



# GLOBAL UPDATE


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**COVID-19 Outbreak Update**  
**13 May**



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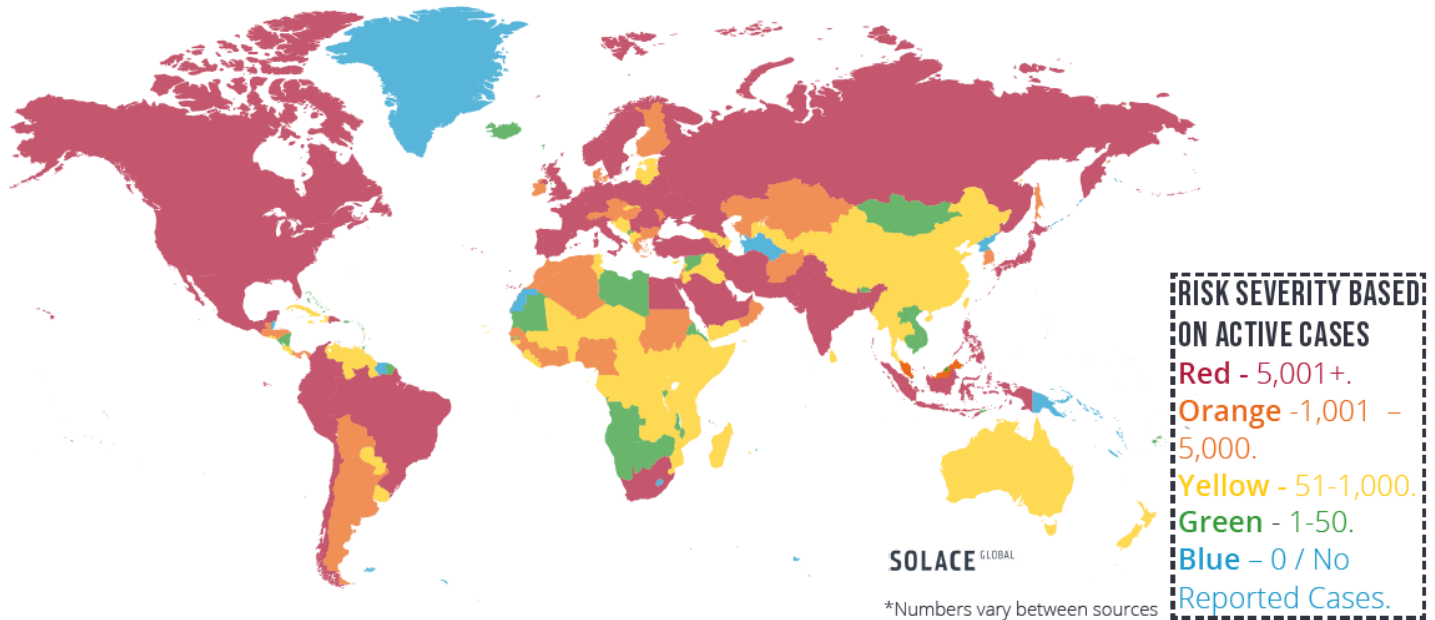
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## Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally now reached 4.3 million, with approximately 293,000 deaths and around 1.61 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 Chinese Government plans to test all 11 million residents of the city Wuhan for COVID-19 within a week, as new cases begin to resurface after a month of no new cases being reported. Officials have been told to prioritize the testing of vulnerable groups and places like residential compounds. The measure was announced as a response to the six new locally transmitted cases that were recorded in the city between Sunday and Monday. China continues to report very low numbers of new confirmed cases, most of which coming from overseas.

Yuan Zhiming, high-ranking virologist and official leading the lab pinpointed by US officials as the likely source of the pandemic, claims that no virus could have escaped from his facility, stating “our lab not only has a high level of biosafety infrastructure, we also have established a set of rigorous biosecurity protocols to ensure the lab operates safely and efficiently.” The issue has added another source of contention between China and the US, building on existing accusations against Beijing of covering up the severity of the outbreak in Wuhan. Compensation demands have also been moved against the Chinese government by a number of states and civil organisations worldwide, demanding remuneration for the damages and deaths caused by the virus.

Criticism have been also directed at US President Donald Trump, who has been accused of inflating the aggressive political narrative against China in order to distract the electorate from the government's handling of the pandemic ahead of the elections scheduled for November. The US currently leads in terms of identified cases and fatalities from the virus, with the death toll standing at over 80,000.

Elsewhere, authorities in Saudi Arabia have announced that a nationwide 24-hour curfew will be enforced during the five-day Muslim Eid al-Fitr holiday later this month to help combat the spread of the virus, which may be exacerbated by gatherings during the celebration. The curfew will be in effect between 23 and 27 May following the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Preliminary data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics has revealed that the number of overseas arrivals to the country collapsed by 98.7 per cent in April. The news comes after Australia closed its borders in an attempt to contain the coronavirus. The figures represent a massive blow to the tourism industry that is sure to be indicative of the situation in almost every other country. Similarly, departures from Australia decreased by 96.5 per cent to 63,500, mostly foreigners returning home.

The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) has issued warnings concerning the potential for high rates of dengue fever in Latin America this year. The pressure this is expected to place on healthcare systems is likely to be compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic already raging across the continent, with Brazil being most severely impacted. Additionally, with four strains of dengue in circulation, people may catch it more than once, with second cases more likely to be severe. Those in Latin America may wish to take more strenuous precautions against mosquito bites as well as COVID-19 social distancing measures.

**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>TSSL 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	4,357,357 (+85,669)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,611,031 (+75,938)	Total Confirmed Deaths	293,134 (+5,521)
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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	1,408,636	USA	22,802	USA	83,425	USA	296,746
Spain	269,520	Russia	10,899	UK	32,692	Spain	180,470
Russia	242,271	Brazil	8,459	Italy	30,911	Germany	148,700
UK	226,463	India	3,524	France	26,991	Italy	109,039
Italy	221,216	UK	3,403	Spain	26,920	Turkey	98,889
France	178,225	Peru	3,237	Brazil	12,461	Iran	88,357

Brazil	178,214	Saudi Arabia	1,911	Belgium	8,761	China	78,189
Germany	173,273	Pakistan	1,733	Germany	7,754	Brazil	72,597
Turkey	141,475	Turkey	1,704	Iran	6,733	France	57,785
Iran	110,767	Chile	1,658	Netherlands	5,510	Russia	48,003
China	82,926	Qatar	1,526	Canada	5,169	Canada	34,042
India	74,925	Iran	1,481	China	4,633	Switzerland	26,800
Peru	72,059	Italy	1,402	Mexico	3,926	Mexico	25,935
Canada	71,157	Spain	1,377	Turkey	3,894	India	24,887
Belgium	53,779	Mexico	1,305	Sweden	3,313	Peru	23,324
Netherlands	42,984	Canada	1,176	India	2,436	Ireland	17,110
Saudi Arabia	42,925	Kuwait	991	Ecuador	2,327	Saudi Arabia	15,257
Mexico	38,324	Bangladesh	969	Russia	2,212	Austria	14,304
Pakistan	34,336	Belarus	967	Peru	2,057	Chile	14,125
Chile	31,721	Ecuador	910	Switzerland	1,867	Belgium	13,732
Ecuador	30,419	Singapore	884	Ireland	1,488	Israel	12,173
Switzerland	30,380	France	802	Portugal	1,163	S. Korea	9,695
Portugal	27,913	UAE	783	Indonesia	1,028	Pakistan	8,812
Sweden	27,272	South Africa	698	Romania	1,007	Denmark	8,580
Singapore	25,346	Colombia	659	Poland	847	Japan	8,531
Qatar	25,149	Sweden	602	Philippines	772	Romania	7,685
Belarus	24,873	Germany	595	Pakistan	737	Belarus	6,974
Ireland	23,242	Poland	595	Japan	657	Poland	6,410
UAE	19,661	Indonesia	484	Austria	624	Australia	6,270
Bangladesh	17,822	Ghana	427	Egypt	544	Panama	6,021
Poland	17,062	Ukraine	375	Denmark	527	UAE	6,012
Israel	16,539	Egypt	347	Algeria	515	Malaysia	5,281
Ukraine	16,425	Belgium	330	Colombia	493	Sweden	4,971
Austria	15,997	Bahrain	295	Ukraine	439	Czechia	4,899
Japan	15,968	Argentina	285	Hungary	430	South Africa	4,357
Romania	15,778	Afghanistan	276	Dominican Republic	402	Finland	4,300
Indonesia	15,438	Bolivia	275	Chile	335	Singapore	3,851
Colombia	12,272	Dominican Republic	266	Argentina	319	Ukraine	3,716
Philippines	11,618	Philippines	264	Czechia	284	Luxembourg	3,610
South Africa	11,350	Portugal	234	Finland	275	Serbia	3,600