



THE
SECURITY
CENTRE
LIMITED

GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update
12 March

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SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

At this time, The Security Centre Ltd and Solace Global advises against all travel to **China**, to Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan in **South Korea** and **Iran** due to travel restrictions, cancelled flights, forced quarantines, government warnings and the outbreak of COVID-19. Travellers should also reconsider their need to travel to **Italy** with only business-critical travel, with associated precautions, advised at this time. Additionally, we advise against all non-essential travel to **Hong Kong** and **Macau**.

Latest Updates

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has expressed the agency's concern with both "alarming levels of spread and severity" and "alarming levels of inaction".

In response to the WHO's announcement, and based on the advice of state health officials, United States President Donald Trump has stated that the United States will suspend all travel from mainland Europe for 30 days beginning on Friday, 13 March at 00:00. The duration of this total ban on all travel from Europe will be "adjusted subject to conditions on the ground". Trump stipulated that US citizens who have been subject to appropriate screenings will be exempt from entry restrictions. The travel restrictions will not apply to the United Kingdom, Ireland or other non-Schengen European countries.

Elsewhere, the Philippine Stock Exchange halted trading for 15 minutes after the stock market index crashed by more than 10%. Other markets are also seeing large losses with the UK FTSE down 5% today, bringing it to its 2016 level. The French CAC 40, German DAX and Italian FTSE MIB are all also down around 5%.

Iran has reported an additional 429 deaths and 1,075 confirmed cases in the past 24 hours. Iran has also asked for funding, believed to be in the region of 5 million USD, from the IMF, the first such request from the country since the 1960s. While Iran's official count is the third highest globally, there are concerns that the virus is more widespread than is being reported, with the vice president and a number of high-level ministers reportedly infected.

In Europe, case numbers continue to grow, with Italy's death toll now close to 1000 at 827. In France, President Emmanuel Macron is expected to address the nation at 20:00 local regarding COVID-19. There is speculation among the media that France may soon move its coronavirus response up a gear to Phase 3, the highest response level. France now has over 2,000 cases and, along with Spain and Germany is seeing a significant growth in cases day-on-day. Ireland has closed all schools and colleges.

The United Kingdom's Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, is currently chairing a meeting of the government's 'Cobra' committee today. Ministers are expected to decide whether to move the UK's response to the current outbreak from the 'containment' phase to the 'delay' phase. The number of confirmed cases of the virus are expected to peak 'after a couple of months, rather than in a matter of a couple of weeks.' Four UK Members of Parliament are now in isolation following the diagnosis of MP Nadine Dorries on Wednesday 11 March.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)					
Current Total Infected		128,124 (+8,733)	Total Confirmed Recoveries		68,654 (+2,033)
			Total Confirmed Deaths		4,726 (+428)
Current confirmed case numbers	China (80,796), Italy (12,462), Iran (10,075), S. Korea (7,869), France (2,281), Spain (2,277), Germany (1,966), USA (1,336), Diamond Princess (696), Norway (687), Switzerland (652), Japan (643), Denmark (615), Netherlands (503), Sweden (500), UK (460), Belgium (314), Austria (302), Qatar (262), Bahrain (195), Singapore (178), Australia (156), Malaysia (149), Hong Kong (130), Canada (118), Israel (100), Greece (99), Czechia (94), Iceland (85), Kuwait (80), UAE (74), India (73), Iraq (71), Thailand (70), San Marino (69), Brazil (69), Lebanon (68), Egypt (67), Finland (65), Portugal (61), Slovenia (57), Philippines (52), Taiwan (49), Romania (49), Poland (47), Saudi Arabia (45), Ireland (43), Vietnam (39), Indonesia (34), Palestine (30), Russia (28), Algeria (24), Georgia (24), Chile (23), Costa Rica (22), Argentina (21), Pakistan (20), Croatia (19), Luxembourg (19), Serbia (19), Oman (18), Ecuador (17), Peru (17), South Africa (17), Estonia (16), Latvia (16), Hungary (16), Albania (15), Panama (14), Belarus (12), Mexico (12), Azerbaijan (11), Bosnia and Herzegovina (11), Brunei (11), Macao (10), Slovakia (10), North Macedonia (9), Colombia (9), Malta (9), Maldives (8), Bulgaria (7), Afghanistan (7), Tunisia (7), Morocco (6), Cyprus (6), French Guiana (6), Cambodia (5), Dominican Republic (5), New Zealand (5), Paraguay (5), Senegal (4), Lithuania (3), Bangladesh (3), Channel Islands (3), Cuba (3), Liechtenstein (3), Martinique (3), Moldova (3), Nigeria (2), Sri Lanka (2), Bolivia (2), Burkina Faso (2), Cameroon (2), Faeroe Islands (2), Honduras (2), Jamaica (2), Saint Martin (2), Guyana (1), Andorra (1), Armenia (1), Jordan (1), Monaco (1), Nepal (1), Ukraine (1), Bhutan (1), Ivory Coast (1), DRC (1), French Polynesia (1), Gibraltar (1), Vatican City (1), Mongolia (1), Réunion (1), St. Barth (1), St. Vincent Grenadines (1), Togo (1), Turkey (1)				
Deaths	China (3169), Italy (827), Iran (429), S. Korea (66), Spain (55), France (48), USA (38), Japan (16), UK (8), Iraq (8), Diamond Princess (7), Netherlands (5), Switzerland (4), Germany (3), Belgium (3), Australia (3), Hong Kong (3), San Marino (3), Lebanon (3), Philippines (2), Sweden (1), Austria (1), Canada (1), Greece (1), Thailand (1), Egypt (1), Taiwan (1), Poland (1), Ireland (1), Indonesia (1), Algeria (1), Argentina (1), Albania (1), Panama (1), Bulgaria (1), Morocco (1), Guyana (1)				
Region Specific Information (these restrictions remain fluid and are subject to change at short notice, keep up to date with potential restrictions if travelling)					
Asia	China	Current Restrictions: The majority of Hubei Province remains under lockdown; however, the authorities are hoping to start relaxing these measures. Elsewhere in the country, restrictions are already being loosened in an effort for businesses to return to normal.			
		China is, however, now looking to restrict travel back to the country from destinations impacted by the outbreak in an effort to avoid importing back the virus.			

	South Korea	<p>Current Restrictions: Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan</p> <p>Despite the high case numbers, the outbreak in South Korea remains largely isolated to the cities of Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan. Indeed, of the 7,000+ cases in the country, 75 percent are reportedly in Daegu. The death rate in the country is lower than 1 percent, demonstrating the effective measures that Korea has learnt from the MERS outbreak that greatly impacted the country.</p>
		Outside of China and South Korea, case numbers are growing slower in Asia than in Europe. Japan now has more than 500 cases, not including those on the <i>Diamond Princess</i> that was quarantined in the port of Yokohama.
Europe	Italy	<p>Current Restrictions: The entire country is now being placed on lockdown. Though travel within and out of the country does remain possible. Travellers and businesses should, therefore, reconsider their need to travel to Italy, with only business-critical travel being advised at this time as long as adequate precautions are made. Anyone returning from Italy will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning to their home country.</p> <p>Outside of China, Italy has the most reported COVID-19 related deaths. The country also has the highest reported cases per million population globally.</p>
	Norway	Norway is seeing a significant rise in case numbers, the country now has the third-highest case per million population, behind only Italy and South Korea.
		Elsewhere in Europe, France, Germany and Spain are all seeing a growing increase in case numbers, with all three countries now reporting more than 1,000 cases. Switzerland is also seeing a high total in case numbers per million population.
Middle East	Iran	<p>Current Restrictions: Tehran has implemented a number of internal restrictions on travel, while flights internationally are also being curtailed.</p> <p>The country, along with South Korea and Italy, is seeing a large day-on-day increase in COVID-19 cases, with many members of the government also reportedly ill with the virus. There are also fears that Tehran is not reporting the full extent of the outbreak in the country.</p>
	Bahrain	While Bahrain has under 200 cases, with 195, the country has a total case rate per million population that is the fifth-highest globally and above 100.
		The rest of the Middle East has only seen a limited number of cases. Travel restrictions are being implemented more widely in the region with Israel implementing considerable restrictions and Saudi Arabia barring entry to pilgrims as well as those coming from the worst-hit countries. Saudi authorities have also restricted movement in and out of the predominately Shia Qatif region.
Americas		At this time, the Americas are the least impacted by the spread of COVID-19. However, the US is seeing a growing number of cases, while a cruise ship, the <i>Grand Princess</i> , has docked in Oakland with confirmed cases onboard.
International		As it stands, travellers coming from, or who have recently been to, China (including the country's SARs and occasionally Taiwan), South Korea, Iran and Italy face a wide variety of restrictions depending on the country. As case numbers increase in other countries, further restrictions are likely. Travellers should contact their relevant embassy for the latest information regarding entry restrictions, flight suspensions and current country advice.
TSCL and Solace Global Advice		Advise against all travel: Mainland China; Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan (South Korea); Iran
		Reconsidered travel, only business critical: Italy
		Advise against all but essential travel: Hong Kong and Macau
		Monitor closely for updates: Bahrain, France, Germany, Norway and Spain

- TSCL and Solace Global advises clients and travellers to monitor countries experiencing outbreaks due to currently in place travel restrictions.
- Regularly check updates via your respective government agency and the World Health Organisation for travel information and potential restrictions.
- Ensure your healthcare and insurance providers are aware of any essential travel to impacted locations.
- Continue to monitor the situation closely, as new travel restrictions and further outbreaks may occur with no warning.
- Do not travel if ill, as you may be subject to additional screening, delays and even quarantine, regardless of destination or country of origin.
- Additionally, those with a pre-existing medical condition (such as a cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, respiratory disease, diabetes or hypertension), or those over the age of 70, should consider refraining from travelling.
- Maintain a good hygiene level, use hand sanitizer and wash hands regularly if travelling in the coming days.
- Additionally, monitor for symptoms, should you suspect that you have contracted the virus, self-quarantine and immediately call your relevant embassy and/or consult your doctor.