

A microscopic image showing a cell surface with various colorful protein structures. The structures are primarily green and blue, with some red and purple. The background is dark with some light spots, suggesting a microscopic view of a cell.

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

15 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The outbreak has now increased to over 150,000 cases globally, with just under 6,000 deaths. Travel restrictions are now being implemented across the globe and impacting a large number of countries. It is important to note that these restrictions are extensive and fluid, with changes being implemented with little or no notice. As such, Solace Global advises that, prior to any and all travel, you check your relevant government’s travel advice, airline or travel provider for more details.

Solace Global advises against all but essential travel to any country with more than 1,000 cases due to the likelihood of travel restrictions being imposed. Additionally, Solace Global advises against all but essential travel to countries implementing travel restrictions, if said restrictions include your departure country or a country you have been to in the past 14 days. Be aware that further travel restrictions are likely to be imposed on countries with growing case numbers. Those over 70, or with underlying health issues, should also reconsider their need to travel.

Latest Updates

While case numbers continue to climb across the world, the number of new cases in mainland China is falling. Moreover, the number of newly confirmed cases originating from overseas surpassed the number of locally transmitted infections for the first time since the outbreak began, according to data released by China’s National Health Commission. The number of African nations reporting cases has risen to 23 as of Saturday, with Rwanda, Seychelles and the Central African Republic all confirming their first cases.

In Europe, the Spanish government has formally declared a state of emergency and has placed the country in lockdown for a period of 15 days. The lockdown measure is due to come into effect on Monday, 16 March, and will require all residents to stay at home except to buy food or medicine, to go to work or to go to the hospital for medical emergencies. All non-essential businesses will be shuttered while sports and leisure activities are also to cease.

France has also implemented drastic measures to combat the further spread of the virus. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced that all non-essential businesses will be closed, along with bars, restaurants and entertainment facilities from midnight on 14 March. Despite the global pandemic, several hundred “Yellow Vest” protesters demonstrated in Paris on Saturday, 14 March, defying a ban on mass gatherings.

In Norway, Prime Minister Erna Solberg signalled that the country’s air and seaports would be shut in addition to extensive controls along its land borders from Monday, 16 March, in an attempt to limit the further spread of the virus; although exemptions will be made for Norwegian citizens returning home as well as for goods entering the country.

Elsewhere, in the United States, President Donald Trump has tested negative for the virus amid speculation he may have come into contact with people with the virus, including Brazil’s President Bolsonaro a few days ago. Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill to provide free testing and paid sick leave in a bid to limit further economic damage triggered by the pandemic.

In South America, Ecuador’s government will close its borders from Sunday, 15 March, to all foreign travellers as health officials confirmed the second death from the virus. In addition, Honduras has issued a country-wide red alert for two weeks beginning on Saturday, 14 March having reported its third case while Colombia has closed its border with Venezuela in order to stem the spread of COVID-19.

| Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions | |
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| Asia | <p>China will now quarantine people arriving from countries experiencing “severe outbreaks” – at this time this includes S. Korea, Japan and Italy. Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have also imposed restriction on travellers from Europe, Iran and other Asian countries.</p> <p>India and Sri Lanka will require incoming travellers from, or who have recently visited, China, Iran and specific European countries to carry out a 14-day quarantine.</p> <p>The Philippines has announced a ban on all foreign nationals coming from countries reporting coronavirus cases.</p> |
| Europe | <p>Belgium, Italy, France and Spain are in lockdown. Many governments have advised against all but essential travel to Italy.</p> <p>A number of countries, including Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia (Czech Republic), Georgia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine, have all implemented measures from countries with high numbers of cases, these range from restrictions on travel to mandatory quarantine.</p> <p>Denmark, Poland and Norway have implemented more stringent measures that bar nearly all incoming travel and/or require a 14-day quarantine upon arrival, even for nationals.</p> |
| Americas | <p>The restrictions in many countries in the Americas have been extended, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela have all implemented some form of travel restriction on arrivals from Asia, Europe and/or the US.</p> <p>The United States has implemented a 30-day ban on travel between Schengen European countries, Ireland and the UK, as well as China and Iran. The restriction on the UK and Ireland will come into effect at 04:00GMT on Tuesday, 17 March. Foreign nationals who have visited these countries in the past 14 days will not be permitted to enter the US. American citizens and legal permanent residents who have been to high-risk areas will be required to fly to one of 13 designated airports: <i>Boston-Logan International Airport (BOS)</i>, <i>Chicago O’Hare International Airport (ORD)</i>, <i>Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)</i>, <i>Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)</i>, <i>Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL)</i>, <i>Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)</i>, <i>John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK)</i>, <i>Los Angeles International Airport, (LAX)</i>, <i>Miami International Airport (MIA)</i>, <i>Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR)</i>, <i>San Francisco International Airport (SFO)</i>, <i>Seattle-Tacoma</i></p> |

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| | <i>International Airport (SEA), Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD).</i> |
| | The majority of the Caribbean islands have some form of restrictions or quarantine upon arrival in place. |
| Middle East | Israel has implemented measures requiring all foreign arrivals to self-quarantine. Those self-quarantining will not be permitted to do so in a hotel. Saudi Arabia has also implemented restrictions on foreign arrivals, including pilgrims. Jordan and Turkey have also imposed restriction on incoming travellers. |
| International | Elsewhere, New Zealand has announced that it will require all incoming travellers, including its own citizens, to self-isolate for two weeks. Tunisia |

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

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| Current Total Cases | 157,456 (+11,646) | Total Confirmed Recoveries | 75,953 (+3,422) | Total Confirmed Deaths | 5,845 (+409) |
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Current Confirmed cases per country

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| China | 80,849 | Philippines | 111 | Oman | 20 | Cameroon | 2 |
| Italy | 21,157 | Iraq | 110 | Azerbaijan | 19 | Ivory Coast | 2 |
| Iran | 12,729 | Lebanon | 110 | North Macedonia | 19 | Curaçao | 2 |
| S. Korea | 8,162 | Egypt | 110 | Morocco | 18 | DRC | 2 |
| Spain | 6,391 | India | 107 | Tunisia | 18 | Ghana | 2 |
| Germany | 4,649 | Poland | 104 | Malta | 18 | Namibia | 2 |
| France | 4,499 | Saudi Arabia | 103 | Afghanistan | 16 | Saint Martin | 2 |
| USA | 3,045 | San Marino | 101 | Moldova | 12 | Seychelles | 2 |
| Switzerland | 1,375 | UAE | 85 | Dominican Republic | 11 | Trinidad and Tobago | 2 |
| UK | 1,140 | Chile | 61 | Maldives | 11 | Guyana | 1 |
| Norway | 1,128 | Russia | 59 | Macao | 10 | Sudan | 1 |
| Sweden | 961 | Taiwan | 53 | Sri Lanka | 10 | Andorra | 1 |
| Netherlands | 959 | Vietnam | 53 | Bolivia | 10 | Jordan | 1 |
| Denmark | 864 | Luxembourg | 51 | Martinique | 10 | Nepal | 1 |
| Japan | 825 | Serbia | 46 | Venezuela | 10 | Antigua and Barbuda | 1 |
| Austria | 800 | Argentina | 45 | Lithuania | 9 | Bhutan | 1 |
| Diamond Princess | 696 | Slovakia | 44 | Faeroe Islands | 9 | Cayman Islands | 1 |
| Belgium | 689 | Bulgaria | 43 | New Zealand | 8 | Equatorial Guinea | 1 |
| Qatar | 337 | Panama | 43 | Jamaica | 8 | Ethiopia | 1 |
| Australia | 299 | Peru | 43 | Cambodia | 7 | Gabon | 1 |
| Canada | 252 | Mexico | 41 | French Guiana | 7 | Gibraltar | 1 |
| Malaysia | 248 | Brunei | 40 | Paraguay | 7 | Guatemala | 1 |
| Finland | 244 | Algeria | 39 | Kazakhstan | 6 | Guinea | 1 |
| Greece | 228 | Croatia | 39 | Réunion | 6 | Vatican City | 1 |
| Czechia | 214 | Albania | 38 | Turkey | 6 | Kenya | 1 |
| Bahrain | 212 | South Africa | 38 | Uruguay | 6 | Mauritania | 1 |
| Singapore | 212 | Palestine | 38 | Bangladesh | 5 | Mayotte | 1 |
| Israel | 200 | Pakistan | 33 | Cuba | 4 | Mongolia | 1 |
| Slovenia | 181 | Georgia | 30 | Liechtenstein | 4 | Rwanda | 1 |
| Portugal | 169 | Hungary | 30 | Puerto Rico | 4 | St. Barth | 1 |
| Iceland | 161 | Ecuador | 28 | Ukraine | 3 | Saint Lucia | 1 |
| Brazil | 151 | Belarus | 27 | Channel Islands | 3 | St. Vincent Grenadines | 1 |
| Hong Kong | 142 | Costa Rica | 27 | French Polynesia | 3 | Suriname | 1 |
| Ireland | 129 | Latvia | 26 | Guadeloupe | 3 | Eswatini | 1 |
| Romania | 123 | Cyprus | 26 | Honduras | 3 | Togo | 1 |
| Indonesia | 117 | Senegal | 24 | Monaco | 2 | U.S. Virgin Islands | 1 |
| Estonia | 115 | Colombia | 24 | Nigeria | 2 | Uzbekistan | 1 |
| Thailand | 114 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 21 | Aruba | 2 | | |

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| Kuwait | 112 | Armenia | 20 | Burkina Faso | 2 | | |
| Current confirmed deaths | | | | | | | |
| China | 3199 | Germany | 9 | Algeria | 3 | Thailand | 1 |
| Italy | 1441 | Philippines | 8 | Sweden | 2 | Taiwan | 1 |
| Iran | 611 | Diamond Princess | 7 | Ireland | 2 | Luxembourg | 1 |
| Spain | 196 | Indonesia | 5 | Egypt | 2 | Panama | 1 |
| France | 91 | San Marino | 5 | India | 2 | Albania | 1 |
| S. Korea | 75 | Belgium | 4 | Argentina | 2 | Azerbaijan | 1 |
| USA | 60 | Hong Kong | 4 | Bulgaria | 2 | Morocco | 1 |
| Japan | 22 | Norway | 3 | Ecuador | 2 | Ukraine | 1 |
| UK | 21 | Australia | 3 | Denmark | 1 | Guyana | 1 |
| Switzerland | 13 | Greece | 3 | Austria | 1 | Sudan | 1 |
| Netherlands | 12 | Lebanon | 3 | Canada | 1 | | |
| Iraq | 10 | Poland | 3 | Slovenia | 1 | | |

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| Solace Global Advice | <p>At this time, travellers should reconsider their need to travel, with only business-critical travel being advised, to all countries experiencing an outbreak with more than 1,000 cases or to countries imposing travel restrictions on your country of origin/a country you have recently travelled to. Additionally, Solace Global advises against all travel to Hubei in China, Iran and the cities of Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan in South Korea.</p> <p>Otherwise, maintain flexible itineraries if continuing to travel for business-critical journeys, further restrictions and delays are almost certain if travelling globally.</p> |
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- 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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