Technical note

What does the dashboard show?

The dashboard visualizes the measures that have been implemented by governments for countries around the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (such as school closures, stay at home requirements, and the closure of public transportation) and the size of the global population living in those countries. Data are available for 13 different measures from 3 different domains: containment and closure, economic response, health systems. The dashboard differentiate the measures according to the "stringency of the measure" (for example, if a measure is only "recommended" of if it is "required") and according to its geographic scope (that is if it is implemented for the entire country or only for specific geographic units). A map shows the implementation for a selected measure and the changes over time for each country.

A date slider allows you to select a specific date, starting from 20 January 2020. The play button visualizes changes over time in the implementation of the measure from the selected start date to present.

Which government measures can be selected?

Containment and closure:
- School closing[3]
- Workplace closing
- Cancel public events
- Restrictions on gatherings
- Close public transport
- Stay at home requirements
- Restrictions on internal movement
- International travel controls

Economic response
- Income support
- Debt/contract relief for households

Health systems
- Income support
- Debt/contract relief for households

Most measures can be further characterized by the geographic scope of their implementation:
- National: The selected measure is implemented on a national level.
- Localized: The selected measure is only implemented on a sub-national level, for example at the province, state or county level.

Who collects the data on government measures? Are they up-to-date?

The presented data on measures are based on the "Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker"[1] (OxCGRT) and includes measures related to containment and closure, to economic response and to the health system. Information on measures are updated for most countries in real time at least once a week.[2]

How is the size of the "affected" population calculated?

The tool can be used to show the number and distribution of countries under these measures and the total population size living in those countries (total or by different age groups, and for different population groups such as international migrants or refugees). The dashboard shows the total populations separated for countries where the measures are implemented nationwide and for countries where the implementation is geographically limited.

Which populations can be selected?

The dashboard can show the entire national population, that is the sum of the national population of all countries with the measure in place (by stringency of implementation), or by different age groups (e.g. under 5, under 18). It is also possible to select international migrants (total and under 18), refugees (total), and internally displaced persons (total and under 18).

What are the limitations of the dashboard?

Due to the nature of the data collection process for the underlying OxCGRT database there are specific limitations.[4] Information for select measures may be missing for specific countries and dates. This is most common for recent dates (i.e. within the last week). In order to avoid an artificial sudden drop-off for very recent dates, we carry the last available data forward for seven days after which it is treated as "missing".

Another limitation is that the tool does not allow for visualization at subnational levels (e.g. states, provinces) or by selected population groups (e.g. school closures for selected educational level and workspace closures for selected type of business). The presented population is always based on the national population in its entirety and is therefore overestimating the actual directly affected population.

Footnotes:

[1] Thomas Hale, Sam Webster, Anna Petherick, Toby Phillips, and Beatriz Kira. (2020). Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. Blavatnik School of Government. Available: www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

[2] See OxCGRT's ReadMe document here for more information on the data collection process.

[3] For more detailed presentation of the actually affected student population in relation to school closure, see UNICEF's EduView dashboard: https://data.unicef.org/resources/eduview-education-dashboard/

[4] For more information about the collection process, data quality and limitations see OxCGRT's ReadMe document here and the regularly frequently working paper Hale, Thomas, Noam Angrist, Beatriz Kira, Anna Petherick, Toby Phillips, Samuel Webster. "Variation in Government Responses to COVID-19" Version 6.0. Blavatnik School of Government Working Paper. May 25, 2020. Available: www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker