

# Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

## Regional report - Europe and Central 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).

<b>REGION</b>	Europe and Central Asia
<b>Date range</b>	1 October - 1 November
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### Brief summary of major changes:

October saw the increase in restrictions and requirements in several countries across Europe, in particular towards the end of the month. The mandatory wearing of masks was implemented in several countries including, Switzerland, Latvia, San Marino, Moldova, and Denmark. Additionally, nations have implemented restrictions or closures for particular workplaces such as bars and restaurants. This is reflected in the policies in Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovak Republic, and Portugal, amongst others. The increase in restrictions can also be seen in the uptick of policies restricting gatherings and public events, as well as orders or recommendations to stay at home.

Notably, schools will largely remain open, despite increased restrictions and COVID-19 cases. Amongst others, this is the case in Germany, France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom, which have re-imposed significant restrictions, but aim to keep schools open. Several countries have also imposed temporary school closures, depending on location, class sizes, school year, or length of closure. For example, in Bulgaria, high school attendance has been suspended from October 29 until November 12. Similarly in Latvia, Grades 7-12 were suspended for one week from October 26th to October 30th. Respectively, in Lithuania, Portugal or Romania schools closed in regional areas and were dependent on locations.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Azerbaijan:</b> After a phased re-opening, schools closed again on 19 October, due to quarantine measures.</li><li>• <b>Bulgaria:</b> From 29 October, until November 12, attendance for high school students in classrooms is suspended.</li><li>• <b>Czech Republic:</b> From 12 October, university students</li></ul>
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are prohibited from attending in-person classes. A total ban on school attendance across all levels will be imposed from 26-27 October, subsequent to autumn holidays.

- **Georgia:** Schools have largely re-opened, with the exception of the Adjara region. Remote learning continues to be in place for some classes.
- **Iceland:** Restrictions have been put in place for class sizes, which applies to pre-schools, primary, schools, secondary schools, continuing education and universities, in both public and private education systems.
- **Italy:** Following a decree from 13 October, educational visits and school trips are prohibited.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Reopening of schools for grades 2-6 has been postponed and remote learning will continue.
- **Spain:** On 7 October schools and nurseries close for two weeks in Madrid, the Basque Country, and La Rioja.
- **Lithuania:** On 9 November, Schools moved to virtual teaching in the Raseiniai District for an initial time frame of 14 days.
- **Latvia:** Grades 7-12 moved to remote teaching for one week, from 26 to 30 October.
- **Netherlands:** Schools and universities are open, but a 1.5 meter distance must be maintained, so several schools and universities have moved to online teaching.
- **Poland:** Depending on COVID-19 risk categorisation of different regions, schools have to follow different procedures. Those in red zones have to return to virtual teaching.
- **Portugal:** As of 24 October all schools in **Borda** and **Vila Vicosa** will close due to covid outbreaks.
- **Romania:** On 6 October, schools in **Bucharest** closed. As of October 22 schools must teach online.
- **Russia:** On 14 October it was announced that students in first to fifth grades will return to classrooms in Moscow. Students in grades 6-11 will continue to attend virtual classes.
- **Slovak Republic:** As of 12 October Secondary Schools moved to distance learning.
- **Slovenia:** As of 19 October Primary and Secondary classes will be held virtually.
- **Turkey:** During the month of October the phased

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	<p>reopening of schools began. Different grades have gone back at different times, and some grades only attend in person classes two days a week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> As of 19 October schools in Northern Ireland must close and will not reopen until 2 November.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Andorra:</b> Bars and restaurants are only allowed to offer take-away and deliveries.</li> <li>• <b>Austria:</b> Employees are encouraged to work from home. From 17 October until 1 November, the Salzburg town of Kuchl in the Tennengau region will be put under a 14-days quarantine, with hotels and restaurants being closed.</li> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan:</b> The quarantine regime has been extended until 2 November, and employers are encouraged to limit the number of employees in work spaces.</li> <li>• <b>Belgium:</b> With COVID-19 level 4 alert coming into force, teleworking becomes the rule.</li> <li>• <b>Bulgaria:</b> Restaurants, bars and other public facilities can operate with limited capacity and strict social distance measures. Overall, telework is highly encouraged.</li> <li>• <b>Czech Republic:</b> Restaurants and bars are required to close between 10PM and 6AM, and a maximum of 6 people are allowed to sit at a table. As of 28 October, shops are required to close between 8PM and 5AM.</li> <li>• <b>Germany:</b> As of 2 November, restaurants, gyms, bars, and cinemas are required to close for the entire month.</li> <li>• <b>Finland:</b> All bars and restaurants are required to close at 1AM.</li> <li>• <b>France:</b> From 29 October, all non-essential shops, such as restaurants or bars, will close until 1 December.</li> <li>• <b>Georgia:</b> Opening of cinemas and theatres is postponed until 1 November.</li> <li>• <b>Greece:</b> Local restrictions have been put in place for opening hours of restaurants and bars.</li> <li>• <b>Iceland:</b> From 20 October, any services that require personal contact, such as hairdressers, are closed.</li> <li>• <b>Latvia:</b> As of 26 October children's indoor entertainment businesses have been ordered to close.</li> <li>• <b>Lithuania:</b> As of 9 November, in Raseiniai District the closure of non-essential face-to-face public services has been ordered.</li> <li>• <b>Portugal:</b> Bars and nightclubs remain closed. As of 15 October businesses will have to pay large fines if they do</li> </ul>

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	<p>not comply with the covid safety rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Romania:</b> As of the 6 October theatres, cinemas and indoor restaurants in several cities were ordered to close.</li><li>● <b>Russia:</b> During the month of October Russia began a three-stage reopening plan allowing shops and other businesses to reopen. The pace of this reopening is determined by local authorities.</li><li>● <b>San Marino:</b> As of 29 October no further workplace closings will take place.</li><li>● <b>Slovak Republic:</b> As of 1 October a State of Emergency was announced, causing specific businesses like bars and restaurants and clubs to close by 10 pm.</li><li>● <b>Tajikistan:</b> On 10 October authorities closed some restaurants in Khujad city that were not following hygiene and social distancing rules.</li><li>● <b>United Kingdom:</b> As of 12 October, depending on the local COVID Alert Level, pubs and bars that did not sell food had to close.</li></ul>
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### C3: Cancel Public Events

- **Austria:** Local restrictions on cancelling public events have been put in place in Hallein district and the Salzburg town of Kuchl.
- **Azerbaijan:** Following the extension of the quarantine regime until 2 November, all public events continue to be cancelled.
- **Belgium:** Public events have been cancelled in response to increased quarantine restrictions.
- **Bulgaria:** Public events, such as congresses, are recommended to be conducted remotely.
- **Germany:** Public events are cancelled following increased restrictions that came into force on 2 November.
- **Denmark:** Until 31 October, nightclub venues are closed.
- **France:** Following increased measures, in-person public events are required to be cancelled.
- **Italy:** All public activities related to contact sport are prohibited.
- **Lithuania:** As of 9 October, Raseiniai District banned public events and gatherings.
- **Poland:** Depending on COVID-19 Risk Categorization some events are banned. In red zone areas all cultural events are banned. As of 24 October this rule applies to the entire country.
- **Portugal:** As of 15 October, university parties, festivals and other events have been cancelled. In the Azores and Madeira public events have been cancelled until the end of the year.
- **Romania:** On 20 October all public events were cancelled in Bucharest.
- **San Marino:** As of 29 October public events are allowed as long as spaced seating are ensured and no food or drink is provided. However sporting events are not allowed.
- **Slovak Republic:** As of 1 October A ban has been placed on public events.
- **Spain:** As of 25 October public gatherings and events are limited to 6 people.
- **Switzerland:** As of 1 October large events of over 1000 people can take place if they comply with the Covid restrictions.
- **Turkmenistan:** During October public events have been cancelled.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> As of 12 October public events are restricted in tier-3 areas.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria:</b> Until 26 October , all private gatherings were cancelled in Hallein district. The Salzburg town of Kuchl has also been placed under restrictions, and gatherings are limited. As of 23 October, no more than six people are allowed to enter indoor meetings, with funerals being the exemption.</li> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan:</b> Restrictions on gatherings have been implemented until 2 November .</li> <li>• <b>Belgium:</b> From 1 November, members of one household are only allowed to meet with one other person, which became known as "knuffelcontacts".</li> <li>• <b>Czech Republic:</b> As of 5 October, restrictions have been placed on public events, with outdoor events having a maximum capacity of 20 participants, and indoors a maximum number of 10 attendants.</li> <li>• <b>Bulgaria:</b> As of 23 October, local restrictions for gatherings have been implemented in the Gabrovo district, limiting indoor family celebrations to 30 people, and public events to a 30% capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Germany:</b> Restrictions on gatherings differ per county, based on alert levels. As of 2 November, people are required to only meet with one other household, with a maximum restriction of 10 people.</li> <li>• <b>Denmark:</b> As of 26 October , people are allowed to only meet in groups of maximum 10 people.</li> <li>• <b>France:</b> Since 29 October , social gatherings are banned in France.</li> <li>• <b>Ireland:</b> As of 22 October, gatherings are restricted to a minimum.</li> <li>• <b>Iceland:</b> As of 22 October, restrictions are in place for gatherings of 20 people.</li> <li>• <b>Greece:</b> Local restrictions are in place in the region of Attica, with a ban on gatherings with more than 9 people.</li> <li>• <b>Latvia:</b> From 24 October , gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.</li> <li>• <b>Lithuania:</b> As of 9 October, Raseiniai District banned public events and gatherings.</li> <li>• <b>Luxembourg:</b> As of 17 October gatherings of more than 100 people need to be pre-approved by the government.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Poland:</b> Initially only areas classified as "red zone" were restricted to gatherings of 10 or less. As of 24 October all gatherings across the country must follow the same restriction.</li> <li>• <b>Russia:</b> As of 6 October, some jurisdictions have placed restrictions on gatherings.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic:</b> As of 13 October gatherings of more than 6 people are prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Slovenia:</b> As of 19 October, gatherings of more than 6 people are prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Spain:</b> As of 25 October both public and private gatherings are limited to 6 people.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine:</b> The amount of people allowed to gather is determined by the risk level of the zone. As of 26 October, gatherings in "Orange Zones" of more than 100 people are prohibited.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes recorded.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria:</b> From 17 October, citizens in the Salzburg town of Kuchl will have extended quarantine restrictions and are required to stay at home.</li> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan:</b> The quarantine measures have been extended until November, and citizens are encouraged to stay at home.</li> <li>• <b>Belgium:</b> Following the rise of COVID-19 alert to level 4, citizens are required to stay at home from 12AM to AM.</li> <li>• <b>Czech Republic:</b> Citizens are encouraged to stay at home, following a rise in restrictions. On 21 October, a nightly curfew was put in place between 8PM and 5AM, as well as on Sundays.</li> <li>• <b>Germany:</b> As of 2 November, citizens in Germany are encouraged to stay at home and depending on regional alert levels, curfews have been put in place.</li> <li>• <b>France:</b> On Saturday, 17 October, local curfews were implemented in the Paris region. Shortly afterwards, new national restrictions were put in place and all citizens are required to stay at home, with exceptions.</li> <li>• <b>Greece:</b> Recommendations have been put in place in the regions of Attica for older and vulnerable citizens to remain inside.</li> <li>• <b>Ireland:</b> Irish citizens are required to stay at home, with exceptions, following increased restrictions imposed on 21 October.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moldova:</b> In red zones individuals are recommended to stay home.</li> <li>• <b>Portugal:</b> As of 23 October, three counties (Lousada, Felgueiras, Pacos de Ferreira) have a stay at home order apart from grocery shopping, work, health reasons, school, and physical activity.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic:</b> From 24 October some cities have an imposed quarantine, depending on their risk level.</li> <li>• <b>Spain:</b> As of 25 October, there is a curfew in place from 23:00 to 6:00.</li> <li>• <b>Turkey:</b> There remains an ongoing curfew for those who have a chronic medical condition. Additionally, Residence Permit holders over 65 years old must stay inside between 8 pm and 10 am.</li> </ul>
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria:</b> As of 17 October, citizens of the Austrian town Kuchl will not be able to leave the region, and outsiders cannot enter, with exceptions.</li> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan:</b> Access has been suspended to the Lankaran region, Guba city and some villages of Guba region.</li> <li>• <b>Czech Republic:</b> On 21 October, the free movement of citizens across the Czech Republic was restricted.</li> <li>• <b>France:</b> Travel within France has been restricted in light of recent restrictions that came into force 29 October.</li> <li>• <b>Kyrgyzstan:</b> In response to the state of emergency in the country, roadblocks have been put in place around the city of Bishkek.</li> <li>• <b>Ireland:</b> Irish citizens are restricted in their internal movement across the country following increased restrictions imposed on 21 October.</li> <li>• <b>Moldova:</b> It is advised not to travel to high risk zones.</li> <li>• <b>Spain:</b> As of October 25 travel between territories must be justified and pre-approved.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> It is recommended not to travel to very high and high risk areas. The risk areas were published on 12 October.</li> </ul>
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bulgaria:</b> On 1 October, Bulgaria imposed a temporary travel ban on entering the country, with the exception of Bulgarian nationals.</li> <li>• <b>Romania:</b> As of 7 October, travellers from the UK must quarantine for 14 days on arrival. However, after 8 days if they present no symptoms and take a COVID-19 test</li> </ul>



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	<p>which is a negative result, they may leave quarantine after 10 days. Travellers planning to stay in Romania for 3 days or less are exempt from quarantine if they provide evidence of a negative test taken within 48 hours of entering the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Russia</b>-As of 13 October, Russia has opened its borders to flights from a list of 14 countries.</li> <li>• <b>Spain</b>: A temporary ban on non-essential travel from other EU and non-EU countries was extended until 31 October.</li> <li>• <b>Tajikistan</b>: Dushanbe airport resumes flights with Turkey, China, and Russia.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria</b>: As of 22 October , a new fast antigen test will be offered at selected locations.</li> <li>• <b>Bulgaria</b>: On 17 October, the opening of new laboratories for research with PCR tests in Targovishte and Shumen was announced.</li> <li>• <b>Cyprus</b>: On 8 October, the random testing with 3,000 COVID-19 tests in the Larnaca and Famagusta districts was announced.</li> <li>• <b>Latvia</b>: As of 26 October a new testing procedure was implemented. This new procedure states that those with suspected covid symptoms or exposure need to contact a doctor who will then decide whether or not a test is necessary.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic</b>: On 31 October the government began the mass testing of every person over the age of 10.</li> </ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria</b>: From 20 October, guests in Upper Austrian restaurants will have to leave their contact details. This policy has been in place in other parts of the country before. Given the rise in cases, Tirol has decided to only focus on easily traceable contact chains.</li> <li>• <b>Spain</b>: Spain has implemented a comprehensive, manual contact tracing program that is run by volunteer soldiers. IT allows citizens to anonymously self-identify as COVID-positive and to find out if someone they have been in contact with is COVID-positive.</li> </ul>
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Albania</b>: Starting 15 October , wearing a mask indoor and outdoors in public spaces is required for anyone above the age 11.</li> <li>• <b>Czech Republic</b>: As of 21 October, people are required</li> </ul>

to wear a face mask in a vehicle, if the persons present are not part of the shared household.

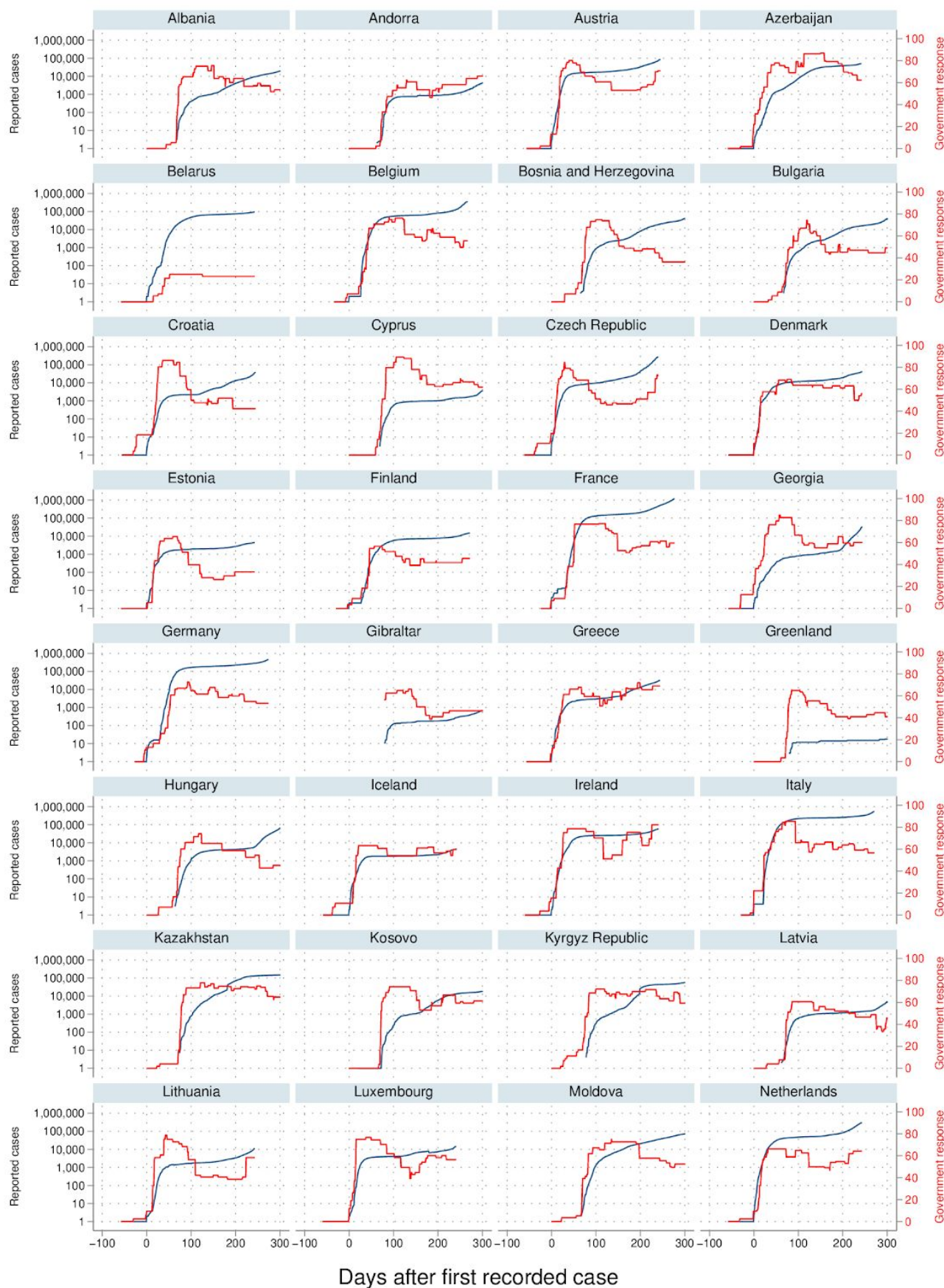
- **Denmark:** From 26 October , wearing face masks is required in most public spaces.
- **Iceland:** As of 20 October , face masks must be worn in places where social distance of 2 meters is not possible.
- **Italy:** From 13 October, it is required to wear a face mask inside and outside public spaces.
- **Latvia:** As of 20 October, it is mandatory to wear face masks in public unless other protective barriers have been put in place.
- **Lithuania:** As of 9 October , masks are mandatory in all public spaces in **Raseiniai** As of 28 October masks are mandatory in all public and indoor spaces in **Vilnius**.
- **Moldova:** Masks are mandatory in all public spaces. As of 12 October, all students must wear masks while on school or university premises.
- **Norway:** The government recommends face masks in high risk situations where you are unable to keep a safe social distance.
- **Poland:** Masks are required in specific public places but not in outdoor spaces like parks, gardens, etc.
- **Portugal:** From 28 October face masks are mandatory in public places and on the street. This will be in effect for at least 70 days.
- **Romania:** As of 6 October, mask wearing is mandatory in public spaces in Bucharest.
- **San Marino:** As of 12 October, face masks are mandatory in public spaces.
- **Spain-** Masks are required in all public spaces for everyone age six and older.
- **Switzerland-** From 19 October masks are now mandatory on public transportation, and railway stations, airports, and other public transport areas. They are also compulsory in schools, and different public spaces like shops, banks, gyms, etc.

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### Cases vs Government Response Index:





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