

COVID-19 Weekly Update

17 September

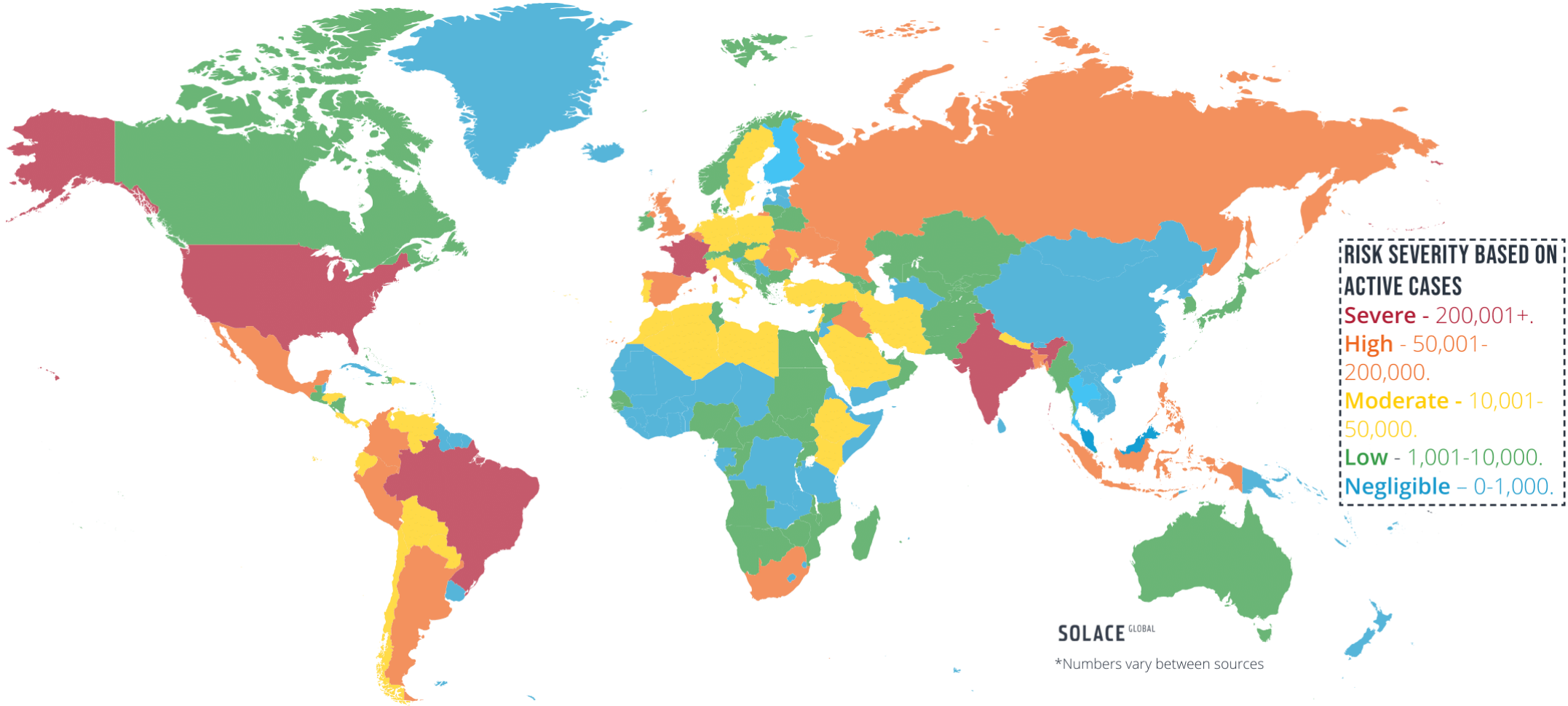
TOURIST
WHERE IS
YOUR MASK

SOLACE GLOBAL



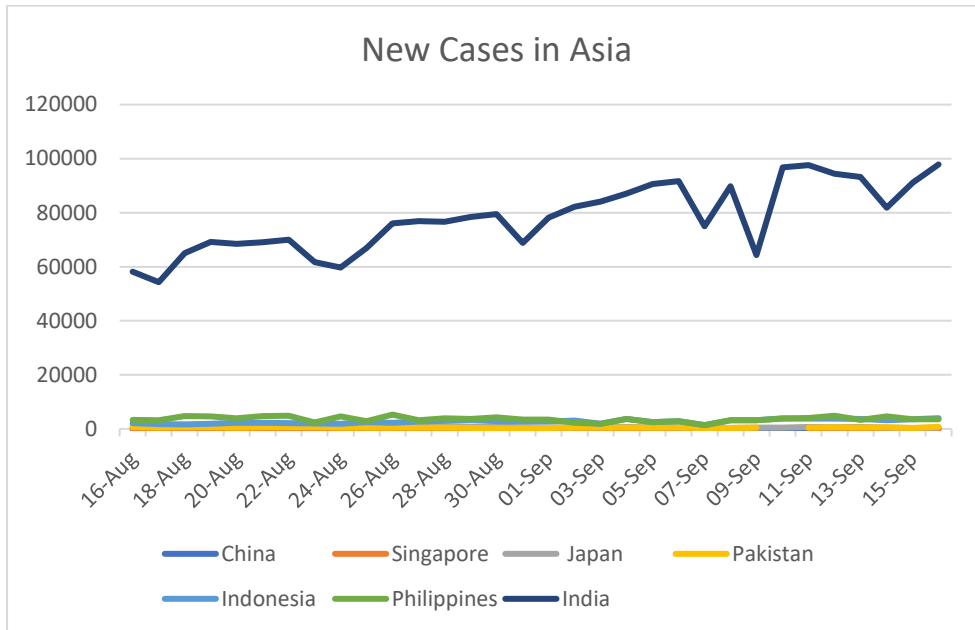
Current Statistics (Numbers vary between sources)

Total cases	30,064,848	Total Active Cases	7,297,713	Total Confirmed Recoveries	21,821,557	Total Confirmed Deaths	945,578
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Asia



Coronavirus cases in some Asian countries continue to surge. In India, the number of cases has exceeded five million with data indicating that the virus appears to be spreading quicker than anywhere else in the world. Despite the increase, authorities across India continue to lift the COVID-19 restrictions and ruled out imposing a second nationwide lockdown. Maharashtra remains the worst affected state in the region with approximately 60 percent of India’s cases.

In Southeast Asia, Indonesia continues to be the most impacted country with 225,030 cases and 8,965 deaths, with numbers showing no sign of slowing down. As the number of cases continues to rise, local authorities in Jakarta announced that new restrictions will be implemented to curb the spread of the disease. The new partial shutdown will see limited public transports, entertainment venues reclosing, mass gatherings banned and capacity limits on businesses until at least 27 September. Even though medical experts welcomed the reintroduction of restrictions, some believe that COVID-19 measures should not have been eased in the first place.

Schools in Pakistan have reopened after a six-month closure due to the pandemic. According to government authorities, health measures will be in place, such as the use of face coverings and social

distancing. According to official data, Pakistan is among the countries that in recent weeks have witnessed a steady decline in new infections.

Cases have also been declining in Vietnam where, over the last week, authorities reported no new cases. As such, the easing of social distancing measures and restrictions is underway in several provinces across the nation.

A slow decrease in infections has also been reported in South Korea where the number of confirmed new cases has been under 100 for the past 12 consecutive days. Recently authorities announced a plan to spend \$146 million to procure COVID-19 vaccines to 60 percent of its population.

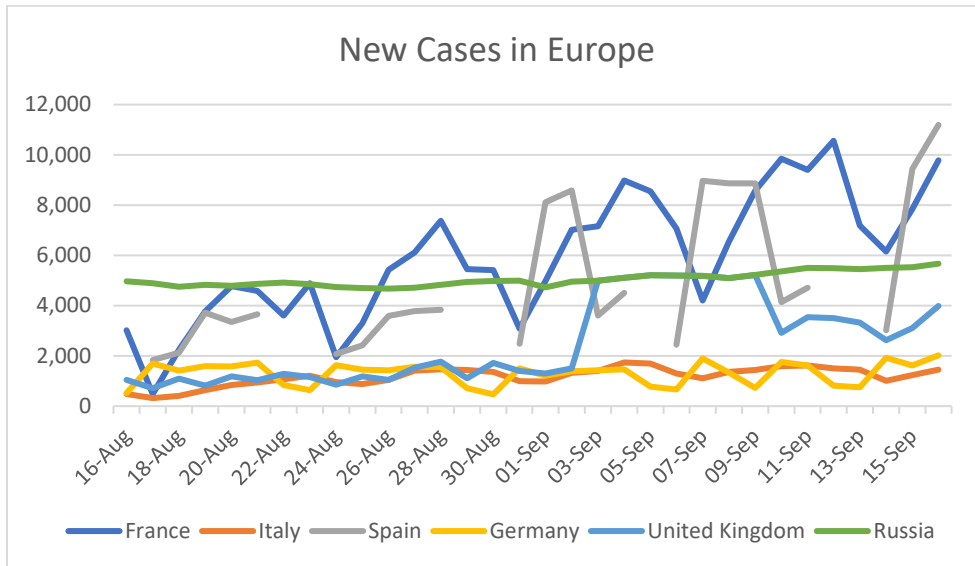
COVID-19 related measures are anticipated to ease in Australia’s Victoria state after the number of new daily infections seems to be slowing down, particularly in the COVID-19 hotspot of Melbourne.

On the other hand, the surge of infections is overwhelming Myanmar’s health system. On Tuesday, 15 September, the nation reported 307 new cases, its highest daily rise since the start of the pandemic in March.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
India	1,010,614	Increase	Moderate	High
Pakistan	5,936	Decrease	Moderate	High
China	143	Decrease	Light	High
Japan	6,455	Slight Decrease	Light	High
Indonesia	55,792	Stable	Moderate	High
Singapore	532	Stable	Light	High
Philippines	60,403	Slight Increase	Moderate	High



Europe



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

In recent weeks, COVID-19 cases have risen sharply in Europe whilst the rate of related deaths has remained at approximately the same level since the beginning of June. Despite this, Hans Kluge, Director of WHO's European office, announced that a rise in COVID-19 daily death rate is anticipated in Autumn across the continent. Several countries in Europe continue to see a surge in cases.

On Saturday, 12 September, French authorities reported a record daily increase in infections with approximately 10,561 new cases, up from 1,000 from the previous day's figures. The authorities also reported an increase in the number of people admitted to intensive care units. At the time of writing, 42 French regions were designated as "red zones" with stricter COVID-19 restrictions. A sharp increase has been reported in the south of the country, notably in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Bouches-du-Rhône, where major French cities of Bordeaux and Marseille have emerged as hotspots. To handle the increased demand, hospitals have increased intensive care capacity and put new limits on gatherings.

In Spain, on Monday, 15 September, authorities reported over 27,000 news cases over the weekend indicating that infections continue to climb. The biggest surge has been reported in the capital region of

Madrid, where over the past couple of weeks it counted for one-third of the nationwide new cases. Most recently, four cases of reinfection have been recorded in Catalonia. Reports indicate that despite the stringent COVID-19 measures in place to restrict the spread of the disease, including the closure of nightclubs, authorities have been tackling illegal gatherings over the weekend. For example, in Seville, authorities broke up an illegal party that counted more than 300 attendants. Illegal parties and gatherings have been pointed out as one of the primary causes of the surge of infections through the summer in numerous countries such as Italy and Croatia.

Over the last week, cases have also been soaring in mainland Greece. In response to the ongoing surge in cases, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis requested a committee of epidemiologists to put together a list of new restrictions that will be imposed locally and/or nationally if necessary. The total number of infections in the country stands at 13,420.

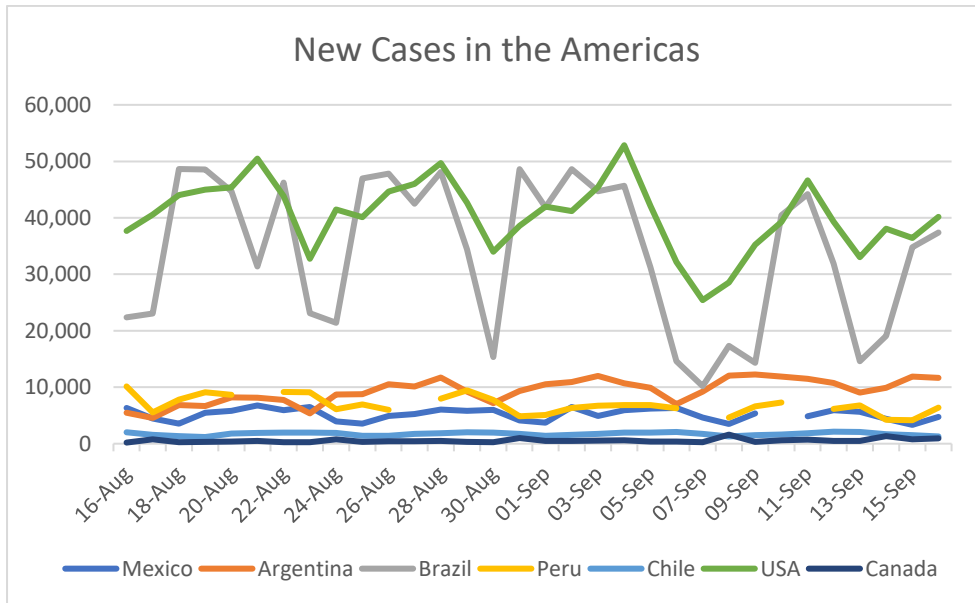
Schools across the continent continue to open. Italy, once the epicentre of the pandemic, has reopened most of its schools. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, wrote on his social media "There will be difficulties and inconveniences, especially in the beginning" and warning students he added "you have to do your part. You have to commit yourselves to the rules of caution that will allow you to protect your health and the health of the people you love". Nevertheless, some Italian regions expressed concerns over not being able to meet the new health requirements, therefore they postponed the reopening until 24 September. Preventative measures in Italian schools include face masks, social distancing, and temperature checks.

Elsewhere in Denmark, due to the spike in infections, authorities have imposed 22:00 closing times and obligatory face masks in bars and restaurants in Copenhagen and its 16 surrounding municipalities, including Albertslund, Ballerup, Brøndby and Dragør. These will be in effect until at least 1 October.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
France	283,508	Significant Increase	Light/Moderate	Moderate
Italy	40,532	Increase	Light	Moderate
Spain	N/A	Increase	Light/ Moderate	Moderate
Germany	18,316	Stable	Light	Moderate
UK	N/A	Increase	Light	Light
Russia	170,488	Slight Increase	Moderate	High



Americas



The Americas count for half of the world’s COVID-19 cases. Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina continue to be the countries with the most confirmed new cases globally, although authorities report that in some countries, there is evidence that the virus is now spreading at a slower rate.

President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Luis Alberto Moreno, pointed out that COVID-19 will likely have repercussions on South America in the years to come. This is predominantly due to the fact that the disease and related restrictions have exacerbated pre-existing issues and societal fractures such as poverty and unemployment.

In Brazil, which has the third-highest number of infections worldwide at over 4,300,000 infections and more than 130,000 related deaths, President Bolsonaro has announced that the nation is “practically beating the pandemic” and that “the government has done everything possible to minimize its negative effects”. Bolsonaro’s response to the health emergency has been widely criticised by the international community. In relation to this, according to a report published by the United Nations, Brazil reportedly committed violations of human rights due to the insufficient actions to respond to the pandemic. This also includes the denial of the seriousness of the disease.

In Ecuador, data shows that transmissions are slowing. On 14 September, authorities lifted the nationwide state of emergency and related COVID-19 restrictions that were implemented in March. Despite this, a national public health emergency remains in effect and citizens will still have to comply with health requirements such as social distancing and face masks. High infection rates continue to be reported in Quito, where many restrictions will remain in place until further notice. Authorities note that high infections numbers are predominantly due to intensified COVID-19 testing. Ecuadorian authorities also announced that travellers to the country will no longer be required to self-quarantine if they show a negative COVID-19 test.

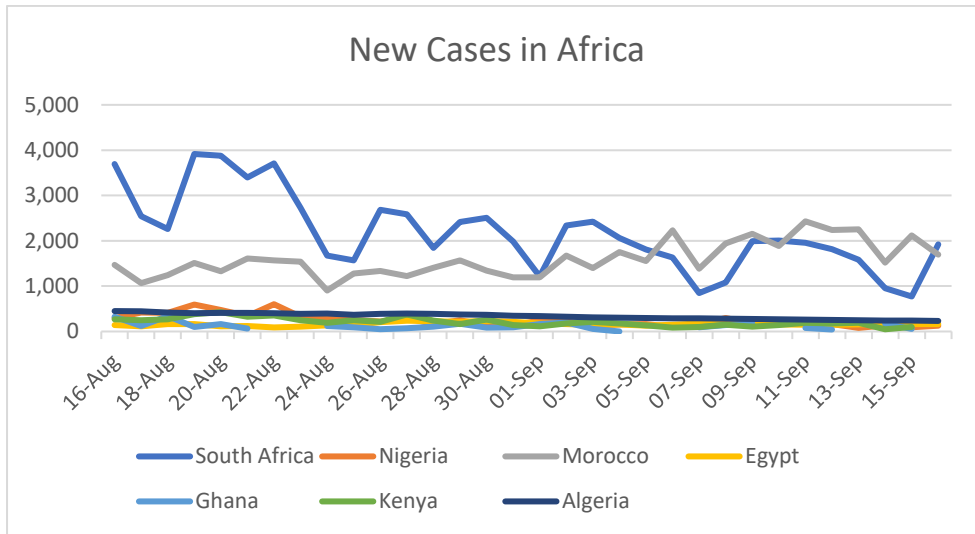
On 15 September, the United States saw the second lowest of daily COVID-19 cases with data indicating that new infection rates are slowly declining since the summer’s peak. Despite this, infections in eleven states including Maine, Wyoming, Missouri, Delaware and Arkansas, continue to be higher than anywhere else in the US. It is also noted that since the pandemic started, COVID-19 hotspots have shifted between states. For example, over the last few weeks, North and South Dakota have emerged as the nation’s hotspots and are currently leading the country in the number of new cases per capita.

Elsewhere in the Americas, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) called on the Canadian government to ease the country’s travel restrictions that were implemented in one of the strictest lockdowns globally. Alexandre de Juniac, IATA Director General and Chief Executive Officer, stated: “it is critical that the Government of Canada acts on these before the economic and social damages become permanent and the public health consequences of mass unemployment become even more apparent”.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Mexico	123,741	Stable	Light	Moderate
Argentina	128,633	Increase	High	High
Brazil	567,200	Decrease	Light	High
Peru	125,632	Decrease	Moderate	High
Chile	15,376	Stable	Moderate	High
USA	2,507,795	Stable	Moderate/High	Moderate
Canada	8,105	Slight Increase	Light	High



Africa



Case numbers continue to drop in Africa, with an average 10 percent fall in the number of weekly new cases being reported over the past four weeks. South Africa, Egypt and Morocco continue to lead the continent in the number of confirmed cases.

In Morocco, protests have broken out by some medics in the country. The health workers claim that there is inadequate staffing as well as under-equipped facilities, making working conditions especially poor. Unions representing health workers have stated that at least 526 of their members have been infected, creating staff shortages. This is coupled with some intensive care units being overrun and many wards being full. In the central city of Meknes, there is currently only a reported three nurses and two doctors to treat 120 patients. As a result of these shortages and overcapacity, staff are having to work longer hours in full protective gear in exceptionally high temperatures.

In Egypt, the country's health minister has announced plans for the second wave of coronavirus. Health and Population Minister Hala Zayed announced the country's plan of action on Monday, 14 September, during a meeting of Egypt's Supreme Committee for the Management of the Coronavirus Crisis. The action plan is understood to have been divided into four key areas. These include the establishment of safe health service outlets (320 have been included in this and will focus almost exclusively on COVID-19-like cases), the creation of sufficient medical supplies, the implementation of travel restrictions on

anyone without a negative PCR test and, finally, the creation of a vaccine. On the last point, the country is understood to be collaborating with Chinese vaccine companies, as well as the one developed in the UK by Oxford University.

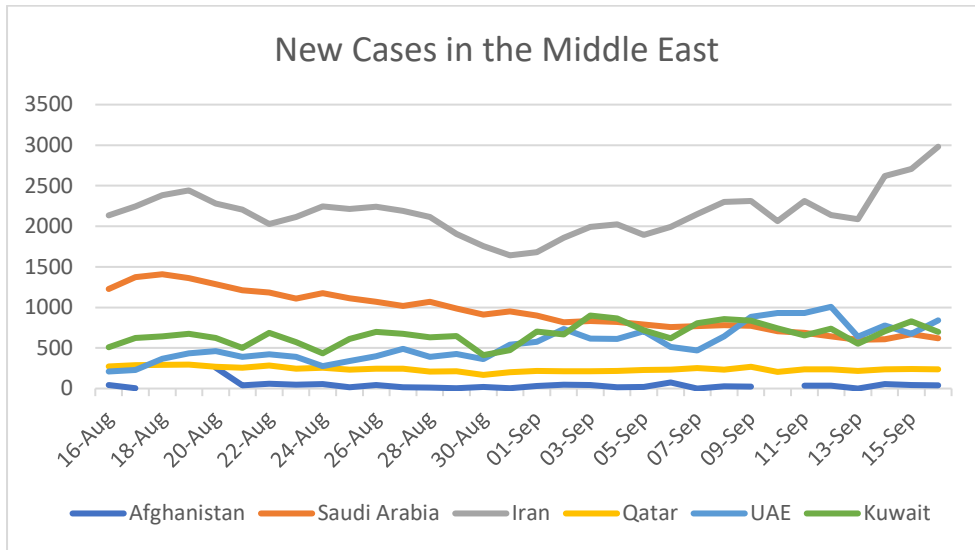
Elsewhere, in South Africa, the country is continuing to ease its strict lockdown, which was one of the strictest in the region and globally. From 20 September, the overnight curfew will be reduced, gatherings will be allowed at 50 percent of a venues capacity and alcohol sale will resume. Despite this, rules on social distancing and mask-wearing will remain in place. The country accounts for just under half of all of Africa's confirmed cases, with over 650,000. Additionally, the country has also stated that international travel would resume from 1 October with a further economic stimulus package being drawn up.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has weathered the pandemic surprisingly well thus far. The country has implemented successful testing and travel protocols for managing Covid-19 with the population also widely observing the rules on mask-wearing and hand hygiene. Every government and commercial building checks individuals' temperatures, some are even spraying disinfectant on arrivals, especially hotels.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
South Africa	53,544	Decrease	Moderate	High
Nigeria	7,641	Decrease	Moderate	High
Morocco	17,362	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Egypt	9,255	Decrease	Moderate	High
Ghana	564	Decrease	Moderate	High
Kenya	12,227	Stable	Moderate	High
Algeria	12,804	Stable	Moderate	High



Middle East



Several countries across the region continue to experience a surge of COVID-19 infections.

To contain the spread of the virus, Israel will reimpose a nationwide lockdown to respond to surging cases. The lockdown will be in effect from Friday, 18 September, and it will last for at least three weeks. Businesses, as well as schools, will be closed, and people will not be allowed more than 500 metres from their homes. The government announced that the move comes amid rising infections and ahead of the Jewish holiday period. The move has drawn criticism from opposition groups but there are also concerns that the soaring number of cases can further deteriorate the nationwide health system. Israel has one of the worst COVID-19 death rates per capita and a total of 171,768 active cases.

Officials in Iran, the hardest-hit country in the Middle East, noted that the country will likely witness a third wave of the virus. After a notable decrease in late August, the last couple of weeks have seen a surge in cases and the resurgence of infections are predominantly linked to violations of the health protocols. Citizens in Iran are urged to wear face coverings whilst in public, adhere to social distancing and refrain from travelling. At the start of the week, Iran recorded 2,705 new infections, its highest single-day surge in more than a month.

Authorities in Iraq are also reportedly anticipating a new wave of infections over the coming winter months. In relation to this, Abdul Ghani al-Saadi, head of the ministry's al-Risafa Health Department,

warned that "the epidemiological situation is still unstable" and that "the danger lies within the next two months". Despite the surge in infections, restrictions started to ease nationwide. This includes the reopening of the country's border crossings.

The total number of infections in Oman reached 91,196. Recently, Oman's Ministry of Health (MoH) shared the results of the first phase of the national survey of seroprevalence for COVID-19. It has been reported that the infections are most prevalent among non-Omanis and the most reported cases are in Muscat and Al Wusta governorates.

Authorities in Saudi Arabia, where cases have exceeded 327,55, announced that all restrictions on the entry and exit of travellers will be lifted on 1 January 2021 although, some people including students and those in need of medical treatments abroad, have been able to travel as of 15 September. Additionally, Gulf citizens and non-Saudis with valid visas and permits can now enter the kingdom if they carry a medical certificate to show that they tested negative for the virus. The interior ministry also announced plans to resume Umrah pilgrimage with a limited number of domestic pilgrims.

Countries	Active Covid cases	New Covid cases	Domestic lockdown	International Travel Restrictions
Afghanistan	4,916	Decrease	High	Severe
Saudi Arabia	17,178	Slight Decrease	Light	Severe
Iran	34,683	Slight Increase	Moderate	High
Qatar	2,841	Stable	Moderate	High
UAE	9,924	Slight Increase	Light	Moderate
Kuwait	9,241	Stable	Moderate	Moderate