

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	1-30 November, 2021
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Brief summary of major changes:

In November, most countries in the East Asia Pacific are still in the midst of recovering. However, following a surge in the number of cases in certain parts of countries, respective governments have tightened back its restrictions. With that, no major changes have been made in terms of policy direction.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Effective 15 November, Northern Territories Greater Katherine and Robinson River including surrounding homelands entered a full lockdown. The school and early childhood services are closed. Schools and childcare centres in Katherine will remain open for the children of essential workers only and students doing year 12 exams. • Cambodia: From 1 November, schools at all levels across Cambodia have been reopened. However, strict rules regarding covid are implemented including standard operating procedures and other health safety measures, the number of students in each class is limited to not more than 15, and they must sit at least 1.5 meters away from each other to keep social distancing. • South Korea: Starting 22 November, all kindergarten to high school students are allowed to fully attend schools and universities to gradually expand face-to-face lectures. • Myanmar: On 1 November, all schools reopened with the exception of those in 46 townships of nine regions and states with a high positivity rate. • Tonga: All public facilities, events and gatherings such as education institutions shall be prohibited. These directions apply only to Tongatapu island. On November 8, a home school trial has been set by the Ministry of Education, in the event of a school closure due to COVID-19 reaching Tonga. • Vietnam: On 1 November, the Vietnamese government announced their efforts to gradually reopen schools across the country depending on the specific recovery situation in each locality. The Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training has recommended that schools should be reopened for fully vaccinated students from grades nine to 12 in COVID-19 low- and medium-risk areas.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Effective 15 November, Greater Katherine and Robinson

	<p>River including surrounding homelands entered a full lockdown. This has been extended until 22 November. All businesses and community centres are closed. Residents must stay at home for the lockdown period and are only permitted to leave for work that is considered essential and can't be done at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong: Bars or pubs, bathhouses, party rooms, clubs or nightclubs, karaoke establishments and mahjong-tin kau premises could operate according to the specified operation mode if specified measures are adopted or, they must be closed otherwise. However, with specific guidelines all businesses can remain open. • Myanmar: During COVID-19 stay-at-home orders in Burma, residents may only leave their residence to travel to/from work, to buy groceries, or for medical treatment. A mask must be always worn when outside the home. Authorities set up checkpoints in Rangoon and elsewhere to verify travelers are on the road for permitted reasons. • Thailand: From 1 November, food establishments can operate in dark-red zones but with capacity limits in place and entertainment venues may open at varying capacity limits. Dark Red zones have been reduced from 23 to 7 which are Chanthaburi, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Narathiwat, Pattani Songkhla, Tak, and Yala provinces. • Tonga: On 2 November, the lockdown, with only essential services allowed to open, which include banks and the market. Gatherings are not allowed, except small numbers at funerals, and alcohol cannot be sold.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Korea: Mass events, including conferences, weddings, funerals, and birthday parties for one-year-olds, a common Korean custom, will be limited to 100 people if they include unvaccinated people. If everyone has a vaccine pass or a recent negative test, the cap is eased to 499 people. • Solomon Island: Effective 16 November, events are now allowed. • Tonga: All public facilities, events, and gatherings such as education institutions shall be prohibited. These directions shall apply only to Tongatapu island. On 9 November, gatherings are restricted to 50 people at indoor venues and 100 people at outdoor venues, except for religious services and education institutions. Tongan authorities are encouraging social distancing and good hand hygiene.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong: Most places require a gathering of 4 or fewer people (ex: place of amusement, beauty parlour, etc.) but certain sports and other activities allow for larger groups, requirement masks and social distancing whenever possible. 50% or 75% capacity restriction is also held in place for most indoor areas. • South Korea: Social gatherings will be allowed for up to 10 people in the greater Seoul area and up to 12 people in other regions, regardless of vaccination status. In restaurants and cafes, however, unvaccinated people will be limited to gatherings of four. • Malaysia: Not all social activities are allowed in regions still in phase 3, and there's a limit at 50% capacity for regions in phase 4. • New Zealand: Outdoor gatherings of up to 25 people in Auckland (previously 10). This is no longer restricted to 2 households only. • Tonga: All public facilities, events, and gatherings such as

	<p>education institutions shall be prohibited. These directions shall apply only to Tongatapu island. On 9 November, gatherings are restricted to 50 people at indoor venues and 100 people at outdoor venues, except for religious services and education institutions. Tongan authorities are encouraging social distancing and good hand hygiene.</p>
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indonesia: Authorities continue to impose domestic long-distance travel restrictions. Individuals traveling by air must provide a vaccination card indicating at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and a negative result from a PCR test taken within 72 hours of departure; fully vaccinated travellers may provide negative rapid antigen test result taken within 24 hours instead. People traveling by land or sea must provide a vaccination card indicating at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and a negative rapid antigen test result taken within the last seven days; unvaccinated travellers must show a negative rapid antigen test result taken within 24 hours. All air and sea domestic travellers must also register on the Health Alert Card (eHAC) mobile application before travel; officials advise travellers to download the PeduliLindungi contact tracing application. Facemasks are mandatory in public areas nationwide. ● Macao: Macau requires the wearing of a face mask in many public settings including, banks, casinos, and on public transportation. ● Malaysia: Public transportation is operating and masks must be worn. ● Tonga: On 2 November, public transportation is shut down and the government has told Tongans to only leave for essential reasons. Effective 9 November, public transportation has resumed operations
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Australia: Effective 15 November, Northern Territories (NT) Greater Katherine and Robinson River including surrounding homelands entered into a full lockdown. You can only leave your home for essential reasons. ● Myanmar: Some areas in Myanmar are under a state of martial law, whilst others have curfews and Stay at Home orders in place. In Yangon the curfew is from 10pm to 4am. ● Papua New Guinea: From 7 November, a two-week lockdown is in effect in the autonomous region of Bougainville. There is a curfew from 08:00 p.m. to 06:00 a.m. ● Tonga: On 2 November, the Tongan government ordered a weeklong lockdown for the main island Tongatapu, which includes an 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew with residents told to stop work and stay inside their homes for all but essential reasons, according to the health ministry. Effective 8 at 11:59pm, Tonga's COVID restrictions will revert to what they were before last lockdown was imposed.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Australia: Effective 15 November, Northern Territories (NT) Greater Katherine and Robinson River including surrounding homelands entered into a full lockdown. No travel is permitted outside of the lockdown area. ● Myanmar: Restrictions on intercity and interstate travel are in place. During COVID-19 stay-at-home orders in Burma, residents may only leave their residence to travel to/from work, to buy

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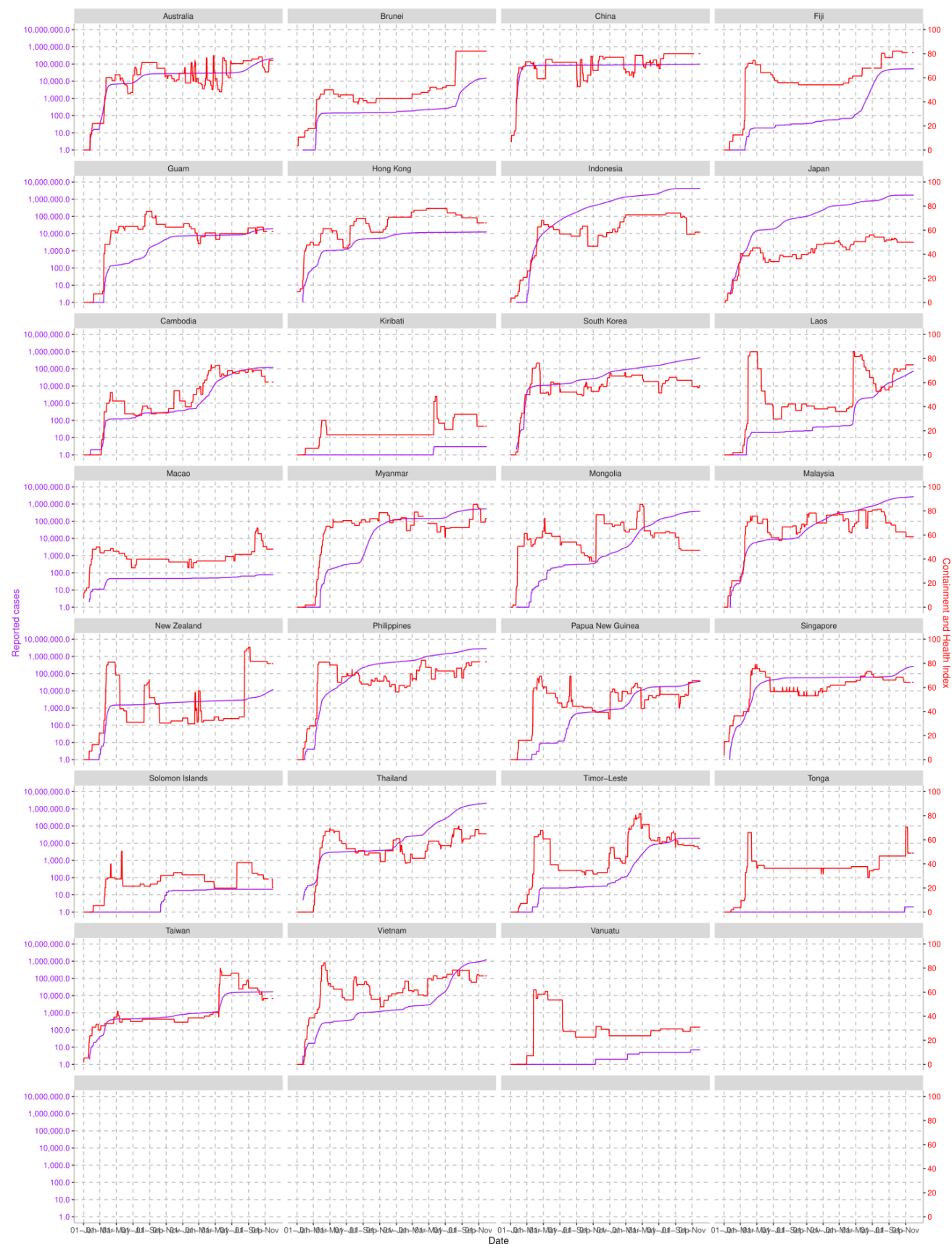
	<p>groceries, or for medical treatment. A mask must be worn at all times when outside the home. Authorities set up checkpoints in Rangoon and elsewhere to verify travellers are on the road for permitted reasons.</p>
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Starting 1 November, Australia's border open after 590 days of restricted access (since March 2020). Fully vaccinated travellers from New Zealand who test negative in pre-departure COVID tests can now enter Australia. They would be allowed to skip quarantine in certain jurisdictions like New South Wales, but those conditions may differ in other states and territories. Continuing policy for other countries restricts travel to Australia is only available if you are exempt or you have been granted an individual exemption (even if you have been vaccinated). All travellers entering Australia from overseas will be quarantined in a hotel or designated facility for 14 days. Travelers are required to undertake their mandatory 14-day quarantine at their port of entry. • South Korea: The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency called an emergency meeting with 13 ministries and announced that all foreigners who have been in the newly listed African countries will be refused entry to Korea. • Laos: Foreigners are currently not allowed to enter Laos except in very limited circumstances. To enter, you'll need prior approval from the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a negative COVID-19 test conducted less than 72 hours before your travel, subject to a further test on arrival, quarantine for 14 days at a government designated venue at our own cost, be required to wear a medical tracking device on your wrist or ankle for the entire quarantine period, have USD 200 in cash to pay for the tracking device, insurance to cover the cost of treatment for COVID-19 during your quarantine period, or will need to buy insurance on arrival for USD 100 (cash only). • Timor-Leste: At the Council of Ministers meeting on November 24, a decree-law (not available) was approved that changes the parameters for entry into the country.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Effective 15 November, Northern Territories (NT) Greater Katherine and Robinson River including surrounding homelands entered into a full lockdown. Everyone must wear a mask outside of their home.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macao: All vaccines are now available for individuals from 3 years of age.

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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

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