

# Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

## Regional report - North America



This report summarises the major changes in the region for the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker's [Containment and Health Index](#), providing a high level overview of shifts in government policies.

OxCGRT is created by the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. For more information visit [www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](http://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker).

<b>REGION</b>	North America
<b>Date range</b>	17-31 August
<b>Reported by</b>	Emily Cameron-Blake

### Brief summary of major changes:

Both the United States and Canada continue to deal with the issue of 'back-to-school'. In both countries, the decisions on when and how to return to school lies within the state or provincial government. Many states in the US have chosen a hybrid of in-person and online learning, while a few have chosen to go entirely online. Very few schools have returned to full-time in-person learning.

Universities and colleges in the US are also in the process of re-opening their doors to students, with most offering a combination of in-person learning (particularly for those in sciences and medical studies requiring hands on skills and techniques) and remote learning. Residence and dormitory openings are determined by the universities, with most having the necessary health and safety precautions in place and restrictions on gathering size, masks, etc.

Most schools in Canada will see either a full or partial return to the classrooms by 8 September, and the debate remains regarding whether to wear masks or not. Each province is issuing their own advice, and many provinces are asking parents to transport their children to school if possible- to free up more space for children who absolutely require the publicly funded bus system.

Bermuda will see a return to the classroom for public school students on 14 September.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>BERMUDA:</b> As of 27 August, schools are set to reopen for all students on 14 September.</li><li>• <b>CANADA:</b> Many provinces of Canada are still finalising their return to school plans, with many provinces set to have students return to the class rooms by 8 September.</li><li>• <b>USA: Alaska-</b> 24 August, University of Alaska Anchorage resumed classes for Fall 2020 semester with 80% online, other a hybrid model</li><li>• <b>USA: Alabama-</b> The University of Alabama opened 19 August and announced further restrictions following 530 positive cases- closure of student housing to non-residents, ban on gatherings in residence. Fine and potential suspension are possible for</li></ul>
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Summaries are created with data from the OxCGRT, uploaded by contributors. For specific references, please see the database [www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](http://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)

violations.

- **USA- Alabama-** 2 schools which opened earlier in August have already been closed due to virus concerns, one from 25 Aug- 8 Sept.
- **USA: Arkansas-** 24 Aug, University of Arkansas reopens for students, 25 Aug, Arkansas State University reopens and 19 Aug, Arkansas Tech reopened.
- **USA: Arizona-** Both University of Arizona and Arizona State University have reopened to students in August with a blend of in-person and online lectures.
- **USA: California-** LA Unified School District began online learning the week of 17 August. California State University, UC Berkeley and UCLA all go to almost fully remote instruction for the fall 2020.
- **USA: Colorado-** 18 Aug, Aurora Public Schools started remotely, and by 24 Aug many of the largest universities had opened.
- **USA: Washington DC-** 28 Aug, Georgetown University announced that all courses will be online for the fall semester. Residences are limited to those with specific requirements and first year F1 visa holders.
- **USA: Delaware-** largest school district, Christina, and several others reopened on 28 Aug.
- **USA: Florida-** University of Miami begins in-class instructions and campus facilities such as libraries with social distancing and masks required.
- **USA: Georgia-** as of 17 Aug, universities started reopening in accordance with safety guidelines.
- **USA: Hawaii-** 17 Aug, public schools begin the new year with a 3-phase blended model of in -person and remote learning. The University of Hawaii campuses reopened on 24 Aug.
- **USA: Iowa-** 17 Aug, Iowa State University and Univeristy of Northern Iowa began the fall 2020 semester with hybrid style classes, and masks required. The Des Moines public school board has postponed the start of the school year until 8 September.
- **USA: Idaho-** 17 Aug, Boise schools re-open entirely online, with other districts announcing plans for a hybrid return. Large Idaho universities opened on 23 and 24 August in person.
- **USA: Illinois-** 17 Aug, Illinois State University resumed classes for the Fall 2020 semester with a blend of in-person and online courses. 24 Aug, Northwestern University resumed classes at the Pritzker School of Law with a hybrid format.
- **USA: Indiana-** 17 Aug, Indianapolis Public School Distric started full-time remote learning, with the goal of in-person classes by 2 October. 24 Aug, University of Indiana classes begin both in-person and online.
- **USA: Kentucky-** The school districts have been asked to delay opening until 28 September by the Govenor, although some school districts have defied this. The University of Kentucky resumed in-person classes for undergraduates on 17 August.
- **USA: Louisiana-** 26 Aug, Jefferson County school district reopens for online and in-person classes, while many school districts are waiting until the state is out of phase 2 on 11 Sept. 19 Aug, Tulane and University of New Orleans reopened. 24 Aug, Louisiana State University reopened.
- **USA: Massachusetts-** 18 Aug, The Department of Education published a spreadsheet identifying all the school reopening models. Only 15 districts will fully reopened for instructions this fall, with most going to part-time or not all all (online instead).

- **USA: Maryland-** 21 Aug, John Hopkins U announced the safety measures and requirements for students on campus in the fall. 24 Aug, University of Maryland announced that classes will be held in person during fall semester. 27 Aug, The University System of Maryland (many institutions) announce a hybrid return for each campus.
- **USA: Missouri-** 24 Aug, first day of classes at University of Missouri, Brown and first day of classes at Rockwood School District (St. Louis County largest public school system).
- **USA: Mississippi-** 24 Aug, classes resume at the University of Mississippi.
- **USA: Montana-** 24 Aug, Montana Public Schools began re-opening for hybrid classes, remote learning students begin on 31 Aug in Billings School District. Montana State University started in-person 17 Aug, while University of Montana began 19 Aug.
- **USA: North Carolina-** 17 Aug, some universities begin Fall semester classes with hybrid methods. 24 Aug, Polk County Schools reopen with limited class sizes, physical distancing methods and mask enforcements.
- **USA: New Hampshire-** 22 Aug, Manchester School district has delayed school reopening until 9 Sept.
- **USA: New Mexico-** 17 Aug University of New Mexico reopened for in-person instruction, although as much as 70% of classes will be offered as remote-only. 19 Aug, New Mexico State University reopened for in-person instruction.
- **USA: Ohio-** 17 Aug, Lakeview Schools have resumed in-class teaching, while other major districts (Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton and Athens) will start the year virtually. 24 Aug, University of Ohio reopened some in-person classes.
- **USA: Rhode Island-** 21 Aug, school openings have been delayed to 14 Sept.
- **USA: South Carolina-** 17 Aug, Public schools begin to reopen for the fall with in-person instruction. 20 Aug, University of South Carolina reopens for in-person instruction.
- **USA: South Dakota-** 19 Aug, in-person instruction at all public universities begins, but after 25 Nov, all students will complete exams remotely.
- **USA: Tennessee-** 17 Aug, University of Memphis started the fall 2020 semester remote/online, as did the University of Tennessee-Chatanooga. 19 Aug, University of Tennessee- Knoxville started classes with a hybrid model. 24 Aug, The Knox County school district started classes today and could choose between in-person or online instruction.
- **USA: Texas-** As of 20 Aug, Austin schools must remain closed with a 100% virtual learning plan. 26 Aug, University of Texas at Austin opens. There remains a debate about whether the state can force school boards to open with all in-person learning by a certain date.
- **USA: Utah-** 18 Aug saw the reopening of Utah's largest school district, while Salt Lake City District plans to open on 8 Sept.
- **USA: Virginia-** 24 Aug, University of Richmond and George Mason Universities opened. James Madison University opened on 26 Aug and the opening of UVA delayed the start of in-person classes until 8 Sept.
- **USA: Virgin Islands-** The school year start date has been pushed to 14 Sept.
- **USA: Vermont-** 18 Aug, Castleton University classes began. 24 Aug,

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	<p>Vermont Technical College opened and offers a mix of remote and in-person learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Wisconsin-</b> 21 Aug, The City of Milwaukee Health Dept allowed ten schools to reopen. 24 Aug, The Public Health Officer of Madison and Dane County directed schools to open virtual learning for students grad 3-12, and that schools could provide in-person learning for K-2, but had to provide an online option.</li> <li>• <b>USA: West Virginia-</b> 24 Aug, Several large universities have opened by this date. K-12 are due to begin on 8 Sept.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Alaska-</b> remote working still required where possible, restaurants and breweries closed to indoor dining, bingo halls and theatres closed. Retail and in-person businesses encouraged to do phone or online business.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Alabama-</b> 24 Aug, all bars and restaurant bars in the City of Tuscaloosa are required to close until at least 8 September.</li> <li>• <b>USA: California-</b> 25 August, bars, breweries and pubs (both indoors and outdoors) must remain closed unless they can offer sit-down outdoor meals. Theme parks and indoor playgrounds are closed, movie theatres, dine-in restaurants, wineries, cardrooms, zoos and museums must close indoor operations and only open outdoors. Non-critical infrastructure offices can only operate outdoors, and retailers can open only with modifications for social distancing.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Florida-</b> 22 Aug, vacation and short-term rentals in Palm Beach are allowed to re-open provided that the rentals are conducted in line with guidance by Palm Beach County. 27 Aug, Palm Beach, skate parks, water playgrounds, volleyball courts and adult sport activities are allowed to resume.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Iowa-</b> 21 Aug, a new proclamation allows businesses to stay open until 20 Sept as long as they follow certain social distancing requirements.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Illinois-</b> 18 Aug, businesses and establishments must institute remote work for high risk individuals, and whether others can telework.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Massachusetts-</b> 20 Aug, movie theatres in Boston reopened with protective measures and capped at 40% capacity and masks required.</li> <li>• <b>USA: New Mexico-</b> 20 Aug, Government announced that Clark, Washoe, Elko to continue with bars, breweries, wineries closures, but Nye can resume operations outside the Town of Pahrump.</li> <li>• <b>USA: New York-</b> 24 Aug, gyms and fitness centres can reopen.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Tennessee-</b> 17 Aug, restaurants, bars, gyms and live entertainment venues are allowed to open in Nashville with social distancing limits in place.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Wisconsin-</b> 24 Aug, businesses are allowed to continue business operations at 50% capacity, and to implement public health measures.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Alabama-</b> "Safer at Home" order extended from 27 Aug- 2 Oct, requiring all public events to be cancelled.</li> <li>• <b>USA: California-</b> 25 Aug, professional, social and community gatherings are prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Iowa-</b> 21 Aug, a new proclamation continues to allow mass gatherings if participants are 6 feet away from each other, but sporting and religious events are exempt from the 6 ft. rule.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Missouri-</b> 17 Aug, spectators are prohibited from adult sport events.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Virgin Islands</b>- 17 Aug, the stay at home phase has been extended and</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BERMUDA</b>: public gatherings remain restricted to 50 people</li> <li>• <b>CANADA: BC</b>- the Gatherings and Events Order is introduced which allows for fines and enforcement of limitations on events and gatherings.</li> <li>• <b>CANADA: PEI</b>- 18 August it was announced that up to 3 cohorts of 50 people could be permitted at events such as worship events or sporting events- subject to approval by the Chief Medical Officer.</li> <li>• <b>CANADA: Ontario</b>- 21 August, indoor meetings can not host up to 50 people (excluding staff). Outdoor events remain limited to 100 people.</li> <li>• <b>CANADA: Nfld</b>- 24 August, distanced gatherings of up to 100 will be permitted indoors and outdoors with certain restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Hawaii</b>- 19 Aug, O'ahu implemented the following restrictions for 28 days- no outdoor gatherings, no parties or groups for activities larger than 5 people.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Iowa</b>- 21 Aug, a new proclamation continues to allow mass gatherings if participants are 6 feet away from each other, but sporting and religious events are exempt from the 6 ft. rule.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Illinois</b>- 18 Aug, meetings and social events are limited to the lesser of 25 people, or 25% overall room capacity.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Virgin Islands</b>- 17 Aug, the Stay at home phase has been extended and limits gatherings to 10 or less people.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Wisconsin</b>- 24 Aug, indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people or less, and outdoor to 25 people.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Washington DC</b>- 23 Aug, more buses and transit stations are available and open.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Iowa</b>- 23 Aug, the DART restored transit services to pre-COVID schedule.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Montana</b>- 31 Aug, Helena Capital Transit resumed full service with modified ridership capacity.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Wisconsin</b>- 23 Aug, The City of Madison significantly increased their transit services, however it is still limited to ridership of up to 20 passengers per bus.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Alaska</b>- everyone in Anchorage required to limit outing and physical contact outside of households.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Alabama</b>- "Safer at Home" order and recommendation to stay at home continues from 27 Aug- 2 October.</li> <li>• <b>USA: California</b>- 25 Aug, stay at home order is maintained in updated guidance.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Hawaii</b>- Honolulu imposes a 2 week stay at home order on 27 August.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Iowa</b>- 21 Aug, vulnerable persons are encouraged to stay home.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Oregon</b>- 21 Aug, stay at home guidance is lifted.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Rhode Island</b>- 21 Aug, all vulnerable people identified by the CDC, including those over 65 yrs, are still strongly advised to stay at home unless necessary.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Virgin Islands</b>- 17 Aug, the Stay at home phase has been extended.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CANADA: Yukon</b>- those who are not residents of Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut or British Columbia, or who have travelled</li> </ul>



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	<p>outside of those provinces/territories are required to self isolate in Whitehorse for 14 days upon return to Yukon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Washington DC-</b> 24 Aug, Delaware, Hawaii and South Dakota are added to the out of state quarantine requirement, while Montana and New Mexico were removed.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Hawaii-</b> 20 Aug, the governor of Hawaii has issued a new Enhanced Movement Quarantine for residents of the islands which may allow them to travel amongst the islands without quarantine restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>USA: New York-</b> 25 Aug, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Maryland and Montana are removed from list of states and territories required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival in NY. Guam has been added to the list.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Rhode Island-</b> 21 Aug, those travelling to RI from states with a positivity rate of 5% or more are required to self-isolate for 14 days, unless they provide a negative test that was taken within 72 hrs of arrival. A negative test during quarantine may also allow you to exit quarantine early.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CANADA:</b> The existing international travel restrictions on travel to Canada have been extended by one month until 30 Sept.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA: Massachusetts-</b> 18 Aug, new communities are added to the MA's Stop the Spread initiative which provides free asymptomatic testing in targeted communities, and runs until 12 Sept.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Maine-</b> 20 Aug, Maine Dept of Health announce the launch of 5 new "swab and send" COVID testing sites.</li> <li>• <b>USA: North Carolina-</b> 19 Aug, Dept of Health announces two companies to head efforts to increase COVID-19 testing capacity in seven counties.</li> <li>• <b>USA: Ohio-</b> 20 Aug, Governor announces a statewide testing initiative for Ohio's more than 765 assisted living facilities is underway, at no cost to the facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	No major updates.

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### Cases vs Government Response Index:

