

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - Latin America and Caribbean



OXFORD COVID-19
GOVERNMENT
RESPONSE TRACKER

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 February - 28 February 2021
Reported by	Jeremy Ng and Michelle Sharma

Brief summary of major changes:

Schools began to re-open in a number of Latin America and Caribbean countries in February for a mix of in-person learning and online learning, also referred to as “hybrid” or “blended” learning. **Bolivia** re-opened some schools on 1 February, and schools in **Costa Rica** and **Trinidad & Tobago** re-opened on 8 February.

Several countries in the region also loosened their business restrictions in February. **Panama** gradually lifted business restrictions throughout the month of February, starting with retail stores and beauty salons on 1 February, and restaurants for in-person dining on 8 February. Non-essential cultural services were also re-opened on 15 February in the **Panama** and **Panama Oeste** regions. However, a handful of countries in the region tightened business restrictions in February, such as when **Barbados** implemented a “National Pause” from 3 February to 17 February which closed all non-essential businesses.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Argentina: Schools in several areas remained closed but were preparing for children to safely come back face-to-face for the 2021 school year.• Bolivia: The school year began on 1 February, with learning schedules and adoption of blended learning depending on each region's epidemiological situation.• Brazil: On 26 February, Paraná extended the suspension on face-to-face learning in public and private schools, technical courses, and universities to 8 March. Piauí schools are to only offer remote learning from 24 February through 7 March.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica: In a loosening of restrictions, public schools resumed face-to-face teaching on 8 February. The model combines in-person with remote teaching, and there are limits on the number of students who may be physically present as well as days on which they can attend. • Suriname: Starting 15 Feb, primary schools re-opened for in-person learning, a loosening of restrictions. • Trinidad & Tobago: Beginning 8 February, secondary schools re-opened for hybrid learning for students in Forms 4-6 in a loosening of restrictions.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: From 5 February onwards, bars, nightclubs, and rum shops were to close. Bars in restaurants were only permitted to serve tables, and bar stools and standing at bars was not allowed. • Barbados: The government implemented a "National Pause" between 3 February and 17 February during which all non-essential workplaces were to close. Beginning 18 February, all non-essential workplaces were to remain closed except money transfer companies, post offices and courier companies delivering critical supplies, which were allowed to reopen. • Brazil: In a loosening of restrictions in Amazonas on 8 February, non-essential businesses were allowed to operate electronically or through delivery or take-out until 14 February. Through a new decree that took effect in Piauí on 24 February, only essential businesses are allowed to function through 7 March. • Panama: Business restrictions were gradually lifted with retail stores, beauty salons, barbers and daycares allowed to re-open with 50% capacity starting 1 February. On 8 February, restaurants re-opened to dine-in service with 2m spacing between tables, and gender restrictions were lifted for shopping. In Panama and Panama Oeste, carwashes, tailor shops and non-essential cultural industries were permitted to re-open beginning 15 February. • Puerto Rico: Restrictions were loosened slightly on 8 February to allow for up to 50% capacity in commercial establishments, except for restaurants, which remained at 30%. • Suriname: Business restrictions were slightly relaxed starting 24 February, with outdoor dining opening on 24 February and restaurant hours for take-out or delivery of food slightly increased to 21:00 and 23:00 respectively.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominica: All public events were prohibited during carnival weekend (13 February - 16 February). Public events resumed after carnival weekend as long as they followed public health guidelines.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: Starting 9 February, no more than four people were to be

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	<p>together at a time in public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: Beginning 3 February, no more than two persons were allowed to exercise together. Additionally, gatherings outside the curtilage of a residence of more than 5 persons of different households and more than 8 persons of the same household were prohibited. • Dominica: Gatherings were restricted to 10 people in public places, including gatherings at camps for religious institutions, during carnival weekend. Restrictions did not apply to gatherings of members of the same household, at religious institutions, for purchasing groceries at retail establishments, at supermarkets, at restaurants for eating and those approved by the Chief of Police. Prior gathering restrictions resumed after carnival weekend.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: Beginning 3 February, public service vehicles were to operate at 60% seating capacity, and windows were to remain open except during inclement weather. • Brazil: In Natal, a decree took effect on 27 February, allowing public transport services to undergo changes at any time to prevent crowding. • Cuba: In a tightening of restrictions, a curfew from 21:00 to 05:00 was enacted in Havana on 5 February. As a part of the curfew, use of public transportation in Havana is prohibited from 21:00 to 05:00.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: On Tuesday, 9 February, the existing curfew was reduced to 01:00 to 05:00 nightly, allowing businesses to remain open until 23:00 instead of 22:00. • Barbados: On 3 February, the government extended the curfew hours to 19:00 to 06:00. • Cuba: On 5 February, a curfew from 21:00 to 05:00 came into effect in Havana. The curfew should end after Cuba's third wave of the epidemic but does not have a definite end date. • Jamaica: Restrictions were slightly tightened with the island-wide curfew changing from 22:00-05:00 to 20:00-05:00 beginning 10 February. • Panama: Slightly relaxing restrictions, the nightly curfew was changed from 21:00-04:00 to 22:00-04:00 beginning 3 February. • Puerto Rico: The nightly curfew was relaxed, going from 23:00-05:00 to 00:00-05:00 starting 8 February.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costa Rica: On 1 February, daily nationwide vehicle restrictions from 10:00 to 17:00 were enacted. On 8 February, nationwide weekday vehicle restrictions were lifted.
C8: International Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: From midnight 3 February onwards, travellers were to

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Controls	<p>undergo a rapid antigen test upon arrival and provide details of accommodation to the Chief Immigration Officer and the Chief Medical Officer. The mandatory quarantine period was also extended from two to five days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba: Most travelers from 6 February onwards were required to quarantine for up to one week. Tourists were brought to hotels and Cuban residents to isolation centers to quarantine. Flights from the United States, Mexico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Colombia were cut nearly once a week. Resumptions of trips from Nicaragua, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname were suspended. Flights to Haiti were also canceled. • Guyana: Starting 1 February, in a tightening of restrictions, travel to and from Brazil was banned. • Haiti: Beginning 8 February, all incoming international travellers must provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of boarding in a tightening of restrictions.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba: On 15 February, Havana began implementing an epidemiological monitoring system developed by the company DATYS in an effort to obtain PCR test results as fast as possible.
H3: Contact Tracing	No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: Beginning 3 February, face masks became mandatory in all public spaces.

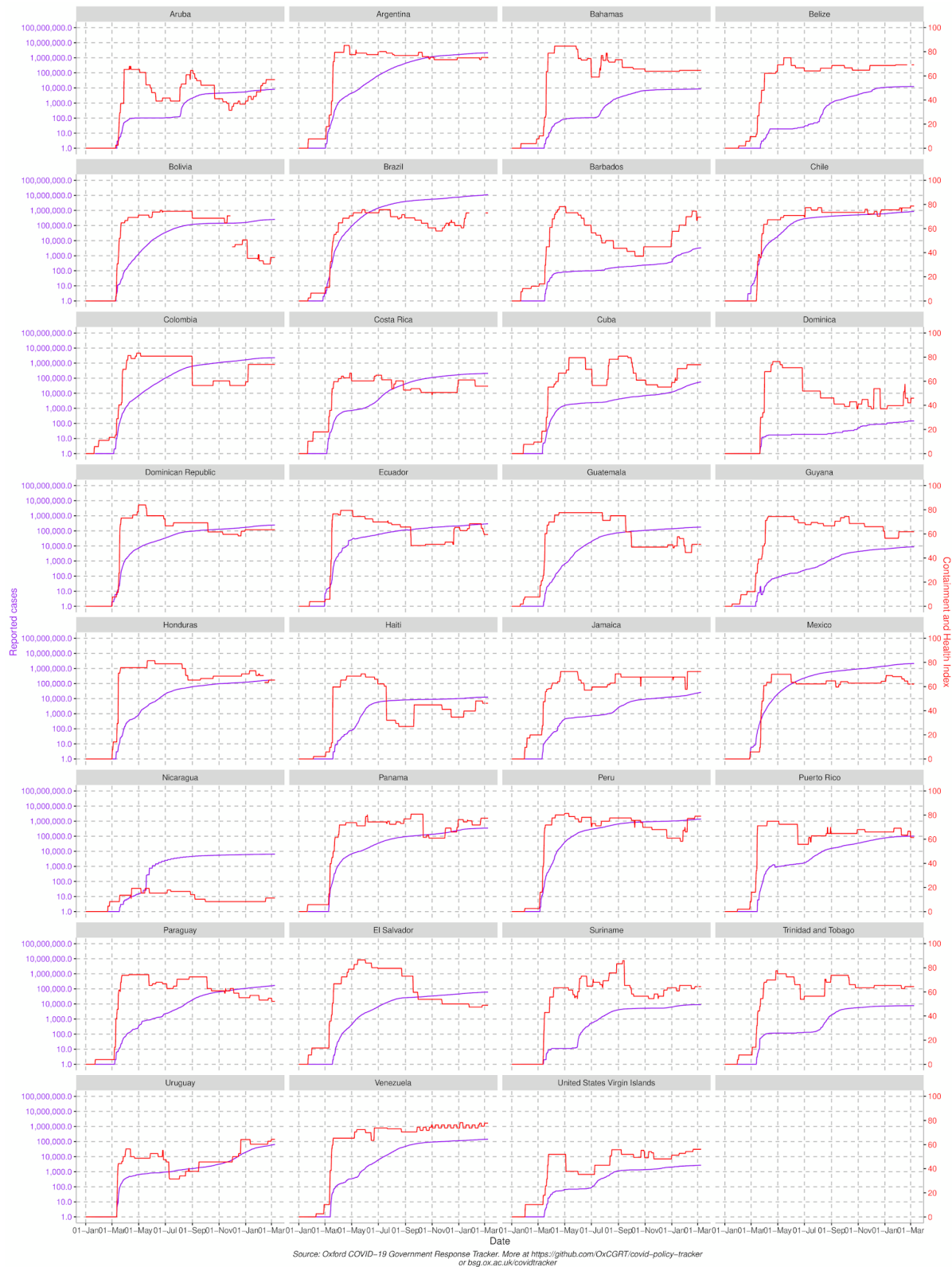
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Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



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