

Themed measures: International Intervention Tracker

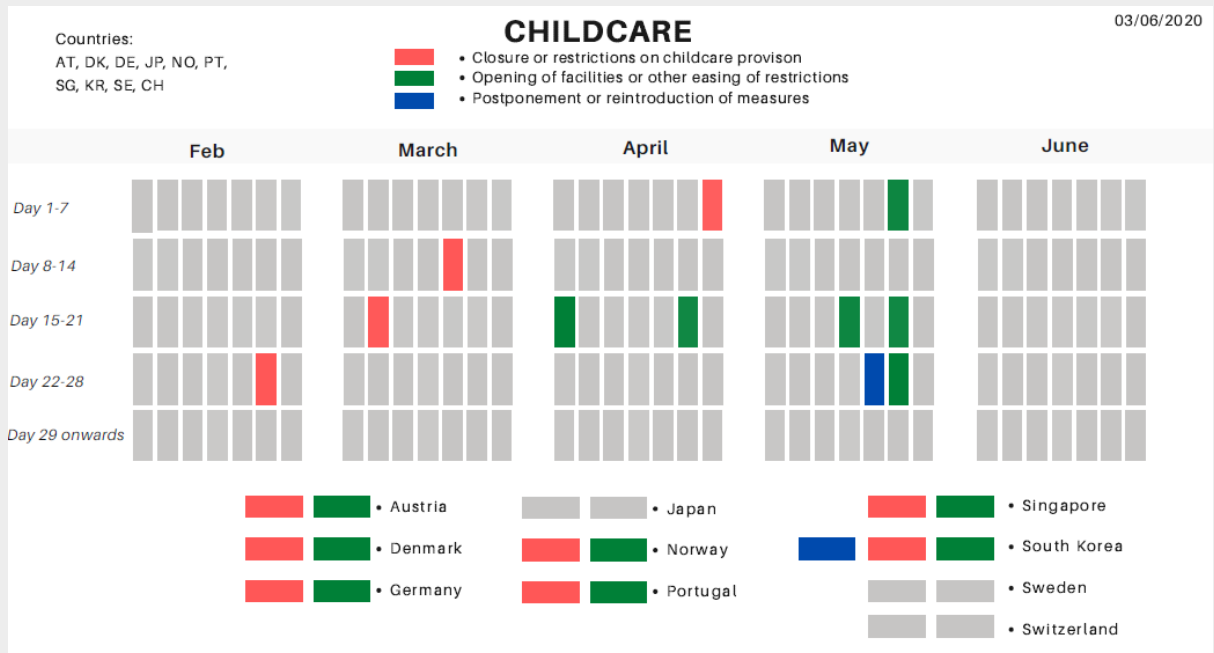
COVID19 –AT, DK, DE, JP, NO, PT, SG, KP, SE, CH – 03/06/20

This document provides a consolidated overview of international epidemiological data and overview of policy measures implemented in the ten countries listed

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1. Childcare



- Germany, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea and Austria have reopened childcare to some extent
- Japan, Sweden and Switzerland did not introduce any wide-spread measures for childcare closures.
- South Korea postponed some openings in Seoul on 27/05 when an elementary student tested positive for the virus.

Measures around the closure or restriction of childcare provision are centered on the 12th and 16th of March:

■ 27/02: South Korea: Announces temporary 2 week closure of daycare facilities (subsequently extended)
 12/03 Austria: In Vienna all public kindergartens were closed and parents are urged to let their children stay at home. For all children whose parents are as of now still unable to take time off and care for their kids at home, kindergartens will still offer reduced services.
 12/03 Norway: All Kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities closed except day-care centres which remained open to provide services to essential civic personnel).13-03-2020 Denmark All day care facilities were closed
 16/03 Germany: Day care closures began on a national basis .
 16/03 Portugal: The government shut down all schools and universities (including day-care centres).
 16/03 Denmark: All public schools and daycare services closed for a fortnight. All those who are able encouraged to keep children home
 07/04: Singapore: Schools and pre-schools closed at the beginning of the "circuit breaker" measures

Since April, several of these measures have been relaxed, though many subject to a number of infection prevention and control measures:

15/04 Denmark: Reopening of facilities, subject to a host of measures
 20/04 Norway: Social distancing measures were relaxed enabling the reopening of day-care centres with all centres reopening by 27/04 at the latest.
 6/05 Germany: federal and state agreement to lift restrictions, including that Emergency day-care should be extended to children in all states so that they could return to day-care before the summer holidays
 18/05 Portugal: Day-care centres resume.
 20/05 Austria: the compulsory year of kindergarten - suspended during the coronavirus lockdown - is now again in force.
 27/05 South Korea: The first phase of reopening kindergartens began in most regions

Austria

On the 12th of March (at 361 cases) in Vienna all public kindergartens were closed, and parents are urged to let their children stay at home. For all children whose parents are as of now still unable to take time off and care for their kids at home, kindergartens will still offer reduced services. On the 20th of May (at 16,257 cases) the compulsory year of kindergarten – suspended during the coronavirus lockdown – is now again in force.

Denmark

All day care facilities were closed along with schools and universities on 13-03-2020. Denmark reopened these facilities on 15-04-2020. They introduced a host of measures, however, to ensure that this could be done safely and in line with social distancing protocols. These guidelines included advice on hand washing, respiratory etiquette and advice specific to the industry on cleaning toys twice daily and washing bedding. Staff are advised to keep children to their designated rooms in small groups and with consistent designated staff members. A free floor area of 6m² is recommended per room per child for children 0-2; 4m² is recommended for children 3-5. After-school care also returned on 18-05-2020.

Germany

In an agreement between federal and state governments, day care closures began on a national basis from 16/03.

The federal and state governments agreed a common framework for the gradual resumption of childcare facilities on 28/04. The federal and state agreement to lift restrictions on 06/05 included that emergency day-care should be extended to children in all states so that they could return to day-care centres before the summer holidays.

In the state province of North-Rhine Westphalia, day-care facilities began gradually reopening on 11/05 for children with disabilities and vulnerable children availing of support under the Education & Participation Act. Emergency day-care provision was extended on 28/05 for other pre-school children not covered under this Act. On 08/06 it is planned that NRW day-care centres will resume “regular limited operation” with the state waiving half of parents’ contributions. Specifically:

- The entry ban for day care centres and day care for children is lifted;
- the previous emergency care will be dissolved;
- all children can come back to the day care centre for a reduced amount of care of 35, 25 and 15 hours per week instead of 45, 35, 25;
- Day-care centres that are able to offer a higher number of hours due to their spatial and personnel capacities can make this possible in consultation with the responsible supervisory authorities;
- Day care centres that are unable to provide this offer due to the personnel situation can also deviate downwards in consultation with the local youth welfare office; this should only happen in exceptional cases;
- Cases of child protection and special cases of hardship must be taken into account in the scope of care.

Japan

- Pre-schools and after-school clubs were excluded from school closures in early March (02/03); this led to concerns over the efficacy of school closures as many children were sent to day-care facilities.

- On 24/03, The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare indicates it would publish national guiding principles for nursery schools and after-school children's clubs, etc. regarding the downsizing of childcare and temporary closure of facilities. This would include securing childcare for children of medical staff, those who need to continue working to maintain social functions, and those who have difficulty taking off work including single parents.
- There were reports of day-care (25/04) centres requiring parents of children working in hospitals to provide medical certification that they had not been infected.¹
- Concerns have been raised over who will care for children where caregivers become ill or are hospitalised.

Norway

All Kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities closed on 12/03 (except day-care centres which remained open to provide services to essential civic personnel).

From 20/04 social distancing measures were relaxed enabling the reopening of day-care centres with all centres reopening by 27/04 at the latest.

From 20/05, all staff in Kindergarten, elementary school and upper secondary school are now considered “key personnel” meaning they can avail of additional childcare supports.

From 02/06 Infection Prevention Supervisors will work with kindergartens and schools to help them adapt measures to their infection situation as appropriate. A traffic light model will be used for all settings which will inform the kinds of measures schools are required to take (e.g. Nurseries Green = good hygiene, avoid physical contact between employees, Red = children in smaller cohorts with employees assigned to each cohort). Nurseries can plan for having a yellow light status in Q3.

Portugal

On the 16th of March (at 331 cases) the government shut down all schools and universities (including day-care centres).

On the 18th of May (at 29,036 cases) day-care centres resume. For nurseries parents can still opt to continue at home.

Singapore

While schools and pre-schools closed at the beginning of the “circuit breaker” measures on 07-04-2020, essential workers still have access to childcare facilities and schools—priority will be given to the children of these essential workers. The government announced as part of the “circuit breaker” measures that children should no longer be dropped off at grandparents’ houses for care; however, exemptions were introduced for the children of essential workers. The “circuit breaker” period ended on 02-06-2020; from this point families are able to leave children in their grandparents’ care, subject to a two-visitor limit.

South Korea

Childcare was first closed on 27/02 with a two-week closure, which was subsequently extended.

The South Korean government began offering "emergency child-care" for parents dealing with the double challenge of school closures and work-at-home policies in early March. The

¹ <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/04/25/national/children-nurses-japan-excluded-day-care-coronavirus/>

change saw an extension to existing child-care hours by 2 hours, with lunch available for children in childcare.

On the 31st of March (at 9,786 cases) the opening of child-care centres in South Korea had been indefinitely delayed, but parents could continue to apply for emergency childcare.

The first phase of reopening kindergartens began on 27-05 in most regions. Children can avail of both online and offline classes, and after-school programmes are available for toddlers in need of care. **However, in Seoul where an elementary student tested positive for the virus on 26-05, some of these openings have been postponed.** 10 nearby kindergartens and five nearby elementary schools will remain closed for two days for disinfection and other precautionary measures.

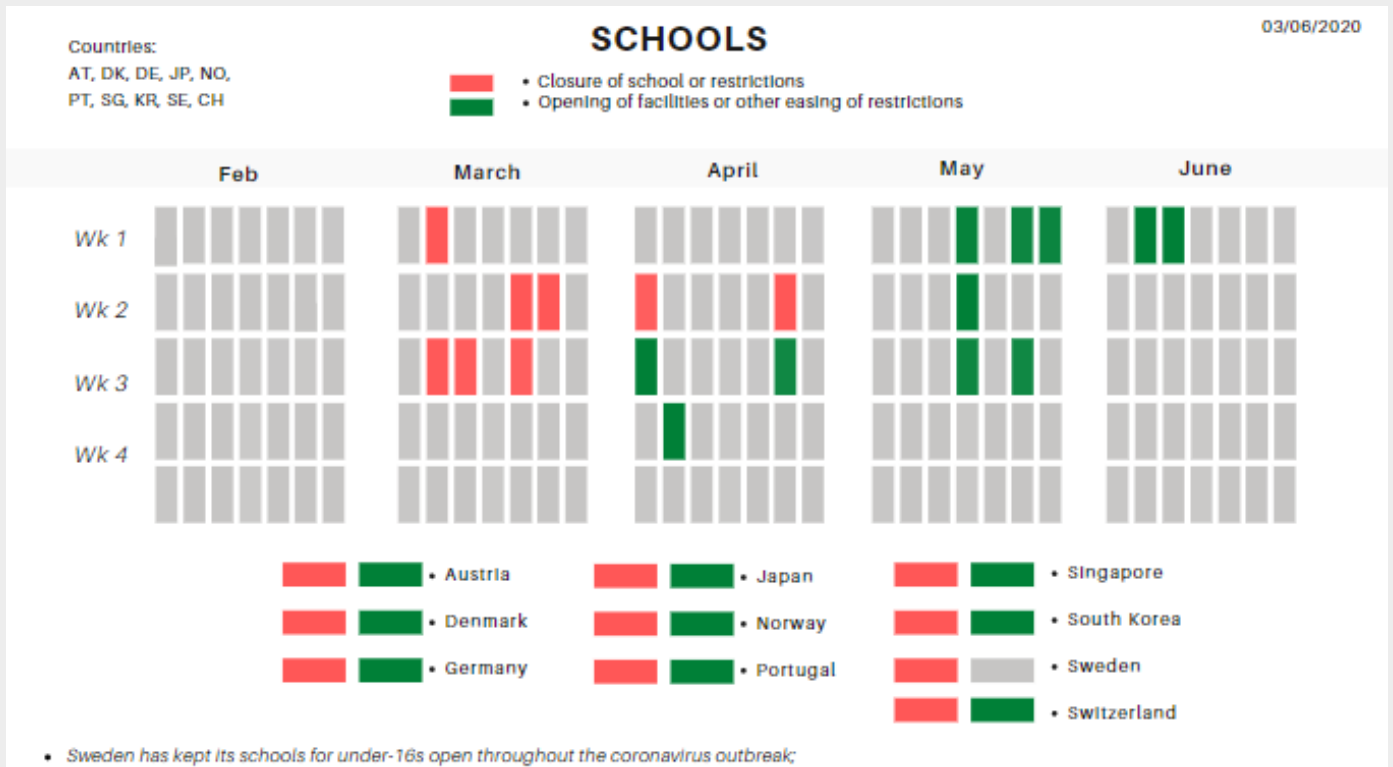
Sweden

Not applicable

Switzerland

Announced on the 16th of March (at 2,200 cases) that the cantons are required to ensure that childcare is provided for children who cannot be looked after privately. Child day-care facilities may only be closed if other suitable arrangements exist.

2. Schools



- Austria, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway, Portugal, South Korea, Singapore and Switzerland have all lifted restrictions on schools to some extent.
- Sweden, the remaining country considered, has kept its schools for under-16s open throughout the coronavirus outbreak

All countries considered introduced some level of restrictions around schooling and education over March and April:

02-03 South Korea: School closures

02-03 Japan: School closures

12-03 Norway: Kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities closed

13-03 Denmark: Schools were closed in Denmark

13-03 Switzerland: Classes in all educational establishments cancelled

16-03 Germany: Schools began closing following federal agreement.

16-03 Switzerland: schools were closed nationwide.

16-03 Portugal: the government shut down all schools and universities.

17-03 Sweden: Recommendation that teaching in upper secondary, universities, vocational colleges and adult education should be conducted through distance or distance education.

17-03 Austria: All children ordered to stay at home

19-03 Austria: Teaching at universities and universities of applied sciences discontinued. Advised that teaching should continue "as far as possible" online

08-04 Singapore: switch to full-time home-based learning

13-04 Japan: Closure of Schools and stay at home order issued

Schooling has returned in some form in all areas:

15-04 Denmark: Kindergartens and primary schools reopen

20-04 Norway: social distancing measures were relaxed enabling the reopening of primary schools and some secondary school grades.

23-04 Germany: North-Rhine Westphalia reopened their schools on a voluntary basis for exam students

04-05 Austria: Students in senior year returned to schools.

04-05 Germany: Final exam year students can begin returning to school

06-05 Germany: It's agreed that face-to-face teaching should resume in all states before the summer recess if possible.

07-05 Japan: Schools reopen in some parts of Japan

11-05 Switzerland: Schools for children of compulsory school age re-open

11-05 Norway: All schools began the processes of returning, subject to measures.

18-05 Japan: Schools in 39 prefectures return to class with staggered attendance

18-05 Austria: 700,000 students in Austria return to school

18-05 Denmark: opened secondary schools (ages 11-16) and after-school care.

18-05 Portugal: Senior schools only are due to reopen, after they are first disinfected. Long-distance learning will remain the norm for other school levels.

20-05 South Korea: High School students return, a week later than planned due to fears of a new spike in cases

02/06 Singapore: Begins the re-opening of schools by levels

03/06 Austria: More students return to school

Austria

On the 16th of March (at 959 cases) Teaching at universities and universities of applied sciences discontinued. Advised that teaching should continue “as far as possible” online. All children ordered to stay at home, starting 17th March (at 1,300 cases).

On the 4th of May (at 15,538 cases) students in senior year (approx. 100,000 pupils) returned to schools. On the 8th of May (at 15,673 cases) Ministry of Education published a decree specifying regulations for schools will re-open over the coming weeks. On the 18th of May (at 16,154 cases) 700,000 students in Austria return to school, after a nine-week hiatus.

On the 25th of May (at 16,439 cases) the Maturawoche – week of high school leaving exams – started in Austria. Due to the coronavirus, there will only be written exams this year and final grades will be a partly based on the grades in the last school year. From 03-06, all students can return to school (students in higher grades of high school and vocational schools following the earlier return of lower high school grades, elementary schools and special needs schools). Pupils will learn in shifts, with half attending Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; the other half will attend on Thursday and Friday. The halves will switch each week and there will be no afternoon teaching nor extracurricular activities. Protection for one’s nose and mouth will be required.

Denmark

Schools were closed in Denmark on 13-03-2020 at 674 cases; they remained closed until the reopening of kindergartens and primary schools with cases at 6511 on 15-04-2020. Upper primary schools reopened on 17-05-2020. On 18-05-2020, secondary schools (11-16) returned; senior schools remain closed but students in their final year may attend to sit exams (per DFAT).

Germany

Schools began closing from 16/03 throughout Germany following a federal agreement.

The federal and state governments agreed that final exam year students could begin returning to school on 04/05. The federal and state governments also agreed on 06/05 that face-to-face teaching should resume in all states before the summer recess if possible. A further extension of social distancing measures on 26/05 reaffirmed federal responsibility for coordinating the reopening of schools.

North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW) reopened their schools on a voluntary basis for exam students on 23/04, and on 11/05 for students who will sit their leaving exams in 2021. Teaching also resumed for primary school classes 1-4 and special needs classes 1-4 in regular alternation with one another. Teaching resumed fully in schools for children with special needs from 25/05 in NRW.

The German school-leaving exam -the “Arbitur” – began on 12/05. However, some states elected to delay this start date. An interim assessment in North-Rhine Westphalia on 01/06 concluded that the exams were taking place safely and with regularity.

Japan

- Elementary, middle, and high schools closed nationwide 02-03 until early April to prevent virus spread.
- Prefecture of Hokkaido one of the worst affected by the crisis, lifted state of emergency and began reopening schools. 19-03
- On 24-03, the Japanese Ministry for Education, Culture, Sports, Science & technology published national guidance for schools to ensure learning could continue including opening windows to ventilate classrooms, maintaining physical distance, checking temperatures

daily, and wearing face masks.² Decisions on reopening/closure of schools would lie at regional level with each prefecture based on their own infection situation.

- Following spike in cases, reclosure of schools and stay at home order issued for prefecture of Hokkaido on 13-04.
- On 16-04, with the state of emergency extended nationwide most prefectures close schools once again.
- Schools reopen in some parts of Japan on 07-05 as some prefectures lift state of emergency.
- Schools in 39 of Japan's 47 prefectures had returned to class with staggered attendance as of 18-05.
- Following the lifting of the State of Emergency in all of Japan's prefectures on 25/05, staggered school attendances will soon resume nationwide across Japan. It was reported that many elementary school children across Japan's prefectures began returning to school again on 01-06.

Norway

All Kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities closed on 12/03 (except day-care centres which remained open to provide services to essential civic personnel).

On 25/03, Norway announced that it was cancelling all junior and high-school written exams. This was not seen as a major issue given that written exams account for roughly 20% of a student's final grade.

From 20/04 social distancing measures were relaxed enabling the reopening of primary school grades 1-4 and some secondary school grades.

Between 11 and 15/05, all schools (primary and secondary) were to have made arrangements for students of all grades to physical classes while complying with infection prevention and control measures.

From 02/06 Infection Prevention Supervisors will work with kindergartens and schools to help them adapt measures to their infection situation as appropriate. A traffic light model will be used for all settings which will inform the kinds of measures schools are required to take (e.g. high school red = students in smaller groups, green = ordinary school organisation with social distancing and hygiene measures). All schools remained on "red" from 29/05 with schools allowed to downgrade to "yellow" from 02/06 onwards.

Portugal

On the 16th of March (at 331 cases) the government shut down all schools and universities.

On the 18th of May senior schools reopened, after they are first disinfected. Classes will be organised in shifts. Mandatory use of masks and disinfectant gel in school. Regular sanitization of public spaces. Long-distance learning will remain the norm for primary and middle schools through to the end of the year.

Singapore

Schools remained open until 08-04-2020 when Singapore announced a switch to full-time home-based learning. Preschools will gradually "reopen by levels" from 02-06-2020, with full resumption by 10-06-2020. Students from graduating cohorts at primary and secondary schools will attend school daily, while other cohorts will rotate weekly. All staff and students will be required to wear

² <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/japan-issues-guidelines-to-curb-virus-for-schools-set-to-reopen-next-month>

masks or face shields when in school or on campus. All preschool and Early Intervention staff are undergoing one-time swab tests ahead of re-openings (commenced 15-05). Staff and students returning from quarantine or stay-at-home notices will have to undergo testing before returning to preschools. All preschools are required to use the SafeEntry system to log the check-in of children, staff and visitors (since 12-05) in order to assist with contact tracing.

South Korea

- School closures on the 02-03 (at 4,335 cases)
- Announcement on the 31-03 (at 9,786 cases) that schools will reopen on 6 April with online lessons
- Reopening of schools delayed following fears of a new spike in Coronavirus cases on the 11/05 (at 10,909 cases) in Seoul. One-week delays in school resumption schedules, in stages spanning from this week through June 1, were announced. The KCDC further stated that school reopening/closures could proceed regionally subject to local disease prevalence.
- On 20/05 High School in senior exam grades returned (one week later than planned).
- From 27/05, in-person classes resumed for students in kindergarten, second year of high school, third year of middle school and first two years of elementary school. Grades can stagger attendances, and a combination of physical and online learning can be used to reduce class density.
- Infection prevention measures include compulsory mask wearing for both teachers and students, checking temperature when entering a school, maintaining proper distance and strict personal hygiene, monitoring students suspected of infection and sending them to select medical centres if required, and keeping social distancing.

Sweden

On the 17th of March (at 1,100 cases) the PHA recommends that the teaching in upper secondary, universities, vocational colleges and adult education should be conducted through distance or distance education. Distance education continues in upper secondary school, municipal adult education, vocational higher education, higher education.

Sweden has kept its schools for under-16s open throughout the coronavirus outbreak. High schools and universities will open from 15-06.

Switzerland

Classes in all educational establishments were cancelled on 13-03-2020 (at 856 cases). On 16-03-2020 (at 2,200 cases), schools were closed nationwide.

Schools for children of compulsory-school age re-opened on the 11th of May (at 30,222 cases). Also face-to-face teaching of up to 5 students (upper secondary schools, higher education and other educational institutions) from this date.

Other educational institutions (post-compulsory schools) expected to re-open as from 8 June.