



# COVID-19 Outbreak Update

## 28 March

**SOLACE** GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

There are now just over 598,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 27,000 deaths and around 133,000 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**

Authorities in Spain have recalled more than 9,000 Chinese-made COVID-19 testing kits after it was reported they had an accurate detection rate of only 30%. Earlier this week, England's Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty reported that a UK test was being developed, but would not be available within days, stating that "the only thing that is worse than no test is a bad test". The UK, Italy and Spain have recorded their highest daily rise in deaths from the novel coronavirus. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Health Secretary Matt Hancock have tested positive for the virus and are self-isolating after exhibiting "mild symptoms". In Italy, a prominent health official has warned that the country has yet to reach see a peak in daily fatalities, and that lockdown measures should be extended. Similarly, the French Prime Minister has said the country is "just at the beginning of this epidemic wave", with France opting to extend its lockdown by at least 14 days.

Brazil's Health Ministry has announced that a doctor working with the largest tribe in the Amazon has tested positive for the novel coronavirus. More than a third of indigenous deaths in the Amazon are caused by respiratory diseases, and there are now significant concerns that an outbreak of COVID-19 could devastate vulnerable communities in the rainforest. Despite this, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has continued to play down the severity of the pandemic, contradicting the advice of his country's officials and saying that Brazilians "never catch anything" and that "some people will die. I'm sorry. That's life".

In the US, President Donald Trump has signed a historic \$2.2tn emergency relief package into law, designed to combat the economic fallout of the pandemic. Trump also invoked the Defense Production Act to order General Motors to start making ventilators. During the White House daily briefing the President stated the country would try to produce or procure 100,000 ventilators in the next three months.

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

<p><b>Asia</b></p>	<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, these are 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) from entering or transiting through the Special Administrative Region.</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>
<p><b>Europe</b></p>	<p>Italy remains the hardest-hit country by the virus in terms of fatalities. However, Spain, Germany 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 &amp; 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>
<p><b>Americas</b></p>	<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; a number of states, such as North Carolina, California, California and Washington have issued stay-at-home orders. The United States has also ordered a border closure for all non-essential travel from both Canada and Mexico.</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 &amp; 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>
<p><b>Africa</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Middle East</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Australia /Oceania</b></p>	<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	598,032 (+48,812)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	133,387 (+4,750)	Total Confirmed Deaths	27,371 (+2,505)
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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	104,256	Iceland	890	North Macedonia	219	DRC	51	Gabon	7
Italy	86,498	Philippines	803	Moldova	199	Mayotte	50	Antigua and Barbuda	7
China	81,394	Panama	786	Albania	186	Bangladesh	48	Grenada	7
Spain	65,719	Singapore	732	Burkina Faso	180	Monaco	42	Mozambique	7
Germany	50,871	Mexico	717	Vietnam	169	Macao	34	Seychelles	7
France	32,964	<i>Diamond Princess</i>	712	Azerbaijan	165	Aruba	33	Benin	6
Iran	32,332	Argentina	690	Cyprus	162	Guatemala	32	Eritrea	6
UK	14,543	Peru	635	Oman	152	Kenya	31	Laos	6
Switzerland	12,928	Slovenia	632	Kazakhstan	150	Jamaica	30	Cabo Verde	5
S. Korea	9,478	Croatia	586	Réunion	145	French Polynesia	30	Guyana	5
Netherlands	8,603	Dominican Republic	581	Faeroe Islands	144	Isle of Man	29	Sudan	5
Austria	7,697	Estonia	575	Malta	139	French Guiana	28	Zimbabwe	5
Belgium	7,284	Qatar	562	Ghana	137	Barbados	26	Fiji	5
Turkey	5,698	Colombia	539	Senegal	119	Madagascar	26	Mauritania	5
Canada	4,757	Egypt	536	Brunei	115	Togo	25	Montserrat	5
Portugal	4,268	Serbia	528	Venezuela	113	Uganda	23	St. Barth	5
Norway	3,772	Hong Kong	519	Afghanistan	110	Zambia	22	Syria	5
Australia	3,573	Bahrain	466	Sri Lanka	106	El Salvador	19	Nicaragua	4
Brazil	3,477	Iraq	458	Uzbekistan	104	Bermuda	17	Nepal	4
Israel	3,460	New Zealand	451	Ivory Coast	101	Ethiopia	16	Angola	4
Sweden	3,069	Algeria	409	Cambodia	99	Maldives	16	Congo	4
Czechia	2,279	UAE	405	Honduras	95	New Caledonia	15	Vatican City	4
Malaysia	2,161	Lebanon	391	Mauritius	94	Tanzania	13	Gambia	3
Ireland	2,121	Armenia	372	Belarus	94	Djibouti	12	Bhutan	3
Denmark	2,046	Lithuania	358	Martinique	93	Equatorial Guinea	12	CAR	3
Ecuador	1,627	Morocco	345	Cameroon	91	Mongolia	12	Chad	3
Chile	1,610	Hungary	343	Palestine	91	Dominica	11	Liberia	3
Luxembourg	1,605	Ukraine	310	Channel Islands	88	Mali	11	Saint Lucia	3
Japan	1,499	Bulgaria	293	Georgia	85	Saint Martin	11	Sint Maarten	3
Pakistan	1,408	Latvia	280	Montenegro	82	Niger	10	Somalia	3
Poland	1,389	Uruguay	274	Cuba	80	Bahamas	10	<i>MS Zaandam</i>	2
Romania	1,292	Slovakia	269	Bolivia	74	Greenland	10	Anguilla	2
Thailand	1,245	Andorra	267	Guadeloupe	73	Eswatini	9	Belize	2
South Africa	1,170	Taiwan	267	Nigeria	70	Cayman Islands	8	British Virgin Islands	2
Saudi Arabia	1,104	Costa Rica	263	Trinidad and Tobago	66	Curaçao	8	Guinea-Bissau	2
Indonesia	1,046	Bosnia and Herzegovina	237	Kyrgyzstan	58	Guinea	8	Saint Kitts and Nevis	2
Finland	1,041	Jordan	235	Paraguay	56	Haiti	8	Turks and Caicos	2
Russia	1,036	Tunisia	227	Liechtenstein	56	Myanmar	8	Libya	1
Greece	966	Kuwait	225	Gibraltar	55	Namibia	8	Papua New Guinea	1
India	906	San Marino	223	Rwanda	54	Suriname	8	St. Vincent Grenadines	1

**Yesterday's Increase**

USA	+18,691	India	+160	Slovakia	+43	Mayotte	+14	Greenland	+4
Spain	+7,933	Indonesia	+153	Andorra	+43	Qatar	+13	Guinea	+4
Germany	+6,933	Luxembourg	+152	Azerbaijan	+43	Mauritius	+13	Isle of Man	+3
Italy	+5,909	Malaysia	+130	Algeria	+42	Uzbekistan	+13	Guatemala	+3
France	+3,809	Ukraine	+114	Egypt	+41	Montenegro	+13	Madagascar	+3
Iran	+2,926	Japan	+112	Armenia	+39	Cuba	+13	Maldives	+3
UK	+2,885	Panama	+112	Hungary	+39	Albania	+12	Eswatini	+3
Turkey	+2,069	Mexico	+110	Estonia	+37	Martinique	+12	Myanmar	+3
Netherlands	+1,172	Philippines	+96	Kazakhstan	+37	Paraguay	+11	Barbados	+2
Switzerland	+1,117	Dominican Republic	+93	Latvia	+36	Vietnam	+10	Bermuda	+2
Belgium	+1,049	Saudi Arabia	+92	Costa Rica	+32	Réunion	+10	Zimbabwe	+2
Austria	+788	S. Korea	+91	Tunisia	+30	Monaco	+9	St. Barth	+2
Portugal	+724	Thailand	+91	Bulgaria	+29	Uganda	+9	Nicaragua	+2
Canada	+714	Croatia	+91	Burkina Faso	+28	Bahrain	+8	<i>MS Zaandam</i>	+2
Brazil	+432	Iceland	+88	Lebanon	+23	Belarus	+8	Brunei	+1
Norway	+399	Finland	+83	Jordan	+23	Mali	+7	Cambodia	+1
Czechia	+354	Iraq	+76	Moldova	+22	Venezuela	+6	Honduras	+1
Israel	+342	Greece	+74	Oman	+22	Zambia	+6	Trinidad and Tobago	+1
Australia	+328	UAE	+72	Channel Islands	+22	Malta	+5	Macao	+1
Chile	+304	Serbia	+71	Gibraltar	+20	Ghana	+5	Togo	+1
Ireland	+302	Slovenia	+70	North Macedonia	+18	Ivory Coast	+5	New Caledonia	+1
Romania	+263	Morocco	+70	Kuwait	+17	Palestine	+5	Djibouti	+1
South Africa	+243	Hong Kong	+65	Cyprus	+16	Nigeria	+5	Bahamas	+1

Sweden	+229	Lithuania	+59	Afghanistan	+16	Aruba	+5	Curaçao	+1
Ecuador	+224	China	+55	Cameroon	+16	Faeroe Islands	+4	Nepal	+1
Russia	+196	Peru	+55	Taiwan	+15	Georgia	+4	Bhutan	+1
Pakistan	+172	Singapore	+49	San Marino	+15	Rwanda	+4	Somalia	+1
Denmark	+169	Colombia	+48	Senegal	+14	Bangladesh	+4		
Poland	+168	Bosnia and Herzegovina	+46	Kyrgyzstan	+14	Ethiopia	+4		

**Current Confirmed Deaths**

Italy	9,134	Egypt	30	Burkina Faso	9	Azerbaijan	3	Channel Islands	1
Spain	5,138	Greece	28	Serbia	8	Paraguay	3	Montenegro	1
China	3,295	Malaysia	26	Lebanon	8	DRC	3	Guadeloupe	1
Iran	2,378	Romania	26	Albania	8	Iceland	2	Nigeria	1
France	1,995	Algeria	26	Finland	7	Singapore	2	Guatemala	1
USA	1,704	Morocco	23	Tunisia	7	UAE	2	Kenya	1
UK	759	Ireland	22	Thailand	6	Taiwan	2	Jamaica	1
Netherlands	546	San Marino	21	Colombia	6	Costa Rica	2	Togo	1
Germany	351	India	20	Chile	5	Moldova	2	Niger	1
Belgium	289	Dominican Republic	20	Lithuania	5	Venezuela	2	Cayman Islands	1
Switzerland	231	Norway	19	Ukraine	5	Uzbekistan	2	Curaçao	1
S. Korea	144	Argentina	17	Cyprus	5	Mauritius	2	Gabon	1
Sweden	105	Poland	16	Bangladesh	5	Cameroon	2	Cabo Verde	1
Brazil	93	Luxembourg	15	Russia	4	Cuba	2	Guyana	1
Turkey	92	Australia	14	Hong Kong	4	Trinidad and Tobago	2	Sudan	1
Indonesia	87	Panama	14	Bahrain	4	South Africa	1	Zimbabwe	1
Portugal	76	Israel	12	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	Estonia	1	Nicaragua	1
Austria	58	Mexico	12	Ghana	4	Armenia	1	Gambia	1
Canada	55	Pakistan	11	Afghanistan	4	Jordan	1		
Philippines	54	Peru	11	Saudi Arabia	3	Kazakhstan	1		
Denmark	52	Hungary	11	Croatia	3	Brunei	1		
Japan	49	<i>Diamond Princess</i>	10	Bulgaria	3	Honduras	1		
Ecuador	41	Czechia	9	Andorra	3	Martinique	1		
Iraq	40	Slovenia	9	North Macedonia	3	Palestine	1		



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