

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.

REGION	Europe and Central Asia
Date range	01 December- 31 December
Reported by	Ayanna Griffith and Annalena Pott

Brief summary of major changes:

December brought several changes and new restrictions, particularly the closure of schools and workplaces. In some countries, restrictions that have been implemented in November were continued until December. However, closures of schools can be seen in several countries, including but not limited to Sweden, United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands. Additionally, workplace closures and restrictions were implemented in countries, including Poland, Serbia, or the Slovak Republic. Stay at home requirements were implemented in San Marino, Azerbaijan, United Kingdom, Turkey, the Netherlands and Lithuania. Countries, such as Azerbaijan, have implemented an SMS-quarantine system, which requires citizens to send a text message to leave their homes. New travel restrictions have been put in place in several countries in response to the new variant of the COVID-19 virus in the United Kingdom, leading to border closures from passengers and travellers coming from the United Kingdom.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany: In light of heightened restrictions, schools in Germany will remain closed until 11 January, and likely longer.• Luxembourg- From 28 December until 10 January all in-person educational activities have been suspended.• Netherlands- On 15 December, the government announced a lockdown requiring all primary and secondary schools, and higher education institutions to move to remote teaching.• Romania- From 9- 23 December all in-person teaching activities were suspended.• San Marino- All primary and secondary schools closed from 23 December until 6 January.• Slovak Republic- On 7 December, primary schools (grades 5-9), secondary schools, primary arts schools and language schools were permitted to resume in person teaching. Prior to returning,
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	<p>students are required to provide a negative COVID-19 test in the past 14 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden- On 7 December, the government announced the closing of all upper secondary schools. This measure has been extended until 24 January. • Turkey- All schools and educational facilities were required to close on 1 December. • United Kingdom: Secondary schools across Wales were required to close from 14 December. In Scotland and England, all schools were required to close from 18 December.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvia- On 1 December, the government announced the extension of the State of Emergency requiring non-essential shops to close on Saturdays, Sundays, and Public holidays. • Lithuania- On 2 December, temporary vendors in shops, supermarkets and points of services, were prohibited from continuing to work. • Moldova- From 8 December, all restaurants were required to close between the hours of 22:00 pm- 7:00 am. • Netherlands- On 15 December, the government announced a lockdown requiring all non-essential businesses to close. • Poland- From 28 December, all non-essential stores are required to close. • San Marino- From 15 December to 6 January, all restaurants and bars are required to close. • Serbia- From 4 December, particular workplaces and sectors are required to close on weekends. These workplaces include restaurants, shopping centres, casinos, hair salons, and sports facilities. • Slovak Republic- On 11 December, the closure of several sectors and businesses was required, including restaurants and cafes. • Turkey- From December 1, all theatres, coffee houses, swimming pools, billiard halls, saunas, etc. are required to close. • United Kingdom- On 20 December, the government announced the creation of a "Tier 4" category for areas based on the number of infections. Several non-essential businesses in "Tier 4" areas are required to close.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latvia- On 1 December, the government announced the extension of the State of Emergency, prohibiting the operation of Christmas markets, fairs, cultural sites, and exhibitions. • Norway- On 4 December, the government recommended the suspension of all public events, and released several new restrictions for public events. • Switzerland- On 11 December, the government announced new restrictions, prohibiting public events. • Tajikistan- In December the government announced new

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	restrictions, prohibiting religious gatherings and large events.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithuania- On 9 December, restrictions were implemented prohibiting more than two people from gathering, or more than one family or household from gathering. • Luxembourg- From 26 December a maximum of 2 people from the same household can gather. • Netherlands- From 15 December no more than 2 persons or members of the same household can gather. • Tajikistan- In December the government announced new restrictions, prohibiting religious gatherings and large events. • United Kingdom- On 25 December, those living in tier 2 and tier 3 regions were able to have up to three households come together.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netherlands- On 15 December, the government announced a lockdown. Under these new rules public transportation can only be used for essential travel.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan: Following a rise in cases, Azerbaijan has introduced a strict quarantine regime, which came into effect on December 14 2020 until January 18, 2021. Citizens can request leaving their homes through an SMS-permission system. • Kyrgyzstan: Local authorities have advised citizens to remain inside, and limit going outside. • Lithuania- On 23 December, the government announced further tightening of restrictions, including the requirement to stay home apart from essential and work purposes. • Netherlands- On 15 December, the government recommended that people stay home and work from home if possible. • San Marino- On 18 December, the government announced a curfew from 00:30 am until 6:00 am. • Turkey- A four day curfew from 21:00 pm on 31 December until 05:00 am in January was implemented. • United Kingdom- On 20 December, the government announced the creation of a "Tier 4" category for areas based on the number of infections. Those living in Tier 4 areas are prohibited to leave their homes for non-essential reasons.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poland- Movement throughout the country was banned from 31 December to 1 January. • Portugal- On 10 December, the government announced that movement between municipalities would be permitted. Movement was prohibited from 31 December until 4 January. • San Marino- On 24 December the government announced that internal movement was prohibited until 6 January, excluding 28 and 30 of December. • Sweden- On 14 December, the government recommended

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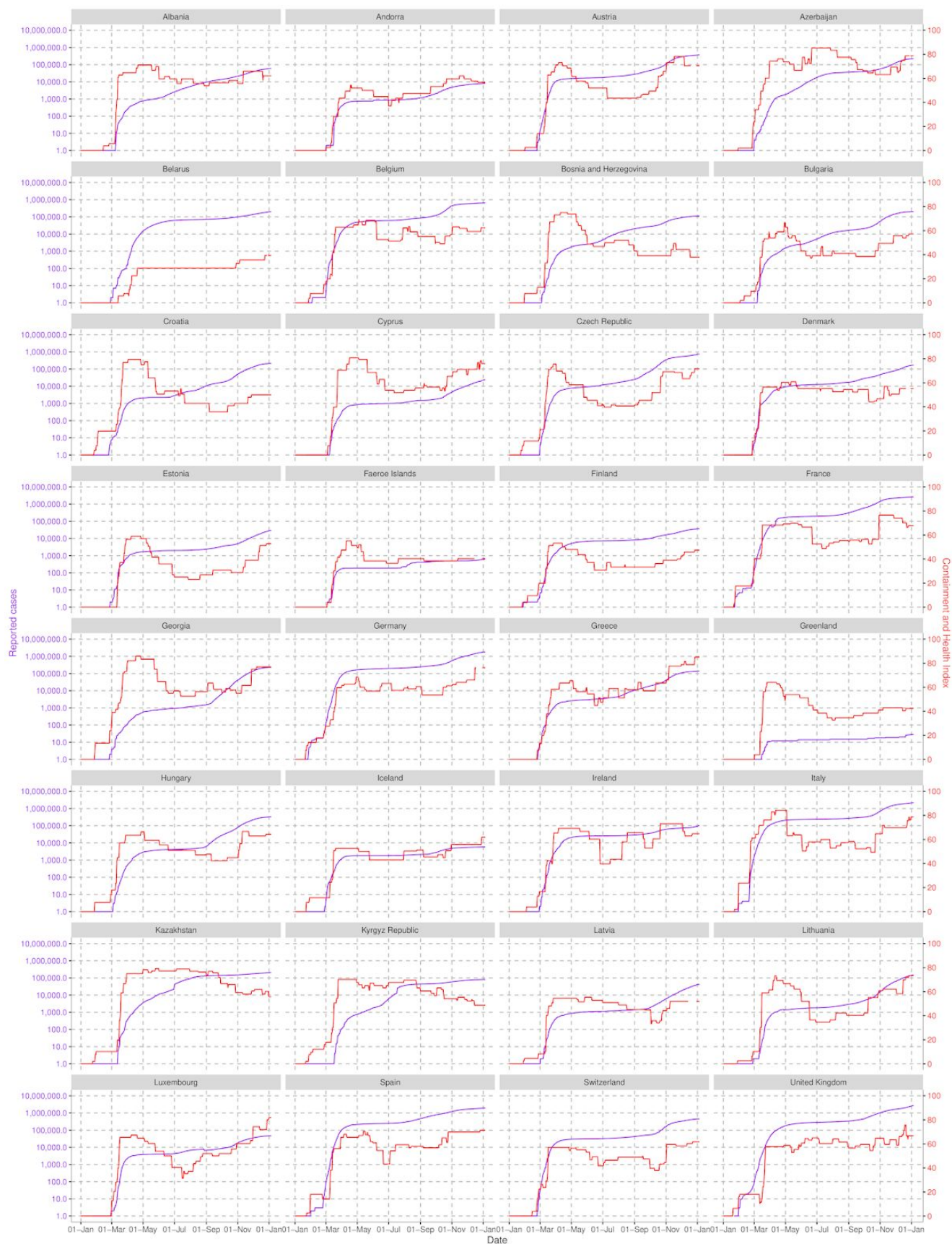


	<p>against internal travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkmenistan- On 30 December, the government announced the extension of restrictions, including the requirement of a special permit to travel between provinces. • United Kingdom- On 20 December, the government announced the creation of a "Tier 4" category for areas based on the number of infections. Those living in Tier 4 areas are prohibited from travelling to other areas of the country.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany: Passenger flights from the United Kingdom were banned, in response to the newly emerging variant of the virus in the country. • Greenland: Entry to Greenland will be limited to all except people with socially critical functions until at least 12 January 2021. • Lithuania- All passenger flights from the United Kingdom were banned from 21 December until 31 December. • Poland- The government announced that the ban on passengers from particular countries has been extended until 31 December. • Russia- On 22 December until 12 January flights from the United Kingdom have been suspended. • Serbia- As of 20 December all foreign nationals must provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test to be granted entry. • Slovenia- In December the government continued to update the lists of countries and the restrictions imposed on travelers coming from these countries, according to infection level. • Turkey- As of 30 December all travelers must provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test to be granted entry.
H2: Testing Policy	No major changes recorded.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithuania- On 3 December the Prime Minister announced that the existing contact tracing infrastructure was overwhelmed. On 12 December it was announced that the goal was to contact trace all cases within 48 hours. • United Kingdom- In December the NHS Test and Trace program has made major improvements, allowing health authorities to successfully trace up to 92.7% of cases.
H6: Facial Coverings	No major changes recorded.

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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

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