



COVID-19 Outbreak Update

29 March

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

There are now just over 664,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 30,000 deaths and around 142,000 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 number of fatalities in the United Kingdom has reached 1,019, with 260 confirmed over the last 24 hours. The number of confirmed cases increased by 2,546, leading to a total of 17,089. To cope with the growing number of infections, two temporary hospitals are being set up in Birmingham and Manchester. In London, the NHS Nightingale, the new field hospital under construction at the ExCel centre, will soon accommodate 4,000 patients. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, currently in isolation after having tested positive to the virus, announced that a letter will be sent to every household in the country notifying citizens of the government's plans to combat the virus. The Prime Minister also indicated that the government would take further measures to tackle the spread of COVID-19, tightening the lockdown that is already in place.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has announced that all borders will be closed indefinitely to travellers, while quarantine measures will be extended until 24 April to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the country. Ukrainian nationals are permitted to return to the country but will have to undergo a period of isolation. There have been over 400 of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ukraine and 9 deaths.

Authorities in Albania announced that air travel in and out of Albania will be suspended from 29 March until further notice. All land and sea borders have also been closed. The country has been on full lockdown since 21 March and stricter measures have recently been announced by the authorities, such as curfew over weekends. On 28 March, the Albanian Prime minister announced that 30 Albanian medical professionals flew to Italy to help their Italian counterparts fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced that the lockdown measures will be extended until at least 9 April. Through a televised statement, the Prime Minister explained that "this measure will reduce the mobility of people even further, it will reduce the risk of contagion and will allow us to decongest the ICUs".

The Spanish government's decision to extend the lockdown came after it was confirmed that approximately 800 people have died over the last 24 hours. As part of the lockdown, the government has ordered all non-essential workers to stay at home. Spain now has 72,248 confirmed fatalities. This announcement comes after the Health Ministry's stated that more than 4,000 people are currently in intensive care units in hospitals across Spain, heightening the risk of overwhelming the existing medical resources.

Police in South Africa was reported using violent crowd suppression methods to enforce social distancing in the Yeoville area of Johannesburg. Police fired rubber bullets at hundreds of shoppers that gathered outside a supermarket. The crowd was reportedly not observing the social distancing measures announced two days earlier by the government as part of a 21-day lockdown. South Africa has currently 1,187 cases of the COVID-19 virus.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed the first COVID-19 related fatality in New Zealand. It is reported that the patient is a 70-year old woman who was initially diagnosed with influenza, later tested positive for the virus. There are currently 514 confirmed cases nationwide and a state of emergency has been in effect since 25 March.

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, 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>
Europe	<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, Albania, Belarus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine all have complete border closures to non-residents. 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; 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 & 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, Reunion, Sudan and Tunisia have all barred all inbound travel. Algeria, Angola, Congo, Djibouti, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, 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	664,941 (+66,909)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	142,450 (+9,063)	Total Confirmed Deaths	30,896 (+3,525)
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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	123,776	India	987	Kuwait	235	Gibraltar	56	Mozambique	8
Italy	92,472	Iceland	963	Moldova	231	Liechtenstein	56	Myanmar	8
China	81,439	Panama	901	San Marino	224	Bangladesh	48	Namibia	8
Spain	73,235	Mexico	848	Burkina Faso	207	Aruba	46	Seychelles	8
Germany	57,695	Singapore	802	Albania	197	Monaco	43	Suriname	8
France	37,575	Argentina	745	Réunion	183	Madagascar	39	Gabon	7
Iran	35,408	Dominican Republic	719	Azerbaijan	182	Kenya	38	Zimbabwe	7
UK	17,089	<i>Diamond Princess</i>	712	Cyprus	179	Guatemala	34	Antigua and Barbuda	7
Switzerland	14,076	Slovenia	684	Vietnam	179	Macao	34	Cabo Verde	6
Netherlands	9,762	Peru	671	Faeroe Islands	155	Jamaica	32	Benin	6
S. Korea	9,583	Serbia	659	Oman	152	Isle of Man	32	Eritrea	6
Belgium	9,134	Croatia	657	Malta	149	French Polynesia	30	Vatican City	6
Austria	8,271	Estonia	645	Ghana	141	Uganda	30	Sudan	5
Turkey	7,402	Colombia	608	Uzbekistan	133	French Guiana	28	Nepal	5
Canada	5,655	Qatar	590	Senegal	130	Zambia	28	Angola	5
Portugal	5,170	Egypt	576	Brunei	120	Barbados	26	Fiji	5
Norway	4,032	Hong Kong	560	Cuba	119	Togo	25	Mauritania	5
Australia	3,969	New Zealand	514	Venezuela	119	El Salvador	24	Montserrat	5
Brazil	3,904	Iraq	506	Sri Lanka	115	Mali	18	St. Barth	5
Israel	3,865	Bahrain	476	Afghanistan	110	Bermuda	17	Syria	5
Sweden	3,447	UAE	468	Honduras	110	Maldives	17	Nicaragua	4
Czechia	2,663	Algeria	454	Palestine	104	Ethiopia	16	Bhutan	4
Ireland	2,415	Lithuania	437	Cambodia	103	Haiti	15	Congo	4
Malaysia	2,320	Lebanon	412	Guadeloupe	102	New Caledonia	15	Turks and Caicos	4
Denmark	2,201	Hungary	408	Mauritius	102	Djibouti	14	Gambia	3
Chile	1,909	Armenia	407	Ivory Coast	101	Tanzania	14	CAR	3
Luxembourg	1,831	Morocco	402	Channel Islands	100	Equatorial Guinea	12	Chad	3
Ecuador	1,823	Ukraine	356	Nigeria	97	Mongolia	12	Liberia	3
Japan	1,693	Bulgaria	338	Belarus	94	Dominica	11	Libya	3
Poland	1,638	Andorra	308	Martinique	93	Saint Martin	11	Saint Lucia	3
Pakistan	1,495	Latvia	305	Cameroon	91	Niger	10	Sint Maarten	3
Romania	1,452	Uruguay	304	Georgia	90	Bahamas	10	Somalia	3
Thailand	1,388	Costa Rica	295	Montenegro	84	Greenland	10	<i>MS Zaandam</i>	2
Russia	1,264	Slovakia	292	Bolivia	81	Grenada	9	Anguilla	2
Saudi Arabia	1,203	Taiwan	283	Trinidad and Tobago	76	Eswatini	9	Belize	2
South Africa	1,187	Tunisia	278	DRC	65	Cayman Islands	8	British Virgin Islands	2
Finland	1,167	Bosnia and Herzegovina	278	Mayotte	63	Curaçao	8	Guinea-Bissau	2
Indonesia	1,155	Kazakhstan	251	Rwanda	60	Guyana	8	Saint Kitts and Nevis	2
Philippines	1,075	Jordan	246	Kyrgyzstan	58	Guinea	8	Papua New Guinea	1
Greece	1,061	North Macedonia	241	Paraguay	56	Laos	8	St. Vincent Grenadines	1

Yesterday's Increase

USA	+19,452	Romania	+160	Slovenia	+52	Azerbaijan	+17	Zambia	+6
Spain	+7,516	Malaysia	+159	Tunisia	+51	Cyprus	+17	El Salvador	+6
Germany	+6,824	Argentina	+156	Iraq	+48	Taiwan	+16	Brunei	+5
Italy	+5,974	Denmark	+155	Ukraine	+46	Uzbekistan	+16	Ghana	+4
France	+4,611	S. Korea	+146	Algeria	+45	DRC	+14	Paraguay	+4
Iran	+3,076	New Zealand	+146	Hungary	+43	Palestine	+13	Jamaica	+4
UK	+2,546	Dominican Republic	+138	Hong Kong	+41	Bolivia	+13	Isle of Man	+3
Belgium	+1,850	Mexico	+132	Andorra	+41	Mayotte	+13	Guyana	+3
Turkey	+1,704	Serbia	+131	Bosnia and Herzegovina	+41	Aruba	+13	Montenegro	+2
Netherlands	+1,159	Finland	+126	Egypt	+40	Jordan	+11	Djibouti	+2
Switzerland	+1,148	Pakistan	+122	Cuba	+39	Albania	+11	Laos	+2
Portugal	+902	Panama	+115	Bulgaria	+38	Vietnam	+11	Zimbabwe	+2
Canada	+898	Thailand	+109	Réunion	+38	Faeroe Islands	+11	Vatican City	+2
Israel	+584	Indonesia	+109	Peru	+36	Senegal	+11	Sudan	+2
Austria	+574	India	+100	Lithuania	+36	Bahrain	+10	Mauritania	+2
Brazil	+487	Saudi Arabia	+99	Costa Rica	+32	Kuwait	+10	Turks and Caicos	+2
Sweden	+378	Greece	+95	Moldova	+32	Malta	+10	Libya	+2
Czechia	+352	Armenia	+78	Guadeloupe	+29	Trinidad and Tobago	+10	San Marino	+1
Chile	+299	Kazakhstan	+78	Qatar	+28	Channel Islands	+9	Gibraltar	+1
Ireland	+294	Iceland	+73	Burkina Faso	+27	Mauritius	+8	Monaco	+1
Philippines	+272	Croatia	+71	Nigeria	+27	Sri Lanka	+7	Tanzania	+1
Australia	+257	Singapore	+70	Honduras	+27	Georgia	+7	Mongolia	+1

Poland	+249	Estonia	+70	Latvia	+25	Kenya	+7	Mozambique	+1
Norway	+244	Colombia	+69	Slovakia	+23	Uganda	+7	Seychelles	+1
Russia	+228	Uruguay	+66	North Macedonia	+22	Mali	+7	Cabo Verde	+1
Luxembourg	+226	UAE	+63	Lebanon	+21	Venezuela	+6	Nepal	+1
Ecuador	+196	Morocco	+57	Oman	+21	Rwanda	+6	Angola	+1
Japan	+194	+China	+54	South Africa	+17	Guatemala	+6		

Current Confirmed Deaths

Italy	10,023	Romania	37	Serbia	10	Afghanistan	4	Brunei	1
Spain	5,982	Ireland	36	Albania	10	Singapore	3	Sri Lanka	1
China	3,300	Egypt	36	Finland	9	Armenia	3	Honduras	1
Iran	2,517	Greece	32	Slovenia	9	Andorra	3	Palestine	1
France	2,314	Algeria	29	Ukraine	9	Cuba	3	Channel Islands	1
USA	2,229	Dominican Republic	28	Lebanon	8	Trinidad and Tobago	3	Nigeria	1
UK	1,019	Malaysia	27	Tunisia	8	Paraguay	3	Martinique	1
Netherlands	639	Morocco	26	Thailand	7	Iceland	2	Montenegro	1
Germany	433	India	25	Lithuania	7	UAE	2	Monaco	1
Belgium	353	Norway	23	Bulgaria	7	Taiwan	2	Kenya	1
Switzerland	264	San Marino	22	Chile	6	Costa Rica	2	Guatemala	1
S. Korea	152	Poland	19	Colombia	6	Moldova	2	Jamaica	1
Brazil	114	Argentina	19	Bosnia and Herzegovina	6	Uzbekistan	2	Togo	1
Turkey	108	Luxembourg	18	DRC	6	Venezuela	2	Mali	1
Sweden	105	Panama	17	Croatia	5	Guadeloupe	2	Niger	1
Indonesia	102	Australia	16	Cyprus	5	Mauritius	2	Cayman Islands	1
Portugal	100	Mexico	16	Ghana	5	Cameroon	2	Curaçao	1
Austria	68	Peru	16	Bangladesh	5	South Africa	1	Guyana	1
Philippines	68	Czechia	13	Russia	4	Estonia	1	Gabon	1
Denmark	65	Pakistan	13	Saudi Arabia	4	Qatar	1	Zimbabwe	1
Canada	60	Hungary	13	Hong Kong	4	New Zealand	1	Cabo Verde	1
Japan	52	Israel	12	Bahrain	4	Uruguay	1	Sudan	1
Ecuador	48	Burkina Faso	11	North Macedonia	4	Kazakhstan	1	Nicaragua	1
Iraq	42	<i>Diamond Princess</i>	10	Azerbaijan	4	Jordan	1	Gambia	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