

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 2 July

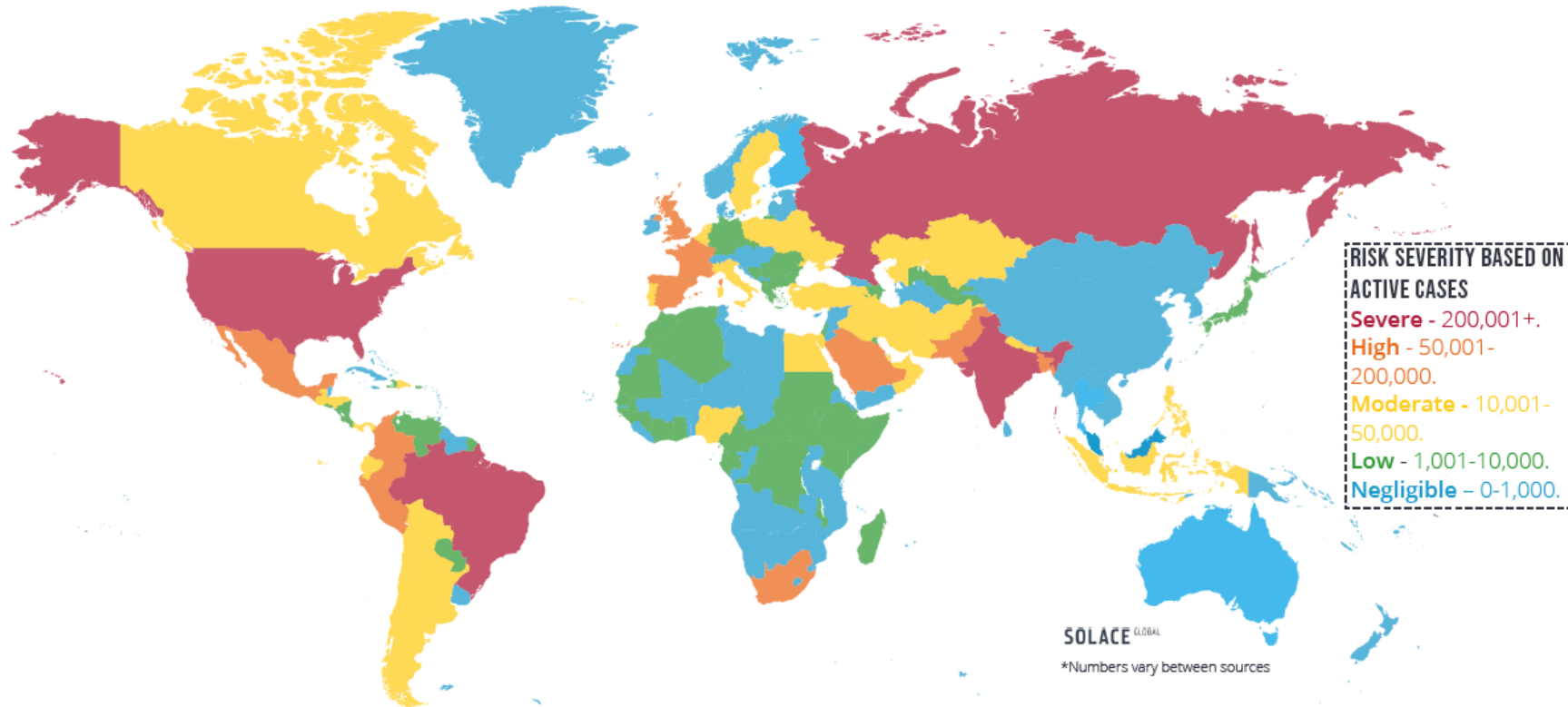


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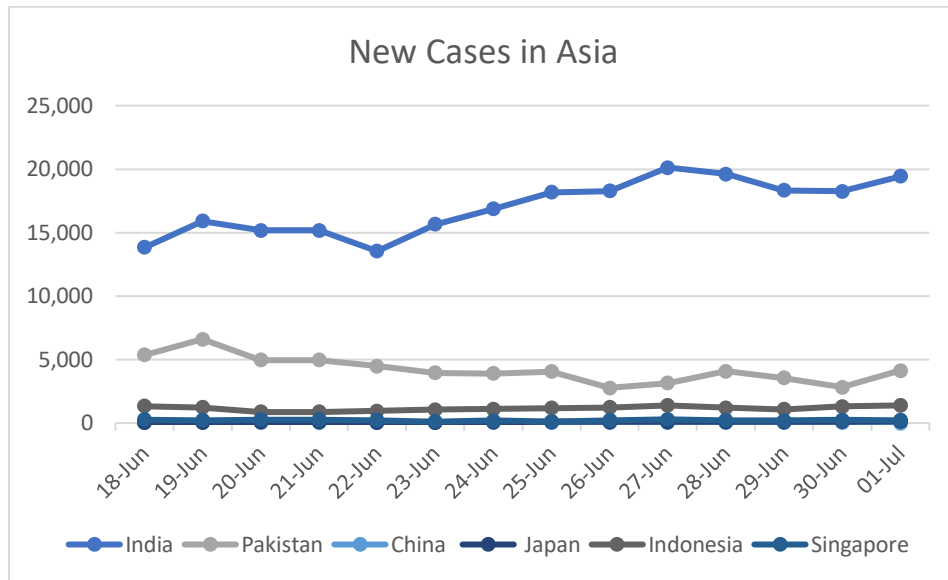
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	10,819,762	Total Active Cases	4,260,152	Total Confirmed Recoveries	6,040,338	Total Confirmed Deaths	519,272
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# Asia



South Asia continues to be one of the global Covid-19 hotspots, with India, Pakistan and Bangladesh reporting among the highest number of active cases. This is mainly due to their large populations and high-density living, especially when combined with inadequate sanitation and healthcare system. India has experienced a rapid surge in cases during the past month with New Delhi alone reporting almost a third of the total new cases in the past week. Government authorities have repeatedly defended the number of active cases, now third highest in the world, as relatively moderate when compared to the overall population. A large-scale testing campaign is now being implemented in the capital.

Across the border, Bangladesh has registered its highest death toll on 1 July, with 1,888 fatalities in a single day. With fatalities and active case numbers consistently climbing, the country seems to be far from reaching its peak yet, particularly since most lockdown restrictions were lifted in May. Due to an upsurge in cases in the month of June, authorities have divided the country into three zones -- red are high-risk areas, yellow are moderate, and green are low-risk. Offices are required to remain shut in red zones, which include several areas of Dhaka.

This week, Thailand has entered its fifth stage of reopening, which allows almost all businesses to resume operations, including nightclubs, bars and massage parlours. While the state of emergency will remain in

place for the foreseeable future, this is mostly meant to enable the government to intervene rapidly in the event of a cluster, as all of Thailand’s new cases over the past month have a foreign origin. Businesses will have to register and be inspected by Thai authorities and will be penalised if a new outbreak is traced back to their activities.

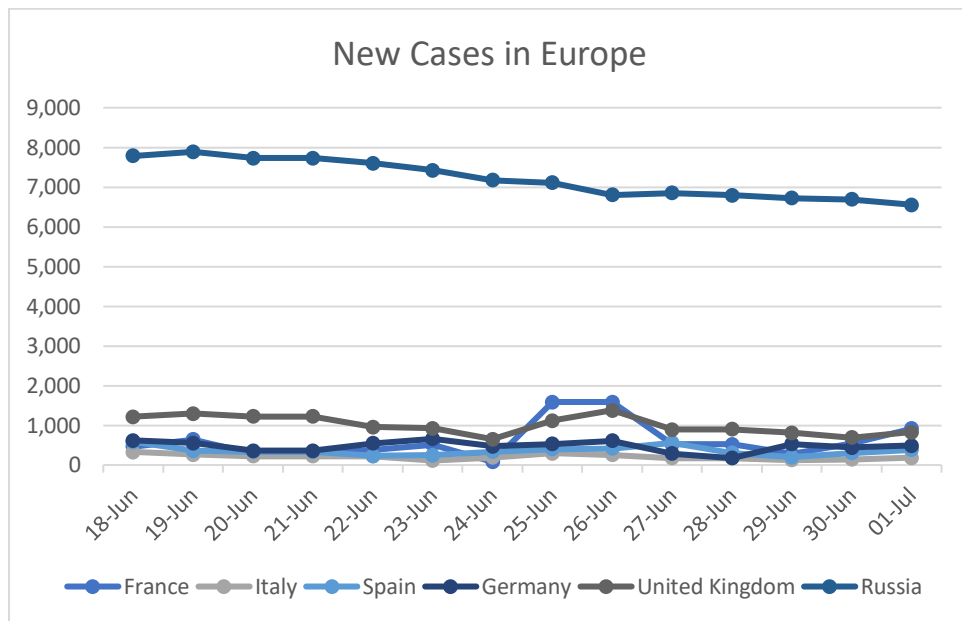
In Australia, the authorities have implemented lockdown in several areas of Melbourne, amounting to approximately 300,000 people, after the city registered a double-digit spike of Covid-19 cases. These restrictions will stay into effect for a month and will prevent the residents from all non-essential activities, allowing them only to go outside for groceries, health appointments and work. Approximately a dozen cases were also reported in New South Wales and were immediately quarantined. As most of these cases have been linked to workers of the hotels dedicated to the quarantine of foreign arrivals, an investigation over adequate safety and health regulations has been launched by federal and state governments.

The wider Asia-Pacific region remains the one with the lowest number of infection cases, which has been largely attributed to early lockdown measures, widespread testing and good levels of compliance with state regulations. Countries with a consistently low number of cases, such as Vietnam, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Thailand, are now under negotiation to form an Asian travel bubble, allowing travellers to move across borders freely and without quarantine requirements. While significant progress has been made on this front, the government have yet to reach a feasible agreement on border control and domestic tracking.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	227,925	Increase	Moderate	High
Pakistan	108,642	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	416	Dramatic Decrease	Light	High
Japan	1,018	Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Indonesia	29,241	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Singapore	5,273	Decrease	Light	High



# Europe



As of 1 July, several countries across Europe initiated a new phase of reopening, with additional restrictions being lifted on business operation and social gatherings. These mainly regulate the number of customers restaurants and bars can welcome and limits on social gatherings. While non-essential internal travel has largely been allowed to resume, external borders remain closed for the near future.

European authorities have revealed a list of 14 countries that are considered safe due to their favourable epidemiologic situation and whose citizens might be allowed to travel freely across EU borders. These include China, Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. Other countries in the European area, such as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein are automatically included as safe. Notably, the United States, Brazil and Russia are not featured in the list; a consideration largely motivated by the infection rates within these countries and their lockdown regimes.

In Germany, the lockdown imposed over one of the two Covid-19 hotspots, the district of Warendorf, has been lifted on 30 June, while it remains in effect in the neighbouring district of Gütersloh until 7 July. The measures had been implemented due to a resurgence in cases that were traced back to a meat

processing facility in the region and offered an insight into what will be the strategy in combatting the virus on a local level, which will only be possible with a rapid response in testing and containment measures.

In the UK, while a large part of the lockdown measures is scheduled to be relaxed on 4 July, a lockdown was issued for the city of Leicester, after a dramatic surge in Covid-19 cases. Over the past week, the municipality reportedly registered 10 percent of all positive cases in the country. This represents the first instance of localised lockdown in the country, with shops and schools being ordered shut for a provisional two-week period.

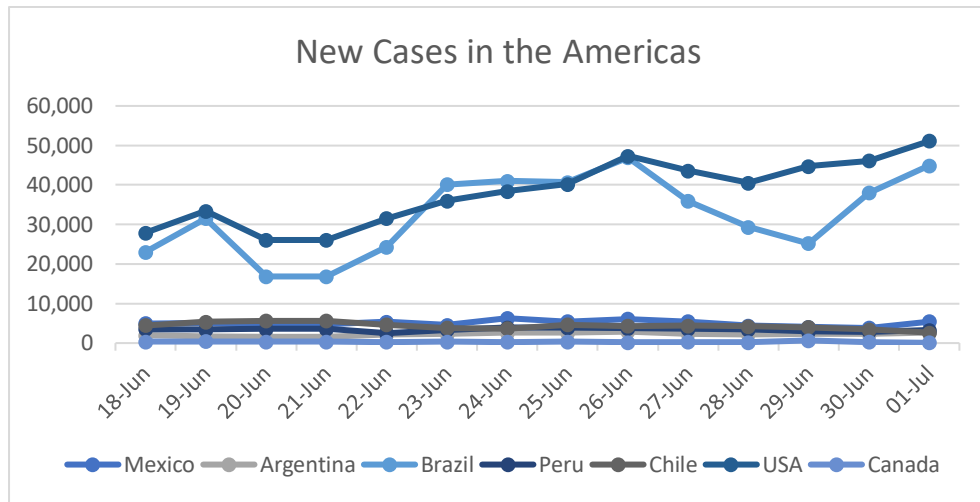
In the British capital, law enforcement intervened to break up two illegal street parties over the weekend. Government authorities, including Home Secretary Priti Patel, have condemned the parties and called on people to avoid all large gatherings, including parties and protests, in order to minimise the risk of a second wave of Covid-19 in Britain, which would cause significant economic damage and a more stringent lockdown regime to be implemented.

In the Czech Republic, residents gathered on Charles Bridge, one of Prague’s most famous landmark, to celebrate the end of lockdown. A 500-metre-long table was placed on the bridge and participants, who had to book their seats in advance and bring their own food and beverages to the event. While some condemned the celebration as a health risk due to the lack of social distancing measures, the organiser, Ondrej Kobza, stated that "We want to celebrate the end of the coronavirus crisis by letting people meet and show they are not afraid to meet, that they are not afraid to take a piece of a sandwich from their neighbour."

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	59,319		Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Italy	15,255		Slight Decrease	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A		Stable	Light	Severe
Germany	7,463		Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A		Slight Decrease	Moderate	Moderate
Russia	222,504		Slight Decrease	Moderate	High



# Americas



A number of USA states, including Florida and Texas, have been forced to issue additional restrictions just ahead of the annual 4 July celebrations after a spike in cases. Government authorities have highlighted the citizen's disregard for social distancing and health guideline as one of the key reasons for the increase in the infection rates. The week prior, chief advisor on coronavirus, Dr Anthony Fauci, had warned about the gravity of the pandemic in the US and that several states were lifting their restrictions prematurely. In California, beaches, bars and nightclubs have been also ordered shut, while New York Governor Cuomo has called for a federal order to make face masks mandatory in public.

In an effort to secure effective treatment, the US Department of Health Services has also recently purchased almost all available doses of anti-viral drug Remdesivir, which has been the first drug currently in trials to shown positive effects on Covid-19 patients. The drug, which had been unsuccessfully tested as a possible treatment for Ebola, is produced by Gilead Sciences, had announced an estimated pricing of 2,340 USD per patient in the US.

Argentina was also forced to restore strict restrictions after a continuous surge in infection rates in several hotspots, including the capital city Buenos Aires. The country was among the first in the Americas to impose a tight lockdown at the beginning of the pandemic and, despite the efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus, the government seems to be unable to flatten the curve enough to allow for a large-scale reopening. Much like in the rest of Latin America, however, the public sentiment is growing impatient,

particularly as the economic costs of the lockdown severely damage key business sectors, chief among them tourism and hospitality.

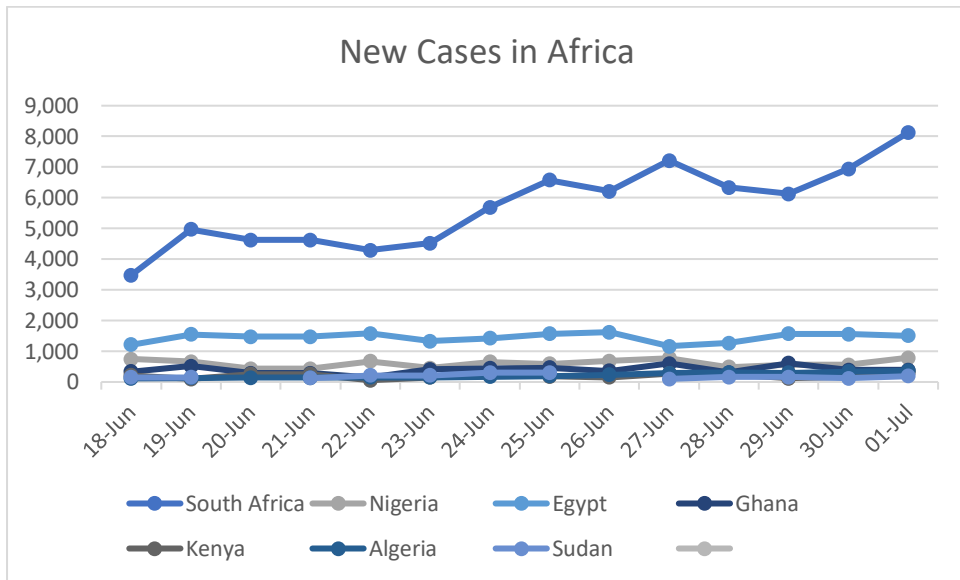
In Brazil, protests against the sitting president, Jair Bolsonaro, and his handling of the pandemic have been ongoing throughout the week. The demonstrators, who rallied under the slogan "Stop Bolsonaro", staged protests both online and on the streets of several Brazilian cities, demanding the president's resignation. The past week has seen the highest number of new cases in the country, which also reports a death toll of nearly 60,000, and has consistently ranked among the worst affected countries worldwide. Despite official data, Bolsonaro has been the centre of criticism for often minimising the risk presented by the pandemic, including comparing it to a "little flu", and failing to provide adequate support to both the economy and the healthcare structure.

On the other hand, after several months of lockdown, Costa Rica has announced its intention to reopen to international tourism on 1 August, as the country seems to have good control of the infection numbers and health emergency response. A wide-scale testing campaign is currently being conducted in Pavas, both to contain a localised outbreak and to test the country's ability to respond to foreign cases once the borders will reopen. However, access to Costa Rica will likely be limited to countries that have proved a consistently low infection rate and might not include its northern neighbour, the United States.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	64,941	Stable	Moderate	High
Argentina	42,806	Increase	High	High
Brazil	476,509	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High
Peru	100,372	Stable	Moderate	High
Chile	30,847	Decrease	High	High
USA	1,484,475	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High
Canada	27,912	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High



# Africa



The Covid-19 pandemic continues to accelerate on the African continent, which now registers over 383,747 confirmed infections and a death toll of 9,691, including prominent political figures, such as the former President of the Republic of the Congo Jacques Joachim Yhombi-Opango. Health authorities have repeatedly voiced their concern over the growing relaxation of lockdown measures, largely driven by economic imperatives, due to the inability of the existing healthcare facilities to cope with dramatic spikes in cases. The highest death toll in Africa has been reported in Egypt, with 2,953 fatalities, closely followed by South Africa with 2,657 deaths, Algeria with 912, Nigeria with 573 and Sudan with 572.

South Africa, where confirmed case numbers have surpassed 150,000, lockdown restrictions have been partially lifted despite the growing infection rates. The government recently released the level 3 amendments to the lockdown restrictions that included the re-opening of several entertainment and cultural establishments, including theatres and museums. On Tuesday, however, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, has expressed grave concern over the increasingly dire situation in the country and has warned the population that a strict lockdown might be necessary if the rates do not improve in the short term. This will likely be initially implemented on a localised level to contain virus hotspots, but more drastic measures remain a possibility. The opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, has echoed the Minister's concerns and has requested the government to reinstate the strict level-five lockdown regime, as they

believe that social distancing and PPE is proving inefficient in managing the outbreak.

Nigeria, another of the main Covid-19 hotspots in the continent, has also recently lifted a number of domestic restrictions. Interstate travel and domestic flights have been allowed to resume, while schools have been allowed to reopen for students that are preparing their exams. For younger pupils, the state government for Lagos is planning to distribute 10,000 radio sets to aid with home-schooling. The phased lockdown plan has also recently been extended by the government, maintaining the evening curfew and the limits to mass gathering and sports activities.

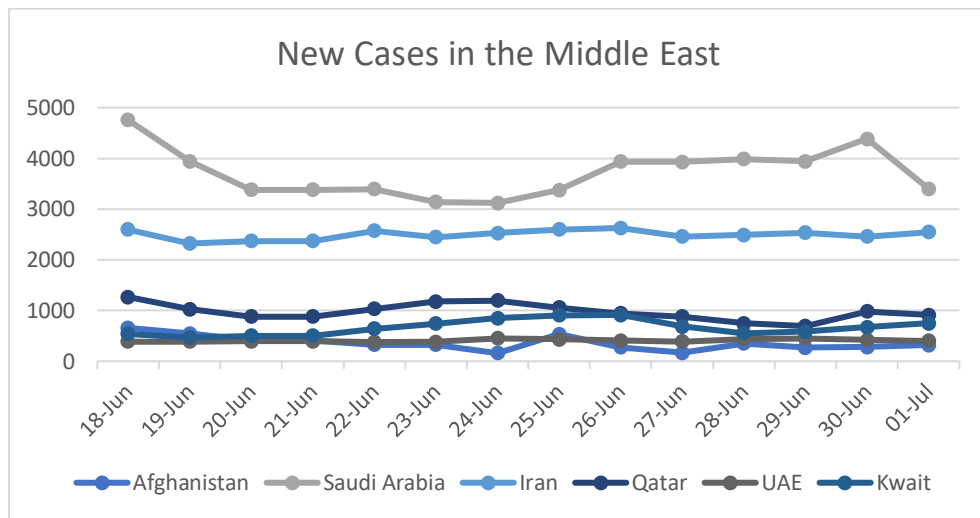
The Nigerian government and several other health and economic authorities in Sub-Saharan Africa, have been experiencing growing pressure to reopen their businesses, particularly as the lockdown poses significant challenges on the agricultural and farming sectors, exacerbating the food insecurity and driving up the prices. While preventing large-scale infections remains a top priority for many governments, a prolonged situation of insecurity has a high likelihood of fuelling popular anger, resulting in outbursts of civil unrests that could compromise all containment efforts.

In response to the growing threat of the pandemic, the government that has previously adopted a relaxed approach to the containment of the virus, such as Burundi, are starting to implement limited measure to aid with the public health emergency. The country's newly elected president, Evariste Ndayishimiye, announced this week that the price of soap and water will be significantly cut to allow citizens access to basic hygiene and sanitation tools. Hospitals will also provide testing and treatment for free in order to encourage people to adopt a proactive approach to tackling the pandemic.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
South Africa	80,559	Increase	Moderate	High	
Nigeria	15,729	Slight Increase	High	High	
Egypt	47,899	Stable	Moderate	High	
Ghana	4,467	Increase	Moderate	High	
Kenya	4,435	Sight Increase	High	High	
Algeria	3,312	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High	
Sudan	4,365	N/A	High	High	



## Middle East



Covid-19 numbers continue to climb in the Middle East, with Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia suffering from the highest numbers of infections and deaths in the region. The Iranian government has issued new regulations, making it mandatory for its citizens to wear masks indoors; a move that had been anticipated after a dramatic spike in Covid-19 cases due to the population ignoring social distancing guidelines. While further restrictions are a possibility, the unrest experienced in the country during the lockdown would suggest that imposing a strict curfew and restrictions to business activities remains unlikely.

This week, Israel has experienced its highest increase of daily infection since the early stages of the pandemic, confirming 859 cases on Wednesday. The spike was registered after a large-scale relaxation of most lockdown restrictions throughout the country, which allowed restaurants, schools and shopping mall to reopen in accordance with a phased plan announced by the government in May. The plan had already suffered a temporary interruption earlier this month, after a drastic increase in infection numbers was connected to the opening of schools.

In a rare instance of international cooperation, Israel and the UAE have announced that a number of companies have reached an agreement to jointly develop technology to fight the virus. While limited in scale, the announcement has great significance in the region, as it symbolizes a partial rapprochement between rival countries, particularly as Israel has been heavily criticized for its plans to annex the West Bank.

The situation in Yemen and other conflict areas continues to be dire, with number mounting rapidly. Moreover, the accuracy of the figures available to the public has been repeatedly questioned, particularly in Yemen, where most confirmed cases have been registered in the south of the country, controlled by the Saudi-led coalition. Estimates that take into consideration the already precarious health and sanitary condition of the majority of the Yemeni population, would suggest that actual infections and death numbers could amount to a humanitarian crisis. The issue has been further exacerbated by the significantly reduced aid delivery and workers in the country, which has already caused prices to rise 35 percent in some areas.

Facing a more positive outlook, Qatari authorities have recently announced that they believe the peak of the outbreak has passed and proceeded to lift a number of domestic restrictions to businesses and social activities. The implementation of Phase 2 of the reopening allowed parks, beaches, as well as mosques, to reopen as early as Wednesday.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
Afghanistan	15,174	Decrease	High	Severe	
Saudi Arabia	59,767	Dramatic Increase	Light	Severe	
Iran	27,766	Stable	Moderate	High	
Qatar	12,923	Decrease	Moderate	High	
UAE	10,593	Stable	Light	High	
Kuwait	8,733	Increase	Moderate	High	