A street scene in a city, likely Milan, showing tram tracks on the left and a sidewalk on the right. Two people wearing face masks and dark clothing are walking on the sidewalk. The background features multi-story buildings, a pink sign on a building, and a clear blue sky. The overall atmosphere is one of a quiet, post-pandemic urban environment.

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

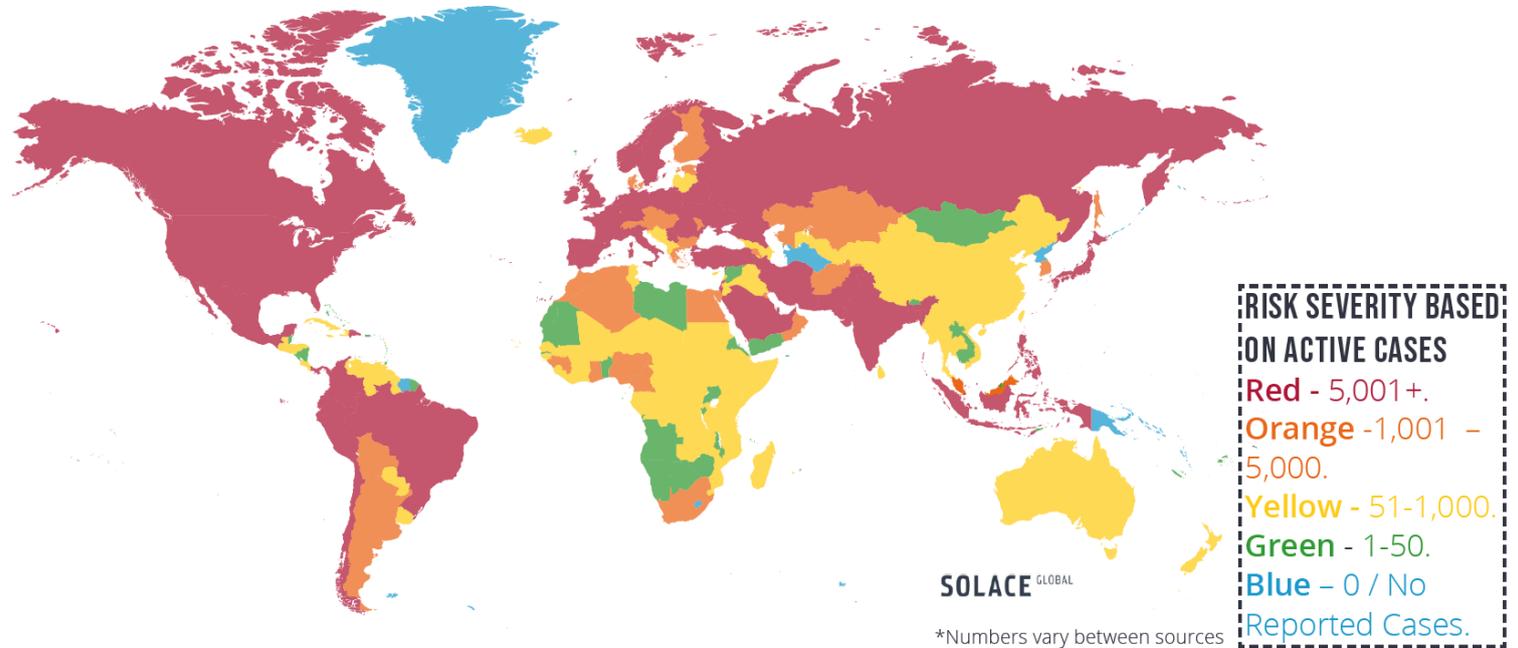
5 May

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally have exceeded 3.64 million, with approximately 252,000 deaths and around 1.2 million recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have reported at least one case and/or have implemented some form of travel restriction. The situation has stabilised somewhat in the past weeks with many travel restrictions, both internationally and domestically, in place for the foreseeable future. Some countries worldwide are beginning to ease their restrictions; however, this process will be slow, with restrictions on international travel likely to be one of the last measures to be lifted.

Solace Global continues to advise against all non-essential travel at this time due to the widespread travel restrictions. However, if conducting essential travel, it is advised that you check your relevant government’s travel advice and contact your airline or travel provider for more details. Be aware that it is likely that many destinations globally will have some form of quarantining measure in place upon arrival. At this time, Solace Global still advises that 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 COVID-19 death toll now stands at over a quarter of a million, as infections top 3.6 million cases. The milestone comes as several countries begin easing lockdowns designed to contain the pandemic. North American and European countries have accounted for most of the new deaths and cases reported in recent days, but numbers are rising from smaller bases in Latin America, Africa and Russia.

British health authorities have announced that coronavirus-related hospital deaths in England rose by 204, the lowest daily increase since late March, bringing the total to 21,384. It was reported that three of the 204 patients who died had no known underlying health condition.

During a press conference on 4 May, Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe extended the country’s state of emergency until 31 May, warning that relaxing social distancing measures too early could cause hospitals to become overwhelmed with patients. The nationwide state of emergency requires individuals to reduce non-essential travel and implement social distancing measures, though there are no fines or penalties for non-compliance. In prefectures that have recorded fewer cases, restrictions on business operations and small gatherings will be relaxed, but residents will still be asked not to travel outside their home regions. Bars and nightclubs will remain shut, while museums, libraries and parks are likely to be allowed to reopen provided preventive measures are in place.

Indigenous leaders in Brazil have asked the World Health Organization (WHO) to set up an emergency fund to help protect their communities from the threat of the pandemic. Many of these communities live in remote areas of the Amazon with little or no access to healthcare, radically increasing the deadliness of a potential outbreak. At this time, the number of indigenous people who have died from the virus is at least 18.

Qantas Airways, the flag carrier of Australia, stated on Tuesday that it would extend flight cancellations into June and July, adding that it had secured further debt funding to support the airline until the end of the pandemic. The group claims to have enough liquidity to respond to a range of recovery scenarios, including one where the current condition persists until at least December 2021. Conversely, the Dutch airline KLM has resumed flights between Amsterdam and Milan after the service was suspended due to Italy’s lockdown. Flights will operate daily, connecting Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS) to Malpensa Airport (MXP). The airline also announced that face masks will be made compulsory on all its flights starting from 11 May.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has outlined a multi-staged plan to reopen the state, currently under strict lockdown. Cuomo did not provide an exact timeline, but the stay-at-home order is due to expire on 15 May. During the first phase of the plan, construction, manufacturing and selected retail shops will be allowed to resume operations, while the second phase will include, administrative support, as well as financial, real estate and rental services. Phase three will see restaurants and hotels reopen, followed by museums, entertainment and recreation facilities, and finally schools in the fourth phase. Specific areas of the state will be able to reopen once they meet targets on four main metrics: the rate of new infections, hospital capacity, diagnostic testing capacity and availability of disease investigators to trace contacts of an infected person. Similarly, California Governor Gavin Newsom said that if the current infection rates continue or

improve, most retail businesses will be able to reopen, albeit with social distancing measures in place. This is due to take effect on Friday if the criteria are met.

Italy has begun easing some of its lockdown measures after weeks of stringent restrictions. Residents will now be permitted to move more freely within their region, visit relatives and order takeaway food. Some workplaces have been allowed to reopen, along with public parks. Prime Minister Conte has stressed that, while easing of measures brings relief for many, it does not represent a total return to normal life and that implementing social distancing remains key.

Several German states are expected to allow large shops to reopen, most likely from 11 May. The Bundesliga football league is also supposed to resume matches; however, these will have to follow strict guidelines and fans will not be allowed on site. Outdoor sports for non-professionals and children will also be permitted. Restrictions on schools are also being slowly lifted and facilities are expected to reopen for all grades, though most children will only be allowed to go to class in rotating shifts and not on a daily basis.

Elsewhere, the South Korean Government announced on Monday that schools will start reopening from 13 May, after being forced to hold classes online for several weeks. High school students will be the first to return on 13 May, followed by younger pupils who will gradually return between Wednesday, 20 May, and Monday, 1 June. Wearing facemasks will be compulsory for all returning pupils and teachers.

In Nigeria, commercial activities were allowed to resume on Monday in Abuja, Lagos and Ogun after the government announced that restrictions will be gradually eased over a six-week time frame. Comprehensive regulations over sanitation and social distancing will, however, be enforced for businesses and offices. Wearing masks will also be mandatory when accessing public places, shops and public transportation. While freedom of movement was partially restored, inter-regional travel continues to be prohibited.

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

Asia	<p>While restrictions across the region remain extensive, some countries are now easing their internal lockdown measures after successfully managing to curb their outbreaks; these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.</p> <p>International travel restrictions will, however, likely remain in place for the time being. China, for example, has implemented a limit on the number of flights to the country and are denying entry to foreigners with previously issued visas and residence permits.</p>
Europe	<p>The EU Commission has invited all Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU until at least 15 May. Airlines, however, continue to operate limited flights to and from the majority of EU countries.</p> <p>Austria, Denmark, Germany, Norway and some other European countries are now seeing an easing of internal restrictions after overcoming what the peak of the outbreak in their countries. Most recently, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland have also announced plans to ease their containment measures. In Italy, businesses are set to start reopening gradually in May.</p>
Americas	<p>The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. The majority of states now have a “stay-at-home” order of some kind or have closed “non-essential” businesses. However, some are now looking to ease restrictions, largely due to protests occurring in response to the lockdowns. In some cases, the demonstrators have attended these rallies armed.</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 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.</p> <p>The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on both internal and international travel.</p>
Africa	<p>African countries have, thus far, not been as severely impacted by the outbreak, with the continent’s case numbers lower than all other continents except Oceania. However, the risk that the pandemic poses to the Africa cannot be understated. As such, many countries implemented lockdown measures very early, when only a handful of cases had been recorded. Indeed, many countries announced restrictions before any confirmed cases.</p> <p>While the majority of countries have some form of restrictions in place, especially on major cities, some, including Ghana, have been able to start relaxing their lockdowns. The DRC is also relaxing restrictions on the capital Kinshasa, which had been struck relatively hard before the outbreak. South Africa has also begun to ease restrictions since 1 May.</p> <p>International travel is likely to remain limited for the foreseeable future. For example, Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, closed its land borders and banned all international flights in late March.</p>
Middle East	<p>The Middle East has some significant lockdowns in place, most countries are also now looking to ease restrictions. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan, among others, have all eased the restrictions on people’s movements.</p> <p>Notably, Saudi Arabia has eased restrictions nationwide, with the exception of Mecca, with malls, wholesale and retail shops, also being allowed to reopen from the sixth day of Ramadan. Mecca remains under a 24-hour curfew with calls for the kingdom to postpone Hajj in July.</p>
Australia/Oceania	<p>All states in Australia appear to have contained the spread of the coronavirus. Some states and territories including Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory will start to ease their restrictions from 1 May. Variations on restriction rules apply between states.</p> <p>Additionally, New Zealand’s Prime Minister announced that the country has stopped the transmission of the virus. As such, some of the lockdown restrictions were eased from 11.59 local time on 27 April. New Zealand also lifted its level 4-lockdown that has been in effect for more than 4 weeks. The level 3 phase, which is reportedly in effect for two weeks, allows non-essential businesses such as retailers, schools and restaurants to reopen.</p>

Solace Global Advice At this time, we continue to advise that **only business-critical travel is conducted**. Otherwise, ensure that you can access the country you intend to travel to. Extensive travel restrictions are making even business-critical travel difficult, as such, it is important that travellers are aware of the restrictions that are in place, including any potential mandatory quarantining, and are prepared for travel to be postponed or disrupted at short notice. It is likely that restrictions will continue to be eased in the coming weeks and months; however, these will remain fluid, with spikes in new cases likely resulting in renewed lockdowns and travel restrictions.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	3,659,133 (+79,654)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,203,487 (+44,531)	Total Confirmed Deaths	252,574(+4,129)
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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	1,212,955	USA	+24,713	USA	69,925	USA	188,068
Spain	248,301	Russia	+10,581	Italy	29,079	Spain	151,633
Italy	211,938	Brazil	+7,119	UK	28,734	Germany	135,100
UK	190,584	UK	+3,985	Spain	25,428	Italy	82,879
France	169,462	India	+3,932	France	25,201	Iran	79,379
Germany	166,152	Ecuador	+2,343	Belgium	7,924	China	77,853
Russia	155,370	Saudi Arabia	+1,645	Brazil	7,367	Turkey	68,166
Turkey	127,659	Turkey	+1,614	Germany	6,993	France	51,371
Brazil	108,620	Peru	+1,444	Iran	6,277	Brazil	45,815
Iran	98,647	Mexico	+1,383	Netherlands	5,082	Canada	26,017
China	82,881	Canada	+1,298	China	4,633	Switzerland	25,200
Canada	60,772	Iran	+1,223	Canada	3,854	Russia	19,865
Belgium	50,267	Italy	+1,221	Turkey	3,461	Mexico	15,938
Peru	47,372	Spain	+1,179	Sweden	2,769	Peru	14,427
India	46,476	Chile	+980	Mexico	2,271	Austria	13,462
Netherlands	40,770	Pakistan	+857	Switzerland	1,784	Ireland	13,386
Ecuador	31,881	Belarus	+784	India	1,571	India	12,849
Switzerland	29,981	France	+769	Ecuador	1,569	Belgium	12,378
Saudi Arabia	28,656	Bangladesh	+688	Russia	1,451	Chile	10,415
Portugal	25,524	Qatar	+640	Peru	1,344	Israel	10,223
Mexico	24,905	Singapore	+573	Ireland	1,319	S. Korea	9,283
Sweden	22,721	UAE	+567	Portugal	1,063	Denmark	7,088
Ireland	21,772	Ghana	+550	Indonesia	864	Australia	5,886
Pakistan	21,501	Germany	+488	Romania	827	Pakistan	5,782
Chile	20,643	South Africa	+437	Poland	700	Romania	5,269
Singapore	19,410	Ukraine	+418	Philippines	637	Malaysia	4,567
Belarus	17,489	Sweden	+404	Austria	606	Saudi Arabia	4,476
Israel	16,268	Indonesia	+395	Japan	536	Poland	4,280
Qatar	16,191	Belgium	+361	Denmark	493	Japan	4,156
Austria	15,650	Romania	+349	Pakistan	486	Sweden	4,074
Japan	15,078	Egypt	+348	Algeria	465	Czechia	3,816
UAE	14,730	Poland	+313	Egypt	436	Finland	3,500
Poland	14,242	Colombia	+305	Hungary	363	Ecuador	3,433
Romania	13,512	Kuwait	+295	Colombia	358	Luxembourg	3,405
Ukraine	12,697	Dominican Republic	+281	Dominican Republic	346	Belarus	3,259
Indonesia	11,587	Ireland	+266	Ukraine	316	UAE	2,966
Bangladesh	10,929	Philippines	+262	Chile	270	Thailand	2,747
S. Korea	10,804	Nigeria	+244	Argentina	260	South Africa	2,746
Philippines	9,684	Portugal	+242	S. Korea	254	Algeria	1,998
Denmark	9,670	Japan	+201	Czechia	252	Indonesia	1,954



Solace Global remain available to our clients, organisations and individuals throughout this time and are able to provide our full range of Travel Risk Management services. We understand that during such unprecedented times, remaining BAU can be complex. Whether you require customised reports, training, comprehensive crisis management, in-country journey management, tracking, response, evacuation or a service more specific, we are able to tailor our services to your exact requirements enabling you to make appropriate decisions going forward.

For further details, please email risk@solaceglobal.com or give us a call on +44 (0) 1202 308 810.