



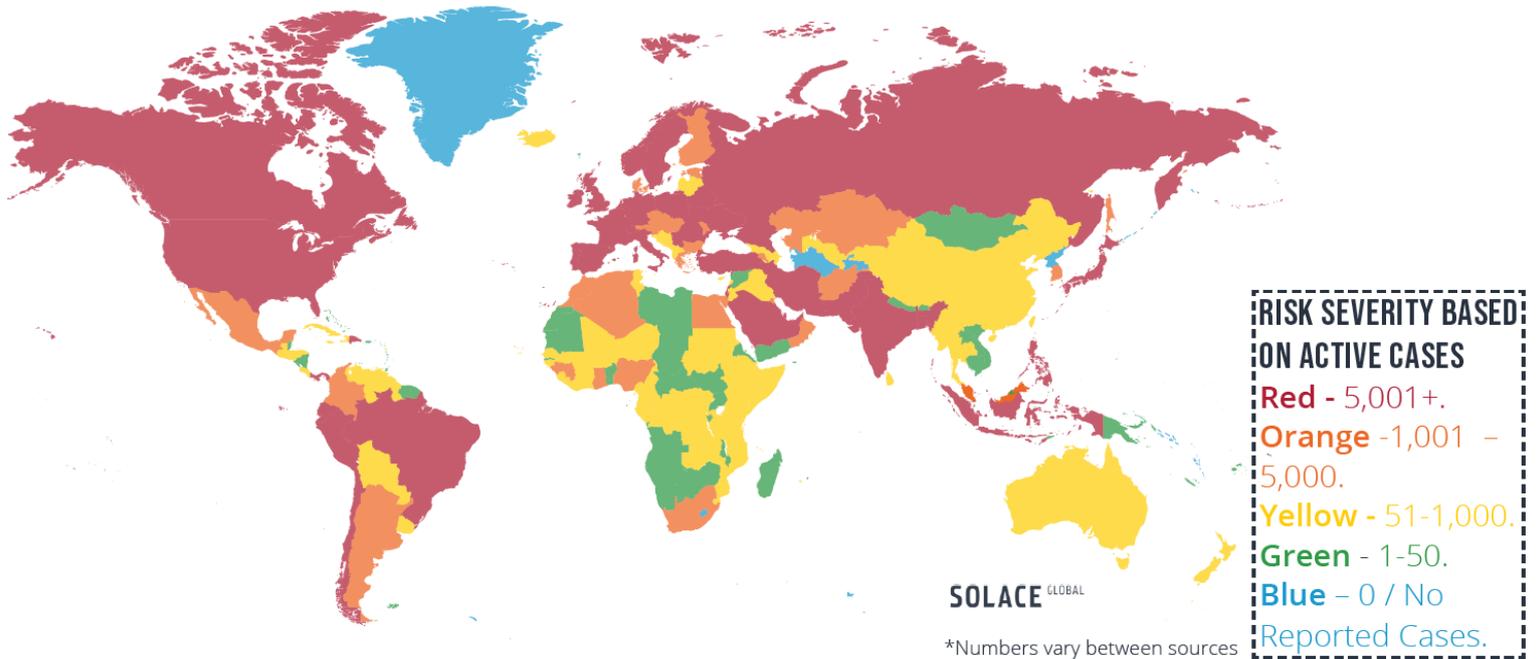
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
30 April

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 3.2 million, with approximately 228,000 deaths and around 1,000,000 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

New figures have shown that the United Kingdom is now the second worst-hit country in Europe and the third in the world in terms of fatalities, as the government has begun to include deaths in care homes in its daily count. Figures indicate that since the beginning of the outbreak there have been approximately 3,800 fatalities in care homes. At present, the total number of fatalities in the United Kingdom has exceeded 26,000.

Meanwhile, the number of tests being carried out daily has reached 52,000. However, the government had set itself the target of carrying out 100,000 tests per day by the end of April. Whilst the government's testing coordinator said on 29 April that he is confident that this target would be hit, Justice Secretary Robert Buckland indicated that the target would likely not be achieved until the first week of May. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to lead his first public briefing for the first time since he returned to work after being admitted to intensive care.

In the United States, the government announced that an antiviral drug, manufactured by Gilead Sciences, has proved effective in the first round of trials, allegedly shortening treatment time for the virus by four days. The details of this study are yet to be published. The drug, called Remdesivir, was initially developed to treat Ebola, but never got approval; it is still yet to be approved in any country aside from the United States. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will reportedly authorise it for emergency-use.

Despite this, Remdesivir has not been highly rated in other tests worldwide. In the United Kingdom, a study was published in the Lancet magazine stating that the drug did not speed recovery in patients tested in China. The test was stopped before after only half of the patients had been injected with it. Gilead Sciences maintains this is only the case because the company could not find enough numbers of patients to test as the virus had stopped transmitting.

In different news, the United States economy has shrunk at a reported rate of 4.8% in the first quarter of 2020. This is the first quarterly decline in GDP in six years and the biggest since the financial crisis in 2008. Jay Powell, Chair of the Federal Reserve, announced that the second quarter would worsen with the economy set to shrink by a further 30%. Approximately 30 million people have lost their jobs across the country in the past six weeks.

In addition to the US, China has also announced that its economy shrunk by 6.8% in the first three months of the year. In Europe, Germany has also indicated that its economy may shrink by 6.3%, which is considered the worst recession since the country formed the Federal Republic in 1949. France and Italy have also recorded falling into recession.

Elsewhere, more countries continue to announce the gradual relaxation of their COVID-19 restrictions. Cyprus, Serbia and Timor-Leste have all begun to reopen some industries. For example, in Cyprus, construction projects will be resumed whilst civil servants return to work. Restaurants, bars and cafes in Serbia will reopen but at 25% of their capacity. Additionally, the government has issued measures ensuring that tables are separated by six feet while workers will be required to wear masks.

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 were eased from 11.59 local time on 27 April. New Zealand also lifted 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	3,232,532 (+85,550)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,008,029 (+46,169)	Total Confirmed Deaths	228,513 (+10,334)
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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	1,064,572	USA	+28,429	USA	61,669	USA	147,411
Spain	236,899	Brazil	+6,462	Italy	27,682	Spain	132,929
Italy	203,591	Russia	+5,841	UK	26,097	Germany	123,500
France	166,420	Spain	+4,771	Spain	24,275	China	77,610
UK	165,221	UK	+4,076	France	24,087	Iran	73,791

Germany	161,539	Turkey	+2,936	Belgium	7,594	Italy	71,252
Turkey	117,589	Peru	+2,741	Germany	6,467	France	48,228
Russia	106,498	Italy	+2,086	Iran	5,957	Turkey	44,040
Iran	93,657	India	+1,738	Brazil	5,513	Brazil	34,132
China	82,862	Germany	+1,627	Netherlands	4,711	Switzerland	22,600
Brazil	79,685	Canada	+1,571	China	4,633	Canada	20,327
Canada	51,597	Saudi Arabia	+1,325	Turkey	3,081	Ireland	13,386
Belgium	48,519	Mexico	+1,223	Canada	2,996	Austria	12,907
Netherlands	38,802	Iran	+1,073	Sweden	2,462	Russia	11,619
Peru	33,931	Belarus	+973	Mexico	1,732	Belgium	11,576
India	33,062	Pakistan	+913	Switzerland	1,716	Mexico	11,423
Switzerland	29,407	Singapore	+690	Ireland	1,190	Peru	10,037
Ecuador	24,675	Sweden	+681	India	1,079	S. Korea	9,059
Portugal	24,505	Qatar	+643	Russia	1,073	India	8,437
Saudi Arabia	21,402	Bangladesh	+641	Portugal	973	Israel	8,412
Sweden	20,302	UAE	+549	Peru	943	Chile	8,057
Ireland	20,253	Belgium	+525	Ecuador	883	Denmark	6,366
Mexico	17,799	Chile	+520	Indonesia	792	Australia	5,715
Singapore	16,169	France	+509	Romania	695	Malaysia	4,171
Israel	15,870	Ukraine	+456	Poland	628	Pakistan	4,052
Pakistan	15,759	Poland	+422	Austria	584	Romania	3,569
Austria	15,452	Ecuador	+417	Philippines	568	Poland	3,236
Chile	15,135	Netherlands	+386	Algeria	444	Luxembourg	3,134
Japan	13,965	Ireland	+376	Denmark	443	Czechia	3,120
Belarus	13,181	Romania	+362	Japan	425	Saudi Arabia	2,953
Poland	12,781	South Africa	+354	Egypt	380	Finland	2,800
Qatar	12,564	Kuwait	+300	Pakistan	346	Thailand	2,684
Romania	11,978	Indonesia	+260	Hungary	312	Japan	2,368
UAE	11,929	Colombia	+258	Dominican Republic	293	UAE	2,329
S. Korea	10,765	Philippines	+254	Colombia	278	South Africa	2,073
Ukraine	10,406	Dominican Republic	+236	Ukraine	261	Belarus	2,072
Indonesia	10,118	Serbia	+227	S. Korea	247	Algeria	1,702
Denmark	9,158	Egypt	+226	Czechia	227	Iceland	1,656
Serbia	8,724	Algeria	+199	Israel	219	Ecuador	1,557
Philippines	8,488	Nigeria	+196	Chile	216	Indonesia	1,522



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.