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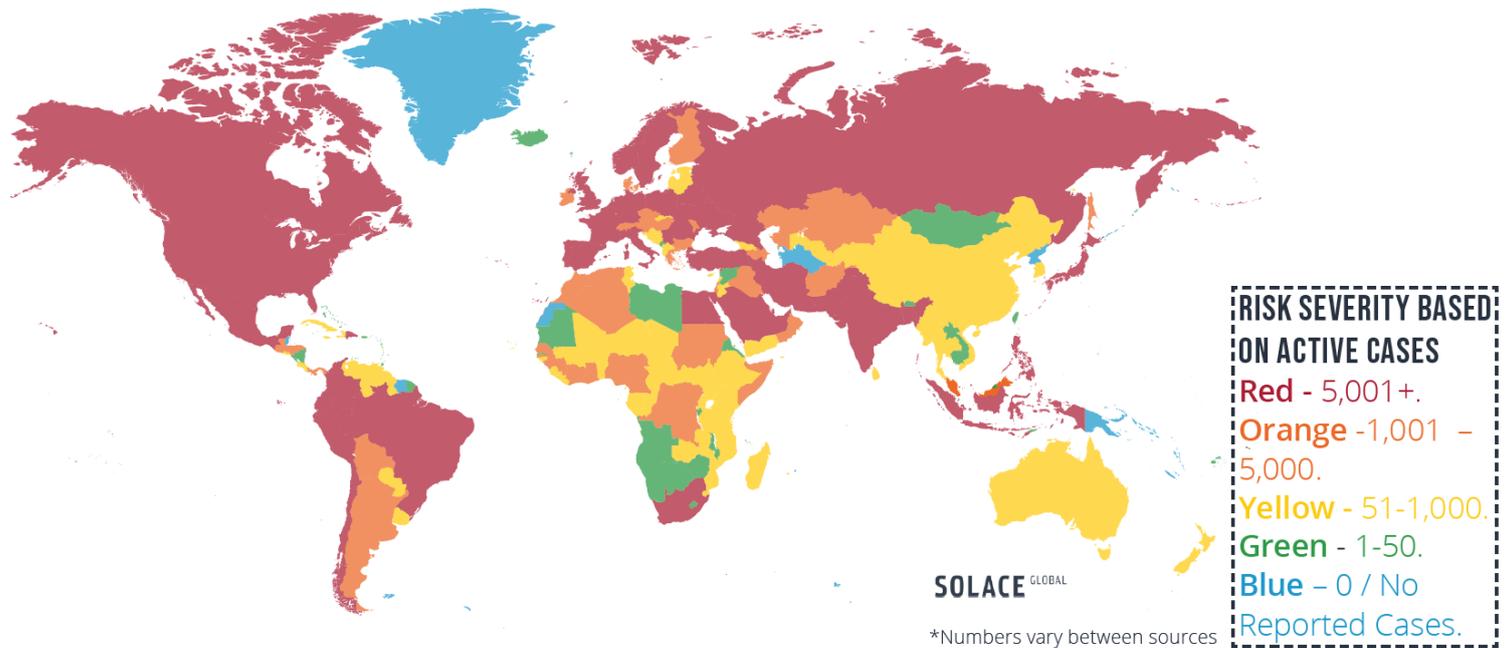
# COVID-19 Outbreak Update 15 May

SOLACE GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has now reached 4.5 million, with approximately 303,000 deaths and around 1.71 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**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged governments, public health bodies, and civil society groups to address a looming mental health crisis associated with restrictions and social distancing measures. Noting that “even when the pandemic is brought under control, grief, anxiety and depression will continue to affect people and communities”, Guterres called for increased support from states following prolonged neglect and under-investment in mental health services.

Diplomatic relations between the US and China have hit a new low following US President Donald Trump's suggestion that he may sever ties completely with the world's second-largest economy. During a television interview, Trump said he “could cut off the whole relationship” and that “they should have never let this happen... so I make a great trade deal and now I say this doesn't feel the same to me. The ink was barely dry and the plague came over”. The President also toured a mask production facility in Pennsylvania, but despite his administration's guidance that all Americans should wear masks, failed to wear one himself.

In Europe, doctors in Italy and France have reported a spike in cases of a rare inflammatory syndrome linked to COVID-19. Similar to cases reported in the US, UK and Spain, the disorder is found in young children presenting symptoms including fever, rashes and in some cases, heart inflammation. The European Commission has stopped the delivery of over 10 million face masks from China after member states reported the batches received were of poor quality. Following reports that the chief executive of a French company said the first shipments of a vaccine under development would be reserved for the US, the commission's spokesperson said that “the vaccine against COVID-19 should be a global public good and its access needs to be equitable and universal”. French President Emmanuel Macron has echoed the statement, leading to suggestions European nations may prevent the prioritisation of vaccine recipients for profit. Greece is the latest EU member state to announce a relaxation of restrictions, with hundreds of beaches set to be reopened this weekend.

The global economy continues to reel from the effects of the pandemic. At least 36 million Americans are now unemployed, a proportional figure not seen since the days of the Great Depression. More than 600,000 Australians are reported to have lost their jobs between March and April, in what Prime Minister Scott Morrison described as “terribly shocking, although not totally unexpected”.

Bangladeshi officials have reported the first cases of the virus in the country's Rohingya population. More than a million Rohingya are living in refugee camps following their escape from persecution in Myanmar. NGOs have warned of the devastating impact the virus is likely to cause in the coming weeks,

with the World Health Organization deploying rapid investigation teams to the area in an attempt to implement contact tracing and quarantine measures.

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

<b>Asia</b>	<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>
<b>Europe</b>	<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 mid-June. 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>
<b>Americas</b>	<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>
<b>Africa</b>	<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.</p> <p>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>
<b>Middle East</b>	<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>
<b>Australia /Oceania</b>	<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.</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. Updated reports indicate that New Zealand also lifted the nationwide state of emergency and entered the Level 2 phase. The new phase allows public spaces such as restaurants and gyms are now allowed to reopen.</p>

<b>Solace Global Advice</b>	<p>At this time, we continue to advise that <b>only business-critical travel is conducted</b>. 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>
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**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Current Total Cases	4,527,811 (+95,926)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,706,174 (+43,850)	Total Confirmed Deaths	303,438 (+10,304)
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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](#).

<b>Countries with the most confirmed cases</b>	<b>Countries with the greatest increase in case numbers yesterday</b>	<b>Countries with the most confirmed deaths</b>	<b>Countries with the most confirmed recoveries</b>
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USA	1,457,593	USA	+27,246	USA	86,912	USA	318,027
Spain	272,646	Brazil	+13,761	UK	33,614	Spain	186,480
Russia	252,245	Russia	+9,974	Italy	31,368	Germany	151,700
UK	233,151	Peru	+4,298	France	27,425	Italy	115,288
Italy	223,096	India	+3,942	Spain	27,321	Turkey	104,030
Brazil	203,165	UK	+3,446	Brazil	13,999	Iran	90,539
France	178,870	Chile	+2,659	Belgium	8,903	Brazil	79,479
Germany	174,975	Saudi Arabia	+2,039	Germany	7,928	China	78,209
Turkey	144,749	Mexico	+1,862	Iran	6,854	France	59,605
Iran	114,533	Iran	+1,808	Netherlands	5,590	Russia	53,530
China	82,933	Qatar	+1,733	Canada	5,472	Canada	36,091
India	82,103	Turkey	+1,635	China	4,633	Mexico	28,475
Peru	80,604	Spain	+1,551	Mexico	4,477	India	27,977
Canada	73,401	Canada	+1,123	Turkey	4,007	Switzerland	27,100
Belgium	54,288	Bangladesh	+1,041	Sweden	3,529	Peru	25,151
Saudi Arabia	46,869	Italy	+992	India	2,649	Ireland	19,470
Netherlands	43,481	Belarus	+947	Ecuador	2,338	Saudi Arabia	19,051
Mexico	42,595	Kuwait	+947	Russia	2,305	Chile	15,655
Pakistan	37,218	Germany	+877	Peru	2,267	Austria	14,405
Chile	37,040	France	+810	Switzerland	1,872	Belgium	14,111
Ecuador	30,502	Singapore	+752	Ireland	1,506	Israel	12,521
Switzerland	30,463	UAE	+698	Portugal	1,184	Pakistan	10,155
Sweden	28,582	Colombia	+680	Romania	1,053	Japan	9,868
Portugal	28,319	Sweden	+673	Indonesia	1,043	S. Korea	9,821
Qatar	28,272	South Africa	+665	Poland	883	Romania	9,053
Belarus	26,772	Indonesia	+568	Pakistan	803	Denmark	8,805
Singapore	26,098	Pakistan	+490	Philippines	790	Belarus	8,168
Ireland	23,827	Ireland	+426	Japan	697	UAE	6,930
UAE	21,084	Ukraine	+422	Austria	626	Poland	6,696
Bangladesh	18,863	Afghanistan	+413	Egypt	571	Australia	6,334
Poland	17,615	Poland	+411	Denmark	537	Panama	6,080
Ukraine	17,330	Egypt	+398	Algeria	529	Singapore	5,973
Israel	16,579	Bahrain	+382	Colombia	525	South Africa	5,676
Romania	16,247	Oman	+322	Ukraine	476	Malaysia	5,351
Japan	16,120	Belgium	+307	Hungary	442	Czechia	5,241
Austria	16,058	Netherlands	+270	Dominican Republic	422	Sweden	4,971
Indonesia	16,006	Philippines	+258	Chile	368	Ukraine	4,473
Colombia	13,610	Argentina	+255	Argentina	353	Finland	4,300
South Africa	12,739	Romania	+245	Czechia	293	Serbia	4,084
Kuwait	11,975	Zambia	+208	Finland	287	Luxembourg	3,665



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](mailto:risk@solaceglobal.com) or give us a call on +44 (0) 1202 308 810.