

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 ceiling has recessed lighting.

COVID-19 Outbreak Update 22 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

There are now just over 308,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 13,000 deaths and around 96,000 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

Europe continues to be the pandemic’s epicentre with several countries taking drastic measures to limit the further spread of the virus, including widespread lockdowns, border and business closures, as well as the deployment of military personnel.

The Italian region of Lombardy, the country’s worst-affected area, has introduced stricter measures in an attempt to limit any further spread of the virus. Under the new measures that were announced on Saturday, sport and physical exercise, even individually, has been banned, along with the use of vending machines. In addition, all non-essential businesses have been told to close and work on construction sites will cease, apart from those working on critical infrastructure. The measures have been introduced due to the high numbers of new cases and deaths despite much of the country being under lockdown.

In Albania, the government has deployed troops to enforce a 40-hour curfew in an attempt to stem the spread of the virus. The curfew was imposed at 13:00 local time on Saturday, 21 March and will run until 05:00hrs local time on Monday, 23 March; the only exception to the curfew will be for emergencies. In a statement announced by Prime Minister Edi Rama he said, “the Armed Forces will use force against whoever breaks the law, including pensioners, and will use water cannons and tear gas if need be,” India has also announced a curfew, which will run from 07:00 to 21:00 Delhi time.

Elsewhere, in Brazil, some of the nation’s key states are taking drastic measures amid concerns the country’s healthcare system could collapse in the coming weeks. Sao Paulo state governor, Joao Doria, has authorised a state-wide 15-day shutdown that will be implemented from the 24 March to slow down the spread of COVID-19. As part of the shutdown, all non-essential businesses, such as restaurants and bars, will be closed.

The Bolivian government has announced it will implement a nationwide lockdown starting on the 22 March. Only one individual from every household will be able to buy food and shops will only be open until midday; all other non-essential businesses are to be closed. Bolivia has 19 confirmed case of the virus.

The Rwandan government has also imposed a 14-day lockdown in an attempt to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Non-essential businesses are to be shut, and citizens are required to stay indoors except when buying groceries, visiting banks or hospitals. The borders have been closed and public travel between cities has been suspended. Rwanda has 17 confirmed cases of the virus so far.

Uganda and Eritrea both confirmed their first cases. Media sources indicate the patient in Eritrea recently returned from Norway via Asmara International Airport. The Ugandan Ministry of Health indicated that their patient had recently returned from Dubai on the 21 March. As a result, the Ugandan government has announced that foreigners will be prevented from entering the country from the 23 March onwards for an initial 30-day period.

Officials in Singapore will impose restrictions on all foreign nationals entering the country in an attempt to prevent further outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The new measures, which will be implemented on the 23 March will now prevent short term visitors from entering the country. Only those who work in essential services such as healthcare and transport will be allowed entry.

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

Asia	<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>
Europe	<p>Italy and Spain are, alongside Iran, seeing the largest growth in confirmed case numbers with fatality rates also rising rapidly. As such, travel</p>

	<p>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 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 & 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>
Americas	<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 & Tobago do also have varying level of restrictions. Additionally, restrictions vary on many Caribbean islands.</p>
Africa	<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>
Middle East	<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>
Australia/Oceania	<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	308,592 (+31,423)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	95,829 (+3,840)	Total Confirmed Deaths	13,069 (1,638)
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Current Confirmed cases per country

China	81,054	Singapore	432	Faeroe Islands	92	Ghana	21	Curaçao	3
Italy	53,578	Saudi Arabia	392	Andorra	88	Puerto Rico	21	Cabo Verde	3
USA	26,892	Slovenia	383	North Macedonia	85	Jamaica	19	CAR	3
Spain	25,496	Philippines	380	Cyprus	84	Macao	19	Congo	3
Germany	22,364	Romania	367	Brunei	83	Bolivia	19	El Salvador	3
Iran	20,610	India	332	Moldova	80	Guyana	18	Liberia	3
France	14,459	Peru	318	Sri Lanka	77	Monaco	18	Madagascar	3
S. Korea	8,897	Bahrain	310	Albania	76	French Guiana	18	Namibia	3
Switzerland	6,863	Russia	306	Belarus	76	Guatemala	17	St. Barth	3
UK	5,018	Estonia	306	Malta	73	Rwanda	17	Zimbabwe	3
Netherlands	3,631	Egypt	294	Venezuela	70	Montenegro	16	Sudan	2
Austria	3,024	Hong Kong	274	New Zealand	66	Togo	16	Angola	2
Belgium	2,815	Mexico	251	Burkina Faso	64	French Polynesia	15	Benin	2
Norway	2,167	Panama	245	Tunisia	60	Guam	15	Bermuda	2
Sweden	1,770	South Africa	240	Guadeloupe	56	Mauritius	14	Bhutan	2

Canada	1,328	Lebanon	230	Senegal	56	Barbados	14	Fiji	2
Denmark	1,326	Argentina	225	Georgia	54	Ivory Coast	14	Greenland	2
Australia	1,286	Iraq	214	Kazakhstan	54	Kyrgyzstan	14	Guinea	2
Portugal	1,280	Colombia	210	Azerbaijan	53	Maldives	13	Haiti	2
Malaysia	1,183	Croatia	206	Cambodia	53	Mayotte	11	Isle of Man	2
Brazil	1,178	Armenia	190	Palestine	53	Gibraltar	10	Mauritania	2
Japan	1,054	Serbia	188	Oman	52	Mongolia	10	Nicaragua	2
Czechia	995	Slovakia	178	Trinidad and Tobago	49	Ethiopia	9	Saint Lucia	2
Turkey	947	Kuwait	176	Ukraine	47	Aruba	8	Zambia	2
Israel	883	Bulgaria	163	Réunion	47	Kenya	7	Nepal	1
Ireland	785	San Marino	160	Uzbekistan	42	Seychelles	7	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Diamond Princess	712	Taiwan	153	Cameroon	40	Equatorial Guinea	6	Chad	1
Luxembourg	670	UAE	153	Martinique	37	Tanzania	6	Djibouti	1
Pakistan	645	Algeria	139	Liechtenstein	37	U.S. Virgin Islands	6	Eritrea	1
Thailand	599	Uruguay	135	Channel Islands	32	Gabon	5	Gambia	1
Chile	537	Hungary	131	Honduras	26	Saint Martin	5	Vatican City	1
Poland	536	Latvia	124	Bangladesh	24	Suriname	5	Montserrat	1
Ecuador	532	Costa Rica	117	Afghanistan	24	Bahamas	4	Niger	1
Greece	530	Dominican Republic	112	DRC	23	New Caledonia	4	Papua New Guinea	1
Finland	523	Lithuania	105	Paraguay	22	Eswatini	4	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Qatar	481	Jordan	100	Nigeria	22	Cayman Islands	3	Sint Maarten	1
Indonesia	473	Morocco	96	Cuba	21			Somalia	1

Current confirmed deaths

Italy	4825	Sweden	20	Poland	5	UAE	2	Guadeloupe	1
China	3,261	San Marino	20	India	5	Costa Rica	2	Azerbaijan	1
Iran	1,556	Canada	19	Peru	5	Dominican Republic	2	Paraguay	1
Spain	1,381	Brazil	18	Hong Kong	4	Albania	2	Greece	10
France	562	Iraq	17	Lebanon	4	Bangladesh	2	Martinique	1
USA	348	Algeria	15	Argentina	4	Singapore	2	DRC	1
UK	233	Denmark	13	Hungary	4	Thailand	1	Cuba	1
Netherlands	136	Portugal	12	Ireland	3	Slovenia	1	Jamaica	1
S. Korea	104	Egypt	10	Pakistan	3	Bahrain	1	Guyana	1
Germany	84	Malaysia	9	Panama	3	Russia	1	Mauritius	1
Switzerland	80	Austria	8	Bulgaria	3	Israel	1	Guatemala	1
Belgium	67	<i>Diamond Princess</i>	8	Morocco	3	Croatia	1	Gabon	1
Indonesia	38	Norway	8	Ukraine	3	Serbia	1	Cayman Islands	1
Japan	36	Luxembourg	8	Burkina Faso	3	Lithuania	1	Curaçao	1
Philippines	25	Australia	7	Mexico	2	Moldova	1	Sudan	1
Turkey	21	Ecuador	7	Taiwan	2	Tunisia	1	Curacao	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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