

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 right. The platform is lined with glass doors and advertisements. In the background, other people are visible, some wearing masks. The ceiling has recessed lighting.

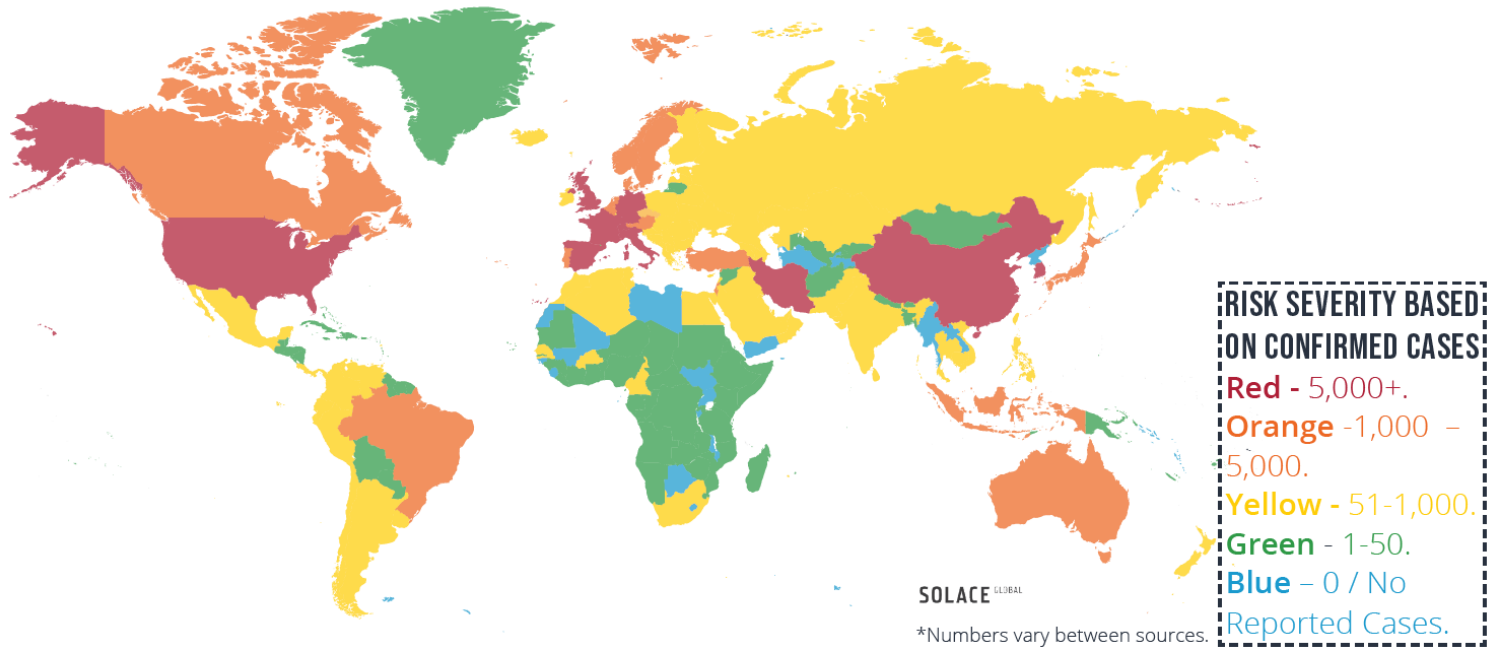
# COVID-19 Outbreak Update 23 March

**SOLACE** GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

There are now just over 350,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 15,000 deaths and around 100,000 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. However, the US is also starting to see a strong case growth rate, with 9,339 additional cases on 22 March, the largest increase of any country and, as such, is beginning to impose restrictions domestically.

Most recently, orders have been issued in Ohio, Nashville, Louisiana, St Louis, Kentucky, Honolulu and Maui in order to limit social contact. The directives are of varying severity, with residents in some areas allowed outside to conduct personal fitness. It is anticipated that stay-at-home directives will continue to be issued across the United States in the near term. This comes as partisan political wrangling in the US Senate has delayed a 1 trillion USD package to tackle the virus and its economic impacts.

In the UK, some 1.5 million people with specific health conditions are to be contacted by the government in the coming days and asked to remain at home for a period of 12 weeks. The measure is aimed at shielding those likely to be severely affected by COVID-19 from contacting the virus. Family members of vulnerable people are being asked to limit their social contacts. The UK government has also struck a deal to bring private healthcare facilities under government control, significantly increasing intensive care capacity and medical staff numbers. Additionally, ministers have hinted at draconian measures to enforce social distancing following reports of large numbers of people in open spaces across the country. In response, a number of parks in London have closed.

Germany is set to ban public meetings of more than two people. Residents will be forbidden from forming groups of three or more in public unless they live together in the same household, or the gathering is work-related. Police will monitor and punish anyone infringing the new rules, possibly with heavy fines. Chancellor Angel Merkel has confirmed she has entered a period of Quarantine after her doctor tested positive for COVID-19.

Italian health officials have expressed cautious hope after the coronavirus death toll edged down from the previous day's world record and the rate of infections slowed. The total number of cases in Italy rose to 59,138 from a previous 53,578, an increase of 10.4%, the Civil Protection Agency said. This is the lowest rise in percentage terms since the crisis came to light in late February.

Elsewhere, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ai Khamenei, has refused US assistance in fighting the COVID-19 outbreak. Khamenei chose instead to cite a conspiracy theory claiming that the virus was manufactured by the United States government. Despite the offer for aid, Washington has refused to lift the economic sanctions on Iran. COVID-19 continues to spread rapidly in Iran, with millions of Iranians ignoring government advice not to travel during Persian New Year. A combination of an already-ailing economy and a non-compliant population means the continued rapid spread of COVID-19 is likely in Iran.

Across the Persian Gulf, in the United Arab Emirates, all shopping malls and food markets have been ordered to close for at least two weeks. The restrictions are due to come in to force on 25 March and will be reassessed at regular intervals. There are currently 150 cases of COVID-19 in the UAE.

Syria has also confirmed its first case of COVID-19. The Health Minister indicated in a statement that the infected person travelled from abroad. Following the confirmation, the government has suspended all public transport in areas it controls. The arrival of the virus in Syria presents a particular public health problem for both Turkey and Europe, as, should COVID-19 take hold in Syria, particularly Idlib governorate, widespread infection among the refugee populations is possible.

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

<p><b>Asia</b></p>	<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. As such, the SAR will now ban all foreign visitors from entering from Wednesday, 25 March, the government is also proposing prohibiting 8,600 licensed restaurants and bars from selling alcohol in an effort to promote social distancing.</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>
<p><b>Europe</b></p>	<p>Italy and Spain are, alongside the United States, 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 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>
<p><b>Americas</b></p>	<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>Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Philadelphia, St Louis, Kansas City, New Orleans, San Miguel County, Athens-Clarke County and Blaine County all have some form of restriction in place, many other states, cities or counties are expected to issue stay at home orders soon. 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>
<p><b>Africa</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Middle East</b></p>	<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</p>

	months. 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.
<b>Australia/Oceania</b>	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.

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

Current Total Cases	353,426 (+44,834)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	100,608 (+4,779)	Total Confirmed Deaths	15,361 (+2,292)
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**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. In the coming weeks, extensive travel restrictions are likely to make even business-critical travel difficult – liaise with your relevant government agency for further instructions and information.

**Statistics**

**Current Confirmed cases per country**

China	81,093	Qatar	494	Andorra	113	Ivory Coast	25	Curaçao	3
Italy	59,138	Philippines	462	Jordan	112	Ghana	24	Cabo Verde	3
USA	35,070	Singapore	455	Malta	107	Macao	24	CAR	3
Spain	33,089	Russia	438	New Zealand	102	Monaco	23	Congo	3
Germany	26,220	India	425	Burkina Faso	99	Montenegro	22	El Salvador	3
Iran	23,049	Slovenia	414	Cyprus	95	Paraguay	22	Fiji	3
France	16,481	South Africa	402	Moldova	94	Mayotte	21	Liberia	3
S. Korea	8,961	Peru	363	Brunei	91	Guatemala	19	Namibia	3
Switzerland	8,234	Hong Kong	356	Albania	89	Guyana	19	St. Barth	3
UK	5,683	Estonia	352	Sri Lanka	87	Jamaica	19	Zambia	3
Netherlands	4,204	Bahrain	339	Cambodia	86	Rwanda	19	Zimbabwe	3
Austria	3,806	Egypt	327	Tunisia	85	French Guiana	18	Sudan	2
Belgium	3,743	Mexico	316	Belarus	81	French Polynesia	18	Nepal	2
Norway	2,415	Panama	313	Venezuela	77	Togo	18	Angola	2
Sweden	1,934	Croatia	306	Ukraine	73	Barbados	17	Benin	2
Australia	1,709	Iraq	266	Senegal	67	Gibraltar	15	Bhutan	2
Brazil	1,619	Argentina	266	Oman	66	Kenya	15	Mauritania	2
Portugal	1,600	Lebanon	256	Azerbaijan	65	Kyrgyzstan	14	Nicaragua	2
Malaysia	1,518	Colombia	235	Réunion	64	Maldives	13	Niger	2
Canada	1,470	Serbia	222	Kazakhstan	62	Madagascar	12	Saint Lucia	2
Denmark	1,450	Dominican Republic	202	Palestine	59	Tanzania	12	Gambia	1
Israel	1,238	Algeria	201	Guadeloupe	58	Ethiopia	11	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Turkey	1,236	Taiwan	195	Cameroon	56	Mongolia	10	Chad	1
Czechia	1,165	Armenia	194	Georgia	54	Aruba	9	Djibouti	1
Japan	1,101	Bulgaria	190	Trinidad and Tobago	50	New Caledonia	8	Dominica	1
Ireland	906	Kuwait	189	Liechtenstein	46	Seychelles	7	Eritrea	1
Pakistan	804	Slovakia	186	Uzbekistan	46	Bermuda	6	Grenada	1
Luxembourg	798	Latvia	180	Martinique	44	Equatorial Guinea	6	Vatican City	1
Ecuador	789	San Marino	175	Afghanistan	40	U.S. Virgin Islands	6	Montserrat	1
Thailand	721	Hungary	167	Nigeria	36	Gabon	5	Mozambique	1
Diamond Princess	712	Uruguay	158	Cuba	35	Haiti	5	Papua New Guinea	1
Finland	686	Lithuania	154	Channel Islands	35	Isle of Man	5	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Poland	684	UAE	153	Bangladesh	33	Saint Martin	5	Sint Maarten	1
Chile	632	North Macedonia	136	Puerto Rico	31	Suriname	5	Somalia	1
Greece	624	Costa Rica	134	DRC	30	Bahamas	4	Syria	1
Indonesia	579	Bosnia and Herzegovina	128	Guam	29	Greenland	4	Timor-Leste	1
Romania	576	Morocco	122	Mauritius	28	Guinea	4	Uganda	1
Iceland	568	Vietnam	121	Bolivia	27	Eswatini	4		
Saudi Arabia	511	Faeroe Islands	118	Honduras	27	Cayman Islands	3		

**Yesterday's increase**

USA	+9,339	Argentina	+108	South Africa	+34	Moldova	+14	Aruba	+4
Italy	+5,560	Finland	+103	Armenia	+34	Cuba	+14	Bermuda	+4
Spain	+3,272	S. Korea	+98	Egypt	+33	Mauritius	+14	Oman	+3
Germany	+2,509	Poland	+98	Bosnia and Herzegovina	+33	Qatar	+13	Bangladesh	+3
France	+1,559	Chile	+95	Slovenia	+31	Albania	+13	Macao	+3
Iran	+1,028	Iceland	+95	Cambodia	+31	Kuwait	+12	French Polynesia	+3
UK	+665	Greece	+94	North Macedonia	+30	Jordan	+12	Isle of Man	+3
Switzerland	+611	Dominican Republic	+90	Hungary	+28	Azerbaijan	+12	Eswatini	+3
Austria	+590	Philippines	+73	Ukraine	+26	Guam	+12	Guadeloupe	+2
Belgium	+586	Denmark	+69	Andorra	+25	Cyprus	+11	Uzbekistan	+2

Netherlands	+573	Panama	+68	Bahrain	+24	Burkina Faso	+11	Honduras	+2
Australia	+537	Romania	+66	Bulgaria	+24	Senegal	+11	Ghana	+2
Brazil	+368	Indonesia	+64	Singapore	+23	Nigeria	+8	Puerto Rico	+2
Portugal	+320	India	+64	Faeroe Islands	+23	Kenya	+8	Guatemala	+2
Turkey	+289	Algeria	+62	Estonia	+20	Slovakia	+7	Rwanda	+2
Ecuador	+257	Russia	+61	Iraq	+19	Martinique	+7	Ethiopia	+2
Norway	+221	Serbia	+51	Morocco	+19	DRC	+7	Greenland	+2
Israel	+188	New Zealand	+50	Vietnam	+19	Kazakhstan	+6	Trinidad and Tobago	+1
Thailand	+188	Croatia	+48	Lebanon	+18	Palestine	+6	Guyana	+1
Sweden	+164	Mexico	+48	Costa Rica	+17	Tanzania	+6	Zambia	+1
Canada	+142	Uruguay	+48	Malta	+17	Brunei	+5	Niger	+1
Pakistan	+131	Japan	+47	Réunion	+17	Sri Lanka	+5	Dominica	+1
Luxembourg	+128	China	+46	Taiwan	+16	Georgia	+5	Grenada	+1
Czechia	+125	Peru	+45	Afghanistan	+16	Bolivia	+5	Mozambique	+1
Malaysia	+123	Hong Kong	+44	San Marino	+15	Monaco	+5	Syria	+1
Ireland	+121	Lithuania	+44	Latvia	+15	Montenegro	+5		
Saudi Arabia	+119	Colombia	+35	Tunisia	+15	Gibraltar	+5		

**Current confirmed deaths**

Italy	5,476	San Marino	20	Romania	4	North Macedonia	2	Afghanistan	1
China	3,270	Greece	17	Hong Kong	4	Costa Rica	2	Nigeria	1
Spain	2,182	Algeria	17	Argentina	4	Puerto Rico	2	Cuba	1
Iran	1,812	Austria	16	Lebanon	4	Mauritius	2	DRC	1
France	674	Portugal	14	Morocco	4	Israel	1	Guam	1
USA	458	Malaysia	14	Burkina Faso	4	Czechia	1	Ghana	1
UK	281	Ecuador	14	Slovenia	3	Thailand	1	Montenegro	1
Netherlands	179	Egypt	14	Panama	3	Finland	1	Paraguay	1
Germany	111	Denmark	13	Dominican Republic	3	Chile	1	Guatemala	1
S. Korea	111	Norway	8	Bulgaria	3	Iceland	1	Guyana	1
Switzerland	107	Luxembourg	8	Tunisia	3	Russia	1	Jamaica	1
Belgium	88	Diamond Princess	8	Ukraine	3	Croatia	1	Gabon	1
Indonesia	49	Poland	8	Bangladesh	3	Lithuania	1	Cayman Islands	1
Japan	41	India	8	Singapore	2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Curaçao	1
Philippines	33	Australia	7	Bahrain	2	Andorra	1	Sudan	1
Turkey	30	Hungary	7	Mexico	2	Cyprus	1	Gambia	1
Sweden	25	Pakistan	6	Colombia	2	Moldova	1		
Brazil	25	Peru	5	Serbia	2	Azerbaijan	1		
Iraq	23	Albania	5	Taiwan	2	Guadeloupe	1		
Canada	20	Ireland	4	UAE	2	Martinique	1		



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)