



# COVID-19 Outbreak Update 27 February

**Executive Summary**

At this time, Solace Global advises against all travel to China due to the ongoing travel restrictions, cancelled flights, government warnings and confirmed cases of the virus. Additionally, Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel to HK, Macau, Iran, Daegu and Cheongdo in South Korea and 11 towns in northern Italy. Further travel restrictions and disruption to business operations globally are possible in the coming days and weeks.

**Latest Updates**

In South Korea, there are a reported 334 new cases of the virus and one fatality bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 1,595, with 13 deaths. However, the number of confirmed cases is expected to increase in the coming days as health officials have started testing more than 210,000 members of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus in Daegu. In Japan, the PM has ordered that all schools close from 2 March to help combat the spread of the virus.

In Europe, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Norway, North Macedonia, Greece and Romania are among countries to report their first case of the virus while France, Spain and Germany have all reported an increase in the number of cases – most likely linked to the outbreak in Italy’s Lombardy region. Furthermore, organisers have cancelled a luxury watch trade show in Geneva. Lombardy’s governor has cancelled a scheduled press conference and announced in a video that he is going to self-quarantine after his close assistant tested positive for the virus.

In America, the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed there is a new case of the COVID-19 virus in Solano County, Northern California. The case is unique as the patient does not have a history of recent travel, so scientists are still investigating a possible source of the infection. South of the border, Mexican authorities have allowed the MSC Meraviglia to dock in Cozumel after the cruise vessel had been turned away from Jamaica and the Cayman Islands following reports that one of the crew members was experiencing flu-like symptoms. The patient was prescribed antibiotics and has almost recovered following treatment. It is unknown if the 6,000 passengers will be allowed to disembark at this time.

Saudi Arabian authorities have temporarily suspended religious pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina; the ban comes less than 60 days before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In addition, Saudi authorities have restricted entry to the kingdom to those holding tourist visas from COVID-19-affected countries. Meanwhile, Australian authorities have extended a travel ban on foreigners arriving from mainland China for at least one more week amid the implementation of an emergency response plan over concerns the outbreak “could move towards a pandemic phase”, according to Australian PM Scott Morrison.

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

Current Total Infected (new cases)	82,221 (+730)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	32,914 (+2,862)	Total confirmed Deaths	2,807 (+84)
<b>Current confirmed case numbers</b>	China (78,514), South Korea (1,595), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (705), Italy (470), Japan (189), Iran (141), Singapore (93), HK (89), USA (60), Kuwait (43), Thailand (40), Bahrain (33), Taiwan (32), Germany (27), Australia (23), Malaysia (22) France (18), Vietnam (16), Spain (14), UK (15), UAE (13), Canada (12), Macau (10), Iraq (6), Oman (4), Philippines (3), Croatia (3), India (3), Austria (2), Finland (2), Israel (2), Lebanon (2) Pakistan (2), Russia (2), Sweden (2), Afghanistan (1), Algeria (1), Belgium (1), Brazil (1), Cambodia (1), Denmark (1), Egypt (1), Estonia (1), Georgia (1), Greece (1), North Macedonia (1), Nepal (1), Norway (1), Romania (1), Sri Lanka (1), Switzerland (1).				
<b>Deaths</b>	China (2,747), Iran (22), South Korea (13), Italy (12), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (4), Japan (3), HK (2), France (2), Taiwan (1), Philippines (1)				

**Travel Restrictions (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)**

<b>China</b>	<b>Quarantined and lockdown cities/regions</b>	Majority of Hubei Province, Wenzhou, Nanchang, Zhengzhou, Linyi, Harbin, Fuzhou some cities in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces. Restrictions outside of Hubei Province are being relaxed to allow the continuation of business as usual.
	<b>Flight Restrictions</b>	Majority of international airlines have ceased operations to and from Chinese mainland. Flight operations to and from HK and Macau are also being impacted.
<b>Countries that have some form of warning or ban on travel to China</b>	Schengen Countries, Australia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Czech R., DRC, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, S. Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, UK, Ukraine, US	
<b>Italy</b>	<b>Current restrictions</b>	Lombardy region (Codogno, Castiglione d’Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertinico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano) and one in Veneto (Euganeo)
<b>South Korea</b>	<b>Current restrictions</b>	Daegu and Cheongdo cities

**Solace Global Advice**

**Advise against all travel:** Mainland China  
**Advise against all but essential travel:** Hong Kong, Macau, Iran, Daegu and Cheongdo (Both in SK), 11 towns in N. Italy

- Solace Global advises clients and travellers to monitor countries experiencing outbreaks due to currently in place travel restrictions.
- Ensure your healthcare and insurance providers are aware of any essential travel to China.
- 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.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms, should you suspect that you have contracted the virus, self-quarantine and immediately call your relevant embassy and/or consult your doctor.
- Maintain a good hygiene level, use hand sanitizer and wash hands regularly if travelling in the coming days.
- Regularly check updates via your respective government agency and the World Health Organisation for travel information and potential restrictions.