

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report – South 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	SOUTH ASIA
Date range	01-31 December, 2020
Reported by	Rushay Naik

Brief summary of major changes:

Through the month of December, several countries across South Asia maintained substantial containment measures, as new COVID-19 outbreaks involving community transmission emerged in the region. With regard to schools, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka maintained closures throughout the December period, each extending previously implemented restrictions on in-person classes. Bhutan entered another national lockdown on 23 December—its second since the beginning of the pandemic. After first closing all shops, offices, schools, and institutions across the Thimphu 'super zone' on 20 December, only essential businesses remained in operation, and inter-district travel of people and vehicles was restricted by police. These measures were later extended nationwide for the next 7 days for the remainder of the year. In Sri Lanka, targeted lockdowns continued to restrict workplaces, public events, gatherings, and movements outside the home in various divisions in Western Province, particularly in pockets of the Colombo metropolitan region.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bangladesh: extended school closures until at least January, past the previously expected opening on 19 December; schools have been closed since 17 March nationwide ● Bhutan: closed all schools in the Thimphu 'super zone' on 20 December, including in Thimphu thromde and its peripheral areas of Debsi, Gangchey, Nyezergang, Begana, and Changtagang; on 23 December, school closures were expanded nationwide under a second lockdown until the end of the period ● Pakistan: maintained its nationwide closure of schools and educational institutes through to the December holiday period, with government expressing plans to reopen educational institutes in January
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: closed all non-essential shops and offices in the Thimphu 'super zone' on 20 December, including in Thimphu thromde and

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	<p>its peripheral areas of Debsi, Gangchey, Nyezergang, Begana, and Changtagang; on 23 December, non-essential workplace closures were expanded nationwide under a second lockdown until the end of the period, with designated essential shops and services remaining available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sri Lanka: closed some non-essential workplaces through various targeted lockdowns in divisions of Western Province, including for select areas in Wellawatte in Colombo on 17 December, areas in Induruwa on 19 December, and the towns of Kosgama, Awissawella, and Rowanwella on 24 December, among several other smaller police areas
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: cancelled all public events as part of lockdown measures, first on 20 December in the Thimphu 'super zone', and later nationwide on 23 December ● Sri Lanka: banned public gatherings in the towns of Kosgama, Awissawella, and Ruwanwella east of Colombo on 24 December, among other smaller police divisions across Western Province
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: restricted all gatherings outside of households as part of lockdown measures, first on 20 December in the Thimphu 'super zone', and later nationwide on 23 December ● Sri Lanka: restricted gatherings outside of households for police divisions targeted for 'isolation' throughout the month of December, including in the towns of Kosgama, Awissawella, and Ruwanwella east of Colombo on 24 December, among other smaller police divisions across Western Province
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: cancelled all inter-district transports on 20 December, preventing the non-essential movement of people and vehicles between districts as monitored by police ● Sri Lanka: imposed restrictions on public transport operation in police divisions targeted for 'isolation' throughout the month of December, particularly in towns across Western Province
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: implemented stay-at-home requirements, with the exception of accessing essential services, as part of lockdown measures, first on 20 December in the Thimphu 'super zone', and later nationwide on 23 December ● Sri Lanka: required residents in police divisions targeted for 'isolation' to stay at home throughout the month of December, under curfew-like conditions
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhutan: prevented all inter-district movements in the country on 20 December, preventing the non-essential movement of people and vehicles between districts as monitored by police
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sri Lanka: banned all flights from the United Kingdom on 22 December, in a move to prevent the transmission of the new

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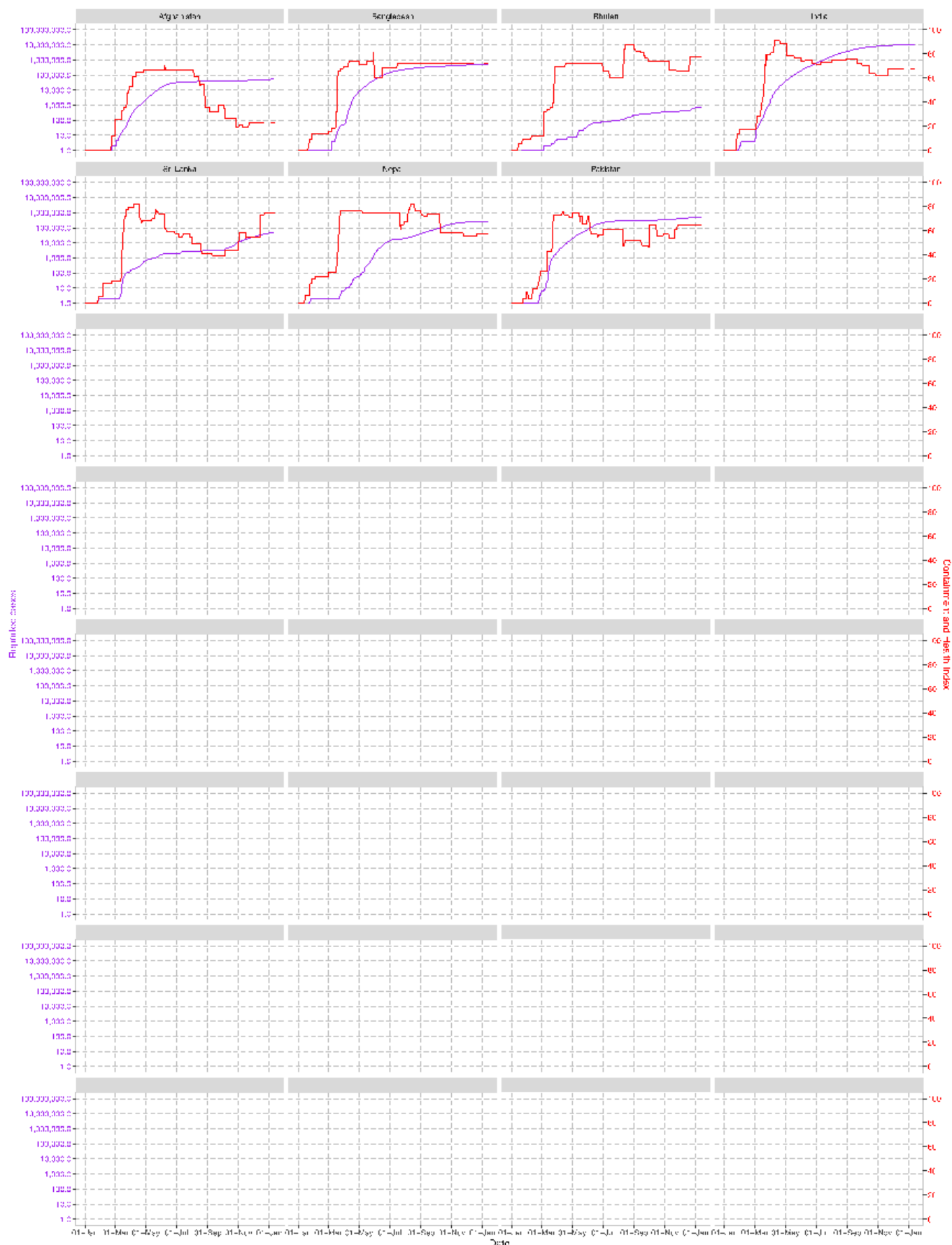


	COVID-19 variant spreading in the south of England
H2: Testing Policy	No changes reported
H3: Contact Tracing	No changes reported

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Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker> or [bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)