



## France, Spain on lockdown over coronavirus

March 15, 2020

*France and Spain will close most shops, restaurants and entertainment facilities and are encouraging people*

*to stay home as the countries combat the coronavirus epidemic in Europe. The sweeping changes come as U.S. President Trump on Saturday extended a European travel ban to include Britain and Ireland over the coronavirus outbreak.*

1. France and Spain are following Italy's lead - putting a halt to normal life as the spread of the coronavirus accelerates in Europe.
2. France announced Saturday that it will shut most shops, restaurants and entertainment sites from midnight on Saturday, urging people to stay home as much as possible.
3. French officials said more than 90 people had died in France and almost 4500 were now infected, with the French prime minister saying the government had been left with no choice because too many people were still out in the streets and not doing enough social distancing.
4. And over in Spain, the second hardest-hit country in Europe after Italy with nearly 200 deaths so far, will be under a 15-day lockdown, with some limits on movement already happening.
5. The shut-down comes as U.S. Vice President Mike Pence announced on Saturday that the U.S. was extending a European travel ban to include Britain and Ireland- to slow the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

### VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE SAYING:

"The president has made a decision to suspend all travel to the United Kingdom and Ireland, effective midnight Monday night Eastern Standard Time. Again, Americans in the UK or Ireland can come home. Legal residents can come home, but as the secretary will detail, they will be funneled through specific airports and processed."

6. On Saturday, health authorities in England announced 10 more deaths caused by COVID-19, almost doubling the number of fatalities in Britain since Friday.