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# COVID-19 Outbreak Update

## 11 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**

The UK Minister for Health and Social Care Nadine Dorries has become the first UK Member of Parliament to be diagnosed with COVID-19. Ms Dorries recently attended a reception at Downing Street for International Women’s Day, and there are now concerns over the potential spread of the virus at Westminster. England’s deputy chief medical officer has said that the UK’s coronavirus epidemic will begin to reach its peak in the next two weeks. On 10 March, a spokesman for British Airways announced that the company has cancelled all flights to and from Italy due to the coronavirus measures in place. Services will reportedly stop until 4 April. Ryanair will also cancel some of its flight to Italy at least until 9 April.

In China, severe control measures in Hubei (the epicentre of the outbreak) are set to be relaxed. The province has reported zero cases outside of Wuhan for several consecutive days. Conversely, the number of deaths associated with the novel coronavirus outside of mainland China have passed 1,000 and are expected to continue to rise.

More than 60 million people in Italy remain under lockdown. The country has reported its highest daily death toll yet, with at least 168 deaths reported in the last 24 hours. The number of people diagnosed with the virus has also risen to 10,149; this is the highest reported cases per million population globally.

Economists are predicting that Australia will fall into a recession due to the present outbreak of coronavirus. Despite an impending stimulus package, it’s likely the financial repercussions of the virus will hit harder than the 2008 global financial crisis. Other countries are also expected to be hard hit by the economic downturn, especially due to the downturn in tourism. In an effort to combat the economic damage, the UK’s Bank of England has cut Interest rates from 0.75% to 0.25%. The IRS in the US is also considering extending the tax deadline past 15 April.

Latin America is not at the centre of the coronavirus epidemic; however, cases have been reported in several countries. On 10 March, Bolivia’s Health Minister Anibal Cruz confirmed the country’s first two cases of COVID-19. Meanwhile, authorities in Panama announced the country’s first coronavirus-related death. The number of people diagnosed with the virus has risen to eight.

<b>Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)</b>					
<b>Current Total Infected (new cases)</b>	119,391 (+4,863)	<b>Total Confirmed Recoveries</b>	66,621 (+2,356)	<b>Total Confirmed Deaths</b>	4,298 (+270)
<b>Current confirmed case numbers</b>	China (80,785), Italy (10,149), Iran (8,042), S. Korea (7,755), France (1,784), Spain (1,695), Germany (1,565), USA (1,010), Diamond Princess (696), Japan (587), Switzerland (508), Norway (408), UK (383), Netherlands (382), Sweden (355), Denmark (340), Belgium (267), Austria (206), Singapore (166), Malaysia (129), Australia (127), Hong Kong (121), Bahrain (112), Canada (97), Greece (89), Iceland (81), Israel (76), UAE (74), Kuwait (72), Iraq (71), Czechia (64), San Marino (62), India (62), Egypt (59), Thailand (59), Lebanon (52), Taiwan (48), Portugal (41), Finland (40), Vietnam (35), Brazil (34), Ireland (34), Slovenia (34), Philippines (33), Romania (31), Palestine (30), Indonesia (27), Poland (25), Qatar (24), Georgia (23), Algeria (20), Russia (20), Saudi Arabia (20), Argentina (19), Pakistan (19), Oman (18), Ecuador (17), Chile (17), Croatia (15), Estonia (13), Costa Rica (13), Hungary (13), Bosnia and Herzegovina (12), Azerbaijan (11), Peru (11), Macao (10), Albania (10), Belarus (9), Panama (8), Latvia (8), Maldives (8), Afghanistan (7), Luxembourg (7), North Macedonia (7), Mexico (7), Slovakia (7), South Africa (7), Tunisia (6), Brunei (6), Bulgaria (6), Dominican Republic (5), New Zealand (5), French Guiana (5), Malta (5), Paraguay (5), Serbia (5), Senegal (4), Morocco (3), Cambodia (3), Lithuania (3), Bangladesh (3), Colombia (3), Martinique (3), Moldova (3), Nigeria (2), Sri Lanka (2), Bolivia (2), Burkina Faso (2), Cameroon (2), Channel Islands (2), Cyprus (2), Faeroe Islands (2), Honduras (2), Saint Martin (2), Andorra (1), Armenia (1), Jordan (1), Monaco (1), Nepal (1), Ukraine (1), Bhutan (1), DRC (1), Gibraltar (1), Vatican City (1), Jamaica (1), Liechtenstein (1), Mongolia (1), St. Barth (1), Togo (1), Turkey (1)				
<b>Deaths</b>	China (3,158), Italy (631), Iran (291), South Korea (61), Spain (36), France (33), USA (31), Japan (12), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (7), Iraq (7), UK (6), 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), Egypt (1), Lebanon (1), Panama (1), Morocco (1)				
<b>Region Specific Information (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)</b>					
<b>Asia</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>Current Restrictions:</b> The majority of Hubei Province remains under lockdown; however, the authorities are hoping to start relaxing these measures. 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.			
	<b>South Korea</b>	<b>Current Restrictions:</b> 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. The death rate in the country is lower than 1 percent, demonstrating the effective measures that Korea has learnt from the MERS outbreak that greatly impacted the country.
		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	<b>Current Restrictions:</b> The entire country is now being placed on lockdown. Though travel within and out of country does remain 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 upon returning to their home country.
		Outside of China, Italy has the most reported COVID-19 related deaths. The country also has the highest reported cases per million population globally.
		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	<b>Current Restrictions:</b> Tehran has implemented a number of internal restrictions on travel, while flights internationally are also being curtailed.
		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.
	Bahrain	Bahrain has a total case rate per million population that is the fifth highest globally and above 65. However, the growth in case numbers has slowed in recent days.
		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 considerable 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.
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> , has docked in Oakland with confirmed cases onboard.
International		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.
Solace Global Advice		<b>Advise against all travel:</b> Mainland China; Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan (South Korea); Iran
		<b>Reconsidered travel, only business critical:</b> Italy
		<b>Advise against all but essential travel:</b> Hong Kong and Macau
		<b>Monitor closely for updates:</b> 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](mailto:info@solaceglobal.com)