



ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

DISEASE ALERT



May 14, 2025 | Issue No. 33

First alert: May 14, 2025 | Update on COVID-19 Situation in Singapore

Sub-Locations Affected

Singapore

Event Description

On May 13, 2025, the Ministry of Health (MOH) released an official statement regarding a recent rise in COVID-19 infections. Ongoing surveillance indicates that the circulating variants do not exhibit increased transmissibility or disease severity compared to earlier strains. This update underscores the importance of sustained public health vigilance, monitoring, and timely communication to mitigate potential risks and inform appropriate response strategies.



Map of location affected

Source: <https://www.cia.gov/resources/map/singapore/>

Epidemiological Information

- Between April 27 and May 3, 2025, Singapore estimated 14,200 new cases of COVID-19, up from 11,100 the previous week. The average daily number of hospitalizations increased from 102 to 133. However, the number of intensive care unit (ICU) admissions declined slightly from three to two cases per day. Hospitals have maintained sufficient capacity to manage the surge, indicating a stable healthcare response amid the rising infection trend.

During the period, the positivity rate for SARS-CoV-2 among samples of individuals with acute respiratory infection (ARI) was 17%, slightly higher than the 13% positivity rate observed during the week of April 20-26, 2025.

- **Variants in Circulation:** The predominant variants are LF.7 and NB.1.8, which are both descendants of the JN.1 lineage. Together, these variants account for over two-thirds of locally sequenced cases.
- **Transmission and Severity:** There is no evidence suggesting that these variants are more transmissible or cause more severe disease than earlier strains.
- **Population Immunity:** The rise in cases may be attributed to waning immunity within the population, as many individuals have not received a vaccine dose in the past year.

Response Measures

- **Vaccination Recommendations:** The MOH advises individuals at increased risk, such as those aged 60 and above, medically vulnerable individuals, and residents of long-term care facilities, to receive an additional vaccine dose approximately one year after their last one. Healthcare workers and individuals in close contact with vulnerable populations are also encouraged to stay up to date with their vaccinations.
- **Vaccination Accessibility:** COVID-19 vaccines are available at Healthier SG General Practitioner clinics and Polyclinics in Singapore. Individuals aged 6 months and above are eligible for vaccination.
- **Public Health Advisories:** The public is urged to maintain good personal hygiene, minimize social interactions when feeling unwell, and wear masks in crowded areas or if they are exhibiting symptoms. These measures are especially important during the upcoming holiday season in June, when travel increases.
- **Healthcare System Management:** Hospitals have been advised to reduce non-urgent elective surgeries and utilize transitional care facilities or home-based care options, such as Mobile Inpatient Care@Home, to manage bed capacity.

Sources:

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4. The Straits Times. (2025, May 13). Covid-19 cases in S'pore double, MOH advises public to stay vigilant. Retrieved May 14, 2025 from <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/spore-monitoring-rise-in-covid-19-cases-no-indication-that-variants-are-more-transmissible-or-severe>

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