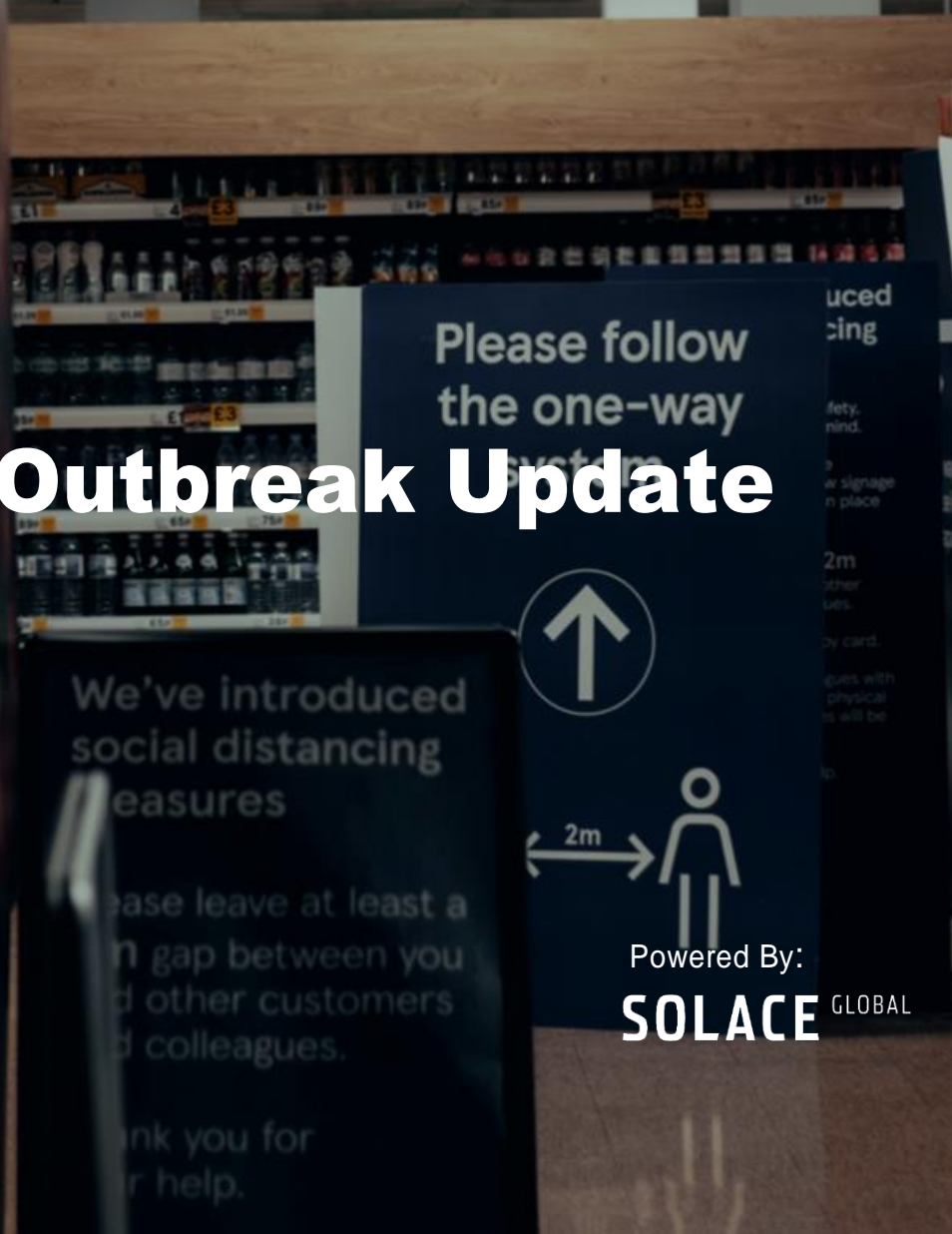




GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update 23 May



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Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has surpassed 5 million, with approximately 340,000 deaths and approximately 2 million recoveries. Nearly all countries globally have reported at least one case and have implemented some form of travel restriction. While the situation has stabilised in many European and Asian countries in the past weeks, it is highly likely that the in-place travel restrictions, both internationally and domestically, will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Internally, 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 measures 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

Approximately 1.8 billion Muslims will begin celebrating the three-day religious holiday Eid al-Fitr this evening. The celebration marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan and usually involves travelling to visit family. Several countries including Iraq, Algeria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt have imposed curfews and travel bans over the coming days in an attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19. In Iran, where families often journey long distances to see relatives, a top health official has appealed to Iranians not to do so, with concern mounting that the holiday may lead to a significant spike in cases.

A study published in the Lancet medical journal shows that hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial being lauded by US President Donald Trump as a potential cure for COVID-19, has increased the mortality-rates in those treated in hospitals around the world. Countries including Morocco and Djibouti have claimed their low death rates ought to be ascribed to the drug's use, but this is more likely due to poor testing capabilities.

Describing Brazil as "clearly the most affected", the World Health Organization has declared South America the new centre of the pandemic. Elsewhere on the continent, Peru has extended its state of emergency until at least the end of June as infection numbers continue to rise and Argentina has recorded the highest single daily increase in cases since the start of the pandemic. During a press conference, Dr Mike Ryan, the organisation's emergencies expert, noted that although Brazilian authorities have approved the use of hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for the virus, clinical evidence does not support its use. Dr Ryan also added that the current low levels of mortality associated with the virus in Africa may be due to half of the continent's population being under the age of 18.

In the US, President Trump has declared churches, mosques and synagogues as essential services and ordered them to be reopened, arguing that "in America we need more prayer, not less". Trump threatened to override governors who refuse to reopen places of worship, a power he does not possess.

Russia's deputy prime minister has warned "there will be a significant mortality increase in May", with Moscow's mayor also saying that the number of deaths in the city will be "considerably higher than in April". Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov is currently being treated for the virus in the city.

Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions – Be aware these are fluid and subject to change, check for any updates prior to travel.	
Asia	<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>
Europe	<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 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>
Americas	<p>The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. The majority of states have imposed restrictions or have 'stay-at-home' orders in place. However, in recent days and weeks, many states have begun to ease measures and have allowed businesses to resume limited operations as part of phased reopening plans.</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. South Africa and Egypt are both seeing a strong increase in case numbers with Cameroon and Sudan also seeing an increase in confirmed cases.</p>

	<p>As such, many countries implemented lockdown measures very early, when only a handful of cases had been recorded. Indeed, numerous 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, Northern Territory and Victoria 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 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.</p>

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	5,308,190 (+109,883)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	2,160,877 (+77,559)	Total Confirmed Deaths	340,075 (+5,386)
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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	1,645,353	USA	+24,197	USA	97,655	USA	403,228
Brazil	332,382	Brazil	+19,969	UK	36,393	Spain	196,958
Russia	326,448	Russia	+8,894	Italy	32,616	Germany	159,000
Spain	281,904	India	+6,568	Spain	28,628	Italy	136,720
UK	254,195	Chile	+4,276	France	28,289	Brazil	135,430
Italy	228,658	UK	+3,287	Brazil	21,116	Turkey	116,111
France	182,219	Mexico	+2,973	Belgium	9,212	Iran	102,276
Germany	179,713	Peru	+2,929	Germany	8,352	Russia	99,825
Turkey	154,500	Saudi Arabia	+2,642	Iran	7,300	China	78,258
Iran	131,652	Pakistan	+2,603	Mexico	6,989	France	64,209
India	125,149	Iran	+2,311	Canada	6,250	India	51,824
Peru	111,698	Qatar	+1,830	Netherlands	5,788	Peru	44,848
China	82,971	Spain	+1,787	China	4,634	Mexico	42,725
Canada	82,480	Bangladesh	+1,694	Turkey	4,276	Canada	42,594
Saudi Arabia	67,719	Canada	+1,156	Sweden	3,925	Saudi Arabia	39,003
Mexico	62,527	UAE	+994	India	3,728	Switzerland	27,900
Chile	61,857	South Africa	+988	Russia	3,249	Chile	25,342
Belgium	56,511	Kuwait	+955	Peru	3,244	Ireland	21,060
Pakistan	52,437	Turkey	+952	Ecuador	3,056	Pakistan	16,653
Netherlands	44,888	Belarus	+932	Switzerland	1,903	Belgium	15,123
Qatar	40,481	Colombia	+801	Ireland	1,592	Austria	15,005
Ecuador	35,828	Egypt	+783	Indonesia	1,326	Israel	13,915
Belarus	34,303	Argentina	+718	Portugal	1,289	UAE	13,798
Sweden	32,809	Germany	+692	Romania	1,166	Japan	13,005
Singapore	31,068	Italy	+652	Pakistan	1,101	Singapore	12,995
Switzerland	30,707	Sweden	+637	Poland	982	Belarus	12,833

Bangladesh	30,205	Indonesia	+634	Philippines	857	Romania	10,777
Portugal	30,200	Singapore	+614	Japan	796	S. Korea	10,194
UAE	27,892	Afghanistan	+540	Egypt	707	South Africa	10,104
Ireland	24,506	Ecuador	+522	Colombia	682	Denmark	9,764
Indonesia	20,796	Poland	+476	Austria	635	Poland	8,977
Poland	20,619	Ukraine	+442	Chile	630	Qatar	7,893
Ukraine	20,580	Oman	+424	Ukraine	605	Norway	7,727
South Africa	20,125	France	+393	Algeria	582	Portugal	7,590
Kuwait	19,564	Kazakhstan	+363	Denmark	561	Dominican Republic	7,572
Colombia	19,131	Dominican Republic	+332	Hungary	482	Ukraine	6,929
Romania	17,712	Armenia	+322	Dominican Republic	456	Australia	6,494
Israel	16,690	Portugal	+288	Argentina	433	Panama	6,275
Japan	16,513	Belgium	+276	Bangladesh	432	Bangladesh	6,190
Austria	16,436	Bolivia	+268	South Africa	397	Czechia	6,025