

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

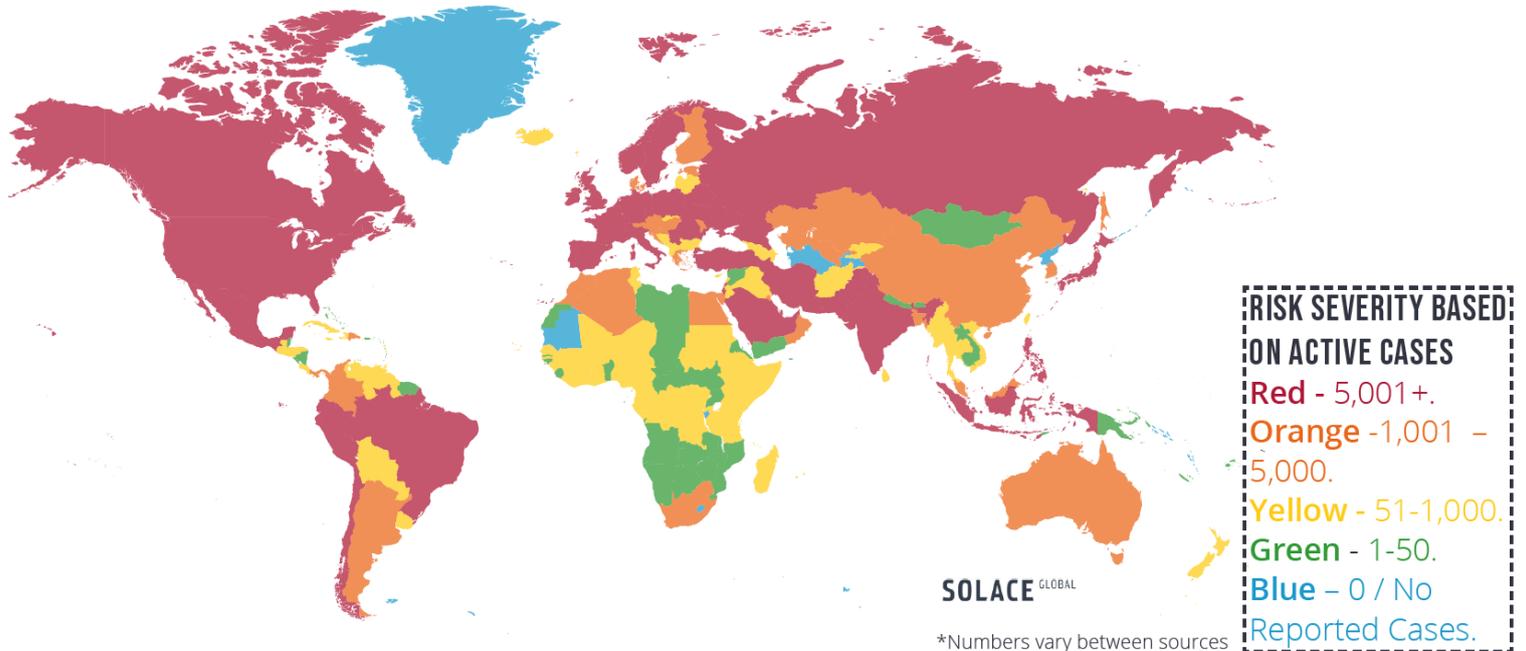
22 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.5 million, with approximately 177,000 deaths and around 695,000 recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have reported at least one case and/or have implemented some form of travel restriction. The situation continues to evolve rapidly, with new travel restrictions, both internationally and domestically, being implemented with little or no notice.

Solace Global continues to advise against all non-essential travel at this time due to the already widespread in-place travel restrictions and the risk of new ones being implemented without notice. Additionally, prior to any and all essential travel, it is advised that you check your relevant government’s travel advice and contact your airline or travel provider for more details. 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

Scientists from the Jenner Institute at the University of Oxford announced they will begin the clinical trial phase for a new vaccine called ChAdOx1 Ncov-19 on 24 April. This has reportedly been developed from a harmless chimpanzee virus, which has already shown promising results against other diseases. The team, along with other scientists from Imperial College London intend to test 510 people between the ages of 18 and 55. In the daily coronavirus press conference, Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced that the team at the University of Oxford will receive an extra £20 million in funding whilst Imperial College London would receive £22.5 million.

In Montenegro, the government has shortened its night-time curfew and extended opening times for essential shops. The curfew had started at 19:00 local time but will now be in place from 23:00 to 05:00 local time whilst shops will operate between 07:00 to 22:00 local time. Meanwhile, in the Netherlands, the government has banned all major public events including sporting fixtures and festivals until the 1 September in order to prevent a second outbreak of COVID-19. Elementary schools and day-care centres are due to be reopened on the 11 May whilst restaurants and bars are expected to reopen on the 19 May.

In France, for the last three consecutive days, police have been dealing with riots in several suburbs in Paris. On the 20 April, residents in the suburb of Villeneuve-la-Garenne took to the streets to protest the 'heavy-handed' police treatment of ethnic minorities during the COVID-19 lockdown. The protests follow an incident in which a resident of Arab ethnicity from the area was injured in an accident with an unmarked police car along with reports of assault from officers when enforcing the lockdown restrictions. Residents took to the streets, throwing fireworks and setting fire to parked police cars and bins. Police reportedly used tear gas to disperse the crowds and a high-security presence remains in the area. Further related violence is anticipated over the coming days.

In Australia, Virgin Australia Airlines has gone into voluntary administration after the Australian government refused them a loan of 1.4 billion Australian dollars. Before the virus, the company, which employs roughly 10,000 people directly and 6,000 indirectly was allegedly struggling with debts amounting to 5 billion Australian dollars. Virgin Australia Airlines is owned by a consortium of foreign investors including Etihad Airways, Singapore Airlines, HNA Group (China), Nanshan (China) and the Virgin Group operated by Sir Richard Branson. Virgin Australia is the second busiest domestic airline in the country, responsible for 31% of the market, compared to Qantas Airlines 58%. Shortly after the announcement was made, Vaughan Strawbridge from Deloitte who had been tasked with restructuring the company announced that at least 15 foreign parties had indicated their interest in purchasing the airline.

Mauritania claimed it has become virus-free after six patients tested negative for the COVID-19 virus. There have only been seven confirmed cases in the country since 13 March when the first case was reported, and only one of those patients has died. The six individuals who tested negative will remain in isolation for 14 days as a precaution.

In the US, Colorado State Governor Jared Polis has announced he will not extend the state-wide stay-at-home order past its expiry date on the 26 April.

From the 27 April, retail businesses will be able to implement curb side deliveries whilst businesses such as hairdressers will open on the 1 May. Larger businesses will be able to operate from the 4 May but only with 50% of the workforce. At present, it is yet unknown when bars and restaurants will reopen. Several other states, mostly led by Republican Governors, have made similar announcements.

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

Asia

Nearly all countries in Asia have implemented some form of restriction on travel. Many Asian countries have also limited internal travel and have in-place lockdowns. However, some are now easing internal lockdown measures after successfully managing their internal outbreaks, these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.

Countries with a global travel ban on non-citizens/residents include Azerbaijan, Brunei, China (and its SARs), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, N. Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkmenistan. Most other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.

Europe

The EU has closed the bloc’s external borders and restrictions have also been implemented inside the majority of countries, with the UK, France, and Italy and many others have extended their lockdowns and restricting people from travelling or gathering, unless for specific reasons.

At this time, the Schengen area has banned all incoming travel other than citizens from countries in the European Union, European Economic Area, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, long-term residents and people with long-term visa or residence permits, family members of EU and EEA citizens, medical personnel and people responsible for the transport of goods for 30 days. Many other European countries have some form of similar restrictions in place.

Austria, Denmark, Germany, Norway and some other European countries are now seeing an easing of internal restrictions after passing what they believe is the worst of the outbreak in their countries.

Americas

The US is the worst affected country globally. 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.

Restrictions within the US are also being implemented extensively. The majority of states now have a “stay-at-home” order of some kind or have closed “non-essential” businesses.

At this time, Argentina, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, United States, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay all have at least some form of restriction on inbound travel. Additionally, restrictions vary on many other Caribbean islands with most banning all inbound travel and implementing some form of lockdown.

Africa

Several countries in Africa have implemented travel restrictions on people arriving from affected countries. At this time, Algeria, Angola, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Libya, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda all have at least some restrictions on inbound travel. Currently, this includes most of Europe, China and the US.

Additionally, a number of countries have already implemented national lockdowns, including South Africa, while others have implemented city wide lockdowns, as with Lagos and Abuja in Nigeria, Algiers and Blida in Algeria and Antananarivo and Toamasina in Madagascar to name a few. There have also been reports of looting in some African countries, notably South Africa, as people panic buy certain goods. Alcohol has particularly been targeted in South Africa after the government banned its sale during the lockdown.

Middle East

The Middle East also has some significant restrictions, Saudi Arabia has implemented a ban on all foreign arrivals, including pilgrims, a measure that now looks unlikely to be lifted before Hajj. Strict movement restrictions are in place in most Middle Eastern countries.

Most countries have also closed schools and non-essential businesses, banned large gatherings, including prayers at mosques. Israel, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the UAE all have restrictions on inbound travel by non-citizens/residents. The majority of other countries have varying levels of restrictions.

Australia /Oceania

Australia and New Zealand have closed their borders to anyone who is not a citizen or resident. Internal restrictions are also coming into force in Australia with many states now under a state of emergency and travel between states in the country. However, Australia has looked to relax some restrictions in the past days, with people being allowed to visit beaches. Measures remain stringent in New Zealand.

Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.

Solace Global Advice

At this time, travellers should **reconsider their need to travel globally, with only business-critical travel being advised.** Otherwise, ensure that you can access the country you intend to travel to and consider deferring journeys to countries with more than 1,000 cases or have travel restrictions already in place. In the coming weeks, extensive travel restrictions are likely to make even business-critical travel difficult – liaise with your relevant government agency for further instructions and information.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	2,557,994 (+75,438)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	695,355 (+42,855)	Total Confirmed Deaths	177,688 (+7,206)
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The list below comprises of the top 40 countries in each section, for a complete list please go to [Worldometers](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/), [Johns Hopkins University](https://www.jhu.edu/) or the [WHO](https://www.who.int/).

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	819,175	USA	+25,985	USA	45,343	Germany	99,400
Spain	204,178	Russia	+5,642	Italy	24,648	USA	82,973
Italy	183,957	Turkey	+4,611	Spain	21,282	Spain	82,514
France	158,050	UK	+4,301	France	20,796	China	77,151
Germany	148,453	Spain	+3,968	UK	17,337	Iran	60,965
UK	129,044	Italy	+2,729	Belgium	5,998	Italy	51,600
Turkey	95,591	France	+2,667	Iran	5,297	France	39,181
Iran	84,802	Brazil	+2,336	Germany	5,086	Brazil	24,325
China	82,788	Canada	+1,593	China	4,632	Switzerland	19,400
Russia	52,763	India	+1,541	Netherlands	3,916	Turkey	14,918
Brazil	43,368	Peru	+1,512	Brazil	2,761	Canada	13,188
Belgium	40,956	Germany	+1,388	Turkey	2,259	Austria	10,971
Canada	38,422	Iran	+1,297	Canada	1,834	Ireland	9,233
Netherlands	34,134	Saudi Arabia	+1,147	Sweden	1,765	Belgium	9,002
Switzerland	28,063	Singapore	+1,111	Switzerland	1,478	S. Korea	8,277
Portugal	21,379	Belgium	+973	Mexico	857	Peru	6,982
India	20,178	Netherlands	+729	Portugal	762	Chile	4,969
Peru	17,837	Pakistan	+673	Ireland	730	Israel	4,961
Ireland	16,040	Sweden	+545	India	645	Australia	4,920
Sweden	15,322	Qatar	+518	Indonesia	616	Denmark	4,700
Austria	14,873	Portugal	+516	Ecuador	520	India	3,976
Israel	14,326	Mexico	+511	Romania	498	Russia	3,873
Saudi Arabia	11,631	UAE	+490	Austria	491	Malaysia	3,349
Japan	11,512	Belarus	+459	Peru	484	Mexico	2,627
Chile	10,832	Bangladesh	+434	Russia	456	Thailand	2,352
S. Korea	10,694	Ukraine	+415	Philippines	437	Pakistan	2,156
Ecuador	10,398	Ireland	+388	Poland	401	Romania	2,153
Poland	9,856	Japan	+377	Algeria	392	Finland	2,000
Pakistan	9,749	Indonesia	+375	Denmark	370	Czechia	1,753
Mexico	9,501	Chile	+325	Japan	281	Saudi Arabia	1,640
Romania	9,242	Romania	+306	Egypt	264	UAE	1,443
Singapore	9,125	Ecuador	+270	Dominican Republic	245	Iceland	1,417
UAE	7,755	Poland	+263	S. Korea	238	Japan	1,356
Denmark	7,695	Serbia	+260	Hungary	225	Poland	1,297
Norway	7,241	Israel	+229	Pakistan	209	Ecuador	1,207
Indonesia	7,135	Panama	+191	Czechia	201	Algeria	1,152
Czechia	7,033	Denmark	+180	Colombia	196	Iraq	1,096
Serbia	6,890	Colombia	+172	Israel	187	South Africa	1,055
Belarus	6,723	South Africa	+165	Norway	182	New Zealand	1,036
Australia	6,647	Morocco	+163	Ukraine	161	Serbia	977



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.