

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

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

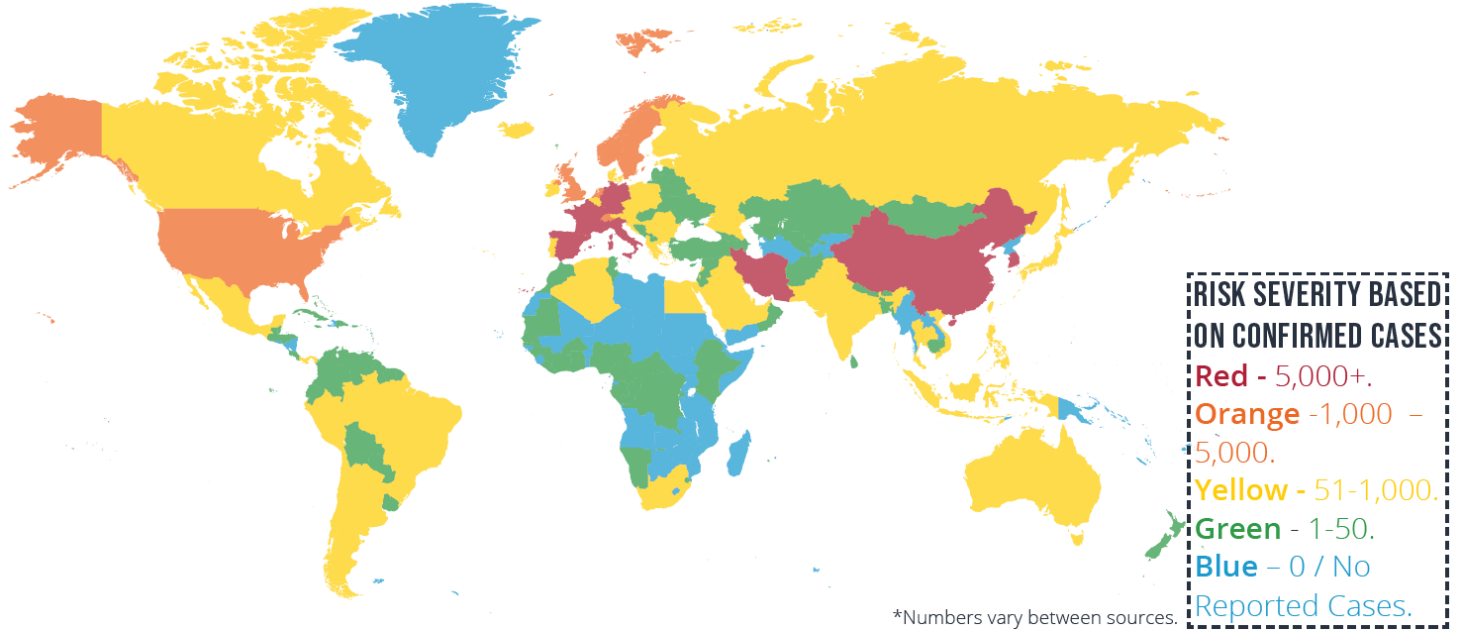
16 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The coronavirus outbreak has now increased to just over 170,000 cases globally, with just over 6,500 deaths. As a result, there are a wide range of travel restrictions being implemented across the globe, with the majority of countries now being impacted. 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 or contact your airline or travel provider for more details. Additionally, travellers should reconsider their need to travel, with only business-critical travel being advised globally at this time. Otherwise, ensure that you can access the country you intend to travel to and consider deferring journeys to countries with more than 1,000 cases or already in place travel restrictions. Finally, Solace Global advises against all travel to Hubei, in China, Iran and Italy. Be aware that further travel restrictions are likely to be imposed on countries with growing case numbers. People aged 70 and over, or those with underlying health issues, should also reconsider their need to travel, even domestically.



Latest Updates

As of Monday, 16 March, global deaths and the number of cases of COVID-19 have surpassed those inside China for the first time since the beginning of the outbreak. The total number of infections outside of China stands at around 88,000, while cases inside China total just under 81,000. Italy continues to be the worst-affected outside of China. On Sunday, the country’s health officials have reported a 25 per cent increase in deaths compared to Saturday’s figures, which also represents the largest one-day increase yet of any country.

In Europe, the 368 deaths Italy has reported exceeds the highest single-day number China reported at the height of its outbreak. Despite the country being under lockdown, case numbers are expected to increase, adding further pressure on the country’s already overloaded hospitals. France and Spain also recorded their highest death tolls in a single day; Spain recorded 97 more deaths for a total of 288 while France reported 29 deaths, bringing the national total to 120. Several European nations have imposed temporary border controls or closures to limit the further spread of the virus, with Germany announcing controls with neighbouring France, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Luxembourg, Portugal is also set to restrict free movement along its frontier with Spain. In addition, the United Kingdom’s Health Secretary, Matt Hancock announced that “within weeks” people aged 70 and over could be asked to self-isolate for an extended period.

In Africa, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a state of disaster and announced a series of drastic measures aimed at stemming the spread of the virus. Travellers who have visited countries affected by the virus within the last 20 days, including United States, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom will not be permitted to enter the country.

In the United States, the Federal Reserve has announced that it will cut interest rates to essentially 0. This new rate will now target 0 to 0.25 percent as a benchmark. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also advised citizens to cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next eight weeks. California Governor Gavin Newsom also issued sweeping new restrictions, including a compulsory isolation order for all residents aged 65 and above. Both New York and Los Angeles have announced that schools, bars and restaurants will shut to limit the spread of coronavirus.

Across the world, major sporting events continue to be cancelled or suspended due to the pandemic. The NBA and NHL have been suspended, the MLB delayed, most football in Europe has been postponed with debates over whether the season can be finished or not arising. Large events such as marathons, including the ones in Paris and Barcelona, and the Masters Golf Tournament have been postponed to later dates.

Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions

Asia	China will now quarantine people arriving from countries experiencing “severe outbreaks” – at this time this includes S. Korea, Japan and Italy. Hong Kong is also not allowing the entry of travellers that have been to China, Iran, Italy and certain regions of France and Germany
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	<p>in the past 14 days.</p> <p>Elsewhere in Asia, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have also imposed restriction on travellers from Europe, Iran and other Asian countries. 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>Finally, Myanmar will require travellers arriving from France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Spain to quarantine in a hospital for 14 days. The Philippines has banned all foreign nationals coming from worst-affected countries.</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, Greece, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Serbia 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, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay, Suriname 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.</p> <p>The majority of the Caribbean islands have some form of restrictions or quarantine upon arrival in place.</p>
Africa	<p>A number of countries in Africa have implemented travel restrictions on people arriving from affected countries. Kenya, Sudan, Tunisia, Ghana and South Africa have all restricted entry to non-citizens or those without valid permanent residency. Additional restrictions and measures are likely to be imposed by African nations in the coming days.</p>
Middle East	<p>Israel has implemented measures requiring all foreign arrivals to self-quarantine. Those self-quarantining will not be permitted to do so in a hotel.</p> <p>Oman has suspended visa-on-arrival facilities while travellers arriving from China, Egypt, Iran, Italy or South Korea in the past 14 days will not be permitted to enter. Passengers arriving from Japan or Singapore will be subject to quarantine for at least 14 days.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia has also implemented restrictions on foreign arrivals, including pilgrims. Jordan and Turkey have also imposed restriction on incoming travellers.</p> <p>Qatar will not allow travellers to enter that have been to Bangladesh, China (People's Rep.), Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, South Korea, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria or Thailand in the past 14 days.</p>
Australia/Oceania	<p>Australia has imposed restrictions on travellers arriving from China, Iran, South Korea and Italy.</p> <p>Several Pacific Island nations have imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries. New Zealand has barred entry to travellers that have transited through or been to China or Iran in the past 14 days. Travellers arriving from a number of affected destinations will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.</p>

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	171,045 (+13,589)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	77,791 (+1,838)	Total Confirmed Deaths	6,526 (+681)
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Current Confirmed cases per country

China	80,879	Iraq	124	Moldova	23	Cuba	4
Italy	24,747	Kuwait	123	Oman	22	Trinidad and Tobago	4
Iran	13,938	Saudi Arabia	118	Afghanistan	21	Channel Islands	3
S. Korea	8,236	India	117	Sri Lanka	21	French Polynesia	3
Spain	7,988	Thailand	114	Malta	21	Guam	3
Germany	6,215	San Marino	109	Tunisia	20	Kenya	3
France	5,423	Lebanon	99	North Macedonia	19	St. Barth	3
USA	3,802	UAE	98	Turkey	18	Seychelles	3
Switzerland	2,217	Pakistan	94	Venezuela	17	Guatemala	2
UK	1,391	Luxembourg	77	Jordan	16	Monaco	2
Norway	1,263	Chile	75	Burkina Faso	15	Nigeria	2
Netherlands	1,135	Peru	71	Martinique	15	Aruba	2
Belgium	1,058	Russia	63	Lithuania	14	Curaçao	2
Sweden	1,043	Slovakia	61	Maldives	13	DRC	2

Austria	959	South Africa	61	Cambodia	12	Namibia	2
Denmark	898	Taiwan	59	Macao	11	Saint Lucia	2
Japan	845	Vietnam	57	Dominican Republic	11	Saint Martin	2
Diamond Princess	696	Argentina	56	Bolivia	11	Sudan	1
Malaysia	553	Croatia	56	Faeroe Islands	11	Nepal	1
Qatar	401	Panama	55	Jamaica	10	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Australia	375	Serbia	55	Kazakhstan	9	Bahamas	1
Canada	341	Algeria	54	Réunion	9	Bhutan	1
Greece	331	Mexico	53	New Zealand	8	Cayman Islands	1
Czechia	298	Bulgaria	52	Bangladesh	8	CAR	1
Finland	266	Brunei	50	Paraguay	8	Congo	1
Israel	250	Colombia	45	Uruguay	8	Equatorial Guinea	1
Portugal	245	Albania	42	Guyana	7	Gabon	1
Singapore	226	Hungary	39	French Guiana	7	Gibraltar	1
Bahrain	221	Palestine	39	Liechtenstein	7	Guinea	1
Slovenia	219	Ecuador	37	Ghana	6	Vatican City	1
Estonia	205	Belarus	36	Guadeloupe	6	Liberia	1
Brazil	203	Costa Rica	35	Honduras	6	Mauritania	1
Iceland	180	Latvia	34	Uzbekistan	6	Mayotte	1
Ireland	170	Georgia	33	Ukraine	5	Mongolia	1
Romania	158	Cyprus	33	Andorra	5	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Poland	150	Armenia	30	Ethiopia	5	Suriname	1
Hong Kong	149	Morocco	29	Puerto Rico	5	Eswatini	1
Philippines	140	Azerbaijan	25	Rwanda	5	Togo	1
Indonesia	134	Senegal	24	Cameroon	4	U.S. Virgin Islands	1
Egypt	126	Bosnia and Herzegovina	24	Ivory Coast	4		

Current confirmed deaths

China	3213	Iraq	10	Lebanon	3	Taiwan	1
Italy	1809	Diamond Princess	7	Austria	2	Panama	1
Iran	724	San Marino	7	Ireland	2	Albania	1
Spain	294	Belgium	5	Egypt	2	Hungary	1
France	127	Australia	5	India	2	Morocco	1
S. Korea	75	Indonesia	5	Argentina	2	Azerbaijan	1
USA	69	Denmark	4	Bulgaria	2	Guyana	1
UK	35	Greece	4	Ecuador	2	Ukraine	1
Japan	25	Hong Kong	4	Canada	1	Guatemala	1
Netherlands	20	Algeria	4	Bahrain	1	Sudan	1
Switzerland	14	Norway	3	Slovenia	1		
Germany	13	Sweden	3	Thailand	1		
Philippines	12	Poland	3	Luxembourg	1		

Solace Global Advice

At this time, travellers should **reconsider their need to travel, with only business-critical travel being advised**. Otherwise, ensure that you can access the country you intend to travel to and consider differing journeys to countries with more than 1,000 cases or already in place travel restrictions. Finally, Solace Global **advises against all travel** to Hubei, in China, Iran and Italy.

- 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 while also informing your company.