



THE  
SECURITY  
CENTRE  
LIMITED

# GLOBAL UPDATE



COVID-19 Outbreak Update  
16 May

## Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has now reached 4.6 million, with approximately 308,000 deaths and around 1.76 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

Dr Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made a press announcement stating that the US is likely to exceed 100,000 deaths by 1 June. Dr Redfield said that the figure was a result of a dozen forecasting models currently used by the institute to track the outbreak of the virus and all of them are forecasting an increasing rate of death in the coming weeks. The University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, which is frequently cited by the White House, predicts 140,000 deaths by 4 August. These announcements were made as multiple states continue to relax restrictions. For example, in five rural regions of New York state, construction and manufacturing companies have returned to work.

Meanwhile, in Tennessee, Governor Bill Lee has announced that beginning on the 22 May, the state will lift restrictions limiting the number of customers that can visit retail stores or restaurants at the same time. Social distancing measures, such as ensuring tables are spaced six feet apart will still have to be adhered to. Governor Lee also announced his intent to reopen large attractions and venues such as racetracks, amusement parks, theatres and museums, although there is no indication yet of the exact date.

In Italy, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte signed a new decree that will allow the resumption of travel to and from abroad on 3 June. Inter-regional travel will also restart from the same day, meaning that Italians will soon be able to move freely between regions. In some regions, from 18 May, shops, restaurants, museums and hair salons can also reopen, providing sanitation and social distancing are enforced. Lombardy, the hardest hit by COVID-19, is yet to decide when it will allow non-essential businesses to reopen.

Elsewhere in Europe, Luxembourg and Croatia announced they intend to resume limited flight operations in the coming weeks. Croatia Airlines will resume daily flights between Zagreb and Amsterdam as well as flights to and from Frankfurt on 25 May. The airline has already operating limited domestic services to and from Split and Dubrovnik. In Luxembourg, Luxair will be resuming its flight operations on 1 June whilst LuxairTours holiday activities are set to relaunch on the 13 June. Both companies announced that it is now mandatory to wear face masks and comply with social distancing measures whilst on board.

On the other hand, Bulgaria and Greece extended their restrictions on international travel. For example, flights between Greece and seven countries (Italy, Spain, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Turkey, Albania and North Macedonia) will remain suspended and the ban on non-EU nationals entering the country will be in effect until the 31 May. Domestic flight services are expected to restart with limited services from 18 May. Bulgaria has also extended the ban on flights to some countries including Italy, Portugal, Russia and Cyprus.

In Africa, the Eritrean Ministry of Health has declared there are no active cases in the country after the last patient was discharged from hospital yesterday. In total, 39 patients successfully recovered from COVID-19 since the first case was announced on 21 March. Eritrea follows the steps of Mauritania and Mauritius who have also recorded full recoveries.

## 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 mid-June. Airlines, however, continue to operate limited flights to and from the majority of EU countries.</p> <p>European countries are now seeing an easing of internal and international restrictions after overcoming what the peak of the outbreak in their countries. Most recently, Italy has announced that it will allow travel to and from abroad from 3 June.</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>
Africa	<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.</p> <p>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>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>
Middle East	<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>
Australia/Oceania	<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.</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. Updated reports indicate that New Zealand also lifted the nationwide state of emergency and entered the Level 2 phase. The new phase allows public spaces such as restaurants and gyms to reopen.</p>
TSCL and Solace Global Advice	<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	4,639,427 (+111,616)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	1,766,175 (+60,001)	Total Confirmed Deaths	308,810 (+5,372)
---------------------	----------------------	----------------------------	---------------------	------------------------	------------------

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	1,484,285	USA	+26,692	USA	88,507	USA	327,751
Spain	274,367	Brazil	+15,305	UK	33,998	Spain	188,967
Russia	272,043	Russia	+10,598	Italy	31,610	Germany	152,600
UK	236,711	Peru	+3,891	France	27,529	Italy	120,205
Italy	223,885	India	+3,787	Spain	27,459	Turkey	106,133
Brazil	220,291	UK	+3,560	Brazil	14,962	Iran	91,836
France	179,506	Chile	+2,502	Belgium	8,959	Brazil	84,970
Germany	175,699	Mexico	+2,409	Germany	8,001	China	78,219
Turkey	146,457	Saudi Arabia	+2,307	Iran	6,902	Russia	63,166
Iran	116,635	Iran	+2,102	Netherlands	5,643	France	60,448
India	85,940	Spain	+1,721	Canada	5,562	Canada	36,895
Peru	84,495	Turkey	+1,708	Mexico	4,767	Mexico	30,451
China	82,941	Pakistan	+1,430	China	4,633	India	30,258
Canada	74,613	Canada	+1,212	Turkey	4,055	Peru	27,147
Belgium	54,644	Bangladesh	+1,202	Sweden	3,646	Switzerland	27,100
Saudi Arabia	49,176	Qatar	+1,153	India	2,753	Saudi Arabia	21,869
Mexico	45,032	Ecuador	+965	Ecuador	2,594	Ireland	19,470
Netherlands	43,681	Belarus	+958	Russia	2,537	Chile	16,614
Chile	39,542	Kuwait	+885	Peru	2,392	Austria	14,471

Pakistan	38,799	Singapore	+793	Switzerland	1,878	Belgium	14,301
Ecuador	31,467	Italy	+789	Ireland	1,518	Israel	12,587
Switzerland	30,514	South Africa	+785	Portugal	1,190	Pakistan	10,880
Qatar	29,425	UAE	+747	Indonesia	1,076	Japan	10,338
Sweden	29,207	Germany	+724	Romania	1,070	S. Korea	9,851
Portugal	28,583	France	+636	Poland	907	Romania	9,370
Belarus	27,730	Sweden	+625	Pakistan	834	Denmark	8,959
Singapore	27,356	Colombia	+606	Philippines	806	Belarus	8,807
Ireland	23,956	Indonesia	+490	Japan	713	UAE	7,328
UAE	21,831	Ukraine	+483	Austria	628	Singapore	7,248
Bangladesh	20,065	Dominican Republic	+419	Egypt	592	Poland	6,918
Poland	18,016	Afghanistan	+414	Colombia	546	Australia	6,353
Ukraine	17,858	Poland	+401	Denmark	537	South Africa	6,083
Israel	16,589	Egypt	+399	Algeria	536	Panama	6,080
Indonesia	16,496	Bahrain	+385	Ukraine	497	Malaysia	5,439
Romania	16,437	Belgium	+356	Hungary	448	Czechia	5,381
Japan	16,203	Argentina	+345	Dominican Republic	424	Finland	5,000
Austria	16,109	Nigeria	+288	Chile	394	Sweden	4,971
Colombia	14,216	Oman	+284	Argentina	356	Ukraine	4,906
South Africa	13,524	Portugal	+264	Bangladesh	298	Serbia	4,301
Kuwait	12,860	Bolivia	+224	Czechia	295	Bangladesh	3,882