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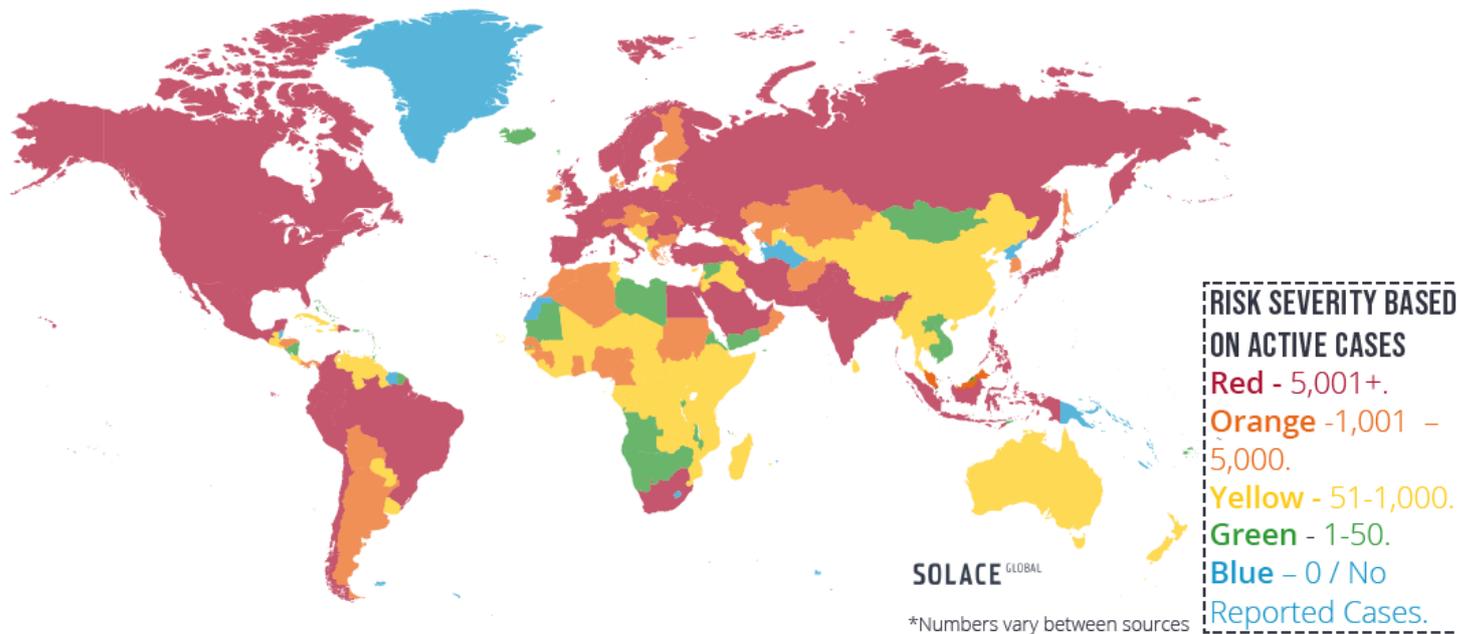
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
12 May

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Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally now reached 4.2 million, with approximately 287,000 deaths and around 1.53 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

As countries seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic begin to restart faltering economies, many experts fear that efforts to end lockdown measures may prove to be premature.

As France started to ease its almost two-month long lockdown, deaths from the virus registered on Monday were almost four times higher than on Sunday, while new confirmed cases more than doubled over 24 hours. The Health Ministry said it registered 263 new deaths from the virus, against 70 Sunday. It is worth bearing in mind, however, that figures often tend to spike after a weekend lull.

In Italy, the government has announced that it will give regions the power to ease lockdown restrictions. It is expected that the move will see most remaining restrictions lifted next week.

President Vladimir Putin has also announced a gradual easing of lockdown measures despite a new surge in infections, which has made Russia the fourth-worst affected country in the world. The lifting of restrictions will be gradual and individual regions will need to tailor their approach to varying local conditions. Moscow, for example, will keep its own lockdown measures in place until 31 May. Mass public events are still banned, and citizens aged 65 or over have been asked to stay at home.

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry has warned of the potential for a new spike in COVID-19 infections as thousands of migrant workers return home. About 90,000 Indonesian migrant workers have already returned to the country, including nearly 73,000 from neighbouring Malaysia.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday declared gyms and hair salons as essential services that can stay open through the outbreak. The President has argued that state and municipal governments have gone overboard with social isolation measures which, in his estimation, are causing excessive economic damage.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has announced that a national lockdown would be imposed starting this Saturday and ending after Tuesday, 19 May. Ankara has imposed lockdowns in major cities over the past four weekends, as well as on national holidays. The restrictions on the three largest cities, Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir, remain in place.

The Transport Ministry in Cyprus has extended the ban on all inbound and outbound flights for another two weeks until Thursday, 28 May. It is possible the suspension may be further extended, with authorities stating that airports may reopen on Wednesday, 9 June.

Passenger rail services in India will make a phased return to normal operations starting from Tuesday, 12 May. Social distancing measures will be implemented

on the trains and all passengers will be required to wear a face covering.

In other news, Tesla CEO Elon Musk has announced the resumption of operations at the company’s primary vehicle factory in California. Musk asked to be the only one arrested in an anticipated backlash from the authorities, acknowledging that the move defies local officials who said the plant should remain closed. The tycoon has also threatened to move Tesla’s operations out of California to states that have reopened their economies more quickly, such as Texas and Nevada.

Balancing short-term health concerns with longer-term economic imperatives is proving to be the defining issue of this stage of the pandemic.

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 have begun to reopen since early May.

Americas

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.

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 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.

South Africa began relaxing its restrictions in early May as part of a five-level, risk-based approach.

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. Additionally, Kuwait announced a ‘total curfew’ from 10 May for 20 days.

Australia/ Oceania

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.

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 | 4,271,688 (+70,735) | Total Confirmed Recoveries | 1,535,093 (+32,502) | Total Confirmed Deaths | 287,613 (+3,463) |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|

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 | 1,385,834 | USA | +18,196 | USA | 81,795 | USA | 262,225 |
| Spain | 268,143 | Russia | +11,656 | UK | 32,065 | Spain | 177,846 |
| Russia | 232,243 | Brazil | +6,444 | Italy | 30,739 | Germany | 147,200 |
| UK | 223,060 | UK | +3,877 | Spain | 26,744 | Italy | 106,587 |
| Italy | 219,814 | India | +3,607 | France | 26,643 | Turkey | 95,780 |
| France | 177,423 | Spain | +3,480 | Brazil | 11,653 | Iran | 87,422 |
| Germany | 172,576 | Saudi Arabia | +1,966 | Belgium | 8,761 | China | 78,171 |
| Brazil | 169,594 | Iran | +1,683 | Germany | 7,661 | Brazil | 67,384 |
| Turkey | 139,771 | Mexico | +1,562 | Iran | 6,685 | France | 56,724 |
| Iran | 109,286 | Peru | +1,515 | Netherlands | 5,456 | Russia | 43,512 |
| China | 82,919 | Chile | +1,197 | Canada | 4,993 | Canada | 32,994 |
| India | 71,339 | Canada | +1,133 | China | 4,633 | Switzerland | 26,800 |
| Canada | 69,981 | Turkey | +1,114 | Turkey | 3,841 | Mexico | 23,100 |
| Peru | 68,822 | Qatar | +1,103 | Mexico | 3,573 | India | 23,033 |
| Belgium | 53,779 | Bangladesh | +1,034 | Sweden | 3,256 | Peru | 22,406 |
| Netherlands | 42,788 | Belarus | +933 | India | 2,310 | Ireland | 17,110 |
| Saudi Arabia | 41,014 | Italy | +744 | Ecuador | 2,145 | Austria | 14,148 |
| Mexico | 36,327 | Germany | +697 | Russia | 2,116 | Belgium | 13,732 |
| Pakistan | 32,081 | UAE | +680 | Peru | 1,961 | Chile | 13,605 |
| Switzerland | 30,344 | South Africa | +637 | Switzerland | 1,845 | Saudi Arabia | 12,737 |
| Chile | 30,063 | Pakistan | +607 | Ireland | 1,467 | Israel | 11,956 |
| Ecuador | 29,509 | Kuwait | +598 | Portugal | 1,144 | S. Korea | 9,670 |
| Portugal | 27,679 | Colombia | +550 | Indonesia | 1,007 | Pakistan | 8,555 |
| Sweden | 26,670 | Singapore | +486 | Romania | 991 | Denmark | 8,328 |
| Singapore | 24,671 | France | +453 | Poland | 827 | Japan | 8,293 |
| Belarus | 23,906 | Ghana | +437 | Philippines | 751 | Romania | 7,245 |
| Qatar | 23,623 | Ukraine | +416 | Pakistan | 706 | Belarus | 6,531 |
| Ireland | 23,135 | Belgium | +368 | Japan | 633 | Australia | 6,213 |
| UAE | 18,878 | Sweden | +348 | Austria | 623 | Poland | 6,131 |
| Bangladesh | 16,660 | Egypt | +346 | Denmark | 533 | UAE | 5,381 |
| Poland | 16,561 | Poland | +330 | Egypt | 533 | Malaysia | 5,223 |
| Israel | 16,526 | Bahrain | +295 | Algeria | 507 | Sweden | 4,971 |
| Ukraine | 16,023 | Philippines | +292 | Colombia | 479 | Czechia | 4,738 |
| Austria | 15,961 | Dominican Republic | +287 | Ukraine | 425 | Panama | 4,687 |
| Japan | 15,847 | Afghanistan | +285 | Hungary | 425 | South Africa | 4,357 |
| Romania | 15,588 | Argentina | +244 | Dominican Republic | 393 | Finland | 4,000 |
| Indonesia | 14,749 | Indonesia | +233 | Chile | 323 | Luxembourg | 3,602 |
| Colombia | 11,613 | Romania | +226 | Argentina | 314 | Ecuador | 3,433 |
| Philippines | 11,350 | Morocco | +218 | Czechia | 283 | Ukraine | 3,373 |
| S. Korea | 10,936 | Algeria | +168 | Finland | 271 | Serbia | 3,290 |



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.