

COVID-19 Weekly Update

25 June

BAKERLOO LINE



Do not enter this seating area or stand in the doorway vestibule

This is to allow our staff to follow social distancing guidelines.

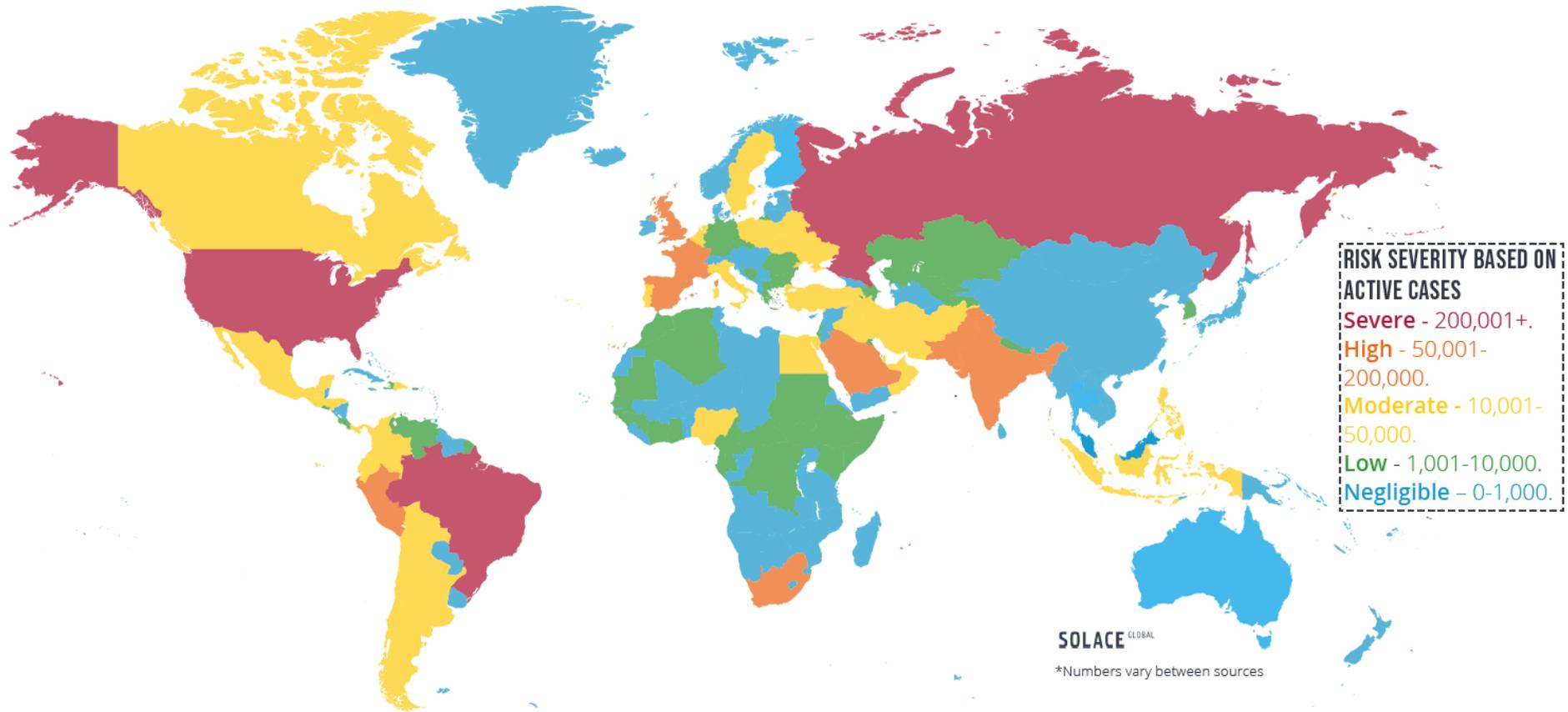
Doing this helps keep the Bakerloo line running for essential journeys.

SOLACE GLOBAL



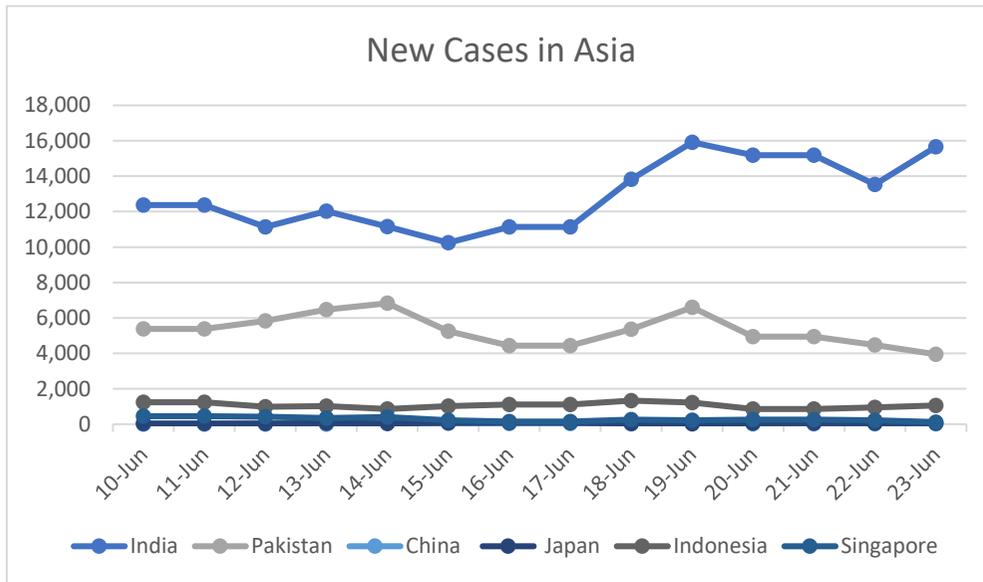
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	9,535,332	Total Active Cases	3,869,818	Total Confirmed Recoveries	5,180,327	Total Confirmed Deaths	485,187
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Asia



India continues to be Asia’s worst-affected nation in terms of both total cases and deaths, approaching 460,000 and 15,000 respectively. Unfortunately, the country’s outbreak shows no signs of slowing. Indeed, on Wednesday, the Health Ministry reported record 24-hour increases of just under 16,000 new cases and 500 deaths. Worse still, the actual figures, like elsewhere in the world, are believed to be far higher due to limited testing.

In more positive news, authorities in Dharavi, Mumbai, appear to have effectively contained a local outbreak. Being one of the world’s most congested shanty towns that is home to more than 500,000 people packed into 2.5 square kilometres, social distancing is close to impossible. However, as of the third week of June, daily infections had dropped to less than half compared to a daily high in May, while the average doubling rate had increased to 78 days in June, compared to 18 days in April. The seemingly successful containment has been attributed to the extraordinary scale of measures implemented, including draconian lockdown rules, extensive screening and tracing, and the handing out of free food to everyone out-of-work.

In recent weeks, following an easing of almost all restrictions in May, neighbouring Pakistan has emerged as having one of the world’s fastest rates of infection, recording around 4,000 new cases per day since

Monday. Moreover, countrywide screening continues to be inadequate, meaning Pakistan’s outbreak could be even worse than reported. Authorities are currently testing around just 25,000 people per day, less than half the number recommended by the WHO in order to truly gauge the prevalence of the virus. In response to the rising number of infections, Pakistan’s government has identified 500 coronavirus hotspots that will be targeted for limited locality-based lockdowns, dubbed “smart lockdowns”, in an attempt to curb the further spread of the virus and take pressure off the already-faltering health infrastructure. Smart lockdown measures include stringent restrictions on non-essential social and business activities.

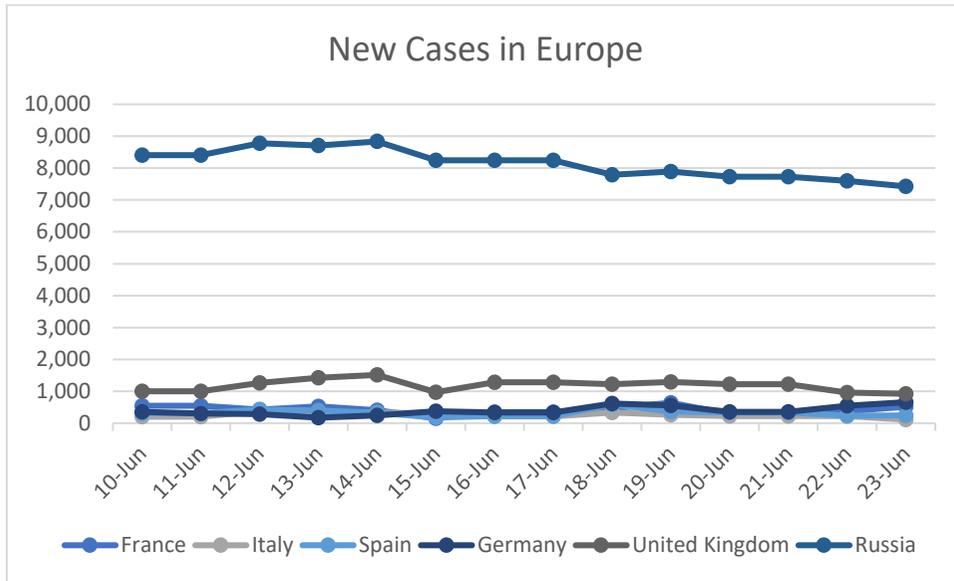
In China, a recent spike of cases in Beijing appears to have been contained thanks to the early implementation of control measures and widespread testing. Beijing authorities ramped up daily testing to around 300,000 nucleic acid tests per day as of Tuesday, compared to just 40,000 in March, and have tested roughly 3 million people since 12 June. In other news, the China National Biotec Group has been granted approval to conduct a large-scale “Phase 3” clinical trial of a COVID-19 vaccine candidate in the United Arab Emirates, owing to a lack of new patients in China. At least a dozen similar trials are currently being conducted across the globe, although none of them have successfully completed a late-stage “Phase 3” test to determine efficacy in protecting healthy people from the virus.

While biotech companies rush to develop a vaccine, other technologies are also being employed in the fight against coronavirus. For instance, in Japan, scientists are using the world’s newly crowned fastest supercomputer, named Fugaku, to simulate how droplets spread in a variety of environments. When fully operational next year, experts hope to employ the machine to narrow down the search for a vaccine. Such technology is possibly beneficial in the near-term in assisting health experts and authorities to contain and limit any future outbreaks, such as the one seen in Tokyo in recent days. On Wednesday, the capital reported 55 new cases, the highest figure for over a month, after a cluster of infections were identified at an office in the city.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	155,420	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Pakistan	93,348	Stable	Moderate	High
China	252	Stable	Light	High
Japan	959	Stable	Light	High
Indonesia	22,912	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	10,027	Decrease	Light	High



Europe



Across Europe, coronavirus restrictions continue to be lifted cautiously, with most nations adopting a phased approach to reopening businesses and resuming social activities. Most of Europe’s internal borders are now open and there are expectations that external borders could be partially opened from 1 July. On Wednesday, EU ambassadors met to discuss a plan to reopen external borders, many of which are keen to open up to tourists. However, the 27-member bloc is yet to agree on the criteria that non-EU countries must meet before allowing entry. That said, it is highly unlikely that countries with high infection rates, such as the US, Brazil and Russia, will be added to any safe travel list.

The UK government announced on Tuesday a further relaxing of coronavirus restrictions in England from 4 July, including allowing pubs, restaurants, hotels, and other businesses to reopen. During a statement in the Commons, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the two-metre guideline would be replaced by a “one-metre plus” rule, and that people would be encouraged to use “mitigation”, such as face coverings when less than two metres apart. The devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will retain the two-metre rule for the time being.

While the easing of measures is welcome news for businesses, many of which have been shuttered since March, some of the UK’s most respected health professional groups and unions have warned that a

second wave of infections remains a credible risk. In an open letter signed by 15 of the UK’s most eminent medical bodies published in the British Medical Journal, including the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians, medics warned that “While the future shape of the pandemic in the UK is hard to predict, the available evidence indicates that local flare-ups are increasingly likely and a second wave a real risk”.

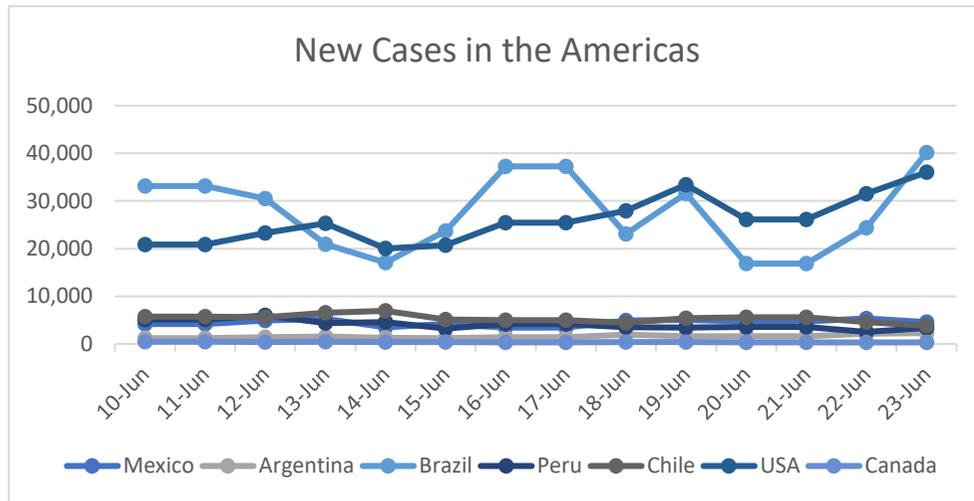
German authorities in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia have reimposed lockdown measures across two districts due to a recent surge in cases, marking the first time such actions have been taken in the country since it began lifting nationwide restrictions last month. The recent spike in cases has been traced to a meatpacking plant in the south-west of the city and was described as “the biggest infection incident” in Germany by state premier Armin Laschet. In the two districts now under lockdown, schools, bars, museums, gyms and cinemas have been ordered shut while tougher social distancing measures are also in force, limiting social contact to one other person outside of peoples’ own households. Employees of the Tönnies plant have been placed under mandatory quarantine, with over 1,500 people testing positive for the virus. Despite the severity of the outbreak, overall Germany’s infection rate (R number) is low with 140 local authorities reporting no new cases in the past week.

Thousands gathered in Moscow on Wednesday for Russia’s Victory Day military parade, despite the city’s mayor urging residents to stay at home and the fact that mass gatherings technically remain banned. On the same day, Russia’s total cases tipped over 600,000 while an additional 7,176 infections were reported in the preceding 24 hours, with Moscow very much the epicentre of the country’s outbreak where new infections continue to be consistently high. Elsewhere in the country, more than 20 similar parades and associated festivities were cancelled due to public health concerns, especially for elderly veterans. It is speculated that the parade in Moscow pushed ahead due to an upcoming nationwide vote on constitutional amendments that are expected to allow President Putin to remain in power beyond 2024, when his current term is due to expire.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	56,490	Stable	Light	High
Italy	18,655	Decrease	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Stable	Light	Severe
Germany	7,951	Dramatic Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Stable	Moderate	Moderate
Russia	229,546	Stable	Moderate	High



Americas



The Americas continue to bear the brunt of the pandemic. Three out of the world's top 10 worst-hit countries are located either in North or South America and have a combined total of over 4 million cases – half the global tally. Indeed, a sharp rise of cases in Latin America in the second half of May has prompted the WHO to declare the Americas as the new epicentre of the pandemic – a status which it retains as of 25 June.

The United States remains the worst-affected nation by far in terms of both total COVID-19 cases and deaths, with over 2 million and 120,000 respectively, representing over a quarter of worldwide totals. Most states have begun to reopen and have allowed a return to social and economic activity as they move forward with their phased reopening plans. However, in recent days over half of all states have reported an increase in COVID-19 cases, with some, including Arizona and Texas, reporting record daily increases in infections on Tuesday, while ten others have seen numbers surge by more than 50 per cent in the past week compared to one week earlier. Indeed, on 24 June, the COVID tracking project stated that the country had sustained its largest daily increase since the pandemic began.

The US Department of Homeland Security has extended border closures with both Mexico and Canada until at least 21 July, having previously been extended in April and May. As such, the borders between the nations will remain closed to all non-essential, however, the restrictions will not apply to trade and travel deemed essential, including for work, study, infrastructure support, health, and economic services.

In a statement released by the acting secretary of Homeland Security, the extension was imposed “Based on the success of the existing restrictions and the emergence of additional global COVID-19 hotspots”. Mexico’s foreign ministry tweeted on Tuesday that the terms of the border closure will remain the same since they were first implemented on 21 March.

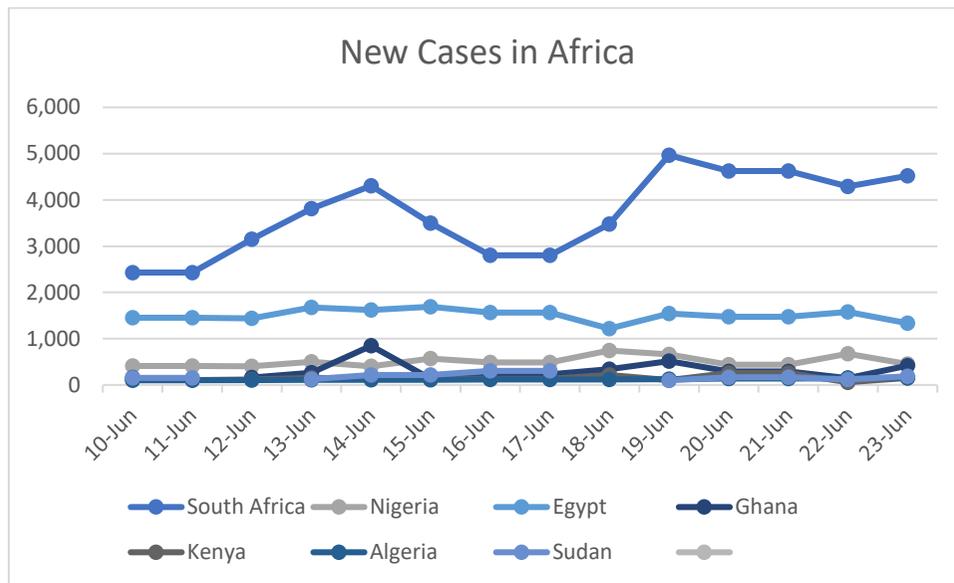
In South America, Honduras’ President Juan Orlando Hernandez Alvarado confirmed on Wednesday that he had tested positive for the virus, along with his wife. A government statement said that the President “maintained at all times the preventive measures recommended by the health authorities, however, due to the nature of his work, it was not possible to remain in total isolation”. The government also announced that Hernandez’s treatment regimen would involve a combination of an antiseptic drug, the antibiotic azithromycin and the antiparasitic ivermectin.

Brazil, the world’s second-worst coronavirus hotbed, is fast approaching one million cases and 50,000 deaths, although health experts believe the tallies could be far higher due to inadequate testing. On 16 June, the same day that Brazil announced a record 34,918 new cases, Walter Braga Netto, the head of the office of the president’s chief of staff, known as Casa Civil, and one of the top officials handling the crisis, said the country’s outbreak was under control. During a webinar held by the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro, Braga said “there is a crisis, we sympathize with bereaved families, but it is managed” while also optimistically claiming that Brazil’s deaths-per-million figure was lower than that of several Western European nations while. Unfortunately, Braga’s optimism is not shared by the WHO’s regional director, Carissa Etienne, who said that Brazil remains a major concern as transmission rates fail to slow down. Etienne also urged Brazil and other Latin American nations to strengthen social distancing and implement a gradual reopening of their economies.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	23,205	Stable	Moderate	High
Argentina	34,919	Increase	High	High
Brazil	488,692	Stable	Moderate	High
Peru	104,514	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	34,592	Slight Decrease	High	High
USA	1,297,818	Increase	Moderate	High
Canada	28,667	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High



Africa



Confirmed COVID-19 infections in Africa have surpassed 300,000, with around 8,700 deaths. The outbreak on the continent appears to be accelerating in pace. It took almost 100 days for Africa to record its first 100,000 coronavirus cases. It took another 18 days for Africa to reach 200,000 cases and a further 11 days to hit 300,000. Senior health officials have warned that Africa could be the next hotspot of the pandemic. With poorly equipped healthcare systems and extremely high population densities in dozens of cities, the effect of COVID-19 in Africa as governments beginning to lift restrictions is potentially devastating.

Africa's first COVID-19 vaccine trial is due to commence in South Africa in the coming days. The vaccine candidate has been developed at Oxford University, in the United Kingdom, and is already undergoing assessment in both the UK and Brazil. The trial is due to begin as South Africa confirms over 100,000 cases of the virus, around a third of the total number of cases Africa-wide. The country's nationwide lockdown has been eased significantly but ministers are concerned that the healthcare system could be overwhelmed in the coming weeks and months as temperature drop over winter.

In Nigeria, police have freed over 600 workers at a food processing facility who had been imprisoned by their employer. The workers had been forced to remain at the facility for around 12 weeks as their

employer sought to minimise the spread of COVID-19 amongst the workforce. Nigerian states continue to ease restrictions despite rising case numbers. Lagos, as the country's commercial hub, has moved quickly to restart economic activity. The federal government, however, has warned against easing restrictions too quickly.

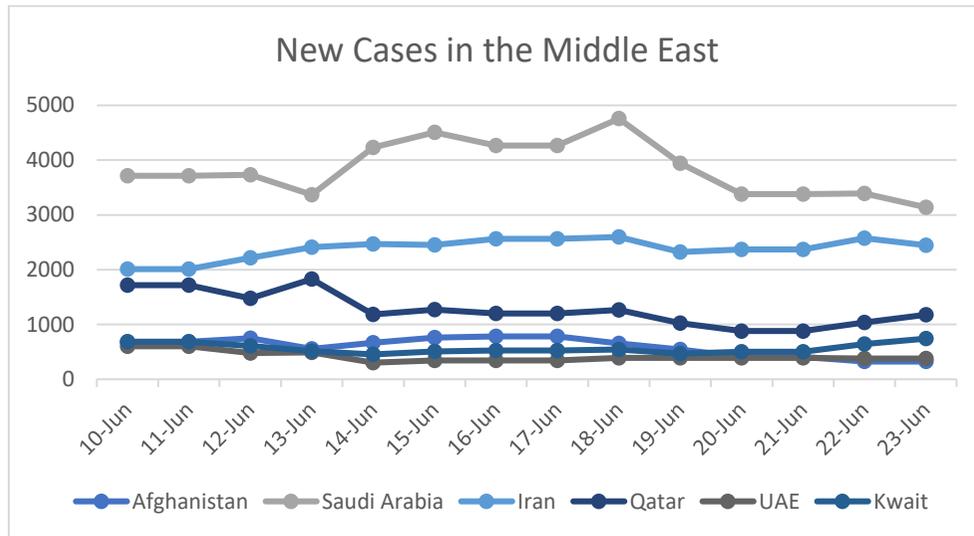
In Gabon, it has been revealed that large numbers of people have been able to circumvent lockdown restrictions at a network of informal bars and nightclubs that has sprung up across the country. These bars have become commonplace in the lower-income areas of Libreville as residents tire of restrictions. Bars, restaurants and nightclubs have been closed in Gabon for over 3 months. There is some evidence that COVID-19 has been spread through meetings at small, informal bars, which do not implement any social distancing measures.

Zimbabwean health minister Obadiah Moyo has been arrested and charged with corruption following allegations that he illegally handed a contract for COVID-19 testing kits, drugs and personal protective equipment to a disreputable company. Local journalists exposed how Moyo in his official capacity allowed the company to sell medical supplies to the government at hugely inflated prices. The arrest is unusual in Zimbabwe, where openly corrupt officials rarely face charges, and signals the government's intent to command public confidence during the pandemic.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	52,717	Increase	Moderate	High
Nigeria	13,865	Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	41,176	Stable	Moderate	High
Ghana	3,840	Increase	Moderate	High
Kenya	3,253	Dramatic Increase	High	High
Algeria	2,587	Increase	Moderate	High
Sudan	4,642	Stable	High	High



Middle East



Iran continues to battle to contain the Middle East’s deadliest COVID-19 outbreak, where case numbers have risen sharply in recent days and the daily death toll has regularly topped 100 in the past week. The resurgence of cases and deaths continues since restrictions on movement began to be lifted in mid-April. Last weekend President Hassan Rouhani said that the government was considering making it mandatory to wear masks in public places while other senior officials have warned that restrictions could be reimposed if citizens fail to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Similarly, Iraq has seen a rise in infections since the end of May, when restrictions began to be relaxed. Despite bordering Iran, Iraq initially fared well during the early months of the pandemic, only reporting around 4,000 cases up to the end of May. However, as of 24 June, the country had reported just shy of 35,000 cases, with between 1000-2200 new cases being confirmed each day in the past week. As a result of the recent surge, this week masked workers scrambled to set up makeshift coronavirus wards in Baghdad’s vast exhibition grounds as the country’s health system, decimated by years of conflict and under-investment, is overflowing with patients and is struggling to cope.

The United Nations has warned that the coronavirus could spread faster, wider and with deadlier consequences in Yemen compared to other countries, as the pandemic is set to cross paths with one of the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. Years of unabating conflict have devastated the country, leaving millions without access to health care, clean water or sanitation – all of which are crucial for preventing

the spread of COVID-19. As of 24 June, Yemen had reported under 1,000 cases and 261 deaths, however, the true numbers are unknown. The government has declared the majority of cases, while rebels who control the capital, Sanaa, as well as vast swathes of the country, claim to have only detected a handful of cases.

Saudi Arabia has banned international travellers from making the Islamic pilgrimage, known as Hajj, in an effort to limit the spread of the virus. The annual religious gathering routinely attracts around two million people to Mecca and Medina and represents one of the most significant dates in the Muslim religious calendar. In a virtual press conference, Saudi’s Hajj Minister, Muhammad Benteen, said that only a few thousand residents would be permitted to attend. The announcement follows Saudi’s lifting of its nationwide curfew at the weekend, allowing for a resumption of all economic and commercial activities, while bans on international travel remain in effect.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Afghanistan	19,326	Slight Decrease	High	Severe
Saudi Arabia	53,083	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	30,409	Stable	Moderate	High
Qatar	17,591	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	11,421	Stable	Light	High
Kuwait	8,733	Increase	Moderate	High