



COVID-19 Outbreak Update 4 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

At this time, Solace Global advises against all travel to China and Daegu in South Korea and Iran 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, 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 (WHO) has expressed his concern that “countries’ abilities to respond are being compromised by the severe and increasing disruption to the global supply of personal protective equipment... caused by rising demand, hoarding and misuse”. In China, 131 new cases have been announced by the government, continuing the slowing down in case numbers in the country.

The Chinese services sector has collapsed to its lowest level since the global financial crisis in 2008 amid stagnating consumption. While in the UK, the British Trade Union Unite has warned that factories could shut down or cut working hours because of a shortage of parts from China, should the current crisis continue to worsen. Elsewhere, Germany has banned the exportation of medical protection equipment over the current outbreak. Authorities are worried about shortages as the country tackles the virus’ outbreak.

Australia’s health minister has said “there is an uncontrolled spread” of COVID-19 in Iran, and that the “situation is clearly far worse than has been documented”. Two senior Iranian officials have died, and more than 27 MPs are currently infected. The Iranian regime has announced the mobilisation of 300,000 soldiers and volunteers to help combat the spread of the virus.

Spain has confirmed its first death from the new coronavirus, and a ninth person with the virus has died in the US. The US Vice President has announced new screening measures making it easier for people to be tested for the virus. The US will also begin screening all travellers from Italy and South Korea. International travel to the United States is expected to drop in the largest decline in international inbound travel since 2008.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	94,170 (+889)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	51,187 (+2,513)	Total confirmed Deaths	3,219 (+73)
Current confirmed case numbers	China (80,282), South Korea (5,621), Iran (2,922), Italy (2,502), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (706), Japan (299), Germany (240), France (212), Spain (165), USA (128), Singapore (110), HK (101), Switzerland (61), Kuwait (56), UK (53), Malaysia (50), Bahrain (49), Thailand (43), Taiwan (42), Australia (42), Canada (33), Norway (33), Iraq (32), Sweden (32), India (28), Austria (27), UAE (27), Belgium (23), Netherlands (23), Iceland (16), Vietnam (16), Israel (15), Lebanon (13), Oman (12), Denmark (10), Macau (10), San Marino (10), Croatia (9), Algeria (8), Greece (8), Qatar (8), Ecuador (7), Finland (7), Belarus (6), Mexico (6), Czechia (5), Pakistan (5), Portugal (5), Romania (4), Philippines (3), Azerbaijan (3), Georgia (3), Russia (3), Brazil (2), Egypt (2), Estonia (2), Indonesia (2), Ireland (2), New Zealand (2), Senegal (2), Afghanistan (1), Andorra (1), Armenia (1), Cambodia (1), Dominican Republic (1), Jordan (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1), Luxembourg (1), North Macedonia (1), Monaco (1), Morocco (1), Nepal (1), Nigeria (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Sri Lanka (1), Tunisia (1), Ukraine (1), Argentina (1), Chile (1), Liechtenstein (1), Poland (1).				
Deaths	China (2,981), Iran (92), Italy (79), South Korea (33), USA (9), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (6), Japan (6), France (4), HK (2), Spain (1), Thailand (1), Australia (1), Taiwan (1), Iraq (1), San Marino (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. Restrictions outside of Hubei Province are being relaxed to attempt a continuation of business as usual.			
	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.			
Italy	Current restrictions	Lombardy region (Codogno, Castiglione d’Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano) and one in Veneto (Euganeo)			
	Flight restrictions	While some flights continue to operate, many countries have restricted all air travel.			
South Korea	Current restrictions	Daegu and Cheongdo cities			
	Flight restrictions	Flights have been scaled back, with many countries restricting air travel.			
International	As it stands, travellers from, or who have recently been to, China (including SARs and occasionally Taiwan), South Korea, Iran and Italy face a wide variety of restrictions depending on country. Travellers should contact their relevant embassy for the latest information regarding entry restrictions, flight suspensions and current country advice.				
Solace Global Advice	Advise against all travel: Mainland China, Daegu (South Korea), Iran				
	Advise against all but essential travel: Hong Kong, Macau, 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. Regularly check updates via your respective government agency and the World Health Organisation for travel information and potential restrictions.
- Ensure your healthcare and insurance providers are aware of any essential travel to impacted locations
- 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.
- Maintain a good hygiene level, use hand sanitizer and wash hands regularly if travelling in the coming days. Additionally, monitor for symptoms, should you suspect that you have contracted the virus, self-quarantine and immediately call your relevant embassy and/or consult your doctor.