

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - East Asia and 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
Date range	01 January - 01 February
Reported by	Thomas Benson and Randy Taufik

Brief summary of major changes:

Vaccination rollouts have started in several countries. Countries such as Australia and China have continued to implement 'snap' lockdowns to control outbreaks. Across the region, restrictions on workplaces, public gatherings, and in-person education have generally been extended due to persistently high levels of COVID-19 infection.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia- On 31 January Perth began a snap five-day lockdown.• Cambodia- Schools reopened on 11 January.• China- On 6 January schools in Shijiazhuang, northern China, closed due to localised lockdown.• Guam- Schools have resumed in-person teaching as of 19 January.• Hong Kong SAR- On 4 January, the Legislative Commission (LegCo) announced the suspension of in-person teaching until Chinese New Year.• Singapore- School started to reopen on 4 January.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia- Individual states have pursued lockdowns in their major metropolitan areas in response to local outbreaks. New South Wales introduced lockdowns for Greater Sydney until 9 January, Queensland introduced lockdowns for Greater Brisbane until 22 January, and Western Australia instituted a snap 5-day lockdown for Perth on 31 January.• Guam- On 15 January, amusement parks, bingo halls, gamerooms, movie theaters were reopened via executive order.• Hong Kong SAR- LegCo will maintain restrictions on catering businesses for the 14-day period from 7 January to 20 January.• Japan- Bars and restaurants in Tokyo, Saitama, Kanagawa and Chiba have been ordered to close from 8 January.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Korea- Level 2.5 social distancing has been extended for two more weeks to 17 January. • Timor-Leste- Markets are permitted to operate.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia- From 11 January, 'uncontrolled' public gatherings of up to 20 people allowed. Concert venues, theatres, auditoriums and cinemas, sports stadiums able to operate at 50% capacity. • Brunei- As of 12 January, mosques are open as usual. • Guam- As of 31 January, religious services, boating, public swimming pools, and public parks are due to reopen with a maximum capacity of 25. • Timor-Leste- Meetings, demonstrations, social, cultural, religious, and sporting events of more than ten people are forbidden. • Tonga- There has been a renewal of a state of emergency. Restrictions on gatherings continue to be 50 indoors, 100 outdoors with exceptions for schools and religious events. • Vietnam- A number of festivals and events in Vietnam have been cancelled or postponed in alignment with the government's directive.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia- From 8 to 11 January gatherings in Queensland were limited to 2 people maximum. Thereafter the limitation was raised to 20 people, and as of 20 January, you can have 100 people gather in public outdoor spaces, and 50 people can gather at a private property. • Brunei- All public areas have a limit of permitting up to 350 people. • Fiji- From 5 January, non-work gathering of up to 100 permitted. • Hong Kong SAR- The prohibition on group gatherings of more than two persons in public places was extended throughout January. • Japan- Tokyo, Saitama, Kanagawa and Chiba prefectures are mandated to limit events to 5,000 people from 8 January. • South Korea- From 2 January, measures to ban private gatherings of more than 5 people will be expanded nationwide and implemented for the next two weeks. • Papua New Guinea- Authorities have banned gatherings of more than fifty people including religious and sport events.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia- In Queensland, a snap 3-day lockdown from 8 January required residents of the greater Brisbane area to stay at home. IN Western Australia, residents of Perth were required to stay at home during a 5-day lockdown from 31 January. • China- On 4 January, Dalian extended self-isolation orders for 21 days. From 18 January, six areas of Beijing were subject to localised lockdowns. • Hong Kong SAR- The government extended social distancing

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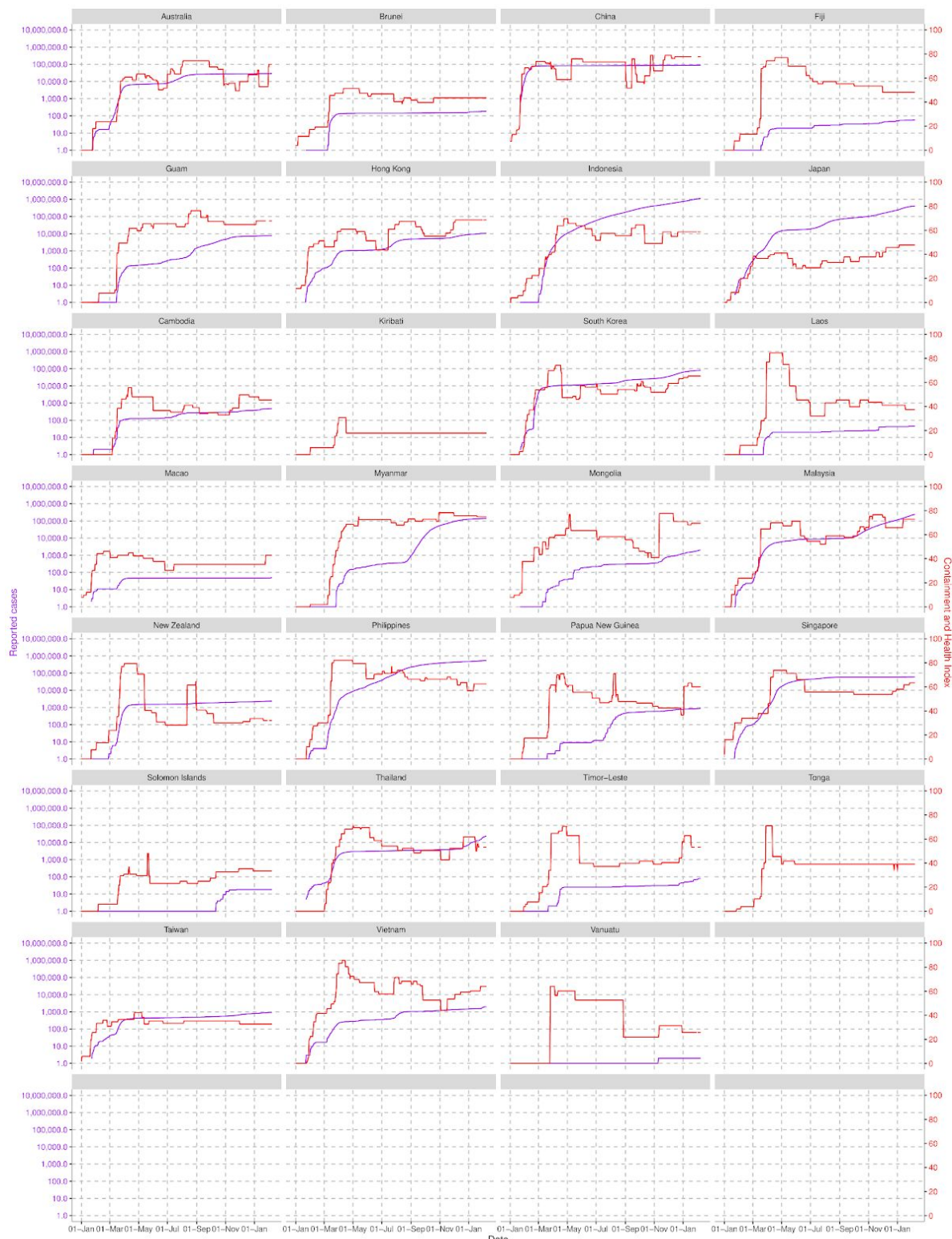
	measures, urging the elderly to stay home.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China- From 6 January, people are banned from leaving Shijiazhuang. • Hong Kong SAR- Restrictions for travel between HK, Guangdong Province and Macao remain effective. • Malaysia- On 11 January, the government announced increased and varying restrictions, depending on which state you are in, to be enforced from 13 January. Inter-state travel is not permitted across Malaysia.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunei- The government requires all passengers arriving in Brunei through Brunei International Airport to undergo immediate isolation for up to 14 days as well as a COVID-19 test. • Indonesia- Between January 1 and January 25, the Indonesian government has prohibited foreign visitors from transiting and traveling to Indonesian Territory. • Hong Kong SAR- From 23 January 2021, all persons who have stayed in Brazil or Ireland for more than two hours in the past 21 days will not be allowed to board for Hong Kong. • Japan- From 5 January, all foreign travelers are barred from entering the country. • South Korea- Flights to the UK have been suspended until 11 February. • Laos- Borders remain closed with limited exceptions. • Taiwan- Apart from the original requirement of providing a COVID-19 RT-PCR test report issued within three days of boarding, travellers shall also provide proof of the place of quarantine. • Vietnam- On 5 January Vietnam suspended inbound flights from countries with new COVID-19 variants, initially Britain and South Africa.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timor-Leste- Timorese citizens and foreign nationals can obtain COVID-19 testing at the National Hospital, free of charge. • Tonga- Tonga has three Covid-19 testing machines, one donated by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Korea- Mobile phone notifications were deemed overly revealing in their disclosure of information regarding new cases. Despite some pushback, however, the effectiveness of the contact tracing systems has been maintained.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia- From 1 January in New South Wales, and 8 January in Queensland, new mandatory mask restrictions were introduced in response to the new UK variant. From 17 January, masks are no longer mandatory in Victoria. • Hong Kong SAR- Mandatory mask-wearing requirements have been progressively extended from 7 January to 3 February. • Vietnam- Citizens are required to wear masks in public and may

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	be fined for failure to comply.
H7: Vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guam- Rollout of vaccination to healthcare workers and the elderly began on 5 January.

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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