

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

<b>REGION</b>	Europe and Central Asia
<b>Date range</b>	01 March - 31 March 2021
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## Brief summary of major changes:

March brought further closure of schools across the region, including **Belgium, Iceland, Kyrgyz Republic, Norway**, and **Poland**. This month also saw the reopening of schools in several nations, including, **Russia, Netherlands, Portugal**, and **Turkey**. Additionally, workplace closures can be seen across the region in **Norway, Ukraine, Bulgaria**, and **Greece**. Businesses reopened in **Denmark, Romania, Netherlands, Moldova**, and **The Faroe Islands**.

<b>C1: School Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Belgium-</b> From 29 March until 19 April, all levels of schools suspended face-to-face teaching.</li><li>• <b>Bulgaria-</b> From 22 March, in-person teaching was suspended for all school levels, except for practical training in medicine, dental medicine, healthcare, pharmacy, and public health.</li><li>• <b>Cyprus-</b> From 12 March, private and public schools of primary education switched to online teaching in Limassol District.</li><li>• <b>Denmark-</b> From 22 March, all levels of schools in different districts started to re-open in different degrees.</li><li>• <b>Estonia-</b> From 11 March, all levels of schools switched to online teaching.</li><li>• <b>Finland-</b> From 8 March, students who are 13 or older switched to remote learning in Uusimaa.</li><li>• <b>Georgia-</b> From 1 March, preschools were allowed to open. Higher and vocational education were allowed to resume face-to-face practical learning and examinations.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greece-</b> As of 16 March, all school levels across the nation were closed.</li> <li>• <b>Iceland-</b> From 25 to 31 March, face-to-face teaching was suspended in primary schools, music schools, upper secondary schools and universities.</li> <li>• <b>Ireland-</b> As of 1 March, half of primary school students returned to school. On 15 March, the rest of primary level students and 5th-year post-primary level students returned to school. On 29 March, early childcare and education facilities opened.</li> <li>• <b>Kyrgyz Republic-</b> From 1 to 22 March, i.e. before the spring break, all levels of education switched to online teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Moldova-</b> From 1-15 March, the government announced that all primary education institutions, vocational schools, and higher education schools were required to move to remote teaching. On 16 March, a color coding system dependent on the proportion of covid infections in a region was implemented to determine whether or not students could resume in-person teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands-</b> On 1 March secondary schools and instructions of secondary vocational education were permitted to partially open.</li> <li>• <b>Norway-</b> On 16 of March, all lower and upper secondary schools in Oslo were required to move to remote teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Poland-</b> On 20 March, all schools were required to move to remote teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Portugal-</b> As of 15 March, pre-schools, primary schools (grades 1-4), and daycare centres were permitted to resume in-person teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Russia-</b> In March, schools were permitted to resume in-person teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Serbia-</b> From 8 March, secondary schools were required to move to remote teaching. On 15 March, some levels of primary school students moved to remote teaching.</li> <li>• <b>Turkey-</b> On 2 March, pre-schools, primary schools, and grades 8 and 12 were permitted to resume in-person teaching.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom-</b> As of 8 March, schools in England Reopened for in-person teaching, and pupils in levels P1-P3 returned to class in Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>
<b>C2: Workplace Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bulgaria-</b> On 22 March, additional anti-epidemic measures were introduced, which require that all workplaces close except grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies, drugstores, opticians, pet stores, banks, insurers, postal and courier service providers,</li> </ul>

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	<p>payment service providers, telecommunications operators' offices, communications and utility providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Croatia-</b> From 1 March, betting offices were allowed to open, but could only serve food and drink in outdoor areas.</li> <li>• <b>Cyprus-</b> From 16 March, catering businesses were allowed to operate in outdoor areas under safety guidelines.</li> <li>• <b>Denmark-</b> From 1 March, clothing and furniture stores of up to 5,000 square meters (54,000 square feet) in floor space were allowed to open.</li> <li>• <b>Estonia-</b> As of 6 March, restaurants and businesses must close on weekends. On weekdays, restaurants can only operate between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. with 25% of normal capacity. As of 11 March, all non-essential businesses are closed.</li> <li>• <b>Faroe Islands-</b> From 1 March, stores smaller than 5000 square meters reopened.</li> <li>• <b>Finland-</b> From 8 March, restaurants were closed in Uusimaa.</li> <li>• <b>Germany-</b> From 1 March, hairdressers were allowed to open under hygiene guidelines across the nation.</li> <li>• <b>Greece-</b> From 16 March, non-essential businesses and entertainment facilities were suspended across the nation.</li> <li>• <b>Hungary-</b> From 8 March, non-essential businesses must close. The service sector closed except for private health, social, financial, postal and vehicle services. Restaurants could only offer take-away services. Flower shops were only allowed to open on Women's day.</li> <li>• <b>Iceland-</b> As of 25 March, nightclubs, bars, arcades, and gambling machines were closed.</li> <li>• <b>Italy-</b> From 6 March, non-essential businesses were closed in regions deemed 'red' (high risk).</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan-</b> Between 21 and 28 March, a wide range of cultural, educational, entertainment and sports facilities, and non-essential shops were closed in Almaty city. As of 30 March in Nur-Sultan city, shopping and entertainment centers must close before 5 p.m. on weekdays and on weekends.</li> <li>• <b>Monaco-</b> In March the government announced that working from home is compulsory for workers in the private and public sectors.</li> <li>• <b>Moldova-</b> From 5 March, commercial centres were permitted to re-open on weekends.</li> <li>• <b>Netherlands-</b> From 3 March, persons working in contact-based professions were permitted to re-open with several COVID-19 restrictions in place.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Norway-</b> Non-essential businesses in Oslo were forced to close on 2 March.</li> <li>• <b>Portugal-</b> From 15 March, the government required restaurants in shopping centres to close, and required several types of businesses to close by a certain time.</li> <li>• <b>Romania-</b> As of 10 March, cinemas, performance institutions, restaurants, cafes, and hotels were permitted to re-open at 50% capacity.</li> <li>• <b>Turkmenistan-</b> In March, several shops, shopping malls, and restaurants were required to close.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine-</b> From 20 March, the government announced the closure of cinemas, shopping malls, and non-essential stores.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom-</b> From 15 March, hairdressers and barbers in Wales were permitted to re-open.</li> </ul>
<b>C3: Cancel Public Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria-</b> From 15 March, events were allowed in Vorarlberg under safety restrictions.</li> <li>• <b>Estonia-</b> From 11 March, outdoor public events and religious services were allowed with a maximum of 10 participants. Indoor events were no longer allowed.</li> <li>• <b>Faroe Islands-</b> From 9 March, events with no more than 200 participants were allowed with registration.</li> <li>• <b>Finland-</b> Until 14 March, in Helsinki and Uusimaa Hospital District, events of more than 6 people were prohibited. Until 4 March in South Savo province and until 22 March in North Karelia province and North Savo province, events of more than 20 people were prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Greece-</b> From 16 March, public events were prohibited across the nation.</li> <li>• <b>Iceland-</b> As of 25 March, cultural events were prohibited and religious events could only have up to 30 participants.</li> <li>• <b>Liechtenstein-</b> From 1 March, public events limited to 10 persons are permitted to take place.</li> <li>• <b>Moldova-</b> From 1-15 March, public events were prohibited. This policy was extended and is still in place.</li> <li>• <b>Romania-</b> From 10 March, outdoor public events with up to 300 persons, with seats, are permitted to take place.</li> </ul>
<b>C4: Restrictions on Gatherings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria-</b> From 15 March, outdoor educational activities were allowed. There could be up to 20 students under 18 and 3 accompanying adults.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belgium-</b> From 27 March, the maximum gathering size was reduced from 10 to 4.</li> <li>• <b>Bulgaria-</b> As of 13 March, gathering size was limited to 10 in Dobrich district. The limit is still 15 for the rest of the nation.</li> <li>• <b>Cyprus-</b> From 15 March, a maximum of 6 people can meet in outdoor squares.</li> <li>• <b>Denmark-</b> From 1 March, up to 25 people are allowed to gather outdoors. The indoor gathering limit is still 5 people.</li> <li>• <b>Estonia-</b> As of 11 March, the 2+2 rule allowed up to 2 people from different households to gather in public spaces while observing a 2-meter distance. Up to 10 people were allowed in outdoor public or religious events.</li> <li>• <b>Faroe Islands-</b> From 9 March, 200 people are allowed to meet in organized events under safety measures.</li> <li>• <b>Iceland-</b> From 25 March, the maximum gathering size was reduced from 50 to 10.</li> <li>• <b>Italy-</b> As the new decree came into effect on 15 March, citizens in the high risk regions were not allowed to receive visitors, while those in the medium and low risk regions were allowed up to 2 visitors.</li> <li>• <b>Norway-</b> From 25 March national restrictions limit gatherings to 20 persons. However, as of 2 March, gatherings in Oslo are limited to no more than 10 persons.</li> </ul>
<b>C5: Close Public Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan-</b> Between 20 March and 29 March, public transport was suspended.</li> <li>• <b>Greece-</b> As of 16 March, the Melasinas Civil Protection Emergency ended. Public transportation was allowed to operate but masks were required and only one passenger was allowed in a taxi.</li> <li>• <b>Greenland-</b> From 16 March, public transportation was fully open.</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan-</b> On 28 March, public transportation in Nur-Sultan was banned for one day.</li> <li>• <b>Kyrgyz Republic-</b> From 1 March, Bishkek city public transport only operated on weekdays and weekends from 7:00 – 23:00.</li> <li>• <b>Moldova-</b> From 1-15 March movement by public transportation on the weekends was suspended in Chisinau municipality.</li> </ul>

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<b>C6: Stay at Home requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina-</b> From 18 March, a curfew from 8:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. was in place in West Herzegovina. From 19 March, the nationwide curfew was extended from 23:00-5:00 to 21:00-5:00.</li> <li>• <b>France-</b> As of 26 March, movement restrictions were extended to Aube, Nièvre, and Rhône. In a total of 19 departments, non-essential travel to more than 10km away from residence were banned.</li> <li>• <b>Greece-</b> As of 16 March, the Melasinas Civil Protection Emergency ended. Non-essential travel is prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan-</b> From 28 March, non-essential travel, except for work or to buy food or medicines, was banned in Almaty and Nur-Sultan.</li> <li>• <b>Kosovo-</b> From 11 March, night curfew was lifted in the Red Zone.</li> <li>• <b>Moldova-</b> From 5 March, those living in “red code” areas were required to stay at home apart from essential outings.</li> <li>• <b>Monaco-</b> In March the government implemented a curfew between 7 pm and 6 am.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom-</b> On 27 of March the government of Wales moved from a “stay at home” policy, to a “stay local” policy.</li> </ul>
<b>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria-</b> After 10 March, there were no longer movement restrictions in and out of Tyrol. From 5 March, screening was required leaving the municipalities of Bad Hofgastein and Radstadt.</li> <li>• <b>Cyprus-</b> From 1 March, movements of specified purposes were allowed among districts.</li> <li>• <b>Czech Republic-</b> From 1 March, non-essential travel among districts was banned. From 22 March, departure from the capital city was banned and entrance was banned for people without a permanent residence.</li> <li>• <b>France-</b> From 5-8 and 13-14 March, movement in and out of the Alpes-Maritimes was prohibited. From 19 March, non-essential inter-regional travel was banned.</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan-</b> As of 27 March, the Uilsky district of Aktobe region entered the “red zone”, screening was required on people traveling in and out.</li> <li>• <b>Lithuania-</b> From 16 March the government restricted movement, and banned travel to and from several municipalities. The government then announced that movement between municipalities is prohibited from 27 March- 6 April.</li> </ul>

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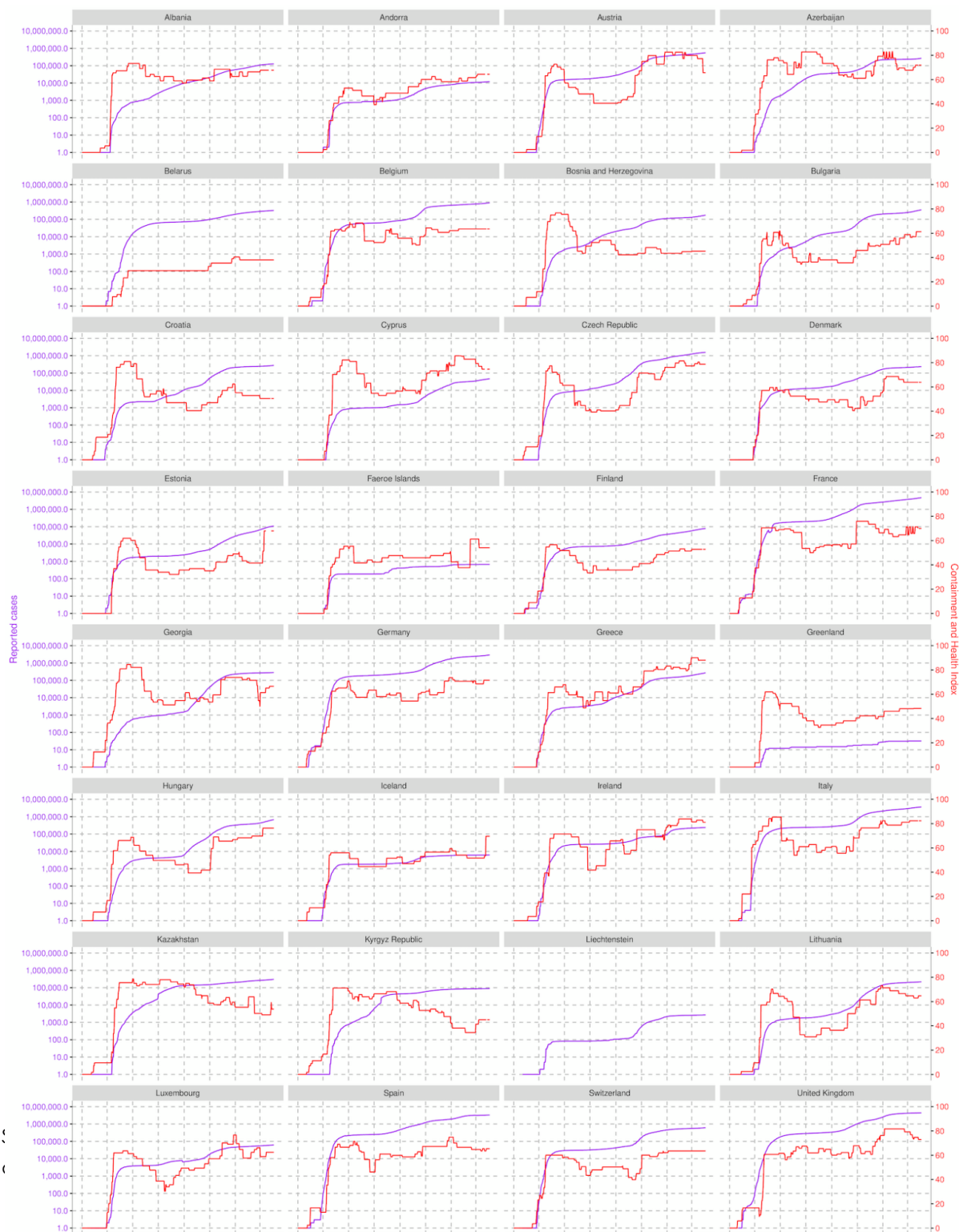
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Portugal-</b> From 16 March movement between municipalities on the weekends was prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>Spain-</b> From 17- 21 March movement was limited in several regions throughout the country to curb the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• <b>Turkey-</b> On 1 March, the government announced that no intercity travel permits were required for travel between low and medium risk provinces.</li> <li>• <b>United Kingdom-</b> On 27 of March the government of Wales lifted restrictions on movement.</li> </ul>
<b>C8: International Travel Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austria-</b> From 22 March, the UK flight ban ended.</li> <li>• <b>France-</b> From 12 March, non-essential travel from and to Australia, Israel, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, New Zealand and Britain was allowed.</li> <li>• <b>Georgia-</b> From 1 March, negative PCR test results were required from passengers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Belarus.</li> <li>• <b>Germany-</b> From 30 March, France was listed as a high-risk country. Passengers from France need to present negative PCR tests upon arrival and quarantine for 10 days.</li> <li>• <b>Moldova-</b> From 5 March, all travellers must present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of their flight, and quarantine for 14 days.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine-</b> From 24 March, all travellers must present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of their flight.</li> </ul>
<b>H2: Testing Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Germany-</b> From 8 March, comprehensive testing in schools and daycare centres was available in the Länder. Besides, one government-funded rapid test is available to each citizen each week.</li> </ul>
<b>H3: Contact Tracing</b>	No major changes reported.
<b>H6: Facial Coverings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Czech Republic-</b> From 20 March, masks were not mandatory during exercise or in the countryside, when 2-meter distancing can be maintained.</li> <li>• <b>Hungary-</b> From 8 March, masks were mandatory on all streets and public areas within the populated area.</li> <li>• <b>Liechtenstein-</b> From 1 March, face masks are required in all public spaces.</li> </ul>



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- **Norway**- From 25 March face masks are mandatory in any space where it is not possible to maintain 2 metres distance.

## Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



please see the



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