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# GLOBAL UPDATE

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COVID-19 Outbreak Update  
8 April

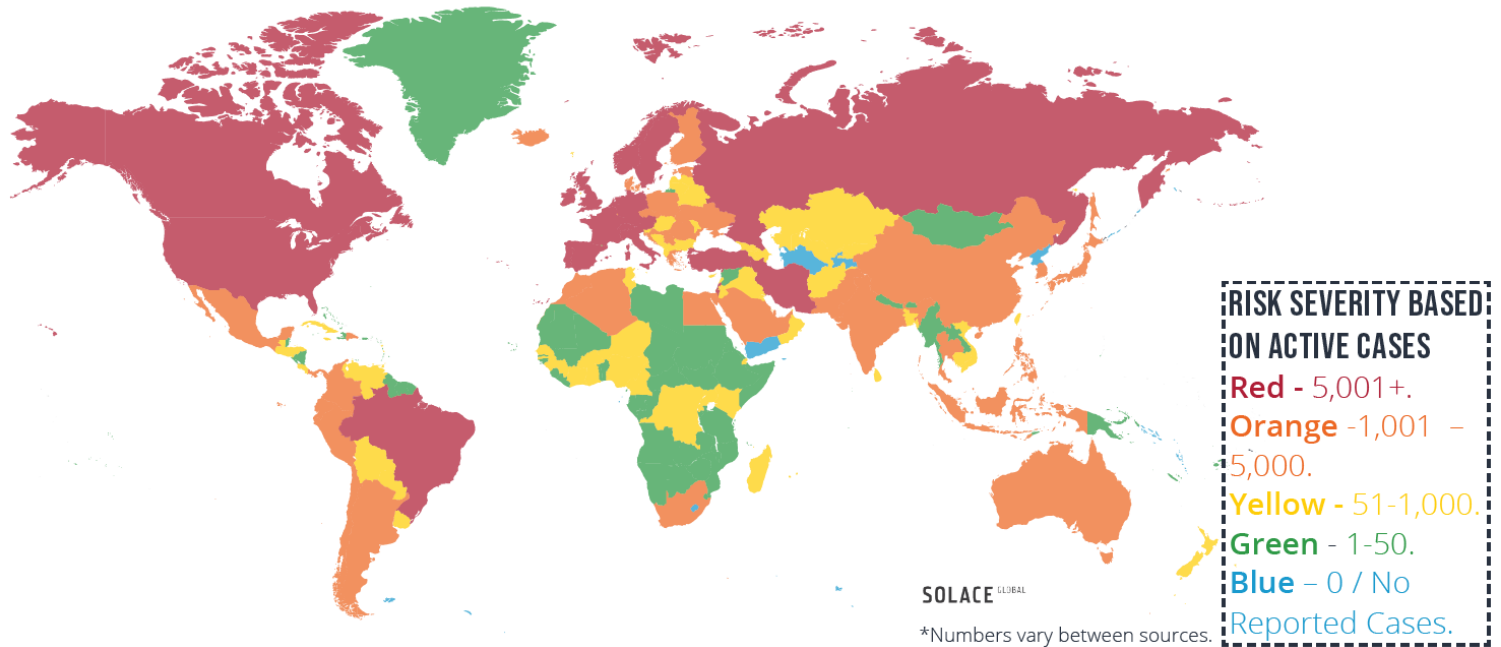
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## Executive Summary

There are now just over 1,435,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, with approximately 82,000 deaths and around 303,000 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, both internationally and domestically, 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 in-place 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, as to limit their chances of exposure.



## Latest Updates

Europe continues to be the hardest hit continent as a result of COVID-19. Finance ministers from the EU have announced that they have yet to agree on a united economic response. There is a growing divide between the blocs northern and southern countries, with Germany and the Netherlands fearing they'll be burdened with high levels of debt while Italy and Spain, two of the hardest-hit countries globally, feel not enough is being done. This announcement was coupled with one of the bloc's top scientist, Mauro Ferrari, dramatically quitting due to the bloc's response to the virus.

However, in Austria, the government has set out plans to become the first European country to ease its lockdown measures, with some non-essential businesses to open in the coming days. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has presented a timetable to restart the economy in a number of phases whilst minimising the risk of a surge of new infections. According to the timetable, small shops will be permitted to open again from 14 April as well as large DIY stores and garden centres. From 1 May, other businesses deemed slightly higher risk, including hair salons, will be allowed to reopen. There is also a possibility that bars and restaurants will reopen in mid-May. Kurz has made clear that, despite easing restrictions, some control measures will remain in place for months. European countries will likely look to Austria in the coming weeks and months as an indicator of how lockdown measures can be lifted without allowing the virus to re-emerge.

In the UK, after contracting COVID-19, Prime Minister Boris Johnson remains in intensive care, with Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab currently leading the government. Chancellor Rishi Sunak has been designated as the individual who will take over should Raab become incapacitated. Several senior figures in the UK government are currently in self-isolation after they or close family members began to display symptoms of COVID-19. This comes as the UK recorded its deadliest day of the outbreak so far, with 786 deaths reported on 7 April. However, the UK's Chief Scientific Advisor has indicated that there has been a sustained below-trend growth in new COVID-19 cases.

The UK has also seen at least 20 mobile phone towers vandalised in response to a theory blaming the severity of the outbreak on new 5G mobile technology. Video uploading website YouTube has banned all content related to COVID-19 conspiracy theories and messaging service WhatsApp has limited users' abilities to forward messages to large groups of people. The UK Government has taken the unusual step of responding to conspiracy theories by directing people to an impartial fact-checking service. Despite efforts to suppress these theories, it is likely that false information and so-called "fake news" will continue to spread in the UK and globally.

In The US, New York has reported a record number of deaths with 731 fatalities reported on 7 April. Record mortality numbers were also reported in New Jersey and Connecticut. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has, however, indicated that there has been a fall in the rate of increase of hospital admissions across the state. The past days have seen an increase of below 7%, compared with the 20% increases seen in past weeks.

At the federal level, US President Donald Trump has attacked the World Health Organisation (WHO) and has threatened to withhold funding that his government provides, amounting to nearly 15% of the organisation's total budget. Trump has criticised the WHO as slow to respond to the outbreak and as 'China-centric.' The threats to the organisation come after the WHO had been critical of some of the measures that the US had introduced to combat COVID-19, notably travel

bans.

In China, people in the city of Wuhan, where the virus first emerged, have been allowed to leave the city for the first time since it was put under lockdown around 76 days ago; highways have reopened while flights and train routes out of the city have resumed. The lockdown measures implemented in Wuhan were among the most stringent anywhere in the world, with residents were not allowed to leave their houses except for an emergency since mid-February.

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

<b>Asia</b>	<p>Nearly all countries in Asia have implemented some form of restriction on travel. Many Asian countries have limited internal travel and have in-place lockdowns.</p> <p>Countries with a global travel ban on non-citizens/residents include Azerbaijan, Brunei, China (and its SARs), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, N. Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkmenistan. The majority of other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.</p>
<b>Europe</b>	<p>The EU has closed the bloc's external borders and restrictions have also been implemented inside the majority of countries, with the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and many others imposing a lockdown and restricting people from travelling or gathering, unless for specific reasons.</p> <p>At this time, the Schengen area has banned all incoming travel other than citizens from countries in the European Union, European Economic Area, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, long-term residents and people with long-term visa or residence permits, family members of EU and EEA citizens, medical personnel and people responsible for the transport of goods for 30 days. The majority of other European countries have some form of similar restrictions in place.</p>
<b>Americas</b>	<p>The US has implemented a level 4: Do Not Travel global advisory. The Department of State advises US citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19 and for those who are currently abroad to return as soon as possible. The United States has also ordered a border closure for all non-essential travel from both Canada and Mexico.</p> <p>Restrictions within the US are also being implemented extensively. The majority of states now have a "stay-at-home" order of some kind or have closed "non-essential" businesses.</p> <p>At this time, Argentina, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, United States, Trinidad &amp; Tobago and Uruguay all have at least some form of restriction on inbound travel. Additionally, restrictions vary on many other Caribbean islands with most banning all inbound travel and implementing some form of lockdown.</p>
<b>Africa</b>	<p>A number of countries in Africa have implemented travel restrictions on people arriving from affected countries. At this time, Algeria, Angola, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Libya, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Reunion, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda all have at least some restrictions on inbound travel. Currently, this includes most of Europe, China and the US.</p> <p>Additionally, a number of countries have already implemented national lockdowns, including South Africa, while others have implemented city wide lockdowns, as with Lagos and Abuja in Nigeria.</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 that now looks unlikely to be lifted before Hajj. Strict movement restrictions are in place in most Middle Eastern countries.</p> <p>Most countries have also closed schools and non-essential businesses, banned large gatherings, including prayers at mosques. Israel, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the UAE all have restrictions on inbound travel by non-citizens/residents. The majority of other countries 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. Internal restrictions are also coming into force in Australia with many states now under a state of emergency and travel between states in the country.</p> <p>Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.</p>
<b>TSCL and Solace Global Advice</b>	<p>At this time, travellers should <b>reconsider their need to travel globally, with only business-critical travel being advised</b>. 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. In the coming weeks, extensive travel restrictions are likely to make even business-critical travel difficult – liaise with your relevant government agency for further instructions and information.</p>

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

Current Total Cases	1,435,310 (+78,956)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	303,007 (+12,453)	Total Confirmed Deaths	82,210 (+6,450)
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The list below comprises of the top 40 countries in each section, for a complete list please go to [Worldometers](#), [Johns Hopkins University](#) or the [WHO](#).

Countries with the most confirmed cases		Countries with the greatest increase in case numbers yesterday		Countries with the most confirmed deaths		Countries with the most confirmed recoveries	
USA	400,549	USA	+33,331	Italy	17,127	China	77,279
Spain	141,942	France	+11,059	Spain	14,045	Spain	43,208
Italy	135,586	Spain	+5,267	USA	12,857	Germany	36,081
France	109,069	Germany	+4,288	France	10,328	Iran	27,039

Germany	107,663	Turkey	+3,892	UK	6,159	Italy	24,392
China	81,802	UK	+3,634	Iran	3,872	USA	21,711
Iran	62,589	Italy	+3,039	China	3,333	France	19,337
UK	55,242	Iran	+2,089	Netherlands	2,101	Switzerland	8,704
Turkey	34,109	Brazil	+1,851	Belgium	2,035	S. Korea	6,776
Switzerland	22,328	Belgium	+1,380	Germany	2,016	Austria	4,512
Belgium	22,194	Canada	+1,230	Switzerland	824	Belgium	4,157
Netherlands	19,580	Russia	+1,154	Turkey	725	Canada	4,028
Canada	17,897	Netherlands	+777	Brazil	688	Australia	2,547
Brazil	14,049	Portugal	+712	Sweden	591	Turkey	1,582
Austria	12,721	Switzerland	+596	Canada	381	Denmark	1,491
Portugal	12,442	India	+573	Portugal	345	Malaysia	1,321
S. Korea	10,384	Sweden	+487	Austria	273	Peru	1,301
Israel	9,404	Poland	+435	Indonesia	240	Chile	898
Russia	8,672	Peru	+393	Ecuador	220	Thailand	888
Sweden	7,693	Denmark	+390	Ireland	210	Israel	801
Norway	6,086	Romania	+360	Romania	207	Mexico	633
Australia	6,010	Japan	+351	Denmark	203	Japan	622
Ireland	5,709	Ireland	+345	S. Korea	200	Saudi Arabia	615
Denmark	5,386	Israel	+344	Philippines	182	Russia	580
India	5,360	Austria	+342	India	164	Luxembourg	500
Chile	5,116	Chile	+301	Mexico	141	India	468
Czechia	5,033	Mexico	+296	Poland	136	Pakistan	467
Poland	5,000	UAE	+283	Peru	107	Romania	460
Romania	4,417	Pakistan	+269	Dominican Republic	98	Finland	300
Japan	4,257	Ecuador	+248	Japan	93	Greece	269
Pakistan	4,072	Indonesia	+247	Czechia	91	Netherlands	250
Ecuador	3,995	Serbia	+247	Norway	89	Indonesia	222
Malaysia	3,963	Qatar	+225	Greece	81	Sweden	205
Philippines	3,870	Norway	+221	Israel	71	Poland	191
Luxembourg	2,970	Colombia	+201	Russia	63	UAE	186
Indonesia	2,956	Czechia	+195	Malaysia	63	Portugal	184
Peru	2,954	Saudi Arabia	+190	Serbia	61	Czechia	181
Saudi Arabia	2,795	Malaysia	+170	Panama	59	Qatar	150
Mexico	2,785	Finland	+132	Pakistan	58	Ecuador	140
Finland	2,487	Dominican Republic	+128	Australia	50	UK	135