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 calm and orderly.

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

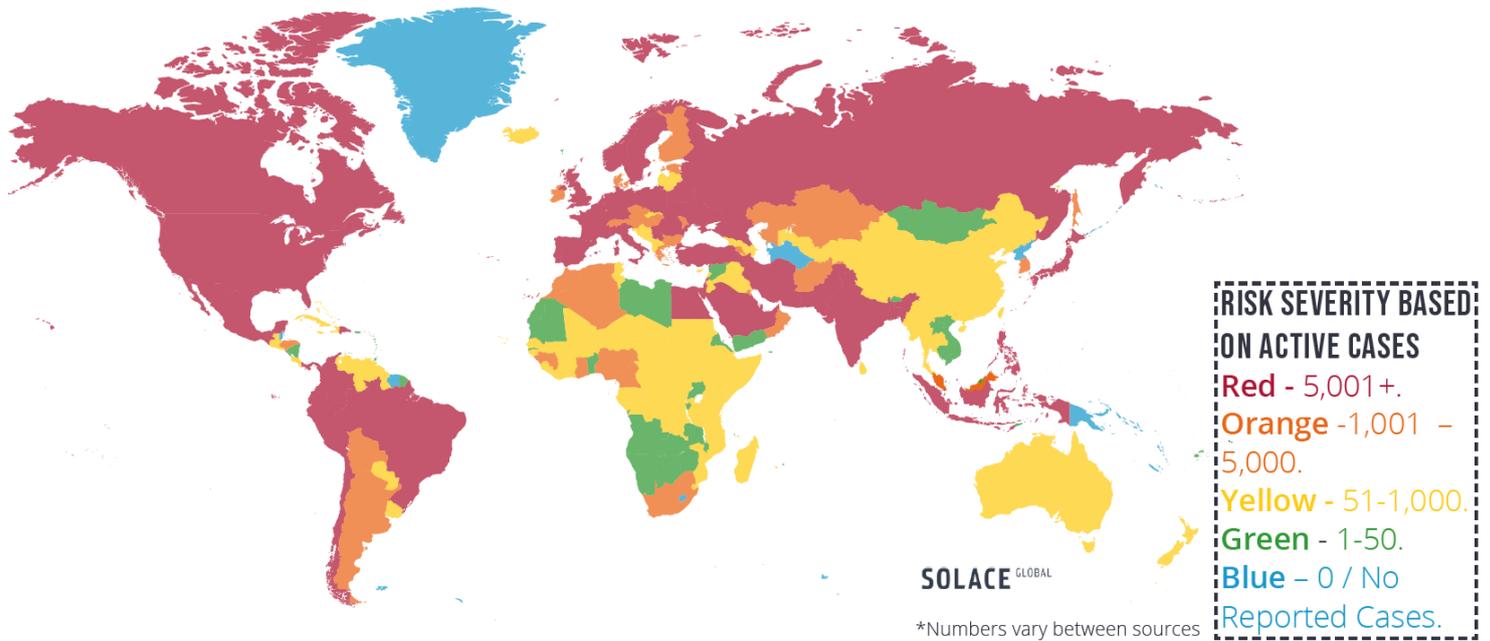
7 May

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally have exceeded 3.83 million, with approximately 265,364 deaths and around 1.3 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

As countries around the world begin to relax restrictions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the head of the World Health Organization has said that there must be “no going back to business as usual”. During a virtual briefing at the organisation’s headquarters in Geneva, Tedros Ghebreyesus warned that “the risk of returning to lockdown remains very real if countries do not manage the transition extremely carefully and in a phased approach”.

US President Donald Trump has continued to prime Americans to expect more deaths as the country begins to re-start its economy, saying “we have to be warriors” and that “we can’t keep our country’s closed down for years”. In a reversal from statements made yesterday suggesting the White House COVID-19 taskforce would be disbanded in the coming weeks, the president has now said it will continue on indefinitely.

Diplomatic relations between the US and China have continued to worsen, with White House press secretary describing the relationship of the two countries as one of disappointment and frustration. China’s foreign ministry has rejected claims by US Vice President Mike Pompeo that the virus originated from a lab in Wuhan, the epicentre of the pandemic. A Chinese official has accused the US of attempting to divert attention towards Beijing, stating that Pompeo has failed to produce any evidence supporting his claim.

In Europe, German authorities have continued to ease restrictions, with the country’s top football league, the Bundesliga, expected to resume before the end of the month. Germans are now allowed to meet friends and family, and some non-essential shops and businesses have reopened. Conversely, Spanish authorities have extended a state of emergency until at least 24 May following days of heated negotiations between the country’s political parties. In Poland, the debate over the upcoming presidential elections continues. While a legislation allowing the voting to be conducted by postal ballot has been approved by the lower house of parliament, the deputy prime minister stated on Wednesday that the election, initially scheduled for 10 May, is unlikely to take place before June. Shortly after, the leader of the governing party Law and Justice announced the postponement of the ballots, without, however, providing a provisional new date.

Speaking in parliament for the first time since recovering from the virus, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has reported the government will announce plans to ease lockdown restrictions on Sunday 10 May, with some measures being implemented over the following days. Following yesterday’s news that the UK now has the highest death-toll in Europe, a Cambridge University statistician has demanded the prime minister stop citing his article as evidence no international comparisons should be made.

New data suggest levels of domestic violence is rising across Latin America. Strict limits on movement are reported to have left many individuals isolated in their homes with abusive partners. Calls to emergency services and hotlines in Mexico reporting attacks on women are reported to have risen by more than 20% this month. The country’s president, contrary to official data, has insisted levels of violence are not increasing.

Iran has now reported more than 100,000 cases of the virus. Despite recent optimism that the authorities had gained control over the epidemic, there has been

a steep uptick in the number of confirmed cases in the last few days.

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

Asia
 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.
 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.

Europe
 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.
 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 started to open on the 4 May.

Americas
 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.
 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.
 The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on both internal and international travel.

Africa
 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.
 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.
 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.

Middle East
 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.
 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.

Australia/Oceania
 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.
 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.

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	3,836,183 (+94,907)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,307,608 (+60,175)	Total Confirmed Deaths	265,364 (+6,853)
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	---------------------	------------------------	------------------

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	1,263,224	USA	+25,459	USA	74,809	USA	213,109
Spain	253,682	Brazil	+11,896	UK	30,076	Spain	159,359
Italy	214,457	Russia	+10,559	Italy	29,684	Germany	139,900
UK	201,101	UK	+6,111	Spain	25,857	Italy	93,245
Russia	177,160	France	+3,640	France	25,809	Iran	81,587

France	174,191	Peru	+3,628	Brazil	8,588	Turkey	78,202
Germany	168,162	India	+3,587	Belgium	8,415	China	77,957
Turkey	131,744	Spain	+3,121	Germany	7,275	France	53,972
Brazil	126,611	Turkey	+2,253	Iran	6,418	Brazil	51,370
Iran	101,650	Saudi Arabia	+1,687	Netherlands	5,204	Canada	28,171
China	82,885	Iran	+1,680	China	4,633	Switzerland	25,700
Canada	63,496	Canada	+1,450	Canada	4,232	Russia	23,803
Peru	54,817	Italy	+1,444	Turkey	3,584	Mexico	17,781
India	53,045	Pakistan	+1,165	Sweden	2,941	Peru	17,527
Belgium	51,420	Germany	+1,155	Mexico	2,704	Ireland	17,110
Netherlands	41,319	Mexico	+1,120	Switzerland	1,805	India	15,331
Saudi Arabia	31,938	Chile	+1,032	India	1,787	Austria	13,698
Switzerland	30,060	Belarus	+905	Russia	1,625	Belgium	12,980
Ecuador	29,420	Qatar	+830	Ecuador	1,618	Chile	11,189
Mexico	27,634	Bangladesh	+790	Peru	1,533	Israel	10,737
Portugal	26,182	Singapore	+788	Ireland	1,375	S. Korea	9,419
Pakistan	24,073	Sweden	+702	Portugal	1,089	Denmark	7,493
Sweden	23,918	UAE	+546	Indonesia	930	Saudi Arabia	6,783
Chile	23,048	Ukraine	+487	Romania	876	Pakistan	6,464
Ireland	22,248	Kuwait	+485	Poland	737	Australia	6,040
Singapore	20,939	Portugal	+480	Philippines	685	Romania	5,788
Belarus	19,255	Egypt	+387	Austria	609	Poland	4,862
Qatar	17,972	Ghana	+372	Pakistan	564	Malaysia	4,776
Israel	16,346	Indonesia	+367	Japan	556	Japan	4,496
Austria	15,752	Colombia	+346	Denmark	506	Belarus	4,388
UAE	15,738	Dominican Republic	+327	Egypt	469	Czechia	4,214
Japan	15,253	Philippines	+320	Colombia	397	Sweden	4,074
Poland	14,898	Poland	+309	Dominican Republic	362	Finland	3,500
Romania	14,107	Belgium	+272	Ukraine	340	Ecuador	3,433
Ukraine	13,691	Romania	+270	Chile	281	UAE	3,359
Indonesia	12,776	Ireland	+265	Czechia	263	South Africa	3,153
Bangladesh	12,425	South Africa	+236	S. Korea	256	Ukraine	2,396
S. Korea	10,810	Netherlands	+232	Finland	252	Indonesia	2,381
Philippines	10,343	Kazakhstan	+217	Israel	239	Kuwait	2,219
Denmark	10,083	Bahrain	+214	Panama	218	Colombia	2,148



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.