

COVID-19 Updates

Date Range: 16 March 2020 to 31 March 2020

31st March 2020 – 1:04 PM CET – Global

Chile

The quarantine measures taken by the authorities are affecting our operations/capabilities in the country. Customs and airport ground handlers are operating with reduced staff. Please expect some delays in import and export clearance.

Mexico

Due to the measures taken by authorities, customs are working with reduced staff in Mexico. Please expect delays in import and export clearance.

Italy

World Courier Ground Europe has resumed operations to/from Italy. Although, there may be increased transit times due to the extra roadside and border checks as well as the potential unavailability of normal routes.

30th March – 10:37 AM CET – Global

Laos

No imports or exports are currently possible in the country until further notice.

Myanmar

No imports or exports are currently possible in the country until further notice.

Argentina

The quarantine measures put in place on the 20th March have been extended until further notice.

27 March – 5 PM CET – Global

Turkey

Turkey has announced that all international passenger flights are suspended until further notice.

South Africa

Due to additional lockdown measures implemented by authorities, most companies are closed for business. With that said, imports and exports are still possible in the country.

Sierra Leone

No imports or exports are currently possible in the country until further notice.

Thailand

International airlines are not accepting any booking for departures from BKK before April 13th. Please expect severe delays (up to 48 hours) for import customs clearance.

Peru

Operations in Peru have resumed but please expect delays in driving pickups and deliveries due to checkpoints. Also, please note that some shippers/consignees are closed.

Czech Republic

The following municipalities cannot be accessed, so no pickup/deliveries are possible until further notice:

Benkov u Strelic, Brnicko, Cervenka, Chorelice, Chudobin, Detrichov, Dolni Sukolom, Horni Sukolom, Litovel, Myslechovice, Nasoburky, Nova Dedina u Unicova, Nova Ves u Litovle, Renoty, Rozvadovice, Savin, Strelice u Litovle, Tri Dvory u Litovle, Uncovice, Viska u Litovle, Unicov.

Meanwhile, the government in the country has declared face-wear mandatory for everyone in an effort to combat the pandemic.

26 March - 5 PM CET - Global

Uruguay

Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, customs in Montevideo (MVD), Uruguay are working with reduced staff. For this reason please expect delays in both import and export clearance.

Note: The MVD airport can be used as a Hub to connect LATAM with the rest of the world. Shipments for a third country can be sent to MVD and then redispached without paying duties & taxes.

India

The Government of India is now allowing driving activities for essential services. Our operations in India have resumed.

Brazil

Due to numerous delays and cancellations of domestic flights, WC Sao Paulo (SAO) is going to temporarily change some domestic routes from airline to road connection as of the 30th March. This will increase transit times but the service will be more reliable.

Nigeria

Authorities have closed the international airports in Nigeria. Please be advised that effective immediately, imports and exports are not possible in the country until further notice.

25 March - 1 PM CET - Global

Romania

All activities have been suspended in Suceava (SCV). No pickups/deliveries are possible in this city until further notice. Flight connections are heavily reduced. Road transportation remains a possibility.

Germany

Handling agents at FRA airport are currently working on skeleton crew and this is creating a severe backlog affecting our shipments on all airlines.

India

Although we are still awaiting details, we have been informed that no pickups/deliveries will be possible in the country until further notice.

UK

Due to staff shortage, BHD Airport Cargo Handling Facility has been forced to close effective immediately. No cargo can arrive/depart BHD Airport until further notice.

Thailand

On Tuesday the Thai government approved a one-month state of emergency in the country, from the 26th of March until the 25th of April. This may lead to both collections and deliveries being suspended. Meanwhile, Thai Airways (TG) has announced the temporary suspension of its operations to and from several countries until the 31st of May.

24 March - 4 PM CET - Global

Airlines

Multiple airlines have suspended/reduced flight connections to several countries. EK airlines announced that they will suspend most of their passenger flights.

India

Authorities have decided to apply stricter measures. No driving activities (pickups/deliveries and airline tenders/recoveries) are currently possible without a letter of urgency that needs to be issued by the shipper or consignee in India.

Bangladesh

Authorities have now imposed stricter measures and operations. Shipments to and from the country are no longer possible at the moment.

Sri Lanka

Authorities have now imposed stricter measures and operations. Shipments to and from the country are no longer possible at the moment.

23 March - 6 PM CET - Global

Airlines

Bulgaria and Pakistan have now been added to our countries impacted by suspended/reduced flight connections. Pakistan No exports are possible until further notice. Only pharmaceuticals can be imported at present, but they can only arrive on freighters and severe delays are to be expected.

Brazil

Several regulatory bodies such as customs and MOH are working with reduced staff due to the outbreak and this is causing delays in import clearance at GRU.

22 March – 10 AM CET – Global

Turkey

As of Saturday March 21st, the Turkish Ministry of Civil Aviation has announced that all passenger flights to and from the following countries have been suspended:

Kuwait, Bangladesh, Mongolia, The Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, Ukraine, Kosovo, Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Oman, Slovenia, Moldova, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Canada, India, Hungary, Guatemala, Poland, Kenya, Sudan, Chad, Philippines, Latvia, Taiwan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Niger, Tunisia, Algeria, Ivory Coast, Finland, Angola, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Cameroon, Montenegro, Colombia, North Macedonia, Mauritania, Nepal, Portugal and Panama

World Courier Turkey has advised that this measure is for passenger aircraft and that cargo alternatives are available on a case by case basis.

Colombia

The President of Colombia has decreed a period of national isolation until April 13th.

World Courier Colombia advised that, while domestic passenger flights have been cancelled, they will connect domestic shipments with cargo flights. Cities cargo options will have longer transit times. While BOG airport will remain open and customs along with other authorities will continue to operate, delays to imports and exports in Colombia are to be expected.

20 March 2020 – 7 PM CET – Global

Airlines

Aruba, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe have now been added to our list of most affected countries in terms of flight restrictions/reductions.

Latin America

Our international agents have provided the following about countries under their control.

Dominican Republic:

Expect delays in all activities, but imports and exports remain possible.

El Salvador:

Expect delays in all activities, but imports and exports remain possible.

Guatemala:

Expect delays in all activities, but imports and exports remain possible.

Honduras:

Imports and exports not possible until further notice.

Jamaica:

Expect delays in all activities, but imports and exports remain possible.

Nicaragua:

Expect delays in all activities, but imports and exports remain possible.

Paraguay:

Expect delays in all activities, but imports and exports remain possible.

Venezuela:

Imports and exports not possible until further notice.

AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

Our international agents have provided the following about countries under their control:

Malawi:

Export not possible until further notice. Imports still possible but, as all passenger flights have been suspended, they would need to arrive on freighters.

Namibia:

Export not possible until further notice. Imports still possible but, as all passenger flights have been suspended, they would need to arrive on freighters.

Mauritius:

No exports are possible until further notice (at least until APR-08). Imports should also be put on hold with the only exception on urgent medications.

Rwanda:

Export not possible until further notice (at least until APR-19). Imports still possible but, as all passenger flights have been suspended, they would need to arrive on freighters.

Argentina

Authorities have now officially declared quarantine in the country until at least MAR-31 incl. Please note the following:

Our office in Buenos Aires remains operational but there may be delays in customs clearance as well as in cargo unloading and confirming storage conditions. Until MAR-25 incl. all domestic flights have been cancelled, so the only way to connect Buenos Aires with the rest of the country are direct drives.

20 March 2020 – 12 PM CET – Colombia

Multiple airlines have suspended/reduced flight connections to several nations. Colombia has now been added to our list of most affected countries. Among other measures, an isolation drill from MAR-20 until MAR-23 will be taking place. Numerous shippers/consignees will be closed and import/export clearance will not be permitted.

19 March 2020 – 10 AM CET – Global

Multiple airlines have suspended/reduced flight connections to several nations. Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates have now been added to our list of most affected countries.

South America

World Courier's 3PL depot in Montevideo, Uruguay is allowing us to make bulk shipments across South America with speed and efficiency – reducing dependencies on European storage facilities. Given the current climate, this is vital considering the current flight restrictions to and from Europe.

Updates to Existing Affected Countries

Malaysia

In Malaysia, additional measures have been implemented by the authorities to contain COVID-19. Most companies in the country are now closed. Airport ground handlers are operating with skeleton crew and this is causing delays in handling activities.

Italy

The situation in Italy is now more stable but coordinating shipments is proving to be challenging for our team.

Delays

Shipment delays in Botswana, and Kuwait are being experienced.

Imports/Exports Suspended

In the following countries, all imports and exports are suspended until further notice; Bahrain, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia. In Lebanon, imports are still possible – but no exports are possible until further notice.

18 March 2020 – 10 AM CET – Global

Airlines

Multiple airlines have suspended/reduced flight connections to several nations. Malta, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Mexico, Moldova, and Oman have now been added to our list of affected countries.

17 March 2020 – 10 AM CET – Global

Airlines

Austria and Ecuador have now been added to our list of most affected countries. All Austrian Airlines flights have been cancelled. Ecuador has banned all international flights and announced a border closure for all foreign travel.

16 March 2020 – 10 AM CET – Global

Airlines

Multiple airlines have suspended/reduced flight connections. The Czech Republic, Peru, Germany, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Taiwan and Russia have now been added to our list of most affected countries.

Czech Republic

Authorities have implemented measures that may cause delays. Land borders have been closed but transport companies are exempted as long as drivers have a HAWB and employer statement. The only airport currently operating in the country is PRG but flights are very limited.

Germany

Germany's border controls affect passenger crossings between Austria, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland and Denmark. Nevertheless, the German government's restrictions do not affect the flow of goods and commerce.

If you have any concerns, please contact your local office: [Contact your local office](#)