



COVID-19 Outbreak Update

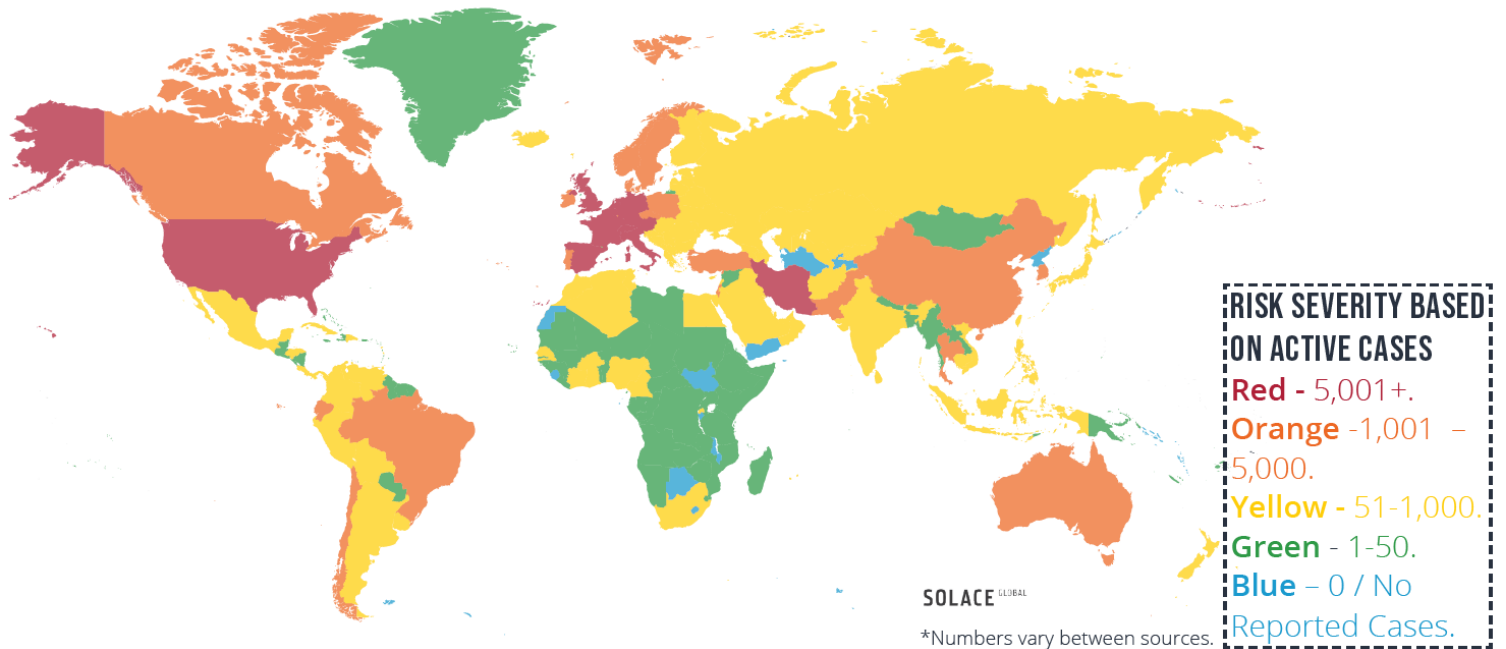
27 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

There are now just over 540,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 24,000 deaths and around 125,000 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 global number of confirmed cases is now more than half a million. Additionally, the United States has overtaken China in terms of case numbers, marking the first time since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in December 2019 that any country has reported more confirmed cases than China. The number of fatalities in both Italy and Spain have also overtaken China. Italy’s total deaths attributed to the virus is significantly higher than any other country, with over 8,000, while Spain has just under 5,000, both are far ahead of China’s total confirmed deaths of just under 3,300.

G20 leaders, whose countries account for more than 80% of the world’s GDP, have pledged to do “whatever it takes” to combat the spread of the virus. A joint communique by the group has described the current pandemic as “a powerful reminder of our interconnectedness and vulnerabilities” and expresses grave concern with the potential impact of the outbreak in the developing and the least developed countries, particularly in Africa. On Wednesday, G7 foreign ministers failed to agree on a joint message following America’s insistence that the novel coronavirus be described as the Wuhan virus. For its part, China has claimed US soldiers may have planted the virus in the city.

In China, the country has announced that it will close its borders to foreign nationals, including those holding valid visas and residency permits, from Saturday 28 March. The restriction is the latest in a series of measures implemented as part of efforts to prevent a resurgence in cases of the virus. Additionally, across the region, governments are preparing for a new wave of cases as nationals flee outbreaks in the US and Europe. Yesterday, the Chinese Civil Aviation authority cut inbound and outbound flights to a maximum of one per airline per foreign country each week.

Despite this, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said it’s seeing ‘encouraging signs’ in Europe following the announcement of consistently lower rates of infection in Italy. However, case numbers do continue to grow. In Spain, the death-rate had appeared to also be reaching a plateau, despite the announcement of another 655 fatalities, despite this, government figures reported the most deaths in a day yesterday (26 March). The UK also reported its biggest daily rise in deaths since the outbreak began, with 115 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Ursula Von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, has criticised European nations for “looking out for themselves”, saying “when Europe really needed an all-for-one spirit, too many gave an only-for-me response”. The British Prime Minister Boris Johnson also announced that the UK would contribute an additional £210 million to an international fund for developing a vaccine for the virus. The country is the largest contributor worldwide to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), with Johnson calling for governments to work together to develop and supply a vaccine as quickly as possible.

At the time of writing, PM Boris Johnson has just announced that he has tested positive for coronavirus. Johnson is the first world leader to have reportedly contracted the virus, not including Prince Albert of Monaco. In the UK, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, has also been confirmed to have contracted the virus. Several politicians across the globe have contracted COVID-19 since the beginning of the outbreak. Iran’s political establishment remains, by far, the hardest hit with at least 24 MPs testing positive and two reportedly dying. Additionally, at least 17 members of their government are understood to have contracted the virus.

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.</p> <p>China has announced that it plans to lift the travel restrictions on Hubei province after months of lockdown, with the exception of the city of Wuhan. Since 26 March, transport services have gradually begun resuming operations. Reports also indicate that Wuhan will resume some commercial flights on 8 April; however, this is likely to only be domestic. China is set to curb access back into the country with updated reports indicating that China will temporarily suspend entry for foreign nationals from midnight local time on 28 March.</p> <p>In Hong Kong, all non-residents have been banned (the measure began on 25 March).</p> <p>Thailand has implemented a state of emergency after previously ordering the closure of malls in Bangkok and now requires all travellers to acquire a health certificate before entering the country. Malaysia is due to deploy its military on Sunday to aid in enforcing a national movement control order, which is scheduled to last until the end of March. The Philippines have implemented a complete lockdown.</p> <p>Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan have complete border closures for non-residents. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkmenistan and Vietnam have at least partial restrictions on some countries/regions.</p>
Europe	<p>Italy remains the hardest-hit country by the virus in terms of fatalities. However, Spain, German and France are all seeing strong new case growth. Nearly all travel to and from as well as inside Europe has been curbed. The EU has closed the bloc's external borders. The UK has advised all its citizens against all but essential travel abroad. 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. Travel from many other European nations is now also being restricted, with the US banning all travel from the Schengen area, as well as Norway, Ireland and the UK.</p> <p>At this time, Belarus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine all have complete border closures to non-residents. Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & H., Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Rep. (Czechia), Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, N. Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Turkey have some form of restrictions on inbound travel.</p>
Americas	<p>The United States is now the epicentre of the pandemic, with the most cases compared to any other country, overtaking China.</p> <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. In countries where commercial departure options remain available, US citizens who live in the United States should arrange for an immediate return, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period. US citizens who live abroad should avoid all international travel. Repatriation flights do still continue for the time being. Restrictions within the US are also being implemented, with many states looking to apply for shelter-in-place orders. The United States has also ordered a border closure for all non-essential travel from both Canada and Mexico, which will come into effect on Sunday, 22 March.</p> <p>At this time, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Rep., Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Paraguay, United States and Uruguay all have at least some form of restriction on inbound travel. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago do also have varying level of restrictions. Additionally, restrictions vary on many 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. Currently, this includes most of Europe, China and the US. South Africa will enter a national lockdown this week.</p> <p>At this time, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan and Tunisia have all barred all inbound travel. Algeria, Angola, Congo, Djibouti, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda all have at least some restrictions on inbound travel.</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 they hope will be lifted prior to Hajj). Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also imposing strict internal movement restrictions.</p> <p>Most countries have also closed schools and non-essential businesses, banned large gatherings, including prayers at mosques. Lebanon is currently under a two-week-long lockdown to prevent its health facilities to be overwhelmed by the number of cases. On 21 March, Jordan has initiated a three-day-long lockdown, after which the government is set to announce the plan for the upcoming months.</p> <p>Additionally, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen all have restrictions on inbound travel by all non-GCC travellers and permanent residents. Additionally, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and the UAE 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. The Australian Prime Minister has also announced a lockdown, though at this time the lockdown is not as strict as those seen in the UK, France or Italy. Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.</p>

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	549,220 (+62,208)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	128,637 (+11,074)	Total Confirmed Deaths	24,866 (+2,841)
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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.

Statistics

Current Confirmed Cases Per Country

USA	85,612	India	753	Bosnia and Herzegovina	191	Kyrgyzstan	44	Seychelles	7
China	81,340	<i>Diamond Princess</i>	712	Moldova	177	Mayotte	36	Benin	6
Italy	80,589	Philippines	707	Albania	174	Gibraltar	35	Eritrea	6
Spain	57,786	Singapore	683	Vietnam	153	Macao	33	Laos	6
Germany	47,278	Panama	674	Burkina Faso	152	Monaco	33	Eswatini	6
Iran	29,406	Argentina	589	Cyprus	146	Kenya	31	Cabo Verde	5
France	29,155	Mexico	585	Faeroe Islands	140	French Polynesia	30	Guyana	5
Switzerland	11,811	Peru	580	Réunion	135	Aruba	28	Fiji	5
UK	11,658	Slovenia	562	Malta	134	French Guiana	28	Montserrat	5
S. Korea	9,332	Qatar	549	Ghana	132	Jamaica	26	Myanmar	5
Netherlands	7,431	Estonia	538	Kazakhstan	124	Isle of Man	26	Syria	5
Austria	6,962	Egypt	495	Azerbaijan	122	Guatemala	25	Angola	4
Belgium	6,235	Croatia	495	Brunei	114	Barbados	24	Congo	4
Canada	4,043	Colombia	491	Oman	109	Togo	24	Guinea	4
Turkey	3,629	Dominican Republic	488	Venezuela	107	Madagascar	23	Vatican City	4
Portugal	3,544	Bahrain	458	Sri Lanka	106	Uganda	18	Mali	4
Norway	3,372	Serbia	457	Senegal	105	Zambia	16	Gambia	3
Australia	3,166	Hong Kong	454	Cambodia	98	Bermuda	15	Sudan	3
Israel	3,035	Iraq	382	Ivory Coast	96	New Caledonia	14	Zimbabwe	3
Brazil	2,985	Lebanon	368	Afghanistan	94	El Salvador	13	Nepal	3
Sweden	2,840	New Zealand	368	Cameroon	88	Maldives	13	Bhutan	3
Malaysia	2,031	Algeria	367	Palestine	86	Tanzania	13	CAR	3
Czechia	1,925	Lithuania	345	Belarus	86	Equatorial Guinea	12	Chad	3
Denmark	1,877	UAE	333	Uzbekistan	83	Ethiopia	12	Liberia	3
Ireland	1,819	Armenia	329	Mauritius	81	Djibouti	11	Mauritania	3
Luxembourg	1,453	Hungary	300	Martinique	81	Dominica	11	St. Barth	3
Ecuador	1,403	Bulgaria	276	Georgia	81	Mongolia	11	Saint Lucia	3
Japan	1,387	Morocco	275	Guadeloupe	73	Saint Martin	11	Sint Maarten	3
Chile	1,306	Taiwan	267	Montenegro	70	Niger	10	Nicaragua	2
Pakistan	1,235	Latvia	244	Cuba	67	Bahamas	9	Anguilla	2
Poland	1,221	Uruguay	238	Honduras	67	Greenland	9	Belize	2
Thailand	1,136	Costa Rica	231	Channel Islands	66	Cayman Islands	8	British Virgin Islands	2
Romania	1,029	Slovakia	226	Nigeria	65	Haiti	8	Guinea-Bissau	2
Saudi Arabia	1,012	Andorra	224	Trinidad and Tobago	65	Namibia	8	Saint Kitts and Nevis	2
Finland	958	Jordan	212	Bolivia	61	Suriname	8	Somalia	2
South Africa	927	San Marino	208	Liechtenstein	56	Curaçao	7	Turks and Caicos	2
Indonesia	893	Kuwait	208	Paraguay	52	Gabon	7	Libya	1
Greece	892	North Macedonia	201	DRC	51	Antigua and Barbuda	7	Papua New Guinea	1
Russia	840	Tunisia	197	Rwanda	50	Grenada	7	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Iceland	802	Ukraine	196	Bangladesh	48	Mozambique	7	Timor-Leste	1

Yesterday's Increase

USA	+17,224	Romania	+123	Iraq	+36	Cyprus	+14	Bahamas	+4
Spain	+8,271	Luxembourg	+120	Andorra	+36	Nigeria	+14	Antigua and Barbuda	+4
Germany	+6,615	Panama	+116	Lebanon	+35	Kuwait	+13	Montserrat	+4
Italy	+6,203	Saudi Arabia	+112	Hungary	+35	Qatar	+12	DRC	+3
France	+3,922	Thailand	+111	Slovenia	+34	Slovakia	+10	Kenya	+3
Iran	+2,389	S. Korea	+104	Mauritius	+33	Oman	+10	Isle of Man	+3
UK	+2,129	Indonesia	+103	Kazakhstan	+32	Afghanistan	+10	Equatorial Guinea	+3
Austria	+1,321	Peru	+100	Costa Rica	+30	Cuba	+10	Niger	+3
Belgium	+1,298	Dominican Republic	+96	Azerbaijan	+29	Rwanda	+9	Laos	+3
Turkey	+1,196	Argentina	+87	Bolivia	+29	Gibraltar	+9	Cambodia	+2
Netherlands	+1,019	New Zealand	+85	Moldova	+28	Aruba	+9	Macao	+2
Switzerland	+914	Japan	+80	Albania	+28	Faeroe Islands	+8	Monaco	+2
Canada	+634	Finland	+78	Lithuania	+25	Bermuda	+8	Mozambique	+2
Portugal	+549	Serbia	+73	Armenia	+25	Burkina Faso	+6	Eritrea	+2
Brazil	+431	Greece	+71	North Macedonia	+24	Senegal	+6	Eswatini	+2
Australia	+374	Philippines	+71	Tunisia	+24	Barbados	+6	Myanmar	+2
Israel	+324	India	+70	Réunion	+24	Grenada	+6	Mali	+2
Sweden	+314	Mexico	+70	Latvia	+23	Vietnam	+5	Anguilla	+2
Norway	+288	China	+67	Bulgaria	+22	Malta	+5	Venezuela	+1

Czechia	+271	Iceland	+65	Colombia	+21	Brunei	+5	Guatemala	+1
Ireland	+255	Algeria	+65	Uruguay	+21	Trinidad and Tobago	+5	Togo	+1
Malaysia	+235	Ghana	+64	Channel Islands	+20	Liechtenstein	+5	Mongolia	+1
South Africa	+218	Croatia	+53	Taiwan	+17	Bangladesh	+5	Namibia	+1
Ecuador	+192	Singapore	+52	Ivory Coast	+16	French Polynesia	+5	Curaçao	+1
Russia	+182	Ukraine	+51	Montenegro	+16	Sri Lanka	+4	Gabon	+1
Poland	+170	Morocco	+50	Bosnia and Herzegovina	+15	Georgia	+4	Cabo Verde	+1
Chile	+164	Hong Kong	+43	Palestine	+15	Paraguay	+4	Angola	+1
Denmark	+153	Jordan	+40	Martinique	+15	Madagascar	+4	Mauritania	+1
Pakistan	+138	Egypt	+39	Uzbekistan	+15	Zambia	+4	Somalia	+1
Estonia	+134	Bahrain	+39	Honduras	+15	El Salvador	+4	Turks and Caicos	+1

Current Confirmed Deaths

Italy	8,215	Ecuador	34	Mexico	8	North Macedonia	3	Guadeloupe	1
Spain	4,365	Greece	27	Serbia	7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	Montenegro	1
China	3,292	Algeria	25	Albania	7	Cyprus	3	Honduras	1
Iran	2,234	Malaysia	24	Burkina Faso	7	Azerbaijan	3	Channel Islands	1
France	1,696	Romania	24	Slovenia	6	Paraguay	3	Nigeria	1
USA	1,301	Egypt	24	Colombia	6	DRC	3	Trinidad and Tobago	1
UK	578	San Marino	21	Lebanon	6	South Africa	2	Kenya	1
Netherlands	434	India	20	Thailand	5	Iceland	2	Jamaica	1
Germany	281	Ireland	19	Finland	5	Singapore	2	Guatemala	1
Belgium	220	Poland	16	Tunisia	5	UAE	2	Niger	1
Switzerland	192	Norway	14	Ukraine	5	Taiwan	2	Cayman Islands	1
S. Korea	139	Australia	13	Bangladesh	5	Costa Rica	2	Curaçao	1
Indonesia	78	Argentina	12	Chile	4	Cameroon	2	Gabon	1
Brazil	77	Morocco	11	Bahrain	4	Mauritius	2	Cabo Verde	1
Sweden	77	Israel	10	Hong Kong	4	Cuba	2	Guyana	1
Turkey	75	Diamond Princess	10	Lithuania	4	Estonia	1	Gambia	1
Portugal	60	Dominican Republic	10	Ghana	4	Armenia	1	Sudan	1
Austria	49	Hungary	10	Afghanistan	4	Moldova	1	Zimbabwe	1
Japan	47	Czechia	9	Saudi Arabia	3	Kazakhstan	1	Nicaragua	1
Philippines	45	Luxembourg	9	Russia	3	Venezuela	1		
Denmark	41	Pakistan	9	Croatia	3	Palestine	1		
Canada	39	Panama	9	Bulgaria	3	Uzbekistan	1		
Iraq	36	Peru	9	Andorra	3	Martinique	1		



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