

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 September, 2021
Reported by	Thomas Benson

Brief summary of major changes:

September was a relatively subdued month, with few major developments across the region. Many countries have focused on reopening schools, wishing to limit disruption for students at the start of the new school year. In most cases, countries appear to have settled into a 'new normal' with some restrictions on gatherings and public events, but no major changes in policy direction.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia: More than 5000 schools and educational institutions across the country have reopened. On 27 September, universities were permitted to reopen. • Guam: Schools recently allowed to resume in-person teaching. • Japan: The week-long suspension of in-person learning for students in the Metropolitan Tokyo area, starting on 20 September, has ended and all classes have resumed. • Philippines: on 27 September 120 schools were reopened for the first time as a pilot project, pending further reopenings. • Singapore: some levels moved to home-based learning from 27 September until 6 October. • Thailand: as of 29 September, schools are set to reopen with limits. Key requirements are at least 85% vaccination among school teachers.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: 12 regions are coming out of lockdown but other areas remain in lockdown with a stay-at-home order. Under stay-at-home there is a closure of retail businesses for all but essential businesses. • Fiji: Some non-essential businesses have resumed operations alongside essential businesses following approval from the government. • Indonesia: as of 21 September, ten cities were under level 4 community activity restrictions. • Japan: On 9 September, the government announced an extension of emergency measures to 30 September. • South Korea: Social Distancing extended for 2 weeks from 4 September to 17 September. • Laos: a stay-at-home order was implemented in Vientiane for the period 19-30 September. Non-essential businesses are closed. • Malaysian: entertainment venues re-opened, at limited capacity,

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	<p>for fully vaccinated individuals from 9 September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taiwan: now on a Level 2 alert. Places of business must impose crowd controls; those unable to implement prevention measures should suspend operations.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia: as of 21 September, ten cities were under level 4 community activity restrictions. • Japan: in prefectures under emergency measures, events are limited to a maximum of 5000 people at a 50% venue capacity, with the exception of Okinawa, where the limit is 1000. • Laos: all public events were cancelled from 1-15 September in all locations. • Papua New Guinea: from 15 September, gatherings are limited to 20 people.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia: as of 21 September, ten cities were under level 4 community activity restrictions. • Japan: in prefectures under emergency measures, events are limited to a maximum of 5000 people at a 50% venue capacity, with the exception of Okinawa, where the limit is 1000. • South Korea: a maximum gathering of 6 family members is allowed for a limited period in level 4 areas; 8 family members in level 3 areas. • Laos: gatherings were limited to 20 from 1-15 September. • Papua New Guinea: from 15 September, gatherings are limited to 20 people. • Taiwan: gatherings are limited to 80 people indoors and 200 outdoors • Vietnam: public gatherings are restricted to less than 10 people.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laos: travel restrictions between Vientiane and other provinces have been extended until 15 October. • Philippines: large transport vehicles limited to 15 passengers; all other public vehicles are limited to 5 passengers.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan: Ahead of "Silver Week", a cluster of national holidays starting 20 September, the government of Japan requested citizens to avoid non-essential movement in an effort to lift the country's state of emergencies. • Laos: a stay-at-home order was implemented in Vientiane for the period 19-30 September. • Philippines: from 16 September, shorter curfew hours have been implemented in Manila from 10pm to 4am. • Timor Leste: lockdown in Dili was lifted on 8 September. • Vietnam: as of 28 September, stay-at-home restrictions have been lifted.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiji: Travel restrictions have been in place in Fiji following a COVID-19 outbreak. Scheduled international and domestic passenger flights have been suspended. • Laos: travel restrictions between Vientiane and other provinces have been extended until 15 October. • Papua New Guinea: from 30 September, no person may travel into and out of a high-risk province. • Timor Leste: on 22 September, restrictions on travel to the municipality of Dili was extended to 29 September, but lifted for

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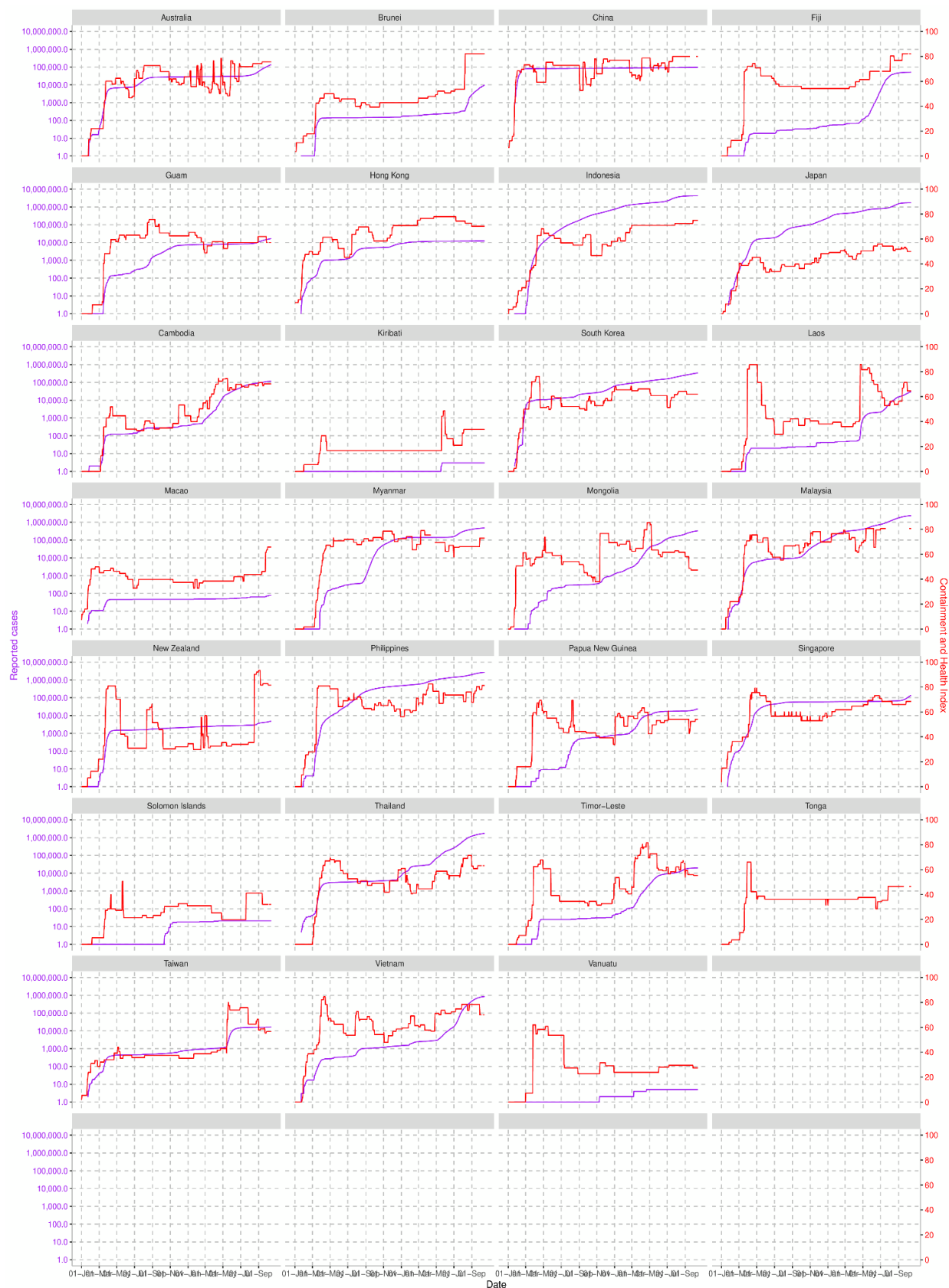


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	Baucau, Covalima and Ermera.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laos: the Thai-Lao friendship bridge was closed from 19-30 September. • Philippines: as of 15 September, 11 new measures on international travel became active. All incoming travelers must quarantine.
H2: Testing Policy	No major changes recorded.
H3: Contact Tracing	No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	No major changes recorded.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: starting 13 September everyone in Australia aged 12 years and over is eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccination. • Cambodia: Vaccines are now available for all groups including children more than 6 years old. • Philippines: vaccines are now widely available.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore: all visitors have been banned from elderly home facilities until 11 October.

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Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



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