

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - South 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	South Asia
Date range	1-31 May, 2021
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Brief summary of major changes:

In **Bhutan**, all non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were prohibited as of 11 May. Check Post Management System and Druk Trace application were introduced as a record for inter-district travels and for contacting tracing respectively. In **India**, many states newly announced lockdown measures while numerous extended the restrictions regarding the uneased situation. The national government continued to recommend against social gatherings. **Nepal** has seen the greatest tightening of restrictions for the region with the country returning to a complete lockdown to address the current spike in cases. In contrast, while **Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka** also face a concerning situation, both countries are trying to re-open much of the economy and daily activities while also wishing to contain spread, most notably through controlling domestic travel and short periods of total lockdown.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: All non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were banned as of 11 May. • India: Government in the Karnataka state announced on 7 May that all educational institutions would remain closed until 14 June • Nepal: Schools have resumed in-person teaching in some provinces
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan: All non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were banned as of 11 May. Recreational venues remained closed nationwide. • India: Multiple states such as Mizoram, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Rajasthan announced various degrees of lockdown while the states of Delhi, Maharashtra, Bihar and the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir extended lockdown restrictions. Numerous states continued complete lockdown. • Nepal: All non-essential workplaces were closed for the first 15 days of May. Following this, all non-essential shops upon reopening must close by 10pm. • Pakistan: A nationwide 'Stay Home Stay Safe' order between May 8 and May 16 resulted in all markets, businesses, and shops closing, except for essential services such as grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, and utilities providers.

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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sri Lanka: The closure of non-essential workplaces in April was extended until May 10.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: All non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were banned as of 11 May. ● Nepal: All public events must be virtual. If physical attendance is deemed necessary, and given approval, no more than 15 people can be in attendance.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: All non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were banned as of 11 May. Essential gatherings are limited to a maximum of 25 people with prior approval. ● Nepal: Within the month, gatherings reduced from no more than 25 people to 10 or fewer.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: All non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were banned as of 11 May. ● India: Himachal Pradesh imposed a complete shutdown of public transportation. ● Nepal: No public vehicles in operation. ● Pakistan: All public transport restarted across the country with some restrictions. ● Sri Lanka: All public transportation resumed across the country, at 50% capacity.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: All non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were banned as of 11 May. ● Nepal: A stay home order was put in place, with the exception of essential shopping within limited operation hours.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: All non-essential activities in Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar were banned as of 11 May. Inter-district travelers must register via the Check Post Management System. ● Nepal: Total halt on all internal movement. ● Sri Lanka: Added restrictions on intercity and interstate movement focusing upon closure of related public transport options.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: All foreign nationals were banned from entering the country. All returnees were required to undergo a 21-day quarantine. ● India: State governments such as those for Maharashtra and Punjab imposed restrictions on entry into their state borders. Travelers must carry a negative test result before entry. ● Nepal: Travel between India and China were both banned at the start of May. This then shifted to a total ban on all international travel. The end of the month saw international travel resume, with 50% passenger capacity (bans remained in place for India, Iran and Afghanistan). ● Sri Lanka: Ban put in place for inbound travelers from India.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: Officials are carrying out COVID-19 testing for travelers, students, teachers, transporters, and business personnel randomly every two weeks.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: Druk Trace application is required when entering all public places for contact tracing.

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H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhutan: Face masks are compulsory in all public places.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nepal: The government has begun inoculating the second dose of Verocell, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by China, from 16 May. Pakistan: Vaccinations began for the 40+ age category.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nepal: All citizens above the age of 60 are now advised to not leave the home unless totally necessary.

Cases vs Containment and Health Index:

