

# Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

## Regional report – South Asia



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).

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| <b>REGION</b>      | SOUTH ASIA              |
| <b>Date range</b>  | 30 July-13 August, 2020 |
| <b>Reported by</b> | Rushay Naik             |

### Brief summary of major changes:

In the first half of August, rising transmission of COVID-19 cases complicated efforts to roll back lockdown measures across South Asia. India and Bangladesh moved to extend national restrictions on various sectors, while localized lockdown measures struggled to contain growing infection hotspots. On 1 August, India entered a new phase of its national lockdown rollback, widening the gap between non-containment zones, where most non-essential businesses have reopened, and containment zones, where strict controls on movement remain in place. Nationwide closures of schools, and restrictions on public events, some public transports and large private gatherings remain in place in both non-containment and containment zones.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh extended similar domestic restrictions on 4 August until the end of the month, as a national rise in cases spurred a government review of the efficacy of its colour-coded zonal lockdown system. Pakistan's provincial lockdowns imposed in advance of the Eid-al-Adha holiday experienced varying degrees of success: as Punjab lifted its lockdown days earlier than expected, with Sindh following shortly after, Balochistan extended its lockdown until at least 17 August. Sri Lanka completed its school reopening process after a month-long attempt, while Afghanistan began its gradual school reopening effort on 5 August. Nepal is expected to begin lifting its controls on movement later this month, after the government announced plans to permit long-distance public transport and international travel from 17 August.

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| <b>C1: School Closing</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AFGHANISTAN:</b> began a gradual reopening of all public and private schools and universities on 5 August.</li> <li>• <b>BANGLADESH:</b> extended nationwide domestic restrictions on 4 August until at least 31 August amid a rise in cases, maintaining the closure of all educational institutions.</li> <li>• <b>INDIA:</b> entered its "Unlock 3" phase of lockdown rollback on 1 August, extending nationwide closures of all schools, colleges, and educational and coaching institutions until 31 August</li> <li>• <b>SRI LANKA:</b> resumed teaching for preschool, Grade 1, and Grade 2 classes on 10 August, completing its phased national school reopening process.</li> </ul> |
| <b>C2: Workplace Closing</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BANGLADESH:</b> extended nationwide domestic restrictions on 4 August until at least 31 August amid a rise in cases, restricting</li> </ul>  |

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)

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|                                       | <p>business hours to 20:00 daily; closures of non-essential businesses continue to apply in designated localities under the previous colour-coded zonal lockdown system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>INDIA:</b> entered its "Unlock 3" phase of lockdown rollback on 1 August, permitting most businesses to reopen in all non-containment zones; recreational facilities (including cinema halls, swimming pools, bars, and assembly halls) remain closed nationwide until 31 August, while yoga institutes and gymnasiums reopened on 5 August.</li> <li>● <b>PAKISTAN:</b> lifted the complete lockdown in Punjab province on 3 August; imposed in advance of the Eid-al-Adha holiday, the lockdown was rolled back two days earlier than scheduled, allowing all businesses to reopen weekdays from 9:00 to 19:00 (except for recreational facilities, including restaurants, beauty parlours, and cinemas).</li> </ul> |
| <b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BANGLADESH:</b> extended nationwide domestic restrictions on 4 August until at least 31 August amid a rise in cases, maintaining a ban on all large public gatherings.</li> <li>● <b>INDIA:</b> entered its "Unlock 3" phase of lockdown rollback on 1 August, extending its nationwide prohibition of public events (including social, political, entertainment, cultural, and religious functions) until 31 August.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BANGLADESH:</b> extended nationwide domestic restrictions on 4 August until at least 31 August amid a rise in cases, maintaining a ban on large private gatherings; restrictions of private gatherings to fewer than 10 people continue to apply in designated localities under the previous colour-coded zonal lockdown system.</li> <li>● <b>INDIA:</b> maintained its restrictions on private gatherings under its National Directives for COVID-19 Management on 1 August, including limits on marriage-related gatherings at 50 people, and funerals at 20 people.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BANGLADESH:</b> resumed limited public transport services on 4 August; capacity reductions and social distancing measures are in place on all rail services, and on bus services operating in <b>Dhaka</b> and on long-distance routes.</li> <li>● <b>INDIA:</b> entered its "Unlock 3" phase of lockdown rollback on 1 August, extending its nationwide closure of all urban "Metro Rail" services until 31 August; domestic trains and other local transports continue to adhere to regional Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</li> <li>● <b>NEPAL:</b> maintained restrictions on long-distance public transports, which are set to resume on 17 August.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BANGLADESH:</b> extended nationwide domestic restrictions on 4 August until at least 31 August amid a rise in cases, recommending all residents to stay home "to the extent possible"; requirements to stay at home continue to apply in designated localities under the previous colour-coded zonal lockdown system.</li> <li>● <b>INDIA:</b> entered its "Unlock 3" phase of lockdown rollback on 1 August, extending mandatory stay-at-home requirements in all containment zones nationwide until 31 August, except for "essential activities".</li> <li>● <b>PAKISTAN</b> extended a complete lockdown in <b>Balochistan</b></li> </ul>  |

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|  | <p>province on 3 August until 17 August, mandating residents to stay at home; all recreational places (including beaches) reopened in <b>Sindh</b> province on 4 August, ending a lockdown imposed in advance of the Eid-al-Adha holiday.</p>  |
| <b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>INDIA:</b> entered its “Unlock 3” phase of lockdown rollback on 1 August, maintaining “strict perimeter control” of all containment zones nationwide until 31 August; all movement in or out of these zones remains prohibited except for medical emergencies and the supply of essential goods and services.</li> </ul> |
| <b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>INDIA:</b> entered its “Unlock 3” phase of lockdown rollback on 1 August, maintaining its ban on all international air travel of passengers nationwide, except where permitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (including for the repatriation of citizens).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>H2: Testing Policy</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes recorded.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes recorded.</li> </ul>   |

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### Cases vs Government Response Index:

