



COVID-19 Weekly Update 24 September



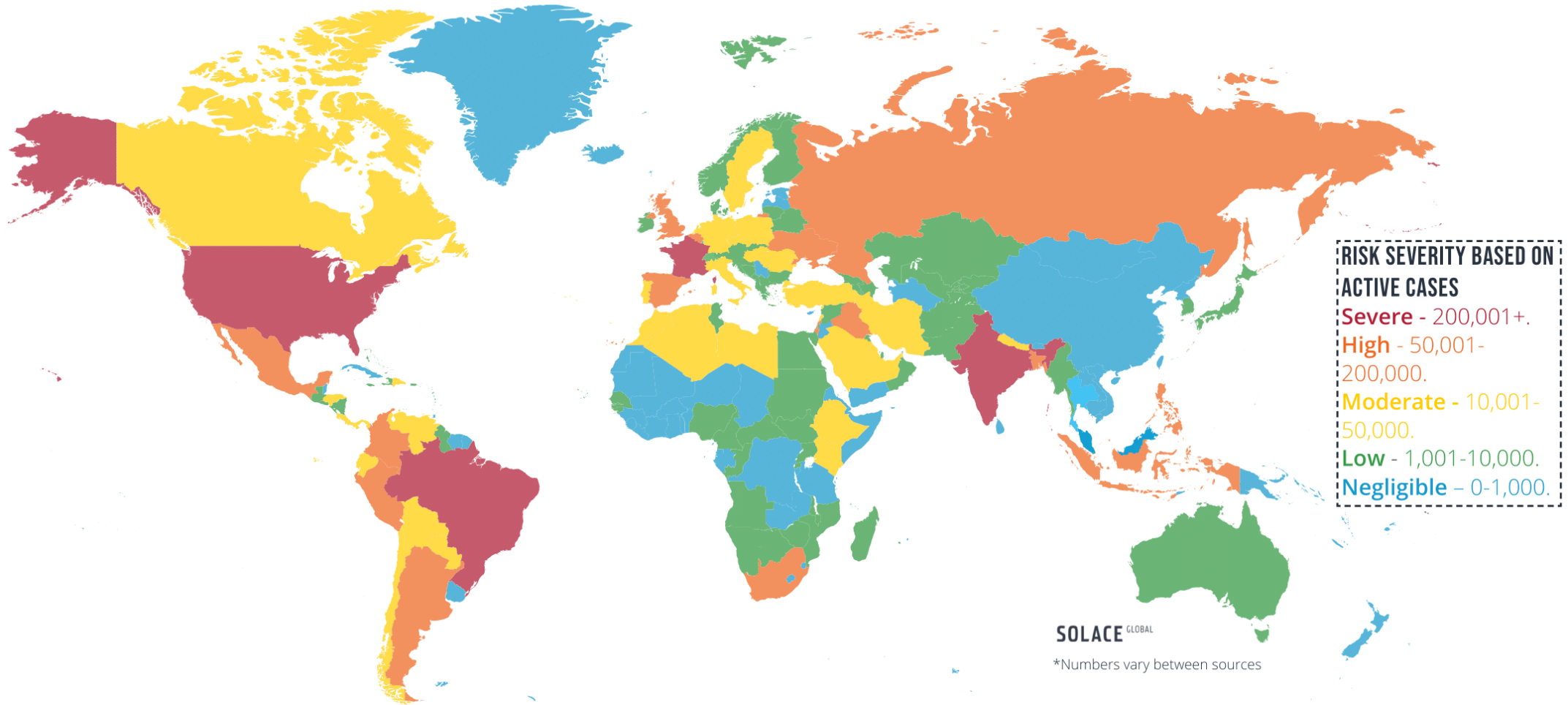
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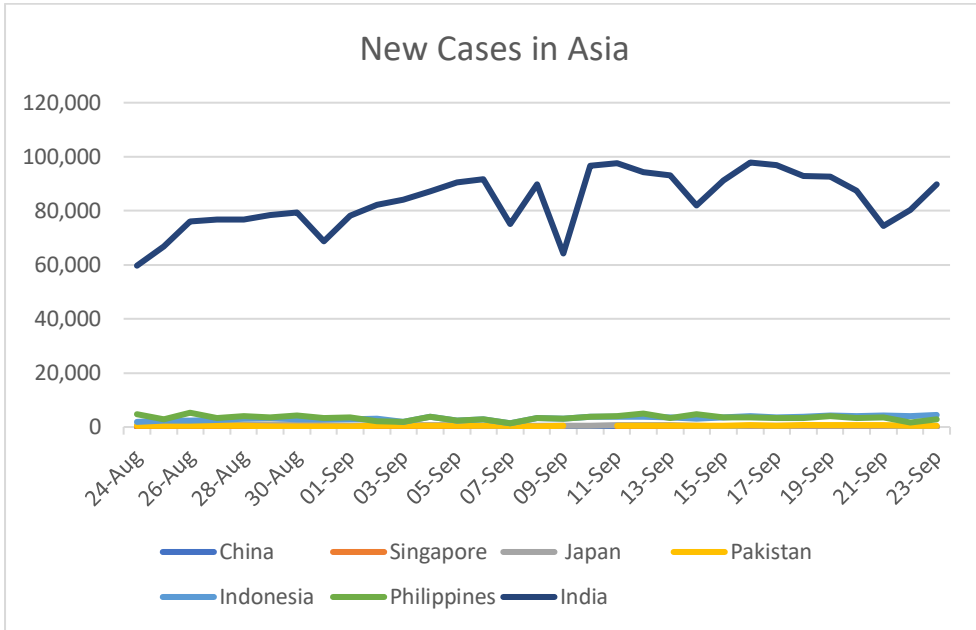
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	32,085,771	Total Active Cases	7,433,748	Total Confirmed Recoveries	23,670,739	Total Confirmed Deaths	981,284
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Asia



Countries of the northern Asia-Pacific region continue to exhibit the lowest rates of infection, accounting for less than 2 percent of confirmed cases and less than 1.5 percent of all deaths globally. Uniquely among developed economies, Taiwan has so far avoided recession, while South Korea suffered a 3.3 percent GDP contraction in the second quarter, much less severe than the decline experienced by other developed countries. South Korea remains relatively open and has still only recorded about 360 COVID-19 deaths. In Taiwan, where everyday life remains largely unchanged, medical authorities have reported just seven deaths from the virus.

India, by contrast, has suffered a GDP contraction of 24 per cent, though is currently pushing ahead with reopening its economy. According to a survey by the National Small Industries Corporation, three-quarters of the country’s small businesses have yet to reach 50 percent of their pre-lockdown output. India has recorded more than 4.85 million cases, more than any country except the United States, with around 80,000 deaths.

The President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, on 22 September extended the national State of Calamity by one year in order to facilitate continued access to emergency funds and grant powers to the

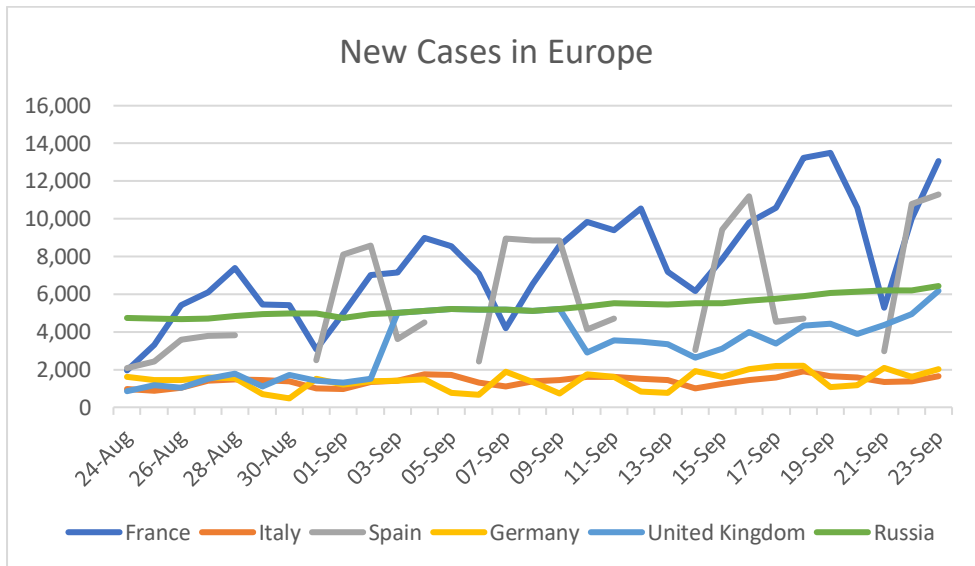
police and military to enforce control measures. The announcement came just one day after authorities relaxed social-distancing rules on public transport in Manila, despite warnings from medical experts. The Philippines currently has the highest official transmission count in Southeast Asia, with more than 290,000 confirmed cases, as well as over 5,000 deaths.

Indonesia’s Jakarta region recorded a record 1,380 new cases on Sunday, 20 September, leading to fears that surging cases could overwhelm intensive care wards. This was followed a day later by the reimposition of strict social-distancing measures in the capital for at least a fortnight, including the closure of public venues and non-essential workplaces. The move has caused friction between Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan and several members of President Joko Widodo’s cabinet due to concerns over the impact on the struggling economy. Indonesia has suffered an economic contraction of 5.3 per cent in the second quarter and has so far recorded more than 10,000 deaths from the pandemic, the most of any country in Southeast Asia.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid Cases	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	967,161	Stable but High	Moderate	High
Pakistan	7,070	Increase	Moderate	High
China	168	Stable	Light	High
Japan	6,275	Stable	Light	High
Indonesia	59,453	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	321	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	58,136	Stable	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.

Having successfully brought the first surge of COVID-19 infections and related deaths to manageable levels, several European nations are now in the midst of a “second wave” as the continent edges into winter. According to the latest WHO update, cases and deaths across Europe rose by 11 and 27 percent respectively in the 7 days up to 21 September, with France, Russia, Spain, Netherlands, Poland and the UK reporting the most significant numbers of new cases. Moreover, daily infections across the EU and UK reached record highs of more than 45,000, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) – which has resulted in new restrictions being imposed in countries that were well into the process of reopening. Despite the rise in infections, overall Europe’s death rate has been stable in recent weeks, with Hungary and Denmark reporting the highest relative increase in deaths in the week up to 21 September.

In the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made an announcement regarding the next steps the country will take to tackle the rising number of cases, these include pub curfews, face masks and tougher penalties for breaches of the rules; however, the PM stopped short of announcing a return to a national

lockdown. This came after England’s chief medical and scientific advisors delivered a televised briefing on the current COVID-19 data and warned infections were rising and the country was at a “critical point”.

In recent days, the French health ministry has reported record daily increases of new cases since the start of the pandemic. On 19 September, authorities reported 13,498 new infections, followed by 10,569 a day later. As a result of surging infections, more than half the country’s departments have been designated ‘red zones’, meaning Covid is actively circulating with generally 50+ cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days. Other factors such as local demands on medical centres, and proximity to hard-hit areas, affect the government’s decision when designating red zones. Tougher measures are also being imposed in hard-hit areas, including an expansion of rules governing masks and indoor areas.

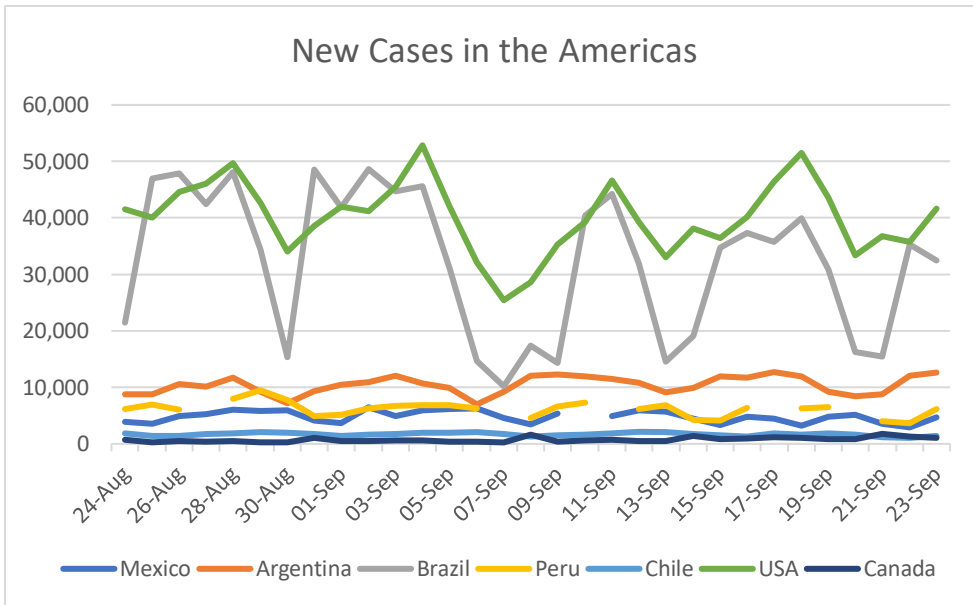
Spain has also experienced an exponential rise in COVID-19 infections in recent weeks and remains the worst-affected in Western Europe in terms of cumulative cases, with over 670,000 as of 22 September. Similar to France, with the government committed to avoiding a blanket nationwide lockdown, local restrictions have been implemented to try to combat the rising infection rate. The announcement of new measures in Madrid prompted protests on Sunday, 20 September, with protesters claiming discrimination and that the lockdown rules were “class-based”.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, countries including Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Montenegro and North Macedonia are also experiencing higher case numbers compared to earlier in the year. Although numbers are far lower when compared to countries in western Europe, the uptick in numbers follows the general global trend that has seen cases rise shortly after relaxing restrictions. In the Czech Republic, health minister Adam Vojtech resigned amid criticism of the government’s handling of the recent surge in coronavirus cases having coped relatively well with the initial outbreak.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	New Covid Cases	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	356,144	Significant Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Italy	46,114	Increase	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	20,197	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Increase	Light	Light
Russia	178,743	Slight Increase	Moderate	High



Americas



The Americas remain the worst affected continent in the world with some nations still experiencing a spike in infections. This includes the United States, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Argentina who are all seeing a large daily increase in case numbers. Mexico surpassed 700,000 confirmed cases at the beginning of the week, authorities stated that infection rates have been slowing down over the past couple of months.

With 200,000 COVID-19 related deaths, the United States holds the highest morality figure globally. A study conducted by the University of Washington predicts that the death toll in the US will double and reach at least 400,000 deaths by December. The states with most recorded COVID-19 cases are California, Texas and Florida, although over the past week there has been a large surge in infections reported in the Midwest, notably in Iowa.

Brazil remains the third worst affected country globally with more than 4,600,000 cases as of 24 September. Cases are also rising in neighbouring Argentina and Peru, which hold approximately 664,000 and 782,000 cases respectively. As cases in Argentina spread, President Alberto Fernández extended the nationwide lockdown until at least 11 October. In other news, the country’s unemployment rate increased to 13.1 percent, a figure that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. According to official

sources, the worst hit sectors include travel and tourism. International flights were expected to resume on 1 October, but the borders will remain closed as part of the extended lockdown measures.

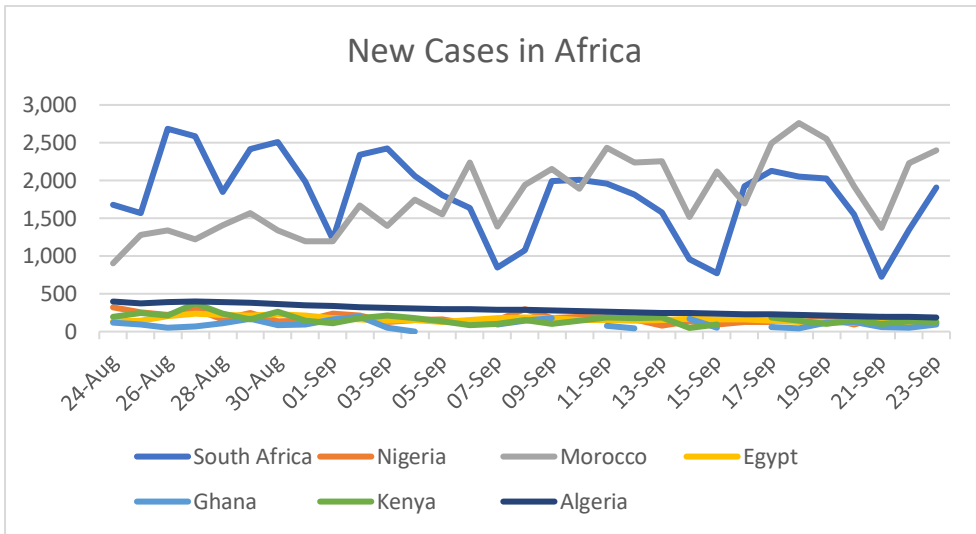
Despite continuing to see a continued rise in case numbers, Quito, in Ecuador, began easing some of its travel restrictions on vehicles, allowing them to circulate again. Restrictions on travel were also lifted in the southwest port city of Guayaquil, the main industrial centre in the country. At the start of the pandemic, Guayaquil was the country’s hotspot for COVID-19 infections, which was later surpassed by Quito. Despite this, sources indicate that cases in the industrial city are on the rise. In relation to this, at the start of this week, authorities in Guayaquil recorded a total of 13,830 infections, compared to Quito’s 30,723 infections.

In Chile, President Sebastian Pinera announced that the government is working towards securing access to COVID-19 vaccines and talks are underway with laboratories developing effective vaccines, including Pfizer and BioNTech. Chile has reported approximately 449,000 cases and more than 11,500 COVID-19 related deaths.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	New Covid Cases	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	124,183	Stable	Light	Moderate
Argentina	124,937	Increase	High	High
Brazil	495,829	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Peru	114,336	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	12,393	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,534,053	Stable but High	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	10,722	Slight Increase	Light	High



Africa



The number of cases in Africa has surpassed 1.4 million with over 34,000 deaths confirmed to be linked to the pandemic. These figures remain far lower than those in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Additionally, the number of reported cases continues to decline. There has, however, been debate as to whether cases in the continent are being underreported. Africa CDC’s head, John Nkengasong, has said that these suggestions are false and that early interventions played a crucial role in curbing the spread of the virus.

In addition to this, experts from the World Health Organisation and Africa CDC have endorsed phase 3 clinical trials of herbal medicine for COVID-19. This includes a charter and terms of reference for the establishment of data and a safety monitoring board for these trials.

Throughout the continent, children are slowly being encouraged to watch TV. The reasoning behind the push is due to the limited accessibility to the internet, which means that many children do not have the option to learn online. As such, educational cartoons, such as those made by a Tanzanian non-profit organisation, Ubongo, which offers television and radio content for free to African broadcasters help children learn the basics that are being missed following the closure of schools.

In South Africa, efforts are being made to fight disinformation, especially as the country trials three of the most promising vaccines against COVID-19. In the country, many have refused COVID-19 vaccines due

to believing they are immune due to the virus “selecting its victims”. Others think that the virus is not real, instead being put in the continent to reduce the population.

In Nigeria, there has been an immediate reopening of worship centres, cinemas and gyms in Lagos. The move comes six months after they were initially shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic.

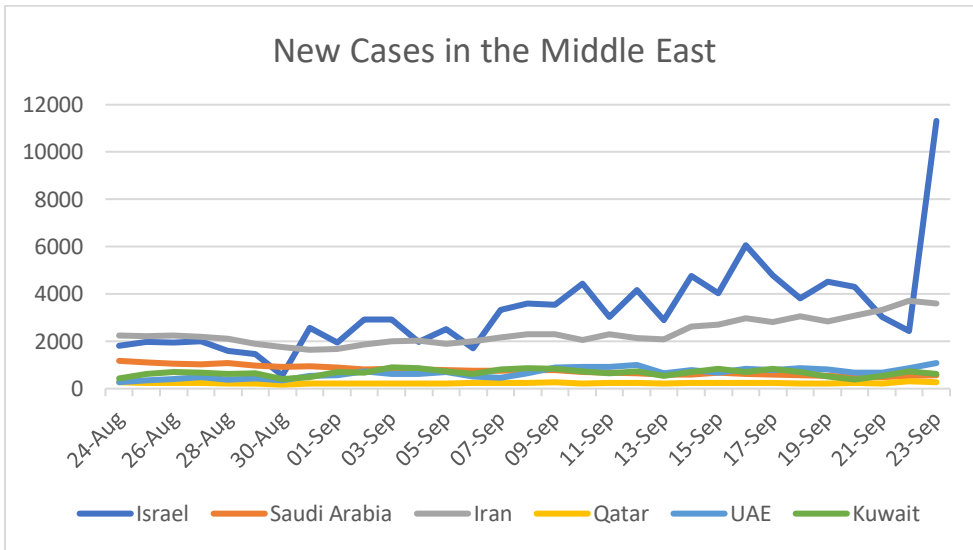
In Morocco, it has been announced that the country has lost more than 2 billion USD in tourism revenue as a result of coronavirus. The tourism sector represents 7 percent of Morocco’s GDP and directly employs half a million people. Cities such as Marrakech and Chaouen are seeing many businesses go bankrupt as the county continues to keep its borders closed to international travellers.

Finally, in Uganda, the country’s hospitals have been collaborating with Chinese hospitals to combat the spread of coronavirus. The collaboration move was announced by the Chinese embassy on 24 September. Mainly, China’s Yunnan Provincial Infectious Disease Hospital and the Third People’s Hospital of Yunnan Province will set up a collaboration mechanism with the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	New Covid Cases	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	54,753	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	7,637	Decrease	Moderate	High
Morocco	17,581	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	4,710	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	555	Decrease	Moderate	High
Kenya	12,431	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	13,274	Stable	Moderate	High



Middle East



The Middle East is continuing to struggle with the pandemic. Notably, Israel has seen its highest ever spike in coronavirus infections. This came several days after the start of the country’s second lockdown. The country now has one of the world’s highest rates of coronavirus per capita. It is understood that Israeli hospitals are now nearing their maximum capacity. As a result of the rapid rise in cases, the government has imposed a nationwide lockdown that closed schools, shopping centres, hotels and restaurants.

The number of coronavirus cases in the region is also reportedly surging among refugees in the region. The true rate of infection among the 18 million people displaced in the region is unknown due to the chronic lack of testing. However, UN data shows that well over a thousand have been confirmed to have Covid-19 in Jordan, Syria, Iraq, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon.

Despite this, Saudi Arabia is continuing to see a decline in the number of new cases. The Saudi government has also halted all flights from India due to the surging number of cases in the country. The kingdom has, however, agreed to a limited Umrah pilgrimage, which begins on 4 October. It is hoped that the measures will aid the country’s religious tourism industry.

Importantly, deaths in the kingdom and in the neighbouring UAE remain low, with the daily mortality number in Saudi Arabia dropping below 30. The UAE is only seeing an average of one mortality every two days. However, the UAE has been seeing a steady rise in new cases, though in the past week the

case rise has flattened out at just under an average of 750 cases per day.

Across the Persian Gulf, Iran is seeing a rise in the number of new cases, with the daily increase close to what it was at the height of the pandemic. Iran’s daily deaths related to COVID-19 has also surpassed 150 again. The country’s death rate had dropped below 150 in mid-August, down from highs of 200 a day in mid-July.

In Iraq, doctors have reported a rise in violence due to anger over coronavirus. One doctor was attacked by the relatives of a patient, who had just died of COVID-19, and was beaten unconscious. As cases rise sharply in the country, doctors fear attacks such as this will become increasingly common. Many doctors are being blamed for the deaths of patients, even when families bring infected individuals in when they are already significantly unwell.

The country’s medical service is already under substantial pressure after being depleted by years of conflict. The situation in Iraq is made worse by relatives almost freely walking in and out of wards caring for COVID-19 patients without wearing full protective gear, which threatens to exacerbate the situation. As a result, there is a fear that the situation will spiral out of control.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	New Covid Cases	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Israel	58,402	Strong Increase	High	High
Saudi Arabia	13,004	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	42,112	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,957	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	10,129	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	8,368	Stable	Moderate	Moderate