

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 30 July

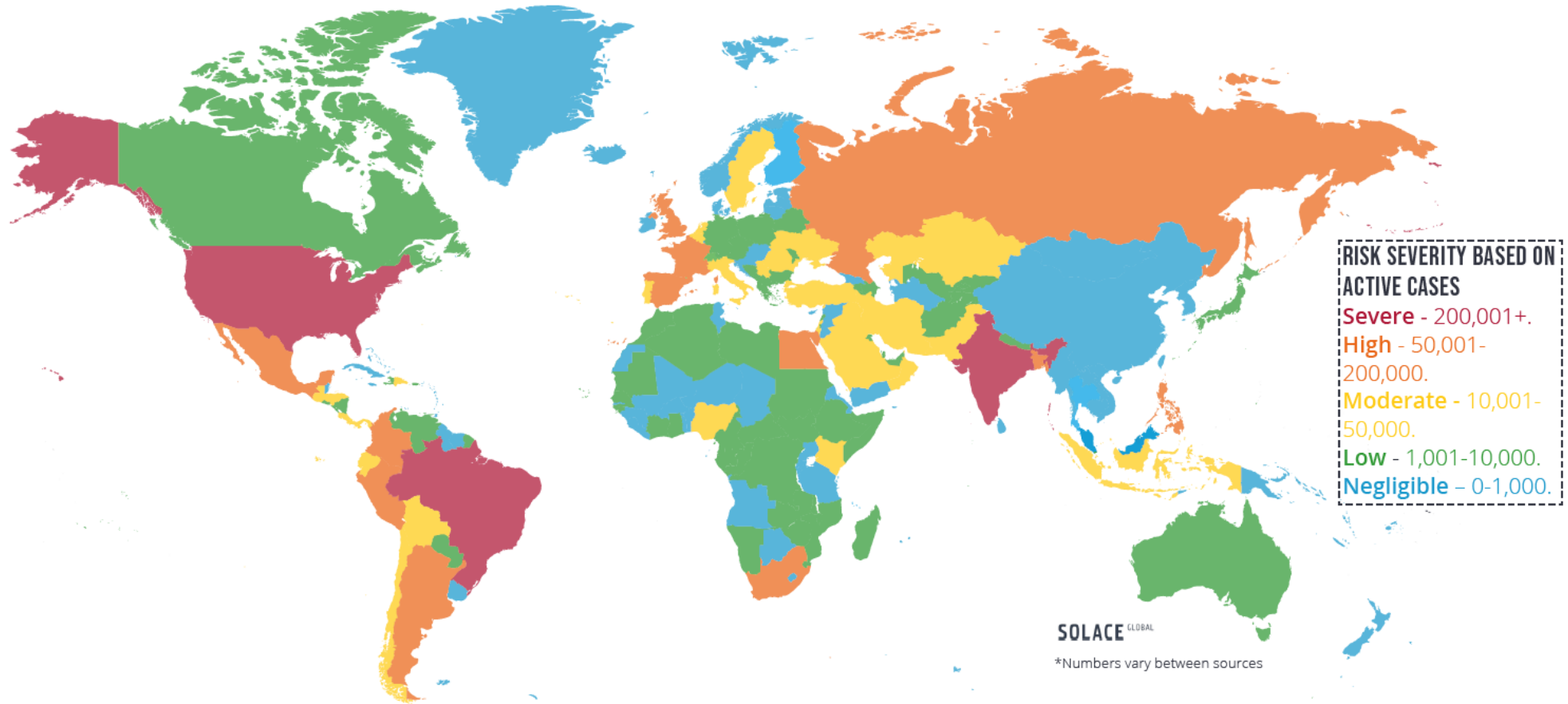


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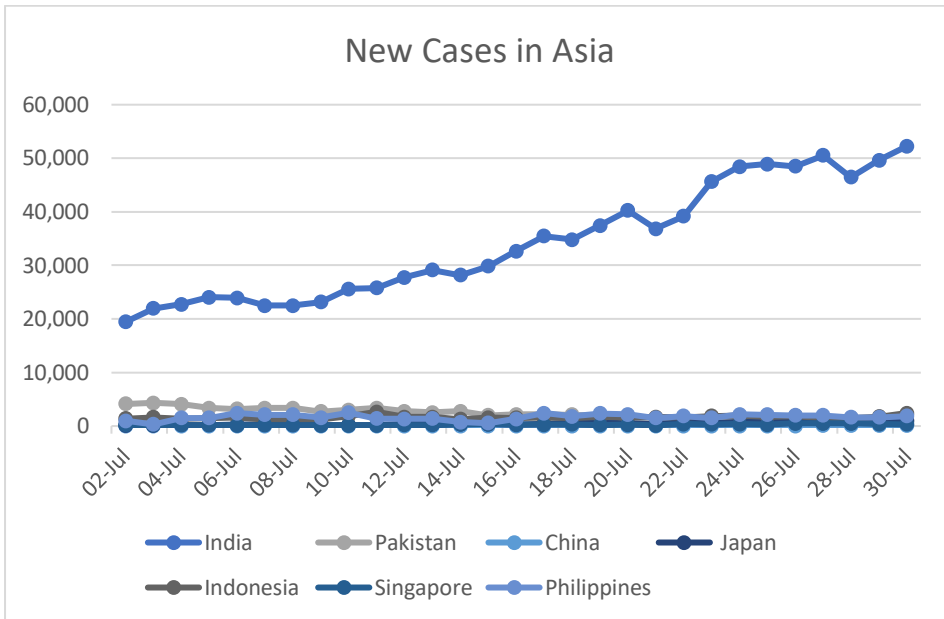
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	16,887,101	Total Active Cases	5,772,994	Total Confirmed Recoveries	10,451,571	Total Confirmed Deaths	662,536
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# Asia



India continues to lead the Asian continent as the worst affected country, with a worsening infection rate, indicating that a peak in the current wave might still be far ahead, possibly even late in autumn. Over the past week, India consistently reported over 45,000 cases per day, which represents a jump of more than 10,000 from the week prior. Experts and public health officials have expressed grave concern over the current medical capabilities available, with hospitals already overwhelmed by the pandemic.

While the growing number of cases remains extremely concerning, the death rate in India and other South Asian countries seems to be considerably lower than other countries, including the United States or the United Kingdom. Some critics have attributed the lower number to inaccurate reporting, while others point at the higher exposure of those populations to infectious diseases, which could have contributed to their increased immunity.

This week North Korea has reported its first case of Covid-19 since the beginning of the pandemic. According to the DPRK's official state media, the patient is a defector that recently crossed back from South Korea, where he was escaping charges of sexual misconduct. While the individual has been quarantined, the government has also introduced strict measures to contain the virus and prevent a

serious outbreak in a country that has, according to official data, so far experienced no cases of Covid-19.

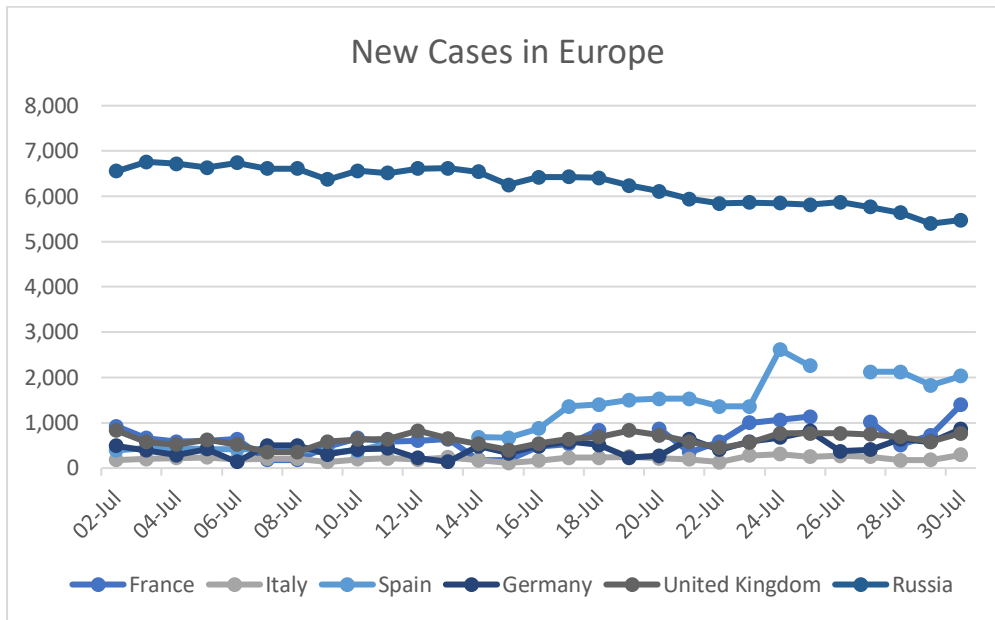
A lockdown order was issued in the border town of Kaesong and widespread testing is being conducted, largely with equipment provided by the World Health Organisation, which provides most of the medicine available in the country. A severe outbreak in North Korea would have a devastating effect, particularly because of the country's underdeveloped medical infrastructure and weakened population, many of whom suffer from malnutrition and other underlying diseases.

On Okinawa island, thousands of local residents are being tested for Covid-19, amidst concerns about an outbreak originating from the two US Marine Core bases located on the island. There have also been requests to lockdown the facilities, as the majority of the cases in Okinawa have been reported among American servicemen, rather than Japanese citizens. While US military spokesmen have repeatedly offered reassurance over the safety measures in place for rotating personnel, the issue of outbreaks of an American origin fuel pre-existing resentment of local population over the extensive military presence on the Island of Okinawa, increasing the potential for unrest.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	509,141	Increase	Moderate	High
Pakistan	26,924	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	391	Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Japan	4,663	Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Indonesia	36,611	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	5,277	Dramatic Increase	Light	High
Philippines	55,058	Stable	Moderate	High



## Europe



Several countries across Europe seem to be experiencing second waves of the virus, likely a consequence of domestic and international restrictions being lifted and tourism restarting.

Last week, the United Kingdom announced the removal of Spain from the list of countries considered “safe”, reintroducing the mandatory 14-day quarantine on all arrivals. The decision was motivated by a resurgence of the virus in the Catalonia region, with numbers growing despite the lockdown restrictions imposed on its hotspots. The Spanish government has condemned the move and has incited the British government to allow unrestricted travel at least to its islands, whose economies are highly dependent on tourism. The two governments are now inactive negotiation.

Similar measures could possibly be implemented against Belgium, Luxembourg and France, where the number of cases is growing at a sustained rate. According to government officials, there is no indication of an intention by the British government to do so; however, announcements could be made with little or no warning. Reciprocal travel restrictions would be likely. The Netherlands has already imposed travel restrictions to the province of Antwerp, the most affected area in Belgium, discouraging all non-essential travel.

On Tuesday, the Italian parliament ratified the extension to the state of emergency until 15 October 2020. The state of emergency grants Prime Minister Conte the power to mobilise economic and security resources to combat the pandemic and the ability to impose lockdowns and restrictions. While Conte could have extended these special powers without consulting the legislature, he did so under pressure by several parties, as the number of cases in Italy has remained low through the past month.

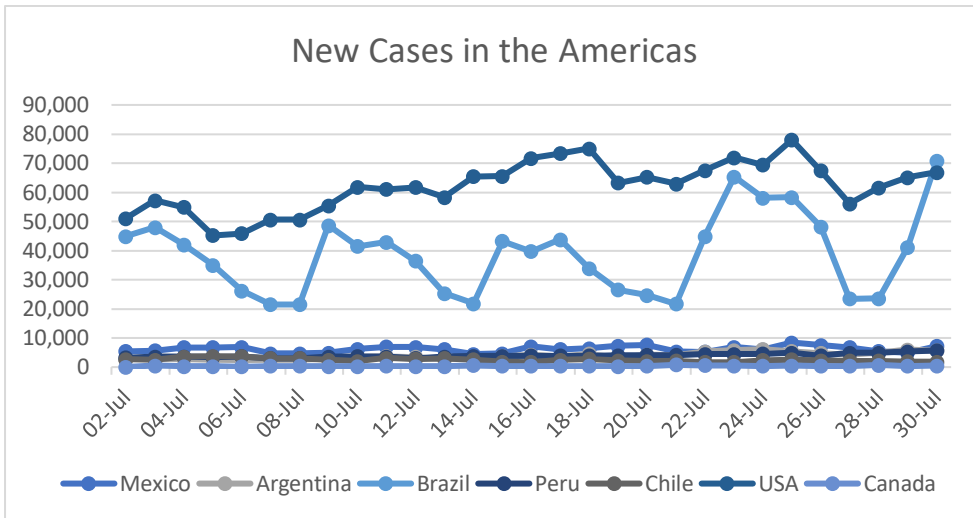
The European Commission also announced that it had secured a supply agreement for the new Covid-19 treatment Remdesivir. The drug, initially developed for Ebola, will be available for the population of Europe and the UK as of 1 August, after it was approved by the Commission in an accelerated process to guarantee its availability as soon as possible. The supply will be financed by the Emergency Support Instrument, a new fund created to support member states in their fight against Covid-19.

In June, the USA had purchased the entire global stock of the medicine, sparking fears in the EU and other countries worldwide of their inability to secure any dosage before at least October. The supplier, however, managed to increase production enough to satisfy the immediate European demands.

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	72,270		Dramatic Increase	Light	Moderate
Italy	12,608		Stable	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A		Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	6,688		Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A		Slight Increase	Light	Light
Russia	197,794		Stable	Moderate	High



# Americas



Countries in both North and South America continue to experience significant levels of infections, with governments debating on the sustainability of existing lockdowns and economic impact of additional restrictions.

The numbers in the US continue to grow, with the country experiencing its highest number of daily deaths on Wednesday, amounting to over 1,400 people. The most affected states continue to be California, Florida and Texas, whose combined population amounts to approximately one-fourth of the country's total. In response to the surge in cases, several states have reintroduced lockdown and public safety measures, closing entertainment businesses and mandating the use of facemask in public spaces. However, the governments also face significant pushback from business owners, unions, as wells people denying the existence of the virus.

The Republican governor of Texas, Louie Gohmert, who had previously downplayed the impact on the virus and refused to wear a facemask, has recently announced he tested positive to Covid-19. He is one of many Congressmen and women who have been affected by the virus since March, highlighting the ongoing debate, often representative of the bipartisan divide, over the appropriateness of preventive measures, such as the use of masks and social distancing in the workplace.

Brazil continues to lead in Latin America for the number of cases and has recently set the record for the

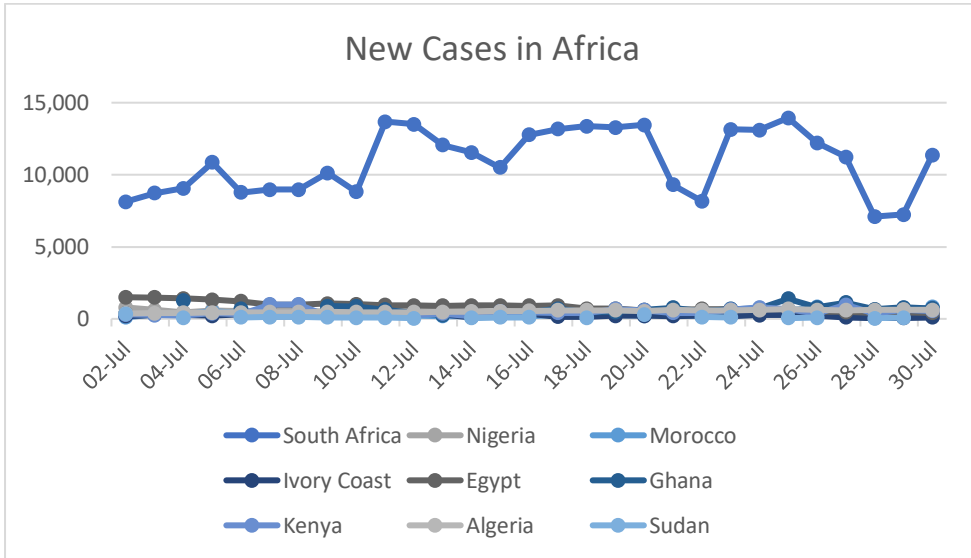
number of deaths in a day, surpassing the US, with 1,600 on Wednesday. Despite the alarming figures, President Jair Bolsonaro, who has only recently recovered from the virus himself, continues to advocate for lifting restrictions. Recently, the largest union of medical professionals in the country have accused the president of “negligent mismanagement” of the pandemic and have reached out to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, hoping it would start an investigation under the mandate of crimes against humanity.

The Bolivian government has announced that its general elections will be postponed until at least October, due concerns over the virus. The country has been increasingly affected by a growing number of cases, which have reportedly overwhelmed its hospitals and funeral houses, despite the lockdown measures. With almost 50,000 active cases and a daily increase surpassing 1,000, Bolivia is set for a serious public health crisis.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	94,690	Stable	Light	Moderate
Argentina	95,093	Slight Increase	High	High
Brazil	674,455	Increase	Light	High
Peru	99,941	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Chile	18,228	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,162,578	Stable	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	5,948	Stable	Light	High



# Africa



The outbreak continues to worsen across the African continent, with the number of cases continuing to consistently grow in most countries, forcing governments to impose curfews and lockdowns. Over the past week, the total cases in the African continent surpassed 850,000, with over 18,000 deaths. The most affected countries remain, South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria and Ghana.

South Africa, the fifth country worldwide for the number of cases, continues to brace for a peak in the outbreak that is yet to come, projected to be sometime in early August. However, hospitals are already overwhelmed and have surpassed maximum capacity.

Despite the government's increased effort towards testing and monitoring of the virus, a recent report estimated that the country's number could be dramatical underrepresenting the current situation. Between May and June, South Africa registered approximately 60 percent more deaths than average, which could indicate that the official Covid-19 death toll could be inaccurate. This could, however, also be caused by the burden that the pandemic is imposing on the country's medical facilities and services, as well as by the reticence of the general public to visit hospitals, due to fears of contagion.

This week the Moroccan government issued an order restricting travel to and from the country's biggest cities. These restrictions are applied to the cities of Tangier, Tetouan, Fez, Meknes, Casablanca, Berrechid, Settat and Marrakesh. According to government authorities, the order was motivated by a

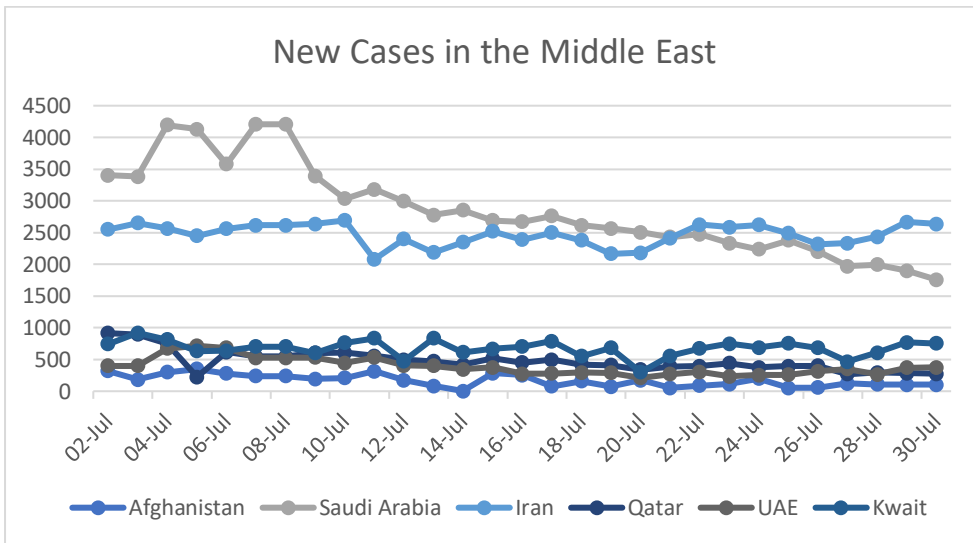
generalised lack of compliance with state regulations aimed at containing the outbreak of the virus, which mandate a strict sanitary regime, social distancing and obligatory use of facemasks, which ultimately caused the number of cases to spike, now registering over 600 new cases daily.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta announced this week the 30-day extension of the nightly curfew currently in effect in the country, which mandates for people to remain at home between 21:00 and 04:00. Bars and nightclubs will remain closed, while restaurants will be forced to close at 19:00. After the government reprimanded individuals for defying limits on gatherings and social distancing rules, especially establishments serving or selling alcohol, the president also announced a ban on alcohol consumption in Kenya. He has also reassured, however, that a full nation-wide lockdown, similar to the one imposed in March, was ruled out by the government, as its economic impact would be unsustainable for the country's economy.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	165,191	Stable	Moderate	High
Nigeria	22,172	Stable	Moderate	High
Morocco	3,994	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High
Ivory Coast	5,078	Decrease	Moderate	High
Egypt	52,297	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	3,617	Dramatic Increase	Moderate	High
Kenya	10,374	Increase	Moderate	High
Algeria	8,208	Stable	Moderate	High
Sudan	4,770	N/A	High	High



## Middle East



Covid-19 cases continue to grow in the Middle East, affecting some of the most vulnerable populations in the world, in countries where years of conflict have critically damaged the medical infrastructure and now prevent the often embattled governments from adequately respond to the outbreak.

Most of the restrictions imposed by the different nations also fundamentally hinder the access of humanitarian staff and aid, despite both being fundamental for the survival of large sections of the population. In Iraq, the infection rates have skyrocketed over the past month, causing a nearly 600 percent jump in the number of cases in through June alone. Further damaging the ability of the existing medical capabilities to respond to the pandemic, hospital and emergency staff is reportedly among the worst affected categories, largely due to the lack of adequate equipment, including PPE, which leaves the frontline workers critically exposed to the virus.

This week, Lebanon has imposed again severe restrictions to businesses and gatherings, which are scheduled to last for at least two weeks. Cinemas, bars, markets and places of worships were forced to close as authorities warned about a steep spike in infections, with a daily increase of over 130. Shops, companies, banks were allowed to stay open on Tuesday and Wednesday but will be forced to shut until at least 10 August. Key government functions, as well as industrial, agricultural and medical facilities, will be allowed to stay open. The shutdown also comes just as the Eid al-Adha celebrations are set to

commence, with the traditional gatherings and festivities prohibited as a preventive measure.

The two rivals across the Persian Gulf, Iran and Saudi Arabia, are also battling the virus, registering a similar number of cases. Iran is, however, reporting a surge in the number of deaths, after a period of relatively positive numbers. Its leadership has already ruled out the possibility of another nation-wide lockdown, which has the potential to trigger large-scale unrest and cause tremendous socio-economic damage. While Saudi Arabia reports a much lower death rate than Iran, the country has also seen consistent growth in the number of cases throughout the past two months, now counting over 40,000 active cases.

In Israel, where lockdown measures have also been recently issued after a spike in cases, protesters continue to gather across the country to condemn the government’s handling of the pandemic. The demonstrations have been taking place for the past few weeks, as the restrictions have already caused significant economic damage, with many fearing a crisis similar to the one currently experienced by Lebanon. Underlying issues affecting Israeli politics, such as corruption probes and accusation of abuse of power, serve as a catalyst for this wave of civil unrest, which is expected to continue through the upcoming month.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
Afghanistan	9,740	Stable	High	Severe	Severe
Saudi Arabia	42,418	Decrease	Light	Severe	Severe
Iran	23,107	Stable	Moderate	High	High
Qatar	3,110	Decrease	Moderate	High	High
UAE	6,294	Increase	Light	Moderate	Moderate
Kuwait	9,248	Stable	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate