

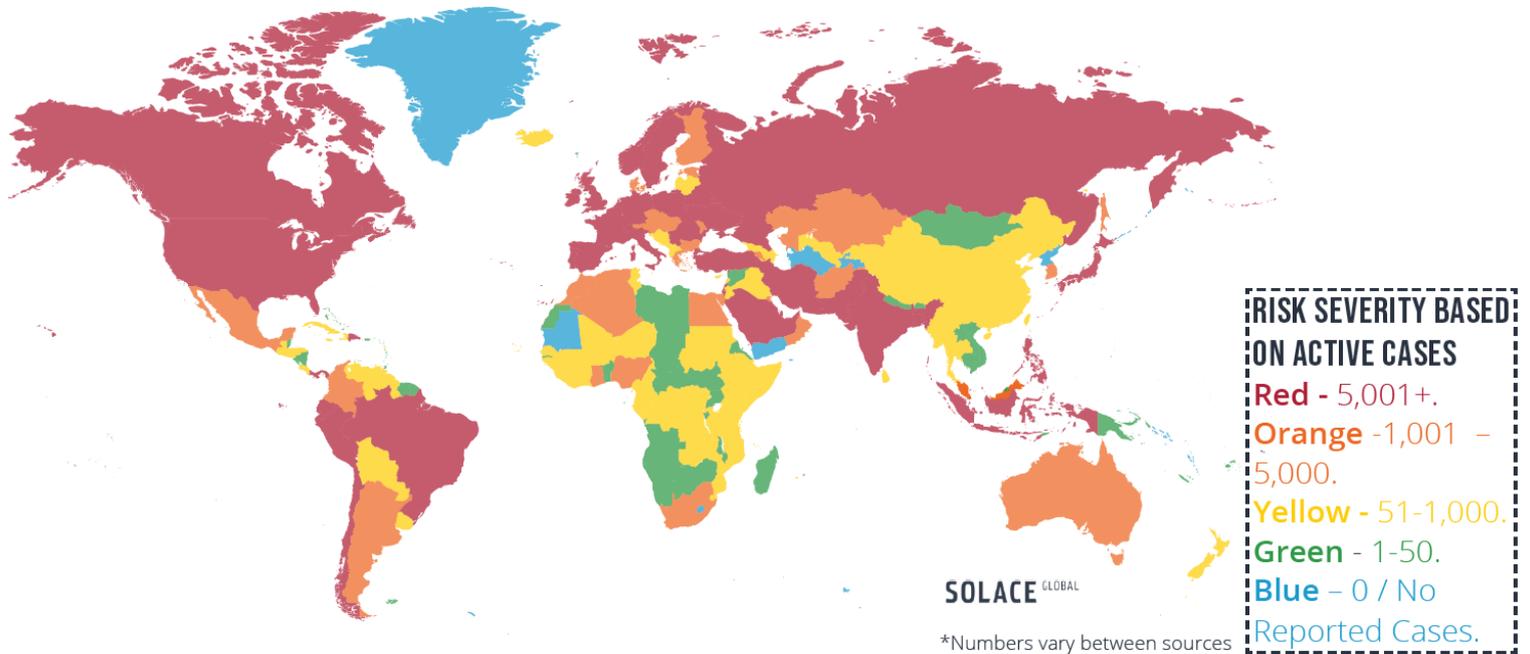
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
29 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 3.1 million, with approximately 218,000 deaths and around 961,000 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 United Nations’ High Commissioner for Human Rights has accused a list of countries of using COVID-19 emergency powers “to quash dissent, control the population, and even perpetuate their time in power”. Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Honduras, Jordan, Morocco, Cambodia, Uzbekistan, Iran and Hungary are believed to be “using excessive and sometimes deadly force to enforce lockdowns and curfews”.

The number of deaths in Brazil associated with coronavirus has exceeded 5,000, more than the official number reported by China. The country’s president, Jair Bolsonaro, has repeatedly dismissed concerns over the pandemic’s severity, referring to it as “just the sniffles”. Protesters across the country have continued to bang pots and pans from their windows during the lockdown, reminiscent of demonstrations that led to the controversial fall of former president Dima Rousseff.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin has extended a non-working period until 11 May and warned the rate of infections in the country has yet to peak. In Moscow, reports have emerged that nurses are quitting en masse from coronavirus hospitals over dangerous working conditions and a lack of pay. Additionally, the head of a Russian hospital is in critical condition after plummeting 50 feet during a conference call with health officials in which she complained about the lack of personal protective equipment to treat coronavirus patients.

More than 1 million cases of coronavirus have now been confirmed in the US. However, a number of states are implementing plans to allow workers to return to their offices as well as other measures to restart the economy. Most recently, South Dakota announced a back-to-normal plan, whilst Utah has said it will produce 2 million masks and provide one to each of the state’s residents. Elsewhere, Vice President Mike Pence, who leads the government’s coronavirus taskforce, did not wear a mask whilst visiting patients at a facility in Minnesota. Video footage shows Pence as the only person among nine visitors not wearing a mask, despite being briefed to do so.

In the UK, Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, has announced the government will now include deaths in care homes and the wider community in its daily official tally. At least a quarter of the death toll in England and Wales to date has come from fatalities in care homes, with even more occurring in hospices and private residences. Because the government has only been reporting death tolls in hospitals, it is thought the actual toll has been underestimated by half, according to some estimates. This is likely to see a rise in the number of deaths associated with COVID-19 in the short term, with recent figures showing that the death toll increase had been slowing.

Finally, countries have continued to lay out plans to ease lockdown measures implemented to prevent the spread of the virus. Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa has announced a state of emergency will end this weekend, and the Spanish government has laid out its strategy to exit lockdown as case numbers and associated fatalities continue to fall.

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	3,146,982 (+80,530)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	961,860 (+38,392)	Total Confirmed Deaths	218,179 (+6,514)
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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	1,035,765	USA	+25,409	USA	59,266	USA	142,238
Spain	232,128	Russia	+6,411	Italy	27,359	Spain	123,903
Italy	201,505	Brazil	+6,398	Spain	23,822	Germany	120,400
France	165,911	UK	+3,996	France	23,660	China	77,578
UK	161,145	Spain	+2,706	UK	21,678	Iran	72,439

Germany	159,912	France	+2,638	Belgium	7,331	Italy	68,941
Turkey	114,653	Peru	+2,491	Germany	6,314	France	46,886
Russia	99,399	Turkey	+2,392	Iran	5,877	Turkey	38,809
Iran	92,584	Italy	+2,091	Brazil	5,083	Brazil	32,544
China	82,858	India	+1,873	China	4,633	Switzerland	22,600
Brazil	73,235	Canada	+1,526	Netherlands	4,566	Canada	19,190
Canada	50,026	Saudi Arabia	+1,266	Turkey	2,992	Austria	12,580
Belgium	47,334	Germany	+1,154	Canada	2,859	Mexico	11,423
Netherlands	38,416	Iran	+1,112	Sweden	2,355	Belgium	10,943
India	31,332	Ecuador	+1,018	Switzerland	1,699	Russia	10,286
Peru	31,190	Belarus	+919	Mexico	1,569	Ireland	9,233
Switzerland	29,264	Mexico	+852	Ireland	1,159	Peru	9,179
Portugal	24,322	Pakistan	+697	India	1,008	S. Korea	8,922
Ecuador	24,258	Sweden	+695	Russia	972	Israel	7,929
Saudi Arabia	20,077	Qatar	+677	Portugal	948	India	7,747
Ireland	19,877	Belgium	+647	Ecuador	871	Chile	7,710
Sweden	19,621	Chile	+552	Peru	854	Denmark	6,121
Mexico	16,752	Bangladesh	+549	Indonesia	773	Australia	5,626
Israel	15,782	UAE	+541	Romania	663	Malaysia	4,032
Singapore	15,641	Singapore	+528	Poland	606	Pakistan	3,425
Austria	15,357	Indonesia	+415	Austria	569	Romania	3,404
Pakistan	14,885	Ukraine	+401	Philippines	558	Luxembourg	3,123
Chile	14,365	Colombia	+352	Algeria	437	Poland	3,025
Japan	13,736	Poland	+316	Denmark	434	Czechia	2,960
Poland	12,415	Portugal	+295	Japan	394	Finland	2,800
Belarus	12,208	Romania	+277	Egypt	359	Saudi Arabia	2,784
Qatar	11,921	Egypt	+260	Pakistan	327	Thailand	2,665
Romania	11,616	Panama	+242	Hungary	300	UAE	2,181
UAE	11,380	Ireland	+229	Dominican Republic	286	South Africa	2,073
S. Korea	10,761	Serbia	+222	Colombia	269	Belarus	1,993
Ukraine	9,866	South Africa	+203	Ukraine	250	Japan	1,899
Indonesia	9,511	Nigeria	+195	S. Korea	246	Algeria	1,651
Denmark	9,008	Kazakhstan	+192	Czechia	227	Iceland	1,636
Serbia	8,497	Philippines	+181	Israel	212	Ecuador	1,557
Philippines	8,212	Israel	+173	Chile	207	Portugal	1,389



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.