

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - Latin America and Caribbean



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	01-31 December, 2020
Reported by	Michelle Sharma

Brief summary of major changes:

Generally, restrictions were tightened in many countries in the region during the month of December. **SÃO PAULO** and **AMAZONAS** states in **BRAZIL** closed non-essential businesses in late December, and curfews were enacted in Bom Jesus Da Lapa (in the state of **BAHIA**) from 10 December to 17 December, Chapecó (in the state of **SANTA CATARINA**) from 21 December to 31 December, and the state of **MATO GROSSO DO SUL** from 14 December. Movement to Arraial do Cabo (in the state of **RIO de JANEIRO**) was restricted to only residents, service providers and those who had accommodations booked from 11 December. **BRAZIL** also changed rules for incoming international travellers, requiring a negative COVID-19 PCR test result on entry.

Several countries tightened Stay at Home restrictions, with the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** expanding the curfews in **SANTO DOMINGO**, **SANTIAGO**, **LA VEGA** and **PUERTO PLATA** to 19:00-05:00 daily on 16 December. **PANAMA** similarly expanded their curfew from 23:00-05:00 to 19:00-05:00 on 18 December, but also prohibited access to rivers and beaches, and enacted a rule on 28 December that retail shoppers must be women only on Mondays and Wednesdays, and men only on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Countries also responded to the new COVID-19 variants that appeared in the UK and South Africa through their international travel restrictions. **BOLIVIA** banned entry for travellers from Europe from 25 December, **GUATEMALA** may deny entry to any non-resident traveller entering from either the UK or South Africa. Residents may return, but must complete a quarantine of at least 10 days. **JAMAICA** banned travel to and from the UK from 18 December onwards. **CHILE** began to loosen restrictions for international travellers on 8 December by removing the requirement to quarantine if the traveller provided proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test and health insurance. However, starting 22 December, **CHILE** banned entry to non-residents who had been in the UK in the

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previous 14 days and required a 14-day quarantine for returning residents who had been in the UK. From 31 December, all travellers must again complete a quarantine, with a COVID-19 PCR test administered on the 7th day. Travellers may leave quarantine once they receive a negative test result.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major changes recorded
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRAZIL: In a tightening of restrictions, from 25 December to 3 January, all non-essential businesses are closed in SÃO PAULO, and in AMAZONAS from 26 December to 10 January. PARAGUAY: As of 17 December, non-essential businesses have re-opened, as long as health protocols are being followed. URUGUAY: Starting 1 December, restrictions tightened as public offices switched to teleworking, and private companies were encouraged to do the same. Bars and restaurants were ordered to close at 00:00, and gyms were not permitted to hold sports activities between 2 December and 18 December.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: In a toughening of restrictions, from 15 December, people cannot gather in groups larger than 10 in public or private spaces, which effectively bans public events. PERU: Restrictions were tightened as of 21 December with all public events being banned.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARUBA: From 15 December, restrictions were put in place for the whole nation to limit the maximum number of attendees at a social gathering to 30 inside and 60 outside. No dancing is allowed and social distancing and mask wearing rules must be adhered to. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: In a toughening of restrictions, from 15 December, people cannot gather in groups larger than 10 in public or private spaces. URUGUAY: Restrictions began tightening starting 1 December, with a recommendation to keep gatherings small, with masking and a duration of less than 2 hours. Between 2 December and 18 December, fines and criminal charges may have been applied if people were found to not be following the rules. From 21 December, gathering limits were restricted to no more than 10 people. PERU: In a tightening of restrictions, all social gatherings, including those held in homes with family are prohibited as of 21 December.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECUADOR: As of 21 December, inter-state bus transport, public transport, and tourist transport are permitted to operate at a maximum of 50% capacity in QUITO. URUGUAY: From 21 December to 10 January, passenger capacity is limited to 50% in interdepartmental transport.

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C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRAZIL: In a tightening of restrictions, a curfew was established in the city of Bom Jesus Da Lapa between 22:00-06:00 from 10 December until 17 December, in MATO GROSSO DO SUL between 22:00-05:00 from 14 December for 15 days, and between 22:00-05:00 from 21 December to 31 December in Chapecó. • DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Restrictions were tightened as of 16 December, when the curfew was extended to 19:00-05:00 in the National District and the provinces of SANTO DOMINGO, SANTIAGO, LA VEGA, and PUERTO PLATA. In the other areas, the curfew remained at 21:00-0500 on weekdays and 19:00-05:00 on weekends, as well as on 24 December and 31 December. • ECUADOR: A strict national curfew began on 21 December which restricts movement from 22:00-04:00. • HAITI: In a loosening of restrictions, the nightly curfew ended on 15 December. • PANAMA: The curfew was extended from 23:00-05:00 to 19:00-05:00 on 18 December, as well as forbidding access to rivers and beaches. On 28 December an additional restriction was established which limited retail shoppers to women only on Mondays and Wednesdays and men only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. • URUGUAY: A recommendation to stay at home was issued by the President on 16 December.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BELIZE: Starting 18 December, it is prohibited to enter or exit Corozal and Orange Walk Districts or to cross any of the town, village or community boundaries within the districts. • BRAZIL: On 11 December, restrictions were put in place to limit travel to Arraial do Cabo. Only residents, service providers and those who have a QR code for booking accommodations in inns or rental homes are allowed to enter.

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C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOLIVIA: From 25 December to 8 January, travellers from Europe are not allowed entry. • BRAZIL: Beginning 30 December, travellers arriving from international flights must provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test result upon arrival. • CHILE - In a further loosening of restrictions, starting 8 December, international travellers no longer need to quarantine for 14 days upon entry. However, they must provide a completed sanitary passport, proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from within 72 hours before departure, and proof of health insurance that covers COVID-19. Non-residents entering Chile must also report their location and health condition to the Health Ministry daily for the first 14 days. Restrictions were then tightened again, as beginning 22 December, all non-residents who were in the UK in the previous 14 days were banned from entering Chile. Residents were allowed to return to Chile but were required to quarantine for 14 days. Subsequently, starting 31 December, all travellers must complete at least a 7 day quarantine upon their arrival in Chile. A COVID-19 PCR test will be administered on the 7th day, and travellers may leave if the test is negative. • ECUADOR: Relaxing restrictions, beginning 19 December, travellers no longer need to quarantine upon arrival. They must instead sign a declaration form with their itinerary and contact details, as well as present a negative COVID-19 PCR test which can be taken up to 10 days before arrival. • GUATEMALA: Tightening restrictions starting 23 December, travellers who have visited either the UK or South Africa in the previous 14 days may be denied entry or be subject to a quarantine. Residents will be allowed entry but will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days. • JAMAICA: From 23 December, a travel ban is in effect for UK travellers.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAITI: Testing capacity has increased with reports of free testing being available in health institutions in five departments (North, West, Centre, East, South) on 14 December. • PANAMA: Authorities have increased testing volumes with reports of drive-through testing sites being set up as of 15 December.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded

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Cases vs Containment and Health Index:

