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COVID-19 Outbreak Update

10 March

Executive Summary

At this time, Solace Global advises against all travel to **China**, to Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan in **South Korea** and **Iran** due to travel restrictions, cancelled flights, forced quarantines, government warnings and the outbreak of COVID-19. Travellers should also reconsider their need to travel to **Italy** with only business critical travel, with associated precautions, advised at this time. Additionally, Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel to **Hong Kong** and **Macau**.

Latest Updates

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has announced that containment measures introduced across the north of the country were no longer sufficient; the entire nation will now only be able to travel for work, medical reasons or emergencies until 3 April. All schools and universities, which were closed nationwide last week until 15 March, will now remain closed until next month. Additionally, restrictions on prison visits led to unrest in jails across Italy, with six inmates killed in a prison riot in Modena and guards taken hostage at another jail in Pavia.

Greek authorities have since suspended all flights to and from northern Italy, with Finnair cancelling flights to Milan and Rome. The UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office has advised against non-essential travel to any part of the country while British Airways has also cancelled all flights to the country.

In Spain, the number of confirmed cases almost doubled overnight, with large concentrations in Madrid and the Basque country. The number of cases jumped from 589 on 8 March to 999 on 9 March. The current figure is at least 1,231 confirmed cases.

Meanwhile, Filipino authorities have implemented measures banning students from public places in Metro Manila. In South Korea, dozens of staff working at the same call centre tested positive for the virus, highlighting the risk of contagion in workplaces and the need for strict hygiene measures.

In China, Xi Jinping arrived in Wuhan on his first visit to the epicentre of the virus to inspect the prevention and control work being carried out. The number of new infections in mainland China continues its downward trend, with only an additional 28 cases at the time of writing. Additionally, Tuesday, 10 March, is the third consecutive day that China's only new domestically recorded cases occurred in Wuhan. For many, Xi's visit to Wuhan is further evidence that the tide has turned against the spread of the virus in China. Nevertheless, the soaring price of pork and other food products, as well as the rising cost of medical supplies, has kept Chinese consumer inflation at an almost eight-year high. Additionally, there are concerns both domestically and internationally that as the country relaxes the in-place restrictions, new cases will be imported into the country from outbreaks occurring elsewhere.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	114,528 (+3,210)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	64,265 (+1,604)	Total confirmed Deaths	4,028 (+144)
Current confirmed case numbers	China (80,757), Italy (9,172), S. Korea (7,513), Iran (7,161), France (1,412), Spain (1,231), Germany (1,224), USA (729), Diamond Princess (696), Japan (543), Switzerland (374), UK (321), Netherlands (321), Sweden (261), Belgium (239), Norway (227), Singapore (160), Austria (157), Malaysia (117), Hong Kong (116), Denmark (113), Bahrain (109), Australia (101), Greece (84), Canada (77), Iraq (71), Iceland (65), Kuwait (65), Egypt (59), UAE (59), Thailand (53), San Marino (51), Israel (50), India (47), Taiwan (45), Lebanon (41), Czechia (40), Portugal (39), Finland (35), Vietnam (31), Brazil (25), Slovenia (25), Palestine (25), Philippines (24), Ireland (24), Algeria (20), Russia (20), Saudi Arabia (20), Indonesia (19), Oman (18), Qatar (18), Argentina (17), Romania (17), Poland (17), Pakistan (16), Ecuador (15), Georgia (15), Croatia (13), Chile (13), Hungary (12), Macao (10), Estonia (10), Azerbaijan (9), Costa Rica (9), Peru (9), Mexico (7), Slovakia (7), South Africa (7), Belarus (6), Latvia (6), Albania (6), Maldives (6), Dominican Republic (5), Luxembourg (5), New Zealand (5), Tunisia (5), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), French Guiana (5), Afghanistan (4), North Macedonia (4), Senegal (4), Bulgaria (4), Malta (4), Serbia (4), Bangladesh (3), Colombia (3), Cambodia (2), Morocco (2), Nigeria (2), Cameroon (2), Cyprus (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), Brunei (1), Burkina Faso (1), Channel Islands (1), Gibraltar (1), Vatican City (1), Liechtenstein (1), Moldova (1), Mongolia (1), Panama (1), Paraguay (1), St. Barth (1), Togo (1)				
Deaths	China (3,136), Italy (463), Iran (237), South Korea (54), France (30), Spain (30), USA (27), Japan (10), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (7), Iraq (7), UK (5), Netherlands (4), Australia (3), HK (3), Switzerland (2), San Marino (2), Germany (2), Canada (1), Thailand (1), Taiwan (1), Philippines (1), Argentina (1), Philippines (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 remains under lockdown; however, the authorities are hoping to start relaxing measures soon. Elsewhere in the country, restrictions are already being loosened in an effort for businesses to return to normal.
		China is, however, now restricting travel back to the country from destinations impacted by the outbreak in an effort to avoid importing back the virus.
	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	<p>Current Restrictions: The entire country is now being placed on lockdown. Though travel within and out of country remains possible. Travellers and businesses should therefore reconsider their need to travel to Italy, with only business critical travel being advised at this time as long as adequate precautions are made. Anyone returning from Italy will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days</p> <p>Outside of China, Italy has the most reported COVID-19 related deaths. The country also has the highest reported cases per million population globally.</p>
	Elsewhere in Europe, France, Germany and Spain are all seeing a growing increase in case numbers, with all three countries now reporting more than 1,000 cases. Norway and Switzerland are also seeing a high total case numbers per million population.	
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>
	Bahrain	<p>While only having 110 cases at this time, Bahrain has a total case rate per million population of 64.6, which is the fourth highest globally.</p> <p>The rest of the Middle East has only seen a limited number of cases. 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 predominately Shia Qatif region.</p>
Americas	<p>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>, has docked in Oakland with confirmed cases onboard. Its sister ship <i>Regal Princess</i> was also been denied docking in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The ship is currently awaiting the results of a coronavirus test of the Florida coast.</p>	
International	<p>As it stands, travellers coming from, or who have recently been to, China (including the country's 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.</p>	
Solace Global Advice	Advise against all travel: Mainland China; Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan (South Korea); Iran	
	Reconsidered travel, only business critical: Italy	
	Advise against all but essential travel: Hong Kong and Macau	
	Monitor closely for updates: Bahrain, France, Germany and Spain	

- 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