

# 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
<b>Date range</b>	1-30 June, 2021
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## Brief summary of major changes:

Timor Leste has seen major success in achieving COVID-19 free status, while other countries experienced outbreaks of increasing severity. Several countries implemented measures both internally and externally to minimize the spread of COVID-19, including stay at home measures, fines for lack of mask-wearing compliance, and stringent tracking measures.

Vaccine rollout is proceeding slowly, and many countries receive vaccine donations. Various vaccines received approval and are currently being given to priority groups.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> in Victoria, face-to-face learning resumed from 11 June. in New South Wales and the Northern Territory, in-person learning was suspended from 26 June due to newly detected clusters. However, as schools are currently closed for the summer holiday, the new restrictions only affect tertiary education.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> areas in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Zhanjiang, and Dongguan, all cities within Guangdong province, were graded as high- or mid-risk as of 21 June, with all downgraded to mid-risk as of 24 June. Schools in high- or mid-risk areas are closed.</li> <li>• <b>Japan:</b> from 7 June to 20 June, Okinawa Prefecture temporarily suspended prefectural schools, including high schools, special needs schools, elementary and middle schools.</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Schools have reopened with social distancing measures on 22 June.</li> <li>• <b>Singapore:</b> Schools are gradually reopening on 28 June and working towards all levels returning to in-person.</li> <li>• <b>Thailand:</b> Some schools have reopened, while others remain closed.</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> All schools reopened fully on 20 June.</li> <li>• <b>Tonga:</b> Schools fully opened as of 15 June.</li> <li>• <b>Taiwan:</b> Schools have suspended in-person teaching and moved to online learning as of 25 May.</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Ho Chi Minh City schools closed on 30 May.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> on 23 June a new range of restrictions were introduced in New South Wales. In Victoria, meanwhile, restrictions on</li> </ul>

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	<p>workplaces were gradually relaxed to the period from 10 to 24 June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> certain areas in Phnom Penh have been designated as "Dark Yellow Zones", effective through 23 June. In Red Zones and Dark Yellow Zones, non-essential shops have to remain closed.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> areas in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Zhanjiang, and Dongguan, all cities within Guangdong province, were graded as high- or mid-risk as of 21 June, with all downgraded to mid-risk as of 24 June. Non-essential workplaces in high- or mid-risk areas are closed.</li> <li>• <b>Japan:</b> Okinawa Prefecture announced a state of emergency from 7 June to 20 June. Caterers, restaurants, pubs, and bars, are subject to closure by 8pm.</li> <li>• <b>Taiwan:</b> Some places of business and public venues closed with the exception of essential services starting 19 May.</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Ho Chi Minh City suspended most non-essential activities on 28 May.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> in response to a growing cluster of community transmission within Sydney, New South Wales announced more stringent policy settings from 26 June onwards. Gatherings of more than 10 people, regardless of whether the gathering is private or part of an organised event, are not allowed. This currently marks the most stringent restrictions on public events in Australia.</li> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> in all areas, regardless of designation under the zone system, public gatherings are limited to 15 people.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> all high-risk areas were downgraded to mid-risk on 24 June; public events are not allowed in mid-risk areas.</li> <li>• <b>Fiji:</b> religious and other public gatherings are banned, though funerals may take place with up to 20 people.</li> <li>• <b>Japan:</b> in Okinawa Prefecture, a cap of 5,000 spectators or 50 percent of venue capacity has been introduced for sports events and concerts.</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Religious services and funerals may occur with up to 100 people under social distance.</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Gatherings of more than 10 people were banned in Ho Chi Minh City as of 30 May.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> in response to a growing cluster of community transmission within Sydney, New South Wales announced more stringent policy settings from 26 June onwards. Gatherings of more than 10 people, regardless of whether the gathering is private or part of an organised event, are not allowed. In Victoria, gatherings are restricted to 20 people outdoors, or 2 adults per day indoors.</li> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> private gatherings are limited to 10 people in Red Zones and Dark Yellow Zones.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> all high-risk areas were downgraded to mid-risk on 24 June; public events are not allowed in mid-risk areas.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> restrictions on gatherings were extended until 23 June.</li> <li>• <b>Japan:</b> In Okinawa Prefecture beginning June 7 until June 20, due to the ongoing state of emergency, all events regardless of size or location are to be postponed or cancelled</li> <li>• <b>Philippines:</b> Areas under MECQ restrictions are limited to gatherings of under 10 persons until 15 July.</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> Gatherings at religious celebrations are now allowed</li> </ul>

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	with social distancing.
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Authorities require public transport operators to deny entry to people without face coverings as of 22 June.</li> <li>• <b>Taiwan:</b> Persons must wear face masks on public transport or risk fines.</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Bac Giang Province has suspended all public transport services from May 21. Other areas have suspended bus routes to and from COVID-19 outbreak areas.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territories, snap lockdowns of 48 to 72 hours were deployed in response to local outbreaks. During lockdown, residents are required to stay at home.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> all high-risk areas were downgraded to mid-risk on 24 June; residents are required to stay at home.</li> <li>• <b>Fiji:</b> the government continues to impose tighter measures on Viti Levu where COVID-19 transmission is occurring. An 18:00-04:00 curfew remains in effect in the entire island.</li> <li>• <b>Singapore:</b> Persons with a traveling history to Guangzhou province within the last 21 days must serve a 7 day stay-home notice as of 5 June.</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> Persons are to stay at home in the Municipality of Dili until 15 June.</li> <li>• <b>Tonga:</b> Tonga declared itself free of COVID-19 as it has been without cases since 18 April.</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Persons with recent travel to COVID-19 outbreak areas may be subject to mandatory quarantine when entering other provinces as of 2 June.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> travellers from Victoria are required to quarantine for 14 days upon entry, in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, Tasmania, Queensland, and South Australia.</li> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> travel in and out of Red Zones remains restricted, while movement from Dark Yellow to Yellow Zones is permitted for essential business, medical care, or purchasing food supplies.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> direct flights from Shenzhen to Beijing have been suspended until at least July 1 due to Shenzhen's local outbreak.</li> <li>• <b>Fiji:</b> restricted movements in targeted regions of Lami, Lautoka, Nadi, Nausori, Rakiraki, and Suva on Viti Levu remain in place.</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Interprovincial air travel is restricted to essential travel or approved persons starting 16 June.</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> Travel from the municipalities of Baucus, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, and Viqueque are prohibited. Persons who are fully vaccinated may move freely as of 2 June.</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> Ho Chi Minh residents are asked to only leave homes for emergencies.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> quarantine-free travel between New Zealand and New South Wales was paused on 22 June.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> after the last high-risk area was downgraded to mid-risk on 24 June, residents are no longer required to wear a mask at all places outside the home.</li> <li>• <b>Guam:</b> from 19 June, travellers to Guam who have been fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantine requirements.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> boarding requirements for people arriving from Colombia and Korea from 18 June, while people arriving from the UK are subject to tighter quarantine requirements from 28 June. The duration of compulsory quarantine for inbound travelers who have stayed at medium to high-risk places will be shortened if they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and test positive in a serology test.</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Authorities have banned all flights and vessels for passengers who have traveled to India within 21 days of travel starting 22 June. Passengers must take a PCR test at time of check in for flight for international travel.</li> <li>• <b>Singapore:</b> Nonresident travelers are barred from entering Singapore from 5 June. For citizens/residents, increased restrictions on travel have been imposed.</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> From 2 June to 1 July, a state of emergency is in effect where airports, ports, and land borders will remain temporarily closed.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Free or government subsidized testing for symptomatic persons is available, while asymptomatic persons can obtain testing through private medical facilities as of 16 June. Airplane passengers must take a PCR test at time of check in for flight for international travel.</li> <li>• <b>Singapore:</b> Passengers departing from mainland China in the last 21 days prior to arrival will be subject to COVID-19 test upon arrival at the airport as of 5 June. Lab test continue, and new testing methods are being made available such as breathalyzers and self-administered kits from 16 June</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> Persons who are referred by a doctor for COVID-19 testing may obtain testing free of charge as of 2 June.</li> <li>• <b>Taiwan:</b> In areas where community transmission has taken place, residents must submit COVID-19 testing.</li> </ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Taiwan:</b> Persons must complete contact tracing procedures when entering restaurants, shops, and other public places as of 19 May.</li> </ul>
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> in New South Wales, under the tightening of restrictions on 23 June, masks became compulsory in all indoor non-residential settings, including workplaces, and at organised outdoor events.</li> <li>• <b>Cambodia:</b> as of 5 June, the Ministry of Health has made it mandatory for people in Kampong Speu, Takeo and Kampong Cham provinces to wear face masks at all times in public areas.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> regulations on mask-wearing were extended to 23 June.</li> <li>• <b>Philippines:</b> All persons are to wear face masks in public places beginning on 1 June.</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Face masks are mandated in indoor locations, public transport, and airplanes. Authorities require businesses to deny entry to people without face coverings as of 22 June.</li> </ul>
<b>H7: Vaccination Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Australia:</b> currently at Phase 2A of the vaccine rollout. People aged 50 years and over; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16-49 years; other critical and high-risk workers are all eligible for vaccination. Pfizer and AstraZeneca.</li> <li>• <b>China:</b> vaccines are broadly available in most provinces. By mid-June, while some provinces, such as Hebei and Zhejiang, are still</li> </ul>

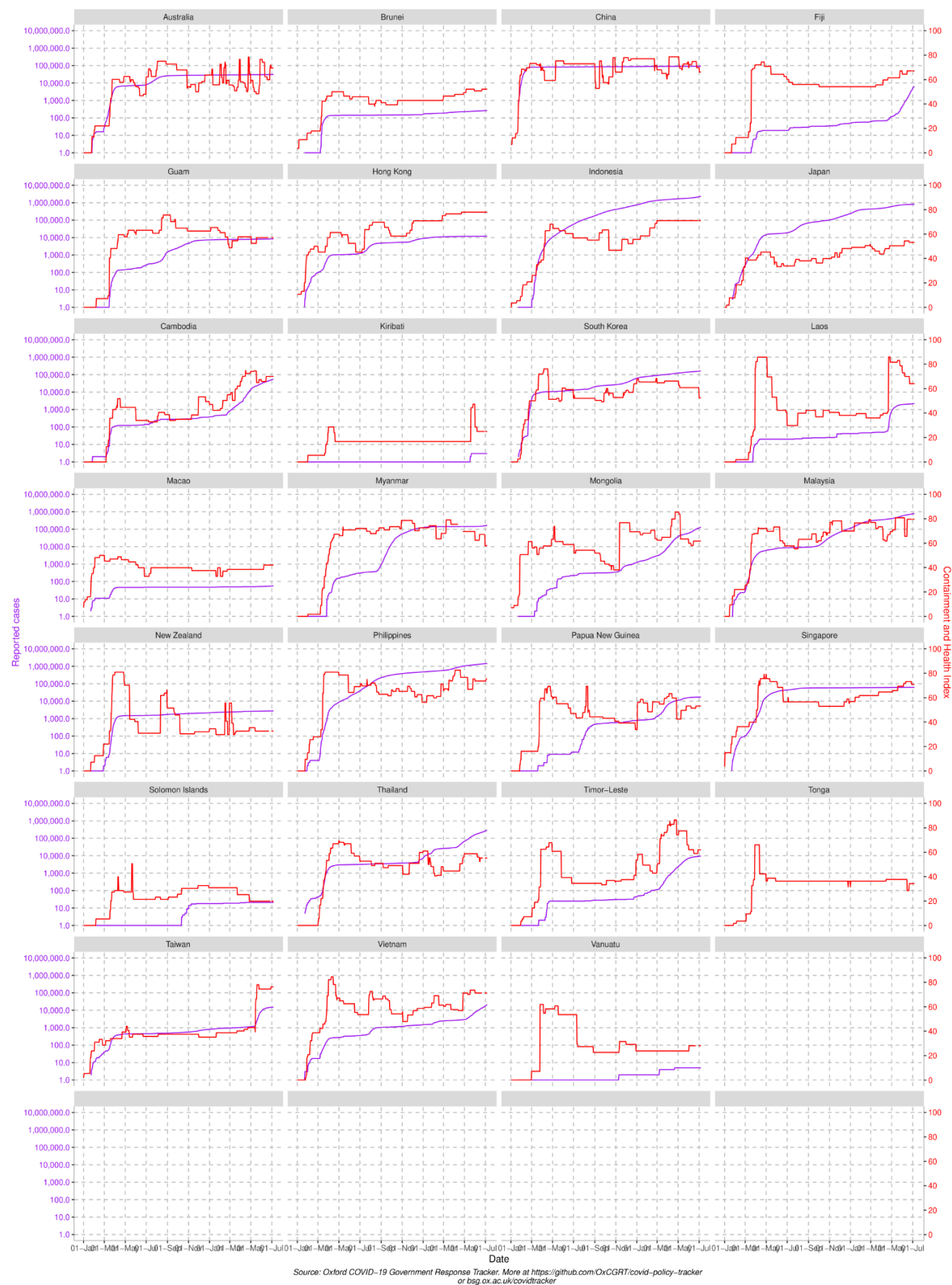
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	<p>aiming to provide the first dose to as many members of the public as possible, other provinces, such as Guangxi, Hubei, and Shandong, have started to focus on providing the second dose to the public. Officials are aiming to have 40% of the population fully vaccinated by the end of June. Sinopharm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fiji:</b> 5% of Fijians are fully vaccinated. Over 60s and frontline medical workers are prioritized. AstraZeneca.</li> <li>• <b>Guam:</b> 55% of Guam citizens are fully vaccinated. Vaccines are available for those aged 12 and over. Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson &amp; Johnson.</li> <li>• <b>Hong Kong SAR:</b> 21% of Hong Kongers have been fully vaccinated. Pfizer BioNTech, Sinopharm.</li> <li>• <b>Philippines:</b> Mass vaccinations began on 7 June for prioritized groups A1-A4, which includes frontline workers, mayors, senior citizens aged 60 and above, and persons with comorbidities. Approved vaccines are Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Coronavac, Sputnik V, Janssen, Covaxin, and Moderna.</li> <li>• <b>Papua New Guinea:</b> Frontline workers are prioritized for vaccination and the AstraZeneca vaccine is available since 16 June.</li> <li>• <b>Singapore:</b> Vaccines that have been approved are Moderna and Pfizer. Other vaccines are available but are not government subsidized as of 5 June. Singapore has made it a priority to vaccinate the population with at least one dose.</li> <li>• <b>Solomon Islands:</b> Started to offer the Sinopharm vaccine alongside AstraZeneca to frontline workers and prioritized groups, including students who plan to travel to China on 21 May.</li> <li>• <b>Thailand:</b> Approved vaccines now also include AstraZeneca, Siam Bioscience, Sinovac, and Johnson &amp; Johnson. Prioritized groups are medical personnel, some governmental officers, and high-risk groups.</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> In the Municipality of Dili, vaccination is now given to the remaining population with Sinovac and AstraZeneca vaccines. The second doses of AstraZeneca will be distributed throughout the country to those who were vaccinated in the first phase as of 2 June.</li> <li>• <b>Taiwan:</b> Received donations of AstraZeneca vaccine from Lithuania on 22 June. Only 0.1% of the population has been fully vaccinated as of 23 June.</li> <li>• <b>Vietnam:</b> On 12 June, Vietnam approved emergency use of Pfizer vaccine. On 4 June, Vietnam approved emergency use of Sinopharm. Vaccines are given to priority groups, including frontline workers, the elderly, and people over 35 with existing medical conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>H8: Protection of elderly people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philippines:</b> Citizens above 65 years are not allowed to leave their homes after curfew (10pm-4am) beginning 7 June.</li> <li>• <b>Singapore:</b> COVID-19 testing for visitors of residential care homes begins 21 June. Visits to elderly care homes were suspended from 5 June to 20 June.</li> <li>• <b>Timor Leste:</b> Receive priority for vaccination and are prohibited from having visitors as of 2 June.</li> </ul>



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## Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



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