



**THE  
SECURITY  
CENTRE  
LIMITED**

# GLOBAL UPDATE

**COVID-19 Outbreak Update  
9 May**

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**SOLACE** GLOBAL

## Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally have exceeded 4.015 million, with approximately 276,000 deaths and around 1.39 million recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have reported at least one case and/or have implemented some form of travel restriction. The situation has stabilised somewhat in the past weeks with many travel restrictions, both internationally and domestically, in place for the foreseeable future. Some countries are beginning to ease their restrictions; however, this process will be slow, with restrictions on international travel likely to be one of the last measures to be lifted.

The Security Centre and Solace Global continues to advise against all non-essential travel at this time due to the widespread travel restrictions. However, if conducting essential travel, it is advised that you check your relevant government's travel advice and contact your airline or travel provider for more details. Be aware that it is likely that many destinations globally will have some form of quarantining measure in place upon arrival. At this time, Solace Global still advises that 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

Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to announce the UK Government's plan to gradually ease lockdown restrictions during tomorrow's daily COVID-19 briefing. However, while some measures are likely to be eased, the prime minister is also expected to introduce a 14-day quarantine for anyone arriving at airports, ports, and international rail stations from the end of May. While the details of the measures are yet to be confirmed, it is likely expected that virtually all arrivals to the UK will need to complete a digital form with their personal information, including the address at which they intend to self-isolate. Arrivals from the Republic of Ireland, lorry drivers, some key workers, international transit passengers and flight, train and ferry crew are among those likely to be exempt from any quarantine.

In the US, the Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh has announced the cancellation of all summer festivals and public events up to and including Labor Day on 7 September. Meanwhile the mayor of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot, announced a five-point plan - separate to that of the state of Illinois - to gradually reopen the city and restart its economy. The city is currently in phase two, whereby a stay at home order continues to be enforced and face coverings are mandatory when in public. In other news, US Vice-President Mike Pence's press secretary, who is married to one of Donald Trump's senior advisers, has tested positive for COVID-19. According to Donald Trump, the US Vice-President had been tested for the virus and the result was negative.

In Europe, countries continue to announce the relaxation of some restrictions. The Serbian government has announced its intention to reopen Nikolai Tesla airport in Belgrade on 18 May; Air Serbia will reportedly operate flights to London, Frankfurt, Vienna, and Zurich. In Azerbaijan, Baku's metro services will resume operation from 06:00hrs local time on 9 May; however, passengers must wear face masks and will need to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

In Latvia, the government has extended the state of emergency until 9 June. Despite this, authorities have eased some restrictions; from 12 May, gatherings of up to 25 people will be permitted as long as social distancing is maintained, while indoor events will be limited to three hours. Museums, libraries, and national archives are due to open the same day with leisure facilities and restaurants allowed to open from 07:00hrs until midnight.

Elsewhere in Europe, the Spanish government has prevented highly populated parts of the country from progressing into the second phase of its four-stage end to lockdown. The Madrid and Catalonia regions, home to the nation's capital city and Barcelona respectively, have been refused permission to ease restrictions, which would have allowed bars, restaurants, and places of worship to open with limited capacity, as they continue to account for roughly half of the country's confirmed cases. Similarly, local authorities in Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia are set to reimpose some restrictions following a spike in new cases of the virus. The rise in confirmed cases has caused officials to postpone the lifting of measures which would have allowed restaurants, fitness studios, tourist spots and larger shops reopen on 11 May for seven days.

Restrictions continue to be eased in Africa. In Zambia, President Edgar Lungu has announced that businesses such as cinemas, restaurants and gyms are permitted to reopen in an attempt to restart the economy. Students who are scheduled to sit exams will go back to school on 1 June but must maintain social distancing measures and wear face masks. In the Cote d'Ivoire, the government has eased restrictions nationwide except for in Abidjan, which will remain under lockdown until at least 15 May. Schools, restaurants, bars and concert venues have all reopened while the curfew in Abidjan has been shortened from 21:00hrs to 05:00hrs to 23:00hrs and 04:00hrs local time.

Kuwait has announced a 'total curfew' beginning on 10 May for a period of 20 days. Under the lockdown, public sector workers will work remotely while all non-essential businesses will be closed, including banks, which will only provide internet services. Essential sectors like health, security, electricity, oil and municipal services, as well as private sector companies providing vital services like maintenance, will be exempt from the curfew. Cooperatives and grocery stores will remain open but people will need to book an appointment in advance. Since 20 April, the country has been under a 16-hour-per-day curfew from 16:00 to 08:00 local time.

In South America, both Mexico and Argentina have announced plans to relax restrictions in the coming days and weeks. Mexican president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on 8 May that he aims to present plans in the coming week to reopen the economy, as key sectors like car-making look to begin business again after over a month of quarantine measures. Argentina confirmed it will extend a quarantine covering its capital Buenos Aires but intends to relax restrictions for the rest of the country.

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

**Asia**

While restrictions across the region remain extensive, some countries are now easing their internal lockdown measures after successfully managing to curb their outbreaks; these include China, Taiwan and South Korea.

International travel restrictions will, however, likely remain in place for the time being. China, for example, has implemented a limit on the number of flights to the country and are denying entry to foreigners with previously issued visas and residence permits.

**Europe**

The EU Commission has invited all Schengen Member States and Schengen Associated States to prolong the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU until at least 15 May. Airlines, however, continue to operate limited flights to and from the majority of EU countries.

Austria, Denmark, Germany, Norway and some other European countries are now seeing an easing of internal restrictions after overcoming what the peak of the outbreak in their countries. Most recently, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland have also announced plans to ease their containment measures. In Italy, businesses have begun to reopen since early May.

**Americas**

The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. The majority of states now have a “stay-at-home” order of some kind or have closed “non-essential” businesses. However, some are now looking to ease restrictions, largely due to protests occurring in response to the lockdowns. In some cases, the demonstrators have attended these rallies armed.

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.

The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on both internal and international travel.

**Africa**

African countries have, thus far, not been as severely impacted by the outbreak, with the continent’s case numbers lower than all other continents except Oceania. However, the risk that the pandemic poses to Africa cannot be understated. As such, many countries implemented lockdown measures very early, when only a handful of cases had been recorded. Indeed, many countries announced restrictions before any confirmed cases.

While the majority of countries have some form of restrictions in place, especially on major cities, some, including Ghana, have been able to start relaxing their lockdowns. The DRC is also relaxing restrictions on the capital Kinshasa, which had been struck relatively hard before the outbreak. South Africa has also begun to ease restrictions since 1 May.

International travel is likely to remain limited for the foreseeable future. For example, Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, closed its land borders and banned all international flights in late March.

**Middle East**

The Middle East has some significant lockdowns in place, most countries are also now looking to ease restrictions. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan, among others, have all eased the restrictions on people’s movements.

Notably, Saudi Arabia has eased restrictions nationwide, with the exception of Mecca, with malls, wholesale and retail shops, also being allowed to reopen from the sixth day of Ramadan. Mecca remains under a 24-hour curfew with calls for the kingdom to postpone Hajj in July. Additionally, Kuwait announced a ‘total curfew’ from 10 May for 20 days.

**Australia/Oceania**

All states in Australia appear to have contained the spread of the coronavirus. Some states and territories including Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory will start to ease their restrictions from 1 May. Variations on restriction rules apply between states.

Additionally, New Zealand’s Prime Minister announced that the country has stopped the transmission of the virus. As such, some of the lockdown restrictions were eased from 11.59 local time on 27 April. New Zealand also lifted its level 4-lockdown that has been in effect for more than 4 weeks. The level 3 phase, which is reportedly in effect for two weeks, allows non-essential businesses such as retailers, schools and restaurants to reopen.

**TSCL and Solace Global Advice**

At this time, we continue to advise that **only business-critical travel is conducted**. Otherwise, ensure that you can access the country you intend to travel to. Extensive travel restrictions are making even business-critical travel difficult, as such, it is important that travellers are aware of the restrictions that are in place, including any potential mandatory quarantining, and are prepared for travel to be postponed or disrupted at short notice. It is likely that restrictions will continue to be eased in the coming weeks and months; however, these will remain fluid, with spikes in new cases likely resulting in renewed lockdowns and travel restrictions.

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

Current Total Cases	4,015,107 (+101,463)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,387,478 (+46,456)	Total Confirmed Deaths	276,268 (+5,842)
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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	1,322,163	USA	29,162	USA	78,616	USA	223,749
Spain	260,117	Russia	10,699	UK	31,241	Spain	168,408
Italy	217,185	Brazil	10,199	Italy	30,201	Germany	143,300
UK	211,364	UK	4,649	Spain	26,299	Italy	99,023
Russia	187,859	India	3,344	France	26,230	Turkey	86,396
France	176,079	Peru	3,321	Brazil	10,017	Iran	83,837

Germany	170,588	Spain	3,262	Belgium	8,521	China	78,046
Brazil	146,894	Mexico	1,982	Germany	7,510	Brazil	59,297
Turkey	135,569	Turkey	1,848	Iran	6,541	France	55,782
Iran	104,691	Pakistan	1,791	Netherlands	5,359	Canada	30,406
China	82,887	Saudi Arabia	1,701	China	4,633	Russia	26,608
Canada	66,434	Iran	1,556	Canada	4,569	Switzerland	26,100
Peru	61,847	Canada	1,512	Turkey	3,689	Mexico	20,314
India	59,765	Chile	1,391	Sweden	3,175	Peru	19,012
Belgium	52,011	Italy	1,327	Mexico	3,160	India	17,897
Netherlands	42,093	Qatar	1,311	India	1,986	Ireland	17,110
Saudi Arabia	35,432	France	1,288	Switzerland	1,823	Austria	13,836
Mexico	31,522	Germany	1,158	Russia	1,723	Belgium	13,201
Switzerland	30,207	Belarus	933	Peru	1,714	Chile	12,160
Ecuador	28,818	Ghana	921	Ecuador	1,704	Israel	11,229
Pakistan	27,474	Singapore	768	Ireland	1,429	S. Korea	9,568
Portugal	27,268	Bangladesh	709	Portugal	1,114	Saudi Arabia	9,120
Chile	25,972	South Africa	663	Indonesia	943	Denmark	7,927
Sweden	25,265	Sweden	642	Romania	923	Pakistan	7,756
Ireland	22,541	Kuwait	641	Poland	776	Romania	6,423
Singapore	21,707	Colombia	595	Philippines	696	Australia	6,124
Belarus	21,101	Belgium	591	Pakistan	618	Belarus	5,484
Qatar	20,201	Portugal	553	Austria	614	Poland	5,184
UAE	16,793	UAE	553	Japan	590	Japan	5,146
Israel	16,436	Ukraine	504	Denmark	522	Sweden	4,971
Austria	15,774	Egypt	495	Egypt	503	Malaysia	4,864
Japan	15,575	Nigeria	386	Algeria	488	Czechia	4,414
Poland	15,366	Indonesia	336	Colombia	428	Finland	4,000
Romania	14,811	Netherlands	319	Hungary	405	UAE	3,837
Ukraine	14,710	Poland	319	Dominican Republic	380	Luxembourg	3,526
Bangladesh	13,134	Romania	312	Ukraine	376	Ecuador	3,433
Indonesia	13,112	Dominican Republic	281	Chile	294	South Africa	3,153
S. Korea	10,840	Kazakhstan	256	Argentina	293	Ukraine	2,909
Philippines	10,463	Bahrain	245	Czechia	273	Thailand	2,787
Denmark	10,218	Argentina	240	Finland	260	Indonesia	2,494