**Codebook for the Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker**

***Codebook version 2.5  
04 November 2020***

This document is the authoritative codebook for the Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker ([GitHub repo](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker), [university website](https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)). The dataset contains 18 indicators and a miscellaneous notes field organised into four groups:

* [C - containment and closure policies](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/codebook.md#containment-and-closure-policies)
* [E - economic policies](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/codebook.md#economic-policies)
* [H - health system policies](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/codebook.md#health-system-policies)
* [M - miscellaneous policies](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/codebook.md#miscellaneous-policies)

For more detailed guidance about the codebook and how we interpret the indicators, see the [coding interpretation guide](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/coding_interpretation_guide.md). This ensures consistency, and standardizes coding across the database.

Updates to this codebook are recorded in the [changelog](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/codebook.md" \l "codebook-changelog) below.

Most indicators are recorded on an ordinal scale that represents the level of strictness of the policy. Four of the indicators (E3, E4, H4 and H5) are recorded as a US dollar value of fiscal spending.

Government coronavirus policies often vary by region within countries. We code the most stringent government policy that is in place in a country, as represented by the highest ordinal value. Sometimes the most stringent policy in a country will only apply to a small part of the population. If the most stringent policy is only present in a limited geographic area or sector (eg perhaps only one state has implemented policies at a high level), we use a binary flag variable to denote this limited scope. Nine of the indicators (C1-C7, H1 and H6) have a flag for whether they are "targeted" to a specific geographical region (flag=0) or whether they are a "general" policy that is applied across the whole country (flag=1). One indicator (E1) has a flag to describe whether income support is for just formal sector workers (flag=0) or whether it includes informal workers as well (flag=1).

As explained in our [index methodology documentation](https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/index_methodology.md), an indicator with flag=0 is weighted lower than flag=1 when calculating overall index values.

**Containment and closure policies**

| **ID** | **Name** | **Description** | **Measurement** | **Coding** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| C1 | C1\_School closing | Record closings of schools and universities | Ordinal scale | 0 - no measures 1 - recommend closing or all schools open with alterations resulting in significant differences compared to non-Covid-19 operations 2 - require closing (only some levels or categories, eg just high school, or just public schools) 3 - require closing all levels Blank - no data |
|  | C1\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| C2 | C2\_Workplace closing | Record closings of workplaces | Ordinal scale | 0 - no measures 1 - recommend closing (or recommend work from home) 2 - require closing (or work from home) for some sectors or categories of workers 3 - require closing (or work from home) for all-but-essential workplaces (eg grocery stores, doctors) Blank - no data |
|  | C2\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| C3 | C3\_Cancel public events | Record cancelling public events | Ordinal scale | 0 - no measures 1 - recommend cancelling 2 - require cancelling Blank - no data |
|  | C3\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| C4 | C4\_Restrictions on gatherings | Record limits on private gatherings | Ordinal scale | 0 - no restrictions 1 - restrictions on very large gatherings (the limit is above 1000 people) 2 - restrictions on gatherings between 101-1000 people 3 - restrictions on gatherings between 11-100 people 4 - restrictions on gatherings of 10 people or less Blank - no data |
|  | C4\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| C5 | C5\_Close public transport | Record closing of public transport | Ordinal scale | 0 - no measures 1 - recommend closing (or significantly reduce volume/route/means of transport available) 2 - require closing (or prohibit most citizens from using it) Blank - no data |
|  | C5\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| C6 | C6\_Stay at home requirements | Record orders to "shelter-in-place" and otherwise confine to the home | Ordinal scale | 0 - no measures 1 - recommend not leaving house 2 - require not leaving house with exceptions for daily exercise, grocery shopping, and 'essential' trips 3 - require not leaving house with minimal exceptions (eg allowed to leave once a week, or only one person can leave at a time, etc) Blank - no data |
|  | C6\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| C7 | C7\_Restrictions on internal movement | Record restrictions on internal movement between cities/regions | Ordinal scale | 0 - no measures 1 - recommend not to travel between regions/cities 2 - internal movement restrictions in place Blank - no data |
|  | C7\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| C8 | C8\_International travel controls | Record restrictions on international travel  Note: this records policy for foreign travellers, not citizens | Ordinal scale | 0 - no restrictions 1 - screening arrivals 2 - quarantine arrivals from some or all regions 3 - ban arrivals from some regions 4 - ban on all regions or total border closure Blank - no data |

**Economic policies**

| **ID** | **Name** | **Description** | **Measurement** | **Coding** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| E1 | E1\_Income support (for households) | Record if the government is providing direct cash payments to people who lose their jobs or cannot work.  Note: only includes payments to firms if explicitly linked to payroll/salaries | Ordinal scale | 0 - no income support 1 - government is replacing less than 50% of lost salary (or if a flat sum, it is less than 50% median salary) 2 - government is replacing 50% or more of lost salary (or if a flat sum, it is greater than 50% median salary) Blank - no data |
|  | E1\_Flag |  | Binary flag for sectoral scope | 0 - formal sector workers only 1 - transfers to informal sector workers too Blank - no data |
| E2 | E2\_Debt/contract relief (for households) | Record if the government is freezing financial obligations for households (eg stopping loan repayments, preventing services like water from stopping, or banning evictions) | Ordinal scale | 0 - no debt/contract relief 1 - narrow relief, specific to one kind of contract 2 - broad debt/contract relief |
| E3 | E3\_Fiscal measures | Announced economic stimulus spending  Note: only record amount additional to previously announced spending | USD | Record monetary value in USD of fiscal stimuli, includes any spending or tax cuts NOT included in E4, H4 or H5 0 - no new spending that day Blank - no data |
| E4 | E4\_International support | Announced offers of Covid-19 related aid spending to other countries  Note: only record amount additional to previously announced spending | USD | Record monetary value in USD 0 - no new spending that day Blank - no data |

**Health system policies**

| **ID** | **Name** | **Description** | **Measurement** | **Coding** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| H1 | H1\_Public information campaigns | Record presence of public info campaigns | Ordinal scale | 0 - no Covid-19 public information campaign 1 - public officials urging caution about Covid-19 2- coordinated public information campaign (eg across traditional and social media) Blank - no data |
|  | H1\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |
| H2 | H2\_Testing policy | Record government policy on who has access to testing  Note: this records policies about testing for current infection (PCR tests) not testing for immunity (antibody test) | Ordinal scale | 0 - no testing policy 1 - only those who both (a) have symptoms AND (b) meet specific criteria (eg key workers, admitted to hospital, came into contact with a known case, returned from overseas) 2 - testing of anyone showing Covid-19 symptoms 3 - open public testing (eg "drive through" testing available to asymptomatic people) Blank - no data |
| H3 | H3\_Contact tracing | Record government policy on contact tracing after a positive diagnosis  Note: we are looking for policies that would identify all people potentially exposed to Covid-19; voluntary bluetooth apps are unlikely to achieve this | Ordinal scale | 0 - no contact tracing 1 - limited contact tracing; not done for all cases 2 - comprehensive contact tracing; done for all identified cases |
| H4 | H4\_Emergency investment in healthcare | Announced short term spending on healthcare system, eg hospitals, masks, etc  Note: only record amount additional to previously announced spending | USD | Record monetary value in USD 0 - no new spending that day Blank - no data |
| H5 | H5\_Investment in vaccines | Announced public spending on Covid-19 vaccine development  Note: only record amount additional to previously announced spending | USD | Record monetary value in USD 0 - no new spending that day Blank - no data |
| H6 | H6\_Facial Coverings | Record policies on the use of facial coverings outside the home | Ordinal scale | 0 - No policy 1 - Recommended 2 - Required in some specified shared/public spaces outside the home with other people present, or some situations when social distancing not possible 3 - Required in all shared/public spaces outside the home with other people present or all situations when social distancing not possible 4 - Required outside the home at all times regardless of location or presence of other people |
|  | H6\_Flag |  | Binary flag for geographic scope | 0 - targeted 1- general Blank - no data |

**Miscellaneous policies**

| **ID** | **Name** | **Description** | **Measurement** | **Coding** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| M1 | M1\_Wildcard | Record policy announcements that do not fit anywhere else | Free text notes field | Note unusual or interesting interventions that are worth flagging |

**Codebook changelog**

* 04 November 2020 v2.5 added C1 expanded definition of '1' and added targeted/general flag to H6 indicator
* 22 October 2020 v2.4 added H6 Facial Coverings indicator
* 05 July 2020: v2.3 add better explanation of targeted/general flags in intro
* 22 May 2020: v2.2 changed description of E1=2 from "replacing more than 50% of lost salary" to "replacing 50% or more of lost salary"
* 11 May 2020: moved v2 codebook to GitHub