

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 9 July

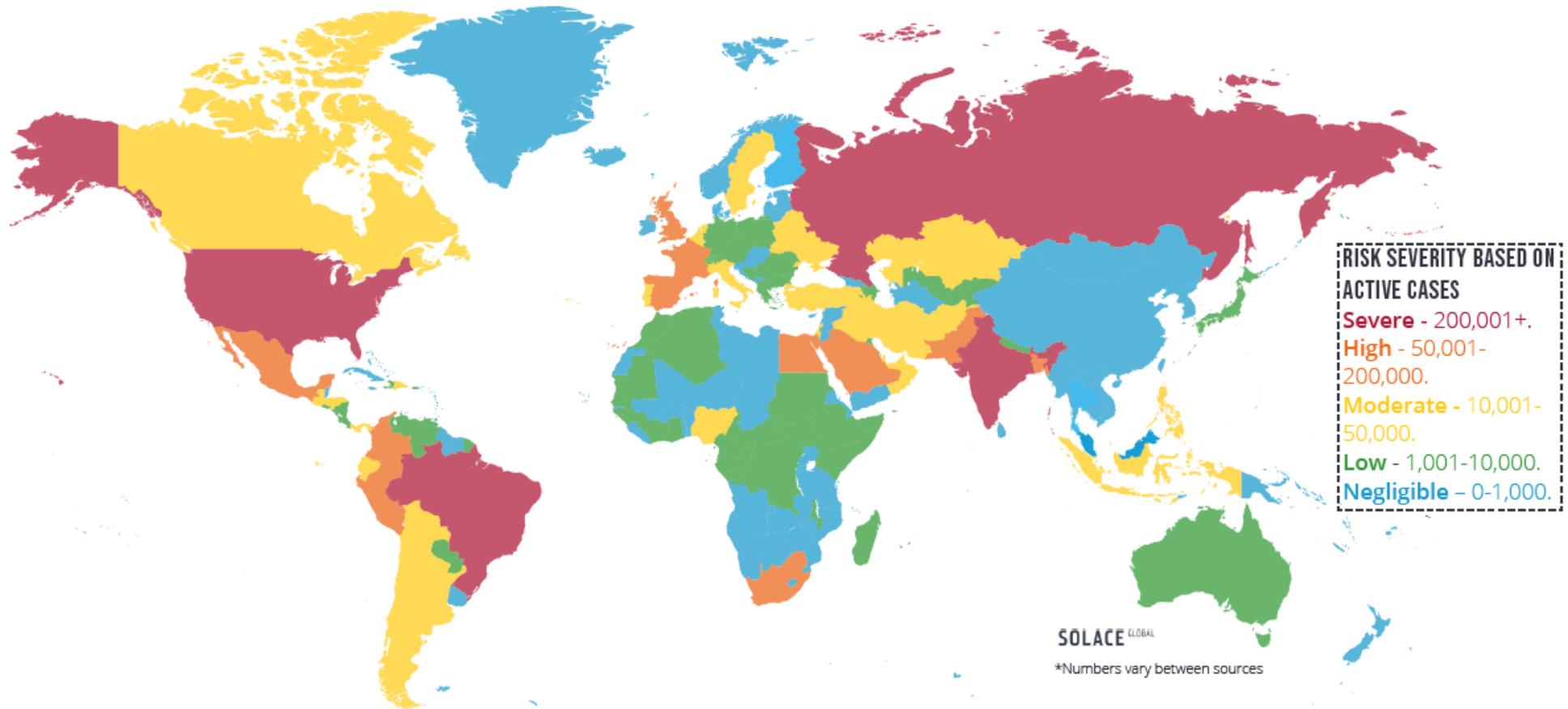


**SOLACE** GLOBAL



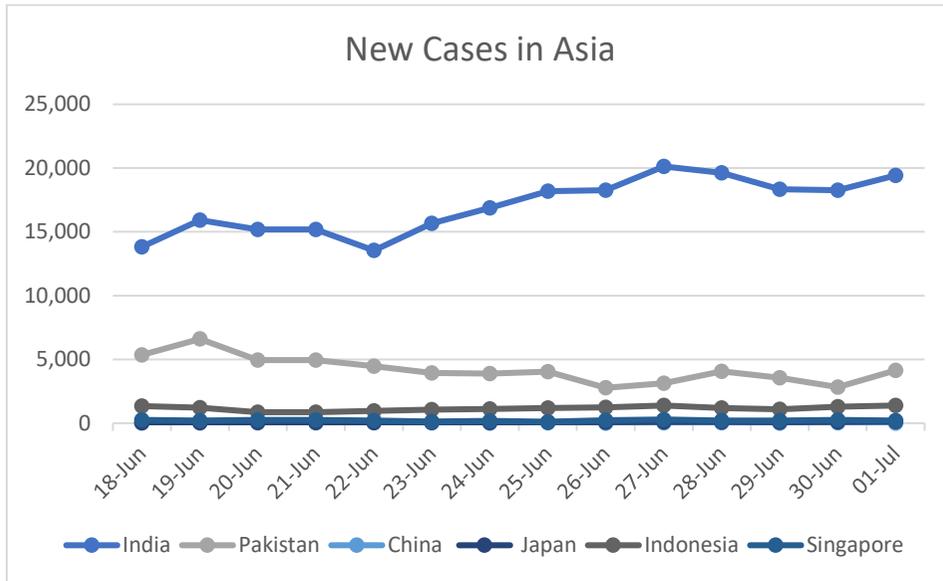
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	11,973,641	Total Active Cases	4,506,817	Total Confirmed Recoveries	6,919,704	Total Confirmed Deaths	547,120
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## Asia



South Asia continues to be one of the global Covid-19 hotspots, with India, Pakistan and Bangladesh reporting among the highest number of active cases. On Monday, 6 July, India officially overtook Russia as the third nation with most Covid-19 infections, reaching as high as 700,000 of cases. Despite the growing numbers, most states are proceeding with the schedule reopening process, including of the hospitality and entertainment sectors. The situation has been described by the Indian authorities as an “urban health challenge”, as the regions with the highest uptick are also those with the largest cities, including New Delhi and Mumbai. With the country’s main economic hubs amounting to approximately 60 percent of the overall cases, the government continues to face the dilemma of implementing a lockdown that would cripple the Indian economy, or to continue lifting restrictions at the cost of public health.

The Pakistani Health Minister has recently announced he tested positive for Covid-19 and will now self-isolate and undergo treatment. The Minister is one of many high-level officials who have recently been recently confirmed as positive, including Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi who announced he had the virus last week, the Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed and the speaker of the lower house of parliament, Asad Qaiser. Pakistan currently has over 90,000 active cases and has reported a daily increase of almost 5,000 despite a decreasing number of tests. The government has received significant

critics from the population and medical professionals for its handling of the pandemic, including the lack of PPE and overwhelming of the healthcare system.

Australia continues to struggle with the uptick in cases in its second largest city, Melbourne. Several districts remain on lockdown, as the state authorities debate on slowing down the reopening process across the country, only a week after interstate travel has been allowed to resume. Prime Minister Scott Morrison stated on Wednesday, 8 July, that the government is considering a taking a proposal to the parliament to significantly slow down arrivals of its citizens from abroad, as these have been identified as the main source of the localised outbreaks currently experienced by the country. An official investigation is underway regarding the suspected quarantine breaches that have led to the spike in infections. In Sydney, authorities are still in the process of tracking and isolating the passengers of a plane that were allowed to disembark without testing or quarantine requirement.

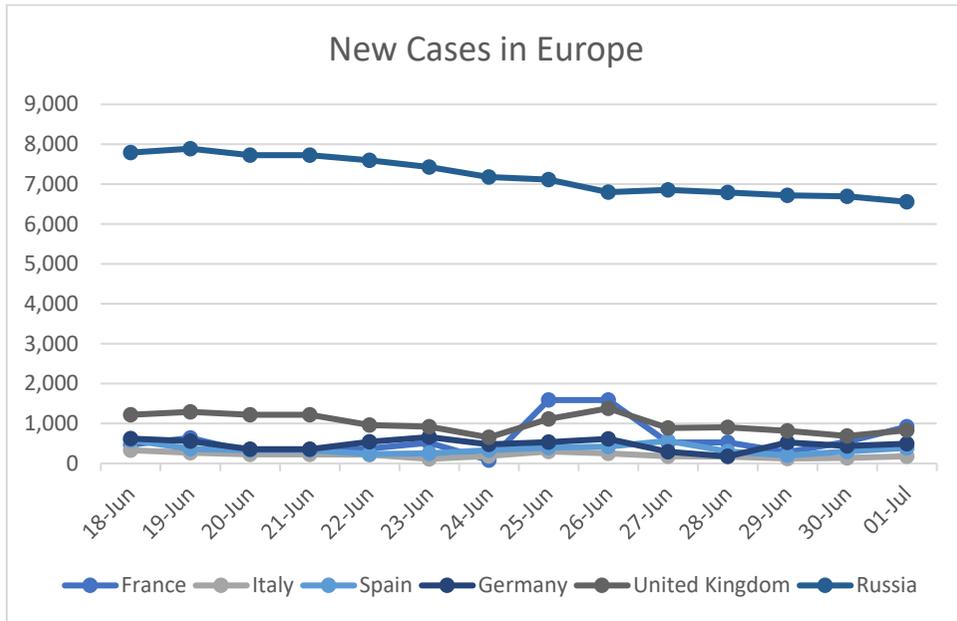
New Zealand is also in the process of slowing down arrivals and the government announced on Tuesday that its flag carrier airline will interrupt all inbound flight for the next three weeks to allow for arrivals to be adequately tested and quarantine facilities not to be overwhelmed.

China appears to have successfully handled its second, localized wave of Covid-19 infection, following an outbreak in a market in Beijing. On 8 July, after the conclusion of a mass testing period in the affected southwestern Fengtai district, only one new and two asymptomatic cases were reported by health authorities, confirming the effectiveness of the Chinese emergency response strategy. Leading in the fight against the pandemic, China is also forging ahead with its efforts to successfully develop a vaccine. The prototype developed by Sinovac Biotech (SVA.O) is set to be the third one worldwide to enter the last stage of testing later this month. The speed at which the vaccine was developed and tested has been largely attributed to the active involvement of the state-controlled economic and military, which allowed for a coordinated effort, including for testing to be conducted on members of the armed forces.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	227,925	Increase	Moderate	High
Pakistan	108,642	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	416	Dramatic Decrease	Light	High
Japan	1,018	Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Indonesia	29,241	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Singapore	5,273	Decrease	Light	High



## Europe



As of 1 July, several countries across Europe initiated a new phase of reopening, with additional restrictions being lifted on business operation and social gatherings. These mainly regulate the number of customers restaurants and bars can welcome and limits on social gatherings. While non-essential internal travel has largely been allowed to resume, external borders remain closed for the near future.

European authorities have revealed a list of 14 countries that are considered safe due to their favourable epidemiologic situation and whose citizens might be allowed to travel freely across EU borders. These include China, Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. Other countries in the European area, such as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein are automatically included as safe. Notably, the United States, Brazil and Russia are not featured in the list; a consideration largely motivated by the infection rates within these countries and their lockdown regimes.

In Germany, the lockdown imposed over one of the two Covid-19 hotspots, the district of Warendorf, has been lifted on 30 June, while it remains in effect in the neighbouring district of Gütersloh until 7 July. The measures had been implemented due to a resurgence in cases that were traced back to a meat

processing facility in the region and offered an insight into what will be the strategy in combatting the virus on a local level, which will only be possible with a rapid response in testing and containment measures.

In the UK, while a large part of the lockdown measures is scheduled to be relaxed on 4 July, a lockdown was issued for the city of Leicester, after a dramatic surge in Covid-19 cases. Over the past week, the municipality reportedly registered 10 percent of all positive cases in the country. This represents the first instance of localised lockdown in the country, with shops and schools being ordered shut for a provisional two-week period.

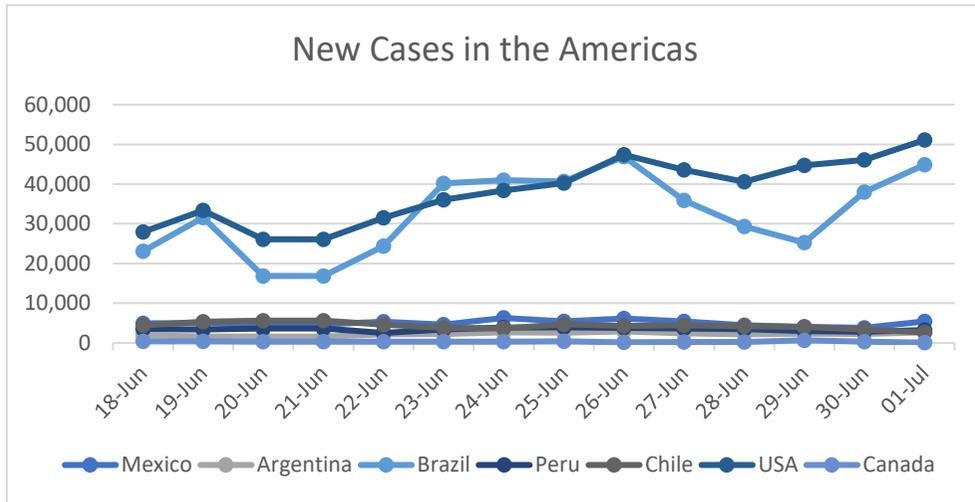
In the British capital, law enforcement intervened to break up two illegal street parties over the weekend. Government authorities, including Home Secretary Priti Patel, have condemned the parties and called on people to avoid all large gatherings, including parties and protests, in order to minimise the risk of a second wave of Covid-19 in Britain, which would cause significant economic damage and a more stringent lockdown regime to be implemented.

In the Czech Republic, residents gathered on Charles Bridge, one of Prague’s most famous landmark, to celebrate the end of lockdown. A 500-metre-long table was placed on the bridge and participants, who had to book their seats in advance and bring their own food and beverages to the event. While some condemned the celebration as a health risk due to the lack of social distancing measures, the organiser, Ondrej Kobza, stated that "We want to celebrate the end of the coronavirus crisis by letting people meet and show they are not afraid to meet, that they are not afraid to take a piece of a sandwich from their neighbour."

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	59,319		Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Italy	15,255		Slight Decrease	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A		Stable	Light	Severe
Germany	7,463		Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A		Slight Decrease	Moderate	Moderate
Russia	222,504		Slight Decrease	Moderate	High



## Americas



The US continues to see around 55,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases daily. The total confirmed case number has now surpassed 3 million. As it stands, nearly 1 percent of the American population has now contracted the virus. This has resulted in states pausing and rolling back reopening measures. Many states have also got tough on the wearing of masks, making them obligatory when in public. It has also resulted in many countries not lifting restriction measure son travellers from America, with some requiring proof of a negative test, a 14-day quarantine or not allowing travellers from America into the country at all.

Trump has also begun moving to pull the United States out of the World Health organisation (WHO). The president made his intention to pull the organisations biggest funder out in May, despite calls from the EU and others to reconsider, accusing the WHO of being under China’s control in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. A spokesman for the UN secretary-general has confirmed Trump’s withdrawal, effective 6 July.

After the United States, Brazil is the most impacted country globally, with over 1.6 million confirmed cases and just under 70 million COVID-19 linked deaths. Initially dismissive of the virus, President Bolsonaro has been facing increasing pressure for failing to implement national measures to fight the virus. Indeed, the president himself has now contracted COVID-19. The president has stated that he is taking hydroxychloroquine in an effort to cure his coronavirus, scientists have often repeated that the dubious

treatment/cure does not work.

In the wider region, numerous officials are now being investigated for corruption. It has been alleged that many officials, including high profile politicians, have used their positions to siphon off funds intended to combat the pandemic. For example, in Brazil, federal police have launched a number of investigations into state and city-level officials as well as opening cases into at least three governors.

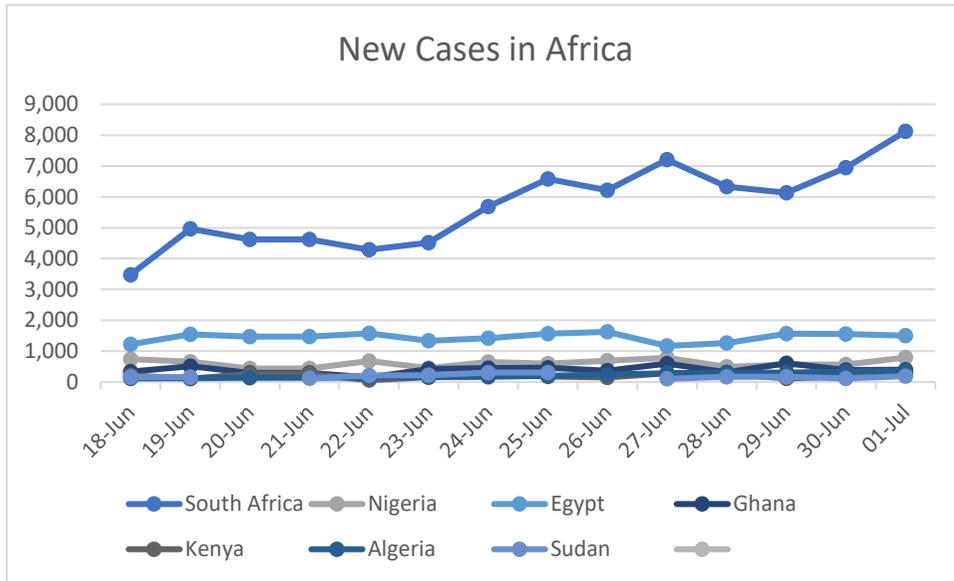
Schemes similar to those in Brazil have also occurred in Mexico, with the son of a key ally to Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) reported to have tried to sell ventilators to the state social security institute at incredibly inflated prices. The state’s anti-corruption ministry fined the son’s company 2 million pesos (around 90,000 USD). Indeed, former Ecuadorian president, Abdala Bucaram, was arrested last month as part of an investigation into the purchase of medical supplies in Guayaquil, which has been hard hit by the coronavirus outbreak. A raid on his property found 5,000 masks, 2,000 test kits and an unlicensed firearm.

Ecuador, alongside Chile, Brazil and Peru are seeing the highest number of deaths per 100,000 people in the continent. While there have been fewer deaths reported than the US and Europe, but it is feared that both cases and deaths are being significantly under-reported. The daily reported number of cases and deaths also remain high in Latin America, with the peak not yet reached in both Central and South America.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	64,941	Stable	Moderate	High
Argentina	42,806	Increase	High	High
Brazil	476,509	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High
Peru	100,372	Stable	Moderate	High
Chile	30,847	Decrease	High	High
USA	1,484,475	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High
Canada	27,912	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High



## Africa



The Covid-19 pandemic continues to accelerate on the African continent, with South Africa, Egypt, Algeria and Nigeria remaining at the top of the charts for both the number of cases and of deaths. In the past week, South Africa saw its biggest daily increases yet. Yesterday alone, the country reported 10,134 new cases of the virus, a jump of almost 2,000 people compared to the previous day. Despite all evidence pointing at an imminent infection surge, authorities are set to move forward with the country's reopening plans. Most businesses have already been allowed to resume operations and plans to reopen schools are also underway.

Considerations regarding the possibility of imposing localised lockdown, including on cities like Johannesburg, have been discussed by the government authorities; however, the growing unemployment and widespread economic damage caused by the nationwide lockdown has the potential to trigger a violent wave of civil unrest.

Nigeria is also proceeding with its reopening plans after a three-months-long lockdown. On Wednesday, domestic flights have been allowed to resume, while the ban on interstate travel has also been removed. No date has been given for the resumption of international flights yet. Throughout the country, restrictions on business activities have been relaxed and places of worship have been permitted to resume in-person

functions. University, high schools and secondary education facilities have reopened for pupils to prepare for exams.

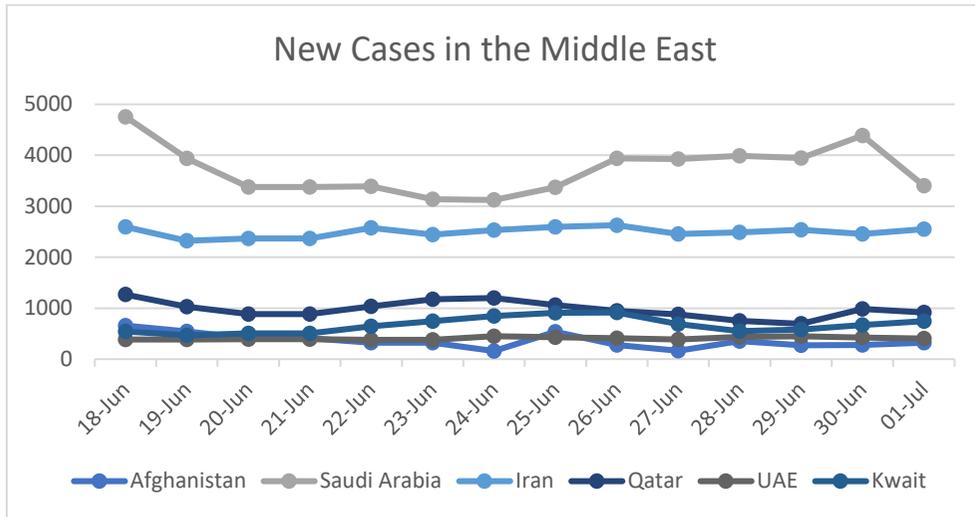
Kenya and Senegal were also among the African countries that lifted curfews and lockdown restrictions. As the state of emergency in Senegal expired last week, President Macky Sall announced that air border will reopen for international travellers on 15 July. On Monday, 6 July, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta announced his intention of lifting the Covid-19 lockdown, including restrictions on domestic and international travel. Domestic flights are expected to resume on 15 July, while international travel is unlikely to start before 1 August. Places of worship have been allowed to resume their services, albeit on a limited capacity, but the nationwide curfew was extended for a further 30 days.

In Sierra Leone, the ongoing dispute between medical staff and government has escalated in recent days, after doctors threatened to interrupt all ongoing treatments across the country. On Thursday last week, doctors stopped handling Covid-19 cases, in an organized strike to demand bonus pay and adequate personal protective equipment. The government had signed a memorandum of understanding in April, guaranteeing a weekly hazard pay for all frontline workers; a promised that was never fulfilled. Now accused of embezzlement and mismanagement of public funds, government authorities are facing an additional layer in the ongoing international health crisis.

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
South Africa	80,559	Increase	Increase	Moderate	High	
Nigeria	15,729	Slight Increase	Slight Increase	High	High	
Egypt	47,899	Stable	Stable	Moderate	High	
Ghana	4,467	Increase	Increase	Moderate	High	
Kenya	4,435	Sight Increase	Sight Increase	High	High	
Algeria	3,312	Dramatic Increase	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High	
Sudan	4,365	N/A	N/A	High	High	



## Middle East



The Middle Eastern region has registered a significant spike in infection cases over the past weeks, largely due to several curfews and restrictions being lifted. Saudi Arabia now reports the highest infections rate in the region, with over 217,000 confirmed cases and over 2,000 deaths.

During the past week, most of the US diplomatic staff currently stationed in Riyadh has been evacuated from the country, fearing a second wave of infection, as suggested by the daily number of new cases, which has stayed consistently over 3,000 individuals. While the kingdom took strong preventive measures, including imposing a strict lockdown and curfew since mid-March, as well as halting all international flights, these might not be sufficient to limit infections in such a large and populous country. Recognising the risk presented by the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, authorities have restricted access to a very limited number of people.

The UAE has also registered a similar growth in its infection rate after lifting its curfew and as it prepares to reopen Dubai as its international economic and touristic hub, which reopened to foreign travellers on 7 July. In response to a growing wave of cases, Emirati health authorities have also announced their intention to test 20 percent of the population over the coming months and have committed to increasing the country's testing capabilities in order to be ready to respond to foreign cases. During the past week, the Emirati government has seen widespread reshuffling aimed at achieving a more "agile and swift" decision making. The restructuring consisted in merging a variety of ministerial entities and appointing

new economy and industry ministers.

Qatar has officially moved to its Phase 2 of lockdown, which allowed a partial reopening of restaurants, mosques, beaches and parks. While the country has registered the second-highest infection rate in the region, its authorities believe that the first wave has been surpassed.

This week, Israel has reported a similar trend of a growing number of infections, causing the government to abruptly halt the reopening process and reimpose restrictions over the country. Businesses including bars, nightclubs, gyms and event halls were shut on Monday and the number of customers allowed in restaurants was limited to 20 indoors and 30 outdoors. Palestinian authorities imposed a full lockdown on the West Bank on Friday, shutting down all business operations and limiting all gatherings. Reopening plans had already seen temporary interruptions in Israel but had entered their final stages in the past weeks. This latest development is likely to cause significant delays in considerations on lifting restrictions to international travel.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
Afghanistan	15,174	Decrease	High	Severe	
Saudi Arabia	59,767	Dramatic Increase	Light	Severe	
Iran	27,766	Stable	Moderate	High	
Qatar	12,923	Decrease	Moderate	High	
UAE	10,593	Stable	Light	High	
Kuwait	8,733	Increase	Moderate	High	