

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Regional report - EAST ASIA 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	01-31 October, 2020
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Brief summary of major changes:

Targeted lockdowns and the gradual lessening of restrictions on commercial and educational activity form major trends in the East Asia and Pacific region.

Several countries have already allowed the majority of offices to reopen. In **Laos** most businesses have generally reopened, except those related to the entertainment industry. **Thailand** has introduced measures to manage the economic downturn, including the relaxation of restrictions on commercial activity. In **Malaysia**, offices have largely resumed activity, with the exception of several large cities where local outbreaks have necessitated more stringent restrictions. Schools across the region are gradually reopening, employing a mixture of onsite and online learning. In **Australia** older school children have continued remote learning while younger children have returned to classrooms. In **Korea** local outbreaks in Busan required a temporary transition to online learning in schools.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia: Schools remain partially open, with rural Victoria returning to onsite education from 12 to 16 October. In metropolitan Melbourne, where the caseload is higher, Years 8-10 continued remote learning until 26 October. Some schools in Melbourne are now closed after seeing spikes in cases.• Brunei: Schools are open with precautionary measures such as daily temperature tests in place.• Cambodia: Schools have reopened gradually starting on 25 September. A trial phase of reopenings for some schools in the capital Phnom Penh and parts of eastern Cambodia was rolled out across October.• China: All schools were reopened by 10 October with precautionary measures in place. 90% of schools and universities were already open, with the remainder choosing to reopen after the National Holiday on 1 October.• Fiji: Schools are open with some precautionary measures in place.
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Summaries are created with data from the OxCGRT, uploaded by contributors. For specific references, please see the database www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guam: Child care services resumed on 3 October. The Department of Defense Education Activity educational services for military dependents resumed on 26 October. All other schools remained closed down. • Hong Kong: All schools reopened on 29 September, with precautionary measures such as compulsory mask-wearing, social distancing, and temperature checks in place. • Indonesia: Transitional Large-Scale Social Restrictions (<i>Pembatasan Sosial Berskala Besar</i> or PSBB) introduced on 12 October mark a relaxing of previous restrictions. Schools in lower-risk areas are open. • South Korea: Schools are generally open, but sixteen schools in Busan were closed and transitioned to remote learning from 5 to 8 October. • Malaysia: Schools in areas categorized as being in Red Zones remain closed. • Papua New Guinea: All schools, educational institutions, markets and shopping centers must comply with social distancing requirements and safe and hygienic practices.
C2: Workplace Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: 129,000 workers in Victoria returned to their workplaces at the start of October. Melbourne is running a 'permitted worker scheme' that permits certain workplaces to operate. • Cambodia: Nightclubs, gyms, and entertainment venues are closed, but other forms of business are open. • China: A spreading event in Qingdao necessitated the closing of hospitals, restaurants and supermarkets for deep cleaning. • Fiji: Workplaces, services and houses of worship are allowed to operate at 50% capacity. • French Polynesia: No major changes recorded. • Guam: Public restrictions eased on 3 October, with businesses operating at 25% capacity and implementing social distancing measures. • Hong Kong: Restaurants, entertainment and sports facilities are implementing social distancing measures and subject to restrictions on opening times. • Indonesia: Transitional PSBB measures relax previous restrictions somewhat. Businesses are allowed to operate as long as social distancing measures are implemented. • South Korea: Further quarantine measures for general restaurants and bakeries from 2 to 15 October. High risk businesses such as bath houses are banned from opening between the 5 and 11 October. • Laos: Most offices are open, except those related to entertainment or tertiary needs. • Malaysia: More than 750,000 workers continue to work from home. • Thailand: Finance Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith has

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	instructed ministry departments to devise measures to tackle unemployment and propel economic recovery.
C3: Cancel Public Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunei: Public events of less than 350 people are allowed to take place. • Cambodia: Public events are recommended to be cancelled, although events appear to be taking place. • China: Due to newly confirmed cases in Qingdao on the 12 October, public events were cancelled and all collective activities in schools apart from teaching were suspended. • Fiji: Public events remain subject to a 50% capacity rule. • French Polynesia: No major changes recorded. • Guam: Health authorities generally advise the public not to participate in large scale events. • Hong Kong: The 8th Hong Kong Games were cancelled on 7 October. • Indonesia: Restrictions remain on large social gatherings. • South Korea: Public facilities have begun to reopen after the lifting of quarantine for the Chuseok holiday on 11 October. • Laos: Organizing public events is possible, but with strict protocols. • Macau: The Macau Government has decided to cancel major cultural events. • Singapore: Although public events are allowed to proceed, the approach is referred to as "targeted" and there are restrictions on sizes of groups. • Taiwan: Public events with large numbers of people are not recommended, but not restricted.
C4: Restrictions on Gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Metropolitan Melbourne is operating under a stricter set of restrictions than rural Victoria. The restrictions stipulate that people can meet in a group of up to ten people from a maximum of two households outdoors in a public place. • Brunei: Gatherings are restricted to 350 people. • China: Due to newly confirmed cases in Qingdao, public health authorities have asked citizens to avoid unnecessary gatherings. • Hong Kong: The restriction on groups of four in public places was relaxed for sports teams on 2 of October. Starting from 23 October, restrictions on travelling groups were relaxed to allow 30 people. Weddings are allowed for 50 and board meetings are allowed for up to 50. • South Korea: The special quarantine for the Chuseok holiday was lifted on 11 October. The ban on gatherings of more than 50 people indoors and more than 100 people outdoors was lifted for the general public. However, gatherings are limited to one person per $(4m)^2$ of facility area. Moreover, facilities such as restaurants, wedding halls, and academic institutions are recommended to follow the former limits on capacity. Churches are allowed to operate in 30% of total capacity.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papua New Guinea: Effective 3 October, there is a limit of over 50 people gathering. • Singapore From 3 October, all ROs (religious organizations) will be allowed to conduct congregational and other worship services for up to 100 persons.
C5: Close Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: Public transport is neither closed nor reduced, but riders are required to show healthy green QR code. PPE and social distancing are both required. • Indonesia Large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) in Jakarta are being eased in a number of stages. • South Korea: The special quarantine for the Chuseok holiday was lifted on 11 October. Transport has resumed.
C6: Stay at Home requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Targeted stay at home requirements are in place in Melbourne, with residents allowed to leave their houses for essential items, to exercise, or to engage in limited outdoor socialisation. • China The residential buildings of asymptomatic cases have been placed in total lockdown. • Fiji A curfew from 11pm to 4am is still in effect. • Guam The Stay at home order has been eased and replaced with a Stay at home advisory. • South Korea: The special quarantine for the Chuseok holiday was lifted on 11 October. The Stay at home order is no longer in effect. • Myanmar: A Stay at home order is in effect in 11 cities. • Philippines: On 15 October, the Philippine government announced modifications to age-based stay-at-home restrictions allowing individuals between the ages of 15 and 65 to leave their homes.
C7: Restrictions on Internal movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: Travel restrictions remain in place in Victoria. • China: Until 10 October, foreigners and people travelling across the Chinese border into Ruili were not permitted to leave. Local governments have advised against travelling to Qingdao. • South Korea: Internal movement was restricted for two weeks over the Chuseok national holiday, until 11 October. • Malaysia: People are permitted to leave their homes only for urgent matters in Sabah, Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur. • Vietnam: Screening is in place for domestic and international travellers.
C8: International Travel Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia From 16 October onwards, passengers from New Zealand are allowed to travel to Australia. • Brunei: Foreigners are allowed entry for reasons of study, business, or compassionate travel. Two-week quarantine is required. • Cambodia: Travellers must obtain a medical certificate, no longer than 72 hours prior to the date of travel. All foreign passengers are

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	<p>required to deposit US\$2000 for the COVID-19 service charges at the airport upon their arrival. If a passenger tests positive, all passengers are subject to quarantine for 14 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan: Introduced a ban on travellers from 159 states on 13 October. • South Korea: Mandatory 14-day quarantine for all inbound travellers. • Macao: Visitors from foreign countries must be quarantined for 14 days. • Mongolia: The Mongolian border remains closed. • Papua New Guinea: Effective 3 October, Quarantine and GPS Ankle Tracking required for international travelers arriving in PNG. • Solomon Islands: The national airline, Solomon Airlines, announced on 2 October, the suspension of all international flights has been extended until 10 January. • Thailand: Phase 6 of the reopening began on 1 August, allowing entry to certain non-Thai visitors including: medical tourists, filming crews, Thailand Elite card members, foreigners who have work permits, foreigners married to Thai nationals and foreigners studying at educational institutions. • Vanuatu: The Vanuatu Tourism Office site mentions "COVID-19 TRAVEL ADVISORY for Vanuatu: all ports of entry are closed until further notice."
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiji: Testing widened to include asymptomatic contacts of cases. • Hong Kong: The Government is providing two rounds of free voluntary testing for bus and taxi drivers, in two rounds starting on 3 October and 27 October respectively. Specimen collection available at 46 outpatient clinics. • South Korea: 400 flu vaccinations and COVID-19 tests were conducted for homeless youth and other vulnerable groups in Incheon. • Macao: The Macao government has announced an increased testing capacity in hospitals.
H3: Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia: As of 17 October, Australia was reporting 100% success rate in tracing contacts within 24 hours in Victoria. • Brunei: It is legally required to use the contact-tracing app BruHealth.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia From 11 October, all Victorians must wear a face mask when leaving the house. • Brunei: Face masks are recommended in public places. • Cambodia While no penalties are currently being imposed by the Cambodian authorities for refusing to wear a face covering, our advice is to wear a face covering whenever requested to. • Hong Kong: Regulations on facial masks are still in place. Citizens are allowed to not wear masks when in country parks but should

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	<p>wear masks at all times when in entertainment facilities, sports facilities and other public buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Myanmar: Masks are required at all times outside the home.• Philippines The Filipino government continues to mandate the wearing of face masks in all public areas. Face masks may be store-bought or improvised.
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Cases vs Government Response Index:

