

COVID-19 Outbreak Update

22 May

Please follow the one-way system

We've introduced social distancing measures

Please leave at least a 2m gap between you and other customers and colleagues.

Thank you for your help.

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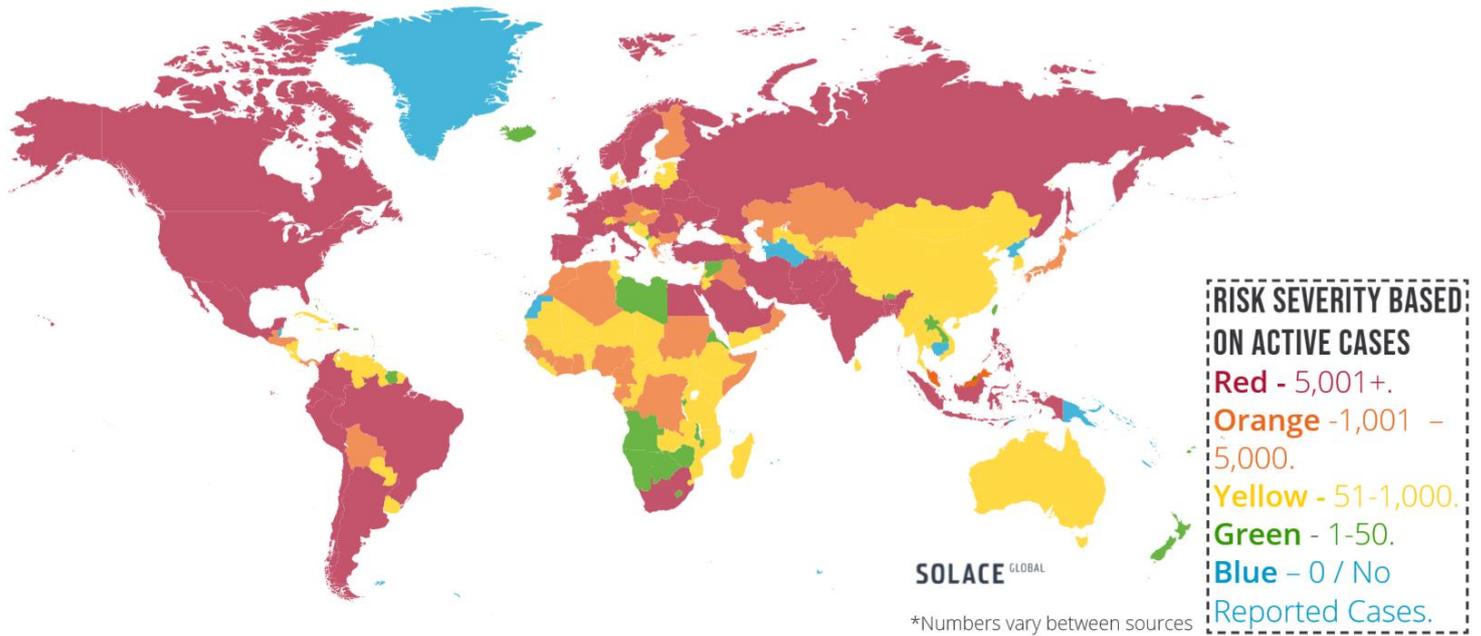
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SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has surpassed 5 million, with approximately 334,000 deaths and approximately 2 million recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have reported at least one case and have implemented some form of travel restriction. While the situation has stabilised in many European and Asian countries in the past weeks, it is highly likely that the in-place travel restrictions, both internationally and domestically, will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Internally, 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 measures 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

The death toll from COVID-19 in Brazil has now passed 20,000, though poor testing capabilities means the actual figure is likely to be much higher. The virus is believed to be spreading rapidly amongst vulnerable communities, particularly those in favelas where social distancing is impossible, and in remote indigenous communities with limited access to healthcare. President Jair Bolsonaro has continued to defend his use of chloroquine, an antimalarial, as a treatment against the virus. Repeatedly dismissing the pandemic as “a bit of a cold” and “a little flu”, the president has said the risks associated with the virus have been exaggerated by “a great deal of propaganda”. The country’s health ministry has issued guidelines for the wider use of antimalarials to combat the disease, ignoring the objections of public health experts.

In the UK, Health Secretary Matt Hancock has reported that the results of the government’s antibody surveillance study indicate 17 per cent of people tested in London, and at least five per cent of the population tested in the rest of the country, have tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies. The government has announced the start of trials for a new test for the virus, expected to take 20 minutes, and the UK is reported to have agreed to a deal for 10 million antibody tests, which detect if a person has previously had the virus. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has instructed civil servants to reduce the country’s reliance on China for vital medical supplies and strategic imports. The plan, named “Project Defend”, intends to identify the country’s main economic vulnerabilities.

US President Donald Trump has toured a Ford factory in Michigan, repurposed to produce ventilators and personal protective equipment, without wearing a mask. Trump explained that he “didn’t want to give the press the pleasure” of seeing him with a face covering. The president has caused concern in expressing his wish to open churches in the near future, and, in a statement indicated he had tested “positively toward negative” for the virus. In recognition of those who have died because of the pandemic, Trump has ordered all flags on federal buildings and national monuments to fly at half-mast for the next three days.

Puerto Rico is expected to reopen beaches, restaurants, retail outlets and hair salons in the coming weeks, emerging from a two-month lockdown that appears to have financially crippled the territory. In Austria, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has announced hotels are expected to reopen from 29 May.

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.
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	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	<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 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>
Americas	<p>The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. The majority of states have imposed restrictions or have ‘stay-at-home’ orders in place. However, in recent days and weeks, many states have begun to ease measures and have allowed businesses to resume limited operations as part of phased reopening plans.</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. South Africa and Egypt are both seeing a strong increase in case numbers with Cameroon and Sudan also seeing an increase in confirmed cases.</p> <p>As such, many countries implemented lockdown measures very early, when only a handful of cases had been recorded. Indeed, numerous 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>
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, Northern Territory and Victoria 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>
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	5,198,307 (+106,261)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	2,083,318 (+57,119)	Total Confirmed Deaths	334,689 (+4,921)
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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	1,620,902	USA	+28,179	USA	96,354	USA	382,169
Russia	317,554	Brazil	+17,564	UK	36,042	Spain	196,958
Brazil	310,921	Russia	+8,849	Italy	32,486	Germany	158,000
Spain	280,117	India	+6,198	France	28,215	Italy	134,560
UK	250,908	Peru	+4,749	Spain	27,940	Brazil	125,960
Italy	228,006	Chile	+3,964	Brazil	20,082	Turkey	114,990
France	181,826	UK	+2,615	Belgium	9,186	Iran	100,564
Germany	179,021	Saudi Arabia	+2,532	Germany	8,309	Russia	92,681

Turkey	153,548	Iran	+2,392	Iran	7,249	China	78,255
Iran	129,341	Mexico	+2,248	Mexico	6,510	France	63,858
India	118,501	Pakistan	+2,193	Canada	6,152	India	48,553
Peru	108,769	Bangladesh	+1,773	Netherlands	5,775	Peru	43,587
China	82,971	Qatar	+1,554	China	4,634	Canada	41,715
Canada	81,324	Canada	+1,182	Turkey	4,249	Mexico	40,657
Saudi Arabia	65,077	South Africa	+1,134	Sweden	3,871	Saudi Arabia	36,040
Mexico	59,567	Kuwait	+1,041	India	3,585	Switzerland	27,900
Chile	57,581	Indonesia	+973	Peru	3,148	Chile	23,992
Belgium	56,235	Turkey	+961	Russia	3,099	Ireland	21,060
Pakistan	50,694	Belarus	+945	Ecuador	2,939	Pakistan	15,201
Netherlands	44,700	UAE	+894	Switzerland	1,898	Belgium	14,988
Qatar	38,651	Egypt	+774	Ireland	1,583	Austria	14,951
Ecuador	35,306	Sweden	+649	Indonesia	1,278	Israel	13,915
Belarus	33,371	Argentina	+648	Portugal	1,277	UAE	12,755
Sweden	32,172	Colombia	+643	Romania	1,156	Japan	12,672
Switzerland	30,694	Italy	+642	Pakistan	1,067	Singapore	12,117
Portugal	29,912	Spain	+593	Poland	972	Belarus	12,057
Singapore	29,812	Cameroon	+555	Philippines	846	Romania	10,581
Bangladesh	28,511	Afghanistan	+531	Japan	777	S. Korea	10,162
UAE	26,898	Germany	+490	Egypt	696	Denmark	9,643
Ireland	24,391	Ukraine	+476	Colombia	652	South Africa	8,950
Indonesia	20,162	Ecuador	+452	Austria	633	Poland	8,452
Ukraine	20,148	Singapore	+448	Chile	589	Dominican Republic	7,366
Poland	20,143	Bolivia	+438	Ukraine	588	Qatar	7,288
South Africa	19,137	Sudan	+410	Algeria	575	Ukraine	6,585
Kuwait	18,609	Poland	+404	Denmark	561	Australia	6,478
Colombia	18,330	Nigeria	+339	Hungary	476	Portugal	6,452
Romania	17,585	Armenia	+335	Dominican Republic	448	Panama	6,245
Israel	16,690	Oman	+327	Argentina	416	Czechia	5,926
Japan	16,424	Bahrain	+286	Bangladesh	408	Malaysia	5,796
Austria	16,404	Kazakhstan	+265	South Africa	369	Bangladesh	5,602



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.