

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of May 2, 2022



Canada



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 514 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to BlueDot's COVID Brief, the Omicron variant continues to be the dominant variant globally, with the emergence of several sublineages including BA.2.12.1. This sublineage was first detected on December 14, 2021, in the United States (U.S.) and most recently has been increasing across a few countries. According to GISAID as of April 26, approximately 4,803 BA.2.12.1 positive sequences have been detected worldwide in at least 19 countries, with the highest prevalence reported in the U.S. and Canada. This Omicron sublineage shares most mutations with BA.2, but also contains two distinct mutations in the spike region. One of the mutations, in the L452 position, was also noted in previous variants of concern such as Delta and Lambda. Experimental studies suggest that this mutation in Lambda contributed to increased immune escape and infectivity. However, currently there is limited data on disease severity of BA.2.12.1 compared to other Omicron sublineages. The high burden of BA.2 in recent months may provide a degree of population-level protection and dampen the initial surge in BA.2.12.1. Based on data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), BA.2.12.1 is increasingly contributing to the number of new weekly cases in the U.S. It is estimated to account for 28.7% of cases for the week of April 23, a 48% relative increase compared to the previous week (19.4% of cases). BA.2.12.1 has been progressively outcompeting its preceding variant BA.2 in a few states. Notably, half of the health administrative regions in the U.S. are reporting an estimated prevalence of BA.2.12.1 greater than 25% of all cases. Health administration region 2, which includes New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, is the only region at the time reporting a BA.2.12.1 prevalence of over 50%. Based on early state-level evidence, the New York Department of Public Health suggests that the newer sublineage has a growth advantage of at least 23% over BA.2. An unexpected increase in COVID-19 cases in the U.S. was first noted in Central New York. The New York State Department of Health determined that the newer sublineage BA.2.12.1 and BA.2.12 have contributed to over 90% of cases in April compared to the 70% in March. Concurrently, upward trends in cases in New York have been observed since mid-March. As of April 28, weekly reported cases have increased by 14% compared to the previous 7 days (30,060 cases vs. 26,310 cases). Although trends in deaths have not followed a similar consistent upwards pattern in the past month, New York is reporting 75 deaths in the recent week, which represents a 50% increase compared to the previous 7 days. Further data from additional locations are needed in order to fully understand the epidemiological impact of BA.2.12.1. Since a majority of cases have been localized to a particular region, the observed impact may be influenced by other specific factors.

Regional Update

- Brunei: Minister of Health Dato Seri Setia Dr. Mohd Isham Jaafar said on April 30 that Brunei's active cases have declined further to 740 with 11 patients being treated at hospitals and 729 cases undergoing home self-isolation. Some 102 cases were detected yesterday with 84 from antigen rapid test (ART) and 18 from 639 RT-PCR laboratory tests performed in the past 24 hours. The minister said 181 cases have recovered, with a total of 140,892 recoveries. Furthermore, the minister added that 20,647 or 48.1% children aged five to 11 were given with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and at least 963 or 2.5% of children were full vaccinated.

- Cambodia: Ministry of Health reported one new Omicron community cases, with 22 recoveries, and no new deaths. As of May 1, Cambodia has a total COVID-19 cases of 136,252, with 133,095 recoveries, and 3,056 deaths.
- Malaysian Health Coalition (MHC) reiterates the importance of reminding Malaysians constantly that COVID-19 remains a threat to the health of the people while the country transitions to endemic phase. MHC welcomed the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions beginning May 1. MHC recommends to relax the restrictions based on sound evidence and policies must not be set in stone. MHC added the need of Malaysia to increase genomic sequencing capacity to detect variants and to inform the country's public policies.
- Philippines: The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) reminded the local government units (LGUs) and political parties on May 1 to implement among candidates and supporters the minimum public health standards until election day itself on May 9. DILG Secretary Eduardo Año encouraged organizers to strictly coordinate with LGUs and highlight the health protocols while the Philippine National Police (PNP) and village officials are tasked to make sure that rules are followed. Año stressed that the biggest challenge is on May 9 when at least 60 million voters will proceed to polling precincts nationwide. People with Covid-19 symptoms may still cast their votes in designated isolation rooms but those in quarantine are not allowed to go out. The Department of Health will deploy its personnel and the Department of Education will ensure that there are isolation polling places.
- Thailand ranked as the seventh country with highest number of new COVID-19 infections for the past 44 days, globally and third in Asia. Thailand is third globally in terms of COVID-related deaths and account for 31.89% of COVID-19 deaths in the region. The country ranks 24th worldwide when it comes to total infections. Thailand recorded 11,535 new COVID-19 cases and 91 deaths on May 1, bringing the country's total cases to 4,262,484.
- South Korea starts returning to prepandemic lives as the government eases restrictions against COVID-19. A plan called living with COVID-19 means that social distancing is gradually loosened. After more than two years of trying to control the spread of COVID-19, people are now allowed to gather in groups. Large events including rallies are no longer limited to under 300 people and religious services can be held at full capacity as well. South Korea's largest cinema chain CGV said that on May 2, which was when eating was once again allowed, its ticket sales increased by 86% compared to the same day the previous week. South Korea has also lifted the mandatory wearing of mask outdoors due to declining cases of COVID-19, however it was stressed that it is important to remain cautious and vigilant for the resurgence of the virus.
- China: Restaurants in Beijing are limited to takeaways as the government bans dine in for the Labor Day Holiday to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A manager of a popular burger restaurant in the east of Beijing said the situation was stressful and the reduction in services would cost his business about 20,000 (US\$3,025) yuan per day, German news agency DPA reported. Beijing reported 53 new local symptomatic and six asymptomatic cases on May 1, according to the National Health Commission. While this is well below Shanghai's tally of 788 local symptomatic and 7,084 asymptomatic infections for the same day, the capital has been on guard against the spread of the Omicron variant, doubling down on mass testing and social distancing requirements for the holiday.

Vaccine Update

- Cambodia: Ministry of Health Secretary of State and National Ad-hoc Commission for COVID-19 Vaccination Or Vandine mentioned that Cambodia targets to vaccinate 6,000 workers at Samraong Thom Special Economic Zone in Eastern Kandal Province. Vandine urged the public to get their third and fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine as prescribed by the government to prevent the spread of the disease.

As of April 28, over 14.92 million individuals or 93.28% of total population aged three and above had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine according to the health ministry.

- Based on Malaysia's CovidNow portal, 22,967,185 or 97.6% are fully vaccinated, 23,243,448 or 98.8% have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 16,035,520 individuals or 68.2% of the group have received the booster dose. For adolescents aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,894,533 individuals or 93% are fully vaccinated, while 2,992,178 or 96.1% have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Meanwhile, a total of 868,859 children aged five to 11 or 24.5% of the child population in the country have been fully vaccinated and 1,536,766 children or 43.3% have received at least one dose under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme for Children (PICKids) as of May (Sunday). On Sunday, a total of 12,380 doses of vaccine were administered with 1,847 as the first dose, 10,015 as the second dose and 518 as booster dose, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses dispensed under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (PICK) to 70,325,128.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Myanmar: Starting May 1, Myanmar will adopt an RDT system to give a quick result of COVID-19 testing for foreign travelers at Yangon International Airport, the Ministry of Health announced. Commercial flights are now allowed to resume operations as COVID-19 infection rate declines in Myanmar and globally. RDT will be available at low cost and it can provide results quickly. RDT will be used instead of RT-PCR for passengers of commercial flights and staying at designated hotels for 24 hours. Moreover, the travel restriction period for returnees by relief flights or via border checkpoints will be reduced to three days instead of five days if they have been fully vaccinated and five days instead of seven days if they have not been fully vaccinated.
- Thailand: The country eases entry regulations to attract foreign travelers. Starting May 1, travellers who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to Thailand will no longer need negative test results or short-term isolation as before. In addition, health insurance coverage is also halved from \$20,000 to \$10,000. All travelers need to do is provide vaccination confirmation and insurance confirmation when applying online on the Thailand Pass immigration registration system. For those who have not been vaccinated and want to enter Thailand, if they are children under the age of 18 traveling with vaccinated parents, they do not need to be isolated. The remaining two options for travelers who have not been vaccinated are 5 days of quarantine or when applying for a Thailand Pass, providing additional negative PCR test results within 72 hours before departure.

Cases and Deaths as of 02 May 2022

- As of 02 May 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **514,375,529** confirmed cases, including **6,269,742** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 58,117,016 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,394,892 cases** in the ASEAN region and **26,722,124 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

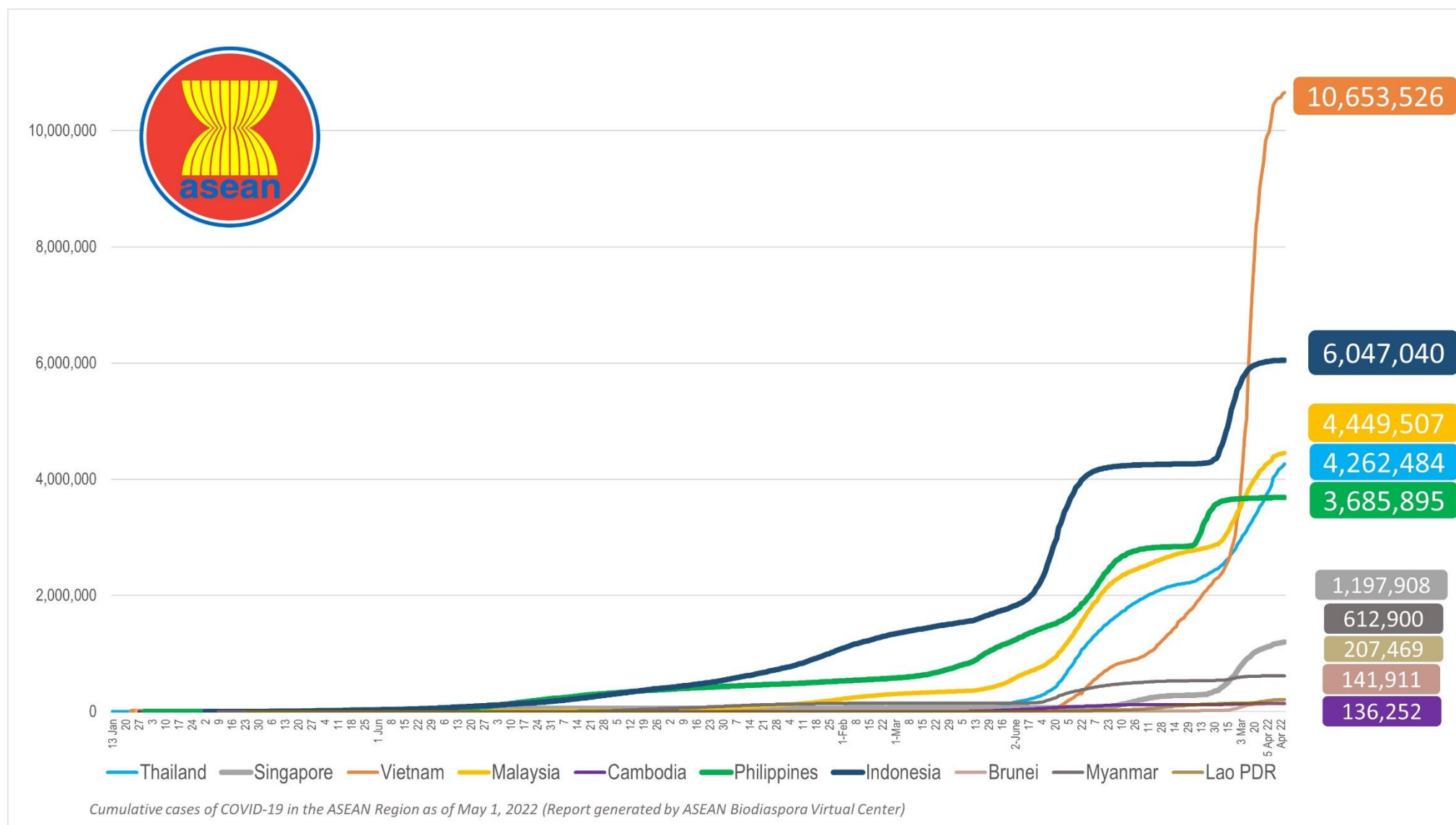
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	01-May-22	141,911	61	218	-	0.2%	32,752		412,058	405,414	267,071	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	01-May-22	136,252	1	3,056	-	2.2%	826	54	14,892,264	14,151,943	9,663,361	83.5
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	01-May-22	6,047,040	244	156,273	16	2.6%	2,234	-	199,346,528	165,134,259	37,458,813	59.8
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	01-May-22	207,469	273	744	1	0.4%	2,894	65	5,766,217	4,828,012		65.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	01-May-22	4,449,507	1,503	35,550	3	0.8%	13,922	1,545	27,770,374	26,719,207	16,034,886	81.5
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	01-May-22	612,900	17	19,434	-	3.2%	1,134	130	30,142,895	23,114,428		42.2
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	01-May-22	3,685,895	252	60,397	56	1.6%	3,409	-	70,173,137	67,792,216	13,149,301	61.1
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	01-May-22	1,197,908	2,141	1,335	1	0.1%	21,003		5,011,993	4,980,270	3,972,039	91.3
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	01-May-22	4,262,484	11,535	28,620	91	0.7%	6,122	387	56,109,303	51,178,475	25,883,421	73.2
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	01-May-22	10,653,526	3,717	43,042	1	0.4%	11,044	115	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
	ASEAN COUNTRIES			31,394,892	19,744	348,669	169	1.1%			489,571,958	436,058,332	151,871,969	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	01-May-22	17,275,649	37,771	22,875	81	0.1%	33,409	3,709	45,032,129	44,548,135	35,243,126	86.8
	Japan	16-Jan-20	01-May-22	7,892,341	26,960	29,437	34	0.4%	6,251	2,211	103,153,093	101,458,832	66,083,843	80.5
	China	31-Dec-19	01-May-22	1,554,134	18,292	15,241	46	1.0%	16,653	2,707	1,311,882,923	1,274,953,909	767,657,517	82.4
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES			26,722,124	83,023	67,553	161	0.3%			1,460,068,145	1,420,960,876	868,984,486	
ASEAN +3				58,117,016	102,767	416,222	330	0.7%			1,949,640,103	1,857,019,208	1,020,856,455	

- 456,258,513 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	11,906,286	4,093	253,772	-	1.1	206,921	5,792	301,706,763	227,485,817	21,791,645
AMERICAS	155,694,751	18,793	2,758,939	43	0.8	902,072	32,589	797,438,536	701,127,072	348,867,044
ASIA PACIFIC	71,203,957	36,474	731,926	66	0.2	317,530	10,964	1,401,889,667	1,220,010,243	111,995,902
EUROPE	196,703,804	109,171	1,876,119	390	0.6	1,731,333	112,872	556,462,342	528,872,671	307,010,021
MIDDLE EAST	20,749,715	3,356	232,764	19	0.3	188,627	48,408	140,789,468	126,035,589	54,490,639
TOTAL	456,258,513	171,887	5,853,520	518	1.3%			3,198,286,776	2,803,531,392	844,155,251

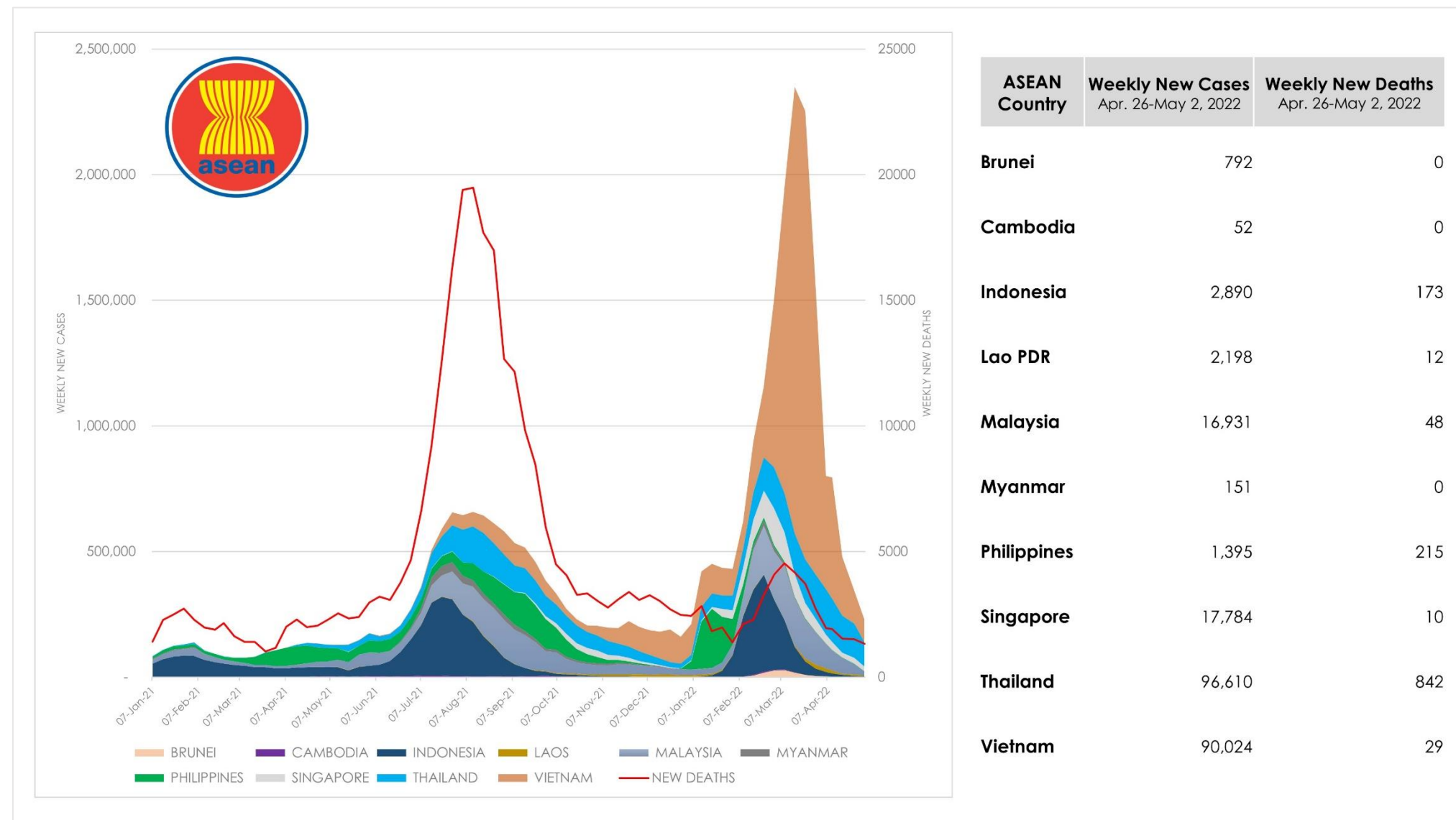
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to May 1, 2022



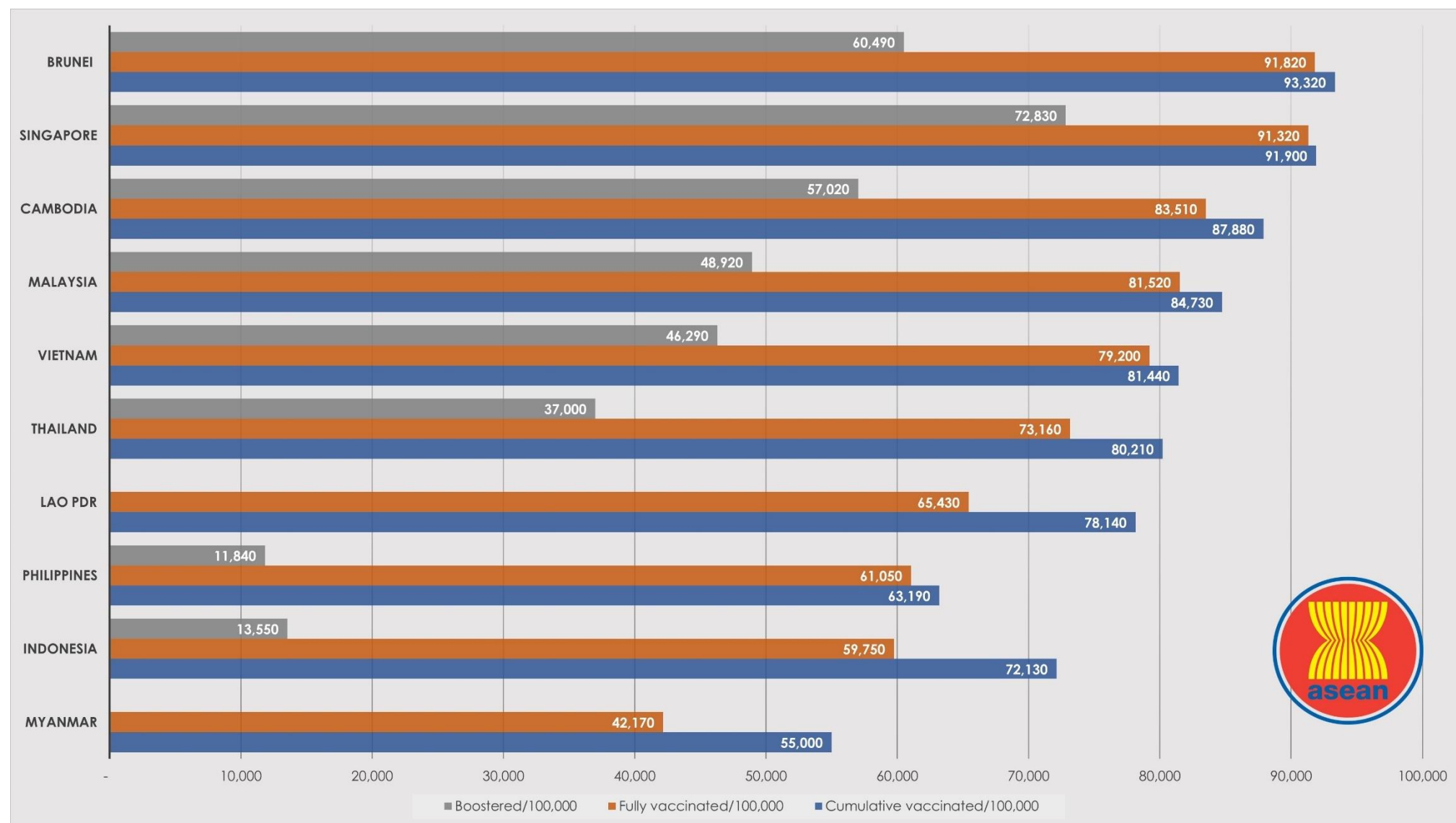
Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

From January 1, 2021 to May 1, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 01 May 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 29 April 2022

 ASEAN MEMBER STATE	REQUIREMENT							
	At least 80% of the high-risk population has been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		At least 65% of the total population has a level of immunity to COVID-19; either recovered from COVID-19 or have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		Case levels are generally low (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%).		Government Policy 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	≥90.0/60.5	Unknown	27.56	Unknown	67.9/100	Undefined
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	89.8/57.0	0.03%/day	0.04	2.4	37.5/100	Undefined
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	63.2/13.6	0.08%/day	0.16	Unknown	55.7/100	Undefined
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	71.4/ND	0.68%/day	5.13	100	78.3/100	Undefined
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	81.9/48.9	0.08%/day	9.36	11.3	58.0/100	Undefined
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	43.7/ND	Unknown	0.04	0.4	77.7/100	Undefined
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	65.6/11.8	Unknown	0.17	1.6	82.4/100	Undefined
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.3/72.8	0.02%/day	45.96	Unknown	74.4/100	Undefined
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	74.2/36.7	0.05%/day	21.10	49	53.3/100	Undefined
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	14.08	100	71.4/100	Undefined



Report generated by
ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)
in collaboration with Bluedot Inc.
Email: support@biodiaspora.org

