

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - East Asia and Pacific



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	East Asia and Pacific
Date range	1-31 March 2021
Reported by	Thomas Benson

Brief summary of major changes:

In March 2021 **Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam**, and **Indonesia** continued to battle the spread of COVID-19 through the use of localised lockdowns, curfews, and limits on capacity in venues. Across the region, schools have mostly reopened, indicating that all countries are concerned about the impact of prolonged school closures on students. International travel, meanwhile, remains restricted in most cases.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand: Until 7 March, Auckland was at Level 3 restrictions, necessitating at-home tuition for school children, while the rest of New Zealand was at Level 2. As of 12 March, the whole of New Zealand was downgraded to Level 1 and schools have reopened. • Philippines: the regions Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and the National Capital Region have all been placed under enhanced lockdown measures until 30 April. • Thailand: Samut Sakhon region remains under 'red zone' restrictions, with schools closed. • Timor-Leste: A general stay-at-home order is in place for the municipalities of Dili, Baucau, and Viqueque. • Vietnam: as of 2 March most schools have reopened. • Vanuatu: as of 6 March restrictions have been lifted.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: as of 12 March businesses have reopened in most states. In New South Wales, all businesses are open with the exception of nightclubs. • Brunei: businesses have reopened with social distancing measures in place and an 80% capacity limit in cinemas.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia: There is a nation-wide temporary suspension of cinemas, art theaters and museums. • Guam: restaurants have reopened, but buffets and salad bars remain prohibited. • Indonesia: East Kalimantan, South Sulawesi and North Sumatra are subject to temporary restrictions, with office and restaurant capacity limited to 50 percent. • Japan: emergency measures apply to Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa. Restaurants remain closed after 8pm. • Macau SAR: as of 3 March it is no longer required to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test before entry into a casino. • Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar has been placed under an 'orange' alert, effective until 5 April. • Malaysia: a curfew is in effect for all businesses. • New Zealand: until 7 March, Auckland was at Level 3 restrictions, while the rest of New Zealand was at Level 2. As of 12 March, the whole of New Zealand was downgraded to Level 1 and restrictions have been lifted. • Philippines: the provinces of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and the National Capital Region are under lockdown. • Papua New Guinea: businesses remain limited to proscribed hours. • Timor-Leste: A general stay-at-home order is in place for the municipalities of Dili, Baucau, and Viqueque. Municipal markets in Dili municipality have limited opening hours from 6:30-18:30. • Vietnam: most businesses have resumed normal operations, with the exception of bars and nightclubs.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: restrictions on public gatherings remain in place in some Australian States and Territories. In Victoria, groups of up to 200 people can meet in a public outdoor space from any number of households. In New South Wales, meanwhile, no more than 50 people can gather outside in a public place. • Japan: the government continues to restrict very large gatherings, with a limit of 5,000 indoors. • Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar has been placed under an 'orange' alert, effective until 5 April 2021. Large gatherings are prohibited. • New Zealand: until 7 March, Auckland was at Level 3 restrictions, while the rest of New Zealand was at Level 2. As of 12 March, the whole of New Zealand was downgraded to Level 1 and restrictions have been lifted. • Philippines: the provinces of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and the National Capital Region have been placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). • Singapore: live performances at designated venues will be allowed to have up to 750 attendees if they implement pre-event testing, or to have up to 250 attendees if they do not implement pre-event testing.

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C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: In Victoria you can have up to 30 visitors to your home per day, meaning the household members plus 30 visitors. In New South Wales, up to 50 visitors from any number of households may visit another at any one time. • Brunei: a 350 people restriction on gatherings is still in effect. • Fiji: non-work gatherings are limited to 50% of the venue capacity. • Guam: public and private events, including weddings and funerals, may not exceed 25 people. • Myanmar: the military regime has instituted a ban on gatherings of five or more people, and a nationwide curfew from 8:00 P.M. until 4:00 A.M. that supersedes previous COVID-19 policies. • Papua New Guinea: as of 12 March authorities have restricted public gatherings to 50 people. • Philippines: holdings of weddings, baptisms, and funeral services are limited to 10 persons. • Timor-Leste: all social, cultural, sporting and religious events that involve gatherings of people are prohibited. • Vanuatu: as of 6 March, no restrictions on gatherings are in place.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan: emergency measures have been cancelled in all but four prefectures. In Tokyo, the schedule changes to reduce late night crowds on public transportation continue to be in place. • Laos: public transportation has resumed. • Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar has been placed under an 'orange' alert status, effective until 5 April 2021, under which vehicle and pedestrian movements are restricted between 11 pm to 6 am. • Philippines: interprovincial travel remains unrestricted; however, authorities limit capacity to 15 people on 25-30-seat vehicles.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: as of 19th March 2021, there are no stay at home orders in place within Australia. • Japan: in the four prefectures where the emergency measures continue to apply, the guidance requests that citizens refrain from going out and moving unnecessarily. • Philippines: Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and the National Capital Region are under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) lockdown measures. • Timor-Leste: a general stay-at-home order is in place for the municipalities of Dili, Baucau, and Viqueque. • Vietnam: a curfew is currently in place for specific locations identified as "outbreak areas" by the Vietnamese government.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: as of the 15 March there are no interstate border restrictions within Australia. • Cambodia: as of 4 March all travel to and from Preah Sihanouk Province has been suspended until further notice. • Myanmar: residents of Yangon Region must comply with a series of restrictions on interregional travel.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippines: checkpoints are in place and domestic air travel remains limited. • Papua New Guinea: all domestic air travelers must have a valid reason for travel and must provide proof of a negative COVID test (PCR or antigen) administered within one day prior to boarding. • Timor-Leste: a general stay-at-home order is in place for the municipalities of Dili, Baucau, and Viqueque. • Vietnam: individuals traveling from any areas identified by the Vietnamese government as an "outbreak area", particularly in Hai Duong, Quang Ninh, and Hai Phong may be sent to centralized quarantine facilities or required to self-quarantine at home
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: borders are closed to non-citizens (with very limited exception). • Fiji: entry to Fiji is restricted to Fiji citizens and, in some cases, foreign nationals with work or residence permits. • South Korea: the Government of the Republic of Korea has announced that the temporary suspension of direct flights from the UK to South Korea has been extended until 1 April 2021. • Myanmar: on 19 March, Burmese authorities announced the temporary suspension of entry and exit of foreign nationals through land borders. • Philippines: from 22 March to 4 April, the Philippine government has suspended the entry of all foreign nationals. • Taiwan: from 1 March, non-R.O.C. nationals are allowed to visit Taiwan for medical purposes. • Timor-Leste: a State of Emergency (SOE) is in effect for all of Timor-Leste until 2 April. During this period, airports, ports, and land borders will remain temporarily closed. • Tonga: a State of Emergency was declared on 20 March by the government of the Kingdom of Tonga. This has been renewed until 8pm on 12 April. Tongan borders are closed for entry to all foreign nationals.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiji: local testing began on 11 March at the Fiji Center for Disease Control. • Hong Kong SAR: workers in places that require COVID-19 testing every two weeks will no longer need to be tested 14 days after they receive two doses of vaccine. • Macau SAR: on 8 March, the cost of a nucleic test was lowered to USD \$11. • Tonga: two COVID-19 testing machines were donated by the World Health Organization to increase Tonga's testing capacity.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Tasmania declared a list of high-risk premises in Queensland, while WA and the NT says anyone who has visited those locations must get tested and quarantine.

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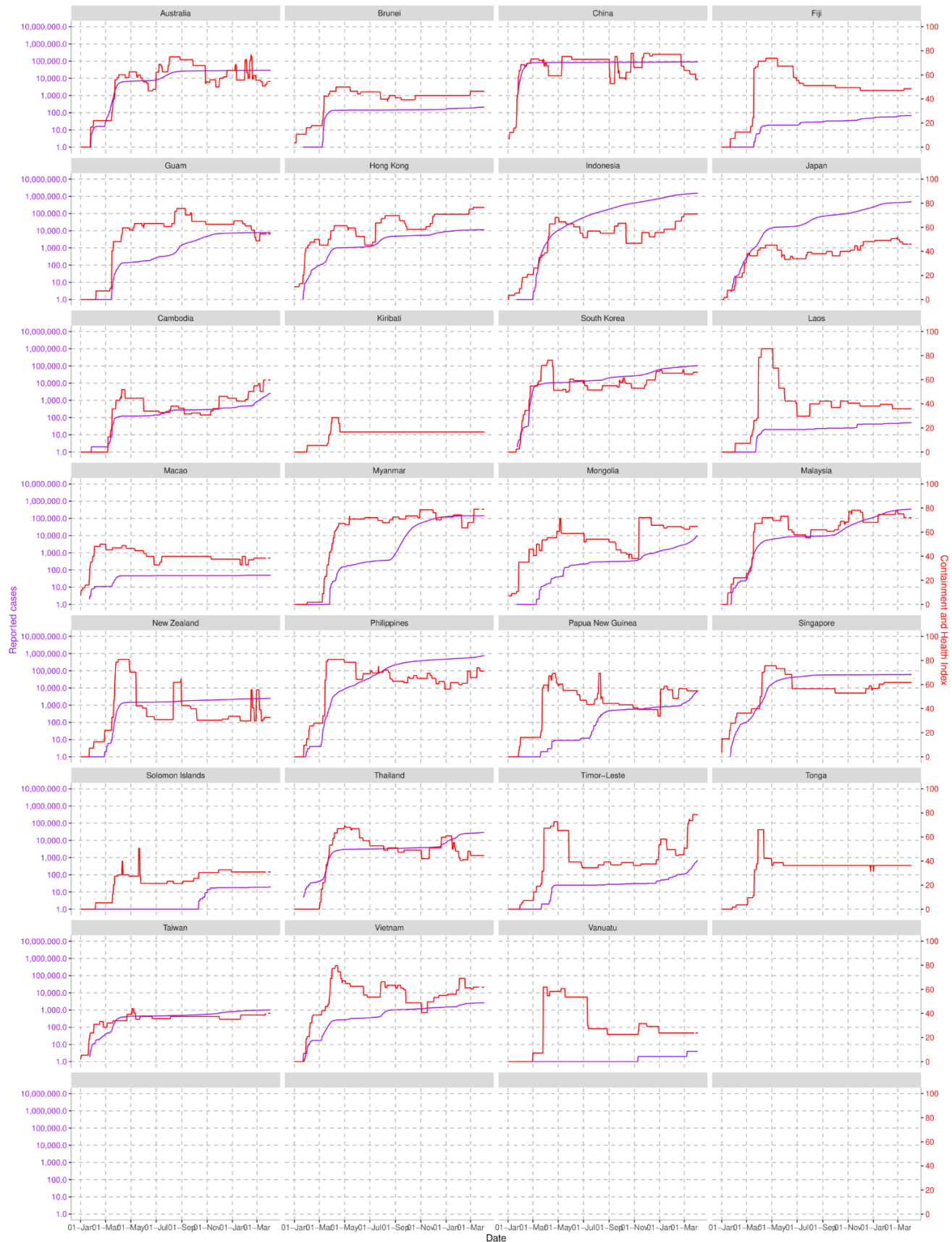
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong SAR: a total of nine places are now covered by compulsory testing notices, under which relevant people should get tested before March 9.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: the strictness of mask regulations vary between states. Victoria currently has the highest level of mask regulations in the country. • Cambodia: as of 12 March individuals who do not adhere to mandatory mask-wearing and social distancing may be subject to fines of \$50 to \$250. • Malaysia: the Malaysian Ministry of Defense instituted a mandatory mask requirement in all public areas. • Philippines: effective 28 March, under all community quarantines all persons are mandated to wear full-coverage face shields together with face masks.

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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

Summaries are created with data from the OxCGRT, uploaded by contributors. For specific references, please see the database www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker