Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Actions taken by Japan to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of February 15, 2021.

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Our Organization

The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world's leading independent source of information on members' compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
Purpose

The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, countries agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organization’s guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
## WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/educational institutions:</th>
<th>Workplaces and institutions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, Local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19 where the school(s) are located, School setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.</td>
<td>Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, Communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, Tele-schooling and distance learning.</td>
<td>Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Public events:
- Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals. ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.
- Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, Development of a preparedness and response plan, Assessment of capacities and resources.
- Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.
- Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities.

## Public Transport:
- Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, 24 sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, 25 or venues with limited ventilation.
- Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.
- Reduce mixing between individuals and households.
- Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public.
### WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

#### Public Information Campaign:
- Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.
- Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.
- Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.
- Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.

#### Domestic/International Travel:
- Reduction in Travel to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- International travel should not occur unless in an emergency.
- Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.
- Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding a Public Health Emergency.

#### Testing Framework:
- Set up testing centers in large venues or in check points.
- Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.
- Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.
- To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.

#### Contact Tracing:
- Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.
- Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.
- Used for self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology.

#### Lockdown/Curfew:
- Implementation of curfew hours.
- Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency.
- Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours.
This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
## Scoring Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

* Japan complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) and fully complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions in all nine commitment features. Thus, Japan receives a compliance score of +1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
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</table>
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## Japan

### Lockdown/Curfew

- **On 5 February 2020**, Prime Minister Abe's Administration's COVID-19 task force initiated a political debate on the introduction of emergency measures to combat COVID-19.
- **On 28 February 2020**, the Hokkaido region declared a state of emergency, imposing that people should avoid leaving home for non-essential purposes.
- **On 5 March 2020**, the Abe administration extended the emergency measures laws for COVID-19. The administration then proceeded to in-act the state of emergency in specific areas where the number of cases is at a high.
- **On 26 March 2020**, the Abe administration requested for a government task force to enforce strict measures and order for people to reduce going out of their homes.
- **On 7 April 2020**, Abe's government imposed a one-month state of emergency for Tokyo and other cities followed.
- **On 16 April 2020**, the declaration of the state of emergency was extended to the rest of the country for an indefinite period.
- **On 4 May 2020**, the government suggested that the state of emergency will extend until 14 May.
- **On 14 May 2020**, the Abe administration declared that the government of Japan relieved the state of emergency declaration.
- **On 21 May 2020**, the state of emergency was suspended in 3 prefectures.
- **On 25 May 2020**, the state of emergency was lifted nationwide.
- **On 1 July 2020**, the government of Japan announced that if cases surge up rapidly then Japan will declare another state of emergency.
- **On 1 August 2020**, public transport operation was limited and suspended during night curfew hours.

### Public Transportation

- **On 13 March 2020**, the government of Japan ordered for individuals to limit the use of public transport. Except for the transport of essential goods and services.
- **On 2 April 2020**, the government ordered for non-critical cases to move out of the hospital and that was organized with the use of public transport controlled by the Japan Self-Defense Force.
- **On 4 May 2020**, the government announced for citizens to refrain from talking while using public transport.
- **On 8 January 2021**, public transport operation was limited and suspended during night curfew hours.
On 1 February 2020, the Japanese government banned entry to foreign citizens who have visited Hubei province within 14 days and those with a Chinese passport issued from there.

On 12 February 2020, the previous travel ban extended to anyone who had a recent travel history to and from Zhejiang province or had a Chinese passport issued from the specified province.

On 3 April 2020, the government of Japan decided to ban nationals of 86 countries from entering Japan and requested that all foreign nationals including those holding permanent residency to depart the country. Domestic travel was restricted for essential purposes.

On 4 May 2020, as part of the government's state of emergency, the government recommended for citizens to adapt a new lifestyle which includes avoiding long distance travels.

On 19 June 2020, the government of Japan decided to lift domestic travel restrictions and allowed for citizens to travel domestically.

On 19 August 2020, Japan announced it will lift travel restrictions in September and allow for individuals to travel in and out of Japan.

On 27 September 2020, Starting October 1 easing of entry restrictions, negative COVID-19 test is mandatory and 14 day isolation is a must.

On 27 November 2020, the government banned domestic travel to hotzones.

On 23 December 2020, restriction to entries from the UK or history of travel from the UK.

On 26 December 2020, the entry of all non-resident foreign nationals was banned.

On 25 February 2020, the Abe administration ordered for the closure of all schools from 2 March.

On 27 February 2020, the Japanese government requested for the closure of all elementary, junior high, high schools, special need school and universities until April 2020.

As of 5 March 2020, 98.8 percent of all municipally run schools have complied with Abe’s request, resulting in 18,923 school closures.

On 13 March 2020, the government passed an amendment that permitted the Prime Minister to close all schools until further notice.

As of 9 April 2020, the Japanese government announced that schools will undertake online education and it was announced that schools will reopen during September.

On 10 April 2020, Koike announced the closure of all schools and universities.

On 7 June 2020, schools in Japan began gradual reopening.

On 15 September 2020, 80% of universities in Japan implemented a hybrid instruction system.

On 27 November 2020, the Japanese government announced that schools are not to close again even if there is state of emergency.
Japan

### Public Events
- **On 21 February 2020**, Japan suspended large gathering events including graduation ceremonies, concerts, festivals and conferences.
- **On 25 February 2020**, the government of Japan requested for individuals to refrain from large-scale gatherings events.
- **On 29 February 2020**, the government suspended horse racing, baseball, sumo tournament, rugby and football events. Some of them were allowed to operate with limited number of participants.
- **On 9 March 2020**, the Japanese government enforced the closure of multiple large-scale events. Also, the government announced that summer Olympics will be postponed by a year which is the first time in history this ever happened.
- **On 10 April 2020**, the government of Japan closed sports and recreation facilities, theatres, events and exhibition venues.
- **On 19 April 2020**, TV shows, anime shows, and Japanese television postponed production due to COVID-19. However, some shows are still working to air on time.
- **On 1 July 2020**, the government announced the reopening of Tokyo DisneySea and Tokyo Disneyland.
- **On 20 September 2020**, all large venues, public places and restaurants will function at 50% capacity. Public events with more than 5,000 participants remain prohibited.
- **On 15 December 2020**, Japan’s bonenkai celebrations were cancelled due to the virus outbreak.

### Public Info Campaign
- **On 5 February 2020**, the government of Japan announced a broadcast message asking people to stay at home.
- **On 14 February 2020**, the government of Japan provided consultation phones for people to call if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. The government of Japan introduced methods to provide citizens with instructions on how to receive COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- **On 17 February 2020**, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare released national guidelines for COVID-19 testing and how to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The government added that individuals who have high fevers should also contact the consultation services.
- **On 25 February 2020**, the government of Japan introduced basic policies for novel COVID-19 control. These provided guidelines for citizens to mitigate the virus.
- **On 9 March 2020**, the government of Japan announced the 3 Cs. Closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places with many people nearby, and close-contact settings such as close-range conversations. These measures were implemented for citizens to avoid COVID-19. Also, the government released posters regarding this and public announcements to wash their hands and other measures to avoid the virus.
- **On 24 April 2020**, the MOH distributed awareness flyers and poster across subway stations in large cities.

### Workplace and Institutions
- **On 25 February 2020**, the new policy introduced by the Japanese government asked those with symptoms to work from home and avoid leaving their homes. Also, government officials urged companies to let employees work from home.
- **On 27 February 2020**, the government to subsidize workers who needed to take days off to look after their children while schools were closed.
- **On 5 March 2020**, the government announced the restriction and closure of some work institutions and businesses.
- **On 7 April 2020**, the government imposed further policies on other regions to let employees work from home, mainly the ones who work in toll gates.
- **As of 21 August 2020**, Japanese officials announced the re-opening of workplaces across the country.
### Japan

**Testing Framework**
- **On 5 February 2020**, following the Diamond Princess cruise ship incident, the Japanese government prioritized in creating COVID-19 testing and consultation services. The new system handles COVID-19 patients to transfer them to medical facilities, providing testing kits for mass testing and a method to limit the flow of COVID-19.
- **On 1 February 2020**, the Ministry of Health instructed the municipal and prefectural governments to establish COVID-19 testing consultation services.
- **On 5 February 2020**, Abe announced that the government would begin preparations to strengthen testing and through providing more kits to conduct PCR tests.
- **On 12 February 2020**, Abe announced that the government would expand the scope of testing and include patients with symptoms. On the same day, the Ministry of Health contracted SRL Inc to handle PCR testing. The government has also partnered up with private companies to expand testing and work towards the development of rapid testing kits.
- **On 14 February 2020**, the government announced a COVID-19 consultation system to coordinate medical testing.
- **On 16 February 2020**, the government released guidelines for COVID-19 testing and treatment. This information was also released a day later to government health centers a day later.
- **On 27 February 2020**, the Japanese government announced plans to expand the national health insurance system so that it covers COVID-19 tests.
- **As of 10 July 2020**, testing has continued and the government introduced measures to increase testing.
- **As of 31 August 2020**, Japan has conducted a total of 1,455,610 tests.
- **On 19 January 2021**, Japan began mass random PCR testing in cities to curb cases surge.
- **As of 15 February 2021**, Germany has conducted a total of 59,977 tests per 1 million people.

### Contact Tracing
- **On 25 February 2020**, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare established the Cluster response team who was able to contain traces of COVID-19 before they spread. Also, they conducted epidemiological surveys and contact tracing to ensure members don't have it and they places individuals under surveillance to make sure no one has COVID-19.
- **On 7 April 2020**, with the government state of emergency, the government was able to increase contact tracing by 70 to 80 percent.
- **On 12 May 2020**, the COVID-19 taskforce has included in their agenda to detect early cases of COVID-19 through contact tracing.
- **On 19 July 2020**, the government launched a contact tracing app, using Bluetooth to determine contact between users and positive cases. *Japan's contact tracing app faced criticism for failing to report and alert contact between positive cases and users of the app.*

### Vaccine
- **On 25 December 2020**, Japan announced vaccination plan to prioritize healthcare workers and to authorize the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine by February 2021.
- **On 21 January 2021**, the clinical study of the Moderna vaccine begins in Japan.
- **On 27 January 2021**, Japan announced that 90 million doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine will be produced within Japan.
- **On 14 February 2021**, Japan officially approved the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The national vaccination campaign will start on Feb 17 giving the first doses to 20,000 frontline health workers.
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Japan

Sources