

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report – Latin America and Caribbean



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	Latin America and Caribbean
Date range	1-31 March, 2021
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Brief summary of major changes:

While some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean suspended in-person classes in March, others reopened schools. In **Cuba**, **Uruguay** and various parts of **Brazil**, the government suspended face-to-face classes, requiring students to learn remotely. In contrast, schools in **Puerto Rico** began reopening for in-person learning at the start of the month. Although some schools began opening for hybrid learning in **Paraguay** at the beginning of the month, the government began prohibiting all in-person learning again on 27 March.

Changes in business restrictions and curfews also varied across countries in the region. For example, cinemas, casinos and sports fields could reopen in **Panama** beginning 6 March. Meanwhile, the government in **Uruguay** ordered all workers older than 65 to telework from 23 March onwards. Although **Barbados** and **Suriname** shortened their curfews, **Colombia** enacted curfews based on municipalities' ICU occupancy.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil: In response to an increase in COVID-19 cases, the city government of Palmas prohibited face-to-face classes at public and private institutions. Sao Paulo also prohibited such classes beginning 9 March in areas that were designated in the orange or red phases. On 12 March, Paraná suspended face-to-face classes in public schools only. • Cuba: While some schools remained closed, the Educational Channel began televising teaching activities in Havana and the rest of the country, except Pinar del Río, on March 15. Broadcasts for subjects not already televised began after the conclusion of the National Baseball Series.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puerto Rico: In a loosening of restrictions, schools were gradually allowed to re-open to some in-person learning starting 1 March. Students in kindergarten, grades 1, 2, 3 and 12 as well as special education students in areas of low COVID-19 transmission can now attend in-person classes in the mornings twice a week. • Paraguay: Initially loosening restrictions on 2 March to gradually open some schools for hybrid learning for students, the country reversed course and restricted in-person learning once again on 27 March. • Uruguay: Starting 23 March, all in-person learning was suspended in a tightening of restrictions.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: In a loosening of restrictions on 1 March, nonessential businesses in the manufacturing, food, professional services, cleaning, construction, financial and delivery services industries reopened according to health protocols. On 28 March, only certain businesses, such as cleaning services for essential purposes, were allowed to open. From 29 March to the end of the month, all business could reopen with some exceptions. • Brazil: Several cities in the state of Ceara, such as Palhano, closed non-essential businesses which closed them on 3 March. On 6 March, the city government of Palmas closed non-essential businesses too. • Panama: In a continued relaxation of restrictions, movie theatres, casinos and sports fields, were allowed to re-open beginning 6 March. • Paraguay: From 27 March, in a tightening of restrictions, non-essential businesses were ordered to operate only by delivery. • Suriname: Beginning 1 March outdoor dining was allowed to restart, until 22:00 on weekdays and 20:00 on weekends, and also for delivery until 23:59. Essential stores, like supermarkets, were also permitted to stay open past curfew and allow 2 people per household to enter at one time. Previously, all stores were ordered to close 1 hour before curfew with only 1 person per household allowed to enter. • Uruguay: All people over 65 years of age working in the public sector were ordered to telework from 23 March in a tightening of restrictions. Public offices were also to remain shut until mid-April. • Venezuela: Beginning 22 March, all non-essential stores were ordered shut until mid-April in a tightening of restrictions that saw the country extending the restrictive 7 days of their 7 + 7 plan, which cycled between restrictions for 7 days and relaxed measures for the following 7 days. • United States Virgin Islands: Beginning March 8, restaurants were able to increase their capacity to 75% in a loosening of restrictions.

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C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil: On 5 March, Sergipe banned all events until 21 March. The state government of Alagoas also suspended all events on 5 March. • Paraguay: Beginning 27 March, public events were banned, and church services were restricted to 20 people. • United States Virgin Islands: From 30 March, in a relaxation of restrictions, churches are permitted to have up to 200 people attend.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: In mid-March, the government loosened restrictions on gatherings for religious and funeral services as well as wedding ceremonies. No more than 75 people were to attend a religious service, and funeral services were to have no more than 25 mourners. Wedding ceremonies were permitted to have 20 guests, in addition to the bride/groom, 2 witnesses and the marriage officer. • Dominica: In a tightening of restrictions, the government prohibited public gatherings from having more than 199 individuals in attendance, a decrease from the previous 250 individuals limit. • Jamaica: Between 7 March and 22 March, funerals and burials were banned. Attendance limits for weddings were cut from 50 to 25 people, also beginning 7 March, in a tightening of restrictions.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: On 15 March, occupancy on public vehicles increased to 75 percent of full capacity, an increase from the previous 60 percent occupancy restriction. • Brazil: Curitiba in Paraná was put under a red flag on 13 March, requiring public transport to operate at 50% capacity. • Paraguay: Beginning 27 March, restrictions were tightened, with public transport only allowing seated passengers and a stopping of short-, medium-, and long-term transport.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbados: In a relaxation of restrictions on 15 March, the government reduced curfew hours to be from 21:00 to 06:00. In another loosening of restrictions on 28 March, the government altered curfew hours to be from 21:00 to 05:00. • Brazil: On 17 March, São Jose do Rio Preto began requiring individuals to have proper justification in order to leave their home. • Chile: On 13 March, the government extended the curfew hours from 23:00 to 05:00 to 22:00 to 05:00. • Colombia: From 26 March to 29 March and from 31 March to 5 April, curfews were enacted to combat a third wave of COVID-19 cases. In cities where ICU occupancy exceeded 70%, the curfew lasted from 22:00 to 05:00. In cities where ICU occupancy was larger than 50%, the curfew lasted from 00:00 to 05:00. • Suriname: On 1 March, the curfew hours were shortened by 1

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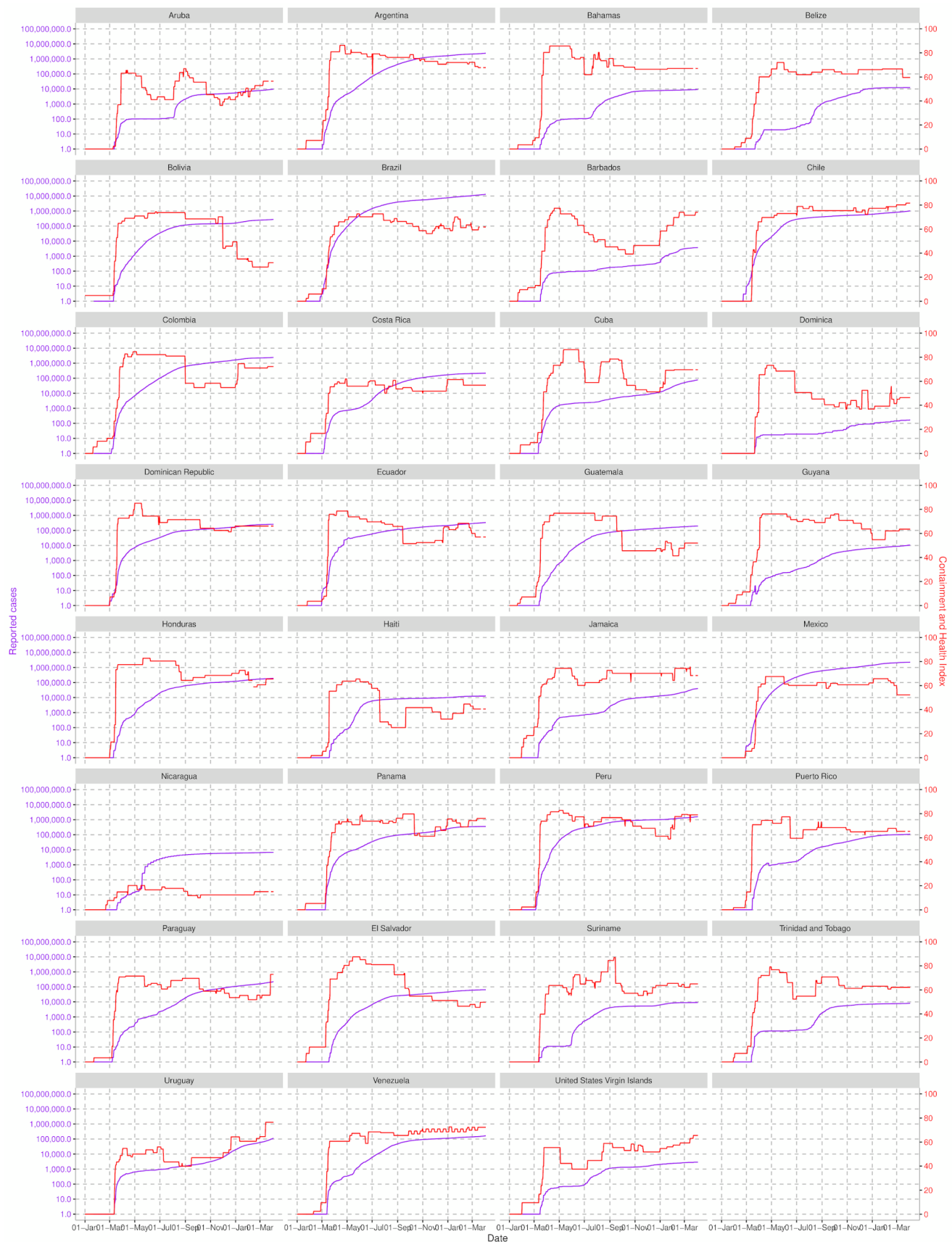
	hour, to 23:00-05:00 on weekdays and 21:00-05:00 on weekends.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil: From 1 March to 8 March, the city government of Matinhos in the state of Paraná created sanitary barriers such that only residents and those who worked in the city could enter.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aruba: On March 18, travel restrictions with Peru were lifted while those with South Africa were imposed. • Bolivia: The government extended the ban on passenger flights to and from Europe to 31 May. • Chile: Starting 11 March, all passengers arriving from Brazil or who were in Brazil in the past 14 days were required to go to a "sanitary residence" until they received their COVID-19 test result. Those who tested negative were allowed to complete their mandatory 11-day quarantine at their final destination, and those who tested positive had to complete their quarantine at their sanitary residence. • Ecuador: Beginning 22 March, all travelers entering the country must have had proof of a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR or antigen test that was taken no longer than three days before arrival. Travelers could also use their vaccination card proving complete vaccination to enter the country. Airline crew members and minors under two years of age were exempt from these restrictions, and additional rules applied to travelers going to the Galapagos Islands. • Guyana: As of 1 March, the Moleson Creek border crossing to Suriname was reopened for 3 days per week. • Jamaica: From 4 March, in a tightening of restrictions, negative PCR tests taken no longer than 72 hours before an incoming flight were now required for incoming travellers. Additionally, from 16 March, all returning travellers must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. • Peru: From 9 March, international flight bans were lifted and all incoming international travellers must provide a negative PCR test and quarantine for the first 14 days. However, non-resident travellers who had spent any time in the United Kingdom, South Africa or Brazil during the 14 days before their flight were not permitted entry, and international land borders were closed.
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.

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Cases vs Containment and Health Index:

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Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at <https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker> or 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