



THE
SECURITY
CENTRE
LIMITED

GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update
26 May



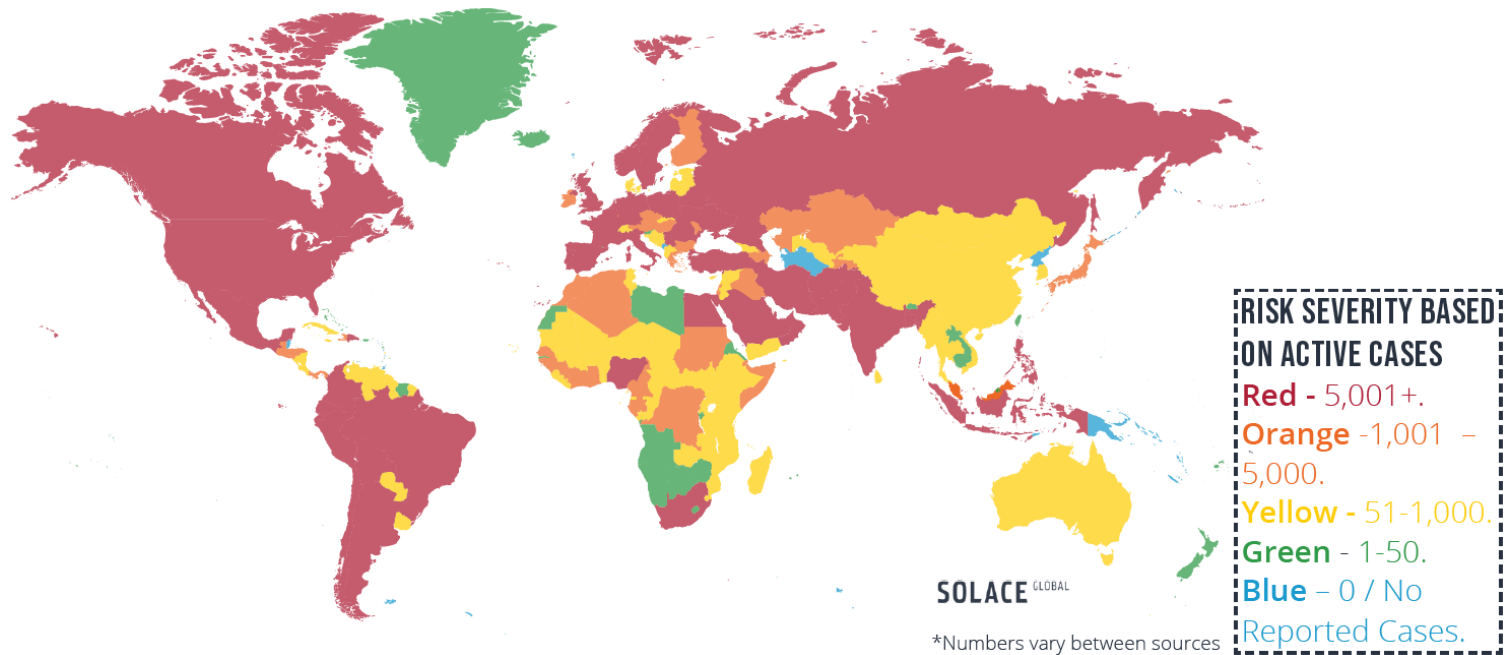
Powered By:

SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally is reaching 5.6 million, with approximately 348,000 deaths and approximately 2.37 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 World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has indicated that clinical trials involving the use of antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine in COVID-19 patients have been temporarily halted due to safety concerns. The announcement follows a recent medical study that suggested the drug could increase the risk of COVID-19 patients dying. Officials will conduct a review before deciding whether to allow the trials to continue or to cancel them altogether.

The UK government is under considerable pressure following revelations over the weekend that a senior advisor to Prime Minister Boris Johnson travelled between London and northern England - whilst likely infected with COVID-19 - during the height of lockdown restrictions in early April. Despite the admissions of the advisor that the journeys did indeed occur, Johnson has publicly backed his aide, accepting without caveat his story that the trips occurred due to difficulties with childcare. The story has had considerable cut-through with the British public, with some experts expressing concern that the episode may undermine confidence in the government's messaging and lead to increased incidences of non-compliance with social distancing measures.

Aside from the ongoing political scandal, restrictions are to be further eased in the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced that outdoor markets and car dealerships will be allowed to resume trading on 1 June. Following that and dependent on a continued fall in cases of COVID-19, all non-essential retail will be permitted to reopen on 15 June. Johnson said new guidance had been published for the retail sector detailing the measures they should take to meet the necessary social distancing and hygiene standards.

In Ireland, no new COVID-19-related deaths were reported on 25 May. Chief Medical Officer Tony Holohan has announced that the country has effectively suppressed the virus but that lockdown measures would not be eased for at least another week. As per current measures, some limited economic activity has resumed, with the construction industry restarting and some non-essential retail businesses allowed to reopen. The government is considering altering its phased approach to restarting the economy, with some sectors being considered for earlier reopening.

In Australia, a passenger who had been on the cruise ship *Ruby Princess* has tested positive for COVID-19 10 weeks after disembarking the vessel. Authorities in Queensland suspect that the woman was infected on the ship and has carried the virus in a dormant state. The diagnosis comes following the case of another Queensland woman who was diagnosed with the virus 7 weeks after returning from India. Officials are monitoring both cases and are seeking to determine if the cases are indeed related to exposure to the virus months previously. In other news, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has indicated that he will not open the country's borders in the near term, though he is discussing plans with his New Zealand counterpart to create a trans-Tasman safe travel zone.

The Icelandic government has lowered the country's alert level, allowing for public gatherings of up to 200 people and night clubs and gyms to reopen. Through

a widespread testing regime and a robust track and trace system, the country has confirmed around 1,800 cases of COVID-19 and 10 deaths. As the alert level decreases, the two-metre social distancing regulation has become optional, though still recommended by authorities. Plans are in place to allow tourists to travel to Iceland, with every arrival to be tested for COVID-19. Those who test negative will be free to enter the country without restriction, but those who test positive would have to self-isolate for 14 days.

Madagascar's government has announced it will dispatch troops and doctors to an eastern town after several bodies were found, suspected as having died from COVID-19. Several hundred troops are being sent to Toamasina, where there has been a spike in confirmed cases, to enforce restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus. Medical staff are also being dispatched to the town to examine the circumstances around a number of unexplained deaths and to distribute a herbal remedy that the government claims is a cure for COVID-19.

In the US, lockdown measures have prompted a large increase in vehicle theft in a number of areas. Car theft has increased by over 60 per cent in New York and around 17 per cent in Los Angeles. Similar large rises have also been seen in Austin (50 per cent) and Salt Lake City (22 per cent). Police forces believe that thieves are taking advantage of empty streets to commit low-risk, high-reward crimes.

The White House has announced that it has brought forward the timing of its Brazil travel ban to 23:59 local time on 26 May, as opposed to the initial date of 28 May, after Brazil recorded a daily death toll higher than the United States for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Brazil continues to be the world's second-worst affected nation with nearly 377,000 confirmed cases, although experts fear the true number could be even greater due to limited testing.

Region Specific Updates and New Restrictions – Be aware these are fluid and subject to change, check for any updates prior to travel.

<p>Asia</p>	<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>
<p>Europe</p>	<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>
<p>Americas</p>	<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. As of 26 May, foreign nationals that have been in Brazil in the last 14 days will be prohibited from entering the US.</p> <p>The majority of countries in the Americas have some form of restriction on both internal and international travel.</p>
<p>Africa</p>	<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>
<p>Middle East</p>	<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>
<p>Australia/Oceania</p>	<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

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.

Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Current Total Cases	5,591,010 (+77,641)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	2,367,930 (+58,684)	Total Confirmed Deaths	347,943 (+1,075)
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------------	---------------------	------------------------	------------------

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	1,706,226	USA	+19,790	USA	99,805	USA	464,670
Brazil	376,669	Brazil	+13,051	UK	36,914	Spain	196,958
Russia	353,427	Russia	+8,946	Italy	32,877	Germany	162,000
Spain	282,480	India	+6,414	France	28,432	Brazil	153,833
UK	261,184	Chile	+4,895	Spain	26,837	Italy	141,981
Italy	230,158	Peru	+4,020	Brazil	23,522	Turkey	120,015
France	182,942	Mexico	+2,764	Belgium	9,312	Russia	118,798
Germany	180,789	Saudi Arabia	+2,235	Germany	8,428	Iran	107,713
Turkey	157,814	Iran	+2,023	Mexico	7,633	China	78,277
India	145,456	Bangladesh	+1,975	Iran	7,451	France	65,199
Iran	137,724	Qatar	+1,751	Canada	6,545	India	60,706
Peru	123,979	Pakistan	+1,748	Netherlands	5,830	Peru	50,949
Canada	85,711	UK	+1,625	China	4,634	Mexico	49,890
China	82,992	South Africa	+1,032	Turkey	4,369	Saudi Arabia	45,668
Saudi Arabia	74,795	Canada	+1,012	India	4,172	Canada	44,638
Chile	73,997	Turkey	+987	Sweden	4,029	Chile	29,302
Mexico	71,105	Belarus	+946	Russia	3,633	Switzerland	28,200
Pakistan	57,705	UAE	+822	Peru	3,629	Ireland	21,060
Belgium	57,342	Colombia	+806	Ecuador	3,203	Pakistan	18,314
Qatar	45,465	Egypt	+702	Switzerland	1,913	Ecuador	18,003
Netherlands	45,445	Kuwait	+665	Ireland	1,606	Portugal	17,822
Ecuador	37,355	Ecuador	+599	Indonesia	1,391	Singapore	15,738
Belarus	37,144	Afghanistan	+591	Portugal	1,330	UAE	15,657
Bangladesh	35,585	Argentina	+552	Romania	1,205	Belgium	15,297
Sweden	33,843	Indonesia	+479	Pakistan	1,197	Austria	15,138
Singapore	31,960	Germany	+461	Poland	1,007	Belarus	14,449
Portugal	30,788	Armenia	+452	Philippines	873	Israel	14,307
Switzerland	30,746	Sweden	+384	Japan	830	Japan	13,612
UAE	30,307	Guatemala	+370	Egypt	783	South Africa	11,917
Ireland	24,698	France	+358	Chile	761	Romania	11,630
South Africa	23,615	Bolivia	+348	Colombia	750	Qatar	10,363
Indonesia	22,750	Singapore	+344	Ukraine	644	S. Korea	10,275
Colombia	21,981	Poland	+305	Austria	641	Denmark	9,964
Kuwait	21,967	Italy	+300	Algeria	609	Poland	9,276
Poland	21,631	Philippines	+284	Denmark	563	Dominican Republic	8,285
Ukraine	21,584	Dominican Republic	+272	Bangladesh	501	Norway	7,727
Romania	18,283	Ukraine	+259	South Africa	481	Ukraine	7,575
Egypt	17,967	Panama	+257	Argentina	467	Bangladesh	7,334
Israel	16,734	Belgium	+250	Dominican Republic	460	Kuwait	6,621
Japan	16,581	Nigeria	+229	Saudi Arabia	399	Australia	6,552