

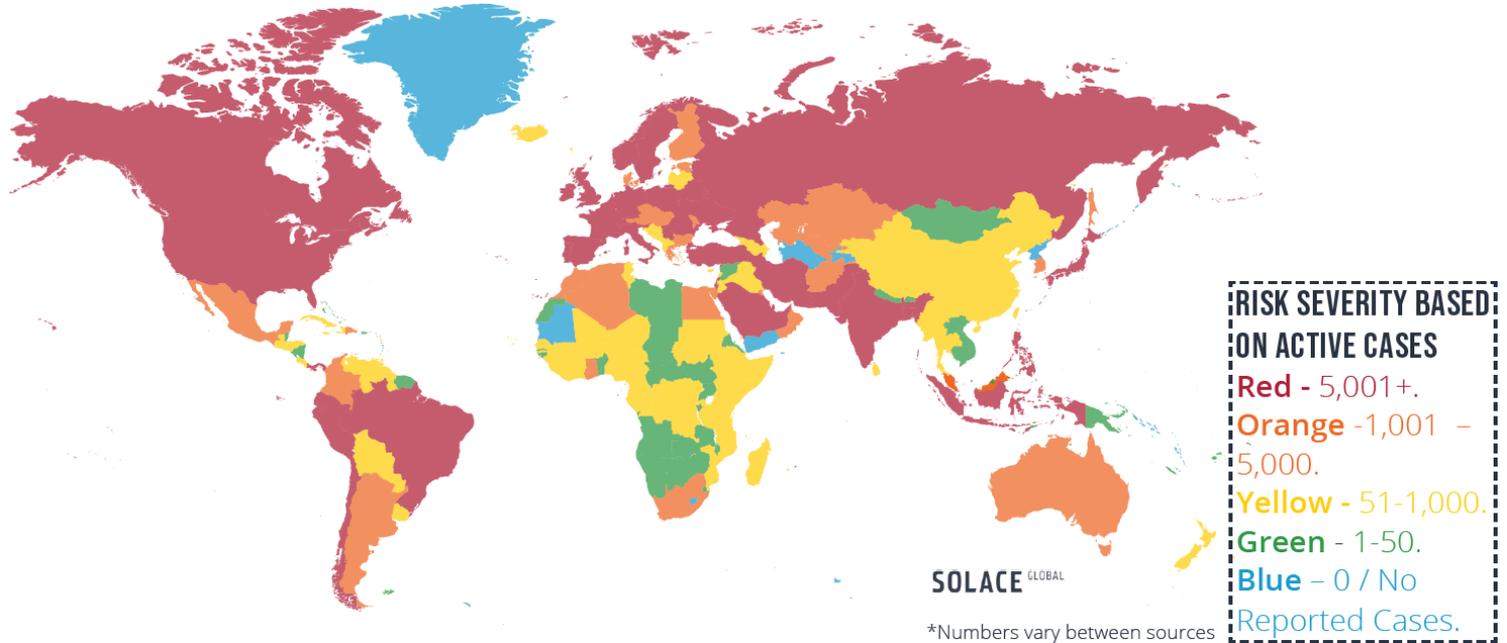
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
27 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 3 million, with approximately 207,000 deaths and around 882,000 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 worldwide 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

The number of cases globally has now exceeded 3 million.

Health officials in Wuhan, the origin of the global COVID-19 pandemic, have reported that there are no remaining cases in the city's hospitals. Wuhan had reported 46,452 cases, constituting 56 per cent of the national total of those confirmed. It also reported 3,869 fatalities, 84 per cent of China's total. The city is still testing residents regularly despite relaxing lockdown restrictions.

In Europe, authorities in Sweden, a country known for its softer approach to combatting the pandemic, will order the closure of five Stockholm bars and restaurants that failed to respect social distancing guidelines. The government has allowed schools, cafes, bars, restaurants and other businesses to stay open, while instructing people to respect social distancing guidelines. Restaurants and bars are only allowed to provide table service, with tables spaced one to two metres apart to prevent overcrowding.

In the UK, the country reported its lowest daily rise in fatalities in nearly four weeks. The number of people who have died rose by 413 to 20,732, the lowest reported daily increase in April. The last time the country recorded a smaller increase was on 31 March, when 381 deaths were reported. The news comes as Prime Minister Boris Johnson returned to work at Downing Street following his recovery from having COVID-19.

In Italy, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has announced that factories, building sites and some wholesalers will be allowed to re-open from 4 May, with more businesses able to reopen in the following weeks. Retailers may open two weeks later, while restaurants and bars will be allowed to operate fully from the beginning of June, although the provision of takeaway services will be possible earlier.

Authorities in Chile have confirmed that a previously announced 'release certificate' program for recovered COVID-19 patients will go ahead despite a World Health Organization warning that there was no evidence they are protected from a secondary infection. Paula Daza of the Health Ministry said that while many uncertainties remain, evidence points to a reduced risk after the first bout of the virus. The results of Chile's policy could well be used as a roadmap for other countries seeking a way out of the crisis.

Similarly, authorities in Israel have allowed some businesses to reopen and are considering letting children return to school as part of trial efforts to ease lockdown measures and boost the struggling economy. Shops with street access can reopen but malls and markets remain shut to prevent large gatherings. Restaurants are to be allowed to offer take-out services.

Continuing the positive trend, the Iranian government plans to reopen mosques in parts of the country that have been consistently free of the virus as restrictions on citizens gradually ease. The country will be divided up into white, yellow and red regions based on the number of infections and deaths, with activities in each region restricted accordingly.

However, not all countries are able to ease restrictions at this time, for example, the Nepali government has decided to extend the nationwide lockdown until 7 May. It also announced that it will continue to restrict movement through border checkpoints until 13 May and suspend domestic and international flights until 15 May.

Meanwhile, the pandemic continues to exert pressure on law and order, this time in El Salvador. President Nayib Bukele has authorized the police and military to use lethal force against gang members after heightened levels of violence were reported amid the disruption caused by the outbreak. El Salvador reported 24 homicides on Friday, the worst one-day toll since Bukele took office in June, prompting him to order a 24-hour lockdown in prisons housing gang members. By late afternoon on Sunday, 29 murders were reported, necessitating the introduction of tougher measures against gangs said to be taking advantage of law enforcement officers being distracted by the enforcement of lockdown measures.

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 their outbreaks, these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.

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

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 least 15 May. Airlines, however, do continue to operate limited flights to and from the majority of EU countries.

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. Most recently, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland have also announced plans to ease their containment measures. In Italy, businesses are set to star reopening gradually in May.

Americas

The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. 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 these rallies armed.

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.

The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on both internal and international travel.

Africa

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 that of Oceania. However, the risk that the pandemic poses to the continent cannot be understated. 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.

While the majority of countries have some form of restrictions in place, especially on major cities, some, including Ghana, for example, have been able to start relaxing their lockdowns. The DRC is also relaxing restrictions on the capital Kinshasa, which had been struck relatively hard before the outbreak. South Africa, also, will look to ease restrictions in May.

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.

Middle East

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.

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.

Australia/Oceania

All states in Australia appear to have contained the spread of the coronavirus. Some states and territories including Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory will start to ease their restrictions from 1 May. Variations on restriction rules apply between states.

Additionally, New Zealand’s Prime Minister announced that the country has stopped the transmission of the virus. As such, some of the lockdown restrictions are set to ease from 11.59 local time on 27 April. New Zealand will also lift its level 4-lockdown that has been in effect for more than 4 weeks. The level 3 phase, which is reportedly in effect for two weeks, allows non-essential businesses such as retailers, schools and restaurants to reopen.

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	3,004,891 (+81,606)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	882,954 (+45,423)	Total Confirmed Deaths	207,257 (+3,949)
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	------------------------	------------------

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	987,322	USA	+26,509	USA	55,415	USA	118,781
Spain	226,629	Russia	+6,361	Italy	26,644	Spain	117,727
Italy	197,675	UK	+4,463	Spain	23,190	Germany	114,500
France	162,100	Brazil	+3,663	France	22,856	China	77,474
Germany	157,770	Spain	+2,870	UK	20,732	Iran	69,657
UK	152,840	Turkey	+2,357	Belgium	7,207	Italy	64,928
Turkey	110,130	Italy	+2,324	Germany	5,976	France	44,903
Iran	90,481	Peru	+2,186	Iran	5,710	Brazil	30,152
Russia	87,147	India	+1,607	China	4,633	Turkey	29,140
China	82,830	Canada	+1,541	Netherlands	4,475	Switzerland	21,800
Brazil	63,100	Germany	+1,257	Brazil	4,286	Canada	17,321
Canada	46,895	Saudi Arabia	+1,223	Turkey	2,805	Austria	12,362
Belgium	46,687	Iran	+1,153	Canada	2,560	Belgium	10,878
Netherlands	37,845	Mexico	+970	Sweden	2,194	Ireland	9,233
Switzerland	29,061	Singapore	+931	Switzerland	1,610	S. Korea	8,764
India	27,977	Qatar	+929	Mexico	1,351	Mexico	8,354
Peru	27,517	Belarus	+873	Ireland	1,087	Peru	8,088
Portugal	23,864	Belgium	+809	Portugal	903	Russia	7,346
Ecuador	22,719	Ireland	+701	India	884	Chile	7,024
Ireland	19,262	Netherlands	+655	Russia	794	Israel	6,796
Sweden	18,640	France	+612	Indonesia	765	India	6,523
Saudi Arabia	17,522	Pakistan	+605	Peru	728	Denmark	5,805
Israel	15,466	UAE	+536	Romania	631	Australia	5,586
Austria	15,274	Ukraine	+492	Ecuador	576	Malaysia	3,957
Mexico	14,677	Chile	+473	Austria	549	Luxembourg	3,104
Singapore	14,423	Portugal	+472	Poland	539	Romania	3,054
Japan	13,441	Sweden	+463	Philippines	511	Pakistan	3,029
Chile	13,331	Bangladesh	+418	Algeria	425	Thailand	2,609
Pakistan	13,328	Romania	+401	Denmark	422	Czechia	2,600
Poland	11,761	Poland	+344	Japan	372	Finland	2,500
Romania	11,036	Philippines	+285	Egypt	317	Poland	2,466
S. Korea	10,738	Indonesia	+275	Pakistan	281	Saudi Arabia	2,357
Belarus	10,463	Ghana	+271	Hungary	280	UAE	1,978
UAE	10,349	Serbia	+263	Dominican Republic	278	Japan	1,809
Qatar	10,287	Colombia	+237	Colombia	244	Belarus	1,695
Indonesia	9,096	Egypt	+215	S. Korea	243	Iceland	1,608
Ukraine	9,009	Japan	+210	Czechia	221	Algeria	1,508
Denmark	8,698	Dominican Republic	+209	Ukraine	220	South Africa	1,473
Serbia	8,042	Panama	+200	Israel	202	Ecuador	1,366
Philippines	7,777	South Africa	+185	Norway	202	Portugal	1,329



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.