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GLOBAL UPDATE

Wuhan Coronavirus Update
4 February

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SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

Solace Global advises against all travel to China at this time due to the growing number of travel restrictions, cancelled flights, confirmed cases and government warnings. Be aware that a high number of businesses in China remain closed and restrictions on domestic public transport are in effect.

Latest Updates

The first death from the novel coronavirus has been recorded in Hong Kong. The Semi-Autonomous Region (SAR) has also closed all but three border crossing with the Mainland in an effort to control the outbreak. China's other SAR, Macau, has closed all casinos for two weeks to prevent the spread of the virus. Elsewhere in mainland China, the first patients have been admitted to Wuhan military hospital, built specifically to treat coronavirus patients. The hospital was built in eight days and has been formally handed over to military control with 1,400 military personnel deployed to operate the facility, which has been named the Huoshenshan hospital. A second temporary hospital, Leishenshan, is also being constructed and is expected to be operational on Wednesday.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China ordered Chinese airlines not to suspend routes going to and from countries that had not imposed a travel ban on Chinese travellers. A notice from the administration said 46 foreign airlines had suspended flights to and from mainland China, with some countries also imposing a ban on Chinese travellers.

Japan has barred passengers from leaving a cruise ship after a passenger was found to be infected after disembarking in Hong Kong last month. The vessel is currently in Yokohama, with its departure being delayed 24 hours while tests were carried out on the around 2,500 passengers and 1,000 crewmembers. The Japanese PM has also announced that the country would work closely with the WHO ahead of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Officials, however, have stated that the Games are not under threat of cancellation at this time. Additionally, in Vienna, OPEC are meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the sharp slide in the crude oil price due to the outbreak; Brent crude fell to 54.17USD a barrel, its lowest level in more than a year, on Monday 3 February.

Taiwan has joined the growing number of countries to ban the entry of those who have recently been to China. Australia is reportedly planning a second evacuation flight to get its remaining nationals out of Wuhan. Brazil has also decided to repatriate Brazilians from Wuhan, as well as to declare a national health emergency. Russia has ceased rail services to and from China with Moscow also stating that it is considering deporting foreigners with coronavirus.

Current Statistics (numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected (increase)	20,502 (+3,266)	Suspected Cases	23,214 (+5,072)	Total confirmed Deaths	426 (+65)
Current Total Infected Outside China	192 (+11)	Deaths outside of China	1	Total Confirmed Recoveries	660 (+185)
Current confirmed case numbers outside of mainland China	Japan (20), Thailand (19), Singapore (18), Hong Kong (15), South Korea (15), Australia (12), Germany (12), United States (11), Taiwan (10), Malaysia (10), Macau (10), Vietnam (8), France (6), United Arab Emirates (5), Canada (4), India (3), Italy (2), Russia (2), Philippines (2), UK (2), Nepal (1), Cambodia (1), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1), Finland (1), Spain (1)				
Travel Restrictions (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)					
China	Complete "quarantine" (no movements in and out of the city & airport shutdown)	Over 60 million people, majority of Hubei Province, most recently Wenzhou has been shut down.			
	Limited restrictions on public transport services (i.e. long-distance bus services, ride-hailing services, inter-city travel)	Majority of Chinese cities, additional health screenings at all public transport hubs			
Countries advising against all travel	United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea				
Countries advising against non-essential travel to China	United Kingdom, Taiwan, South Korea, France, Israel, India, Netherlands				
Notable countries with flight cancellations to China	Majority of international airlines have cancelled flights to China, Chinese airlines continue to operate limited schedules at this time. All flights have been suspended between China and Egypt, Finland, Indonesia, UK, Italy				
Countries denying entry	To those who have recently been to China: US, Australia, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia. To those travelling directly from China: New Zealand, Israel. To those who have visited Hubei: Japan, South Korea. Border closure: Mongolia, Russia (partially).				

Solace Global Advice

- Solace Global advises against all travel to China due to travel restrictions currently in place and the current outbreak. There is limited flight availability and travel restrictions, both within China and to and from home countries may be implemented with little or no notice.
- Solace Global advises against non-essential travel to Hong Kong and Macau.
- Continue to monitor the situation closely, further travel restrictions, both in China and internationally, may be announced at any time.
- Do not travel if ill, as you may be subject to additional screening and delays, regardless of destination or country of origin.

If currently in or travelling to China:

- Strictly monitor all updates via both local and international media, Chinese and other government authorities and Solace Secure. Additionally, make use of Solace Traveller Tracking on the Solace Secure App; check-in when you land, daily and following any location changes.
- Always maintain a good hygiene level and wear a surgical mask whilst in public places, wash hands regularly, and avoid those who are obviously sick.
- Travellers and residents should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice, with restrictions on certain areas.
- Ensure all food and eggs are thoroughly cooked.