



COVID-19 Outbreak Update

28 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 Hong Kong, 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

COVID-19 cases have now been reported in at least 49 countries, with New Zealand, the Netherlands, Belarus, Lithuania and Nigeria – the first country in sub-Saharan Africa – all reporting their first cases in the past 24 hours. The steady global increase of cases has led the World Health Organisation (WHO) to warn that the outbreak has “pandemic potential”. The majority of newly confirmed cases in Europe have been traced to the outbreak in northern Italy. The US State Department has advised American citizens to reconsider travel to South Korea due to the rapidly expanding number of COVID-19 cases, while the South Korean government has upgraded its response level to “grave”, its highest level. Furthermore, Hyundai has suspended manufacturing at its factory in Ulsan. With the largest outbreak outside of China, South Korea reported 256 new cases on 28 February, bringing its total to 2,022. Elsewhere, the WHO has been granted sanction exemptions to send medical supplies to North Korea, though the country maintains they have no confirmed cases.

Russia has temporarily banned Iranians from entering the country and reports indicate that authorities are planning to restrict the entry of South Korean nationals from 1 March as both Iran and South Korea continue to experience a high number of cases.

Reports from the United States indicate that health workers have been sent into quarantine zones to work with evacuees from COVID-19 hotspots without proper training or protective equipment. A whistle-blower complaint has detailed how workers did not receive any training until days after regularly spending time in a hangar with evacuees from Wuhan, the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Global markets have fallen significantly for a sixth consecutive day as the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak is approaching the severity of the 2008 global financial crisis. The outbreaks across Asian countries, namely China, Japan and South Korea, are having the greatest impact on global markets.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (new cases)	83,726 (+1,505)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	36,722 (+3808)	Total confirmed Deaths	2,859 (+52)
Current confirmed case numbers	China (78,832), South Korea (2,337), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (705), Italy (655), Iran (245), Japan (226), Singapore (96), HK (93), USA (60), Germany (48), Kuwait (45), Thailand (41), France (41), Bahrain (33), Taiwan (34), Spain (26), Australia (24), Malaysia (25), UAE (19), UK (19) Vietnam (16), Canada (14), Macau (10), Switzerland (8), Iraq (7), Sweden (7), Oman (6), Philippines (3), Croatia (5), Austria (5), Greece (4), Israel (4), Norway (4), Philippines (3), India (3), Finland (2), Lebanon (3) Pakistan (2), Russia (2), Afghanistan (1), Algeria (1), Belgium (1), Brazil (1), Cambodia (1), Denmark (1), Egypt (1), Estonia (1), Georgia (1), North Macedonia (1), Nepal (1), Netherlands (1), Nigeria (1), Romania (1), San Marino (1), Sri Lanka (1), Belarus (1), Lithuania (1), New Zealand (1).				
Deaths	China (2,788), Iran (26), South Korea (13), Italy (17), <i>Diamond Princess</i> (4), Japan (5), 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)					
China	Quarantined and lockdown cities/regions	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.			
	Flight Restrictions	Majority of international airlines have ceased operations to and from Chinese mainland. Flight operations to and from HK and Macau are also being impacted.			
Countries that have some form of warning or ban on travel to China	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				
Italy	Current restrictions	Lombardy region (Codogno, Castiglione d’Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo and San Fiorano) and one in Veneto (Euganeo)			
South Korea	Current restrictions	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.