



INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

Coronavirus Pandemic – May 18, 2020



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CURRENT SITUATION

As of May 18, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to escalate globally, with the number of deaths worldwide surpassing 300,000. The United States remains the global epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, with 1,486,742 confirmed cases compared to 1,329,799 on May 11, a 12% increase in cases for the week. Overall, the trend in the number of total daily cases in the United States appears to be on the decline. However, when New York and New Jersey – two of the worst affected states – are removed from consideration, numbers of total daily cases in the United States are continuing to rise. Recorded numbers of deaths are also continuing to increase and over the past week surpassed 80,000. Given a lack of testing and underreporting of cases and deaths, the true toll of the outbreak may be significantly underestimated. Each state is at a different point in their epidemic, but owing to a lack of testing and other factors an accurate picture of the geographic spread and prevalence of infection remains difficult to determine. There are continued signs, however, that the coronavirus outbreak is increasingly moving into rural areas, where in many cases it is growing at a faster rate than in urban areas.

Federal social distancing guidelines expired on April 30, leaving the door open for states to devise their own approach to managing the pandemic. Nearly all 50 U.S. states have started to reopen or have announced plans to do so in the near future. While U.S. government authorities and health experts have advised that states should only reopen once a “downward trajectory” in cases is observed over a 14-day period, many of those reopening have recorded an increase in daily averages over the past two weeks. According to a May 17 Reuters analysis, only 13 states have met the CDC’s guidelines for easing lockdown restrictions. In addition, many of the states reopening do not meet the recommended guidelines set by other health experts with regard to the need for increased rates of testing and the establishment of contact tracing measures. This past week, leading U.S. health officials testified before the Senate about the dangers of easing lockdown restrictions too rapidly. They reiterated earlier warnings that the premature lifting of restrictions will likely result in a resurgence of cases and could hinder hopes of a rapid economic recovery.

Highlights:

- As of 8 a.m. ET on Monday, May 18, there were 4,731,987 confirmed global cases and 315,496 associated deaths. This is up from 4,123,376 cases and 283,055 deaths reported on May 11. Infections have been recorded in 188 countries and territories.
- In the United States, New York (350,121) remains the worst-affected state, but in an encouraging sign the state continues to record decreases in daily hospitalization rates, death counts and the number of new daily cases. New York is followed by New Jersey (146,504), Illinois (94,191), Massachusetts (86,010) and California (80,166), as the states with the highest number of confirmed cases.
- The easing of social distancing measures continues to prompt revisions of some earlier forecasts, with one leading model from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington predicting more than 147,000 U.S. deaths through early August, up from a previous estimate of 137,000.
- Following dozens of arson attacks on 5G cell towers in Western Europe inspired by COVID-19-related conspiracy theories, the U.S. Department of State has warned of similar disinformation campaigns spreading to the United States which could result in the targeting of U.S. telecommunications infrastructure.
- Anti-lockdown protests have continued in several states. In response to the recent extension of Michigan’s stay-at-home order, approximately 200 protesters took part in an anti-lockdown protest at the state Capitol building in Lansing on May 14. Though many of the protesters were ordinary citizens, the demonstration included some armed militia members. Several other protests occurred elsewhere in the country, with anti-lockdown protests likely to continue despite government easing of some restrictions.



Travel and Health Advisory

U.S. government agencies maintain strict travel advisories.

- On March 19, the U.S. Department of State announced a global Level 4, Do Not Travel, advisory for all international countries and territories. It advises that those currently overseas attempt to depart using commercial means, if possible. For those who stay, it advises following CDC guidelines and limiting movement outside the home.
- The CDC has issued a Level 3 alert, recommending the avoidance of non-essential travel to all global destinations. Carefully considering the risk of travel within the United States, especially to areas with high rates of infection, has also been advised.

To prevent transmission of the virus, the CDC has advised all Americans to wear cloth masks when outside of the home in public settings where social distancing measures are hard to maintain. If cloth masks are not available, the CDC has recommended the use of improvised DIY face coverings using household items or made from common materials (see guidance [here](#)).

Infections and Deaths by Territory and Country

The table below shows the latest number of confirmed cases of infection and death tied to the coronavirus by country, area and territory.

Figure – Table of Infections and Deaths by Country, Area and Territory

Coronavirus Infection Numbers – 8 a.m. May 18 ET Total Confirmed Infections: 4,731,987 Deaths: 315,496 Recovered: 1,739,890 Total Countries, Areas and Territories with Confirmed Infections: 188			
Country/Area/Territory	Infected/Deaths	Country/Area/Territory	Infected/Deaths
United States	1,486,742; 89,564 deaths	Djibouti	1,401; 4 deaths
Russia	290,678; 2,722 deaths	Gabon	1,320; 11 deaths
United Kingdom	244,995; 34,716 deaths	Kyrgyzstan	1,216; 14 deaths
Brazil	241,080; 16,122 deaths	Maldives	1,094; 4 deaths
Spain	230,698; 27,563 deaths	Tunisia	1,037; 45 deaths
Italy	225,435; 31,908 deaths	Latvia	1,009; 19 deaths
France	179,693; 28,111 deaths	Guinea-Bissau	990; 4 deaths
Germany	176,551; 7,975 deaths	Sri Lanka	981; 9 deaths
Turkey	149,435; 4,140 deaths	Kosovo	955; 29 deaths
Iran	120,198; 6,988 deaths	Albania	948; 31 deaths
India	96,169; 3,029 deaths	Cyprus	916; 17 deaths
Peru	92,273; 2,648 deaths	Lebanon	911; 26 deaths
China	84,054; 4,638 deaths	Niger	904; 54 deaths
Canada	78,332; 5,903 deaths	Kenya	887; 50 deaths
Belgium	55,559; 9,080 deaths	Costa Rica	863; 10 deaths
Saudi Arabia	54,752; 312 deaths	Mali	860; 52 deaths
Mexico	49,219; 5,177 deaths	Burkina Faso	796; 51 deaths



Netherlands	44,195; 5,699 deaths	Paraguay	786; 11 deaths
Chile	43,781; 450 deaths	Andorra	761; 51 deaths
Pakistan	42,125; 903 deaths	Zambia	753; 7 deaths
Ecuador	33,182; 2,736 deaths	Uruguay	734; 20 deaths
Qatar	32,604; 15 deaths	Georgia	701; 12 deaths
Switzerland	30,597; 1,881 deaths	San Marino	654; 41 deaths
Belarus	30,572; 171 deaths	Jordan	613; 9 deaths
Sweden	30,143; 3,679 deaths	Equatorial Guinea	594; 7 deaths
Portugal	29,036; 1,218 deaths	Malta	558; 6 deaths
Singapore	28,343; 22 deaths	Venezuela	541; 10 deaths
Ireland	24,112; 1,543 deaths	Jamaica	520; 9 deaths
Bangladesh	23,870; 349 deaths	Tanzania	509; 21 deaths
United Arab Emirates	23,358; 220 deaths	Sierra Leone	505; 32 deaths
Poland	18,746; 929 deaths	Chad	503; 53 deaths
Ukraine	18,616; 535 deaths	Haiti	456; 20 deaths
Indonesia	18,010; 1,191 deaths	Taiwan	440; 7 deaths
Romania	17,036; 1,107 deaths	Congo (Brazzaville)	391; 15 deaths
Israel	16,621; 272 deaths	West Bank and Gaza	381; 2 deaths
Japan	16,285; 744 deaths	Nepal	357; 2 deaths
Austria	16,269; 629 deaths	Ethiopia	352; 5 deaths
Colombia	15,574; 574 deaths	Benin	339; 2 deaths
South Africa	15,515; 264 deaths	Mauritius	332; 10 deaths
Kuwait	14,850; 112 deaths	Cabo Verde	328; 3 deaths
Philippines	12,718; 831 deaths	Central African Republic	327; 0 deaths
Dominican Republic	12,314; 428 deaths	Montenegro	324; 9 deaths
Egypt	12,229; 630 deaths	Vietnam	324; 0 deaths
Denmark	11,166; 547 deaths	Madagascar	304; 1 deaths
South Korea	11,065; 263 deaths	Togo	301; 11 deaths
Serbia	10,610; 230 deaths	Rwanda	292; 0 deaths
Panama	9,606; 275 deaths	South Sudan	290; 4 deaths
Czech Republic	8,480; 298 deaths	Uganda	248; 0 deaths
Norway	8,249; 232 deaths	Sao Tome and Principe	235; 7 deaths
Argentina	8,068; 373 deaths	Liberia	226; 21 deaths
Afghanistan	7,072; 173 deaths	Eswatini	203; 2 deaths
Australia	7,060; 99 deaths	Burma	187; 6 deaths
Algeria	7,019; 548 deaths	Brunei	141; 1 deaths
Bahrain	6,956; 12 deaths	Mongolia	140; 0 deaths
Malaysia	6,941; 113 deaths	Mozambique	137; 0 deaths
Morocco	6,930; 192 deaths	Yemen	128; 20 deaths
Kazakhstan	6,440; 34 deaths	Cambodia	122; 0 deaths



Finland	6,380; 300 deaths	Guyana	117; 10 deaths
Moldova	6,060; 211 deaths	Trinidad and Tobago	116; 8 deaths
Nigeria	5,959; 182 deaths	Bahamas	96; 11 deaths
Ghana	5,735; 29 deaths	Monaco	96; 4 deaths
Oman	5,379; 25 deaths	Barbados	88; 7 deaths
Armenia	4,823; 61 deaths	Liechtenstein	82; 1 deaths
Bolivia	4,088; 169 deaths	Malawi	70; 3 deaths
Luxembourg	3,945; 107 deaths	Libya	65; 3 deaths
Hungary	3,535; 462 deaths	Mauritania	62; 4 deaths
Iraq	3,404; 123 deaths	Syria	58; 3 deaths
Azerbaijan	3,274; 39 deaths	Angola	48; 2 deaths
Cameroon	3,105; 140 deaths	Zimbabwe	44; 4 deaths
Thailand	3,031; 56 deaths	Burundi	42; 1 deaths
Greece	2,834; 163 deaths	Eritrea	39; 0 deaths
Uzbekistan	2,762; 12 deaths	Antigua and Barbuda	25; 3 deaths
Guinea	2,658; 16 deaths	Botswana	25; 1 deaths
Honduras	2,646; 142 deaths	Nicaragua	25; 8 deaths
Sudan	2,591; 105 deaths	Timor-Leste	24; 0 deaths
Senegal	2,480; 25 deaths	Gambia	23; 1 deaths
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,290; 133 deaths	Grenada	22; 0 deaths
Bulgaria	2,235; 110 deaths	Bhutan	21; 0 deaths
Croatia	2,226; 95 deaths	Laos	19; 0 deaths
Cote d'Ivoire	2,109; 27 deaths	Belize	18; 2 deaths
Guatemala	1,912; 35 deaths	Fiji	18; 0 deaths
Cuba	1,872; 79 deaths	Saint Lucia	18; 0 deaths
Iceland	1,802; 10 deaths	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	17; 0 deaths
North Macedonia	1,792; 101 deaths	Dominica	16; 0 deaths
Estonia	1,784; 64 deaths	Namibia	16; 0 deaths
Lithuania	1,547; 59 deaths	Saint Kitts and Nevis	15; 0 deaths
Tajikistan	1,524; 39 deaths	Holy See	12; 0 deaths
New Zealand	1,499; 21 deaths	Comoros	11; 1 deaths
Slovakia	1,495; 28 deaths	Seychelles	11; 0 deaths
Slovenia	1,466; 104 deaths	Suriname	10; 1 deaths
Congo (Kinshasa)	1,455; 61 deaths	Papua New Guinea	8; 0 deaths
Somalia	1,421; 56 deaths	Western Sahara	6; 0 deaths
El Salvador	1,413; 30 deaths	Lesotho	1; 0 deaths

The map and chart below show the location of confirmed cases of infection and death tied to the coronavirus.

Figure – Map and Chart of Confirmed Global Cases of COVID-19



Source: Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE)

U.S. Government Measures

Confirmed cases of infection have been recorded across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C. On March 6, the U.S. government announced the allocation of \$8.3 billion to combat the epidemic, and preventive measures are continuing to escalate. A \$2.2 trillion rescue package, intended to provide support to U.S. workers, businesses, the healthcare system and state and local governments, was approved by the U.S. government on March 27. On April 24, the U.S. government



approved a \$484 billion relief package primarily to provide emergency financial aid to small businesses and hospitals. Most states have announced plans to partially reopen. For those that plan to do so, the easing of restrictions will occur in phases and vary on a state-by-state and county-by-county basis. Clients are advised to research their own areas of operation and residence to ascertain the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Work Cancellations, Lockdowns and Reopenings

- Adjustments and cancellations to normal school schedules are widespread throughout the United States. Many schools and colleges have announced that the remainder of the semester will be taught online.
- As of the week of May 18, nearly all U.S. states have either started or made plans to ease lockdown restrictions. In some states, parks, restaurants and/or certain non-essential businesses have been allowed to reopen, most with capacity and social-distancing restrictions, among other conditions. As with other COVID-19 developments, these conditions may vary significantly from place to place and clients are advised to research their own locations (see a list [here](#)).
- In some states, stay-at-home orders that were due to expire have been extended, in some cases with modifications that to a greater or lesser extent ease some restrictions currently in place. For example, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker has extended a modified version of the state's stay-at-home order until May 30. Among other stipulations, the modifications include a requirement to wear masks in public settings where social distancing cannot be maintained, a phased reopening of state parks, and allowing certain non-essential retail stores to reopen to service phone and online orders for pick-up and delivery.

Medical Services

- Most medical services across the country are currently operating normally with few signs of strained capacity. In some badly affected states, such as New York, some previously overwhelmed hospitals have reported that while the volume of patients is high, it is manageable.
- Most states are continuing with efforts to acquire ventilators, critical medical equipment, diagnostic testing kits and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Many hospitals have adjusted their epidemic preparedness and response plans to take into account a potential heightened need for specialized equipment and the possibility of outsourcing patient services to off-site facilities, among other measures.
- Several states have been, or are, setting up drive-thru testing sites offering screening services.
- Federal authorities are continuing to ramp up efforts to secure medical equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). On April 8, the first contract for the production of ventilators under the Defense Production Act (DPA) was agreed with General Motors, as announced by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contract stipulates that by August, 30,000 ventilators will be delivered to the Strategic National Stockpile, of which 6,132 may be delivered by June 1. A second contract under the DPA was announced with Philips for the delivery of 2,500 ventilators by the end of May and 43,000 by the end of December. On April 8, HHS also announced it had reached an agreement with DuPont to deliver 450,000 TYVEK® protective suits for healthcare workers within the week, 2.25 million suits within the next five weeks and an option for additional deliveries in the future. Several other contracts have since been announced. In total, there are contracts in place to secure 41,000 ventilators by the end of May and more than 187,000 by year's end.
- On May 7, HHS announced that it has awarded nearly \$583 million to expand COVID-19 testing in health centers across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories.



- On April 16, the FDA announced that it has approved the production of a new type of nasal swab to speed up coronavirus testing.
- Under the Defense Production Act, on April 29 the Pentagon announced \$75.5 million in funding to increase the production of coronavirus testing swabs. Production will begin in May.

Travel Restrictions

- On March 19, the U.S. Department of State announced a global Level 4, Do Not Travel, advisory for all international countries and territories. It advises that those currently overseas attempt to depart using commercial means, if possible. For those who stay, it advises following CDC guidelines and limiting movement outside the home.
- The CDC has issued a Level 3 alert, recommending the avoidance of non-essential travel to all global destinations. Carefully considering the risk of travel within the United States, especially to areas with high rates of infection, has also been advised.
- From March 13, the United States introduced a 30-day ban on travelers from Europe, except for returning U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, spouses of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, diplomatic and official travelers, air and sea crew members, members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses and children, and certain other categories of travelers. On March 16, the ban was extended to cover the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- All non-essential travel across the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders has been temporarily banned. On April 18, the U.S. and Canada announced that non-essential travel across the U.S.-Canada border will be extended to May 21, with a further extension possible. Trade, commerce, medical and education related travel will be permitted to continue across the border. U.S. citizens, permanent residents and those with work permits will be exempt from the ban.

National/State of Emergency

- On March 13, the President of the United States declared a national emergency. All U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia have declared a state of emergency. The National Guard has deployed more than 46,500 troops across the nation.

Global Measures

Preventive measures taken by the international community also continue to escalate.

Argentina

Current situation: 8,068 confirmed cases and 373 deaths have been reported. A quarantine will be in effect in Buenos Aires until May 24, with restrictions being eased elsewhere in the country.

Infection locations: Most confirmed cases have been recorded in Buenos Aires, although all regions have been affected.

Travel restrictions: Borders will remain closed for foreign nationals and non-residents until at least May 24. Public transport will also be limited until May 24. All commercial flights have been suspended until September 1.

Barbados

Current situation: 88 confirmed cases and seven deaths have been reported. A public health emergency was declared on March 26. A nationwide daily curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. is now in effect.



Infection locations: Cases have been confirmed in the capital of Bridgetown.

Travel restrictions: Barbados' airspace is closed to international commercial passenger flights. All persons arriving in Barbados will undergo a 14-day quarantine at a government administered facility.

Brazil

Current situation: 241,080 confirmed cases and 16,122 deaths have been reported. No national quarantine is in effect in Brazil; however, several states have implemented their own restrictions. Authorities in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo states have extended stay-at-home measures and the closure of the all air, sea and land borders until May 31.

Infection locations: The southeastern and northeastern parts of the country have the most confirmed cases of infection, with Sao Paulo being the worst-affected state.

Travel restrictions: The government has announced that the entry ban for all foreign nationals will stay in place for an additional 30 days from April 28. Brazil's land borders are closed to non-essential traffic.

Canada

Current situation: 78,332 confirmed cases and 5,903 deaths have been reported. While many provinces have extended state of emergency orders, some provincial governments are gradually easing lockdown measures. The reopening of non-essential businesses, public spaces and schools varies on a province-by-province basis.

Infection locations: Cases have been confirmed in all of Canada's provinces and territories. Ontario and Quebec are the most-affected provinces.

Travel restrictions: Canada will require all air travelers to wear face masks beginning April 20. As of April 8, most foreign nationals are prohibited from entering Canada, with certain exceptions. As of March 30, individuals showing symptoms of COVID-19 must be refused boarding on domestic flights and some inter-city train services. Canada announced an Emergency Order under the Quarantine Act on March 26, which requires any person entering the country by air, sea, or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of coronavirus. As of May 18, several provinces have various local border restrictions in place. The land border between Canada and the U.S. will remain closed to non-essential traffic until at least May 21. The closure permits border crossings for cargo, trade and healthcare workers.

Chile

Current situation: 43,781 confirmed cases and 450 deaths have been reported. Stay-at-home measures have been extended in parts of the Santiago metropolitan area and other regions.

Infection locations: The overwhelming majority of cases have occurred in the Santiago metropolitan area, but all regions have been affected.

Travel restrictions: All borders are closed through at least May 21. Nationals and residents arriving into the country are subject to a 14-day quarantine.

Colombia

Current situation: 15,574 confirmed cases and 574 deaths have been reported. The Colombian government implemented a nationwide quarantine that will remain in place until at least May 25, but some non-essential businesses were allowed to resume operations on May 11.



Infection locations: Most confirmed cases have occurred in Bogota, Valle del Cauca and Antioquia departments.

Travel restrictions: All international travelers will be prohibited from entering the country until May 31. Colombia implemented an entry ban on all foreign travelers from abroad on March 16. Travelers entering the country from abroad are subject to a 14-day quarantine.

Costa Rica

Current situation: 863 confirmed cases and 10 deaths have been reported.

Infection locations: Positive cases have been confirmed in all seven of Costa Rica's provinces, with San Jose being most affected.

Travel restrictions: The closure of all air, land and maritime borders to all non-resident foreigners has been extended to until at least June 15. Costa Rican citizens and residents are subject to a 14-day quarantine upon entry.

Ecuador

Current situation: 33,182 confirmed cases and 2,736 deaths have been reported. A nationwide curfew remains in effect from 2 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily. Certain business operations have been allowed to resume from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Infection locations: Positive cases have been confirmed in all regions, with Guayaquil being the most affected.

Travel restrictions: All international arrivals to Ecuador by air have been suspended. Land borders have also been closed. In addition, there are restrictions in place for travel within Ecuador. Reports indicate that those attempting inter-provincial domestic travel must obtain a safe-passage document from authorities.

El Salvador

Current situation: 1,413 confirmed cases and 30 deaths have been reported. A mandatory 24/7 nationwide quarantine is in effect until at least May 22.

Infection locations: Confirmed or suspected cases have been recorded in the San Salvador area.

Travel restrictions: Borders are closed to non-residents and non-diplomats. All citizens/residents arriving in El Salvador are subject to quarantine.

Guatemala

Current situation: 1,912 confirmed cases and 35 deaths have been reported. A nationwide curfew from 6 p.m. and 4 a.m. and a ban on public transportation is in effect until at least May 18.

Infection locations: Confirmed cases have been reported mostly in Guatemala City.

Travel restrictions: All domestic and international flights operations have been suspended.

Mexico

Current situation: 49,219 confirmed cases and 5,177 deaths have been reported. A suspension on all non-essential activities in the public and private sector is in effect until May 31. From May 18, a limited number of business sectors, including mining, construction and vehicle manufacturing, will be permitted to resume operations in certain municipalities.



Infection locations: Mexico City, the State of Mexico and Baja California are among the most-affected areas.

Travel restrictions: The land border between the U.S. and Mexico closed on March 21 to all non-essential traffic. This closure was extended on April 20 for an additional 30 days. It applies primarily to tourism and recreational travel. Cargo, trade and healthcare workers will still be able to cross the border.

Nicaragua

Current situation: 25 confirmed cases and eight deaths have been reported. As of April 29, preventive COVID-19 measures have been implemented nationwide, including social distancing and the recommended use of protective face masks in public.

Infection locations: Confirmed or suspected cases have been reported in the country's capital of Managua.

Travel restrictions: Reports indicate that the Nicaraguan government has closed its borders. All international flights have been suspended until at least June 4. All international travelers with suspected cases of infection are subject to a 10-day quarantine.

Paraguay

Current situation: 786 confirmed cases and 11 deaths have been reported. COVID-19 restrictions on non-essential movement remain in effect until at least May 25.

Infection locations: Confirmed cases have been reported in all departments, with Asuncion being the hardest hit.

Travel restrictions: Borders are closed for non-residents. All international commercial and air travel is banned until further notice. All travelers must undergo a 14-day quarantine.

Peru

Current situation: 92,273 confirmed cases and 2,648 deaths have been reported. A nationwide quarantine, including restrictions on inter-city travel and overnight curfews, has been extended until at least May 24.

Infection locations: Confirmed or suspected cases have been recorded all of Peru's departments. More than half of all cases have been confirmed in Lima.

Travel restrictions: All borders are closed to foreign travelers until at least May 24.

Puerto Rico

Current situation: 2,646 confirmed cases and 123 deaths have been reported. An island-wide curfew is in effect from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. until May 25. Certain non-essential businesses have been permitted to reopen.

Infection locations: Confirmed cases have been recorded in all regions, with metro San Juan being most affected.

Travel restrictions: All ports, ferries and cruise services have been suspended. There is an entry ban for nearly all foreign nationals who have been in China, Iran and certain European countries, including the UK and Ireland, at any point within 14 days of their scheduled travel to the U.S.



Saint Lucia

Current situation: 18 confirmed cases and 0 deaths have been reported. The Government of Saint Lucia declared a national state of emergency, effective March 23. A 10-hour curfew from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. will remain in place until May 31.

Infection locations: Confirmed or suspected cases have been reported in several quarters.

Travel restrictions: The government of Saint Lucia has closed all air, sea and land borders to international arrivals. Cruise ships are not permitted to dock in Saint Lucia. Cargo operations are exempted.

Trinidad and Tobago

Current situation: 116 confirmed cases and eight deaths have been reported. Stay-at-home orders are gradually being eased, with certain non-essential businesses permitted to reopen.

Infection locations: Confirmed or suspected cases have been reported in multiple regions and municipalities.

Travel restrictions: The country's borders remain closed until at least June 1.

Uruguay

Current situation: 734 confirmed cases and 20 deaths have been reported. Officials have urged people to stay at home and maintain social distancing.

Infection locations: Confirmed cases have been reported in Salto, Colonia, Soriano, Flores, Rio Negro, Paysandu, Artigas, Montevideo, Canelones, Lavalleja, Maldonado, Rocha, San Jose and Durazno departments. Montevideo is the most affected.

Travel restrictions: An entry ban for foreign travelers is currently in effect, with few exceptions. In addition, passengers arriving from WHO declared risk or symptomatic countries, and those who have had contact with a coronavirus infected person, are subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine. Direct flights to and from Europe and the U.S. have been suspended. The border with Argentina has been closed.

Virus Factsheet

Key aspects of the novel coronavirus, or "2019nCoV," are still relatively poorly understood. The following information is derived from WHO Situation Reports and other sources:

- **Incubation Period:** 1-14 days, but generally 3-7 days. Recent research published by the CDC suggests a median incubation period of 4.2 days.
- **Severity:** Most people display relatively mild symptoms. Current estimates suggest that about 15% progress to severe disease with 4% becoming critical, including pneumonia and respiratory failure. The crude mortality ratio (number of reported deaths divided by reported cases) is between 3-4%, with the infection mortality rate (number of reported deaths divided by number of infections) expected to be lower. However, these preliminary estimations should be treated with caution. The mortality rate of seasonal flu is below 0.1%. According to a WHO statement on March 9, more than 70% of coronavirus cases in China have recovered. According to a recently published CDC report covering the week ending May 9, the overall cumulative hospitalization rate in the U.S. is 60.5 per 100,000 people, with the highest rates observed in people over the age of 65 year (192.4 per 100,000) and those between the ages of 50-64 (94.4 per 100,000).



- **Transmissibility:** The virus is human transmissible. Recent research supports asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spread (i.e. those infected can transmit the virus before they have developed symptoms), and that the virus behaves similarly to the flu, although it spreads more efficiently. Preliminary data suggests that those infected are most contagious around the time that symptoms first appear rather than later stages of the disease. The reproduction number of the virus, expressed as “R₀” (R-naught), which indicates how many additional infections will result from each infection, remains uncertain. In a disease with a value R-naught = 1 each infection would be expected to cause one additional infection; the WHO published an estimated R-naught of 2 to 2.5, although some teams have placed this number higher.
 - Routes of transmission are believed to include respiratory droplets and close physical contact. There is also evidence that the disease is transmissible via contact with contaminated surfaces, where the virus may survive for some time. There is little evidence of transmission via the fecal-oral route. There has been some misinformation that the virus may be able to spread long distances through the air. This is false.
 - According to the WHO, there is no evidence that those who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from reinfection.
- **Treatment:** More than 100 drugs are being tested for their effectiveness, but there has been no clear breakthrough in finding a treatment for the disease. Leading U.S. health officials have announced that remdesivir, an experimental antiviral drug, may be effective for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approving it for emergency use on May 1. The WHO has launched a global fundraising initiative for vaccine research, treatment and tests. Aside from remdesivir, the only proven available treatment for the disease is standard supportive care.

BUSINESS RISKS

Business Continuity

The coronavirus outbreak presents a heightened business risk environment for multinational corporations operating across the globe. The widespread introduction of quarantine measures and travel restrictions present a significant business continuity challenge for businesses dependent on person-to-person services and transactions, such as those operating in the tourism, hospitality, retail, retail-based financial services and banking sectors, among others. In addition, the closure of production facilities and travel bans are creating supply-chain challenges and logistical problems for the transfer of goods, equipment and the ability for employees to reach their places of work. Clients are advised to remain up to date with national and local regulations related to the crisis, and to note that measures adopted by national and local governments may not be uniform.

On a broader level, the coronavirus pandemic continues to take a toll on global markets. The global recession is continuing despite recent efforts taken by various central banks to prop up the market and reassure investor confidence. In the United States, a \$2.2 trillion rescue package was approved by the government on March 27. Other stimulus packages have been introduced or are currently under consideration in several other countries in an effort to assist hard-hit workers, businesses and healthcare systems. However, the economic impact of the virus is continuing to make its negative mark around the world. The IMF has predicted that the COVID-19 pandemic will result in the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression and a recession “far worse” than the 2008 financial crisis. Among other downside risks, it has warned that the economic fallout could result in renewed social unrest in some countries, especially those where government policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 are considered to be insufficient, unfair or when such policies are withdrawn. Whether planning to mitigate the heightened medical or business risk environment, companies — especially those with a footprint in the worst-hit countries — should prepare for the crisis and its potential negative effects to be felt for months rather than weeks.



On April 29, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) announced that the U.S. economy contracted 4.8% in the first quarter of 2020. These figures indicate that the U.S. economy is now in a recession, but a more accurate assessment of the scale of the economic downturn is expected to become more apparent when the DOC publishes the next set of statistics for Q2 on July 30. Some economists are predicting a 30% annual decline in GDP. Unemployment statistics look similarly bad. The U.S. Labor Department's official monthly jobs report for April indicates a record loss of 20.5 million jobs and an unemployment rate of 14.7%, more than quadruple the rate before the coronavirus outbreak. Some economic observers are predicting a further rise in the unemployment rate to 20% by next month. Even once lockdown restrictions are relaxed, an immediate economic bounce back looks highly unlikely. Lack of demand from fearful customers and low consumer confidence combined with the business challenges of navigating social distancing measures — which are likely to remain in place in some form until the end of 2020 — are just some of the reasons why a more prolonged and incremental economic recovery is more likely. Such a trajectory, however, would be precluded by a potential second wave of infections and lockdowns, which could initiate another phase of economic decline.

Security Response Benchmarking

Multinational firms are adopting various policies in response to the outbreak, including the following:

- Restricting all non-essential international travel.
- Allowing flexible working arrangements, including working from home.
- For employees returning from China, Europe and other badly affected countries, mandatory work from home for a set period, for example 14 days, to mitigate the risk of passing infection to other employees.
- A large number of major multinational corporations and retailers are continuing to keep their offices and stores closed, or temporarily suspend operations.
- Some companies and organizations are in the process of designing risk-based approaches to reopening in consultation with trade associations and government authorities.
- Most major companies are taking a long, phased approach to returning to work.
- As part of their reopening plans, most U.S. and multinational companies are not conducting diagnostic or antibody testing of their staff, usually because of the expense and challenge of acquiring the necessary equipment and supplies, especially in the U.S. context. This may change in the coming months as more testing equipment becomes available and at a cheaper cost.
- More companies are screening staff rather than testing. At some companies, screening has been mandated as a requirement for returning to work. Screening methods include thermal imaging, temperature checks and health surveys, among others. It is understood that screening does not eliminate risk, however, as infected staff entering company sites could be asymptomatic carriers.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAVELERS

According to the CDC, travelers should avoid non-essential travel to all global destinations. Carefully considering the risk of travel within the United States, especially to areas with high rates of infection, has also been advised. If traveling, you are recommended to:

- Avoid contact with sick people.



- Discuss travel to with your health care provider. Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues may be at risk for more severe disease.
- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Those who have become ill during a 14-day period following travel should:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose while sneezing with a sleeve or tissue, not with the hands.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUSINESSES

The CDC has provided extensive recommendations for business which are regularly updated and can be found [here](#).

On May 14 the CDC published "decision tools" to provide guidance for how [workplaces](#), [child care centers](#), [schools](#), [restaurants and bars](#) can begin the process of reopening.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

G4S Risk Operations Center

For questions regarding this report or for immediate assistance, please call:

- **G4S Risk Operations Center:** (866) 604-1226
- **Alternate Phone:** (866) 943-8892