

COVID-19 Weekly Update

16 July

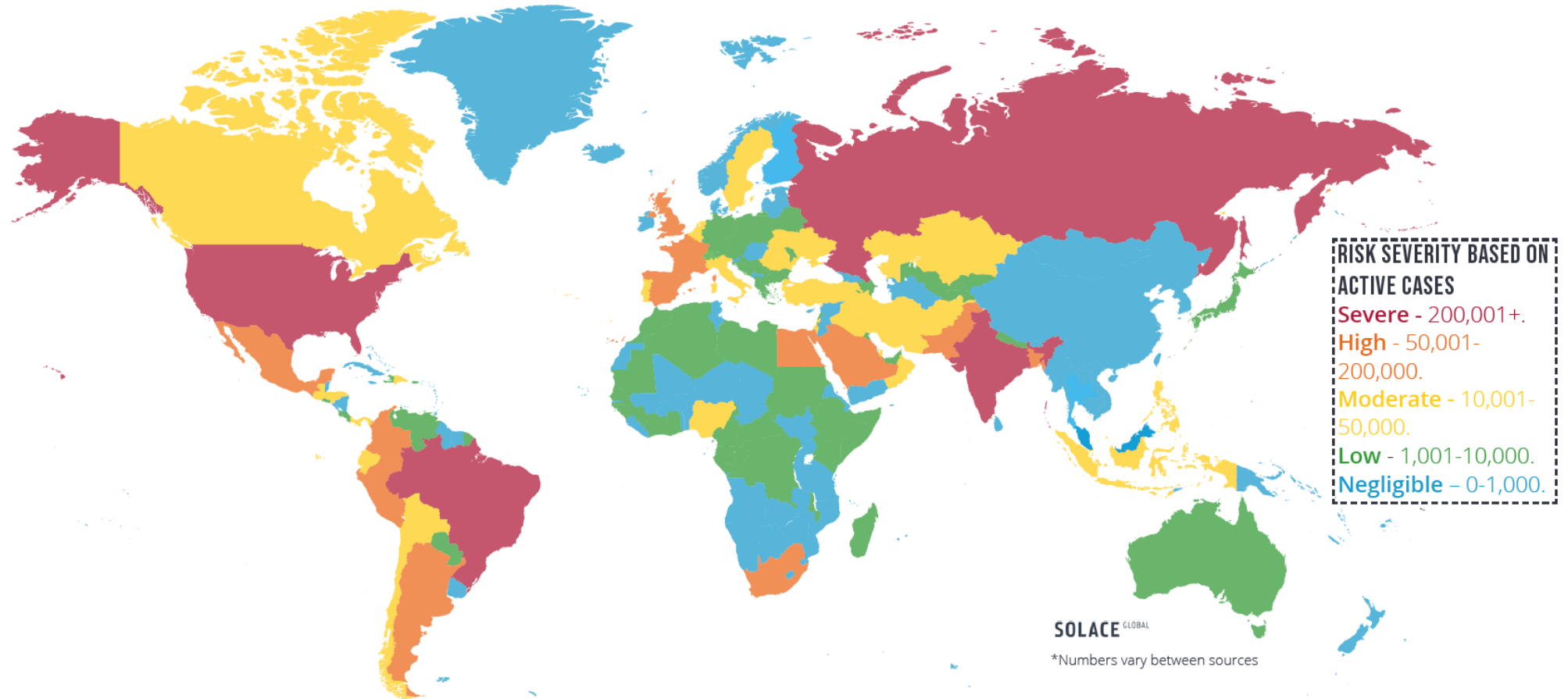


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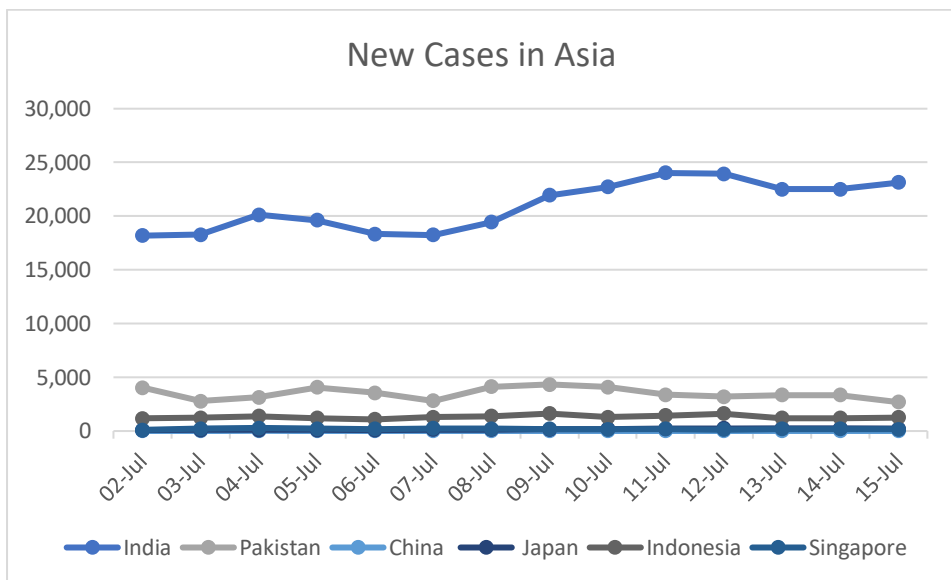
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	13,716,411	Total Active Cases	4,957,828	Total Confirmed Recoveries	8,171,266	Total Confirmed Deaths	587,317
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Asia



While most countries in the Asia-Pacific seem to have successfully avoided a second wave of infection, the territory of Hong Kong is now being forced to implement renewed lockdown measures after a dramatic surge in Covid-19 cases. The density of the population and living conditions, characterised by large numbers of people living in high rise buildings and skyscrapers, has been emphasised as an aggravating factor, which has historically facilitated the spread of the SARS virus in Hong Kong. The government has imposed strict limits on social gathering, mandatory face masks in indoor spaces and public transport, and has mandated the closure of gyms and indoor entertainment facilities.

India's increase in COVID-19 cases has continued with a record number of infections seen in recent days. A rise in outbreaks across New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai cities has led to curfews being placed across Uttar Pradesh expected to last until the end of July. By the 15 July, the government is attempting to screen every household for symptoms of COVID-19. Lockdown has also be re-instated until further notice in many parts of Kashmir; a decision that has been questioned by many, as the region has consistently reported a relatively low number of cases, causing fears of renewed anti-government protests.

Those in a curfewed region are expected to avoid leaving their homes unless undertaking a permitted activity such as a health emergency. The Indian government has reported that they will not re-impose a

nationwide lockdown in order to encourage the growth of the economy. Instead localised hotspots are expected to see measures put in place to combat any spread of infection.

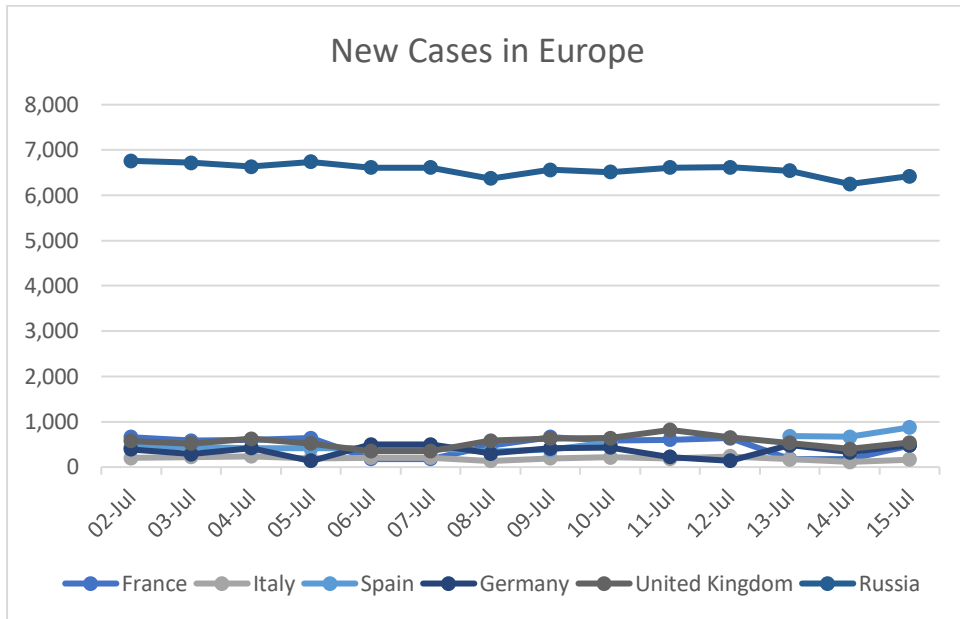
In Bangladesh, experts have highlighted their concerns over the government's handling of the crisis, as testing falls sharply, despite a sustained infection rate of over 19 percent. A recent decision by the government to impose fees for Covid-19 testing in public hospitals caused international outrage, as it fundamentally discriminates against the poorest sections of the populations, which are often also the ones more at risk of infection. In the past week, a scandal over false negative Covid-19 certificates has led to the arrest of dozens of health workers, after a raid by an anti-corruption task force. The hospital, which was also one of the dedicated Covid-19 facilities in Dhaka, was run illegally and was preparing fake certificates in a computer laboratory next door.

Southeast Asia is also witnessing a steady growth in Covid-19 cases, as numbers peak in both the Philippines and Indonesia. The latter, worst hit among the ASEAN countries, is about to reach a total of 40,000 active cases, as authorities have identified a new localised hotspot in a military training centre in West Java. Furthermore, the accuracy and scope of the government's testing has been the object of growing criticism, particularly as data in the most remote provinces is gathered predominantly by volunteers. While the increase in cases is to be expected with lockdown measures being relaxed and inter-state travel resuming, public health authorities are considering new restrictions.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	333,327	Increase	High	High
Pakistan	73,751	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	259	Stable	Light	High
Japan	2,979	Increase	Light	High
Indonesia	37,450	Increase	Moderate	High
Singapore	4,111	Increase	Light	High



Europe



With Europe's borders opening and countries adopting similar levels of limited Covid-19 restrictions, its international business and leisure travel is beginning to resume. A number of localised outbreaks have been also reported throughout the month of June in several European countries; however, government and public health authorities have responded rapidly and effectively, imposing localised lockdowns and successfully containing the cases.

Countries in South and Eastern Europe have seen the greatest rise in infections, leading to a number of additional measures have been implemented in both Croatia and Hungary. Travel restrictions and quarantine measures have been put in place for travellers entering Hungary. Government authorities have issued a red, yellow and green category approach as to which arrivals are permitted into the country or must undergo quarantine measures.

Croatia has, instead, refrained from introducing additional limitations to inbound travellers. Instead, the government has introduced mandatory facemasks in retail businesses. Staff in restaurants and cafes will also be required to wear face coverings. Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania have also seen a significant increase in cases since easing on lockdown restrictions.

As of 14 July England, announced that face masks will be mandatory in shops and supermarkets, with fines for those not complying. This joins Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece and Croatia who also have such measures for compulsory masks in shops and indoor establishments.

The German health minister has also advised holidaymakers to be cautious when travelling to Spanish holiday destinations such as Majorca. Pictures of crowded beaches and partying tourists have emerged sparking concern among the German and Spanish leaders of social distancing rules not being followed.

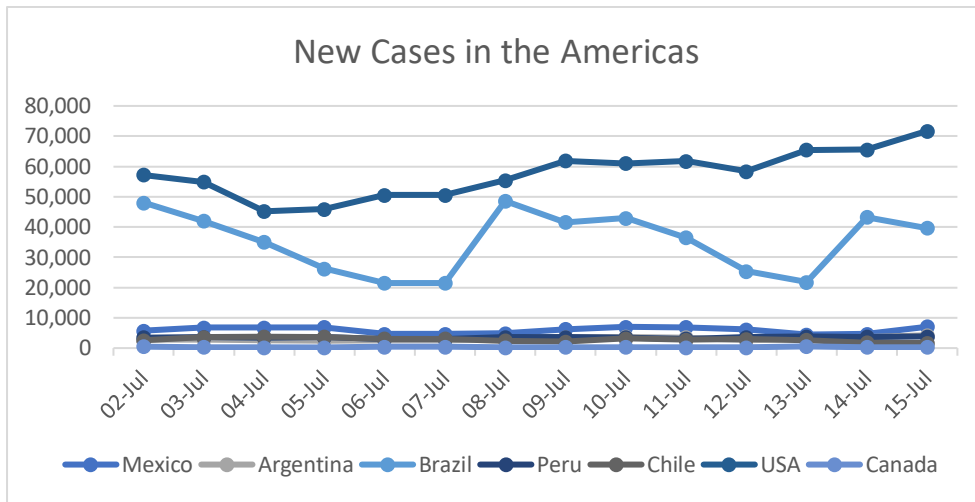
On Friday last week, Italy has declared it will ban arrivals from 13 countries determined to be high risk. Inbound travellers who have transited through or visited these countries in the last 14 days will be denied entry, unless they are Italian citizens, in which case they will be required to quarantine. The countries are the following: Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bosnia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Kuwait, North Macedonia, Moldova, Oman, Panama and Peru.

While Russia continues to register growing number of infections, an institute developing a Covid-19 vaccine has announced this week the completion of the early phase of human trials, becoming the first in the world to reach the advanced stages of testing. The sample of volunteers was relatively small, amounting only to 20 individuals, who will be released between 15 and 20 July. After confirming the vaccine is safe to use, the researchers aim to introduce it to a small section of the population sometime in mid-August, thus entering the final stages of testing.

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	64,364		Decrease	Light	Moderate
Italy	12,493		Stable	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A		Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Germany	6,104		Stable	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A		Increase	Light	Light
Russia	209,168		Stable	Moderate	High



Americas



The US has seen significant rises in cases in 40 out of the 50 states, leading to several state governors pausing their reopening plans or imposing new restrictions. States with the most severe outbreaks include California, Florida, Arizona and Texas.

On 14 July, Californian Governor Gavin Newsom announced his decision to reimpose a number of lockdown restrictions after the state registered an average of 10,000 new cases per day. All indoor activities have been ordered to halt, forcing fitness centres, churches and hairdressers to close. In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has recently warned of a temporary lockdown, after cases climbed to more than 27,000 on 12 July. Abbot had ordered the closures of bars and limited restaurant capacity to 50 percent in late June, also encouraging citizens to social distance and to be diligent in using face masks but has recently expressed concern over the lack of compliance witnessed in Texas.

After refusing to wear any PPE equipment since the start of the pandemic, President Donald Trump was seen wearing a mask for the first time on 11 July, alongside prominent figures in the cabinet, most likely in an attempt to normalise and encourage the use of face coverings throughout the United States. The unprecedented televised event is believed to have been a consequence of the spike in cases in several states across the country, which has been largely traced back to premature reopening of business and non-compliance by citizens when gathering outside their households.

Latin America has now overtaken mainland US and Canada to become the second-worst hit region for

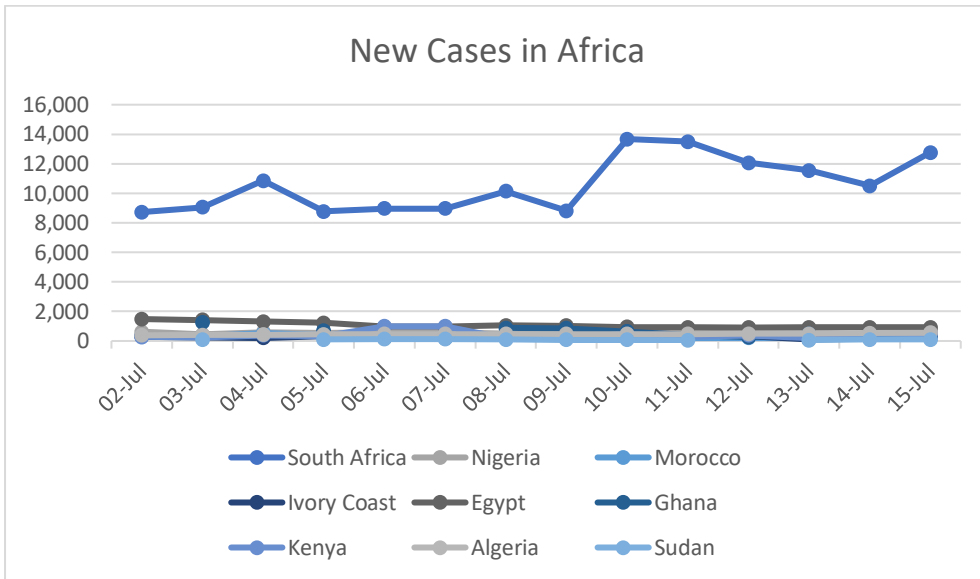
COVID-19 deaths, with Mexico passing Italy as the fourth highest death toll across the world. On 12 July a large social media campaign into the positive effects of a 'miracle cure' where released giving many a false representation of a vaccine or cure across Latin America. The untested and unproven drug known as Ivermectin and those containing hydroxychloroquine has not been confirmed as a suitable or effective method for treatment and any reported claims of support from the Bolivian Ministry of Health has been officially denied by the Bolivian government.

In Brazil's largest cities, Sao Paolo and Rio de Janeiro, most businesses have reopened, despite the country being the worst affected in Latin America and registering the second highest number of cases worldwide. Last week, bars, restaurants, gyms and shopping centres resumed their operations, even as several epidemiologists have warned about the country still being far from reaching the peak of its outbreak. Despite being himself infected with the virus, Brazilian president, Jair Bolsonaro, continues to encourage lifting restrictions and minimise the impact of Covid-19 in the country.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	81,600	Stable	Moderate	Moderate
Argentina	61,798	Dramatic Increase	High	High
Brazil	528,611	Stable	Light	High
Peru	98,907	Stable	Moderate	High
Chile	21,934	Decrease	High	High
USA	1,830,639	Increase	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	27,534	Stable	Light	High



Africa



On the whole, Africa is facing rising levels of COVID-19 cases. Despite this, countries are continuing to ease lockdown measures amid pressures to support the economy. Poor testing capabilities also remains an issue across the region, leading to concerns over the accuracy of the reported numbers. This inability to detect the virus also complicates efforts to identify and isolate affected geographical areas.

South Africa has been the worst affected nation in the continent, with numbers that continued to grow exponentially over the past week, largely due to lockdown restrictions being eased. After repeated warnings by health officials over the insufficient number of hospital beds, President Cyril Ramaphosa reinstated the ban on alcoholic beverages and imposed a night-time curfew to minimise the number of people admitted to hospitals. The night-time curfew lasts from 9pm to 4am and does not apply to those travelling to or from work or seeking medical help.

Egypt has lifted its night hours curfew and allowed most restaurants and eateries to reopen at a 25 percent capacity. Places of worship can now welcome people for daily prayers; however, restrictions remain in place for mass services.

With a push to begin reviving the tourism industry and generate economic growth, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania, Egypt, South Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia have resumed international passenger

flights. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), is expected to fully open its airspace on 21 July, whilst Kenya and Rwanda are expected to open their airspaces on 01 August.

Though restrictions have been lifted in most areas, Madagascar and Rwanda have re-introduced lockdown measures following a spike in cases in both the Antananarivo and Kigali capitals. During this time only one person per household will be allowed outside during the day and traffic is not permitted in and out of the local area. Morocco has also seen localised outbreaks in cities and thus is restricting travel both into and out of the affected cities.

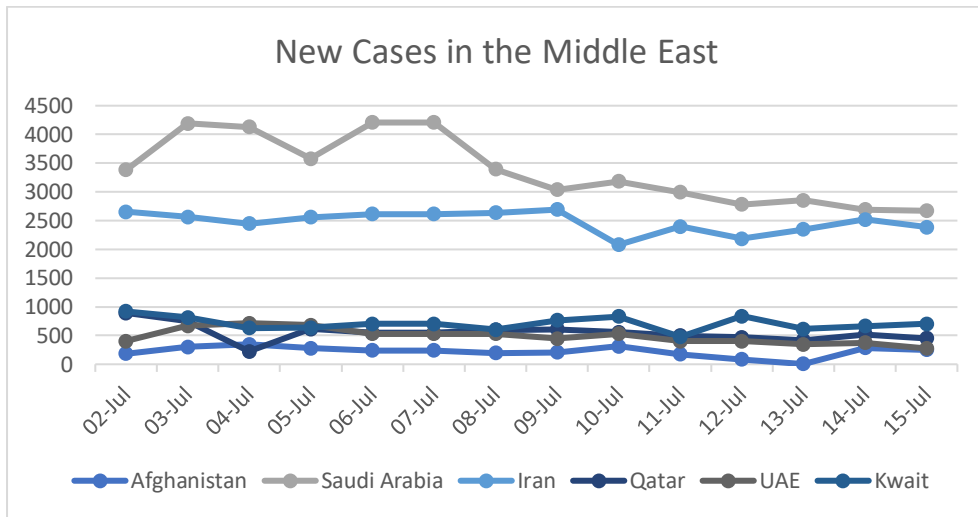
As of 10 July, a night-time curfew was placed on 29 of Algeria’s 48 provinces after a rise was reported over the past weeks. These include: Bumerdes, Souk Ahras, Tissemsilt, Djelfa, Mascara, Oum El Bouaghi, Batna, Bouira, Relizane, Biskra, Khenchela, M’sila, Chlef, Sidi Bel Abbès, Médéa, Blida, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Tipaza, Ouargla, Bechar, Constantine, Oran, Sétif, Annaba, Bejaia, Adrar, Laghouat, El Oued. The restrictions are set to be in place for one week. All vehicle travel between the 29 provinces are to be impacted with all public transport prohibited on Fridays and Saturdays, it is reported that this could later be applied to all provinces at a later stage.

Morocco has also seen a full-scale lockdown come back into effect after a cluster of cases were discovered in Tangier. Transport in and out of Tangier has been suspended and stay at home orders have been implemented with only cases of necessity permitted. For necessary travel, citizens will need to obtain a special travel permit from the local authorities.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
South Africa	145,903	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High	
Nigeria	19,500	Stable	High	High	
Morocco	2,182	Decrease	High	High	
Ivory Coast	6,170	Slight Increase	Moderate	High	
Egypt	54,641	Decrease	Moderate	High	
Ghana	3,780	N/A	Moderate	High	
Kenya	7,975	Decrease	High	High	
Algeria	4,938	Slight Increase	Moderate	High	
Sudan	4,258	N/A	High	High	



Middle East



The Middle East continues to struggle with the pandemic, as a growing number of nations were forced to reimpose restrictions on businesses and gatherings after spikes in cases. Due to the economic and social impact of these restrictions, however, countries also face the risk of civil unrest, often led by business owners.

On Saturday, tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered in Tel Aviv to voice their frustration against the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and his inability to adequately handle the health emergency. In the early stages of the pandemic, Israel was praised for its early and aggressive response, but it was now forced to impose containment measures.

As of the 14 July, Tehran has seen reinstated restrictions after a rise in cases of Covid-19, feared to be the beginning of a second wave. Local authorities announced that businesses will be forced to close for at least one week with a number of religious and cultural ceremonies also now banned. However, Iranian President, Hassan Rouhani, has recently warned that Iran cannot afford another large-scale lockdown, which would be ultimately unsustainable for an economy already weakened by international sanctions.

In Afghanistan, the rapidly growing number of cases have the potential to cause “a catastrophe” has warned the Red Crescent Society. The pandemic has already overwhelmed the weak health system in the country and experts have warned about the inaccuracy of the numbers reported internationally due to the limited testing capabilities. The Society also reported challenges faced by the lack of equipment

and the inability of the medical teams to access remote areas of the country. Furthermore, authorities have expressed concerns over the disproportionate number of women infected with the virus. This is believed to be a consequence of an overall lack of access to healthcare, most likely due to the conservative society. Hospitals have reportedly increased their female staff and separated the wards by gender.

Last week, the first Covid-19 case was confirmed in the rebel-held area of Idlib, in Syria. The person that tested positive was a doctor working in a town hospital, which has been shut since. Those who may have been in contact with the doctor have been traced and isolated, but fears remain high of a large-scale outbreak in the Idlib region. Together with the overall lack of healthcare facilities, the region presents a secondary danger due to the number of displaced persons, most of which live in makeshift shelters and refugee camps. Their living conditions make it difficult to access effective sanitation and to implement social distancing measures.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
Afghanistan	11,133	Decrease	High	Severe	
Saudi Arabia	55,101	Decrease	Light	Severe	
Iran	23,590	Stable	High	High	
Qatar	3,195	Decrease	Moderate	High	
UAE	10,593	Dramatic Decrease	Light	High	
Kuwait	9,581	Increase	Moderate	High	