

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - EAST ASIA 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 Pacific
Date range	1-31 August, 2021
Reported by	Thomas Benson

Brief summary of major changes:

August was characterised by tightening restrictions across the whole of the East Asia Pacific region. A number of countries have reintroduced or maintained stay-at-home orders, curfews, and school closures in response to local outbreaks of COVID-19. The relative stringency of these restrictions is perhaps due in part to sluggish vaccine uptake, with only Cambodia having achieved a fully vaccinated rate of over 50 percent. The general trend, however, is clear: both cases and restrictions are increasing across the region.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: schools remain closed in Canberra, New South Wales and Victoria. • Brunei: following a local outbreak, schools were closed on 7 August. • Fiji: schools remain closed. • Indonesia: level-4 restrictions remain in place, including the closure of schools. On 30 August, 610 schools reopened. • Japan: in Osaka, local governments have delayed reopening for elementary and junior high schools from 23 to 27 August. • South Korea: schools remain closed. • Myanmar: authorities have extended stay-at-home orders to all of Burma effective until 31 August. Schools remain closed. • New Zealand: all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 on 17 August. All schools and early childhood education centres are closed. • Philippines: as from August 16 all school levels are closed due to Enhanced Community Quarantines in several regions. • Thailand: lockdown measures in 29 provinces were extended on 1 August until September. Schools remain closed.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: in Canberra, lockdown restrictions came into effect from 12 August and will continue until 2 September. In New South Wales and Victoria, a stay-at-home order is similarly in effect until 2 September. • Brunei: following a local outbreak, restaurants, gyms, hotels, hairdressers and other businesses were closed on 7 August. • Fiji: most businesses in Viti Levu, the largest island, are closed. • Indonesia: emergency restrictions remain in place, including the

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Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - EAST ASIA PACIFIC

	<p>closure of nonessential businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan: from 2 to 31 August, emergency measures were introduced or extended across most prefectures in Japan, including Tokyo, Okinawa, Osaka, and Fukushima. Nightclubs, cabarets, karaoke parlors and bars not licensed as a restaurant must close, while restaurants must close after 8pm. • South Korea: restaurants and cafes in Level 4 areas are restricted to take-out and delivery after 9 pm; gatherings of up to 4 people are allowed in restaurants and cafes after 6 pm. • Myanmar: authorities have extended stay-at-home orders to all of Burma effective until 31 August. Nonessential businesses are closed. • New Zealand: all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 on 17 August. Only essential businesses and those which can function without customers are permitted to operate. • Philippines: from 16 August, most workplaces are closed due to Enhanced Community Quarantines. • Thailand: lockdown measures in 29 provinces were extended on 1 August until September. Nonessential businesses remain closed. • Taiwan: on 24 August, the Taiwanese authorities announced that the Level 2 epidemic alert would remain in effect until 6 September. Businesses are open with distancing measures and capacity limits in place.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: in Canberra, New South Wales, and Victoria, public events remain cancelled. • Brunei: as of 9 August, all public gatherings are banned, excluding funerals and weddings. • Indonesia: emergency restrictions remain in place, and public events are cancelled. • Japan: in all prefectures under emergency measures other than Okinawa, venues are restricted to 5,000 people at a 50% venue capacity. In Okinawa, venues are restricted to 1,000 people at 50% venue capacity. • Myanmar: authorities have extended stay-at-home orders to all of Burma effective until 31 August. • Mongolia: on 25 August, the Government of Mongolia announced that the current status of heightened emergency preparedness is extended until 31 December. Public events remain cancelled. • New Zealand: all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 on 17 August. All public events are cancelled. • Philippines: from 16 August all public events are cancelled due to Enhanced Community Quarantine in several regions. • Thailand: lockdown measures in 29 provinces were extended on 1 August until September. Public events are cancelled. • Taiwan: gatherings are limited to 80 people indoors and 300 people outdoors.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: outdoor gatherings limited to 2 people in New South Wales, 10 in Victoria, 50 in South Australia, and 100 in Queensland. • Brunei: as of 9 August, all public gatherings are banned, excluding funerals and weddings. • Indonesia: emergency restrictions remain in place, and gatherings are restricted to 5 people. • Japan: in all prefectures under emergency measures other than Okinawa, venues are restricted to 5,000 people at a 50% venue capacity. In Okinawa, venues are restricted to 1,000 people at 50%

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - EAST ASIA PACIFIC

	<p>venue capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Korea: before 6pm, 4 people may gather. After 6pm, two people may gather. • Myanmar: authorities have extended stay-at-home orders to all of Burma effective until 31 August. • New Zealand: all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 on 17 August. New Zealanders are restricted to their household bubbles. • Philippines: from 16 August, gatherings in public and private places are not permitted due to Enhanced Community Quarantine in several regions. • Thailand: a nationwide ban on public gathering remains in effect. • Taiwan: gatherings are limited to 80 people indoors and 300 people outdoors.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: from 23 August, as part of COVID-19 restrictions in New South Wales, weekday public transport services will be reduced in Greater Sydney. • Fiji: public transport is restricted to 50% capacity. • Indonesia: public transport is restricted to 50% capacity. • Myanmar: authorities have extended stay-at-home orders to all of Burma effective until 31 August. • New Zealand: all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 on 17 August. All types of transport and travel are restricted. • Philippines: from 16 August, public transport is restricted due to Enhanced Community Quarantine in several regions.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Canberra, New South Wales, and Victoria are under stay-at-home orders. • Brunei: as of 7 August, people are required to stay home. • Fiji: a nationwide curfew is in effect. • Indonesia: a stay-at-home order is in effect. • Myanmar: authorities have extended stay-at-home orders to all of Burma effective until 31 August. • Mongolia: on 25 August, the Government of Mongolia announced that the current status of heightened emergency preparedness is extended until 31 December. • New Zealand: all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 on 17 August. A stay-at-home order is in effect. • Philippines: leaving the home is only permitted to access essential goods and services. • Thailand: a curfew is in effect from 9pm to 3am.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Canberra has introduced strict restrictions on entry for interstate travellers. Entry is permitted to New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania, subject to testing, quarantine, and restrictions on entry from travellers from hotspots. • Fiji: the government continues to implement targeted lockdowns in areas where outbreaks are identified. • Indonesia: domestic travellers must show COVID-19 vaccine cards and PCR tests to travel via car, bike, train, or airplane. • Myanmar: authorities have extended stay-at-home orders to all of Burma effective until 31 August. Checkpoints have been established in Yangon to enforce restrictions on intercity travel. Intra-provincial bus service has restarted. • Mongolia: Travel into Bayan-Ulgii province has been restricted for ten days from 15 to 24 August.

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - EAST ASIA PACIFIC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand: all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 on 17 August. Travel is strictly restricted, with air travel limited to those returning home in the 48-hour period after the move to Alert Level 4. • Philippines: on 12 August, interzonal travel between General and Enhanced Community Quarantine regions is allowed with restrictions. • Thailand: domestic flights in and out of provinces categorised as high risk, including Bangkok, are currently prohibited.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: arrivals are banned with the exception of New Zealand. • Fiji: scheduled international and domestic passenger flights have been suspended.
H2: Testing Policy	No major changes recorded.
H3: Contact Tracing	No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: wearing masks became mandatory in Canberra from 12 August. • Brunei: as of 7 August, masks are mandatory at all times in public. • Philippines: masks are required at all times outside the house.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: 30% of Australians are fully vaccinated, with all Australians over 40 eligible for vaccination. Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are all in use. • Brunei: as of 24 August, 41% of Bruneians have been vaccinated, and all Bruneians over 18 are eligible for vaccination. Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Sinopharm vaccines are all in use. • Cambodia: 54% of Cambodians have been fully vaccinated. 16% of children aged 12-18 have been vaccinated. Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, and Sinopharm BIBP all in use. • Fiji: All Fijians aged 18 years and above can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. AstraZeneca, Moderna in use. • Hong Kong SAR: 47% of Hong Kong citizens have been fully vaccinated. Pfizer/BioNTech, Sinovac in use. • Japan: 44% of Japanese citizens have been fully vaccinated. Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca in use. • South Korea: 34% of South Koreans are fully vaccinated. From Monday August 9, all South Koreans over 18 are eligible for vaccination. Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca. • Laos: 25% of Laotians have been fully vaccinated. Pfizer/BioNTech, Sinovac, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sinopharm BIBP, and Sputnik V all in use. • Myanmar: only 3% of Burmese have been fully vaccinated. AstraZeneca and Sinovac are in use. • Mongolia: booster vaccine shots are being administered for people over 65 years of age. Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm BIBP, Sputnik V all in use. • New Zealand: 27% of New Zealanders have been fully vaccinated. Pfizer/BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca in use. • Papua New Guinea: less than 1% of Papua New Guineans have been fully vaccinated. All Papua New Guineans over 18 are eligible for vaccination. Pfizer/BioNTech, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm BIBP in use.

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - EAST ASIA PACIFIC

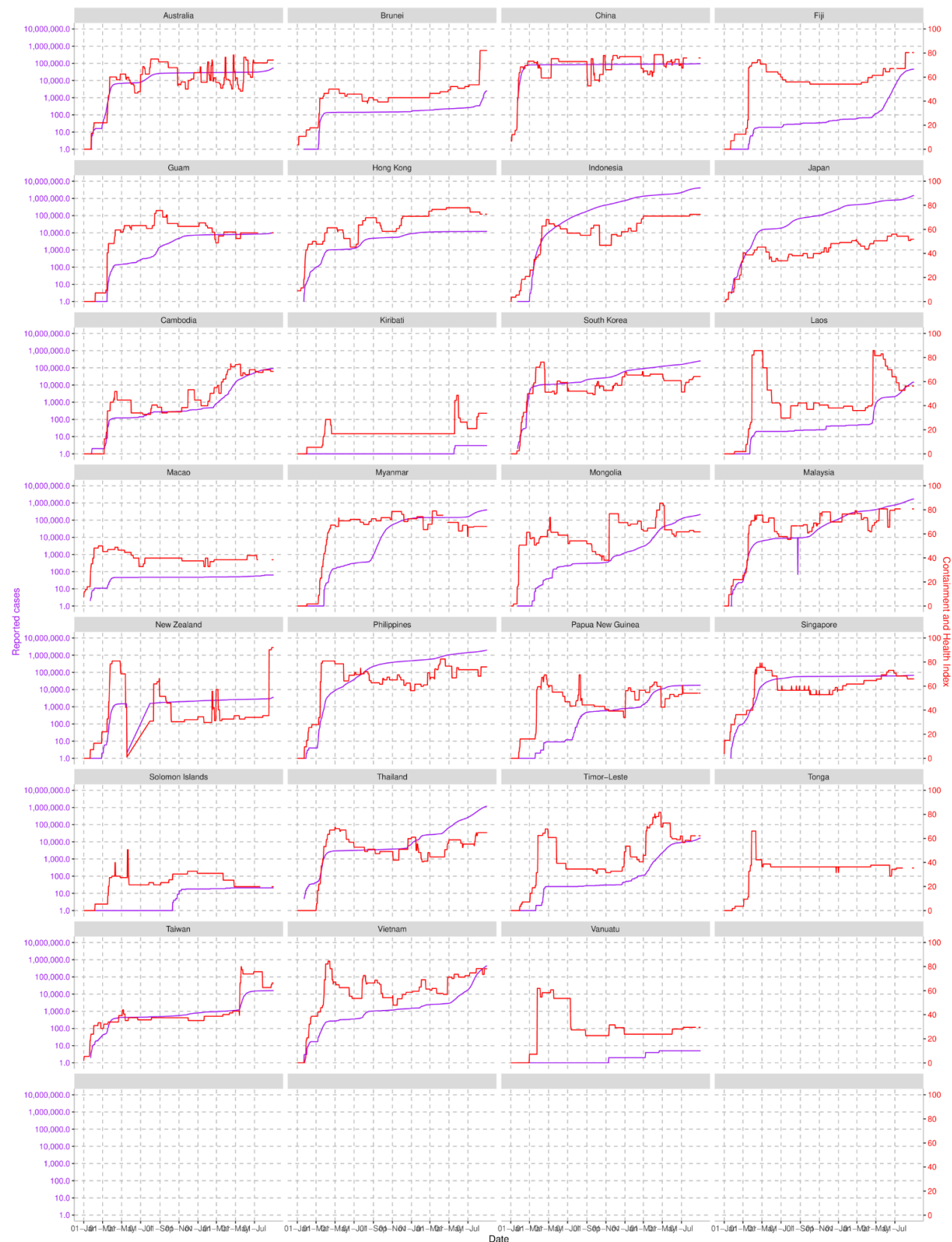


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippines: 14% of Filipinos have been fully vaccinated. All Filipinos over 18 are eligible for vaccination. Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, Sputnik V, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, Bahan Biotech, Sinopharm BIBP, Sinovac all in use. • Taiwan: only 4% of Taiwanese are fully vaccinated, though 44% have received at least one dose. AstraZeneca, Moderna, Medigen Biologics all in use. • Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City authorities have announced efforts to vaccinate 70% of Ho Chi Minh City's adult population before the end of August. 2.8% of Vietnamese have been fully vaccinated. Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Sinopharm BIBP, Sputnik V all in use.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippines: from 12 August people over 65 years of age are required to stay at their residencies at all times.

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - EAST ASIA PACIFIC

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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