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# **GLOBAL UPDATE**

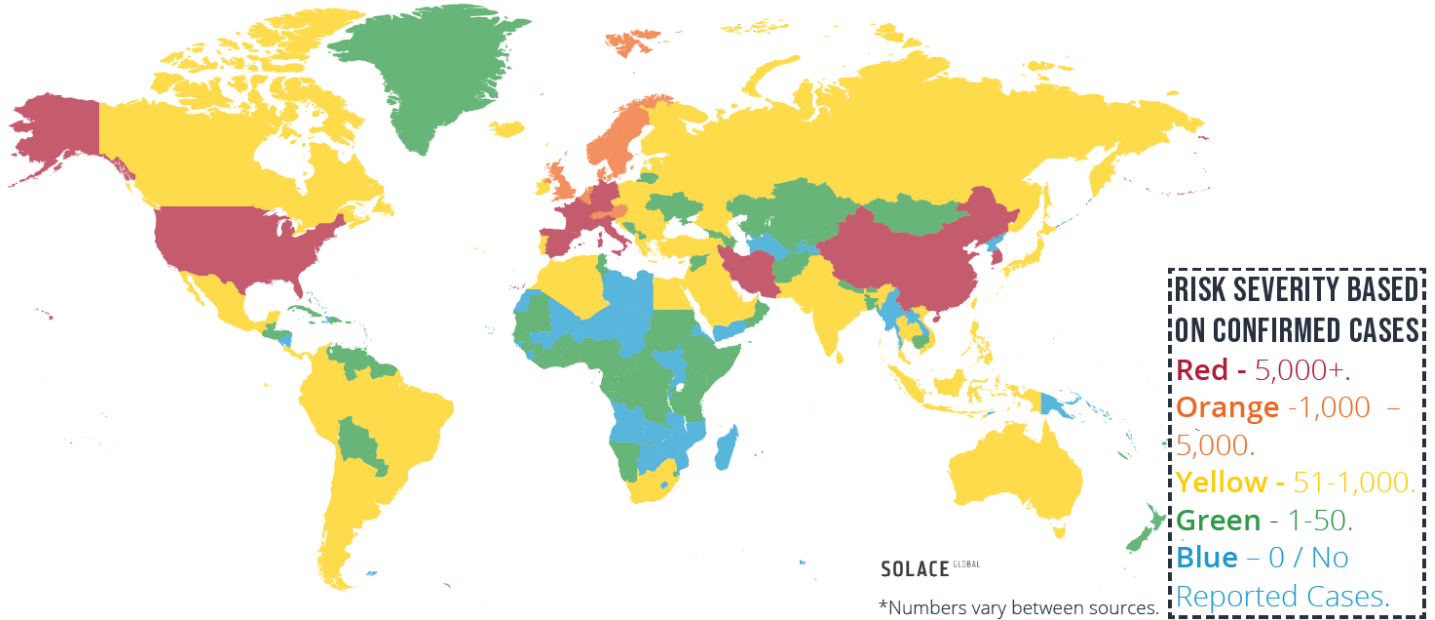
**COVID-19 Outbreak Update  
19 March**

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**Executive Summary**

There are now over 225,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with just over 9,000 deaths and around 86,000 recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have some form of travel restriction in place. The Australian Prime Minister has termed the pandemic a “one in 100-year crisis”. The situation continues to evolve rapidly, with new travel restrictions being implemented with little or no notice.

The Security Centre and Solace Global advises against all non-essential travel at this time due to the already widespread travel restrictions and the risk of new ones being implemented without notice. 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**

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has called the novel coronavirus an “enemy against humanity”. Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned African nations to “wake up” and to “prepare for the worst”. Sub-Saharan Africa is currently the least affected region in the world, with only 233 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and four deaths associated with the virus. However, it is thought that due to a lack of testing, actual case numbers are much higher. Burkina Faso announced the first confirmed COVID-19 death in the region, and at least 200 people in the country are suspected to have the disease.

Italy looks set to extend its lockdown measures, as the case numbers and death toll continue to rise substantially in the country. Italy now has 2,978 reported deaths as a result of the virus, which are just 300-shy of the number reported in China. France is also expected to extend its internal restrictions.

In the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced that schools will close from Friday 20 March “until further notice”. The decision came after the death toll in the UK rose to 104, after it was announced 32 more people had died as a result of the virus in England. NHS England has stated all the deceased were over 59 and had underlying health conditions. The UK has also announced plans to double the number of military personnel available from 10,000 to 20,000 to help combat the spread of the virus.

China’s Hubei province, the epicentre of the pandemic, has reported zero new cases of coronavirus for the first time since the outbreak began in December 2019. China’s health commission has also reported zero domestic cases of COVID-19 for the first time. However, the country has recorded a sharp uptick in infections emanating from abroad, of which there are now 189 in total.

A video of a group of policemen from the southern Indian state of Kerala doing a ‘hand washing dance’ has gone viral on Twitter. Despite the government’s appeals to citizens to practice social distancing and good hygiene, experts have warned social distancing is nearly impossible in the country’s urban areas, which are some of the most densely populated places in the world. In addition to this, UNICEF has reported more than 20 percent of urban Indians do not have access to water or soap, making the basic hand washing advice redundant. As a result, confirmed cases of the virus are expected to increase sharply in the coming weeks.

In the US, Californian governor Gavin Newsom has reported that modelling done by experts predicts that around 60,000 homeless people in the state could become ill with coronavirus in the next eight weeks.

**Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions**

<b>Asia</b>	<p>Nearly all countries in Asia have some form of restriction on travel. In Japan, the entry of people who have been to China, Iran and Italy in the past 14 days has been banned, with some exceptions.</p> <p>China has announced that those 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</p>
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	<p>in the past 14 days. China also maintains 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 relation to Europe.</p> <p>The Philippines, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan have complete border closures for non-residents. Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, South Korea and the Maldives have at least partial restrictions on some countries/regions.</p>
<b>Europe</b>	<p>Italy and Spain are, alongside Iran, seeing the largest growth in confirmed case numbers with fatality rates also rising rapidly. 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>The EU has announced plans to close the bloc's external borders in an effort to restrict the growth of the pandemic. The UK will be exempt from the closures. However, the UK has also stated that it will not participate in the ban, raising the possibility for restrictions to be extended to the British Isles.</p> <p>The UK has, however, advised all of its citizens against all but essential travel abroad. Restrictions on movement within the UK are likely in the coming days, but at this time the country has not imposed any border restrictions nor are they reportedly planning to.</p> <p>At this time, Belarus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine all have complete border closures to non-residents. Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Rep. (Czechia), Finland, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey have some form of restrictions on inbound travel.</p>
<b>Americas</b>	<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 came 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 with some travellers exempt from the ban (such as airline crew). Restrictions within the United States are also being implemented, with many states looking to apply shelter-in-place orders.</p> <p>At this time, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Rep., Haiti, Jamaica, United States and Uruguay all have at least some form of restriction on inbound travel. Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Suriname and Trinidad &amp; Tobago. Additionally, restrictions vary on many Caribbean islands.</p>
<b>Africa</b>	<p>A number of countries in Africa have implemented travel restrictions on people arriving from affected countries. Currently, this includes most of Europe, China and the US.</p> <p>At this time, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan and Tunisia have all barred all inbound travel. Algeria, Djibouti, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania all have at least some restrictions on inbound travel.</p>
<b>Middle East</b>	<p>The Middle East also has some significant restrictions, Saudi Arabia, has implemented a ban on all foreign arrivals, including pilgrims (a measure they hope will be lifted prior to Hajj). Additionally, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen all have restrictions on inbound travel by all non-GCC travellers and permanent residents. Additionally, Jordan, Israel and the UAE have varying levels of restrictions.</p>
<b>Australia/Oceania</b>	<p>Australia and New Zealand have closed their borders to anyone who is not a citizen or resident. Indoor gatherings of over 100 people have also been banned by both governments. Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.</p>

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

Current Total Cases	225,404 (+21,843)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	85,831 (+3,018)	Total Confirmed Deaths	9,276 (+1,116)
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**Current Confirmed cases per country**

China	80,928	Bahrain	268	Faeroe Islands	72	DRC	14	Sudan	2
Italy	35,713	Romania	260	Costa Rica	69	Réunion	14	Barbados	2
Iran	18,407	Estonia	258	Albania	59	Cameroon	13	Benin	2
Spain	17,147	Iceland	250	Morocco	58	Maldives	13	Bermuda	2
Germany	13,083	Saudi Arabia	238	Cyprus	58	Bolivia	12	Greenland	2
USA	9,464	Chile	238	Jordan	56	Guam	12	Liberia	2
France	9,134	Philippines	217	Sri Lanka	56	Honduras	12	Mauritania	2
S. Korea	8,565	Egypt	210	Andorra	53	Cuba	11	Namibia	2
Switzerland	3,220	Hong Kong	193	Belarus	51	Paraguay	11	New Caledonia	2
UK	2,626	Turkey	191	Malta	48	Rwanda	11	Saint Lucia	2
Netherlands	2,051	India	174	Palestine	47	Monaco	9	U.S. Virgin Islands	2
Austria	1,843	Ecuador	168	Bosnia and Herzegovina	45	Ivory Coast	9	Zambia	2
Belgium	1,795	Iraq	164	Kazakhstan	44	Ghana	9	Cayman Islands	1
Norway	1,626	Peru	155	North Macedonia	43	Trinidad and Tobago	9	Nepal	1
Sweden	1,302	Kuwait	148	Georgia	40	Guatemala	8	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Denmark	1,132	Russia	147	Oman	39	Nigeria	8	Bahamas	1
Japan	923	San Marino	140	Tunisia	39	Gibraltar	8	Bhutan	1
Malaysia	900	Lebanon	139	Cambodia	37	Montenegro	8	CAR	1
Canada	727	Armenia	122	Moldova	36	Channel Islands	7	Congo	1

Diamond Princess	712	Mexico	118	Lithuania	36	Kenya	7	Djibouti	1
Australia	709	South Africa	116	Senegal	36	Ethiopia	6	El Salvador	1
Portugal	642	UAE	113	Venezuela	36	French Polynesia	6	Fiji	1
Czechia	572	Panama	109	Dominican Republic	34	Mongolia	6	Gambia	1
Brazil	529	Taiwan	108	Azerbaijan	34	Puerto Rico	6	Guinea	1
Israel	529	Slovakia	105	Guadeloupe	33	Seychelles	6	Vatican City	1
Qatar	452	Croatia	102	New Zealand	28	Tanzania	6	Montserrat	1
Greece	418	Colombia	102	Liechtenstein	28	Guyana	4	Nicaragua	1
Finland	387	Argentina	97	Burkina Faso	27	Aruba	4	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Ireland	366	Serbia	97	Martinique	23	Equatorial Guinea	4	Sint Maarten	1
Luxembourg	335	Bulgaria	94	Uzbekistan	23	Curaçao	3	Somalia	1
Pakistan	329	Latvia	86	Afghanistan	22	Gabon	3	Suriname	1
Singapore	313	Algeria	82	Bangladesh	18	Kyrgyzstan	3	Eswatini	1
Indonesia	309	Uruguay	79	Macao	17	Mauritius	3	Togo	1
Poland	305	Vietnam	76	Ukraine	16	Mayotte	3		
Slovenia	286	Hungary	73	Jamaica	15	St. Barth	3		
Thailand	272	Brunei	73	French Guiana	15	Saint Martin	3		

### Current confirmed deaths

China	3,245	Philippines	17	Brazil	4	Morocco	2	Azerbaijan	1
Italy	2,978	San Marino	14	Luxembourg	4	Dominican Republic	2	Burkina Faso	1
Iran	1,284	Iraq	12	Hong Kong	4	Ukraine	2	Martinique	1
Spain	767	Sweden	10	Lebanon	4	Slovenia	1	Bangladesh	1
France	264	Canada	9	India	3	Thailand	1	Jamaica	1
USA	155	Algeria	8	Ecuador	3	Bahrain	1	Cuba	1
UK	104	Diamond Princess	7	Argentina	3	Russia	1	Guatemala	1
S. Korea	91	Norway	6	Bulgaria	3	Mexico	1	Guyana	1
Netherlands	58	Denmark	6	Malaysia	2	Panama	1	Curaçao	1
Switzerland	35	Australia	6	Portugal	2	Taiwan	1	Sudan	1
Japan	32	Greece	6	Ireland	2	Croatia	1	Cayman Islands	1
Germany	31	Egypt	6	Pakistan	2	Hungary	1		
Indonesia	25	Austria	5	Turkey	2	Costa Rica	1		
Belgium	21	Poland	5	Albania	2	Moldova	1		

### TSCS 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 have travel restrictions already in place. Finally, Solace Global **advises against all travel** to Hubei, in China, Iran and Italy.

- TSCS 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.