

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.

REGION	North America
Date range	17 July - 16 August, 2020
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Brief summary of major changes:

Across much of the US, the hot-topic at the moment is schools- should they reopen? Are they safe to re-open, and *when* will they re-open? Some states have already begun phased-in face-to face learning, others have delayed until at least October. Across the country many school districts are also deciding to go to a fully virtual method of learning for the foreseeable future. Canada is also seeing a return to school across the country in September, with some provinces yet to finalise start dates and plans.

In a similar debate, many states are grappling with whether to allow entry of visitors from other states. Few states have expanded the visitors that they will allow without a mandatory 14-day quarantine, while other states continue to add to the list of restricted states and visitors required to quarantine. The border between Canada and the US remains closed until at least 20 August (likely to be extended by Canada).

Cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in many US states with a country wide case total over 5.5 million. California's cases per week continue to rise. Georgia, Florida and Texas remain the states with the highest cases per capita.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada: Most provinces of Canada have confirmed that school will resume in September, with some provinces giving authority to set a date to school districts. PEI, Manitoba and Ontario have preliminary start dates of 8 September. BC has already delayed their start date to 10 September (previously 8 Sept), and Alberta is set to return on 2 September. • US: Virgin Islands- The opening of schools has been delayed from 10 August to 8 September at least. • US: Arkansas - In-person classes at the University of Arkansas begin on 29 July, few other universities have the same arrangement. • US: California- Governor Newsom laid out rules on 17 July that will require schools in counties with high rates of COVID-19 to keep campuses closed until they can meet certain public health standards for at least 14 days. • US: Georgia- 31 July, Georgia's Department of Education reiterates that schools and school districts are not required to comply with the ban on public gatherings when referring to school re-opening plans. • US: Hawaii- Although it had previously been announced that schools would re-open on 4 August in Hawaii, the date was
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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

	<p>pushed to 17 August despite many stating it is unsafe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Illinois- 24 July, the re-opening of in-person school is extended until at least 22 August. • US: Indiana- 30 July, the Indianapolis Public School Board agree to conduct remote learning until at least 2 October. • US: Kentucky- 27 July, The Governor has advised against school reopening until the 3rd week of August. • US: Mississippi- 4 August- school re-opening is delayed until 17 August for specific grades and counties, and includes a state-wide mask mandate to be worn inside the building and classroom, and outside when social distancing is not possible. • US: New Mexico- 23 July, the start date of phased re-opening is delayed from 3 August to 8 September. • US: New York- Schools are supposed to be opening by 10 September, yet many districts are unable to provide plans for re-opening, with a deadline for such plans extended until 21 August, making a 10 September start date precarious. • US: Rhode Island- On 12 August it was announced that school re-opening will be delayed until 14 September. • US: South Carolina- As of 10 August, school districts submit their reopening plans with start dates approved for a range from 17 August to 8 September. • US: Texas- As of 3 August, the Governor's office indicates that local school boards have the authority to decide school reopenings. They can choose dates in August, September or later, but must comply with the requirement to provide the necessary number of days and hours of instruction, and can be in-person learning, virtual, or a combination of both. • US: Utah- Schools begin to reopen in Utah as early as 11 August, with each School district making their own reopening plans. On 29 July it was announced that parents can keep their children from school if they have been exposed to someone with a positive test, but no symptoms. • US: Vermont- 28 July, the Governor announces he is looking to set a universal opening date of 8 September for return to school. • US: Washington- 12 August, Seattle School Board votes for remote learning in the fall, with many other school districts doing the same. • US: Washington DC- 30 July, it is decided that schools will not reopen in the autumn to physical classrooms, rather distance learning will be implemented. • US: Wisconsin- School boards have been creating their return to school plans district by district, with some returning to a blended method as early as 17 August.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Colorado - 23 July, all licensed premises must cease alcohol sales to consumers for on-premises consumption between 10pm and 7am each day. • US: Delaware - 27 July, personal driving schools re-open for instruction, and closures of taprooms and bar services in specified towns remain in effect. • US: Florida- 29 July, bars remain closed with no re-opening date yet set. • US: Hawaii- 17 July, previous restrictions limiting businesses to essential operations or those where strict social distancing can be observed are extended. • US: Illinois- 24 July, the executive order allowing businesses to

	<p>open under strict conditions is extended to 22 August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Kentucky- 28 July, establishments that cannot comply with CDC guidelines are to refrain from conducting in-person operations. • US: Louisiana- 23 July, the Phase Two of re-opening is extended to 7 August, and on 6 August it is further extended to 24 August, and includes the closure of bars to on-premise consumption. • US: Michigan- Workplace guidance updated on 31 July states that bars and restaurants in Northern regions of the state must close for indoor service, and requires others to remain at 50% capacity. • US: Mississippi- A state executive order is extended until 17 August limiting the sale of alcohol to seated customers (and not after 11pm), 50% capacity limits and 6 people max per table at restaurants and bars. • US: North Carolina- 31 July, an executive order reiterates that bars continue to remain closed, and restaurants, distilleries, wineries and breweries must cease alcohol on-site consumption at 11pm. • US: Oregon- 21 July, while some counties remain in Phase 1 of re-opening, some are entering Phase 2, but concerts, conventions, live audience sports are still required to be closed/banned. • US: Pennsylvania- 16 July, a new order was signed for a state-wide requirement for businesses to conduct business in whole or part remotely, and where not possible, in-person business can be conducted if they fully comply with safety and masking orders. • US: Texas- 26 July, Governor of Texas ordered bars to close, and restaurants to reduce to 50% capacity. • US: Utah- 20 July, Ada County closed the bars and other places serving only alcohol. • US: Vermont- 14 August, the emergency order with restrictions to workplaces and restaurants/bars is extended until 15 September. • US: Washington- 28 July, reopening of state is paused indefinitely.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Illinois- 24 July, the executive order requiring events to be limited to 50 people or 50% capacity is extended to 22 August. • US: Indiana- 23 July, an executive order allows for 'special or seasonal events' which must be vetted by the local health department and limited to 250 people. • US: Rhode Island- On 29 July it was announced that Phase 3 of re-opening the state was extended through to 28 August, and that catered events are limited to 50 indoors and 100 outdoors.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Alaska- 24 July, a new emergency order was signed in Anchorage limiting indoor gatherings to 25 and outdoor gatherings where food or drink is consumed to 50 people. • US: California- continues to ban all gatherings, regardless of size. • US: Florida- 20 July, Brevard County has limited any gathering whether indoor or outdoor to a maximum of 10 people. • US: Illinois- 24 July, limit of 50 people at gatherings is extended until 22 August. • US: Indiana- Public gatherings remain limited to 250 people. • US: Kentucky- 20 July, an executive order limits all public gatherings to 10 or less people. • US: Louisiana- the limit of 50 people outdoor gatherings is extended through to 24 August. • US: Michigan- 31 July, indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people. • US: Mississippi- social gatherings remain limited at 10 people or

	<p>less indoors, and 20 or less outdoors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Ohio- 30 July, mass gatherings are limited to 10 people or less, and will be a stand-alone order from here on. • US: Rhode Island- on 29 July it was announced that Phase 3 of re-opening the state was extended through to 28 August, and that social gatherings are now lowered to a maximum of 15 people. • US: Texas- 26 July, outdoor gatherings of more than 100 people are banned. • US: Wyoming- 12 August- in relaxation of some restrictions, public gathering restrictions have been relaxed to the following: 50% capacity at outdoor gatherings with an maximum of 1000 people, and 50 people indoors with no restrictions, or up to 250 with social distancing in place.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Hawaii- Public Transport continues to run for essential services or workers only. • US: Maryland- 27 July, Maryland Department of Transport ordered the remaining commuter bus routes to operate in full service. • US: New Hampshire- 20 July- Phase Two service begins which limits capacity to 9 passengers per 35ft bus, masks required. • US: Washington DC- 20 July it was announced that more buses and trains would be added to the rota on 16 August, by the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Delaware- 24 July, vulnerable persons are "strongly advised to continue to shelter in place". • US: Montana- The Crow Tribe has extended a stay at home order until 31 August for all persons within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation. Residents can leave only for essential items and trips. • US: Vermont- 14 August, the state of emergency order is extended through 15 September, continuing to encourage all residents to limit their exposure outside of their homes as much as possible.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Connecticut- Connecticut residents are urged to refrain from non-essential travel to 31 states, categorised as those with a daily positive test rate of higher than 10 per 10,000, and on 24 July an executive order requires a mandatory 14-day quarantine for travellers from any affected state, and to complete a form upon entry to the state. This was extended to include Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, Puerto Rico and Washington DC on 28 July. • US: Hawaii- 17 July, the mandatory 14 day quarantine requirement for travellers from out of state is extended. • US: Illinois- Chicago adds to the list of states requiring mandatory 14 day quarantine on 28 July. • US: Indiana- As of 16 July, several counties remain with an advisory against any non-essential travel. • US: Kentucky- 20 July, Kentucky issues a travel advisory for people travelling from Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina, Texas and Puerto Rico. • US: New Hampshire- 25 July, the 2-week quarantine is lifted for travellers from surrounding New England States (Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island). • US: Ohio- 22 July, the Governor of Ohio announced a travel advisory for all individuals coming into Ohio from states with a 15% positive testing rate or higher- they will be required to quarantine

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	<p>for 14 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Washington DC- 27 July a requirement to quarantine for 14-days from high-risk states is announced.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bermuda: as of 21 July, visitors must take a certified PCR COVID-19 test, ideally within 72 hrs of departure, and a \$75 application fee to cover the cost of the test. • Canada: on 20 July, the border closure to the US was extended until 20 August.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Delaware- Effective 16 July, Delaware's Division of Public Health extended testing to all residents through Walgreens with the program starting at 1 location in each county. • US: Maine- 20 July, four new locations are announced which will offer specimen collection free of charge to any individual who believes they may have COVID-19 or could have been exposed to it - with or without symptoms. • US: Maryland- 23 July, Department of Health issued a COVID-19 FAQ confirming broad availability of testing in the state. • US: Massachusetts- 27 July, an expansion of "Stop the Spread" initiative introduces free testing for COVID-19 in communities that are above the state average in total cases, through 14 August. • US: Nevada- 3 August, The Governor announced a long-term response plan that includes increased testing. • US: Oregon- as of 21 July, testing is still only available to those who meet specific criteria. • US: Pennsylvania- As of 24 July, the Governor urges anyone with symptoms or who has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or symptoms to get tested. • US: Texas- As of 22 July, City of Austin advertises free testing for all those who qualify.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US: Alabama- To boost existing contact tracing efforts, the state government launches a contact tracing app on 03 August. • US: Delaware- 27 July, Delaware requires all food and drink establishments to notify patrons that they must provide contact information for potential contact tracing efforts. • US: Oregon- As of 21 July, there are four counties remaining in Phase 1, and comprehensive contact tracing is required to move into Phase 2, indicating that they do not have the ability. • US: Wyoming- 22 July, the state received federal funding to assist with pandemic response, including contact tracing.

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