

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 13 August

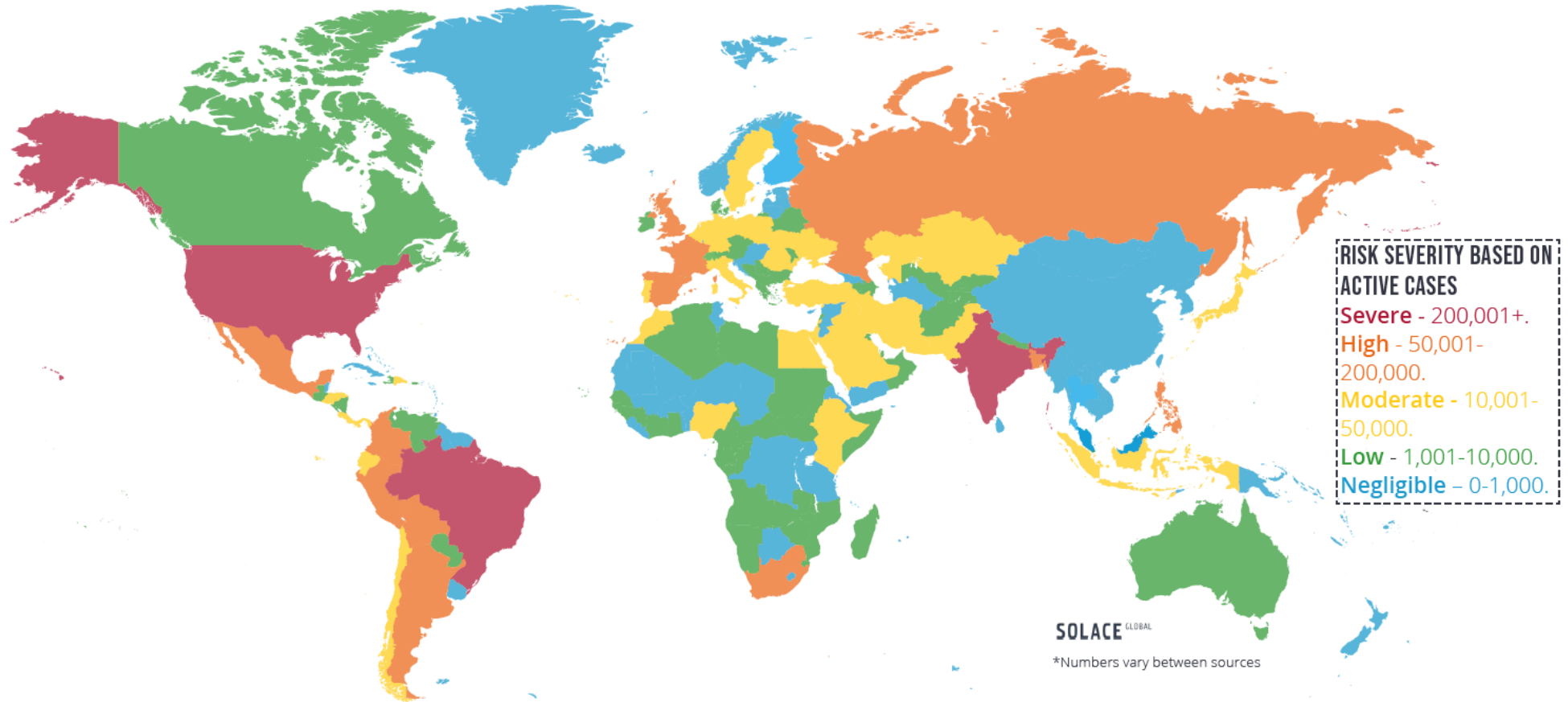


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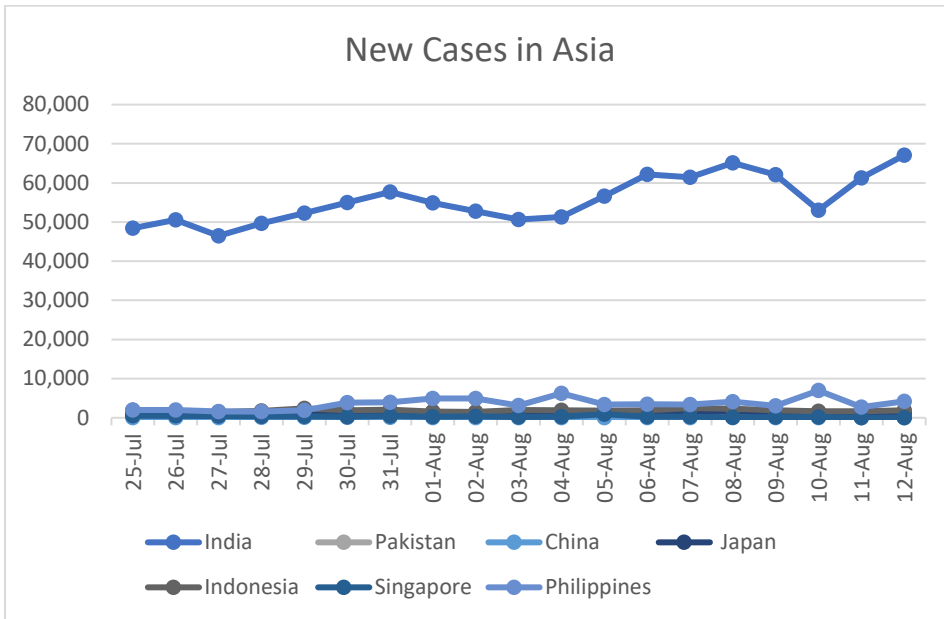
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	20,826,546	Total Active Cases	6,356,038	Total Confirmed Recoveries	13,722,940	Total Confirmed Deaths	747,568
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# Asia



Asia continues to struggle with the pandemic as populations grow increasingly tired with the prevention and safety rules and countries are forced to lift lockdowns to avoid economic collapse.

In India, health officials are fighting widespread non-compliance among its citizens, particularly in more rural areas. Reports indicate that after months of restrictions, communities affected only marginally by the virus have developed a false sense of immunity and have resumed gathering in large numbers. This is predicted to make the virus even deadlier, as it slowly trickles out of the urban centres, and into smaller villages, where the medical facilities are rare and badly equipped. Enforcing public health orders, such as mandatory face masks in public, is also extremely difficult and often depends on the effort and resources of state or regional authorities.

Vietnam continues to battle with its first domestic outbreak in three months, whose origin is yet to be identified by investigating authorities. This week, Vietnamese Prime Minister announced that the next ten to twelve days will be the most crucial in determining the success of the containment efforts, as well as the severity of the lockdown measures that will be imposed moving forward. Isolated infections in Hanoi have raised concerns over other unidentified hotspots, which could significantly impact the situation in

the country, particularly due to the high population density in the capital. Vietnam initially received high praise for its handling of the pandemic, now there is a very high risk that the country could face a renewed outbreak.

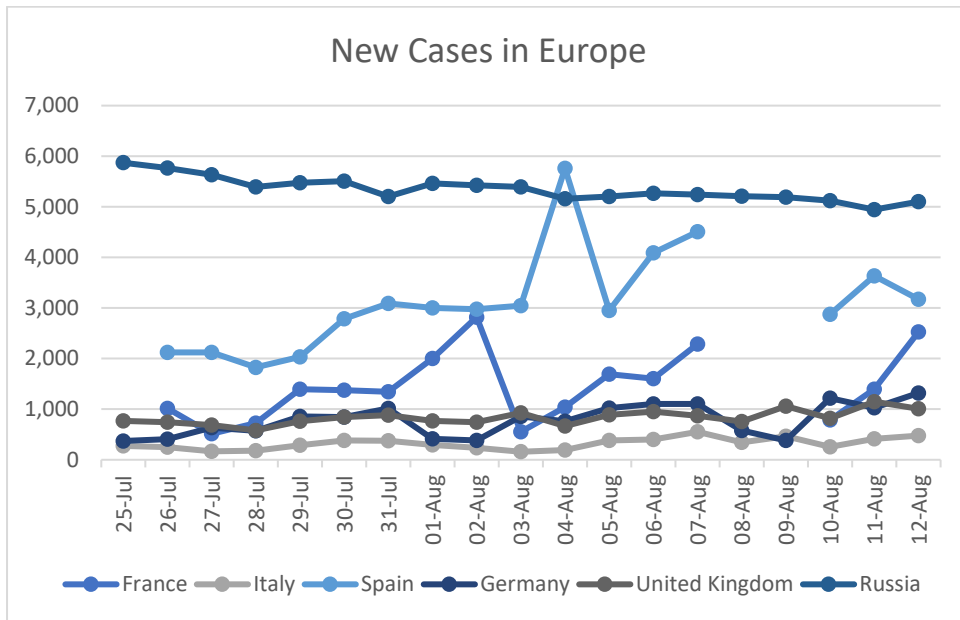
On the other hand, the situation in Singapore seems to be improving and this Wednesday reported its lowest daily increase in cases, amounting to only 42 to people. The country already had a good control on the infection levels and has so far avoided a second wave, despite having lifted many of the lockdown measures. A scandal regarding localised outbreaks among foreign workers, who were seen living in poor conditions, cramped in dormitories where social distancing was not possible, had cause international condemnation over the past month. However, the condition of the workers seems to have improved since and the dormitories have reportedly been vacated.

New Zealand has reported its first new cases of Covid-19 after over three months free of the virus. After discovering four positive cases in Auckland, the prime minister rapidly imposed a city-wide lockdown, while investigations are underway to identify the source of the infection. On Wednesday, authorities have revealed that they are examining freight as a potential cause, particularly as viruses are known to survive better in refrigerated environments.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	655,012	Stable	Moderate	High
Pakistan	16,475	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	724	Decrease	Light	High
Japan	14,263	Stable	Light	High
Indonesia	39,290	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	4,950	Dramatic Decrease	Light	High
Philippines	74,713	Stable	Moderate	High



# Europe



\* please note that Spain and France have partially discontinued the publication of their data. This is reflected in the image.

Europe continues to struggle to avoid a large second wave of infections as holiday goers have resumed international travel, complicating track and trace efforts. Several countries, especially around the Mediterranean, have been forced to crack down on nightlife, release warning over non-compliance with Covid-19 regulations or reimpose stricter social distancing measures.

Last week, the UK has announced that Belgium, the Bahamas and Andorra will be added to the country's quarantine list, amidst speculation that France might be also added to the list like its neighbours Luxemburg and Spain, which were flagged the week prior.

Anyone who is found in violation of the requirements will be fined £1,000, while repeated offenders will pay fees of £5,000. The restrictions were ultimately caused by a spike in infection rates, which had forced Belgium to imposed localised lockdown restrictions around the Antwerp area and Brussels.

A number of coastal cities have decided to forbid access to their beachfronts to one day tourist, sparking the Interior Minister to criticise the municipalities and emphasising freedom of movement. Some skirmishes were reported over the weekend between the police and tourists, who reportedly threw bottles and umbrellas at police officers attempting to enforce the ban.

France, who has also witnessed a sustained growth in cases, has introduced new regulations in its capital. Wearing a facemask outdoors is now mandatory in several streets, markets and riverbanks in the Ile de France area, including Montmartre. This will mirror orders issued in other famous cities, such as Lille, Niece and Toulouse and will remain in effect for a month.

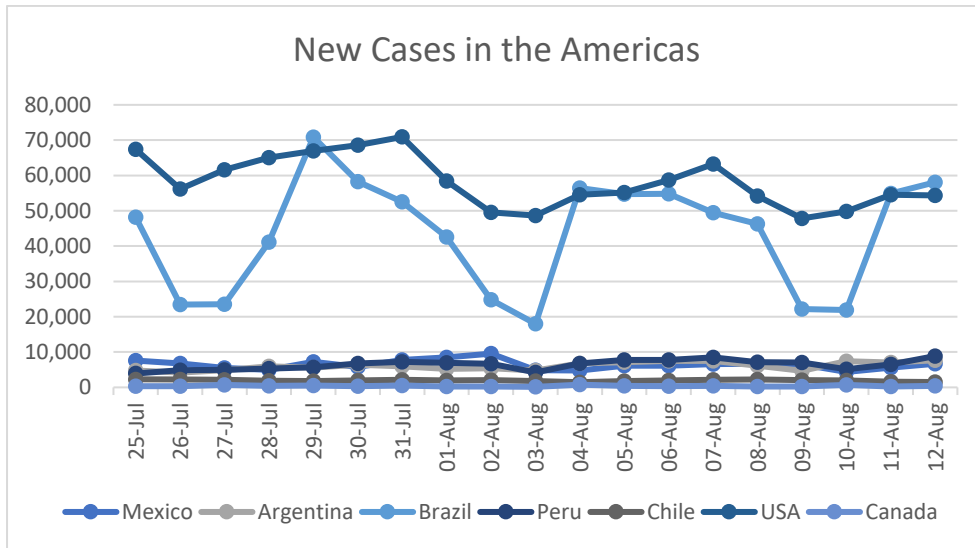
This week, Russia has announced that an experimental vaccine has been officially registered and is scheduled to start mass distribution in October. The drug, named "Sputnik V", has, however, sparked international concern, particularly regarding the lack of scientific data available for the public and the testing, which has only been done on members of the military. President Putin has dismissed all criticism,

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	92,853	Increase	Increase	Light	Moderate
Italy	13,791	Stable	Stable	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	10,774	Increase	Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Slight Increase	Slight Increase	Light	Light
Russia	175,978	Stable	Stable	Moderate	High

saying one of his daughters had already been vaccinated.



## Americas



The Americas continue to be the portion of the globe worst-hit by the pandemic. The high number of cases is mainly driven by the United States and Brazil, who have over 5.2 million and over 3 million confirmed cases respectively.

As the US sees confirmed cases continue to grow by around 50,000 a day, President Donald Trump has once again claimed that more COVID-19 tests produce “more cases”. The president also referred to the virus as the “China Plague”. The president did, however, add that there were three viable vaccines being tested in America that were in the final stage of clinical trials. He added that the government had ordered 600 million doses of the most promising candidate to be immediately manufactured and ready for deployment once approved.

Across the border in Canada, some residents have reportedly vandalised vehicles with US license plates in an attempt to deter American tourists from visiting the country. Some Canadians have targeted the US plated vehicles in various ways, with minor damage such as keying to more dangerous incidents where drivers have been harassed. This comes as, despite the border between the two countries being closed to tourists, many Americans are crossing over into Canada for leisure reasons without being questioned about their journeys.

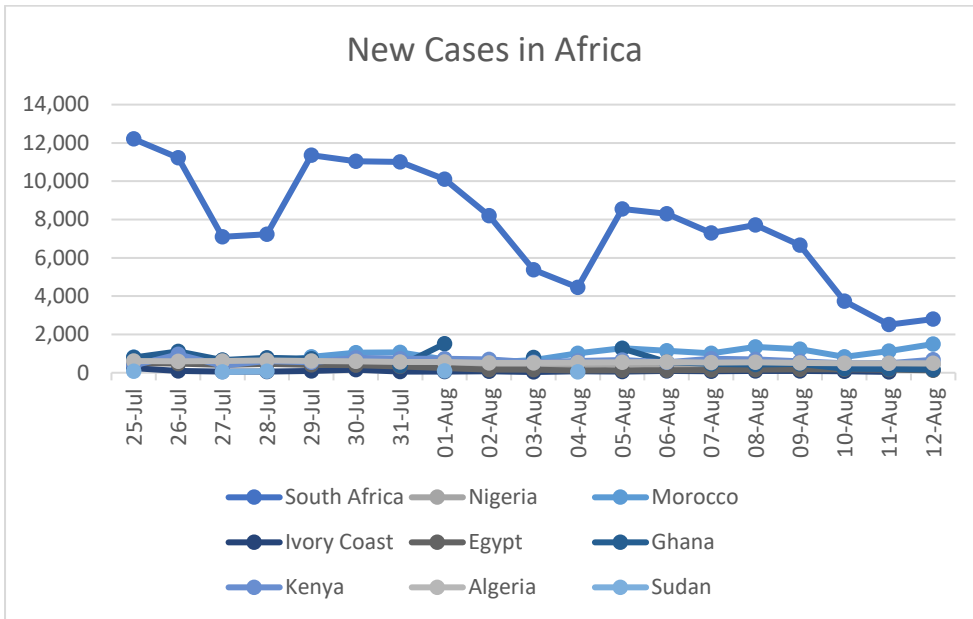
To the south, in Brazil, the country has surpassed 100,000 COVID related deaths, with the number of confirmed cases and deaths continuing to grow at around 50,000 and 1,000 respectively. The virus also does not appear to have peaked as of yet. Despite this, President Jair Bolsonaro, who caught the disease himself and has since recovered, has downplayed the virus and continues to oppose measures that could impact the economy.

The Caribbean continues to see a limited number of cases on a number of islands, with Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic and Cuba seeing the most cases in the region. Additionally, Cuba, which had initially combatted the virus well, is now seeing a resurgence in case numbers, with the total number of confirmed cases now exceeding 3,000. The majority of these cases have occurred in the Havana area, which has resulted in a partial lockdown being reimposed on the capital, with checkpoints being set up that require a negative COVID test to pass through.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	107,079	Stable	Light	Moderate
Argentina	76,078	Slight Increase	High	High
Brazil	756,734	Stable	Light	High
Peru	134,904	Stable	Moderate	High
Chile	16,544	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,378,568	Stable	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	4,690	Stable	Light	High



# Africa



There are now more than 1 million confirmed cases on the African continent. However, the increase in confirmed case numbers has dropped below 10,000 a day.

South Africa continues to be the country with the most confirmed cases. However, it has also conducted more than 3 million tests, with only Morocco conducting more than a million tests. Egypt, which has only conducted 135,000 tests has a total confirmed case count of over 95,000. This high case to test ration is mirrored in many other countries on the continent and suggests that the pandemic could be far more widespread than reported.

There has been a backlash in Malawi over the weekend after the government announced a number of new measures to combat the pandemic. Notably, public gatherings of more than 10 people have been banned, though funerals can still have 50 attendees. Places of worship have been closed and bars limited to six hours of operations a day. Additionally, face masks have been mandatory in all public spaces with fines for those who break the rules.

In Ghana, a BBC Africa Eye undercover investigation has found that some staff in the country's hospitals are selling personal protective equipment (PPE) illegal for a personal profit. The allegation comes as

reports state that more than 2,000 hospital workers have fallen ill since the beginning of the outbreak, with PPE severely lacking.

Conversely, in nearby Nigeria, the country has held a handover ceremony for 200 ventilators that have been donated by the US government. President Donald Trump promised the equipment in a phone conversation with his Nigerian counterpart President Muhammadu Buhari back in April. The US president had claimed that the ventilators had arrived in May, a claim refuted by the Nigerian government at the time.

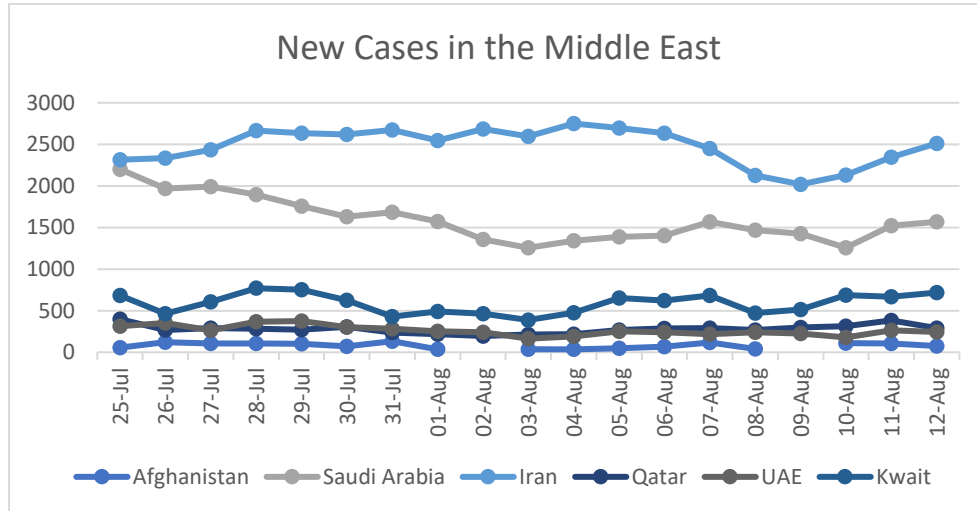
To the north, in Egypt, the country's hospitals are preparing for a feared second wave, as confirmed case numbers have started to climb again. Despite the rise, a spokesperson for the Egyptian Health and Population Ministry has denied claims that the country was in the midst of a second wave of the virus. Instead of stating that the increase in infection numbers was the result of Egyptians being careless.

The uptick in coronavirus cases comes as Egyptians head to the polls to elect the country's revived senate, which was reinstated in a constitutional referendum last year. The upper chamber of parliament will seat 300 members, 200 elected by the people and 100 appointed by the president. The new chamber has few formal powers and is more advisory, with the country's lower chamber, the house of representatives holding a legislative role in the country's governance.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	125,880	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	12,844	Stable	Moderate	High
Morocco	10,461	Increase	Moderate	High
Ivory Coast	3,421	Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	34,977	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	2,029	N/A	Moderate	High
Kenya	13,038	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	9,739	Stable	Moderate	High
Sudan	4,965	N/A	High	High



## Middle East



Countries in the Middle East continue to experience different stages of the pandemic, with the Persian Gulf region continuing to improve and others, such as Syria and Lebanon, reporting record numbers of cases.

While official figures in war-torn countries like Afghanistan or Yemen remain low, it is believed that they are not an accurate representation of their epidemiological situation, but rather of a sharp decrease in testing and possibly an effort to downplay the impact of the pandemic. This week, Iraq is reporting the highest daily increase in cases among the countries in the Middle East, which has remained well over 3,000.

Lebanon is currently battling with a double-edged crisis, triggered by the massive explosion in the port of Beirut, which damaged or overwhelmed several medical facilities in the capital and led to large scale protests across the country. Over the past few days, the country has reported its highest number of cases and deaths, likely also due to social distancing restrictions not being respected. These remain low comparatively but have the potential to skyrocket if adequate countermeasures are not implemented.

Israel seems to have reached the peak of its second wave, now reporting an average of 1,400 cases per day, suggesting a slow but steady decrease from its highest numbers, ranging around the 1,800-1,900

mark. This second wave of Covid-19 was significantly worse than the first, whose peak barely reached above 600 daily cases. Attempting to avoid a full nationwide lockdown, the Israeli authorities have imposed restrictions and curfews during the weekends, closing beaches and limiting unregulated gatherings.

Saudi Arabia, the worst affected country in the Middle East, continues to steadily follow a downward trend despite the recent Hajj celebration. While the numbers are still relatively high, now averaging at least 1,400 cases per day, they have dropped to half of those experienced during the June peak.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Restrictions	Travel
Afghanistan	9,758	Increase	High	Severe	
Saudi Arabia	32,499	Stable	Light	Severe	
Iran	24,467	Stable	Moderate	High	
Qatar	3,121	Stable	Moderate	High	
UAE	5,661	Stable	Light	Moderate	
Kuwait	7,845	Stable	Moderate	Moderate	