

# Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report SOUTH ASIA



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](http://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker).

<b>REGION</b>	South Asia
<b>Date range</b>	1- 31 July, 2021
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## Brief summary of major changes:

The month of July was characterized by slight changes across the South Asia region. Targeted measures that have been in place during June in **India** continued to be present in the country during July as well. No major changes have been recorded in **Sri Lanka**. Starting from 1 July, **Pakistani** authorities relaxed some COVID-19 restrictions alongside the decreased infection cases but made indoor gathering possible only for vaccinated people.

The release of restrictions on public events, gatherings, internal movement and transport operations was seen in **Bangladesh** starting from 15 July onwards due to Eid festivities. From the first days of July, the **Nepali** government started step-by-step relaxation of restrictions across the country, resulting in the total lifting of lockdown measures and freedom of movement restrictions by the end of the month. No major changes have been recorded in **Bhutan** and **Afghanistan**, only exception was in the case of the latter one which extended the vaccination policy and covered three groups. During the month of July as it was the case in June face covering was required all-time outside of the home and while in public across the region.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bhutan:</b> During the month of July all schools and colleges remained closed in <b>PHUENTSHOLING</b>.</li> <li>• <b>India:</b> Targeted measures were still the type of restrictions used during the month of July in the country. Starting from 3 July fourth-level restrictions (complete lockdown) have been imposed in the <b>Satara</b> district of <b>Maharashtra</b>. As of 5 July, Indian states and union territories were entitled to independent decisions on school reopening.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> As of 15 July, due to the Eid festivities, many businesses were allowed to operate to some extent across the country. The opening policy aimed to promote economic growth as well as Eid.</li> <li>• <b>Pakistan:</b> Starting from 1 July, Pakistani authorities relaxed some COVID-19 restrictions alongside the decreased infection cases. Outdoor/indoor dining at restaurants was allowed, but the latter one was only available for vaccinated individuals. Cinemas,</li> </ul>

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	religious shrines, and gyms were also reopened for vaccinated people while Indoor religious, cultural, and musical gatherings remained banned.
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> As of 15 July, due to Eid, large scale public events, as well as large scale public markets, were allowed in Bangladesh.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Afghanistan:</b> As of 6 July, the gathering of 10 or fewer people has been banned in some provinces including <b>Kabul</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> Starting from July 15 covering the period of Eid celebrations the government of Bangladesh removed all restrictions on gatherings across the country.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> As of 4 July, the government of Nepal started step-by-step relaxation of restrictions throughout the country. Bans on gatherings still existed during the month of July but it was mainly directed to preventing gatherings in cinemas, pools, religious centres and places of that nature rather than on a small group of people.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> As of 15 July, restrictions on public transport were lifted in the country for allowing congregation in the cities during Eid times as well as cattle purchase activities.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> As of 24 July Public transport bans have been lifted but medical professionals recommended people to undertake less public transport.</li> </ul>
<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> As of 15 July, Eid festivities resulted in lifting all stay at home requirements that were present before in the country.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> During the first days of the month till 5 July lockdown restrictions remained in place in <b>the Kathmandu Valley</b> area. By 25 July, lockdown measures have been lifted in full.</li> <li>• <b>Pakistan:</b> As of 1 July, officials kept a ban on all nonessential activities for one day per week, which was determined by the local administrative units.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> As of 15 July, due to Eid festivities internal travel became fully operational.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> On 4 July, restriction measures have been lifted in the country. Total freedom of movement between districts has been traced in Nepal.</li> <li>• <b>Pakistan:</b> As of 6 July, the strictest curbs were seen in smart lockdown areas, where limited public and private transport services were allowed to function. Entry and exit controls were also in place in such areas.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pakistan:</b> As of 6 July, all entrants to the country, including Pakistani nationals, without COVID-19 symptoms were asked to undergo rapid antigen testing on arrival and self-isolation at home for 10 days, while the ones with symptoms and positive test results were subject to a 10-day self-paid institutional quarantine.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<b>No major changes recorded.</b>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<b>No major changes recorded.</b>
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh:</b> As of 15 July, alongside easing restrictions in other</li> </ul>

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	<p>areas the Government of Bangladesh toughened restrictions on mask-wearing by making face covering a requirement at all times when outside the home.</p>
<b>H7: Vaccination Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Afghanistan:</b> On 9 July, more than 1.4 million doses of the Johnson &amp; Johnson COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the country. Vaccination policy extended and covered the following groups: healthcare workers; teachers; the elderly and those in hard-to-reach areas.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> As of 4 July, the vaccination policy in Nepal became universal. The government program envisaged vaccination of people reaching the age of eighteen.</li> </ul>
<b>H8: Protection of elderly people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bangladesh.</b> As of 15 July, after most of the restrictions have been lifted in the country the government of Bangladesh didn't introduce any special protective measures for elderly people.</li> </ul>

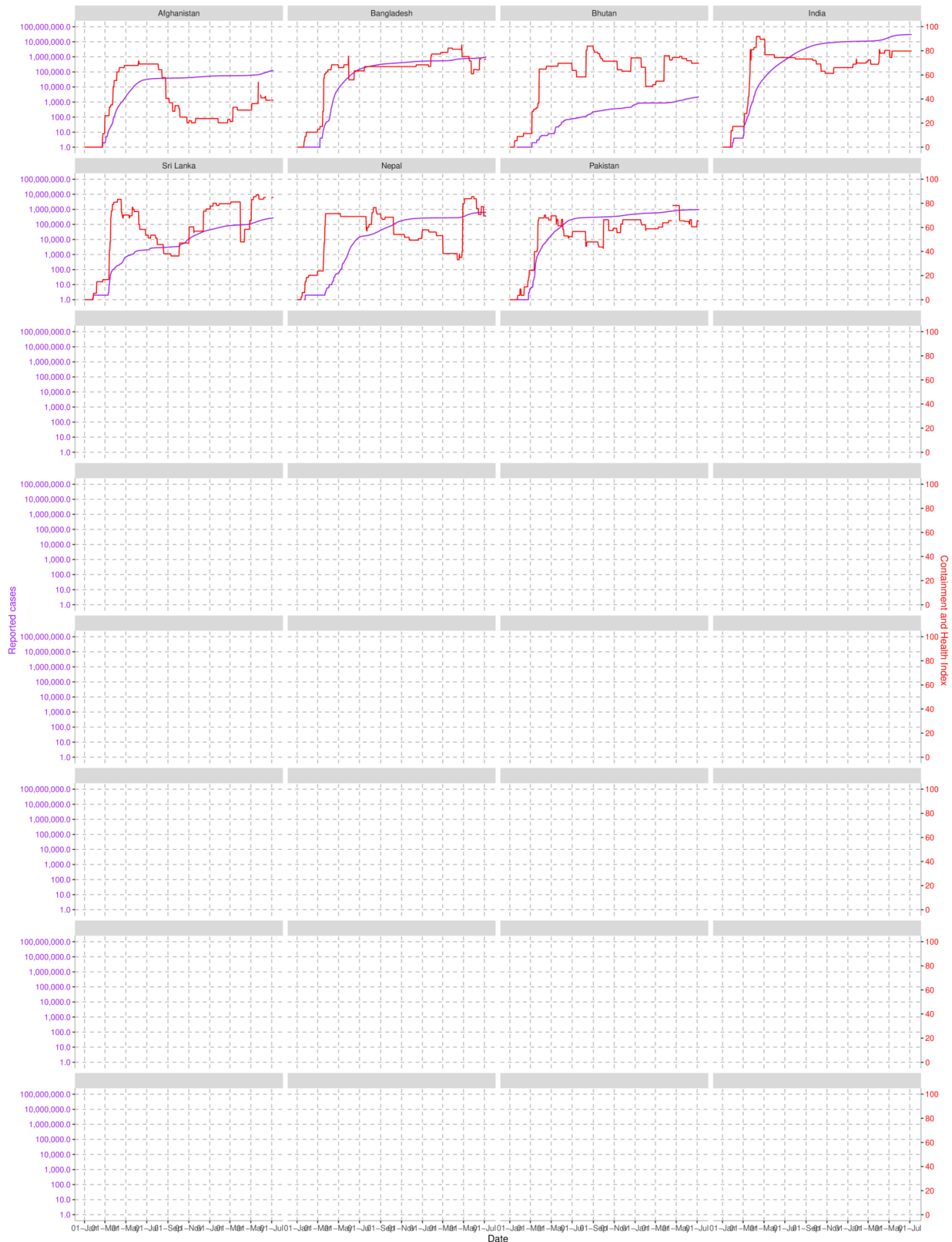
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## Cases vs Containment and Health Index



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

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