



**COVID-19 Outbreak Update**  
**25 April**

**SOLACE** GLOBAL

### Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.83 million, with approximately 197,400 deaths and around 808,000 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

In a somewhat bizarre press conference, US President Donald Trump has speculated that injecting patients with disinfectant may be effective in treating COVID-19. The comments came following a briefing from scientific advisors that detailed how bleaches, disinfectants and sunlight can kill the virus on surfaces in 30 seconds. Following the president's comments, medical experts and several manufacturers have warned against using household disinfectants as a treatment method for COVID-19.

Elsewhere in the US, three states have moved ahead with relaxing lockdown measures implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19. Georgia, Alaska and Oklahoma have allowed a number of non-essential businesses, such as hairdressers and gyms, to reopen. Georgia Governor Brian Kemp has drawn criticism, even from the president, for his particularly lax approach. Kemp's plan gives permission to gyms, beauty salons, bowling alleys, tattoo parlours, restaurants and cinemas to reopen after the weekend. Despite the easing of restrictions across the state, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms has urged her constituents to remain in their homes.

EU leaders have failed to agree on proposals to minimise the economic impact of COVID-19. The pandemic has exacerbated existing divisions, with poorer nations demanding a mechanism for debt-sharing with the more affluent nations. Italy and Spain, who have been particularly hard-hit by the virus, are likely to suffer severe economic damage as a result of the pandemic. Following an hours-long video conference including the leaders of the 27 member states, French President Emmanuel Macron warned that the European project had no future if member states failed to show solidarity.

Separately, it has emerged that, bowing to pressure from Beijing, the EU has softened its criticism of China in a report on disinformation during the pandemic. The original report, obtained by media outlets, cited Beijing's efforts to curtail mentions of the virus's origins in China, in part by blaming the United States for spreading the disease. Chinese officials, upon hearing the critical nature of the report, reportedly contacted their EU counterparts threatening retaliation, resulting in the watering down of its content. The episode signals that Beijing is likely to fight any assertion that it has acted dishonestly in the run up to, and during the pandemic.

In Mexico, dozens of attacks against medical personnel have been reported in recent weeks. Authorities believe that the attacks stem from the spread of misinformation, that suggests health workers are responsible for spreading COVID-19. Reporting indicates that doctors and nurses have been physically attacked, in some instances with caustic liquids. The head of nursing for Mexico's public health system has issued an emotional plea for the attacks to stop.

Elsewhere in Latin America, analysis of mortality data in Ecuador suggests that there has been up to 15 times more deaths as a result of COVID-19 than officially reported. Figures suggest that there have been around 7,600 excess deaths in Ecuador between 1 March and 15 April when compared to the same time period in recent years. This is in sharp contrast to the 576 deaths reported in official government figures. It is likely that the scale of the crisis has been obscured by the government's limited ability to test for the virus, brought about by a global shortage of testing kits and the country's poor economic situation.

In Israel, the use of mobile phone location data to enforce quarantine measures has been outlawed. The government had approved the use of such data for a limited time, to make sure those ordered to self-isolate were doing so. However, a parliamentary oversight group has blocked a proposed extension of the powers, citing privacy concerns. The police had used the technology to issue hundreds of fines to those who had broken quarantine orders.

Finally, preliminary results of a study conducted in Italy have identified COVID-19 in particles of air pollution. It is, as yet, unclear whether the virus is able to trigger infection when carried in pollutants. The study has not yet been peer-reviewed, but previous studies and experts suggest the premise could be valid and warrants further research. Should it be found that the virus can travel in a viable form in air pollution, this could explain high rates of infection in densely populated and heavily polluted cities such as Milan, London and New York.

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>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
<b>Europe</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
<b>Americas</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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. However, some states are now looking to ease restrictions, with protests also occurring in response to the lockdowns, some of the protesters have attended the rallies armed.</p> <p>The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on inbound travel.</p>				
<b>Africa</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 as well as Ogun State in Nigeria, Algiers and Blida in Algeria 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.</p>				
<b>Middle East</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
<b>Australia /Oceania</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.</p>				
<b>Solace Global Advice</b>	<p>At this time, travellers should <b>reconsider their need to travel globally, with only business-critical travel being advised.</b> 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.</p>				
<b>Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)</b>					
Current Total Cases	2,834,697 (+101,995)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	808,024(+57,160)	Total Confirmed Deaths	197,421(+6,271)
<p>The list below comprises of the top 40 countries in each section, for a complete list please go to <a href="#">Worldometers</a>, <a href="#">Johns Hopkins University</a> or the <a href="#">WHO</a>.</p>					

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	925,758	USA	+38,958	USA	52,217	USA	110,432
Spain	219,764	Ecuador	+11,536	Italy	25,969	Germany	109,800
Italy	192,994	Spain	+6,740	Spain	22,524	Spain	92,355
France	159,828	Russia	+5,849	France	22,245	China	77,346
Germany	155,054	UK	+5,386	UK	19,506	Iran	66,599
UK	143,464	Brazil	+3,503	Belgium	6,679	Italy	60,498
Turkey	104,912	Turkey	+3,122	Germany	5,767	France	43,493
Iran	88,194	Italy	+3,021	Iran	5,574	Brazil	27,655
China	82,816	Germany	+1,870	China	4,632	Turkey	21,737
Russia	68,622	Canada	+1,778	Netherlands	4,289	Switzerland	21,000
Brazil	54,043	France	+1,645	Brazil	3,704	Canada	15,469
Belgium	44,293	Belgium	+1,496	Turkey	2,600	Austria	12,103
Canada	43,888	India	+1,408	Canada	2,302	Belgium	10,122
Netherlands	36,535	Saudi Arabia	+1,172	Sweden	2,152	Ireland	9,233
Switzerland	28,677	Iran	+1,168	Switzerland	1,589	S. Korea	8,635
India	24,530	Mexico	+1,089	Mexico	1,221	Peru	7,496
Portugal	22,797	Singapore	+897	Ireland	1,014	Mexico	7,149
Ecuador	22,719	Pakistan	+883	Portugal	854	Chile	6,327
Peru	21,648	Sweden	+812	India	780	Israel	6,003
Ireland	18,184	Netherlands	+806	Indonesia	689	Russia	5,568
Sweden	17,567	Qatar	+761	Peru	634	Denmark	5,526
Austria	15,148	Belarus	+751	Russia	615	India	5,498
Saudi Arabia	15,102	Peru	+734	Ecuador	576	Australia	5,372
Israel	15,058	Ireland	+577	Romania	575	Malaysia	3,762
Mexico	12,872	UAE	+525	Austria	536	Luxembourg	3,007
Japan	12,829	Bangladesh	+503	Poland	499	Romania	2,817
Singapore	12,693	Chile	+494	Philippines	494	Pakistan	2,755
Chile	12,306	Ukraine	+477	Algeria	415	Thailand	2,547
Pakistan	11,940	Portugal	+444	Denmark	403	Finland	2,500
Poland	11,067	Indonesia	+436	Japan	345	Czechia	2,389
S. Korea	10,718	Poland	+381	Egypt	294	Poland	2,126
Romania	10,417	Japan	+344	Dominican Republic	267	Saudi Arabia	2,049
UAE	9,281	Romania	+321	Hungary	262	UAE	1,760
Belarus	8,773	Colombia	+320	Pakistan	253	Iceland	1,542
Qatar	8,525	Bahrain	+301	S. Korea	240	Japan	1,530
Indonesia	8,211	South Africa	+267	Colombia	225	South Africa	1,473
Denmark	8,210	Israel	+255	Czechia	215	Algeria	1,408
Ukraine	8,125	Kuwait	+215	Ukraine	201	Ecuador	1,366
Serbia	7,483	Philippines	+211	Norway	199	Portugal	1,228
Norway	7,463	Serbia	+207	Israel	194	Iraq	1,204



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.