COVID-19 International Response
An overview of measures implemented by some countries to combat the COVID-19 outbreak
Comparison how select countries have responded to the COVID-19 outbreak

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Travel restrictions</th>
<th>Social distancing encouraged</th>
<th>Restaurants/bars officially closed</th>
<th>Lockdown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
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<td>South Korea</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources: USA Today; Business Insider; BBC; Australian Government Department of Health.
## Emergency policies to prevent the spread of coronavirus, by country (1/2)

### China
- China first reported cases to the WHO on Dec. 31; it instituted a lockdown in Wuhan on Jan. 23 and began to extend the lockdown on Jan. 24
- Ultimately forced citizens to stay home for weeks and banned all public gatherings, with nearly 120 million school children instructed online at the outbreak’s peak
- Authorities visited every household in affected areas to take temperatures and isolated the sick in large venues for observation and treatment

### Italy
- Italy first confirmed a case on Feb. 20; it implemented a total country lockdown on Mar. 9 that is still in place
- Only supermarkets and drug stores are open to the public, and strict curfews are in place
- The lockdown has recently been tightened to prohibit “outdoor physical and leisure activities”
- Doctors have been instructed to prioritize treatment for those under the age of 80 without pre-existing conditions due to medical supply shortages

### United States
- Pres. Trump declared a national emergency on Mar. 13, 53 days after the first case was diagnosed in the U.S.
- Most U.S. coronavirus response measures have been implemented at the state or local level
- As of March 25, 17 states, 26 counties, and 10 cities have mandated that residents stay home
- President Trump has urged Americans to refrain from gathering in groups larger than 10 and to engage in work and schooling from home

### Iran
- Iran long denied the severity of the coronavirus outbreak and its risks, despite many lawmakers falling ill to it in the early days of its spread
- Its health system and officials are limited in their capacity and preparedness due to many years of sanctions on the country
- Supreme Leader Khamenei issued a religious warning prohibiting unnecessary travel, though many Iranians have continued going about their daily business

Sources: USA Today; Business Insider; Vox; Axios; New York Times; Johns Hopkins.
### Emergency policies to prevent the spread of coronavirus, by country (2/2)

#### Singapore
- Singapore’s success in combating the coronavirus is linked to its excellent health system, strict virus testing, tracing and containment programs, and robust infrastructure due to its history of dealing with SARS
- The country has not shut down entirely, with businesses and schools allowed to stay open, but gatherings have been strictly limited to 25 or fewer
- People entering schools and restaurants must have their temperature taken

#### South Korea
- A week after the first diagnosed case appeared in South Korea, government officials met with medical companies to urge immediate development of test kits for mass production; now producing 100,000 daily
- Over a quarter of a million people have been tested, which is a free process that takes only 10 minutes and sends the results via text within 24 hours
- Travelers to the country must report their health status via an app for 14 days

#### Australia
- Australia activated its emergency response to COVID-19 on February 27 and designated it a global pandemic earlier than the WHO and other advanced G7 nations
- Enabled authorities to quickly release emergency funding and tax breaks; gave hospitals time to prepare for a flood of patients
- Everyone travelling to Australia must self-isolate for 14 days, and the Prime Minister closed non-essential businesses on March 25

#### United Kingdom
- The U.K. was initially an outlier among European countries for its slow coronavirus response
- However, on Mar. 23, it went on full lockdown, with citizens only being allowed to leave their homes for essential work, exercise (only one form allowed per day), and the purchase of food or medicine
- Gatherings of more than two people, excluding those who live together, are banned (as are ceremonies, apart from funerals)

Sources: USA Today; Business Insider; CNN; New York Times; Stat.
The process for developing and performing tests has varied by country

**Total COVID-19 tests performed per million people**

Data collected from official country reports, as of March 20, 2020

- **United Arab Emirates**: 12,738.0
- **South Korea**: 6,148.0
- **Australia**: 4,473.4
- **Germany**: 2,023.3
- **Austria**: 1,777.8
- **United Kingdom**: 959.7
- **Iran**: 957.1
- **France**: 559.1
- **Finland**: 537.6
- **United States***: 313.6
- **Vietnam**: 159.0
- **Japan**: 117.8
- **South Africa**: 109.6
- **Colombia**: 81.7
- **Brazil**: 13.7

*Data for the United States corresponds to estimates from the COVID-Tracking Project.


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