

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 emitting a fine mist of disinfectant onto the pavement. In the background, there is a shop window with a wooden display ledge. On the ledge, several decorative items are visible, including a white chair-like structure, a pink heart-shaped object, and various boxes and figurines. The sidewalk is made of brown, textured tiles, and the street surface is dark asphalt. The overall scene suggests a public health intervention during a pandemic.

COVID-19 Outbreak Update
19 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.34 million, with approximately 160,000 deaths and around 600,000 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

A team of scientists led by the University of Cambridge (UK) has indicated that the first outbreak of COVID-19 could have happened further south than the city of Wuhan and may have occurred as early as September. Researchers analysed several strains from around the globe and calculated that the initial outbreak occurred in a timeframe between 13 September and 7 December. Geneticist Peter Forster also claims that the virus may have mutated into its final 'human-efficient' whilst inside of a bat or other animal or even a human for several months without infecting other individuals. It then may have started infecting and spreading among humans between September and December.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced that the US-Canadian border will remain closed to non-essential travel for another 30 days and that it will undoubtedly be longer before the restrictions are removed. Essential cross-border workers like health care professionals, airline crews and truck drivers will still be permitted to cross.

In Myanmar, authorities in Yangon have ordered a night-time curfew. Residents of 44 local townships, except for Coco Islands, are prohibited from going outdoors between 22:00 and 04:00. Yangon has experienced the most serious outbreak in the country, with 107 confirmed cases and five fatalities reported as of Sunday.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has announced that he will ask Congress to extend the current state of emergency until 9 May, stating that progress in fighting the outbreak has been too weak to justify relaxing lockdown measures.

Croatia has extended its COVID-19 lockdown until 4 May. Interior Minister Davor Bozinovic explained that the government was considering gradually easing restrictions on movement. At present, the authorities have closed all shops, bars, restaurants, schools and public transport, leaving open only food stores, pharmacies and petrol stations. Croats have only been allowed to leave their homes to buy essentials, seek medical treatment and exercise, but not in a group and avoiding social contact.

Albania will re-open about 600 business activities from Monday including farms, fisheries, mines and various kinds of retailers. The relaxation of restrictions aims to restart an economy frozen by COVID-19 lockdown measures. However, to make sure social distancing measures are still observed, the government has threatened offenders with tougher punishment, including prison sentences.

Pakistan has lifted restrictions on mosques services less than a week before the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. However, worshippers must maintain a 6-foot distance from each other instead of the usual Muslim practice of praying shoulder-to-shoulder. Moreover, mosques are required to disinfect premises regularly.

Hundreds of textile workers protested on the streets of Chittagong on Saturday, flouting social distancing rules to demand work and wages during the shutdown. In response to the growing pressure, the government has said it will partially ease restrictions from 20 April.

Further protests occurred in the United States, including in Baltimore, Florida, and Connecticut. Demonstrators have been demanding better care for, and even the release of, prison inmates who activists claim are vulnerable to the virus. Moreover, anti-lockdown protests have been staged in Austin, Texas by citizens eager to return to work. The demonstrations come a day after state authorities extended school closures until the end of the academic year. Similar protests have taken place in the state capitals of Minnesota, Michigan and Virginia, and are likely to continue over the coming days.

In India, 26 sailors at the INS Angre logistical support base in Mumbai have tested positive for COVID-19, prompting the imposition of a strict quarantine as fears grow that pathogen could be spread to warships. INS Angre is located alongside a naval shipyard where a number of warships and submarines are docked. With serious outbreaks onboard several major American warships, as well as on the flagship of the French Navy, Indian Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh recently stressed the need to prevent the virus from taking hold on military vessels, where effective containment is virtually impossible.

In positive news, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) on Sunday reported single-digit fresh COVID-19 cases for the first time in two months, with only eight new cases being recorded. South Korea has been lauded for its effective response to a serious outbreak as the virus first began to spread outside of China.

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. 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>				
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, 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>				
Americas	<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>				
Africa	<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>				
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>				
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Cases	2,340,853 (+82,337)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	600,746 (+25,448)	Total Confirmed Deaths	160,903 (+6,532)
<p>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.</p>					

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	738,923	USA	+29,057	USA	39,015	Germany	88,000
Spain	194,416	UK	+5,525	Italy	23,227	China	77,062
Italy	175,925	Russia	+4,785	Spain	20,639	Spain	74,797
France	151,793	France	+3,824	France	19,323	USA	68,285
Germany	143,724	Turkey	+3,783	UK	15,464	Iran	55,987
UK	114,217	Spain	+3,577	Belgium	5,453	Italy	44,927
China	82,735	Italy	+3,491	Iran	5,031	France	35,983
Turkey	82,329	Brazil	+3,040	China	4,632	Switzerland	17,100
Iran	80,868	Germany	+2,327	Germany	4,538	Brazil	14,026
Russia	42,853	India	+2,013	Netherlands	3,601	Canada	11,207
Belgium	37,183	Canada	+1,456	Brazil	2,372	Turkey	10,453
Brazil	36,925	Iran	+1,374	Turkey	1,890	Austria	10,214
Canada	33,383	Netherlands	+1,140	Sweden	1,511	Belgium	8,348
Netherlands	31,589	Saudi Arabia	+1,132	Canada	1,470	S. Korea	8,042
Switzerland	27,404	Belgium	+1,045	Switzerland	1,368	Peru	6,684
Portugal	19,685	Singapore	+942	Portugal	687	Australia	4,167
India	16,365	Peru	+931	Mexico	650	Chile	4,035
Ireland	14,758	Ireland	+778	Ireland	571	Denmark	3,847
Austria	14,671	Portugal	+663	Indonesia	535	Israel	3,564
Peru	14,420	Pakistan	+613	India	521	Russia	3,291
Sweden	13,822	Sweden	+606	Ecuador	456	Malaysia	3,102
Israel	13,362	Mexico	+578	Austria	443	Mexico	2,627
S. Korea	10,661	Ecuador	+572	Romania	434	India	2,466
Japan	10,296	Japan	+509	Philippines	409	Thailand	1,928
Chile	9,730	Chile	+478	Algeria	367	Pakistan	1,868
Poland	9,082	Ukraine	+444	Russia	361	Romania	1,730
Ecuador	9,022	Poland	+363	Poland	350	Finland	1,700
Romania	8,418	Romania	+351	Peru	348	Saudi Arabia	1,329
Saudi Arabia	8,274	Qatar	+345	Denmark	346	Iceland	1,291
Pakistan	7,993	Switzerland	+326	S. Korea	234	Czechia	1,235
Mexico	7,497	Indonesia	+325	Egypt	224	UAE	1,188
Denmark	7,242	Bangladesh	+306	Japan	222	Japan	1,069
Norway	7,069	Serbia	+304	Dominican Republic	217	Poland	1,040
Czechia	6,657	Israel	+283	Hungary	189	Ecuador	1,008
Singapore	6,588	South Africa	+251	Czechia	181	Iraq	953
Australia	6,586	Philippines	+209	Israel	171	New Zealand	912
UAE	6,302	Dominican Republic	+209	Colombia	166	South Africa	903
Philippines	6,259	Panama	+194	Norway	164	Algeria	894
Indonesia	6,248	Ghana	+193	Pakistan	159	Bahrain	755
Serbia	5,994	Finland	+192	Ukraine	141	Singapore	740



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**