

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 8 October

*Sanitizer*  
STATION

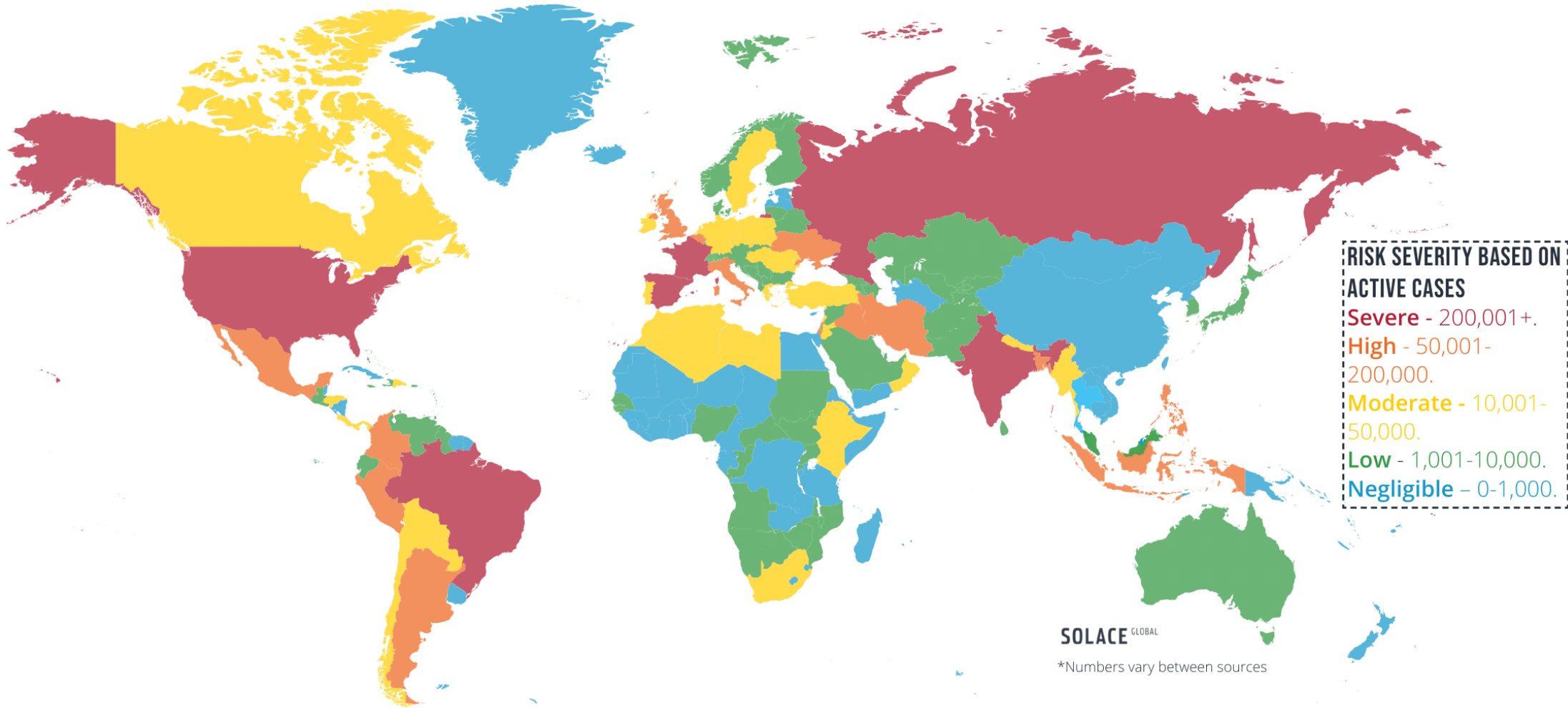


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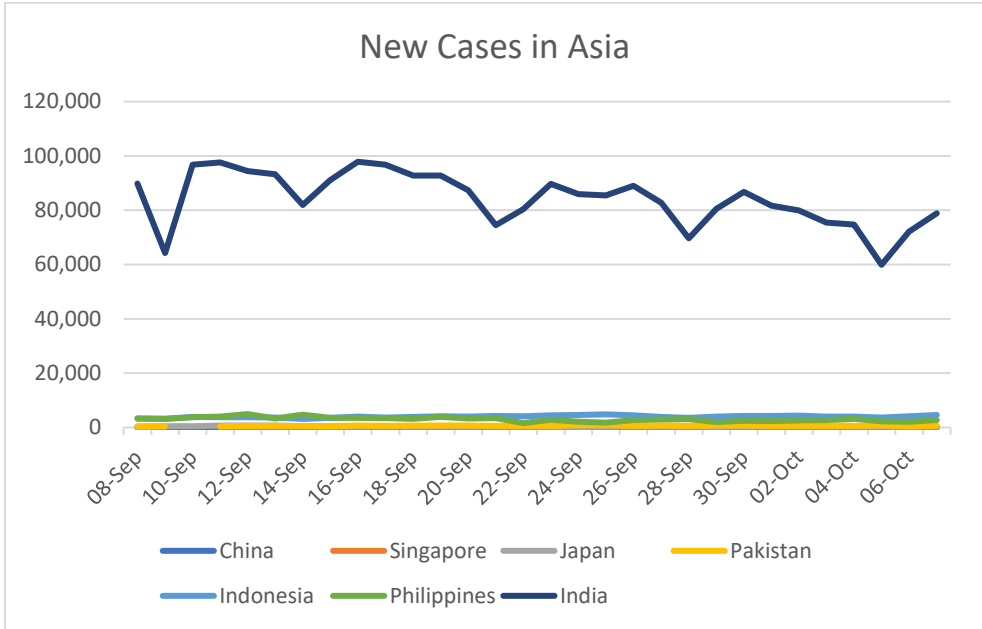
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	36,381,660	Total Active Cases	7,918,902	Total Confirmed Recoveries	27,402,757	Total Confirmed Deaths	1,060,001
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# Asia



COVID-19 rates in Asia vary between nations, with some countries seeing amongst the lowest number of new cases a day to others, such as Indian and Indonesia being among the worst affected countries globally.

On 3 October, India's health ministry reported that more than 100,000 people have died since the beginning of the pandemic, but this figure could be higher due to suspected underreporting. Available data indicates that even though infections have somewhat fallen since mid-September, they remain high. Infections to date have exceeded 6,500,000.

Maharashtra, one of India's largest and richest states, holds the highest number of infections and death toll in the whole of India. Maharashtra and Karnataka comprise approximately 45 percent of the total fatalities in the country. Additionally, authorities are monitoring the northern state of Punjab where figures are rising at a steady rate. Despite this, India is planning to ease more restrictions in a bid to restart the economy from 15 October. For example, this month, cinemas will reopen with limited capacity whilst some schools will be allowed to reopen in certain regions.

In neighbouring Pakistan, authorities report that daily infections and deaths have fallen and remain low

since an increase in June. Despite this, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) warned that a second wave of the disease cannot be ruled out, especially in the city of Karachi where authorities are struggling to make people, as well as businesses, comply with health guidelines.

Malaysia has also seen a record daily increase of new cases on 2 October. Health Director-General Noor Hisham Abdullah noted that the government continues to closely monitor the situation and necessary restrictions will be implemented if cases continue to surge. It is understood that new clusters of infections were discovered in detention centres and large gatherings, which remain banned. As such the government has advised the public to continue to follow the health guidelines to avoid a resurgence of the disease.

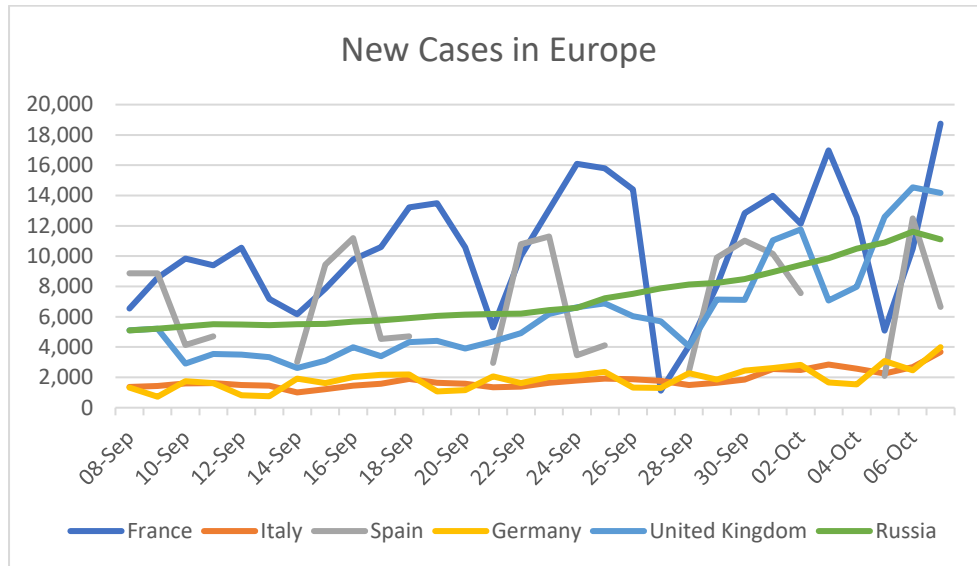
This month, Japan will reportedly ease some restrictions on overseas travel, prioritising ten countries; this includes Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam. The number of cases in the country has seen a steady decrease in recent weeks.

There is hope that the annual Golden Week holiday, which is dubbed "the world's largest human migration" as it usually sees millions of Chinese tourists travelling internationally, will boost the country's economy. China, alongside South Korea and Japan, is encouraging domestic travel to help boost the absence of foreign travellers and help keep their tourism industries afloat. Unfortunately for the city-state of Singapore, domestic tourism is practically impossible, while native Singaporeans are more likely to stay home and spend in the city, the state's tourism industry has been practically destroyed. As a result, the government has introduced a S\$230m relief bill for the industry.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	902,972	Decrease	Moderate	High
Pakistan	8,528	Stable	Moderate	High
China	205	Stable	Light	High
Japan	5,262	Stable	Light	High
Indonesia	63,951	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Singapore	189	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	49,960	Decrease	Moderate	High



## Europe



\* Please note that Spain have discontinued the publication of their data on certain days. This is reflected in the image.

Several countries across the continent continue to see a significant rise in cases. In France, infections to date have exceeded 580,000 with more than 1,200 clusters identified across the country. Authorities in Paris are set to introduce new measures as cases continue to rise. On 2 October, Minister of Health Olivier Véran stated that “since yesterday, in the last 24 hours, Paris has passed the threshold that would put it in the maximum alert category”.

Hospitals throughout the country have reported an increase in intensive care admissions. The Conseil Scientifique, the government advisory body, called for urgent action as they forecast 3,800-12,400 extra deaths related to COVID-19 by 1 November. Despite this, they noted that the situation is less concerning than in March. Moreover, the Assemblée Nationale, voted the extension of the bill that allows the government to enforce COVID-19 measures at least until March 2021.

Cases continue to increase in Spain, where approximately 10,000 new cases are being reported daily. New restrictions have implemented over the past week to stop the spread of the disease, which includes a partial lockdown in Madrid. From 3 October, under these new restrictions, residents in Madrid can leave

their home districts for essential purposes only and social gatherings are limited to six people. The total number of infections since the pandemic has surpassed 810,000.

Infections have also been increasing in the United Kingdom where the second wave of the virus appears to be accelerating. In relation to this, Chief Scientific Adviser Patrick Vallance recently noted that the outbreak is not yet under control. The nation has the worst COVID-19 death toll on the continent and the world’s fifth-highest total. Scotland has announced a ban on alcohol sales indoors starting on Friday, 9 October until 24 October. Additionally, all pubs and restaurants in central Scotland, including Glasgow and Edinburgh, will be closed. England is set to announce new restrictions next week.

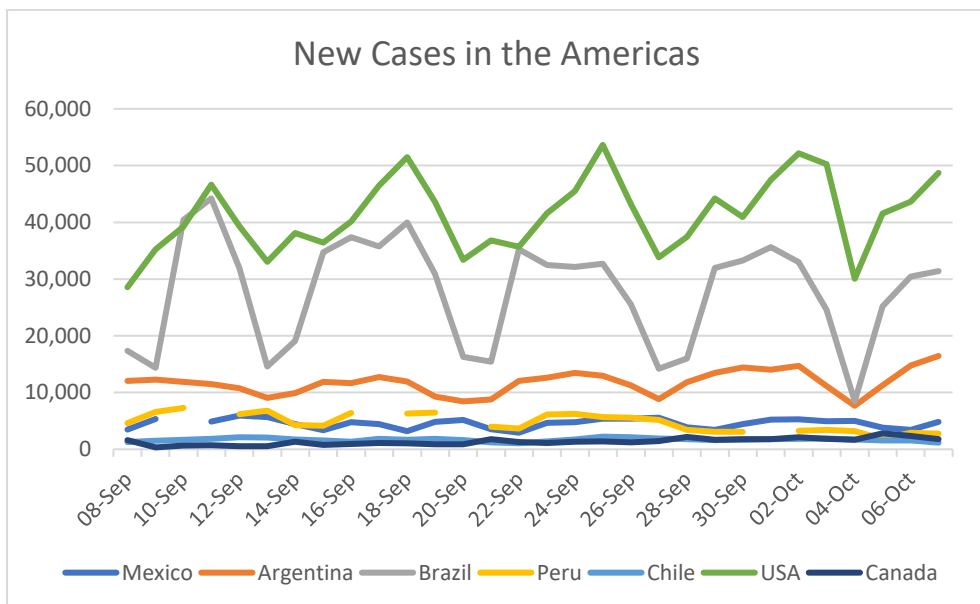
Like other nations in Europe, Ireland is also experiencing a steady increase in infections. On 3 October, authorities reported the highest increase in cases since April. The country is planning on implementing tougher action on rule-breakers due to this rise.

On the other hand, Italy’s cumulative number of infections and fatality rates are among the lowest in Europe and continue to oppose the trend of European countries experiencing a surge in cases. In different words, unlike Spain and France, the rate of infections remains low and does not seem to be increasing. Most recently, regions across the nation have implemented new health measures to keep a handle on its second wave of infections. For example, Lazio, which includes the capital Rome, issued an order mandating the use of face coverings in public. The measure has been in effect from 3 October. Italy’s state of emergency, which is due to expire on 15 October, will possibly be extended until 31 January 2021.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	521,271	Significant Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Italy	62,576	Increase	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Germany	33,761	Increase	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Increase	Light/Moderate	Light
Russia	231,479	Increase	Moderate	High



## Americas



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

The Americas continue to be at the centre of the pandemic, with infections not showing signs of slowing down at the present time. The United States accounts for just over 20 percent of the globe's total number of cases.

In the United States, President Donald Trump was hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after both he and First Lady Melania tested positive for COVID-19. It is also reported that President Trump was treated with the Remdesivir, an experimental drug which allegedly shortens the duration of the symptoms. There were contradictory reports as to how severe the symptoms shown by the President were. Despite this, Trump returned to the White House on Monday 5 October.

Joe Biden, the Democratic candidate for president, announced that he had tested negative for COVID-19. Biden attended an election debate with Trump on 29 September. The United States remain the worst-hit country in the world, with North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Utah and Montana being the states with the highest daily infection rates.

Brazil has been the epicentre of the pandemic in Latin America, although, over the last ten weeks,

authorities reported a decrease in the number of fatalities in most states. This includes São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Bahia. Despite the decrease in deaths, new infections continue to rise. The country remains just behind India and the United States in terms of total confirmed cases.

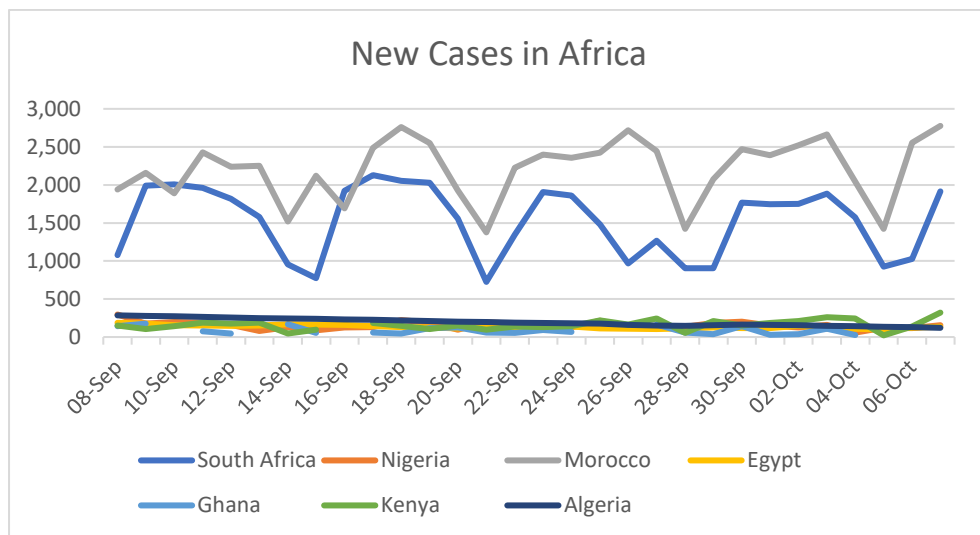
Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Argentina continue to be amongst the top 10 countries by COVID-19 cases. Peru, which remains the country with the highest mortality rate in the world, has now registered more than 33,000 deaths and 830,000 confirmed infections. Despite this, data indicates that infections are slowing. The nationwide state of emergency is in place at least until the end of the month, although, some restrictions on international travel are starting to ease. For example, from 5 October, the country resumed flights to Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Panama.

Having said this, reopening plans are different throughout the continent. For example, Argentina has not announced the end of its travel ban yet and it has extended an internal quarantine order at least until 11 October. On the other hand, in an attempt to restart the economy, the Chilean government started to gradually lift restrictions in Santiago and other regions as cases of COVID-19 are slowing down. Most recently, Chile's Institute of Public Health (ISP) authorised the start of clinical trials for vaccines under development by China's Sinovac and Johnson & Johnson's pharmaceutical unit Janssen.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	154,782	Increase	Light	Moderate
Argentina	124,937	Increase	High	High
Brazil	462,629	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Peru	79,047	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	14,297	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,576,060	Stable but High	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	17,916	Slight Increase	Light	High



## Africa



As the world marks over one million COVID-19 deaths, Africa has performed much better than originally projected in fighting the pandemic, with a lower percentage of deaths than other continents. Africa’s fatality count stands at roughly 2.4%, with around 35,000 deaths out of more than 1.4 million reported cases. In North America, it is 2.9% and in Europe 4.5%. Badly affected countries such as the UK and Italy have recorded fatality counts of 11.6% and 9.0% respectively, compared to 1.6% for Ethiopia, 1.9% for Nigeria and 2.4% for South Africa, the continent’s worst-hit country.

While this may in part be due to a higher amount of deaths going unreported, health experts cite several other possible factors.

One reason may be the continent’s youthful population, with around 40% of the African population being younger than 14 years old. Additionally, a tuberculosis vaccine routinely given to children in many African countries might be helping reduce deaths from COVID-19.

African governments have also had more time to prepare due to the relative isolation of many of their citizens from airports and other places where they could come into contact with global travellers. Opportunities for international travel are generally limited for most citizens and travelling domestically can be more difficult than in other parts of the world due to the sheer size of the continent and the lower development of road networks.

In other news, scientists in Nigeria have developed a cheaper and faster test kit that will enable the testing capacity to be considerably enhanced in a country struggling with kit shortages and chronic under-testing of its massive population (the largest in Africa). The new test is cheaper than other kits and can give results in less than 40 minutes. Nigeria has tested only about 500,000 of its 200 million citizens, with most of its test kits having to be imported from China.

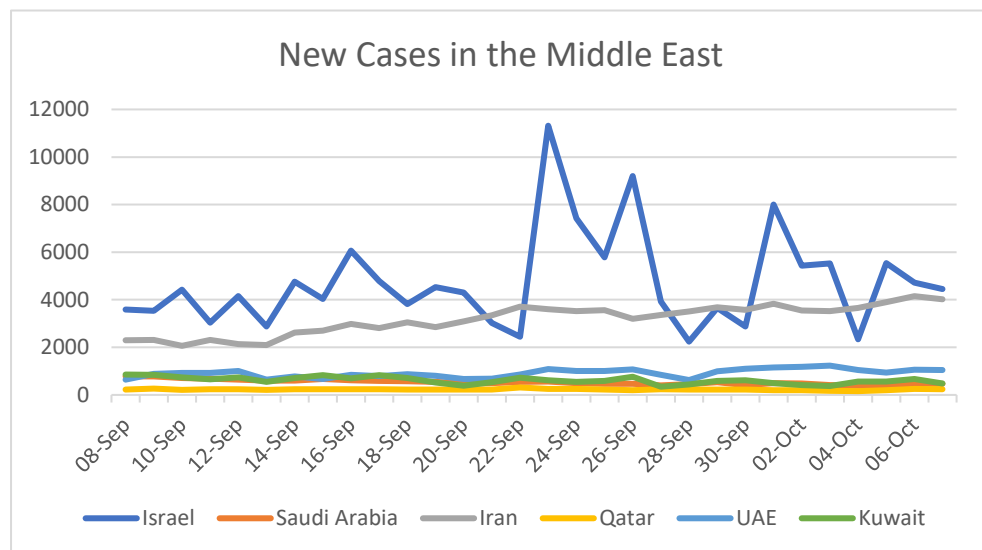
South Africa, meanwhile, has reopened to international flights, ending a more than six-month cessation on international travel. Arriving passengers must provide a negative COVID-19 test issued no more than 72 hours before their departure, as well as proof of travel insurance to cover COVID-19 test and quarantine costs should they have symptoms during their visit. Tourists are still not permitted from a list of more than 50 countries, including Russia, the UK and the US.

South Africa has also reopened its land borders to allow visitors from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	49,780	Stable	Moderate	High
Nigeria	7,222	Stable	Moderate	High
Morocco	19,443	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	533	Stable	Moderate	High
Ghana	466	Stable	Moderate	High
Kenya	7,500	Decrease	Moderate	High
Algeria	13,892	Stable	Moderate	High



## Middle East



The Middle East continues to experience a resurgence of COVID-19 across the region, with infection rates increasing in several countries while appearing to reach a sustained peak in others.

On 3 October, the United Arab Emirates reported its highest daily number of cases of COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic, recording 1,181 new infections over the course of 24 hours. It must also be noted that the health authority is making significant strides with testing capacity, most notably, with the development of a new LAMP portable testing kit, Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification method, that can purportedly provide accurate test results in 45 minutes.

On 2 October, Israel registered 7,639 new COVID-19 infections, moving the virus tally above the 250,000 mark two weeks after the implementation of a second stringent national lockdown, introduced on 18 September. Prime Minister Netanyahu has emphasised that the strict lockdown policies may remain in place for the foreseeable future if rates do not show improvement.

Despite the continued rise in cases across the Gaza strip, reports indicate that one of the two laboratories analysing tests has halted operations due to a shortage of materials, halving testing capacity and further pressurising an already precarious medical situation. As of 1 October, the Ministry of Health in Gaza has reported at least 3,075 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 22 total deaths.

During the weekly news conference held by Turkish authorities, the country’s Minister of Health Fahrettin Koca defined the number of daily new COVID-19 ‘patients’ as those who are symptomatic, revealing that the Ministry had been excluding asymptomatic cases from official figures and confirming longstanding concerns over transparency.

The Turkish Medical Association and opposition lawmakers slammed the government and shared a document purportedly displaying the number of positive cases as 29,377 on 10 September, much higher than the 1,512 ‘patients’ that had been announced that day. On 2 October, 1,442 new cases and 63 deaths were officially reported in Turkey, with the curve appearing to flatten out to some degree based on these figures.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Israel	63,044	Slight Decrease	High	High
Saudi Arabia	9,556	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	59,077	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,855	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	9,694	Stable	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	7,328	Stable	Moderate	Moderate