

# 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>	1-31 November
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### Brief summary of major changes:

The rise in COVID-19 cases across several countries in Europe and Central Asia led to substantial increases in government restrictions. Workplace closing and limits on private as well as public gatherings are particularly affected by this, evident in several hospitality and business sector closings in Germany, Austria, Latvia, Slovak Republic amongst others. More than this, in response to the continuous rise in cases, several countries now also reversed their initial school policies, which were intended to remain open. This is the case for countries such as Lithuania, Latvia, or Ukraine. For instance, in Albania schools remained closed until the end of the month, or Romania where distance learning was reintroduced. School closures do not affect all grades but different policies are implemented in varying degrees for primary and secondary schools and universities, evident in Hungary or the Czech Republic.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Albania:</b> Although schools were scheduled to open on 01 November, teaching will largely remain online until the end of the month, and is likely to be extended.</li><li>• <b>Germany:</b> In light of the spread of the pandemic, schools in Germany will already close on 18 December for winter vacations to curb the spread of the virus.</li><li>• <b>Belgium:</b> Flanders extended its autumn holidays for students from 30 October until 15 November. Further, classes were suspended across the country on 12 and 13 November and secondary education will be held at 50% capacity only to reduce the spread of the virus.</li><li>• <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina:</b> Schools were closed between 16 - 20 November 2020, and resumed classes after this time frame.</li><li>• <b>Czech Republic:</b> From 18 November, following a period of breaks, those in first and second grade of primary schools are taught in</li></ul>
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	<p>person. The remaining grades will be taught remotely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Denmark:</b> From 26 October until 2 January 2021, the government requires educational facilities to ensure high sanitary standards. Further, until 19 November, several classes from fifth to eight grade were taught in distance in North Jutland.</li> <li>• <b>Georgia:</b> Several schools have switched to online learning, in light of the reimposed lockdown restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>Hungary:</b> On 11 November, high schools and universities largely switched to remote learning again.</li> <li>• <b>Italy:</b> Following the ministerial decree from 3 November, first-level secondary education school learning is conducted remotely.</li> <li>• <b>Latvia:</b> On 9 November a national state of emergency was declared, requiring year 7-12 pupils, university students and those engaged in professional training and adult education to study remotely. This state of emergency concludes on 6 December.</li> <li>• <b>Lithuania:</b> On 7 November a three-week lockdown was announced, requiring the closure of all schools and universities.</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands:</b> As of November 4th, face masks must be worn in all schools and higher education institutions.</li> <li>• <b>Romania:</b> On 9 November preschool, primary, secondary, and post-secondary education units all moved to remote teaching for a period of 30 days.</li> <li>• <b>Russia:</b> On 13 November it was announced that public universities and colleges will move to remote teaching until 15 January.</li> <li>• <b>San Marino:</b> On 30 November high schools moved to remote teaching until 23 December.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic:</b> On 16 November students who did not have the resources to participate in remote learning were allowed to return to in person classes consisting of one teacher and no more than five students.</li> <li>• <b>Switzerland:</b> On 2 November higher education institutions were required to move to remote learning.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine:</b> On 13 November schools moved to remote learning.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> On 9 November schools in Wales reopened.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Albania:</b> Since November 9, restaurants, bars, cafés, and similar places are prohibited from opening between 10PM and 6AM.</li> <li>• <b>Austria:</b> All non-essential stores and businesses have to close as of 17 November, due to increased restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>Bulgaria:</b> As of 13 November, restaurants and catering facilities can only operate between 6AM and 11:30PM.</li> <li>• <b>Croatia:</b> Nightclubs and casinos are closed as of 21 November. As of 28 November, all fitness centres and the hospitality sector have to close away, with restaurants being allowed to introduce take-away.</li> <li>• <b>Hungary:</b> Since 11 November, restaurants have to close as well as recreational facilities.</li> <li>• <b>Georgia:</b> Since November 4, restaurants are required to close at</li> </ul>

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	<p>10PM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iceland:</b> Since 31 October, facilities such as hairdressers and fitness centres have to close.</li> <li>• <b>Italy:</b> On 2 November, it was announced that business activities should be reduced and only essential stores are to remain open in high-risk areas.</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan:</b> Throughout November, restrictions have gradually decreased and businesses, such as cultural facilities, religious places or fitness studios, are allowed to open again.</li> <li>• <b>Latvia:</b> On 9 November a state of emergency was declared, requiring all non-essential businesses to close.</li> <li>• <b>Lithuania:</b> On 7 November a three-week lockdown was announced, requiring Gyms to close, shops to limit the number of customers, and permitting restaurants to only serve take-aways.</li> <li>• <b>Luxembourg:</b> On 26 November all establishments serving food and drinks closed to the public.</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands:</b> On 4 November several businesses were required to close, such as, museums, cinemas, theatres, restaurants, bars, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Poland:</b> On November 28th shopping centres were allowed to reopen, but restaurants, gyms, cinemas and theatres remain closed.</li> <li>• <b>Portugal:</b> On 9 November Lisbon entered a state of emergency, only allowing essential services, such as pharmacies, clinics, restaurants, and grocery stores, to open on weekends.</li> <li>• <b>Romania:</b> As of 5 November food markets, fairies, flying and flea markets that operate in closed spaces are required to close.</li> <li>• <b>Russia:</b> On 16 November the region of Buryatia imposed a second lockdown, requiring restaurants, cafes, canteens, buffets, bars, and eateries to be suspended apart for takeaway services. Cinemas, beauty salons, baths and saunas were also closed.</li> <li>• <b>Serbia:</b> As of 17 November all businesses have to close from 9:00 PM to 5:00 AM.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic:</b> As of 16 November cinemas, theatres, and churches were allowed to reopen.</li> <li>• <b>Switzerland:</b> On 28 November the local government of Basel implemented strict rules requiring restaurants, cafes and bars to close.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine:</b> On 13 November a weekend quarantine was implemented by the government allowing only restaurants that provide takeaways, and gyms that have a limit of 1 person per square meter to remain open.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> On 9 November non-essential businesses in Wales were able to reopen.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cyprus:</b> As of 12 November, public events can only take place at 50% capacity.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Finland:</b> On November 23, public events of more than 20 people were prohibited in Helsinki and Uusimaa Hospital District.</li> <li>• <b>Georgia:</b> Since November 4, events such as weddings are limited to 10 people.</li> <li>• <b>Hungary:</b> As of 11 November, a general ban on public events has been introduced.</li> <li>• <b>Latvia:</b> On November 9th a State of Emergency was declared, requiring all in-person public events to be cancelled.</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands-</b> As of 4 November all public events are banned.</li> <li>• <b>Romania-</b> As of 5 November all public events are banned.</li> <li>• <b>Russia-</b> As of 13 November all sporting events with spectators in Moscow require approval by the Moscow City Sports Department to happen. Cultural, entertainment, leisure, educational, and exhibition events with spectators are suspended.</li> <li>• <b>San Marino:</b> In November public events with a maximum of 50 persons were permitted.</li> <li>• <b>Sweden:</b> As of 24 November new restrictions on public events were implemented only allowing events with seated audiences of up to 300 persons and social distancing requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine:</b> As of 30 November all cultural, sports, religious and other events with more than 20 persons are banned.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> On 5 November the UK went into lockdown, cancelling all events apart from funerals.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Albania:</b> Since 17 November, outdoor and indoor gatherings are restricted to a maximum of 10 people.</li> <li>• <b>Austria:</b> Gatherings of 6 people from two different households are only allowed until 8PM, following restrictions that have been put in place 17 November.</li> <li>• <b>Bulgaria:</b> Since 13 November, private gatherings with more than 30 people are not allowed.</li> <li>• <b>Croatia:</b> As of November 28, restrictions on gatherings of 10 people are in place and are prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Latvia:</b> As of November 9th no more than 10 persons are able to gather.</li> <li>• <b>Lithuania:</b> As of November 7th a three week lockdown was announced prohibiting no more than 10 persons from gathering.</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands:</b> As of 4 November a maximum of three persons are permitted to gather.</li> <li>• <b>Poland:</b> As of 23 November a maximum of 6 persons are permitted to gather if they are not a part of the same household.</li> <li>• <b>Romania:</b> As of 11 November all public and private gatherings are prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Serbia:</b> As of 6 November no more than 5 persons are allowed to gather.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic</b></li> <li>• <b>Ukraine:</b> As of November 13th the government has introduced a quarantine, allowing no more than 20 persons to gather.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> On November 5th the government announced a lockdown, only allowing members from two households maximum to gather.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria:</b> Since the introduction of new restrictions, on 3 November, public transport is functioning with decreased frequency and taxis are only allowed to have 2 passengers.</li> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan:</b> The Baku metro is closed until 26 December, and public transport is running under lower capacity, and suspended on weekends, throughout December.</li> <li>• <b>Georgia:</b> Public transport is prohibited between 10PM and 5AM after the reintroduction of restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>Greece:</b> Public transport is only allowed to work at 65% capacity, and passengers in taxis have been limited as well.</li> <li>• <b>Hungary:</b> On 3 November, the government announced to increase the number of public transport in peak hours in the morning and afternoon to avoid crowded spaces.</li> <li>• <b>Ireland:</b> Public transport capacity is limited to 25% capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan:</b> From 7 November, public transport is restricted in the Akmola region. Transport has also been restricted on weekends in the Kostanay region.</li> <li>• <b>Romania:</b> On 11 November the government recommended that persons avoid public transportation.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine:</b> From 13 November to 30 November the government required masks be worn on public transportation, and passengers to carry specific documents.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> On 4 November it was recommended that public transportation be avoided, and face masks be worn while using public transportation.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina:</b> Since 11 November, a curfew has been put in place between 11PM and 5AM, requiring citizens to remain at home during that period of time.</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan:</b> Residents, especially over the age of 65, in the Kostanay region are recommended to stay at home. Local policies are in place recommending citizens to remain at home between 10PM until 6AM.</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands:</b> As of 4 November the government recommends that persons stay home, but does not require it.</li> <li>• <b>Norway:</b> As of 5 November the government recommends that persons stay home, but does not require it.</li> <li>• <b>Portugal:</b> On 9 November a State of Emergency was declared, imposing an overnight curfew on the weekends from 11 pm to 5 am.</li> <li>• <b>Romania:</b> As of 11 November there is a curfew from 11 pm to 5 am.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic:</b> On 14 November the curfew was lifted.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> On 5 November England implemented a</li> </ul>

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	lockdown requiring persons to stay inside apart from exercise and essential activities.
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Albania:</b> As of 12 November, restrictions are in place for public movement, restricting it between 10PM and 6AM. E-Albania must be used to allow for exceptions.</li> <li>• <b>Denmark:</b> From 9 November until 3 December, regional restrictions for internal movement have been put in place due to COVID-19 outbreaks. These include: Jørring, Frederikshavn, Brønderslev, Jammerbugt, Vesthimmerland, Thisted and Læsø municipalities.</li> <li>• <b>Italy:</b> Since 3 November, internal movement is restricted for regions that are in red (or high-alert) areas.</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan:</b> As of November, Kazakh regions are entitled to implement regional policies and restrict movement. Amongst others, since 1 November, access into the East Kazakhstan region is under control, and air as well as railway travel from and to Ust-Kamenogorsk is restricted.</li> <li>• <b>Norway:</b> As of 5 November the government recommends that persons stay home and avoid non-essential travel.</li> <li>• <b>Portugal:</b> On 3 November a ban on movement between municipalities was lifted.</li> <li>• <b>Romania:</b> From 11 November travel outside of quarantined localities is prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Sweden:</b> In November it was recommended that non-essential internal travel be limited.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> On 5 November the start of the lockdown imposed restrictions on travel within the UK unless for work or other legally permitted reasons.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Germany:</b> As of 8 November, all travelers have to register on an online website, prior to their entry.</li> <li>• <b>Spain:</b> Travel ban on selected countries has been extended until 30 November.</li> <li>• <b>Ireland:</b> As of 5 November, Ireland has implemented the EU-wide traffic light system that classifies countries on their level of COVID-19 infections.</li> <li>• <b>Russia:</b> In November the government banned the entry of specific foreign nationals.</li> <li>• <b>Tajikistan:</b> In November international travel into the country resumed. Persons must provide proof of a negative PCR test.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom:</b> As of 5 November, international travel is not recommended and prohibited, with exception of work essential travels.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belgium:</b> As of 23 November, Belgium's testing policy changed, which now allows asymptomatic citizens who came in contact with an infected person, to get tested for COVID-19.</li> </ul>



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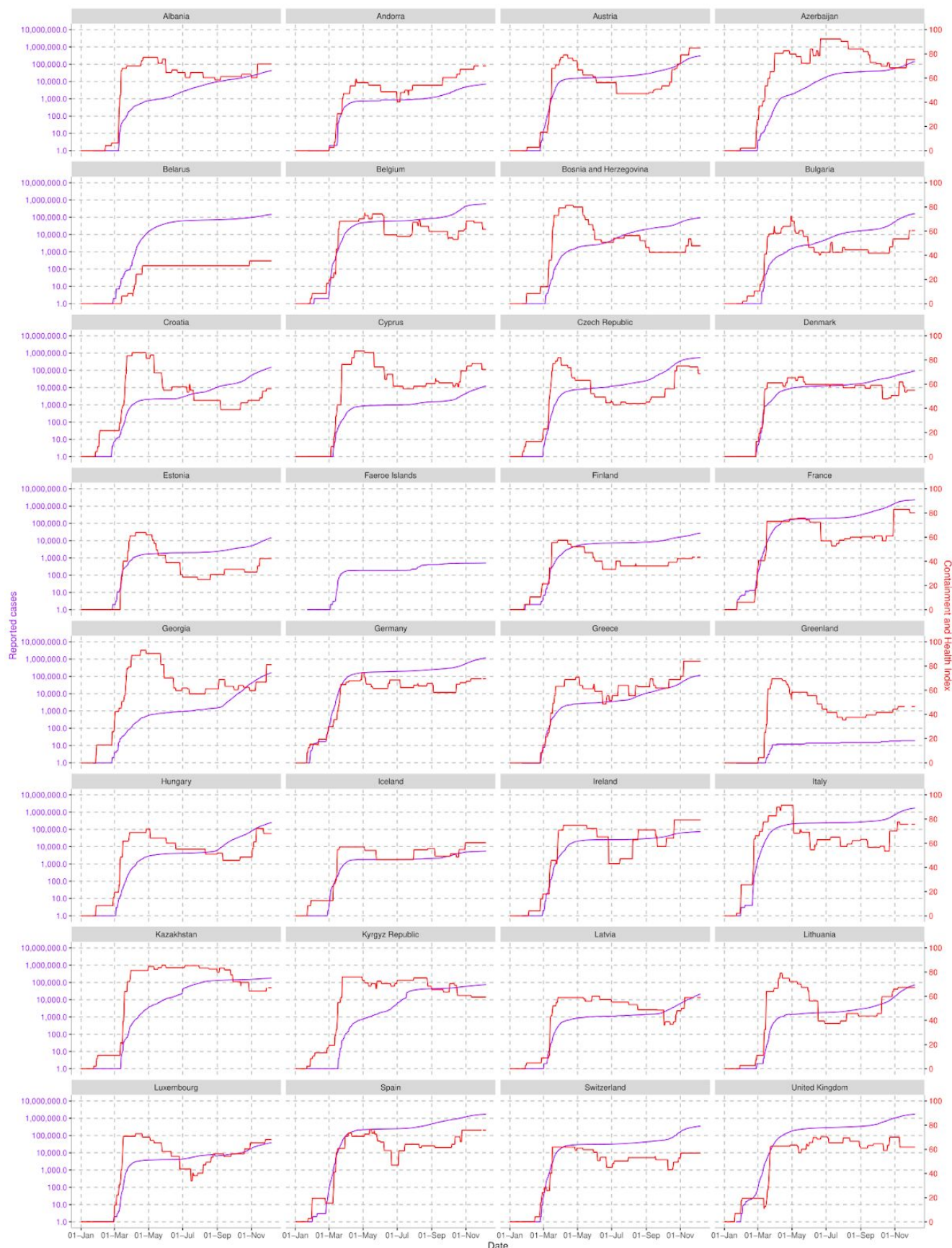


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Denmark:</b> The government has been scaling up regional testing facilities, especially in the Holstebro and Ringkøbing-Skjern Municipality</li><li>• <b>Slovak Republic:</b> On 1 November mass testing was carried out across the country.</li></ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No major changes recorded.</li></ul>
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Netherlands:</b> In November it face masks were made mandatory in indoor public spaces and on public transport for anyone over the age of 13.</li><li>• <b>Romania:</b> As of 11 November face masks are mandatory in all open and closed public spaces for persons above the age of 5.</li></ul>

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### Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



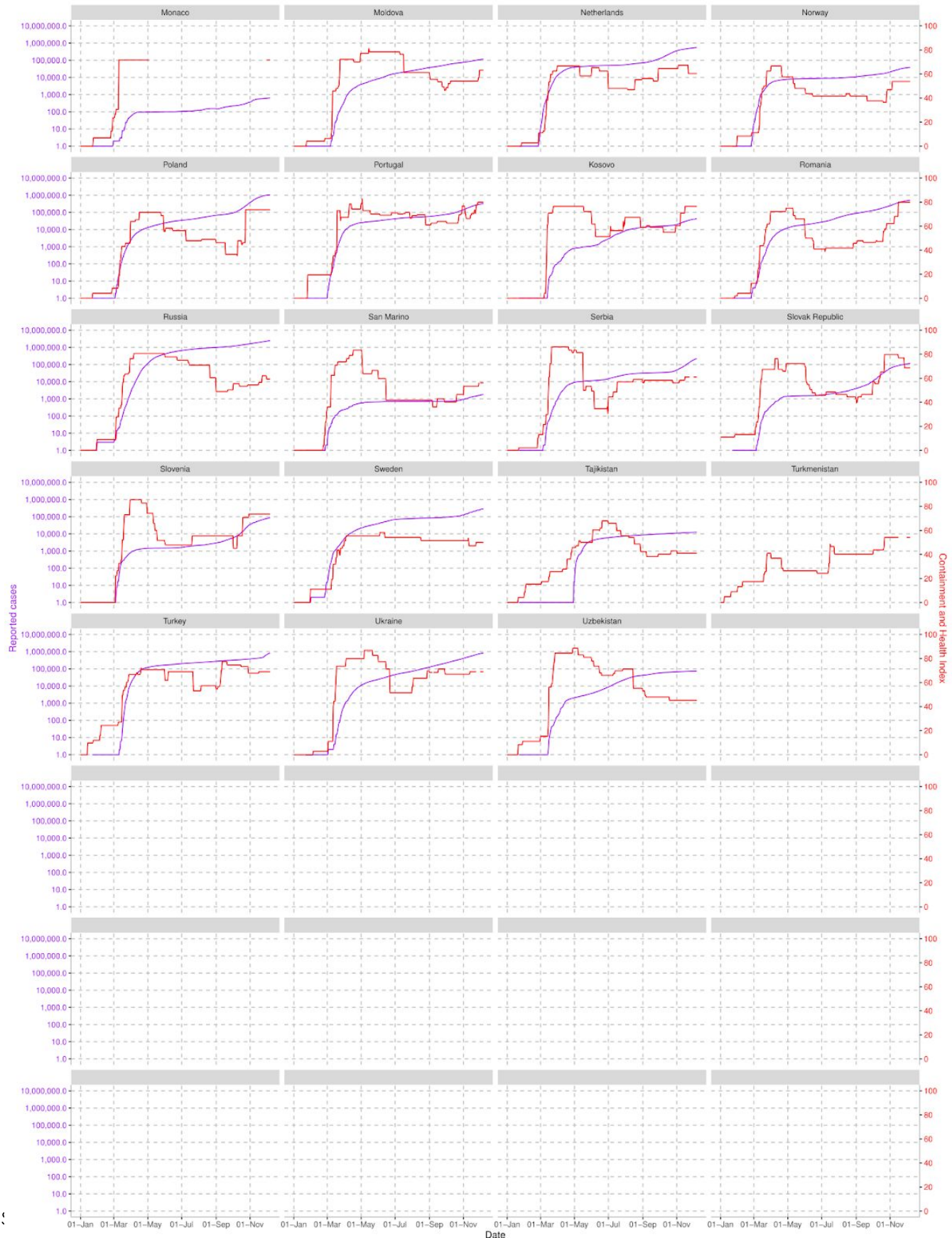
Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at <https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker> or [bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](https://bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)

Summaries are created with data from the OXCGRT, updated by contributors. For specific references, please see the database [www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)



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