

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - Latin America & Caribbean



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	Latin America & Caribbean
Date range	1-30 April, 2021
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Brief summary of major changes:

Several countries began relaxing various restrictions, including the re-opening of schools for either in-person or hybrid learning in April, such as **Aruba**, and regions in **Peru** and **Brazil**. Additionally, some restrictions around businesses began to relax in **Panama**, **Barbados** and **Aruba**. However, several countries also tightened restrictions, such as **Suriname**, where several restrictions were tightened, such as school opening, business opening, gatherings, and curfews. **Peru** and **Ecuador** also enforced more restrictive curfews during April.

COVID-19 vaccines became more available to citizens in the Latin America & Caribbean region throughout April, with **Aruba**, **Guyana** and **Uruguay** expanding their eligibility to all adults. Many other countries who had eligibility limited to just elderly and key workers also opened vaccinations to additional groups during April.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: In a loosening of restrictions, schools reopened on 12 April with strict public health guidelines. • Barbados: Although most schools were initially set to begin their third term on 20 April, the start date was delayed to 26 April due to ash fall from the La Soufriere volcano. • Brazil: In Campinas, some schools reopened for face-to-face classes on 19 April in a loosening of restrictions. • El Salvador: On 6 April, in-person classes resumed. • Peru: Beginning 19 April, with 14 schools in Arequipa re-opened for hybrid learning, in a loosening of restrictions. • Suriname: In a tightening of restrictions, schools were closed from 1 April. • Trinidad & Tobago: Schools reopened for hybrid learning for Forms 4-6 students on 12 April, while remaining virtual for primary and ECCE students.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: As of 26 April, the required closing time for supermarkets, hardware stores, and restaurants was moved to 22:00 from the previous closing time of 21:00. • Barbados: Only certain non-essential businesses were allowed to open on 2 April, 4 April, 5 April, and 11 April. Beginning 12 April, bars and restaurants could operate at 50% capacity, but theatres,

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	<p>nightclubs, and cinemas had to remain closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guatemala: On 17 April, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) established new sanitary provisions. • Panama: Continuing the gradual loosening of restrictions, bars were permitted to re-open for outdoor dining as of 19 April, and some businesses may stay open until 23:00. • Suriname: In a tightening of restrictions, from 10 April, some businesses were shut, such as casinos, gambling/entertainment venues, gyms/fitness centres, yoga/dance schools, hair salons and barbershops, as well as indoor dining. Restaurants closed indoor dining and switched to delivery, take-out and/or limited outdoor dining. • United States Virgin Islands: Beginning April 23, restaurants were permitted to space tables 4 feet apart, in a slight loosening of restrictions.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecuador: In the provinces of Azuay, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Manabi, Pichincha and Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, a 30-day state of emergency was declared on 1 April. As such, social and public gatherings were prohibited. A 28-day state of emergency was also enacted on 23 April in Azuay, Pichincha, Imbabura, Carchi, Tungurahua, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Manabi, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, Santa Elena, Los Rios, Sucumbios and Zamora Chinchipe. • Guatemala: On 17 April, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) established new sanitary provisions. • Panama: As part of the gradual loosening of restrictions, the public was permitted to attend outdoor sports activities with 25% capacity from 19 April. • Peru: From 1 April to 4 April, all events were prohibited as part of the country's total curfew. From 19 April, gatherings in both open and closed spaces were prohibited in areas with extreme COVID-19 case rates. • United States Virgin Islands: In relaxation of restrictions, from 1 April, church gathering limits were increased to 200 or 50% of capacity, whichever is less. Otherwise, public gatherings were capped at 50.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: Beginning 7 April, all sports in enclosed spaces that involved the participation of more than ten people were prohibited. • Aruba: As of 26 April, gatherings in public spaces, including reefs, beaches, and parking lots, were banned from 19:30 to 05:00. • Brazil: Starting 13 April, events up to 50 people were allowed in the state of Bahia in a relaxation of restrictions. • Dominican Republic: On 15 April, the government extended gathering restrictions, limiting group gatherings in public spaces to ten people until 16 May. • Peru: From 1 April to 4 April, all gatherings were prohibited as part of the nationwide curfew. From 19 April, gatherings in both open and closed spaces were prohibited in areas with extreme COVID-19 case rates. • Suriname: In a tightening of restrictions, gatherings were limited to 5 or less, except for religious gatherings which were limited to 10, from 12 April. • United States Virgin Islands: In relaxation of restrictions, from 1

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	<p>April, church gathering limits were increased to 200 or 50% of capacity, whichever is less. Otherwise, public gatherings were capped at 50.</p>
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: Following a surge in COVID-19 cases, the Argentinean government imposed restrictions on movement. For example, beginning 7 April, only essential workers, teachers and others with special authorisation were allowed to use public transportation in Buenos Aires. • Brazil: In Campina Grande, the bus fleet was expanded on 5 April. • Ecuador: In areas where a state of emergency was enacted 23 April, urban public transport was to operate at a 50% maximum capacity and inter-city busses were to operate at a 75% maximum capacity and half frequency. • Guatemala: On 17 April, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) established new sanitary provisions, including a 25% capacity limit on urban and extra-urban public transport.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: In a loosening of restrictions on 26 April, the curfew was shortened to 23:00 to 05:00 from the previous curfew of 22:00 to 05:00. • Barbados: Starting 12 April, there were no longer curfews on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. On Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, the curfew was reduced to 23:00 to 05:00. • Dominican Republic: On 15 April, the government extended curfews on weekdays and weekends to 16 May. • Ecuador: In the provinces of Azuay, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Manabi, Pichincha and Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, a 30-day state of emergency was declared on 1 April. As a part of this state of emergency, a curfew between 2 April and 9 April from 20:00 to 05:00 was enacted. A 28-day state of emergency was also enacted on 23 April in Azuay, Pichincha, Imbabura, Carchi, Tungurahua, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Manabi, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, Santa Elena, Los Rios, Sucumbios and Zamora Chinchipe. As a part of this state of emergency, curfew restrictions were enacted between 20:00 Mondays through 05:00 Thursdays. Complete lockdowns were also enacted between 20:00 Fridays through 05:00 Mondays. • Panama: Curfews were relaxed throughout the month, going from 22:00-04:00 to 23:00-04:00 on 5 April, and to 00:00-04:00 on 19 April. • Paraguay: Starting April 5, the curfew was slightly relaxed to 23:59-05:00 from 20:00-05:00. • Peru: From 1 April to 4 April, a 24 hour per day curfew was in effect nationwide, with only 1 person per household permitted outside for pedestrian shopping. • Suriname: Curfews were tightened, with weekday curfews spanning 20:00-05:00 and weekend curfews from 18:00-05:00. The prior weekday curfew was 23:00-05:00, and weekend curfew was 21:00-05:00.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peru: Domestic land and air travel was stopped from 1 April to 3 April.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolivia: Flights between Europe and Bolivia resumed, and all arriving passengers were to present a PCR test taken up to 72

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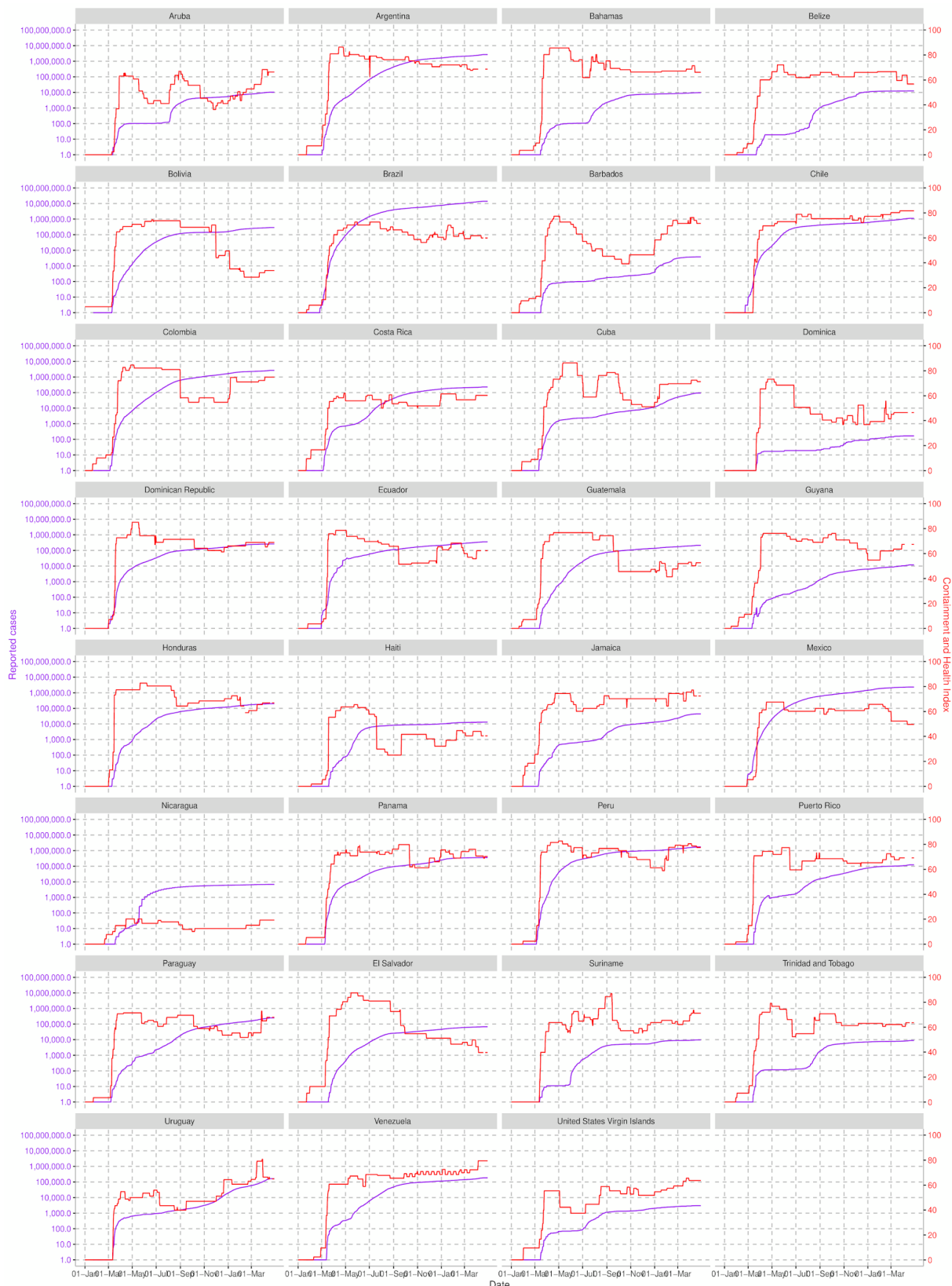
	<p>hours before arrival and quarantine for ten days. They had to also pay for a second PCR test administered on the seventh day of quarantine, and tourists needed to provide proof of medical insurance. On 9 April, the Bolivian government extended the border closure with Brazil to 16 April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chile: Beginning 5 April, the Chilean border was closed to all foreigners who did not have regular resident status. Departures from the country were also limited. • Dominican Republic: In a relaxation of restrictions on 6 April, all travelers, except those arriving from the United Kingdom, no longer needed to present a negative PCR COVID-19 test upon arrival. 3% to 15% of arriving passengers and all passengers with symptoms were to undergo a quick aleatory breath test. All travelers still had their temperatures checked. • Guatemala: Starting 17 April, entry into the country was limited for foreigners who had been to Brazil, the United Kingdom or South Africa in the past fourteen days.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peru: From 19 April, restrictions were tightened even more with the requirement of face shields on top of face masks to enter many establishments or crowded areas.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: On 14 April, the government began inviting all individuals who did not yet receive their vaccine to register for one as soon as possible. On 24 April and 25 April, walk-in vaccination drives were held at four centres on the island for individuals over 18 who were not yet vaccinated. • Bahamas: On 11 April, individuals over 50 and retail and restaurant workers became eligible for vaccines. Beginning 12 April, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers in New Providence were able to register for vaccine appointments. • Belize: Phase 3 of vaccinations began on 13 April, allowing individuals over 50 years of age and those with comorbidities to get vaccinated. • El Salvador: On 22 April, all individuals over 55 could begin registering for a COVID-19 vaccine. • Guyana: On 6 April, those over 40 years old were added to the eligibility list to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, which already included the clinically vulnerable, key workers and the elderly. On 16 April, all those over 18 years old were able to receive the vaccine. • Nicaragua: Patients with cancer, heart disease, and other chronic diseases started receiving the COVID-19 vaccination beginning 6 April. • Paraguay: Beginning 10 April, those over 80 and those over 60 with mobility disabilities were able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in addition to the healthcare workers already eligible. • Peru: From 16 April, the country changed its strategy from key groups, such as healthcare workers and those most likely to have severe outcomes from contracting COVID-19, to a territorial strategy, which would open to all people over 18 years old. People over 80 in Lima and Callao were the first to be vaccinated

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	<p>with this strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suriname: Starting 5 April, vaccinations were opened up to those with medical conditions between the ages of 18-39. They join the retirement home residents, over 60 years old and essential services, healthcare workers, and those 40-59 with medical conditions. • Trinidad and Tobago: Beginning 8 April, vaccinations started for those over 60 and with non-communicable diseases and re-started for key healthcare workers. • Uruguay: From 29 March all people between 18-70 were able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guyana: From 29 March, visitations to nursing/senior citizen homes were not permitted.

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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