

# Export bans related to COVID-19

Media reports as of March 27, 2020

**NB:**

- **Date indicated refers to date of the article (may differ from date of the export ban/restriction)**
- **The information contained in the articles has not been verified by Global Affairs Canada**
- **The bans/restrictions identified are as reported in the media and do not provide specific technical specifications as to the exact items referenced, or whether exceptions exist**

**Legend:**

**Red = Export Ban**

Orange = Export Restrictions

Green = Free flow

## AMERICAS

- **Argentina (restrictions on oxygen therapy devices)**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 24, 2020
- **Brasil (restrictions on “products to combat Covid-19”)**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 24, 2020
- **Canada (no bans at this time)**  
Some Asia Nations, Canada, Chile Pledge to Protect Supply Chains  
Financial Post – March 25, 2020
- **Chile (no bans at this time)**  
Some Asia Nations, Canada, Chile Pledge to Protect Supply Chains  
Financial Post – March 25, 2020
- **Colombia (restrictions on “products to combat Covid-19”)**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 22, 2020
- **Ecuador (ban on exports of masks)**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 25, 2020
- **USA (no bans at this time)**  
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
- **Belarus (ban on exports of masks, and other equipment)**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 26, 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
  - **(ban of exports of sunflower seeds)**  
Russia's vegoil union seeks sunseeds **export** limits for 6 months  
Successful Farming – March 25, 2020
  
- **Serbia (export ban on medications)**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 24, 2020
  
- **Switzerland (restrictions on Protective medical equipment)**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 26, 2020
  
- **Turkey**
  - **(restrictions on masks and other equipment)**  
Turkey Restricts Exports of Medical Protective Gear  
Bloomberg Australia-NZ – March 4, 2020
  - **(restrictions on ventilators)**  
**COVID-19: Turkey subjects ventilators to export control**  
aa.com – March 26, 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  
**Some Asia Nations, Canada, Chile Pledge to Protect Supply Chains**  
Financial Post – March 25, 2020
  
- **Bangladesh (ban on exports of sanitizer, masks)**

Hand sanitiser, face mask **export** banned  
newagebd.net – March 14, 2020

- Brunei (no bans at this time)  
**Some Asia Nations, Canada, Chile Pledge to Protect Supply Chains**  
Financial Post – March 25, 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
  - (**ban on exports of malaria drug (hydroxychloroquine)**)  
Global Rush for Trump-Backed Virus Drug Sparks India **Export Ban**  
Bloomberg – March 25, 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
  - (**ban on exports of wheat flour**)  
Kazakh flour millers will meet domestic needs if **export** ban lifted  
Reuters – March 26, 2020
- Kyrgyzstan (**ban on exports of medicines and medical equipment**)  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 25, 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

- Myanmar (no bans at this time)  
**Some Asia Nations, Canada, Chile Pledge to Protect Supply Chains**  
Financial Post – March 25, 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
- New Zealand (no bans at this time)  
**Some Asia Nations, Canada, Chile Pledge to Protect Supply Chains**  
Financial Post – March 25, 2020
- **Pakistan (ban on exports of masks)**  
FIA to launch probe into **export** of face **masks**  
DAWN.com – March 14, 2020
- Singapore (no bans at this time)  
**Some Asia Nations, Canada, Chile Pledge to Protect Supply Chains**  
Financial Post – March 25, 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
- **Vietnam**
  - (export restrictions on **masks**)  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
WCO – March 24, 2020
  - (**export ban on rice**)  
Vietnam stops exporting rice from March 24 on Covid-19  
Hanoitimes.vn – March 25, 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

## DATABASES & REPORTS

- **World Customs Organization (WCO) Database**  
List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19  
\*The list is not exhaustive and is regularly updated based on the official information provided by countries
- **Global Trade Alert Report: The Trade Policy Dimension - Tackling Coronavirus**  
<https://www.globaltradealert.org/reports/50>  
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.