



GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update
15 March

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Executive Summary

The outbreak has now increased to over 150,000 cases globally, with just under 6,000 deaths. Travel restrictions are now being implemented across the globe and impacting a large number of countries. It is important to note that these restrictions are extensive and fluid, with changes being implemented with little or no notice. As such, The Security Centre and Solace Global advises that, prior to any and all travel, you check your relevant government's travel advice, airline or travel provider for more details.

The Security Centre advises against all but essential travel to any country with more than 1,000 cases due to the likelihood of travel restrictions being imposed. Additionally, we advise against all but essential travel to countries implementing travel restrictions, if said restrictions include your departure country or a country you have been to in the past 14 days. Be aware that further travel restrictions are likely to be imposed on countries with growing case numbers. Those over 70, or with underlying health issues, should also reconsider their need to travel.

Latest Updates

While case numbers continue to climb across the world, the number of new cases in mainland China is falling. Moreover, the number of newly confirmed cases originating from overseas surpassed the number of locally transmitted infections for the first time since the outbreak began, according to data released by China's National Health Commission. The number of African nations reporting cases has risen to 23 as of Saturday, with Rwanda, Seychelles and the Central African Republic all confirming their first cases.

In Europe, the Spanish government has formally declared a state of emergency and has placed the country in lockdown for a period of 15 days. The lockdown measure is due to come into effect on Monday, 16 March, and will require all residents to stay at home except to buy food or medicine, to go to work or to go to the hospital for medical emergencies. All non-essential businesses will be shuttered while sports and leisure activities are also to cease.

France has also implemented drastic measures to combat the further spread of the virus. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced that all non-essential businesses will be closed, along with bars, restaurants and entertainment facilities from midnight on 14 March. Despite the global pandemic, several hundred "Yellow Vest" protesters demonstrated in Paris on Saturday, 14 March, defying a ban on mass gatherings.

In Norway, Prime Minister Erna Solberg signalled that the country's air and seaports would be shut in addition to extensive controls along its land borders from Monday, 16 March, in an attempt to limit the further spread of the virus; although exemptions will be made for Norwegian citizens returning home as well as for goods entering the country.

Elsewhere, in the United States, President Donald Trump has tested negative for the virus amid speculation he may have come into contact with people with the virus, including Brazil's President Bolsonaro a few days ago. Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill to provide free testing and paid sick leave in a bid to limit further economic damage triggered by the pandemic.

In South America, Ecuador's government will close its borders from Sunday, 15 March, to all foreign travellers as health officials confirmed the second death from the virus. In addition, Honduras has issued a country-wide red alert for two weeks beginning on Saturday, 14 March having reported its third case while Colombia has closed its border with Venezuela in order to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions	
Asia	<p>China will now quarantine people arriving from countries experiencing "severe outbreaks" – at this time this includes S. Korea, Japan and Italy. Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have also imposed restriction on travellers from Europe, Iran and other Asian countries.</p> <p>India and Sri Lanka will require incoming travellers from, or who have recently visited, China, Iran and specific European countries to carry out a 14-day quarantine.</p> <p>The Philippines has announced a ban on all foreign nationals coming from countries reporting coronavirus cases.</p>
Europe	<p>Belgium, Italy, France and Spain are in lockdown. Many governments have advised against all but essential travel to Italy.</p> <p>A number of countries, including Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia (Czech Republic), Georgia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine, have all implemented measures from countries with high numbers of cases, these range from restrictions on travel to mandatory quarantine.</p> <p>Denmark, Poland and Norway have implemented more stringent measures that bar nearly all incoming travel and/or require a 14-day quarantine upon arrival, even for nationals.</p>
Americas	<p>The restrictions in many countries in the Americas have been extended, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela have all implemented some form of travel restriction on arrivals from Asia, Europe and/or the US.</p> <p>The United States has implemented a 30-day ban on travel between Schengen European countries, Ireland and the UK, as well as China and Iran. The restriction on the UK and Ireland will come into effect at 04:00GMT on Tuesday, 17 March. Foreign nationals who have visited these countries in the past 14 days will not be permitted to enter the US. American citizens and legal permanent residents who have been to high-risk areas will be required to fly to one of 13 designated airports: <i>Boston-Logan International Airport (BOS)</i>, <i>Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)</i>, <i>Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)</i>, <i>Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW)</i>, <i>Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL)</i>, <i>Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)</i>, <i>John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK)</i>, <i>Los Angeles International Airport, (LAX)</i>, <i>Miami International Airport (MIA)</i>, <i>Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR)</i>, <i>San Francisco International Airport (SFO)</i>, <i>Seattle-Tacoma</i></p>

	<i>International Airport (SEA), Washington-Dulles International Airport (IAD).</i>
	The majority of the Caribbean islands have some form of restrictions or quarantine upon arrival in place.
Middle East	Israel has implemented measures requiring all foreign arrivals to self-quarantine. Those self-quarantining will not be permitted to do so in a hotel. Saudi Arabia has also implemented restrictions on foreign arrivals, including pilgrims. Jordan and Turkey have also imposed restriction on incoming travellers.
International	Elsewhere, New Zealand has announced that it will require all incoming travellers, including its own citizens, to self-isolate for two weeks. Tunisia

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	157,456 (+11,646)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	75,953 (+3,422)	Total Confirmed Deaths	5,845 (+409)
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Current Confirmed cases per country

China	80,849	Philippines	111	Oman	20	Cameroon	2
Italy	21,157	Iraq	110	Azerbaijan	19	Ivory Coast	2
Iran	12,729	Lebanon	110	North Macedonia	19	Curaçao	2
S. Korea	8,162	Egypt	110	Morocco	18	DRC	2
Spain	6,391	India	107	Tunisia	18	Ghana	2
Germany	4,649	Poland	104	Malta	18	Namibia	2
France	4,499	Saudi Arabia	103	Afghanistan	16	Saint Martin	2
USA	3,045	San Marino	101	Moldova	12	Seychelles	2
Switzerland	1,375	UAE	85	Dominican Republic	11	Trinidad and Tobago	2
UK	1,140	Chile	61	Maldives	11	Guyana	1
Norway	1,128	Russia	59	Macao	10	Sudan	1
Sweden	961	Taiwan	53	Sri Lanka	10	Andorra	1
Netherlands	959	Vietnam	53	Bolivia	10	Jordan	1
Denmark	864	Luxembourg	51	Martinique	10	Nepal	1
Japan	825	Serbia	46	Venezuela	10	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Austria	800	Argentina	45	Lithuania	9	Bhutan	1
Diamond Princess	696	Slovakia	44	Faeroe Islands	9	Cayman Islands	1
Belgium	689	Bulgaria	43	New Zealand	8	Equatorial Guinea	1
Qatar	337	Panama	43	Jamaica	8	Ethiopia	1
Australia	299	Peru	43	Cambodia	7	Gabon	1
Canada	252	Mexico	41	French Guiana	7	Gibraltar	1
Malaysia	248	Brunei	40	Paraguay	7	Guatemala	1
Finland	244	Algeria	39	Kazakhstan	6	Guinea	1
Greece	228	Croatia	39	Réunion	6	Vatican City	1
Czechia	214	Albania	38	Turkey	6	Kenya	1
Bahrain	212	South Africa	38	Uruguay	6	Mauritania	1
Singapore	212	Palestine	38	Bangladesh	5	Mayotte	1
Israel	200	Pakistan	33	Cuba	4	Mongolia	1
Slovenia	181	Georgia	30	Liechtenstein	4	Rwanda	1
Portugal	169	Hungary	30	Puerto Rico	4	St. Barth	1
Iceland	161	Ecuador	28	Ukraine	3	Saint Lucia	1
Brazil	151	Belarus	27	Channel Islands	3	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Hong Kong	142	Costa Rica	27	French Polynesia	3	Suriname	1
Ireland	129	Latvia	26	Guadeloupe	3	Eswatini	1
Romania	123	Cyprus	26	Honduras	3	Togo	1
Indonesia	117	Senegal	24	Monaco	2	U.S. Virgin Islands	1
Estonia	115	Colombia	24	Nigeria	2	Uzbekistan	1
Thailand	114	Bosnia and Herzegovina	21	Aruba	2		

Kuwait	112	Armenia	20	Burkina Faso	2		
Current confirmed deaths							
China	3199	Germany	9	Algeria	3	Thailand	1
Italy	1441	Philippines	8	Sweden	2	Taiwan	1
Iran	611	Diamond Princess	7	Ireland	2	Luxembourg	1
Spain	196	Indonesia	5	Egypt	2	Panama	1
France	91	San Marino	5	India	2	Albania	1
S. Korea	75	Belgium	4	Argentina	2	Azerbaijan	1
USA	60	Hong Kong	4	Bulgaria	2	Morocco	1
Japan	22	Norway	3	Ecuador	2	Ukraine	1
UK	21	Australia	3	Denmark	1	Guyana	1
Switzerland	13	Greece	3	Austria	1	Sudan	1
Netherlands	12	Lebanon	3	Canada	1		
Iraq	10	Poland	3	Slovenia	1		
TSC and Solace Global Advice		<p>At this time, travellers should reconsider their need to travel, with only business-critical travel being advised, to all countries experiencing an outbreak with more than 1,000 cases or to countries imposing travel restrictions on your country of origin/a country you have recently travelled to. Additionally, Solace Global advises against all travel to Hubei in China, Iran and the cities of Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan in South Korea.</p> <p>Otherwise, maintain flexible itineraries if continuing to travel for business-critical journeys, further restrictions and delays are almost certain if travelling globally.</p>					

- The Security Centre 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.