

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker Regional report - Europe and Central Asia

This report summarises the major changes in the region for the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker's [Containment and Health Index](#), providing a high level overview of shifts in government policies.

OxCGRT is created by the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. For more information visit www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker.

REGION	Europe and Central Asia
Date range	1-31 November, 2021
Reported by	Ayanna Griffith, Nicholas Pulik, and Alex Collin

Brief summary of major changes:

The month of November was slow in terms of regional policy changes. However, changes can be seen in some nations in response to an increase in COVID-19 cases and the new COVID-19 variant. Policies in response to the COVID-19 Omicron variant are evident in international travel restrictions that were implemented. Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Russia, Sweden and The United Kingdom all implemented new restrictions that affected travel from some African nations.

Other changes in the region can be seen in policies concerning school and workplace closings. Germany and Liechtenstein, for instance, have introduced vaccination, recovery, or test requirements for many shared spaces. Masking policies have been expanded or introduced in several countries, including Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, and the Slovak Republic. Additionally, across the region local governments have introduced and enforced more stringent targeted measures, as is the case in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, and Turkmenistan.

C1: School Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Albania- Changes in schedules with shorter and smaller classes. Teachers at pre-university level need to be vaccinated or show a weekly negative test certificate. At the university level, teachers and students need to be vaccinated or show a weekly negative test certificate.● Andorra- Starting on the 20th of November, students 8 years old and older should wear a mask.● Austria- On the 22nd of November Austria entered a new lockdown. It became compulsory to wear masks in school.● Faroe Islands- Since the 3rd of November, schools and day-care centers where Covid-19 is spreading should be locked down temporarily.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● France- Since the 29th of November, the rules regarding the closure of elementary classes in case of a positive Covid-19 case will no longer apply and students with a negative test will be able to go to school. For middle school, in case of a Covid-19 case, students who are vaccinated will be able to attend classes, those unvaccinated must remain home. ● Germany- As of 10 November, Covid-19 tests are required to attend in person higher education in Berlin. ● Greenland- From 3 November, new rules are in place regarding the ventilation of shared indoor spaces including schools. ● Iceland- From 13 November, new rules apply regarding the size of group activities for school children, and classrooms. From 23 November, high schools and universities are using distance learning. ● Latvia- From 15 November, instruction can take place in person for vaccinated students observing hygiene protocols ● Romania- From 8 November, in-person teaching resumed in areas where 60% of education personnel were vaccinated. From 22 November, in-person teaching can resume in all areas with low COVID incidence rates, regardless of personnel vaccination status. ● Russian Federation- Following the end of a lockdown, schools reopened on 7 November. Additionally, from 19 November schools in the Ugra region are closed until 5 December. ● Serbia- From 16 November, some levels of schools were required to close. ● Slovak Republic- From 29 November, secondary schools and high schools were required to close in the Roznava district.
<p>C2: Workplace Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Austria- Since the 15th of November, stricter rules apply to work places. Generally, employees need to show a vaccine or recovery proof. In some sectors negative tests can also be necessary if physical distancing cannot be maintained. Places with more than 50 people need special prevention plans. ● Belgium- Since the 17th of November, working from home is compulsory for public and private sectors. ● Denmark- Since the 26th of November, private and municipal employers can require “coronapas”. Employees in state and regions are required to present a “coronapas”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faroe Islands- Since the 3rd of November, rules have changed for Faroe Islands but no major changes recorded for workplace closing. ● Finland- Since the 1st of November, the recommendation to work from home has ended. ● Germany- From 24 November, workers must show evidence of vaccination, recovery, or a negative test to work in person. ● Greenland- From 3 November, new rules are in place regarding the ventilation of shared indoor spaces including workplaces. ● Ireland- From 19 November, working from home is strongly recommended. ● Kyrgyz Republic- As of 23 November, businesses can return to normal opening hours if appropriate hygiene measures are in place. ● Latvia- From 15 November, businesses can operate with limited opening hours and appropriate hygiene measures. ● Netherlands- From 13 November, non-essential businesses have been required to close at 18:00 and essential businesses must close at 20:00. ● Slovak Republic- From 25 November only essential workers are permitted to access workplaces. ● Slovenia- As of 8 of November, discotheques and nightclubs are required to close and the government has issued safety restrictions for all businesses. ● Spain- From 17 November, the Basque region implemented additional restrictions concerning the use of a COVID certificate in some businesses. ● Turkmenistan- In November, the government announced the closure of recreational facilities, non-essential shops, bars and restaurants, and other businesses.
<p>C3: Cancel Public Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Albania- Some sport and cultural activities are allowed with public within a capacity of 30% and with sanitary protocols in place. ● Austria- On the 15th of November Austria prohibited all kinds of public events with rare exceptions. The list of exceptions was defined on the 22nd of November with stringent sanitary protocols. ● Belgium- Since the 17th of November, it is compulsory to show the Covid Safe Ticket in all the country for specific situations (public or private meetings of more than 50

indoors and 100 outdoors, catering places, cultural activities). Before it was limited to the region of Bruxelles.

- **Croatia-** Starting on the 11th of November it is forbidden to hold public events and gatherings indoors with more than 50 people (unless it is public or everyone has a Covid certificate, in which case stricter sanitary protocols are needed).
- **Denmark-** Since the 12th of November, some events are required to operate with the “coronapas” (100 people for indoor venues and 1,000 people for outdoor venues).
- **Faroe Islands-** Since the 3rd of November, all gatherings with more than 50 people have to be canceled or postponed. Nightlife is shut down.
- **Finland-** Since the 15th of November, Finland has adopted stricter restrictions on meetings in parts of the country (maximum 50 people indoors). Since the 23rd of November, this limit has been lowered to 20 people in parts of the country.
- **Germany-** National rules remain the same, but Baden-Württemberg requires proof of vaccination or recovery for entry to Christmas markets.
- **Greenland-** In the towns of Nuuk and Sisimiut, proof of vaccination or negative test is required for access to hospitality, culture, sports, and event locations.
- **Iceland-** As of 13 November, the maximum gathering size has been reduced from 200 attendees to 50. Gatherings of up to 500 attendees may be allowed if stringent health and registration measures are taken.
- **Ireland-** From 19 November, all public events venues must close at midnight and require proof of vaccination or recovery to enter.
- **Kyrgyz Republic-** As of 23 November, public events can be held if hygiene measures are in place.
- **Netherlands-** From 13 November, all events must end by 18:00 and there is a limit of 1,250 visitors.
- **Russian Federation-** From 19 November, culture and sports events in the region of Ugra are suspended.
- **Slovak Republic-** From 25 November, all public events are suspended, apart from funerals, professional sports, or official assemblies.
- **Slovenia-** From 8 November, all public events and gatherings are prohibited.

C4: Restrictions on Gatherings

- **Austria-** On the 15th of November Austria decided to limit gatherings and on the 22nd of November defined a list of authorized meetings with stringent sanitary protocols.
- **Belgium-** Since the 17th of November, it is compulsory to show the Covid Safe Ticket in all the country for specific situations (public or private meetings of more than 50 indoors and 100 outdoors, catering places, cultural activities). Before it was only in the region of Bruxelles.
- **Croatia-** Starting on the 11th of November it is forbidden to hold public events and gatherings indoors with more than 50 people (unless it is public or everyone has a Covid certificate, in which case stricter sanitary protocols are needed).
- **Denmark-** Since the 12th of November, some events are required to operate with the "coronapas" (100 people for indoor venues and 1,000 people for outdoor venues).
- **Faroe Islands-** Since the 3rd of November, all gatherings with more than 50 people have to be canceled or postponed. Nightlife is shut down.
- **Finland-** Since the 15th of November, Finland has adopted stricter restrictions on meetings in parts of the country (maximum 50 people indoors). Since the 23rd of November, this limit has been lowered to 20 people in parts of the country.
- **Germany-** As of 24 November, unvaccinated people in Munich cannot gather with more than five others.
- **Greenland-** The rule on gathering size of gatherings, stipulating a maximum of 20 people, expired at the end of October and was not renewed.
- **Hungary-** From the start of November, proof of vaccination is required at events with over 500 attendees.
- **Iceland-** As of 13 November, the maximum gathering size has been reduced from 200 attendees to 50. Gatherings of up to 500 attendees may be allowed if stringent health and registration measures are taken.
- **Latvia-** From 15 November, gatherings of 500 people can take place if attendees present proof of vaccination, recovery, or testing.
- **Netherlands-** As of 13 November, gatherings above 4 persons are not permitted.
- **Slovak Republic-** As of 25 November, gatherings above 6 persons are not permitted.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slovenia- As of 6 November, all gatherings are prohibited, excluding family members or persons in the same household. ● Spain- As of 17 November, covid passports are required for gatherings of more than 50 in the Basque region. ● Turkmenistan- In November, a lockdown in the Lebap region was extended, banning gatherings.
<p>C5: Close Public Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Germany- From 24 November, travelers on public transport (excluding taxis) must show evidence of vaccination, recovery, or a negative test. ● Hungary- From the start of November, mask requirements will return for public transport. ● Iceland- As of 13 November, there is a requirement to wear a mask in public transport, including taxis and coaches. ● Latvia- From 15 November, public transport is operating at 80% capacity. ● Liechtenstein- From the start of November, restrictions (vaccinated, recovered, or tested) will be in place in all public spaces.
<p>C6: Stay at Home requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Austria- On the 15th of November, Austria decided that people without a 2G proof can only leave their houses for limited purposes (essential activities). ● Finland- Since the 1st of November, Finland has lifted recommendations to stay at home. ● Germany- On 19 November, the government issued recommendations that people remain at home and minimize contacts. ● Greenland- As of 24 November, isolation recommendations encourage the unvaccinated and those who have or believe they may have Covid-19 to stay at home. ● Italy- National rules remain the same, but local restrictions were in place in Campania and Sicily from the start of the month until 22 November, and in Trentino from 21 November. ● Latvia- From 15 November, all stay at home requirements have been lifted ● Russian Federation- On 22 of November, stay at home measures were introduced for unvaccinated persons in several cities. ● Serbia- In November, the government recommended that persons with respiratory symptoms stay home. ● Slovak Republic- From 25 November, a curfew has been put in place.

<p>C7: Restrictions on Internal movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Austria- On the 15th of November, Austria passed stay-at-home orders and thus internal movements were not recommended unless for essential reasons. ● Azerbaijan- Since the 1st of November, people over 18 traveling between cities and states of Azerbaijan must have their 2 doses or a certificate of immunity. ● Germany- On 19 November, the government issued recommendations that people remain at home and minimize contacts. ● Italy- Local restrictions were in place in Campania and Sicily from the start of the month until 22 November, and in Trentino from 21 November. ● Liechtenstein- From the start of November, restrictions (vaccinated, recovered, or tested) will be in place in all public spaces. ● Turkmenistan- In November, restrictions were placed on interstate travel.
<p>C8: International Travel Controls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Austria- On the 27th of November, due to the Omicron variant Austria decided to establish a ban on travel for some countries of Austral Africa. ● Azerbaijan- Since the 1st of November, travelers over 18 are allowed in the country if they have complete vaccination or recovery and a negative PCR test taken within 72h before their flights. Travelers under 18 years old have to show the proof of a negative PCR test taken within 72h of travel. This only applies to a list of countries. Before travel was banned from all regions. ● Croatia- Since the 26th of November, because of the Omicron variant, Croatia has banned travel for a list of Austral Africa countries. ● Germany- As of 26 November, Germany has banned entry from South Africa. German citizens returning from South Africa are permitted to travel, but must quarantine for 14 days on arrival. ● Iceland- As of 23 November, foreign arrivals must present a negative test and proof of vaccination. Those coming from high-risk areas must also quarantine upon arrival. ● Ireland- From 29 November, travel to or from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe is strongly discouraged. ● Italy- From 26 November, entry is prohibited from South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia and Eswatini.

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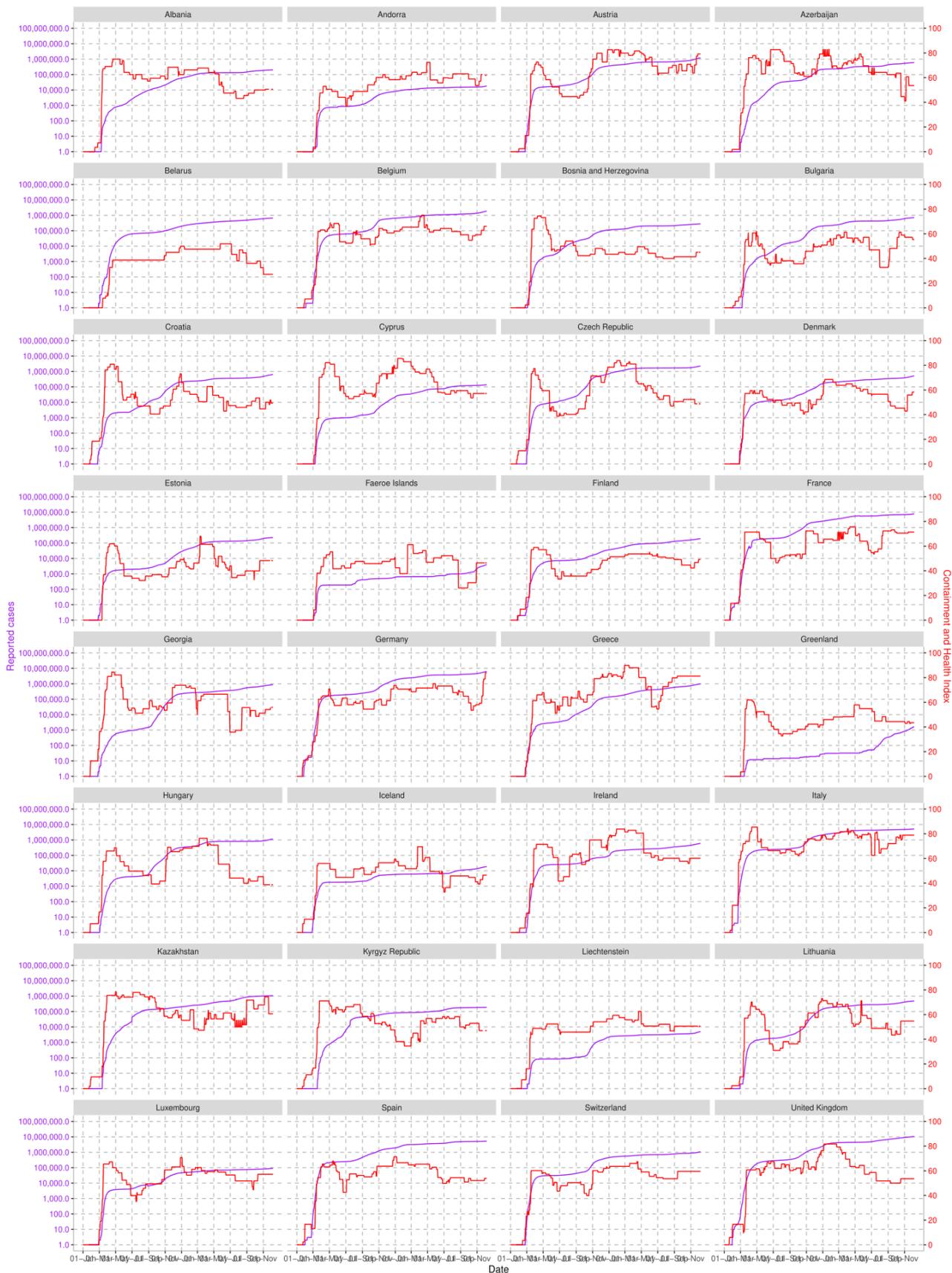
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Norway- From 27 November, persons traveling from Southern African nations are required to complete a COVID-19 test prior to travel and quarantine upon entry. ● Russia- From 28 November, the government restricted entry of persons traveling from Southern African nations. ● Sweden- From 26 November, an entry ban has been introduced for unvaccinated travelers from Ukraine and Singapore. As of 28 November, travelers from specific Southern African countries are required to complete COVID-19 tests prior to arrival, and five days after arrival. ● United Kingdom- From 26 November, persons traveling from Southern African nations are required to quarantine upon entry.
H2: Testing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● France- Since the 29th of November, the validity of testing has been lowered to 24h to have a valid sanitary pass. ● Ireland- Guidance was issued on 16 November recommending taking 3 antigen tests at two-day intervals following close contact with an infected person.
H3: Contact Tracing	No major changes recorded.
H6: Facial Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Belgium- Since the 17th of November, Belgium has extended the list of places requiring mask-wearing. It is now required in all public spaces outside the home and has to be worn even where the Covid Safe Ticket is in place. ● Hungary- From the start of November, mask requirements will return for public transport. ● Italy- National rules remain the same, but additional masking requirements are in place locally, e.g. in Campania masks are required in outdoor public spaces. ● Kazakhstan- As of 6 November, masks are required in indoor and outdoor public spaces. ● Netherlands- As of 6 November, face masks are mandatory in all places where persons are not required to show a COVID-19 pass. ● Norway- From 15 November, the government recommended that unvaccinated healthcare workers wear face masks. ● Slovak Republic- From 25 November, face masks are mandatory in all spaces outside of the home if a distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained.
H7: Vaccination Policy	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Georgia- From 9 November, children aged 12-15 are eligible for vaccination with parental consent.
H8: Protection of elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Greenland- As of 3 November, frontline workers caring for the elderly, along with other healthcare workers, are being offered booster vaccines.● Hungary- From 20 November, visits to hospital patients will no longer be permitted, for the protection of the elderly and other vulnerable groups.

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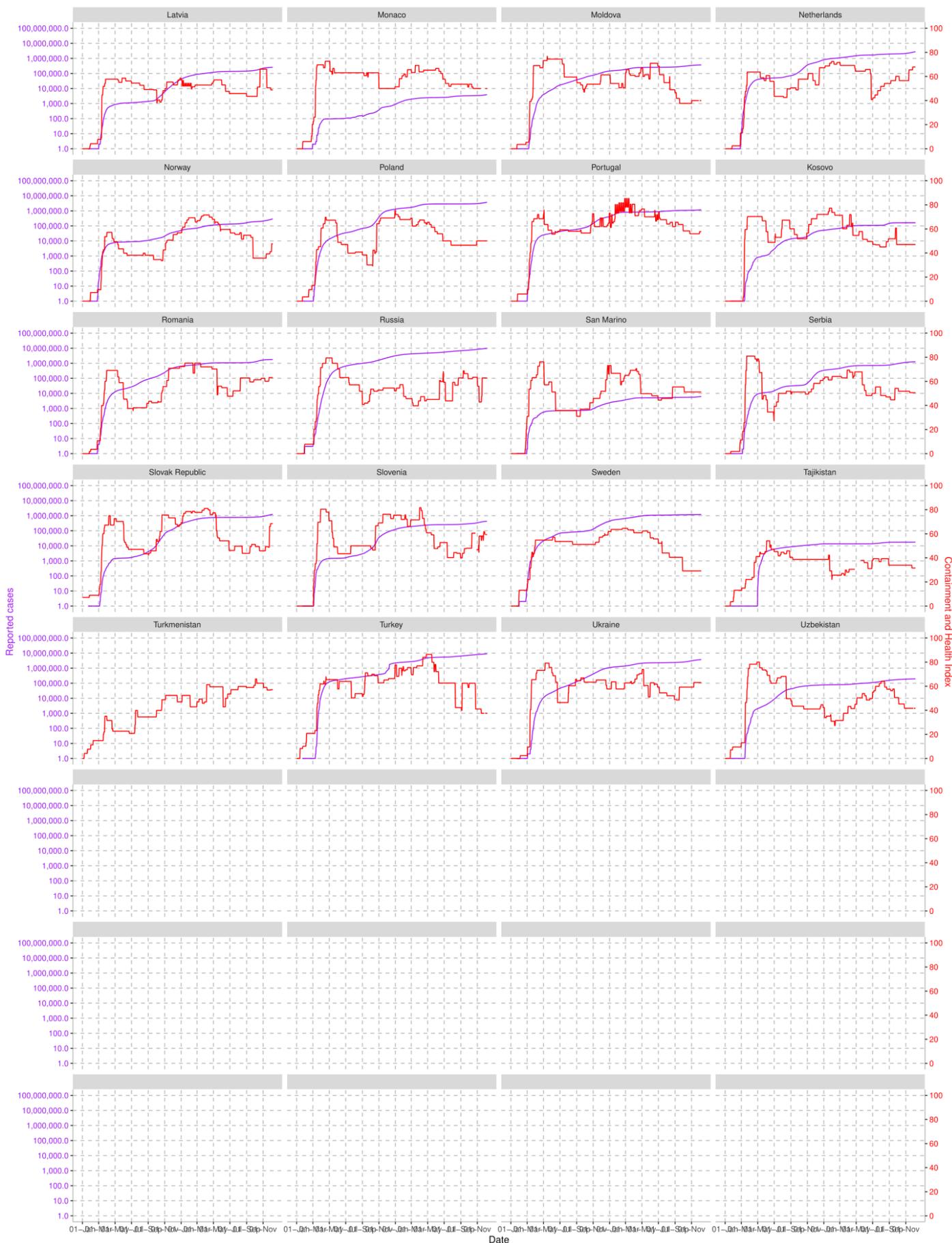
Cases vs Containment and Health Index:



Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at <https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker> or www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

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