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# COVID-19 Outbreak Update 17 May

SOLACE GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally have now exceeded 4.73 million, with approximately 313,400 deaths and around 1.82 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**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced that the first trials of a potential COVID-19 vaccine have been approved by Health Canada. The potential vaccine, known as Ad5-nCov, will undergo trials at the Canadian Centre for Vaccinology at Dalhousie University. The drug has already undergone a round of human trials in China, although the results have not yet been revealed. Speaking at Rideau Cottage on Saturday, Prime Minister Trudeau said that if the trials are successful then the vaccine could be produced and distributed domestically.

In similar news, the British government announced its intention to invest close to £93m to bring forward the construction of a new vaccine manufacturing facility, which is now scheduled to open in the Summer of 2021, a year ahead of schedule. According to the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC) will be a key component of the government's programme to ensure that once a coronavirus vaccine is approved, it can be produced and distributed quickly.

Elsewhere in the United Kingdom, anti-COVID-19 lockdown protests took place in London, Belfast and Southampton. The protests in Belfast and Southampton only attracted a few dozen people and passed without issue. However, in London, several hundred people gathered in Hyde Park to demand the end of lockdown measures. Clashes broke out between a group of activists and police which led to 19 people being arrested and a further 10 protesters being issued fines. One of the arrested protesters was the brother of former Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, who was claiming that the virus was being spread by 5G towers. It is thought that the organisation responsible for organising the protests, UK Freedom Movement, has links to the far-right Britain First group.

Meanwhile in Europe, similar protests took place in Poland, France and Germany. In Poland, several hundred people gathered in Warsaw's Old Town despite large gatherings being prohibited. Clashes broke out between protesters and police, who used tear gas to disperse the crowds. Several people were arrested. In Germany, 5,000 people gathered in Stuttgart where police reportedly had to direct protesters to a secondary location due to the size of the crowd. Other protests took place in Munich, Berlin, and Dusseldorf.

The Spanish government has confirmed that five major airports will reopen from 18 May, in addition to those that opened this weekend. The government had initially signalled that only El Prat in Barcelona, Gran Canaria in the Canaries, Barajas in Madrid, Málaga-Costa del Sol and Palma de Mallorca in the Balearics, together with the ports of Barcelona, Bilbao, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Malaga, Palma, Tenerife, Valencia and Vigo would reopen from 17 May. However, the list was expanded to include airports in Tenerife, Alicante, Seville, Menorca and Ibiza from Monday. Despite the airport reopenings, tourist travel is still prohibited and as of 15 May. All international arrivals, including Spanish nationals and residents, are required to self-isolate for 14-days.

In Brazil, the total number of COVID-19-related fatalities has surpassed 15,000 after 816 deaths were recorded in the last 24 hours. The number of confirmed cases also rose substantially, making Brazil's outbreak the fourth largest in the world. However, it is feared that the number of confirmed cases and deaths could be far higher, as the country has only carried out a fraction of the testing seen in places such as the United States, the UK and Spain. Earlier this week, the Health Minister resigned after less than one month in the job following disagreements over the government's handling of the crisis. Nelson Teich had criticised a decree issued by President Jair Bolsonaro allowing gyms and beauty parlours to reopen.

The Nepalese Government confirmed the country's first fatality on 16 May. The 29-year-old patient died in the same hospital that she had recently been discharged from after giving birth on 8 May. Following her death, the hospital was placed under lockdown and her village was quarantined to limit any further spread of the virus,

The Cambodian Government has announced there are no longer any active cases of the virus after the last patient was discharged from hospital in Phnom Penh. To date, there have been 122 cases of the virus and no fatalities. The government has said it will not relax restrictions just yet, meaning schools remain closed and quarantine measures will continue to be enforced.

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>European countries are now seeing an easing of internal and international restrictions after overcoming what the peak of the outbreak in their countries. Most recently, Italy has announced that it will allow travel to and from abroad from 3 June.</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>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 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>

**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Current Total Cases	4,733, 858 (+94,431)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,818,018 (+51,843)	Total Confirmed Deaths	313,400 (+4,590)
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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	1,507,773	USA	23,488	USA	90,113	USA	339,232
Russia	281,752	Brazil	14,919	UK	34,466	Spain	192,253
Spain	276,505	Russia	9,200	Italy	31,763	Germany	153,400
UK	240,161	India	4,864	France	27,625	Italy	122,810
Brazil	233,511	Peru	4,046	Spain	27,563	Turkey	108,137

Italy	224,760	UK	3,450	Brazil	15,662	Iran	93,147
France	179,365	Saudi Arabia	2,840	Belgium	9,005	Brazil	89,672
Germany	176,244	Mexico	2,437	Germany	8,027	China	78,227
Turkey	148,067	Spain	2,138	Iran	6,937	Russia	67,373
Iran	118,392	Chile	1,886	Canada	5,679	France	61,066
India	90,927	Iran	1,757	Netherlands	5,670	Canada	37,819
Peru	88,541	Turkey	1,610	Mexico	5,045	India	34,224
China	82,947	Pakistan	1,581	China	4,633	Mexico	31,848
Canada	75,864	Qatar	1,547	Turkey	4,096	Peru	28,272
Belgium	54,989	Ecuador	1,296	Sweden	3,674	Switzerland	27,400
Saudi Arabia	52,016	Canada	1,251	India	2,872	Saudi Arabia	23,666
Mexico	47,144	Belarus	951	Ecuador	2,688	Ireland	19,470
Netherlands	43,870	Kuwait	942	Russia	2,631	Chile	18,014
Chile	41,428	Bangladesh	930	Peru	2,523	Austria	14,524
Pakistan	40,151	Italy	875	Switzerland	1,879	Belgium	14,460
Ecuador	32,763	South Africa	831	Ireland	1,533	Israel	12,855
Qatar	30,972	UAE	796	Portugal	1,203	Pakistan	11,341
Switzerland	30,572	Colombia	723	Romania	1,097	Japan	10,338
Sweden	29,677	Germany	545	Indonesia	1,089	S. Korea	9,888
Portugal	28,810	Indonesia	529	Poland	919	Romania	9,574
Belarus	28,681	Ukraine	528	Pakistan	873	Belarus	9,498
Singapore	28,038	Egypt	491	Philippines	824	Denmark	9,107
Ireland	24,048	Sweden	470	Japan	725	Singapore	8,342
UAE	22,627	Singapore	465	Austria	629	UAE	7,931
Bangladesh	20,995	Dominican Republic	371	Egypt	612	Poland	7,451
Poland	18,394	Afghanistan	349	Colombia	562	South Africa	6,478
Ukraine	18,291	Belgium	345	Denmark	543	Australia	6,364
Indonesia	17,025	Argentina	326	Algeria	542	Panama	6,080
Romania	16,704	Romania	267	Ukraine	514	Malaysia	5,512
Israel	16,608	Poland	241	Hungary	451	Czechia	5,422
Japan	16,237	Portugal	227	Dominican Republic	428	Ukraine	5,116
Austria	16,201	Philippines	214	Chile	421	Finland	5,000
Colombia	14,939	Algeria	192	Argentina	363	Sweden	4,971
South Africa	14,355	Netherlands	189	Bangladesh	314	Serbia	4,479
Kuwait	13,802	Bahrain	164	Saudi Arabia	302	Bangladesh	4,117



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.