

COVID-19 Weekly Update

29 October

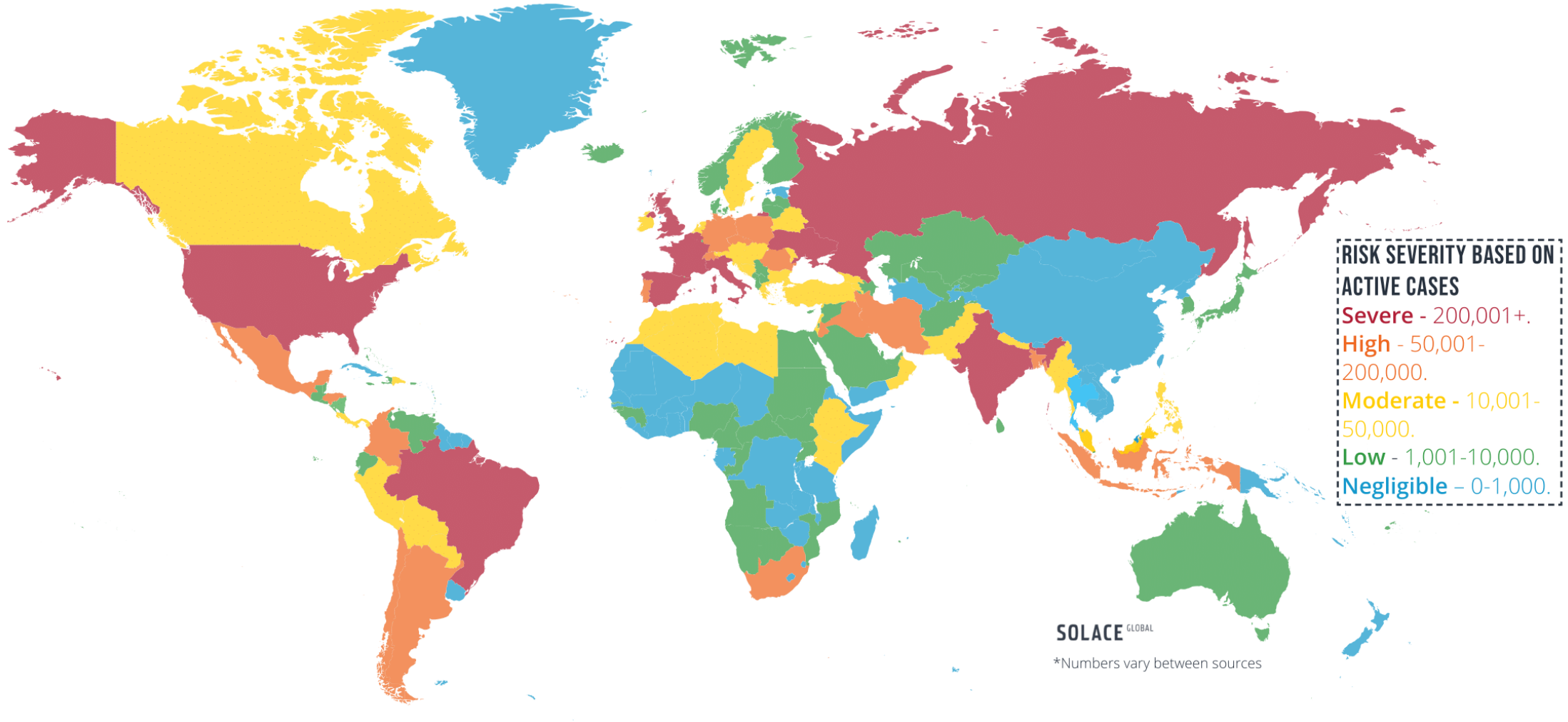


Powered By:
SOLACE GLOBAL



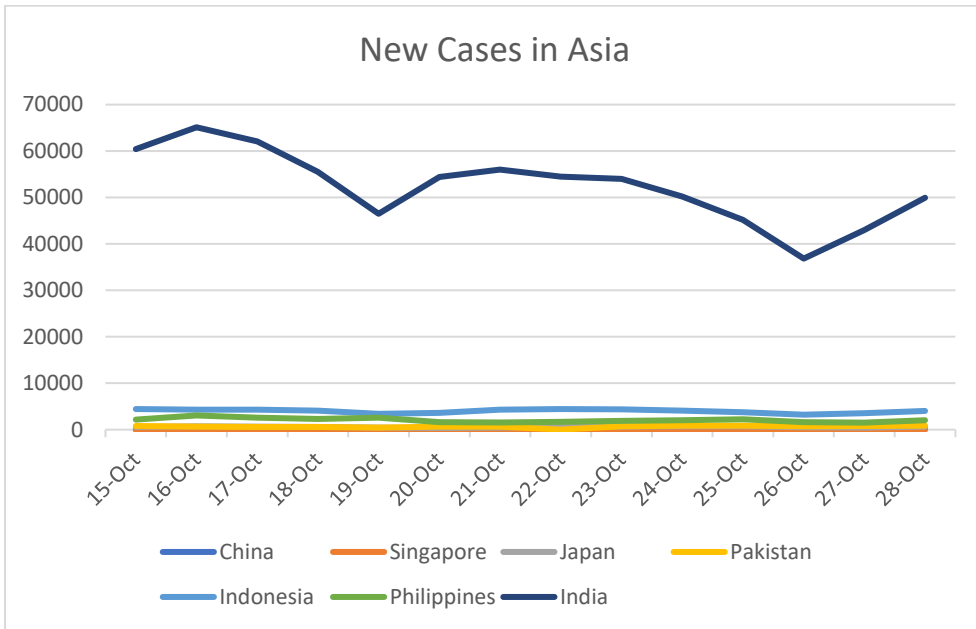
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	44,742,592	Total Active Cases	10,844,430	Total Confirmed Recoveries	32,719,594	Total Confirmed Deaths	1,178,568
-------------	------------	--------------------	------------	----------------------------	------------	------------------------	-----------





Asia



On Saturday 24 October, Asia became the second region to surpass 10 million infections of COVID-19, just behind Latin America. The continent accounts for around a quarter of the global caseload and around 14 per cent of the global death toll.

Although many countries are experiencing a decline in deaths and cases, the continent’s rates continue to rise, largely propelled by an escalating surge in India. Over the course of 24 hours entering 28 October, 43,893 new cases were reported in India, including the highest single-day number of the pandemic in the capital New Delhi (4,853). The recent spike has brought India to a confirmed caseload past 8 million, which remains the second-highest in the world behind the United States.

In addition, recent estimations made by a ‘top diagnostic firm’ indicate that rapid antigen tests, a fast but statistically less accurate form of testing, account for around 60 per cent of all COVID tests conducted in India. This means that the already exorbitant rates of spread reported in India may include some degree of misrepresentation.

With fears of a second wave of COVID-19 infections, authorities in Pakistan have chosen to implement a raft of new measures with the objective of curbing the recent rise in cases. The government made it

compulsory for citizens to wear masks in all public places while enforcing the closure of all parks and entertainment venues by 18:00 local time and all markets, shopping centres, restaurants and banquet halls by 22:00 local time nationwide. On Wednesday 28 October, Pakistan reported 825 new cases in 24 hours and new deaths rising to double-digit figures (14).

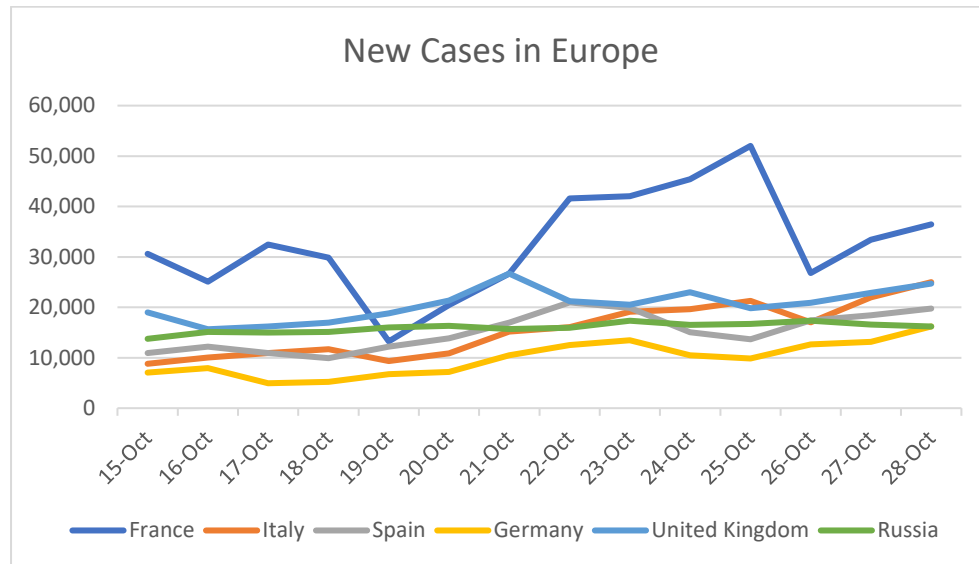
China’s largest coronavirus outbreak in months is understood to have been linked to a factory in Xinjiang. More than 180 cases were documented in Shufu in the south of the region. The outbreak is amongst the largest China has recorded since August.

To the south of Asia, Australia appears to have successfully stopped the second wave of the virus that much of the world is currently seeing. Under Australia’s strict health guidelines, even people with mild symptoms are told to be tested and self-isolate. The country’s success in tackling the pandemic is aided by the country’s strong economy, its geography and a culture where individuals follow the rules. The government has also refrained from the delicate balancing act of keeping the economy open and harsh restrictions by forcing businesses to close and implementing a strict lockdown.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	603,251	Decrease	Moderate	High
Pakistan	11,627	Increase	Moderate	High
China	298	Stable	Light	High
Japan	5,579	Stable	Light	High
Indonesia	62,743	Slight decrease	Moderate	High
Singapore	69	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	38,952	Decrease	Moderate	High



Europe



Rapidly escalating rates of infection continue to be reported in many European countries, prompting some governments to re-impose stringent national lockdowns as the WHO warned that the continent may again become the epicentre of the pandemic.

France and Germany have become the latest Western European nations to announce second national lockdowns as new daily infections in both countries continue to surge as the region enters its months-long winter. In France, beginning on 30 October until at least the end of November, non-essential businesses will be forced to close and people will only be allowed to leave their homes for essential work, for an hours' exercise or for medical reasons. French President Emmanuel Macron announced the measures on 28 October following a rise of more than 33,000 cases on Tuesday, and warned the country risked being "overwhelmed by a second wave that will no doubt be harder than the first".

Meanwhile, in Germany, Angela Merkel revealed a partial nationwide lockdown that will begin on 2 November for four weeks. Under the new rules - as agreed by the 16 state premiers - schools will remain open, social contact will be restricted to two households, bars will close and restaurants will be limited to takeaway services, while other non-essential business, such as tattoo parlours will be forced to close.

On Sunday, 25 October, despite the opposition from some regional governors, Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte tightened nationwide COVID-19 restrictions following a record number of new cases.

Under the new measures, venues such as cinemas, theatres, gyms and swimming pools must all close. Additionally, restaurants and bars will close at 18:00 local time. The government has also reportedly discussed the reintroduction of the ban on inter-regional travel. Even though the new measures do not ban travel between regions, further related orders cannot rule this out in the near future. The announcement was made hours after approximately 200 far-right protesters clashed with riot police during an anti-COVID demonstration in Rome. Large scale protests over the new restrictions were also reported on Monday, 26 October. In Milan, tear gas was used to disperse protesters and in Turin, several stores were vandalised. Protests were also reported in other cities including in Rome, Genoa, Palermo and Trieste.

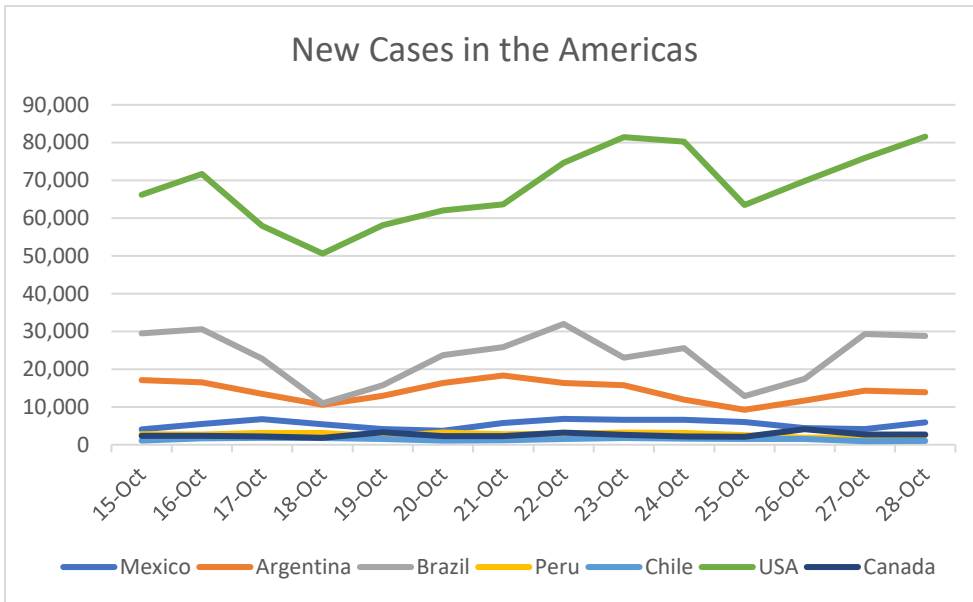
Similarly, protests against COVID-19 restrictions have also been reported in Warsaw, where on Saturday, 24 October, authorities detained approximately 278 people during anti-COVID measures protests. Demonstrations in the capital turned violent after security forces deployed tear gas to disperse crowds. People took to the streets after new measures were announced, including a ban on gatherings and a shutdown of eating venues for two weeks. Meanwhile, Poland has recently seen an uptick in daily cases. Polish President Andrzej Duda is the latest world leader to test positive for the disease.

To curb the spread of the second wave of the disease, new measures have also been announced in Spain. On Sunday, 24 October, an extraordinary Council of Ministers meeting approved a second State of Alarm. Over the last week, Spain has been the first nation in the continent to surpass 1 million recorded cases. Czech authorities have also announced that a night-time curfew will come into effect nationwide starting from 28 October. The curfew will commence at 21:00 and end at 04:59. Exceptions will apply for commuting to work, essential journeys and dog-walking within 500 meters of the place of residence.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	1,085,370	Significant increase	High	Moderate
Italy	276,457	Significant increase	Moderate	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Significant increase	High	Moderate
Germany	136,362	Significant increase	High	Moderate
UK	N/A	Significant increase	Moderate	Moderate
Russia	325,823	Significant increase	Moderate	High



Americas



Latin America and the Caribbean are the regions with the highest COVID-19 fatality rate. Brazil, Colombia and Argentina have more than 8.4 million cases between them.

Infections in Brazil have surpassed 5,400,000 and the state of Sao Paulo remains the worst affected in the nation. Recent studies found a great disparity in infections between ethnic groups and income levels. The unequal impact of COVID-19 has been demonstrated by the fact that indigenous groups have so far been more prone to contract the disease.

In Ecuador, authorities have reimposed some measures fearing a resurgence in cases and have stated that negotiations are underway with major pharmaceuticals firms to secure supplies of potential vaccines. Most recently, Foreign Affairs Minister Luis Gallegos called on greater cooperation amongst the international community in the fight against the disease.

Elsewhere, in the United States, Dr Anthony Fauci noted that despite cases continue to reach record levels, the country is still battling the first wave. In relation to this, Fauci states "if you look at the chart, we've never really had waves, in the sense of up and then down to a good baseline. It's been up and wavering up and down till now, we are at the highest baseline we've ever been, which is really quite

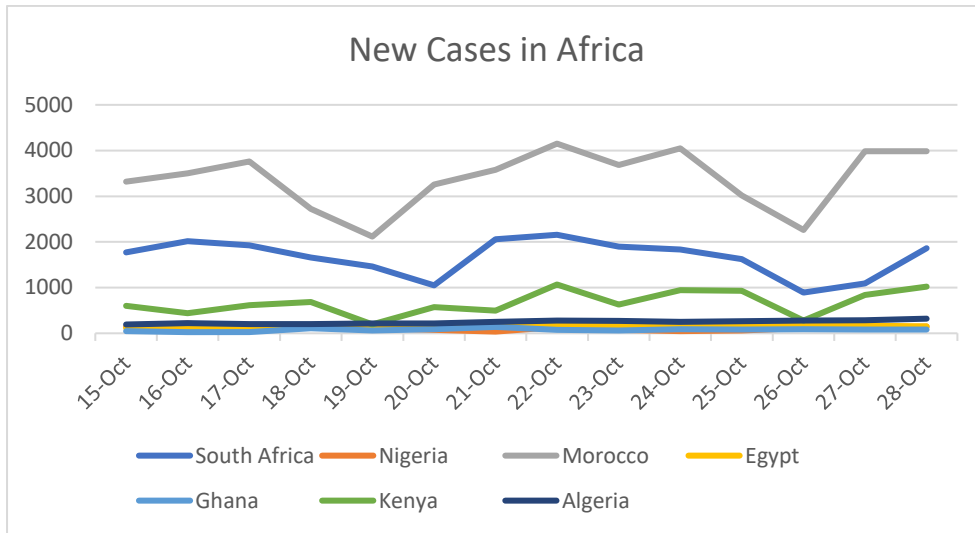
precarious". Data shows that this month, COVID-19 related deaths have also been on the rise and reached levels not seen since the summer. Over the last seven days, fatalities have reached a record high in eleven states. Trends show that states that were summer hotspots in the summer have relatively managed to slow the disease. These states include Arizona, California, Florida and Georgia.

Additionally, it is understood that the latest clusters of infections seem to have affected rural communities rather than bigger urban centres. As concerns rise, governors fear that the disease will overwhelm health facilities, New York governor Andrew Cuomo announced that new strategies will be developed aiming to find "micro-clusters" of COVID-19 and take action to reduce them.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	151,981	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Argentina	169,315	Stable	High	High
Brazil	376,739	Decrease	Light	High
Peru	43,925	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	8,592	Stable	Light	High
USA	2,954,409	Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	26,687	Slight Increase	Moderate	High



Africa



In recent weeks, Africa has seen a slight increase in new COVID-19 infections, although some African states continue to experience a downward trend.

In comparison with the rest of the world, infection rates in Africa have remained remarkably low. This has largely been attributed to demographic causes, most notably a relatively young population, as well as varied but universally lower rates of testing. Across a continent of 54 countries, ten nations account for around 75% of the total tests carried out, while around half of the countries conduct less than ten tests per positive case (the benchmark recommended by the Africa CDC).

The recent drop in Nigeria’s rate of infection, with daily new cases at 113 on 27 October down from 212 on 16 October, may also be attributed to an abnormality in testing. In recent weeks, the country has been struck with a wave of protests against police brutality and the Special Anti-Robbery Squad unit (SARS), resulting in violent clashes and a swift deterioration of the security environment across major urban hubs. Around 40-60% of the nation’s testing is conducted in the capital city of Lagos, where large-scale violent unrest erupted.

In response to their own drop in rates of infection, authorities in Rwanda have chosen to ease some COVID-19 related restrictions. Under the new measures, offices will be permitted to operate at 50% capacity, while places of worship can increase to 50% venue capacity with limits of 75 people placed on

weddings and funerals. The ongoing overnight curfew in place between 22:00 and 04:00 local time will remain.

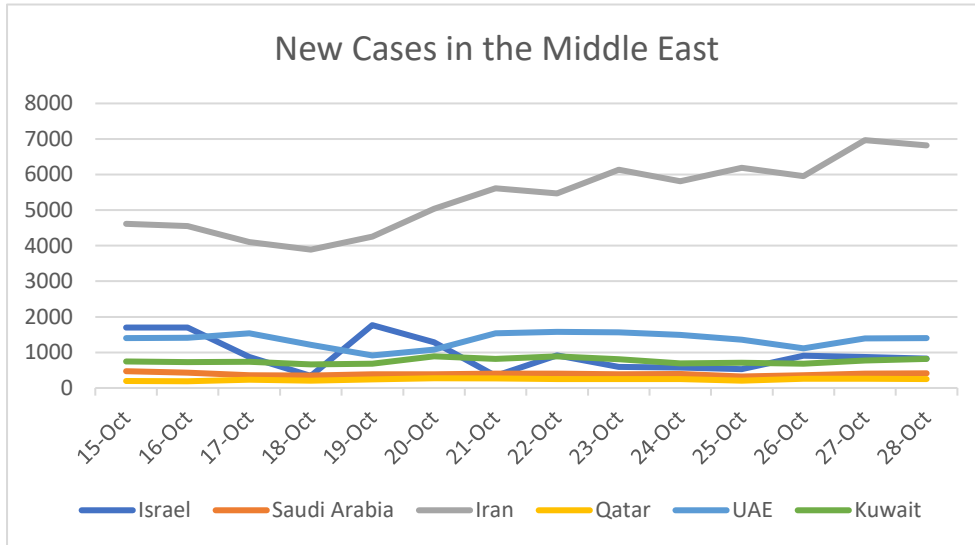
Other African states have experienced slight increases in new cases. In Egypt, 170 new cases were recorded on 27 October. In response to a mild resurgence in infections, the country’s Coptic Church moved to tighten COVID-19- related restrictions. These included a suspension of some group prayers and trips while continuing mass services with a maximum capacity of 25 per cent. The church is estimated to have around 11 million members in Egypt.

In Kenya, President Uhuru Kenyatta recently convened an ‘extraordinary’ summit on 4 November to review the country’s COVID-19 measures in response to a recent rise in cases. On 28 October, the country recorded 1,018 new cases and 16 deaths, taking the total number of infections to 51,851 and the death toll to 950.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	51,949	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	3,137	Decrease	Moderate	High
Morocco	32,621	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	1,622	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Ghana	621	Stable	Moderate	High
Kenya	15,643	Slight increase	Moderate	High
Algeria	15,450	Stable	Moderate	High



Middle East



Over the past week, a number of countries across the Middle East have continued to experience a rise in COVID-19 infections.

Iran remains the worst-affected nation in the region; although some doubt Iran’s tolls, officials in the country cases have surpassed 570,000. Data indicates that over the past month, the number of daily infections has almost doubled. In response to the surge in cases, authorities have extended the closure of mosques, shops and schools at least until 20 November but stricter penalties will be enforced for those disregarding the health rules.

Whilst hospitals in the country are reportedly running out of capacity to deal with the cases, Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs blamed the United States attempts to hamper the country’s effort to respond to the pandemic. He noted that whilst the trade of humanitarian goods is allowed by the US, many western governments fearing sanctions ceased trading with Iran.

Total reported cases in Jordan have surpassed 58,000 and are above those of most Middle Eastern countries. Like other nations in the region, cases are steadily rising. Additionally, this week, health officials have recorded the nation’s highest daily increase and also a rise in reported deaths. Prime Minister of Jordan and Minister of Defense Bisher al-Khasawneh noted that the country is in a difficult phase of the

pandemic. At present, a one-day lockdown on Friday is in effect nationwide and it will be enforced at least until the end of the year. Although cases are on the rise and are forecast to reach 3,000 a day, authorities noted that a national total lockdown will not be reimposed.

The Turkish President announced that the government is considering the introduction of measures due to a rise in daily reported cases which recently have shown the highest daily increase since May. Officials also noted that 40 percent of the active cases were recorded in Istanbul, where infection rates are reportedly five times higher than in the capital Ankara.

On the other hand, Bahrain has reported a steady decline in infections. Consequently, authorities began relaxing measures including the reopening, with capacity limits, of hospitality venues across the country.

In more positive news, the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar has signed a COVID-19 vaccine supply agreement with biotechnology company Moderna. Moderna’s Chief Executive Officer said “we are advancing the clinical development of mRNA-1273 with our Phase 3 COVE study, which is now fully enrolled with a representative demography of participants across ages, ethnicities and high-risk populations. In parallel we are scaling up our manufacturing capability with our strategic partners, Lonza and Rovi, to address this global health emergency by delivering a safe and effective vaccine to the people of Qatar and around the world”.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Israel	12,013	Decrease	High	High
Saudi Arabia	8,149	Stable	Light	Severe
Iran	87,017	Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,825	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	3,892	Decrease	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	8,220	Stable	Moderate	Moderate