

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - Europe & Central Asia



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	Europe and Central Asia
Date range	1-31 May, 2021
Reported by	Ayanna Griffith, Yexuan Zhu

Brief summary of major changes:

The month of May brought several changes across Europe and Central Asia. Schools reopened in **Denmark, Estonia, Russian Federation**, and **Italy**, among several other countries. Reopenings can also be seen in workplaces in **Czech Republic, Ireland, Poland**, and others. The relaxing of restrictions has also been reflected in the restrictions on public events. Public events are now able to move forward in the **United Kingdom, Denmark, Greenland**, and several other nations throughout the region.

The availability of Covid Vaccinations seems to be improving throughout the region. Persons in lower age groups have been permitted to register for the vaccine in **Poland, Luxembourg, Iceland, Estonia, Cyprus**, and several other nations. In response to the increase in vaccination rate and improving COVID-19 Situation in some nations, minor changes to protections of elderly people have been made. Visitors are now allowed in care homes in **Lithuania, Norway**, and **Ukraine**.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Albania- On 5 May, university auditoriums were allowed to open for consultation and exams.• Cyprus- As of 10 May, students were allowed back to school with negative test results presented weekly.• Czech Republic- As of 11 May, final year students in primary schools, secondary schools, and conservatories returned to school.• Denmark- As of 6 May, all primary students and most of the other year groups return to school. From 21 May, all students return to school.• Estonia- As of 3 May, primary school students from year 1 to 4 resume face-to-face teaching. As of 17 May, all levels of schools resume face-to-face teaching.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finland- As of 3 May, upper secondary schools and vocational schools in Helsinki resumed face-to-face teaching. ● France- As of 3 May, high school and 3rd and 4th year primary school students resumed contact teaching half-time. Middle school students started full-time contact teaching. ● Greece- On 10 May, primary schools and junior high schools were opened. ● Hungary- Secondary schools opened on 10 May. ● Italy- As of 10 May, all levels of school were open across the nation, though with different maximal capacity based on the traffic light system. ● Poland- As of 4 May, all levels of school reopened for hybrid learning, which is a mixture of in-person and remote learning. ● Russian Federation- As of 8 May, schools can re-open depending on the color-coded risk level assigned to the region. ● Uzbekistan- In May, schools in the Tashkent region were closed due to an increase in cases.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Andorra- As of 11 May, shops, restaurants, and tourist accommodations were allowed to operate with covid safety measures and reduced capacity. Restaurants were only allowed to provide onsite service within 11:30am-4:30pm and 7pm-12:00am. ● Austria- As of 3 May, businesses reopened in Vienna and Lower Austria. ● Czech Republic- As of 11 May, all businesses were allowed to operate and cultural facilities reopened with limited capacity. From 17 May, zoos and botanical gardens were allowed to open with increased capacity. ● Denmark- As of 21 May, all businesses except nightclubs were allowed to operate with 20 percent of staff onsite across the nation. ● Estonia- From 3 May, businesses and cultural and sports facilities reopened with limited hours and social distancing measures. ● France- As of 19 May, businesses and culture facilities reopened with limited capacities. ● Greece- As of 10 May, restaurants reopened outdoor space and retail stores reopened with appointments. ● Iceland- As of 10 May, all workplaces reopened with limited hours and capacities.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ireland- Restriction started to ease from 10 May. As of 17 May, non-essential businesses reopened. ● Italy- From 10 May, all regions were removed from the red zone so non-essential businesses reopened nationwide. From 15 May, outdoor sports facilities reopened in the yellow zone. ● Norway- From 6 May, non-essential stores in Oslo were permitted to reopen, as has been the case in the rest of the country. ● Poland- As of 4 May, museums, and cultural institutions with exhibition activities were permitted to reopen with sanitary restrictions. ● Ukraine- As of 13 May no regions were listed as red zones, meaning the majority of services could reopen. However, certain businesses still remain closed.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Andorra- As of 11 May, cultural events were allowed with 50% capacity and sports events were allowed with social distancing. ● Belgium- From 1 May, outdoor events with no more than 50 participants were allowed. ● Cyprus- As of 17 May, public events were allowed with reduced capacity. ● Denmark- From 6 May, professional and business events under 1000 people and cultural events under 2000 people were allowed. ● Estonia- Restrictions were continuously easing in May. As of 17 May, public events were allowed up to 250 people before 10pm. ● France- As of 19 May, outdoor events were allowed up to 1000 participants. ● Greece- Up until 28 May, events in museums, conservatories, theatres, and live concerts were allowed step by step. ● Greenland- From 18 May, indoor events under 50 people and outdoor events under 100 people were allowed. ● Ireland- As of 10 May, funerals and weddings were allowed with no more than 50 people. No other events were allowed. ● Poland- From May 8, outdoor events with a maximum of 25 people are permitted. ● Romania- As of 15 May, in areas with low COVID-19 incidence rates, some events are permitted to take place. ● Ukraine- As of 13 May, certain events are permitted to take place with strict attendance caps.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Kingdom- As of 17 May, indoor and outdoor events are permitted in England, including live performances, sporting events, and business events.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria- As of 19 May, large gatherings (over the limit of 50 people) were allowed with governmental approval. Unregistered gatherings were still limited to 50 participants. • Bosnia and Herzegovina- From 14 May, the gathering limit was elevated to 50 people in the Republic of Srpska. • Czech Republic- As of 17 May, the outdoor gathering limit was elevated to 700 people. • Denmark- Gathering restrictions were continuously eased in May. As of 21 May, the indoor gathering limit was elevated to 50 and the outdoor gathering limit to 100. • France- As of 19 May, the public gathering limit was elevated to 10 people. • Greenland- As of 18 May, the indoor gathering limit was elevated to 50 people and the outdoor gathering limit to 100 people. • Iceland- From 10 May, the gathering limit was elevated to 150 people. • Poland- From May 8, a maximum of 25 people is permitted to gather outdoors. • Slovenia- As of 15 May, attending gatherings of up to 50 persons is permitted. • United Kingdom- As of 3 May, persons from two households, plus another person living on their own, are permitted to meet in Wales.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iceland- From 10 May, public gathering limits no longer apply to public transportation. • Netherlands- From 19 May, the government dropped the restriction of the use of public transportation for essential travel only. • Ukraine- From 1 May, the capital of Kyiv allowed public transportation to resume. • Uzbekistan- As of 3 May, public transportation is operating with limited capacity due to an increase in restrictions.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria- From 15 May, the curfew was lifted. • Belgium- From 8 May, the curfew was lifted. • Bosnia and Herzegovina- Nation-wide curfew was lifted on 20 May. Curfew in Sarajevo was lifted on 24 May. Until the end of May, only the 00:00-05:00 curfew in Brcko district is still in place.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyprus- Curfew was continuously shortened. As of 17 May, curfew hours were 12am to 5am. • France- As of 19 May, curfew hours were 9pm to 6am (previously 7am to 6am). • Germany- From 9 May, vaccinated people were no longer restricted by the 10pm to 6am curfew. • Italy- From 19 May, curfew hours were 11pm to 5am (previously 10pm to 5am). • Kazakhstan- From 4 to 9 May, a curfew from 12am to 6am was in place in the West Kazakhstan region. • Portugal- From 1 May, the national curfew was lifted. However, the parishes of Sao Teotónio and Longueira-Almograve are still subject to a curfew due to high COVID-19 incidence. • Romania- As of 15 May, the national curfew has been removed. • Spain- As of 9 May, the national curfew expired. However, regional authorities are permitted to reinstate regional curfews. • Turkey- As of 17 May, the national curfew has been removed.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria- Test results were needed traveling to or from certain regions. The list of these regions changes throughout May: Fußach, Gaißau, Höchst, Hallein, Oberalm, Umhausen, Wiener Neustadt were added. • France- From 3 May, restrictions on traveling outside the residence region were lifted. • Greece- From 18 May, inter-regional traveling was allowed subject to safety measures. Covid testing was strongly recommended. • Kazakhstan- Regional checkpoints were still in place. From 11 May, people were prohibited from entering airports and railway stations to see off or pick up passengers. • Portugal- From 1 May, internal travel was permitted. • Spain- As of 9 May, the State of Emergency and restrictions on internal travel expired. However, regional authorities are permitted to reinstate regional curfews. • United Kingdom- As of 17 May, internal travel is restricted in Scotland. The government announced that it is prohibited to travel in or out of a region that is classified as a level 3 on the risk ranking.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albania- As of 5 May, travelers from Greece and Northern Macedonia no longer needed to quarantine for 14 days.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulgaria- From 1-31 May, entry from India, Brazil, Bangladesh, and several other countries in Africa, including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Namibia was banned. • Denmark- The color-code system is still in place. From 1 May, fully vaccinated people from yellow and orange nations. Non-essential travel from outside the EEA, with the exception of that from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand, was prohibited. • Ireland- As of 22 May, quarantine requirements were lifted for travelers from Andorra, Georgia, Kuwait, Mongolia, Nigeria and Puerto Rico. • Ukraine- On 2 May, the government banned entry of travelers from India.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithuania- COVID-19 tests are readily available to symptomatic persons. From 1-3 May asymptomatic persons were invited to be tested.
H3: Contact Tracing	No major changes recorded
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan- As of 31 May, masks were no longer required in outdoor public space. • Czech Republic- As of 11 May, FFP2 or N95 masks were no longer mandatory in outdoor public space. Textile and homemade masks were banned. • Iceland- As of 10 May, children born after 2005 were exempt from wearing masks. • Romania- As of 14 May, masks are required only on public transport, at markets, fairs, rallies, demonstrations, processions, concerts, and meetings, as well as in indoor public spaces.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria- Vaccination was extending continuously to wider age groups. Till the end of May, the total population under 65 has been eligible for vaccination throughout the nation. • Azerbaijan- As of 10 May, all citizens over 18 were eligible for vaccination. • Cyprus- From 11 May, all citizens above 20 were eligible for vaccination. • Estonia- As of 17 May, vaccines were universally available for Estonian citizens. • France- As of 12 May, all adults could get vaccinated by appointment. • Iceland- As of 10 May, all citizens were eligible for vaccination.

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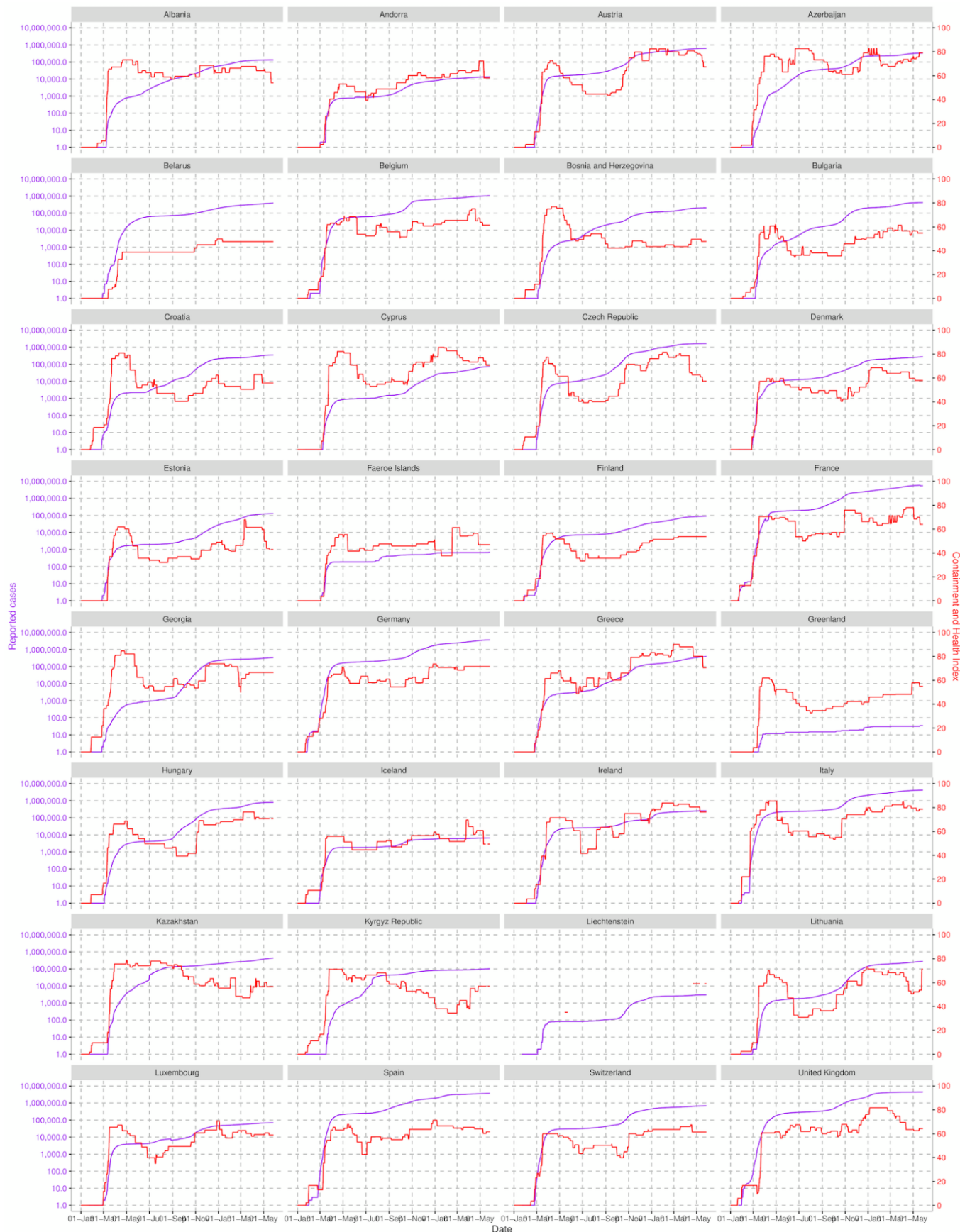


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Italy- As of 17 May, all citizens above 50 were able to get vaccinated. ● Latvia: In May Latvia moved towards a universal vaccination policy. ● Lithuania- Throughout the month of May the vaccine became available to lower age groups ranging from ages 35- 55. ● Luxembourg- In May Luxembourg moved towards a universal vaccination policy. ● Poland- From 9 May, all adults were permitted to register for the vaccine.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Albania- As of 7 May, only general recommendations on protection remain due to mass vaccination of the elderly. ● Lithuania- On 24 May the government announced that vaccinated persons would be allowed to visit persons in care homes. ● Norway- As of May 6 persons in care homes in Oslo can now welcome visitors. This policy was already in place for the rest of the nation. ● Ukraine- From 8 May visits to relatives in care homes is now permitted once a week.

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Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



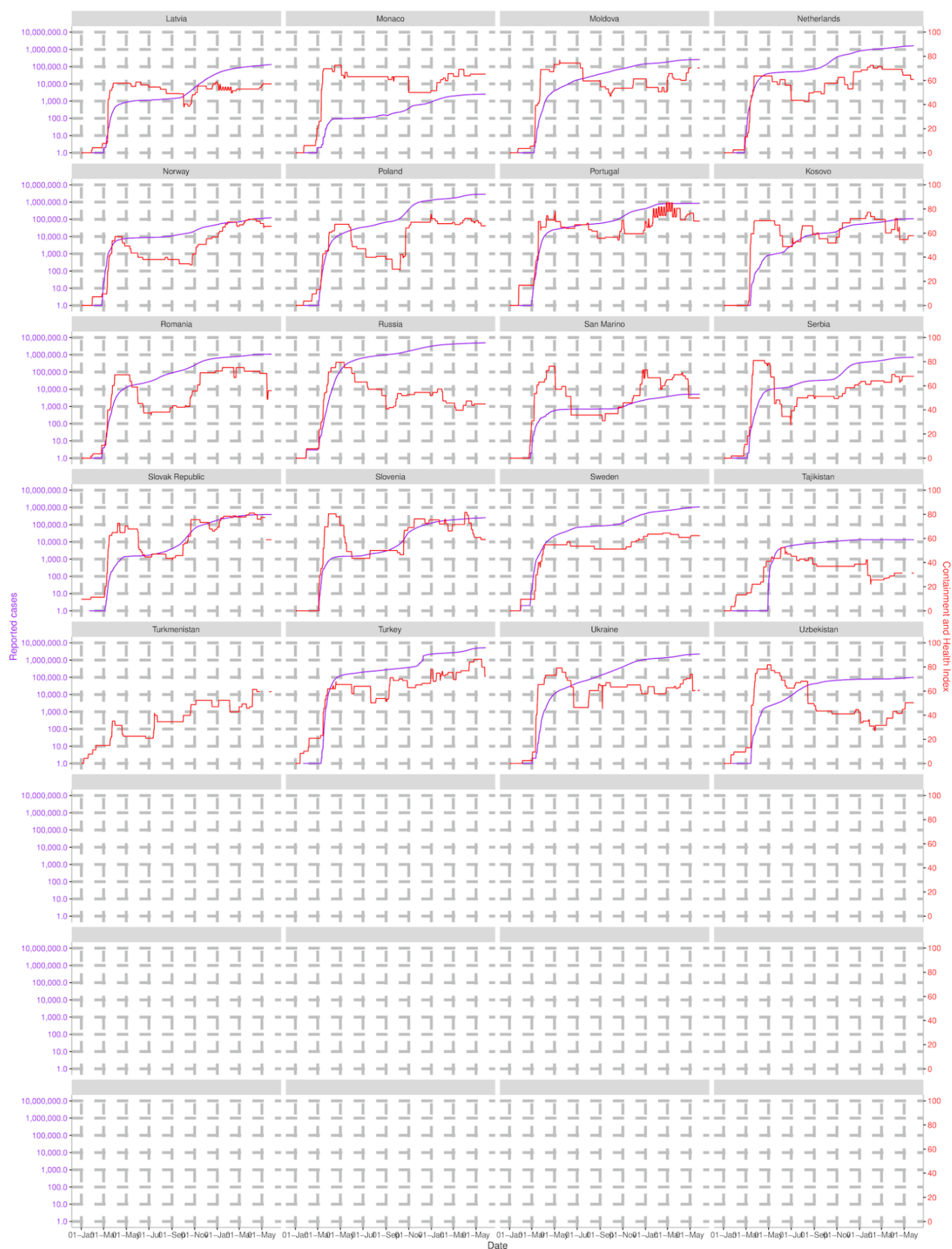
Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at <https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker> or bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

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