COVID-19 Update: Chinese case numbers remain low; Brazilian infections soar; India sees largest daily spike

We start each day’s update with this message from DFS Group when the retailer reopened its stores in Macau on 20 February after a 13-day closure.

Published in Chinese, it translates as:

*No winter can’t be passed*
*No spring will not come*

FOR UPDATES FROM 25 MAY ONWARDS CLICK HERE.

24 May
In summary: Latest developments

*Brazil* overtakes Russia as the second worst-hit country in total case numbers (347,398) after the US.

* The National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China reports just five cases across the whole of Greater China for Friday and Saturday combined.

*India* posts highly daily increase in new cases for second consecutive day. 6,767 new COVID-19 infections are confirmed, bringing the total to 131,868 and 3,867 deaths. The alarming spike comes as domestic flights resume this coming week.

*Japan* posts just 28 new coronavirus cases but 12 deaths. Only two new infections in Tokyo, the lowest tally since the state of emergency was declared on 7 April.

*Mexico* sees a continued surge in new infections with 3,328 new daily cases, the second consecutive record daily increase. Mexico has reported 65,856 COVID-19 cases and 7,179 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University.

*South Korea* continues to see new case numbers hover in the twenties.

*US* case toll passes 1.6 million (see below).

International

Total cases globally pass 5.3 million as the crisis escalates in key mass-population countries including Brazil and India. [Click to enlarge and here for a constantly updated country-by-country infection and death count. Source: Johns Hopkins University](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu).
Once more the numbers out of China are encouraging. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

South Korea
The daily new case tally continues to hover in the twenties. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

23 May

International
The new case toll surges by over 100,000 to more than 5.2 million as the crisis escalates in Latin America. Click to enlarge and here for a constantly updated country-by-country infection and death count. Source: Johns Hopkins University

South Korea
The Republic sees 23 new cases, 13 of them in Gyeonggi, the province surrounding the capital, Seoul. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

**Greater China**
The numbers in red tell an incredible story as no new infections and no deaths are reported by the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

22 May

Australia

Sydney Airport passenger traffic reached just 92,000 in April, down -97.5% year-on-year. That included 43,000 international passengers (-96.9%) and 49,000 domestic (-97.9%).

The airport company said: “We expect the downturn in passenger traffic to persist until government travel restrictions are eased.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Growth (%)</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Growth (%)</th>
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International
Compare the statistics above with those from just one month ago (below); Source: Johns Hopkins University (Click to enlarge and here for a constantly updated country by country infection and death count).

South Korea
The Republic sees a slight spike, although seven of the 20 cases were identified at the airport. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

Greater China
### COVID-19 Cases in Greater China

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<td>(Of which those imported from overseas)</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</table>


21 May

South Korea
New cases drop to 12 as the authorities race to control the latest outbreak. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

**Greater China**
Remarkable numbers. Simply remarkable. While the world reels from the highest daily increase in new cases yet, and the infection tally reaches 5 million, the PRC records just two cases and no deaths. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

International

A milestone of the worst kind as worldwide cases of COVID-19 reach 5 million, after the highest daily increase since the outbreak began. Source: Johns Hopkins University (Click to enlarge and here for a constantly updated country by country infection and death count).
WHO reports biggest single-day jump in global cases

Four countries responsible for nearly two-thirds of 106,000 coronavirus infections reported in past 24 hours

Brazil hits record high for new coronavirus cases

ANALYSIS: Trump’s Washington is falling badly

ANALYSIS: Trump gives the finger to his own government

Anderson Cooper reacts to ‘utterly heartless’ Trump tweet
In summary: Latest developments

* **Brazil** records over 17,400 new cases, the greatest single-day spike during the pandemic
* National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of **China** reports just five cases across the whole of Greater China
* In **France**, Groupe ADP passenger traffic falls by -99% year-on-year in April*
* **Singapore** to reopen gradually in three phases from 1 June
* **South Korea**’s new case toll soars to 32, the highest in nine days (story to follow)
* **US** case toll passes 1.5 million

International

Travel restaurateur Autogrill Group has reported on the sharp impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its business in the first four months of 2020. Revenue in the period reached €963 million, down by -33.9% year-on-year at current exchange rates (-35% at constant rates). Revenue in the month of April alone fell by -88% at current exchange rates, with 80% of stores closed.

EBITDA (under the IFRS16 accounting method) of €50.8 million for the period was sharply down on €178.6 million in the same period in 2019) and EBIT (IFRS16) -€157.7 million for the period compared to -€8.8 million a year ago.

Of early trading in May, it highlighted some signs of recovery in Italy and Rest of Europe and particularly on motorways, after the partial lifting of lockdown measures in the first half of the month.

Full story [here](#).

Ireland

DAA, which operates Dublin and Cork airports, and is parent company of travel retailer Aer Rianta International, said it plans to “right-size” the business in the face of COVID-19. It anticipates a “significant operating loss” in 2020, “with continued uncertainty in the medium term”.

DAA said that passenger traffic at Dublin and Cork airports next year could be as low as about 21 million passengers, compared to 35.5 million passengers in 2019. In April passenger traffic fell by -99% year-on-year.

Full story [here](#).

Singapore
The Straits Times reports that Singapore’s ‘circuit breaker’ will formally end on 1 June. The multi-ministry task force on the COVID-19 outbreak announced the decision yesterday (19 May), saying the economy would be reopened gradually in three phases.

South Korea
The South Korean government, authorities and people have battled impressively with the COVID-19 crisis but another spike today underlines how difficult it is to curb new outbreaks; Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)
The Korea Herald reports that South Korea’s new virus cases rose by the highest number in nine days on Wednesday amid looming mass infections at a major hospital in Seoul and a rise in nightclub-linked cases.
The global infection toll passes 4.9 million while deaths from COVID-19 exceed 323,000. Click to enlarge and here for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

Greater China

Once more the red numbers on the right tell an encouraging story; Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.
19 May

France

Groupe ADP passenger traffic fell by -99% year-on-year in April to just 300,000 across the network. Paris Aéroport traffic decreased by -98.6% to 100,000 passengers. As reported, at Paris Charles de Gaulle, only terminals 2A, 2C, 2E and 2F were open in the month while Paris Orly remains closed since 1 April.

Passenger traffic at TAV Airports, 46.1%-owned by Groupe ADP, decreased by -99% in April and is down -70.5% since the beginning of the year.

The entire Groupe ADP network served just 300,000 travellers in April (click to enlarge)

Passenger traffic at Santiago de Chile Airport, 45%-owned by Groupe ADP, fell by -95.4% in April and has by -30.2% in the first four months. At Amman Airport, 51%-owned by Groupe ADP, travel numbers slipped by -99.1% in April and by -44.1% since the beginning of the year.

Passenger traffic at GMR Airports, 24.99%-owned by Groupe ADP, slumped by -99.7% in April compared to April 2019.

International
**Worldometer** carries constant updated tallies on new infections and deaths country by country. Below, its website shows the 60 worst-hit countries by total case numbers. Click to enlarge.
<table>
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<th>Country</th>
<th>GDP</th>
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South Korea
Further encouragement in the Republic after the deeply concerning recent new outbreak traced to Itaewon bars and clubs. Just 13 new cases, though six in Seoul. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

Greater China
The red numbers on the right tell their own story, one that offers real cause for optimism in terms of a selective intra-Asia recovery for travel retail in the relative near term. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China.

18 May

International

Horrible numbers whichever way you look at them. The global infection toll now has 5 million in sight while deaths from
COVID-19 races past 315,000. Click to enlarge and [here](#) for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count.

Source: Johns Hopkins University.

**Greater China**

The red numbers continue to tell a positive story. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China

Click to enlarge.

**South Korea**
The situation continues to stabilise in the Republic after the deeply concerning recent new outbreak, traced to Itaewon bars and clubs. Just 15 new cases, only one in Seoul and seven identified at the airport. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

17 May

Spain

The Spanish death toll fell to 87 over the past 24 hours – the first total under 100 since the lockdown began.

Thailand

The government has extended its passenger flight ban for another month to 30 June in an effort to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. No passenger flights originating outside the country may land at Thai airports until June 30.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand issued the announcement (below) on its website yesterday.

The Thai authorities have worked rigorously to limit the disease. No new coronavirus infections nor deaths were reported on Saturday, leaving the countrywide tally at 3,025 cases and just 56 deaths. That ranks Thailand 70th in terms of global total case numbers and 72nd in the deaths tally.

That spells encouraging news for a relatively early return of Chinese tourism, so critical to the Thai travel retail sector.
From today, shopping malls, community malls and department stores are among businesses allowed to reopen fully after more than a month of a shutdown, as the government implemented the next phase of economic reopening. King Power International, which has also developed a strong e-commerce business, will reopen two of its three downtown stores in Bangkok tomorrow (in King Power Mahanakhon, Bangkok’s tallest building, and King Power Rangnam), and one in Phuket.
King Power International has developed a strong digital media presence underpinned by a high-quality ecommerce offer.

Greater China

The red numbers tell their own heartening story. Sensible government measures and great civic responsibility combine to see continued progress across Greater China. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

South Korea
The Korean authorities appear to have done a good job in first discovering, then tracking, and since confining the latest outbreak, traced to Itaewon bars and clubs. Just 13 new cases, five in Seoul and four identified at the airport. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

International
Over 4,000 new deaths globally since we reported around the same time yesterday; new cases up by over 90,000. Click to enlarge and here for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

16 May

Hong Kong

Cathay Pacific and Cathay Dragon carried just 13,729 passengers in April, a decrease of -99.6% compared to April 2019. The Cathay Pacific Group airlines reduced capacity by -97% “in response to significantly reduced demand as well as travel restrictions and quarantine requirements in place in Hong Kong and other markets”.

Although it expects to add some capacity, this is expected to be limited at least until the end of June.

Cathay Pacific Group Chief Customer and Commercial Officer Ronald Lam said: “The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact us in an unprecedented way. Year-to-date up to April, we made an unaudited loss of HK$4.5 billion at the full-service airline level (Cathay Pacific and Cathay Dragon) and the financial outlook continues to be very bleak for the coming few months at least.

“We operated only a bare skeleton passenger flight schedule serving just 14 destinations in April. Passenger demand continued to fall during the month and we carried fewer than 500 passengers per day only. The ban on transit traffic through Hong Kong together with minimal demand for outbound travel meant that the majority of our very limited traffic came from inbound travellers, notably from North America and the UK.

On the outlook, Lam said: “It is widely expected that international travel demand will only return to pre COVID-19 levels in a few years.
“As Hong Kong’s home carriers, we do not have the benefit of a domestic passenger network as a buffer. We already announced that we will continue to operate a minimal schedule over the next two months. Although it is our intention to slightly increase our passenger flight capacity from 3% in May to 5% in June, these are still subject to a potential relaxation in government health measures.

“At this stage, we still see no immediate signs of improvement. We expect that our average daily passenger numbers will remain at around 500 in May, and that business and leisure travel will remain severely impacted for the foreseeable future. Overall, we do not anticipate we will see a meaningful recovery for an extended period.”

**South Korea**

New case numbers fall to 19 in South Korea, and encouragingly only 11 of them are home-grown as the authorities race to control the latest outbreak. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

**International**
Total case numbers soar past 4.5 million while deaths in two countries, the US and the UK account for over a third of the total. Click to enlarge and [here](#) for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

**Greater China**

The red numbers once more underline a key trend across Greater China, with just eight cases across the whole of Mainland China and just one in Hong Kong. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.
Worldometer has been an excellent source of updated information on the COVID-19 outbreak globally. Here we see the top 20 countries in terms of total infections. Source: Worldometer (Click to enlarge)
Another grim milestone as the global death toll passes 300,000 while total case numbers soar towards 4.5 million. Click to enlarge and here for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

South Korea
The Korean Herald reports on another high double-digit tally of new cases as the authorities race to confine the latest outbreak.

**Greater China**
The red numbers tell the continued encouraging story out of Greater China, with just four cases across the whole of Mainland China and encouraging results elsewhere. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

14 May

Thailand

Airports of Thailand today reported figures for its first half and second quarter, with non-aeronautical revenues falling by -30.22% year-on-year in the three months to 31 March, hitting Bt5,159.43 million (US$160.5 million). Within this, concession revenues fell by -36.4% to Bt2,977 million (US$92.6 million).

The key reason was the sharp (-30.3%) decrease in the number of passengers due to the impact of COVID-19.

Full story here.

UK

WHSmith today said that revenue from its Travel division fell by -91% year-on-year in April, with total group revenue down by -85%. The company provided a trading update as it reported first-half results to 29 February.

Commenting on potential recovery scenarios, WHSmith said: “In Air, we expect a gradual improvement in passenger numbers from Autumn 2020; initially led by an increase in domestic travellers, particularly in the US where 80% of passengers are domestic, followed by regional, international and intercontinental passengers.”

Full story here.
**UAE**

“Until a medical solution is found, the industry will rely on bilateral agreements that enable the resumption of services.” Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths, one of the most-respected figures in aviation, paints a bleak short to mid-term picture of recovery prospects.

Click [here](#) for the full story.

**International**

The global death toll passes 297,000 with over 4.3 million cases reported worldwide. The US and Russian situations worsen.

Click to enlarge and [here](#) for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

**South Korea**
Another 29 new cases are reported in South Korea, 12 of them in the city of Incheon. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

Greater China
Impressive and encouraging results from the PRC again as COVID-19 new case numbers fall to low double-digits.  Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

13 May

Japan/International

Shiseido Travel Retail posted net sales of ¥27.8 billion (US$255.2 million) in the first quarter of its fiscal year, ending 31 March 2020, a decline of -1.6% at foreign exchange-neutral rates (-3.1% reported). The figures include travel retail in Japan and overseas.

The company said that travel retail had begun the year strongly in January (following an outstanding 2019), with Asia showing a +20% surge due to strong demand in China and South Korea, but the impact of lockdowns in many countries meant sales fell sharply from February onwards. In particular, the -90% drop in Chinese outbound travellers in March was a key contributing factor.

Full story here.

South Korea

Department store to duty free retailer Shinsegae posted weaker than expected first-quarter results, driven by the impact of COVID-19 on travel retail results.

Shinsegae Duty Free’s gross sales slumped -31.0% year-on-year to KW576 billion, with downtown sales declining by -21% and a stricken airport sector by -40%.

Full story here.
South Korea
The Korea Herald reports on a continued reversal of the previous downward trend in COVID-19 cases in the Republic. 

**South Korea reports 26 new coronavirus cases**

By Park Han-na

Published: May 13, 2020 - 13:07
Updated: May 13, 2020 - 13:07
of the new infections are linked to bars and clubs in Itaewon, Seoul, which were reopened in late April and early May.

Greater China

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Single-digit figures again in Mainland China with just one imported case as the authorities crank up their efforts to stop a new wave. No new infections in Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan; Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has encouraged the country’s nurses to step up efforts to promote the Healthy China initiative and maintain the security of public health globally.

*China Daily reported* that Xi sent his greetings to nurses across the country ahead of International Nurses Day on 12 May, and complimented them for their courageous fight against the novel coronavirus disease in China and overseas.
Newly recruited nurses take an oath during a capping ceremony at Peking University People’s Hospital in Beijing on 26 April [Photo: Xinhua; China Daily]

The state-controlled media quoted the Chinese leader as saying that nurses have made significant contributions to disease prevention and control. They have also demonstrated the great spirit of respecting lives, saving patients, self-sacrifice and showing great love for others across borders, Xi said.

International
The global death toll approaches 300,000 with over 4.2 million cases reported worldwide. Russia now ranks second in total confirmed infections. Click to enlarge and [here](#) for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

**12 May**

**Europe**

Airports Council International (ACI) Europe today revealed that the region’s airports posted a -98.6% drop in passenger traffic year-on-year in April. The European network of 500+ airports welcomed only 2.8 million passengers during April, 202 million fewer than a year earlier.

More on this story [here](#).

**France/International**

Tax Free World Association today announced the cancellation of the TFWA World Exhibition & Conference, scheduled for 27 September to 2 October, in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

Having announced [plans to proceed](#) with the show on 17 April, the TFWA Board and Management Committee took into account the continuing uncertainty surrounding the travel and health situation, as well as the worldwide fall in industry activity, in taking its decision.

Full story [here](#).

**Singapore**
Changi Airport is to suspend operations at Terminal 4 from 16 May, in a further consolidation of activity as traffic falls sharply due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The airport company had already halted operations at Terminal 2 for 18 months on 1 May.

Changi Airport also reported April traffic results: it served 25,200 passengers across its four terminals in the month, down by -99.5% year-on-year.

For the full story, click here.

**International**

Dufry this morning laid bare the drastic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on its business, revealing in a trading update to its first-quarter results that sales had plummeted -94.1% year-on-year in April. However, it also unveiled a coherent plan, driven out of crisis, to shore up liquidity and to drive recovery on a location-by-location basis as the situation improves.

Full story here.

**Greater China**

Much better news out of Mainland China with just one new case (an imported case in Inner Mongolia); No new infections in Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan; Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

**South Korea**
Itaewon club cases emerge as Seoul’s 2nd biggest cluster infection
Social affairs
Infections connected to bars and clubs in Seoul’s multicultural district of Itaewon emerged as the second biggest cluster infection reported in the country’s capital—

South Korea reports 27 more cases of new coronavirus
Social affairs
South Korea reported 27 more cases of the new coronavirus on Monday, bringing the nation’s total infections to 10,996, according to the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday. It marked the fourth day in

The Korea Herald dedicates home page treatment to a new and deeply concerning outbreak in Seoul (Click to enlarge)
27 new cases bring the tally over the past four days in the Republic to 114 as the authorities race to control a new outbreak related to Itaewon bars and clubs that followed the easing of social restrictions (since reimposed). Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)
The UK moves past Russia once more to assume the unenviable status of country with the third-highest case tally. Click to enlarge and [here](#) for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

11 May
Russia surges into third place (yesterday it was fifth) in the global league of total confirmed cases. Click to enlarge and here for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns Hopkins University.

UK

The UK Travel Retail Forum has said it has “serious concerns” about the government’s plans to introduce a 14-day quarantine for inbound travellers, and the impact it will have on the capacity of the travel industry to restart. (Scroll down for a video of Prime Minister Boris Johnson announcing the measure.)

Chair Francois Bourienne said: “While UKTRF firmly supports a science-led approach to all measures to combat COVID-19, we believe there may be more effective risk-based approaches that the government is not considering. It is also alarming that the quarantine period has been announced without meaningful consultation and engagement with the travel sector to ensure the planned rules are understood, workable in the short term, and clear in their scope and duration.”

More on this story here.

Colombia

As airlines around the world seek financial support to allow them to survive the COVID-19 crisis, one of the largest carriers in Latin America files for bankruptcy protection.

Yesterday, Colombian airline group Avianca Holdings filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, saying the move was “necessitated by the unforeseeable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic”.

For more, click here.

International
New research from the UN World Tourism Organization shows that 100% of global destinations have restrictions on travel in place, and 72% have completely closed their borders to international visitors as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The agency said that, out of all 217 destinations worldwide, 156 (72%) have placed a complete stop on international tourism (data as of 27 April). In 25% of destinations, restrictions have been in place for at least three months, while in 40% of destinations, restrictions were introduced at least two months ago. Crucially, no destination has so far lifted or eased travel restrictions.

For more, click here.

**UK**

London Heathrow Airport passenger traffic fell by -97% year-on-year in April. The UK hub supported essential travel for just 200,000 people, the number it would usually handle in one day. Demand is expected to remain weak until governments lift lockdowns, said Heathrow.

As the UK government announced plans to impose a 14-day quarantine on visitors who arrive by air, Heathrow said it supports the aim to avoid a new wave of infections, “even though it will effectively close borders temporarily”. But it called for a “roadmap” for how government plans to re-open borders once it is safe to do so.

Full story here.

**South Korea**
More alarming news from South Korea with a second successive day of more than 30 new cases following the easing of restrictions (since reimposed). Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

**China**
Another day of double digits for new confirmed cases in Mainland China, with a worrying five infections revealed in Hubei province, epicentre of the original outbreak. Source: National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

### 10 May

**UK**

“To prevent reinfection from abroad, I am serving notice that it will soon be the time – with transmission significantly lower – to impose quarantine [believed to be 14-day -Ed] on people coming into this country by air.” – UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson during his address to the nation tonight.

**International**
The global case number passes 4 million as the disease rages in the US with many other countries seeing fast rises in both infections and deaths. Click to enlarge and here for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: (Johns Hopkins University).

South Korea

Deeply concerning news from South Korea that offers lessons for all governments considering the easing of restrictions.
capital, Seoul, sees a big spike in cases tracked to a bar in Itaewon immediately following the easing of restrictions (since reimposed). The result? 52 new cases over the past two days after a run of single-digit numbers. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

China

As in South Korea, yesterday saw a return to double digits in new confirmed cases in Mainland China. Better news from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan according to the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China. Click to enlarge.

9 May
International

“I think what we’re seeing is a careful, measured return to those kind of normal activities of work and school, especially if they’re done with density reduction, physical distancing and hygiene in place seem to be very prudent and practical. Where we’re going to maybe have to accept a little bit more time is going to be around mass gatherings – things like large-scale gatherings and concerts.” World Health Organization Executive Director Dr. Mike Ryan’s words to a media briefing on Friday underlined the challenges faced by the world at large and particularly travel-related sectors.

“This is the time when people gather en mass, we go to big events, and it’s going to be much more difficult to make those perfectly safe”

[Click on the icon to watch Dr Mike Ryan via The Guardian’s YouTube Channel]

“We’re coming into the summertime in Europe, and North America and other places in Asia. And this is the time when people gather en mass, we go to big events, and it’s going to be much more difficult to make those perfectly safe. There is a path out, but we must remain ever vigilant. And we may have to have a significant alteration to our lifestyles until we get to a point where we have an effective vaccine and effective treatments.

“This is a big challenge. And we’re not through it yet in many countries. And as some countries come out of lockdown, and come out of these measures, they can offer hope to communities who are entering into epidemic situations and [who can] learn lessons from what everyone has done, transfer resources, and help other countries to fight the fight they have to fight.

“In the end of this… through solidarity we will win the fight and nobody is safe until everybody is safe.”

Greater China

Remarkable statistics from the National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China, which has maintained
impressive efficiency and transparency in its reporting since the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak. While the virus numbers soar in the west and elsewhere in Asia, the numbers across Greater China continue to offer particular cause for optimism – especially for the travel retail sector. Just one case across the vast Chinese Mainland; none in Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan. Click to enlarge.

Source: China Daily; National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China figures show (Click to enlarge)
Source: China Daily

South Korea
While the overall new case numbers remain low, the uptick back into double digits (12 yesterday, 18 today) will be a big concern for the authorities, especially as 12 of the new cases were reported in the capital, Seoul. Source: Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Click to enlarge)

International

The global death toll nears 275,00 (at this point yesterday it was approaching 270,000) while total cases pass 3.93 million (3.84 million). Click to enlarge and here for a safe link to a constantly updated country-by-country count. Source: Johns
Hopkins University).

**US**

The COVID-19 crisis made its impact felt at Orlando International Airport (MCO) in March with a 47% year-on-year drop in traffic. International traffic declined -53.61% to 302,867 while domestic volume fell -46.47% to 2,205,382.

**NOTE:** For earlier updates tracking back to mid-January, click [here](#).