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# **GLOBAL UPDATE**

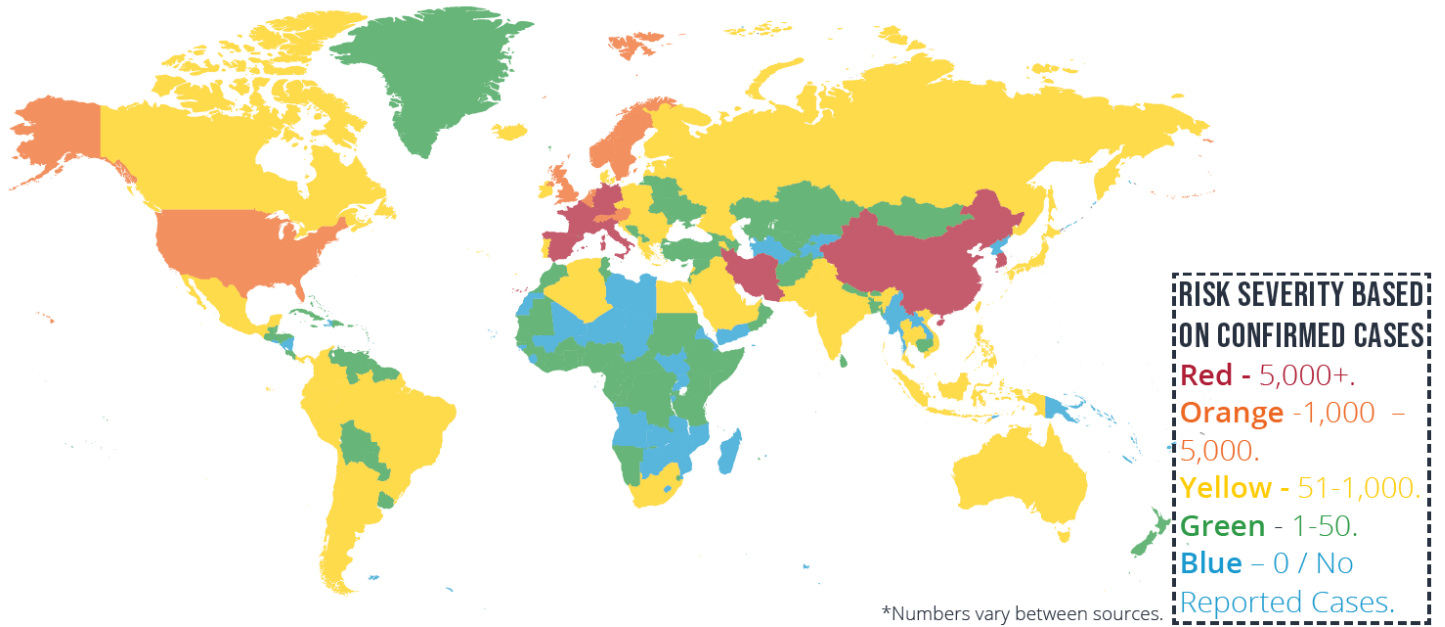
**COVID-19 Outbreak Update  
17 March**

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**Executive Summary**

The coronavirus outbreak has now increased to just over 180,000 confirmed cases globally, with just over 7,000 deaths and around 80,000 recoveries. As a result, there are a wide range of travel restrictions being implemented across the globe, with most countries now being impacted. It is important to note that the situation continues to evolve rapidly, with changes being implemented with little or no notice.

As such, The Security Centre Ltd and Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel at this time due to the growing number of travel restrictions. Additionally, prior to any and all essential travel, it is advised that you check your relevant government’s travel advice and contact your airline or travel provider for more details. People aged 70 and over, or those with underlying health issues, should also reconsider their need to travel, even domestically, limiting the possibility of exposure.



**Latest Updates**

Governments are now implementing increasingly drastic measures to contain the virus, with some implementing quarantine protocols or even denying entry to all foreign arrivals. Russia has announced that all foreign nationals will be banned from entering the country from 18 March, with exemptions for diplomatic representatives and aircraft crew members. Canadian authorities have adopted similar measures, closing the country’s borders to all except Canadian citizens, permanent residents, American citizens, diplomats, aircraft crew members and the immediate family members of Canadian citizens. All individuals permitted entry into Canada have been advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has announced that arrivals from all countries (excluding mainland China, Macau and Taiwan) must undergo a 14-day home quarantine. The decision of the Malaysian government to close its borders prompted fears that Singapore would soon face food shortages. The government of Singapore has since reassured citizens of the island nation’s ability to produce and import essential supplies.

Aside from increased border restrictions, many countries are also placing limitations on domestic travel. French President Emmanuel Macron, in a televised address to the nation, urged citizens to remain at home and to only travel for essential activities. Those caught going against directives on travel restrictions may face sanction from the police.

The British foreign secretary has advised against all but essential travel outside of the UK for 30 days. Similarly, Australia has advised its citizens currently outside of the country to return as soon as possible.

Insurers in the UK have issued a statement warning that most small firms will not be able to weather a prolonged crisis, with only a few able to claim on insurance for any trading losses. Even large companies are taking measures to cut losses, with IKEA closing all its stores in Germany. Airlines and airline makers are also signalling that government aid will be needed should the situation continue much longer. The France President has pledged to support ailing businesses impacted by the crisis, with a guarantee of 300 billion euros worth of loans, as well as suspending rent and utility bills.

**Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions**

<b>Asia</b>	<p>Nearly all countries in Asia have some form of restriction on travel.</p> <p>In Japan, flights from China and S. Korea are only being permitted to land at Narita and Kansai Airports.</p> <p>While in China, the epicentre of the outbreak, people arriving from countries experiencing “severe outbreaks” – at this time this includes S. Korea, Japan and Italy – will be quarantined. Hong Kong is also not allowing the entry of travellers that have been to China, Iran, Italy and certain regions of France and Germany in the past 14 days. China also still has internal restrictions in place, especially around Hubei province, though these are being relaxed.</p> <p>Many other Asian countries have also imposed restrictions on inbound travellers from countries experiencing outbreaks, especially in</p>
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	Europe. Most recently, Kazakhstan has announced that it will lock down its capital Nur-Sultan and its biggest city Almaty from 19 March.
<b>Europe</b>	<p>Europe has now become the focus of the outbreak. Italy and Spain are both seeing large confirmed case numbers with death rates rising. As such travel to and from these countries is being restricted almost globally. Though travel from many other European nations is now also being restricted, with the US banning all travel from the Schengen area, as well as Norway, Ireland and the UK.</p> <p>A number of other countries, including Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia (Czech Republic), Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine, have all implemented restrictions on arrivals from countries with high numbers of cases, these range from restrictions on travel to mandatory quarantine. Denmark, Finland, 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> <p>Germany has implemented restrictions on their land borders. Brussels is also planning to temporarily ban “non-essential travel” to 31 European countries as part of its response to the pandemic. France has also announced stringent internal measures, with the military also reportedly deployed to aid police.</p> <p>Finally, the EU Commission has also announced the imminent closure of the Schengen borders for a provisional period of 30 days, which will have to be approved by the leaders of each nation before coming into effect.</p>
<b>Americas</b>	<p>Many countries in the Americas have restricted travel from Europe and other highly impacted countries in an effort to slow the spread of the virus to Latin America. Additionally, the majority of the Caribbean islands also have some form of restrictions or quarantine upon arrival in place.</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. Repatriation flights do still continue.</p> <p>Restrictions within the United States are also being implemented. California has ordered a shelter in place in San Francisco. The state has also offered 1billion USD in Coronavirus relief.</p>
<b>Africa</b>	A number of countries in Africa have implemented travel restrictions on people arriving from affected countries. Kenya, Sudan, Tunisia, Ghana and South Africa, among others, have all restricted entry to non-citizens or those without valid permanent residency. Additional restrictions and measures are likely to be imposed by African nations in the coming days.
<b>Middle East</b>	<p>Israel has implemented measures requiring all foreign arrivals to self-quarantine. Those self-quarantining will not be permitted to do so in a hotel. Oman has also banned the entry of non-Omanis into the Sultanate with the exception of GCC countries.</p> <p>Saudi Arabia has implemented restrictions on all foreign arrivals, including pilgrims. Jordan, Turkey and Qatar have also imposed restriction on incoming travellers.</p>
<b>Australia/Oceania</b>	<p>Australia has imposed restrictions on travellers arriving from China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. Canberra has also urged all citizens currently abroad to return back to Australia as soon as possible.</p> <p>Several Pacific Island nations have imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries. New Zealand has barred entry to travellers that have transited through or been to China or Iran in the past 14 days.</p> <p>Travellers arriving into Both Australia and New Zealand will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.</p>

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

Current Total Cases	187,332 (+16,287)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	80,843 (+3,052)	Total Confirmed Deaths	7,477 (+951)
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**Current Confirmed cases per country**

China	80,881	Hong Kong	162	Venezuela	33	Puerto Rico	5
Italy	27,980	Chile	156	Kazakhstan	32	Trinidad and Tobago	5
Iran	16,169	Iraq	154	Moldova	29	Ivory Coast	4
Spain	11,279	Luxembourg	140	Uruguay	29	Mongolia	4
S. Korea	8,320	India	137	Azerbaijan	28	Seychelles	4
Germany	7,974	Saudi Arabia	133	Senegal	27	Nigeria	3
France	6,633	Kuwait	130	North Macedonia	26	Aruba	3
USA	4,744	Lebanon	120	Bosnia and Herzegovina	26	DRC	3
Switzerland	2,354	San Marino	102	Cambodia	24	French Polynesia	3
UK	1,543	UAE	98	Oman	24	Gibraltar	3
Norway	1,419	Russia	93	Tunisia	24	Kenya	3
Netherlands	1,413	Peru	86	Afghanistan	22	St. Barth	3
Belgium	1,243	Slovakia	84	Dominican Republic	21	Curaçao	2
Austria	1,211	Mexico	82	Lithuania	21	Liberia	2
Sweden	1,125	Taiwan	77	Martinique	15	Namibia	2

Denmark	960	Panama	69	Burkina Faso	15	Saint Lucia	2
Japan	852	Argentina	68	Andorra	14	Saint Martin	2
Diamond Princess	696	Bulgaria	67	Macao	13	U.S. Virgin Islands	2
Malaysia	673	Croatia	65	Maldives	13	Cayman Islands	1
Australia	452	Serbia	65	New Zealand	12	Sudan	1
Portugal	448	Armenia	64	Jamaica	12	Nepal	1
Canada	441	South Africa	62	Bolivia	11	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Qatar	439	Vietnam	61	French Guiana	11	Bahamas	1
Czechia	383	Algeria	60	Uzbekistan	11	Benin	1
Greece	352	Latvia	60	Bangladesh	10	Bhutan	1
Finland	321	Ecuador	58	Cameroon	10	CAR	1
Israel	304	Colombia	57	Monaco	9	Congo	1
Slovenia	253	Brunei	56	Paraguay	9	Equatorial Guinea	1
Singapore	243	Albania	55	Réunion	9	Gabon	1
Bahrain	237	Hungary	50	Guatemala	8	Greenland	1
Brazil	234	Faeroe Islands	47	Honduras	8	Guinea	1
Estonia	225	Turkey	47	Guyana	7	Vatican City	1
Ireland	223	Cyprus	46	Ukraine	7	Mauritania	1
Iceland	220	Costa Rica	41	Liechtenstein	7	Mayotte	1
Poland	205	Palestine	41	Rwanda	7	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Pakistan	194	Morocco	38	Channel Islands	6	Somalia	1
Philippines	187	Malta	38	Ghana	6	Suriname	1
Romania	184	Belarus	36	Guadeloupe	6	Eswatini	1
Thailand	177	Jordan	35	Cuba	5	Tanzania	1
Indonesia	172	Sri Lanka	35	Ethiopia	5	Togo	1
Egypt	166	Georgia	34	Guam	5		

### Current confirmed deaths

China	3226	Belgium	10	Austria	3	Luxembourg	1
Italy	2158	San Marino	9	India	3	Taiwan	1
Iran	988	Sweden	7	Lebanon	3	Panama	1
Spain	497	Diamond Princess	7	Malaysia	2	Albania	1
France	148	Australia	5	Ireland	2	Hungary	1
USA	93	Poland	5	Argentina	2	Azerbaijan	1
S. Korea	81	Indonesia	5	Bulgaria	2	Dominican Republic	1
UK	55	Algeria	5	Ecuador	2	Martinique	1
Japan	28	Denmark	4	Morocco	2	Guatemala	1
Netherlands	24	Canada	4	Portugal	1	Guyana	1
Switzerland	21	Greece	4	Slovenia	1	Ukraine	1
Germany	20	Egypt	4	Bahrain	1	Cayman Islands	1
Philippines	12	Hong Kong	4	Pakistan	1	Sudan	1
Iraq	11	Norway	3	Thailand	1		

### TSCl and Solace Global Advice

At this time, travellers should **reconsider their need to travel, with only business-critical travel being advised**. Otherwise, ensure that you can access the country you intend to travel to and consider deferring journeys to countries with more than 1,000 cases or already in place travel restrictions. Finally, Solace Global **advises against all travel** to Hubei, in China, Iran and Italy.

- 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 while also informing your company.