



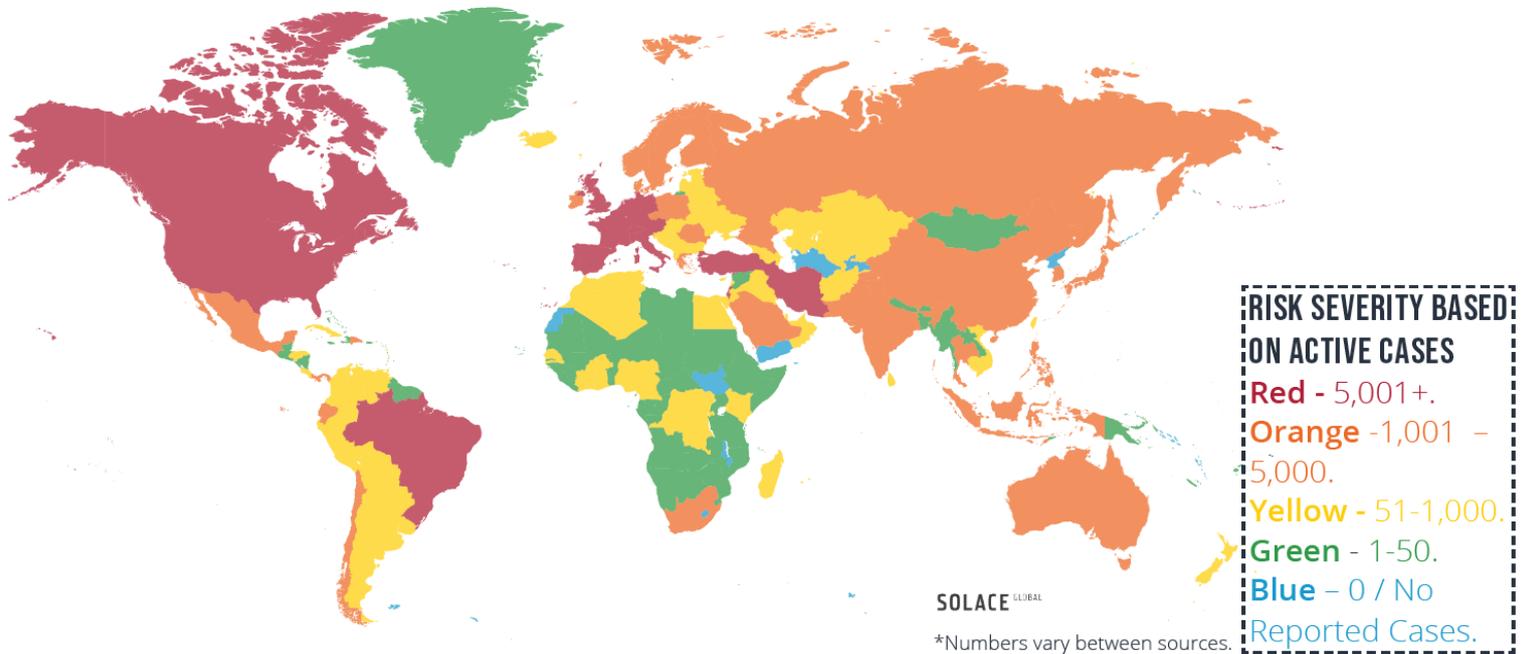
COVID-19 Outbreak Update 1 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

There are now just over 860,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 43,000 deaths and around 184,000 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, both internationally and domestically, being implemented with little or no notice.

Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel at this time due to the already widespread in-place 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, as to limit their chances of exposure.



Latest Updates

At the time of writing, the global total of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has exceeded 860,000, with the United States remaining one of the worst hit countries. The US now has over 188,000 confirmed cases with Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, indicating that Americans should prepare for the possibility that 100,000 people could die as a result of the virus in the United States. President Donald Trump has also warned that the coming weeks will be particularly painful in terms of new infections and projected deaths. CNN estimates that 262 million Americans, around 80 percent of the population, are currently subject to stay-at-home orders.

In South Africa, it has been reported that some people are not complying with the recently decreed 21-day lockdown. According to reports, those living in extreme poverty are more likely to defy regulations in order to earn small amounts of money and to source food. The country’s security forces are also developing a reputation for heavy-handedness when enforcing the lockdown, with one police officer being arrested for murder following the death of a man who had violated restrictions. South Africa’s experience highlights a problem that is likely to reoccur in many impoverished African nations as COVID-19 spreads on the continent.

Indeed, in Nigeria, there has been much backlash as a result of the lockdown imposed on major cities. In Lagos, many of the city’s poorest are living in terrible conditions and are unable to comply with the stay at home restrictions in order to feed their children. Additionally, working from home is almost impossible for many who live without reliable internet connection or, in some cases, without reliable water supplies.

In the United Kingdom, there has been a sharp jump in the number of deaths associated with the virus. On 31 March, it was announced that there had been 381 new deaths associated with the virus, representing 21 percent of all COVID-19 related deaths to date in the UK. Figures from the UK’s Office of National Statistics indicate that there may have been as much as 20 percent more COVID-19 deaths than have been officially publicised. The discrepancy arises as official figures only take account of deaths that occur in hospitals and not in a domestic setting or in residential care. Michael Gove, a senior minister, has claimed that the UK is struggling to carry out large scale testing for the virus due to a shortage of required chemical reagents.

Elsewhere in Europe, Spain has recorded 864 COVID-19 fatalities since yesterday. With just over 7,000 new cases confirmed, the country’s total has now exceeded 100,000 confirmed cases. There are also signs of brewing unrest amid reports of police acting in a heavy-handed manner to enforce the country’s social distancing measures. In a video clip that has been widely shared on social media, officers in the Basque region are seen striking a man and his elderly mother following a verbal altercation. Due to the man’s Moroccan origin, anti-racism organisations have organised several protests in the region, these protests take the form of banging pots from open windows. There have been nearly 1,000 arrests and over 100,000 fines levied for non-compliance with strict measures aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19.

In Australia, officials have reported a sustained fall in the rate of new COVID-19 infections. Health Minister Greg Hunt reported there were about 4,400 coronavirus cases nationally, with the rate of growth in new infections slowing to an average of 9% in recent days from 25-30%. The slowing appears to have been due to

the country acting early to curb the spread of the Virus. Despite having a relatively low number of infections, Australia acted to introduce aggressive social distancing measures, with harsh punishments for disobeying the regulations. Those found not to be in compliance with measures can be fined up to A\$11,000 and imprisoned for up to six months. Despite positive signs, officials have warned against complacency.

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

Asia

Nearly all countries in Asia have implemented some form of restriction on travel.

China has announced that it plans to lift the travel restrictions on Hubei province after months of lockdown, with the exception of the city of Wuhan. Since 26 March, transport services have gradually begun resuming operations. Reports also indicate that Wuhan will resume some commercial flights on 8 April; however, these are likely to only be domestic. China is set to curb access back into the country with updated reports indicating that China will temporarily suspend entry for foreign nationals from midnight local time on 28 March.

In Hong Kong, all non-residents have been banned (the measure began on 25 March) from entering or transiting through the Special Administrative Region.

Thailand has implemented a state of emergency after previously ordering 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.

India has also now implemented a lockdown, with people being banned from leaving their homes, the closure of non-essential shops, businesses and places of worship, suspension of all schools and non-essential public transport as well as the cessation of all social, political entertainment and sports activities.

Countries with a global travel ban on non-citizens/residents include Azerbaijan, Brunei, China (and its SARs), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, N. Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, Turkmenistan. The majority of other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.

Europe

Italy and Spain are both experiencing a high death toll from the virus. France and Switzerland appear to also be heavily impacted, with the UK also now growing in case numbers and fatality rates. Germany has experienced a large number of cases but managed to keep death rates lower than its neighbours.

The EU has closed the bloc's external borders and restrictions have also been implemented inside the majority of countries, with the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and many others imposing a lockdown and restricting people from travelling or gathering, unless for specific reasons. At this time, the Schengen area has banned all incoming travel other than citizens from countries in the European Union, European Economic Area, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, long-term residents and people with long-term visa or residence permits, family members of EU and EEA citizens, medical personnel and people responsible for the transport of goods for 30 days. The majority of other European countries have some form of restrictions in place.

Americas

The United States is now the epicentre of the pandemic, with the most cases compared to any other country, overtaking China. The US has implemented a level 4: Do Not Travel global advisory. The Department of State advises US citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19. In countries where commercial departure options remain available, US citizens who live in the United States should arrange for an immediate return, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period. Repatriation flights continue for the time being. The United States has also ordered a border closure for all non-essential travel from both Canada and Mexico.

Restrictions within the US are also being implemented extensively. On 29 March, President Trump announced that the social distancing measures that are designed to slow the virus's spread will stay in place until at least 30 April.

At this time, Argentina, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, United States, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay all have at least some form of restriction on inbound travel. Additionally, restrictions vary on many other Caribbean islands with most banning all inbound travel and implementing some form of lockdown.

Africa

A number of countries in Africa have implemented travel restrictions on people arriving from affected countries. At this time, Algeria, Angola, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Libya, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda all have at least some restrictions on inbound travel. Currently, this includes most of Europe, China and the US.

Additionally, a number of countries have already implemented national lockdowns, including South Africa, while others have implemented city wide lockdowns, as with Lagos and Abuja in Nigeria.

Middle East

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). Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also imposing strict internal movement restrictions.

Most countries have also closed schools and non-essential businesses, banned large gatherings, including prayers at mosques. Israel, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the UAE all have restrictions on inbound travel by non-citizens/residents. The majority of other countries have

	varying levels of restrictions.
Australia/ Oceania	Australia and New Zealand have closed their borders to anyone who is not a citizen or resident. The lockdown in Australia had been considered quite lenient when compared to France, Italy or the UK; however, the government has announced stricter restrictions. 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	872,792 (+72,743)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	184,526 (+14,531)	Total Confirmed Deaths	43,271 (+4,550)
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Solace Global Advice
At this time, travellers should **reconsider their need to travel globally, 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

The list below comprises of the top 40 countries in each section, for a complete list please go to [Worldometers](#), [Johns Hopkins University](#) or the [WHO](#).

Countries with the most confirmed cases		Countries with the greatest increase in case numbers yesterday		Countries with the most confirmed deaths		Countries with the most confirmed recoveries	
USA	188,592	USA	+24742	Italy	12,428	China	76,238
Italy	105,792	Spain	+7967	Spain	9,053	Spain	22,647
Spain	102,136	France	+7578	USA	4,056	Germany	16,100
China	81,554	Germany	+4923	France	3,523	Italy	15,729
Germany	72,383	Italy	+4053	China	3,312	Iran	15,473
France	52,128	Iran	+3110	Iran	3,036	France	9,444
Iran	47,593	UK	+3009	UK	1,789	USA	7,251
UK	25,150	Turkey	+2704	Netherlands	1,039	S. Korea	5,567
Switzerland	16,605	Canada	+1164	Belgium	828	Switzerland	2,967
Belgium	13,964	Brazil	+1087	Germany	788	Belgium	2,132
Turkey	13,531	Portugal	+1035	Switzerland	433	Canada	1,242
Netherlands	12,595	Belgium	+876	Turkey	214	Austria	1,095
Austria	10,387	Netherlands	+845	Brazil	202	Malaysia	645
S. Korea	9,887	Switzerland	+683	Sweden	180	Diamond Princess	603
Canada	8,612	Israel	+663	S. Korea	165	Japan	424
Portugal	7,443	Austria	+562	Portugal	160	Thailand	416
Brazil	5,812	Philippines	+538	Indonesia	157	Peru	394
Israel	5,591	Russia	+501	Austria	146	Australia	345
Australia	4,862	Sweden	+407	Canada	101	Bahrain	316
Norway	4,695	Ecuador	+336	Philippines	96	Romania	252
Sweden	4,435	Ireland	+325	Denmark	90	Netherlands	250
Czechia	3,330	Czechia	+307	Romania	85	Turkey	243
Ireland	3,235	Australia	+303	Ecuador	79	Argentina	240
Malaysia	2,908	Chile	+289	Ireland	71	Singapore	240
Denmark	2,860	Denmark	+283	Japan	57	Israel	226
Russia	2,777	Poland	+256	Dominican Republic	51	Iceland	198
Chile	2,738	Argentina	+234	Iraq	50	Russia	190
Romania	2,460	Japan	+225	Greece	49	Iraq	170
Poland	2,347	Pakistan	+221	Egypt	46	Saudi Arabia	165
Philippines	2,311	Dominican Republic	+208	Malaysia	45	Egypt	157
Ecuador	2,302	Norway	+196	India	45	Chile	156
Japan	2,178	Luxembourg	+190	Algeria	44	India	148
Luxembourg	2,178	India	+146	Norway	40	Hong Kong	147
Pakistan	2,042	Malaysia	+140	Morocco	36	UK	135
Thailand	1,771	Romania	+136	Poland	35	Brazil	127
Indonesia	1,677	Algeria	+132	Czechia	32	Indonesia	103
India	1,590	Thailand	+127	Panama	30	New Zealand	83
Saudi Arabia	1,563	S. Korea	+125	Peru	30	Pakistan	82
Finland	1,418	Peru	+115	Mexico	29	Luxembourg	80
South Africa	1,353	Serbia	+115	Argentina	27	Kuwait	80



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