

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 December
Reported by	Thomas Benson, Randy Taufik

Brief summary of major changes:

December was characterised by cautious attempts to limit the spread of the virus through targeted lockdowns, limitations on public gatherings, and stay-at-home measures, while measures aimed at schools and businesses began to lift in most places. After months of relatively laissez-faire government response, local Japanese authorities began to announce states of emergency and stricter measures to control the spread of the virus.

Concern over the new COVID-19 variant discovered in the United Kingdom prompted a number of countries to introduce bans, stricter quarantine measures, or further testing for international travellers.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cambodia: Schools and universities were closed from 10 December onwards.• China: Pidu District in Chengdu, Sichuan has found a new cluster. Schools are closed for testing. Cities are also closed in Manzhouli, Shijiazhuang, and Suifenhe in northern China.• Fiji: Schools have fully reopened as of mid-December.• Mongolia: Government has begun to end lockdown measures in several provinces and prepare to open the school.• Myanmar: School activities are subject to restrictions.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia: Sydney was placed under lockdown in response to local outbreaks, with non-essential businesses closed.• Cambodia: Businesses remain open, but entertainment venues have been closed.• China: Localised shutdowns are in effect in two regions of Beijing, Shenyang, and Chengdu. Entertainment venues, restaurants, and museums are closed.• Hong Kong SAR: Measures have been tightened further from

Summaries are created with data from the OxCGRT, uploaded by contributors. For specific references, please see the database www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

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	<p>December 10 onwards: most entertainment venues are to be closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan: A state of emergency has been declared in three areas neighbouring Tokyo. • South Korea: On 8 December Seoul has announced the city will move to Stage 2.5. Public and private institutions are recommended to work from home. • Malaysia: The government has encouraged work-from-home measures, especially in metropolitan city • Singapore: The government encourages work from home for all non-essential workplaces.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Public events remain banned in Sydney due to local lockdowns. • Cambodia: From 10 December, meetings and conferences with more than 20 people are prohibited. • China: Running events in Chengdu and Wuhan have been cancelled. • Guam: On 29 December, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero announced that the public health emergency shall be extended until 29 January. • Hong Kong SAR: A prohibition on gatherings of more than two persons in public was implemented from 10 December to 23 December. • Japan: New Year's Eve celebrations on Mount Takao have been cancelled. • South Korea: Religious facilities must comply with strict social distancing guidelines during Christmas and New Year. • Laos: Social activities including weddings are permitted, as long as one-meter social distancing measures are followed. • Myanmar: The government has tightened its stay at home policies and closed places of religious worship. • Malaysia: The government has banned public events and discouraged other social activities.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Due to lockdown in Sydney, indoor gatherings are prohibited. A maximum of five people can gather outdoors in a public place for exercise or recreation. • Cambodia: From 10 December, Meetings and conferences with more than 20 people are prohibited • China: The Chinese government has implemented extremely targeted restrictions to limit gatherings, often focused on a single hotel or residential block. • Guam: From 15 December, congregation is permitted, but not to exceed ten individuals who all must wear face masks. • Hong Kong SAR: A prohibition on gatherings of more than two persons in public was implemented from 10 December to 23 December.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Korea: Wedding halls are limited to 50 people, funerals limited to 30 people, and religious activities to 20 people. • New Zealand: There are now no limitations placed on gatherings outside the home. • Thailand: The government has tightened policies for public gathering in preparation for lockdown.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: The previous cluster in Manzhouli has led to public transport closure from 24 November onward. • Hong Kong SAR: From 10 December, restrictions to additional bus routes have been introduced to reduce population flow. • South Korea: From 5 December, municipal authorities in Seoul will reduce evening bus services to 70 percent after 9pm. • Singapore: Public transport is operating on limited routes. • Vietnam: Public transportation is operating with tight health protocols in place.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: From 19 December, residents of Sydney's northern beaches council area are subject to a stay-at-home order to contain a growing cluster. • China: Total confinement is recorded in communities in Beijing; Dalian of Liaoning province; Suifenhe and Dongning of Heilongjiang province; Hulun Buir of Neimenggu; Turpan of Xinjiang province; Chengdu of Sichuan province. • Fiji: The government currently only recommends staying at home when someone travels. • Hong Kong SAR: The government has appealed to the public to stay at home, and avoid unnecessary social activities including private gatherings. • Japan: Tokyo has requested a curfew for restaurants, bars and karaoke rooms through 11 January. • Papua New Guinea: The government has introduced new stay-at-home policies.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: People are not allowed to travel to the northern section of Sydney. In addition, there are some restrictions on visiting some remote Aboriginal communities in Western Australia and South Australia. • China: Residents are not allowed to leave medium-risk areas. As of 21 December, medium-risk areas include targeted communities in the following cities: Beijing; Dalian of Liaoning province; Suifenhe and Dongning of Heilongjiang province; Hulun Buir of Neimenggu; Turpan of Xinjiang province; Chengdu of Sichuan province. • Japan: The national government has begun announcing new COVID-19 mitigation measures, including discouraging travel to certain areas with high case numbers. • Malaysia: Movement between cities is not permitted, with limited

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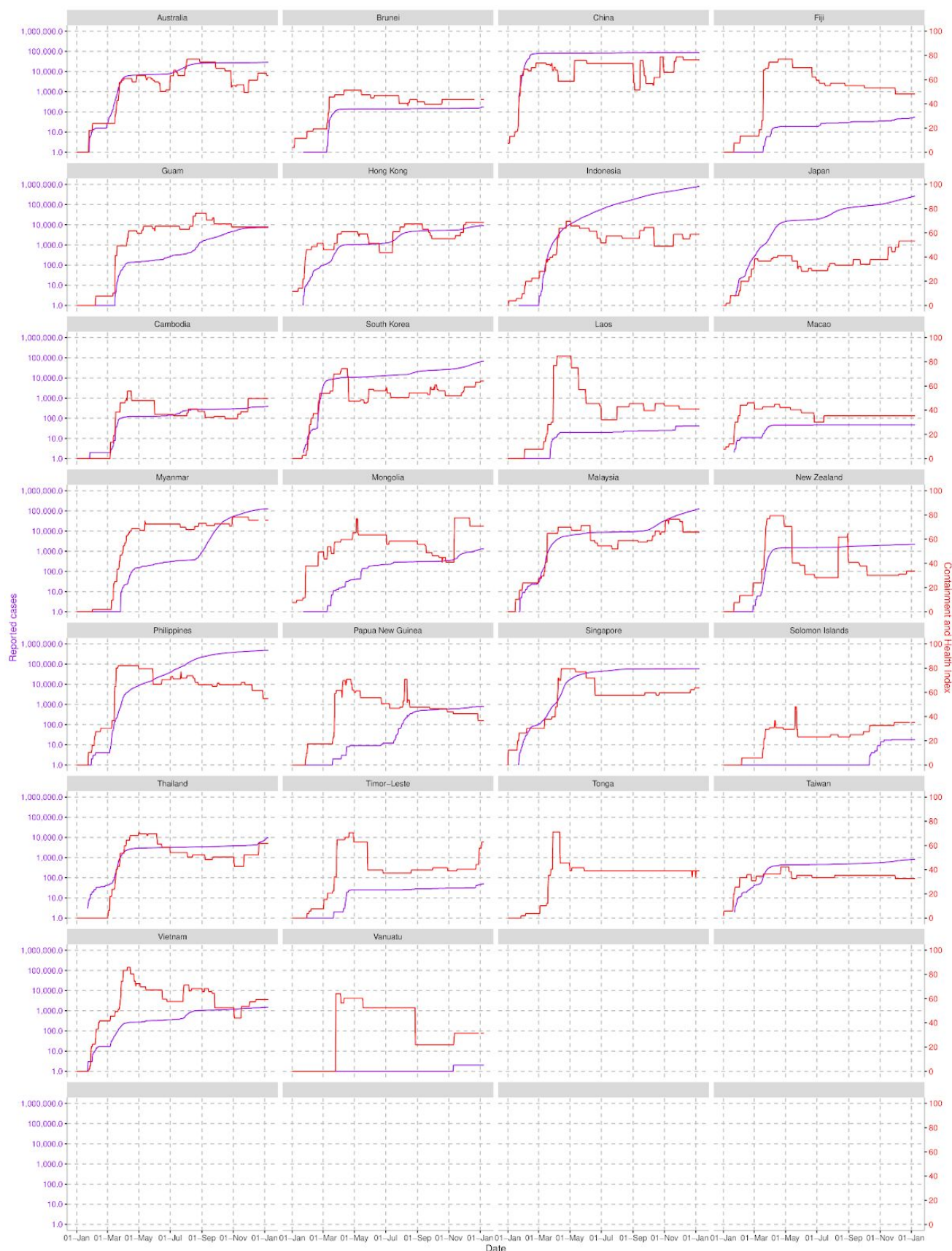


	exceptions.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunei: International visitors are required to go into immediate isolation for up to 14 days at a designated monitoring center. • Fiji: Entry is only permitted to certain regions designated as 'COVID contained'. • Hong Kong SAR: From 21 December, in addition to existing restrictions, all travellers arriving from countries outside China must provide confirmation of room reservation in a designated quarantine hotel. From the 25 December, persons have to undergo quarantine for 21 days. • Japan: The government will reimplement strict travel regulations barring most foreign entry into Japan effective 28 December. • South Korea: From 23 December, flights leaving for and arriving from the United Kingdom will be suspended until the end of the year (31 December) over concerns about a new strain of COVID-19. • Thailand: Travellers are required to show a negative PCR test taken 2 days before flight. • Malaysia: Travel is prohibited to several countries.
H2: Testing Policy	No major changes recorded
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vietnam: Tracing policy is implemented in coordination with community organizers. • Singapore: The government has introduced a mobile app to maximize tracing.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong SAR: The mandatory mask-wearing requirement was extended for a period of 14 days from 24 December to 6 January. • New Zealand: Masks are now mandatory on all domestic flights.

Cases vs Containment and Health Index:

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