

A photograph of a subway station platform. A woman in a bright red coat and a white face mask stands in the foreground, looking towards the tracks. The platform is lined with glass doors and advertisements. Other people, some wearing masks, are visible in the background. The lighting is modern, with recessed ceiling lights.

# COVID-19 Outbreak Update 21 March

**SOLACE** GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

There are now just over 277,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 11,400 deaths and around 91,989 recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have reported at least one case and/or have implemented some form of travel restriction. The situation continues to evolve rapidly, with new travel restrictions being implemented with little or no notice.

Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel at this time due to the already widespread travel restrictions and the risk of new ones being implemented 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 chances of exposure.

**Latest Updates**

The global death toll has surpassed the 11,000. Italian officials have reported an additional 627 deaths bringing the total number to 4,032. As a result, Italy has now recorded more fatalities than China despite having just short of double the number of cases of COVID-19.

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared that all pubs, bars, restaurants, cinemas and gyms would be forcibly shut to curb the spread of the outbreak. The announcement follows similar measures being implemented across Europe. The government has stated the decision will be reviewed monthly. Train services are to be further reduced from 23 March, with politicians emphasising that people should only use public transport for essential travel.

The Governor of the US State of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker has issued a Stay-at-Home order that will be in force from 21 March to 7 April. As part of the order, only essential businesses such as the government, grocery stores, media and healthcare will remain open. There are approximately 580 confirmed cases and five fatalities across the state. Similar measures have been imposed in California, Pennsylvania and New York. As a result, 70 million, or 1 out of 5 Americans have been told to stay at home.

Both Tonga and Samoa have declared states of emergency in response to the growing pandemic despite neither country having reported any cases. Both countries will deny entry to foreign nationals until 17 April and all Tongan nationals that return to the country will have to undertake a mandatory 14-day quarantine period. All bars are to be closed from 25 March and in Tonga, public gatherings have been restricted to 25 people indoors and 40 people outdoors. Samoan government officials have confirmed they are testing one individual, recently returned from New Zealand, for COVID-19. All bars, restaurants and other areas will be closed. Public transport carrying more than five people is to be suspended.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canal has announced that foreign nationals will be prevented from entering Cuba in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The ban will last initially for 30 days. However, the government will still allow tourists to leave the country. Cuban nationals returning to the island will undergo a mandatory 14-day isolation period. There are 21 confirmed cases and one fatality in Cuba. Jamaica has announced similar measures. Airports and ports for incoming ships are to be closed for a 14-day period starting on 21 March to prevent a further outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The announcement was made after the number of confirmed cases rose from 16 to 19 overnight.

Zimbabwe and Papua New Guinea have both confirmed their first cases of the virus. The Health Minister for Zimbabwe, Obadiah Moyo told the press that the patient returned from the UK via South Africa on the 15 March. The government has declared a national disaster. In Papua New Guinea, Prime Minister James Marap reported the patient is believed to have contracted the virus abroad before returning to the country on the 13 March.

**Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions – Be aware these are fluid and subject to change, check for any updates prior to travel.**

<b>Asia</b>	<p>Nearly all countries in Asia have implemented 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 limited exceptions.</p> <p>China has announced that those arriving from countries experiencing “severe outbreaks” – at this time this includes S. Korea, Japan and Italy – will be quarantined. Hong Kong has reported a spike in infection levels, largely caused by travellers returning from Europe, the United States and Southeast Asia. Hong Kong maintains entry restrictions for travellers that have visited China, Iran, Italy and certain regions of France and Germany in the past 14 days. China also maintains internal restrictions in place, especially around Hubei province, though these are being relaxed.</p> <p>Southeast Asia is experiencing growing numbers of infections and many government authorities are imposing more stringent restrictions, including Stay At Home orders issued to travellers returning to Singapore. Thailand has ordered the closure of malls in Bangkok and now requires all travellers to acquire a health certificate before entering the country. Malaysia is due to deploy its military on Sunday to aid in enforcing a national movement control order, which is scheduled to last until the end of March. The Philippines have implemented a complete lockdown</p> <p>The Philippines, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan have complete border closures for non-residents. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkmenistan and Vietnam have at least partial restrictions on some countries/regions.</p>
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<b>Europe</b>	<p>Italy and Spain are, alongside Iran, seeing the largest growth in confirmed case numbers with fatality rates also rising rapidly. 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>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</p>
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	<p>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 nor are they reportedly planning to.</p> <p>At this time, Belarus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine all have complete border closures to non-residents. Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia &amp; H., Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Rep. (Czechia), Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, N. Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Turkey have some form of restrictions on inbound travel.</p>
<b>Americas</b>	<p>The United States has implemented a level 4: Do Not Travel global advisory. The Department of State advises U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19. In countries where commercial departure options remain available, U.S. citizens who live in the United States should arrange for an immediate return to the United States, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period. U.S. citizens who live abroad should avoid all international travel. Repatriation flights do still continue for the time being. Restrictions within the United States are also being implemented, with many states looking to apply for shelter-in-place orders.</p> <p>Stay at home orders have been introduced in California and Illinois. The states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are expected to announce similar measures in the upcoming days. The United States has also ordered a border closure for all non-essential travel from both Canada and Mexico, which will come into effect on Sunday, 22 March.</p> <p>At this time, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Rep., Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Paraguay, United States and Uruguay all have at least some form of restriction on inbound travel. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname and Trinidad &amp; Tobago do also have varying level of restrictions. Additionally, restrictions vary on many Caribbean islands.</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> <p>At this time, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan and Tunisia have all barred all inbound travel. Algeria, Angola, Congo, Djibouti, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda all have at least some restrictions on inbound travel.</p>
<b>Middle East</b>	<p>The Middle East also has some significant restrictions, Saudi Arabia, has implemented a ban on all foreign arrivals, including pilgrims (a measure they hope will be lifted prior to Hajj). Most countries have also closed schools and non-essential businesses, banned large gatherings, including prayers at mosques. Lebanon is currently under a two-week-long lockdown to prevent its health facilities to be overwhelmed by the number of cases. On 21 March, Jordan has initiated a three-day-long lockdown, after which the government is set to announce the plan for the upcoming months.</p> <p>Additionally, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen all have restrictions on inbound travel by all non-GCC travellers and permanent residents. Additionally, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and the UAE have varying levels of restrictions.</p>
<b>Australia/Oceania</b>	<p>Australia and New Zealand have closed their borders to anyone who is not a citizen or resident. Indoor gatherings of over 100 people have also been banned by both governments. Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.</p>

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

Current Total Cases	277,169 (+26,555)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	91,989 (+2,945)	Total Confirmed Deaths	11,431 (+1,177)
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**Current Confirmed cases per country**

China	81,008	Iceland	409	Morocco	86	Bolivia	19	Curaçao	3
Italy	47,021	Singapore	385	Jordan	85	Paraguay	18	CAR	3
Spain	21,571	Saudi Arabia	344	Brunei	78	Macao	17	Congo	3
Germany	19,848	Slovenia	341	North Macedonia	76	Rwanda	17	El Salvador	3
USA	19,774	Romania	308	Andorra	75	Ghana	16	Liberia	3
Iran	19,644	Philippines	307	Cyprus	75	Guyana	15	Madagascar	3
France	12,612	Bahrain	298	Sri Lanka	73	French Guiana	15	Namibia	3
S. Korea	8,799	Egypt	285	Dominican Republic	72	French Polynesia	15	St. Barth	3
Switzerland	5,616	Estonia	283	Albania	70	Mauritius	14	Sudan	2
UK	3,983	India	275	Lithuania	69	Ivory Coast	14	Angola	2
Netherlands	2,994	Hong Kong	273	Belarus	69	Guam	14	Benin	2
Austria	2,672	Peru	263	Moldova	66	Montenegro	14	Bermuda	2
Belgium	2,257	Russia	253	Venezuela	65	Puerto Rico	14	Bhutan	2
Norway	1,976	South Africa	240	Malta	64	Maldives	13	Fiji	2
Sweden	1,639	Iraq	208	Tunisia	54	Guatemala	12	Greenland	2
Denmark	1,255	Mexico	203	Kazakhstan	53	Nigeria	12	Guinea	2
Malaysia	1,183	Panama	200	New Zealand	52	Channel Islands	12	Haiti	2
Canada	1,087	Lebanon	177	Oman	52	Kyrgyzstan	12	Isle of Man	2
Australia	1,068	Armenia	160	Palestine	52	Monaco	11	Mauritania	2
Portugal	1,020	Kuwait	159	Guadeloupe	51	Gibraltar	10	New Caledonia	2
Japan	1,007	Argentina	158	Cambodia	51	Mongolia	10	Nicaragua	2
Brazil	977	Colombia	158	Georgia	47	Ethiopia	9	Saint Lucia	2



Czechia	904	Croatia	157	Senegal	47	Togo	9	Zambia	2
Diamond Princess	712	Taiwan	153	Azerbaijan	44	Trinidad and Tobago	9	Nepal	1
Israel	705	San Marino	151	Ukraine	41	Kenya	7	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Ireland	683	Serbia	149	Burkina Faso	40	Mayotte	7	Cabo Verde	1
Turkey	670	Bulgaria	142	Réunion	38	Seychelles	7	Chad	1
Pakistan	519	UAE	140	Liechtenstein	37	Barbados	6	Djibouti	1
Greece	495	Slovakia	137	Uzbekistan	37	Equatorial Guinea	6	Gambia	1
Luxembourg	484	Latvia	124	Martinique	32	Tanzania	6	Vatican City	1
Qatar	470	Costa Rica	113	Cameroon	27	U.S. Virgin Islands	6	Montserrat	1
Indonesia	450	Uruguay	110	Bangladesh	24	Aruba	5	Niger	1
Finland	450	Hungary	103	Afghanistan	24	Gabon	4	Papua New Guinea	1
Poland	439	Algeria	94	Honduras	24	Bahamas	4	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Chile	434	Faeroe Islands	92	DRC	23	Saint Martin	4	Sint Maarten	1
Ecuador	426	Vietnam	91	Cuba	21	Suriname	4	Somalia	1
Thailand	411	Bosnia and Herzegovina	90	Jamaica	19	Cayman Islands	3	Somalia	1

**Current confirmed deaths**

Italy	4,032	Sweden	16	Poland	5	UAE	2	Guadeloupe	1
China	3,255	San Marino	14	India	5	Costa Rica	2	Azerbaijan	1
Iran	1,433	Canada	12	Malaysia	4	Dominican Republic	2	Burkina Faso	1
Spain	1,093	Brazil	11	Hong Kong	4	Albania	2	Martinique	1
France	450	Algeria	11	Peru	4	Bangladesh	2	DRC	1
USA	275	Greece	10	Lebanon	4	Israel	1	Cuba	1
UK	177	Denmark	9	Hungary	4	Thailand	1	Jamaica	1
Netherlands	106	Turkey	9	Ireland	3	Slovenia	1	Guyana	1
S. Korea	102	Diamond Princess	8	Pakistan	3	Bahrain	1	Mauritius	1
Germany	68	Egypt	8	Argentina	3	Russia	1	Guatemala	1
Switzerland	57	Austria	7	Bulgaria	3	Panama	1	Gabon	1
Indonesia	38	Norway	7	Morocco	3	Croatia	1	Cayman Islands	1
Belgium	37	Australia	7	Ukraine	3	Serbia	1	Curaçao	1
Japan	35	Portugal	7	Singapore	2	Lithuania	1	Sudan	1
Philippines	19	Ecuador	7	Mexico	2	Moldova	1		
Iraq	17	Luxembourg	5	Taiwan	2	Tunisia	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 have travel restrictions already in place. Finally, Solace Global **advises against all travel** to Hubei, in China, Iran and Italy.



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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