

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - East Asia and Pacific



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	East Asia and Pacific
Date range	15-29 July 2020
Reported by	Helen Tatlow

Brief summary of major changes:

The majority of notable closure and containment, and public health measures in the past two weeks have occurred in targeted geographic regions experiencing spikes in virus cases.

In China's northwest region Xinjiang, the city of Urumqi entered lockdown on 17 July as part of an emergency response to a rise in cases. Teams arrived to conduct mass testing of the 3.5 million residents. The port city of Dalian in Liaoning province, home to 6 million people also imposed lockdown measures and a mass testing campaign for all residents on 24 July.

Vietnam introduced new containment measures in the city of Da Nang following an outbreak, as of midnight 27 July. Some non essential businesses closed, people are required to stay home except for essential trips, schools closed, and public transport services and flights in and out of Da Nang are suspended for 14 days. A reported 80,000 visitors to the city are being evacuated.

In Australia's state of Victoria, the state of emergency was extended on 19 July until midnight 16 August following a rise in cases. There are a number of police and army enforced border closures and road barricades between states, such as between South Australia and Victoria.

Hong Kong has increased the stringency of nationwide measures over the last two weeks, reducing public gatherings restrictions from four to two people, closing sports facilities and leisure venues, and from 22 July strongly urging the public to stay at home as much as possible.

New Zealand has continued to delay plans to implement the trans-Tasman travel corridor to Australia following a rise in cases there. As of 27 July, the majority of the world's countries without COVID-19 cases are in East Asia and the Pacific. There are: Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Federated States of micronesia, Togna, Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, Nauru.

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C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUS: Victoria: Schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire moving to online learning from 20 July, and only offering in person teaching for Years 11 and 12 and other exceptions. Schools open in all other regions. • GUM: Pandemic Condition of Readiness 3 declared on 20 July. All schools and universities are to reopen, after submitting a suitable reopening plan. • MMR: 3,772 state run high schools reopened on 21 July as they met COVID-19 health guidelines. • MYS: School reopened for some year groups on 15 July, and schools were fully reopened when primary school Year 1 to Year 4 were allowed to return on 22 July. • TLS: As of 22 July, 80% of Schools have reopened since June. 13 schools are still preparing in order to meet the reopening criteria. • VNM: Schools suspended in the city of Da Nang as of 27 July.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUS: Victoria: Second lockdown in Victoria extended on 19 July. Some (not all) non-essential businesses closed including entertainment venues, and people are encouraged to work from home. Workplaces open in other parts of the country. • CHN: Lockdown measures announced on 17 July for the city of Urumqi. Shopping malls and hotels closed. • GUM: Pandemic Condition of Readiness 3 was declared on 20 July, businesses can operate at 50% capacity or 10 people, whichever is greater, once plans are submitted to Public Health. • HKG: Government employees told to work from home from 20 July. All indoor sports facilities including sports centres, squash centres and badminton centres will also be closed from 15 July. • IDN: Restrictions extended by another 14 days on 17 July, delaying the reopening of workplaces such as cinemas. • JPN: government asks companies to ensure 70 percent or more employees work from home on 26 July. • VNM: Some non essential businesses closed in the city of Da Nang.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HKG: The leisure and cultural venues that reopened earlier in July will be temporarily closed starting from 15 July until further notice. • CHN: Lockdown measures announced on 17 July for the city of Urumqi. All public gatherings are banned. • JPN: The government asks businesses not to hold large-scale gatherings, including drinking parties, on 26 July. • VNM: In the city of Da Nang as of 27 July public events were cancelled.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUS: Victoria: Residents in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire can only gather with one other person or household in public, no visitors to homes allowed. Funerals have a maximum of 10 people. No restrictions in other regions. • GUM: Pandemic Condition of Readiness 3 was declared on 20 July. Social gatherings limit increased from 25 to 50 people outdoors. • HKG: Group gatherings tightened from 50 to four from 15 July. Ban on gatherings of more than 2 people on 27 July and a total ban on restaurant dining on 29 July. • VNM: In Da Nang as of 27 July, gatherings of over 30 people in public places are banned.

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C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHN: In the city of Urumqi, the only subway line was closed on 16 July. On 17 July most airport arrivals and departures were restricted. • VNM: All bus and train services to and from Danang suspended 28 July.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUS: Victoria: Second lockdown in Victoria extended on 19 July. Stay at home orders in place except for essential trips. • CHN: Lockdown measures announced on 17 July for the city of Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. People were told to stay at home and restrict visits to other households. Some communities in the city of Dalian placed under stay at home measures as of 24 July. • HKG: From 22 July the Government strongly urges the public to stay at home as much as possible. • JPN: Tokyo residents urged to refrain from going out as much as possible during the four-day weekend as of 23 July • VNM: People in Da Nang must stay home except for essential trips as of 27 July.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUS: Victoria: Second lockdown in Victoria extended 19 July. In Victoria movement beyond one's suburb is discouraged. Travel beyond or into metropolitan Melbourne is prohibited. Border controls between some states. • CHN: Lockdown measures announced on 17 July for the city of Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. In Dalian, local authorities have asked residents not to leave the city. Those leaving must undergo testing within seven days of planned departure and present negative results, as of 24 July. • FJI: Domestic travel returning to normal. Internal flights with Fiji Airways require passengers to use the 'careFIJI' contact tracing app as of 24 July. • JPN: Government campaign launched 22 July to promote domestic tourism offers subsidies of up to 50% for trips. Travel to and from Tokyo is excluded following a rise in cases. • VNM: All flights in and out of Da Nang have been suspended as of 28 July for 14 days.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDN: Bali island to allow domestic tourists entry on 31 July if they hold a negative COVID-19 test certificate and comply with requirements. • MYS: As of 24 July all travellers are required to undergo mandatory 14 day quarantine at approved government hotels or quarantine centres at their own cost. Home quarantine is no longer permitted. • TWN: Hong Kong and Australia removed from medium-risk countries list as they see an increase in cases as of 22 July.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHN: Free tests are offered to residents in the city of Urumqi following an outbreak and mass testing campaign starting 18 July. Officials in the city of Dalian announced a plan for mass testing of all 6 million residents as of 24 July.
H3: Contact Tracing	No major changes recorded.

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