

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 20 August

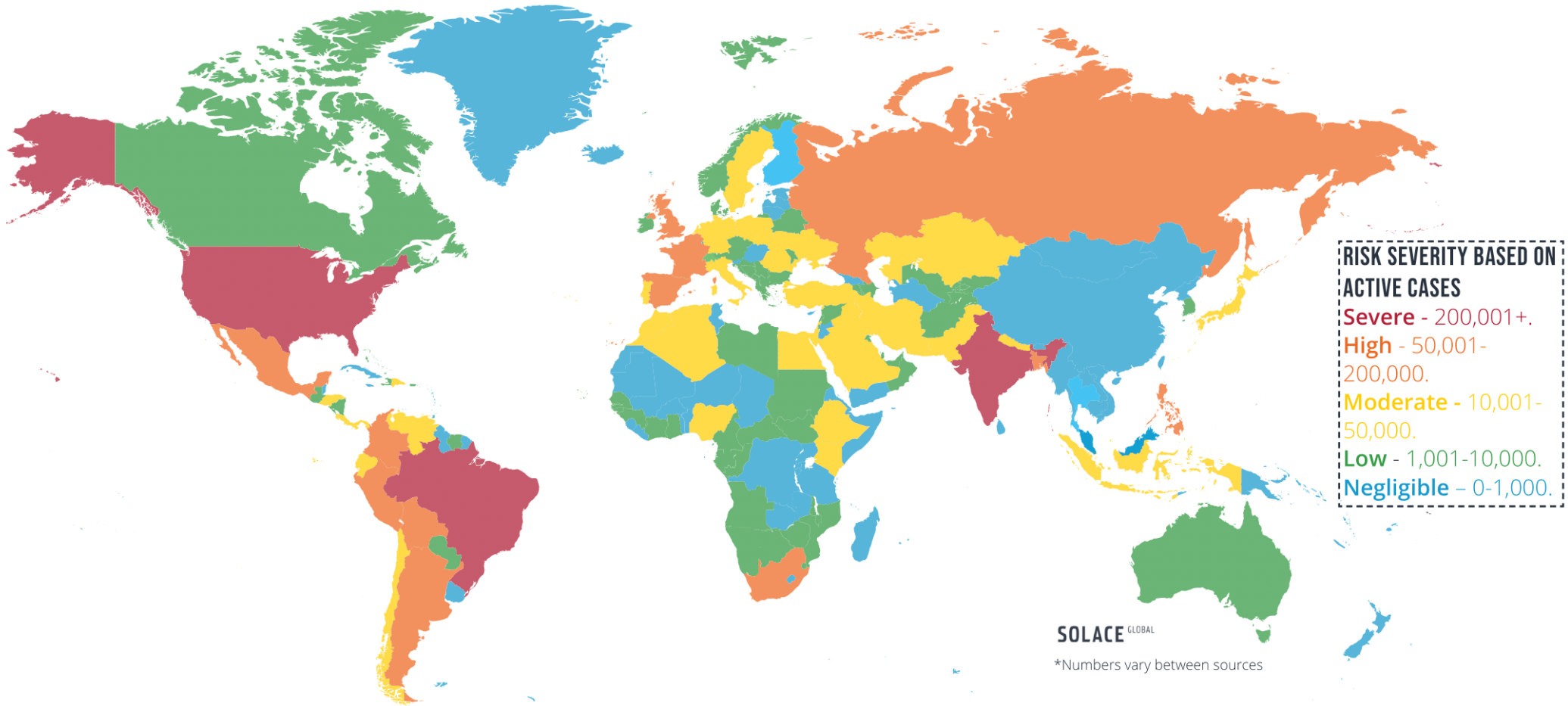


Powered By:  
**SOLACE** GLOBAL



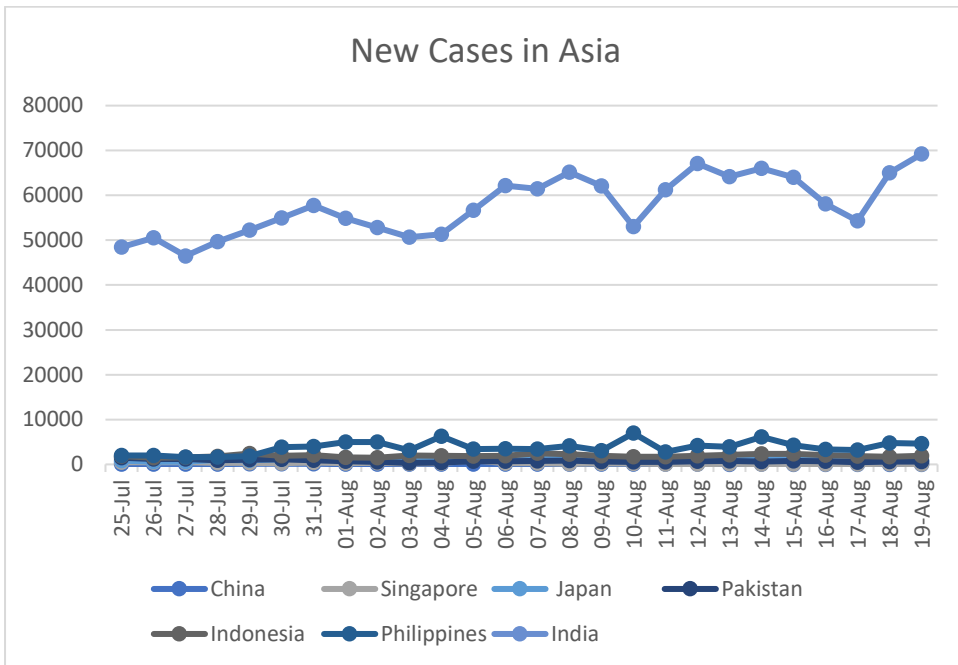
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	22,569,199	Total Active Cases	6,483,962	Total Confirmed Recoveries	15,295,042	Total Confirmed Deaths	790,195
-------------	------------	--------------------	-----------	----------------------------	------------	------------------------	---------





# Asia



Asia is continuing to struggle with the pandemic with fears that a low number of testing in some parts of the continent is hiding the true scale of the outbreak, especially in South Asia.

India now has the largest number of coronavirus cases in the world after the US and Brazil. Over 2.6 million confirmed cases have been reported in the country, with 10s of thousands more being reported each day. The country’s confirmed case count is now doubling every 24 days. There also appears to be little ability to arrest the rise in case numbers which have grown massively since the relaxation of lockdown measures.

The outbreak has also begun to impact more rural areas of the country. While healthcare facilities in large cities can be considered close to international standards, health facilities in more rural areas of the country can be extremely limited. This has caused serious concerns that the virus’s impact on the more rural areas could be devastating for the country.

Elsewhere, in Pakistan, which has the second highest number of cases in the region, new case numbers continue to fall. The country, which was seeing almost 6,000 new infections each day in mid-June, is now

seeing less than 1,000 in August.

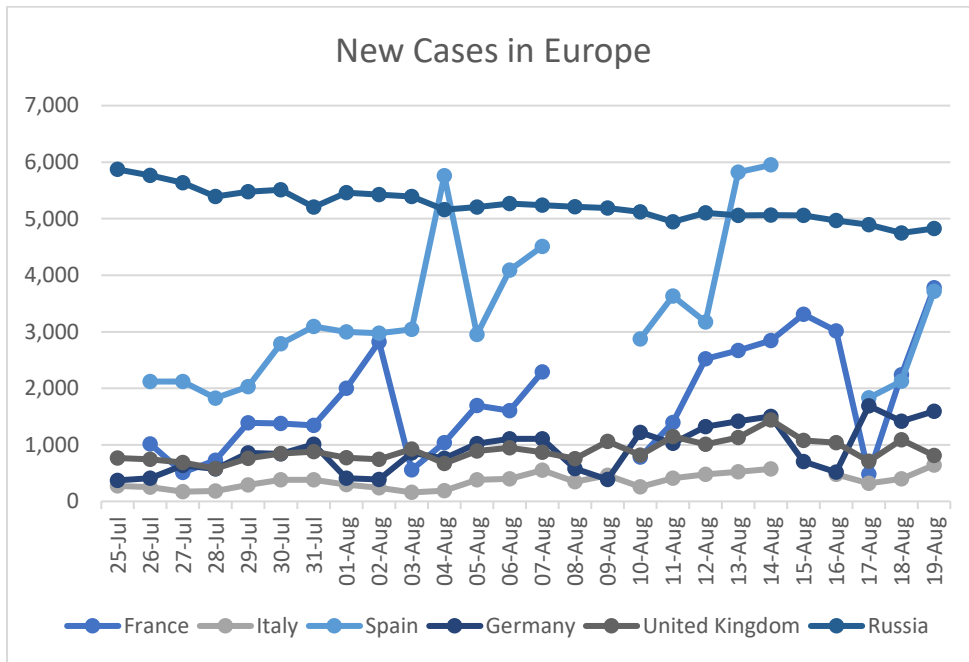
In Hong Kong, restrictions have been increased with dining out now banned and group gatherings capped at two. The new measures were announced following the recording of more than 100 new cases for five days in a row. Pools and sports venues have been closed and the wearing of a mask has been made mandatory. The city was, initially, very successful at restricting the spread of the virus; however, the city is now seeing a significant rise in cases with more than half of its nearly 3,000 cases recorded in July alone.

To the north, in the original epicentre of the outbreak, Wuhan has held a massive water park party that was attended by thousands of residents. The party was conducted without any social distancing measures or masks. The city has not, however, reported any new cases since mid-May, when a cluster of six cases were reported. Following the May re-emergence, the city conducted more than 6.5 million tests in just nine days, according to state media.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	685,760	Stable	Moderate	High
Pakistan	12,116	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	569	Decrease	Light	High
Japan	12,587	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Indonesia	39,942	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	3,194	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	57,498	Decrease	Moderate	High



# Europe



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

Numerous countries across Europe are seeing a surge in cases. For example, in the past seven days Spain has reported more than 5,000 new cases at least three times, though there has been a decrease in new cases since the weekend.

Indeed, Spain’s cases per 100,000 people was reported close to 80 on 14 August. Germany has added the country to its list of high-risk countries, this excludes the Canary Islands at this time. This means that Germany is advising its citizens against non-essential travel, but does not amount to a full travel ban.

Germany, itself, is also seeing an increase in new cases, with the country reporting more than 1,300 cases on most days (excluding the weekend) since 12 August. Officials have stated that the rise was due, at least in part, to people returning from holiday. Germany has fared better than some of its neighbours and only recorded just under 10,000 deaths as a result of the pandemic. However, there are fears that the country may now begin to see a second wave of infections.

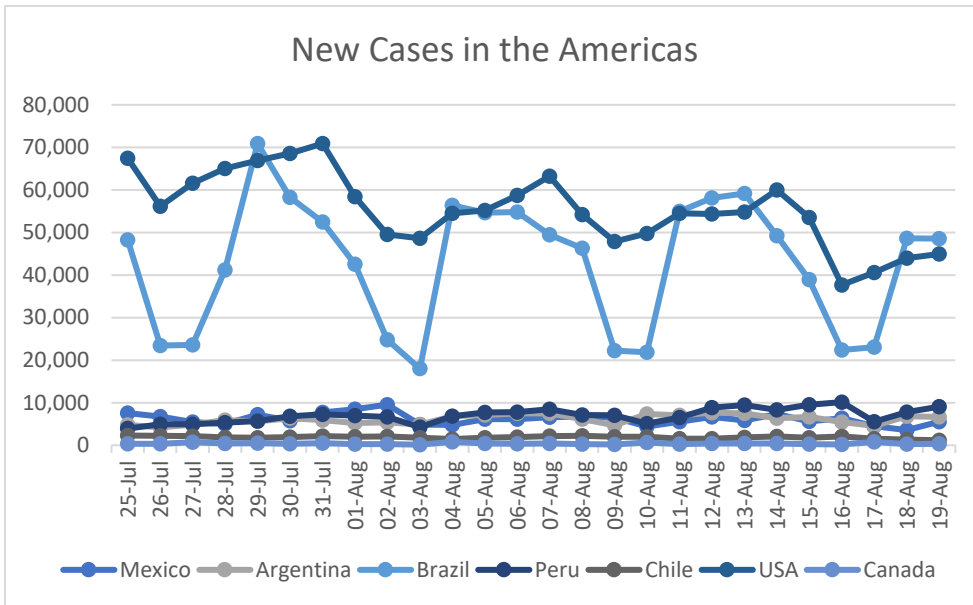
In France, the wearing of masks in workplaces will be made compulsory from 1 September. Since July, the country has seen a rise in the number of new cases with its average number of new cases over seven days well over 2,000. Since 11 May, the country’s strict lockdown, which was one of the strictest in Europe, has been gradually eased. However, the government has recently imposed new restrictions, such as the wearing of masks in enclosed public spaces. Paris has also cancelled the rescheduled marathon in the city.

In Italy, which alongside the UK, Belgium and Spain is one of the worst hit countries in Europe, it is being reported that the number of new infections is rising. This has called into question whether there should be a continued easing of lockdown measures and whether schools should reopen as scheduled. The government has responded to the rise in new cases by closing nightclubs and enforcing the wearing of masks in certain areas at night.

Countries	Active cases	Covid	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	110,510	Increase	Increase	Light	Moderate
Italy	15,360	Slight Increase	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	16,486	Increase	Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Slight Increase	Slight Increase	Light	Light
Russia	171,909	Stable	Stable	Moderate	High



## Americas



The Americas continue to be at the epicentre of the pandemic, with roughly 53 per cent of worldwide newly confirmed cases and 75 per cent of reported deaths detected in the region in the past week, according to the latest WHO epidemiological report published on 16 August. The United States of America and Brazil remain the biggest drivers of COVID-19 case numbers in the region, with the former continuing to report hundreds of thousands of new cases per week and remaining the worst-affected nation to date in terms of total cases and deaths.

While the US and Brazil have dominated headlines in recent weeks due to their status as the two-worst hit nations, Peru is witnessing the biggest surge in deaths. Indeed, in the past week, the number of fatalities increased by around 220 per cent and the country now has the worst cumulative death rate (807) per one million population of any South American nation, and the third-worst globally, trailing only San Marino and Belgium. In response to the spike in infections, last week Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra banned family gatherings and extended lockdowns to five more regions, 15 of which were already covered by rolling lockdowns. Additionally, a blanket curfew is also in effect on Sunday's, which is being rigorously enforced in Lima by militarized units of the Peruvian National Police.

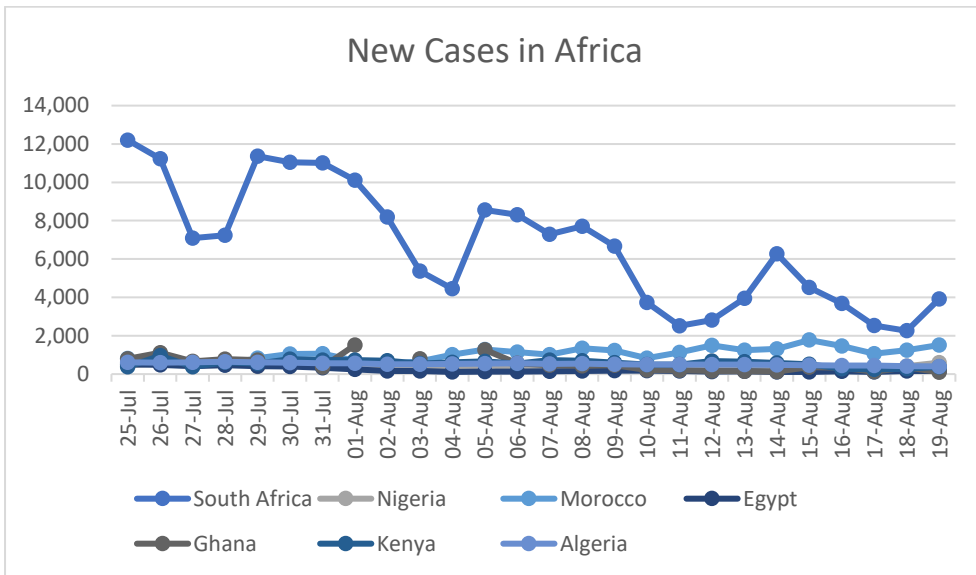
Canada has managed to flatten the curve of coronavirus infections since the spring, however, some of the country's ten provinces have reported upticks in new cases in recent weeks, as economic and social activities have gradually resumed. Quebec, the nation's hardest-hit province that accounts for around half of Canada's total cases, announced on Tuesday plans to prepare its health sector for a potential second wave. Learning from previous mistakes, the province intends to boost public sector hiring, reduce testing delays and prohibit the movement of health workers between senior care homes – where the majority of Quebec's coronavirus deaths took place.

Case numbers are also rising across the Caribbean, where tourism-dependent economies have been hit hard by the effects of the pandemic, forcing indigenous populations to return to traditional fishing and farming for their livelihoods. In Belize, the government announced a nationwide state of emergency and curfew after total cases tripled in the past week, rising from 154 on 10 August to 452 on 17 August. Similarly, the Bahamas has seen a surge in new infections in recent weeks. Having managed to keep total cases below 200 between February and late July, as of 19 August there were at least 1,424 confirmed infections, representing an exponential increase.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	110,158	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Argentina	77,604	Stable	High	High
Brazil	733,970	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Peru	154,133	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Chile	15,174	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,462,263	Stable	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	4,619	Stable	Light	High



# Africa



The number of cases in Africa continues to grow with roughly 10,000 new confirmed reports of the virus reported on 19 August, the bulk of these cases coming from South Africa, Morocco and Ethiopia. Notably however, Libya is now seeing a sustained increase in new cases, with fears that the conflict-ridden country may be seeing an uncontrollable outbreak.

South Africa continues to be the worst impacted country, according to confirmed data, on the continent. However, the country has started to ease lockdown measures as officials say that the country is “past the peak”. Indeed, the number of new cases in the country continues to fall, with just under 4,000 new cases reported on 19 August, compared to the just over 10,000 reported on 1 August.

On Monday, 17 August, nearly all restrictions on the country’s economy were eased, including the controversial ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco. This led to long queues at many shops as customers rushed to buy their first alcoholic drinks and packs of cigarettes since there was a temporary lifting of the ban in July. While tobacco and alcohol firms, as well as many in the general public, opposed the ban, medical experts said it was vital that people led healthy lives during the lockdown, and to ease pressure on health services.

Additionally, the government have allowed domestic travel, small family gatherings and have allowed the

reopening of businesses. The government hopes that the easing of these restrictions will revive the country’s economy. However, one positive of the lockdown measures has been the significant drop in violent and property-related crimes, which have dropped by 29 percent.

To the north, Zimbabwe has also relaxed lockdown measures. The country has shortened its overnight curfew from 6pm to 6am to 8pm to 6am. Additionally, businesses have been allowed to stay open until 4:30pm instead of 3pm

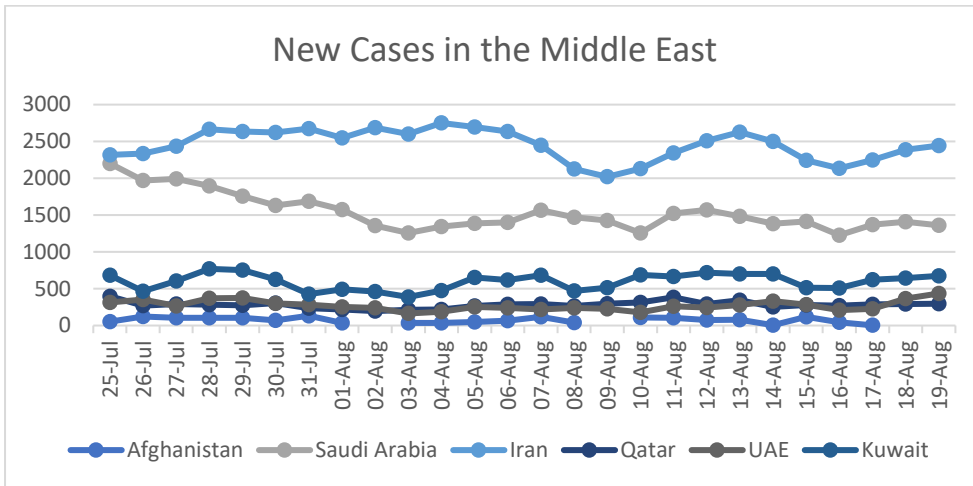
In Libya, medics and officials working with a health system that has suffered years of conflict and division are warning that the pandemic may now be slipping out of their control. The capital, Tripoli, the large port city of Misrata in the west and the city of Sabha in the country’s south are all prominent hotspots now.

In Ethiopia, on Wednesday 19 August, there was a reported 80 percent spike in case numbers. The spike has been attributed to an increase in testing launched 12 days ago. The country is currently on a drive to conduct 200,000 laboratory tests.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	92,196	Dramatic Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	12,199	Stable	Moderate	High
Morocco	13,994	Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	29,164	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	1,875	Stable	Moderate	High
Kenya	12,897	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	10,474	Stable	Moderate	High



## Middle East



After weeks of decline in the number of COVID-19 cases being reported across the Middle East, in recent days a number of countries have seen an uptick in newly confirmed cases, including Iraq, Lebanon and Libya, among others. Indeed, the latest WHO update, published on 16 August, showed a 10 per cent increase in cases across the Eastern Mediterranean region compared to the previous week. Iran continues to be the region’s worst-affected nation, with over 350,000 cases, representing around a quarter of all MENA’s cases, meanwhile, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states make up around half of the regions cases numbers.

The epidemiological situation is particularly challenging in Lebanon following the massive explosion in Beirut earlier this month, which has increased strain on the country’s already burdened health system and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Prior to the disaster, case numbers had been creeping up, however, cases have surged in recent weeks as many have been unable to follow social distancing and hygiene measures. In an attempt to contain the uptick in new cases, Lebanon will impose a two-week lockdown from 21 August, including the closure of markets, shopping centres, gyms and swimming pools. In addition, there will be an overnight curfew to restrict movement and limit social gatherings. Caretaker Health Minister Hamad Hassan also urged people to wear face masks, saying “face masks are a matter of life and death, so people must wear them everywhere they go.”

Iran, which continues to be the region’s worst affected nation, surpassed 20,000 deaths in recent days, although health experts fear the toll could be far higher. Despite continuing to report thousands of new cases per day, university entrance exams were sat by more than one million students while a society of clerics on Monday suggested Ashoura, a major Shia festival, should go ahead under any circumstances.

Elsewhere in Jordan, authorities have imposed an indefinite lockdown on the Northern Ramtha district, close to the Syrian border, due to an increase in COVID-19 infections. Officials claimed that truck drivers and individuals entering the kingdom via the Jaber border crossing with Syria were responsible for transmission of the virus. The same border crossing had been closed last week in an effort to prevent further spread and Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz had warned that tougher measures would be implemented due to a spike in neighbouring countries. Under the lockdown, non-essential travel will be restricted, and a daily curfew will be in effect between 06:00 and 20:00, although businesses will be permitted to operate outside of curfew hours.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Afghanistan	9,058	Stable	High	Severe
Saudi Arabia	25,089	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	27,626	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	3,105	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	6,952	Stable	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	7,867	Stable	Moderate	Moderate