



**COVID-19 Outbreak Update**  
**13 March**

**SOLACE** GLOBAL

**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**. Travel restrictions are being implemented globally and with little or no notice. Businesses and travellers should check their relevant country's travel advice before any and all travel globally.

**Latest Updates**

The government of the Czech Republic has declared a 30-day state of emergency and implemented new travel restrictions to and from multiple countries due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus. The new restrictions have banned individuals from entering the country from 15 countries (Germany, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Norway, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Switzerland, China, South Korea, Iran and the United Kingdom). Czech nationals are also banned from flying to those countries. The ban will not bar permanent and temporary residents from the 15 countries from returning. There are currently 113 confirmed cases in the country. Numerous other countries, including the US, Vietnam and Norway have also imposed restrictions.

Sporting events are also being greatly impacted by the outbreak. The Australian F1 Grand Prix, the Champions League, Europa League, NHL, NBA, international cricket matches, the Indian Premier League, all English football league matches, including Premier League, and other European domestic leagues matches, have been cancelled. The news that English Premier League matches will be suspended comes after the Arsenal FC manager and a Chelsea football player contracted the virus. Japan's Olympic minister has insisted that the Games will go ahead, with Tokyo's governor saying that cancelling them would be unthinkable.

Elsewhere, Gabon and Ghana have announced their first cases of the virus, becoming the ninth and tenth countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to confirm cases. In Gabon, the patient is a Gabonese national who recently returned from travel to France. Health officials in Ghana confirmed that the two patients returned to Ghana after travelling to Norway and Turkey. There are unconfirmed reports that one of the victims is a senior official at the Norwegian embassy.

Across the Atlantic, Trinidad and Tobago also announced its first case. An individual who recently returned from Switzerland had undergone a period of self-isolation before contacting emergency services after discovering several symptoms of the virus.

The governor of Alaska, Mike Dunleavy reported that one person has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, the first confirmed case in the state. The patient is a foreign national who underwent self-isolation for a brief period of time before alerting emergency services to their symptoms. Elsewhere in the US, the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam, has declared a state of emergency after the number of confirmed cases across the state increased to 17. All conferences and large events have been cancelled, while schools are set to be shut. Public-sector employees will be also be prevented from travelling to other states.

Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg confirmed that one individual had died as a result of the virus, the first confirmed fatality in Norway. Solberg also announced several new measures designed to prevent the spread of the virus will be implemented. These measures include the closure of all educational institutions and sending foreign nationals arriving in country without symptoms back to the country they departed from. Travellers with symptoms will be placed into isolation.

<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>	<p><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.</p> <p>China is, however, now looking to restrict travel back to the country from destinations impacted by the outbreak in an effort to avoid importing back the virus.</p>
	<b>South Korea</b>	<p><b>Current Restrictions:</b> Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan</p> <p>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 effecting measures that Korea has learnt from the MERS outbreak that greatly impacted the country.</p>
	<p>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. Vietnam has suspended visas on arrival.</p>	
<b>Europe</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<p><b>Current Restrictions:</b> The entire country is now being placed on lockdown. Though travel within and out of the 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.</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>
	<b>Norway</b>	<p><b>Current Restrictions:</b> Norway is implementing tough restrictions with foreign, non-Nordic, nationals being turned away</p>

		or forced to quarantine for 14 days.
		Norway is seeing a significant rise in case numbers, the country now has the third-highest case per million population, behind only Italy and South Korea.
	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. Switzerland is also seeing a high total in case numbers per million population. The Czech Republic has also barred the entry of numerous foreign nationals.	
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	While Bahrain has under 200 cases, with 195, the country has a total case rate per million population that is the fifth highest globally and above 100.
	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	Countries are now implementing widespread restrictions; these remain fluid and subject to change at short notice. Businesses and travellers should check their relevant country's travel advice before any and all travel globally.	

**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Current Total Infected	139,126 (+10,993)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	70,726 (+2,072)	Total Confirmed Deaths	5,111 (+385)
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**Current Confirmed cases per country**

China	80,815	Brazil	85	Peru	22	Bangladesh	3
Italy	15,113	UAE	85	Belarus	21	Bolivia	3
Iran	11,364	Iraq	83	Slovakia	21	Channel Islands	3
S. Korea	7,979	India	81	Ecuador	19	Cuba	3
Spain	4,209	Egypt	80	Oman	19	Faeroe Islands	3
Germany	3,117	San Marino	77	Hungary	19	French Polynesia	3
France	2,876	Lebanon	77	Latvia	17	Martinique	3
USA	1,832	Thailand	75	Azerbaijan	15	Monaco	2
Switzerland	1,135	Ireland	70	Cyprus	14	Nigeria	2
Norway	894	Romania	70	Tunisia	13	Burkina Faso	2
Netherlands	804	Indonesia	69	Mexico	12	Cameroon	2
UK	798	Poland	64	Malta	12	DRC	2
Denmark	785	Saudi Arabia	62	Bosnia and Herzegovina	11	Ghana	2
Sweden	733	Philippines	52	Macao	10	Honduras	2
Japan	701	Taiwan	50	Senegal	10	Kazakhstan	2
Diamond Princess	696	Vietnam	44	North Macedonia	9	Saint Martin	2
Belgium	556	Estonia	41	Colombia	9	Turkey	2
Austria	428	Brunei	37	Armenia	8	Guyana	1
Qatar	262	Palestine	35	Jamaica	8	Andorra	1
Bahrain	210	Russia	34	Maldives	8	Jordan	1
Singapore	200	Albania	33	Morocco	7	Nepal	1
Australia	199	Chile	33	Afghanistan	7	Bhutan	1
Canada	158	Argentina	31	Lithuania	6	Cayman Islands	1
Malaysia	158	Croatia	31	French Guiana	6	Ivory Coast	1
Finland	155	Serbia	31	Moldova	6	Ethiopia	1
Hong Kong	132	Panama	27	Paraguay	6	Gibraltar	1
Israel	126	Algeria	26	Cambodia	5	Guadeloupe	1
Czechia	120	Luxembourg	26	Dominican Republic	5	Vatican City	1
Greece	117	Georgia	25	New Zealand	5	Kenya	1

Iceland	117	South Africa	24	Réunion	5	Mongolia	1
Portugal	112	Bulgaria	23	Liechtenstein	4	St. Barth	1
Kuwait	100	Costa Rica	23	Sri Lanka	3		
Slovenia	96	Pakistan	22	Ukraine	3		

**Current confirmed deaths**

China	3,177	Germany	7	Lebanon	3	Ireland	1
Italy	1,016	Switzerland	7	Egypt	2	Poland	1
Iran	514	Diamond Princess	7	Algeria	2	Taiwan	1
Spain	120	Netherlands	5	Norway	1	Albania	1
S. Korea	71	San Marino	5	Sweden	1	Argentina	1
France	61	Philippines	5	Austria	1	Panama	1
USA	41	Hong Kong	4	Canada	1	Bulgaria	1
Japan	19	Indonesia	4	Greece	1	Azerbaijan	1
UK	10	Belgium	3	India	1	Morocco	1
Iraq	8	Australia	3	Thailand	1	Guyana	1

**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, Norway 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.

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