

## ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)



Canada



# COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

## Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 523 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- Three doses of the same COVID-19 vaccine or a combination of jabs work equally well in preventing infections, according to the largest study of its kind. While the effectiveness of individual coronavirus vaccines is well known, the evidence around combinations of jabs has been less clear, especially for particular groups such as older people and those who are immunocompromised. Now a global analysis of data from more than 100 million people confirms the number of doses is the key to boosting immunity rather than jab combinations. The findings have been published in the BMJ. Three doses of either the same vaccine or a combination of different types work comparably well in preventing COVID-19 infections, even against different variants, according to the study. Despite a rapid decline in COVID-19 infections and deaths, concerns about waning vaccine immunity and new variants makes it important to understand which vaccine combinations are most effective, the BMJ said. The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) searched 38 World Health Organization COVID-19 databases for published studies and preprints on a weekly basis from 8 March 2022. They identified 53 studies involving 100 million people with 24 combinations of COVID vaccine courses. Receiving three doses of the same vaccine is known as a homologous regimen, while receiving a third dose that differs from those given as two primary doses is called a heterologous regimen. After taking account of differences in study design and quality, CUHK researchers found that three doses of any mRNA vaccine appear to be most effective (96%) against non-severe COVID-19 infections and most effective (95%) in reducing Covid-19 related hospital admissions. But the results also show that any three-dose regimen – heterologous or homologous – induces higher immunity in all age groups, even in the over-65s, than a two-dose homologous regimen. And the study found that in immunocompromised patients, a third mRNA booster dose, as part of a heterologous or homologous regimen, also greatly improves protection compared with two doses. The effectiveness of three-dose vaccine regimens against Covid-19 related death remains uncertain. The researchers acknowledged some of the study's limitations, including that they didn't evaluate the optimum time interval for prime boost or boosting regimens, owing to limited information.

## Regional Update

- Philippines: The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday confirmed five new mild cases of the Omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 in Western Visayas. "Among these five, two are fully vaccinated locals from the same household, while the other three are fully vaccinated returning overseas Filipinos with a travel history from the United States [and] also residing in the same household." Health Promotion and Communication Service Director Dr. Beverly Ho said in a virtual media forum. The health department, however, assured that all newly reported infections were asymptomatic and have since recovered after completing their home isolation. Ho added that the patients had seven close contacts, two from the local cases and five from the ROFs, who have likewise been tagged as recovered. In the country, a total of 22 Omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 infections were recorded by DOH as of Tuesday. Eighteen of the cases were locally acquired — 12 from Puerto Princesa City, 4 from Western Visayas, and two from the National Capital Region — while the four others were ROFs residing in Western Visayas. While the emergence of new COVID-19 sublineages is not visibly related to the recent uptick in logged infections, DOH

stressed anew the importance of complying with the minimum public health standards and availing of both primary and booster doses of the vaccine.

- South Korea's new COVID-19 cases fell to below 16,000 Wednesday amid a slowing virus trend, as authorities take steps for a return to pre-pandemic normalcy. The country added 15,797 COVID-19 infections, including 44 cases from overseas, bringing the total caseload to 18,119,415, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said. The daily cases have marked a steady decline since the all-time daily high of more than 620,000 in mid-March. The infection numbers have fallen to five digits or under since April 21. The death toll came to 24,197, up 21 from Tuesday, with the fatality rate at 0.13%. The number of critically ill patients stood at 188, up from 180 the previous day. Starting Wednesday, international arrivals need to take only one polymerase chain reaction test within the first three days of arrival, in further easing of COVID-19 restrictions amid a virus slowdown and in line with border reopenings in other countries. Rapid antigen tests that had been required for inbound travelers by the end of the first week of arrival are now a recommendation. The age of minors for self-isolation exemption is extended to 11 from 5.
- China: Shanghai has lifted a painful two-month lockdown, to the relief of the city's 25 million residents, with authorities dismantling fences around housing compounds and ripping police tape off public squares and buildings. Most residents have spent the past two months under a ruthlessly enforced lockdown that has caused income losses, stress and despair for millions struggling to access food or emergency healthcare. The prolonged isolation has fueled public anger and rare protests inside China's most populous metropolis and battered the city's manufacturing and export-heavy economy, disrupting supply chains in China and around the world, and slowing international trade.

## Vaccine Update

- Indonesia: The Ministry of Health will destroy expired COVID-19 vaccines in several areas in an effort to accelerate the delivery of new vaccine batches. The minister emphasized the importance of immediately destroying the expired COVID-19 vaccine, so it will not hamper future vaccine batches in the storage area. He affirmed that permission had been received from President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) for destroying the expired COVID-19 vaccine. The minister noted that two factors caused COVID-19 vaccines to expire, with the first being, donated vaccines, with a short expiry date. He added that the average expiry date for COVID-19 vaccines from donations was relatively short, between one to three months. The second factor was a slowdown or decrease in the vaccination rate in the country after COVID-19 vaccination in Indonesia had reached over 70% of the total population. Based on data from the Ministry of Health as of May 31, 2022, at 12:00 local time, the recipients of the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reached 200.26 million people, or 96.16% of the total 208,265,720 residents, who were targeted for COVID-19 vaccination. Meanwhile, members of the population that had received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine increased to 167.42 million, or 80.39% of the target. For the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or a booster vaccine, some 45.67 million people had been vaccinated, or 21.93% of the target.
- Malaysia: A total of 1,176,530 or 33.1% of children aged five to 11 in the country have completed their vaccination under the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of yesterday. According to the CovidNow portal, 1,727,791 children or 48.6% of the group have received at least one dose of the vaccine. As for teenagers aged 12 to 17 years, a total of 2,914,167 individuals or 93.7% have completed their vaccination, while 3,010,754 or 96.8% of them have received at least one dose of the vaccine. At the same time, a total of 16,098,582 individuals or 68.4% of the adult population have received the booster dose, while 22,974,695 individuals or 97.6% have completed two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and 23,251,418 individuals or 98.8% have received at least one dose of the

vaccine. As for daily doses, a total of 13,302 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were dispensed yesterday, with 7,404 of them as the first dose, 3,810 as second dose and 2,088 as booster dose, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) to 70,939,755. Meanwhile, the Health Ministry's GitHub portal reported that seven COVID-19 deaths were recorded yesterday, with two cases each in Kedah and Selangor, while one each in Kuala Lumpur, Johor and Terengganu.

- The Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, Spikevax, for use in children who are aged six to 11 years. According to published and peer-reviewed clinical findings, two 50µg vaccine doses demonstrated an acceptable safety profile and stimulated a robust immune response for children aged six to 11 years. The vaccine's efficacy and safety in children were also in line with those in adults. It said that the emergency use authorization (EUA) is valid only for the periods of the declared COVID-19 public health emergency unless revoked or until a marketing authorization or product registration certificate is issued.

### **Travel Advisories** (new update/s)

- Brunei: The government has announced that the temporary suspension on cross-border activities has been extended by 15 days, from June 1 to June 15. The suspension applies to the entry of foreign nationals via land and seaports, including transits through Brunei Darussalam, except for entry and transit travels that have been granted approval by the Government of Brunei. Entry and transits through Brunei may only be considered for transit vehicles with transit permits that are issued by the government and provided that the travellers have attained endorsement from their local authorities for their travels. The suspension also applies to the entry and exit-country travels of commuters via land and seaports for the purpose of work.
- Japan on Wednesday doubled the cap on daily arrivals to the country as it continues to ease its COVID-19 border controls amid receding worries about the pandemic. The country also exempted people from isolation and COVID-19 testing upon entry when they come from 98 countries and regions presenting the lowest risk of infection, including the United States, Britain, China and South Korea. This means some 80% of the entrants are exempted. The move came as Japan seeks to realize smooth entry of foreign visitors matching those of other Group of Seven major developed nations after coming under fire at home and abroad for its strict border controls. Last November, the country banned all new entries by foreign nationals globally and has since gradually eased restrictions as vaccination progresses at home and as other countries resume international travel. In addition to the latest easing, Japan also plans to start accepting foreign tourists in stages starting June 10. Under the plan, tourism arrivals will be initially restricted to guided tours from the 98 countries and regions. The forthcoming guided tour participants will be included in the numerical ceiling of 20,000.

## Cases and Deaths as of 01 June 2022

- As of 01 June 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **533,553,125** confirmed cases, including **6,321,791** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 62,239,968 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,825,087 cases** in the ASEAN region and **30,414,881 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

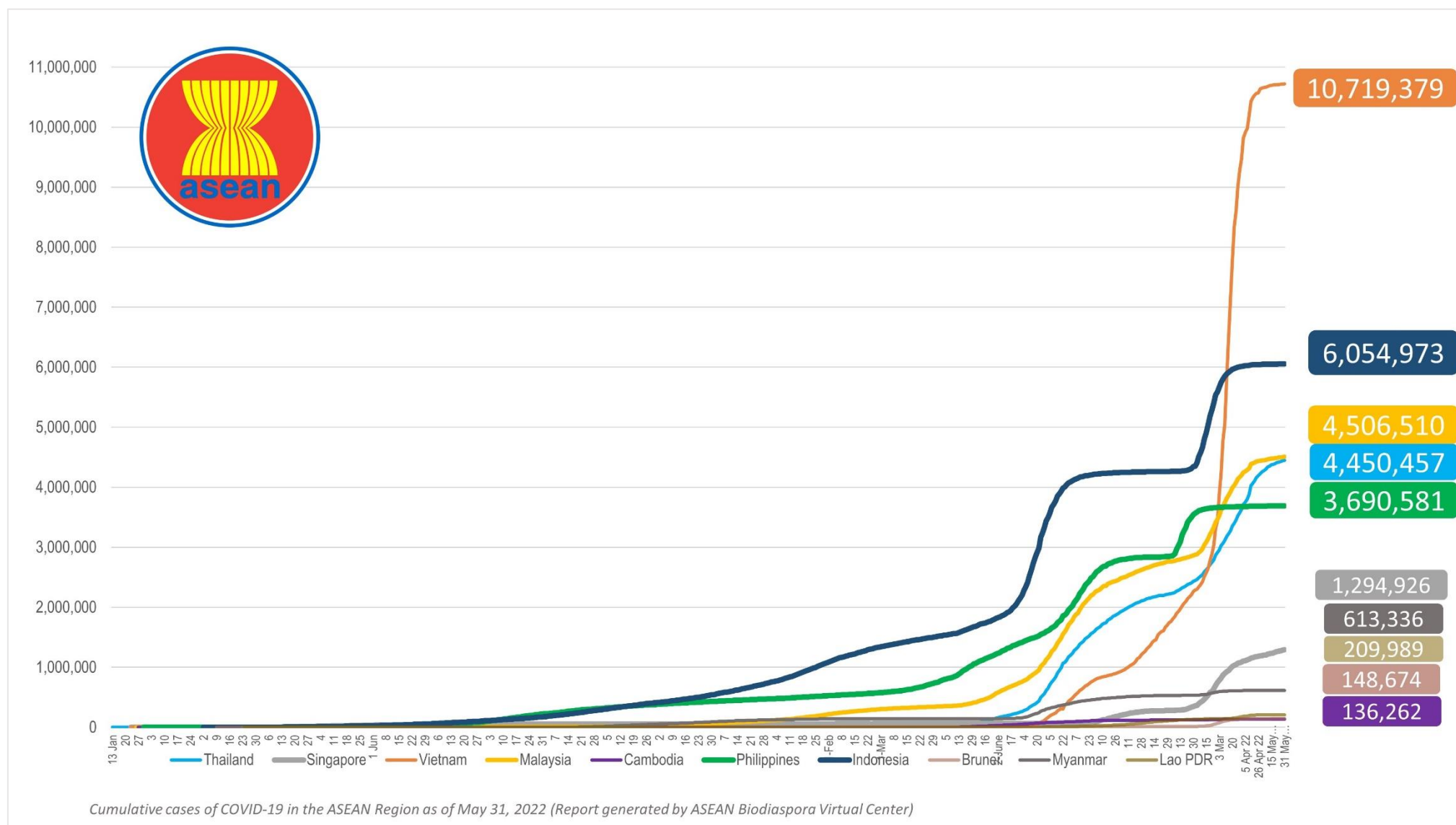
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	31-May-22	148,674	279	223	-	0.1%	34,313	-	440,900	415,977	292,713	94.2
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	31-May-22	136,262	-	3,056	-	2.2%	827	29	15,017,756	14,280,965	9,085,668	84.3
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	31-May-22	6,054,973	340	156,591	5	2.6%	2,237	-	200,202,182	167,330,132	37,458,813	60.6
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	31-May-22	209,989	14	756	-	0.4%	2,929	27	5,809,748	5,052,438		68.5
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	31-May-22	4,506,510	1,451	35,676	7	0.8%	14,105	1,104	27,981,746	27,059,981	16,096,363	82.6
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	31-May-22	613,336	10	19,434	-	3.2%	1,135	182	30,994,375	24,329,862	1,665,569	44.4
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	31-May-22	3,690,581	130	60,455	-	1.6%	3,414	-	70,173,137	70,820,093	14,084,991	63.8
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	31-May-22	1,294,926	2,389	1,386	3	0.1%	22,704		5,015,471	4,987,927	4,085,464	91.5
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	31-May-22	4,450,457	3,955	30,022	21	0.7%	6,392	-	56,502,581	52,441,135	27,952,565	75.0
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	31-May-22	10,719,379	1,010	43,079	1	0.4%	11,113	4	84,340,713	79,046,788	57,392,017	80.5
	ASEAN COUNTRIES			31,825,087	9,578	350,678	37	1.1%			496,478,609	445,765,298	168,114,163	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	31-May-22	18,103,638	17,176	24,176	9	0.1%	35,011	2,744	45,054,294	44,586,038	37,378,774	86.9
	Japan	16-Jan-20	31-May-22	8,841,379	22,022	30,441	39	0.3%	7,002	1,115	103,563,713	102,046,454	74,856,622	81.0
	China	31-Dec-19	31-May-22	3,469,864	81,007	16,859	90	0.5%	25,062	28,408	1,317,406,807	1,281,595,023	794,060,641	84.4
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES			30,414,881	120,205	71,476	138	0.2%			1,466,024,814	1,428,227,515	906,296,037	
ASEAN +3				62,239,968	129,783	422,154	175	0.7%			1,962,503,423	1,873,992,813	1,074,410,200	

- 471,313,157 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in **5 continents** (other than ASEAN +3 countries):

CONTINENT	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED
AFRICA	12,372,309	3,982	255,875	33	1.0	232,643	90,995	310,459,306	237,406,420	24,153,295
AMERICAS	159,571,124	45,029	2,776,226	71	0.8	1,021,470	71,066	801,570,573	707,124,002	383,111,442
ASIA PACIFIC	76,726,464	139,967	734,752	96	0.2	354,025	27,178	1,411,288,022	1,252,463,964	124,143,345
EUROPE	201,770,122	182,326	1,899,513	860	0.6	1,769,120	67,611	558,147,776	530,238,859	315,511,456
MIDDLE EAST	20,873,138	3,465	233,271	8	0.3	190,712	57,662	141,496,958	126,934,514	55,313,732
TOTAL	471,313,157	374,769	5,899,637	1,068	1.3%	-	-	3,222,962,635	2,854,167,759	902,233,270

# COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

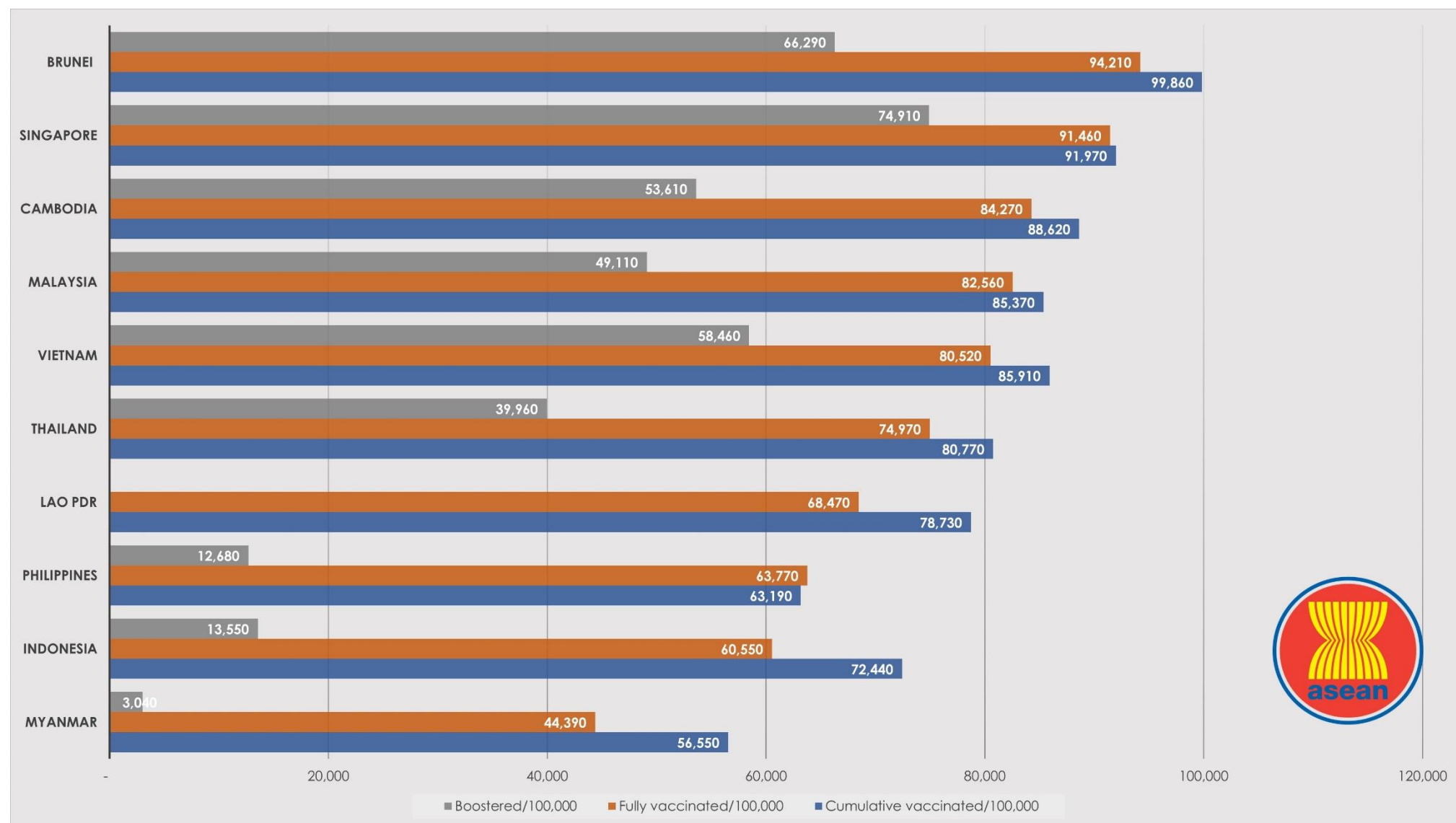
From January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022






# COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 31 May 2022



# COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 29 May 2022

 <b>ASEAN MEMBER STATE</b>	REQUIREMENT							
	At least <b>80% of the high-risk population has been vaccinated</b> with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		At least <b>65% of the total population has a level of immunity</b> to COVID-19; either recovered from COVID-19 or have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		<b>Case levels are generally low</b> (a 7-day rolling average number of daily new cases that is <10 cases per 100,000, with each day's past-14-day test positivity is consistently <5%).		<b>Government Policy</b> on containment and health (strictness and comprehensiveness in COVID-19 related government policies)	
	% of High risk population fully vaccinated	Population vaccinated/ day (7-day average)	% of Total population fully vaccinated / boosted	Population vaccinated/ day (7-day average)	Daily cases/ 100,000	Test positivity last 14 days	Containment and health index score - Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)	Change over the past 30 days
Brunei	≥90.0	Unknown	≥90.0/66.3	Unknown	53.41	Unknown	60.7/100	-4.8
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/53.6	Unknown	0.00	Unknown	31.3/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	64.1/13.6	0.03%/day	0.10	Unknown	57.7/100	0.0
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	74.7/ND	0.21%/day	0.50	35.8	56.3/100	-6.6
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	83.0/49.1	0.02%/day	4.86	4.9	64.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	46.0/3.0	Unknown	0.03	0.2	65.5/100	+2.4
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	68.5/12.7	0.84%/day	0.17	Unknown	56.5/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.5/74.9	0.02%/day	65.83	Unknown	58.9/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	76.1/39.9	0.05%/day	6.34	Unknown	56.3/100	+8.3
Vietnam	89.4	0.07%/day	85.2/58.4	0.07%/day	1.23	100	43.5/100	-12.5



# Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19 in ASEAN+3 Countries

May 25 to 31, 2022

## Regional Updates

### Philippines

- Fatal cases of rabies continue to be reported in the Philippines in 2022. The affected individuals were from the Bicol region, situated in the southern part of Luzon Island. Two cases were in Camarines Sur, the largest province in the region, and one case in the island province of Masbate. The source of infection is unclear, and it is unknown whether the individuals sought medical attention. Notably, Camarines Sur is the province recording the greatest amount of exposure events (animal bites) involving animals that are known to transmit rabies to humans. Public health authorities are urging the population to seek medical attention as soon as possible following an animal bite to receive post-exposure prophylaxis and prevent fatal outcomes.

### Malaysia

- In a follow-up on the hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) outbreak in Malaysia, health authorities report a total of 65,535 cases through May 28. This is a 27-fold increase over the same period for 2021 (during the COVID-19 pandemic) of 2,333 cases. When compared to the same period in 2019 (before the COVID-19 pandemic) with 29,846 cases, it is more than doubled. The State of Selangor contributed the highest number of HFMD cases compared to other states which was 18,525 cases (28.27%), followed by WP Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya 8,088 cases (12.34%), Perak 5,810 cases (8.87%), Kelantan 4,905 cases (7.48%), and Sabah 4,077 cases (6.22%). A total of 59,831 cases of HFMD (91%) were reported among children aged 6 years and below and 4,593 cases (7%) were children aged 7 to 12 years. Enterovirus surveillance found three (3) major viruses that cause the spread of HFMD in the community in 2022; namely Coxsackie A16 (CA16), Coxsackie A6 (CA6) and Enterovirus 71 (EV71). In 2022, to date, there are three (3) cases of HFMD admitted to the Intensive Care Ward (ICU). The first and second cases were admitted to the ICU due to complications of encephalitis and were confirmed to be infected with EV71. While the third case was admitted to the ICU due to monitoring after abdominal surgery. This third case has already been transferred to the regular surgical ward on 27 May 2022 for further monitoring. While the first and second cases are still under close monitoring in the ICU.

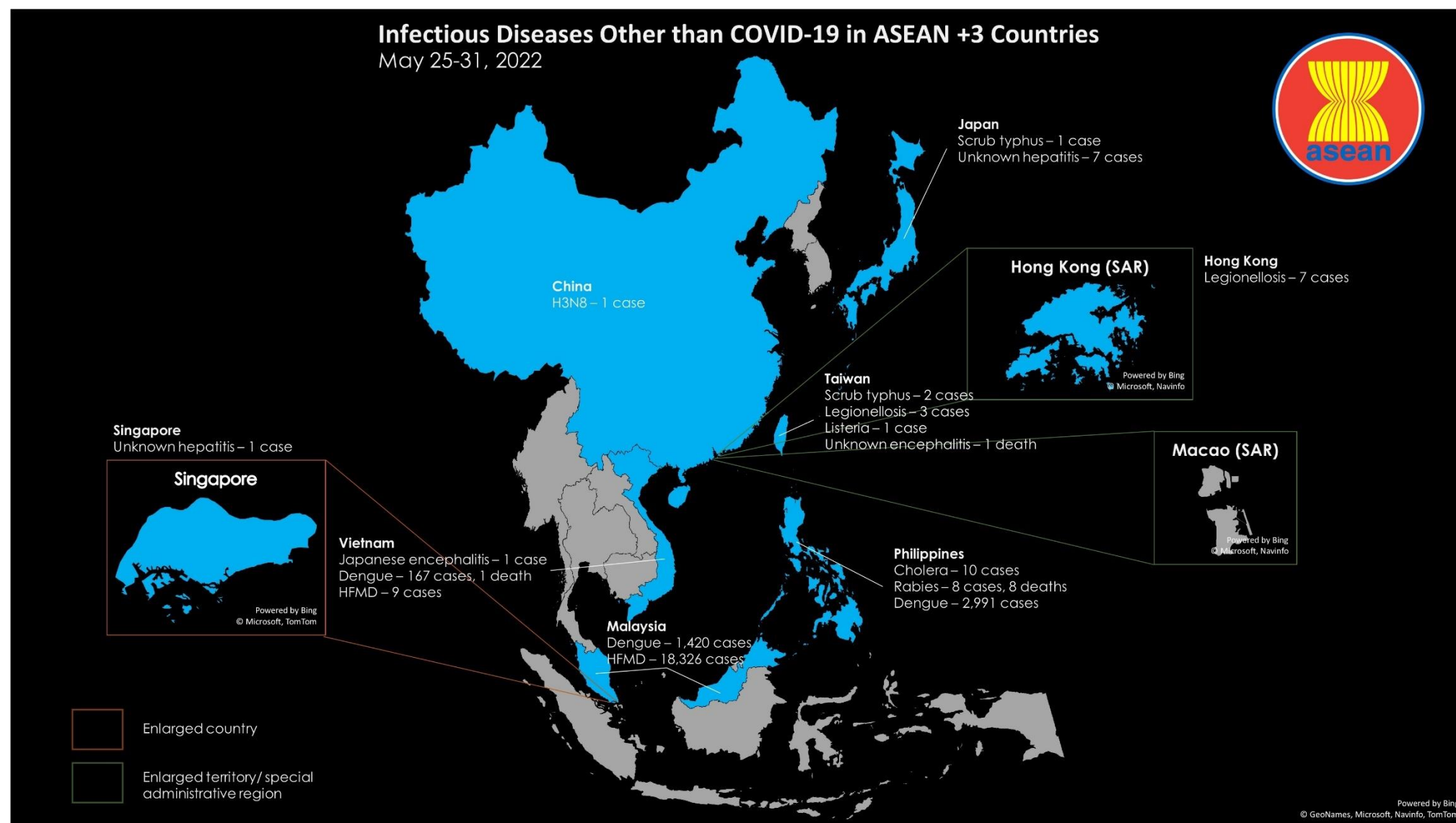
### Taiwan

- The Central Epidemic Command Center is raising awareness among the general population to identify symptoms of encephalitis in children since there are upward trends of the disease without a specific and unique underlying cause in the cases that have been confirmed so far. The official statement indicated that the disease has been identified in children with and without underlying health conditions. While in some cases, children have been recognized to have pneumonia, sepsis, and croup (also known as Pertussis), it is also

believed that the cause may be related to Enterovirus-71 (EV-71) infections as it has caused similar outbreaks and epidemics in the past and there has been a recently documented upward trend in EV-71 infections. Health authorities are encouraging the population to identify symptoms such as body temperature greater than 41 degrees Celsius, persistent lethargy, persistent vomiting, poor awareness among others, and to immediately seek medical attention. The BlueDot intelligence team is closely monitoring this event and further information will be provided as it becomes available.

# Infectious Diseases other than COVID-19 in ASEAN+3 Countries

From May 25 to 31, 2022



## Special Report: Monkeypox cases reported in non-endemic areas

- The World Health Organization said on May 31 (Tuesday) that it aimed to contain the monkeypox outbreak by stopping human transmission to the maximum extent possible, warning that the potential for further transmission in Europe and elsewhere this summer is high. In a statement, the WHO said that the European Region "remained at the epicenter of the largest and most geographically widespread monkeypox outbreak ever reported outside of endemic areas in western and central Africa." On May 5 (Sunday), WHO stated that monkeypox constitutes a "moderate risk" to overall public health at a global level after cases were reported in non-endemic countries. WHO added that the sudden appearance of monkeypox at once in several countries where it is not endemic suggests undetected transmission for some time. 25 countries that are not endemic for the virus have reported a total of 563 confirmed cases as of May 31.

### ASEAN+3 Region Preparedness Against Monkeypox

- Cambodia: The Ministry of Health has reminded all citizens to take precautionary measures against the spread of monkeypox and to remain vigilant following the recent outbreak of the disease in 23 countries around the world where it was not previously reported as endemic, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Health minister Mam Bun Heng said on May 31 that there was a total of 257 confirmed cases and 120 suspected cases of monkeypox as of May 26, though none of them had resulted in death as yet. He said that in addition to the two cases reported from countries in the western Pacific region, another case had now been reported in a passenger arriving in Australia, according to The Sun Daily newspaper published on May 30. The ministry renewed its call for the public to remain vigilant and that individuals, families and communities must continue to pay attention to the implementation of precautionary measures to protect themselves and others. According to the health minister, Cambodia has not banned travellers from any country from entering Cambodia. The government has only instructed the staff at the international gateways to remain attentive and carefully monitor the health and appearance of passengers entering the country. Bun Heng said airport staff should report immediately to the health authorities any passengers that have a rash or blisters on their body with any fever and a history of travel from African countries with endemic monkeypox. Those countries include Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon. Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and South Sudan have identified the disease in animals only to date. "In addition to preventive measures, the health ministry is also working closely with the WHO to find sources to supply monkeypox vaccines if they are needed," said Bun Heng.
- Indonesia: The Health Ministry is stepping up surveillance for monkeypox as more cases of the viral disease are being reported in non-endemic countries across the globe, including neighboring Australia. Even though Indonesia had not detected a single case to date, ministry spokesperson Mohammad Syahril urged the public and all health workers to be alert and aware of the symptoms of the disease.. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), a total of 219 confirmed cases had been reported as of Wednesday (May 25) in 21 countries where the disease is not endemic, including Argentina, Canada, Denmark, France, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States. Syahril said the government would soon be issuing a circular for health officials, border patrol officials and health workers to raise awareness on the disease. It was also preparing laboratories to run test for the monkeypox virus and facilities for treating potential patients. The ministry was also updating its technical guidance on clinical

management, infection prevention and surveillance for monkeypox based on the latest guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO).

- Malaysia: There are no monkeypox cases in Malaysia after three suspected cases were confirmed negative for the virus, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said. In a brief tweet on his Twitter account, Khairy said out of three suspected cases of the monkeypox, two patients were confirmed to have been infected by chickenpox and one was a hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) case. The ministry, on its official Facebook page, said they have not been notified of people infected with the monkeypox virus as stated in a social media message bearing a photograph of a child with lesions on the hands. The government is not planning to close the country's border gates at this time despite cases of monkeypox detected in several countries, said Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali. He said health checks have been tightened at all entry points, especially for international travellers from countries exposed to the virus to curb the spread of infection in Malaysia.
- Philippines: The country's healthcare system is ready to handle monkeypox virus cases, a health official said Friday. In a televised public briefing, Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said the Department of Health (DOH) is working with its stakeholders should the monkeypox virus enter the country. "The basic infection control is the same. Actually, we were able to practice the measures with the COVID-19 pandemic," she said. Earlier, the DOH said it would implement the four-door strategy -- the framework of the National Emergency Operational Response Plan to prevent and control emerging infectious diseases -- to prevent the entry of monkeypox into the country. It involves the "Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat and Reintegrate" approach. "We were informed by the Bureau of Quarantine, there are no direct flights in the affected areas, so at the point of lay over the [travelers] have been screened already," Cabotaje said. "Nevertheless, we will have to look at surveillance and other questions for those who may have been coming or who have passed through these areas," she added. Observance of minimum public health standards – wearing of best-fitted mask, ensuring good airflow, handwashing, and physical distancing – could prevent monkeypox transmission, health authorities said.
- Singapore: The Singaporean government expects to detect monkeypox in Singapore in the coming weeks, as virus cases exceed 200 globally in an outbreak across non-endemic countries. Singapore's Health Minister Ong Ye Kung stated that Singapore is prepared to encounter monkeypox cases, with sufficient public health measures in place. Ong highlighted that monkeypox virus is no longer enclosed to certain endemic areas in the Africa region, but has started spreading across the world. Nevertheless, Ong assured that unlike COVID-19, monkeypox disease would not spread as quickly as the virus is transmitted via skin-to-skin contact, like skin lesions. Ong, who noted the virus' incubation period of between one and three weeks, listed fever and chills, headache and muscle ache, and swollen lymph nodes as some of the common symptoms of monkeypox. He advised the public to seek medical assistance if they experience any "unexplained" rashes, even if they did not have any travel history. Ong said early detection would help to begin the treatment faster. Ong urged people to maintain high standards of personal hygiene, including washing their hands with soap before touching their face.
- Thailand: Additional screening measures are now implemented in Thailand's international airports for visitors traveling from countries where monkeypox has been reported, with focus on travellers from high-risk countries, such as Nigeria and Congo in Central Africa and some countries in Europe. According to the Department of Disease Control (DDC), travelers are now required to fill out and present a health declaration QR code card upon arriving in Thailand, allowing officials to keep track of each passenger. Symptoms of monkeypox include fever, headache, swelling, aching muscles and exhaustion, and typically itchy rash and lesions. The symptoms are similar to chickenpox but less severe. Most people will recover from monkeypox in a few weeks. However, in serious cases, the disease can be fatal. The mortality rate among small children can be as high as 10%. The DDC has established an emergency operations center (EOC)

to monitor the spread of monkeypox and instructed related units to be vigilant for travelers from Central and West Africa, the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal, where the virus has been detected. Dr. Opart Karnkawinpong, chief of Thailand's DDC, says monkeypox has not been detected on Thai soil yet. Better still, most Thais born before 1981 will be protected against monkeypox thanks to the country's program of inoculation with smallpox vaccine, which had been in place in the past.

- Vietnam closely monitors people returning from 12 countries with monkeypox. Today, in its dispatch, the Department of Preventive Medicine under the Ministry of Health asked institutes of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Pasteur institute, and health departments in provinces and centrally-run cities to strengthen supervision and prevention of monkeypox following the continuous increase in monkeypox cases in many countries around the world. Accordingly, to promptly implement measures to prevent and minimize the number of cases and deaths, the Department of Preventive Medicine suggested that health departments in provinces and cities focus on strengthening surveillance to detect suspected cases at the border, especially those returning from monkeypox endemic countries including Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan. Health facilities have been asked to strengthen surveillance to detect suspected and possible cases of monkeypox as defined by the World Health Organization - WHO. When detecting suspected cases, the healthcare facilities should immediately coordinate with local Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology and Pasteur institute to diagnose and confirm the case. At the same time, the health sector in cities and provinces and local administrations should increase communication and launch awareness campaigns aiming to provide information about the monkeypox disease and temporary preventative measures including avoiding close contact with infected people and direct contact with wounds, body fluids, droplets, and contaminated objects and utensils.
- South Korea: Health authorities on Tuesday said that it plans to place monkeypox in the second level of contagious diseases, out of a four-tier scheme, as monkeypox is spreading fast around the globe, though it has not yet been detected here. The country has been vigilant against a potential inflow of the monkeypox virus as an increasing number of countries have recently reported cases of the virus traditionally confined to regions in Africa. The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said that the agency doesn't rule out the possibility of an influx of the monkeypox virus amid an increase in international travel on the back of eased COVID-19 rules and the incubation period of the virus. Currently, the coronavirus, cholera and other contagious diseases are grouped here as the second-highest one, and outbreaks of the diseases are reported within 24 hours. South Korea lowered the level of the COVID-19 disease to the second-highest last month from the highest one as the pandemic shows signs of receding. According to health authorities, a total of 473 confirmed cases and 136 suspected cases of monkeypox infections have been reported in 31 countries, including in Europe, the Middle East, the United States and Australia. The virus has traditionally been confined to countries in Central and West Africa, and symptoms include fever, chills, rashes and lesions. South Korea has yet to report an occurrence of the virus. The KDCA said South Korea established a testing scheme for monkeypox in 2016. The KDCA said earlier that South Korea has a vaccine stockpile sufficient to inoculate 35 million people against the monkeypox virus.
- Japan's health minister says the country has so far not confirmed any cases of monkeypox. Goto Shigeyuki told reporters on Friday that monkeypox infections have been confirmed mainly in Western countries, but that there have been no reports of deaths from the disease in industrialized countries. Goto said that in Japan, monkeypox cases legally require reporting if identified, but so far, the government has received no such reports. He referred to reports that smallpox vaccines are effective in preventing monkeypox infections. He said Japan has continued manufacturing and stockpiling smallpox vaccines as a counter-terrorism measure. But he also



said the amount of vaccine being stockpiled and other details are not disclosed, as part of risk management. Goto pointed out that while the recent infections appear to be different from previous outbreaks, human-to-human infections have been considered rare. He added that the government is cooperating with the World Health Organization and others to gather necessary information.

- China's customs authorities have made efforts to prevent the import of the monkeypox virus through ports while the country is striving to fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said on Monday. The GAC has organized experts to conduct a risk assessment, issued alerts about the monkeypox virus, and taken strict measures including body temperature monitoring and medical inspection for inbound travelers. Customs authorities have strengthened the quarantine of inbound goods and rodents, as well as enhanced biosafety management of laboratories and made solid preparations for testing, said the GAC. The GAC also coordinated with other government departments to strictly prevent the risk of imported cases. Outbound and inbound travelers should voluntarily report to customs officers if they feel sick or have symptoms of fever, headache, sore muscles or erythra, said the GAC.

### **Countries reporting confirmed case/s of Monkeypox**

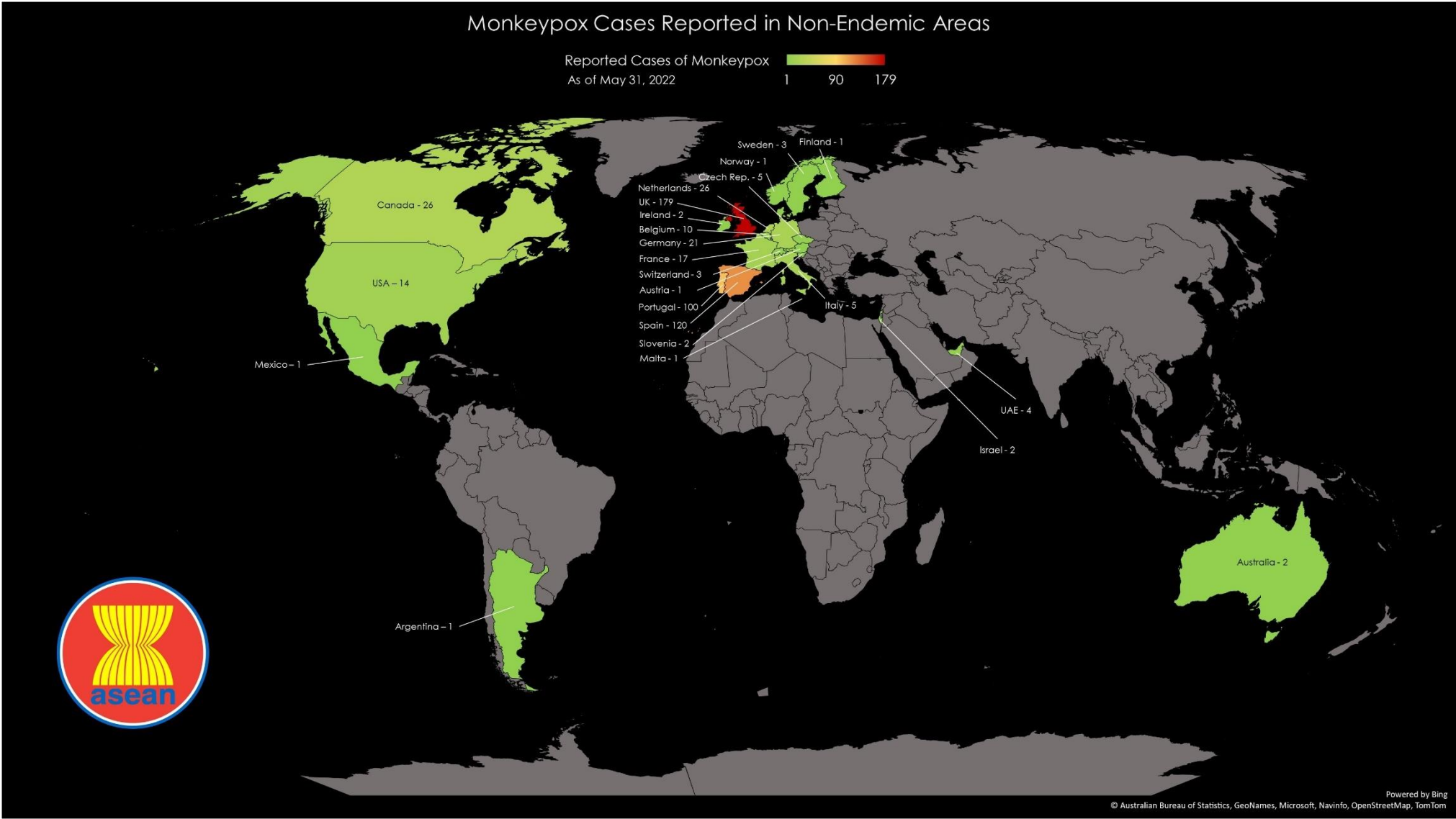
- Argentina: Health Ministry has confirmed the first case of monkeypox, the rare disease that has been found in small numbers in a number of European and North American countries in recent weeks. According to a statement from the Health Ministry, the confirmed case is a 40-year-old male patient who had returned to the country from Spain. The individual has symptoms compatible with the disease, including fever and blisters on some parts of his body. Officials said that a PCR test had come back positive and that genetic sequencing is now needed to determine the exact form of the virus. After arriving in the country, the man visited a clinic in Buenos Aires City, where he was isolated and monitored while awaiting the results of tests. Samples were analyzed by the ANLIS-Malbrán institute that specializes in infectious diseases. "Today the Electron Microscopy Service of the Virology Department of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases ANLIS 'Dr. Carlos G. Malbrán' stated that the first result obtained from samples of vesicular content corresponding to the suspected case determined the presence of viral particles compatible with Poxvirus of the genus Orthopox, a virus that does not circulate in Argentina, and which has a high probability of compatibility with monkeypox," the Health Ministry said in its statement.
- Mexico on Saturday reported the first confirmed case of monkeypox in the country, according to deputy health secretary Hugo Lopez-Gatell. The patient was a 50-year-old permanent resident of New York who is being treated in Mexico City, Lopez-Gatell said on Twitter. "He was probably infected in the Netherlands," Lopez-Gatell wrote, adding that the patient was being isolated and was in stable condition.
- Finland has confirmed its first case of monkeypox, the Helsinki hospital district said on Friday. A orthopoxvirus infection was detected in the Helsinki region on Wednesday and has now been sequenced to confirm it was monkeypox, Reuters reported. Global health officials have sounded the alarm over rising cases in Europe and elsewhere of the monkeypox, which is a type of viral infection more common to west and central Africa.
- Ireland: The first confirmed case of monkeypox in Ireland has been identified, the Health Service Executive (HSE) has said. The infection was reported in the east of the country on Friday night and the person affected was not kept in hospital. A further suspected case is also being investigated and test results are being awaited, health officials said. A public health risk assessment has been carried out and those who have been in contact with the person are being advised on what to do in the event that they become ill. A statement from HSE

said: "The Health Protection Surveillance Centre was notified last night of a confirmed case of monkeypox in Ireland, in the east of the country.

- Malta's first case of monkeypox has been announced by the health ministry. The case involves a 38-year-old male who had been recently abroad in one of the countries hit by the monkeypox outbreak. The ministry reported light symptoms that did not require hospitalization, and the patient is currently self-isolating at home. The public health authorities are calling on the public to maintain hygiene with regular handwashing with soap, or alcohol-based sanitizer, especially when in contact with someone who is not well. This week, Health Minister Chris Fearne had said that monkeypox was not "another Covid" and stressed that the authorities were well prepared in case of an outbreak.

# Monkeypox Cases Reported in Non-Endemic Areas

As of May 31, 2022





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