

COVID-19 Weekly Update

3 September

ENCORE PLUS ACCESSIBLE



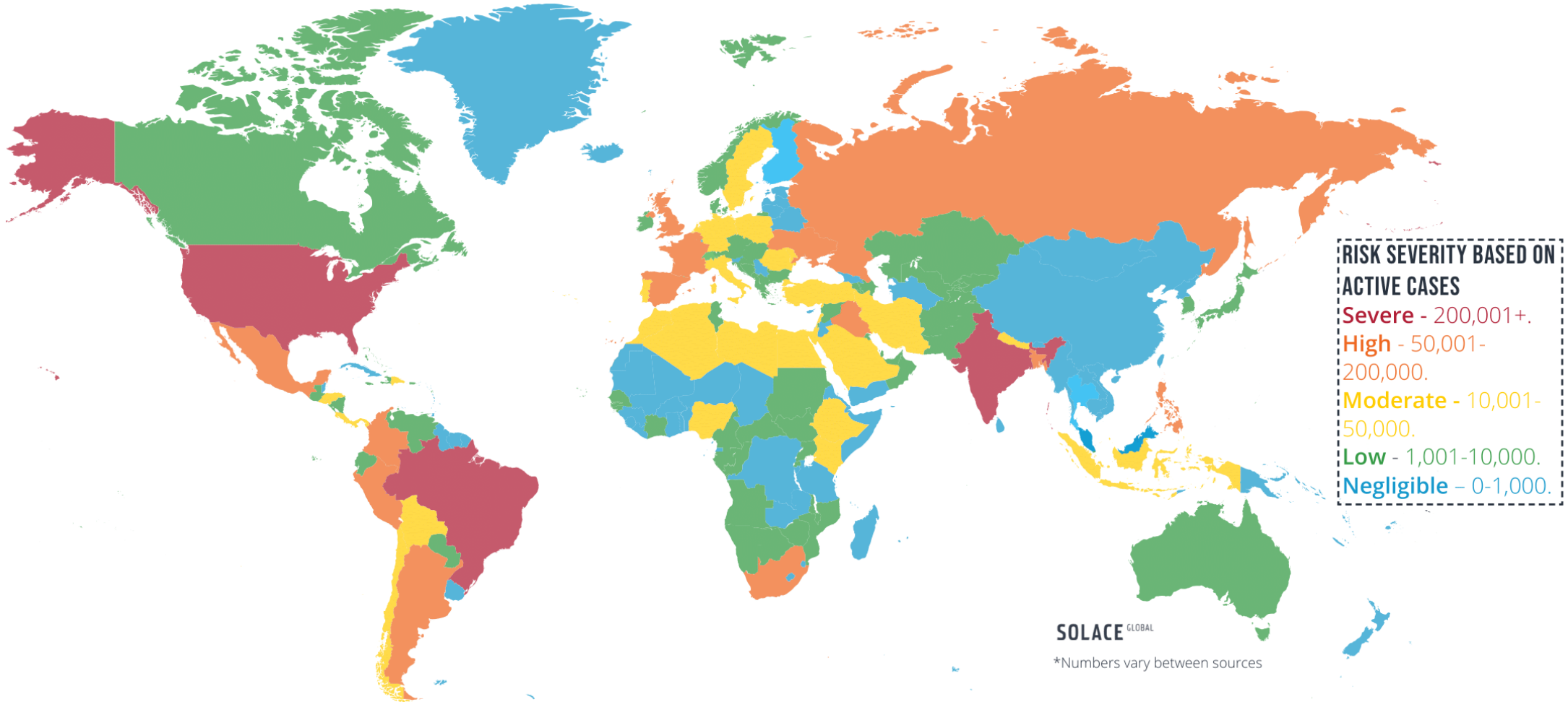
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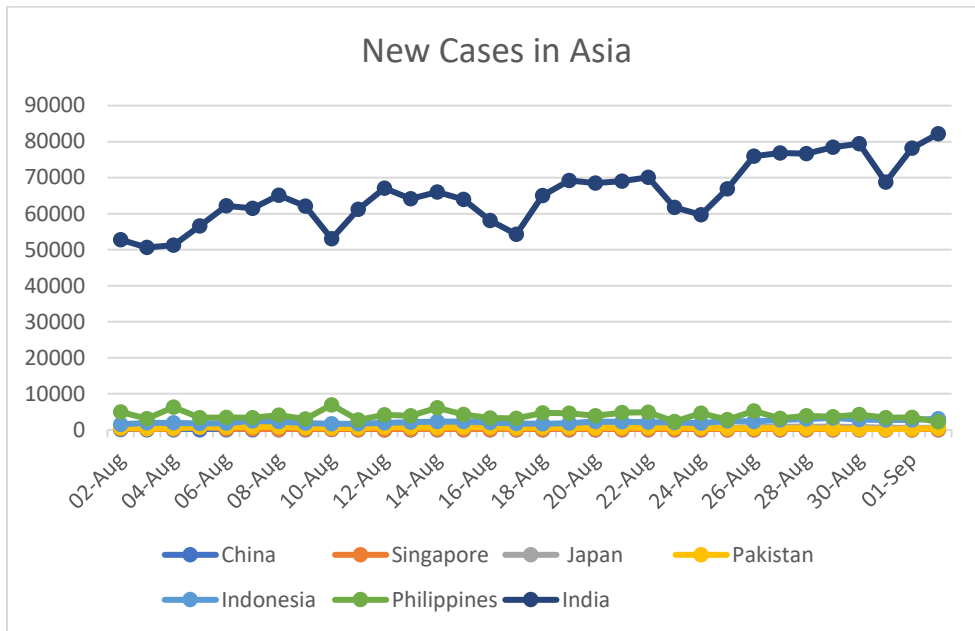
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	26,170,360	Total Active Cases	6,868,054	Total Confirmed Recoveries	18,435,692	Total Confirmed Deaths	866,614
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Asia



As of 3 September, Asia had surpassed 7,000,000 million cases of the virus.

India continues to be one of the worst affected nations in the continent and the world with more than 3,773,000 infections and 66,490 deaths. On 30 August, the country recorded over 78,700 new COVID-19 infections, resulting in the worst 24-hour increase ever reported globally. This was then topped on 2 September with an increase of 82,206. After the United States, Brazil and Mexico, India is the fourth country with the highest number of COVID-19 related deaths.

Ten members of the Great Andamanese tribe in India’s Andaman and Nicobar Islands, have tested positive for COVID-19, growing concerns about the repercussions of the current health emergency on vulnerable indigenous groups in the remote archipelago. Although the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have so far reported more than 2,000 cases, these are the first infections on record among one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) living on the islands. The Great Andamanese primitive tribe counts just over 50 members. The virus has already affected tribes elsewhere such as in Peru and Brazil.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that restrictions imposed on incoming visitors will

be extended until at least 30 September. Rakhine province, which is home to 130,000 Rohingya Muslims displaced by conflict and living in refugee camps, is one of the poorest states in the country. Rakhine has emerged as a COVID-19 hotspot and mid-last week it was put under a strict lockdown and overnight curfew.

Indonesia has reached more than 180,000 cases and 7,600 deaths. On Saturday, 29 August, the country reported the biggest rise in transmissions for the third consecutive day. The Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology, a laboratory in Jakarta, recently announced that a mutation of the virus was found in collected samples. Scientists at the institute believe that the strain is more infectious but additional research is required to determine whether this strain is responsible for the upsurge in cases.

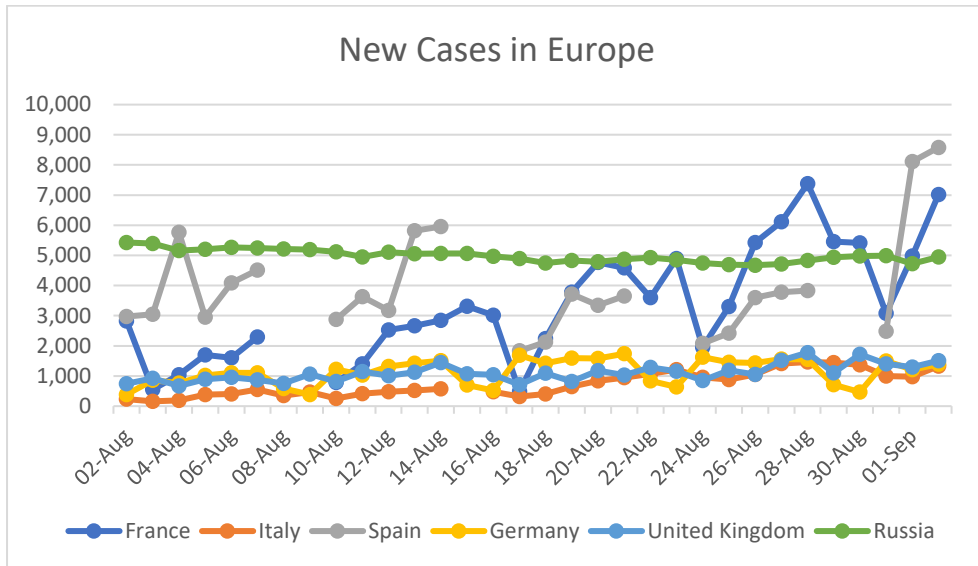
To assist Indonesian authorities’ fight against the virus, the Australian government announced that they will provide 2 million Australian dollars’ worth of personal protective equipment, such as gloves and thermometers, to the Indonesian military.

On the weekend beginning 29 August, Australia’s Victoria state reported its lowest rise in new COVID-19 cases, authorities also announced that measures are forecast to remain unchanged until further notice. In neighbouring New South Wales, health officials in Sydney issued a public health alert following a new cluster of infections, which has grown to more than 25 infections and is believed to have originated from gyms in the city. In a bid to protect the elderly population, NSW Health is urging residents and people working in the Greater Sydney metropolitan area and Central Coast not to visit aged care facilities until at least the 12 September.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	814,086	Increase	Moderate	High
Pakistan	8,813	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	198	Decrease	Light	High
Japan	9,266	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Indonesia	43,059	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	942	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	64,198	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.

Amid the summer holiday season, COVID-19 cases continue to rise across Europe, surpassing 3,600,000 million.

In South-Eastern Europe, countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia, North Macedonia and Romania have all reported higher infection numbers in August than in previous months. To curb a rise in cases, Hungary has closed its borders to foreigners from 1 September. Hungarian nationals returning from abroad will have to undergo a 14-day quarantine unless they provide two negative COVID-19 tests. On 28 August, health authorities reported approximately 130 new transmissions, the highest daily figure since the peak of the pandemic.

Due to a consistent rise in weekly infections, the Czech Republic and Switzerland are among the latest European countries to have been removed from the United Kingdom’s travel corridor list. This means that travellers from these countries will have to self-isolate for 14 days upon entry. Over the past week, Portugal has also seen a substantial increase of infections, making it a possible entrant for losing the exemption from the UK’s quarantine requirement.

On Friday, 21 August, France recorded the highest number of new infections since May. Despite a rise in infections, the daily death toll remains low. In the French capital, face masks are now mandatory outdoors in streets and other public spaces. The measure covers Paris as well the three departments of Seine-Saint-Denis, Hauts-de-Seine and Val-de-Marne. Previously, the mask order only applied to certain areas of the capital. Elsewhere in France, Nice, Toulouse, and Marseille, have already made face coverings mandatory in outdoor spaces.

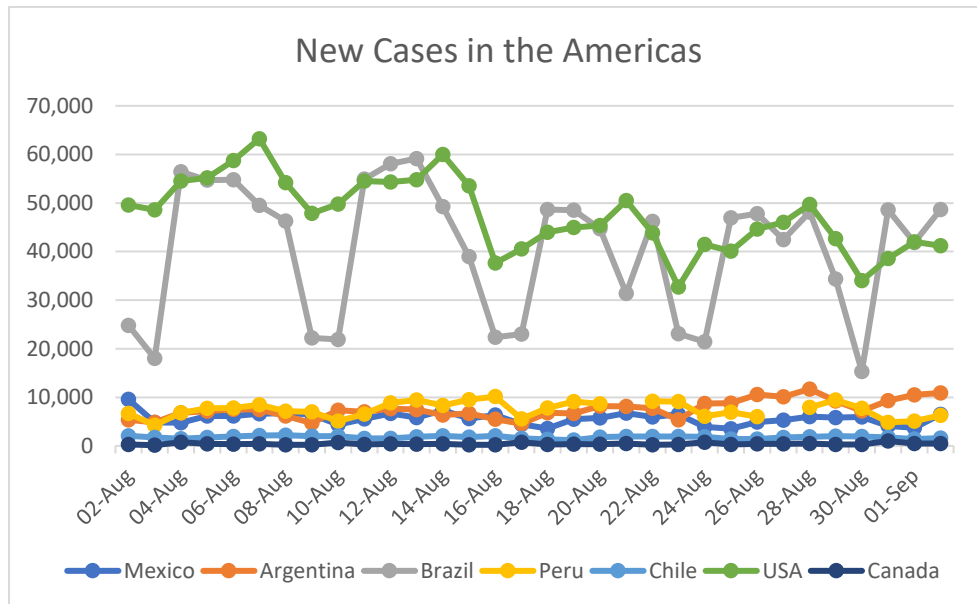
Elsewhere in Europe, Cyprus is recording a steady decline in cases. On 29 August, the Health Ministry announced two new cases of the virus after conducting 2,843 laboratory tests. The total number of cases in the country is over 1,400.

Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, the World Health Organization regional director for Europe warned that the virus is “a tornado with a long tail” and that rising infection rates among under 40s can eventually spread to the most vulnerable, most notably the elderly, and lead to an uptick in deaths. Dr Kluge also pointed out that the upcoming season also presents a challenge due to schools reopening and the onset of the winter flu season. Despite this, he mentioned that societies are better prepared than when the pandemic started: “now we are much more sophisticated in our knowledge of what works. In that sense that it is possible to manage the transmission of the virus in society, and have a running economy, and very important, have an educational system open”.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	175,375	Significant Increase	Light/Moderate	Moderate
Italy	27,817	Increase	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	14,898	Stable	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Stable	Light	Light
Russia	166,417	Slight Decrease	Moderate	High



Americas



The Americas continues to be the worst affected region in terms of total COVID-19 cases. The region has approximately 43 per cent of the average daily fatalities worldwide. In South America, the countries with the highest death toll are Brazil and Mexico. The death toll in Brazil surpassed 120,000 whilst in Mexico the toll has surpassed 65,000.

On 3 September, the United States surpassed 6,290,000 million COVID-19 infections. Infection surges have been reported in several universities and schools in different states. The University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Central Florida have reported the highest infection spikes.

On Saturday, 26 August, the Institute of Microbiology of the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador, reported the first case of reinfection. According to the institute, the patient was first infected in May and then again in August. Other countries across the globe, including Hong Kong, the Netherlands and Belgium, have also reported reinfections. As of 3 September, Ecuador surpassed 115,000 confirmed cases, whilst the death toll has passed 6,500. The worst-affected city remains the country's capital, Quito, with more than 21,500 cases.

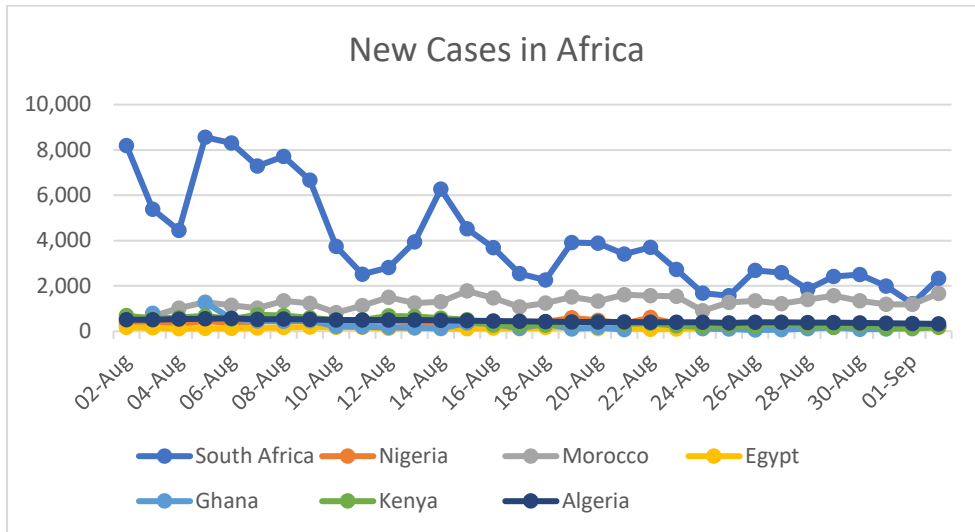
On 2 September, Canada recorded just under 500 new cases of the COVID-19, bringing the country's total to just shy of 130,000. Quebec remains the worst-hit province with more than 60,000 infections. Due to a rise in cases over the past two weeks, Premier François Legault warned Quebecers that a lockdown could be re-imposed if individuals fail to comply with the restrictions. In different news, Canada secured deals with Novavax and Johnson & Johnson, two companies working on a possible vaccine for COVID-19. Weeks ago, Canada signed two other procurement agreements with Pfizer and Moderna to secure a potential vaccine. In relation to this, more than 150 vaccines are being tested and developed across the globe.

Meanwhile, to limit the spread of the disease, authorities have extended restrictions on international travel until at least 30 September. Anyone arriving in the country is also required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	119,422	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Argentina	114,524	Increase	High	High
Brazil	667,118	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Peru	154,001	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	15,712	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,553,741	Stable	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	5,738	Stable	Light	High



Africa



The number of confirmed cases in Africa continues to rise. However, the continent only accounts for approximately 5 per cent of the cases globally. According to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), on Monday, 1 September, the total number of infections in the continent surpassed 1.2 million. Southern Africa has recorded the highest numbers of infections, followed by Northern Africa, Western Africa and Eastern Africa.

Scientists are exploring reasons to explain Africa’s unique low death rate. For months health experts have been warning of a potentially explosive situation in Africa due to the abundance of crowded townships and urban areas. As well as the relatively poor hygiene in many areas. Additionally, many communities lack the ability to social distance, with large families often sharing a single room. While many have speculated that deaths are being under reported in the continent; however, even when numbers are increased, by a factor of two, South Africa, for example, performs incredibly well when compared with countries in Europe.

In terms of nations, South Africa continues to be the worst-affected state across the continent where cases have exceeded 627,000. Despite this, health authorities confirmed that the country has registered a recovery rate of 86 per cent with more than 540,000 patients having recovered from the disease. The number of new cases is also decreasing.

Elsewhere, in Uganda, Kampala Metropolitan Police arrested more than 500 people in operations against breaches of Ministry of Health directives on prevention of COVID-19. This includes individuals who were travelling during curfew hours or not abiding to face covering orders. At the start of the pandemic, Uganda introduced one of the most stringent COVID-19 lockdowns in Africa. Although, activists believe that these restrictions have led to human rights violations. For example, individuals have reportedly been killed for breaking curfews.

Most measures started to be relaxed in June and recent figures indicate that Uganda has performed better than other African nations in terms of testing for the virus. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Uganda has reportedly performed more than 350,000 tests on its population that counts 45 million people. The Ministry of Health confirmed that so far approximately 3,100 people have tested positive for the virus.

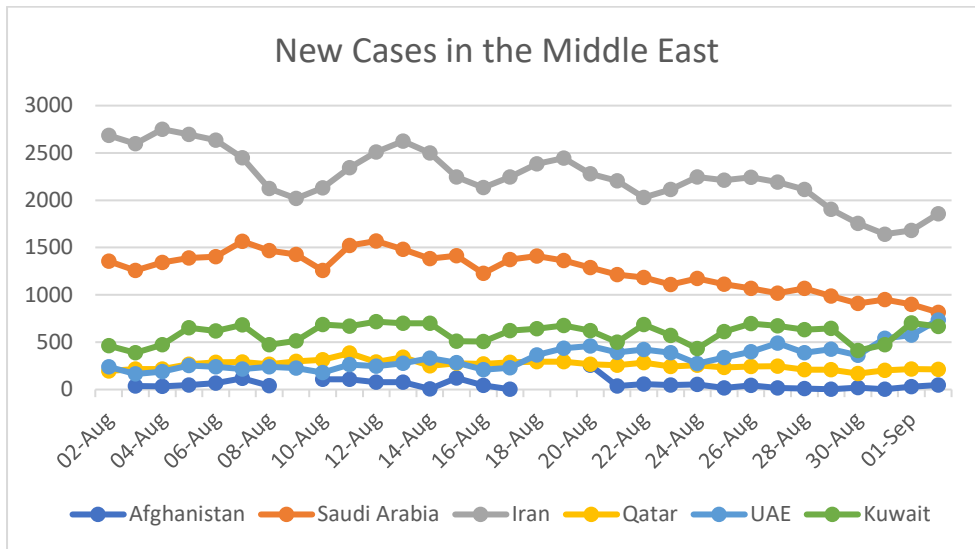
Elsewhere in Africa, Morocco has recorded over 1,000 new infections on 2 September, raising the total confirmed cases in the country to over 65,000. Authorities in the country have also warned of the possibility of a re-imposed lockdown if cases continue to spike. At the beginning of the week, in neighbouring Algeria, authorities confirmed more COVID-19 restrictions will be eased this month. This includes lifting a ban on cultural activities. Algeria has so far reported more than 45,000 infections and around 1,500 deaths.

Over the past week, Tunisia and Libya have also witnessed a slight increase in infections compared to past weeks. As of 3 September, Tunisia reported more than 3,900 cases whilst in Libya they reached 15,000.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	62,750	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	10,997	Stable	Moderate	High
Morocco	13,880	Stable	Moderate	High
Egypt	19,193	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	904	Decrease	Moderate	High
Kenya	13,701	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	11,889	Stable	Moderate	High



Middle East



The Middle East seems to be slowly recovering from the pandemic, with most of the GCC countries easing their restrictions. Despite this, countries, including Qatar where cases have reached 119,000, are still encouraging residents to observe social distancing and stay at home as much as possible.

Moreover, on 2 September, the United Arab Emirates, reported 574 new cases, one of the highest daily increases in the country since 5 July. Officials also noted that new restrictions, including a curfew, could be re-imposed if the number of infections continues to rise. At present, the number of cases in the country has surpassed 70,000.

Health authorities in Israel reported 1,942 new infections on Wednesday, bringing the total number of cases in the country to 118,538.

The virus is also spreading through Gaza at an alarming rate with approximately 300 new cases in less than a week. In response to the outbreak, a state of emergency is in place in the territory. In similar news, the Palestinian militant group Hamas agreed, at the beginning of the week, to accept a ceasefire agreement with Israel in exchange for a cash infusion, medical supplies and equipment from Qatar. The financial grant to Gaza will be reportedly distributed to families affected by the virus.

In recent weeks, Iraq has also seen a regular increase in COVID-19 infections. The majority of the cases

in the country have been recorded in Baghdad, Basrah, Kerbala and Sulaymaniya. It is reported that although the Government of Iraq has conducted over 1.5 million COVID-19 tests on its 40 million population. Authorities are, however, struggling to make people comply with the health measures and restrictions. For example, on Sunday 30 August, thousands of Shia pilgrims gathered in Kerbala to mark Ashura in one of the largest Muslim gatherings since the pandemic began.

In Iran, authorities have reported the lowest daily increase rate since mid-June. Since the beginning of the outbreak, Iran has reported the highest COVID-19 infection numbers and associated deaths in the region. As of 3 September, cases have surpassed 375,000 with more than 61,000 deaths. Hotspots in the country continue to be Tehran, Qom, Mazandaran, East Azerbaijan, Isfahan, Yazd, Khorasan Razavi, North Khorasan, Semnan, Gilan, Zanjan, Qazvin, and Kerman provinces.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Afghanistan	7,519	Stable	High	Severe
Saudi Arabia	21,020	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	30,154	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,896	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	9,124	Stable	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	7,734	Stable	Moderate	Moderate