



Lockdown rollback checklist: Do countries meet WHO recommendations for rolling back lockdown?

Research note

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As countries begin to roll back 'lockdown' measures, how and when do we know it is safe to do so?

The [Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker](#) (OxCGRT) provides a cross-national overview of which countries meet four of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) six recommendations for relaxing physical distancing measures.

While the OxCGRT data cannot fully say how ready countries are to leave lockdown, it does provide for a rough comparison across nations. Even this 'high level' view reveals that few countries are close to meeting the WHO criteria for rolling back lockdown measures.

At the time of writing, only a handful of countries are doing well at the four 'checklist' criteria OxCGRT is able to track.

World Health Organization criteria

The WHO [has recently outlined six categories](#) of measures governments need to have in place before rolling back 'lockdown' measures. In brief, these are as follows (quoted in part; for full descriptions see [here](#)):

1. COVID-19 transmission is controlled to a level of sporadic cases and clusters of cases, all from known contacts or importations; at a minimum, new cases would be reduced to a level that the health system can manage based on health care capacity.
2. Sufficient public health workforce and health system capacities are in place to enable the major shift from detecting and treating mainly serious cases to detecting and isolating all cases, irrespective of severity and whether there is local transmission or an importation.
3. Outbreak risks in high-vulnerability settings are minimised, which requires all major drivers or amplifiers of COVID-19 transmission to have been identified, with appropriate measures in place to maximise physical distancing and minimise the risk of new outbreaks.
4. Preventive measures are established in workplaces.
5. Manage the risk of exporting and importing cases from communities with high risks of transmission.
6. Communities are fully engaged and understand that the transition away from large-scale movement restrictions and public health and social measures – from detecting and treating serious cases to detecting and isolating all cases – is a 'new normal' in which prevention measures would be maintained, and that all people have key roles in preventing a resurgence in case numbers.

What does the Oxford data measure?

OxCGRT currently provides information relevant to recommendations 2, 4, and 6. We combine this with epidemiological data from the European Centre for Disease Control on cases and deaths, provided by [Our World in Data](#), which address recommendation 1, and data from [Apple](#) and [Google](#) on travel and mobility, which further address recommendation 6. OxCGRT also tracks emergency investments in the healthcare system since 1 January 2020, which can provide useful contextual information. See our [working paper](#) for a complete description of the data.

From this information, we construct a “Lockdown rollback table,” defined below, which roughly describes how close countries are to achieving four of the six current WHO recommendations.

Because the data only measure four of six recommended actions, we should be cautious about inferring what countries are ready to rollback lockdown from this measure. Indeed, the data provides a better indication of what countries are *not* ready.

Moreover, we stress that the WHO recommendations are more specific and extensive than cross-national measures like OxCGRT can readily provide. The checklist below should therefore be seen as a starting point for assessing a country’s preparedness for leaving lockdown. In particular, we note that the OxCGRT data measure countries’ stated policies, not how well they implement them.

We will continue to develop our assessment of the WHO checklist as new indicators become available.

WHO recommendation	OxCGRT indicators	Rollback readiness
Transmission controlled	Daily cases and deaths (from European CDC via Our World in Data)	New daily cases <50 and daily growth rate lower than a week ago
Test / trace / isolate	S12 (testing policy) S13 (contact tracing policy)	S12 + S13 gives a value between 0 and 5 (does not measure isolation)
High vulnerability settings	<i>Not currently measured</i>	<i>Not currently measured</i>
Preventative measures established in workplaces	<i>Not currently measured</i>	<i>Not currently measured</i>
Manage risk of exporting and importing cases	S7 (international travel restrictions)	S7 gives a value between 0 and 3 (does not measure risk of exporting cases)
Communities fully engaged	S5 (public information campaigns) Travel and mobility data from Apple and Google	Must have a nationwide public info campaign (S5 = 1G); reduction from baseline mobility levels
	S10 (investments in health system since 1 January 2020)	<i>Not included, but useful contextually</i>

Assessing countries on the Lockdown Rollback Checklist

As of 22 April 2020, we estimate that no countries fully meet all 4 of the WHO recommendations we are able to estimate with the OxCGRT data, and less than a dozen are coming close. We conclude that further steps are likely needed to ensure a safe re-opening of society in the next weeks.

Table 1: Lockdown Rollback Checklist 20 April 2020

(NB: Not every country is updated every day, so data for any particular country may be several days out of date)



	Cases controlled	Test, trace, isolate	Vulnerable settings (no data)	Preventative measures in workplaces (no data)	Manage imported cases	Community understanding	Overall (based on 4/6)
Vietnam	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Grey	Dark Blue
Trinidad and Tobago	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Costa Rica	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
South Korea	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Belize	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Hong Kong	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Grey	Dark Blue
New Zealand	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Slovenia	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Jordan	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Barbados	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Light Yellow	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Mauritius	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Iceland	Dark Blue	Dark Blue			Light Yellow	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Croatia	Light Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Guam	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Light Yellow	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Lebanon	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Uganda	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Rwanda	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Zimbabwe	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Myanmar	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Light Yellow	Dark Blue
Albania	Light Yellow	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
India	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Burkina Faso	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Light Yellow	Dark Blue
Laos	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Light Yellow	Dark Blue
Aruba	Dark Blue	Dark Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Thailand	Light Yellow	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
United Arab Emirates	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Cameroon	Dark Blue	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Light Yellow	Dark Blue
Italy	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Portugal	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Philippines	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Greenland	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Ecuador	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
South Africa	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Colombia	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Romania	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Chile	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Oman	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Sri Lanka	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Kyrgyz Republic	Light Yellow	Light Yellow			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Singapore	Dark Yellow	Dark Blue			Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue

Austria	Gold	Blue		Blue	Blue	
Turkey	Gold	Blue		Blue	Blue	
Ghana	Gold	Blue		Blue	Grey	
Niger	Blue	Gold		Blue	Gold	
Australia	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Canada	Gold	Blue		Blue	Blue	
Malawi	Blue	Grey		Blue		
South Sudan	Blue	Grey		Blue		
Panama	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Macao	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Peru	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Iraq	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
United States	Gold	Blue		Blue	Blue	
Guyana	Blue	Grey		Blue		
Bermuda	Blue	Grey		Blue		
China	Grey	Blue		Blue		
Kuwait	Gold	Blue		Blue	Blue	
Serbia	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Dominican Republic	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Gabon	Gold	Blue		Blue	Gold	
Mozambique	Blue	Gold		Grey	Gold	
Israel	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Saudi Arabia	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Paraguay	Blue	Grey		Gold	Blue	
Guatemala	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Hungary	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Andorra	Blue	Grey		Gold	Blue	
Egypt	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Indonesia	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Pakistan	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Slovak Republic	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Namibia	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Greece	Blue			Grey	Blue	
Spain	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Morocco	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Argentina	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Gambia	Blue	Gold		Blue		
Syria	Blue	Gold		Blue		
Czech Republic	Gold	Blue		Grey	Blue	
Bahrain	Gold	Blue		Blue	Gold	
Uruguay	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Honduras	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Russia	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Japan	Gold	Blue		Blue	Gold	
El Salvador	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Malaysia	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Kazakhstan	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Botswana	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	
Qatar	Gold	Grey		Blue	Blue	
Belgium	Gold	Gold		Blue	Blue	

Nigeria	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
Mexico	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Ukraine	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
Taiwan	Dark Blue	Dark Blue		Dark Blue	Yellow	Grey
Papua New Guinea	Dark Blue	Dark Blue		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Bangladesh	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Tunisia	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey
Mongolia	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
Djibouti	Yellow	Dark Blue		Dark Blue		Grey
Netherlands	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Switzerland	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Burundi	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey
Kosovo	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey
Chad	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey
Bolivia	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
France	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Nicaragua	Dark Blue	Yellow		Yellow	Grey	Grey
Cyprus	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey
Estonia	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Angola	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Denmark	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Bulgaria	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Norway	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Sweden	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue	Yellow	Grey
Brazil	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Poland	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Finland	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Jamaica	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Libya	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Venezuela	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Puerto Rico	Dark Blue	Yellow		Grey	Dark Blue	Grey
Mali	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue	Yellow	Grey
Moldova	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Kenya	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Azerbaijan	Yellow	Grey		Dark Blue		Grey
Seychelles	Dark Blue	Dark Blue		Dark Blue		Grey
Sierra Leone	Dark Blue	Dark Blue		Dark Blue		Grey
Zambia	Dark Blue	Grey		Grey	Yellow	Grey
Germany	Dark Blue	Yellow		Grey	Dark Blue	Grey
Brunei	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue		Grey
San Marino	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue		Grey
Cuba	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue		Grey
Uzbekistan	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue		Grey
Madagascar	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue		Grey
Eswatini	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue		Grey
Tanzania	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue	Yellow	Grey
Luxembourg	Dark Blue	Grey		Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Grey
Dominica	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey
Sudan	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey
Democratic Republic of Congo	Dark Blue	Yellow		Dark Blue		Grey

Ireland	Dark Gold	Light Gold			Dark Gold	Blue	Light Gold
Afghanistan	Dark Gold	Light Gold			Light Gold	Grey	Light Gold
Lesotho	Dark Gold	Light Gold			Blue		Light Gold
Algeria	Dark Gold	Light Gold			Blue		Light Gold
United Kingdom	Dark Gold	Light Gold			Dark Gold	Blue	Light Gold
Palestine	Dark Gold	Dark Gold			Blue		Light Gold
Mauritania	Dark Gold	Dark Gold			Blue		Light Gold
Iran	Dark Gold	Dark Gold			Dark Gold		Dark Gold