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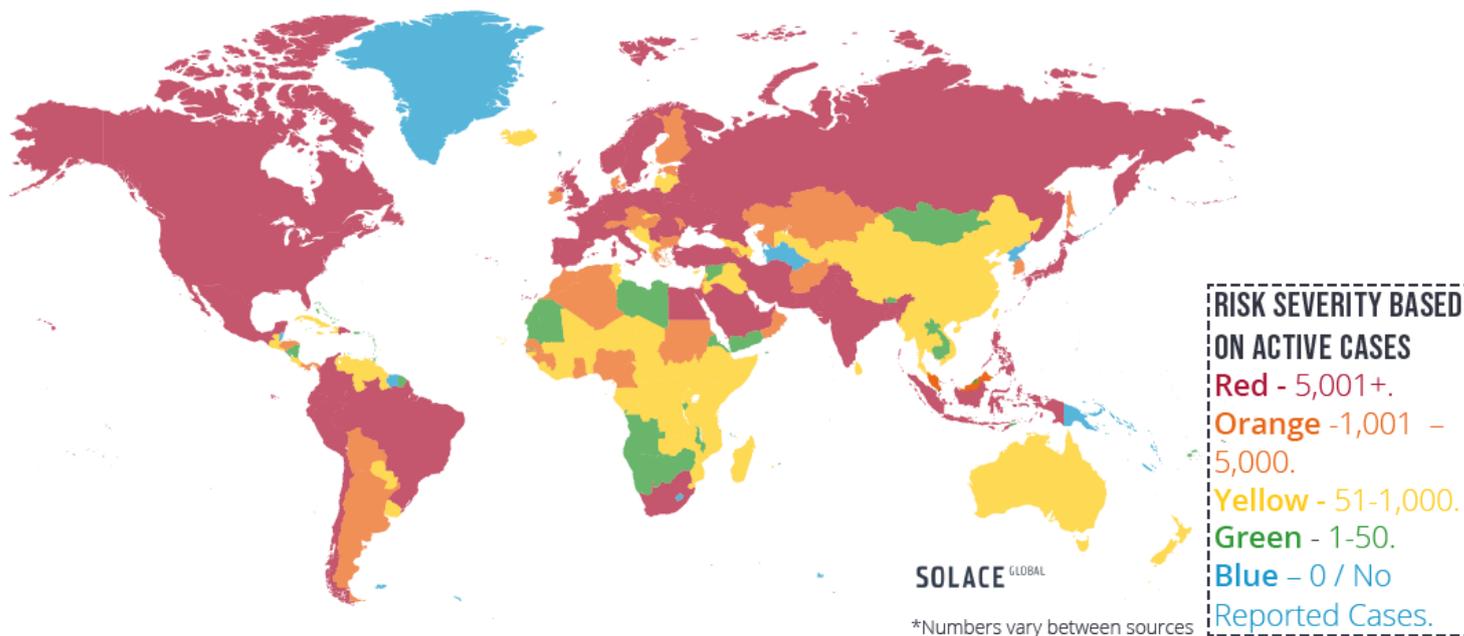
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
11 May

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Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally are approaching 4.2 million, with approximately 283,000 deaths and around 1.49 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 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

Health authorities in Ghana have reported an outbreak of COVID-19 in a fish processing facility in the city of Tema. Officials indicated that over 500 people were infected by just one worker. The outbreak in the facility amounts to around 11 per cent of all of Ghana’s cases of COVID-19. This pushed the number of confirmed cases nationwide up to a total of 4,700 as of Sunday night, the highest number in West Africa. Such a rapidly developing cluster emphasized the difficulties faced by governments in implementing lockdowns and closures in key business areas, such as food production and distribution. While interrupting processing of fresh produce would have a great impact over the economy and food security of a country, effectively implementing safety and social distancing measures in these facilities is also practically impossible.

In a televised address, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has revealed a staged plan to ease lockdown measures, starting from outdoor and private sporting activities. The Prime Minister also unveiled a five-level threat system to monitor the evolution of the COVID-19 in the country, which will also determine the progression of the lockdown stages. Provisional timelines suggest that schools and some shops might be able to resume their activities on 1 June, while the hospitality industry could reopen with a limited capacity in early July. However, the devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declined to implement a similar timetable, believing Johnson’s plan to be too risky. The Prime Minister has also announced the implementation of a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all travellers entering the UK, with exemptions for those arriving from the Republic of Ireland and France. No start date has been announced yet and further exemptions are possible.

In the US, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has indicated that he will veto any bill that seeks to limit his power to extend the ongoing stay-at-home order passed in the state legislature. DeWine is facing an open revolt among Republican legislators, who accuse him of overstating the threat posed by COVID-19 and who have occasionally participated in the growing number of anti-lockdown demonstrations. DeWine took aggressive steps in the early days of the virus to reduce transmissions in the state, which have resulted in lower rates of cases and deaths. However, the state’s numbers remain short of meeting the federal government’s recommendations for lifting shelter-in-place and other lockdown orders.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced her intention to further scale down lockdown restrictions following a sustained fall in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country. Over a period of 10 days, a large number of non-essential businesses will be allowed to resume, including cafes, restaurants, bars and cinemas. These establishments will be required to follow stringent health and safety requirements, including ensuring that costumers are seated separately and served by only one employee. Additionally, while schools and universities will be allowed to reopen in the coming days, most university campuses have announced they will continue to rely on online teaching. Regulations over gatherings set a limit of 10 individuals for indoor and outdoor events, while home get-togethers will also need to remain small.

China has recently reported 14 new cases of COVID-19, including the first infection cluster in Wuhan, where the virus first originated. Of the 14 new cases, 12 have been confirmed as domestically transmitted, the highest number since early March. The majority of the new cases are located in the north-eastern city of Shulan in Jilin province and local officials are currently working to trace the several hundreds of people who came into contact with the infected individuals. The risk level in Shulan has been raised from medium to high, leading to a number of lockdown measures being imposed.

Following the loosening of social distancing measures in Germany, COVID-19 infections are once again rising. According to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), the reproduction rate (R), the estimated number of people a confirmed patient infects, is now above 1. The RKI has repeatedly emphasised that for the outbreak to recede, R must remain below 1. However, Germany's R number has remained consistently above one for several days. Should this trend continue, it is likely that restrictions will be tightened again. Chancellor Angela Merkel has previously stated a R number consistently above 1 would overwhelm the German healthcare system in a matter of months.

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 have begun to reopen since early May.</p>
Americas	<p>The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. The majority of states now have imposed restrictions or have 'stay-at-home' orders in place. However, many states have announced plans to gradually ease restrictions in the coming days and weeks, 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 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.</p> <p>South Africa began relaxing its restrictions in early May as part of a five-level, risk-based approach.</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. Additionally, Kuwait announced a 'total curfew' from 10 May for 20 days.</p>
Australia/Oceania	<p>All states in Australia appear to have contained the spread of the coronavirus. Most states and territories including Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and Northern Territory have eased restrictions. As of 10 May, Victoria is the only state to retain strict restrictions.</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	<p>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.</p>

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)							
Current Total Cases	4,200,953 (+86,402)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,502,591 (+56,660)	Total Confirmed Deaths	284,150 (+3,592)		
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	1,367,963	USA	+20,329	USA	80,787	USA	256,336
Spain	264,663	Russia	+11,012	UK	31,855	Spain	176,439
Russia	221,344	Brazil	+6,638	Italy	30,560	Germany	145,600
UK	219,183	India	+4,353	Spain	26,621	Italy	105,186
Italy	219,070	UK	+3,923	France	26,380	Turkey	92,691
France	176,970	Peru	+2,292	Brazil	11,123	Iran	87,422
Germany	171,879	Mexico	+1,938	Belgium	8,707	China	78,144
Brazil	162,699	Saudi Arabia	+1,912	Germany	7,569	Brazil	64,957
Turkey	138,657	Spain	+1,880	Iran	6,685	France	56,217
Iran	109,286	Chile	+1,647	Netherlands	5,440	Russia	39,801
China	82,918	Pakistan	+1,598	Canada	4,870	Canada	32,096
Canada	68,848	Turkey	+1,542	China	4,633	Switzerland	26,600
India	67,700	Iran	+1,383	Turkey	3,786	Mexico	23,100
Peru	67,307	Qatar	+1,189	Mexico	3,465	Peru	21,349
Belgium	53,449	Canada	+1,146	Sweden	3,225	India	21,130
Netherlands	42,627	Kuwait	+1,065	India	2,215	Ireland	17,110
Saudi Arabia	39,048	Belarus	+921	Ecuador	2,127	Austria	13,991
Mexico	35,022	Bangladesh	+887	Russia	2,009	Belgium	13,697
Pakistan	30,941	Singapore	+876	Peru	1,889	Chile	13,112
Switzerland	30,305	Italy	+802	Switzerland	1,833	Israel	11,548
Ecuador	29,559	UAE	+781	Ireland	1,458	Saudi Arabia	11,457
Chile	28,866	South Africa	+595	Portugal	1,135	S. Korea	9,632
Portugal	27,581	Colombia	+568	Indonesia	991	Denmark	8,217
Sweden	26,322	Germany	+555	Romania	972	Pakistan	8,212
Belarus	23,906	Ukraine	+522	Poland	803	Japan	8,127
Singapore	23,822	Ecuador	+488	Philippines	726	Romania	7,245
Ireland	22,996	Belgium	+485	Pakistan	667	Belarus	6,531
Qatar	22,520	Dominican Republic	+465	Japan	624	Australia	6,179
UAE	18,198	Egypt	+436	Austria	618	Poland	5,816
Israel	16,492	Sweden	+401	Denmark	529	Malaysia	5,113
Poland	16,206	Indonesia	+387	Egypt	525	Sweden	4,971
Austria	15,871	Afghanistan	+369	Algeria	502	UAE	4,804
Japan	15,777	Poland	+345	Colombia	463	Panama	4,687
Bangladesh	15,691	France	+312	Hungary	421	Czechia	4,482
Ukraine	15,648	Cameroon	+305	Ukraine	408	South Africa	4,173
Romania	15,588	Argentina	+258	Dominican Republic	388	Finland	4,000
Indonesia	14,265	Nigeria	+248	Chile	312	Luxembourg	3,586
Philippines	11,086	Netherlands	+245	Argentina	305	Ecuador	3,433
Colombia	11,063	Ireland	+236	Czechia	280	Ukraine	3,288
S. Korea	10,909	Romania	+231	Finland	267	Serbia	3,006



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.