

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - South Asia



OXFORD COVID-19
GOVERNMENT
RESPONSE TRACKER

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 February - 28 February
Reported by	Fiona Hsu, Ruwa Mahdi

Brief summary of major changes:

A number of countries in South Asia reopened schools to varying extents in February. In **Bhutan**, Thimphu announced the opening of all schools scheduled by the Education Ministry and required mandatory COVID-19 tests for all teachers and students bi-weekly. **Pakistan** also resumed school at all levels from nursery to university. In **India**, various states including Haryana, Bihar and Uttarakhand reopened schools partially allowing students from certain classes to resume lessons.

Despite few major policy changes in most countries, Thimphu, the capital of **Bhutan**, started to ease restrictions on 1 February after the roll-out of nation-wide testing in the previous months. The government allowed the resumption of shops, restaurants and businesses, religious gatherings, conferences, public transports and internal movement, while a quarantine order on international travellers was still in place. In Maharashtra, **India** there was a ban on all kinds of gatherings and public events due to the spike in new cases. In **Sri Lanka**, targeted lockdowns continued to restrict workplaces, public events, gatherings, and movements outside the home in much of the country, with the strictest restrictions reserved for those areas under 'isolation' status. Over this month, 10 districts previously under the strictest restrictions were released from their 'isolation' status and saw the rolling back of measures. The 10 districts are as follows: Gothameepura Housing Scheme, Gothameepura 24 Watta, Gothameepura 78 Watta, Weluwana Road (Dematagoda), Kumarimulla Grama Niladari Division, Jumma Masjid Road, Hidra Mawatha, Aluthpara, Akaragoda, and Bolana South (this has not been accounted for within the chart below due to a lack of information available relating to the specific indicators).

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C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh: extended school closure with ongoing discussions about the date of reopening and inoculation of teaching staff and educational officials. • Bhutan: Thimphu announced on 1 February to reopen all schools scheduled by the Education Ministry. COVID-19 Tests will be conducted among students and teachers randomly every 2 weeks. Health focal persons will monitor health compliance on campus. • India: Haryana reopened both government and private schools for classes 3 to 5 on 24 February. Bihar reopened schools for students of classes 6 to 8 on 8 February. Uttarakhand reopened schools for classes 6 to 9 on 8 February. • Pakistan: all educational institutions from nursery to university level reopened on 1 February
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: Thimphu permitted reopening of shops, restaurants and business on 1 February. They were required to close before 9pm to conduct mandatory testing every 2 weeks. Extra health precautions were imposed on barber shops. Opening of entertainment centres will be announced later. • India: extended the restriction orders in workplaces, shops and public places with reduced opening hours and limited number of patrons inside until 31 March.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India: Maharashtra prohibited all social, political and religious gatherings and public events on 22 February in view of the spike of cases.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: Thimphu resumed community-based religious gathering and conference on 1 February with a maximum of 25 people allowed. Other gatherings were highly discouraged.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: Thimphu resumed public transports such as buses and taxis on 1 February and public transport drivers were required to undergo mandatory testing every 2 weeks.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: Thimphu and Paro lifted quarantine requirements on 1 February.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: Thimphu permitted internal travel between dzongkhag(districts) on 1 February.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: Thimphu continued the 7-day quarantine requirement of travellers from low- and high-risk areas on 1 February.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: Thimphu provided more tests for business communities, drivers, frontliners, students and health workers and set up additional mobile flu clinics in busy public areas and along the

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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	highways starting from 1 February.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major changes recorded
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major changes recorded

Cases vs Containment and Health Index:

