

# 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: Media reports, assembled by the Global Trade Alert team,  
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, 10 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>