

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - East Asia and 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	Latin America and Caribbean
Date range	14 September- 01 October, 2020
Reported by	Helen Tatlow

Brief summary of major changes:

Measures have been relaxed in several nations. **MEXICO** has a traffic light system which classifies regions based on COVID-19 epidemiology, and determines their restrictions accordingly. On 11 September, the state of Colima, which was the last one remaining under the "red" risk classification- was moved to a less stringent "orange" category. In "orange" states, non-essential businesses can resume operation. In **ECUADOR**, on September 14, the authorities lifted the national state of emergency. Each municipal government is responsible in determining measures appropriate for their region. In **CUBA**, restrictions in Havana eased on October 01 enabling businesses to reopen, and public transport set to resume in the coming weeks.

International travel restrictions have also seen significant change during September. In **COLOMBIA**, from 19 September, entry from abroad was permitted. All arrivals must present a negative PCR test and follow mandatory health checks. In **GUATEMALA** too, after six months of closure, air, land, and sea borders reopened on 18 September. All travelers must present a negative PCR test taken within the 72 hours prior to arrival or undertake a 14-day quarantine. In **EL SALVADOR** from 19 September onwards, airports resumed commercial flights after six months of travel restrictions. Incoming passengers must also present a negative PCR test. **SURINAME** announced on 27 September that direct flights from the Netherlands can resume, though borders remain closed to all other countries.

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C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRAZIL: Schools continue to be reopened throughout the country. • BARBADOS: Schools reopened on 21 September • GUATEMALA: At the start of October, new guidelines for schools and universities give the option of going back to classes if a minimum space is guaranteed per person. • SURINAME: Students of higher grades in Suriname went back to schools on 01 October. Students of the lower grades will gradually be allowed to return in October. • URUGUAY: Schools and universities are open for in-person classes on at least a part-time basis as of 01 October
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSTA RICA: From 15 September, new measures in Costa Rica ban non-essential activities in regions that are classified in the orange risk group. • CUBA: Areas in Phase 3 of the recovery plan, non-essential businesses including swimming pools, theatres, and cinemas can reopen. Bars and clubs remain closed. Havana's stricter measures were eased on 01 October enabling businesses to reopen. • GUATEMALA: Many non-essential businesses can now reopen following the restrictions that vary according to the risk level of the municipality. • MEXICO: On 11 September, the state of Colima -the last one remaining under the "red" risk classification-- was moved to a less stringent "orange" category. This means that most states have resumed non-essential activities, though at a limited 30% capacity in those in the "orange" group.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GUATEMALA: Events are able to go ahead, but numbers of participants are capped at different numbers in areas coded as red, orange, yellow, and green, based on risk.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECUADOR: On Monday, September 14, authorities lifted the national state of emergency. The prohibition of private meetings will no longer be in force. • GUATEMALA: Although there is no upper limit for some parts of the country, in the red areas it is still not permitted for groups of more than 10 to gather.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUBA: Restrictions in Havana were lifted on 01 October and public transport can resume in the coming weeks. • ECUADOR: On September 14, authorities lifted the national state of emergency. Each municipal government will be responsible in determining measures such as maximum capacities for public transport.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUBA: Cuban authorities announced on 12 September that the additional measures will be extended until at least October 1. The

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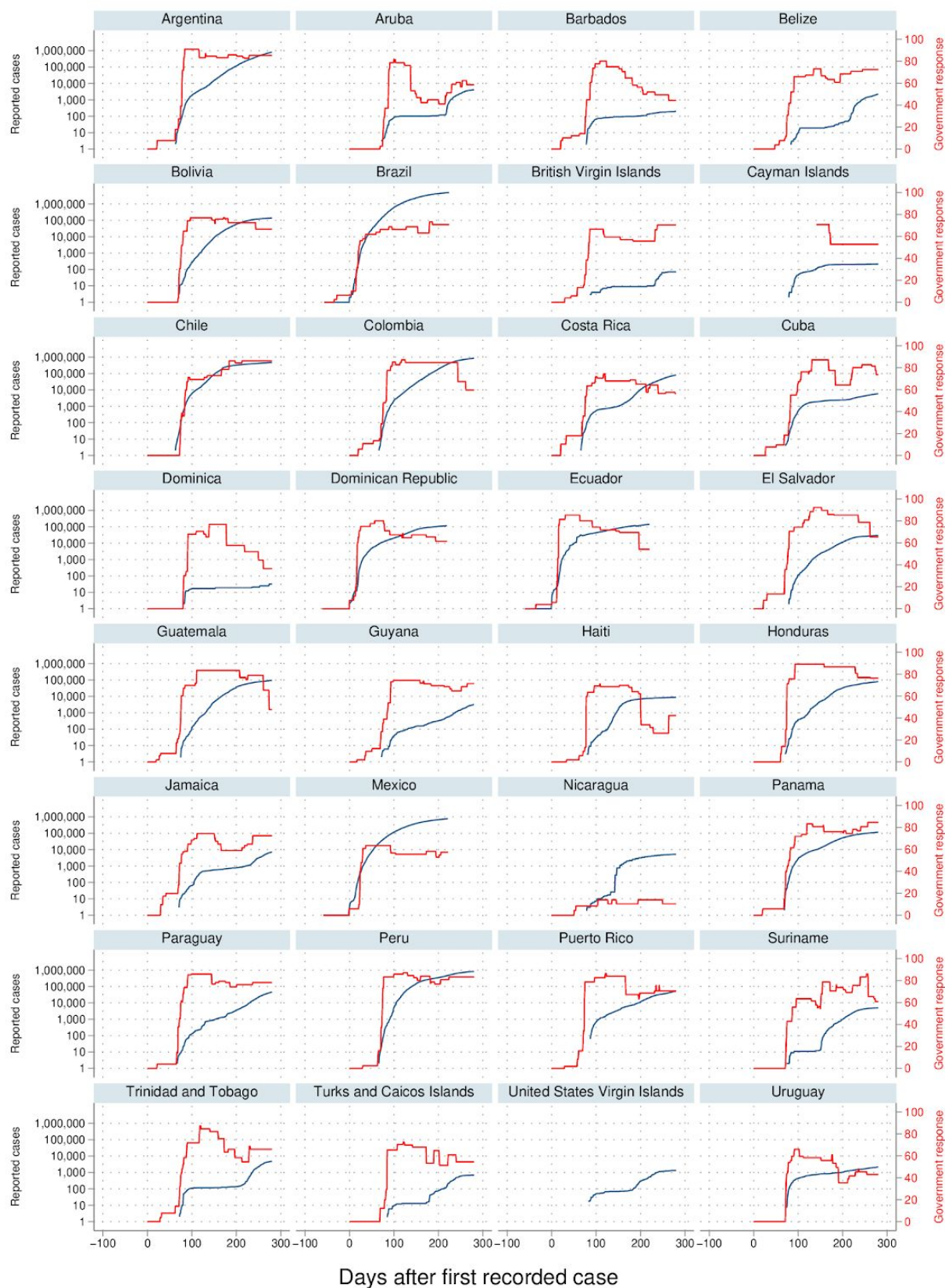


	<p>curfew in Havana between the hours of 19:00 and 05:00 (local time) was lifted on 01 October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECUADOR: On Monday, September 14, authorities lifted the national state of emergency. Lockdown restrictions, including a nightly curfew were also lifted. • GUATEMALA: On 01 October, the nationwide curfew was lifted and people are encouraged to reopen nonessential businesses, and people longer have to remain at home • MEXICO: On 11 September, the state of Colima --the last one remaining under the "red" risk classification-- was moved to a less stringent "orange" category, meaning people are no longer required to stay at home
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECUADOR: On Monday, September 14, authorities lifted the national state of emergency initially declared in March. This lifted restrictions on internal movement around the country including curfews. • GUATEMALA: National commercial flights resumed in the country from 18 September. • GUYANA: Non-essential travel into or out of specified regions is restricted from 01 to 30 September and travel shall only be permitted where it is connected to an essential service • EL SALVADOR: From 19th September Phase 4 began, enabling internal and international movement for tourism.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COLOMBIA: From 19 September, entry to Colombia from abroad is permitted. • GUATEMALA: After six months of closure, Guatemala's air, land, and sea borders reopened on 18 September. Incoming passengers must present a negative PCR test taken within the 72 hours prior to arrival or undertake a 14-day quarantine. • EL SALVADOR: From 19 September onward, El Salvador's airports resumed commercial flights. Incoming passengers must present a negative PCR coronavirus test no more than three days old. • SURINAME: President Chandrikapersad Santokhi announced on 27 September that direct flights from the Netherlands can resume.
H1: Public Information Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECUADOR: The Ecuadorian government launches a new public media campaign #YoMeCuido (In English, "I take care of myself") showing photos and videos of individuals wearing face masks and pledging to protect themselves and the community.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new measures recorded
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new measures recorded

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Cases vs Government Response Index:



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