

# Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

## Regional report - East Asia Pacific



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>	East Asia Pacific
<b>Date range</b>	1-31 November
<b>Reported by</b>	Thomas Benson and Randy Taufik

### Brief summary of major changes:

Much of November in the East Asia Pacific region saw increased restrictions in gatherings, numbers of people allowed at events, and stay at home orders. In particular, China has issued strict stay at home orders for 4 villages in Kashgar, 6 residential communities in Manzhouli, and several residential areas in Shanghai and Tianjin, with strict 24 hour confinement. Myanmar has also instituted strict stay at home orders.

In November, a number of countries such as Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have opened or increased their public transportation and routes available. Australia is now allowing for travel of less than 25km in metropolitan areas, while Mongolia has banned all travel and routes into and out of the Capital city. In China, people are banned from leaving Manzhouli, and people are only allowed to leave Kashgar and Tianjin after presenting a negative Covid test.

The most novel policy to be announced in November in Hong Kong is that from 27 November, all singing and dancing in churches will be banned.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Australia:</b> Schools have reopened, with all schools open from 22 November.</li><li>• <b>Brunei:</b> Schools have reopened with precautionary measures in place.</li><li>• <b>China:</b> A region in Tianjin was designated high risk on 20 November, with schools closed accordingly.</li><li>• <b>Guam:</b> Public schools are likely to stay closed until January.</li><li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> Kindergartens and childcare centres closed from</li></ul>
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	<p>14 November to 27 November due to local outbreaks. Hong Kong teachers are expected to join a voluntary testing program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indonesia:</b> Out of 240k schools, 19,700 have opened for face to face teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Japan:</b> University students are still taking classes online.</li> <li>• <b>South Korea:</b> Schools are to comply with a choice of two methods: either 1. limit the number of people to 1 or 2 spaces per 8% of facility area or 2. limit the number of people to 1 person per 4% of facility area or 1 space and stop operation after 21:00.</li> <li>• <b>Laos:</b> School obligated to implement precautionary measures and arrange social distancing at least one meter directed by National Taskforce Committee</li> <li>• <b>Malaysia:</b> All schools are closed due to preventive measures</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> In Victoria, from 30 November, 25% of employees will be allowed to return to work per site</li> <li>• <b>Brunei:</b> Businesses are open but operating at 30% capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> Shops, restaurants and bars are now open, but night clubs and gyms remain closed.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> In Tianjin, Manzhouli and Kashgar, factories and businesses have closed due to localised outbreaks.</li> <li>• <b>Guam:</b> Businesses and services are open with limited capacity, following the extension of Executive Order 2020-38 until 29 November.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> Late-night hospitality services such as karaoke and bars must cease supplying food and drink from 12.00am to 5.00am.</li> <li>• <b>Myanmar:</b> A work from home policy has been implemented in multiple provinces.</li> <li>• <b>Mongolia:</b> Ordered five days of national lockdown</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> Public Events may occur in accordance with the Public Events Framework. While Tier 1 (5000&lt;) and Tier 2 (500-5000) events must be requested and approved, Tier 3 (&gt;500) events can be held in accordance with published guidelines.</li> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> The authorities have asked that large scale events such as weddings be postponed.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> Public events in Tianjin and Manzhouli have been cancelled.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> From 27 November, all singing and dancing in churches will be banned.</li> <li>• <b>South Korea:</b> For events such as weddings, commemorative ceremonies, and clubs, the number of people is limited to less than 100 people.</li> <li>• <b>Myanmar:</b> Banned public events that included more than 30 people</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Several festivals canceled to avoid possible Covid-19 cases</li> </ul>

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<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> People can see friends and family outdoors in a public place in a group of up to 10 people.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> In Kashgar, Manzhouli, and Tianjin gatherings outside of houses are restricted or banned.</li> <li>• <b>Guam:</b> Maximum gathering size remains at 5 after the extension of Executive Order 2020 38.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> From 24 November until 3 of December, ceremonies of more than 40 people will be banned; in each hotel room, no more than 4 people are allowed; at weddings or religious ceremonies in hotels no more than 20 will be allowed.</li> <li>• <b>South Korea:</b> From November 23 to December 31, the Seoul Metropolitan Government will carry out inspections in entertainment facilities and restaurants to prevent large gatherings during the holiday.</li> <li>• <b>Mongolia:</b> All public places closed, except the essential needs and workplace that cannot implemented remote work</li> <li>• <b>Malaysia:</b> Several areas still subject to lockdown, including stadium and amusement park</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Restrictions for gatherings of more than 50 people</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> Public transport facilities are open and travel &lt;25km is allowed.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> Public transport has been suspended in Manzhouli.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> To reduce the risk of the spread of the novel coronavirus in the community, public transport service providers have made special arrangements.</li> <li>• <b>Laos:</b> Public transportation open for public</li> <li>• <b>Myanmar:</b> Public transportation open for limited route</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Public transportation is fully operating</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>China:</b> 4 villages in Kashgar, 6 residential communities in Manzhouli, and several residential areas in Shanghai and Tianjin are all placed under 24 hours strict confinement.</li> <li>• <b>Guam:</b> Staying at home is recommended especially for the elderly and the sick people.</li> <li>• <b>Myanmar:</b> Government has instituted stay-at-home orders, curfews, bans on public gatherings, and closures of public events</li> <li>• <b>Philippines:</b> Some cities implemented age restrictions on leaving home for non-essential reasons</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Stay at home policy no longer in place</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> In Metropolitan areas, travel &gt;25 km is allowed.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> People are banned from leaving Manzhouli. People are only allowed to leave Kashgar and Tianjin after presenting a negative Covid test.</li> <li>• <b>South Korea:</b> From November 24, Jeju Island will implement special quarantine measures. Incoming visitors with a fever of 37.5</li> </ul>

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	<p>must undergo an examination at the Jeju Airport Screening Clinic and quarantine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mongolia:</b> All travels and routes to capital city has been banned</li> <li>• <b>Malaysia:</b> Interstate travels are not allowed, except with specific permission</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> All arriving foreigners must fully abide by locally enforced quarantine measures for 14 days at a hotel designated by the government.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> From 7 November, in addition to a negative 'nucleic acid' test for COVID-19, international travelers must also provide evidence of having taken an 'IgM' antibody test. From 7 November, both the test for COVID-19 and the antibody test must be taken no more than 48 hours before travel.</li> <li>• <b>Guam:</b> Arriving passengers (Air or Sea) are subject to a 14-day quarantine period regardless of pre-arrival COVID-19 test results.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> Travelers are required to provide confirmation in English or Chinese of room reservation in a hotel in Hong Kong for not less than 14 days starting on the day of the arrival of the relevant traveller in Hong Kong.</li> <li>• <b>Indonesia:</b> Foreigners are temporarily prohibited from entering/transiting Indonesia.</li> <li>• <b>Laos:</b> All arrivals must be subject to Covid-19 test.</li> <li>• <b>Macao:</b> Non-resident need to take a Covid-19 test at least 7 days before entering the border.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> People are recommended for testing if showing symptoms, or for reasons such as working in a high-risk environment or having received an organ transplant.</li> <li>• <b>Brunei:</b> Tests generally available at cost.</li> <li>• <b>Fiji:</b> The government has widened its testing to all close contacts of every confirmed case, regardless of whether they were displaying symptoms.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> Apart from the accident and emergency departments of public hospitals and general out-patient clinics, private clinics and hospitals are also available for testing.</li> <li>• <b>Japan:</b> Around 15,000 people will be tested for novel coronavirus antibodies by the end of the year to get a better grasp of the infection situation amid a nationwide resurgence in new cases.</li> <li>• <b>Myanmar:</b> Mandatory swab test for international traveler and humanitarian worker</li> </ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brunei</b> A contact-tracing app ("BruHealth") has also been widely implemented.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR</b> The government has granted authorised officers the power to require any person to provide or disclose information that is relevant to identification and tracing of persons who may be at risk of contracting the disease.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Singapore:</b> Government performing massive contract tracing by mobile app that identified 25,000 close contact</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Contract tracing by government is massive</li> </ul>
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> Face covering is mandatory indoors, including public transport.</li> <li>• <b>Brunei:</b> Masks required in some public spaces.</li> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> While no penalties are currently being imposed by the Cambodian authorities for refusing to wear a face covering, it is expected to wear a face covering when inside the airport.</li> <li>• <b>Guam:</b> Executive order 2036 seems to remain in effect, mandating masks unless engaged in physical exercise.</li> <li>• <b>South Korea:</b> The range of mandatory mask wear has been expanded to the entirety of indoor and outdoor exhibitions and sports venues. A fine is imposed if the mask is not worn.</li> <li>• <b>Laos:</b> Required to use mask in public space</li> <li>• <b>Mongolia:</b> Mask is obligated in public spaces. If not comply, will be fine up to 20 USD.</li> </ul>

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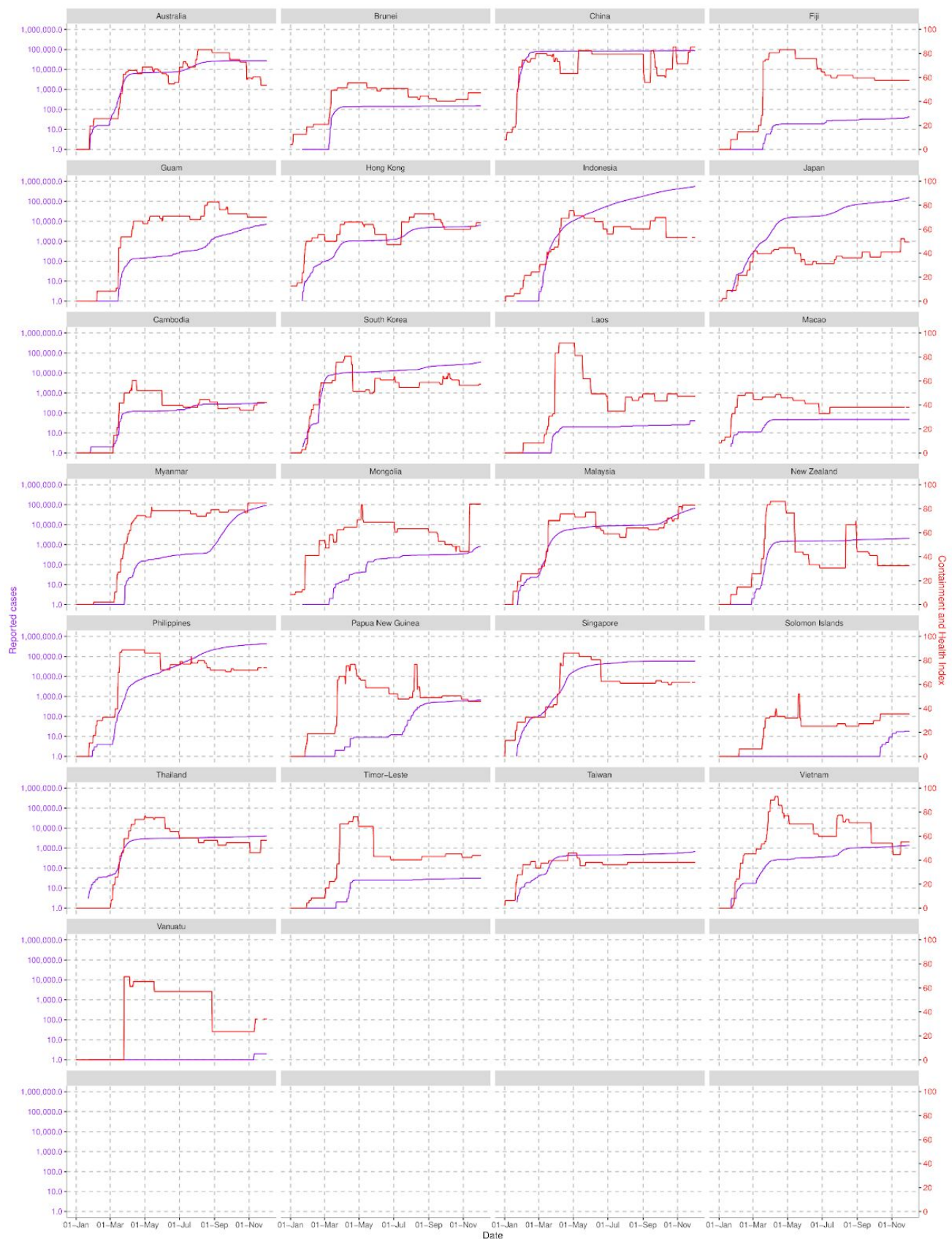


**Cases vs Containment and Health Index:**



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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)