

MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS – Global COVID-19 Tracker – Aug 18

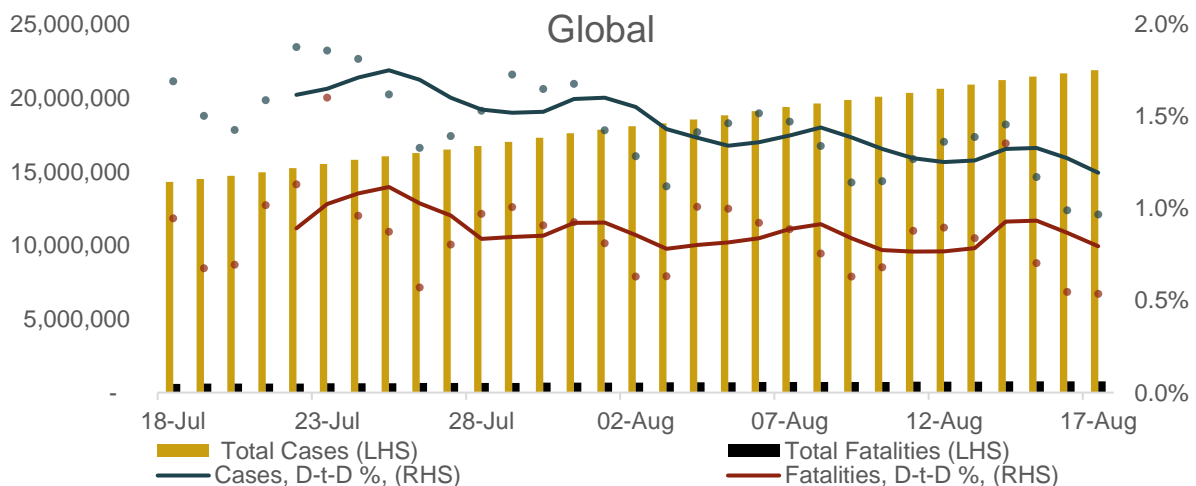
by Tom Lake

Today's Major COVID-19 Headlines And Latest Data

- The World Health Organisation (WHO)'s Western Pacific regional director Takeshi Kasai stated on August 18 that "the epidemic is changing" insofar as "people in their 20s, 30s and 40s are increasingly driving its spread", compared to the initial outbreaks that tended to centre around older people. Kasai went onto say that younger people increasingly socialising risks those who are asymptomatic unknowingly passing the virus onto older people.
- Mass protests occurred in the Argentinean capital Buenos Aires on August 17 in opposition to the government's handling of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as to planned reforms to the judiciary. Protesters are opposed to President Alberto Fernandez's plans to extend confinement areas around the capital to contain the virus. The city has 90% of the entire country's recorded cases. As of August 18, Argentina has 299,126 confirmed cases causing 5,814 fatalities.
- Several large European nations continue to record spikes in COVID-19 cases. Nineteen countries in total have recorded cumulative two-week infections totals in excess of 20/100k inhabitants according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Any score higher than 20/100k is usually considered a sign of a burgeoning outbreak according to health experts. In Spain the rate is currently 115.7/100k, 63.1/100k in Belgium, and 41.2/100k in France.
- Global increase in cases (daily) – Yesterday: 1.0%. Seven-day average: 1.2%
- Global increase in fatalities (daily) – Yesterday: 0.5%. Seven-day average: 0.8%

MNI EXCLUSIVE: Fed Sees Stimulus Bump From Weaker Dollar – The Fed likely welcomes the U.S. dollar's slide for giving a small boost to flagging inflation and exports to Europe, where growth is pulling ahead on more effective government relief spending and pandemic containment, former officials told MNI. **On MNI Policy Main Wire and email now - for more details please contact sales@marketnews.com**

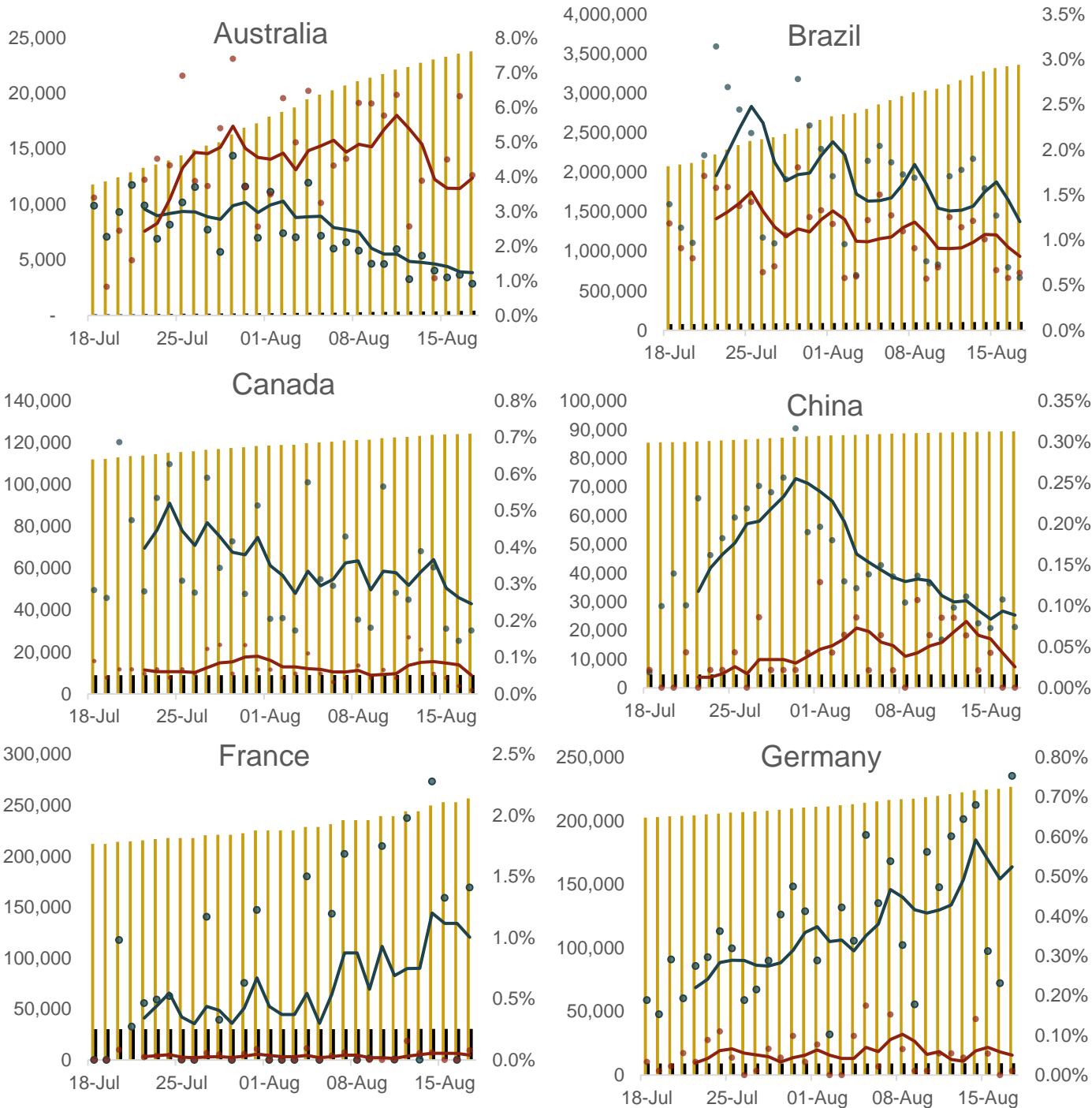
Chart 1. COVID-19 Cases and Fatalities, Nominal and % Chg Day-to-Day (5dma)



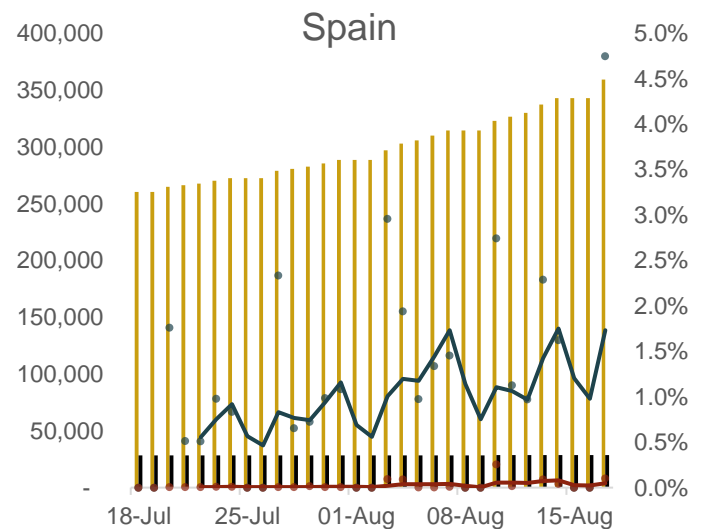
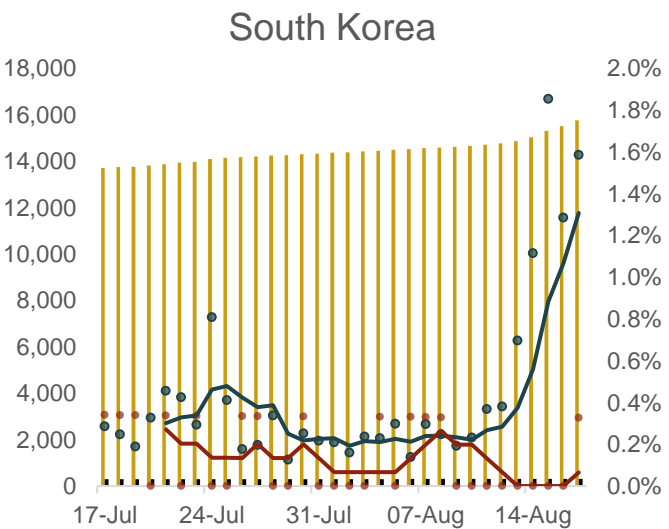
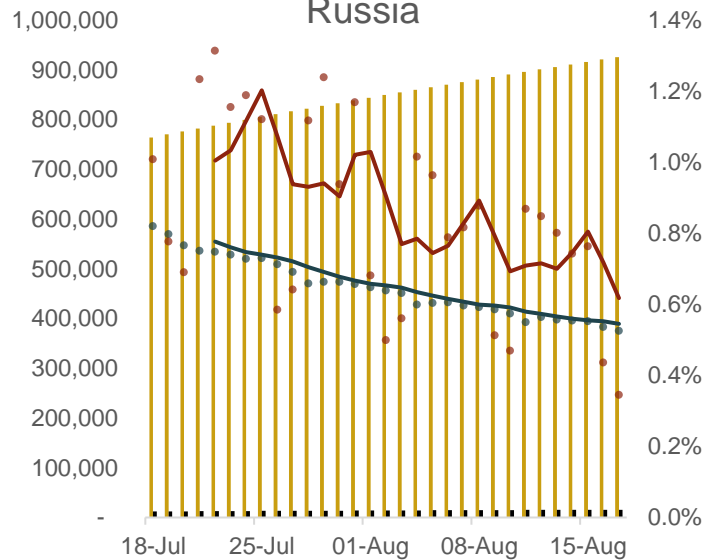
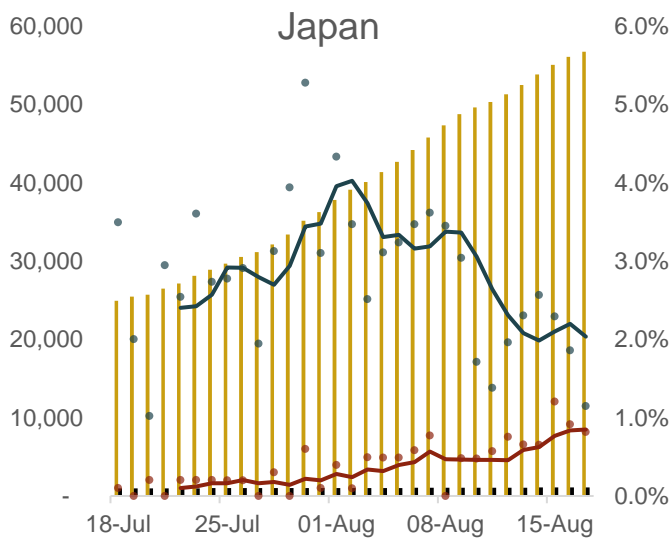
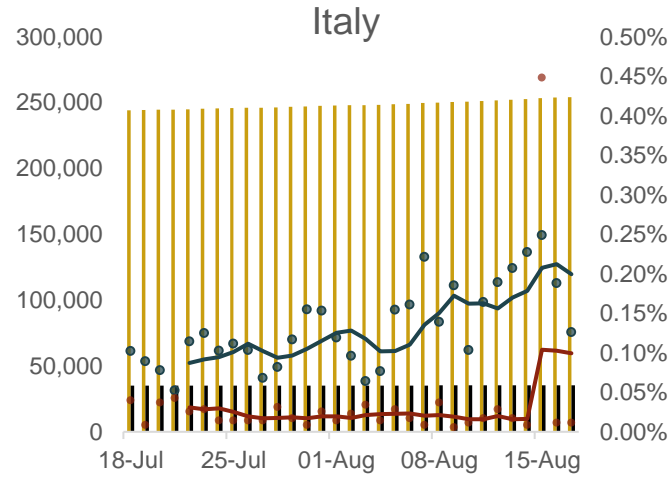
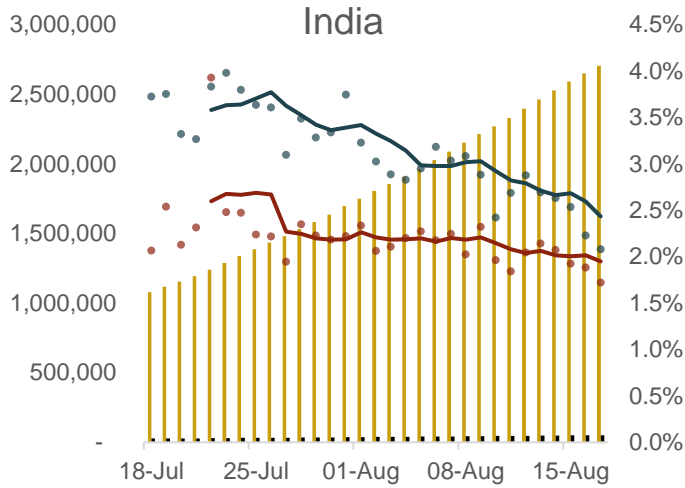
Source: JHU, MNI. As of 0600BST August 18. N.b. Each dot represents a single day's figures, data for past month

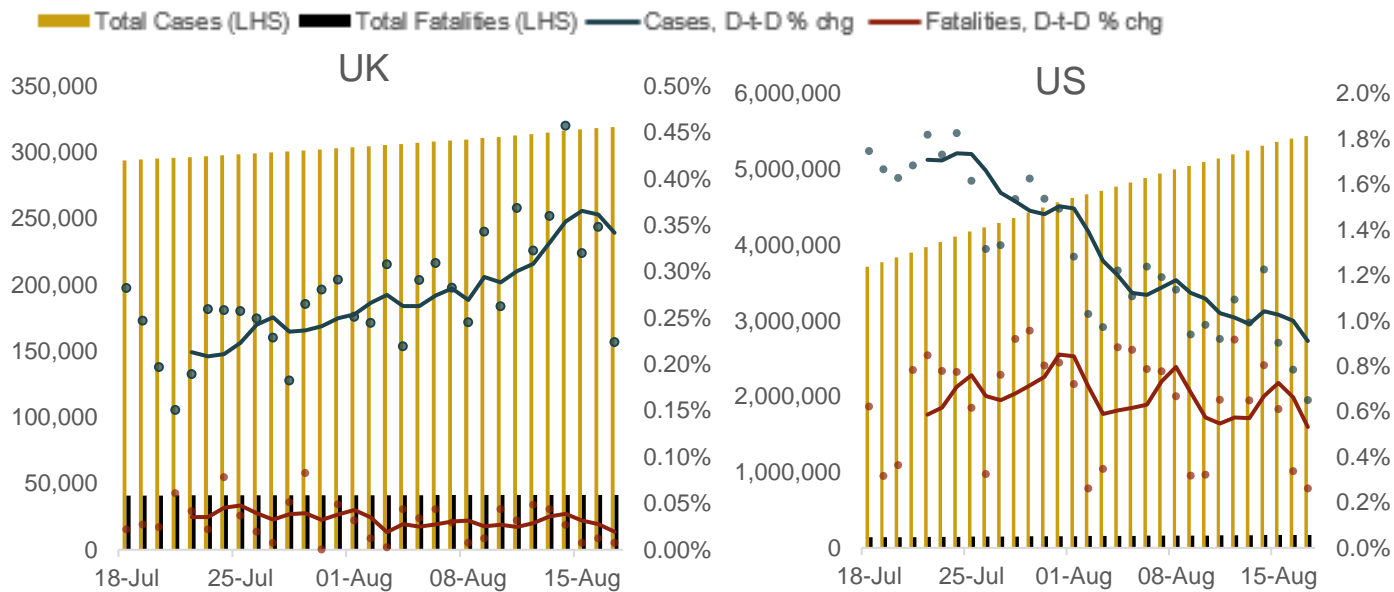
Chart Pack 1 – Short-Term COVID-19 Cases and Fatalities, Nominal and % Chg Day-to-Day (5dma) The chart pack below records the number of COVID-19 cases and fatalities resulting from COVID-19 recorded in key economies over the past month in each respective country. The charts also display the rate of increase in recorded cases and fatalities in each country. **Legend below can be used for all national charts.**

■ Total Cases (LHS) ■ Total Fatalities (LHS) — Cases, D-t-D % chg — Fatalities, D-t-D % chg



■ Total Cases (LHS)
 ■ Total Fatalities (LHS)
 — Cases, D-t-D % chg
 — Fatalities, D-t-D % chg





Source: JHU, MNI. N.b. Global legend applies to all charts. All data correct as of 0600BST August 18, and represents full-day data submissions, rather than intra-day figures. Each dot indicates the data from a single day.

Table 1. COVID-19 Data Table

Country	Confirmed Cases	New Cases Last 24hrs	Recovered	Deceased	Tests Carried Out, Date in ()	Mortality Rate (per 100 recorded cases)	Rate of Increase in cases (5-day average)
Global	21,891,107	209,672	13,893,717	774,034	N/A	3.5	1.22%
Australia	23,773	215	14,926	438	5,336,097 (17/8)	1.8	1.20%
Brazil	3,359,570	19,373	2,699,080	108,536	13,729,872 (17/8)	3.2	1.30%
Canada	12,813	214	110,816	9,075	4,840,043 (17/8)	70.8	0.25%
China	89,441	66	83,288	4,703	N/A	5.3	0.09%
France	256,533	3,568	84,214	30,434	3,510,897 (21/7)	11.9	1.17%
Germany	226,712	1,693	202,907	9,236	9,265,361 (11/8)	4.1	0.54%
India	2,702,742	55,018	1,977,779	51,797	30,941,264 (17/8)	1.9	2.51%
Italy	254,235	320	203,968	35,400	7,588,083 (17/8)	13.9	0.20%
Japan	57,072	643	41,591	1,112	1,488,614 (16/8)	1.9	2.02%
Russia	925,558	4,839	734,573	15,707	32,968,759 (17/8)	1.7	0.55%
South Korea	15,761	246	13,934	306	1,671,823 (18/8)	1.9	1.15%
Spain	359,082	16,269	N/A	28,646	7,472,031 (13/8)	8.0	1.61%
Sweden	85,045	751	N/A	5,787	917,036 (11/8)	6.8	0.38%
United Kingdom	321,064	713	N/A	41,369	14,674,841 (17/8)	12.9	0.34%
United States	5,443,162	35,112	1,865,580	170,497	67,621,119 (17/8)	3.1	0.94%

Source: JHU, State.au, Government of Canada, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Ministerio de Sanidad, COVID Tracking Project, Public Health Agency of Sweden, Robert Koch Institute, Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, Department for Health and Social Services, Ministerio da Saude, Sante Publique France, Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing, Indian Council of Medical Research, MNI. As of 1000BST August 18. Test numbers for China, and recovery numbers for UK, Spain and Sweden not available. PCR and Rapid tests for Brazil and Spain. Completed test numbers for UK and South Korea rather than completed and distributed.

Sell-Side COVID-19 Comments:

In this section we include selected comments from various sell-side outlets from the last day that relate to the COVID-19 outbreak, either providing updates on policy responses, interesting data points, changes to forecasts, market moves, or the analyst's outlook for the virus itself, various economies, or asset classes.

Deutsche Bank:

- “It’s hard to be upbeat about the progress of [US] fiscal talks [...], with Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell saying that although discussions were “still going on”, that “I can’t tell you with certainty we’re going to reach an agreement”. That being said, late last night there were reports that Senate Republicans are planning to introduce a new version of the stimulus bill that is more pared down than the \$1tn bill already submitted. Overnight, Bloomberg reported that the pared down legislation would include a \$300 a week enhanced unemployment benefit, money for small business aid, additional U.S. Postal Service funding and protection for employers against lawsuits stemming from Covid-19 infections.”
- “Speaking of fiscal stimulus, we did hear yesterday about the prospect of further measures in Germany, where finance minister Scholz has proposed extending the country’s job support scheme from 12 to 24 months, in a move that will cost €10bn. A government spokesman said that Chancellor Merkel was open to the programme continuing in principle, and the proposal is interesting when you consider that Germany is set to undergo a more moderate contraction compared with its European partners this year (DB forecasting -6.4% decline in 2020 vs. -11.0% for both France and Italy).”

Morgan Stanley:

- “The focus [in Europe] continues to be on rising Covid-19 cases. Spain has seen a particularly large increase, which has led to travel warnings from around the continent, and created further downside risk for the Spanish tourism sector, which accounts for around 12% of GDP in a normal year. The recent spike in Spanish air traffic could be due to tourists returning home, as infection numbers tick up. Elsewhere, the rising case-count has resulted in further restrictive measures, including France requiring the wearing of face masks in the workplace, and the closure of Italian nightclubs. However, our optimistic take is that the rapid and targeted response to rising case counts is indicative of a relatively low risk of a return to broad national lockdowns.”

Table 2. Social Policy Responses to COVID-19 in Selected Countries

Country	Government Social Responses – Text in red indicates measures imposed or topics discussed in last 24hrs
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on entry to non-residents (doesn't extend to citizens, permanent residents, or their families). • All foreign arrivals will be quarantined in hotels for 14 days • Australia has postponed the opening of parliament for several weeks from Aug 4 to Aug 24 due to the continued spread of COVID-19 in the country's two most populous states. • From July 22, individuals are only able to cross the Victoria-NSW border due to essential work, health, or education reasons. • NSW brings in new restrictions following a cluster of outbreaks around Sydney. Group bookings to be limited to 10, a cap of 300 individuals allowed in each venue, and weddings and corporate events limited to 150 attendees. • Victoria enters a 'state of disaster', with shops, factories and non-essential businesses closed as of August 3. A night-time curfew will be in place between 8pm and 5am for six weeks, with only those working or seeking/providing medical care allowed to leave their homes. • 500 military personnel deployed in Victoria from August 4 to enforce lockdown. Fine for breaking self-isolation orders rise to AUD5,000 (USD3,559). • Queensland closes its entire border with New South Wales as of August 5 following a spike in cases in and around Sydney. • PM Scott Morrison said on August 10 that he said it was unlikely that Australia's international borders would reopen before 2021. • The Northern Territory has said that it will close its borders to Australia's most affected states until at least 2022 according to Chief Minister Michael Gunner. The sparsely-populated region has not had an infection since May. • South Australia has raised the number of people allowed to attend a gathering from 10 to 20, but has tightened its border controls with neighbouring Victoria. • NSW introduces restrictions on schools, with pupils limited to interactions with their year groups and inter-school activities limited to local communities. • Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan delays the further easing of COVID-19 restrictions in his state until October 24 at the earliest following one imported case recorded on August 18.
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of April 14, all citizens and residents returning from abroad will have to be quarantined in a hotel unless they have an alternative self-quarantine plan with access to food and medicine and are forbidden to live with vulnerable people. • Canada and US extend border restrictions to September 21. Only essential workers and those with special family dispensation allowed to cross at present. • Businesses in Toronto able to open as of June 24, with malls and restaurants able to open on terraces. • Ontario has introduced legislation to allow for a monthly extension of some pandemic emergency measures for the next year, after which it will expire. • Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil states on August 3 that the province is not yet ready to open up to the rest of the country without a 14 day quarantine

	<p>period in place, saying “I am looking at possible options for us as a province to start opening up but we're not there yet.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most provinces have loosened restrictions to the point where businesses are operating with social distancing requirements in place. • All provinces planning to have children back in school in September in some capacity.
<p>China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beijing has announced new regulations on “encouraging civilised behaviour” in an attempt to stop any second-wave outbreak. • Tourist sites allowed to return to 50% of daily capacity, from 30%, in an attempt to support the tourism sector. Tour agencies allowed to run local group tours across provinces, although foreign tourists are still banned. • Travel restrictions tightened in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang province, after 5 new cases were recorded on July 17. The city recorded its first new case in 5 months on July 16. The city’s subway line has been shut and 200 flights cancelled at the international airport. • “Wartime state” declared in Urumqi following a spike in cases. Visits to other households are limited alongside large gatherings, testing has been dramatically increased, and residents have been encouraged not to leave the city. • All passengers travelling to China by air now required to provide a negative COVID-19 test in advance, taken a maximum 5 days before boarding. • Residents of Urumqi, Xinjiang will have to test negative in both PCR and antibody tests before being allowed to leave the city if they have been there for 14 days or more. A 14-day quarantine will be imposed on those travelling to the city from other high-risk areas. • Authorities mandate local bodies must engage in regular COVID-19 tests at wholesale markets to avoid an outbreak similar to that recorded in Beijing in June. • China has relaxed its restrictions on South Korean students and workers as of August 5, allowing visa applications for the first time since March. • Officials impose tighter controls on meat and seafood imports following the discovery of COVID-19 contamination on frozen chicken wings from Brazil and frozen shrimp from Ecuador.
<p>France</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Temporary unemployment’ scheme extended for up to two years to allow people to retain their jobs during the course of a full economic recovery after COVID-19 according to labour minister Muriel Pénicaud. • All bars, cafes and restaurants nationwide are allowed to open as of June 15, and the second round of municipal elections will take place on June 28 following their delay from March. • Entry ban for EU and Schengen citizens lifted from June 15 with no quarantine or health certificate required. • France enters third phase of lockdown unwinding on June 22, with schools reopening and children required to return, as well as cinemas, sports halls, holiday parks, and casinos. • In France wearing face masks in enclosed public spaces is mandatory nationwide as of July 20.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities in some areas have been given powers to make the wearing of face masks mandatory outdoors as of August 4. Nice, Biarritz, Bayonne, Orleans, and the region of Mayenne all have orders forcing individuals to wear masks outdoors in certain areas. • Authorities in Paris have introduced new rules requiring the wearing of face masks in certain outdoor areas in busy parts of the city as of August 10, primarily along the River Seine and in tourist hotspots. • PM Jean Castex announced on August 11 that local authorities across France will be given powers to create local plans for containing the virus following a spike in cases. The ban on events of more than 5,000 people will remain in place until Oct 30, while police will be given powers to enforce rules on social distancing and wearing face masks in busy areas. • The French government has designated the capital Paris and the Bouches-du-Rhone region surrounding the city of Marseilles as 'red zones' due to the spike in new cases in the cities.
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All shops allowed to reopen as of May 18, as long as social distancing measures are observed. • Border controls and travel ban with EEA countries (EU+UK, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) removed as of June 15. • 'Big events' are set to remain banned until the end of October • Lockdown in the district of Gütersloh, surrounding the Tönnies meat processing plant, lifted as of July 7 following an order from North Rhine-Westphalia's Higher Administrative Court. The district will revert to the unwinding measures in place across the nation. • Agreement reached between federal and state governments on local lockdowns, with tightly limited hotspots to be put into lockdown rather than entire districts. Local travel bans will be brought in if cases continue to spike in any area. • Government issues warning against visiting all of Spain following a spike in cases. Initially this just covered certain areas of the country, but the advice has now been expanded nationwide. • Around 15,000 children in the northern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania returned to school on August 4, making them the first in Europe to start a new school year. The state has been Germany's least-affected by COVID-19. Hamburg followed suit on August 6, and Berlin, Brandenburg, and North Rhine-Westphalia the week after. • German Health Minister Jens Spahn announced on August 6 that all individuals travelling to Germany from high-risk countries are required to take a COVID-19 test on entry from August 8 onwards.
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will not reopen until the new school year in September. • As of June 1 some major tourist sites, such as the Colosseum and the Leaning Tower of Pisa, have been allowed to reopen. • As of June 3, borders have been opened without quarantine and individuals are allowed to travel between different regions. • The Italian government has opted out of the lifting of a travel ban on 15 non-EU 'safe' countries as listed by the EU. As such the country's quarantine rule will remain in place for non-EU travellers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed on July 14 by Health Minister Roberto Speranza that the restrictions on public gatherings and obligations to wear face masks in public will be extended to July 31 at the earliest. • New 'emergency decree' running from August 10 to September 7 sees restrictions on travel and rules on face masks and social distancing remain in place. Cruise ships will be allowed to resume travel as of August 15, as long as they only travel to other EU states. The employee furlough scheme remains in place, and tax collections can be deferred. • A 14 day quarantine introduced for those returning from Spain, Greece or Malta as of August 12. • Nightclubs shuttered for 3 weeks and stricter face mask rules implemented in public areas following an increase in cases.
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government lifts state of emergency across Japan on May 25. • On June 19 government lifts internal travel restrictions that prohibited non-essential travel to and from Tokyo and its surrounding prefectures, and the island of Hokkaido. • Government looking to relaunch business travel between Japan and 10 Asian countries that have largely suppressed the spread of COVID-19. Government will allow those with a negative COVID-19 test to enter the country as long as they submit an itinerary of their trip to authorities. • Government confirms on July 22 that its planned easing of restrictions to allow spectators at large-scale events will be delayed. The cap on attendees at 5,000 will now be maintained until the end of August at the earliest. • Government announces plan to partially roll back restrictions on foreign nationals, allowing around 200,000 foreign residents to be gradually readmitted to the country. • Minister in charge of COVID-19 response says nightlife businesses that do not following coronavirus guidelines could be named and shamed as the number of new cases recorded from outbreaks at hostess bars increases. • Government mulling the introduction of punishments for businesses not abiding by COVID-19 restrictions according to economic revitalisation minister Yasutoshi Nishimura on August 2. • Those returning to Japan from Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and Peru face stricter procedures from August 7. Permanent residents and long-term visa holders will need to provide a negative PCR test taken before departure to re-enter the country. • Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated his stance that the reintroduction of a state of emergency was not necessary, despite a continued spike in new cases in the country. Abe said a state of emergency was not required as the number of severe cases and fatalities has been far lower than during the country's first wave outbreak in April and May. • Travel restrictions with Singapore to be relaxed in September following ministerial meeting.
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone coming to New Zealand (except those from Pacific Islands) will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

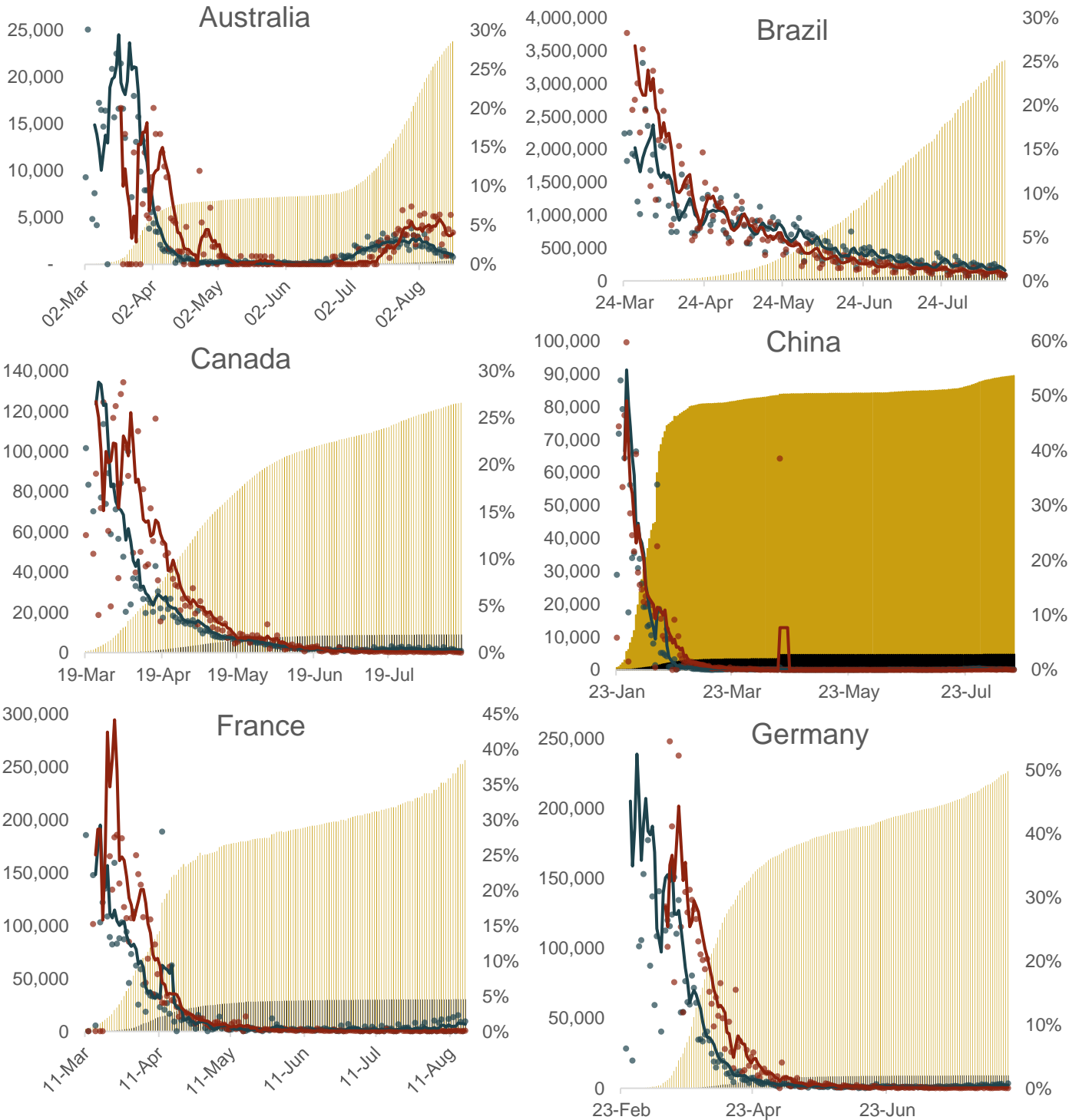
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on entry to non-residents. • New Zealand military has been put in charge of the country's quarantine programme and border operations. • PM Ardern on June 30 rebuffed calls to reopen the country's borders, saying that to do so would be "dangerous" with the rate of infection still increasing worldwide. • Government has reached a deal with Air New Zealand to restrict the number of places available for international arrivals to ease the pressure on isolation facilities. These restrictions apply to New Zealand permanent residents and citizens. Has sparked a major backlash, with critics arguing the restriction is in breach of the country's bill of rights. • New Zealand has recorded its first cases of community-transmitted COVID-19 in 102 days, with a family of 4 infected by an unknown source. In response, PM Jacinda Ardern placed the city of Auckland into lvl.3 lockdown (staying home encouraged) until midnight Friday, and the rest of the country into lvl.2 (social distancing required). • Prime Minister Ardern has extended the level three COVID-19 restrictions in Auckland for a further 12 days following an expansion in the outbreak cluster recorded on August 12 from 4 cases to 29. The rest of the country remains under level 2 restrictions, which have also been extended. • Prime Minister Ardern announced on August 17 that the country's general election, scheduled for September 19, would be delayed by one month to October 17 due to the new outbreak of COVID-19 in the country. The number of cases linked to the initial cluster in Auckland has expanded to 58, after a period of 102 days with no new cases.
<p>Spain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 9 the government announced that the wearing of face masks will remain compulsory for an unlimited amount of time until a vaccine for COVID-19 is found. • Restrictions re-imposed around the A Marina district in Galicia in NW Spain following a spike in cases. Around 70,000 individuals are subject to the restrictions that will be in place for at least 5 days. Individuals are by and large not allowed to leave the area, and gatherings will be limited to 10. • In Spain's autonomous community of Catalonia restrictions were introduced in areas including Barcelona on July 18. Tighter restrictions banning meetings of more than 10 people or leaving the home for non-essential activities are in place. • Catalan authorities have ruled out the imposition of mandatory lockdown restrictions across the autonomous community as the number of new cases recorded has declined in recent days. • Face masks compulsory in public indoors or outdoors in Madrid as of July 28, with bars forced to close at 1am and gatherings on restaurant terraces limited to 10. Checks on travellers at Madrid airport set to increase as well. • Catalan regional leader announces the likelihood of stricter lockdown measures should the number of new cases fail to decrease in the next 10 days.

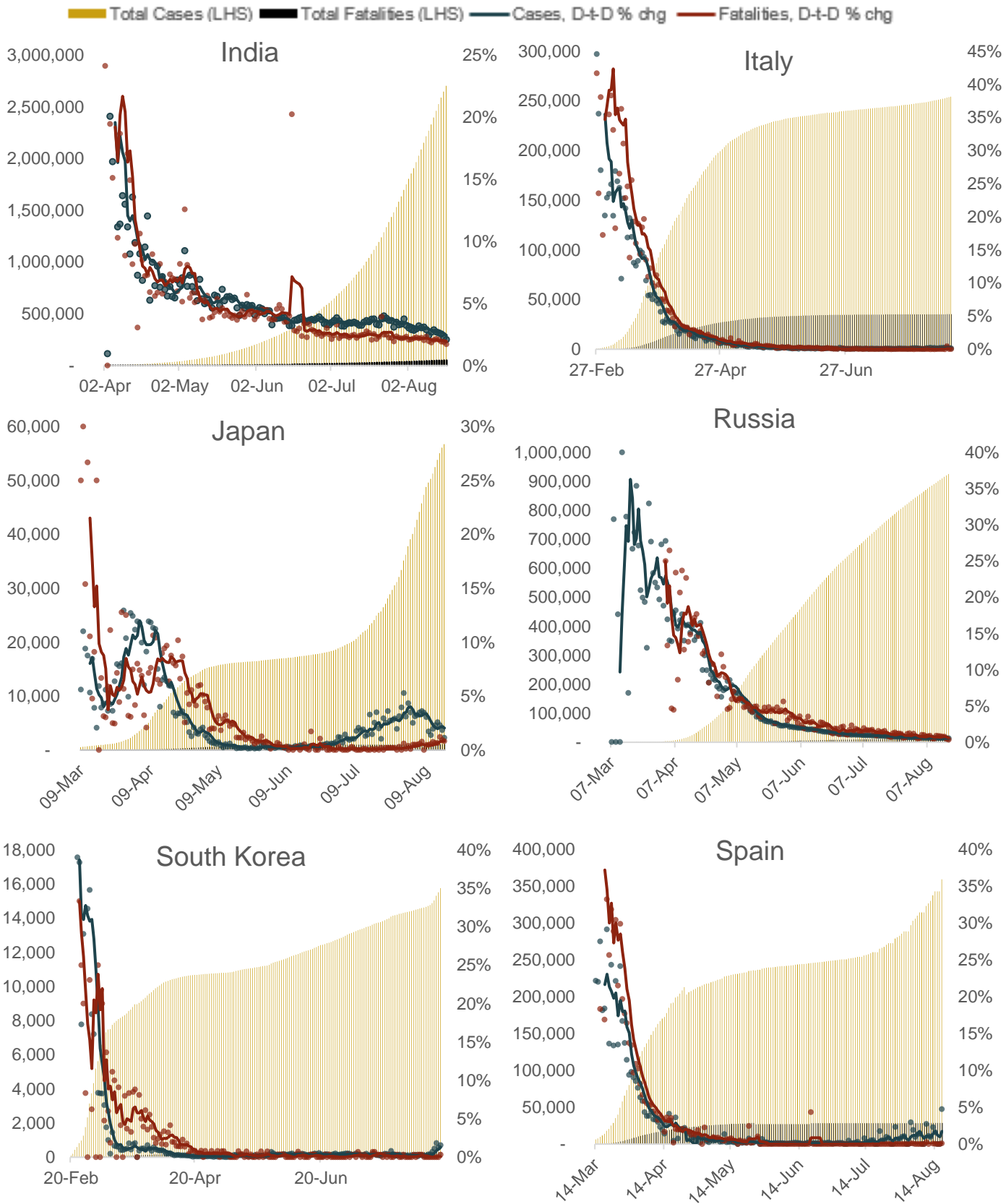
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nightclubs and cocktail bars closed down until a vaccine is discovered, while smoking will be banned in all outdoor places where social distancing is not possible. Nursing home residents will be limited to one visitor.
<p>United Kingdom</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of June 1, individuals in England allowed to meet in groups of up to six, including with those from outside their household. Primary schools in England have also re-opened for some pupils. • All shops selling non-essential items in England allowed to re-open as of June 15. • Anyone in England travelling on public transport is required to wear a mask or face covering as of June 15. • The UK has lowered its COVID-19 alert level from four (the second highest) to three (the third highest) following what the chief medical officers have deemed a steady decrease in cases. • COVID-19 restrictions have been significantly relaxed as of July 4. Pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, hotels, cinemas, places of worship, museums and a number of other hospitality, tourist, and cultural areas allowed to reopen. The social distancing rules have been changed to guidelines, with the distance reduced from 2 metres to '1 metre plus'. • Scotland lifts 5-mile travel limit on July 3, allow the meeting of other households indoors from July 10, and reopened pubs, restaurants, and hairdressers from July 15. • Further relaxation of lockdown restrictions announced July 17, with individuals encouraged return to return to working in offices as of August 1 if it is deemed safe to do. Non-essential travel on public transport is allowed as of July 17. • The wearing of face coverings in shops is mandatory in England as of July 24, with the measure including banks, post offices, and takeaway food outlets. Masks have been mandatory in shops in Scotland since July 10, but are not required in outlets in Wales or Northern Ireland. • UK government added Spain back onto the list of countries where travellers returning from are required to quarantine for 14 days following a spike in cases. This caused an immediate backlash from the Spanish government and travel companies. • Swaths of northern England put under a local lockdown on August 1 following a spike in cases. The restrictions are much looser than those imposed on Leicester previously, and in many cases have not been enforced at all as of August 4. • Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces the city of Aberdeen will go into a local lockdown (the first in Scotland) after a 'significant outbreak' in the city. Applies as of 1700BST on August 5. • Preston the latest English town to enter a local lockdown following a spike in cases. • The UK has expanded its list of countries from which travellers will have to quarantine for 14 days on their return, including France and the Netherlands.
<p>United States</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban on travel from 28 European countries. • Border with Canada to shut to non-essential transit.

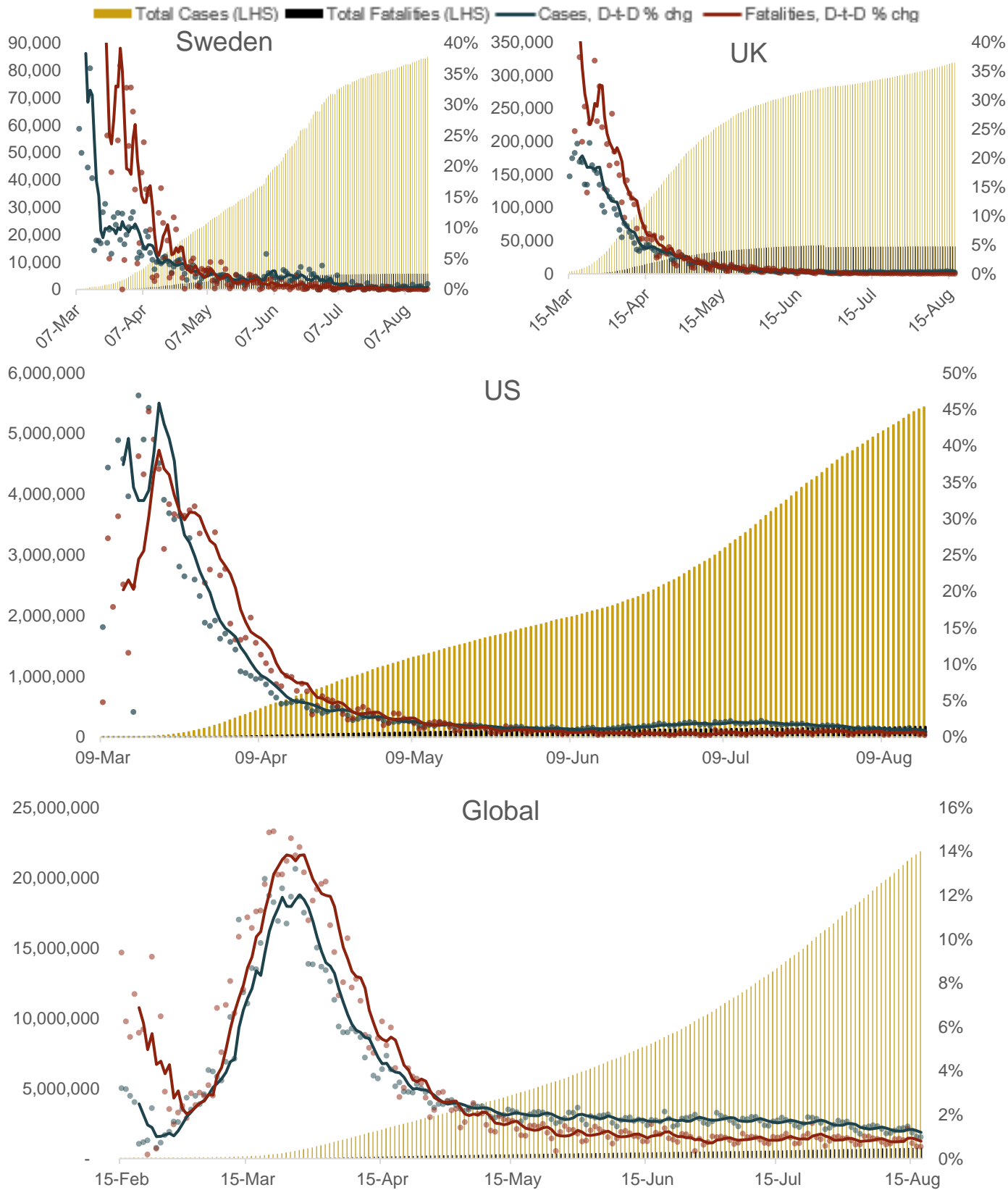
- State Department warned citizens not to travel abroad, issuing the highest possible level of travel advisory. Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory "advises U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19."
- New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have enlarged a quarantine for individuals coming from 34 states. Those arriving will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days, with a potential fine of USD1,000 for breaking of quarantine.
- Other states, including Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Vermont all requiring or recommending a quarantine period after visiting certain states.
- In Florida, beaches have been closed, while bars across the state are also closed. In Texas, bars are also closed while limiting indoor seating at restaurants.
- Arizona has joined others in re-imposing lockdown conditions, with bars, cinemas, gyms and other public meeting areas closed.
- Wearing of face masks mandated in public in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Bars also closed in Louisiana, Colorado, and Michigan.
- In California indoor activity at restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, zoos and museums has been halted immediately state-wide, while churches, gyms and hairdressers are closed in the worst-affected counties.
- Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot confirms that local officials are re-tightening COVID-19 restrictions in the city on restaurants, bars, gyms and other personal services from July 24.
- First presidential debate due to be held on September 29 moved from Indiana to Ohio due to COVID-19 precautions. Original host Notre Dame University said the social distancing restrictions "would have greatly diminished the educational value of hosting the debate on our campus".
- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announces the introduction of physical checkpoints on bridges and tunnels into the city that will advise out-of-state travellers to quarantine for 14 days on their arrival in NYC. Authorities have stressed the checkpoints will not be used to turn away individuals but will operate in an educational capacity.
- Florida Governor Ron De Santis has removed restrictions on those travelling to the state from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.
- Georgia Governor Brian Kemp extends current COVID-19 restrictions for another 15 days as new cases continue to mount in the state.

Chart Pack 2 – Long-Term COVID-19 Cases and Fatalities, Nominal and % Chg Day-to-Day (5dma) The chart pack below records the number of COVID-19 cases and fatalities resulting from COVID-19 recorded in key economies since the start of the outbreak in each respective country. The charts also display the rate of increase in recorded cases and fatalities in each country. **Legend below can be used for all national charts.**

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