

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.

REGION	East Asia Pacific
Date range	1-30 April, 2021
Reported by	Thomas Benson

Brief summary of major changes:

April was characterised by the relatively slow rollout of vaccines even among wealthier nations, with persistently low levels of incidence perhaps leading to a more relaxed approach than in Europe and North America. Small local outbreaks continue to cause trouble in Japan, China, Australia, Hong Kong SAR, and Fiji. Quarantine restrictions and bans on international travel remain strictly enforced as countries seek to prevent a second or third wave of cases.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: In Queensland, schools will close until next term. In Victoria, schools have to comply with density quotients of one person/2m². In Western Australia, Perth and Peel entered a snap lockdown on 23 April. • China: schools in Ruili, Yunnan, have closed after a localised outbreak. • Fiji: schools have closed again after a cluster emerged out of Lautoka linked to a quarantine facility. • Hong Kong SAR: the capacity of classes for all schools in HK increased from one third to two thirds on 7 April. • Indonesia: many schools remain closed.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Queensland lifted lockdown restrictions on 1 April, although some restrictions on businesses remain. In Western Australia, Perth and Peel entered a snap lockdown on 23 April. • Cambodia: In-person dining at restaurants, coffee shops, and all food service stores, as well as all sales of alcohol have been suspended until April 18 in Kandal province, until April 24 in Phnom Penh, and until April 28 in Siem Reap province. • China: following an outbreak in Ruili, Yunnan, all non-essential businesses were closed from 5 April. • Hong Kong SAR: most businesses able to operate at 75% capacity. The number of people allowed to be seated together in restaurants will be increased from four to six. • Japan: a state of emergency was declared from April 25 - May 11 with restrictions in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, and Hyogo prefectures. Establishments that sell alcohol or offer karaoke will be asked to close or face fines.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: under Queensland's new restrictions from 1 April, public

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	<p>outdoor events are restricted to a maximum of 500 people. In Victoria, outdoor events are limited to 200 people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia: all gatherings were prohibited with limited exceptions in Phnom Penh and Ta Khmau municipalities until 28 April. • China: public events in Ruili were cancelled from 5 April due to a localised outbreak. • Guam: outdoor 'congregations' have been limited to 50 people. • South Korea: a nationwide ban on social gatherings of 5+ People was introduced on 12 April.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Victoria and New South Wales continue to have the most stringent restrictions on social gatherings, bar snap lockdowns. In New South Wales, households can have up to 50 visitors per day. In Victoria, households can have up to 100 visitors per day. In Western Australia, the snap lockdown banned all gathering indoors and outdoors. • Brunei: gatherings are limited to up to 100 individuals. • Cambodia: gatherings in general remain restricted to no more than 20 people. • China: gatherings in Ruili were prohibited from 5 April due to a localised outbreak. • South Korea: a nationwide ban on social gatherings of 5+ people continues.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: from 5 April, train, long distance bus and taxi were all suspended in Ruili, Yunnan. • Fiji: general reduction in inter-island shipping passenger capacity by 20% from the maximum registered passenger capacity.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: in Western Australia, a snap lockdown was introduced in Perth and Peel from 23 to 26 April. All citizens are required to stay at home during the lockdown period. • Cambodia: daily curfews are in place from 8:00 pm to 5:00 am. In addition, Phnom Penh and Ta Khmau have further lockdown measures where all individuals must not leave their residence. • China: in Ruili, Yunnan, a number of residential blocks are under total confinement. • Fiji: a curfew is in place between 11pm and 4am. • Hong Kong SAR: extremely localised lockdowns are in effect. All asymptomatic residents living in units 09 on all floors of Block 3, Oi Fai House, Yau Oi Estate in Tuen Mun have to be quarantined.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: In Western Australia, Queensland will transition from a 'low risk' State to a 'medium risk' State. Travellers from Queensland will no longer be able to enter WA. Due to the snap lockdown in Perth and Peel, travel is restricted to those areas. • Cambodia: the government prohibited travel between provinces from April 7 until April 28, 2021. • China: movement into Ruili, Yunnan, restricted due to a localised outbreak. • Fiji: authorities have announced lockdowns of several areas, including the Nadi/Lautoka area and the Wainitarawau Settlement.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: quarantine free travel between Australia and New Zealand will commence on 18 April.

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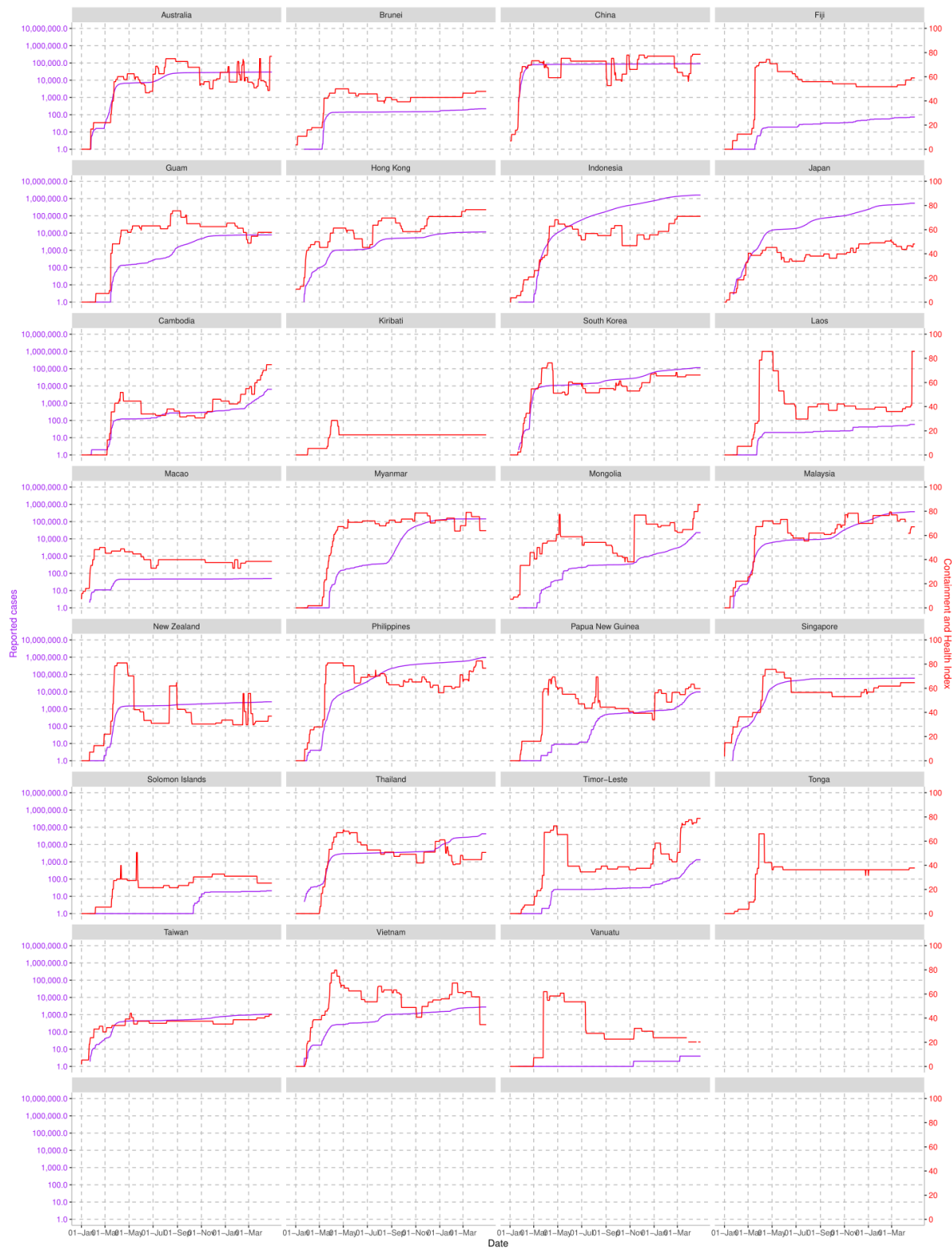
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong SAR: from April 20, all passenger flights from India, Pakistan and the Philippines were prohibited from landing in Hong Kong for 14 days. • Japan: Japan has introduced entry restrictions for travelers from 100 countries severely affected by the outbreak. The entry ban applies to all travelers, including permanent residents. • Kiribati: borders remain closed. • South Korea: the government has announced that the temporary suspension of direct flights from the UK has been extended until 6 May.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia: from 24 April, all residents in designated "Red Zones" must undergo mandatory Covid-19 testing. • Hong Kong SAR: People working in places that require COVID-19 testing every two weeks will no longer need to be tested 14 days after they receive two doses of vaccine.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: during the snap lockdown in Perth and Peel, masks must be worn at all times outside the home, apart from during exercise or while in a car.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Vaccines available: AstraZeneca and Pfizer. Access to Pfizer is limited to under-50s, while the AstraZeneca vaccine is used for people aged 50-69. • Brunei: Vaccines available: AstraZeneca and Sinopharm. Over 11,000 people have received their first dose. • Cambodia: Vaccines available: Sinopharm. More than 1.24 million people have been vaccinated. Priority groups continue to be the elderly, the vulnerable, and frontline workers including health workers, journalists, police and military personnel, government officials and factory workers. • China: Vaccines available: Sinopharm. Some cities/provinces, including Beijing and Wuhan, have started to vaccinate undergraduates since late March; in Shanghai and Guangdong, foreign residents can make appointments for vaccination for 100RMB (c.15 USD) per jab. In many cities, vaccines have started to roll-out to the over-60s. • Fiji: Vaccines available: AstraZeneca. Vaccines are available for healthcare workers, police and military officers, tourism and hotel workers, civil servants and over 60s. • Guam: Vaccines available: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson Janssen. Vaccines are available to anyone over the age of 16. • Hong Kong SAR: Vaccines available: Pfizer-BioNTech, Sinopharm. 1,302,300 doses have been administered. • Japan: Vaccines available: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna. 4.2m doses have been administered, almost all of them medical personnel. • South Korea: Vaccines available: Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson. 4 million doses have been administered.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: during the snap lockdown in Perth and Peel, all visitors are banned from residential care homes. New South Wales residential aged care facilities must consider the advice of the Chief Health Office, but are able to make their own policy.

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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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