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

Actions taken by Australia 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.
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 organizations guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
### WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

**School/educational institutions:**
- 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.
- 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.

**Workplaces and institutions:**
- Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.
- Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.
- Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.
- Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.
- Reduce and manage work-related travels.
- Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.
- Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.
- Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.
- Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk.

**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

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

* Australia 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, Australia receives a compliance score of +1.
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Australia

Lockdown/ Curfew

❖ On 22 March 2020, the National cabinet orders the closure of all bars, restaurants, pubs, cafes, night clubs, Gyms, indoor sport venues, cinemas, casinos and entertainment venues.
❖ On 24 March 2020, food courts, play centers, amusement parks, beauty and tattoo parlours was ordered to shut. Residents were encouraged only to leave home for essential purposes.
❖ On 30 March 2020, the Authorities introduced new health orders, including the strict enforcement of stay at home rules, violators are to face an on-spot fine of AUS1,000 minimum.
❖ On 12 April 2020, the Victorian government announced a lockdown for the 10 different Melbourne postcodes. All non-essential business is banned.
❖ On 1 May 2020, the lockdown restriction are widely eased in in New South Wales and Queensland.
❖ On 8 May 2020, the Victorian government eases the lockdown on a national level, economic activities are allowed to resume. Parks, swimming pools, camping and fishing are permitted.
❖ On 30 June 2020, the Victorian government reinforced lockdowns across 10 different Melbourne postcodes.
❖ On 4 July 2020, the Victorian government announced an additional two postcodes affected by the lockdown until 29 July 2020.
❖ On 9 July 2020, the Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced that metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire would re-enter lockdown for a minimum of six weeks as of today.
❖ On 02 August 2020, Victoria announced “state of disaster”, this gave additional power to many “decision making” bodies such as police to enforce regulations and limit spread. Night daily curfew from 20:00-05:00 was implemented until 13 September.
❖ On 03 August 2020, non-essential business in Melbourne shut down for six weeks.
❖ On 16 August 2020, Authorities extended state of emergency in Victoria same rules as before remain
❖ On 02 September 2020, Authorities extended Victoria state of emergency for 6 months. All residents must stay at home unless for work or medical reasons
❖ On 17 September 2020, Victorian authorities to ease restrictions statewide except Melbourne Public gatherings of 10 people are allowed with funerals up to 20, schools are to re-open with social distancing rules and a night curfew of 2100-0500
❖ On 28 September 2020, Melbourne eases lockdown restrictions. Nightly curfew lifted and residents are able to return to work. Groups of 5 from two separate households may visit each other.
❖ On 11 October 2020, Authorities extended the state of emergency in Victoria until November 8, previous lockdown rules apply.
❖ On 25 October 2020, Victoria authorities to ease restrictions, gyms, indoor pools, food courts will be allowed to function with social distancing restrictions and school ceremonies will be allowed.
❖ On 26 October 2020, Melbourne further ease restrictions. Stay at home orders are lifted and retail business may now operate.
❖ On 12 November 2020, western australia increases capacity in venues to one person per 1.5 meters to 60% capacity.
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Australia

Lockdown/ Curfew

❖ On 18 November 2020, South Australia went into a strict lockdown. All non-essential businesses closed and residents were only allowed to leave home for emergency purposes.
❖ On 06 December 2020, South Australia eases restrictions. Restaurants to function for dine-in at limited capacity and public gatherings remain limited.
❖ On 23 December 2020, New South Wales eases restrictions from the Sydney area, travel remains restricted although hosting in the Southern area is allowed for up to ten people.
❖ On 28 December 2020, New South Wales restrictions extended, stay at home orders are in place.
❖ On 02 January 2021, Greater Sydney region placed lockdown measures. Open air venues were required to operate at a 50% capacity.
❖ On 05 January 2021, Tasmania maintains previous restrictions groups of 100 people at home, outdoor events of 1,000 people and 250 indoor.
❖ On 08 January 2021, Brisbane goes on lockdown. Residents must stay at home unless to seek medical attention or to buy essential goods.
❖ On 11 January 2021, Brisbane ease measures. Social distancing to be maintained people are allowed to leave home for non-essential reasons.
❖ On 18 January 2021, Victoria began to open the state again. Limited capacity of areas while maintaining social distancing.
❖ On 21 January 2021, South Australia eased restrictions. Home gatherings must have social distancing enforcement. Capacity of entertainment facilities remains at 75%.
❖ On 31 January 2021, Western Australia to implement lockdown in Perth, Peel and South West regions.
❖ On 05 February 2021, Lockdown ended in Perth, Peel and South west regions.
❖ On 12 February 2021, Victoria authorities ordered statewide lockdown due to cases surge.
On 1 February 2020, Australia imposed travel bans on arrivals incoming from China, Iran, South Korea, Italy.

On 15 March 2020, PM Morrison announced that from midnight, all travellers entering Australia must self quarantine for 14 days.

On 20 March 2020, Australia imposed a general travel ban on non-citizens and non-residents entry to Australia and Australians travelling overseas.

On 24 March 2020, domestic travel restrictions on entering South Australia, Western Australia and Northern territory was enforced. Domestic travellers must quarantine for 14 days if entering any of the aforementioned regions.

On 27 March 2020, non-essential domestic travel to Indigenous communities was prohibited.

On 1 April 2020, the Western Australian Government introduced intrastate travel restrictions, limiting movements between the regions of Western Australia.

On 5 April 2020, entry into New South Wales was limited to residents.

On 11 April 2020, entry into Queensland was limited to residents.

On 30 June 2020, New South Wales postponed reopening of state borders due to fear of rising cases.

On 6 July 2020, New South Wales borders will remain closed until further notice.

On 29 July 2020, South Australia closed its border with Victoria.

On 5 August 2020, Queensland closed its border with New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

On 18 August 2020, Tasmanian borders remain closed until December 1 2020.

On 3 August 2020, Authorities extend travel ban and cruise ship ban until 17 December 2020.

On 19 September 2020, easing of travel restrictions announced, increasing weekly entries to Australia from 4000 weekly entries to 6000 weekly entries.

On 28 September 2020, travel from Melbourne remains restricted until further notice.

On 16 October 2020, First no-quarantine flight from New Zealand to Sydney. Arrivals from New Zealand may enter South Australia and Victoria state without quarantine. New South Wales and Northern Territory allow entry of arrivals from New Zealand.

On 12 November 2020, Western Australia announced the reopening of its borders.

On 22 November 2020, New South Wales reopened its domestic borders with Victoria.

On 8 December 2020, the Victorian government announced that the International travel ban will be maintained until at least March 2021.

On 10 December 2020, Western Australia allowed domestic travelers from South Australia with self-isolation required.
On 17 December 2020, Western Australia requires incoming travelers from New South Wales and South Australia to quarantine. Queensland requiring travelers from Sydney to quarantine. Northern Territory require travelers from Sydney to isolate in designated sites.

On 18 December 2020, Tasmania and Victoria banned entry for incoming people of Sydney Northern Beaches. South Australia place quarantine on people who travel to Northern Beaches area.

On 21 December 2020, New South Wales enforced quarantine on residents of the Greater Sydney area and northern Beaches. Western Australia bans entry from New South Wales travelers and quarantines arrivals from South Australia. Queensland bans travel from the greater Sydney area and quarantine requirements for residents. Victoria bans entry for travelers from the greater Sydney area. Capital Territory requiring quarantine for people from the Sydney area.


On 31 December 2020, Victoria closed its border with New South Wales. South Australia bans entry for any non-South Australian resident coming from New South Wales. Western Australia bans travel from Victoria province. Northern Territory expands entry requirements for persons coming from the Sydney area.

On 05 January 2021, Capital Territory banned entry for people who enter the Greater Sydney area. Tasmania places new rules for domestic entry.

On 06 January 2021, Queensland maintains border restrictions with New South Wales and Victoria until further notice. Nationwide entry ban maintained.

On 08 January 2021, nationwide restrictions on entry to the Greater Sydney area were extended. Northern territory places quarantine on travelers from Brisbane, Queensland. Western Australia bans travel from Queensland.

On 11 January 2021, All states adjusting entry requirements for Victoria. Depending on area colour (Green, Orange or Red) residents may not be allowed to enter or must undergo a 14 day quarantine. Northern Territory removes Brisbane and Sydney from the mandatory quarantine list.

On 12 January 2021, Capital Territory ended domestic border closure with the Greater Sydney area.

On 13 January 2021, South Australia eased quarantine requirements for travelers from New South Wales.

On 15 January 2021, South Australia eased quarantine requirements for travelers from Brisbane.

On 19 January 2021, Tasmania permitted entry from Brisbane and Capital territory end border restriction with Northern Sydney Beaches area.

On 21 January 2021, Queensland authorities reduced entry restrictions on Brisbane.

On 25 January 2021, Western Australia allowed travel from Queensland and New South Wales with quarantine. Quarantine free travel with New Zealand is suspended.
On 28 January 2021, extension of New Zealand quarantine-free travel suspension until 31 January. Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. Authorities ease domestic entry from the Greater Sydney area.

On 01 February 2021, Northern Territory lifted its required quarantine on arrivals from Western Australia and all previous requirements for Greater Sydney. Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Capital Territory bans travelers from Perth, Peel and South West regions. New South Wales requires quarantine from Western Australia hotspots.

On 02 February 2021, South Australia eases border control for Western Australia.

On 04 February 2021, South Australia imposes testing requirements for arrivals from Melbourne. Northern Territory to require quarantine from incoming Melbourne travelers.

On 05 February 2021, South Australia lifted its ban on Perth.

On 10 February 2021, New South Wales eased restrictions for Sydney.

On 11 February 2021, South Australia banned most nonresidents from Melbourne. Northern Territory requires quarantine from designated hotspots in Melbourne.

Australia

On 13 March 2020, the National Cabinet declared that public gatherings of more than 500 people were not allowed.

On 18 March 2020, indoor gatherings of more than 100 people were banned.

On 19 March 2020, indoor gatherings were required to have a 4sqm space per person.

On 24 March 2020, outdoor gatherings were limited to 10 people max, including funerals. Weddings were restricted to 5 participants.

On 29 March 2020, the Cabinet extended the ban on public gatherings by banning the use of public playgrounds, skate parks, and outside gyms. Gatherings are limited to two people.

On 25 April 2020, the Australian War Memorial ceremony was broadcasted virtually.

On 15 May 2020, restrictions on public and private gatherings were eased and private homes were allowed up to 5 visitors.

On 19 July 2020, face masks become mandatory in Victoria territory.

On 17 September 2020, Melbourne Public gatherings of 10 people are allowed with funerals up to 20,

On 28 September 2020, Groups of 5 from two separate households were permitted to visit each other.

On 26 October 2020, Melbourne allowed weddings of up to 10 people and funerals of up to 20 participants.

On 22 November 2020, Victoria lifts mandatory face mask requirement.

On 06 December 2020, 150 people maximum is set for funerals and weddings. Religious events to 100 people max.

On 11 December 2020, South Australia allowed house gatherings of 50 people and other events to 200 people. Tasmania to allow gatherings of 100 people at home, 250 in indoor public crowds and 1,000 people at outdoor venues. New South Wales allows 50 people at homes and 100 at public gatherings although a max of 30 is recommended.

On 23 December 2020, Gatherings in the Southern area are allowed for up to ten people.

On 02 January 2021, in Greater Sydney area places of worship allow 100 people maximum, weddings are limited to 100 people, outdoor performances to 500 and outdoor gatherings to maximum 2,000 people.

On 27 January 2021, Sydney restrictions further eased allowing household gatherings of 30 people and outdoor gatherings of up to 50 participant.

On 04 February 2021, Victoria tightened gathering restrictions. Face masks become mandatory again. Home gatherings limited to 15 people and outdoor gatherings to 100 people.

On 08 February 2021, Capital Territory public gatherings can occur for up to 500 people. As long as social distancing can be maintained.
### Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Institutions</th>
<th>Public Transportation</th>
<th>Workplace and Institutions</th>
<th>Public Info Campaign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On 15 March 2020, the Secretary of the New South Wales Department of Education, Mark Scott ordered that, effective immediately, New South Wales schools introduce social distancing measures, cancel all assemblies, excursions, etc. Schools are still required to stay open, with online learning encouraged.</td>
<td>On 8 May 2020, the National Cabinet agreed a three-step plan to relax public health measures. These plans come with the following advice for passengers using public transport. Maintain good hygiene, maintain physical distancing, pre-booking seats, reduce time spent in public transport, wearing masks and gloves.</td>
<td>On 10 March 2020, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews warned Victorians to expect extreme measures which includes requiring people to work from home and asking retiring health professionals to return to work. Working from home was encouraged nationwide.</td>
<td>On 23 January 2020, passengers were given an information sheet and asked to present themselves if they had a fever or suspect they might have the disease onboard flights from Wuhan to Sydney.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 24 March 2020, schools in Victoria and ACT shut down.</td>
<td>On 18 May 2020, buses will require to operate with a 14% capacity, trains at a 24% capacity and ferries at 36% capacity.</td>
<td>On 15 March 2020, the lockdown measures imposed by the Victorian government excluded workers from working at home and recommended for them to return to their workplace.</td>
<td>On 14 March 2020, the government launched the national awareness campaign on COVID-19. The campaign was carried out in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Farsi, Korean and Italian. A website with the latest updates on the virus and a WhatsApp chat service to answer public inquiries was launched.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 17 September 2020, Schools in Victoria open with social distancing rules.</td>
<td>On 1 July 2020, Australia’s most populous state New South Wales doubled its public transportation capacity, to reduce crowdedness.</td>
<td>On 02 September 2020, work from home was recommended in Melbourne whenever possible.</td>
<td>On 16 March 2020, the government launched the app ‘Coronavirus Australia’ to provide citizens with the latest health updates and advise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On 18 November 2020, Schools and Universities close in South Australia due to a six day lockdown</td>
<td>On 14 December 2020, trains capacity was increased to 55%, buses to 45% and ferries to 51% capacity.</td>
<td>On 26 October 2020, Melbourne restrictions eased. Stay at home orders are lifted allowing employees to return to the workplace.</td>
<td>On 25 April 2020, the HBE proposed a new act to promote and protect individuals from COVID-19. This was done to encourage public safety and allow them to receive up to date information on the virus. The MOH launched a telephone hotline to answer senior citizens inquiries on the virus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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On 29 March 2020, Australia conducted more than 208,000 tests since the beginning of the pandemic.

On 3 April 2020, the MOH launched drive-thru random testing sites in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

On 12 April 2020, additional testing was announced, and emergency medical teams from the Australian Defence Force were sent to Burnie to cover for hospital staff.

On 14 April 2020, Victorian Health Minister Jenny Mikakos announced that Victoria will have the widest coronavirus testing in Australia, with symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals able to get tested.

On 10 May 2020, Australia has tested more than 2% of its population for COVID-19.

On 22 June 2020, Australia conducted 66,525 COVID-19 test in one day. The weekly average of daily tests was more than 50,000 test.

As of 15 February 2021, Australia has conducted a total of 533,057 tests per 1 million people.

As of 25 January 2020, Australia launched a mass contact tracing program. Positive cases undergo an interview by a health officer, in which their asked to provide a digitalized list of their contacts and destinations before the infection. Contacts were required to quarantine for 14 days since their last meeting with the positive case.

On 1 February 2020, Australia adopted a fully digitalized contact tracing system.

On 25 April 2020, the Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements—Public Health Contact Information) Determination 2020, made under subsection 477(1) of the Act, was signed into law by the Health Minister. The purpose of the new legislation is "to make contact tracing faster and more effective by encouraging public acceptance and uptake of the COVIDSafe app. The function of the app is to record contact between any two people who both have the app on their phones when they come within 1.5 metres of each other. The encrypted data would remain on the phone for 21 days of not encountering a person logged with confirmed COVID-19."

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On 07 January 2021, Australia announced a mass vaccination plan. AstraZeneca-Oxford (53.8 million doses), Pfizer-BioNTech (20 million doses) and Novavax vaccines (51 million doses) will be used as part of the national vaccination plan.

On 12 February 2021, the MOH announced that the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines will start on Feb 22.

On 15 February 2021, Australia received the first batch of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (142,000 doses). Frontline quarantine and health worker will receive 50,000 doses. Residents and workers at disability and aged care centers will receive 30,000 doses.
Australia

Sources