

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	1-31 May, 2021
Reported by	Jeremy Ng & Michelle Sharma

Brief summary of major changes:

Restrictions around school and business closures varied widely throughout the region. Several regions, such as **Uruguay**, **Jamaica** and **Puerto Rico** re-opened schools for in-person learning, while others shut, such as **Costa Rica** and **Ecuador**. Some areas of **Brazil** also allowed for gradual easing of restrictions in schools. Non-essential businesses were ordered to close due to new curfews, lockdowns, or other COVID-19 related requirements in many areas, such as **Argentina** and several regions of **the Bahamas** and **Brazil**. However, restrictions around business closures loosened in others, such as **Aruba**.

Aruba, **Jamaica**, and **Peru** closed their borders to incoming travellers from **India** and **Brazil** as they were hard-hit by variants of COVID-19. Vaccination eligibility continued to be expanded in many countries, including **Bolivia**, **Cuba**, **Dominican Republic**, **Honduras**, **Mexico** throughout the month of May as well.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil: On 1 May, a hybrid model began for fifth grade students in public schools in Macapá, Amapá. On 10 May, preschools and elementary schools in high-risk areas in Espírito Santo were permitted to resume classroom instruction. Although schools had reopened in April in Rio Grande do Sul, schools in at least 20 cities closed by 17 May after the detection of COVID-19 cases. • Costa Rica: On 24 May, the government ordered public schools to close until 12 July. Private schools were to begin transitioning to remote learning on 24 May as well. • Ecuador: Ecuador's National Emergency Operations Committee (COE) announced on 21 May that all hybrid and in-person classes were to remain prohibited. • Haiti: Starting 10 May, schools were to re-institute physical distancing, mask wearing and hand hygiene to reduce spread of COVID-19. • Jamaica: Schools began reopening for in-person learning on 10 May after being shut on 21 March. • Puerto Rico: The restrictions prohibiting in-person learning ended on 6 May.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uruguay: Schools started reopening for in-person learning from 3 May.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: Beginning 22 May, large urban agglomerates, departments, or parties with an incidence of 500 cases or more per 100,000 inhabitants in the past 14 days or with more than 80% of ICU beds occupied had to close economic activities. • Aruba: On 10 May, the closing time for businesses was moved one hour later from 22:00 to 23:00. Beginning 21 May, the curfew was abolished, and the closing time for casinos was set to 01:00. • Bahamas: In a relaxation of restrictions, restaurants in New Providence and Abaco could begin offering indoor dining to fully vaccinated individuals on 17 May. All guests eating indoors had to provide proof of vaccination. Starting 20 May, restaurants could operate from 06:00 to 19:00, and businesses on Andros, Berry Islands, and Cat Islands were to operate between 06:00 to 19:00 only. On 22 May, Bullocks Harbour and Great Harbour Cay were put under a 14-day lockdown, prohibiting in-person activities at most businesses. On 24 May, Cat Island, and North and Central Andro were also placed under a fourteen-day lockdown. • Barbados: From 18 May, all businesses except discos and nightclubs could operate Mondays through Saturdays, and restaurants and other food establishments could also open on Sundays. • Brazil: Beginning 1 May, the state government of São Paulo authorized businesses in the state to operate from 06:00 to 20:00. However, the city of Batatais in São Paulo enacted a lockdown on 15 May to last until the end of the month. Beginning 18 May, all purchases from supermarkets in Batatais were to be made through a home delivery system. From 17 May, non-essential businesses in the state of Paraná were to close on Sundays. • Colombia: On 11 May, a curfew from 23:00 to 04:00 was enacted in Bogotá. All businesses there, including essential services, were ordered to close by 22:00. • Ecuador: The 28-day state of emergency declared by the President on 21 April and 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 ended. On 21 May, Ecuador's National Emergency Operations Committee (COE) recommended that the private and public sectors continue prioritising remote work. • Peru: An immobilization was ordered for 9 May where all non-essential businesses were ordered to close. From 10 May, the restrictions were relaxed to the previous levels where businesses in extreme areas were to close 3 hours prior to curfew, and businesses in high areas were to close 2 hours prior to curfew.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: Beginning 10 May, public events were allowed but had to be approved by the Bureau of Disaster Relief. • Bahamas: On 22 May, Bullocks Harbour and Great Harbour Cay were put under a 14-day lockdown. On 24 May, Cat Island and North and Central Andro were placed under a fourteen-day lockdown, restricting in-person activities. • Cuba: All national and international sports competitions from 19 May to 31 July in the country have been suspended. • Ecuador: The 28-day state of emergency declared by the President

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	<p>on 21 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 ended. Ecuador's National Emergency Operations Committee (COE) announced on 21 May that all public gatherings and mass social events were to remain suspended.</p>
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: In a relaxation of restrictions on 3 May, the gathering restriction for funerals was increased from 10 people to 50 people. In another relaxation of restrictions, groups of up to 60 people were allowed to engage in outdoor sports or gather at a funeral beginning 10 May. The outdoor gathering ban was also eliminated on 10 May. • Bahamas: On 22 May, Bullocks Harbour and Great Harbour Cay were put under a 14-day lockdown. On 24 May, Cat Island and North and Central Andro were placed under a fourteen-day lockdown, restricting in-person activities. • Brazil: In Natal, gatherings of up to 100 people were permitted beginning 19 May.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominican Republic: On 21 May, the Ministry of Health urged the monitoring of capacity on public transport. No more than four people were to be in the same car, and buses were to operate at 60% capacity. • Ecuador: On 21 May, Ecuador's National Emergency Operations Committee (COE) announced that inter-provincial buses could operate at 75% capacity. • Peru: Beginning 30 April, taxis are now able to carry up to 3 passengers.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: Beginning 22 May, individuals were to only leave their residences for essential services close to home. Night-time travel was also prohibited between 18:00 to 06:00 • Aruba: On 10 May, the government changed the curfew hours to 00:00-04:30. Some areas, such as public parking lots and beaches, were designated restricted zones between 19:30-04:30. On 21 May, the government abolished the existing curfew and area bans on beaches and reefs. Area bans continued to be active on public property beginning 19:30. • Bahamas: On 17 May, daily curfews on Abaco, Eleuthera and Exuma were lifted. In a tightening of restrictions on 20 May, the curfew on Andros, Berry Islands, and Cat Island was extended to 20:00-05:00. Bullocks Harbour and Great Harbour Cay were put under a 14-day lockdown on 22 May, and Cat Island and North and Central Andro were placed under a fourteen-day lockdown on 24 May. As a part of these lockdowns, individuals were to only leave their home for essential purposes. • Brazil: The city of Batatais in São Paulo enacted a lockdown on 15 May that lasted until the end of the month. Curfews continued to be enacted in various areas throughout the country. • Colombia: On 11 May, a curfew from 23:00 to 04:00 was enacted in Bogotá. All businesses, including essential services, were ordered to close by 22:00. • Dominican Republic: As of 28 May, a longer curfew was enacted in the greater Santo Domingo area. From Mondays to Sundays, the curfew in the greater Santo Domingo area was 20:00-05:00 with a

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	<p>grace period until 23:00 to allow individuals to get back to their accommodations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecuador: The 28-day state of emergency declared by the President on 21 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 ended in May, and all lockdowns and weekend curfews were revoked in the aforementioned areas. • Peru: On 9 May, all areas were subjected to a total curfew, with 1 person per family allowed to leave for essential purposes like shopping for food. From 10 May, restrictions were relaxed to previous levels, with curfews occurring in extreme and very high alert areas from 21:00-04:00 and 22:00-04:00 in high alert areas.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahamas: Beginning 1 May, individuals who were fully vaccinated did not need a negative RT PCR test to travel. Travel to islands under lockdown was prohibited for individuals who were not essential workers. • Costa Rica: Daytime vehicle restrictions based on the last digit of vehicle license plates were enforced from 19 May to 31 May. • Peru: Restrictions were loosened slightly to allow 50-100% capacity for interprovincial travel in extreme and high alert settings, and freely allowed in high alert areas from 10 May to 30 May.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: Starting 3 May, Aruba closed its borders to India, following the identification of an individual infected with the Indian variant there. • Bahamas: Beginning 1 May, individuals who were fully vaccinated did not need a negative RT PCR test to travel to the Bahamas. • Jamaica: India and Trinidad & Tobago were added to the travel ban in an extension of the restrictions, effective 5 May. • Panama: Quarantine requirements were modified from 10 May to a mandatory 3-day quarantine in a designated hotel for incoming non-resident travellers who came from South America, South Africa or the United Kingdom, or transited through those regions in the 15 days prior to their arrival. • Peru: From 10 May, incoming non-resident travellers from India, South Africa and Brazil are prohibited from entering the country. Resident travellers were still permitted to enter but were required to quarantine for 14 days. This restriction was further tightened on 16 May to prohibit any incoming flights from the three countries. • US Virgin Islands: In a slight loosening of restrictions, fully vaccinated travellers no longer need to get tested before arrival and do not need to self-quarantine. This loosening only applies to fully vaccinated travellers, and not to partially-vaccinated individuals or those who have had no COVID-19 vaccination.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica: On 19 May, the Costa Rica Social Security System increased the number of PCR tests in order to identify and isolate more COVID-19 cases.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominican Republic: Beginning 21 May, individuals were to wear face coverings in open and public places, including parks, squares and boardwalks.

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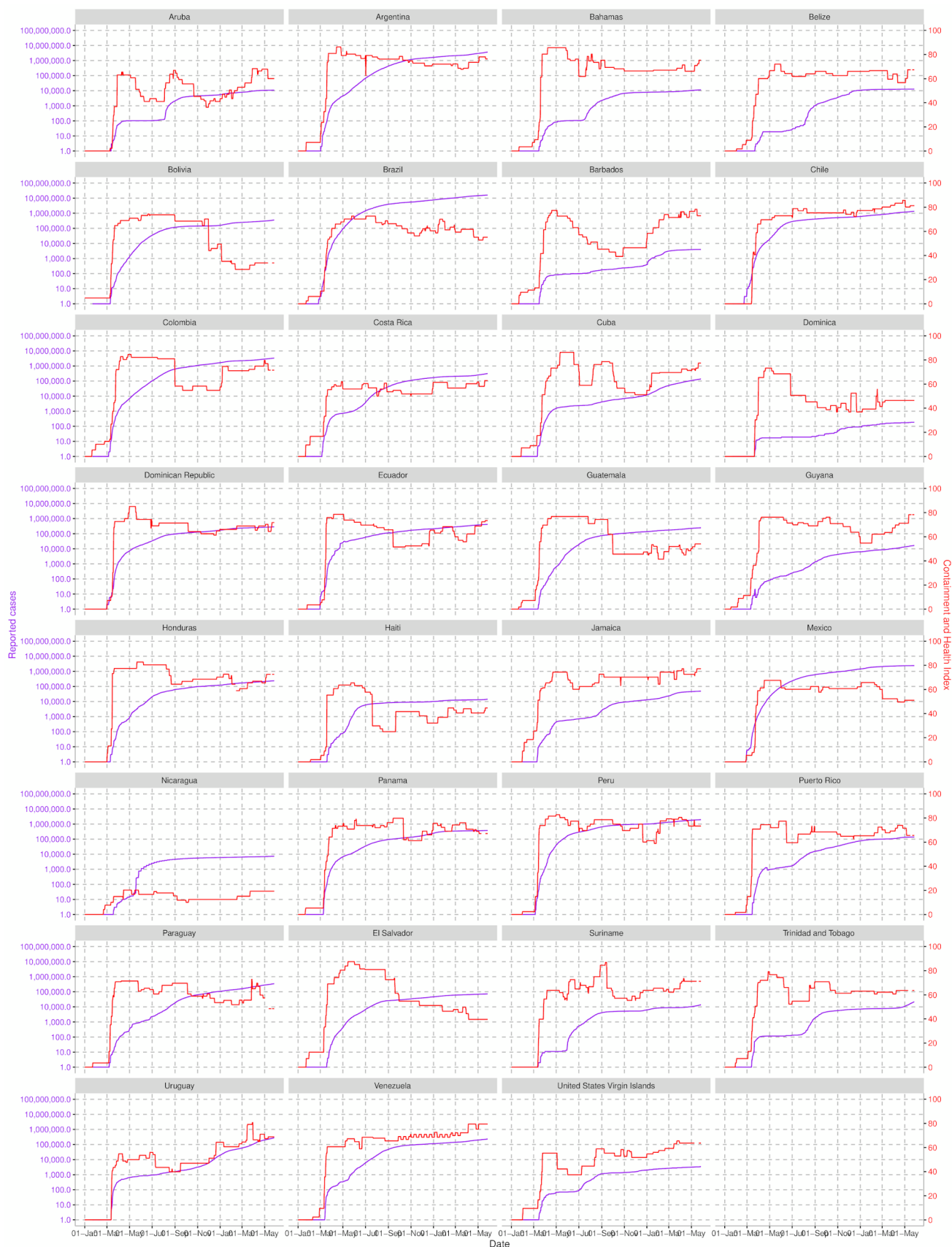


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H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolivia: In an expansion in eligibility requirements, individuals over 40 years old became eligible for a vaccine. • Costa Rica: On 19 May, teachers, waste collectors, prisoners, and additional essential workers became eligible for vaccination. • Cuba: The country has begun mass vaccinating individuals using Cuban-developed vaccines. • Dominican Republic: The Ministry of Health and Health Area II of Santo Domingo Este led a day of vaccination operations for individuals over 18 years old. • Guatemala: Beginning May 4, the Guatemalan army deployed personnel from various Commands and Brigades to invite individuals over 70 years old to enrol in Phase 2 of the country's vaccination plan. • Honduras: Vaccinations began for those 75 and older on 11 May, in addition to healthcare workers. • Jamaica: Age limits for vaccinations were lowered with those 50 and older permitted to be vaccinated from 13 May. • Mexico: The eligible groups for vaccinations were expanded to allow those 50 and older from 1 May. Pregnant women 18 years or older, who were at the ninth week of pregnancy or greater were also added to the eligible groups from 18 May.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.

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Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



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