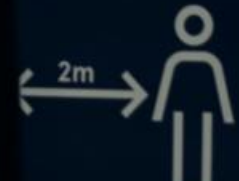




THE
SECURITY
CENTRE
LIMITED

GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update
25 May



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Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally has surpassed 5.5 million, with approximately 347,000 deaths and approximately 2.3 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

The White House has imposed an entry ban on foreign nationals who have been to Brazil within two weeks prior to their request to enter the United States. The ban, which is due to take effect from 28 May, will not apply to US citizens, or to the spouse, parent, legal guardian, or child of a US citizen or permanent resident. Brazil recently overtook Russia to become the world's second worst-affected nation in terms of total COVID-19 cases, where the number of deaths has been doubling almost every two weeks, compared to about every two months in the United Kingdom. Moreover, experts fear that Brazil's true figures could be far higher due to a lack of testing.

In other news, US President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser, Robert O'Brien, accused China of covering up the coronavirus outbreak on two political talk shows on Sunday 24 May. Speaking on the shows, Mr O'Brien said the cover-up will "go down in history along with Chernobyl" while also claiming that Beijing gave "false information" to the World Health Organisation at the start of the year. In response, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Washington seemed to be infected by a "political virus" that risked pushing the two nations to "the brink of a new Cold War".

Meanwhile in Spain, lockdown measures have been amended as this country continues a phased return to normality. Under the new measures, people in Barcelona and Madrid will be able to meet in groups of up to 10 people in their homes or on the terraces of bars and restaurants, while some of the country's beaches are set to reopen. The wearing of face masks is still compulsory in buildings or on public streets when it is not possible to maintain social distancing. In areas allowed to enter Phase 2, restaurants are able to reopen to a limited number of customers and daily exercise will no longer be limited to certain hours of the day. The Spanish Government has hinted that tourism will resume in July.

Elsewhere in Europe, the French government has announced that all British travellers entering the country from the UK will be required to undergo a mandatory 14-day period of quarantine. The restriction is due to be implemented on 8 June and mirrors a decision announced by the UK Home Secretary Priti Patel earlier this week. In Monaco, authorities have announced that from 2 June, all bars, cafes, restaurants, museums and casinos will reopen, albeit under social distancing measures. A maximum of six people will be permitted to sit on one table and all tables must be separated.

In Cyprus, the government has reopened beaches as the island prepares to restart its tourism industry. Social distancing rules have been imposed and beach umbrellas and sun loungers are to be routinely cleaned. Cypriot authorities intend to restart flights on 9 June to and from Greece, Malta, Bulgaria, Norway, Austria, Finland, Slovenia, Hungary, Israel, Denmark, Germany, Slovakia, and Lithuania. Passengers arriving from these countries must obtain a permit three days before travelling confirming they are virus-free.

In South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced he will further relax COVID-19 lockdown measures from 1 June, allowing most of the economy to reopen. Most businesses, not including hair salons and beauty parlours, will be allowed to resume operations under strict social distancing measures. Restaurants, bars and pubs will also remain closed except for takeaway and collection services. In addition, the overnight curfew which is currently in place between 20:00 and 05:00 will be lifted and schools will be allowed to re-start. A controversial ban on alcohol will also end, with limited sales allowed for home consumption only and "only under strict conditions on specified days and for limited hours", according to the President. However, the ban on the sale of cigarettes will remain in place "due to the health risks associated with smoking".

Indian authorities will allow domestic flight operations to resume from today, despite a 24-hour record spike in new cases on Sunday. The country's federal aviation minister stated that the resumption of domestic services follows a day of "hard negotiations" after some states sought to limit the number of flights.

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 least 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, Spain and Italy have announced a relaxing of lockdown measures.</p>
Americas	<p>The US continues to be the worst affected country globally. The majority of states had imposed restrictions or have 'stay-at-home' orders in response to the outbreak. 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 and South Africa, have begun to start relaxing their lockdowns.</p> <p>International travel is likely to remain limited for the foreseeable future.</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>
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Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	5,513,369 (+105,590)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	2,309,246 (+60,752)	Total Confirmed Deaths	346,868 (+2,839)
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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	1,686,436	USA	19,608	USA	99,300	USA	451,702
Brazil	365,213	Brazil	16,220	UK	36,793	Spain	196,958
Russia	353,427	Russia	8,599	Italy	32,785	Germany	161,200
Spain	282,852	India	7,113	Spain	28,752	Brazil	149,911
UK	259,559	Peru	4,205	France	28,367	Italy	140,479
Italy	229,858	Chile	3,709	Brazil	22,746	Russia	118,798
France	182,584	Mexico	3,329	Belgium	9,280	Turkey	118,694

Germany	180,328	UK	2,405	Germany	8,371	Iran	105,801
Turkey	156,827	Saudi Arabia	2,399	Iran	7,417	China	78,268
India	139,049	Iran	2,180	Mexico	7,394	France	64,617
Iran	135,701	Pakistan	2,164	Canada	6,424	India	57,721
Peru	119,959	Bangladesh	1,532	Netherlands	5,822	Peru	49,795
Canada	84,699	Qatar	1,501	China	4,634	Mexico	47,424
China	82,985	South Africa	1,240	Turkey	4,340	Canada	43,985
Saudi Arabia	72,560	Turkey	1,141	India	4,024	Saudi Arabia	43,520
Chile	69,102	Canada	1,078	Sweden	3,998	Chile	28,148
Mexico	68,620	Colombia	998	Russia	3,633	Switzerland	28,100
Belgium	57,092	Belarus	954	Peru	3,456	Ireland	21,060
Pakistan	56,349	Kuwait	838	Ecuador	3,108	Portugal	17,549
Netherlands	45,236	UAE	781	Switzerland	1,906	Pakistan	17,482
Qatar	43,714	Egypt	752	Ireland	1,608	Belgium	15,272
Ecuador	36,756	Argentina	723	Indonesia	1,372	Austria	15,063
Belarus	36,198	Afghanistan	584	Portugal	1,316	UAE	15,056
Bangladesh	33,610	Singapore	548	Romania	1,185	Singapore	14,876
Sweden	33,459	Italy	531	Pakistan	1,167	Israel	14,203
Singapore	31,960	Indonesia	526	Poland	996	Belarus	14,155
Switzerland	30,736	Oman	513	Philippines	868	Japan	13,413
Portugal	30,623	Ecuador	498	Japan	820	Romania	11,399
UAE	29,485	Cameroon	490	Egypt	764	South Africa	11,100
Ireland	24,639	Spain	482	Colombia	727	S. Korea	10,226
South Africa	22,583	Ukraine	406	Chile	718	Denmark	9,900
Indonesia	22,271	Kazakhstan	403	Austria	640	Poland	9,276
Poland	21,326	Poland	395	Ukraine	623	Qatar	9,170
Kuwait	21,302	Dominican Republic	379	Algeria	600	Dominican Republic	8,133
Ukraine	21,245	Armenia	359	Denmark	562	Norway	7,727
Colombia	21,175	Panama	349	Hungary	491	Ukraine	7,234
Romania	18,070	Germany	342	Bangladesh	480	Bangladesh	6,901
Egypt	17,265	Bahrain	336	Dominican Republic	458	Australia	6,531
Israel	16,720	Bolivia	336	Argentina	452	Panama	6,279
Japan	16,550	Nigeria	313	South Africa	429	Kuwait	6,117