

**Weekly COVID Update:**

**Cross-National Policy Comparisons and Canadian Trends in Social  
Distancing, Social Media Activity, and Government Support**

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## Foreword

Canada, like many countries around the world, is beginning to reopen its economy. At the same time, we are still confronting a serious public health threat in the SARS-CoV-2 virus and in COVID-19.

How are we reopening, compared to other countries? And how are we doing as a country at maintaining social distancing and the public support and attention necessary to sustain the fight against COVID-19?

On our Dashboard, we present unique quantitative data on:

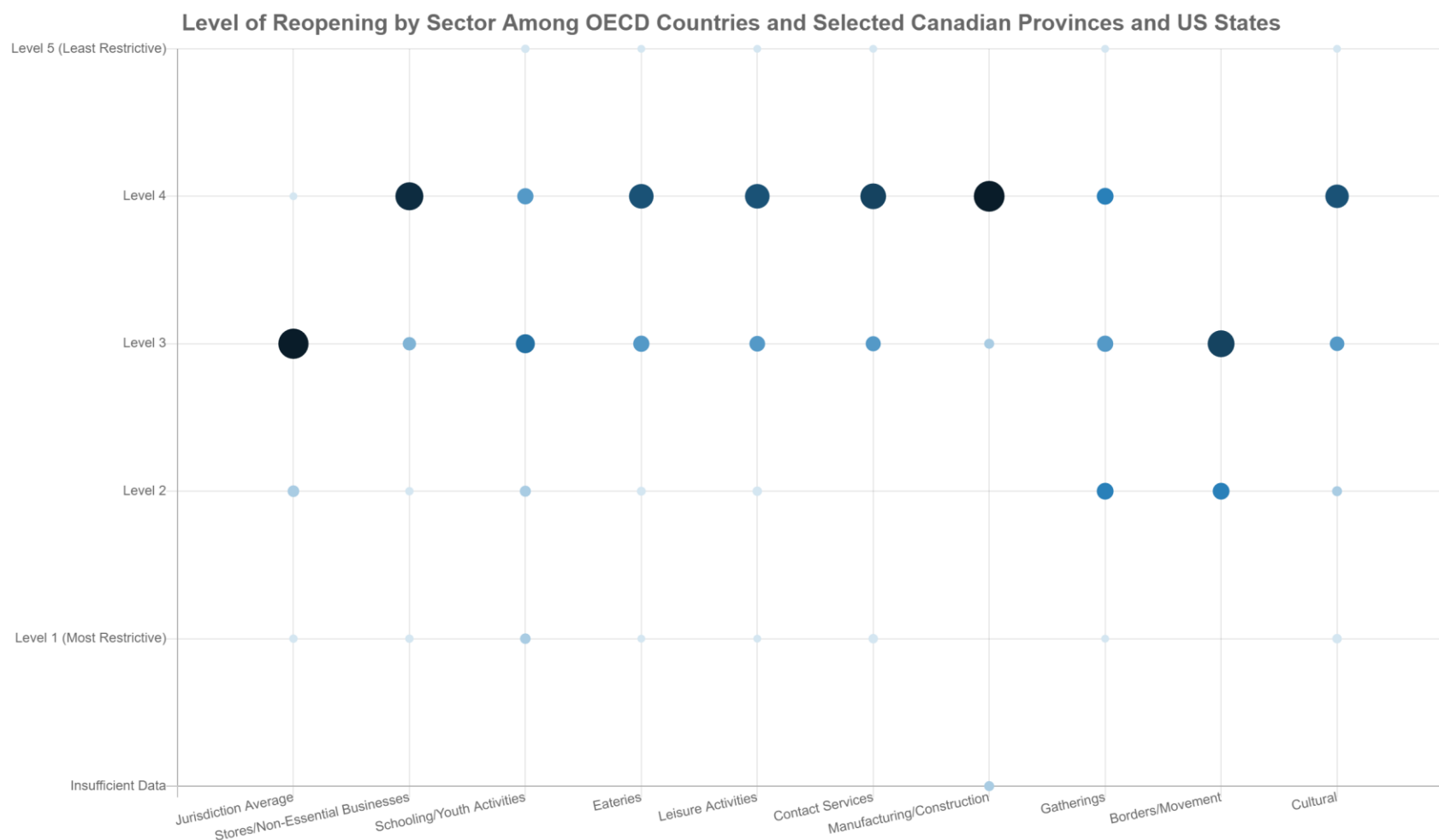
- The openness of the economy on nine different dimensions in 52 different jurisdictions: 34 OECD countries, 5 US states, 10 Canadian provinces and 3 Canadian territories.
- Trends in social distancing in Canada.
- Trends in social media attention to COVID-19 and selected other topics.
- Trends in support for federal, provincial, and local government management of COVID-19.

We also provide a weekly qualitative summary of the actions governments are taking and considering taking to reopen their economies and manage the coronavirus.

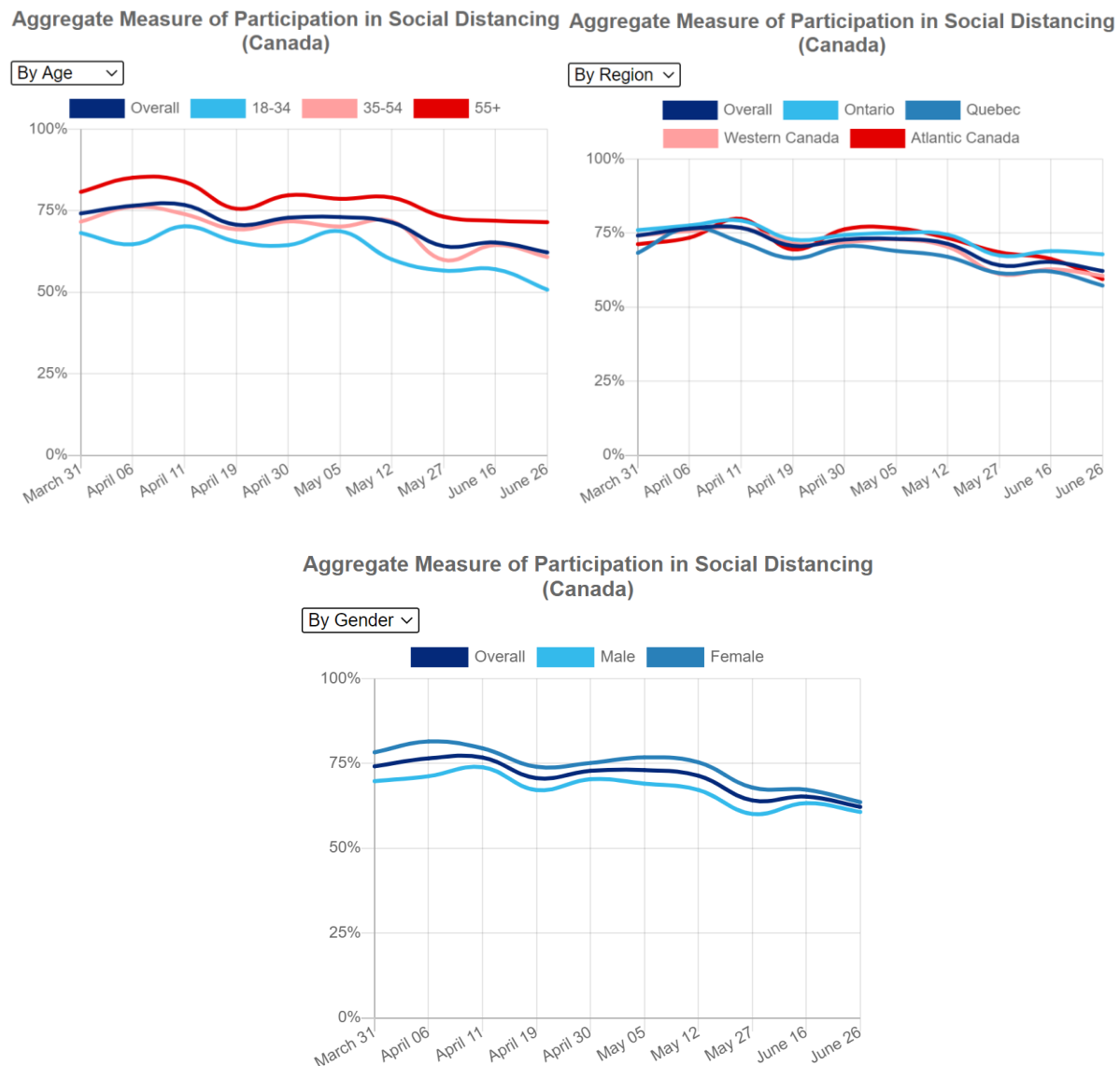
Our data are updated weekly. You can subscribe to a weekly update by visiting our website: [www.reopeningaftercovid.com](http://www.reopeningaftercovid.com).

Please direct any questions or comments to [peter.loewen@utoronto.ca](mailto:peter.loewen@utoronto.ca).

## **Data Visualizations from Dashboard**

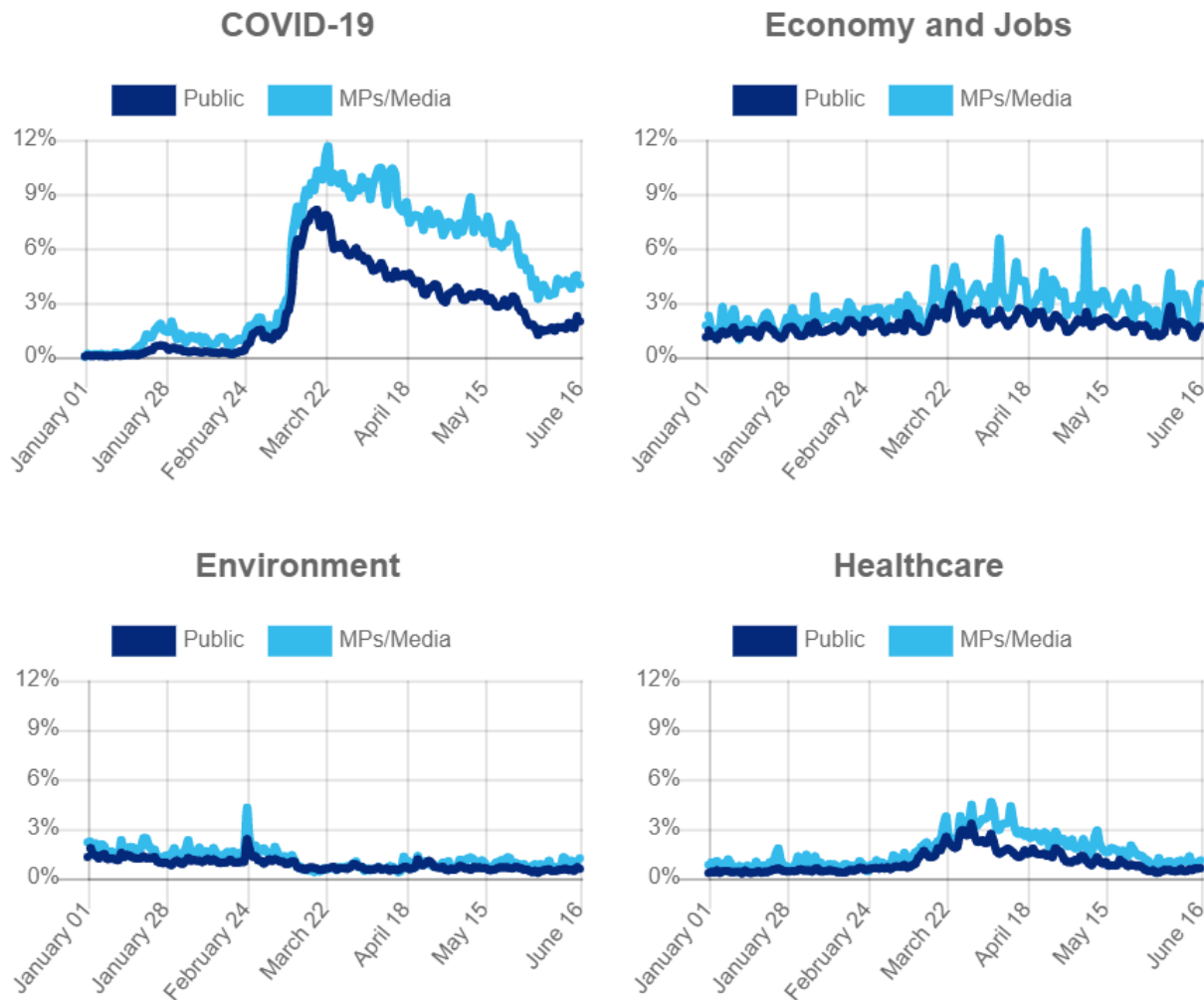


**Figure 1 – Level of reopening among 52 different jurisdictions as of June 26.** The reopening policies of 52 jurisdictions: 34 OECD countries, 5 US states, 10 Canadian provinces and 3 Canadian territories. For each jurisdiction, we classify a total of 9 different sectors: Stores/Non-Essential Businesses, Schooling/Youth Activities, Eateries, Leisure Activities, Contact Services, Manufacturing/Construction, Gatherings, Borders/Movement, and Cultural. Each sector is assigned a level of reopening from Level 1 (Complete Lockdown) to Level 5 (Unrestricted Access). The larger and darker a dot is, the more jurisdictions are at that level of reopening. For details, see [www.reopeningaftercovid.com](http://www.reopeningaftercovid.com).



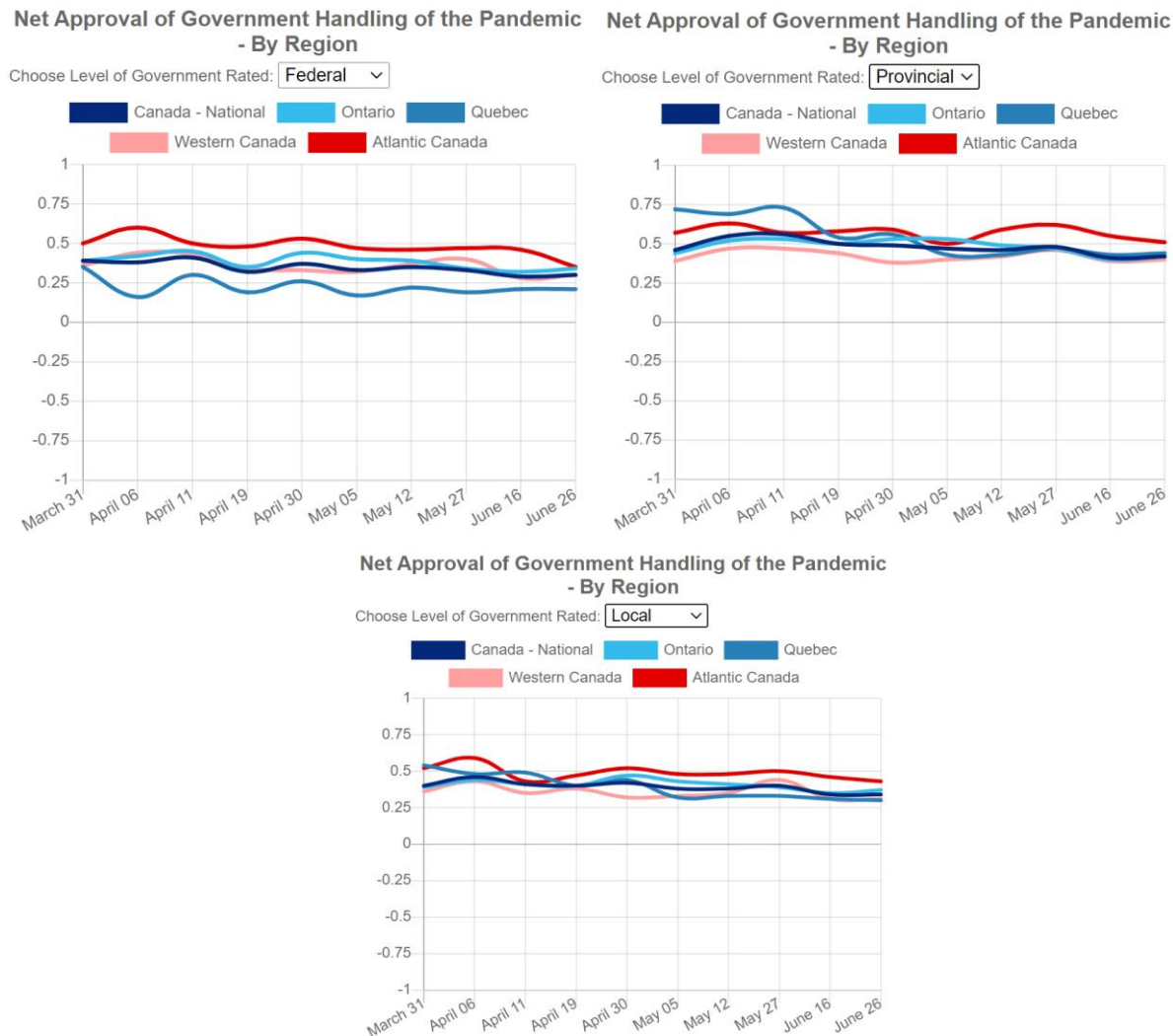
**Figure 2 – Aggregate survey measure of participation in social distancing (Canada).** We asked Canadians whether, as a result of the pandemic, they had taken any of the 6 following actions: avoided crowded places; avoided in-person contact with friends, family, and acquaintances; maintained 2 metre distance from others; avoided domestic travel; avoided public transit; and avoided the grocery store at peak times. The graph displays the percentage of these measures taken by the average survey participant. The surveys used to collect these data were run in partnership with the Media Ecosystem Observatory (MEO). Each survey has a sample size of approximately 2,500 people. For each survey, we worked with a leading sample provider to generate a nationally representative, online sample of Canadians. In addition, following data collection, we applied survey weights to each survey so that—within each province—the sample is representative of the population age and gender.

## Daily Percent of Tweets by Topic (Canada)



**Figure 3 – Daily Percent of Tweets by Topic (Canada).** The graphs report the percentage of daily tweets containing one or more keywords associated with the particular topic. The results are presented separately for MPs, senators, and journalists, on the one hand, and for the Canadian public, on the other. The Twitter data are provided by the Media Ecosystem Observatory (MEO). It aims to capture the entire Canadian Twitter conversation. To do so, MEO identified a set of politicians, political journalists, public intellectuals, and Canadian-specific hashtags and collected every Twitter user that touched one of these themes or individuals. MEO then evaluated each individual, looking at their follower or friending behaviour, biographies, self-identified location, and hashtag use and included them in the sample if they were determined to be algorithmically likely to be Canadian. The dataset contains approximately 200,000 tweets a day. The analysis uses a 10% sample of the public’s daily tweets and the full set of daily tweets from MPs, senators, and journalists.





**Figure 4 – Net approval of government handling of the pandemic by region.** We asked Canadians whether they approved of how each level of government (the federal government, their provincial government, and their local government) was handling the coronavirus pandemic so far. To obtain a net approval score, participants’ answers were coded as follows: strongly approve (1); somewhat approve (0.5); neither approve, nor disapprove (0); somewhat disapprove (-0.5); and strongly disapprove (-1). The graph displays the average score. The surveys used to collect these data were run in partnership with the Media Ecosystem Observatory (MEO). Each survey has a sample size of approximately 2,500 people. For each survey, we worked with a leading sample provider to generate a nationally representative, online sample of Canadians. In addition, following data collection, we applied survey weights to each survey so that—within each province—the sample is representative of the population age and gender.

## **Individual OECD Country Profiles**

## THE AMERICAS

### *Canada*

#### → *Alberta*

Phase 2 of Alberta's relaunch strategy came into effect on June 12 with additional businesses and services reopening. In phase 2 grades K-12 can resume for diploma exams and summer school only. Along with retail businesses and hairstylists, wellness and personal services, libraries, cinemas and theatres can reopen.<sup>1</sup> Indoor recreation, fitness, and sports facilities can now reopen in phase 2. An infectious disease specialist at the University of Calgary critiques that this limits government ability to monitor progress between phases.<sup>2</sup> Many small businesses are struggling with PPE shortages, recalling laid-off workers, implementing new measures to protect staff and customers, and financial burdens.<sup>3</sup> There is no limit on the number of people allowed at worship gatherings or eateries, but there is a maximum of 50 attendees at indoor gatherings and 100 at outdoor events. Sports teams may play in region-only cohorts of up to 50 players. In phase 2, households may increase their social bubbles to a maximum of 15 people. Non-essential travel outside the province is not recommended and restrictions are still in place for major festivals, conferences, nightclubs and amusement parks.<sup>4</sup>

#### → *British Columbia*

British Columbia has maintained a low level of new infections for weeks. The provincial state of emergency is extended until July 7. Antibody testing is offered to all residents on Cormorant Island to learn more about the spread of the virus.<sup>5</sup> International travellers returning to B.C. are required to self-isolate for 14 days and submit a self-isolation plan to health officials. The B.C. premier announced on June 24 that the province moved to phase 3 of their reopening plan, allowing hotels, resorts, parks, select entertainment venues and the film industry to reopen.<sup>6</sup> Most businesses are now open with restrictions. Mass gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited. Gyms, fitness centres, restaurants, cafes and pubs are operating under physical distancing rules. Groups of 50 people are allowed to visit museums, galleries, and libraries. Appointments are normally required for in-person services like hairdressers and counselling.<sup>7</sup> While not all parks and campgrounds are open, overnight camping is permitted for B.C. residents. Travel within BC can resume with careful plans and following personal health practice, while travellers outside the province are asked to exercise extra caution.<sup>8</sup> Students are returning to school on a voluntary and part-time basis. A full return is not expected until September.

#### → *Manitoba*

Manitoba entered phase 3 of reopening on June 21 with several restrictions easing throughout the province. Indoor gatherings of up to 50 people and outdoor gatherings of up to 100 people are allowed with physical distancing. These limits can be expanded if attendees split into separate groups that don't intermingle. If a group activity at a seniors centre is necessary, organizers are advised to consider limiting capacity to 25 people indoors, or one person per 10 square meters. Moreover, the 14-day self-isolation requirement is lifted for people coming into Manitoba on their way to cabins or tourist destinations from approximately six Canadian provinces and territories and with other exemptions. Retail businesses, restaurants and bars reopened at full capacity with distancing and without dance floors. Indoor recreation centres are allowed to operate at 50% capacity with social distancing and sanitation measures. Permanent outdoor amusement parks reopened at 50% capacity. Casinos and movie theatres have not yet reopened. Child-care centres reopened at normal capacity, but the maximum number of children in day camp groups is 50 students. Overnight camps, choirs, band camps and musical theatre are prohibited. Post-secondary schools intend to reopen by fall with restrictions. All health-care and therapeutic businesses, regulated or non-regulated, returned to normal occupancy with physical distancing.<sup>9</sup>

#### → *New Brunswick*

New Brunswick's phased recovery plan has four levels - red, orange, yellow, and green - with movement between levels occurring based on the rate of new infections.<sup>10</sup> On June 26, New Brunswick's Campbellton region (Zone 5) moved into the yellow level with the rest of the province, having previously stayed in the orange level as other zones reopened more extensively.<sup>11</sup> This means that outdoor gatherings can now take place in uncontrolled venues with up to 50 participants, and religious services can be held indoors with appropriate measures in place.<sup>12</sup> Most commercial, retail, recreational, and professional services or businesses, including swimming pools, water parks, yoga studios, bowling alleys and restaurants, can reopen unless otherwise specified.<sup>13</sup> Non-regulated health professionals/businesses and other personal service businesses, such as barbers and tattoo parlours, can also reopen.<sup>14</sup> Casinos, bars, cinemas, and performance venues reopened on June 26 in all of the province's seven zones.<sup>15</sup> Movement to the green level will not occur until a vaccine has become available.<sup>16</sup>

#### → *Newfoundland and Labrador*

Currently, Newfoundland and Labrador is at Alert phase 2 where retail stores, malls, spas, salons and tattoo parlours reopened. Outdoor gatherings of up to 50 people are permitted and the two-household bubble has been expanded to include an additional 6 people.<sup>17</sup> New members of this extended bubble do not have to be from the same household. Places of worship may resume without public gathering restrictions. Campsites are open with limitations on overnight camping and outdoor pools. Large playgrounds, gyms, fitness facilities, indoor pools and performance spaces are open. Restaurants have reopened at a reduced capacity and buffets remain closed. Bars, lounges, cinemas, and theatres are open with reduced capacity. Distance learning continues, summer camps are operating, and daycare operations are being expanded. The province is lifting restrictions slowly compared to other provinces with similar epidemiological conditions.<sup>18</sup> The government is struggling to maintain broad public support for COVID-19 restrictions. Effective July 3, an Atlantic bubble agreement was made to allow free movement between Atlantic provinces without self-isolation. The province plans to begin easing travel restrictions with other provinces on July 17.<sup>19</sup>

#### → *Northwest Territories*

The Northwest Territories' count of total cases has stayed at five for more than two months. The government extended its state of emergency and public health emergency until July 8.<sup>20</sup> Anyone entering the territory has to self-isolate for 14 days with few exceptions. Residents of Nunavut and N.W.T. can travel freely between the territories, but both prohibit non-essential travel between the rest of Canada. The territory is in phase 2 of its reopening plan. In most cases, indoor gatherings and events can have a maximum of 25 people and a maximum of 50 people outdoors. Households with no more than five members can have five visitors at a time. Restaurants, lounges, bars and movie theatres can accommodate 25 customers. Offices may have 25 staff per floor with physical distancing measures. A total of 25 staff and clients are allowed in community and youth centres. Overnight camping is open. Outdoor tourism is possible for up to 50 people.<sup>21</sup> While early learning and childcare programs are recommended to stay open, schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

#### → *Nova Scotia*

The government of Nova Scotia is limiting mass gatherings to a maximum of 50 people for both indoor and outdoor gatherings.<sup>22</sup> Public schools and pre-primary education will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year, while daycare services and unlicensed childcare providers have been allowed to resume activities in accordance with the province's ministry of health.<sup>23</sup> Personal services – such as barbers, spas, salons, and body art establishments have been allowed to resume business, along with fitness

establishments – such as gyms, yoga studios, and climbing facilities – have been allowed to reopen if they are able to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres between patrons, or a limit of ten patrons at any given time if the appropriate distance cannot be maintained.<sup>24</sup> Restaurants are being allowed to operate at 50% capacity while maintaining a minimum physical distance of 2 metres between tables, or providing customers with a physical barrier between tables if this distance cannot be maintained.<sup>25</sup>

→ *Nunavut*

Nunavut lifted various lockdown restrictions this week, allowing bars and restaurants to open at 50% capacity, personal care services to resume, and theatres and churches to reopen. There will be no formal limit on the number of people a person can socialize with at bars or restaurants, though the territory's Chief Public Health Officer continues to advise that social distancing regulations remain in place.<sup>26</sup> Additionally, the government announced that youth activities may resume on June 29, and some long-term care facilities may permit visitors.<sup>27</sup> Although residents of Nunavut may travel to the Yukon on July 1, the territorial government will mandate that travellers quarantine for two weeks upon their return.<sup>28</sup>

→ *Ontario*

As of June 26, all health regions in Ontario, except for portions of Windsor-Essex, are now at phase 2 of the government's reopening plan.<sup>29</sup> In this phase, restaurants and bars can reopen for outdoor service, along with barbers, hair and nail salons, and child care centres.<sup>30</sup> Gatherings of up to ten people are permitted, within social circles.<sup>31</sup> Some municipalities are preparing<sup>32</sup> to run summer camps throughout the province, which are due to begin around July.<sup>33</sup> After two weeks in phase 2, a nail salon in Kingston experienced an outbreak, requiring all clients who visited the salon between June 12 and 24 to self-isolate.<sup>34</sup> Premier Doug Ford has cautioned against enacting mandatory face mask laws, saying that it should be at each municipality's discretion as advised by the Chief Medical Officer.<sup>35</sup>

→ *Prince Edward Island*

Phase 4 of Prince Edward Island's reopening strategy came into effect on June 26. Larger organized gatherings of up to 50 people indoors or outdoors are permitted given physical distancing requirements are met and an operational plan is in place.<sup>36</sup> This applies for gatherings such as organized sports, worship services, day camps, and weddings.<sup>37</sup> Personal gathering is limited to 15 people indoors and 20 people outdoors. Recreational facilities are allowed to reopen including pools, recreation centres, gyms, and campgrounds. In the province, retail businesses, libraries, and salons have reopened. Indoor dining at eateries has resumed but only 50 people can sit inside with additional people permitted on an outdoor patio. In PEI, home based learning continues with youth centres, child care centres, and day camps reopening.<sup>38</sup> Details of the September 2020 school year will be outlined in the next few weeks. Opposition leader Peter Bevan-Baker is questioning how quickly the province is allowing seasonal residents from Ontario and Quebec to come into PEI. Despite the initial plan to begin with Atlantic Canada, western Canada, and then central Canada, already 850 applications have been approved. Atlantic premiers have committed to a regional travel bubble without the need to self-isolate, but anyone coming from outside the Atlantic provinces is required to self-isolate.<sup>39</sup>

→ *Quebec*

Quebec has over half of the positive COVID-19 cases in Canada.<sup>40</sup> As of June 21, Quebec still reported more than approximately 100 new cases daily and multiple deaths; however, the number of hospitalizations and ICU patients has decreased for weeks.<sup>41</sup> The government is encouraging capacity limits, handwashing, and masks.<sup>42</sup> On June 22, Quebec and Montreal progressed in easing some COVID-19 health restrictions.<sup>43</sup> Like the rest of the province, people in the Greater Montreal Area can have gatherings of maximum 10 people from three different households. As well, dine-in restaurants, mall food courts, gyms, indoor pools, public and private beaches, arenas, religious places, concert halls, theatres, cinemas, and day camps have reopened with restrictions. Long-term care facilities may allow visitors.<sup>44</sup> Montreal's airport will require masks, take temperatures, only allow passengers and employees to enter, check passengers for symptoms

at checkpoints, reserve parking online, conduct self check-in and baggage drop, and increase hand washing and sanitizing stations.<sup>45</sup> Self-isolation in Quebec is not required after interprovincial travel.<sup>46</sup>

→ *Saskatchewan*

The second part of Phase 4 of the province's reopening plan will commence on June 29, with cultural institutions allowed to reopen. Cinemas and live theatres can reopen at 30% capacity (or a maximum of 150 people), while visitors to museums and libraries must be able to maintain social distance.<sup>47</sup> Outdoor sports games and activities are allowed to resume, though social distancing should be maintained if possible. Parks and campgrounds may open at full capacity for overnight stays and limited term campsites.<sup>48</sup> All workers at personal care services, fitness centres and restaurants must wear a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained. The reopening of indoor pools, indoor sports and other entertainment venues will be announced within the next two weeks.<sup>49</sup> The province's Chief Medical Health Officer has said that discussions are underway to lift the government's recommendation against non-essential interprovincial travel. While the provincial government advises Saskatchewan residents to avoid going to other provinces, it does not enforce an isolation period upon their return.<sup>50</sup>

→ *Yukon*

The Yukon has seen no new cases since April 20. Starting July 1, residents from British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut can enter without self-isolation.<sup>51</sup> The territory is moving to phase 2 of its reopening plan on July 1. Outdoor gatherings can occur with 50 people, while a maximum of 10 people can gather indoors. Restaurants will be operating at full capacity, but bars have to wait for further guidance. Farmers markets will be able to welcome non-food vendors. Pools will reopen. Full dental services will resume. Personal service establishments such as hair salons, tattoo parlours and massage therapists are currently permitted to operate. Overnight camping will be allowed following public health guidance.<sup>52</sup> In-person classes at all K-12 public schools have been suspended for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

*The United States*

→ *California*

California has seen a rise in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and ICU rates. On June 22, the state saw a record of 5000 daily cases and passed this on June 23 with over 7000 cases.<sup>53</sup> A June 18 order requires masks in public with exceptions.<sup>54</sup> As of June 12, schools, gyms, movie theatres, and bars reopened with health restrictions.<sup>55</sup> Disney is postponing its anticipated mid-July reopening in California.<sup>56</sup> During the week of June 29, several counties will reopen personal contact services, dine-in service, short term rentals and more, but the governor suggests the state may regress in reopening if cases and hospitalizations continue increasing.<sup>57</sup>

→ *Illinois*

Governor JB Pritzker announced that every region in the state will move to phase 4 of their reopening plan on June 26.<sup>58</sup> As the state prepares to reopen further, the government released a map aimed at telling people if their county is more at-risk for COVID-19; only one county is in the "warning" level, with more than 50 cases per 100,000 people weekly.<sup>59</sup> Phase 4 allows movie theaters, zoos, museums and health and fitness centers to reopen with limited capacity (ranging from 25% to 50% capacity).<sup>60</sup> Restaurants will be able to offer indoor dining, and gatherings of up to 50 people will be permitted. Schools and child care programs with social distancing policies in place (15 children per group max) can also reopen and hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans can return to work.<sup>61</sup> The governor stated that he would not hesitate to revert to phase 3 if cases surge.

#### → *Michigan*

Due to the recent uptick in cases, hospitalizations and ICU admissions, Michigan is no longer on track to "contain" COVID-19.<sup>62</sup> There have been a few outbreaks traced back to nursing homes, bars and athletic facilities.<sup>63</sup> On June 25, the mayor of Detroit threatened to shut down bars and restaurants that continue to violate COVID-19 regulations.<sup>64</sup> Similar to Ontario, there have been outbreaks tied to migrant farm workers in the state.<sup>65</sup> Governor Whitmer has attempted to address the problem with an executive order requiring migrant housing operators to separate worker beds by at least six feet when possible and encourage workers to sleep head-to-toe.<sup>66</sup> The order also requires isolation units for sick workers and other safeguards. However, inspectors say that the rules have not always been followed by farms and workers due to fear of competition and job loss, respectively.<sup>67</sup>

#### → *New York*

While the virus surges in parts of the southern US, New York (once a COVID-19 hotspot) is experiencing a gradual decline of cases and hospitalizations.<sup>68</sup> On June 22, New York City entered phase 2, which saw the reopening of restaurant/bar patios and terraces with extensive guidelines, including mandatory facemasks for clients as they enter the facility.<sup>69</sup> As well, offices can reopen with 50% capacity and 6ft of social distancing between colleagues (facemasks when not social distancing).<sup>70</sup> All indoor retail, hair salons and barbershops can reopen, but malls, nail/tattoo salons, indoor dining service, large event venues, gyms, casinos and movie theaters are still shut down.

#### → *Texas*

With more than 5000 new daily cases, Texas has a record number of hospitalizations and is seeing a general rise in cases compared to last week.<sup>71</sup> The governor is requesting Texans to stay home and warns that restrictions may be announced if the infection rate continues.<sup>72</sup> The governor paused the state's reopening at phase 3 of 4 on June 25 after a daily increase of almost 6000 cases.<sup>73</sup> Texas mayors and county judges now have the right to implement restrictions on outdoor gatherings greater than 100 people.<sup>74</sup> Some health officials and Harris County officials are demanding stricter stay-at-home orders.<sup>75</sup> A Houston university professor estimates that Texas ICUs will fill over the next two weeks and contribute to increasing mortality rates and limited treatment abilities.<sup>76</sup> Republican Senator Ted Cruz is contesting a federal decision to revoke funding for 13 community-based COVID-19 testing centres by the end of June, which affects seven Texas areas that have increasing COVID-19 cases.<sup>77</sup>

#### *Mexico*

On June 21, Mexico reported over 1000 COVID-19 deaths and an increase of confirmed cases to 5000, but the government claims that the deaths include those from May and the beginning of June.<sup>78</sup> Mexico City has the most accumulated cases, active cases and deaths. Mexico state is ranked second, and Tabasco, Veracruz and Baja California are ranked third, fourth, and fifth respectively for accumulated cases.<sup>79</sup> The fatality rate in Mexico is 12 per 100 cases and approximately 65% of the deceased are men older than 50.<sup>80</sup> On June 23, a government health official described Mexico as stabilizing; the percentage of available beds increased to 56% and the average number of deaths stabilized around 450 daily.<sup>81</sup> The government has ranked 17 states at level orange and the rest at level red, where only some non-essential services may resume.<sup>82</sup> Colima and Hidalgo progressed from red to orange this week, and Tabasco regressed from orange to red.<sup>83</sup> After reopening 18 days ago with hotels, restaurants and beaches reopening with restrictions, Baja California saw a case increase of greater than 100%, a 64% mortality rate increase and increased hospitalization.<sup>84</sup> While federal government infrastructure projects and major projects continued, private sector construction was deemed non-essential and paused.<sup>85</sup> Volkswagen, Audi and some auto parts suppliers reopened plants on June 22; however, Governor Barbosa-Huerta of Puebla asked companies to reconsider given the high level of cases.<sup>86</sup> Several cities and states have received the Travel Safety Stamp from the World Travel and Tourism Council and want to resume tourism, particularly local tourism.<sup>87</sup> The

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reopening offices to process legal documents and for consular protection cases and on July 1 in addition to the 20 that have been opening across Mexico, four more foreign delegations will reopen.<sup>88</sup>

### *Chile*

As of June 19, the Santiago metropolitan region was ranked the fourth area globally for the most COVID-19 cases. The country was ranked ninth for the most COVID-19 cases and 20th for the most deaths.<sup>89</sup> On June 19 and 24, additional quarantines were implemented.<sup>90</sup> On June 19, additional restrictive measures were implemented in some quarantined areas. The health minister does not want a complete hibernation because of the need to satisfy essential services, food needs, the needs of seniors and medical needs, therefore they are exploring escalating lockdown measures to increase compliance.<sup>91</sup> Some of the stricter measures include reducing the number of permits for movement from five to two weekly, offering permits for people to make funeral and medical preparations, asking essential companies to reduce the number of people working in person and others.<sup>92</sup> Critics describe that while the government prepared health materials early in the outbreak, they did not account for poverty: the difficulty of people isolating in dense cities, underlying health conditions, the need for people to work so that they can buy food, and a lack of access to (high-speed) internet.<sup>93</sup>

## **WESTERN EUROPE**

### *France*

Although the number of active cases in France continues to increase, the government uses both the number of hospitalizations and ICU admissions as metrics for reopening--and these two measures are decreasing.<sup>94</sup> On June 22, France officially entered Phase 3 of reopening. Most notably, schools have reopened for students under the age of 16 with compulsory attendance enforced.<sup>95</sup> Physical distancing rules in classrooms have been relaxed and the 4m<sup>2</sup> space requirement per pupil has been scrapped, along with the 15-pupil limit on class sizes.<sup>96</sup> The usual pre-COVID-19 rules for schooling have resumed, even though summer vacation begins in two weeks. Cinemas reopened with spacing between audience members and face coverings.<sup>97</sup> Demonstrations of 5,000 people or less will be allowed again, as long as protestors adhere to physical distancing and hygiene guidelines; social gatherings are limited to ten people in public places.<sup>98</sup> Wearing a mask is compulsory on all public transport in France. France's COVID-tracing app has failed to take off, with only 68 people using it to register a positive test result in the three weeks since its launch, despite hundreds of confirmed cases in just the last few days.<sup>99</sup> Even though two million people (3% of population) downloaded it, roughly 500,000 users have uninstalled the app.<sup>100</sup> As part of the ongoing parliamentary commission of inquiry, a public health expert testified that the government's scientific advisory body failed to make decisions based on science, and did not make COVID-19 tests widely available earlier in the crisis.<sup>101</sup>

### *Germany*

Germany's reproduction rate of COVID-19 jumped to 2.88 on June 21, after several outbreaks last week. Since case numbers in Germany are generally low, these local outbreaks have a relatively strong influence on the reproduction number.<sup>102</sup> The outbreak at a meatpacking plant in North Rhine-Westphalia (the region most vocal about urging Chancellor Angela Merkel to ease lockdown restrictions) has forced local authorities to reinforce a lockdown.<sup>103</sup> The way that Merkel and local officials handle this outbreak is a test for the federation's local intervention approach. Accordingly, hundreds of German riot police are deployed to ensure that the 500,000 inhabitants in the regions of Gütersloh and Warendorf are adhering to the rules.<sup>104</sup> With museums, bars, cinemas and gyms closed, people in those regions can now only meet one other person



in public.<sup>105</sup> Restaurants have been allowed to remain open, but many have decided to close. Authorities stopped short of ordering a regional quarantine, because the number of new cases remained below the 50 per 100,000 people.<sup>106</sup> However, all employees of the Tönnies plant — many of whom are migrant workers — are under quarantine in their living quarters, with physical metal fencing erected around their residential buildings to prevent them from leaving.<sup>107</sup> Additionally, since its launch a week ago, the Corona-Warn-App has been downloaded by 12.2 million people, or 14% of the population.<sup>108</sup>

### *Belgium*

On June 23, the government announced that the country will move into phase 4 of its reopening strategy effective July 1. The curfew on restaurants and bars will be extended to 1:00 am.<sup>109</sup> The current contact bubble will be expanded from 10 to 15 people and, unlike the current restrictions, can involve 15 different people every week. In phase 4 which begins July 1, cinemas and theatres can reopen, while maintaining a 1.5 metre distance. Likewise, cultural activities and sporting events can take place with an audience of 200 people indoors and 400 outdoors.<sup>110</sup> Additionally, phase 4 allows swimming pools, wellness centres and amusement parks to reopen. In Belgium, it is no longer necessary to shop alone and the time limit in shops has been removed. Additionally in markets, there is no longer a limit on the number of stalls permitted. Nightclubs remain closed and will likely not reopen until the end of August.<sup>111</sup> All non-essential travel outside the EU and Schengen area remains prohibited until July 1.<sup>112</sup> Effective mid-August, every Belgian citizen is eligible to receive 12 free rail passes. Citizens can use the passes twice per month and are not allowed to use the tickets on the weekends or during the morning rush to alleviate crowding.<sup>113</sup>

### *Netherlands*

A month after the Netherlands allowed restaurants, cinemas and cultural institutions to partially reopen, the number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations remained low, making the likelihood of a second wave less likely for now.<sup>114</sup> On June 22, following the decline, the government announced the reopening of gyms, saunas, casinos and sports canteens by July 1. In order for gyms, saunas, casinos and sports canteens to reopen, tighter hygiene regulations are required, which includes a requirement that facilities meet adequate ventilation standards. In August, secondary schools are set to reopen by region. The return of secondary school students also comes with new measures in place, requiring students to keep a 2m distance from their teachers rather than from one another. In addition to the expected new measures, the maximum number of people who can be present at funerals, marriages, religious gatherings, restaurants and movie theaters is also set to increase from 30 to 100 on July 1, given that a distance of 1.5m is maintained.<sup>115</sup> Outdoor events will no longer have a maximum number of attendees as long as social distancing is observed and people are seated. Festivals will depend on local authority permits, but it is unlikely these will resume before mid-August. Football stadiums will reopen as long as social distancing rules apply, and sex workers will also be able to start working again effective July 1.<sup>116</sup>

### *Spain*

Autonomous communities increased diagnostic capabilities and PCR test rates.<sup>117</sup> From June 29 to July 13, the Canary Islands will test Spain's contact tracing app. The voluntary app is aimed at discouraging a second wave, complements manual tracking and considers privacy concerns. Spain hopes that a minimum of 2800 to 3000 residents download the app. If successful, the app will launch across Spain in September.<sup>118</sup> On June 21, Spain's state of alarm and mobility restrictions ended. On June 28, over 100 international flights from the European Schengen area, except Portugal, will enter the country and there will be 225 domestic flights.<sup>119</sup> On July 1 Moroccan visitors may enter.<sup>120</sup> Airport precautions include: 1) documents proving a COVID-19 test has been passed, 2) temperature checks, and 3) visual inspections.<sup>121</sup> Separate procedures exist for passengers who fail any of the controls. British travelers may enter without quarantining.<sup>122</sup> Spain's new normal includes capacity limits at beaches, bars, terraces, and swimming pools and may use apps, track

wifi signal access, and use GPS or use bluetooth to track and limit crowds.<sup>123</sup> Different areas of Spain have released different plans for large gatherings at festivals. These vary from allowing them as of July 1 to allowing them in September; some areas have not released any plans.<sup>124</sup> Madrid will have two phases for a new normal; phase 1 began June 21 with capacity limits at bars, restaurants, pools and shopping centres and continues until July 6, which marks the beginning of their final phase where clubs will reopen with restrictions.<sup>125</sup> There have been outbreaks in Basque country since reopening without indication of community transmission.<sup>126</sup> The Spanish government is preparing a strategic reserve of materials in the event of spikes in cases. The government is also considering transfers, loans, digital transformation, training and science in their recovery plan as proposed by the European Commission.<sup>127</sup>

### *The United Kingdom*

According to the Reuters tally, the United Kingdom's suspected COVID-19 death toll has hit 54,089, based on death certificates where COVID-19 was mentioned as the cause in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.<sup>128</sup> However, the government tally is lower because it only includes those who had a COVID+ diagnosis before dying. The UK's COVID-19 alert level has been downgraded from four to three. Under this level, the virus is considered to be "in general circulation" so there could be a "gradual relaxation of restrictions".<sup>129</sup> Although beaches had already reopened three weeks ago, on June 25 tens of thousands of people flocked to two beaches in Dorset and Brighton on the hottest day of the year. The crowds prompted local officials to declare it a "major incident" and considered closing beaches again.<sup>130</sup> This week, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that England is on its way to reopening on July 4, which will see the social distancing two metre rule scrapped in order to allow smaller businesses to open.<sup>131</sup> Nightclubs, indoor gyms and swimming pools are expected to stay closed, with more information to be released next week.

### *Ireland*

Ireland's health authority has planned to launch a COVID-19 contact-tracing app based on Apple and Google's technology by the end of the month.<sup>132</sup> With phase three of reopening scheduled to begin on June 29, domestic travel will be permitted anywhere within the country. Under this phase, pre-schools, summer camps, youth clubs and all indoor and outdoor amenities for children are scheduled to reopen, with the provision of services to be carried out under strict social distancing measures. Work from home for businesses will still be encouraged; however, several retail stores may reopen, including wellbeing services such as chiropractic and massage therapy, hairdressers, barbers, beauty salons, spas, tattoo and piercing parlors. Pubs and hotel bars operating as restaurants, cafés, hotels, hostels, caravan parks and holiday parks will also reopen at full capacity. Indoor gatherings of up to 50 people and outdoor gatherings of up to 200 will be allowed. Sport related activities, gyms, exercise facilities and public swimming pools will also reopen. People using public transport will be advised to wear face coverings and avoid peak hours unless they are an essential worker. In terms of international travel, all non-essential overseas travel is still discouraged.<sup>133</sup> The Aviation Recovery Taskforce has advised the government to lift the 14-day compulsory quarantine for people arriving into Ireland by July 1, considering Ireland's lag behind other EU member states in restoring air travel.<sup>134</sup>

### *Luxembourg*

With an end to the state of emergency announced on June 24, regulations still remain in place, including mandatory application of masks on public transport, the limitation of guests in bars and restaurants, as well as penalties for infringements.<sup>135</sup> However, large private gatherings of 20 people or more are allowed without restrictions. The rule is slightly stricter for large public gatherings where people have to be seated and physical distance must be maintained or else face masks are deemed mandatory. Nightclubs and saunas continue to remain closed.<sup>136</sup> The education minister announced the resumption of elementary and secondary schools, effective June 29, with classes to resume with their pre-health crisis format where

students will not be split into groups. However, health measures will still apply, with students encouraged to wear masks on school transport and outside of the classroom. Primary schools will be allowed to resume PE classes, although are recommended to conduct these lessons outdoors where possible.<sup>137</sup> A new agreement with Belgium was also announced by the Minister of Finance the following day, under which employees who work in Luxembourg but live in Belgium, will be able to work from home until 31 August without being double-taxed. This initiative is considered to be beneficial for both Luxembourg-based companies and their employees.<sup>138</sup>

### *Portugal*

After entering phase three of deconfinement on June 15, the metropolitan area of Lisbon witnessed a spike in COVID-19 cases, causing new lockdown measures to be implemented within the region effective June 23. These include a reduction in gatherings from 20 to 10 people and an 8pm curfew on commercial spaces, with the exception of restaurants and catering establishments providing home delivery, directly or through an intermediary, which can remain open till midnight. However, restaurants are no longer allowed to serve drinks after the 8pm curfew, and drinking in public spaces outside of licensed esplanades is also prohibited.<sup>139</sup> In a quest to support the regional economy and sector tourism in Southern Portugal, Ryanair announced the re-establishment of 37 routes to and from Faro, as of July 1, as part of their summer 2020 schedule.<sup>140</sup> Turismo de Portugal has also launched the 'Clean & Safe' website on June 24, making it possible for tourists to leave reviews about the tourist developments they visit, in order to address public and safety concerns within those areas.<sup>141</sup>

## **CENTRAL EUROPE**

### *Austria*

Effective July 1, up to 250 people can gather indoors and 500 person events will be permitted outdoors with assigned and labelled seating.<sup>142</sup> Currently, visitors from outside the EU or Schengen zone area are prohibited from entering Austria. More than 1,500 workers at an abattoir in the western German state of Rhine-Westphalia have tested positive for COVID-19, prompting the Austrian government to ban non-essential travel to Rhine-Westphalia. All direct flights between Austria and the state are restricted while the towns are under lockdown. Austria relies on tourists from Germany and quickly lifted restrictions at the country's shared borders.<sup>143</sup> A study in the Alpine ski resort of Ischgl, the site of Austria's largest outbreak, found 42% of residents have COVID-19 antibodies, the highest rate ever proven globally.<sup>144</sup>

### *Greece*

Until June 30, all travellers arriving at Greece's two main airports are subject to either compulsory or random testing based on their travel origin, as set by EASA guidelines. Effective July 1, direct flights between international destinations and the Greek islands will resume.<sup>145</sup> On June 21, lockdown restrictions were imposed on a northwestern town, ordering schools to close in order to contain the infection after seven people tested positive for COVID-19.<sup>146</sup> The Greek government announced an extension of the lockdown on its migrant camps in the Aegean Islands until July 5. The lockdown was supposed to end on June 22 as the country prepared for the tourist season but this has been extended since initially being introduced on March 21. 2,000 people protested in central Athens to denounce the government's treatment of migrants.<sup>147</sup>

### *Italy*

In Italy, theatres and cinemas have reopened with performances to be held with pre-assigned and spaced seating, in order to maintain at least one metre distance between staff and spectators. There is a limit of 1000 spectators for outdoor gatherings and 200 people for gatherings in closed, indoor spaces.<sup>148</sup> Soccer

matches are being played in empty stadiums and government authorities are working on allowing fans back in July. Effective June 25, amateur contact sports are allowed to resume.<sup>149</sup> Schools will reopen in September, but the Education Ministry has yet to publish official guidelines for the upcoming school year. Italy's 20 administrative regions have proposed their own protocols and teaching outside is one solution being suggested to help students safely return to classes. Moving schools outdoors will require significant commitment from education authorities and will change expectations for teachers, parents and children.<sup>150</sup> Social distancing requirements at restaurants have led to greater adoption of digital technologies by many small businesses in Italy; many are using digital booking systems and menus.<sup>151</sup>

### *Slovenia*

On June 21, Slovenia had the highest number of daily infections since April 24--prompting several new government measures.<sup>152</sup> In response, the government has made face masks mandatory in indoor public places and on public transportation. With most cases originating from abroad, the government has made adjustments to its list of COVID-19 safe countries from which arrivals face no restrictions. The government has placed Montenegro, Luxembourg, Albania and Portugal on the list of red countries from where entry to Slovenia involves a two week quarantine.<sup>153</sup> The opposition is highly critical of the government's crisis measures and the prime minister's inappropriate and divisive rhetoric on social media towards the opposition and journalists.<sup>154</sup>

### *Switzerland*

Effective June 22, groups of up to 1,000 people are authorized to gather in Switzerland at rallies and events. Wearing a mask will become mandatory during large events, but the social distancing requirement of two metres has been reduced to 1.5 metres. Restaurant curfews are no longer in effect and patrons are no longer obligated to remain seated at a table. The Swiss government has dropped their recommendation to work from home and it is now up to employers to decide where their staff should be working from. Employers are obliged to ensure the necessary safety measures are in place.<sup>155</sup> On June 25, SwissCovid was launched, a voluntary COVID-19 mobile tracing app to prevent a potential second wave as restrictions are relaxed. The government hopes the app will help stop the spread of the virus by allowing them to track infection chains. Originally set to release in May, the app was delayed because the government wanted to ensure it complied with data protection laws and were waiting on Google-Apple to finish their bluetooth interfaces for tracing.<sup>156</sup> On June 29, long distance international trains will resume operation between Switzerland and Italy. Health experts are refusing to rule out a new spike of infections in the coming months as Switzerland risks outbreaks similar to those in Germany.<sup>157</sup>

## **EASTERN EUROPE**

### *Czech Republic*

On June 22, all hospitals, social service centres, and medical establishments throughout the Czech Republic were allowed to fully reopen for patients of all ages and target groups, subject to compliance with strict preventative measures.<sup>158</sup> Mass gatherings - including all public and private festivals, performances, sporting events, religious services, and celebrations - can now take place with up to 1000 participants in both indoor and outdoor settings, provided that individuals are able to maintain at least 1.5 metres distance between each other at all times.<sup>159</sup> All Czech residents are expected to cover their faces while in close proximity to other individuals--especially indoors, on public transit, and while participating in mass gatherings where they are unable to maintain a safe distance from other participants.<sup>160</sup>

### *Hungary*

On June 18, the Hungarian government ended its nationwide state of emergency and entered a state of “epidemiological preparedness,” thereby lifting many of the restrictions introduced in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.<sup>161</sup> All shops, restaurants, hotels, cinemas, theatres, swimming pools, and spas can reopen without restrictions.<sup>162</sup> Mandatory shopping hours reserved for senior citizens have also been eliminated, thus allowing all grocery stores, pharmacies, and drugstores to accept customers without restrictions throughout the work day.<sup>163</sup> Mass gatherings can now take place with up to 500 participants. The Hungarian Football Association has been allowed to lift all restrictions and security measures concerning domestic football matches.<sup>164</sup> This means that all matches can take place without restrictions, and all clubs can fully reopen their stands at full capacity.<sup>165</sup> All healthcare services have been allowed to resume, and the inpatients of all medical facilities and social centres can now accept visitors without restrictions.<sup>166</sup> Hungarian citizens and permanent residents can now return to Hungary from *any* country, and may enter the country without a mandatory period of quarantine.<sup>167</sup> Masks or scarves must still be used in shops and while using public transport.<sup>168</sup>

### *Latvia*

Latvia has not reported any new cases of COVID-19, or any deaths caused by the virus since June 20 and June 17, respectively.<sup>169</sup> All Latvian residents are still required to cover their faces while using public transport, and are being encouraged to continue doing so in other public settings.<sup>170</sup>

### *Lithuania*

After ending a nationwide quarantine on June 16, the Lithuanian government has continued easing restrictions related to COVID-19 this week. As of July 1, events and mass gatherings will be allowed to take place in outdoor settings with up to 1000 spectators and/or participants, while indoor events will be limited to 200 participants; the previous limits were 700 and 150, respectively.<sup>171</sup> EU+ citizens and permanent residents can currently travel to Lithuania from almost 30 European countries without restrictions, including Belgium, France, and Spain, while those travelling from Sweden, Portugal, and the UK will remain prohibited from entering Lithuania until their incidences of COVID-19 have fallen below 25 cases per 100,000 people in the last 14 days.<sup>172</sup>

### *Poland*

The pandemic has taken a backseat to politics in Poland this week, as President Andrzej Duda became the first foreign visitor to the White House since the outbreak of COVID-19.<sup>173</sup> A presidential election is set to take place on June 28 using mail-in ballots; it was postponed from May due to the pandemic.<sup>174</sup>

### *Slovakia*

Following the end of its nationwide state of emergency on June 13, the Slovak government has focused primarily on easing restrictions at its borders. The list of “safe” countries whose citizens may enter Slovakia without restriction has been expanded to include Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.<sup>175</sup>

## **NORTHERN EUROPE**

### *Denmark*

On June 25, Denmark opened its borders to tourists from all but six EU/EEA countries: the exceptions being UK, Sweden, Portugal, Malta, Romania, and Ireland). While only Sweden and the UK are currently

ineligible based on the criteria outlined the previous week, the other countries are barred due to restrictions they have imposed on Danish tourists.<sup>176</sup> University students and staff were allowed to return to campus on June 22 to write their final exams and prepare for the fall semester. International students will be permitted to enter the country for the upcoming semester, as education programs have been deemed essential activities.<sup>177</sup> Professional sports teams are now allowed to have fans in attendance at their games, though with limited capacity and social distancing rules applied. While the normal limit for gatherings in Denmark is 500 people, the games are granted an exemption of up to 3000 people. The government has said it will consider allowing more than 3000 people at the games if the infection rate in the country remains low.<sup>178</sup>

### *Estonia*

Following the resignation last week of the Chief of the Health Board, the government has expressed hope of finding her replacement in the next few months--in anticipation of a second wave of the virus.<sup>179</sup> Authorities in Estonia are concerned that Midsummer holiday festivities will lead to an uptick in cases, and police are monitoring certain events to ensure that guidelines are being followed.<sup>180</sup> Poland, Bulgaria, and Romania were added to the list of countries where travellers need to self-isolate upon arrival in Estonia after their infection rates rose above 15 per 100,000 in the past two weeks. They join the UK, Sweden and Portugal.<sup>181</sup> The Chair of the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce said that the government has been indifferent to the plight of farmers who rely on seasonal foreign workers to harvest their crops. He added that initiatives to recruit locals have not worked, and only expanding eligibility to enter the country will alleviate the stress the industry is feeling.<sup>182</sup>

### *Finland*

Starting on July 13, Finland will no longer require travellers from EU countries with an infection rate of fewer than 8 new cases per 100,000 people over the previous two weeks to quarantine themselves on arrival. A dozen EU countries currently meet the criteria to be eligible, but the government will decide on a final list by July 10.<sup>183</sup> The government has also called off its specific recommendations for those over the age of 70, saying that all age groups should practice good hygiene and social distancing but that lockdown measures for the elderly were no longer necessary.<sup>184</sup> Additionally, the government will lift its recommendation to work from home on August 1, though companies should continue to accommodate those who cannot return to the office.<sup>185</sup>

### *Iceland*

A nurses' strike in Iceland has been narrowly avoided after the union and the government reached an agreement the night before the strike was set to begin. A strike would have jeopardized the country's ability to test incoming tourists for COVID-19, and the healthcare system at large.<sup>186</sup> Iceland is considering exempting travellers from certain countries from airport testing in order to allow more flights to arrive in the country each day.<sup>187</sup> Testing on arrival at the border will continue through at least July. Gathering limits will be raised to 2000 people (the current limit is 500) on July 13, and the country may allow restaurants and bars to remain open past 11pm as of the same date.<sup>188</sup> Iceland has been vocal in its desire to see tourists from more countries outside the EU/EEA be allowed into the Schengen Area, but continental officials have been hesitant to expand the list of countries they are considering.<sup>189</sup> While Iceland is not a part of the EU, it is a part of the EEA and the Schengen Area. The EU has told the Icelandic government that if they do not comply with their travel regulations on the internal border, then the country could be cut off from the Schengen Area entirely.<sup>190</sup>

### *Norway*

Starting on July 15, Norway will allow unrestricted travel to and from EU/EEA countries that have an infection rate below 20 new cases per 100,000 people over the previous two weeks, an average of 0.5 new admissions to the ICU over the same period, and fewer than 5% positive tests.<sup>191</sup> The lifting of restrictions comes after polls indicated that over 5% of respondents explicitly said they would defy the government's advice and travel to southern Europe over the next few months. While not an outright ban, Norwegians who travel to countries that do not meet the criteria will need to quarantine themselves for at least 10 days upon their return.<sup>192</sup>

### *Sweden*

Sweden has extended the country's ban on travellers from outside the EU/EEA until July 7. Exceptions apply to EU citizens, Swedish residents, and those working in essential services.<sup>193</sup> Amusement parks in Sweden will not be able to obtain an exemption from gathering limits (the current limit is 50) for the entire summer season, forcing virtually all operations to cease. Park operators were hoping to acquire the same status as zoos, which are not covered under the Ordinance Act's guidelines on gathering limits.<sup>194</sup> Sweden will appoint an independent commission to investigate the country's response to the pandemic, which plans to complete its review before the next election in 2022.<sup>195</sup> Swedes appear to be losing confidence in the government's ability to deal with COVID-19: an Ipsos poll showed for the first time that less than a majority of respondents have 'strong confidence' in the government's response to the pandemic.<sup>196</sup>

## **ASIA/PACIFIC**

### *Japan*

Japan has been seeing a relatively stable level of new infections for the past week, fluctuating around 50 new cases per day. On June 18, the Japanese prime minister suggested that in order to enhance screening capabilities and structures, alternative methods like saliva-based PCR screening should be introduced and a new PCR center should be established for overseas travellers.<sup>197</sup> Released on June 19, the contact tracing app which alerts users of close contact with confirmed cases, has encountered a glitch that could cause erroneous documentation. Its notification function has been halted for ongoing repair. Life is almost back to normal since most restrictions have been lifted. Domestic travel was fully restored last weekend and mobile phone location data showed that more people were travelling between Tokyo and other prefectures than the week before last.<sup>198</sup> The opening of the Tokyo International Cruise Terminal, originally scheduled on July 14, has been postponed to September at the earliest as cruise ship operations remain suspended worldwide. Japan's discussions about easing entry restrictions are ongoing with Vietnam, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, but Japan's borders will not reopen to other countries very soon.

### *South Korea*

South Korea has seemingly stabilized its level of new infections, with about 40 new cases per day. On June 23, the president pressed the National Assembly to approve the delayed third COVID-19 financial stimulus package worth \$29 billion.<sup>199</sup> Guidelines were issued on June 16 to expedite vaccines' early entry into clinical trials and to strengthen clinical trial capacity.<sup>200</sup> To improve working conditions in hot weather for medical staff, the government has prepared a plan to reduce regular working time, supply additional workforce and distribute extra equipment.<sup>201</sup> As hospitals experience bed shortages in the worst hit areas, experts are suggesting prioritizing urgent cases rather than admitting all COVID-19 patients.<sup>202</sup> Adults fully recovered from COVID-19 are encouraged to participate in developing plasma therapy. Free pneumococcal vaccinations for the elderly have been expanded from public health centers to private institutions starting

June 22 to offer better protection. People are urged to stay vigilant particularly during the hot summer. Normal life is moving on across the country except for the Seoul metropolitan region. With more than 200 new community infections related to door-to-door sales, direct-sale promotion has been designated as high risk and staff have to keep a strict log of all customers and comply with infection prevention rules.<sup>203</sup> A measure to reduce classroom crowding has been extended until mid-July, requiring high schools to cap the number of students at two thirds of the total student body and capping the lower grades at one third.<sup>204</sup> South Korea decided on June 21 to stop issuing new visas to Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, except for diplomatic and urgent business purposes, due to a spike of imported cases from the two countries. Also, non-regular flights linking Bangladesh and Pakistan to South Korea were suspended.<sup>205</sup>

### *New Zealand*

As of June 26, New Zealand has 14 active cases that were all imported and had been isolated upon arrival. Concerns arose over the loose observation of physical distancing and mask wearing on the flights bringing residents home.<sup>206</sup> With growing anxiety over new infections and the arrival of the cold and flu season, testing centres across the country have been experiencing high demand--although many community assessment centres are already closed.<sup>207</sup> Random testing is also being considered, especially among workers at airports or isolation hotels. The government is tightening rules at borders as more residents return. All people leaving government managed isolation facilities must now present a negative COVID-19 test. The housing minister was appointed to take control over isolation and quarantine management. Additionally, the opposition called for the health minister's resignation over accusations that people have been able to leave quarantine without being tested.<sup>208</sup> All isolation and quarantine facilities will be under inspection starting July. The government is seeking more isolation space at different facilities and a co-payment scheme is being considered for the quarantine hotel bills.<sup>209</sup> Normal life continues domestically without restrictions. Some specified sports participants and infrastructure project workers are being permitted to enter New Zealand.<sup>210</sup> The ban on cruise ships has been renewed. Crews from foreign boats (including cargo boats and other boats) that have been permitted entry are required to isolate, unless they have been on the ship for 28 continuous days without showing symptoms.<sup>211</sup>

### *Australia*

Even though Australia maintains a low level of new infections nationwide, Victoria, its second-largest state, has logged more than ten new cases per day for the past week, accounting for almost all the locally acquired cases. Victoria is extending its state of emergency until July 19. Six local government areas have been designated as outbreak hotspots, and so traveling to and from these areas is discouraged.<sup>212</sup> These hotspots will be targeted with extra testing, pop-up clinics and "door-to-door" engagement from health officials.<sup>213</sup> Responding to Victoria's request, the Australian Defence Force will provide more than 1,000 personnel to help with the COVID-19 response.<sup>214</sup> There are large variations between the pace of reopening in different states, but further relaxation is expected at the start of July. However, Victoria will be reversing part of its easing plan by reducing the maximum number of people at gatherings, events and businesses.<sup>215</sup> While the least-affected states allow for 100 or more people at gatherings, only 10 to 20 are permitted in the most affected states. The maximum number of people at home gatherings ranges from 20 to unlimited. For restaurants, cafes and pubs the lowest capacity limits are 20 patrons; by contrast, the Northern Territory and Western Australia have scrapped capacity limits as long as physical distancing rules are followed. Hairdressers and other beauty services are allowed to operate subject to varied restrictions. Intrastate travels are generally unrestricted except for travel to hotspot areas, but different interstate travel policies persist. Queensland and Western Australia still have their border closed, but no border restrictions remain in the Australian Capital Territory. Libraries, gyms, and retail shopping for non-essential items have reopened in most states. All students have physically returned to school.<sup>216</sup>



## *Turkey*

As of June 24, Turkey has witnessed a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. This follows the government's decision to authorize cafes, restaurants, gyms, parks, beaches and museums to reopen completely and their decision to ease stay-at-home orders for the elderly and young people at the beginning of June. Despite registering a rise in average daily infection cases in June, Turkey isn't considering tightening its lockdown restrictions any further.<sup>217</sup> In fact, on June 24, the Turkish culture and tourism minister announced new measures in the tourism sector to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The minister revealed that more than 727 hotels and 900 restaurants have applied for the "Safe Tourism Certificate," which would prove that they have standard precautionary health measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus. Officials disguised as "hidden guests" will also be sent to inspect hotels and restaurants on a regular basis.<sup>218</sup> On June 24, Turkey reopened its mosques for prayers with congregation, and directed worshippers to wear masks and maintain social distancing.<sup>219</sup> Turkey has informed other countries about their current health infrastructure to reassure them that Turkey is safe for tourism. COVID-19 testing centers are scheduled to be set up at all Turkish international airports by July 1.

## *Israel*

Israel's new infections have been skyrocketing and reached 532 new cases per day on June 24. The total active case count has exceeded 5,000, doubling that number two weeks before. Officials predict a sharp rise in the coming few days with as many as 1,000 new daily cases. The Corona Cabinet decided upon a series of immediate measures on June 22, including: establishing a centralized enforcement authority, increasing fines, continuing protection at centers for the elderly, evaluating return to work in self-contained shifts and approving school activities during the summer vacation.<sup>220</sup> The Israel Defense Force was ordered to open additional quarantine hotels for patients who cannot adequately self-isolate at home. The Health Ministry has allocated a budget to integrate 300 auxiliary workers to assist with epidemiological investigation and has instructed hospitals around the country to prepare to reopen their COVID-19 wards.<sup>221</sup> The bill resuming the national spy agency's involvement in contact tracing, unanimously backed by the Cabinet, will move ahead to the national legislature despite opposition by the head of the agency.<sup>222</sup> While reopening has been mostly frozen, cultural events accommodating up to 250 people were permitted starting June 21.<sup>223</sup> Intercity rail services restarted on June 22 with a cap of 500 passengers on each train while only about 30% of the approved capacity was utilized. Strict travel restrictions apply and travelers must also book their places online.<sup>224</sup> Multiple neighborhoods have been designated as restricted areas and put under partial lockdown for a week long duration. Within these neighborhoods, gatherings of more than 50 people will be prohibited. Schools will also be shut in some neighborhoods.<sup>225</sup> The government's attempt to force teachers to work into July to recoup missed classes was denied by the court on June 18. School children will have their vacation start by the end of June.<sup>226</sup>

## Endnotes for Country Summaries

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## **Partnerships and Contributors**

The Media Ecosystem Observatory – a joint effort of Peter Loewen (Toronto), Taylor Owen (McGill), and Derek Ruths (McGill) – is responsible for the social media and behavioural data on our dashboard. The leads on these projects are Eric Merkley (Toronto) and Aengus Bridgman (McGill).

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### *Links*

<https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/>

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