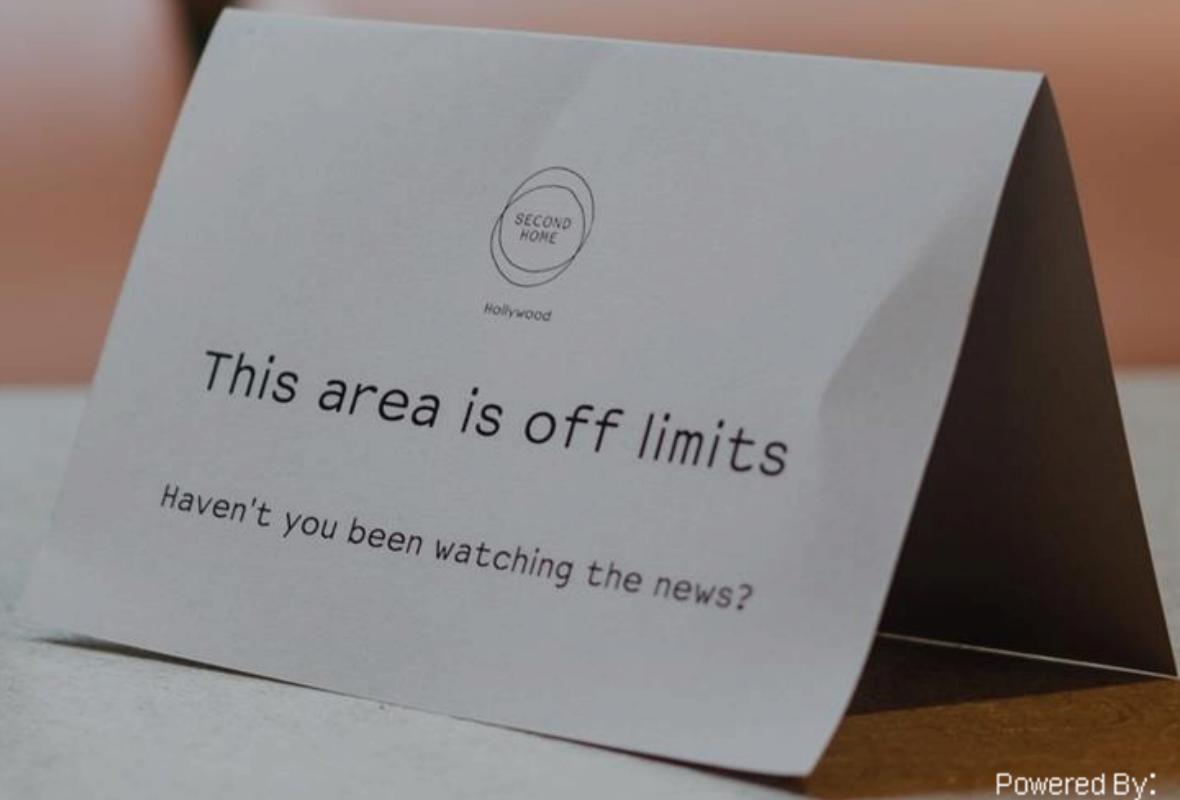


# COVID-19 Weekly Update 10 September

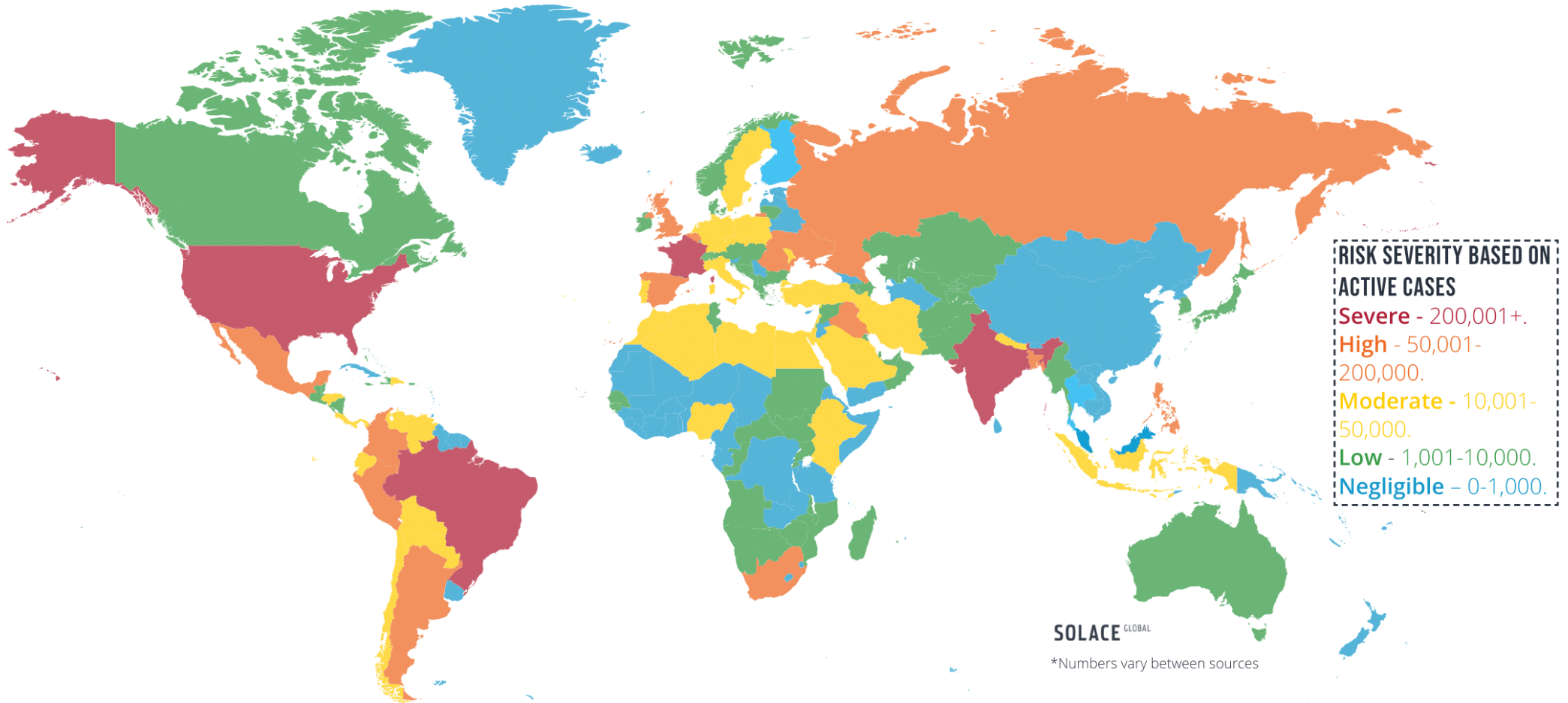


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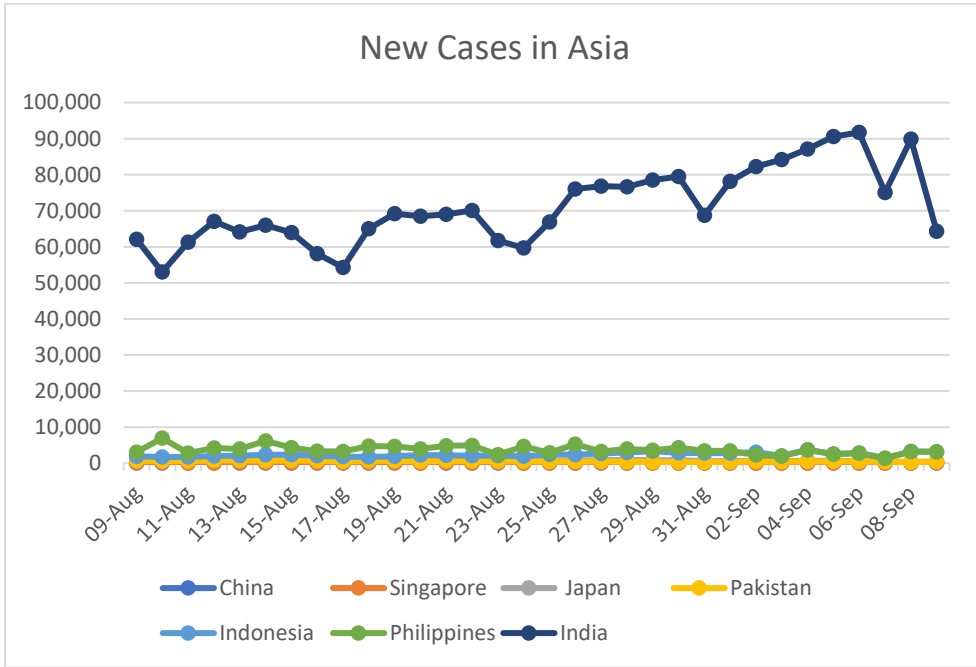
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	28,049,178	Total Active Cases	67,015,830	Total Confirmed Recoveries	20,116,714	Total Confirmed Deaths	908,425
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# Asia



COVID-19 cases in some Asian countries continue to surge. Over the last week, India has become the country with the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases, overtaking Brazil. Infections are also spreading at the fastest rate of any nation in the world; this is demonstrated by the fact that 30 percent of new cases globally were reported in India. Infections have been rising in rural areas and poorer regions where the epidemic has been difficult to contain due to the lack of critical infrastructure.

Despite cases showing no sign of slowing, authorities are allowing extensive reopening of activities across the country. This includes Delhi, the epicentre of the pandemic in the country, where the subway, India's largest, has reopened despite the uptick in cases. India on Wednesday, 9 September recorded 6,878 new cases, bringing the total to more than 4,375,000 cases. Epidemiologists believe that by the end of the month, India is likely to surpass the United States in the number of confirmed cases.

Indonesia has recorded the highest COVID-19 deaths in South East Asia. A high percentage of fatalities is healthcare workers, raising concerns about the repercussions of COVID-19 on the healthcare system in the long run. On Tuesday, 8 September, trials of a blood plasma therapy on COVID-19 patients were

started by the Health Ministry. Although the international scientific community is divided on the effectiveness of plasma to treat COVID-19, some studies show that plasma therapies, in the past, proved effective on certain diseases such as Ebola. About COVID-19, it is believed that blood plasma from recovered patients can potentially help the lives of those who are still ill. Trials will be undertaken at hospitals in South Jakarta, Bandung and Surabaya. Other hospitals will reportedly follow over the coming weeks.

Elsewhere in South East Asia, the Philippines has seen a slow decrease in infections after briefly reimposing stricter restrictions over the capital region. Total confirmed cases have exceeded 245,143.

Most recently, health authorities in Singapore discovered new clusters of the infection at foreign workers dormitories, which house individuals predominantly working in construction. Authorities reported that tests at these dormitories had been conducted in the past and this indicates the high infectivity rate and challenge in containing the disease.

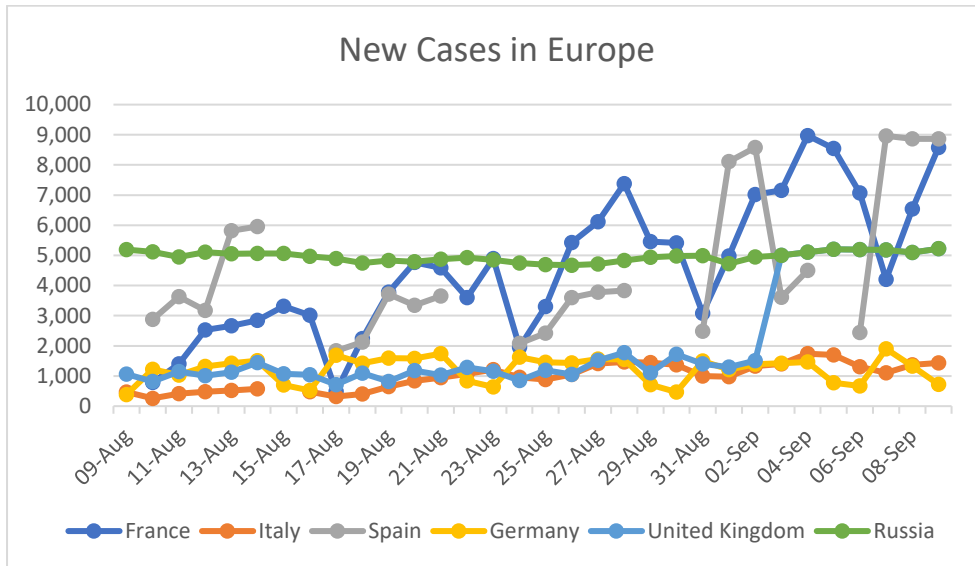
In South Korea, the second wave of infections has been attributed to church services and a protest held in Seoul on 15 August. As of 9 September, the country has reported 21,588 infections and 344 deaths. Recently, Celltrion Inc, a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Incheon, will begin the commercial production of an experimental treatment for the disease.

On the other hand, infection numbers are falling in Pakistan, where the third phase of a clinical trial vaccine developed by China's CanSino Biologics will begin next month. Despite this, authorities in Pakistan have been criticised as COVID-19 testing numbers are significantly lower than numbers suggested by global experts.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	918,790	Increase	Moderate	High
Pakistan	6,794	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	165	Decrease	Light	High
Japan	7,233	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Indonesia	49,806	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	647	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	55,645	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.

Countries across the continent are continuing to see a resurgence of COVID-19 infections. As cases rise, authorities in multiple nations are urging young people to exercise more vigilance as they begin to return to school. Epidemiologists in France, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom have noted that the second wave of COVID-19 could be driven by the under 30s.

On 7 September, Spain recorded more than half a million cases, the first western Europe country to record such a figure. Spain has also the fastest-growing COVID-19 daily rate in the continent.

Acknowledging the surge in infections in the country, Fernando Simón Spanish epidemiologist and Director of the Coordination Centre for Health Alerts and Emergencies of the Ministry of Health, noted that cases are rising due to the high numbers of PCR tests that are being conducted nationwide. According to data from the Carlos III Health Institute, 25 percent of new cases are being reported in people aged 15-29, while the 15-59 age group accounts for 71 percent of new infections. The worst-affected region remains Madrid, where as cases rise, authorities have implemented new restrictions. As

of 7 September, gatherings between those who do not share the same house will be limited to 10 people, both in public and in private.

Over the past week, cases have also been rising in France and the United Kingdom, including Scotland. There are now 28 departments in France's COVID-19 red zones; these are the areas where the disease is circulating actively, meaning it exceeds 50 new cases of the virus per 100,000 inhabitants in one week. On 6 September, Corse-du-Sud, Haute-Corse, Côte-d'Or, Nord, Bas-Rhin, Seine-Maritime and overseas department La Réunion were included in the list. Major cities such as Lille and Dijon fall in the mandate. The measure will allow authorities to impose exceptional measures to slow the spread of the virus. Due to the spike in cases, some schools have been forced to close only a few days after their reopening.

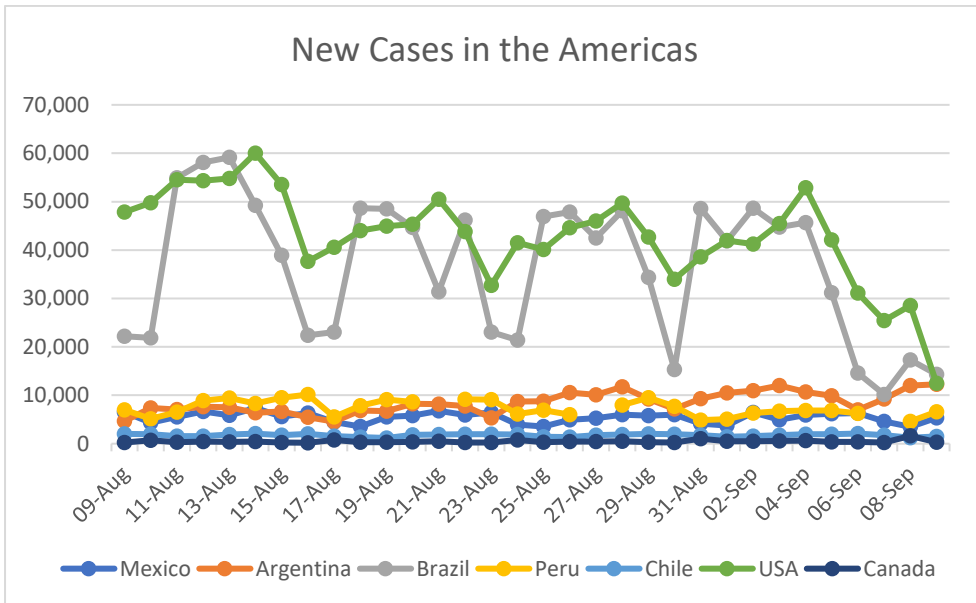
From 8 September, stricter restrictions on indoor meetings in households are in effect in Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire. The measures came into force as transmissions are rising in these areas. Although meeting in pubs or restaurants continue to be allowed, the Scottish government noted that restrictions can be extended to these venues if necessary. Meanwhile, in England, social gatherings of more than six people will be banned in England from 14 September. The new measure applies to private homes, indoors and outdoors, and venues such as bars and restaurants. Schools, workplaces, and weddings, amongst others, remain unaffected. Scotland is set to follow with similar rules.

In Russia, despite the lack of published data, health authorities announced that the vaccine developed by the Russian Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology passed the necessary clinical trials and it will be released for distribution next month. The announcement drew criticism from a group of international scientists that labelled the results of the Russian vaccine as improbable.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	224,783	Significant Increase	Light/Moderate	Moderate
Italy	34,734	Increase	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	15,039	Stable	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Increase	Light	Light
Russia	166,414	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High



# Americas



Over the last week, COVID-19 related deaths in Latin America and the Caribbean surpassed 300,000. Latin America is one of the most unequal regions of the world. Inequality trends have historical roots but, according to a recent study published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the pandemic will force into poverty a million more people.

Despite implementing one of the earliest and strictest lockdowns to stop the spread of the virus, Peru has been one of the hardest-hit countries in the continent. Over the last week, cases have been on the rise and exceeded 30,000 new deaths. Data indicates that the country has the highest mortality rate per capita in the world whilst Lima and Callao remain Peru's COVID-19 hotspots. On a positive note, Peru will start testing coronavirus vaccines from China's Sinopharm and US drugmaker Johnson & Johnson sometime in September.

Elsewhere, Argentina ranks among the top 10 countries in the world for COVID-19 infections.

Brazil, where cases have exceeded 4,000,000 continues to be the worst-affected nation in Latin America and one of the worst-hit in the world. In the country, the fatality rate in the city of Rio is much higher than the national average. In a video posted on social media, Brazil's acting Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello

displayed a positive outlook on the possibility of a vaccine, stating that Brazilian health authorities are “closing contracts with vaccine manufacturers and the forecast is that a vaccine will arrive for us starting in January next year and we will start vaccinating everyone”. Brazil's government reportedly signed a deal with the state-run Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), which is working with the University of Oxford to create a COVID-19 vaccine.

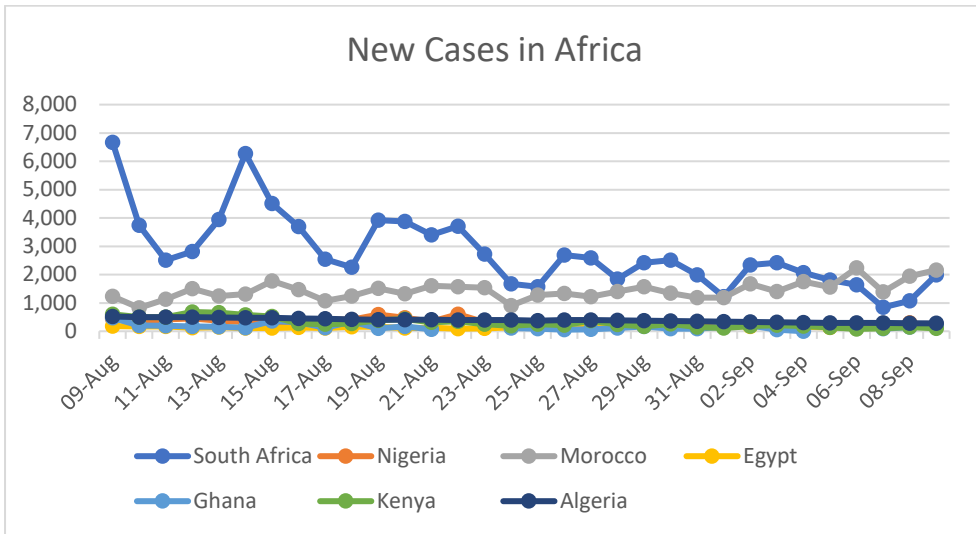
Despite the fact that most US states have entered phased reopening plans and began easing social distancing rules, governors, city mayors and health officials across the country have expressed concern that the reopening of universities and colleges may lead to a spike in infections. This week, West Virginia University announced that it would halt classes at its main campus because of concerns over a recent surge in cases.

The university joins a list of other American universities such as the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (UNC) and the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, that were forced to shut in response to a recent increase in positive cases in students.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	123,217	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Argentina	119,145	Increase	High	High
Brazil	617,343	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Peru	135,581	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	15,712	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,508,095	Stable	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	6,868	Stable	Light	High



# Africa



Although a rise in cases is still being recorded in some African countries, the number of new daily confirmed cases across the continent is now dropping as the outbreak in Africa may have passed its peak; a possibility acknowledged by WHO Africa region head Matshidiso Moeti on 25 August. Statistics indicate that over the past four weeks there has been an average 14 percent fall in the number of new weekly cases reported.

It should be noted that shifts in testing strategies could have an impact on recorded case numbers and death rates. The International Rescue Committee noted on 30 July that African countries in which the IRC operate in Africa had done less than 8,000 tests per million people, compared to 472,590 tests per million in the United Arab Emirates and 205,782 tests per million in the United Kingdom. In recent days, Kenya has experienced a drop in positive cases that runs parallel with a drop in sample sizes. On Saturday 5 September, the Health Ministry reported 136 cases from a sample size of 3,707, falling to 83 from 3,093 samples on Sunday and 102 from 2,668 samples.

Conversely, as of Monday 7 September, neighbouring Ethiopia reached 59,648 confirmed cases with 976 cases registered on the day, the highest in East Africa. It is worth noting that the country has now conducted 1,063,454 COVID-19 medical tests, including 19,449 tests over a 24-hour period on the 7 September, figures far higher than any other East African nation. Many connect the steep rise in reported cases with a rapid increase in the country's testing capacity.

If the suggestions and trends prove to be accurate and the outbreak in Africa has passed its peak, a conclusion which should be drawn with considerable caution, it would present an exceptional enigma. The rates of infection and, most notably, the death rates experienced by African nations have been exceptionally low when compared to both the rates experienced in the rest of the world as well as the initial damning predictions for the continent.

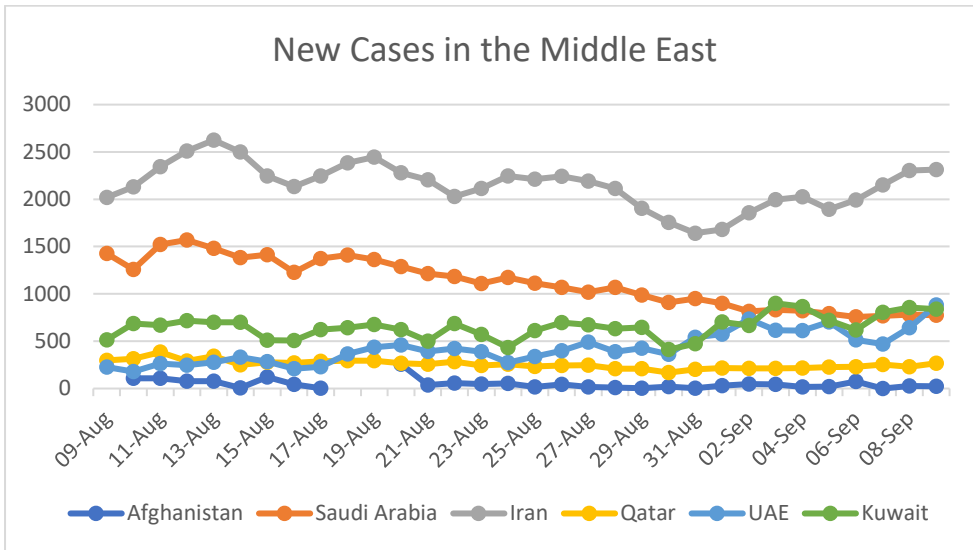
Returning to the case of Kenya, as of 9 September, less than 2 per cent of the 34,493 people who tested positive for COVID-19, totalling 581 people, have died; a striking figure when compared to the 13 per cent rate experienced in Italy. Some attribute the figures to Africa's largely youthful population, more than 60 per cent of Africans are under the age of 60, while others cite a possible level of immunity built up by exposure to other forms of coronavirus or the speed and severity of lockdown restrictions. Nonetheless, the statistics remain relatively enigmatic.

Although it remains the worst-affected state across the continent, registering the 7th most cases worldwide, South Africa has experienced a steep decline in new infections over the past week. On 4 September, the country registered 2,063 new cases, falling to 1,806 on 5 September, 1,633 on 6 September and 845 on 7 September. Similar trends have been reported in Nigeria and Egypt, two similarly populous nations.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	57,328	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	10,952	Stable	Moderate	High
Morocco	16,702	Stable	Moderate	High
Egypt	14,137	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	842	Decrease	Moderate	High
Kenya	13,296	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	12,256	Stable	Moderate	High



## Middle East



Several countries across the region have experienced considerable surges in rates of infection worthy of recognition. Although data from conflict-torn nations remain unavailable or inaccurate, in Yemen, for example, the Iran-backed Houthi group refused to share COVID-19 statistics.

Over recent days, Israel has experienced a significant spike in cases, recording 3,506 new infections on Tuesday 7 September. This figure registered as one of the highest numbers of daily fresh cases Israel has experienced throughout the entire pandemic and subsequently took the total number of active coronavirus patients past 30,000 for the first time. The United Arab Emirates has experienced a similar recent spike, recording 883 new coronavirus infections on 9 September. The spike represents the highest daily increase since late May.

This week, Iraq has also recorded the highest single-day increase in infections since the beginning of the health emergency. The total number of infections in the country has reached 269,578. Authorities noted that the new infection surge is linked to the non-compliance with social distancing and face coverings requirements. In the aftermath of Ashoura, a significant Muslim day of mourning, authorities implemented new measures to curb the infections such as limit access to areas of worship. Authorities in the country believe that these measures are not enough to stop the spread and that infection rates are likely to rise over the coming days. Healthcare resources are already overstretched in Iraq, and an increase in

infections will possibly lead to a further deterioration of the healthcare system.

In Iran, COVID-19 hotspots continue to be Tehran, Qom, Mazandaran, East Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Yazd, Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, Semnan, Gilan, Zanjan, Qazvin, and Kerman provinces. Despite this, cases are slowing with authorities stating that the country has passed its peak thanks to good public adherence to health measures.

Rates of infection remain high in Lebanon with the Health Minister Hamad Hassan describing the current situation as “delicate” and encouraging citizens to continue to adhere to preventive measures, such as the face-covering requirements as well as not underestimating the virus. Despite this, authorities continue to ease the COVID-19 related measures, and this includes the reopening of pubs, amusement centres and theatres.

On a positive note, Oman will reopen to international flights on 1 October. Whilst at present, Muscat International is currently operating flights to selected routes, the measure will allow overseas arrivals and departures. On Wednesday, 9 September, Oman reported 349 new infections, raising the total to more than 87,939 cases.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Afghanistan	6,076	Stable	High	Severe
Saudi Arabia	19,881	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	31,645	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,895	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	8,229	Stable	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	9,308	Stable	Moderate	Moderate