



THE  
SECURITY  
CENTRE  
LIMITED

# GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update  
10 May

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**SOLACE** GLOBAL

**Executive Summary**

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally have exceeded 4.1 million, with approximately 280,000 deaths and around 1.44 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**

The Australian state of New South Wales has announced a significant easing of its lockdown restrictions from Friday, 15 May. Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that cafés and restaurants will be allowed to reopen with a maximum of 10 patrons, as long as they each have 4 square metres of space. Additionally, up to five people will be allowed to visit another person's home while the use of outdoor pools, gyms and play equipment will be permitted. Furthermore, the number of people allowed to attend weddings, funerals and religious gatherings will be increased to between 20 and 30, depending on whether the event is held indoors or outdoors. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has outlined a three-stage plan for the rolling back of restrictions but has indicated that it will be up to individual states and territories to determine when to move to each stage. The Northern Territory has moved quickly and is expected to open restaurants, nightclubs and pubs on 15 May.

Several children have died in the US as a result of a mysterious syndrome that has been linked to COVID-19 infection. The condition, a form of toxic shock and similar to Kawasaki disease, affects the skin, eyes, blood vessels and heart, and can leave children requiring mechanical ventilation. Patients generally present at a hospital without showing symptoms associated with COVID-19 but subsequently test positive for the virus. There have been dozens of cases of the unidentified illness in the US and several European countries. Experts are currently working to better understand the condition. COVID-19 is generally thought to affect children only mildly. Indeed, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo warned of "an entirely different chapter" of the disease after at least 73 cases were reported in New York last week.

Also in the US, several key government officials have been forced to self-isolate after coming into contact with an individual who subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. The most high-profile of these is Dr Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a key figure in the White House response to the virus. 79-year old Fauci is believed to have tested negative for the virus but will be retested regularly in the coming weeks. Additionally, Dr Robert Redfield, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will self-isolate for two weeks after having contact with a White House official who was confirmed to have the virus.

A number of African countries are seeking to acquire large quantities of a herbal drink developed in Madagascar that is claimed to be an effective treatment for COVID-19. The drink was launched in April by Malagasy president Andry Rajoelina but has not undergone any internationally recognised scientific testing. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned against the use of the drink as a treatment for COVID-19. Despite this, several African countries have received free consignments of the tonic, with several regulators authorising its use.

In South America, officials in Paraguay are concerned that the country's success in containing COVID-19 will be undone by the worsening outbreak in neighbouring Brazil. President Mario Abdo Benitez has indicated that the majority of Paraguay's 563 confirmed cases of the virus have been linked to people entering the country from Brazil, the worst hit country in Latin America. The countries share a 400km border which is usually loosely controlled. However, additional security measures have been taken along the frontier in an effort to better control the flow of people from Brazil into Paraguay. Similar measures are reportedly being considered by several of Brazil's neighbours, with Argentina considering halting cross-border trade.

Authorities in Trinidad and Tobago have announced that there have been no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 since 26 April. In his daily briefing, Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh also announced that only four people remain in hospital with the virus. However, the low number of confirmed cases in Trinidad and Tobago is possibly due to limited testing. To date, the country has only tested 1,931 people for the virus. New cases of the virus cannot be ruled out in Trinidad and Tobago in the near term.

South Korea has recorded 34 new cases of COVID-19, the highest number since 9 April. The resurgence followed a small but growing cluster of cases centred in a handful of Seoul nightclubs. Officials in Seoul are currently working to trace around 7,000 people who were in the clubs on the weekend of 2-3 May. As a result of the cluster, Seoul officials have ordered all bars and nightclubs in the city to close, just three days after they were allowed to reopen.

Finally, calls are increasing from across the international community to allow Taiwan to join the WHO in light of a strong performance in the fight against COVID-19. Currently, Taiwan is excluded from the UN body due to objections from China, which claims the island nation as one of its provinces. Taiwanese officials have been frustrated at not being able to offer their experience to the WHO given the country's success in dealing with the virus. The governments of the United States and New Zealand have indicated that they are in favour of Taiwan being granted at least observer status, which they held until 2016 but lost following a diplomatic spat with Beijing. The WHO has in recent months faced criticism for allegedly ignoring Taiwanese warnings over the possibility of human-to-human transition of COVID-19 as early as December 2019. This account has been supported by Taiwanese Vice President Chen Chien-Jen, a qualified epidemiologist. However, with Beijing becoming increasingly defensive in recent months, China is likely to veto any attempt to allow a Taiwanese representative at the WHO.

**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>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Europe</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Americas</b>	<p>The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. The majority of states now have imposed restrictions or have 'stay-at-home' orders in place. However, many states have announced plans to gradually ease restrictions in the coming days and weeks, largely due to protests occurring in response to the lockdowns. In some cases, the demonstrators have attended these rallies armed.</p> <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>The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on both internal and international travel.</p>
<b>Africa</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>South Africa began relaxing its restrictions in early May as part of a five-level, risk-based approach.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Middle East</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Australia/ Oceania</b>	<p>All states in Australia appear to have contained the spread of the coronavirus. Most states and territories including Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales and Northern Territory have eased restrictions. As of 10 May, Victoria is the only state to retain strict restrictions.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>TSCL and Solace Global Advice</b>	<p>At this time, we continue to advise that <b>only business-critical travel is conducted</b>. 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.</p>

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

Current Total Cases	4,114,551 (+99,444)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,445,931 (+58,453)	Total Confirmed Deaths	280,558 (+4,290)
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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	1,347,318	USA	25,524	USA	80,040	USA	238,080
Spain	262,783	Russia	10,817	UK	31,587	Spain	173,157
Italy	218,268	Brazil	10,169	Italy	30,395	Germany	144,400

UK	215,260	UK	3,896	Spain	26,478	Italy	103,031
Russia	209,688	Peru	3,168	France	26,310	Turkey	89,480
France	176,658	India	3,113	Brazil	10,656	Iran	85,064
Germany	171,324	Spain	2,666	Belgium	8,581	China	78,120
Brazil	156,061	Pakistan	2,301	Germany	7,549	Brazil	61,685
Turkey	137,115	Mexico	1,906	Iran	6,589	France	56,038
Iran	106,220	Saudi Arabia	1,704	Netherlands	5,422	Russia	34,306
China	82,901	Turkey	1,546	Canada	4,693	Canada	31,249
Canada	67,702	Iran	1,529	China	4,633	Switzerland	26,400
Peru	65,015	Canada	1,268	Turkey	3,739	Mexico	21,824
India	62,939	Chile	1,247	Mexico	3,353	Peru	20,246
Belgium	52,596	Qatar	1,130	Sweden	3,220	India	19,358
Netherlands	42,382	Italy	1,083	India	2,109	Ireland	17,110
Saudi Arabia	37,136	Belarus	951	Russia	1,915	Austria	13,928
Mexico	33,460	Singapore	753	Switzerland	1,830	Belgium	13,411
Switzerland	30,251	Germany	736	Peru	1,814	Chile	12,667
Pakistan	29,465	Sweden	656	Ecuador	1,717	Israel	11,376
Ecuador	29,071	Bangladesh	636	Ireland	1,446	Saudi Arabia	10,144
Portugal	27,406	UAE	624	Portugal	1,126	S. Korea	9,610
Chile	27,219	Belgium	585	Indonesia	959	Denmark	8,093
Sweden	25,921	France	579	Romania	939	Pakistan	8,023
Singapore	23,336	Indonesia	533	Poland	785	Romania	6,912
Ireland	22,760	South Africa	525	Philippines	704	Australia	6,141
Belarus	22,052	Ukraine	515	Pakistan	639	Belarus	6,050
Qatar	21,331	Dominican Republic	506	Austria	615	Japan	5,906
UAE	17,417	Egypt	488	Japan	607	Poland	5,698
Israel	16,454	Colombia	444	Denmark	526	Sweden	4,971
Austria	15,833	Kuwait	415	Egypt	514	Malaysia	4,929
Japan	15,663	Bahrain	330	Algeria	494	Panama	4,501
Poland	15,651	Romania	320	Colombia	445	Czechia	4,447
Ukraine	15,232	Netherlands	289	Hungary	413	UAE	4,295
Romania	15,131	Poland	285	Ukraine	391	Finland	4,000
Bangladesh	13,770	Afghanistan	255	Dominican Republic	385	South Africa	3,983
Indonesia	13,645	Ecuador	253	Chile	304	Luxembourg	3,550
S. Korea	10,874	Ghana	251	Argentina	300	Ecuador	3,433
Philippines	10,610	Nigeria	239	Czechia	276	Ukraine	3,060
Colombia	10,495	Ireland	219	Finland	265	Thailand	2,794