

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report – Middle East & North Africa



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	Middle East and North Africa
Date range	1-30 June, 2021
Reported by	Annamarie Candler, Leen Aghabi, Simon Powell

Brief summary of major changes:

Some countries have begun a phased re-opening of businesses and commercial services in the MENA region. In **Jordan**, movie theatres, fitness centers, swimming pools and entertainment venues were permitted to re-open for vaccinated persons at 50% capacity this month. In **Kuwait**, restaurants and cafés have re-opened for in-person dining. From 27 June, individuals must have received at least one dose of a vaccine to enter some public spaces including restaurants, cafes, gyms, salons, and malls unless they have an exemption from vaccination. **Iraq** announced that vaccination will be mandatory for people working in shops, restaurants, malls and laboratories. Facilities that are non-compliant will be required to close on 1 September. As of 15 June, **Abu Dhabi** is only permitting access those who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 to access shopping malls, hospitality, gyms, public parks, cinemas and museums.

International travel restrictions remained in place in some countries in the MENA region throughout June. **Algeria** banned entry for travelers from **Vietnam** on 1 June. **Oman** has also banned entry from travelers from **Vietnam** as well as **Malaysia** and **Thailand**. In **Lebanon**, incoming travelers from **Brazil** and the **United Kingdom** are required to quarantine for five days upon entry. From 16 June onwards, incoming travelers to **Saudi Arabia** without Saudi Arabian citizenship are required to enter their COVID-19 immunisation records into an online records system prior to entry. In **Tunisia**, international travelers aged 12 and over must present a negative COVID-19 PCR Test within 72 hours of their flight. Vaccinated individuals are no longer exempt from the testing requirement. From 15 June onwards, incoming travelers from the **United States**, **United Kingdom** and **Canada** are permitted to enter **Morocco** without taking a PCR test if fully vaccinated.

Many vaccination programmes continued to across the MENA region this month. **Jordan** continued vaccinations for refugees. Of those eligible, 45% have received their first dose in the Zaatari camp. On 29 June, citizens aged 18+ became eligible for vaccination in **Oman**. A "Pfizer vaccination marathon" event targeting people aged 50+ took place on 25 and 26 June in **Lebanon**.

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C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Israel: On 20 June, students in Modiin-Maccabim-Reut and Binyamina are required to wear masks. ● Jordan: On 1 June, technical and vocational educational facilities were permitted to re-open. ● Malta: Summer schools re-open from 28 June. While the normal school and university year is over, this is a significant development for in-person education. COVID-19 mitigation measures remain in place. ● Qatar: The Qatari government announced a plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions in three phases. Starting 28 May, private educational and training centers are operating at 30% capacity; trainers must be vaccinated. Blended learning also restarted at 30% capacity.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Algeria: On 7 June, plumbers, painters, travel agents, fast food restaurants and art galleries were permitted to re-open. On 13 June, clothing shops, car rentals and hair salons were permitted to re-open. ● Egypt: Many restrictions for businesses were lifted on 1 June. Restaurants and cafes are permitted to remain open until 11:00 PM. Movie theatres are permitted to operate at 50% capacity. ● Israel: From 1 June, restrictions on the green pass and purple badge were lifted. Entry into restaurants, hotels, sports stadiums and other venues is now permitted for unvaccinated children and adults. ● Jordan: From 1 June, movie theatres, fitness centers, swimming pools and entertainment venues were permitted to re-open for vaccinated persons and are permitted to remain open at 50% capacity. Children under age 18 are not required to be vaccinated to access these facilities. ● Kuwait: Restaurants and cafes have re-opened for in-person dining. From 27 June, only individuals who have received at least one dose of a vaccine or those who are exempt from the vaccine may enter certain public spaces including restaurants, cafes, gyms, salons, and malls. ● Malta: Bars, kazini, cinemas and theaters re-opened on 7 June, following seven months of closure. ● Oman: On 2 June, businesses were no longer prohibited from operating between 8:00 PM and 4:00 AM. Exhibitions and wedding halls may operate at 30% capacity and indoor sports centres at 50% capacity. Restrictions on commercial activity were re-introduced on 20 June, when a curfew from 8:00 PM to 4:00 AM was implemented. ● Qatar: The Qatari government announced a plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions in three phases. Phase II started on 18 June; gyms, training clubs and spas to increase to 40% capacity, pools and water parks to operate at 40% outdoors, and indoor water parks at 20% indoors, workplaces to increase to 80% capacity excluding the military, security, and health sectors, museums and libraries to increase to 50% capacity, malls to increase to 50% capacity with no age restriction, and cinemas and theatres to continue at 30% capacity for those over 12. ● Tunisia: Starting 26 June, a nationwide curfew is in effect from 8:00 PM until 5:00 AM. Outside of curfew hours, only emergency and

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	<p>essential movements are permitted. Cafes and restaurants can only serve customers outdoors at 30% capacity or for takeaway. They must be closed by 5:00 PM and must remove their outdoor chairs from 4:00 PM onwards. Supermarkets must limit capacity to 30%.</p>
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel: From 1 June, green pass and purple badge restrictions were lifted. All restrictions on gatherings and events were lifted. • Jordan: Some event facilities were permitted to re-open on 1 June. Both employees and attendees must be vaccinated. • Oman: From 2 June, events at exhibition and wedding halls are permitted with a maximum of 300 guests. Mosques may be attended with up to 100 people. • Qatar: The Qatari government announced a plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions in three phases. Phase II started on 18 June; weddings will be permitted at hotels and wedding venues for up to 40 people, of which at least 75% must be vaccinated. Private beaches to operate at 40% capacity. Mosques will continue to be open for daily and Friday prayers for those over 7, while toilets and ablution facilities will remain closed. • Tunisia: Starting 26 June, gatherings and festivities (including cultural, family, and sports gatherings) of over 30 people are banned. Mosques are also closed. • United Arab Emirates: As of 15 June, Abu Dhabi will restrict the access to public places such as shopping malls, hospitality, gyms, public parks, beaches, entertainment centers, cinemas and museums to those who have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals will need to be tested negative every three days. A fully vaccinated person needs to be tested every 30 days. As of 6 June, public gatherings at live events and social activities are limited to those who have been vaccinated. In Dubai, the maximum attendance for large public events that require permits is now 1,500 for indoors and 2,500 for outdoors.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel: From 1 June, green pass and purple badge restrictions were lifted. All restrictions on gatherings and events were lifted. • Qatar: The Qatari government announced a plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions in three phases. From 18 June, no more than 10 vaccinated people or 5 unvaccinated people to gather indoors. No more than 20 vaccinated people or 10 unvaccinated people are permitted to gather outdoors. • Tunisia: Starting 26 June, gatherings and festivities (including cultural, family, and sports gatherings) of over 30 people are banned. Mosques are also closed.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algeria: From 13 June, buses and taxi services were permitted to resume with limits on the number of passengers. • Egypt: Public transportation has re-opened from 1 June. • Oman: Buses and ferries began operating at reduced hours. • Qatar: The Qatari government announced a plan to lift COVID-19 restrictions in three phases. Phase II started on 18 June; continued limit of 4 people in vehicles including the driver but excluding members of the same family, continuing bus services at 50% capacity, continuing metro services and public transport at 30% capacity. • Tunisia: Public transportation is operating at 50% capacity, but is

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	banned between 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Algeria: The curfew has been modified in 29 provinces including Algiers. In these provinces, movement is restricted from 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM. ● Morocco: A nationwide curfew is enforced between 11:00 PM and 4:30 AM. From 7 June, individuals who are vaccinated and have a vaccine digital passport issued by the Moroccan Government can move freely after 11:00 PM. Those not vaccinated and enrolled in the government's digital vaccination passport program must have written permission from the authorities for movements during curfew hours and to travel between regions. ● Oman: On 20 June, a daily curfew was implemented from 8:00 PM until 4:00 AM. ● Tunisia: Starting 26 June, there is a curfew in place from 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM daily. During curfew hours, all non-emergency movements are prohibited.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iran: Passenger traffic between provinces was banned from midnight on 2 June until midnight on 7 June. ● Morocco: A nationwide curfew is enforced between 11:00 PM and 4:30 AM. From 7 June, individuals who are vaccinated and have a vaccine digital passport issued by the Moroccan Government can move freely after 11:00 PM. Those not vaccinated and enrolled in the government's digital vaccination passport program must have written permission from the authorities for movements during curfew hours and to travel between cities/regions. ● Tunisia: Starting 26 June, travel to and from Greater Tunis is banned until 14 July.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Algeria: Air traffic partially re-opened on 1 June. ● Bahrain: From 1 June, entry for passengers from Vietnam is prohibited. ● Israel: On 15 June, Ukraine, Ethiopia and Turkey were removed from the list of countries from which travel is restricted. ● Lebanon: In addition to global pre-arrival PCR test requirements, from 1 June, travelers arriving from Brazil and the United Kingdom must quarantine in a government-approved hotel for 5 days following arrival and receive a negative PCR test before leaving quarantine. ● Libya: Land, air and sea borders re-opened in Eastern Libya this month. ● Morocco: From 15 June onwards, incoming travelers from the United States, United Kingdom and Canada are permitted to enter without taking a PCR test if fully vaccinated. ● Oman: On 5 June, incoming travel from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam was prohibited. ● Saudi Arabia: The Saudi General Authority on Civil Aviation (GACA) announced that beginning 16 June, all airlines must ensure that all non-Saudi citizen passengers enter their immunization data into the Saudi vaccination registration system "Muqem" before arrival into Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Ministry of Interior announced that travel directly from eleven previously restricted countries, including the United States, will resume as of

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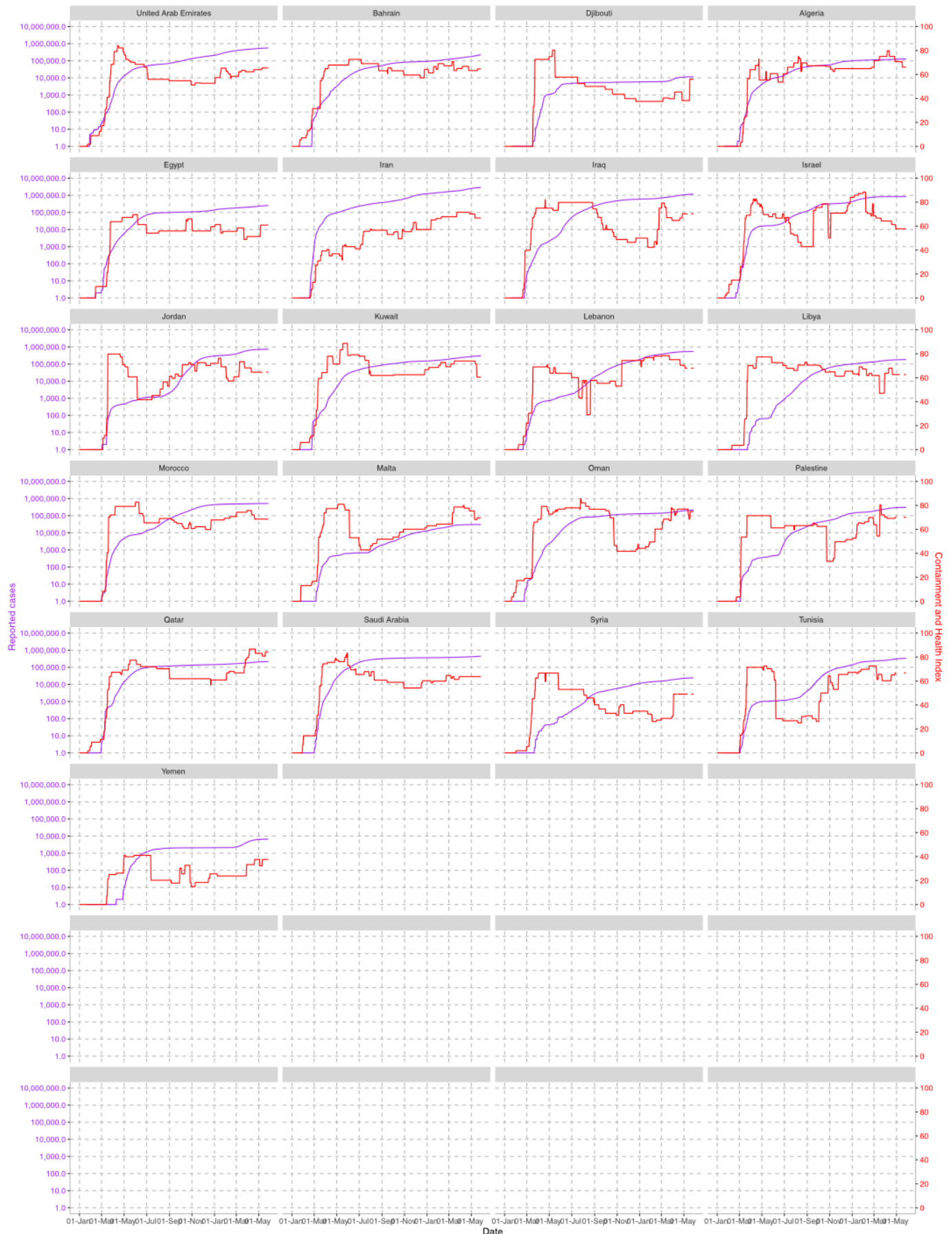


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	<p>30 May, but travelers must follow existing entry requirements. These countries are the United States, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. Travelers will need to follow applicable quarantine measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunisia: International travelers aged 12 and over must present a negative COVID-19 PCR Test within 72 hours of their flight to Tunisia. They also must complete a mandatory seven-day self-quarantine upon entering Tunisia. Vaccinated individuals are no longer exempt from the testing requirement. • United Arab Emirates: India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, South Africa, Pakistan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, The Philippines, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Uganda remain on the UAE flight suspension list.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.
H7: Vaccination Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iraq: People working in shops, restaurants, malls and laboratories are required to get vaccinated. It was announced this month that facilities that are non-compliant will be required to close on 1 September. • Jordan: Some refugees in the Zaatari refugee camp received their vaccine this month. Approximately 29 000 are eligible for vaccination and 45% have received their first dose according to the UNHCR. • Lebanon: Vaccination eligibility expanded to include all people aged over 53 from 13 June. A "Pfizer vaccination marathon" event targeting people aged 50+ took place on 25-26 June. • Oman: Vaccination eligibility expanded to everyone aged 18 and over (from 45 and over) on 29 June.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major changes recorded.

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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://www.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