhengzhou, Linyi, Harbin, Fuzhou some cities in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces. Restrictions outside of Hubei Province are being relaxed to allow the continuation of business as usual.			
	<b>Flight Restrictions</b>	Majority of international airlines have ceased operations to and from Chinese mainland. Flight operations to and from HK and Macau are also being impacted.			
<b>Countries that have some form of warning or ban on travel to China</b>	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				
<b>Italy</b>	<b>Current restrictions</b>	Lombardy region (Codogno, Castiglione d’Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano) and one in Veneto (Euganeo)			
<b>South Korea</b>	<b>Current restrictions</b>	Daegu and Cheongdo cities			
<b>Solace Global Advice</b>	<b>Advise against all travel:</b> Mainland China, Daegu (South Korea)				
	<b>Advise against all but essential travel:</b> Hong Kong, Macau, Iran, Cheongdo (S Korea), 11 towns in northern Italy				

- Solace Global advises clients and travellers 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.