



GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update
23 April

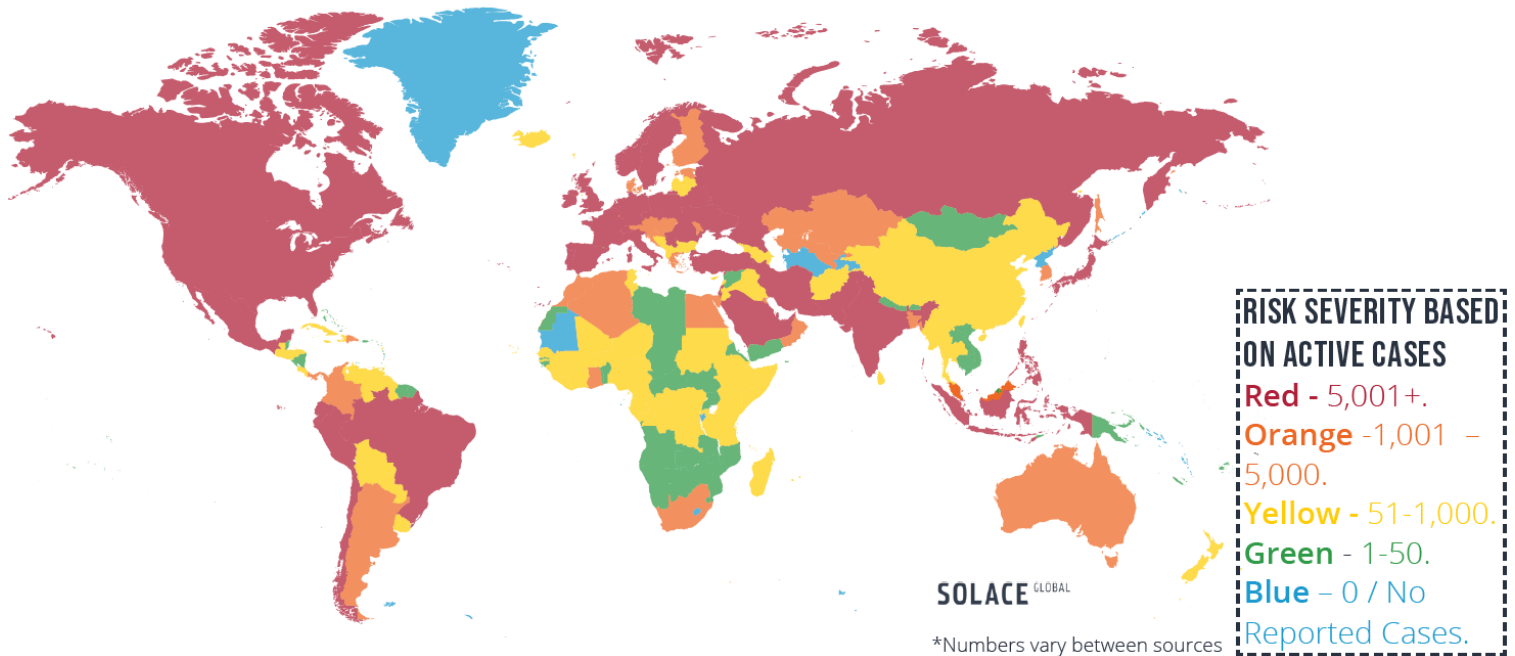
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Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has exceeded 2.64 million, with approximately 184,000 deaths and around 722,000 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 director-general of the World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has warned that there is “still a long way to go” in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite case numbers in Western Europe stabilising or declining, outbreaks across Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe continue to grow with many countries “still in the early stages of their epidemics”. The WHO leader also warned against complacency and insisted that lockdown measures were effective in limiting the spread of the virus.

In the US, several states have announced plans to ease restrictions and allow businesses to reopen. Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt has announced a three-tiered approach to reopening businesses state-wide, aiming to have the state back to “business-as-usual” by mid-June. Beginning on 24 April, “personal care businesses”, such as hair salons, spas and barbershops can reopen for appointments only as long as they adhere to strict “sanitation protocols”. Other Oklahoma businesses previously deemed non-essential will be allowed to reopen from 1 May. Elsewhere, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced that he intends to allow the reopening of businesses from 8 May in three phases, colour-coded red, yellow and green, with the latter meaning that all restrictions are lifted, aside from federal guidelines.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump’s handling of the pandemic continues to draw heavy criticism, most recently from Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, who stated the US was on course for a second Great Depression while looking like a “third-world country”. A long-term critic of Trump, Stiglitz also suggested that unemployment could hit 30 per cent in the coming months with enormous numbers turning to food banks to get by.

In similar news, Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has announced that his government is planning to ease restrictions in the second half of May. The prime minister insisted that measures would be relaxed slowly and gradually to avoid a second wave. Sanchez made the announcement during a parliamentary session where lawmakers approved an extension to the state of emergency until 9 May.

The Nigerian government has imposed a curfew in Gombe State from 18:00 to 07:00 local time. All non-essential services and businesses with two or more workers have been suspended along with all public gatherings. Meanwhile, in Burkina Faso, the government has reopened the Rood-Wooko market in Ouagadougou to test the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Markets were closed nationwide on the 25 March to prevent the spread of the virus, but the Burkinabe government is hoping to reopen them if the test is successful. Workers and visitors to the market must wear a mask, wash their hands and have their temperature taken.

Elsewhere in Africa, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has ordered the deployment of an additional 73,000 troops to assist with enforcing the nationwide lockdown. The government has already deployed roughly 3,000 soldiers to help keep law and order amid an increasing risk of civil unrest. Looting has already occurred in Cape Town, where gunshots have been fired at security forces and police have resorted to the use of heavy-handed tactics to enforce social distancing measures.

The President of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, has launched a herbal remedy, made from artemisia plant - the source of an ingredient used in a malaria treatment - and other Malagasy plants, which he has touted as a prevention and remedy for the COVID-19 virus. During a conference at the Malagasy Institute of Applied Research, he told journalists that two people had been cured having drunk the remedy. The WHO, as well as the country's national medical academy (Anamem), have said that there is no proof of the remedy's efficacy as a prevention or cure.

Meanwhile, Germany has approved its first human trials for a vaccine, which are due to commence later this week. BioNTech, the company developing the vaccine called BNT162, along with Pfizer, intend to initially test 200 people between the ages of 18 and 55 with a view of expanding trials to those deemed to be high-risk.

The first case of COVID-19 has been confirmed at a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. Such an outbreak has been a major concern of both the United Nations (UN) and NGOs since the start of the pandemic. The patient, an adult woman, was taken from the al-Jalil camp in the Bekaa Valley to a hospital in Beirut overnight. A total of 9,400 refugees are registered at the camp, who live in confined and often unhygienic conditions, meaning an outbreak of the virus has the potential to spread with devastating consequences. Lebanon hosts around 475,000 Palestinian refugees living in 12 camps and 26 unofficial sites.

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

<p>Asia</p>	<p>Nearly all countries in Asia have implemented some form of restriction on travel. Many Asian countries have also limited internal travel and have in-place lockdowns. However, some are now easing internal lockdown measures after successfully managing their internal outbreaks, these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.</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. Most other countries also have restrictions in place, though these vary in severity.</p>
<p>Europe</p>	<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, and Italy and many others have extended their lockdowns 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. Many other European countries have some form of similar restrictions in place.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Americas</p>	<p>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.</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. However, some states are now looking to ease restrictions, with protests also occurring in response to the lockdowns, some of the protesters have attended the rallies armed.</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 & 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>
<p>Africa</p>	<p>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.</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, 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.</p>
<p>Middle East</p>	<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>
<p>Australia/Oceania</p>	<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. However, Australia has looked to relax some</p>

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	2,648,410 (+90,416)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	724,292 (+28,937)	Total Confirmed Deaths	184,614 (+6,926)
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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	849,092	USA	+29,973	USA	47,681	Germany	103,300
Spain	208,389	Russia	+5,236	Italy	25,085	Spain	85,915
Italy	187,327	UK	+4,451	Spain	21,717	USA	84,050
France	159,877	Spain	+4,211	France	21,340	China	77,207
Germany	150,729	Italy	+3,370	UK	18,100	Iran	63,113
UK	133,495	Turkey	+3,083	Belgium	6,490	Italy	54,543
Turkey	98,674	Brazil	+2,678	Iran	5,391	France	40,657
Iran	85,996	Germany	+2,195	Germany	5,315	Brazil	25,318
China	82,798	France	+1,827	China	4,632	Switzerland	19,900
Russia	62,773	Canada	+1,768	Netherlands	4,054	Turkey	16,477
Brazil	46,182	Peru	+1,413	Brazil	2,924	Canada	13,986
Belgium	42,797	India	+1,290	Turkey	2,376	Austria	11,694
Canada	40,190	Iran	+1,194	Canada	1,974	Belgium	9,800
Netherlands	34,842	Saudi Arabia	+1,141	Sweden	1,937	Ireland	9,233
Switzerland	28,268	Singapore	+1,016	Switzerland	1,509	S. Korea	8,411
Portugal	21,982	Belgium	+933	Mexico	970	Peru	7,027
India	21,797	Mexico	+729	Portugal	785	Chile	5,386
Peru	19,250	Netherlands	+708	Ireland	769	Israel	5,334
Ireland	16,671	Sweden	+682	India	681	Denmark	5,087
Sweden	16,004	Ireland	+631	Indonesia	647	Australia	5,045
Austria	15,002	Qatar	+608	Russia	555	Russia	4,891
Israel	14,592	Portugal	+603	Ecuador	537	India	4,376
Saudi Arabia	12,772	Belarus	+558	Peru	530	Malaysia	3,452
Japan	11,950	Israel	+556	Romania	527	Mexico	2,627
Chile	11,296	Pakistan	+511	Austria	522	Thailand	2,430
Singapore	11,178	UAE	+483	Philippines	462	Romania	2,406
Ecuador	10,850	Romania	+468	Poland	435	Pakistan	2,337
S. Korea	10,702	Ukraine	+467	Algeria	402	Czechia	2,002
Mexico	10,544	Chile	+464	Denmark	384	Finland	2,000
Pakistan	10,513	Ecuador	+452	Japan	299	Saudi Arabia	1,812
Poland	10,346	Japan	+438	Egypt	276	Poland	1,740
Romania	9,710	Bangladesh	+390	Dominican Republic	260	UAE	1,546
UAE	8,238	Poland	+313	S. Korea	240	Iceland	1,462
Denmark	8,073	Indonesia	+283	Hungary	239	Japan	1,424
Indonesia	7,775	Dominican Republic	+256	Pakistan	224	Ecuador	1,262
Norway	7,338	Morocco	+237	Czechia	210	Algeria	1,204
Belarus	7,281	Serbia	+224	Colombia	206	Iraq	1,146
Ukraine	7,170	Denmark	+217	Israel	191	Portugal	1,143
Qatar	7,141	Colombia	+207	Norway	187	New Zealand	1,065
Czechia	7,136	Switzerland	+205	Ukraine	187	South Africa	1,055