



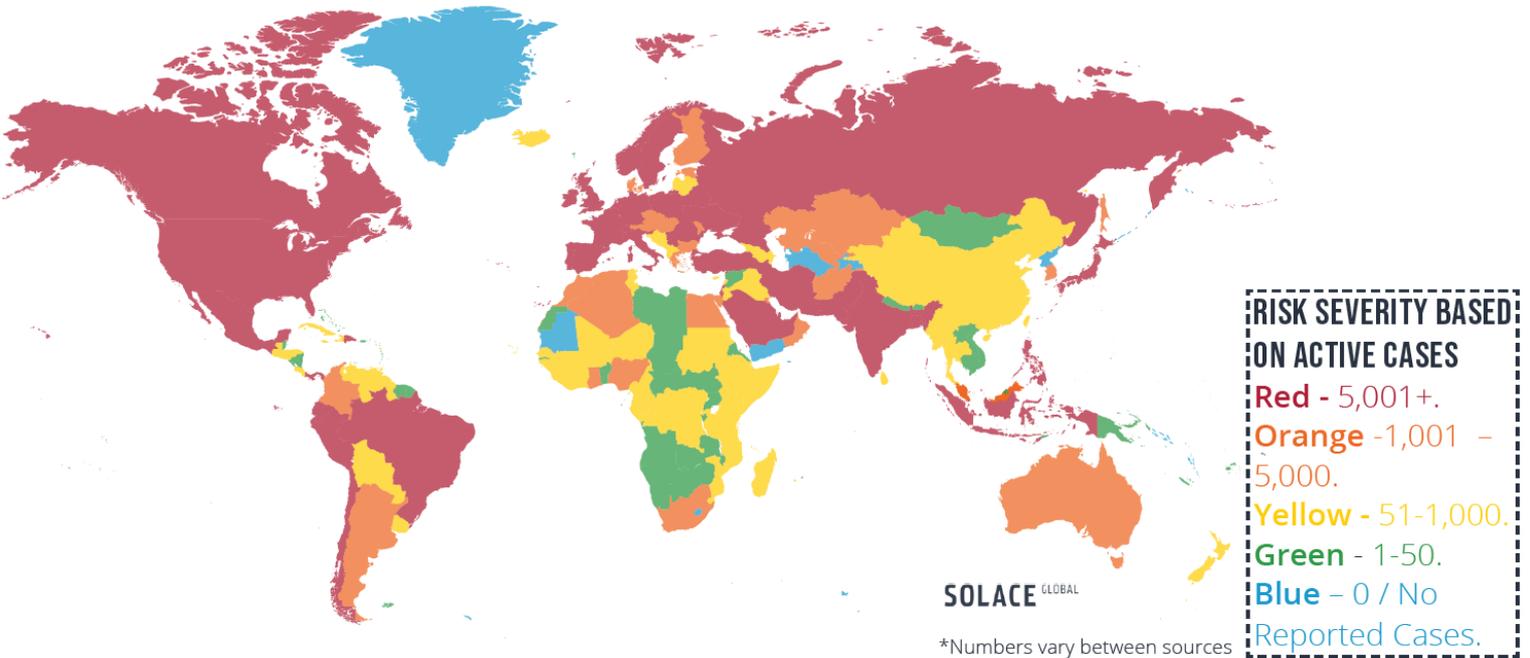
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
28 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 3 million, with approximately 211,000 deaths and around 923,000 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

World Health Organization (WHO) director Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has scolded some countries for failing to implement containment measures when the novel coronavirus was declared a global emergency in January. During a press conference at the agency’s headquarters in Geneva, Ghebreyesus reported at least 21 countries are now experiencing vaccine shortages and that 14 vaccination programmes have been postponed that would have immunised over 13 million people for diseases such as polio, measles and cholera. The health-care provision in sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing particular disruption, and the number of cases of malaria may now double as a result. The WHO is concerned about new cases in Africa, eastern Europe and Latin America, where case numbers and associated fatalities are underreported due to a lack of testing capacity.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has warned the country is at the “moment of maximum risk” and urged citizens to continue to comply with lockdown measures. Professor Chris Whitty, the government’s chief medical adviser, has said the outbreak has a “very long way to run” and believes that further peaks are likely to occur once social distancing measures are eased. Despite concerns of a rebound in case numbers, countries across the world, including Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Israel, Romania, Italy have begun to ease their restrictions.

In the US, several states have announced plans to re-open non-essential businesses, despite concern from public health officials that increased testing capacity is required before such measures can be considered safe. President Donald Trump has suggested a plan is in the works to increase testing and has continued to blame China for the pandemic. New York governor Andrew Cuomo has announced the state’s death-toll has peaked, and that some restrictions will begin to be eased from 15 May. The New York Democratic Primary, initially postponed from April to June, has been cancelled in what Senator Bernie Sanders has called an “outrage” and a “blow to American democracy”.

In Latin America, data suggests that case numbers of the novel coronavirus are rising faster than the global average. For example, cases in Mexico grew between 7-10% a day over the last week. Fears are increasing the virus will spread unchecked through the region’s prisons. Facilities in Chile, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador have reported significant outbreaks. Images have emerged on social media this week of prisoners crammed together on the floor of a jail in El Salvador during a search.

WhatsApp is reporting a drop over 70% ‘highly forwarded’ messages, the kind being used to spread disinformation about the novel coronavirus, following a restriction in the number of messages a user can forward. The platform has been widely used to spread misinformation about the novel coronavirus in what the WHO has described as an “info-demic”. Following a White House briefing in which he made controversial marks about injecting disinfectant as a potential treatment for COVID-19, US President Donald Trump has refused to take responsibility for those who acted upon his suggestion.

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

Asia	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 least 15 May. Airlines, however, do continue to operate limited flights to and from the majority of EU countries.</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. 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.</p>
Americas	<p>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.</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 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.</p> <p>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.</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.</p>
Australia/Oceania	<p>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.</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 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.</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	3,066,452 (+61,561)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	923,468 (+40,514)	Total Confirmed Deaths	211,665 (+4,408)
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	------------------------	------------------

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	1,010,507	USA	+23,196	USA	56,803	USA	139,162
Spain	229,422	Russia	+6,198	Italy	26,977	Spain	120,832
Italy	199,414	UK	+4,309	Spain	23,521	Germany	114,500
France	165,842	France	+3,742	France	23,293	China	77,555
Germany	158,758	Brazil	+3,642	UK	21,092	Iran	70,933

UK	157,149	Spain	+2,793	Belgium	7,207	Italy	66,624
Turkey	112,261	Turkey	+2,131	Germany	6,126	France	45,513
Iran	91,472	Italy	+1,739	Iran	5,806	Turkey	33,791
Russia	87,147	Canada	+1,605	China	4,633	Brazil	31,142
China	82,836	India	+1,561	Brazil	4,603	Switzerland	22,200
Brazil	67,446	Saudi Arabia	+1,289	Netherlands	4,518	Canada	18,268
Canada	48,500	Peru	+1,182	Turkey	2,900	Austria	12,362
Belgium	46,687	Iran	+991	Canada	2,707	Belgium	10,878
Netherlands	38,245	Germany	+988	Sweden	2,274	Ireland	9,233
India	29,451	Qatar	+957	Switzerland	1,665	Mexico	9,086
Switzerland	29,164	Mexico	+835	Mexico	1,434	S. Korea	8,854
Peru	28,699	Belarus	+826	Ireland	1,102	Peru	8,425
Portugal	24,027	Singapore	+799	India	939	Israel	7,375
Ecuador	23,240	Pakistan	+587	Portugal	928	Russia	7,346
Ireland	19,648	Belgium	+553	Russia	794	Chile	7,327
Sweden	18,926	Ecuador	+521	Peru	782	India	7,137
Saudi Arabia	18,811	Bangladesh	+497	Indonesia	765	Denmark	5,959
Israel	15,589	UAE	+490	Ecuador	663	Australia	5,602
Mexico	15,529	Chile	+482	Romania	646	Malaysia	3,957
Austria	15,274	Netherlands	+400	Poland	562	Pakistan	3,233
Singapore	14,951	Ukraine	+392	Austria	549	Romania	3,141
Pakistan	14,079	Ireland	+386	Philippines	511	Luxembourg	3,123
Chile	13,813	Romania	+303	Algeria	432	Czechia	2,842
Japan	13,614	Sweden	+286	Denmark	427	Poland	2,655
Poland	11,902	Poland	+285	Japan	385	Thailand	2,652
Romania	11,339	Egypt	+248	Egypt	337	Saudi Arabia	2,531
Belarus	11,289	South Africa	+247	Pakistan	301	Finland	2,500
Qatar	11,244	Panama	+241	Hungary	291	UAE	2,090
UAE	10,839	Serbia	+233	Dominican Republic	282	Japan	1,899
S. Korea	10,752	Colombia	+218	Colombia	253	Belarus	1,740
Ukraine	9,410	Indonesia	+214	S. Korea	244	Iceland	1,624
Indonesia	9,096	Kuwait	+213	Ukraine	239	Algeria	1,558
Denmark	8,698	Philippines	+198	Czechia	223	Ecuador	1,557
Serbia	8,275	Afghanistan	+172	Israel	208	South Africa	1,473
Philippines	7,777	Guinea	+167	Norway	205	Portugal	1,357



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.