

A photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, featuring several tall skyscrapers. In the foreground, a large white hospital ship with red crosses is docked at a pier. The ship has "U.S. NAVAL HOSPITAL SHIP COMFORT" written on its side. The water is visible in the lower portion of the image.

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

13 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

There are now over 1.8 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with approximately 114,000 deaths and around 427,000 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

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that COVID-19 will likely be a persistent threat until a vaccine is developed, with smaller-scale outbreaks likely to occur after the virus is initially brought under control. The organisation is also investigating reports of recovered COVID-19 patients once again testing positive for the virus, with 91 such cases in South Korea. Preliminary investigations indicate that these are cases of the virus returning from an undetectable level rather than patients being re-infected. The reliability of some testing methods has also been brought into question.

US President Donald Trump has stated that 1 May is a potential date for restrictions to be eased. However, his advisors have warned against relaxing measures too soon as this could allow a second wave of the virus. Trump has signalled his frustration with infectious disease experts within his administration who have spoken of a slow initial US response to the virus. The President has often criticised members of his own administration with whom he disagrees on social media before eventually dismissing them.

Concerns are beginning to mount over the potential spread of COVID-19 in informal migrant camps in Northern Mexico. The camps sprung up as a result of tougher US immigration policy since the election of President Donald Trump. Under the Trump administration's controversial 'remain in Mexico' policy, migrants are barred from entering the country until an immigration court has ruled them eligible, thus swelling the population of migrants seeking entry to the US in Northern Mexico. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador spent much of March downplaying the gravity of the global pandemic, actively encouraging Mexicans to gather in crowded venues, but has in recent days bowed to pressure and instituted some measures to combat the virus. A combination of Mexico's lacklustre response to COVID-19 and the presence of crowded, poorly sanitised informal camps in the country's north is likely to lead to a high number of cases amongst the migrant population. This, in turn, could hamper US efforts to control the virus as migrants seek to illicitly cross the border.

The number of fatalities in the United Kingdom associated with COVID-19 has exceeded 10,000, with experts warning the country is likely to be among the worst affected in Europe. The British government is facing rising levels of criticism from over its perceived failure to supply adequate amounts of personal protective equipment (PPE) to health workers. A government review of current restrictions is set to take place on 16 April, with measures almost certain to be extended. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been discharged from the hospital. Johnson will take further time to recover in his official country residence, with Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab continuing in his stand-in role.

Italy and France have reported slowing daily death tolls, although Spain has reported a relative increase in fatalities. Italian authorities have ordered the quarantine of 149 migrants aboard a rescue ship before they can be allowed to disembark. France has begun an operation to isolate almost 2,000 naval personnel after 50 sailors tested positive aboard the *Charles de Gaulle* aircraft carrier docked in Toulon. French President Emmanuel Macron is expected to announce that lockdown measure will continue in a televised address at 20:00 local time on 13 April.

In response to rising international pressure, Chinese officials pledged to address the poor treatment of Africans in Guangzhou, who have recently experienced increasing levels of what the US denounced "xenophobia towards Africans by Chinese authorities". The African Union has expressed concern after reports began to emerge indicating individuals were being evicted, discriminated against, or having test results for COVID-19 withheld. China has reported 108 new COVID-19 cases, the highest daily increase for around 6 weeks. However, the National Health Commission stated most cases were imported from outside the country. Importantly, no new cases have been reported in Hubei province, where the virus emerged.

Officials in both Australia and New Zealand have indicated that they are not yet willing to ease restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19. Both nations have enjoyed relative success in slowing the spread of the virus, with the number of active infections falling. New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Arden has stated that a decision on whether restrictions will be extended will be taken on 20 April. Australian Health Minister Greg Hunt stated that existing measures have been successful at containing the virus, however it is not yet time to reopen the economy.

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. Many Asian countries have limited internal travel and have in-place lockdowns.</p> <p>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, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkmenistan. The majority of other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.</p>
Europe	<p>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.</p> <p>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 similar restrictions in place.</p>
Americas	<p>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 and for those who are currently abroad to return as soon as possible. The United States has also ordered a border closure for all non-essential travel from both Canada and Mexico.</p> <p>Restrictions within the US are also being implemented extensively. The majority of states now have a "stay-at-home" order of some kind or have closed "non-essential" businesses.</p> <p>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.</p>
Africa	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</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 that now looks unlikely to be lifted before Hajj. Strict movement restrictions are in place in most Middle Eastern countries.</p> <p>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.</p>
Australia /Oceania	<p>Australia and New Zealand have closed their borders to anyone who is not a citizen or resident. Internal restrictions are also coming into force in Australia with many states now under a state of emergency and travel between states in the country.</p> <p>Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.</p>

Solace Global Advice	<p>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.</p>
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Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	1,854,197 (+73,294)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	427,913 (+23,416)	Total Confirmed Deaths	114,293 (+5,455)
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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	560,433	USA	+27,421	USA	22,115	China	77,663
Spain	166,831	UK	+5,288	Italy	19,899	Germany	64,300
Italy	156,363	Turkey	+4,789	Spain	17,209	Spain	62,391
France	132,591	Italy	+4,092	France	14,393	Iran	43,894
Germany	127,854	Spain	+3,804	UK	10,612	Italy	34,211
UK	84,279	France	+2,937	Iran	4,474	USA	32,634
China	82,160	Germany	+2,402	Belgium	3,600	France	27,186

Iran	71,686	Russia	+2,186	China	3,341	Switzerland	12,700
Turkey	56,956	Iran	+1,657	Germany	3,022	S. Korea	7,447
Belgium	29,647	Belgium	+1,629	Netherlands	2,737	Canada	7,172
Netherlands	25,587	Brazil	+1,230	Brazil	1,230	Austria	6,987
Switzerland	25,415	Netherlands	+1,174	Turkey	1,198	Belgium	6,463
Canada	24,383	Canada	+1,065	Switzerland	1,106	Turkey	3,446
Brazil	22,318	India	+759	Sweden	899	Australia	3,338
Portugal	16,585	Ireland	+727	Canada	717	Denmark	2,123
Russia	15,770	Peru	+671	Portugal	504	Malaysia	2,108
Austria	13,945	Japan	+622	Indonesia	373	Chile	2,059
Israel	11,235	Portugal	+598	Austria	350	Mexico	1,843
S. Korea	10,537	Saudi Arabia	+429	Ireland	334	Peru	1,798
Sweden	10,483	Israel	+402	Ecuador	333	Israel	1,689
Ireland	9,655	Indonesia	+399	India	331	Russia	1,291
India	9,240	UAE	+387	Romania	316	Thailand	1,288
Peru	7,519	Mexico	+375	Philippines	297	India	1,096
Ecuador	7,466	Belarus	+352	Mexico	296	Pakistan	1,095
Japan	7,370	Sweden	+332	Algeria	293	Iceland	889
Chile	7,213	Poland	+318	Denmark	273	Romania	852
Poland	6,674	Romania	+310	Poland	232	Japan	784
Norway	6,525	Switzerland	+308	S. Korea	217	Saudi Arabia	761
Australia	6,351	Chile	+286	Peru	193	UAE	680
Romania	6,300	Ukraine	+266	Dominican Republic	173	Iraq	640
Denmark	6,174	Qatar	+251	Egypt	159	Diamond Princess	619
Czechia	5,991	Serbia	+250	Czechia	139	Algeria	591
Pakistan	5,374	Singapore	+233	Russia	130	Egypt	589
Malaysia	4,683	Philippines	+220	Norway	128	Singapore	560
Mexico	4,661	Pakistan	+219	Japan	123	Bahrain	558
Philippines	4,648	Ecuador	+209	Morocco	118	New Zealand	546
Saudi Arabia	4,462	Dominican Republic	+208	Israel	110	Ecuador	501
Indonesia	4,241	Denmark	+178	Colombia	109	Luxembourg	500
UAE	4,123	Panama	+166	Hungary	109	Argentina	468
Serbia	3,630	Ghana	+158	Greece	98	Czechia	467



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**