

Watching Brief – Export bans related to COVID-19

Media reports as of March 24, 2020

NB:

- **Date indicated refers to date of the article (may differ from date of the export ban/restriction)**
- **Updates since the previous iteration of the watching brief are highlighted in yellow**

Legend:

Red = Export Ban

Orange = Export Restrictions

Green = Free flow

AMERICAS

- **USA (no bans yet in place)**
With no shipments from China, medical mask suppliers have to choose whom to supply
ActionNewsNow.com – March 7, 2020

EUROPE

- **European Union (export restrictions on **masks** and **other equipment**)**
As Germany closes borders, EU warns of risks to basic supply chains
EURACTIV – March 16, 2020
- **Bulgaria**
 - **(ban on exports of **masks** and **other equipment**)**
PM: Bulgaria losing tens of millions of leva daily because of coronavirus
The Sofia Globe – March 10, 2020
 - **(ban on exports of **quinine-based medicines**)**
Covid-19: Bulgaria's Health Minister bans **exports** of quinine-based medicines
The Sofia Globe – March 20, 2020
 - **(ban on exports of **disinfectants**)**
Covid-19: Bulgarian government bans **export** of disinfectants
The Sofia Globe – March 23, 2020
- **Czech Republic (ban on export of **masks** and **other equipment**)**
Czech authorities impose price caps on face masks, ban exports
bne IntelliNews – March 6, 2020
- **France (ban on exports of **masks** and **other equipment**)**
EU urges solidarity as coronavirus strains medical supplies
National Post- March 6, 2020
- **Germany**
 - **(ban on exports of **masks** and **other equipment**)**
Germany bans export of masks and gloves over coronavirus
The Local Germany – 4 March, 2020
 - **(easing ban to a restriction by allowing exports to EU countries)**
Germany, Under EU Pressure, Amends Decree on **Exports** of Protective Equipment
U.S. News & World Report – March 14, 2020

- Ireland (no bans at this time; focused on increasing production)
Infection risk 'low' as number of Covid-19 cases rises to 18
RTE.ie – 7 March, 2020
- Lithuania (ban on exports of **masks** and **other equipment**)
EU urges solidarity as coronavirus strains medical supplies
National Post – March 6, 2020
- Poland (export restrictions on **medicines, masks** and **other equipment**)
New EU and National **export** controls on face **masks** and medical protective equipment
Lexology – March 16, 2020
- Romania (ban on exports of **medicines** and **other health products**)
Romania suspends **exports** of medicines as **coronavirus** cases reach 47
EURACTIV – March 12, 2020
- Russia (ban of exports of **masks** and **hazmat suits**)
Russia Bans Export of Masks, Hazmat Suits to Fight Coronavirus
The Moscow Times – March 4, 2020
- Turkey (export restrictions on **masks** and **other equipment**)
Turkey Restricts Exports of Medical Protective Gear
Bloomberg Australia-NZ – March 4, 2020
- Ukraine
 - (restrictions on food)
Ukraine plans more lockdowns, IMF talks, food **export** curbs over **coronavirus**
Reuters – March 16, 2020
 - (ban on masks)
Ukraine To Introduce Ban On **Export** Of Medical **Masks**
Ukrainian News Agency (press release) (blog) – March 10, 2020
- United Kingdom
 - (ban on **parallel export of drugs**)
UK bans parallel **export** and hoarding of three Covid-19 drugs
pharmaceutical-technology.com – March 13, 2020
 - (Export restrictions on 80 crucial **medicines** including adrenaline, insulin, paracetamol and morphine)
Coronavirus UK: Ministers ban **exports** of 80 vital drugs to prevent shortages
Metro – March 20, 2020

ASIA/OCEANIA

- Australia (no bans at this time)
Global shortage of **Covid-19** test kits hits Australia as other nations limit **exports**
The Guardian – March 13, 2020
- Bangladesh (ban on exports of **sanitizer, masks**)
Hand sanitiser, face mask **export** banned
newagebd.net – March 14, 2020
- China (no official ban or restriction, but media reports *de facto* ban on **masks**)

China Makes the Masks the World Needs. It Is Just Starting to Share.
The New York Times – March 13, 2020

- **India**

- (restrictions on **active pharmaceutical ingredients**)
Coronavirus update in India: Four new confirmed cases, 3-year-old tests positive for **COVID-19** in ...
Jagran Josh – March 17, 2020
- (ban on **masks, textile used for masks, ventilators and respirators**)
Coronavirus: Government set to ban **export** of face **masks**, ventilators
Times of India (press release) (blog) – March 19, 2020
- (ban on **overalls**)
Govt banned **export** of N95 **masks**, body overalls on Jan 31: BJP's Amit Malviya
Economic Times – March 23, 2020
- (ban on exports of **sanitizer**)
Coronavirus Outbreak: Govt bans **export** of sanitisers, all types of ventilators with immediate effect
Firstpost – March 24, 2020

- **Indonesia**

- (ban on exports of **masks**)
COVID-19: Indonesia bans face mask **exports** to cater to domestic demand
Jakarta Post – March 13, 2020
- (ban on exports of **hand sanitizer and some medical equipment**)
Indonesia Bans **Exports** of Hand Sanitizer, Face **Masks** to Tackle Shortage
Bloomberg – March 18, 2020

- **Kazakhstan (ban on exports of masks and medicines)**

Case on medical face **masks** smuggling attempt sent to court – Vice PM
AKIpress (press release) – March 9, 2020

- **Malaysia (ban on exports of masks)**

Govt bans face **mask exports**, 3-ply price now RM2 from 80 sen
The Star Online – March 20, 2020

- **Nepal (ban on exports of masks, sanitizers and medicines)**

Nepal bans **export** of medicines, sanitizers, masks amid **COVID-19** fears
China.org.cn – March 22, 2020

- **Pakistan (ban on exports of masks)**

FIA to launch probe into **export** of face **masks**
DAWN.com – March 14, 2020

- **South Korea (export restrictions on masks)**

South Korea reports 93 new coronavirus cases, for total of 7134: Yonhap
The Guardian – March 8, 2020

- **Sri Lanka (ban on export or re-export of masks)**

Govt. bans **export/re-export** of face **masks**, removes maximum price
ft.lk – March 21, 2020

- **Taiwan (export restrictions on fabric masks)**

Taiwan to allow **export** of fabric **masks** for limited time
Focus Taiwan News Channel – March 11, 2020

With no shipments from China, medical **mask** suppliers have to choose whom to supply
Action News Now – 7 March, 2020
Taiwan plans to donate 100000 hospital **masks** to US per week
Washington Examiner – March 19, 2020
Virus Outbreak: Taiwan not yet able to **export masks**: ministry
Taipei Times – March 24, 2020

- **Thailand (ban on exports of masks)**
Thai government bans mask exports to battle coronavirus
Nikkei Asian Review – March 4, 2020

MIDDLE EAST

- **Iran (ban on exports of masks and other equipment)**
Customs Administration to deliver its stockpile of hygienic **masks** to health ministry
Mehr News Agency - English Version – March 9, 2020

AFRICA

- **Egypt (ban on export of masks and infection prevention supplies)**
Egypt bans **exporting masks**, infection prevention supplies
Ahram Online – March 17, 2020
Egyptian law: **exporting masks**, alcohol now punishable by jail
Egypttoday – March 19, 2020
- **Libya (ban on export of masks and sterilization materials)**
Minister of Economy issues a decree banning the **export** of medical **masks** and sterilization materials
The Libya Observer – March 16, 2020
- **Malawi (ban on export of masks)**
Malawi police impound face **masks** from Chinese at airport
Nyasa Times – March 11, 2020
- **Morocco (ban on export of masks)**
Coronavirus: Morocco Bans Export of Medical Masks
Morocco World News-Mar. 5, 2020
- **South Africa (export restrictions on masks)**
Coronavirus: Cassper Nyovest unhappy about recently exported face masks
briefly.co.za – March 7, 2020

**Sicken Thy Neighbour:
So far 24 nations have limited exports of medical supplies**



Source: World reports, compiled by the Global Trade Alert, in
Wang, H. et al., China, 2020, 19 March 2020

Source: Global Trade Alert Report: The Trade Policy Dimension - Tackling Coronavirus

Protective medical equipment (such as masks), medicines, disinfectant, and soap are needed to tackle the Coronavirus. Many countries source these medical supplies from abroad and so trade policy stance becomes part of national policy responses to the Coronavirus. Using information on policy developments **through to 10 March 2020**, this note presents a global picture on the resort to export and import restrictions on these much needed medical supplies. The likely effects of these restrictions are discussed along with their coherence with the medical responses to the Coronavirus. The note describes how trade policy can make a positive contribution to this important societal threat and five specific policy recommendations are advanced.

<https://www.globaltradealert.org/reports/50>