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SECURITY
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GLOBAL UPDATE

COVID-19 Outbreak Update
27 May

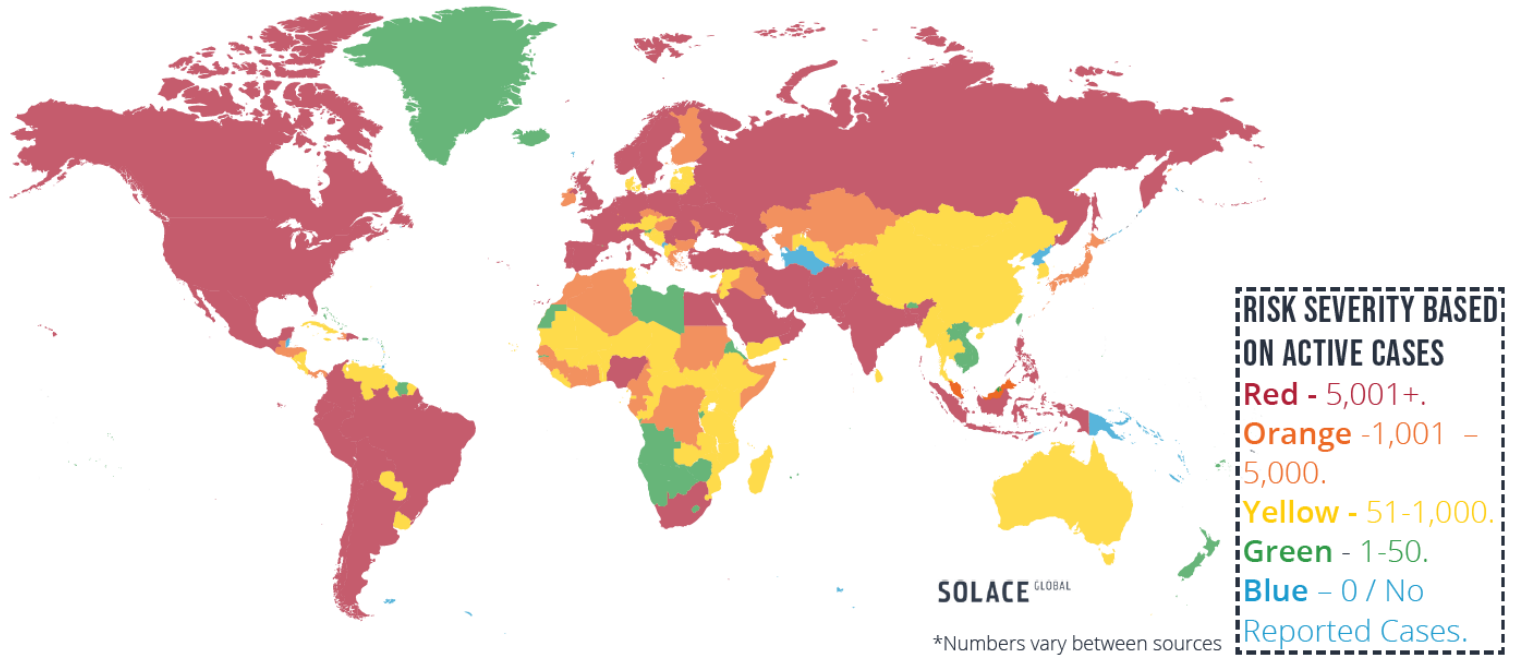
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SOLACE GLOBAL

Executive Summary

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally is approaching 5.7 million, with approximately 352,000 deaths and approximately 2.43 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) has warned that the world is still in the midst of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Director Mike Ryan has stated that, while a number of countries have effectively suppressed the virus, COVID-19 is still very much on an upward trajectory. Ryan also indicated that it is possible that there will be a second peak within the first wave, as happened in the 1918-20 Spanish Flu pandemic. The statement came as the WHO indicated that the Americas, particularly Latin America, has become the new epicentre of the pandemic.

The United States has become the first country to record 100,000 COVID-19 deaths. There have been over 1.7 million confirmed cases of the virus in the US, with significant clusters around New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles. Despite the ongoing outbreak, most states have begun to allow businesses to reopen in an attempt to limit economic damage caused by the lockdowns. However, while the virus is receding in some states, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin have seen recent increases in newly reported cases and hospitalisations since they started to reopen. These numbers, however, could be a result of an increased testing capacity across the US.

In the UK, there were no COVID-19-related deaths in Northern Ireland on 26 May. Health Minister Robin Swann has indicated that the milestone is a clear sign of progress in the province's fight against the virus. Due to the UK having had a public holiday on 25 May, however, it is likely that there has been a lag in data reporting, as is common over weekends. Northern Ireland has seen fewer cases of COVID-19 than the rest of the UK, with 4,637 confirmed cases and 514 deaths.

Also in the UK, Health Secretary Matt Hancock has indicated in the daily government press conference that 'local lockdowns' will be employed in future to tackle regional flare-ups of COVID-19 in England. Hancock did not give further detail on how and when the system would be implemented but it is likely that it will form part of the UK Government's 'test, track and trace system', which is due to be in place by June. Hancock also announced that antiviral drug Remdesivir has been approved for use in COVID-19 patients. Trials of the drug suggest that it can significantly reduce the recovery time from the virus.

Elsewhere in Europe, the Spanish government has declared 10 days of mourning from 27 May for the roughly 27,000 people who have died in the country as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The mourning period will be the longest in the past four decades. Flags will be flown at half-mast across the country in public buildings and on Spanish naval vessels until 5 June. In other news, Spain will reportedly seek the highest amount possible in transfers from the European Union's coronavirus emergency funds. During a news conference, government spokeswoman Maria Jesus Montero said, "We will keep fighting so that the transfers are the largest possible and so it doesn't mean debt for Spain's government".

In Brazil, Federal Police have raided the residences of Rio de Janeiro Governor Wilson Witzel as part of a COVID-19 corruption probe. A police statement

indicated that search warrants were part of an investigation into alleged corruption involving the use of public money destined to fight the outbreak in Rio de Janeiro State. Witzel, a political rival of President Jair Bolsonaro, has denied wrongdoing and accused the president of political interference in police affairs. Corruption is commonplace in Brazilian politics, with Bolsonaro himself currently facing allegations surrounding the sudden removal of the head of the Federal Police.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has stated that the Venezuelan claims that fewer than a dozen people have died as a result of COVID-19 infections are not credible. They insist that official figures are a dramatic understatement. Before the pandemic, Venezuela was in a period of significant economic decline with a woefully inadequate healthcare system. The NGO has indicated that as the virus arrived in the Latin American country, hospitals were suffering severe shortages of running water, basic protective equipment and cleaning supplies. They also claim to have spoken to healthcare professionals in Venezuela who have indicated that confirmed cases of COVID-19 are being purposely omitted from official statistics. President Nicolas Maduro has imposed a strict lockdown but with many Venezuelans experiencing crippling poverty, it is likely that there has been a high degree of non-compliance.

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. Countries such as Denmark and the Czech Republic are seeing bars and restaurants reopen as business returns to some semblance of normality.</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. This has seen a spike in cases in a number of states; however, at this time it is unclear whether this rise is linked to the easing of lockdown measures or an increase in testing capacity.</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. Central and South America are also now seeing a sharp rise in the number of cases in the countries, Brazil especially is seeing a fast increase in the number of confirmed cases.</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

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	5,688,840 (+97,830)	Total Confirmed Recoveries	2,432,236 (+64,306)	Total Confirmed Deaths	352,287 (+4,344)
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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	1,725,275	USA	+19,049	USA	100,572	USA	479,969
Brazil	394,507	Brazil	+15,691	UK	37,048	Spain	196,958
Russia	362,342	Russia	+8,915	Italy	32,955	Germany	162,000
Spain	283,339	India	+5,843	France	28,530	Brazil	158,593
UK	265,227	Peru	+5,772	Spain	27,117	Italy	144,658
Italy	230,555	Chile	+3,964	Brazil	24,593	Russia	131,129
France	182,722	Mexico	+2,485	Belgium	9,334	Turkey	121,507
Germany	181,288	UK	+2,004	Germany	8,498	Iran	109,437
Turkey	158,762	Saudi Arabia	+1,931	Mexico	8,134	China	78,280
India	151,876	Iran	+1,787	Iran	7,508	France	65,879
Iran	139,511	Qatar	+1,742	Canada	6,639	India	64,426
Peru	129,751	Pakistan	+1,356	Netherlands	5,856	Peru	52,906
Canada	86,647	Bangladesh	+1,166	China	4,634	Mexico	52,219
China	82,993	Colombia	+1,022	Turkey	4,397	Saudi Arabia	48,450
Chile	77,961	Turkey	+948	India	4,346	Canada	45,339
Saudi Arabia	76,726	Canada	+936	Sweden	4,125	Chile	30,915
Mexico	74,560	Belarus	+915	Russia	3,807	Switzerland	28,200
Pakistan	59,151	Spain	+859	Peru	3,788	Ireland	21,060
Belgium	57,455	Egypt	+789	Ecuador	3,203	Pakistan	19,142
Qatar	47,207	UAE	+779	Switzerland	1,915	Portugal	18,096
Netherlands	45,578	Afghanistan	+658	Ireland	1,615	Ecuador	18,003
Belarus	38,059	South Africa	+649	Indonesia	1,418	Singapore	16,444
Ecuador	37,355	Kuwait	+608	Portugal	1,342	UAE	15,982
Bangladesh	36,751	Argentina	+600	Pakistan	1,225	Belgium	15,320
Sweden	34,440	Sweden	+597	Romania	1,216	Austria	15,182
Singapore	32,343	Germany	+499	Poland	1,024	Belarus	15,086
UAE	31,086	Poland	+443	Philippines	886	Israel	14,486
Portugal	31,007	Indonesia	+415	Japan	846	Japan	13,810
Switzerland	30,761	Italy	+397	Chile	806	South Africa	12,741
Ireland	24,735	Singapore	+383	Egypt	797	Romania	11,874
South Africa	24,264	Philippines	+350	Colombia	776	Qatar	11,844
Indonesia	23,165	Ukraine	+339	Ukraine	658	S. Korea	10,295
Colombia	23,003	Panama	+264	Austria	643	Denmark	10,044
Kuwait	22,575	Portugal	+219	Denmark	563	Poland	10,020
Poland	22,074	Bahrain	+195	South Africa	524	Dominican Republic	8,534
Ukraine	21,905	Dominican Republic	+191	Bangladesh	522	Ukraine	7,995
Egypt	18,756	Romania	+146	Argentina	484	Bangladesh	7,579
Romania	18,429	Netherlands	+133	Dominican Republic	468	Kuwait	7,306
Israel	16,771	Belgium	+113	Saudi Arabia	411	Panama	6,379
Japan	16,623	Japan	+42	Panama	313	Serbia	6,067