

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 22 October

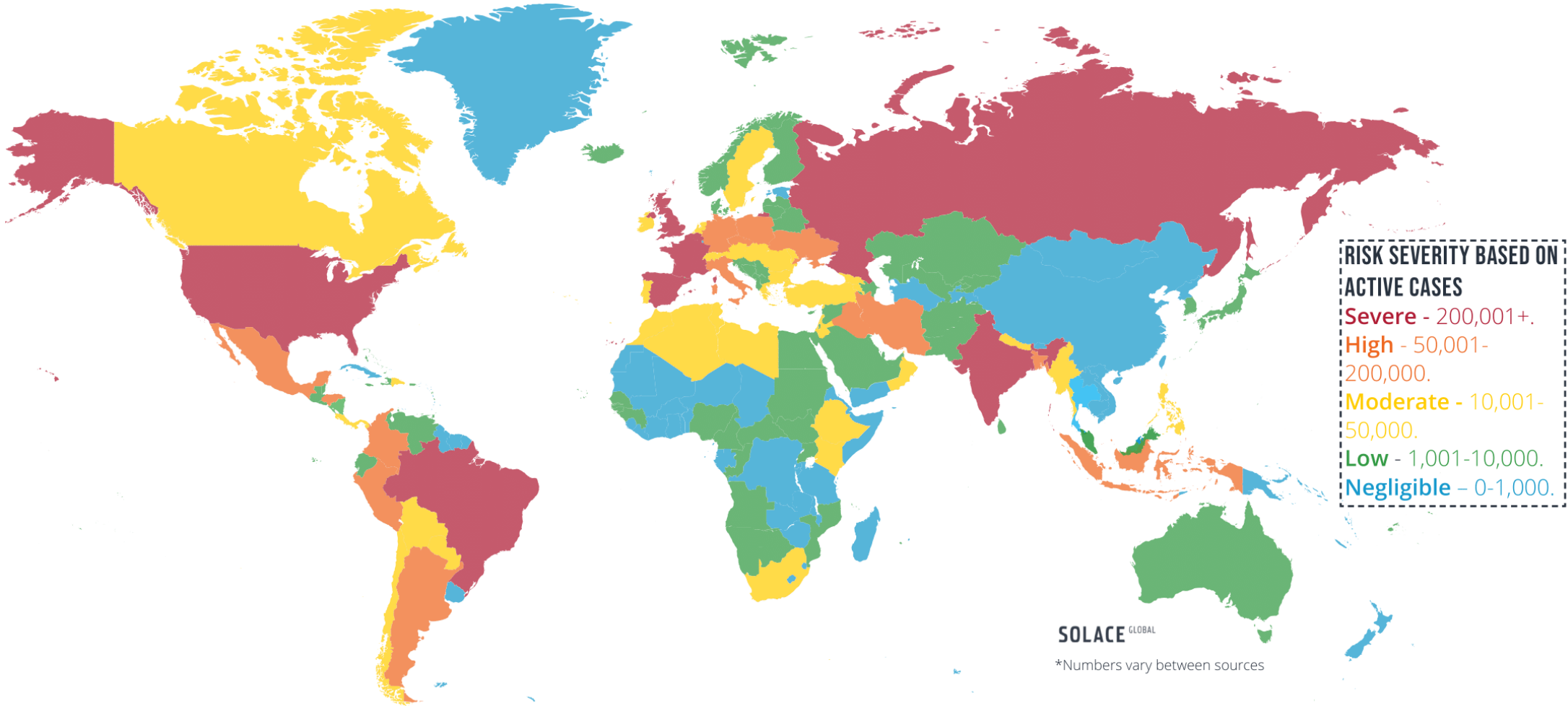


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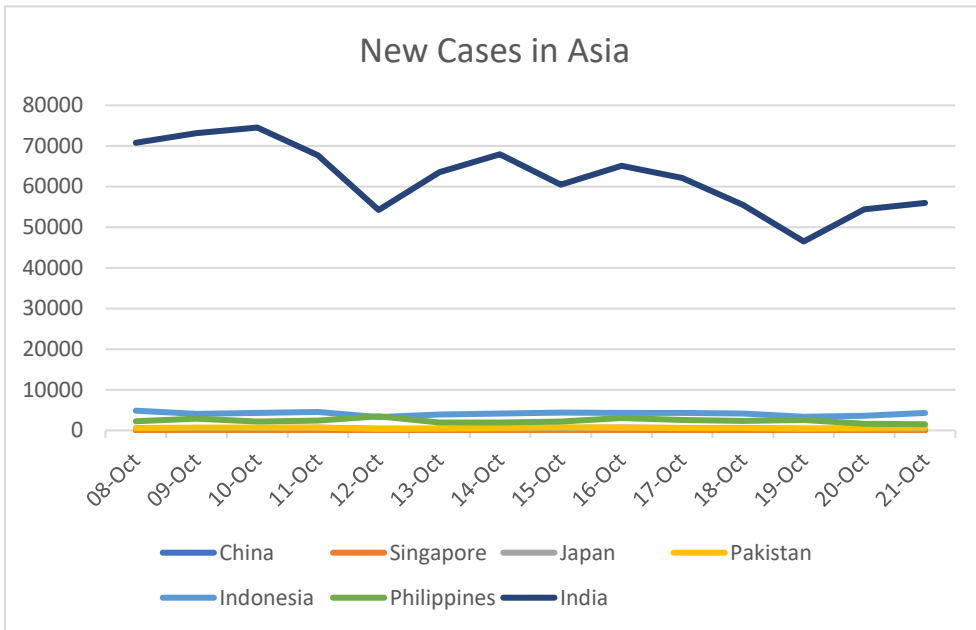
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	41,494,389	Total Active Cases	9,441,084	Total Confirmed Recoveries	30,916,843	Total Confirmed Deaths	1,136,462
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# Asia



While some Asian countries appear to have successfully suppressed transmission and reduced the incidence of new COVID-19 cases, many continue to report rising case numbers and deaths.

In South-East Asia, Indonesia has surpassed the Philippines as the region’s COVID-19 hotspot, where the number of new cases in recent days has hovered around 4,000. Overall, the country has exceeded 370,000 cases with nearly 13,000 related deaths.

Similarly, Malaysia has also seen a rise in infections with authorities recording a high number of cases in the state of Sabah, where transmissions are reportedly rising in detention centres. Movement restriction orders continue to be in effect in Sabah and the capital city, Kuala Lumpur.

Months into the pandemic, India remains the second-worst affected nation globally with over 7,650,000 cases. Authorities have expressed concerns that if restrictions are relaxed too soon, the nation will see another surge in cases, especially as the nation edges towards the upcoming winter months. Additionally, the Hindu festivals of Durga Puja and Diwali will be held over the coming weeks and it is feared that

celebrations and increased mobility will cause further spread of the virus.

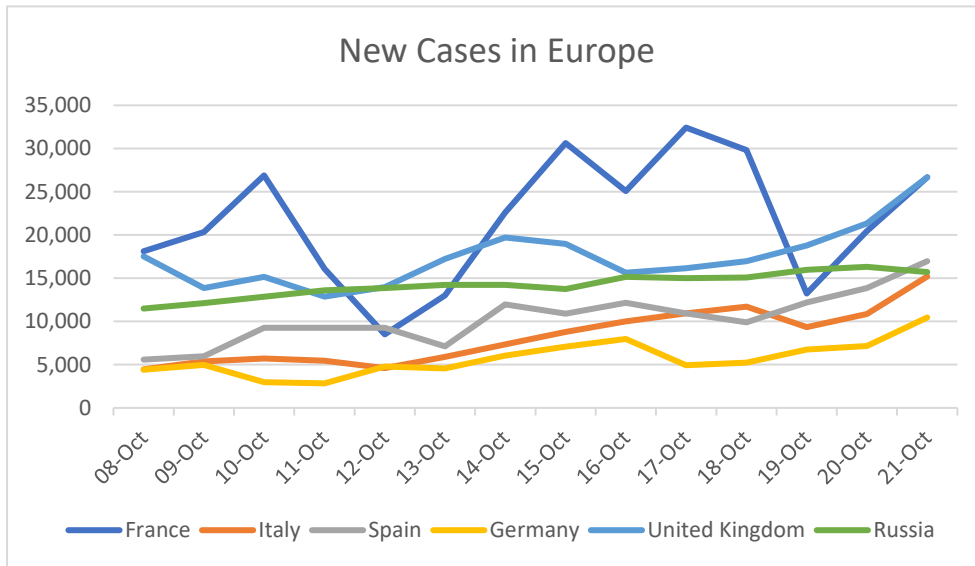
International travel in Asia continues to be paralysed by the global pandemic due to imposed travel bans, with passenger numbers down 97 per cent in August compared to the previous year. As cases in some regions decrease, Asian countries are making plans to slowly ease travel restrictions.

Negotiations on the resumption of business travel between China and Japan are expected to conclude before the end of October. Both countries are seeking to revive their pandemic-hit economies, the world’s second and third largest respectively, through the restart of two-way business travel. Similarly, Singapore and Hong Kong have announced plans to establish a bilateral travel bubble in a bid to relaunch leisure tourism. Whilst further details are anticipated over the coming weeks, it is understood that even with the proposed travel bubble, travel will not resume to pre-pandemic levels in the near-term. It is understood that both Changi Airport and Hong Kong International airport are currently operating at less than 2 per cent of their capacity.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	715,775	Decrease	Moderate	High
Pakistan	9,642	Slight increase	Moderate	High
China	245	Stable	Light	High
Japan	5,147	Stable	Light	High
Indonesia	62,743	Slight decrease	Moderate	High
Singapore	84	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	43,990	Decrease	Moderate	High



## Europe



Countries across Europe have continued to report a rapid increase in cases and deaths in the past week, contributing to around 40 per cent of global cases in the seven days up to 18 October, according to WHO statistics.

The World Health Organisation has called the situation “very worrying” as much of the continent is recording higher levels of infections than during the first peak in early April. Countries struggling with a resurgence of infections include France, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, Czechia, and Italy, among others. Collectively, the aforementioned nations contributed to over half of Europe’s weekly case numbers as of 18 October.

Most countries have responded to the upticks in infections by imposing, or re-imposing, measures designed to limit the spread of the virus, including restrictions on gatherings, and placing curfews on hospitality venues, among others.

In France, where cumulative cases have surpassed 930,000, authorities imposed tighter restrictions from 17 October, including a nationwide ban on private gatherings to include events such as weddings. Meanwhile, shops and businesses are required to close at 21:00 in high-risk areas. Additionally, authorities in Paris, as well as in the cities of Aix-Marseille, Grenoble, Montpellier, Toulouse, Saint Etienne, Lille, Rouen, and Lyon have implemented a 21:00 to 06:00 nightly curfew.

On Thursday, 15 October, the United Kingdom’s Health Minister Matt Hancock said that COVID-19 was spreading “exponentially” in the country. A three-tier lockdown system is in effect in England. As of 22 October, only Lancashire and the Liverpool were under the ‘Very High’ local COVID alert level. However, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire are set to be placed under the highest restrictions in the coming days.

From midnight on 21 October, Ireland moved to its highest lockdown tier for a six-week period. Visits to private homes or gardens will not be permitted and there are to be no gatherings except for tightly controlled weddings and funerals. Non-essential shops will be forced to close, and people will be asked to stay at home, with a five-kilometre travel limit for exercise; public transport will operate at 25 per cent capacity.

New restrictions have been in effect in Belgium since 19 October. Prime Minister Alexander De Croo announced a nationwide curfew from 00:00 and 05:00 as well as the closure of cafes, bars and restaurants for at least a month.

Following a recent surge in cases, new measures have also been imposed in Austria, including local quarantine measures. From 17 October through to 1 November, entry and exit from the town of Kuchi, in

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	815,721	Significant increase	High	Moderate
Italy	155,442	Significant increase	Light/moderate	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Moderate/high	Moderate
Germany	79,256	Significant increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Increase	Moderate	Light
Russia	325,823	Significant increase	Moderate	High

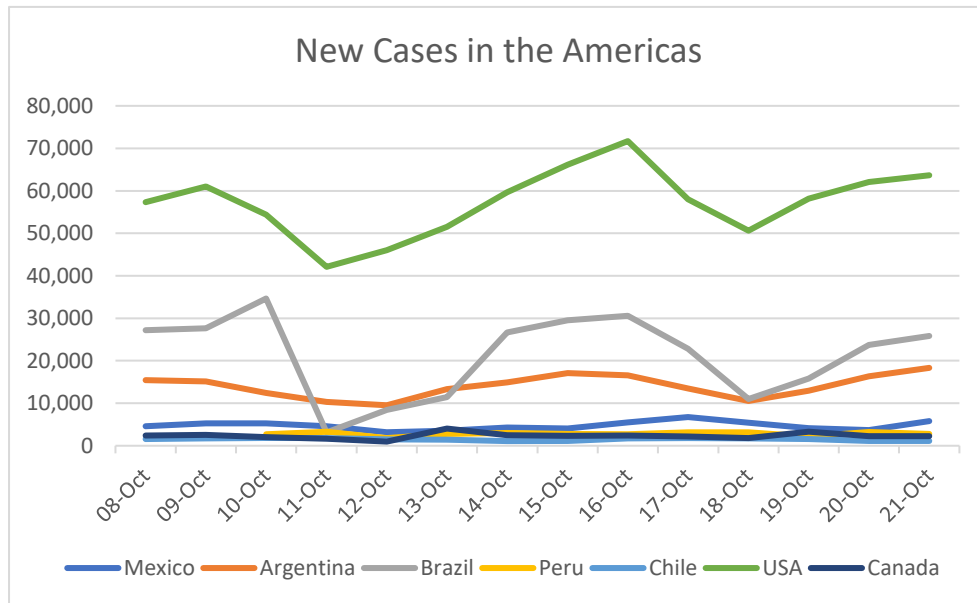
the Hallein district of Salzburg, will be restricted. In other news, Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg tested positive for the virus after attending the EU Foreign Affairs Council in Luxembourg.







## Americas



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

While the incidence of new cases remains high, overall, the Americas has seen a slight decrease in new cases in the past week up to 18 October, compared to the previous week. The United States, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico continue to report the highest numbers of new infections.

Cumulative cases in Brazil have surpassed 5,270,000, representing around 2.3 per cent of the nations approximately 210 million people, while the death toll remains the second highest globally at over 154,000. São Paulo, the most populated state in Brazil, remains the epicentre of the country's outbreak. Most recently, Governor João Doria of the afflicted state announced that when available, the COVID-19 vaccine will be mandatory throughout the state. Governor Doria is among a handful of governors that have previously criticised President Bolsonaro's dismissive response to the pandemic.

In the United States, cases are surging across dozens of states. COVID-19 hotspots include the states of Texas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Florida, and California. On Friday, 16 October, cases surpassed 8 million

and it has been suggested that cases are heading towards a so-called 'third peak'. Hospitalisation rates are increasing in at least 39 states and it is feared that overflow intensive care units will be needed as the US heads into winter when COVID-19 infections are likely to surge. Despite President Trump's promises of a vaccine before the General Election on 3 November, Pfizer Inc, lead developer of one of many COVID-19 vaccines, stated that it will not be able to meet the deadline and deliver a vaccine before election day.

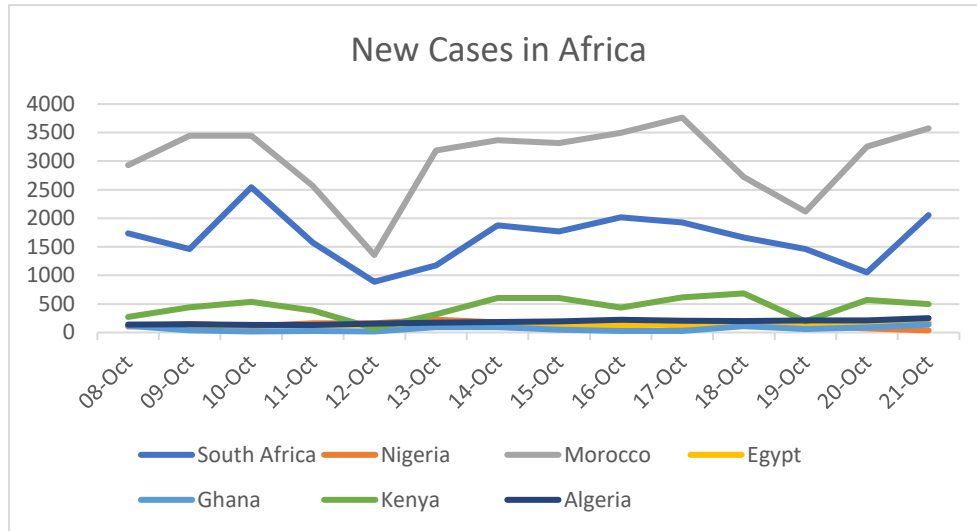
In North America, restrictions on non-essential cross border travel between the United States and its neighbours Canada and Mexico have been extended once again. The restrictions will remain in place until at least 21 November.

Over the past week, cases in Canada have risen to between 2,000-3,000 per day. Commenting on the recent uptick in cases in Manitoba, the province's Health Minister Cameron Friesen stated that "there'll be plenty of discussion about what went wrong, but I think, clearly, some people have let their guard down". In response to the recent surge, in Winnipeg, the capital and largest city in the province, as well as in other surrounding municipalities, authorities tightened restrictions for two weeks beginning on 18 October. Reductions on capacity limits, mandatory closures of indoor venues and limits on gatherings will be enforced, among other measures. Measures will reportedly be extended if cases show no signs of decreasing. Similarly, Ontario's York Region reverted to a Stage Two of reopening, meaning that additional restrictions apply to restaurants and other establishments that can no longer provide indoor dining services. Gyms have also been ordered to close along with cinemas and theatres.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	148,107	Increase	Light	Moderate
Argentina	169,286	Increase	High	High
Brazil	388,701	Decrease	Light	High
Peru	50,056	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	13,649	Stable	Light/Moderate	High
USA	2,755,319	Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	22,614	Slight Increase	Moderate	High



## Africa



The COVID-19 death toll in Africa has surpassed 40,000 this week, while the total number of cases is fast approaching 1.7 million. The World Health Organisation has stated that the region is experiencing a general resurgence of the disease, evidenced by another weekly rise in new cases and deaths of 11 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively.

The Gambia is the most recent nation to announce a further easing of restrictions. On 19 October, authorities reopened the Gambia's land and sea borders. All individuals arriving in country will be required to present a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test dated within 72 hours of travel to Ministry of Health officials upon arrival.

In response to a recent spike in cases, Tunisian Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi ordered a curfew in all regions across the country from 20 October. On 17 October, Tunisia recorded 5,752 new cases of the virus and 114 new deaths, the highest single day death toll throughout the pandemic.

On Monday, 21 October, the South African health ministry announced that the nation has exceeded 705,000 cases. The nation remains the worst-affected on the continent, making up around 40 per cent of

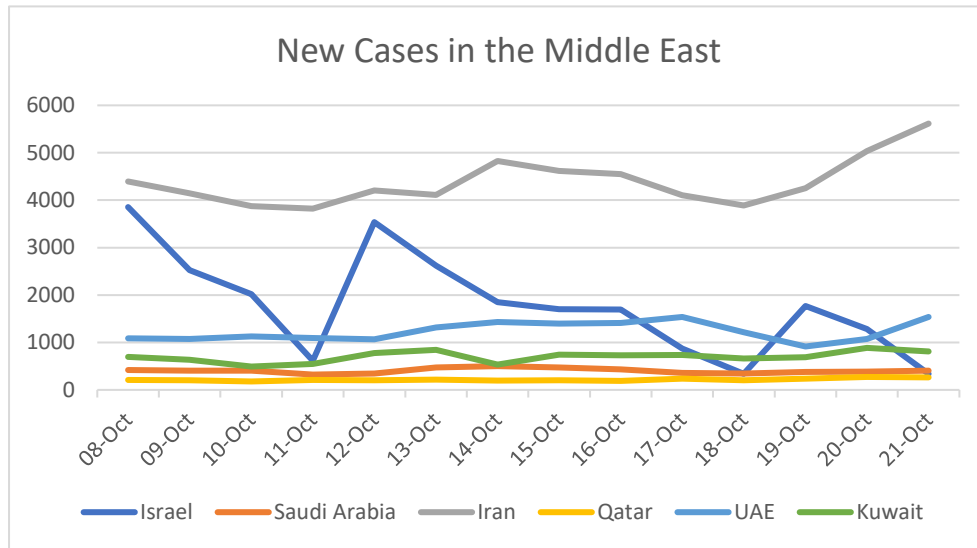
all of Africa's cumulative infections. So far, authorities have conducted approximately 4.6 tests whilst 640,000 people have reportedly recovered. As cases continue to surge, South Africa's health minister Zweli Mkhize and his wife tested positive for the disease. The minister urged citizens to continue to adhere to health protocols and has cautioned against complacency.

Cases are also rising in Morocco where, over the past week, the biggest single-day increase was recorded on Wednesday, 21 October, with 3,577 cases. The total number of cases has surpassed 182,000. The worst affected area remains Casablanca, where lockdown measures were extended for 14 days from 19 October until the 2 November. Despite the rise in cases, the nation has started easing some restrictions including the reopening of mosques in some parts of the country since 16 October.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	47,912	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	3,662	Decrease	Moderate	High
Morocco	27,867	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	1,212	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Ghana	397	Stable	Moderate	High
Kenya	12,526	Slight increase	Moderate	High
Algeria	14,719	Stable	Moderate	High



## Middle East



The Middle East region continues to experience a gradual increase of new cases and deaths, reaching the highest weekly incidence since the start of the pandemic. Indeed, roughly 150,000 new infections were reported across the region in the past week, with Iran, Iraq and Morocco reporting the highest number of new cases.

Iran continues to suffer the worst outbreak in the region with more than 545,000 reported infections and 31,000 related deaths. Authorities reported that the country is currently experiencing a third wave of the disease, which is putting healthcare resources under considerable strain. This week has seen the single day death toll record broken a number of times. In response to the rise in infections, new restrictions have been introduced in Iran's capital, Tehran.

Cases have also steadily been rising in Iraq, where most new infections have been reported in the capital, Baghdad, as well as Duhok, Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Basra and Nineveh. In an attempt to slow any further spread of the virus, restrictions continue to be enforced nationwide. Field teams operate in the country to assist law enforcement agencies with monitoring the public's compliance with health measures.

Months into the pandemic, Lebanon continues to see almost daily rises of COVID-19 cases. Over the past week, authorities have added 57 new villages to the lockdown list. More worrying is a recent warning

issued by the head of private hospitals association that "hospitals are completely full" as there are limited intensive care beds available for COVID-19 patients. Authorities also noted that they expect the situation in Lebanon to worsen over the upcoming months, which will likely exacerbate the nation's existing, health, political and economic crises.

Israel has begun scaling back restrictions following a month-long second nationwide lockdown. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the nation will exit the current lockdown "carefully" and "in line with the plan set out by the experts at the health ministry". Cases in Israel have surpassed 307,000 with over 2,200 deaths. Although daily case numbers have declined in recent weeks, they remain high in some areas, including Bnei Brak, the country's largest ultra-Orthodox city. The decision to partially lift the lockdown has been met by criticism. It is feared that easing restrictions too soon will revert the progress made so far as the second wave occurred when the first lockdown was eased back in May.

COVID-19 infections have stabilised in Saudi Arabia with approximately 8,000 active cases nationwide, while new daily cases have consistently fallen between 300-500 in recent weeks, a dramatic decrease compared to the peak of nearly 5,000 infections in June.

In other news, according to Amnesty International, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are using the pandemic "to continue pre-existing patterns of suppressing the right to freedom of expression". It is understood that although GCC countries have taken measures to tackle COVID-19 online misinformation, they have also repressed government criticism and harassed individuals for discussing the pandemic. For example, in Saudi Arabia, since the beginning of the health emergency, a number of individuals have been arrested due to their posts criticising the government's response. to the pandemic were posted on social media.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Israel	19,569	Decrease	High	High
Saudi Arabia	8,423	Stable	Light	Severe
Iran	75,231	Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,892	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	6,846	Decrease	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	7,894	Stable	Moderate	Moderate