



COVID-19 Outbreak Update
14 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

On 13 March, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that Europe has now become the epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic. The announcement was made after 250 deaths were recorded, taking the total number of fatalities across Europe to 1,266. Spain is the second worst-affected nation in Europe as the number of deaths are 133 and the confirmed cases are 5,232. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, declared a state of emergency for the next 15 days to help stop the spread of the virus. The state of emergency, which will be formally announced over the coming hours, will allow authorities to limit the movement of people and close gyms, clubs and restaurants.

Poland and Denmark have announced the closure of their borders in an attempt to control the virus. For example, in Poland, foreign citizens will be unable to enter the country for an initial 14-day period. Numerous other countries, including Saudi Arabia and Colombia, have also imposed restrictions.

The disease has now spread to at least 18 African countries. The number of confirmed cases in Senegal rose to 19; authorities confirmed that all the new patients had contact with an infected individual who had recently returned from Italy. Health officials in Sudan confirmed the first coronavirus death. Most recently, Kenya and Eswatini also recorded their first confirmed cases of the virus.

Due to the rising number of cases, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency. There are currently 2,074 confirmed cases throughout the US and 41 fatalities. The state of emergency will allow the government to access \$50bn in federal funding. On 13 March, authorities announced a travel ban on 26 European nations. The measure applies to non-US citizens who have been in the Schengen travel area within 14 days of travelling to the US. Various South American countries such as Venezuela, Uruguay, Guatemala and Suriname all announced their first confirmed cases. Authorities across South America implemented measures to slow the advance of the virus. For example, Colombia will impose an entry ban on foreign visitors from Europe and Asia and foreigners travelling from these continents from 16 March onwards. Several Caribbean islands including Curacao, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda have also implemented entry restrictions. On 13 March, Saint Lucia recorded its first confirmed case of COVID-19.

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 these measures. Elsewhere in the country, restrictions are already being loosened in an effort for businesses to return to normal.
		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.
	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. 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.
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.		
Europe	Italy	Current Restrictions: 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.
		Outside of China, Italy has the most reported COVID-19 related deaths. The country also has the highest reported cases per million population globally.
	Norway	Current Restrictions: Norway is implementing tough restrictions with foreign, non-Nordic, nationals being turned away 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	<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	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. Latin American countries such as Argentina, Colombia and Peru, stepped up measures to slow the advance of the coronavirus.	
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	145,810 (+6,684)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	72,531 (+1,805)	Total Confirmed Deaths	5,436 (+325)
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Current Confirmed cases per country

China	80,824	Romania	95	Costa Rica	23	Uruguay	4	St. Barth	1
Italy	17,660	Egypt	93	Senegal	21	Ukraine	3	Saint Lucia	1
Iran	11,364	Ireland	90	Oman	19	Bangladesh	3	St Vincent and the Grenadines	1
S. Korea	8,086	Saudi Arabia	86	Hungary	19	Channel Islands	3	Suriname	1
Spain	5,232	UAE	85	Bosnia and Herzegovina	18	Faeroe Islands	3	Togo	1
Germany	3,675	India	83	Latvia	17	French Polynesia	3	Trinidad and Tobago	1
France	3,661	San Marino	80	Tunisia	16	Martinique	3		
USA	2,466	Estonia	79	Colombia	16	Monaco	3		
Switzerland	1,139	Lebanon	77	Azerbaijan	15	Nigeria	2		
Norway	996	Thailand	75	Mexico	15	Aruba	2		
Sweden	814	Indonesia	69	North Macedonia	14	Burkina Faso	2		
Netherlands	804	Poland	68	Cyprus	14	Cameroon	2		
Denmark	804	Philippines	64	Malta	12	DRC	2		
UK	798	Taiwan	50	Macao	10	Ghana	2		
Japan	734	Russia	45	Bolivia	10	Honduras	2		
Diamond Princess	696	Vietnam	44	Maldives	9	Saint Martin	2		
Belgium	559	Chile	43	Armenia	8	Venezuela	2		
Austria	504	Luxembourg	38	Jamaica	8	Guyana	1		
Qatar	320	Peru	38	Morocco	8	Sudan	1		
Bahrain	210	Brunei	37	Afghanistan	7	Andorra	1		
Singapore	200	Serbia	35	Cambodia	7	Jordan	1		
Australia	199	Palestine	35	Lithuania	6	Nepal	1		
Canada	198	Argentina	34	New Zealand	6	Antigua and Barbuda	1		
Malaysia	197	Croatia	32	Sri Lanka	6	Bhutan	1		
Brazil	151	Slovakia	32	French Guiana	6	Cayman Islands	1		
Israel	143	Bulgaria	31	Moldova	6	Gibraltar	1		
Czechia	141	Pakistan	28	Paraguay	6	Guadeloupe	1		
Slovenia	141	Panama	27	Dominican Republic	5	Guatemala	1		
Iceland	134	Belarus	27	Reunion	5	Guinea	1		
Hong Kong	132	Algeria	26	Turkey	5	Vatican City	1		
Portugal	112	Georgia	25	Cuba	4	Kenya	1		
Iraq	101	South Africa	24	Kazakhstan	4	Mauritania	1		
Kuwait	100	Ecuador	23	Liechtenstein	4	Mongolia	1		

Current confirmed deaths							
China	3,189	Netherlands	10	Lebanon	3	Ireland	1
Italy	1,266	Italy	9	Egypt	2	Poland	2
Iran	514	Germany	8	Algeria	2	Taiwan	1
Spain	133	<i>Diamond Princess</i>	7	Norway	1	Albania	1
France	79	Philippines	6	Sweden	1	Argentina	2
South Korea	72	San Marino	5	Austria	1	Panama	1
USA	50	Hong Kong	4	Canada	1	Bulgaria	1
Japan	21	Indonesia	4	Greece	1	Azerbaijan	1
UK	11	Belgium	3	India	1	Morocco	1
Switzerland	11	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. For further details please contact +44 (0)1202 308 810 or email info@solaceglobal.com