



COVID-19 Weekly Update

12 November

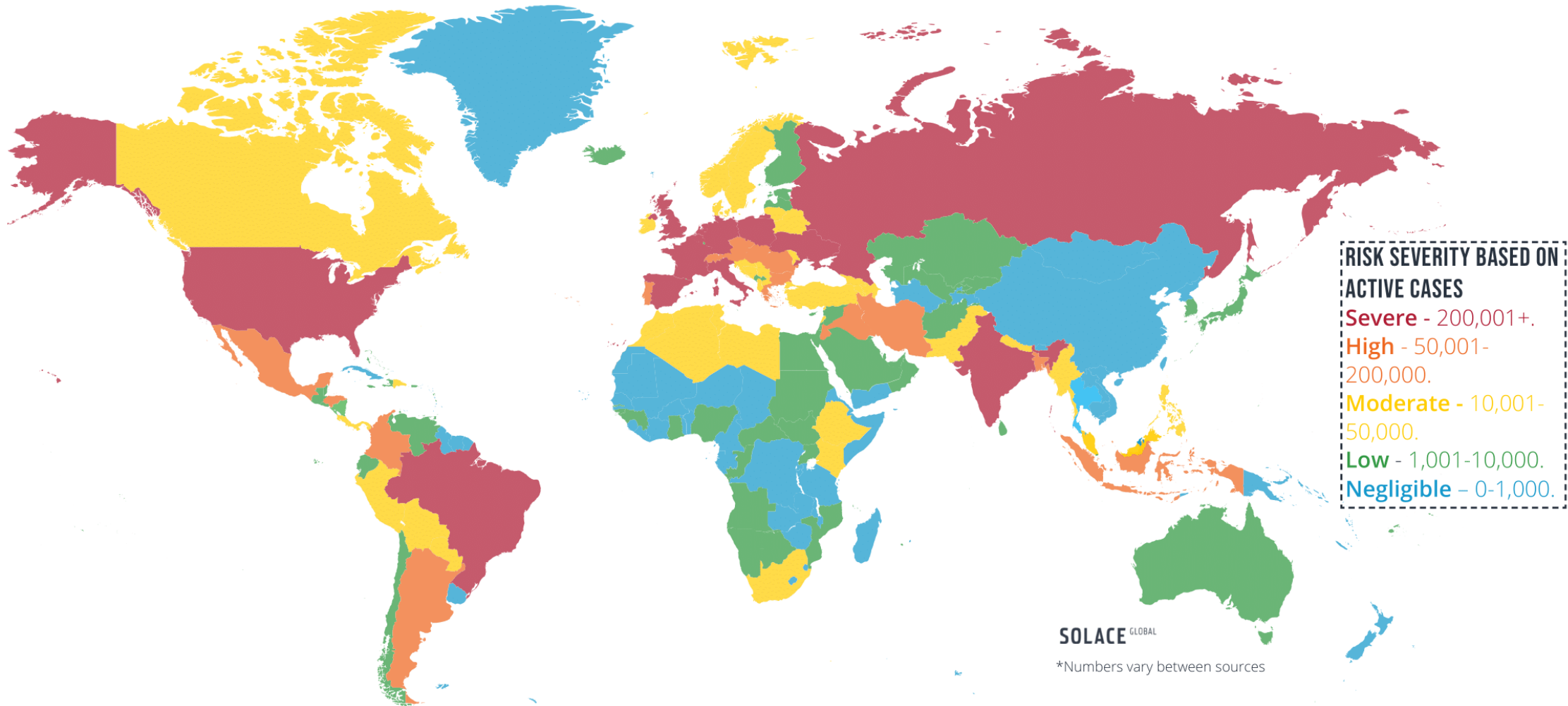


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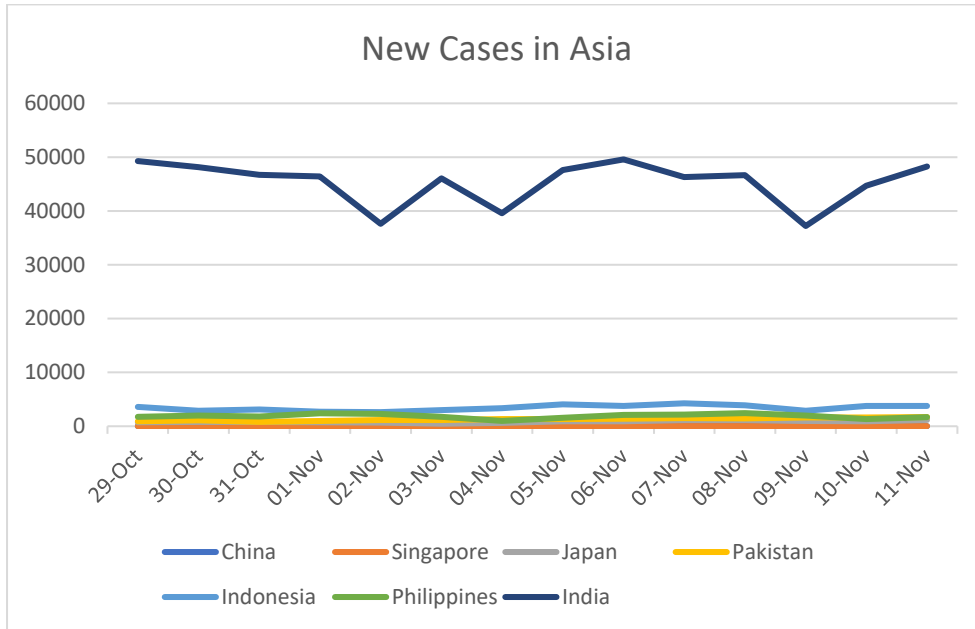
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	52,516,397	Total Active Cases	14,499,597	Total Confirmed Recoveries	36,725,824	Total Confirmed Deaths	1,290,976
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Asia



COVID-19 rates in Asia continue to vary between countries. Some countries have the lowest number of new cases but others, such as India continue to struggle with the pandemic.

India continues to be the worst-affected nation in Asia in terms of both cumulative cases and deaths, and trails only the United States globally for total confirmed COVID-19 infections. Worse still, health authorities continue to report tens of thousands of new cases and hundreds of deaths per day. Despite the worrying statistics, the Indian government has gradually lifted most COVID-19 restrictions and in many places, business and social activity has all but returned to normal, except for high-risk containment zones. Indeed, it has been reported that in states across the country, particularly in rural areas, people are routinely flouting social distancing and face-covering rules as citizens appear more concerned by the economic impact, rather than health risks that stem from the virus.

South Korea introduced a new five-tier system on 7 November that divides the nation into

seven zones and allows provincial governments to impose or relax measures in line with the COVID-19 rate in their respective regions. The revised rules are intended to reduce the pandemic’s impact on daily lives, including business and social activities, while also improving “effectiveness and adherence to anti-virus rules” according to Prime Minister Chung Sye-Kyun. The new system will replace the existing three-tier system that had been in place since the end of June, which has been at the lowest, ‘Level One’ since 12 October. The new system has been implemented amid rising concerns that the virus will spread during the coming winter season as well as the concern over the growing number of sporadic clusters of infections. Despite the fears, however, daily cases have remained extremely low, fluctuating between 90 and 160 in the past week.

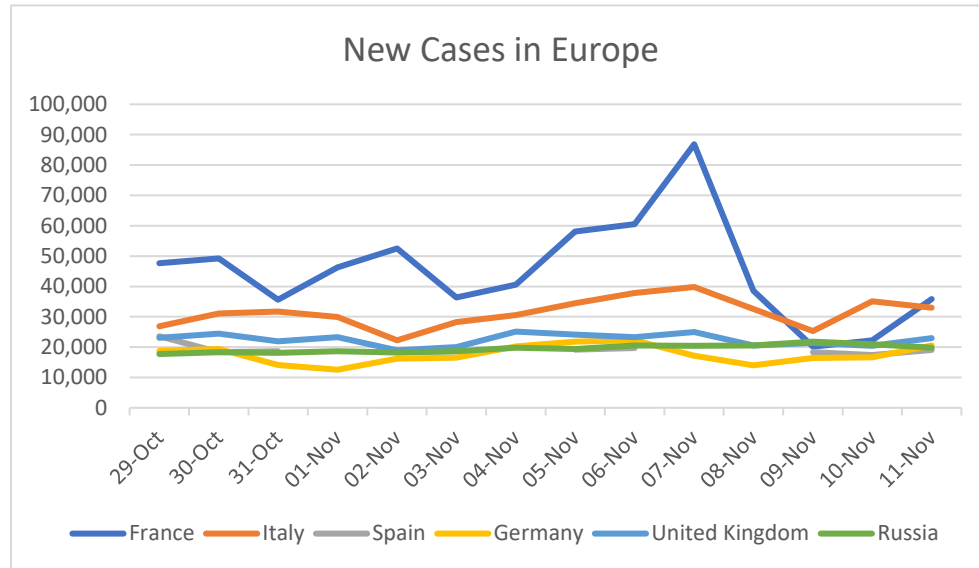
Cases are also increasing in Japan after the country began easing its restrictions and encouraging domestic tourism in a bid to relaunch the economy. New Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga called for “a stronger sense of caution than before”. On Friday, 6 November, new daily infections reached 1,000 for the first time since August.

On the other hand, Australia is considering reopening its borders to some low-risk Asian countries. The decision to allowing entry to non-residents comes after the nation has registered several consecutive days without any locally transmitted cases. Additionally, restrictions on internal travel are set to be removed by the end of the year. Most recently, authorities also lifted the 25 kilometres limit on travel in Melbourne. Residents will no longer require a permit to exit the city. Additionally, cafes, restaurants, theatres and other entertainment venues have been allowed to reopen.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	491,326	Significant Decrease	Moderate	High
Pakistan	22,088	Increase	Moderate	High
China	413	Increase	Light	High
Japan	9,207	Increase	Light	High
Indonesia	55,274	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Singapore	84	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	32,682	Stable	Moderate	High



Europe



Europe continues to be at the centre of the second wave of the disease with several countries imposing stricter measures to stop the spread.

England is now one week into its month-long second national lockdown. The lockdown is intended to reduce day-to-day contact with other people by limiting social interactions and non-essential activities, thus reducing the spread of the virus. While Prime Minister Boris Johnson has described the measures as “time-limited” and appears determined to end the lockdown on 2 December, cabinet minister Michael Gove and Justice secretary Robert Buckland, among others, have hinted in recent weeks that the lockdown could be extended.

Meanwhile, Scotland is also over one week into its COVID protection levels system (also known as tier system) that was introduced on 2 November. The system sets out measures that can be applied nationally or locally depending on the prevalence of the virus. Each area is designated a COVID protection level, with ‘0’ being the lowest and least restrictive and ‘4’ being the highest with more stringent restrictions.

In Denmark, scientists recently detected a mutated coronavirus strain on mink farms that can

spread to humans, a situation that was described by Prime Minister Frederiksen as “very, very serious”. At least a dozen people are known to have been infected with the mutated coronavirus. The discovery prompted the government to attempt to push through emergency legislation allowing it to cull all of the country’s roughly 17 million mink.

Similar cases have also been detected in farmed mink in the Netherlands and Spain since the pandemic began in Europe. There are concerns among the scientific community that the mutated strain could pose a threat to the effectiveness of potential vaccines, although the significance of the COVID-19 variant and its effect on humans still requires further study.

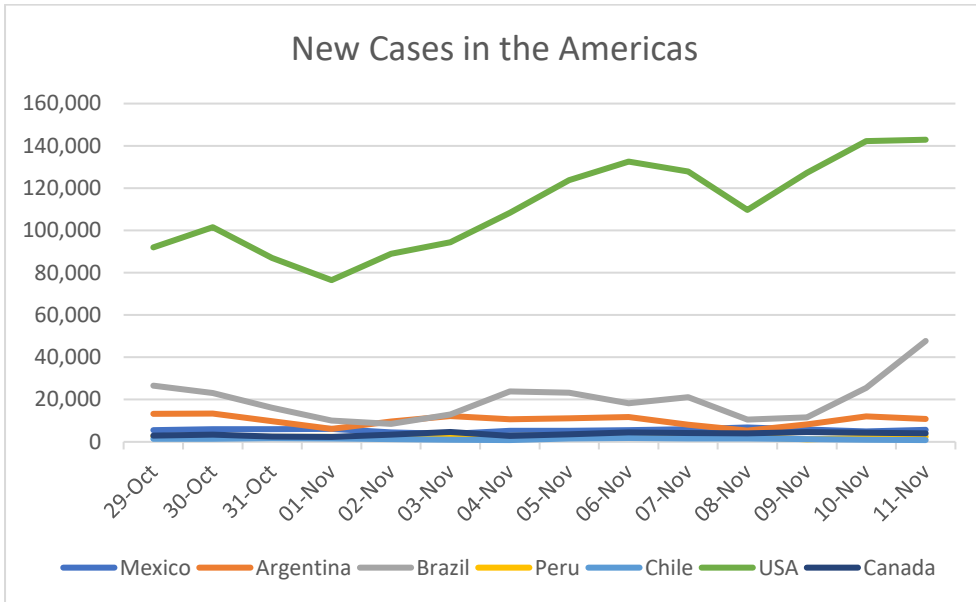
Meanwhile, Italy raised five other regions from lower risk (yellow) to medium risk (red) under the government three-tier system implemented last week to stop the second wave of the disease. As several other regions remain in the yellow category, a number of infectious diseases experts are calling for a second nationwide lockdown. A nationwide curfew remains in place between 22:00 and 05:00 local time until at least 3 December.

On a positive note, COVID-19 vaccine developers Pfizer and German partner BioNTech announced their experimental vaccine is more than 90 percent effective and, as such, it will be put forward for regulatory approval. If granted, Pfizer and BioNTech estimate they can produce approximately 50 million doses by the end of the year.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	1,689,307	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
Italy	613,358	Significant Increase	Moderate/High	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
Germany	259,294	Increase	High	Moderate
UK	N/A	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
Russia	438,368	Significant Increase	Moderate	High



Americas



Several countries across the continent continue to see a significant rise in cases.

In the past week, the United States surpassed the sombre milestone of 10 million total COVID-19 cases and reported three-consecutive days of record infections, adding hundreds of thousands confirmed cases to the country’s tally in just a few days. In the absence of any meaningful federal response, especially following President Trump’s election loss, a number of states and local governments have imposed new restrictions to try and limit the further spread of the virus. Oregon, for example, will implement new restrictions in at least five counties, including prohibiting visits to care homes and limiting restaurant operating capacities, while also encouraging people to remote work. The governors of the states of New York and New Jersey were also poised to impose measures following concerning case numbers over the past week.

Meanwhile, as other hard-hit states take little to no action to stop surging infection rates, President-elect Joe Biden announced on 9 November the members of his COVID-19 advisory

board. Among those selected to the task force are former surgeon general Dr Vivek Murthy and former Food and Drug Administration commissioner David Kessler who take leading roles in the group.

During a briefing on 9 November, Biden warned of difficult winter months ahead by saying “The challenge before us right now is still immense and growing”. He also reiterated the need to wear face masks saying that they were “critical” to getting back to normal as early as possible.

Elsewhere, Latin America continues to hold some of the highest death rates globally; data indicates that one out of three COVID-19 related deaths occur in the region. The worst affected countries are Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Argentina. Here infections are not showing signs of slowing down.

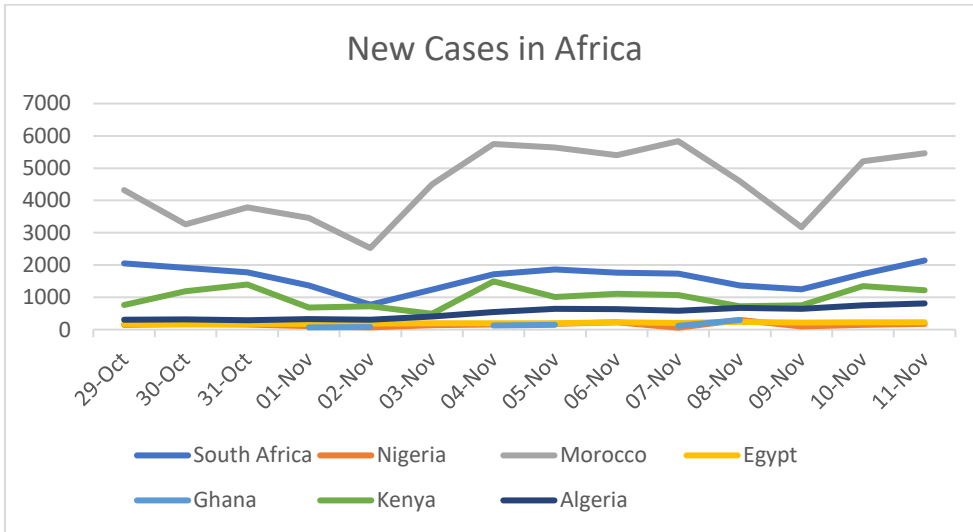
After easing a months-long lockdown, cases began to rise in Argentina during September and October. Cases in the nation have currently reached 1,250,000.

As infections in Peru surpassed 923,000, Peru’s Congress removed President Martín Vizcarra from office following accusations of corruption as well as over his mismanaging of the pandemic. The country, which is facing a big recession, also has the highest per capita mortality rate in the world.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	158,279	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Argentina	156,928	Stable	High	High
Brazil	521,257	Increase	Light	High
Peru	39,767	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	8,745	Stable	Light	High
USA	3,812,625	Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	43,177	Slight Increase	Moderate	High



Africa



Cases in the continent have exceeded the 1.87 million mark. Although the continent continues to perform better than other regions, some countries continue to battle the disease.

In South Africa, writing in his weekly letter to the public on 9 November, President Cyril Ramaphosa warned against complacency ahead of the approaching festive season. The President urged citizens to remain vigilant in order to keep the virus at bay and so as not to “choke the green shoots of economic recovery that have emerged.”. Most social and economic activity has resumed in South Africa and new cases have been kept under control, remaining below 2,000 per day over the past week, far less than the over 13,000 during the peak. That said, there are concerns that so-called ‘pandemic fatigue’ could result in low adherence to public health measures which would see cases rise beyond manageable levels.

Similarly, cases continue to surge in Morocco where hospitals have nearly reached full capacity. Over the past week, daily cases have reached 5,000, however, the national recovery rate is 81.9 percent. Casablanca records the highest number of daily cases in the country. On 9 November, Morocco’s King Mohammed VI announced that the nation will launch a nationwide vaccination campaign after the results of a clinical trial proved the vaccine to be

reliable and effective. Although, it is at present unclear when this would start, further details are expected over the coming days. A public health emergency measure has been extended at least until 10 December.

Cases remain high in Egypt, where the Health Ministry recently urged citizens to continue practising social distancing and health measures. In relation to this, Health Minister Hala Zayed noted: “the infection rate is expected to at least double and the death toll is expected to triple in December and January if citizens ignore wearing face masks”.

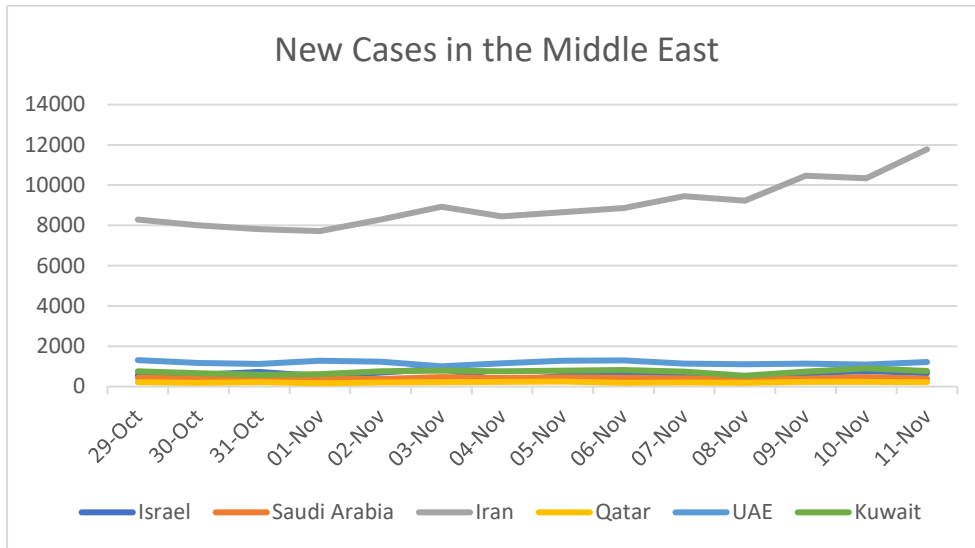
Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta announced on 4 November the reimposition of some COVID-19 measures and their stricter enforcement, while also calling on citizens to adhere to public health protocols following weeks of rising case numbers. The country has seen a notable rise in daily new infections since September, with October marking the worst month since the country’s initial outbreak. Some of the new measures include the suspension of political gatherings for 60 days and a change to the nightly curfew to start at 22:00 until 04:00; the president also warned of possible localised lockdowns and movement restrictions in COVID-19 hotspots. Kenya remains among the worst-affected on the continent with more than 64,000 cumulative cases.

Central Africa continues to have the lowest figures in the continent.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	35,925	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	2,617	Decrease	Moderate	High
Morocco	44,377	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	2,814	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Ghana	1,139	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Kenya	20,998	Slight increase	Moderate	High
Algeria	19,184	Stable	Moderate	High



Middle East



Across the continent, cases vary between nations with some reporting record-high increases.

Iran’s health ministry on 9 November reported a record daily rise of over 10,000 new COVID-19 cases, edging the Middle East’s worst-affected nation closer to 700,000 cumulative cases. In response to the nation’s ‘third wave’, Iran’s government imposed new restrictions from 10 November for one month, which will require all non-essential businesses to close at 18:00 and schools, mosques and restaurants close across much of the country. Authorities have urged people to adhere to public health protocols or avoid a further spike in coronavirus cases.

Due to soaring COVID-19 cases and medical professionals among those worst affected, authorities in Lebanon announced a renewed lockdown. The lockdown is due to last from 14 November until 30 November, with renewed restrictions on business and travel. Cases have surged since the beginning of November; data indicates that during the first week of the month, infections hit 13,000 and in October, reached the highest number since the beginning of the pandemic.

In Bahrain, the number of new COVID-19 cases continues to fall. The country has also

approved the use of an experimental vaccine for frontline medical staff. The vaccine, created by a partnership between China National Biotec Group (CNBG) and Abu Dhabi’s artificial intelligence company, Group 42, was granted emergency approval before formal safety tests had been completed. Despite this, Health Minister Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh stated, “the results of Phase I and Phase II clinical trials showed the vaccine is safe and effective”.

Similarly, authorities in Kuwait said that the situation is under control and that the health system is coping with the number of positive cases. The country has not reported a second wave of the pandemic, but the number of cases has been relatively stable from the start of the crisis. Despite this, authorities also warned that if the number of infections will rise over the coming months, a two-week partial curfew will be implemented.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Israel	8,021	Decrease	High	High
Saudi Arabia	7,557	Stable	Light	Severe
Iran	139,299	Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,728	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	4,637	Decrease	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	8,428	Stable	Moderate	Moderate