



GLOBAL UPDATE

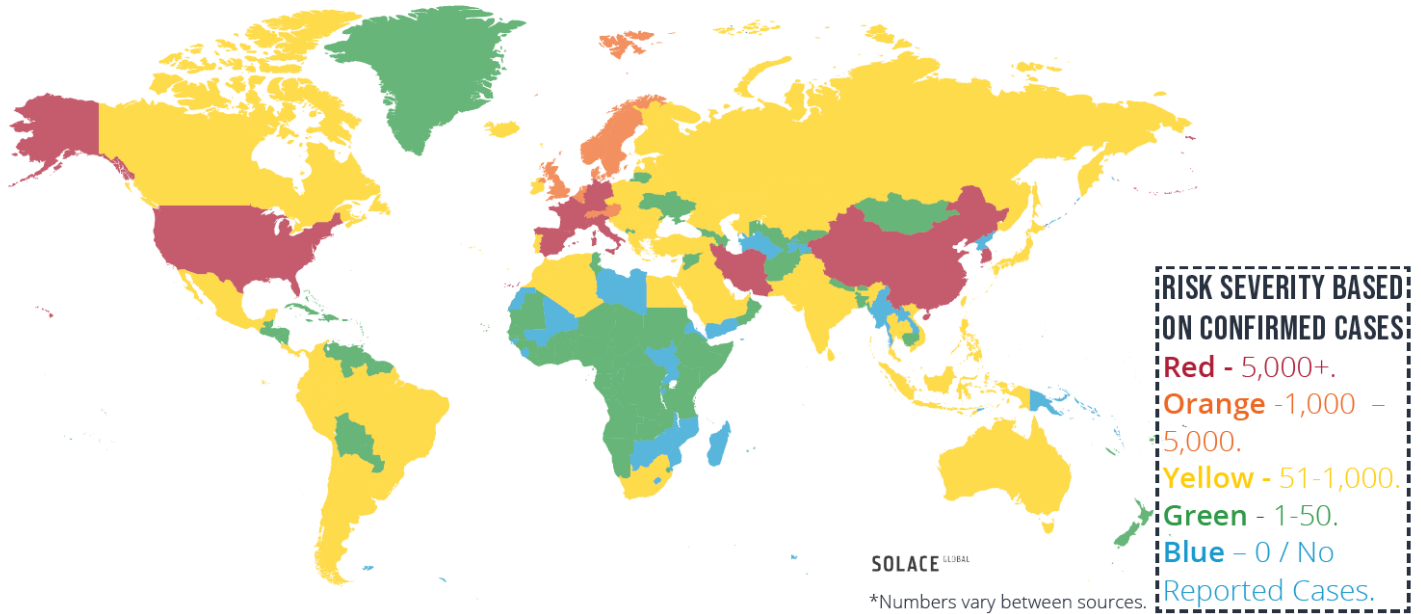
COVID-19 Outbreak Update 20 March

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Executive Summary

There are now just over 250,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with 10,000 deaths and around 88,500 recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have reported at least one case and/or have implemented some form of travel restriction. 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 number of deaths from COVID-19 in Italy has surpassed the total in China, with the country having at least 3,405 fatalities now attributed to the virus. Hospitals in central and southern areas of the country are prepared to be overwhelmed for the demand on health services. Cases are increasing rapidly (5,322 in the last 24 hours), believed to be due to thousands of people having fled the northern region of Lombardy and travelled south following lockdown measures imposed on 9 March. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has urged the EU to use “the full firepower” of its 500bn Euros rescue fund against “a global shock that has no precedents”.

Countries around the world have continued to impose stringent restrictions on travel and freedom of movement as events are cancelled and daily activities put on hold. Haiti’s government has declared a state of emergency and shut its borders, Chile has postponed a referendum and Argentina has gone into lockdown. The US State Department has issued a Level 4 advisory for all international travel. The extraordinary measure, usually reserved for countries at war, warns all Americans not to leave the country, or return as quickly as possible, due to the current pandemic. US President Donald Trump has also cancelled the 44th G7 meeting due to be held at Camp David in June. The summit will now take place via teleconference.

Governments have stepped up efforts to rescue their economies, with European nations alone announcing packages worth over £1.5 trillion. The UK’s stimulus package is the second highest in the region at £383 billion. The Bank of England has also cut interest rates further to a record low of 0.1% following continued panic in the financial markets, described by its new governor as “bordering on disorderly”. Despite this, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said the UK can “turn the tide” on the spread of coronavirus over the next twelve weeks, but only if people adhere to social distancing and other recommended measures. Commentators now believe that the UK’s economy will fall into a deep recession this year as the country moves to impose stricter social controls as part of efforts to reduce the virus’ impact.

Elsewhere, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has continued to appear without personal protective equipment, even as he ordered the suspension of Friday prayers and mass gatherings in time for the Persian New Year today, on Friday 20 March. An Iranian health official has announced that “every 10 minutes one person dies from the coronavirus” and that “50 people become infected... every hour in Iran”. The country has the third-highest number of officially confirmed cases (behind Italy and China), but the actual number of cases is thought to be far higher. The Iranian government has been repeatedly criticised for its lack of transparency in reporting on the number of cases of the virus. Despite this, Rouhani has claimed authorities “spoke to people in an honest way” and “had no delay” in responding to the outbreak.

Chinese officials are reporting that the country has recorded no new locally transmitted cases of coronavirus for a second successive day. All of the 39 new cases announced today are believed to have emanated from abroad. Asian nations are now preparing for a “boomerang” wave of new cases caused by the rush to flee outbreaks in Europe and the US. China’s aviation regulator has asked airlines to reduce the number of international flights to the country, and even ordered some flights to be re-routed away from Beijing.

Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions – Be aware these are fluid and subject to change, check for any updates prior to travel.

Asia

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.

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 in the past 14 days. China also maintains internal restrictions in place, especially around Hubei province, though these are being relaxed.

Many other Asian countries have also imposed restrictions on inbound travellers from countries experiencing outbreaks, especially in relation to Europe.

The Philippines, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan have complete border closures for non-residents. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkmenistan and Vietnam have at least partial restrictions on some countries/regions.

Europe

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.

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.

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.

At this time, Belarus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine all have complete border closures to non-residents. Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & H., Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Rep. (Czechia), Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, N. Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Turkey have some form of restrictions on inbound travel.

Americas

The United States has implemented a level 4: Do Not Travel global advisory. The Department of State advises U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19. In countries where commercial departure options remain available, U.S. citizens who live in the United States should arrange for immediate return to the United States, unless they are prepared to remain abroad for an indefinite period. U.S. citizens who live abroad should avoid all international travel. Repatriation flights do still continue for the time being. Restrictions within the United States are also being implemented, with many states looking to apply shelter-in-place orders.

At this time, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Rep., Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Paraguay, United States and Uruguay all have at least some form of restriction on inbound travel. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago do also have varying level of restrictions. Additionally, restrictions vary on many Caribbean islands.

Africa

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.

At this time, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Libya, Egypt, Kenya, Sudan and Tunisia have all barred all inbound travel. Algeria, Angola, Congo, Djibouti, Mali, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda all have at least some restrictions on inbound travel.

Middle East

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, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and the UAE have varying levels of restrictions.

Australia/Oceania

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.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	250,614 (+25,210)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	89,044 (+3,313)	Total Confirmed Deaths	10,254 (+978)
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Current Confirmed cases per country

China	80,967	Thailand	322	Brunei	73	Cuba	16	Namibia	3
Italy	41,035	Slovenia	319	Belarus	69	Jamaica	16	St. Barth	3
Spain	19,980	Estonia	283	Jordan	69	Ghana	16	Saint Martin	3
Iran	18,407	Bahrain	279	Bosnia and Herzegovina	69	French Guiana	15	U.S. Virgin Islands	3
Germany	16,626	Romania	277	North Macedonia	67	Guam	14	Sudan	2
USA	14,366	Saudi Arabia	274	Cyprus	67	Maldives	13	Benin	2
France	10,995	Ecuador	260	Morocco	66	Montenegro	13	Bermuda	2
S. Korea	8,652	Egypt	256	Sri Lanka	65	Paraguay	13	Bhutan	2

Switzerland	4,222	Hong Kong	256	Albania	64	Nigeria	12	CAR	2
UK	3,269	Peru	234	Malta	53	Monaco	11	Greenland	2
Netherlands	2,460	Philippines	230	Moldova	49	Channel Islands	11	Haiti	2
Belgium	2,257	India	206	Kazakhstan	49	French Polynesia	11	Liberia	2
Austria	2,203	South Africa	202	Lithuania	48	Rwanda	11	Mauritania	2
Norway	1,802	Russia	199	Oman	48	Gibraltar	10	New Caledonia	2
Sweden	1,452	Iraq	192	Palestine	48	Guatemala	9	Saint Lucia	2
Denmark	1,226	Mexico	164	Cambodia	47	Ivory Coast	9	Zambia	2
Malaysia	1,030	Lebanon	163	Guadeloupe	45	Ethiopia	9	Nepal	1
Japan	963	Kuwait	159	Azerbaijan	44	Togo	9	Angola	1
Australia	876	San Marino	144	Georgia	43	Trinidad and Tobago	9	Antigua and Barbuda	1
Canada	873	UAE	140	Venezuela	42	Kenya	7	Cabo Verde	1
Portugal	786	Panama	137	Tunisia	39	Mauritius	7	Chad	1
Czechia	774	Armenia	136	New Zealand	39	Equatorial Guinea	6	Djibouti	1
Diamond Princess	712	Taiwan	135	Senegal	36	Kyrgyzstan	6	El Salvador	1
Israel	705	Argentina	128	Dominican Republic	34	Mongolia	6	Fiji	1
Brazil	647	Colombia	128	Burkina Faso	33	Puerto Rico	6	Gambia	1
Ireland	557	Slovakia	124	Uzbekistan	33	Seychelles	6	Guinea	1
Luxembourg	484	Serbia	118	Martinique	32	Tanzania	6	Vatican City	1
Greece	464	Croatia	113	Liechtenstein	28	Guyana	5	Isle of Man	1
Qatar	460	Bulgaria	112	Réunion	28	Aruba	5	Montserrat	1
Pakistan	456	Latvia	111	Ukraine	26	Barbados	5	Nicaragua	1
Finland	400	Uruguay	94	Afghanistan	24	Mayotte	4	Niger	1
Indonesia	369	Algeria	90	Honduras	24	Suriname	4	St. Vincent Grenadines	1
Poland	367	Costa Rica	89	Bangladesh	20	Cayman Islands	3	Sint Maarten	1
Turkey	359	Vietnam	87	Cameroon	20	Curaçao	3	Somalia	1
Singapore	345	Hungary	85	DRC	18	Bahamas	3	Eswatini	1
Chile	342	Faeroe Islands	80	Macao	17	Congo	3		
Iceland	330	Andorra	74	Bolivia	17	Gabon	3		

Current confirmed deaths

Italy	3,405	Philippines	18	Poland	5	Ukraine	3	Moldova	1
China	3,248	San Marino	14	India	5	Malaysia	2	Azerbaijan	1
Iran	1,284	Iraq	13	Portugal	4	Taiwan	2	Tunisia	1
Spain	1,002	Canada	12	Luxembourg	4	Costa Rica	2	Burkina Faso	1
France	372	Sweden	11	Turkey	4	Albania	2	Martinique	1
USA	217	Algeria	10	Ecuador	4	Dominican Republic	2	Bangladesh	1
UK	144	Denmark	9	Hong Kong	4	Thailand	1	Cuba	1
S. Korea	100	Norway	7	Lebanon	4	Slovenia	1	Jamaica	1
Netherlands	76	Australia	7	Ireland	3	Bahrain	1	Guatemala	1
Germany	44	Diamond Princess	7	Pakistan	3	Russia	1	Guyana	1
Switzerland	43	Brazil	7	Peru	3	Mexico	1	Cayman Islands	1
Belgium	37	Egypt	7	Argentina	3	Panama	1	Curaçao	1
Japan	33	Austria	6	Bulgaria	3	Croatia	1	Sudan	1
Indonesia	32	Greece	6	Morocco	3	Hungary	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 have travel restrictions already in place. 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.
- 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 your 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.