

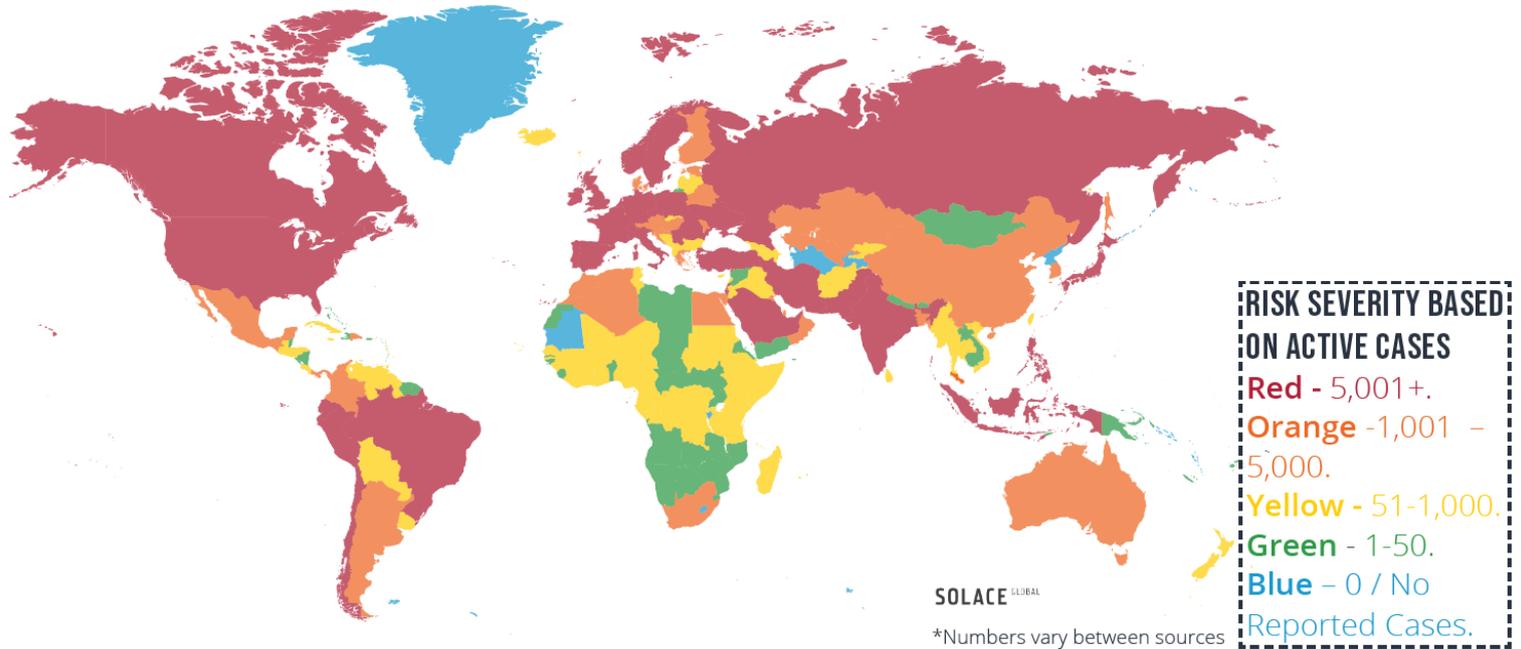
**COVID-19 Outbreak Update**  
**20 April**

**SOLACE** GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.4 million, with approximately 165,000 deaths and around 629,000 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**

Several US governors, from both sides of the aisle, have accused Donald Trump of making “delusional” and “dangerous” statements following the president’s claim that states have sufficient testing capacity. Tensions are increasing over pressure to relax stay-at-home orders and other control measures, with state leaders firmly stating they will not begin the ‘Opening Up America Again’ programme without the implementation of widespread testing. The stand-off comes as the death toll in the US from the novel coronavirus has passed 40,000, almost double the number than the next most affected country, Italy.

Given the “deeply worrying” level of fatalities associated with COVID-19, a senior British minister has confirmed the UK is not considering lifting lockdown measures in the near future. Despite positive signs that fatality-rates may be slowing, the country’s deputy chief medical officer has warned claims the UK has reached the peak of the outbreak are premature. Irish health minister Simon Harris has stated that large public gatherings are likely to remain prohibited for the duration of 2020, and that vulnerable persons are likely to have to remain isolated for a significant period of time. A day before the country plans to ease some lockdown measures, Poland has recorded its largest increase in confirmed cases to date.

Elsewhere, authorities in France and Italy have shared positive news that, in both countries, rates of infections and associated fatalities appear to be consistently declining. Despite this, the countries remain on lockdown and are holding off on easing restrictions at this time. Two other countries seeing a consistent decline in case number increases are Germany and Norway, the governments here are looking to ease some of the restrictions in place.

Pakistan has lifted restrictions on congregational prayers at Mosques, but an official statement claims appropriate safety conditions are in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The government appears to have capitulated following a failure to successfully negotiate access-restrictions to Mosques with religious leaders. Last week, hundreds of worshippers gathered at the Red Mosque in Islamabad to take part in congregational prayers, standing shoulder-to-shoulder and filling the hall to capacity.

However, elsewhere in the Islamic world, authorities and religious leaders have begun implementing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the holy month of Ramadan, expected to begin on the evening of Thursday 23 April. Saudi Arabia’s highest religious body has urged Muslims to practice social distancing measures and, for the first time in hundreds of years, many calls to prayer across the Middle East and North Africa have been changed, directing people to pray in their homes rather than attending mosques.

Turkey’s health minister has reported that confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus have overtaken Iran for the first time. The country now has the highest number of reported cases in the Middle East. Iran has extended a temporary release of prisoners for at least another month, following concerns over significant outbreaks in the country’s overcrowded prisons.

Australia has joined the growing calls for an international investigation into the origins of COVID-19. Diplomatic relations with China, the country’s primary trading

partner, have soured over concerns China delayed informing the international community about the outbreak of COVID-19. Donald Trump has also accused China of concealing the truth and stated it should face consequences if it is “knowingly responsible” for the epidemic. China has reported 16 new cases and no associated fatalities in the last twenty-four hours, however, there are fears of a flare-up in locally transmitted cases in the north-eastern province of Heilongjiang.

**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, Germany, Norway 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. 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	2,407,862 (+67,009)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	629,037 (+28,291)	Total Confirmed Deaths	165,095 (+4,192)
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	------------------------	------------------

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	764,265	USA	+25,844	USA	40,565	Germany	91,500
Spain	198,674	Russia	+6,060	Italy	23,660	Spain	77,357
Italy	178,972	UK	+5,850	Spain	20,453	China	77,084
France	152,894	Spain	+4,258	France	19,718	USA	71,012
Germany	145,742	Turkey	+3,977	UK	16,060	Iran	57,023
UK	120,067	Italy	+3,047	Belgium	5,683	Italy	47,055
Turkey	86,306	Germany	+2,018	Iran	5,118	France	36,578
China	82,747	Brazil	+1,932	Germany	4,642	Brazil	22,130
Iran	82,211	Canada	+1,673	China	4,632	Switzerland	17,800
Russia	42,853	Iran	+1,343	Netherlands	3,684	Turkey	11,976
Brazil	38,654	Belgium	+1,313	Brazil	2,462	Canada	11,843
Belgium	38,496	India	+1,250	Turkey	2,017	Austria	10,501
Canada	35,056	Peru	+1,208	Canada	1,587	Belgium	8,757
Netherlands	32,655	France	+1,101	Sweden	1,540	S. Korea	8,114
Switzerland	27,740	Saudi Arabia	+1,088	Switzerland	1,393	Peru	6,811
Portugal	20,206	Netherlands	+1,066	Portugal	714	Chile	4,338
India	17,615	Pakistan	+710	Mexico	686	Australia	4,230
Peru	15,628	Mexico	+622	Ireland	610	Denmark	4,141
Ireland	15,251	Singapore	+596	Indonesia	582	Israel	3,872
Austria	14,749	Sweden	+563	India	559	Russia	3,291
Sweden	14,385	Poland	+545	Ecuador	474	Malaysia	3,197
Israel	13,654	Portugal	+521	Austria	452	India	2,854
Japan	10,797	Japan	+501	Romania	451	Mexico	2,627
S. Korea	10,674	Ireland	+493	Philippines	409	Thailand	1,999
Chile	10,088	UAE	+479	Peru	400	Pakistan	1,970
Ecuador	9,468	Ecuador	+446	Algeria	375	Romania	1,892
Saudi Arabia	9,362	Qatar	+440	Russia	361	Finland	1,700
Poland	9,287	Chile	+358	Poland	360	Saudi Arabia	1,398
Romania	8,746	Dominican Republic	+345	Denmark	355	Czechia	1,298
Pakistan	8,418	Ukraine	+343	Egypt	239	Iceland	1,291
Mexico	8,261	Switzerland	+336	S. Korea	236	UAE	1,286
Denmark	7,384	Romania	+328	Japan	236	Japan	1,159
Norway	7,103	Indonesia	+327	Dominican Republic	226	Ecuador	1,061
UAE	6,781	Serbia	+324	Hungary	199	Algeria	1,047
Czechia	6,746	Bangladesh	+312	Czechia	186	Poland	1,040
Australia	6,612	Israel	+226	Colombia	179	Iraq	1,009
Singapore	6,588	Ghana	+208	Pakistan	176	New Zealand	974
Indonesia	6,575	Philippines	+172	Israel	173	South Africa	903
Serbia	6,318	Colombia	+171	Norway	165	Singapore	768
Philippines	6,259	Morocco	+170	Ukraine	141	Bahrain	759



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](mailto:info@solaceglobal.com)