



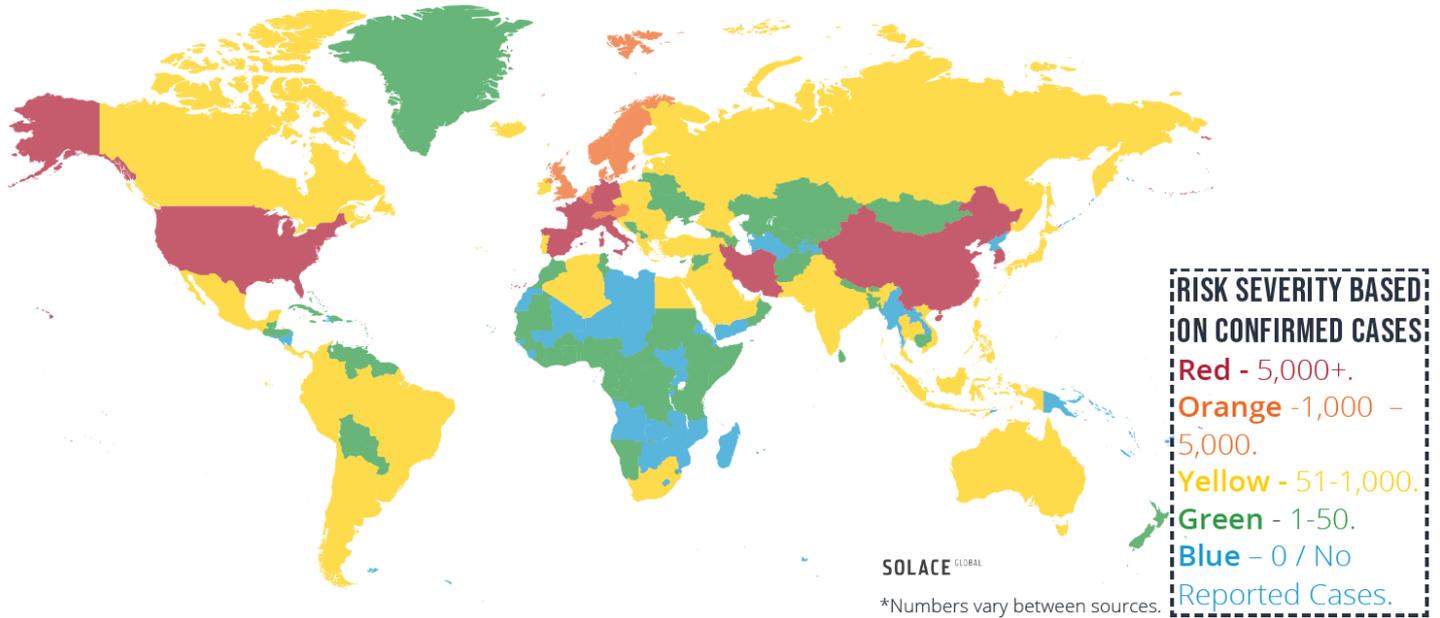
**COVID-19 Outbreak Update**  
**18 March**

**SOLACE** GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

There are now over 200,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with just over 8,000 deaths and around 82,000 recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have some form of travel restriction in place. The Australian Prime Minister has termed the pandemic a “one in 100-year crisis”. The situation continues to evolve rapidly, with changes being implemented with little or no notice.

Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel at this time due to the already in place travel restrictions and the risk that any country or area may implement new restrictions without notice. Additionally, prior to any and all essential travel, it is advised that you check your relevant government’s travel advice and contact your airline or travel provider for more details. People aged 70 and over, or those with underlying health issues, should also reconsider their need to travel, even domestically, limiting the possibility of exposure.



**Latest Updates**

The situation continues to escalate in Europe, with EU leaders agreeing to close the bloc’s external borders for a period of 30 days in an effort to combat the spread of the Pandemic. Long-term residents, family members of EU nationals, UK citizens, diplomats and those on the frontline of dealing with the crisis will be exempt from the restrictions. Freight drivers will also be exempt as governments introduce measures to streamline the flow of goods between member states.

In Belgium, the government has announced that citizens are now to avoid leaving their homes except to go to work or conduct essential journeys. Public gatherings have been prohibited and businesses have been urged to facilitate remote working. Public transport services, and businesses such as salons, have been advised to ensure safe distances are maintained between commuters/customers.

The British government has also set out emergency laws that will include granting powers to police and immigration officers to detain people who may have been infected. There will also be provisions for facilitating the return of retired medical staff to duty. Health Minister Matt Hancock has stressed that the measures will only be used when/if absolutely necessary. Additionally, the United Kingdom’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office has advised against all non-essential international travel, initially for a period of 30 days. The advice is due in part to the pace at which other countries are implementing restrictive travel measures intended to combat the pandemic.

Elsewhere in the world, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has announced an overseas travel ban for all Australians, with Virgin Australia suspending international flights as a result. Additionally, non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people have also been banned. The new rules are expected to significantly impact the operations of businesses such as pubs, cinemas and restaurants. The PM has stated that schools will remain open for now. In Thailand, Bangkok authorities have made the unprecedented move of enforcing a 14-day closure of Rajadamnern Muaythai Stadium and New Lumpinee Boxing Stadium, as well as other public sites including cinemas, bars, gyms, schools and universities.

Similar measures have been taken in many American states. For example, Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser has ordered the shutdown of all movie theatres and gyms and is requiring that restaurants and bars cease in-store services. Citizens have been urged to maintain a safe distance from each other when in public places. In Nevada, all gambling and casinos will close from Wednesday, 18 March.

The supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, has issued a fatwa (religious ruling) prohibiting unnecessary travel, urging citizens to comply with orders issued by the health authorities and to refrain from travelling across the country without a valid reason. Many Iranians have defied government restrictions, with some zealous worshippers even breaking into locked-down holy sites in Mashhad and Qom in order to conduct religious rites.

**Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions**

<b>Asia</b>	Nearly all countries in Asia have some form of restriction on travel. In Japan, the entry of people who have been to China, Iran and Italy in the past 14 days has been banned, with some exceptions.  China has announced that those arriving from countries experiencing “severe outbreaks” – at this time this includes S. Korea, Japan and
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	<p>Italy – will be quarantined. Hong Kong is also not allowing the entry of travellers that have been to China, Iran, Italy and certain regions of France and Germany in the past 14 days. China also still has internal restrictions in place, especially around Hubei province, though these are being relaxed.</p> <p>Many other Asian countries have also imposed restrictions on inbound travellers from countries experiencing outbreaks, especially in relation to Europe.</p>
<b>Europe</b>	<p>Italy and Spain are, alongside Iran, seeing the largest growth in confirmed case numbers with fatality rates also rising at a rapid rate. As such travel to and from these countries is being restricted almost globally. Though travel from many other European nations is now also being restricted, with the US banning all travel from the Schengen area, as well as Norway, Ireland and the UK.</p> <p>Additionally, Germany is restricting travel through its borders, while Austria, Czechia, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, N. Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine all imposing some form of travel restrictions.</p> <p>The EU has announced plans to close the bloc's external borders in an effort to restrict the growth of the pandemic. The UK will be exempt from the closures. However, the UK has also stated that it will not participate in the ban, raising the possibility for restrictions to be extended to the British Isles.</p> <p>The UK has, however, advised all of its citizens against all but essential travel abroad. Restrictions on movement within the UK are likely in the coming days, but at this time the country has not imposed any border restrictions or are they reportedly planning to.</p>
<b>Americas</b>	<p>Many countries in South America and the Caribbean have restricted travel from Europe and other highly impacted countries in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.</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. Repatriation flights do still continue with some travellers exempt from the ban (such as airline crew). Restrictions within the United States are also being implemented, with many states looking to implement shelter in place orders.</p>
<b>Africa</b>	<p>A number of countries in Africa have implemented travel restrictions on people arriving from affected countries. Currently, this includes most of Europe, China and the US.</p>
<b>Middle East</b>	<p>The Middle East also has some significant restrictions, Saudi Arabia, has implemented restrictions on all foreign arrivals, including pilgrims (a measure they hope will be lifted prior to Hajj). Most other countries in the region have also imposed such restrictions on incoming travellers. Israel has the strictest of these with all foreign nationals from China, South Korea, Thailand, Italy, Macau, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Egypt, these restrictions extend to the rest of the world but do have exceptions.</p>
<b>Australia/Oceania</b>	<p>Australia has imposed restrictions on travellers arriving from China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. Canberra has also urged all citizens currently abroad to return back to Australia as soon as possible. The Australian government has also termed the crisis a 'once-in-100 year' crisis and advised against all travel overseas. The government has stressed that the Australian border does remain open, however.</p> <p>Travellers arriving into Both Australia and New Zealand will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. Several Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.</p>

<b>Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)</b>					
Current Total Cases	203,561 (+16,229)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	82,813 (+1,970)	Total Confirmed Deaths	8,160 (+683)

<b>Current Confirmed cases per country</b>							
China	80894	Hong Kong	181	Cambodia	35	Puerto Rico	5
Italy	31506	Saudi Arabia	171	Kazakhstan	35	Aruba	4
Iran	17361	Iraq	154	Azerbaijan	34	Seychelles	4
Spain	13716	India	152	Oman	33	Curaçao	3
Germany	9919	Kuwait	142	North Macedonia	31	French Polynesia	3
S. Korea	8413	Lebanon	133	Senegal	31	Gabon	3
France	7730	San Marino	119	Moldova	30	Gibraltar	3
USA	6524	Peru	117	Tunisia	29	Kyrgyzstan	3
Switzerland	2742	South Africa	116	Lithuania	27	Mayotte	3
UK	1950	Russia	114	Guadeloupe	27	St. Barth	3
Netherlands	1705	UAE	113	Afghanistan	22	Saint Martin	3
Norway	1522	Ecuador	111	Dominican Republic	21	Tanzania	3
Belgium	1486	Slovakia	105	Burkina Faso	20	Sudan	2
Austria	1471	Taiwan	100	New Zealand	20	Barbados	2
Sweden	1196	Turkey	98	Martinique	19	Liberia	2
Denmark	1044	Mexico	93	Liechtenstein	19	Montenegro	2
Japan	889	Panama	86	Macao	15	Namibia	2
Malaysia	790	Armenia	84	Uzbekistan	15	New Caledonia	2

Diamond Princess	712	Serbia	83	Ukraine	14	Saint Lucia	2
Canada	598	Bulgaria	81	Bangladesh	14	U.S. Virgin Islands	2
Australia	565	Croatia	81	Jamaica	13	Cayman Islands	1
Czechia	464	Argentina	79	Maldives	13	Nepal	1
Portugal	448	Colombia	75	Bolivia	12	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Qatar	442	Latvia	71	Réunion	12	Bahamas	1
Israel	427	Vietnam	68	Guyana	11	Benin	1
Greece	387	Brunei	68	French Guiana	11	Bhutan	1
Brazil	349	Algeria	67	Paraguay	11	CAR	1
Finland	333	Albania	59	Cameroon	10	Congo	1
Ireland	292	Hungary	58	Monaco	9	Equatorial Guinea	1
Slovenia	275	Faeroe Islands	58	Honduras	9	Gambia	1
Singapore	266	Belarus	51	Guatemala	8	Greenland	1
Estonia	258	Costa Rica	50	Nigeria	8	Guinea	1
Bahrain	255	Uruguay	50	Guam	8	Vatican City	1
Pakistan	254	Morocco	49	Rwanda	8	Mauritania	1
Iceland	250	Sri Lanka	49	Cuba	7	Montserrat	1
Poland	246	Cyprus	49	DRC	7	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Romania	246	Jordan	48	Ghana	7	Somalia	1
Indonesia	227	Malta	48	Kenya	7	Suriname	1
Thailand	212	Palestine	44	Trinidad and Tobago	7	Eswatini	1
Luxembourg	203	Andorra	39	Channel Islands	6	Togo	1
Philippines	202	Georgia	38	Ivory Coast	6		
Chile	201	Bosnia and Herzegovina	38	Ethiopia	6		
Egypt	196	Venezuela	36	Mongolia	6		

**Current confirmed deaths**

China	3237	San Marino	11	India	3	Thailand	1
Italy	2503	Belgium	10	Malaysia	2	Taiwan	1
Iran	1135	Sweden	8	Portugal	2	Turkey	1
Spain	533	Canada	8	Brazil	2	Panama	1
France	175	Diamond Princess	7	Ireland	2	Hungary	1
USA	116	Australia	6	Luxembourg	2	Azerbaijan	1
S. Korea	84	Egypt	6	Ecuador	2	Moldova	1
UK	71	Greece	5	Bulgaria	2	Dominican Republic	1
Netherlands	43	Poland	5	Argentina	2	Burkina Faso	1
Japan	29	Algeria	5	Albania	2	Martinique	1
Switzerland	27	Norway	4	Morocco	2	Bangladesh	1
Germany	26	Austria	4	Ukraine	2	Guyana	1
Indonesia	19	Denmark	4	Slovenia	1	Guatemala	1
Philippines	17	Hong Kong	4	Bahrain	1	Sudan	1
Iraq	11	Lebanon	4	Pakistan	1	Cayman Islands	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 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.

- 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.



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)