



COVID-19 Outbreak Update

26 April

SOLACE GLOBAL



Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.92 million, with approximately 203,000 deaths and around 837,000 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

Global COVID-19 fatalities passed the 200,000 mark before the end of the day on Saturday, with confirmed cases of the virus due to hit 3 million in the coming week. The United States, Spain and Italy account for more than half of the total global fatalities, while the former hotspots of China and South Korea both reported zero deaths over the past 24 hours. After the first death was reported in China on 10 January, it took 91 days for the death toll to pass 100,000 and a further 16 days to reach 200,000. By comparison, Malaria fatalities are estimated to be around 400,000 annually.

Reports have emerged that a video conference due to be held by G20 leaders on Friday was cancelled after tensions arose between China and the United States regarding the World Health Organization (WHO). American officials have apparently been insisting on investigating the WHO over its handling of the pandemic. The Chinese, on the other hand, have strongly refused to discuss any such proposals.

Downing Street sources have confirmed that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will return to work on Monday. The Prime Minister has been recovering from COVID-19 at his official country residence after spending three nights in intensive care earlier this month. The number of fatalities from the virus in the UK passed 20,000 on Saturday, prompting the home secretary to reiterate calls for people to stay at home. The UK now has the fifth-highest official COVID-19 death toll in the world, after the United States, Italy, Spain and France.

Meanwhile in Italy, the Civil Protection Agency has announced that deaths from the pandemic increased by 415 on Saturday, representing the smallest daily tally since 17 March. The number of new infections was also the lowest in five days at 2,357 from 3,021 last Friday.

Around 1000 protesters, apparently made up of both far-right supporters and left-activist groups, gathered in Berlin on Saturday to demonstrate against the national lockdown. Participants believe the strict measures are an infringement of their constitutional rights. A heavy police presence was evident, and some arrests were made. The protests have become a weekly event in the German capital and are likely to continue in the coming weeks.

Argentina will extend its mandatory nationwide lockdown until 10 May as part of continued efforts to combat the pandemic. Compared with other countries on the continent, Argentina has seen relatively few fatalities. In contrast, Paraguayan authorities have laid out details of a plan to begin lifting the country's total quarantine, which will begin on 4 May. Authorities aim to gradually reintroduce public freedoms and reopen businesses as part of a four-stage plan.

From midnight next Friday, South Africans will be required to wear a face mask in public as the country moves from level five of the national COVID-19 lockdown to level four. A curfew running from 8 pm to 5 am will also be in place from 1 May. People will be able to exercise outside of curfew hours (from 5 am to 8 pm). Public transport will operate during these curfew times, but under strict health protocols and at a 70% maximum capacity.

Hawaii Governor David Ige has extended the state's stay-at-home order until 31 May. Residents may leave their homes only for essential activity, including health emergencies, purchasing food, taking care of the elderly, children, or those with disabilities, picking up educational materials for distance learning and receiving meals. Outdoor exercise is also permitted, including swimming, surfing and walking pets. In addition, running, jogging or walking on the beach will be permitted, as long as social distancing requirements are observed. The measures are considerably more relaxed than those implemented in many other parts of the world.

King Salman of Saudi Arabia has issued an order to partially lift the nationwide curfew. The curfew will now be in effect from 9 am to 5 pm, starting today through to Wednesday, May 13. However, a 24-hour curfew in Mecca and in previously isolated neighbourhoods will remain in place. The order also allows for the opening of some commercial activities, including shopping malls, from 29 April to 13 May.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has also announced an easing of lockdown restrictions as the latest data confirmed that daily fatalities were running well below the peak seen earlier this month. Citizens will be allowed out to exercise alone from 2 May if the crisis continues to abate. From 26 April, children will be allowed one hour of supervised outdoor activity per day between 9 am and 9 pm, provided they stay within one kilometre of their home.

In India, authorities have permitted small local stores to reopen more than a month after the country first went into lockdown. The Interior Ministry has advised that businesses should operate with only half of their staff and follow precautions such as wearing face masks and observing social distancing. Shopping malls must remain closed and businesses in COVID-19 hotspots will also stay shut.

Similarly, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee has announced that from Wednesday, 29 April, retail industries in 89 of the state's 95 counties will have the ability to operate at 50 per cent capacity. Retailers in the 6 counties that comprise major urban centres are not yet permitted to reopen. Guidelines have been issued regarding social distancing along with other compulsory sanitation measures.

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. 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.
 The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on inbound travel.

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, several countries have already implemented national lockdowns, although restrictions vary and are subject to change in the coming weeks. Some nations have implemented city wide lockdowns or curfews, as seen in Lagos and Abuja as well as Ogun State in Nigeria and in the Wilaya of Blida, Algeria which is under a partial lockdown between 14:00 and 07:00.

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	2,923,285 (+88,588)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	837,531(+29,507)	Total Confirmed Deaths	203,308(+5,887)
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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	960,896	USA	+35,419	USA	54,265	USA	118,162
Spain	223,759	Brazil	+6,201	Italy	26,384	Germany	109,800

Italy	195,351	Russia	+5,966	Spain	22,902	Spain	95,708
France	161,488	UK	+4,913	France	22,614	China	77,394
Germany	156,513	Spain	+3,995	UK	20,319	Iran	68,193
UK	148,377	Peru	+3,683	Belgium	6,917	Italy	63,120
Turkey	107,773	Turkey	+2,861	Germany	5,877	France	44,594
Iran	89,328	Italy	+2,357	Iran	5,650	Brazil	29,160
China	82,827	India	+1,836	China	4,632	Turkey	25,582
Russia	74,588	France	+1,660	Netherlands	4,409	Switzerland	21,300
Brazil	59,324	Germany	+1,514	Brazil	4,057	Canada	16,425
Canada	45,354	Canada	+1,466	Turkey	2,706	Austria	12,103
Belgium	45,325	Mexico	+1,239	Canada	2,465	Belgium	10,417
Netherlands	37,190	Saudi Arabia	+1,197	Sweden	2,192	Ireland	9,233
Switzerland	28,894	Iran	+1,134	Switzerland	1,599	S. Korea	8,717
India	26,496	Belgium	+1,032	Mexico	1,305	Peru	7,797
Peru	25,331	Qatar	+833	Ireland	1,063	Mexico	7,149
Portugal	23,392	Belarus	+817	Portugal	880	Chile	6,746
Ecuador	22,719	Pakistan	+783	India	825	Israel	6,602
Ireland	18,561	Netherlands	+655	Indonesia	720	Russia	6,250
Sweden	18,177	Singapore	+618	Peru	700	India	5,939
Saudi Arabia	16,299	Sweden	+610	Russia	681	Denmark	5,669
Israel	15,398	Portugal	+595	Romania	601	Australia	5,539
Austria	15,148	Chile	+552	Ecuador	576	Malaysia	3,762
Mexico	13,842	UAE	+532	Austria	536	Luxembourg	3,088
Singapore	13,624	Japan	+519	Poland	524	Romania	2,890
Japan	13,231	Ukraine	+478	Philippines	494	Pakistan	2,866
Chile	12,858	Indonesia	+396	Algeria	419	Thailand	2,594
Pakistan	12,723	Poland	+381	Denmark	418	Finland	2,500
Poland	11,273	Ireland	+377	Japan	360	Czechia	2,471
S. Korea	10,728	Bangladesh	+309	Egypt	307	Poland	2,265
Romania	10,635	Serbia	+296	Dominican Republic	273	Saudi Arabia	2,215
UAE	9,813	Colombia	+261	Hungary	272	UAE	1,887
Belarus	9,590	Israel	+240	Pakistan	269	Japan	1,656
Qatar	9,358	Denmark	+235	S. Korea	242	Belarus	1,573
Ukraine	8,617	Egypt	+227	Colombia	233	Iceland	1,570
Indonesia	8,607	Romania	+218	Czechia	219	Algeria	1,479
Denmark	8,445	Switzerland	+217	Ukraine	209	South Africa	1,473
Serbia	7,779	Dominican Republic	+177	Norway	201	Ecuador	1,366
Norway	7,499	Argentina	+173	Israel	199	Portugal	1,277



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.