

COVID-19 Outbreak Update 5 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

At this time, Solace Global advises against all travel to China, Daegu in South Korea and Iran due to the ongoing travel restrictions, cancelled flights, government warnings and outbreak of COVID-19. 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 Governor of California, Gavin Newsom announced that the *Grand Princess* cruise ship will be delayed from entering San Francisco due to the COVID-19 virus. This follows an announcement that one former passenger had died as a result of the virus and another has been tested positive for the symptoms whilst travelling between San Francisco and Mexico. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has advised passengers to remain in their rooms while screening tests are carried out. The ship was due to travel to Hawaii and Mexico however was recalled to San Francisco when the fatality was confirmed. A state of emergency has also been declared after it was announced that there were 53 confirmed cases and a fatality in the state.

Though the number of confirmed cases in mainland China has surpassed the 80,000 figure and now stands 80,430, over the last 24 hours there were only 139 new cases, of which 134 were in Hubei. There were also 31 fatalities, all in Hubei, bringing the total number of fatalities in the country to 3,012. This represents a significant slowdown in the country, with officials looking to reverse the travel restrictions, to ensure those from countries currently experiencing outbreaks, as well as evacuating citizens from Iran.

Saudi Arabia has expanded its restrictions on those intending to take part in a pilgrimage in the country to Saudi nationals as well as foreign travellers. The government stated that this was only a temporary measure; however, no end date has currently been given. Elsewhere, Slovenia and Hungary have confirmed their first cases. The Australian government has expanded its travel ban to individuals travelling from South Korea. Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that the ban would allow border force officials to implement greater screening protocols as further enhanced measures are due to be announced at airports.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Infected (new cases)	95,513 (+919)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	53,695 (+2,527)	Total confirmed Deaths	3,286 (+67)
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Current confirmed case numbers	China (80,430), South Korea (5,766), Italy (3,089), Iran (2,922), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (706), Japan (331), France (285), Germany (262), Spain (228), USA (160), Singapore (112), HK (105), Switzerland (93), UK (88), Norway (62), Kuwait (58), Australia (52), Bahrain (52), Sweden (52), Malaysia (50), Thailand (47), Taiwan (42), Netherlands (38), Austria (37), Iraq (35), Canada (34), India (29), UAE (28), Iceland (26), Belgium (23), Algeria (17), San Marino (16), Vietnam (16), Denmark (15), Israel (15), Lebanon (15), Oman (15), Macau (10), Croatia (10), Ecuador (10), Greece (10), Czechia (8), Portugal (8), Qatar (8), Finland (7), Belarus (6), Ireland (6), Mexico (6), Romania (6), Pakistan (5), Russia (4), Senegal (4), Philippines (3), Azerbaijan (3), Brazil (3), Georgia (3), New Zealand (3), Chile (3), Egypt (2), Estonia (2), Indonesia (2), Morocco (2), Saudi Arabia (2), Hungary (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), Nepal (1), Nigeria (1), Sri Lanka (1), Tunisia (1), Ukraine (1), Argentina (1), Liechtenstein (1), Poland (1), Slovenia (1).
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Deaths	China (3,013), Italy (107), Iran (92), South Korea (35), USA (11), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (6), Japan (6), France (4), Australia (2), HK (2), Spain (2), Iraq (2), Thailand (1), Taiwan (1), San Marino (1), Philippines (1).
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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.