

COVID-19 Weekly Update 15 October

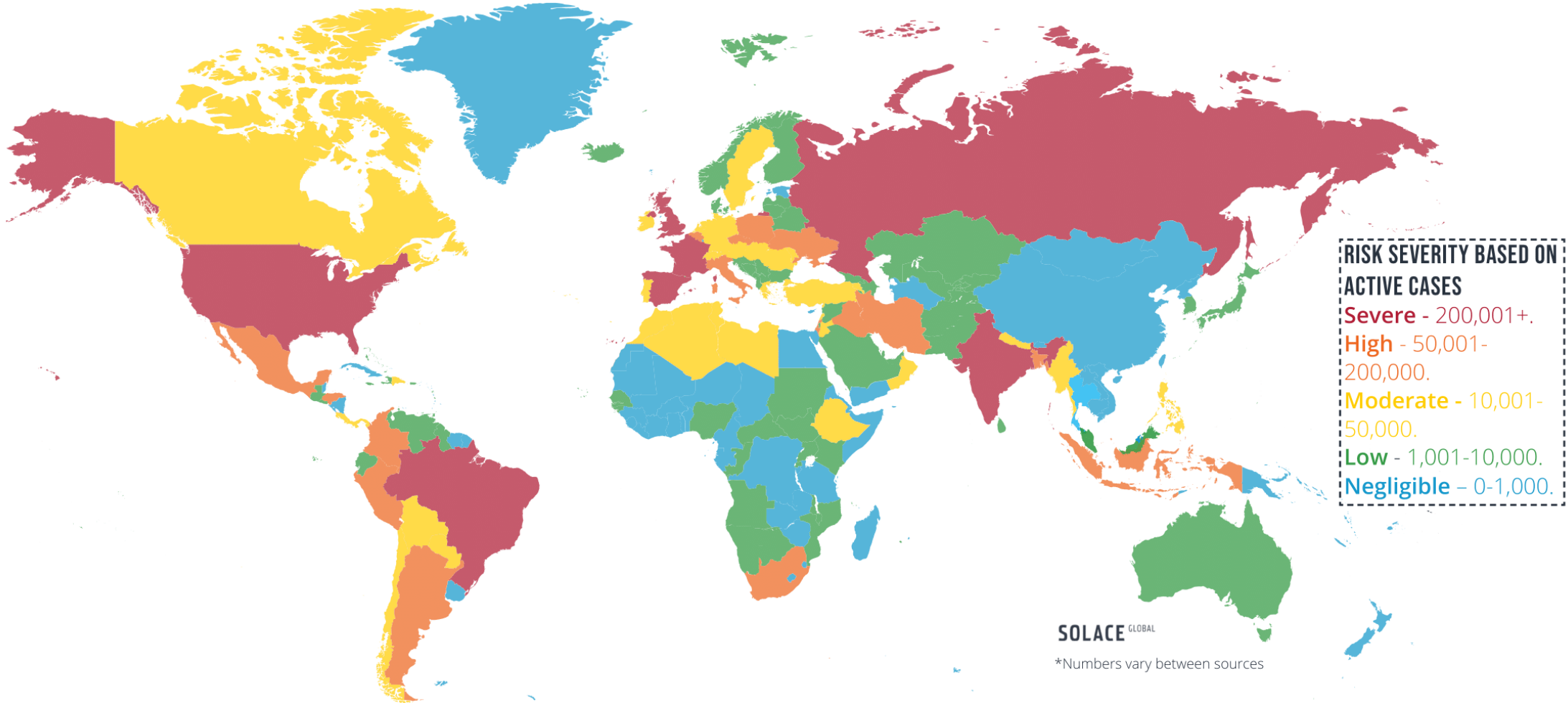


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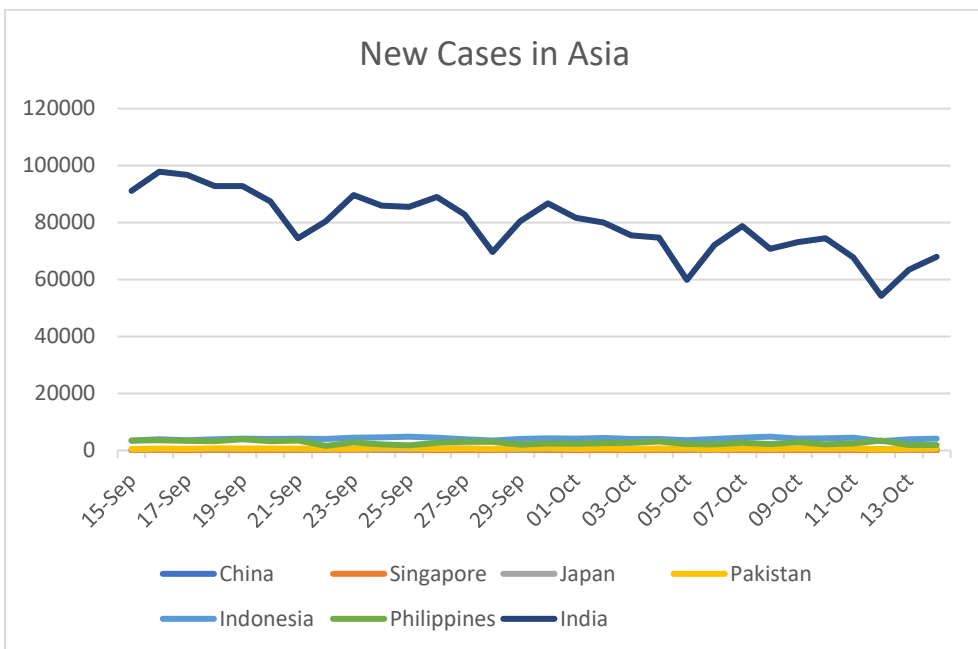
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	38,801,340	Total Active Cases	8,549,043	Total Confirmed Recoveries	29,154,591	Total Confirmed Deaths	1,097,706
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Asia



Asia continues to be the second-worst affected continent in terms of total cases, with over 12 million cumulative infections as of 14 October. However, for a third week in a row, South-East Asia has seen a decline in new cases and deaths by six and eight per cent respectively, compared to the previous week. Nevertheless, the region remains among the most active and accounted for more than a quarter of new cases and a fifth of deaths globally in the 7 days up to 12 October.

India, however, continues to see a high number of infections, despite a decrease in the number of active cases. At the end of last week, the country exceeded 7 million confirmed cases and is on track to surpass the number of infections in the United States and become the worst-hit nation over the coming weeks. Data indicates that this month's, the daily national average of infections is 70,000.

On 11 October, authorities in the Australian state of Victoria announced that the current state of emergency will be extended by four weeks until 8 November. Under the state of emergency, police have additional powers to make sure people are complying with public health directions and means various acts of parliament can be suspended. In more positive news, Prime Minister Morrison announced that he is in talks with Japan, South Korea, Singapore and South Pacific nations on resuming travel. In a media

statement Morrison noted that “there are a number of countries that have performed well on the health front, and Australia and those countries are one of a handful of countries that have had the same level of success”.

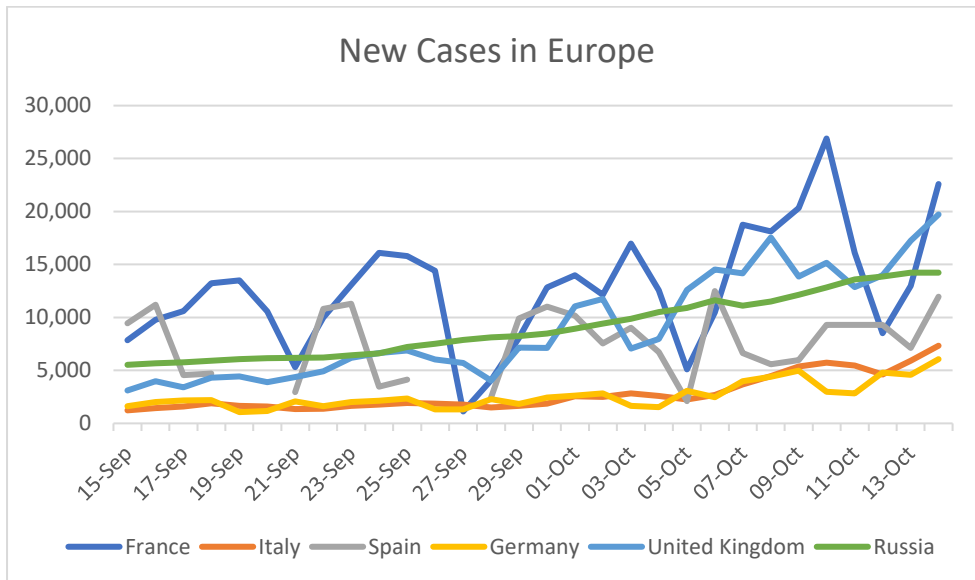
Officials in Indonesia reported that infections slowed over the past two weeks, notably in the capital Jakarta where restrictions were re-imposed in September due to a rise in cases. Following the slowing in transmissions, from 12 October authorities in Jakarta began easing the restrictions. For example, under the relaxed measures, non-essential businesses can reopen, and restaurants and cafes can resume dine-in service at limited capacity. All establishments will have to keep customers’ data for contact tracing and will have to follow strict hygiene rules.

Similarly, South Korea began easing some rules on social distancing from Monday, 12 October. The announcement was made after a steady decrease in the number of cases. The measure will allow places of entertainment, including karaoke bars and nightclubs, to reopen at limited capacity and spectators to attend sports events. Health Minister Park Neung-hoo advised citizens to continue to follow the authorities’ directions stating, “we all know from past experiences that any slight carelessness could lead to another large-scale spread of the virus”.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	813,303	Decrease	Moderate	High
Pakistan	8,782	Stable	Moderate	High
China	241	Stable	Light	High
Japan	5,344	Stable	Light	High
Indonesia	64,742	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Singapore	109	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	46,214	Decrease	Moderate	High



Europe



All major European economies are dealing with a resurgence of COVID-19 following the end of strict nationwide lockdowns as well as the reopening of schools and some entertainment venues. As such, new measures are being reintroduced to stop the spread of the disease.

For example, in France, bars, gyms and swimming pools will close for at least two weeks as of Tuesday, 13 October. In the wider Paris region at least 203 COVID-19 clusters have been registered; hospitals are reportedly preparing for an increase in admissions by cancelling staff holidays and increasing bed capacity. As a result, the capital and other major cities will have an overnight curfew imposed.

Additionally, from 10 October, Lyon, Lille, Grenoble and Saint-Étienne have moved into maximum coronavirus alert; a measure that has led to the closure of bars and cafes. Recently, French Health Minister Olivier Véran noted that "the health situation in France, alas, is continuing to worsen" adding that "every day in France, more and more people are being infected, more and more are falling ill, and more and more are suffering serious effects that require hospitalisation."

Aside from this, Véran and the director of the national health agency, Jérôme Salomon, were among a number of ministers to have their homes raided and searched as part of an investigation into their handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Infections are also soaring in Spain. On 9 October, authorities in Madrid ordered a 15-day "state of alarm" to contain the spread of the disease. The order bans residents from leaving the area for non-essential purposes. The Madrid region is battling one of the most severe outbreaks in the continent, with more than 560 coronavirus cases per 100,000 residents.

Italy has started to see a resurgence of cases, despite initially combating the "second wave" well, recording 7,332 new cases on 14 October. The increase in confirmed new cases is higher than those in March when the country was the epicentre of the pandemic. Most cases were recorded in Lombardy, Campania, Veneto, Tuscany and Lazio.

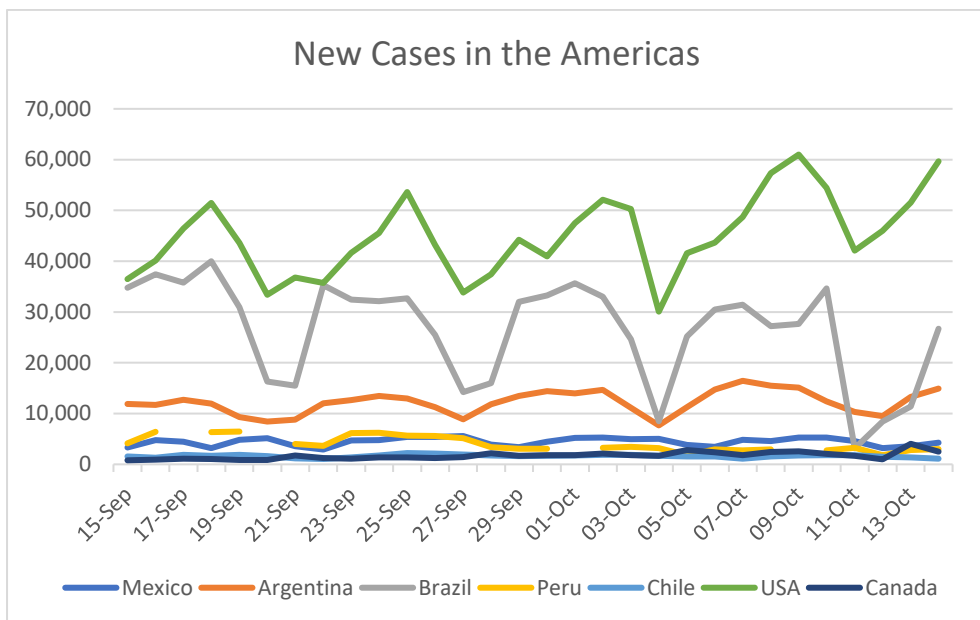
This unexpected increase in cases has prompted authorities to introduce new rules, such as making the use of face coverings outdoors mandatory. Some regional governors have also implemented new measures. For example, on 8 October, Governor Nicola Zingaretti ordered a local lockdown in the province of Latina, south of Rome. Under the new measure, bars, pubs and restaurants will return to operate at limited capacity and will have to close at midnight.

On Monday, 12 October, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced during a press briefing the government's plan to introduce a three-tier COVID-19 alert system for England from 14 October. Under the system, local areas will be designated as 'medium', 'high' or 'very high' alert level based on their infections rates per 100,000 population. For each tier there are corresponding restrictions, ranging from the current 'rule of six' up to the forced closure of some non-essential businesses and no mixing between households.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	642,613	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
Italy	92,445	Increase	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Moderate/high	Moderate
Germany	50,071	Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Increase	Moderate	Light
Russia	277,499	Increase	Moderate	High



Americas



* Please note that there are gaps in Peru's data on certain days. This is reflected in the image.

Case numbers have exceeded 10 million in Latin America and the Caribbean. In terms of fatalities, the Americas remain the worst-affected region.

On 10 October, the number of COVID-19 deaths in Brazil surpassed 150,000, despite signs that rates of infection are gradually falling across the nation. Over the seven days prior to reaching the grim milestone, the average number of deaths in the country stood at 598, the lowest level since May. Despite this, the number of deaths in Brazil remains the world's second highest.

Cases have also been rising in Mexico, where over the past week, seven states relapsed to "high risk" from a "medium risk". These are Chihuahua, Coahuila, Sinaloa, Durango, Aguascalientes, Querétaro and Oaxaca. Countrywide, reported cases have exceeded 814,000 although the government believes that the actual number of infections could be significantly higher.

Authorities in Mexico urged residents to continue to adhere to health measures and noted that a new wave of COVID-19 will be highly probable during the flu season.

The Mexican foreign ministry announced that the country has paid 159.8 million US dollars to secure a vaccine through COVAX, which is a global collaboration that aims to guarantee an equitable global access to COVID-19 treatment.

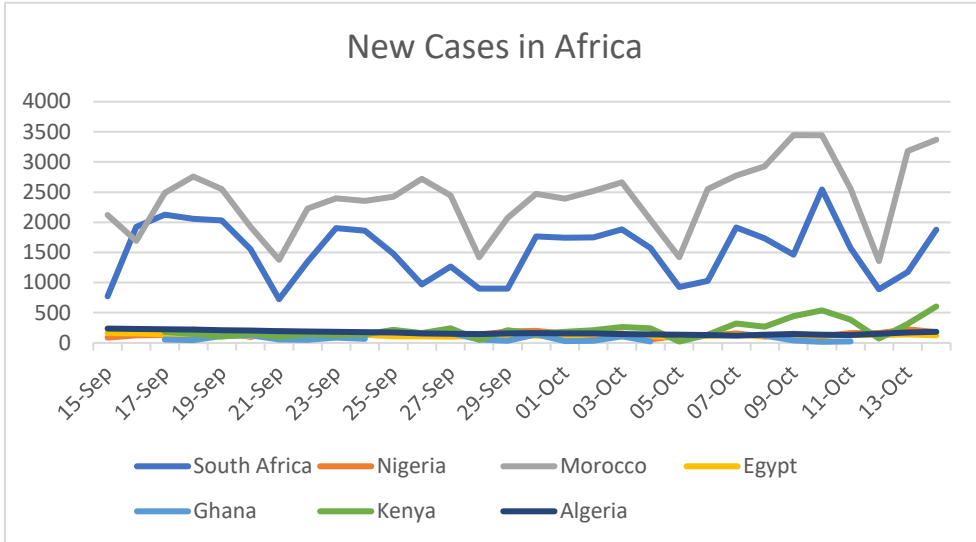
In Chile, scientists supported by the Pan American Health Organization are investigating a potential new strand of COVID-19 due to an unusual contagion rate in the isolated region of Magallanes. Accounting for only one percent of Chile's population density, the region has nearly 20 percent of the country's total cases. Research shows that mutations may make the virus more contagious but not necessarily more lethal.

Less than two weeks after his initial diagnosis, President Trump has been cleared by his White House doctor to return to a public schedule. On 10 October, he made his first official public appearance in front of a crowd of supporters gathered on the lawn of the White House. The event was met with grievances given that the crowd far exceeded the state of DC's gathering limit of 50 people. In his speech, Trump declared that the virus was disappearing, a few days after advising Americans to not be afraid of COVID-19.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	139,349	Decrease	Light	Moderate
Argentina	155,900	Increase	High	High
Brazil	420,906	Decrease	Light	High
Peru	63,842	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	13,884	Stable	Light/Moderate	High
USA	2,649,447	Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	20,372	Slight Increase	Light	High



Africa



In the past week, Africa has seen a notable rise in COVID-19 deaths, with a 27 percent increase on the previous week, according to the latest WHO situational report. Furthermore, the region has reported an 11 per cent rise in new cases in the seven days up to 12 October compared to the week prior. The rise in case numbers is largely attributable to new infections in South Africa, Nigeria, and Ethiopia, with the former registering around half of the continent’s total infections to date.

Following a rise in cases, Tunisian authorities announced additional restrictions. From 8 October, in the Greater Tunis area, which includes Tunis, Ben Arous, Ariana, and Manouba, an overnight curfew is in effect from 21:00 to 05:00 local time. The curfew will be in place until at least 23 October. Under the new COVID-19 measures, weekly markets and Friday prayer meetings will be prohibited. Additionally, dine-in service will be prohibited at cafes and restaurants nationwide. Face masks remain mandatory in public spaces across Tunisia.

Despite recently easing some COVID-19 restrictions, Angola’s capital Luanda will remain under sanitary cordon until at least 7 November. Under these measures, only humanitarian aid, hospital patients and others deemed permissible by authorities are authorised to enter and leave the city. Violations can be punished by large fines of up to 250,000 kwanzas or even criminal penalties.

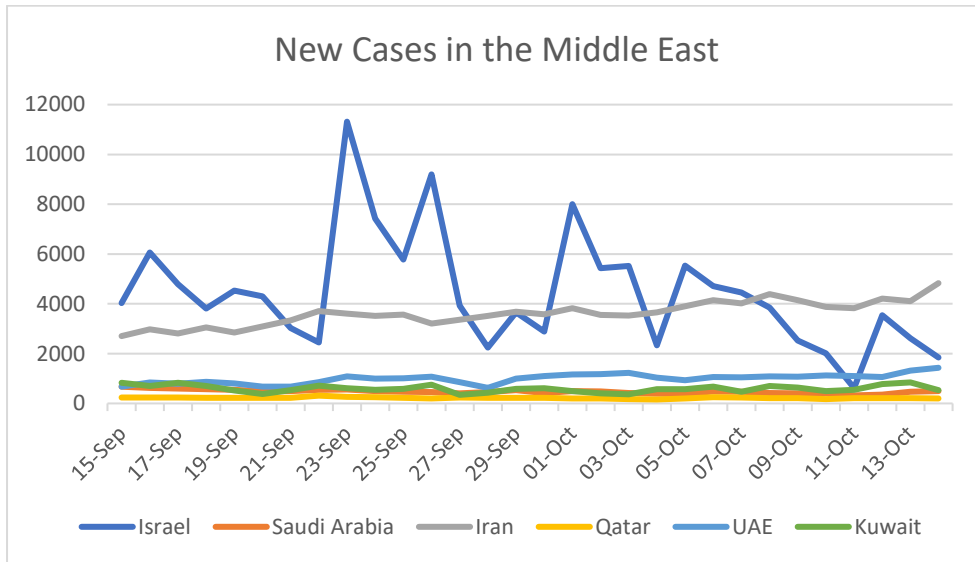
In Kenya, schoolchildren in grades four, eight and twelve returned to classes on Monday, 12 October, following a nationwide months-long closure of all educational institutions in an attempt to limit the spread of the virus. Authorities in Kenya were quick to close schools in March after the first COVID-19 case was confirmed, and the closures have been among the longest anywhere in the world. Elsewhere in East Africa, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda are still to reopen schools but plan to either in the coming weeks or next month.

South Africa continues to be the worst-affected nation on the continent by far according to most metrics, including total cases and deaths, deaths per one million population and active cases. The nation has been under alert Level 1 since 20 September and has seemingly managed to reduce infections to manageable levels of around 1,000 new cases per day since early October.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	51,365	Increase	Moderate	High
Nigeria	7,575	Stable	Moderate	High
Morocco	23,648	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	918	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Ghana	347	Stable	Moderate	High
Kenya	10,316	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	14,154	Stable	Moderate	High



Middle East



Similar to other regions, the Middle East has reported increases in both new cases and deaths in the past week, rising by roughly 10 and 13 percent respectively, in comparison to the previous week. Iran continues to be the worst-affected nation in terms of both cumulative COVID-19 infections and deaths while also accounting for approximately 20 per cent of the region’s weekly cases up to 12 October, according to the most recent WHO coronavirus report.

In Oman, authorities have reintroduced a curfew from 11 October until at least 25 October due to an increase in cases. The curfew is in effect from 20:00 and 05:00 local time. Non-essential movement will be banned, and shops and businesses will have to close.

On 10 October, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani imposed a mask mandate in indoor and outdoor public spaces across Tehran. The measure has been reinforced with maximum fines of 500,000 rials for those who do not adhere to the rules. The partial shutdown implemented in Tehran will be in force until at least 16 October. Additionally, authorities noted that positive cases will be tracked with multiple means such as their phone’s location.

Jordan also imposed new restrictions due to a spike in cases. On Friday, 9 October the country entered a 48-hour lockdown for the first time since March.

Human trials of the Sputnik V vaccine have begun in the United Arab Emirates, the Kremlin confirmed this week. Trials began in Belarus and are reportedly to start in Venezuela in the near future.

Authorities in Israel have extended its second nationwide lockdown until midnight on Sunday, 18 October, thus delaying the decision to reopen the country amid high rates of COVID-19 infections. The country continues to report around 3,000 new cases per day despite imposing a ‘circuit breaker’ style lockdown in mid-September. In a joint statement from the prime minister’s office and health ministry, it was announced the government would assess the epidemiological situation on 15 October and whether or not it would allow the preliminary reopening of some businesses next week.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Israel	44,691	Decrease	High	High
Saudi Arabia	8,662	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	69,039	Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,799	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	7,930	Stable	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	7,357	Stable	Moderate	Moderate