

# COVID-19 Weekly Update

## 19 November

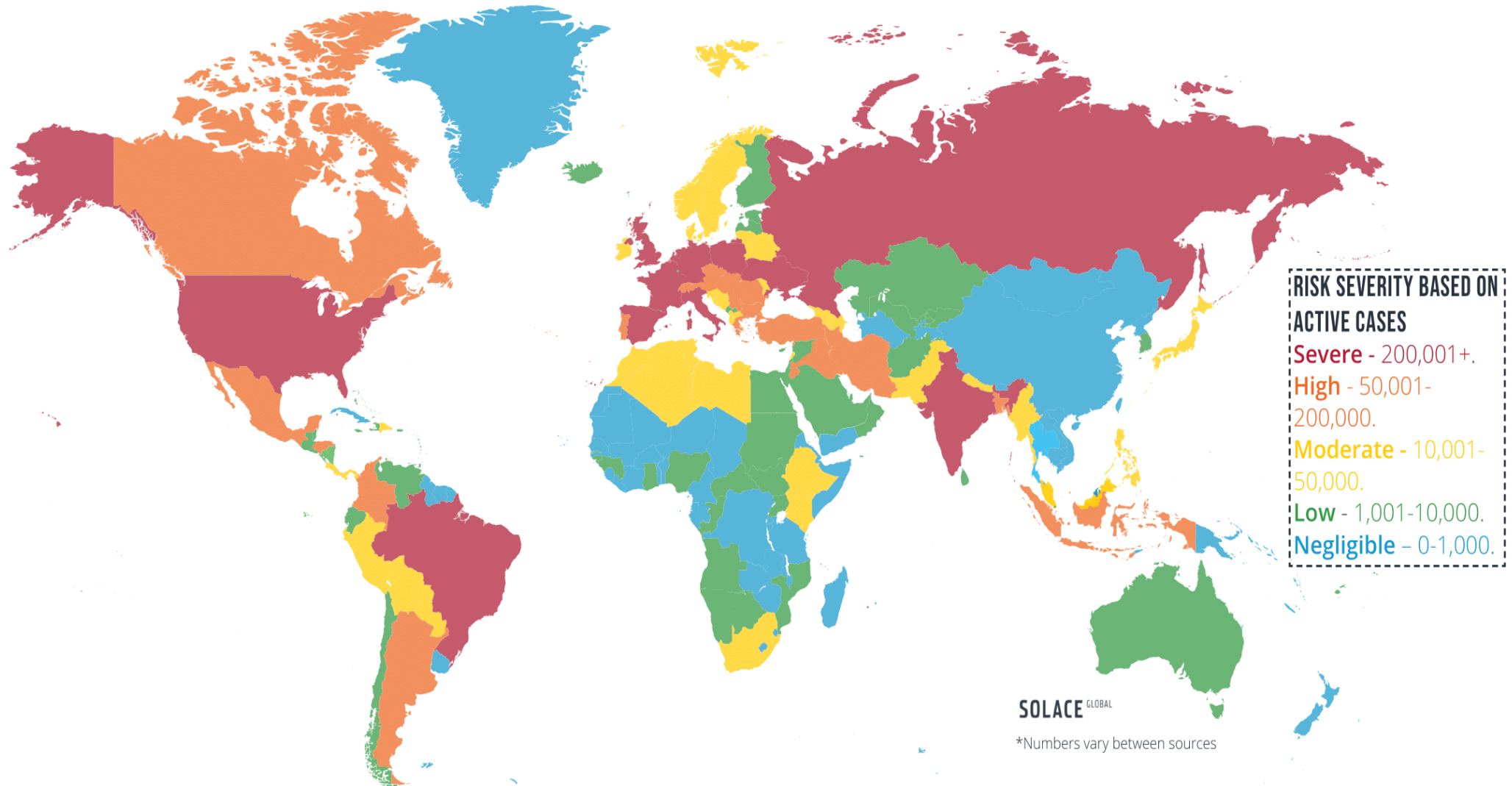


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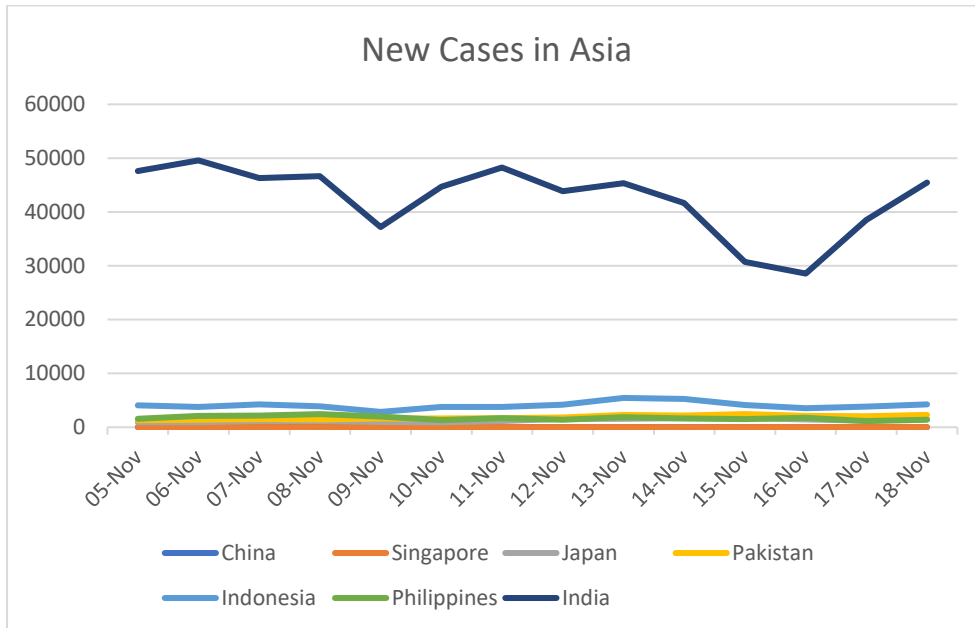
**Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)**

Total cases	56,707,287	Total Active Cases	15,859,554	Total Confirmed Recoveries	39,490,554	Total Confirmed Deaths	1,357,551
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# Asia



In the last few days, the region has seen a number of countries begin to report record new daily case-loads as the region, which has often been held up as success story in the fight against COVID, increasingly sees a new wave of infections. This new wave is occurring just as further travel restrictions were being eased in the region and will likely dent hopes that further restrictions and economic openings can be achieved safely. The way in which countries deal with the rising infections will likely differ more so than in the first wave as countries are entering with a differing baseline in infection rates.

For example, the government in Japan is facing increased pressure to reimpose its COVID state of emergency, which it initially lifted in May. The government, however, wants to try and maintain the country’s economic recovery as it continues to hope that 2021 will see it play host to the postponed 2020 International Olympic Games.

In South Korea, government officials are being very candid in warning that the country is at a

critical crossroads where the country is examining the possibility of reintroducing certain measures to try and help suppress the spread of the virus, which is now above 200 cases per day.

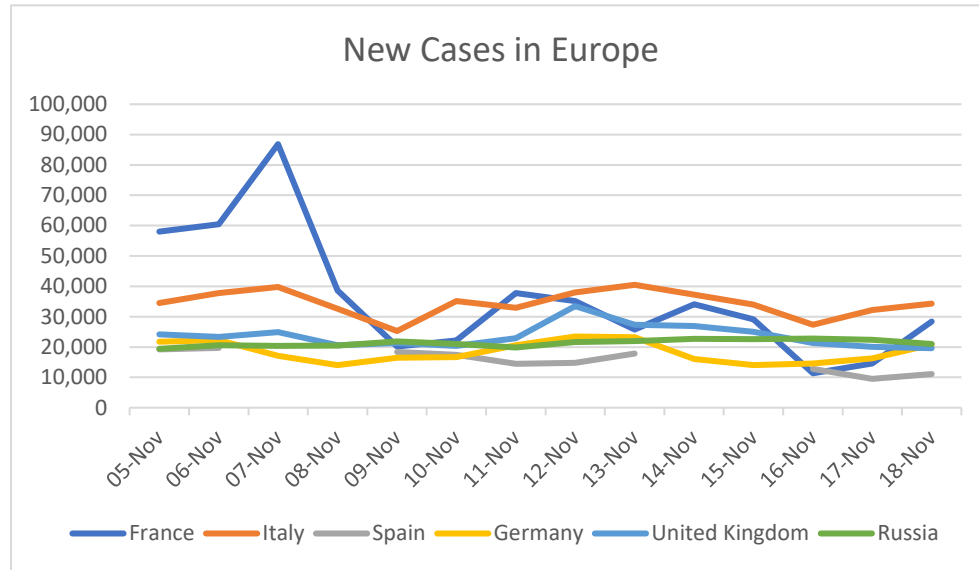
In India, the country has seen 8.7 million COVID cases, and the capital region of New Delhi is currently witnessing a surge that is resulting in one COVID death every 4 hours. In response, healthcare workers from less affected Indian states are being flown into the capital to help bolster stretched resources. Additionally, Diwali has combined with “lockdown fatigue”, which is seeing Indian largely ignore the regulations and attend illegal mass gatherings or visit multiple family members. There are concerns that this will result in a spike in cases. There are fears that this will combine with the country entering its winter, which will likely see more COVID-19 cases and usually results in an increase in pollution that impacts lungs.

In the Philippines, in the wake of a number of large typhoons having battered the country health officials are warning that the country is likely to see a spike in the number of COVID cases caused after large evacuations were ordered and as the country tries to clear away the debris and recover from previous storms in recent weeks, which includes tens of thousands who were made homeless or displaced earlier in the month. Currently, in Manilla, the Department of Health is saying that all the government run hospitals in the National Capital region are fully operational and that they hope that other government hospitals in typhoon hit areas can recover quickly in case they are needed.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	444,755	Significant Decrease	Moderate	High
Pakistan	30,362	Increase	Moderate	High
China	324	Stable	Light	High
Japan	13,205	Increase	Light	High
Indonesia	60,870	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Singapore	61	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	29,483	Stable	Moderate	High



## Europe



Across Europe, more and more countries are continuing to introduce restrictions as the region faces a potential deadly wave just as Christmas, the region’s main winter religious festival and holiday arrives.

In France, after a second strict lockdown was enforced at the end of October, infections have begun to drop once more. This has led the Health Minister, Olivier Veran, to declare the country is past the peak of the 2nd wave. Despite this optimistic announcement from the Health Minister, the country still registered over 27,000 cases on 15 November, which was a French daily record. The French government has set a deadline of 1 December for the second lockdown to end, but that he would be prepared to extend it up to Christmas if deemed necessary. This has resulted in a backlash from business and citizens who wish to have a more traditional Christmas period.

In the United Kingdom, the political row around the national lockdown continues to deepen, with Northern MP’s pointing out that many of their communities have been in some form of lockdown, national or regional since March, and that a national lockdown will do little

good if there is no coherent exit strategy and plan’s for how to avoid a third one. In a sign that the country is seeing lockdown fatigue, a number of business which are non-essential and should be closed are remaining open and some are even, incorrectly, citing the 800-year-old Magna Carta for doing so. The British government also states that it is in talks with the vaccine maker, Moderna about purchasing large quantities of their COVID vaccine, with 5 million reportedly ordered already.

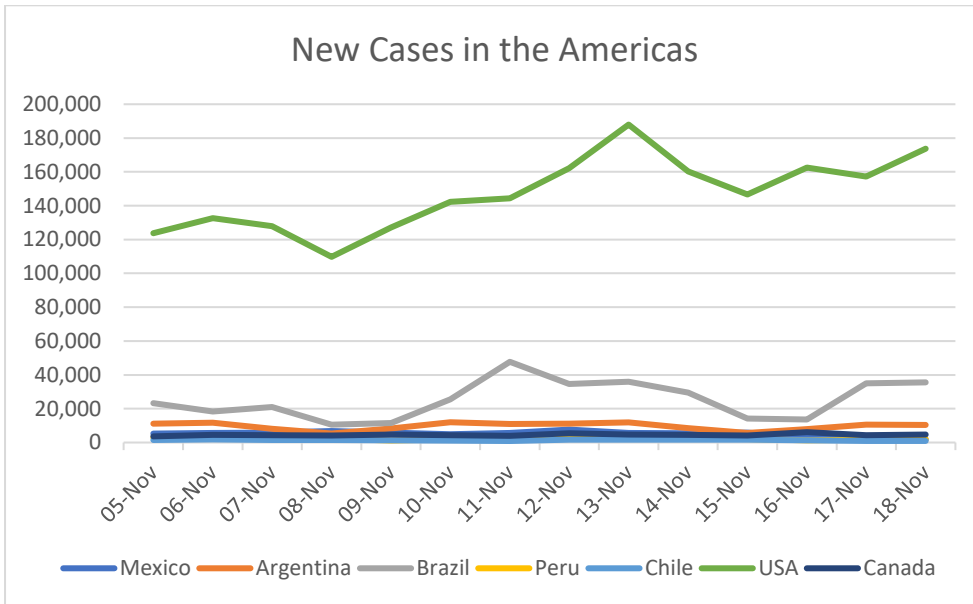
In Italy, the country has extended its COVID red zones as it like other European countries faces a 2<sup>nd</sup> wave. Regions now added to COVID red zones include Campania and Tuscany. Campania includes the nation’s third largest city of Naples, and regional health officials are warning the health system is nearing breaking point. Italian scientists have also discovered that blood samples of cancer patients in Lombardy, hard hit in the first wave, showed COVID-19 antibodies in October 2019, meaning they must have caught the virus sometime in September. If this can be verified, it would mean that official timelines from the Chinese health officials would need to be reviewed. In light of the new discovery, Italian officials are also going to review a number of cases of “severe pneumonia and flu” which the Lombardy region suffered during the final quarter of 2019, in case they were in-fact misdiagnosed cases of COVID.

In Moscow, Russia, city health officials are increasingly under pressure to try and create extra hospital beds. To meet the demand, the famous Krylatskoe Ice Palace has been converted into a temporary COVID hospital with the capacity for 1,300 COVID patients. However, the temporary hospital is already half full and, at the current rate of 100 new patients a day, it is likely be full within the week. So far Russia claims to have two successful vaccines with a third in the offing.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	1,873,049	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
Italy	743,168	Significant Increase	Moderate/High	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
Germany	294,541	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
UK	N/A	Significant Increase	High	Moderate
Russia	456,528	Significant Increase	Moderate	High



# Americas



Across the Americas just a handful of countries continue to account for the vast majority of the region’s cases. In Mexico, which has the world’s fourth highest death toll after the United States, Brazil and India, the Director-General of Health Promotion Ricardo Cortes Alcala has stated that the country had surpassed one million confirmed cases of COVID-19, and that the death toll is now on course to surpass 100,000 COVID deaths. The Mexican government has not pursued extensive testing like many other countries and does not endorse face mask wearing, which has made it hard to contain and trace the outbreak in the country.

Intensive care units in the Mexico City region are also now at full capacity. This has resulted in COVID patients being sent to hospitals in different regions. In response, the mayor of the country’s capital has announced that all bars will be shut until the 27 November and that restaurants, cinemas, and gyms will all have reduced opening hours. Alongside these measures, the city has begun to put up signs in neighbourhoods known to have high case loads to warn people that they are travelling through an area of the city with a high infection rate. While it remains to be seen the new local restrictions are working or not, it is unlikely that the virus will be curtailed any time soon.

In Canada, the Northern territory of Nunavut, which has not seen any COVID infections for an extended period of time, has announced that it will be locking down for two weeks after it has discovered 26 confirmed cases. As part of the new lockdown all travel in and out of the territory will be heavily discouraged, and schools and restaurants will be closed.

Due to the vastness of the territory, alongside its remoteness from the rest of tCanada, there is a lack of decent public health care facilities. As a result, there have long been concerns about what could unfold in the region if COVID was able to begin spreading. Further to this, many of the native communities who live in Nunavut are especially vulnerable. There are high rates of Tuberculosis, cardiovascular diseases, obesity and lung problems in the region, especially among native communities. All of these illnesses are known to increase the risk of developing severe cases of COVID-19 in patients who catch the virus.

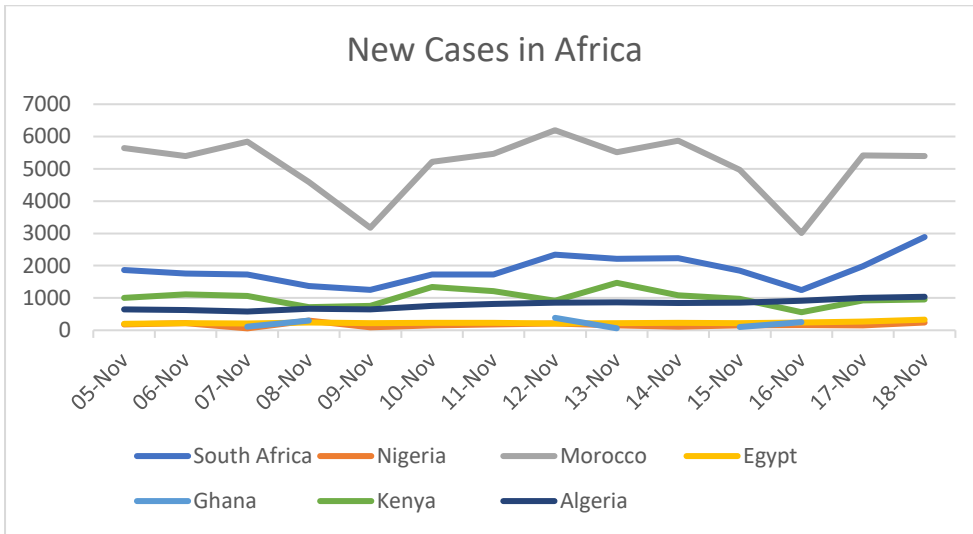
In the United States, where cases are now over 11 million, Dr Fauci has warned that if the country does not alter its pandemic response, or lack of response, then the nation is on track to potentially see another 200,000 deaths in the next four months. Nearly doubling the country’s total, which has surpassed 250,000,

Such a forecast comes as the country is now registering close to 180,000 new confirmed daily infections, and this number is likely to grow as many American’s are likely to seek to have a “traditional” thanksgiving and Christmas period due to the lack of restrictions in the country.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	154,176	Stable	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	4,450,605	Significant Increase	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	51,602	Slight Increase	Moderate	High



# Africa



In Nigeria, the number of COVID patients is now believed to be over 65,000 as the country enters its second wave of COVID infections. This comes as the country’s minister of Health, Osagie Ehanire, stated that the nations health systems are “overwhelmed”. Due to this the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has begun a campaign to remind people not to forget that one the easiest methods of COVID control is through the use of regular hand washing and also through the use of face masks.

In Ghana, the number of COVID-19 cases has now increased to over 50,000 and in response the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, gave a televised speech where he urged citizens to remain vigilant against the virus, and to continue practising mask wearing and social distancing to help keep the virus at bay. The country is gearing up for the country’s general election on 7 December. As a result, the country is implementing a number of strategies to protect people who are going out to vote.

In Egypt, as the number of COVID cases are beginning to rise again, after dropping sharply in August. To tackle the growth, the COVID crisis management committee has announced that they will be allowing a further 320 hospitals across the country to treat COVID patients.

Alongside this, it has been announced that all teaching hospitals in the country have been placed on high-alert to also begin to receive COVID-19 patients, if necessary. Such announcements come as officials state that the country has now surpassed 110,000 confirmed cases of COVID.

In Kenya, officials are worried about the toll that COVID may be having on the country’s healthcare network. This comes as four Kenyan doctors died from COVID-19 in a 24 period. The country has limited numbers of practicing doctors, with a ratio of 0.15 Doctors per 1,000 people. In light of these deaths, and the reported continued shortage of PPE equipment for healthcare workers that is seeing doctors in some regions resorting to privately purchasing their own PPE, the national Doctor’s union has announced it will be holding a strike in three weeks.

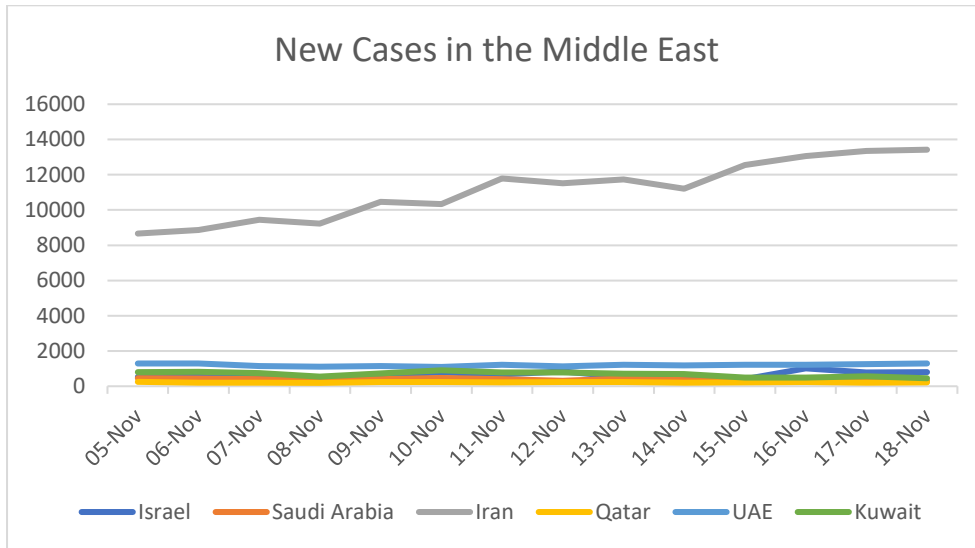
Additionally, there are fears that insufficient testing is hiding the scale of its second COVID wave in the country. Whilst its daily caseload is still only 1,500 a day on average, the lack of available tests, which is augmented by mainly private and expensive testing facilities that is unaffordable for the vast majority of Kenyans, many are going untested.

In Algeria, which has stated that it is seeing a “worrying phase” in the COVID pandemic, as cases begin to rise again after a long lull since June, the authorities have announced a number of new restrictions which came into force on 17 November. The restrictions include the closure of gyms, leisure centres and car markets, and reduced operating hours for cafes, hair and beauty salons, and toy shops. It is not currently known for how long these restrictions may be in force.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	35,054	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	3,073	Decrease	Moderate	High
Morocco	48,631	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	3,697	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Ghana	1,424	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Kenya	21,495	Slight increase	Moderate	High
Algeria	22,097	Increase	Moderate	High



## Middle East



Iran continues to be the region’s hardest hit country by the pandemic. The health ministry announced on 17 November that the previous 24-hour period had seen 482 deaths. In a continued sign of how prevalent the virus is now, two political leaders, Mr Hossein Mousavi and his wife, who have been under house arrest since 2011 have officially tested positive for the virus. Mr Mousavi was the reformist candidate in the 2009 election which ultimately led to the Iranian Green Movement.

As a result, of the continuing rise in infections and death rates in Iran, the government has announced that from the 21 November the country will be once more imposing tighter restrictions. Red level measures, the highest tier of Iranian restrictions will be imposed on another 100 towns and cities, and on the Tehran capital region. Under the red restrictions entry into or out of the area is forbidden, and all non-essential services and business must close immediately. With the addition of the new 100 or so cities to the red zone, this means that most of Iran will be under Red restrictions. This effectively means the country will once more be in some form of a national lockdown. It is also worth noting that these restrictions come on top of national restrictions that require all non-essential business to close at 6pm.

Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia has reported its lowest daily new caseload in seven months. On 18 November, it was stated that just 301 new cases had been reported in the previous 24-hour period. This comes as the country continues to slowly reopen up after its stringent lockdown earlier in the year, which also effectively closed the country off from the rest of the globe for several months.

Despite the slow reopening of the country internal restrictions are still strictly being followed. In the last week alone a number of business and even mosques have been closed for undermining or ignoring COVID-19 restrictions.

The United Arab Emirates, which has one of the region’s largest and most openly accepted Christian populations has this week announced new rules for the nation as it heads into what it calls the “festive period” which consists of the UAE National Day, Christmas and the New Year Celebrations. Under the guidelines, work parties are to be banned, large public celebrations, such as firework shows will not occur, and concerts will only be allowed after they have been approved by the authorities and if they follow all recommended precautionary measures. Alongside this, all current COVID-19 regulations and measures must continue to be adhered to.

It is reported that both the West Bank and the Gaza strip are dealing with renewed outbreaks of coronavirus, with both territories seeing their highest ever report daily new infection rates since the pandemic began. On top of this new high official rate, officials believe that the actual spread of the virus in the two territories is likely three times higher than official statistics will show due to lack of mass testing facilities. Further restrictions have been announced in the two territories to attempt to counter the outbreak.

Countries	Active Covid Cases	Active Case Number Change	Domestic Lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Israel	8,274	Stable	High	High
Saudi Arabia	6,983	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	181,970	Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,733	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	8,022	Increase	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	7,641	Stable	Moderate	Moderate