



**SPECIAL REPORT:**  
**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Weekly Update**  
**20 March 2020**


**The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic on 11 March.**


The outbreak has had a severe impact on international travel; disruptions to flights and other modes of transport as well as lockdowns and movement restrictions have taken place with little to no prior warning.


Anyone undertaking travel at this time should ensure they are in good health, exercise good hygiene practices and be prepared for unexpected disruptions to their travel plans. Travellers from affected countries may face mandatory quarantine at their destination. Reconfirm itineraries prior to departure and closely follow travel alerts and advisories.

During travel to any destination and for up to 14 days after returning, individuals should monitor themselves for any flu-like symptoms - especially fever or shortness of breath. If experiencing any symptoms, travellers should self-isolate and contact their doctor or local authorities.

---

 Travellers should defer non-essential travel to **Extreme Risk** locations, which have severely restricted inbound, outbound and internal travel, near-complete disruptions to services and other activities and have widespread ongoing transmission.

 Travellers should reconsider their need to travel to **High Risk** locations, which have significant restrictions to inbound and internal travel and significant disruptions to services and other activities. These locations may or may not have widespread ongoing transmission.

 Travellers should exercise caution when travelling to Medium Risk locations, which have some restrictions to travel, disruptions to services and other activities and have limited ongoing transmission.

### COVID-19 RISK LEVEL EXTREME

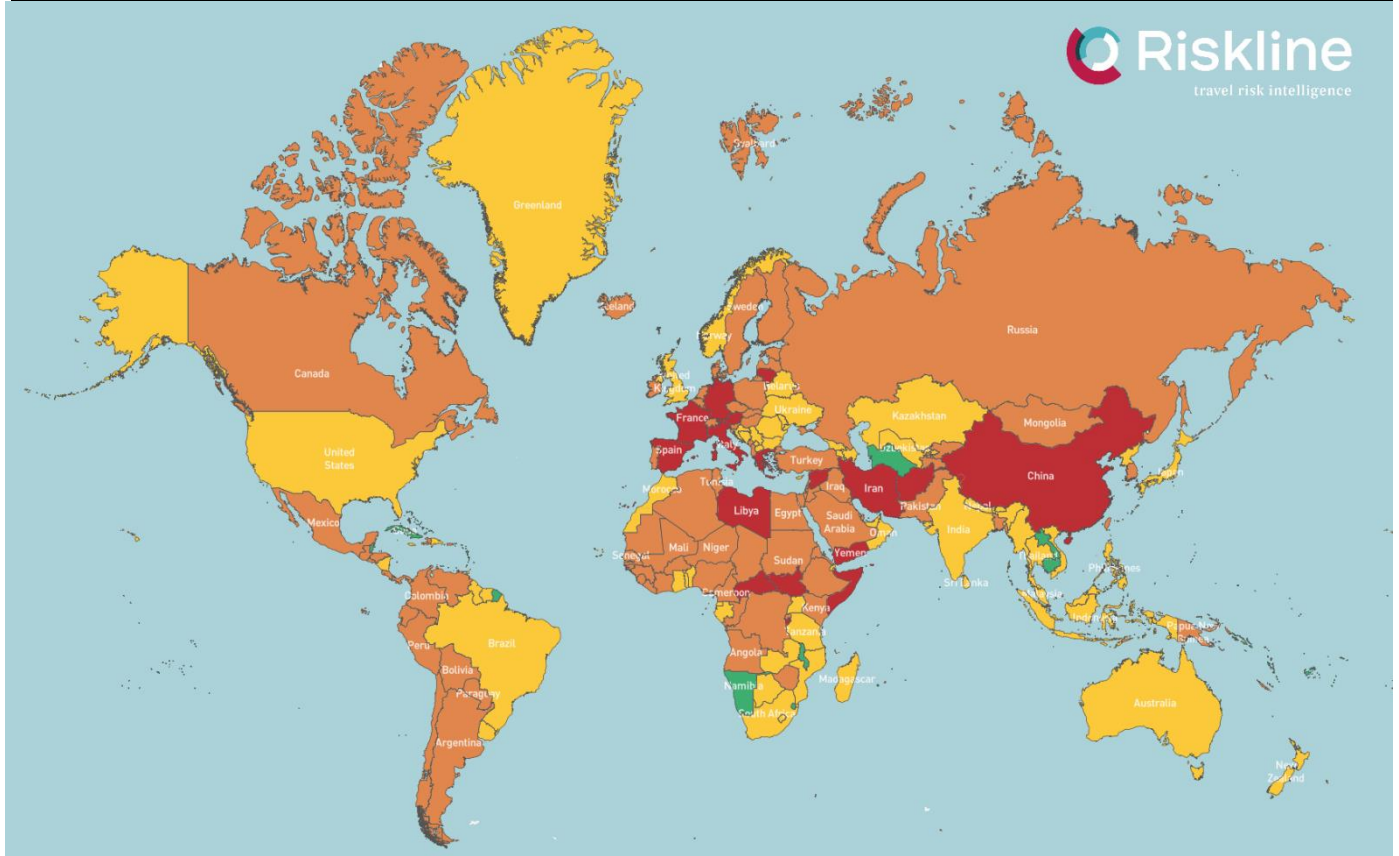
- |   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China</li> <li>France</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany</li> <li>Iran</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Italy</li> <li>Spain</li> </ul> |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|

### COVID-19 RISK LEVEL HIGH

- |  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albania</li> <li>Algeria</li> <li>Angola</li> <li>Argentina</li> <li>Austria</li> <li>Belgium</li> <li>Bermuda</li> <li>Bolivia</li> <li>Cameroon</li> <li>Canada</li> <li>Central African Republic</li> <li>Chad</li> <li>Chile</li> <li>Colombia</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costa Rica</li> <li>Czech Republic</li> <li>Denmark</li> <li>Ecuador</li> <li>Egypt: Red Sea</li> <li>Estonia</li> <li>Finland</li> <li>Greece</li> <li>Guatemala</li> <li>Guinea-Bissau</li> <li>Honduras</li> <li>Hungary</li> <li>Iceland</li> <li>Iraq</li> <li>Ireland</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jordan</li> <li>Kuwait</li> <li>Latvia</li> <li>Lebanon</li> <li>Lithuania</li> <li>Libya</li> <li>Liechtenstein</li> <li>Luxembourg</li> <li>Mauritius</li> <li>Mauritania</li> <li>Mongolia</li> <li>Montenegro</li> <li>Netherlands</li> <li>New Caledonia</li> <li>Niger</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panama</li> <li>Paraguay</li> <li>Peru</li> <li>Philippines: Metro Manila</li> <li>Poland</li> <li>Portugal</li> <li>Puerto Rico</li> <li>Qatar</li> <li>Russia</li> <li>Rwanda</li> <li>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</li> <li>Saudi Arabia</li> <li>Senegal</li> <li>Slovakia</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slovenia</li> <li>Somalia</li> <li>South Korea</li> <li>Svalbard and Jan Mayen</li> <li>Sweden</li> <li>Switzerland</li> <li>Taiwan</li> <li>Tunisia</li> <li>Turkey</li> <li>USA: California; New York Metro Area</li> <li>Venezuela</li> <li>West Bank and Gaza</li> <li>Yemen</li> </ul> |
|--|---|--|---|--|

### COVID-19 RISK LEVEL MEDIUM

- |  |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afghanistan</li> <li>Andorra</li> <li>Armenia</li> <li>Aruba</li> <li>Australia</li> <li>Azerbaijan</li> <li>Bahrain</li> <li>Bangladesh</li> <li>Belarus</li> <li>Benin</li> <li>Bhutan</li> <li>Bosnia-Herzegovina</li> <li>Botswana</li> <li>Brazil</li> <li>Brunei</li> <li>Bulgaria</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cape Verde</li> <li>Cayman Islands</li> <li>Congo-Brazzaville</li> <li>Côte d'Ivoire</li> <li>Croatia</li> <li>Cyprus</li> <li>Djibouti</li> <li>Dominican Republic</li> <li>DRC</li> <li>Egypt</li> <li>El Salvador</li> <li>Equatorial Guinea</li> <li>Gabon</li> <li>Georgia</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenland</li> <li>Guyana</li> <li>Hong Kong</li> <li>Haiti</li> <li>India</li> <li>Indonesia</li> <li>Japan</li> <li>Kazakhstan</li> <li>Kosovo</li> <li>Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>Liberia</li> <li>Malaysia</li> <li>Maldives</li> <li>Malta</li> <li>Moldova</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monaco</li> <li>Morocco</li> <li>Myanmar</li> <li>Nepal</li> <li>New Zealand</li> <li>North Korea</li> <li>North Macedonia</li> <li>Norway</li> <li>Oman</li> <li>Pakistan</li> <li>Papua New Guinea</li> <li>Philippines</li> <li>Romania</li> <li>San Marino</li> <li>Serbia</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sierra Leone</li> <li>South Africa</li> <li>Sri Lanka</li> <li>Sudan</li> <li>Suriname</li> <li>Syria</li> <li>Tajikistan</li> <li>Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>Ukraine</li> <li>United Arab Emirates</li> <li>United Kingdom</li> <li>Unites States of America</li> <li>Uruguay</li> <li>Uzbekistan</li> <li>Vietnam</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|--|---|



## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES FROM THE PAST WEEK

- From 23 March, **Brazil** will bar entry to anyone from the EU, UK, Norway, South Korea, China, Switzerland, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Australia, Japan and Malaysia, without a valid residency/work permit.
- From 22 March, all travellers from Europe to **South Korea** will be tested for COVID-19 infection and made to self-isolate for 14 days at home or at a government approved facility.
- On 20 March, **Argentina** ordered a nationwide lockdown until 31 March, requiring people to self-quarantine at home and prohibiting non-essential movement outdoors.
- **Australia** and **New Zealand** suspended entry for all foreign nationals and non-residents into the country until further notice effective from 20 March.
- California, **USA**, issued a stay-at-home order on 19 March for residents across the state to avoid non-essential movement outdoors until further notice.
- From 19 March, **Hong Kong** announced that all arriving travellers will undergo mandatory quarantine for a period of 14 days.
- After suspending international flights, **Saudi Arabia** suspended all domestic flights, buses and taxis until at least 3 April. **Qatar** instituted similar controls on local public transport; non-essential businesses and public offices were also closed in **Lebanon, Iraq** and **Kuwait**.
- In **Bolivia, Colombia** and **Ecuador** land borders were closed from 19 March, and long-distance transport and flights were suspended. Borders were also closed to foreign nationals in **Argentina, Chile, Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru** and **Paraguay**.
- **European Union (EU)** authorities suspended arrivals from outside the EU to Schengen Area countries for 30 days.
- **Cameroon** closed its land, sea and air borders to all foreign visitors on 18 March until further notice.
- As of 18 March, an overnight curfew from 18:00 to 06:00 local time was in effect in **Tunisia**, amid a nationwide lockdown.
- **Malaysia** announced that all international flights were suspended from 18 March and foreign arrivals will be barred from entering the country through at least 31 March.
- **Spain** and **Germany** announced the reintroduction of border screening measures from 17 March.
- American Airlines (AA) cancelled the majority of its flights from the US to Europe and Asia due to low demand and travel restrictions, following competitor Delta Air Lines.

## CONFIRMED CASES

The following table represents locally confirmed cases in countries with more than 350 infections.

Note that the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#) uses stricter criteria to confirm infections, and their case count will typically be lower.

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>CONFIRMED CASES</b>	<b>CONFIRMED FATALITIES</b>
<i>Worldwide</i>	250,704	10,256
China	80,967	3,248
Italy	41,035	3,405
Spain	19,980	1,002
Iran	18,407	1,284
Germany	16,626	44
United States of America	14,366	217
France	10,995	372
South Korea	8,652	94
Switzerland	4,222	43
United Kingdom	3,269	144
Netherlands	2,460	76
Belgium	2,257	37
Austria	2,203	6
Norway	1,802	7
Sweden	1,456	11
Denmark	1,226	9
Malaysia	1,030	2
Japan	963	33
Australia	876	7
Canada	873	12
Portugal	786	5
Czech Republic	774	
<i>Diamond Princess</i>	712	7
Israel	705	
Brazil	647	7
Ireland	557	3
Luxembourg	484	4
Greece	464	6
Qatar	460	
Pakistan	456	3
Iceland	409	
Finland	400	
Poland	378	6
Indonesia	369	32
Turkey	359	4

## WHAT IS COVID-19?

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) – also referred to as 'Wuhan coronavirus' – is a viral illness new to humans that affects the respiratory system, similar to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Infected patients developed severe acute respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, shortness of breath and cough. Further information can be found on the World Health Organisation (WHO) [website](#).

## WHAT TO EXPECT WHILE TRAVELLING

As the coronavirus outbreak has taken on a global dimension with fears of a pandemic looming, most countries around the world have taken steps to prevent the outbreak from spreading further. Travellers should expect temperature screening measures to be implemented at most airports around the world. In addition, travellers may be required to fill out health declaration forms with their contact details, to allow for a proper risk assessment and a possible contact tracing of incoming travellers. Travellers may be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine if they display a fever and other related symptoms during screening. Furthermore, a growing number of countries have restricted entry for passengers who have recently been to coronavirus-affected destinations, so this is something travellers need to be aware of in advance of travel.

## SECURITY RISKS

Some governments have taken an invasive approach to track the movements of travellers and COVID-19 patients in their countries.

In South Korea - where laws have changed since the 2015 MERS outbreak to allow the government to publicly share information about patients - the government has been sending mobile "emergency alerts" that reveal the timeline of each patient's whereabouts since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in January.

In Hong Kong, travellers arriving to the territory are required to wear electronic wristbands that monitor their movements and ensure that they comply with their quarantine order. On 18 March, the Israeli government approved emergency regulations for gathering mobile location data and other personal information from those confirmed or suspected to have been infected with the virus.

As a growing number of countries take sweeping measures to combat the outbreak, travellers should anticipate the possibility of surveillance of their mobile devices. Personal information may be disclosed to the public, especially for those who are diagnosed with the virus. Exercise discretion in deciding to communicate sensitive or personal information through electronic devices.

Criminals have also exploited the coronavirus pandemic as an opportunity to profit through scams and malware, creating approximately 3,600 new domains containing "coronavirus" in their name between 14 and 18 March alone, underscoring a growing risk of disinformation, phishing attacks, malware and fraud, in which users are tricked into paying for fake COVID-19 cures, supplements or vaccines.

## ADVICE

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection. However, a number of everyday preventive actions can be taken to help protect from respiratory illnesses. General recommendations for personal hygiene, cough etiquette and keeping a distance of at least one metre (3.2 feet) from persons showing symptoms remain particularly important for all travellers.

Other recommendations include:

- Perform hand hygiene frequently, particularly after contact with respiratory secretions. Hand hygiene includes either cleaning hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with an alcohol-based hand rub. Alcohol-based hand rubs are preferred if hands are not visibly soiled; wash hands with soap and water when they are visibly soiled.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a flexed elbow or paper tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose immediately of the tissue; Refrain from touching your face, especially your mouth and nose.
- A medical mask is not required if exhibiting no symptoms, as there is no evidence that wearing a mask – of any type – protects non-sick persons. However, in some cultures, masks may be commonly worn. If masks are to be worn, it is critical to follow best practices on how to wear, remove and dispose of the mask.
- Avoid all contact with blood and body fluids of infected people.
- Wear a face mask in public if travelling in locations with significant community transmission of the virus (Extreme and High Risk locations).
- Do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids; In the event of planned contact with infected persons, wear personal protective equipment, including face masks, gloves and goggles.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you display any of the possible symptoms (fever, diarrhoea, shortness of breath and cough) within 14 days of Extreme Risk areas or after coming in contact with infected individuals.
- Monitor your health while travelling and upon your return to your home country and seek medical attention immediately if any symptoms arise. Be sure to tell your health care provider if you have travelled to a region where the COVID-19 virus disease was present and tell them about the activities you participated in and their location.
- Follow all initiatives and directives outlined by each country's Ministry of Health as well as guidelines issued by the WHO and the CDC.