



COVID-19 Outbreak Update
18 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.25 million, with approximately 155,000 deaths and around 575,000 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

Western nations are increasingly adopting the East Asian practice of wearing facemasks as part of efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Emerging data indicates that there are significant differences in the ratio of confirmed cases and associated fatalities in the West compared to the East. In a study utilising data from multiple countries, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people sampled in the West was reported to be 13 times higher than in the East. Similarly, the ratio of confirmed cases to deaths in the East was 1.73 per cent, while that of the West was 6.22 per cent. All other factors remaining equal, experts claim the differences in these rates can be attributed to the practice of wearing masks, even when social distancing and handwashing are accounted for.

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont became the latest US official to issue a public health order mandating the wearing of face masks. From 20 April, any Connecticut resident in a public place unable to maintain a safe social distance from others must cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering. In addition, individuals must now use a mask or cloth face covering when using a taxi, ride-sharing service or public transport.

In Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made a forceful appeal to the nation to stay indoors after the number of new COVID-19 cases hit a daily record of 201 in Tokyo. The Prime Minister added that reductions in person-to-person contact in Tokyo and Osaka, two of Japan's worst-affected cities, were still well short of targeted levels. Furthermore, hospitals in Japan are increasingly turning away sick people, including those suffering strokes, heart attacks and external injuries, as surging coronavirus cases push the country's healthcare system to the brink of collapse. In one recent case, an ambulance carrying a patient with a fever and difficulty breathing had to search for hours for a hospital in Tokyo that would provide treatment.

China's economy is reported to have shrunk by almost 7% in the first three months of 2020 compared with a year earlier, marking the first such contraction during this period since Beijing began reporting its GDP in 1992. The country is set to face a hard battle in attempting to resuscitate commercial activity and avoid mass unemployment as the global pandemic lessens demand from major trading partners.

Authorities in the Maldives have placed the capital Male under a 14-day lockdown after eight people tested positive for the virus over the last three days, taking the total to 28. The Government had previously stopped all travel to and from the archipelago and shut down businesses. The strict stay-at-home order will affect around 450,000 people, as health authorities fear a major outbreak in the densely populated city.

After a recent outbreak among a French naval carrier group, it has been reported that more than 1,000 sailors have now tested positive for the virus, with most cases coming from the flagship aircraft carrier, Charles de Gaulle. Out of the 2,300 servicemen in the carrier group, at least 1,081 have so far tested positive, with about 300 results still to be finalised. Twenty-four crew were admitted to hospital, including one in intensive care.

In India, hundreds of fishermen managed to make landfall on Friday after spending roughly a month at sea having been refused entry at two ports in Gujarat. Locals are reported to have forcefully stopped the men from disembarking and pelted them with stones from a bridge. Their boats finally managed to dock in the Maharashtra town of Dahanu on Friday.

After anti-lockdown protests were staged in the United States, citizens in multiple locations across Germany have demonstrated against what they call extreme COVID-19 lockdown measures. Events were staged in Munich's Marienplatz and the Neumarkt in Dresden, among other locations. Chancellor Angela Merkel announced this week a plan to gradually reopen some businesses and schools in May, but lockdown measures will remain in place until at least 3 May.

As much of humanity is confined indoors, there are increasing reports of wildlife emerging to claim the abandoned streets. In Haifa, Israel, local residents have registered their concerns as groups of wild boars, some reportedly as bulky as Rottweilers, have been roaming the streets of the city in increasing numbers. Calls have been made for authorities to step in to remove the animals, who are rooting through rubbish, spooking pets and even blocking roads. Some fear the boars may pose a threat to the safety of those permitted to leave their homes during the lockdown.

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

<p>Asia</p>	<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. However, some countries are now easing internal lockdown measures after successfully managing their internal outbreaks, these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.</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. Most other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.</p>
<p>Europe</p>	<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, and Italy and many others have extended their lockdowns 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. Many other European countries have some form of similar restrictions in place.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Americas</p>	<p>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.</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>
<p>Africa</p>	<p>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.</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, 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.</p>
<p>Middle East</p>	<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>
<p>Australia /Oceania</p>	<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>

<p>Solace Global Advice</p>	<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	2,258,516 (+73,802)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	575,298 (+22,071)	Total Confirmed Deaths	154,371 (+7,473)
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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	710,272	USA	+32,165	USA	37,175	Germany	83,114
Spain	190,839	Spain	+5,891	Italy	22,745	China	77,029
Italy	172,434	UK	+5,599	Spain	20,002	Spain	74,797
France	147,969	Turkey	+4,353	France	18,681	USA	63,510
Germany	141,397	Russia	+4,070	UK	14,576	Iran	54,064
UK	108,692	Germany	+3,699	Belgium	5,163	Italy	42,727
China	82,719	Italy	+3,493	Iran	4,958	France	34,420
Iran	79,494	Brazil	+2,999	China	4,632	Switzerland	16,400
Turkey	78,546	France	+1,909	Germany	4,352	Brazil	14,026
Russia	36,793	Canada	+1,821	Netherlands	3,459	Canada	10,543
Belgium	36,138	Iran	+1,499	Brazil	2,171	Austria	9,704
Brazil	34,221	Belgium	+1,329	Turkey	1,769	Turkey	8,631
Canada	31,927	Netherlands	+1,235	Sweden	1,400	Belgium	7,961
Netherlands	30,449	Peru	+998	Switzerland	1,327	S. Korea	7,937
Switzerland	27,078	India	+922	Canada	1,310	Peru	6,541
Portugal	19,022	Saudi Arabia	+762	Portugal	657	Australia	4,132
Austria	14,595	Ireland	+709	Mexico	546	Chile	3,621
India	14,425	Sweden	+676	Ireland	530	Denmark	3,389
Ireland	13,980	Singapore	+623	Indonesia	520	Israel	3,247
Peru	13,489	Belarus	+575	India	488	Russia	3,057
Sweden	13,216	Qatar	+560	Austria	431	Malaysia	2,967
Israel	13,107	Japan	+556	Ecuador	421	Mexico	2,125
S. Korea	10,653	Ukraine	+501	Romania	411	India	2,045
Japan	9,787	UAE	+477	Philippines	387	Pakistan	1,832
Chile	9,252	Poland	+461	Algeria	364	Thailand	1,787
Ecuador	8,450	Mexico	+450	Denmark	336	Finland	1,700
Poland	8,379	Chile	+445	Poland	332	Romania	1,508
Romania	8,067	Indonesia	+407	Russia	313	Iceland	1,224
Pakistan	7,481	Serbia	+372	Peru	300	UAE	1,188
Saudi Arabia	7,142	Dominican Republic	+371	S. Korea	232	Czechia	1,183
Denmark	7,073	Romania	+360	Egypt	205	Saudi Arabia	1,049
Norway	6,992	Switzerland	+346	Dominican Republic	200	Poland	981
Mexico	6,875	China	+325	Japan	190	Japan	935
Australia	6,560	Morocco	+281	Czechia	176	Iraq	906
Czechia	6,553	Bangladesh	+266	Hungary	172	South Africa	903
UAE	6,302	Panama	+265	Norway	162	New Zealand	867
Singapore	5,992	Ecuador	+225	Israel	158	Algeria	846
Indonesia	5,923	Israel	+224	Colombia	153	Ecuador	838
Philippines	5,878	Philippines	+218	Pakistan	143	Bahrain	725
Serbia	5,690	Colombia	+206	Morocco	135	Singapore	708



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**