



COVID-19 Outbreak Update
9 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

At this time, Solace Global advises against all travel to **China**, to Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan in **South Korea**, **Iran** and to Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Piemonte and Veneto in **Italy** due to travel restrictions, cancelled flights, forced quarantines, government warnings and outbreak of COVID-19. Additionally, Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel to Hong Kong, Macau and the rest of Italy.

Latest Updates

The growth of case numbers continues to slow in China, with only an additional 44 being recorded between Sunday and Monday. Outside of Hubei province, restrictions are being relaxed as Beijing hopes to return to business as usual soon. Shanghai Disneyland has begun to reopen with limited facilities, signalling a potential improvement to the situation in China.

The COVID-19 outbreak in Italy is likely to have serious implications for the economy, as the productive northern regions are subjected to strict quarantine measures. A 7.5 billion Euro financial package has been approved, though the Italian airline, Alitalia, has announced that it will suspend all flight operations from Milan’s Malpensa airport and operate reduced services for domestic flights from Linate airport. Some experts believe the quarantine measures may prove to be counter-productive, as individuals who have contracted the virus could be among those who fled the quarantine zones in panic before security forces were able to impose effective checkpoints, thus spreading the disease to the rest of Italy.

Qatari and Saudi Arabian authorities have announced that travellers from countries worst affected by the outbreak, such as Italy and South Korea, as well as other Gulf states, will temporarily be denied entry to the country. Qatar Airways has also suspended flights to and from Italy. Saudi citizens and residents have been prohibited from travelling to these countries, with commercial flights are also being suspended. In Egypt, health officials are travelling to Luxor in order to test tourists for the virus amid indications of a large outbreak. Cairo has reported the country’s first death, a German tourist who was reportedly infected in Luxor but died in Hurghada.

European markets have opened down significantly on Monday morning, with the UK, Italian, French and German markets all recording an initial 8% drop. Though, at the time of writing, most had recovered to a 5 to 6% drop. In related news, it is expected that Saudi Arabia will increase its production from 9.75 million barrels a day in the first quarter of 2020 to 10.25 million barrels the second. This stance could see oil price fall below 20USD per barrel.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	111,318 (+4,853)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	62,661 (+2,385)	Total confirmed Deaths	3,882 (+282)
Current confirmed case numbers	China (80739), S. Korea (7478), Italy (7375), Iran (7161), France (1209), Germany (1151), Spain (911), Diamond Princess (696), USA (554), Japan (502), Switzerland (374), UK (280), Netherlands (265), Belgium (239), Sweden (204), Norway (178), Singapore (150), Malaysia (117), Hong Kong (115), Austria (112), Bahrain (109), Australia (93), Greece (73), Canada (67), Iraq (65), Kuwait (65), Iceland (58), Egypt (55), Thailand (50), Taiwan (45), UAE (45), India (43), Israel (39), San Marino (36), Denmark (35), Czechia (32), Lebanon (32), Portugal (31), Finland (30), Vietnam (30), Brazil (25), Ireland (21), Philippines (20), Algeria (20), Palestine (20), Indonesia (19), Qatar (18), Russia (17), Oman (16), Poland (16), Slovenia (16), Ecuador (15), Georgia (15), Romania (15), Saudi Arabia (15), Argentina (12), Croatia (12), Macao (10), Estonia (10), Chile (10), Azerbaijan (9), Costa Rica (9), Hungary (9), Mexico (7), Pakistan (7), Peru (7), Belarus (6), Latvia (6), Slovakia (6), Dominican Republic (5), Luxembourg (5), New Zealand (5), French Guiana (5), Afghanistan (4), Senegal (4), Bulgaria (4), Maldives (4), North Macedonia (3), Bangladesh (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Malta (3), South Africa (3), Cambodia (2), Morocco (2), Nigeria (2), Tunisia (2), Albania (2), Cameroon (2), Faeroe Islands (2), Martinique (2), Saint Martin (2), Andorra (1), Armenia (1), Jordan (1), Lithuania (1), Monaco (1), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (1), Ukraine (1), Bhutan (1), Colombia (1), Gibraltar (1), Vatican City (1), Liechtenstein (1), Moldova (1), Paraguay (1), St. Barth (1), Serbia(1), Togo (1)				
Deaths	China (3,120), Italy (366), Iran (237), South Korea (53), Spain (25), USA (22), France (19), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (7), Japan (7), Iraq (6), Australia (3), HK (3), Netherlands (3), UK (3), Switzerland (2), Thailand (1), Taiwan (1), San Marino (1), Philippines (1), Argentina (1), Philippines (1), Egypt (1)				
Region Specific Information (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)					
Asia	China	Current Restrictions: The majority of Hubei Province. Elsewhere in the country, restrictions are being relaxed in an effort for businesses to return to normal.			
		China is now restricting travel back to the country from destinations impacted by the outbreak			
	South Korea	Current Restrictions: Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan Despite the high case numbers, the outbreak in South Korea remains largely isolated to the cities of Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan. Indeed, of the 7,000+ cases in the country, 75 percent are reportedly in Daegu.			
Outside of China and South Korea, case numbers are growing slower in Asia than in Europe. Japan now has more than 500 cases, not including those on the <i>Diamond Princess</i> that was quarantined in the port of Yokohama.					
Europe	Italy	Current Restrictions: Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, Marche, Piemonte and Veneto regions of Italy. Flight restrictions both domestically and internationally are being implemented.			
		Outside of China, Italy has the most reported COVID-19 related deaths.			

	France, Germany and Spain are all seeing a growing increase in case numbers, with more than 1,000 cases being recorded in both France and Germany.	
Middle East	Iran	<p>Current Restrictions: Tehran has implemented a number of internal restrictions on travel, while flights internationally are also being curtailed.</p> <p>The country, along with South Korea and Italy, is seeing a large day-on-day increase in COVID-19 cases, with many members of the government also reportedly ill with the virus. There are also fears that Tehran is not reporting the full extent of the outbreak in the country.</p>
	The rest of the Middle East has only seen a limited number of cases, with Bahrain being the worst hit, with over 100 cases now being recorded. Travel restrictions are being implemented more widely in the region with Israel implementing widespread restrictions and Saudi Arabia barring entry to pilgrims as well as those coming from the worst hit countries. Saudi authorities have also restricted movement in and out of the Shia Qatif region.	
Americas	At this time the Americas are the least impacted by the spread of COVID-19. However, the US is seeing a growing number of cases, while a cruise ship, the <i>Grand Princess</i> , is docking in Oakland with confirmed cases onboard. Its sister ship <i>Regal Princess</i> has also been denied docking in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.	
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. As case numbers increase in other countries, further restrictions are likely. 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, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan (South Korea); Iran; Lombardy, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Piemonte and Veneto regions (Italy)	
	Advise against all but essential travel: Hong Kong, Macau, the rest of 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.
- Additionally, those with a pre-existing medical condition (such as a cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, respiratory disease, diabetes or hypertension), or those over the age of 70, should consider refraining from travelling.
- 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.



Solace Global remains available to provide the full range of Travel Risk Management services to clients. Solace Global is also able to provide comprehensive crisis management, in-country journey management, tracking, response, and evacuation services. For further details please contact +44 (0)1202 308 810 or email info@solaceglobal.com