



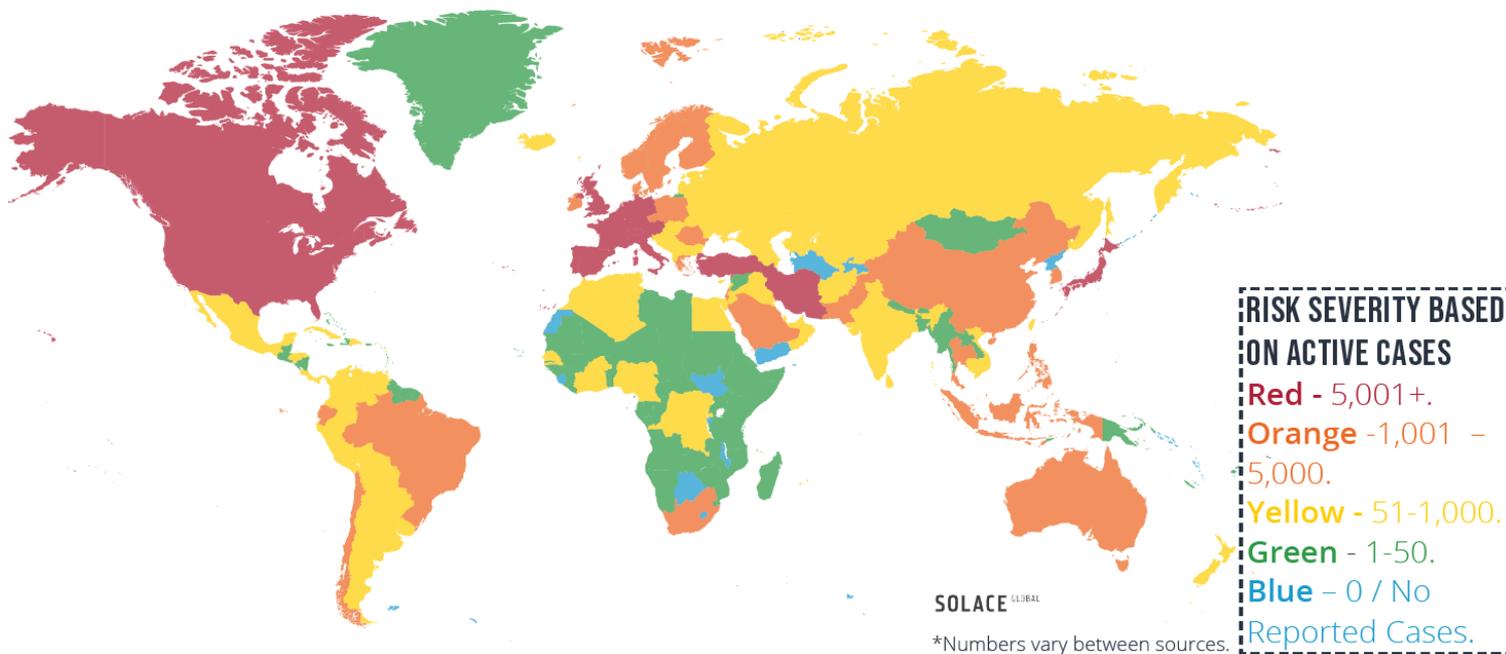
COVID-19 Outbreak Update

30 March

Executive Summary

There are now just under 740,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with approximately 35,000 deaths and around 156,000 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 United States continues to be the worst-affected nation in terms of total confirmed cases with at least 142,000 as of 30 March. On Sunday, President Trump announced that the federal government’s guidelines for social distancing would be extended until at least 30 April. The extension follows an announcement by two of President Trump’s top medical advisers, who warned that up to 200,000 people could die even with strict social distancing measures being in place. Moreover, Dr Anthony S.Fauci, a leading infectious disease expert, explained that the projection was based on scientific modelling while Dr Deborah Birk, the lead coordinator of the White House’s coronavirus task force, said that the same models projected that 1.6 million to 2.2 million Americans could die from complications of the virus.

In the United Kingdom, there have been reports that a breathing aid - designed to keep patients out of intensive care - has been developed by a team including members of University College London researchers and the Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team. Pending successful trials, it is hoped that the machine could be distributed across the NHS in the coming weeks with Mercedes’s claiming they could produce up to 1000 of the units per day. A senior British government medical adviser has also warned that civil liberties could be restricted until the autumn as she commented that “the normal way of living may not return for more than six months”. Dr Jenny Harries, the UK’s Deputy Chief Medical Officer, said that even if current social distancing measures appear to have an impact on case numbers, it would be “quite dangerous” to lift such measures too quickly as a “second peak” could occur.

Elsewhere in Europe, Spain has implemented more restrictive measures after days of record death tolls; with 821 deaths being announced by the ministry of health yesterday. As of 30 March, the Spanish government has banned all non-essential workers from leaving their homes while Madrid has called for a minute’s silence to be held at midday each day to mourn those that have died.

In Russia, Moscow city officials have imposed stricter social restrictions after many residents ignored previous requests to limit outdoor activity. Citizens will now be confined to their homes unless for a medical emergency, to travel to key jobs, to shop for essential supplies such as food and medicines or to walk their dogs. Furthermore, Russia’s prime minister, Mikhail Mishustin asked governors across the country to prepare similar orders as the country began a “non-working” week as declared by President Vladimir Putin.

Australian authorities have also imposed increased measures to limit the further spread of the virus. From 30 March, group meetings outside of more than two people are banned, while children’s playgrounds, outdoor gyms and skateparks have also been closed. Additionally, the government has announced a plan to subsidise the wages of 6 million workers. Positively, however, the country has been showing some promising signs of “flattening” the curve in recent days and is also managing to keep deaths very low when compared to other countries.

In Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari announced a 14-day lockdown for Abuja, Lagos and the Ogun State in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The lockdown will be implemented from 11:00hrs local time on 30 March. As part of the lockdown, all citizens have been told to stay indoors whilst businesses are to

be closed and travel between the affected areas has been suspended. The lockdown does not apply to individuals who work in hospitals and other medical facilities, private security companies, food and other key resource distribution roles.

The Syrian government announced its first fatality as well as four new cases of the virus, bringing the total number of cases to nine. Authorities have initiated a curfew from 18:00hrs to 06:00hrs local time and shops, markets and the public transport have all been closed or suspended. Meanwhile, the two South American nations of Bolivia and Uruguay have also confirmed their first fatalities. Bolivia reported its first fatality in Santa Cruz de la Sierra where roughly half of the country's 81 cases have been recorded as residents continue to ignore the restrictive measures. In Uruguay, officials from the health ministry confirmed that one person died as a result of the COVID-19 virus, whilst clarifying that another fatality, originally believed to have been caused by the virus, was in fact due to other causes. Uruguay currently has 304 cases of the virus.

Finally, the organisers have announced that the postponed Tokyo Olympics are set to open on 23 July 2021. This will be a year, minus a day, after they were meant to commence on 24 July 2020.

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.

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.

In Hong Kong, all non-residents have been banned (the measure began on 25 March) from entering or transiting through the Special Administrative Region.

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.

India has also now implemented a lockdown, with people being banned from leaving their homes, the closure of non-essential shops, businesses and places of worship, suspension of all schools and non-essential public transport as well as the cessation of all social, political entertainment and sports activities.

Countries with a global travel ban on non-citizens/residents include Azerbaijan, Brunei, China (and its SARs), India, Malaysia, Myanmar, N. Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, Turkmenistan. The majority of other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.

Europe

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. 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. The majority of other European countries have some form of restrictions in place.

Americas

The United States is now the epicentre of the pandemic, with the most cases compared to any other country, overtaking China.

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. 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. On 29 March, President Trump announced that the social distancing measures that are designed to slow the virus's spread will stay in place until at least 30 April.

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.

Africa

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.

At this time, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Reunion, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan and Tunisia have all barred all inbound travel. Algeria, Angola, Congo, Djibouti, Mali, Madagascar, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda all have at least some

	restrictions on inbound travel.
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. 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. The lockdown in Australia had been considered quite lenient when compared to France, Italy or the UK; however, the government has announced stricter restrictions</p> <p>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	737,577 (+72,636)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	156,295 (+13,845)	Total Confirmed Deaths	35,000 (+4,104)
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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

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		Countries with the most confirmed deaths		Countries with the most confirmed recoveries	
USA	142,793	USA	+18,882	Italy	10,779	China	75,700
Italy	97,689	Spain	+6,875	Spain	7,340	Spain	16,780
Spain	85,195	Italy	+5,217	China	3,304	Iran	13,911
China	81,470	Germany	+4,740	Iran	2,757	Italy	13,030
Germany	62,435	Iran	+2,901	France	2,606	Germany	9,211
Iran	41,495	France	+2,599	USA	2,490	France	7,202
France	40,174	UK	+2,433	UK	1,228	S. Korea	5,228
UK	19,522	Turkey	+1,815	Netherlands	771	USA	4,562
Switzerland	15,069	Belgium	+1,702	Germany	541	Switzerland	1,823
Belgium	11,899	Netherlands	+1,104	Belgium	513	Belgium	1,527
Netherlands	10,866	Portugal	+792	Switzerland	312	Austria	636
S. Korea	9,661	Switzerland	+753	S. Korea	158	Diamond Princess	603
Turkey	9,217	Canada	+665	Portugal	140	Canada	573
Austria	9,200	Israel	+628	Brazil	139	Malaysia	479
Portugal	6,408	Australia	+528	Turkey	131	Japan	424
Canada	6,320	Austria	+517	Indonesia	122	Bahrain	279
Norway	4,370	Romania	+363	Sweden	110	Netherlands	250
Israel	4,347	Brazil	+352	Austria	108	Australia	244
Brazil	4,316	Philippines	+343	Philippines	78	Thailand	229
Australia	4,245	Russia	+270	Denmark	77	Singapore	212
Sweden	3,700	Norway	+269	Canada	65	Romania	206
Czechia	2,866	Sweden	+253	Ecuador	58	Iraq	143
Malaysia	2,626	Chile	+230	Japan	54	UK	135
Ireland	2,615	Poland	+224	Ireland	46	Iceland	135
Denmark	2,555	Ireland	+200	Romania	46	Israel	134
Chile	2,139	Denmark	+194	Iraq	42	Egypt	132
Romania	1,952	Czechia	+186	Egypt	40	Hong Kong	118
Luxembourg	1,950	Peru	+181	Greece	39	Turkey	105
Ecuador	1,924	Japan	+173	Dominican Republic	39	India	100
Poland	1,905	Malaysia	+150	Malaysia	37	Argentina	91
Japan	1,866	Thailand	+143	Algeria	31	Indonesia	75
Russia	1,836	Dominican Republic	+140	Norway	29	Chile	75
Pakistan	1,625	Mexico	+131	India	29	Kuwait	72
Philippines	1,546	Indonesia	+130	Morocco	27	Faeroe Islands	70

Thailand	1,524	Luxembourg	+119	Poland	26	Russia	66
Indonesia	1,414	Ukraine	+119	Panama	24	Saudi Arabia	66
Finland	1,343	S. Korea	+105	San Marino	22	New Zealand	63
Saudi Arabia	1,299	Pakistan	+102	Luxembourg	21	UAE	58
South Africa	1,280	UAE	+102	Mexico	20	Croatia	55
Greece	1,156	Ecuador	+101	Argentina	20	Greece	52



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.

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