

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - Latin America and 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 and Caribbean
Date range	01 - 31 October, 2020
Reported by	Michelle Sharma

Brief summary of major changes:

Measures continued to be relaxed in several nations. **Argentina** began to reopen schools in Buenos Aires on 13 October. Gathering restrictions were also loosened in some Argentinian provinces with lower COVID-19 activity, but gatherings remained banned in all other areas.

Paraguay re-opened restaurants on 5 October, and **Guatemala** and **Costa Rica** reopened bars on 1 October and 8 October respectively. **Aruba** loosened rules around establishments, by extending the closing time to 11pm from 9pm on 7 October, and **Puerto Rico** increased capacity limits by 5% in restaurants, gyms, theatres and casinos on 17 October. **Cuba** began reopening workplaces such as retail businesses and government offices throughout the country but excluding Havana from 12 October.

Paraguay ended their 'smart' quarantine on 5 October, and increased their gathering limit up to 12 for gatherings held in private residences, 30 people in public or private venues, or up to 50 for religious or cultural events. The curfew was also relaxed from 20:00-05:00 to 00:00-05:00. Restrictions for internal movement were also ended on 5 October, with citizens now able to move freely within the country. The country also opened select land border crossings with **Brazil** on 15 October, and required incoming travellers to isolate at a government institution or designated hotel for 14 days as well as taking a COVID-19 PCR test.

Several countries also loosened restrictions on international travel throughout October. **Belize** reopened both land borders and airports on 1 October. **Peru** also resumed a limited amount of international flights on 1 October. On 12 October, **Cuba** also started to allow international flights, although they are still excluded in several areas such as Havana, Ciego de Avila and Sancti Spiritus. **Panama** allowed international flights, but still not passengers from cruise ships, starting 12 October. All countries require that incoming passengers complete a COVID-19 PCR test either within the 48-72 hours prior to arrival or at the airport upon arrival, with some regions also requiring a quarantine period for the traveller.

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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C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: Schools in Buenos Aires started reopening to in-person learning on 13 October. • Jamaica: Schools began to reopen on a phased basis from 5 October onwards.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: The closing time for establishments was extended to 11pm from 9pm on 7 October • Brazil: Macapá closed businesses such as bars, spas and concert halls on 28 October. • Costa Rica: Bars and casinos were allowed to reopen on 8 October. • Cuba: Starting 12 October, Cuba eased restrictions by reopening retail businesses and government offices across the island except in Havana. • Guatemala: Many businesses began to reopen depending on the risk level in their municipality starting 1 October, with all businesses, including restaurants and bars, allowed to reopen by 14 October depending on their municipality's risk level. • Paraguay: From 5 October, the quarantine is no longer in place and restaurants are able to operate on a reservation basis. Pharmacies, delivery services and call centres are able to operate 24 hours/day. • Puerto Rico: Small increases were allowed in restaurant capacity (from 50% to 55%) and in theatres, gyms and casinos (from 25% to 30%) starting 17 October.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guatemala: From 1 October, public gatherings are allowed again, although limited to 100 people in 'red alert', or higher COVID-19 activity, areas. • Paraguay: As the quarantine ended on 5 October, gatherings of up to 30 people are now allowed, as well as 50 people for either cultural or religious activities, as long as 2 metre distancing is in place, and individuals had previously registered for the event.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: Starting 10 October, gatherings under 10 people were allowed in certain provinces, such as La Pampa, San Juan and San Luis, but banned elsewhere in the country. • Paraguay: From 5 October, gathering in private homes can take place with up to 12 people, including those who live in the home, and social events in private and public venues are allowed up to 30 people with 2 metre distancing and previous registration. • Trinidad and Tobago: People are able to gather in groups of 10 and up to 20 for funerals starting 10 October.

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C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba: On 3 October, public transport resumed in Havana, although it is limited. • Panama: Non-essential transport, such as tourism transport was allowed starting 12 October. • El Salvador: By 1 October, public transport was operating and available to the public.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: On 7 October, the curfew was relaxed to 00:00-05:00 from 22:00-05:00. • Guyana: The previous curfew of 18:00-06:00 was relaxed to 21:00-04:00 from 1 October onwards. • Panama: On 25 October, weekend quarantines were lifted and curfew hours were standardized to 23:00-05:00 across the country. • Paraguay: With the end of the quarantine on 5 October, the curfew of 20:00-05:00 was relaxed to 00:00-05:00.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: On 1 October, additional travel restrictions were put in place which allowed only travellers with confirmed international flight reservations to travel from provinces to the metro Buenos Aires area 24 hours in advance of their flight. • Paraguay: Internal movement without restrictions was allowed on 5 October with the end of the quarantine.

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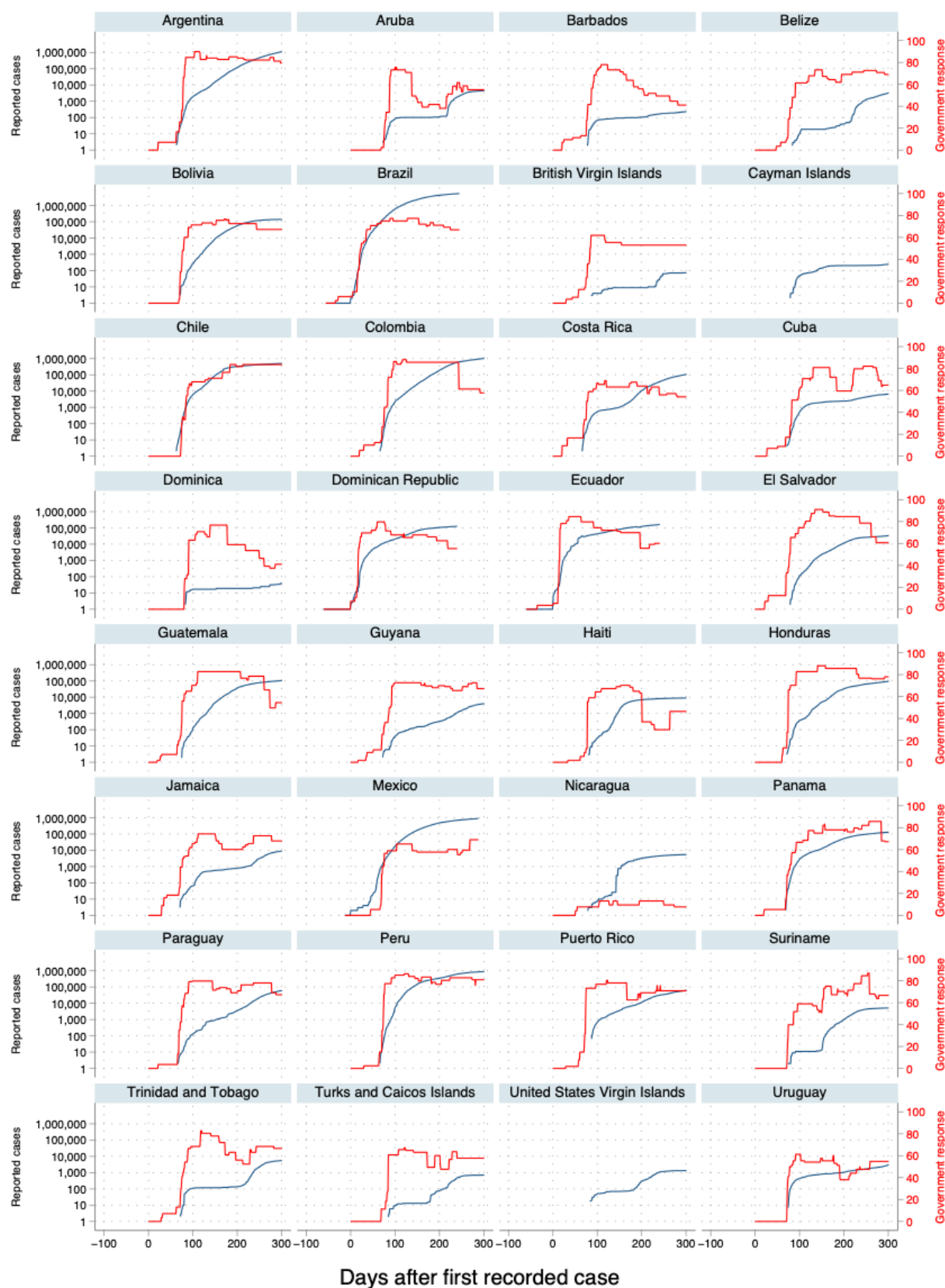


C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belize Airports and land borders re-opened on 1 October to international travellers after 5 months. Incoming travellers must take a COVID-19 PCR test either within the 72 hours prior to arrival in Belize, or take a test at the airport. • Cuba: On 12 October, international flights were permitted to resume operations in 13 of the 16 territories, but excluded Havana, Ciego de Avila and Sancti Spiritus provinces. Incoming travellers must take a COVID-19 PCR test on arrival. • Dominica: From 13 October, the government assigned risk levels to countries within the CARICOM travel bubble. Travellers incoming from the highest risk countries were required to quarantine on arrival for 5 days and take a PCR test on the 5th day. This is a tightening of rules, as previously incoming travellers did not have to quarantine. • Guyana: International airports reopened on 12 October, although only to 'controlled' flights, after closing on 18 March. Incoming passengers must take a PCR test either within the 72 hours prior to their flight, or when they land. • Panama: International commercial aviation was permitted to resume on 12 October. International travellers must present a negative COVID-19 PCR or Antigen test from within the 48 hours prior to arrival in Panama. Cruise ship passengers are still banned from disembarking in Panama. • Peru: On 1 October, a limited number of international flights resumed. Passengers must present a negative COVID-19 test within the 72 hours prior to arrival in Peru and sign a statement agreeing to comply with the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement. • Paraguay: On 15 October, select land border crossings with Brazil were reopened. All incoming travellers must remain in isolation at either a designated hotel or government institution for 14 days and take a COVID-19 test.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.

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Cases vs Government Response Index:



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