

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - Europe and Central Asia



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	Europe and Central Asia
Date range	1-30 April, 2021
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Brief summary of major changes:

The month of April brought considerable changes in policies for school and workplace closures. Throughout the region schools were able to resume in-person teaching in several countries, including Austria, Cyprus, San Marino, and Moldova, among several others. Workplaces also followed the same trend and reopened in Bulgaria, United Kingdom, Hungary, etc. However, workplace closures can still be seen in Italy, Kosovo, France, and Slovenia among other nations.

Across the region, the COVID-19 vaccination efforts continue to become available to more persons. In response, several countries have lifted particular policies. This can be seen in the changes in restrictions concerning gatherings and public events in some countries. Public events were permitted to resume in Switzerland, Slovenia, Norway, Iceland, and Bulgaria. Gatherings of larger sizes were permitted to take place in Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Slovenia.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Austria- From 6 to 18 April, schools in the state of Burgenland operated through remote learning. Since 26 April, 1st to 4th grade primary school students returned to in person teaching while other levels of schools operated in shifts. Schools in Lower Austria and Vienna remain in remote learning since 6 April.• Azerbaijan- As of 5 April, schools in the districts of Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Sheki and Absheron switched to online teaching.• Belgium- As of 19 April, nursery, primary, and 1st stage secondary education started in person teaching; 2nd and 3rd stage secondary education resumed 50% in person teaching; higher education allows in person teaching for 1 day per week. In person exams were allowed.• Bulgaria- From 5 April, kindergartens and nursery houses allowed in person attendance. From 12 April, primary and secondary education as well as special education started in person teaching.
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- **Cyprus-** As of 2 April, primary schools in the District of Lemesos resumed in person teaching. Students are required to present negative antigen test reports.
- **Czech Republic-** From 12 April, pre-schools and primary schools were allowed to resume in person teaching. They can only operate at 50% capacity if there are more than 75 students in a grade and students must complete antigen tests.
- **France-** All levels of schools conduct online teaching in the week starting on 5 April. After the two-week break starting on 12 April, on 26 April preschool and primary school students resume in person teaching.
- **Hungary-** As of 19 April, primary schools resumed in person teaching.
- **Iceland-** In person teaching resumed after the Easter break under safety regulations.
- **Ireland-** As of 12 April, schools of all levels resumed onsite teaching.
- **Italy-** As of 6 April, 1st to 6th grade students resumed in person teaching in the red zone. Primary education could operate with 50% to 75% capacity and universities could resume in person teaching in the orange zone.
- **Kosovo-** During the lockdown from 7 to 18 April, schools of all levels operated online.
- **Kyrgyz Republic-** Since 1 April, schools resumed in person teaching. From 19 April, some schools were closed in Bishkek due to covid cases.
- **Moldova-** From 19 April, forms 1-5, 9, and 12 resumed in-person classes in the Chisinau municipality. From 21 April, primary schools and forms 9 and 12 resumed in-person classes in the Ungheni municipality.
- **Poland-** From 19 April, nurseries and kindergartens were permitted to open for in-person classes.
- **Portugal-** From 5 April, in-person classes resumed for students in grades 5 and 9. On 19 April, in-person classes resumed for secondary schools and universities.
- **San Marino-** From 12 April, all schools resumed in-person classes.
- **Serbia-** From 19 April, some grades of elementary and secondary schools resumed in-person classes.
- **Slovak Republic-** From 12 of April, Kindergartens, grades 1-4, special schools, secondary health schools, and some grades of secondary schools were permitted to resume in-person classes. From April 19, grades 8 and 9 in low-risk districts were allowed to resume in-person classes,
- **Slovenia-** From 8 April, kindergartens were permitted to re-open. On 12 April, the government allowed all primary school students to return to in-person classes, while secondary schools were allowed to operate on an alternating in-person/remote learning

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	<p>schedule. From 26 April, higher education institutions were permitted to re-open for in-person teaching.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden- From 1 April, the government lifted the recommendation for upper secondary schools to teach remotely. • Switzerland- From 19 April, the government allowed in-person teaching at higher education institutions to resume. • Ukraine- All schools in Kyiv and other red zones were forced to close from 5 April to 16 April. • United Kingdom- From 12 April, schools in Northern Ireland and Scotland were allowed to re-open for in-person teaching.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria- As of 1 April, the states of Burgenland, Lower Austria and Vienna businesses aside from essential shops were suspended. • Bulgaria- From 1 April, cinemas, theaters, museums, galleries, libraries, circus performances, and fitness centres were allowed to operate at 30% capacity. • France- From 7pm 3 April, previous restrictions were extended nationwide: all businesses except essential shops were closed. As of 27 April, some non-essential shops were allowed to open, but must close before 7pm. • Hungary- Due to wide vaccination, from 7 April, services were allowed to open between 5:30am and 9:30pm with social distancing rules in place. Catering services and leisure facilities remain closed. • Italy- During the Easter vacation, which is 3-5 April, the red zone restrictions were applicable nationwide, so all non-essential shops were closed. • Kosovo- From 7 to 18 April, shopping centers and catering services suspended. • Portugal- From 5 April, museums, monuments, palaces, and galleries were permitted to reopen. From 19 April, cinemas, theatres, auditoriums and cultural centers were also allowed to reopen. • Russian Federation- In April, most businesses were permitted to reopen. • San Marino- From 19 April, public markets, and non-essential businesses were permitted to reopen. • Slovenia- The operation of non-essential businesses was prohibited between 1-11 April. From 26 April, restaurants with outdoor spaces were permitted to reopen in regions ranked "orange", while restaurants with indoor space were able to reopen in regions ranked "yellow". • United Kingdom- From 12 April, all non-essential shops in England were permitted to reopen, and non-essential click and collect shops reopened in Northern Ireland. From 5 April, non-essential click and collect retail shops were allowed to reopen in Scotland.

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C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bulgaria- As of 23 April, public events were allowed with no more than 50% of normal capacity and safety measures in place. ● Iceland- From 13 April, sports, cultural, and religious events may operate with more participants. A maximum of 100 people were allowed at funerals. ● Kosovo- From 7 to 18 April, events involving more than 10 participants were prohibited. ● Kyrgyz Republic- As of 5 April, public gatherings were prohibited, without specifying gathering size. Worshipping events remained operating. ● Norway- From 16 April, the government announced that events of up to 100 persons indoors, and 200 persons outdoors are permitted to take place. However, local authorities are able to make decisions regarding the implementation of this policy. ● Slovenia- From 16 April, gatherings of up to 100 persons were permitted to take place. ● Switzerland- From 19 April, events with a maximum of 100 persons outdoors, 50 persons indoors were allowed to resume.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Denmark- As of 21 April, up to 10 people (previously 5) may meet indoors and up to 50 people (previously 10) may meet outdoors. ● Germany- As of 23 April, members of a household can meet up with one other person from outside the household even when the incidence exceeds 100. ● Iceland- From 13 April, up to 20 people can gather. ● Kosovo- Between 7 and 18 April, gathering size was limited to 10 people. ● Norway- As of 16 April, persons are able to receive up to 5 guests in private homes. However, in Oslo persons are only able to receive up to two persons in private homes. ● Slovenia- As of 16 April, gatherings of up to 100 persons have been permitted.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Azerbaijan- Public transportation is closed on weekends in line with the special quarantine regime. ● Belgium- Due to the Easter break, from 3 to 18 April and from 24 to 25 April, trains must operate with reduced capacity. ● Croatia- From 6 April, public transportation must operate at 40% capacity. ● Hungary- As of 7 April, restrictions on public transport were lifted due to wide vaccination. ● Kyrgyz Republic- Starting 5 April, Bishkek city public transport operates on weekdays and weekends from 7:00 – 23:00. ● Ukraine- From 5-16 April, public transportation in red zones was limited to key workers.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Czech Republic- From 12 April, the curfew was lifted.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● France- From 3 April, previous restrictions were applicable nationwide. People were allowed to travel no more than 10km from home without proof of the necessity of traveling. ● Kosovo- From 7 to 18 April, a curfew was in place between 10pm and 5 am. ● Moldova- In April, the government announced a mandatory curfew in Chisinau and Balti from 11:00pm to 5:00 am. ● San Marino- From 26 April, the government announced that all curfews have been lifted. ● United Kingdom- From 12 April, all United Kingdom states have lifted the stay-at-home order.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Czech Republic- From 12 April, restrictions on movement were lifted. ● France- From 5 April, non-essential traveling across departments was banned. ● Lithuania- In April, the government lifted internal movement restrictions. ● Portugal- From 5 April, travel between municipalities was prohibited for a period of two weeks. ● Slovenia- Between 1- 11 April, movement between certain regions was prohibited. This policy was extended, and then lifted on 23 April. ● United Kingdom- From 12 April, domestic travel was permitted.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Albania- As of 12 April, direct flights between Albania and the UK resumed. ● Belgium- As of 19 April, non-essential travel to and from EU nations were permitted, though discouraged. ● Denmark- As of 21 April, entry restrictions were lifted for travelers from the following nations: EU nations, Schengen nations, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Luxembourg- In April, the government launched the "Large Scale Testing" program, which allows both symptomatic and asymptomatic persons to get tested.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slovak Republic- As of 19 April, masks outdoors are no longer mandatory if persons live in one household, or are able to maintain a distance of 5 meters between them.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Andorra- As of 9 April, vaccines were eligible for professional groups and people over 50. ● Belgium- As of 9 April, clinically vulnerable people were eligible for vaccination. ● Bosnia and Herzegovina- On 17 April, the first batch of vaccines arrived via Covax, which were offered to health workers and people over 75.

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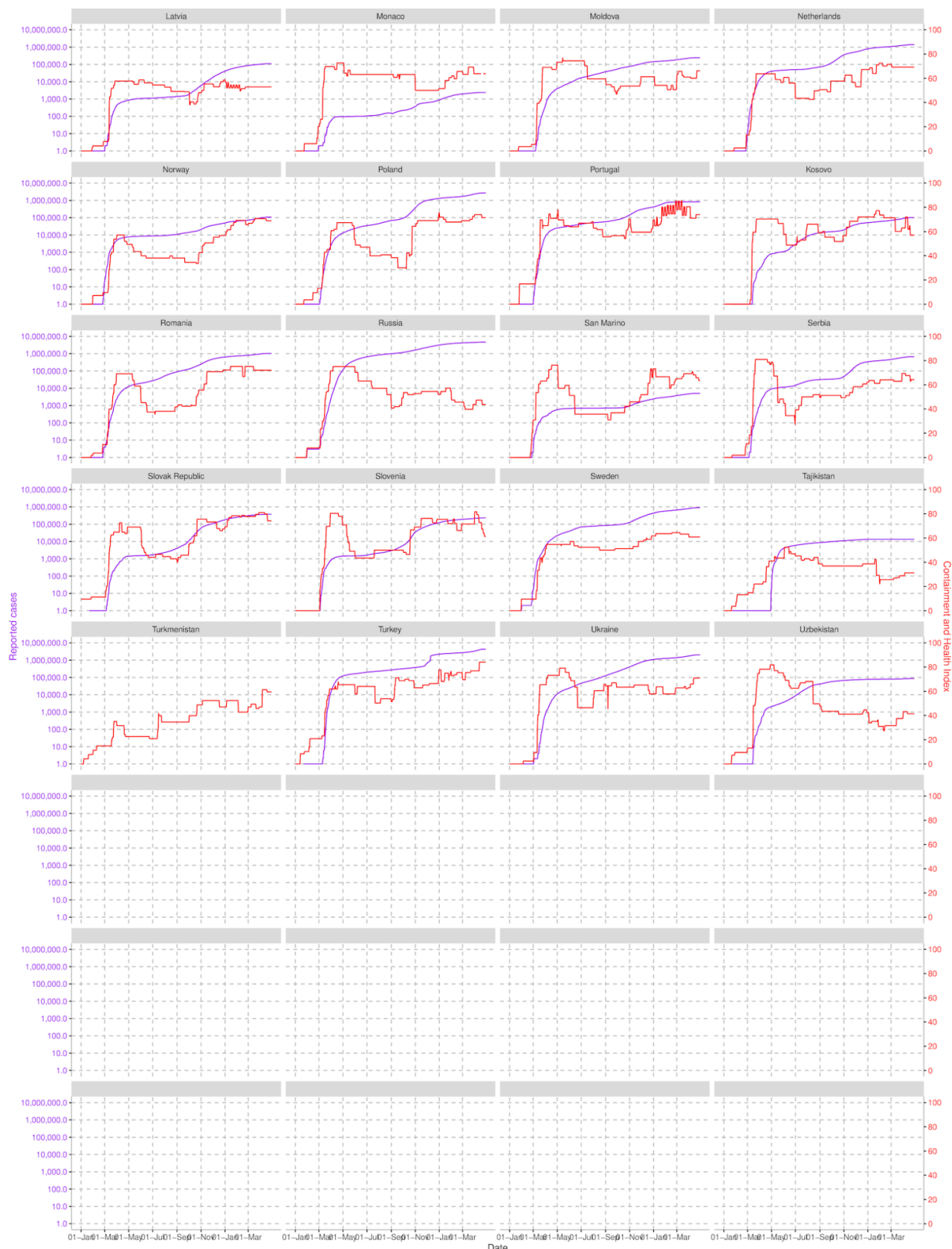
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● France- As of 12 April, vaccination was eligible for people over 55. ● Hungary- From 11 April, teachers were eligible for vaccination. From 19 April, all who have not been vaccinated could register for vaccines. ● Iceland- From 25 April, vaccination was extended to people below 70 while vaccination of key workers and other vulnerable groups continues. ● Italy- As of 16 April, all provinces started to vaccinate the vulnerable groups. ● Kazakhstan- As of 13 April, vaccines started to be rolled out on a voluntary basis. ● Luxembourg- From 7 April, vaccines were made available to persons age 55 and over. ● Poland- As of 1 April, the following three groups are eligible for vaccination: elderly, vulnerable, and key workers. ● San Marino- As of 9 April, vaccine eligibility has been extended to persons above the age of 50. ● Switzerland- From 15 April, persons who are part of clinically vulnerable groups are able to get the vaccine. ● Ukraine- In April, vaccine eligibility has been extended to all primary health care staff and nationals above the age of 80. ● United Kingdom- In April, the government announced that persons under 30 years old would no longer be given the AstraZeneca vaccine. ● Uzbekistan- On 1 April, the first vaccinations were given.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kazakhstan- As of 13 April, the region of Almaty prohibited elderly people from leaving their home except in emergency. From 20 April, Shymkent city restricted the movement of the elderly. ● United Kingdom- From 12 April, persons living in care homes in England are permitted to have two regular indoor visitors,

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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

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