A high-angle photograph of a person wearing a full white protective suit, including a hood and gloves, walking on a sidewalk. The person is holding a black hose connected to a spray nozzle, which is directed towards the ground. In the background, there is a shop window with a wooden display counter. On the counter, several decorative items are visible, including a white chair, a pink piggy bank, a small white box, and a pink piggy bank. The sidewalk is made of brown bricks, and the street is paved with dark asphalt. The overall scene suggests a disinfection or sanitization effort in a public space.

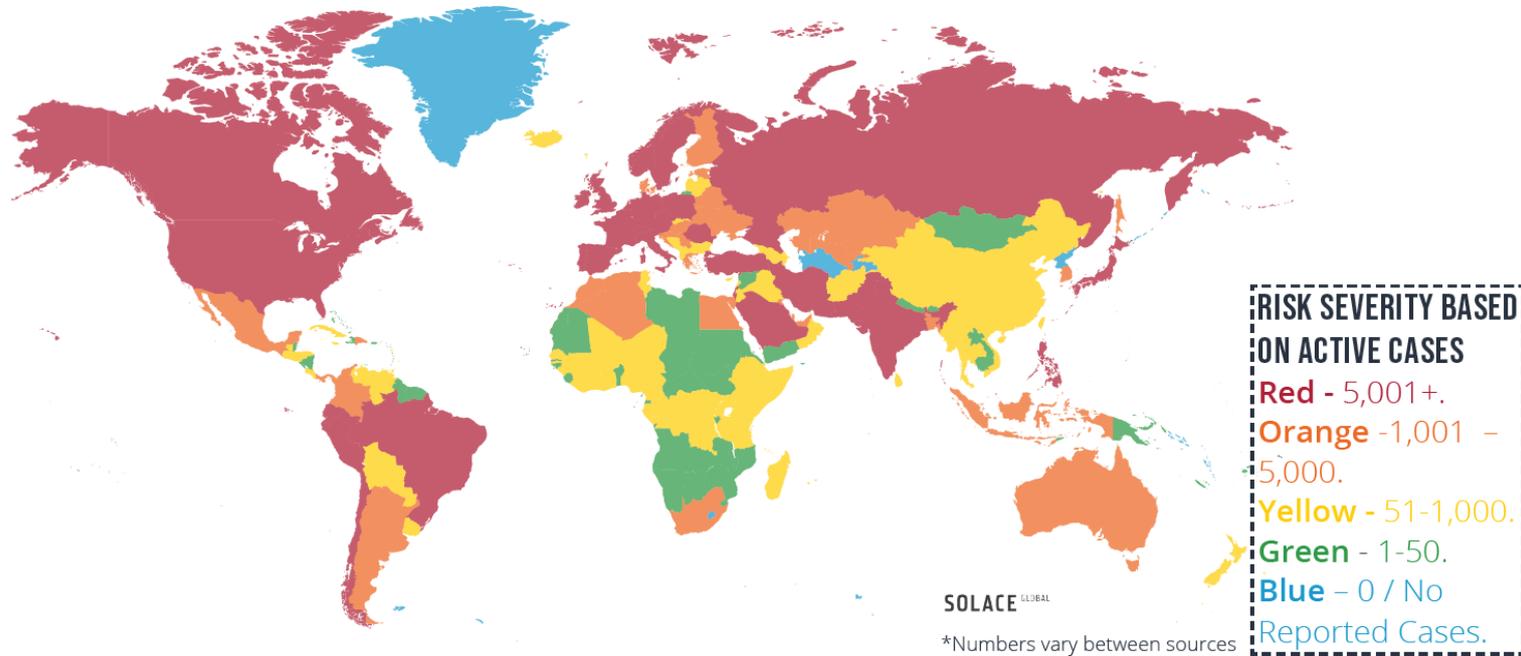
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
17 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally is approaching 2.2 million, with approximately 147,000 deaths and around 554,000 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 indicated that despite some positive signs, Europe remains the centre of the pandemic with over a million cases. A senior official stated that declining numbers of active cases in several European countries have been offset by sustained increase elsewhere in the region. Approximately 90,000 people have died as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in Europe, around 65% of the reported global total.

In Portugal, authorities have announced that they will extend current lockdown measures for at least 15 days until 2 May, but will ease some restrictions thereafter. The country appears to have successfully slowed the spread of COVID-19, doing considerably better than its neighbour, Spain. Officials have declined to specify which measures will be lifted initially, saying that scientific data will inform any future decisions.

Elsewhere, Ireland’s chief medical officer, Tony Holohan, has stated that the country’s COVID-19 outbreak has been contained and effectively suppressed in the population at large. Holohan has, however, warned that the virus is still spreading in care homes for the elderly. Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, who has reprised his previous career as a doctor during the pandemic, indicated he will look to ease restrictions after a nationwide stay-at-home order expires on 5 May. That said, should the Irish government wish to avoid travel restrictions between Ireland and Northern Ireland, it will have to consider coordinating any easing of restrictions with the administrations in Belfast and London, which have both indicated that lockdown measures will continue for the time being.

In the United States, South Dakota’s Governor Kristi Noem has continued to resist imposing a state-wide stay-at-home order, despite a surge in cases in the state. Noem’s refusal makes South Dakota one of only a handful of US states that have not placed restrictions on the movements of its citizens. Nearly half of the state’s estimated 1,100 cases originate from one meat processing plant in Sioux Falls. The cluster around the Smithfield pork processing facility is currently the largest in the country, placing pressure on Noem to take mitigating action. Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken has asked the governor to issue at least a countywide shelter-in-place order for the area in and around Sioux Falls, which Noem has so far refused. With only advisory measures in place to protect against the spread of COVID-19, South Dakota is likely to see increasing case numbers in the coming weeks.

To the north, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has indicated that border restrictions between Canada and the United States are likely to continue for a significant period. Ottawa agreed with Washington in March to severely curtail cross-border movement, in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Canada’s shared border with New York State presents a particular risk and is likely to be among the last stretches of border opened in the aftermath of the pandemic.

In China, authorities in Wuhan, the epicentre of the pandemic, have confirmed that there have been approximately 1,300 more deaths than previously reported in official statistics. Authorities have explained the discrepancy by stating that the figures represent people who have died outside of hospitals. The news follows consistent accusations, both at home and abroad, that the Chinese government is understating the true toll of the virus in the country.

Kenya’s top police official has stated that anyone found not wearing a face mask in public, including in private vehicles, will be arrested. Offenders will be

subject to a fine and possibly a six-month prison sentence if found to be flouting measures passed into law by the Kenyan Parliament. There are growing concerns about the unregulated manner in which masks are being sold, especially by traders and informal street vendors, who have taken advantage of the growing demand. In addition, reports suggest that at least 12 people have been killed by police whilst protesting lockdown measures in the country. In other news, more than 1 million test kits will be rolled out across Africa in the coming weeks, according to the head of the African Union’s health body.

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. Many Asian countries have limited internal travel and have in-place lockdowns. However, some countries are now easing internal lockdown measures after successfully managing their internal outbreaks, these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.

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. Most other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.

Europe

The EU has closed the bloc’s external borders and restrictions have also been implemented inside the majority of countries, with the UK, France, and Italy and many others have extended their lockdowns 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. Many other European countries have some form of similar restrictions in place.

Austria, Denmark and some other European countries are now seeing an easing of internal restrictions after passing what they believe is the worst of the outbreak in their countries.

Americas

The US is the worst affected country globally currently. 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.

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.

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

Several 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, Algiers and Blida in Algeria and Antananarivo and Toamasina in Madagascar to name a few. There have also been reports of looting in some African countries, notably South Africa, as people panic buy certain goods. Alcohol has particularly been targeted in South Africa after the government banned its sale during the lockdown.

Middle East

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.

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. 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.

Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.

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.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	2,184,714 (+100,081)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	553,227 (+37,944)	Total Confirmed Deaths	146,898 (+12,221)
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The list below comprises of the top 40 countries in each section, for a complete list please go to [Worldometers](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/), [Johns Hopkins University](https://www.jhu.edu/) or the [WHO](https://www.who.int/).

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	678,210	USA	+29,567	USA	34,641	Germany	81,800
Spain	184,948	France	+17,164	Italy	22,170	China	77,944
Italy	168,941	Turkey	+4,801	Spain	19,315	Spain	74,797
France	165,027	UK	+4,617	France	17,920	USA	57,844
Germany	137,698	Spain	+4,289	UK	13,729	Iran	52,229
UK	103,093	Italy	+3,786	Iran	4,869	Italy	40,164
China	82,692	Russia	+3,448	Belgium	4,857	France	32,812
Iran	77,995	Germany	+2,945	China	4,632	Switzerland	15,900
Turkey	74,193	Brazil	+2,073	Germany	4,052	Brazil	14,026
Belgium	34,809	Canada	+1,727	Netherlands	3,315	Canada	9,729
Brazil	30,891	Iran	+1,606	Brazil	1,952	Austria	8,986
Canada	30,106	Belgium	+1,236	Turkey	1,643	S. Korea	7,829
Netherlands	29,214	Netherlands	+1,061	Sweden	1,333	Belgium	7,562
Russia	27,938	India	+1,060	Switzerland	1,281	Turkey	7,089
Switzerland	26,732	Peru	+1,016	Canada	1,195	Peru	6,120
Portugal	18,841	Portugal	+750	Portugal	629	Australia	3,747
Austria	14,499	Singapore	+728	Indonesia	496	Chile	3,299
India	13,495	Ireland	+724	Ireland	486	Denmark	3,023
Ireland	13,271	Sweden	+613	Mexico	486	Israel	2,967
Israel	12,855	Japan	+605	India	448	Malaysia	2,766
Sweden	12,540	Pakistan	+536	Austria	410	Russia	2,304
Peru	12,491	Chile	+534	Ecuador	403	Mexico	2,125
S. Korea	10,635	Saudi Arabia	+518	Romania	400	India	1,777
Japan	9,231	Romania	+491	Philippines	362	Pakistan	1,765
Chile	8,807	Belarus	+476	Algeria	348	Finland	1,700
Ecuador	8,225	UAE	+460	Denmark	321	Thailand	1,689
Poland	7,918	Mexico	+448	Poland	314	Romania	1,357
Romania	7,707	Serbia	+445	Peru	274	Iceland	1,144
Pakistan	7,025	Ukraine	+397	Russia	232	UAE	1,095
Norway	6,905	Switzerland	+396	S. Korea	230	Saudi Arabia	990
Denmark	6,879	Qatar	+392	Dominican Republic	196	Czechia	979
Australia	6,497	Indonesia	+380	Egypt	196	Japan	935
Czechia	6,437	Ecuador	+367	Japan	190	South Africa	903
Saudi Arabia	6,380	Bangladesh	+341	Czechia	170	Poland	866
Mexico	6,297	Poland	+336	Hungary	156	Ecuador	838
UAE	5,825	Morocco	+259	Norway	152	Algeria	783
Philippines	5,660	Israel	+257	Israel	148	Singapore	683
Indonesia	5,516	Philippines	+207	Colombia	144	Argentina	631
Serbia	5,318	Denmark	+198	Pakistan	135	Egypt	596
Malaysia	5,182	Egypt	+168	Morocco	130	Luxembourg	552



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