

COVID-19 and Mpox Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

— ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER (ABVC)



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COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- **Worldwide**, there have been over 665 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** reported that COVID-19 indicators continue a gradual downward trend in the United States, with proportions of the Omicron XBB.1.5 variant steadily rising.¹ In its biweekly data report, the 7-day average for new daily COVID-19 cases is 32,374, down 5.1% compared to the previous week.¹ Meanwhile, the daily average for new hospitalizations as of the last week of February was 3,318, a decrease of 7.9% compared to the week before.¹ The daily average of COVID-19-related deaths also showed a drop of 3.3% compared to the week before.¹ In the latest Omicron variant proportion estimates, the CDC reported that XBB.1.5 makes up 89.6% of cases, up from 85.4% last week, but there's no other variants showing increasing proportions.¹ The subvariant XBB.1.5 is the dominant strain in all US regions over the past few weeks.¹ [\[Full report\]](#)
- The **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)** reported that COVID-19 activity is rising in a number of European countries, noting that serious cases and deaths are also increasing.^{2,3} ECDC reported that XBB.1.5 is now the most frequently detected subvariant, making up 33.8% of cases.^{2,3} Other subvariants still make up substantial proportions, including BQ.1 at 26.8% and BA.2.75 at 22.2%. In another report, ECDC said that it de-escalated BA.2, BA.4, and BA.5 as variants of concern because the parental lineages are no longer circulating.^{2,3} Currently, there are no variants of concern on the list, a sign that the epidemiologic situation is currently stable.^{2,3} ECDC currently lists the most prominent amongst these under the variant of interest (VOI) including BQ.1 (BA.5 descendent), BA.2.75 (BA.2 descendent), XBB (BA.2.10.1 / BA.2.75 descendent), and XBB.1.5 (BA.2.10.1 / BA.2.75 descendent).^{2,3} Lists for variants under monitoring (VUM) include BF.7 (BA.5 descendent), BA.2.3.20 (BA.2 descendent), CH.1.1 (BA.2.75 descendent), BN.1 (BA.2.75 descendent), XBC (Delta (21I) / BA.2 recombinant), and XAY (Delta (AY.45) / BA.2 recombinant).^{2,3} ECDC likewise still encourages countries to remain vigilant, by reinforcing representative surveillance systems, sequencing capacity, and reporting as outlined in the July 2022 guidelines "Operational considerations for respiratory virus surveillance in Europe" and most recent "COVID-19 surveillance reporting protocols".^{2,3} [\[Full report 2, 3\]](#)
- **EU:** The European Union's drug regulator said on Friday its Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use has advised against market authorisation of the COVID-19 pill from Merck & Co Inc for treatment in adults. The antiviral pill, brand named Lagevrio, could not demonstrate benefits in treatment of COVID patients who do not need oxygen support and are at risk of their disease worsening, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) said. Merck and its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics said they will appeal the decision and request a re-examination of the committee's opinion. "The CHMP's recommendation does not reflect the compelling data" from one of the company's late-stage trial and real-world studies, Dean Li, head of Merck's research division, said. In December, a large study had shown that the drug sped up recovery but did not reduce hospitalisation or death rate in higher risk vaccinated adults. The regulator's recommendation against Merck's COVID-19 pill comes days after the company said Lagevrio was not effective at cutting the risk of coronavirus infections in people living with someone infected with the virus.



Regional Update

- Philippines:** The daily average of new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases in the United States climbed by 10% from February 27 to March 5, according to the Department of Health (DOH).⁸ According to the most current DOH case bulletin, daily infections jumped to 130 in the last week from 119 from February 20 to 26.⁸ The DOH also reported 913 new cases and 56 confirmed deaths between February 27 and March 5.⁸ Six of the extra deaths happened between February 20 and March 5.⁸ [\[Full article\]](#)
- Singapore:** On Monday (March 6), control orders to limit the spread of COVID-19 were extended for the final time for a year, allowing authorities to respond rapidly to new and hazardous variations if they emerge.⁹ The COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 was amended by Parliament to extend the validity of Part 7 of the Act, which gives the Government the authority to adopt regulations to prevent, defend against, postpone, or otherwise control the coronavirus.⁹ These includes limits on movement, such as the "circuit breaker" in force from April to June 2020.⁹ [\[Full article\]](#)
- Thailand:** Over the three years of the pandemic, Thailand spent a total of 444 billion THB (2.8 billion USD) on public health to contain the spread of COVID-19 and vaccinate its people, according to the Thai Ministry of Public Health.¹⁰ According to the ministry, the cost of testing and treating persons for COVID-19 accounted for more than half of the overall spending, totaling 260 billion THB, while vaccine procurement and distribution costs were expected to be 78 billion THB.¹⁰ In addition, the government spent 57.5 billion THB in compensation to victims and incentives to medical workers over the course of three years.¹⁰ Between 2020 and 2022, the government paid for all citizens' treatment and vaccinations, with the majority of the funds coming from the annual budget.¹⁰ The second-largest economy in Southeast Asia also borrowed 1.5 trillion THB to stimulate the economy and partially cover the cost of emergency public health services.¹⁰ [\[Full article\]](#)

Vaccine Update

- Malaysia:** According to Dr. Zaliha Mustafa, the country received 44.8 million doses of Comirnaty (Pfizer) Covid-19 vaccines.⁷ According to the Health Minister, the doses were given between February 24, 2021 and December 31, 2018.⁷ [\[Full article\]](#)

Research Update (Published and peer-reviewed studies)

- The study about the **One-Year Adverse Outcomes Among US Adults with Post-COVID-19 Condition vs Those Without COVID-19 in a Large Commercial Insurance Database** found that US adults with lingering symptoms were at elevated risk for cardiovascular conditions such as ischemic stroke and blood clots in lungs after a year of COVID-19 infection.⁴ Researchers assessed the cardiovascular outcomes of 13,435 US adults with long COVID with 26,870 matched uninfected controls.⁴ A year after infection, 2.8% of the long-COVID patients died, compared with 1.2% of controls, implying an excess death rate of 16.4 per 1,000 people. Long-COVID patients also used more healthcare services for the treatment of abnormal heart rhythms (29.4% vs 12.5%), blood clots in the lungs (8.0% vs 2.2%), ischemic stroke (3.9% vs 1.8%), coronary artery disease (17.1% vs 9.6%), heart failure (11.8% vs 6.0%), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD; 32.0% vs 16.5%), and asthma (24.2% vs 12.4%).⁴ Among long-COVID patients, 27.5% were hospitalized in the first month after infection.⁴ This patient subgroup had more chronic conditions before infection than the larger long-COVID group, including hypertension (54.1%), type 2 diabetes (30.7%), COPD (22.2%), asthma (15.6%), and severe obesity (14.7%).⁴ Hospitalized long-COVID patients had higher healthcare use for abnormal heart rhythms (51.7% vs 17.4%), blood clots in the lungs (19.3% vs 3.1%), ischemic stroke (8.3% vs 2.7%), coronary artery disease (28.9% vs 14.5%), heart failure



(25.6% vs 10.1%), COPD (43.1% vs 19.2%), and asthma (31.6% vs 14.7%).⁴ Overall, the most common persistent COVID-19 symptoms were shortness of breath (41%), anxiety (31%), muscle aches/weakness (30%), depression (25%), and fatigue (21%).⁴ According to the authors, assessing the ongoing needs of this population is crucial, especially as it relates to the onset of new chronic conditions following the initial illness and these findings will improve understanding of care needed for individuals with post-COVID-19 conditions, as well as inform health care systems directing resources toward surveillance, follow-up, and case management to this population.⁴ [\[Full text\]](#)

- Despite complexities of racial and ethnic residential segregation and neighborhood socioeconomic deprivation, public health studies, including those on COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities, often rely on composite neighborhood indices that do not account for residential segregation.⁶ This cohort study, ***Inclusion of Race and Ethnicity with Neighborhood Socioeconomic Deprivation When Assessing COVID-19 Hospitalization Risk Among California Veterans Health Administration Users***, examined the associations by race and ethnicity among California's Healthy Places Index (HPI), Black and Hispanic segregation, Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), and COVID-19-related hospitalization.⁶ Sample population included were veterans with positive test results for COVID-19 living in California who used Veterans Health Administration services between March 1, 2020, and October 31, 2021.⁶ The sample available for analysis included 19 495 veterans with COVID-19 (mean [SD] age, 57.21 [17.68] years), of whom 91.0% were men, 27.7% were Hispanic, 16.1% were non-Hispanic Black, and 45.0% were non-Hispanic White.⁶ For Black veterans, living in lower-HPI (i.e. less healthy) neighborhoods was associated with higher rates of hospitalization even after accounting for Black segregation.⁶ Among Hispanic veterans, living in lower-HPI neighborhoods was not associated with hospitalization with and without Hispanic segregation adjustment.⁶ For non-Hispanic White veterans, lower HPI was associated with more frequent hospitalization.⁶ The HPI was no longer associated with hospitalization after accounting for Black or Hispanic segregation.⁶ Hospitalization was higher for White and Hispanic veterans living in neighborhoods with greater Black segregation and for White veterans in more Hispanic-segregated neighborhoods, adjusting for HPI.⁶ Living in higher SVI (i.e. more vulnerable) neighborhoods was associated with greater hospitalization for Black and non-Hispanic White veterans.⁶ HPI captured neighborhood-level risk for COVID-19-related hospitalization for Black, Hispanic, and White veterans comparably with SVI.⁶ These findings have implications for the use of HPI and other composite neighborhood deprivation indices that do not explicitly account for segregation.⁶ [\[Full text\]](#)

Travel Update

- **Taiwan's** Maritime and Port Bureau announced on March 4 (Saturday) that effective immediately, Taiwan no longer requires cruise liners' inbound passengers to present a negative rapid COVID-19 test taken on the day of arrival in Taiwan or the previous day.⁵ Passengers, however, only need to conduct a test if they have symptoms, adding that they must quarantine on board if the result is positive.⁵ Outbound passengers undergoing self-initiated prevention, such as those who entered Taiwan within seven days of boarding the cruise liner, still need to present a negative rapid COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours of boarding but do not need to take further rapid tests onboard as was previously required.⁵ [\[Full article\]](#)



COVID-19 Cases and Deaths as of 05 March 2023

- As of 05 March 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **665,989,883** confirmed cases, including **6,786,864** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2%**.
- 35,607,884 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN Region**.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the **ASEAN Region** is range between **0.1 to 3.1%**.

COVID-19 cases in ASEAN region

REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED/ 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei Darussalam	10 Mar 20	05-Mar-23	277,531	-	225	-	64,053	450,404	445,929	338,987	99.3
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	05-Mar-23	138,718	-	3,056	-	841	15,244,858	14,609,937	10,433,215	87.1
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	05-Mar-23	6,736,947	165	160,928	2	2,489	203,657,535	172,693,321	67,952,274	62.7
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	05-Mar-23	218,018	1	758	-	3,041	5,888,649	5,222,417		69.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	05-Mar-23	5,043,626	-	36,965	-	15,786	28,125,245	27,536,657	17,056,957	81.1
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	05-Mar-23	633,945	10	19,490	-	1,173	34,777,314	27,545,329	2,227,351	50.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	05-Mar-23	4,076,947	136	66,141	10	3,771	78,369,243	73,937,435	21,341,197	64.0
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	05-Mar-23	2,227,187	-	1,722	-	39,049	5,161,990	5,120,768	4,440,289	90.8
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	05-Mar-23	4,728,035	-	33,911	-	6,791	57,005,497	53,486,086	32,143,431	74.6
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	05-Mar-23	11,526,930	4	43,186	-	11,950	90,450,881	85,848,363	57,452,750	87.4
ASEAN COUNTRIES				35,607,884	316	366,382	12	148,944	519,131,616	466,446,242	213,386,451	

*There have been no tests reported in the last 14 days in the **ASEAN Region**.

COVID-19 cases in Asia-Pacific region

REGION	COUNTRY/ TERRITORY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED/ 100
ASIA-PACIFIC REGION	Afghanistan	24-Feb-20	05-Mar-23	209,356	21	7,896	-	550	11,606,705	10,894,509		26.5
	Australia	25-Jan-20	01-Mar-23	11,368,356	-	19,373	-	44,321	22,236,871	21,655,312	19,762,423	82.7
	Bangladesh	08-Mar-20	01-Mar-23	2,037,794	-	29,445	-	1,250	150,629,515	131,182,263	65,897,152	76.6
	Bhutan	05-Mar-20	01-Mar-23	62,616	-	21	-	8,206	699,116	677,669	634,641	86.6
	People's Republic of China*		05-Mar-23	13,464,422	10,351	36,958	0	81,949	1,339,608,531	1,304,575,996	214,031,616	89.7
	Cook Islands	17-Feb-22	03-Mar-23	7,030	-	2	-	32,869	15,084	14,715	10,209	86.4
	Fiji	18-Mar-20	03-Mar-23	68,897	-	883	-	7,742	711,686	640,712	170,632	68.9
	French Polynesia	12-Mar-20	04-Jan-23	77,957	-	649	-	27,913	190,765	186,059	112,237	60.8
	Guam	15-Mar-20	03-Mar-23	60,989	-	419	-	36,456	158,611	144,042		85.5
	India	30-Jan-20	05-Mar-23	44,687,627	324	530,774	-	3,270	1,027,279,394	951,464,506	224,093,416	67.1



	Japan	16-Jan-20	19-Oct-22	21,858,528	-	46,014	-	17,312	104,612,252	103,222,040	169,610,887	83.3
	Kiribati	25-Jan-22	15-Feb-23	5,012	-	18	-	4,262	96,184	73,888	23,419	56.3
	Maldives	07-Mar-20	28-Feb-23	185,732	-	311	-	34,981	399,151	385,081	167,187	73.5
	Marshall Islands	26-Oct-20	02-Mar-23	15,618	-	17	-	26,565	43,310	34,694		44.6
	Micronesia	11-Jan-21	02-Mar-23	23,948	-	61	-	21,041	84,729	71,253		69.6
	Mongolia	10-Mar-20	02-Mar-23	1,007,896	-	2,179	-	31,251	2,272,965	2,175,617	1,044,337	64.0
	Nepal	24-Jan-20	02-Mar-23	1,001,146	-	12,020	-	3,499	27,678,479	24,159,118	8,951,403	79.1
	New Caledonia	17-Mar-20	28-Feb-23	79,881	-	314	-	27,756	192,229	184,660	101,849	63.7
	New Zealand	28-Feb-20	27-Feb-23	2,216,852	-	3,904	-	45,085	4,300,097	4,138,926	3,523,903	79.8
	Niue	03-Sep-21	01-Mar-23	790	-	-	-	36,473	1,636	1,634	1,224	83.7
	Northern Mariana Islands	28-Mar-20	03-Mar-23	13,666	-	41	-	23,885	46,567	43,873		84.6
	Pakistan	26-Feb-20	05-Mar-23	1,577,105	45	30,643	-	728	154,665,740	131,368,973	49,551,181	55.7
	Palau	31-May-21	02-Mar-23	5,989	-	9	-	33,257	20,750	18,497		85.9
	Papua New Guinea	21-Mar-20	01-Mar-23	46,809	-	670	-	533	369,998	310,717	32,384	3.1
	Samoa	18-Nov-20	22-Feb-23	16,607	-	29	-	8,426	191,171	177,741	79,360	79.9
	Solomon Islands	03-Oct-20	24-Nov-22	24,575	-	153	-	3,669	343,821	254,352	27,783	35.1
	Republic of Korea**	20-Jan-20	05-Mar-23	30,544,257	-	34,000	-	59,069	44,867,046	44,448,105	41,325,954	85.8
	Sri Lanka	27-Jan-20	05-Mar-23	672,034	2	16,830	-	3,082	17,143,761	14,752,827	8,220,002	67.6
	Timor Leste	21-Mar-20	16-Feb-23	23,418	-	138	-	1,811	878,845	790,466	315,249	58.9
	Tonga	05-Nov-21	02-Mar-23	16,807	-	13	-	16,084	91,949	77,464	38,331	72.5
	Türkiye	10-Mar-20	12-Dec-22	17,041,315	-	101,487	-	20,426	57,941,051	53,176,961	41,425,329	62.3
	Vanuatu	11-Nov-20	06-Jan-23	12,014	-	14	-	4,006	144,824	131,697	16,996	40.3
	Wallis et Futuna	17-Oct-20	31-Dec-22	3,427	-	7	-	21,385	7,150	6,803	3,766	58.7
	ASIA PACIFIC			148,438,470	10,743	875,292	0	689,114	2,969,529,983	2,801,441,170	849,172,870	

*Includes cases from Hong Kong (SAR), Macau (SAR), and Taiwan (Province of China).

**Republic of Korea – South Korea

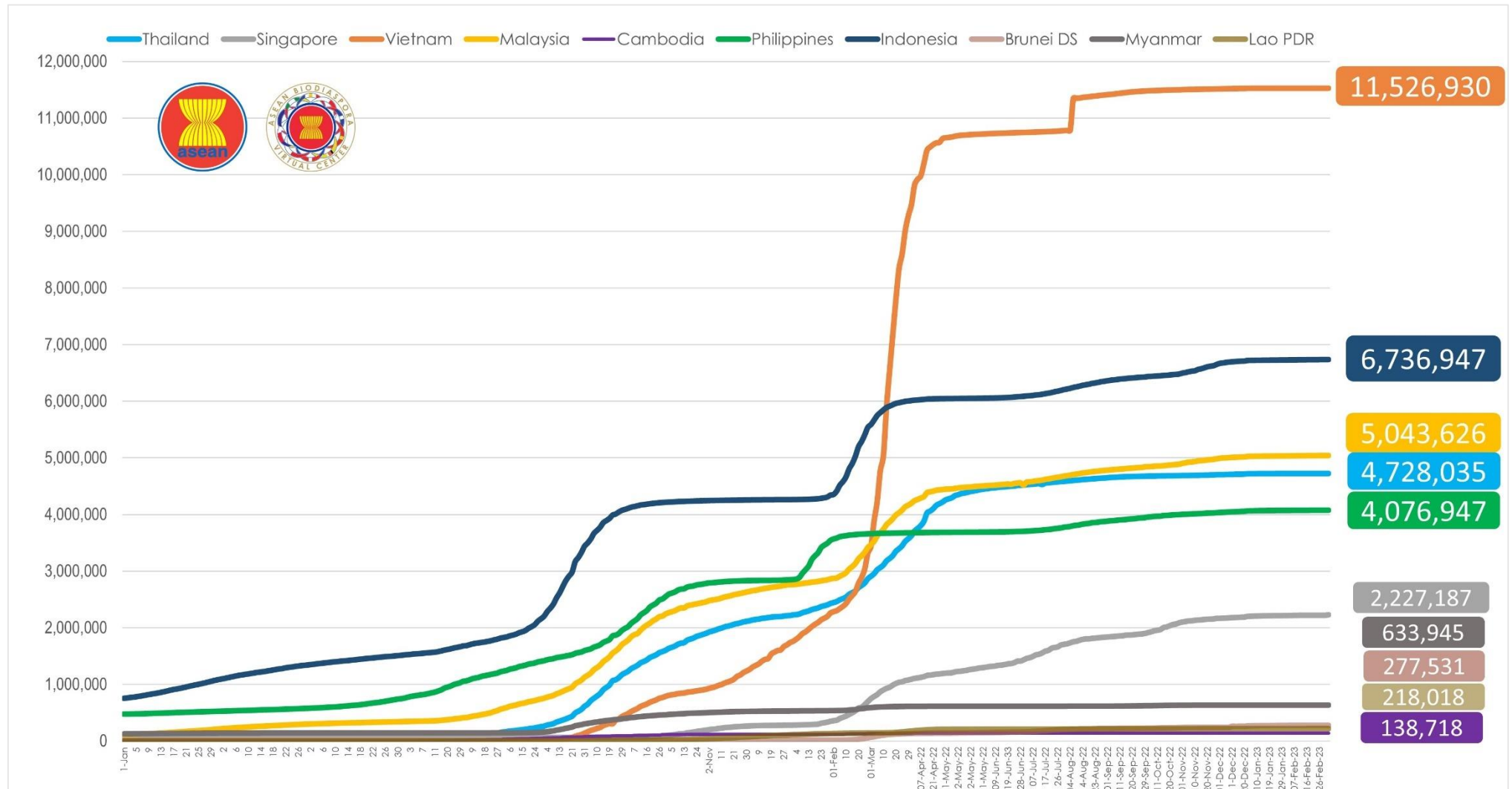
- **481,943,529 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in other **4 regions** (other than ASEAN and Asia-Pacific countries):

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED
AFRICA	13,057,668	80	259,541	-	248,964	484,058,451	398,811,838	66,003,692
AMERICAS	193,784,742	2,562	2,967,986	8	1,236,253	835,592,912	732,028,686	495,316,497
EUROPE	252,364,157	19,198	2,077,717	60	2,115,959	569,620,774	541,040,894	383,756,585
MIDDLE EAST	22,736,962	1,341	239,946	20	216,749	144,725,560	130,012,483	60,203,464
TOTAL	481,943,529	23,181	5,545,190	88	3,817,925	2,033,997,697	1,801,893,901	1,005,280,238



COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2022 to March 5, 2023



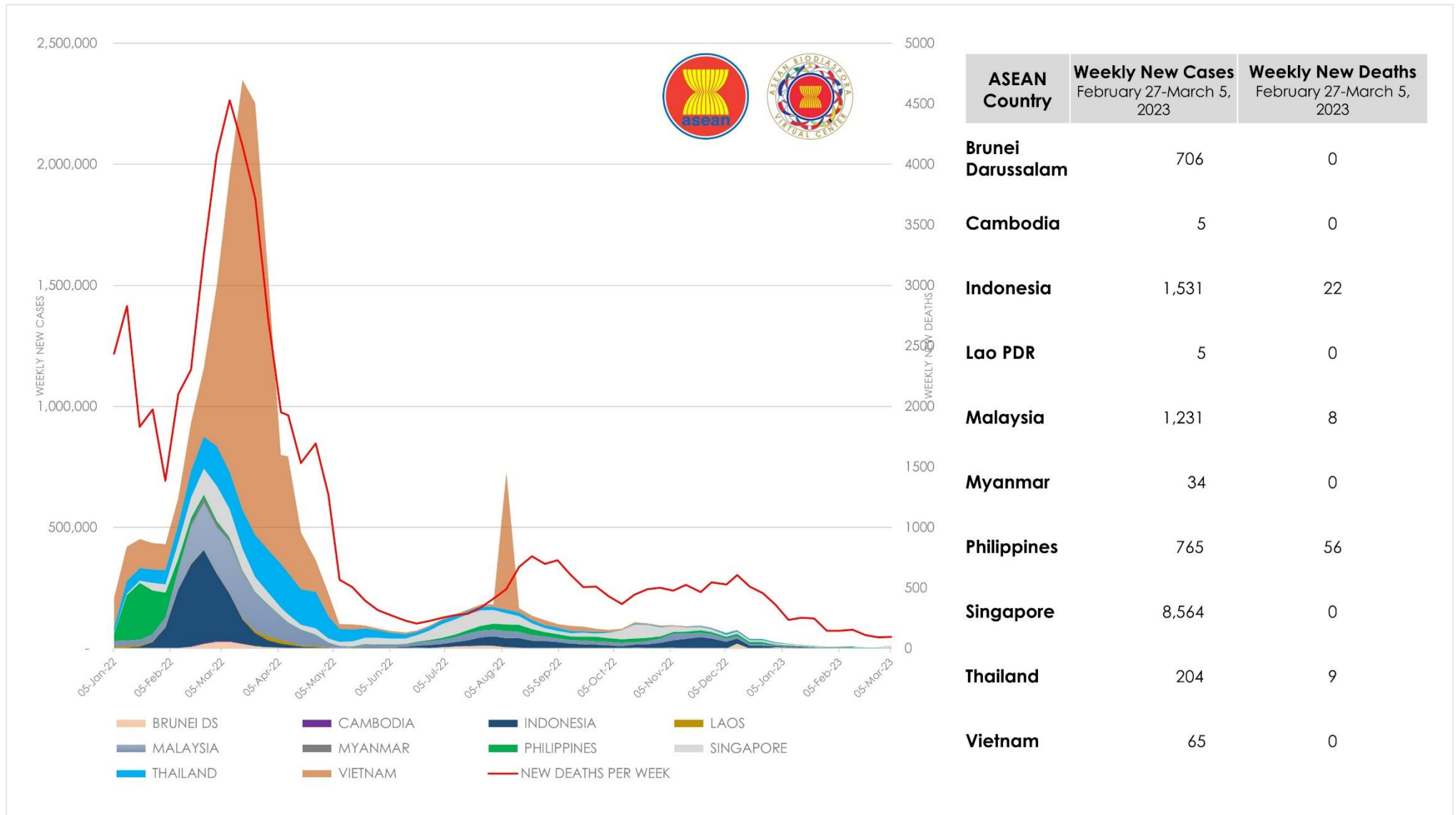
Cumulative cases of COVID-19 in the ASEAN Region as of March 5, 2023 (Report generated by ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center)

*Data from Bluedot Insights, cases may differ from how data is reported in countries and other authorities. Data may be subject to retrospective correction by national authorities.



ASEAN Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

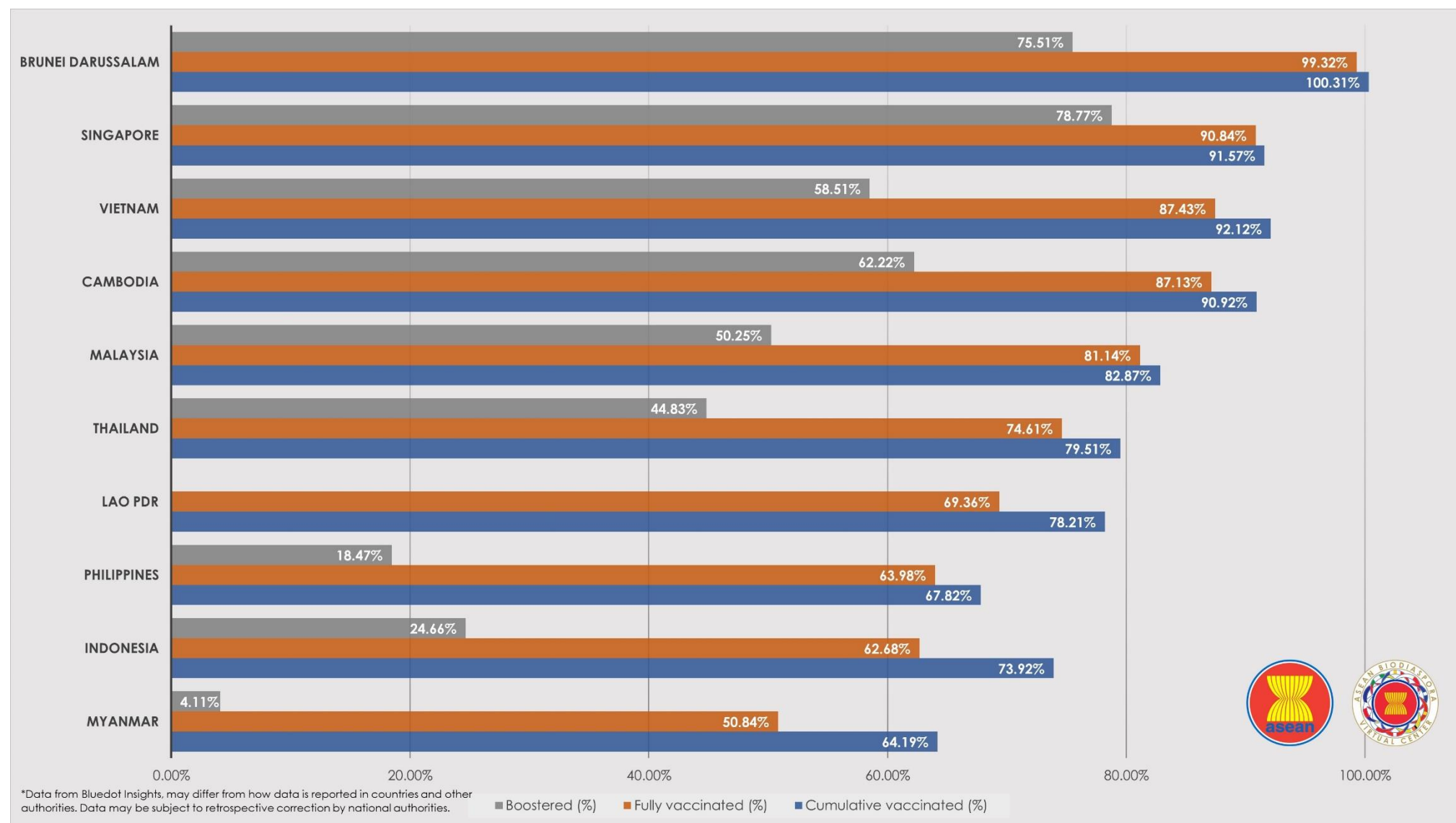
From January 1, 2022 to March 5, 2023





ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 05 March 2023





ASEAN COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 03 March 2023

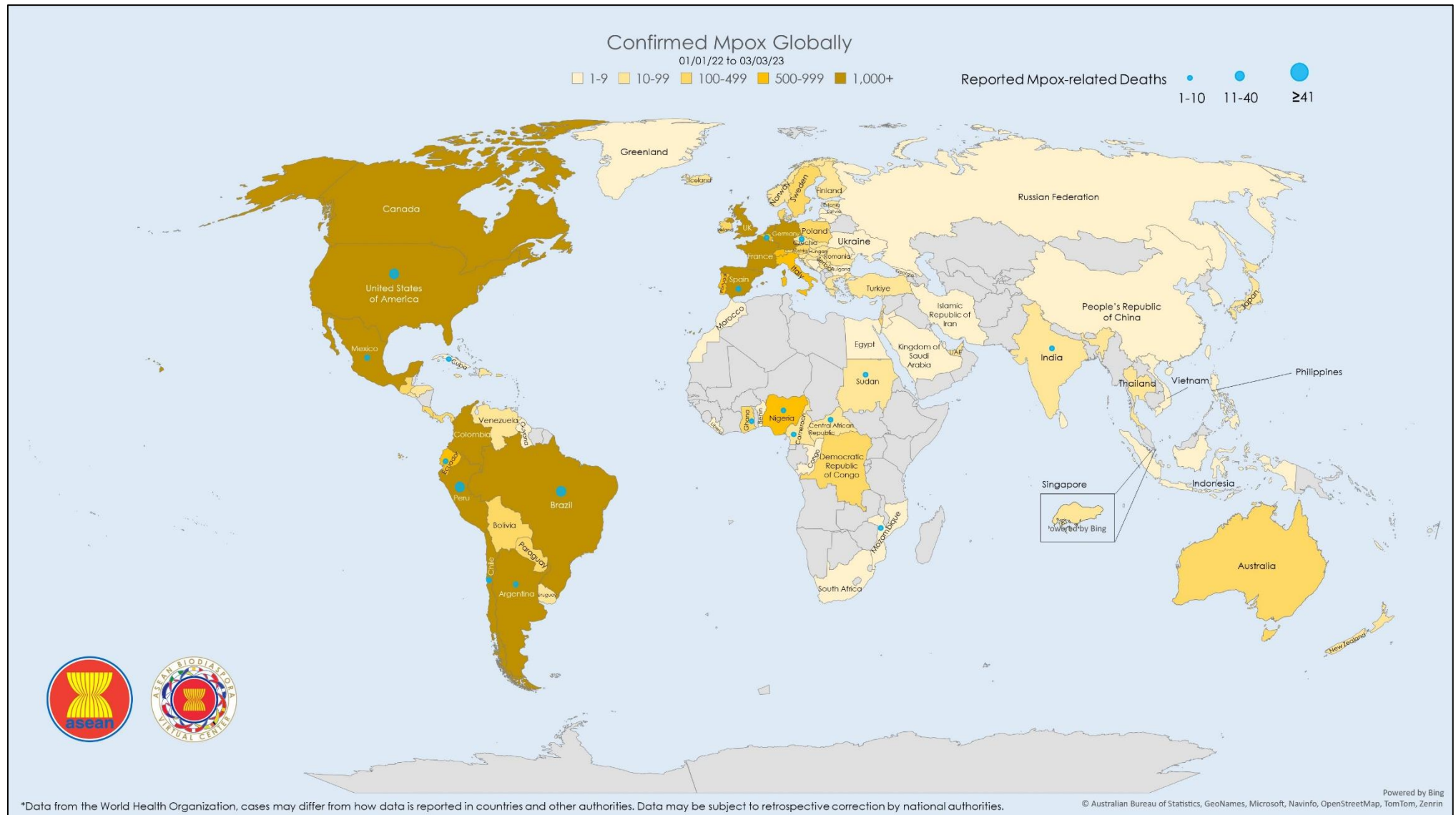
 ASEAN MEMBER STATE	<p>At least 65% of the total population has a level of immunity to COVID-19; either recovered from COVID-19 or have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.</p>		<p>Case levels are generally low (a 7-day rolling average number of daily new cases that is <10 cases per 100,000, with each day's past-14-day test positivity is consistently <5%).</p>	<p>Government Policy on containment and health (strictness and comprehensiveness in COVID-19 related government policies)</p>
	% of Total population fully vaccinated / boosted		Daily cases/ 100,000	Containment and health index score - Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)
Brunei Darussalam	≥90.0	75.5	23.27	31.0/100
Cambodia	≥90.0	62.2	0.01	31.5/100
Indonesia	66.1	24.7	0.08	54.2/100
Lao PDR	77.3	ND	0.02	61.6/100
Malaysia	84.5	50.3	0.67	51.8/100
Myanmar	52.1	4.1	0.01	69.1/100
Philippines	71.6	18.5	0.10	55.4/100
Singapore	≥90.0	78.8	0.00	58.9/100
Thailand	77.7	44.8	0.04	31.5/100
Vietnam	≥90.0	58.5	0.01	43.5/100

All of the countries have achieved the Population vaccinated/ day (7-day average) except Vietnam.



Mpox (Monkeypox) Cases Reported Globally

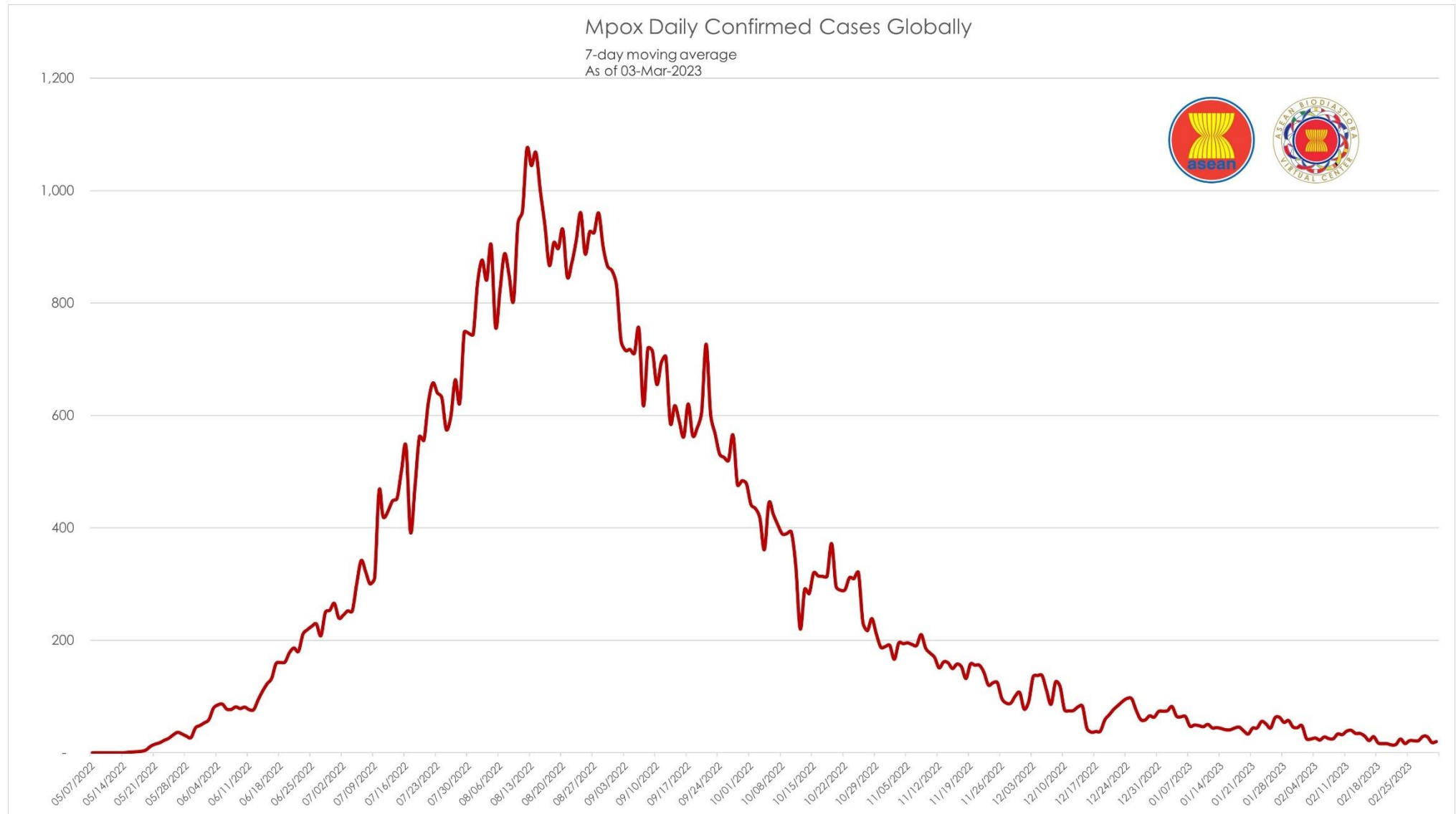
as of March 3, 2023





Mpox Daily Trend Globally

as of March 3, 2023





Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 05 March 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **86,306** confirmed cases, including **107** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.12%**.
- 43 confirmed cases** in the ASEAN region, with CFR of **0%**.
- 86,263 confirmed cases** of Mpox have been reported in other **5 regions** (other than ASEAN region):

Mpox cases in ASEAN region

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Indonesia	1	-	-	0.00%
Philippines	4	-	-	0.00%
Singapore	21	-	-	0.00%
Thailand	15	-	-	0.00%
Vietnam	2	-	-	0.00%
ASEAN Total	43	-	-	0.00%

Mpox cases in Asia-Pacific region

Country/Territory	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
Australia	144	-	-	0.00%
India	22	-	1	5.00%
Japan	27	5	-	0.00%
New Caledonia	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	41	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	10	-	-	0.00%
Republic of Korea*	4	-	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia-Pacific Total	251	7	1	0.40%

*People's Republic of China – including Hong Kong (SAR), Macao (SAR), and Taiwan (Province of China).

Top 5 countries with most mpox cases globally

Country	Total Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
United States of America	30,018	31	38	0.13%
Brazil	10,826	1	15	0.14%
Spain	7,543	-	3	0.04%
France	4,128	-	-	0.00%
Colombia	4,082	1	-	0.00%



Mpox cases per region

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2022	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
AFRICA	1,446	31	18	1.24%
AMERICAS	58,674	45	82	0.14%
ASEAN	43	-	-	0.00%
ASIA PACIFIC	251	7	1	0.40%
EUROPE	25,572	-	5	0.02%
MIDDLE EAST	320	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	86,306	83	107	0.12%



References

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