

# Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

## Regional report - Europe and Central Asia



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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](http://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker).

<b>REGION</b>	Europe and Central Asia
<b>Date range</b>	01 February - 28 February
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### Brief summary of major changes:

The month of February brought several changes concerning the closure of schools. Several countries re-opened their schools this month, including Austria, Denmark, Slovak republic, and Slovenia. However, school closures due to rising COVID-19 cases were implemented in Italy, Poland, Turkey and Ukraine. Furthermore, similar changes can be seen in the workplace closure policies that have been implemented across the region. In February, some workplaces were permitted to open in countries such as Austria, Croatia, Lithuania, Latvia, and Romania, among other countries. Meanwhile, governments made the decision to close several workplaces in Ukraine and Turkey.

Changes can also be seen in regulations controlling both internal and international travel. Governments across the region implemented policies that restricted internal movement. This was the case in Austria, Czech Republic, France, Kazakhstan, Portugal, and Turkey. Additionally, restrictions on international travel also changed throughout the region. Stricter policies requiring testing or quarantining for arriving travellers were implemented in The United Kingdom, Tajikistan, Slovenia, and Georgia.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Austria-</b> As of 8 February, schools in Lower Austria and Austria were open. Schools in all other federal states were open on 15 February. All levels of schools and universities must operate under strict health protocols and shift work.</li></ul>
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- **Denmark-** From 8 February, students from preschool to fourth grade were able to return.
- **Faroe Islands-** While all levels of schools remain fully open, schools and daycare centers are recommended against holding large events that host guests from outside.
- **Germany-** As of 22 February, daycare centers and elementary schools opened in 10 states, making a total of 12 in 16 states with young students returning to school.
- **Greece-** From 1 February, middle schools and high schools were opened under strict health measures despite the toughened second lockdown. Higher education institutions remain closed. As of 28 February, all educational facilities were closed in Melasinas under Civil Protection Emergency.
- **Italy-** Some cities, mainly in Umbria, Puglia, and Lombardy, extend school closure till March.
- **Kosovo-** From 11 February, universities were allowed in-person teaching.
- **Latvia-** As of 22 February, it was announced that local governments where infections do not exceed 200 for a two week period, may resume in-person teaching for 1st to 4th year students.
- **Luxembourg-** From 8 February to 21 February, in-person classes and activities have been suspended.
- **Netherlands-** As of 8 February, childcare centers and primary schools were able to reopen for in-person teaching. High schools and higher education institutions still remain closed.
- **Norway-** In February, some Kindergartens and schools were permitted to reopen.
- **Poland-** From 27 February, schools in the Warminsko-Mazurskie region were forced to close for an initial period of two weeks.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Romania</b>- As of 8 February, schools in local municipalities are permitted depending on incidence rates of COVID-19.</li> <li>● <b>Russian Federation</b>- As of 8 February, universities in Moscow are permitted to open for in-person teaching.</li> <li>● <b>Slovak Republic</b>- From 8 February some schools were permitted to re-open.</li> <li>● <b>Slovenia</b>- As of 15 February, kindergartens, primary schools, adult education centres, and vocational high schools were permitted to open for in-person teaching.</li> <li>● <b>Turkey</b>- As of 15 February, all education and training activities for public schools were forced to move to distance teaching.</li> <li>● <b>Ukraine</b>- As of 26 February, educational institutions (apart from kindergartens and elementary schools) in the Ivano-Frankivsk region were forced to close.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Austria</b>- As of 8 February, previous lockdown was eased. Zoos, botanic gardens, museums, art halls, cultural exhibition houses, and libraries were permitted to open under strict hygiene rules.</li> <li>● <b>Croatia</b>- As of 15 February, fitness centres, gambling halls and betting shops were allowed to open following hygiene rules.</li> <li>● <b>Estonia</b>- As of 3 February, rules previously in place in Harju and Ida-Viru were enforced across the nation. Catering and entertainment establishments must close at 9pm. Other facilities may operate with reduced capacity and hygiene rules.</li> <li>● <b>Greece</b>- As of 28 February, Melasinas declared Civil Protection Emergency. General retail and health shops must close, except for food stores, pharmacies, and petrol stations. Delivery service is allowed until 23:00.</li> <li>● <b>Iceland</b>- As of 8 February, bars, clubs, and slot machine venues were allowed to open subject to gathering limits and must close before 10pm.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Latvia-</b> From 8 February, several non-essential shops were permitted to re-open with mandatory restrictions in place.</li> <li>● <b>Lithuania-</b> From 15 February, several non-essential shops were permitted to re-open with mandatory restrictions in place.</li> <li>● <b>Norway-</b> From 22 February some non-essential businesses were permitted to re-open.</li> <li>● <b>Poland-</b> As of 1 February, art galleries, museums, and libraries were permitted to re-open under strict sanitary restrictions. On 27 February shopping malls and hotels were forced to close in the Warminsko-Mazurskie region.</li> <li>● <b>Romania-</b> As of 15 February, cinemas, performance institutions, indoor restaurants and cafes, and gambling halls were permitted to open with several restrictions, in particular localities depending on the cumulative incidence of COVID-19 cases.</li> <li>● <b>Sweden-</b> As of 8 February, workplaces can reopen with several restrictions in place. However, workplaces with more than 8 persons are forced to close given the public gatherings regulations.</li> <li>● <b>Turkey-</b> As of 14 February, movie theaters, soccer fields, coffee houses, turkish baths, and several other businesses are closed.</li> <li>● <b>Ukraine-</b> As of 26 February, non-food markets and shops, shopping malls and entertainment establishments, were forced to close.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Estonia-</b> As of 3 February, previous restrictions in Harju and Ida-Viru were extended nationwide. Indoor events must operate at 50% capacity with a limit of 400 people. Outdoor events can have a maximum of 500 participants.</li> <li>● <b>Finland-</b> From 22 February, indoor public events involving more than 6 people were banned in Helsinki and Uusimaa Hospital District.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Moldova</b>- As of 5 February, concert halls and community centers are allowed to re-open at 50% capacity or with 250 people.</li> <li>● <b>Romania</b>- In February, outdoor performances, public and private festivals, and cultural events are allowed to take place in localities depending on the incidence of COVID-19 cases. These events are limited to 300 persons, and several restrictions apply.</li> <li>● <b>San Marino</b>- In February, cinemas and theatres were permitted to re-open.</li> <li>● <b>Slovak Republic</b>- As of 8 February, the Slovak Republic adopted a traffic light system. If the municipality is in the "black phase", all public events are banned.</li> <li>● <b>Ukraine</b>- As of 26 February, public events in the Ivano-Frankivsk region were banned.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Estonia</b>- As of 1 February, the gathering limit outdoors is changed from 10 to 500 in Harju and Ida-Viru. From 3 February, the same rules started to apply to the whole nation.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Georgia</b>- As of 11 February, municipal public transportation was fully open on weekdays nationwide. From 25 February, municipal transportation was open on weekends, and intercity transportation was open.</li> <li>● <b>Greece</b>- As of 28 February, Melatinas declared a Civil Protection Emergency, which enforced an 24-hour curfew. Movement and use of public transportation was widely restricted with few exceptions.</li> <li>● <b>Kazakhstan</b>- Public transport is suspended in regions in the red zone. On 1 February, Akmola, Pavlodar, West Kazakhstan, and North Kazakhstan entered the red zone, and Nur-Sultan dropped to the yellow zone. As of 15 February, only Pavlodar remains in the red zone.</li> <li>● <b>Moldova</b>- As of 15 February, there are limitations on the amount of passengers permitted on public transportation at one time.</li> </ul>

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<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Azerbaijan-</b> Starting from 1 February, social restrictions were alleviated in regions previously under strict quarantine measure. Non-essential activities were allowed with social distancing and health measures.</li> <li>● <b>Greece-</b> On 28 February, Melasinas entered Civil Protection Emergency, which imposed a 24-hour curfew with few exceptions.</li> <li>● <b>Russian Federation-</b> As of February, the curfew in Moscow and St. Petersburg has been lifted. However, the government still recommends that persons stay home.</li> <li>● <b>Slovenia-</b> As of 22 February, a curfew from 22:00 pm to 6:00 am is in place.</li> <li>● <b>Turkey-</b> As of 8 February, Turkish citizens and residents are subject to a weekend curfew from 21:00 pm on Friday, to 5 am on Monday.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Austria-</b> As of 8 February, citizens were recommended against travelling in and out of the state of Tyrol. From 15 February onwards, departure from Tyrol requires a negative PCR report.</li> <li>● <b>Czech Republic-</b> As of 12 February, departure from and entrance into the districts of Cheb, Sokolov and Trutnov were banned.</li> <li>● <b>France-</b> From 26 February, travel into and within the Alpes-Maritimes region is restricted with exceptions.</li> <li>● <b>Georgia-</b> On 25 February, intercity transport resumed. A curfew between 9pm and 5am is still in place.</li> <li>● <b>Kazakhstan-</b> Interstate travel restrictions exist depending on the dynamic list of red, yellow, and green zones.</li> <li>● <b>Portugal-</b> As of 5 February, movement between municipalities is prohibited on the weekends between 20:00 pm Fridays to 5:00 am on Mondays.</li> <li>● <b>Romania-</b> In February, there are no intercity travel restrictions, apart from travel out of areas under quarantine.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Slovenia-</b> As of 15 February, movement between municipalities and regions is permitted.</li> <li>● <b>Turkey-</b> As of 8 February, intercity travel permits are required for Turkish citizens and residents aged 65 and older. Citizens and residents under the age of 20 are able to travel within the city and intercity during restricted hours.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Georgia-</b> As of 5 February, the travel ban for foreign citizens was lifted. Foreign nationals must provide a negative PCR test certificate and vaccine certificate to board transportation. Health screening is in place in airports. Passengers from the UK and Northern Ireland are required to quarantine for 14 days.</li> <li>● <b>Latvia-</b> From 11 February, entry into Latvia is permitted only for urgent and important reasons. Additionally, from 11 February to 25 February all travelers from the United Kingdom, Ireland and Portugal were not permitted to enter.</li> <li>● <b>Lithuania-</b> From 15 February, the self isolation period for travellers has been reduced from 14 to 10 days.</li> <li>● <b>Romania-</b> As of 15 February, the government updated the list of countries from which travelers are required to quarantine for 14 days. Additionally, these travellers are required to have a COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to travelling.</li> <li>● <b>Slovenia-</b> As of 12 February, persons arriving from EEA countries or Switzerland must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test, or must self-isolate for 14 days.</li> <li>● <b>Tajikistan-</b> All travellers must now show proof of a negative COVID-19 test.</li> <li>● <b>United Kingdom-</b> As of 15 February, all travelers entering the UK will be required to take two COVID-19 tests during the 10-day quarantine period. Additionally, those travellers coming from "red-list" countries will have to quarantine in hotels.</li> </ul>

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<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	No major changes reported.
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Portugal-</b> On February 13, the government announced staff shortages which negatively impacts the ability to contact trace COVID-19 cases.</li> </ul>
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lithuania-</b> From 21 February, wearing facemasks is no longer mandatory in outdoor public spaces as long as people can remain at least 2 meters apart.</li> <li>• <b>Romania-</b> As of 10 February, it is mandatory to wear face masks in public spaces, commercial spaces, public transportation, and work.</li> <li>• <b>Slovak Republic-</b> From 15 February, the Slovak Republic adopted a traffic light system. Depending on the ranking of a region, mask rules may vary.</li> <li>• <b>Sweden-</b> As of 17 February, disposable masks have to be worn on public transportation at all times in the Västmanland region. Several other regions introduced similar restrictions.</li> </ul>



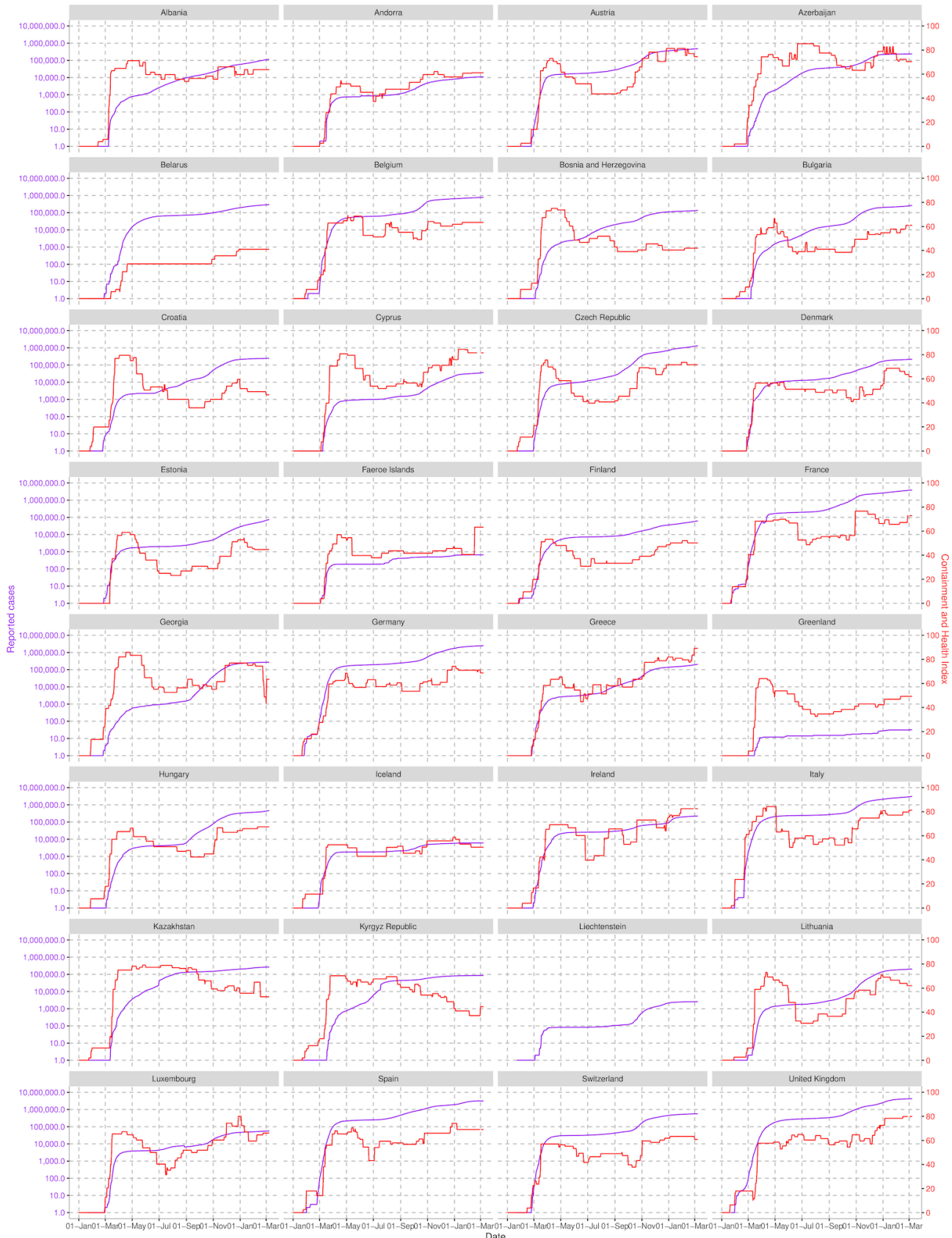
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### Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



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

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