



GLOBAL UPDATE

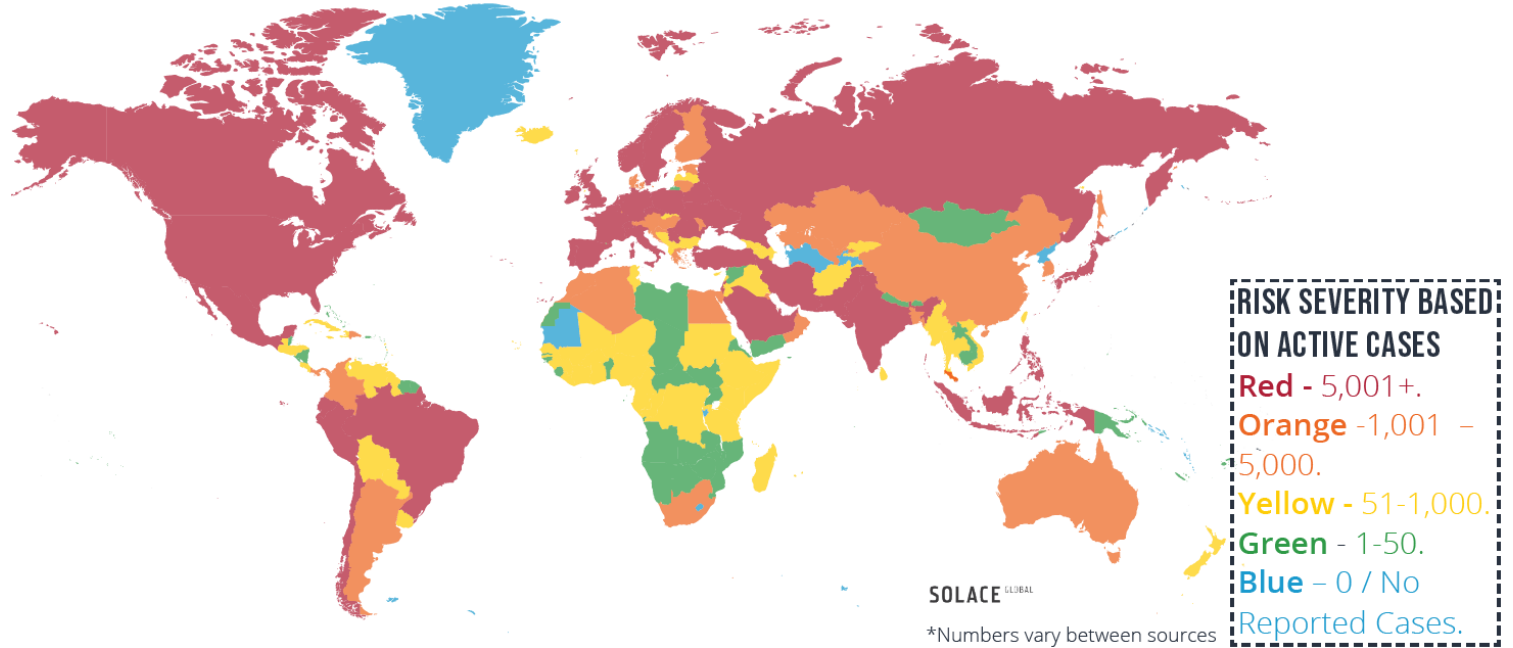
COVID-19 Outbreak Update
21 April

Powered By:
SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.4 million, with approximately 170,000 deaths and around 652,000 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 continues to advise 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

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a stark warning that that “the worst is yet ahead of us” as countries across the globe begin to relax restrictions on movement and business implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated the easing of restrictions should not be taken as a sign the pandemic is over.

The US oil market has collapsed into negative prices for the first time since futures contracts began trading in 1983. The pandemic has led to an unprecedented oversupply of crude oil in North America, where rising stockpiles threaten to overwhelm storage facilities. Millions of barrels of oil are now being stored in crude tankers outside shipping ports, a measure not seen since the last financial crisis. There is also concern for the stability of the US economy, as state governors and the president remain locked in a stand-off as to whether the US can begin lifting restrictions.

Elsewhere in the US, encouraged by tweets from the president, protesters have gathered in state capitals across the US to demonstrate against the allegedly draconian lockdown measures that have been implemented. Some have also come bearing firearms to the rallies, with gun rights groups being among the organisers, citing infringements on civil liberties. Those taking to the streets have stated that the stringent measures restricting movement and businesses are unnecessarily hurting citizens.

In Asia, Singapore has reported a record increase in cases, and now has the most of any country in Southeast Asia. More than half of the infected are low-wage migrant workers, many of whom are foreign nationals. The government had moved to rapidly implement control measures during the initial stages of the outbreak; however, it appears that they have overlooked the cramped dorms in which these workers live, where social distancing is impossible. Elsewhere in the region, Thailand's king has approved new legislation to implement over 1.9 trillion baht (58 million USD) in public spending in an attempt to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic. Japan has also announced a record stimulus package of over 1.1 trillion USD in response to plummeting exports.

Meanwhile, elsewhere, some countries are seeing an easing of restrictions. For example, Australians have begun returning to beaches, India has restarted industrial and agricultural production, while Iran has lifted a ban on inter-city travel and re-opened shopping malls. However, despite this, New Zealand and South Korea have extended their lockdown measures, though they have stated their intent to ease restrictions in the coming weeks.

In the Middle East, Kuwait has announced the suspension of all public sector work until at least 31 May and lengthened an overnight curfew to 16 hours. Additionally, the Turkish president has announced that a four-day lockdown will be imposed across major urban areas beginning on Thursday, coinciding with the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

In Europe, the German state of Bavaria has suspended the annual Oktoberfest, the German beer drinking festival. Usually, around six million people travel to the state for the event. However, officials in Germany have stated that football could restart in the country as early as 9 May. They are currently exploring the possibility of matches being played behind closed doors under strict new hygiene measures.

Swiss pharmaceutical multinational Novartis AG has said it will test the drug hydroxychloroquine to determine its potential efficacy in treating the pandemic. Despite a loud absence of scientific evidence, Donald Trump has continued to tout the antimalarial as a cure for the novel coronavirus. The study will include around 440 patients.

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 implemented some form of restriction on travel. Many Asian countries have limited internal travel and have in-place lockdowns. However, some countries are now easing internal lockdown measures after successfully managing their internal outbreaks, these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.

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. Most other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.

Europe

The EU has closed the bloc's external borders and restrictions have also been implemented inside the majority of countries, with the UK, France, and Italy and many others have extended their lockdowns and restricting people from travelling or gathering, unless for specific reasons.

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. Many other European countries have some form of similar restrictions in place.

Austria, Denmark, Germany, Norway and some other European countries are now seeing an easing of internal restrictions after passing what they believe is the worst of the outbreak in their countries.

Americas

The US is the worst affected country globally. 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.

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.

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 & 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.

Africa

Several 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.

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, Algiers and Blida in Algeria and Antananarivo and Toamasina in Madagascar to name a few. There have also been reports of looting in some African countries, notably South Africa, as people panic buy certain goods. Alcohol has particularly been targeted in South Africa after the government banned its sale during the lockdown.

Middle East

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.

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.

Australia/Oceania

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. However, Australia has looked to relax some restrictions in the past days, with people being allowed to visit beaches. Measures remain stringent in New Zealand.

Most Pacific Island nations have also imposed border control measures and quarantine requirements on travellers arriving from affected countries.

TSCL and Solace Global Advice

At this time, travellers should **reconsider their need to travel globally, 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. 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.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	2,482,556 (+74,694)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	652,480 (+23,443)	Total Confirmed Deaths	170,482 (+5,387)
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	-------------------	------------------------	------------------

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	792,938	USA	+28,123	USA	42,518	Germany	95,200
Spain	200,210	UK	+4,676	Italy	24,114	Spain	80,587
Italy	181,228	Turkey	+4,674	Spain	20,852	China	77,123
France	155,383	Russia	+4,268	France	20,265	USA	72,389
Germany	147,065	France	+2,489	UK	16,509	Iran	59,273
UK	124,743	Italy	+2,256	Belgium	5,828	Italy	48,877
Turkey	90,980	Brazil	+2,089	Iran	5,209	France	37,409
Iran	83,505	Canada	+1,773	Germany	4,862	Brazil	22,991
China	82,758	Spain	+1,536	China	4,632	Switzerland	18,600
Russia	47,121	Belgium	+1,487	Netherlands	3,751	Turkey	13,430
Brazil	40,814	Belarus	+1,485	Brazil	2,588	Canada	12,586
Belgium	39,983	Singapore	+1,426	Turkey	2,140	Austria	10,631
Canada	36,831	Germany	+1,323	Canada	1,690	Belgium	8,895
Netherlands	33,405	Iran	+1,294	Sweden	1,580	S. Korea	8,213
Switzerland	27,944	Saudi Arabia	+1,122	Switzerland	1,429	Peru	6,968
Portugal	20,863	India	+924	Portugal	735	Australia	4,685
India	18,658	Mexico	+764	Mexico	712	Chile	4,676
Peru	16,325	Netherlands	+750	Ireland	687	Israel	4,353
Ireland	15,652	Peru	+697	India	592	Denmark	4,312
Austria	14,795	Ecuador	+660	Indonesia	590	Russia	3,446
Sweden	14,777	Portugal	+657	Ecuador	507	Malaysia	3,295
Israel	13,883	Qatar	+567	Romania	478	India	3,273
Japan	11,135	Pakistan	+544	Austria	470	Mexico	2,627
S. Korea	10,683	Bangladesh	+492	Peru	445	Thailand	2,108
Chile	10,507	UAE	+484	Philippines	428	Pakistan	2,066
Saudi Arabia	10,484	Chile	+419	Russia	405	Romania	2,017
Ecuador	10,128	Ireland	+401	Algeria	384	Finland	2,000
Poland	9,593	Sweden	+392	Poland	380	Czechia	1,559
Pakistan	9,216	Japan	+338	Denmark	364	Saudi Arabia	1,490
Romania	8,936	Serbia	+312	Japan	263	Iceland	1,362
Mexico	8,772	Poland	+306	Egypt	250	UAE	1,360
Singapore	8,014	Dominican Republic	+284	S. Korea	237	Japan	1,239
Denmark	7,515	Ukraine	+261	Dominican Republic	235	Ecuador	1,150
UAE	7,265	Israel	+222	Hungary	213	Poland	1,133
Norway	7,156	Switzerland	+204	Czechia	194	Algeria	1,099
Czechia	6,900	Philippines	+200	Pakistan	192	South Africa	1,055
Indonesia	6,760	Panama	+194	Colombia	189	Iraq	1,043
Australia	6,642	Morocco	+191	Israel	181	New Zealand	1,006
Serbia	6,630	Romania	+190	Norway	181	Serbia	870
Philippines	6,459	Egypt	+189	Ukraine	151	Egypt	821