

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.

REGION	SOUTH ASIA
Date range	01-15 July, 2020
Reported by	Rushay Naik

Brief summary of major changes:

In the first half of July, a number of countries in South Asia modified containment measures to reflect increasingly localized transmission of COVID-19. In India and Pakistan, mass lockdowns gave way to community restrictions on movement and business through the designation of containment areas. While India extended school closures, cancelled public events, and imposed a nightly curfew nationwide, some businesses have reopened and small family events are now permitted in non-containment zones. Pakistan has similarly extended school closures, while emphasizing a 'smart lockdown' strategy to restrict non-essential business and internal movement in localities designated as containment areas. Bhutan has cautiously resumed many public activities, pursuing limited reopenings of businesses, schools, family gatherings, and public transport. Following a spike in COVID-19 cases one week into Sri Lanka's phased school reopening plan, schools were ordered closed once more.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BTN: Bhutan allowed some secondary classes to resume their academic sessions on 01 July, with most primary classes set to resume in future phases; pre-primary classes will not resume on campus for the remainder of the academic year• IND: India extended closures of schools, colleges, and coaching institutions on 01 July until 31 July in both containment and non-containment zones• LKA: Sri Lanka began a phased reopening of schools on 06 July; following a spike in cases, schools were closed again on 13 July until at least 17 July• PAK: Pakistan extended school closures on 02 July until the first week of September, past the expected reopening date of 16 July
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BTN: Bhutan allowed some businesses to reopen on 01 July, including informal street vendors and sports centres; the closing time of most businesses was also extended from 7pm to 9pm local time• IND: India allowed businesses in non-containment zones to reopen on 01 July, with official recommendations for work-from-home and the staggering of working hours; only essential services continue to be operational in containment

Summaries are created with data from the OxCGRT, uploaded by contributors. For specific references, please see the database www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

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	<p>zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAK: Pakistan extended 'smart lockdowns' on 02 July for localities in some provinces, including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkwa, and Sindh, mandating the closure of non-essential businesses and defining standard operating practices for essential businesses
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IND: India announced the cancellation of all social, political, sports, religious, entertainment, academic and cultural events from 01 July in both containment and non-containment zones
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTN: Bhutan allowed gatherings for religious functions and social events restricted to family members and close associates beginning 01 July; parks and sports facilities additionally reopened with attendance restricted to a minimum level of crowding • IND: India extended a ban on large public gatherings on 01 July, while restrictions on weddings were loosened to no more than 50 guests, and funerals to no more than 20 guests
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTN: Bhutan allowed taxis and other public transports to begin carrying passengers at full capacity on 01 July, with face masks mandatory for passengers • IND: India resumed domestic flights and passenger trains on 01 July, metro rail systems remain closed
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IND: India imposed a nightly curfew nationwide on 01 July, and general daytime movements were restricted in containment zones except for the operation of essential services • PAK: Pakistan directed citizens to stay confined in homes when subject to 'smart lockdown' notifications in their locality as of 02 July
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IND: India maintained strict perimeter control in containment zones as of 01 July, barring movement in or out of designated areas • PAK: Pakistan formalized restrictions on internal movement in its 'smart lockdown' strategy as of 02 July, barring movement outside containment areas
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IND: India extended its ban on all international flights on 01 July with the exception of repatriation flights
H2: Testing Policy	No changes reported
H3: Contact Tracing	No changes reported

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Cases vs Government Response Index:

