

COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of May 18, 2022



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.
- According to the group of experts convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), a second booster or fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine may provide some benefit to the most vulnerable people amid the continuing spread of Omicron and its subvariants across the globe. Furthermore, the WHO issued a statement that evidences showed that additional dose of COVID-19 are beneficial for groups including health workers, people aged 60 and above, and those with weakened immune system. The expert groups had assessed a limited data from seven studies for second booster of messenger RNA vaccines, saying there wasn't enough information proving their effectiveness in younger, healthy people, WHO added.
- North Korea stands on the brink of a Covid-19 catastrophe unless swift action is taken to provide vaccines and drug treatments, experts have said, as the number of people reported to have fallen ill rose to almost 1.5 million. The isolated country reported another big rise in new cases of what it continues to refer to as "fever" on May 10, days after it admitted it had identified COVID-19 infections for the first time since the start of the global pandemic. It recorded 269,510 additional cases and six more deaths, bringing the total number killed to 56 since late last month. About 1.48 million people have become ill with the virus since the first case was reported on May 12 and at least 663,910 people were in quarantine, according to official figures. The outbreak is almost certainly greater than the official tally, given a lack of tests and resources to monitor and treat the sick. A significant COVID-19 outbreak could unleash a humanitarian crisis in North Korea, where the economy has been battered by the pandemic-enforced closure of its border with China – its main trading partner – natural disasters, and years of international sanctions imposed in response to ballistic missile tests. The regime is not thought to have vaccinated any of its population and does not have access to antiviral drugs that have been used to treat COVID-19 in other countries. Its hospitals have few intensive-care resources to treat severe cases, and widespread malnourishment has made the population of 26 million more susceptible to serious illness.

Regional Update

- Indonesia is lifting its outdoor mask mandate because its COVID-19 outbreak is increasing under control, President Joko Widodo said on May 17. However, a mask mandate remains in place for indoor activities and public transportation, he said. Widodo also said all fully vaccinated travelers will no longer be required to undergo COVID-19 tests to enter Indonesia. The announcements came two weeks after millions of Indonesians celebrated the Eid al-Fitr holiday at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan by traveling to see their families, ending two years of pandemic restrictions and travel curbs. COVID-19 cases have continued to decline, prompting the government to relax its mask policy. In March, Indonesia lifted quarantine requirements for overseas visitors, joining a number of other countries in the region including Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines that have announced or already made such moves. The country has largely recovered since an omicron-driven surge peaked at around 64,700 cases a day in mid-February.

New confirmed daily infections have fallen to around 200, and about 80% of the eligible population of 208 million has been fully vaccinated. The government has already lifted many restrictions on social mobility that have been in place for two years.

- Malaysia's Ministry of Health said on May 17 (Tuesday) that the antiviral drug Paxlovid for COVID-19 treatment to high-risk individuals, which was previously used in health clinics and government hospitals, will be available to be used in private hospitals and clinics as well as teaching hospitals. The use of the antiviral drug to treat COVID-19 patients started on April 15 in 512 COVID-19 Assessment Centres (CAC) and 78 government hospitals. According to the health minister, there were 405 COVID-19 patients who had been given the drug and all of them had fully recovered.
- Philippines: The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday, May 17, confirmed the local transmission of the more contagious Omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1, which is steadily becoming more prominent in the United States. Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire announced this at a press briefing on Tuesday. She said that local government units are now strengthening the four-door strategy to prevent further transmission of the virus. "There's local transmission in specific areas in the country," Vergeire said. She didn't specify though which areas are these in the country. Doors 1 and 2 involve strengthening border controls. Door 3 involves strengthening the implementation of the Prevent-Detect-Isolate- Treat-Reintegrate (PDITR), while Door 4 involves ensuring that the country's healthcare capacity is "ready for a possible surge." Local transmission happens "when we can categorically establish that there is no linkage to any of the previous cases, in this case, the imported cases." Experts have said BA.2.12.1 has both immune escape and increased transmissibility. BA.2.12.1 spreads easily, experts have said, and it is believed to be up to 27% more transmissible than BA.2, the dominant subvariant of Omicron in the Philippines and the rest of the world. Currently, there are no studies that suggest that BA.2.12.1 causes more severe disease. It is important to note that this BA.2.12.1 is different from BA.2.12, which was also detected in the Philippines in April. Both are subvariants of Omicron. As of Tuesday, the Philippines has detected 17 cases of BA.2.12.1. Of the total, 16 are locally acquired while one is a returning overseas Filipino residing in Western Visayas.
- China: Fresh outbreaks around key Chinese cities and the ongoing Covid-19 spread in Beijing are raising the specter of more disruptive pandemic curbs, even as Shanghai slowly emerges from its six-week lockdown. The capital reported 69 new COVID-19 cases for May 17, up from 52 on May 16. City officials said on May 17 that the Fengtai district will lock down some areas for the next seven days after new clusters flared, amplifying the risk of community spread. In Tianjin, where an earlier outbreak in January disrupted global automakers Toyota Motor Corp. and Volkswagen AG, cases rose to 55 on May 17 from 28 on May 16. A cluster is also ballooning in Sichuan province, which reported 201 cases on May 17. The flareups come as Shanghai, the epicenter of China's worst outbreak since the early days of the pandemic, starts to emerge from a grueling lockdown. While cases in the financial hub rose slightly to 855 on May 17 from 823 on May 16, no infections were found outside of government quarantine for a fourth day. A day earlier, the city hit the crucial milestone of three consecutive days of zero cases in the community, the metric authorities had said would allow them to unwind the strict curbs that hampered economic activity and curtailed almost every aspect of daily life for residents. However, many restrictions remain in place in the city. Residents must produce a pass to exit their compounds and can only leave by bike or on foot. The passes are distributed to each apartment by residential committees, allowing one person per family to leave during appointed hours for grocery errands. According to passes seen by Bloomberg News, many compounds will allow residents to leave twice in the next four days, for a maximum of four hours at a time.

Vaccine Update

- Malaysia: A total of 1,063,569 children aged five to 11 or 30 per cent of the child population in Malaysia have completed their vaccination under the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of Monday (May 16). According to the CovidNow website, a total of 1,646,257 children or 46.4% of the group have received at least one dose of the vaccine. For adolescents aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,905,317 individuals or 93.4 per cent of the group have completed the vaccination, while 3,002,852 individuals or 96.5%, have received at least one dose of the vaccine. At the same time, a total of 16,066,394 individuals or 68.3% of the adult population have received the booster dose, while 22,971,246 individuals or 97.6% have completed two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and 23,247,211 individuals or 98.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Yesterday, a total of 9,228 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were dispensed, with 2,700 as the first doses, 4,779 as second doses and 1,749 as booster doses, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) to 70,689,336. According to the Health Ministry's GitHub portal, five deaths due to Covid-19 were recorded yesterday with Melaka registering two cases while Johor, Sarawak, and Selangor recording one case each.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Brunei: Filling the arrival declaration form is a requirement for all passengers boarding a plane to Brunei Darussalam, said Minister of Home Affairs Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Abu Bakar Apong at the daily press conference on May 16. The minister spoke on the importance of filling in the declaration form and reminded all passengers to complete the form prior to boarding an aircraft. Awang Abu Bakar also shared updates on the COVID-19 situation in the country. He said 297 new cases were detected on Monday – 294 from antigen rapid test (ART) screenings and three from 282 RT-PCR laboratory tests performed in the past 24 hours. With the latest infections, the national tally of confirmed cases stands at 144,956 cases. The minister also announced that a COVID-19 patient passed away but it was not due to the coronavirus. Some 272 cases were declared recovered, bringing the total number of recoveries to 143,060 cases. There are currently 1,675 active cases, 15 patients being treated in hospitals and 1,660 on home self-isolation. Awang Abu Bakar disclosed that there are no cases in Categories 4 and 5. With the vaccination centers not operating on May 22, the inoculation statistics remain unchanged from those revealed in the previous day's press conference – 74.4% of children aged five to 11 have received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 23.1% with two doses. Some 68.4% of the population have been administered three doses of the vaccine.
- Indonesia: Indonesia government has announced on May 17 (Tuesday) that the country will no longer require fully vaccinated domestic and international travellers to present a negative COVID-19 test upon entering the country starting May 18 (Wednesday).
- Thailand still has an official ban on bars reopening, although many former bars and nightlife destinations have 'converted' into faux-restaurants allowing them to serve alcohol until midnight, which is the current legal closing time in Thailand. There also remains an enforcement on the wearing of face masks in public areas, but that may start to be eased in some locations, in some situations, over the next month under the nickname of 'endemic sandbox'. People travelling to Thailand both foreign and Thai are still required to apply for entry via the Thailand Pass. Travellers have to upload their vaccination paperwork, passport details and proof of covid insurance coverage of at least US\$10,000. Thais and foreigners with a current Work Permit, are exempt from the insurance coverage (as they are covered by Thailand's universal health care system). Vaccinated or undervaccinated arrivals will need to also upload proof of a negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours before departure to Thailand. If the

unvaccinated traveler is unable to provide a negative RT-PCR test, they will have to quarantine for five days. The Thai Government says relaxed travel restrictions have led to a tourism surge on Phuket and Koh Samui. Government spokesman, Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana, pointed out that up to 10,000 foreign travellers are entering the country each day, adding that, at the moment, tourists are entering the country in small groups rather than large tour groups.

Cases and Deaths as of 18 May 2022

- As of 18 May 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **523,355,227** confirmed cases, including **6,301,506** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 60,219,305 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,649,494 cases** in the ASEAN region and **28,569,811 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

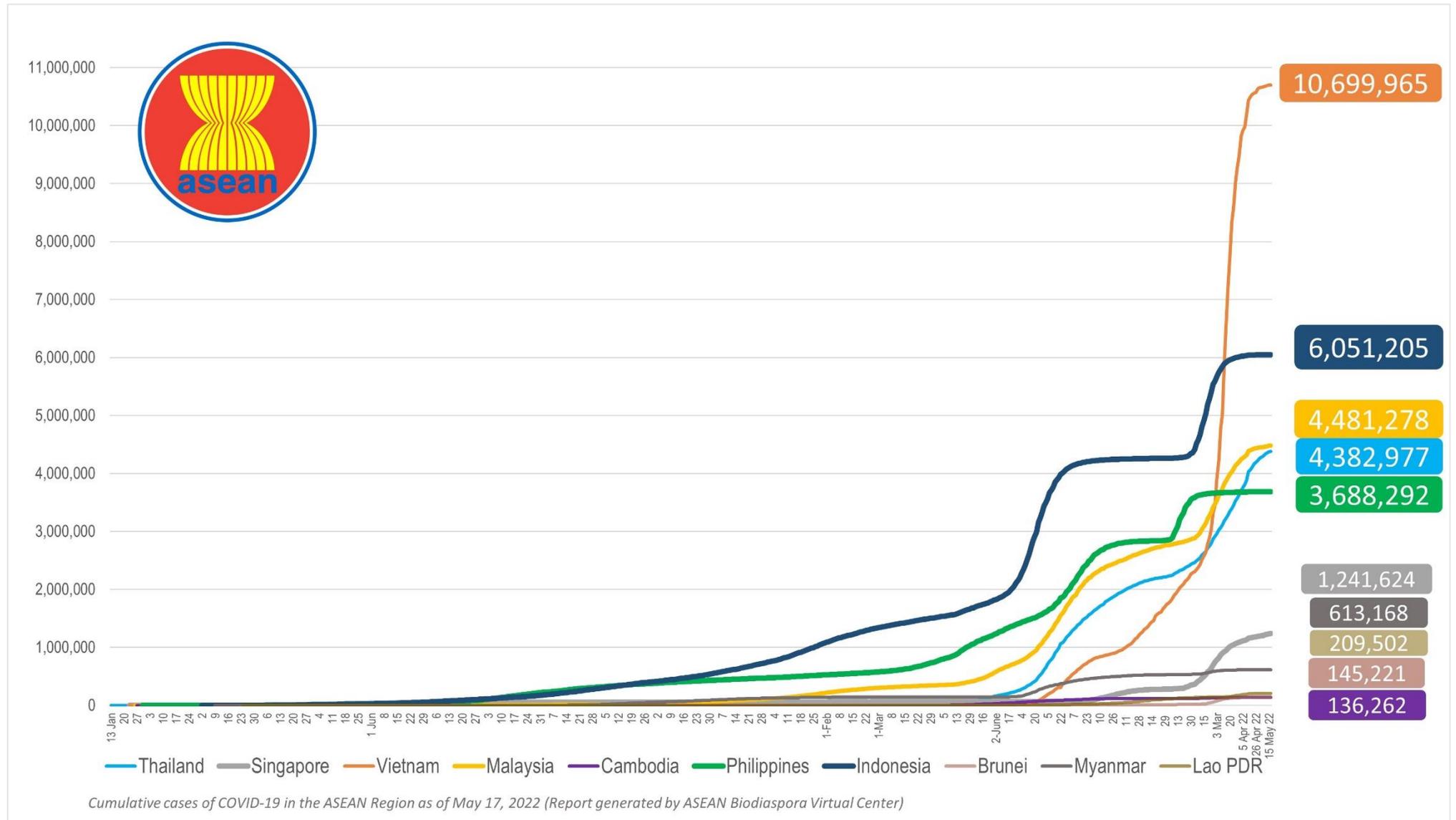
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	17-May-22	145,221	265	221	-	0.2%	33,516		432,057	409,091	282,887	92.7
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	10-May-22	136,262	-	3,056	-	2.2%	827	54	14,932,546	14,192,815	8,586,491	83.8
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	17-May-22	6,051,205	247	156,481	17	2.6%	2,236	-	199,625,406	166,273,179	37,458,813	60.2
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	17-May-22	209,502	68	754	-	0.4%	2,922	63	5,791,016	4,977,532		67.5
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	17-May-22	4,481,278	1,469	35,623	3	0.8%	14,026	1,692	27,896,320	26,940,132	16,066,394	82.2
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	17-May-22	613,168	24	19,434	-	3.2%	1,135	240	30,994,375	24,329,862		44.4
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	17-May-22	3,688,292	160	60,458	-	1.6%	3,411	-	70,173,137	68,526,134	13,519,545	61.7
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	17-May-22	1,241,624	2,123	1,366	3	0.1%	21,769		5,013,834	4,984,296	4,029,232	91.4
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	17-May-22	4,382,977	3,893	29,553	38	0.7%	6,295	-	56,305,044	51,788,568	26,859,733	74.0
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	17-May-22	10,699,965	1,785	43,071	4	0.4%	11,092	13	82,886,620	78,673,094	55,399,686	80.1
ASEAN COUNTRIES				31,649,494	10,034	350,017	65	1.1%			494,050,355	441,094,703	162,202,781	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	17-May-22	17,830,429	35,072	23,771	27	0.1%	34,482.189	2,884.995	45,044,887	44,563,802	36,755,616	86.86
	Japan	16-Jan-20	17-May-22	8,412,043	36,903	29,959	40	0.4%	6,662.216	745.699	103,412,386	101,840,830	71,481,677	80.79
	China	31-Dec-19	17-May-22	2,327,339	66,305	15,710	39	0.7%	20,048	4,510	1,314,490,038	1,278,231,758	781,567,248	83.7
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				28,569,811	138,280	69,440	106	0.2%			1,462,947,311	1,424,636,390	889,804,541
ASEAN +3				60,219,305	148,314	419,457	171	0.7%			1,956,997,666	1,865,731,093	1,052,007,322	

- 463,135,922 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	12,281,031	5,652	255,359	44	1.0	230,020	7,135	307,131,798	234,098,191	23,660,068
AMERICAS	157,662,626	46,712	2,769,273	188	0.8	971,590	59,353	799,494,484	704,700,410	371,828,792
ASIA PACIFIC	72,333,066	64,519	733,385	102	0.2	331,035	32,670	1,407,515,729	1,238,526,349	117,528,798
EUROPE	200,041,297	274,733	1,890,939	1,140	0.6	1,755,999	85,909	557,474,209	529,348,005	311,251,963
MIDDLE EAST	20,817,902	4,440	233,093	16	0.3	189,795	47,535	141,277,932	126,626,816	54,947,995
TOTAL	463,135,922	396,056	5,882,049	1,490	1.3%			3,212,894,152	2,833,299,771	879,217,616

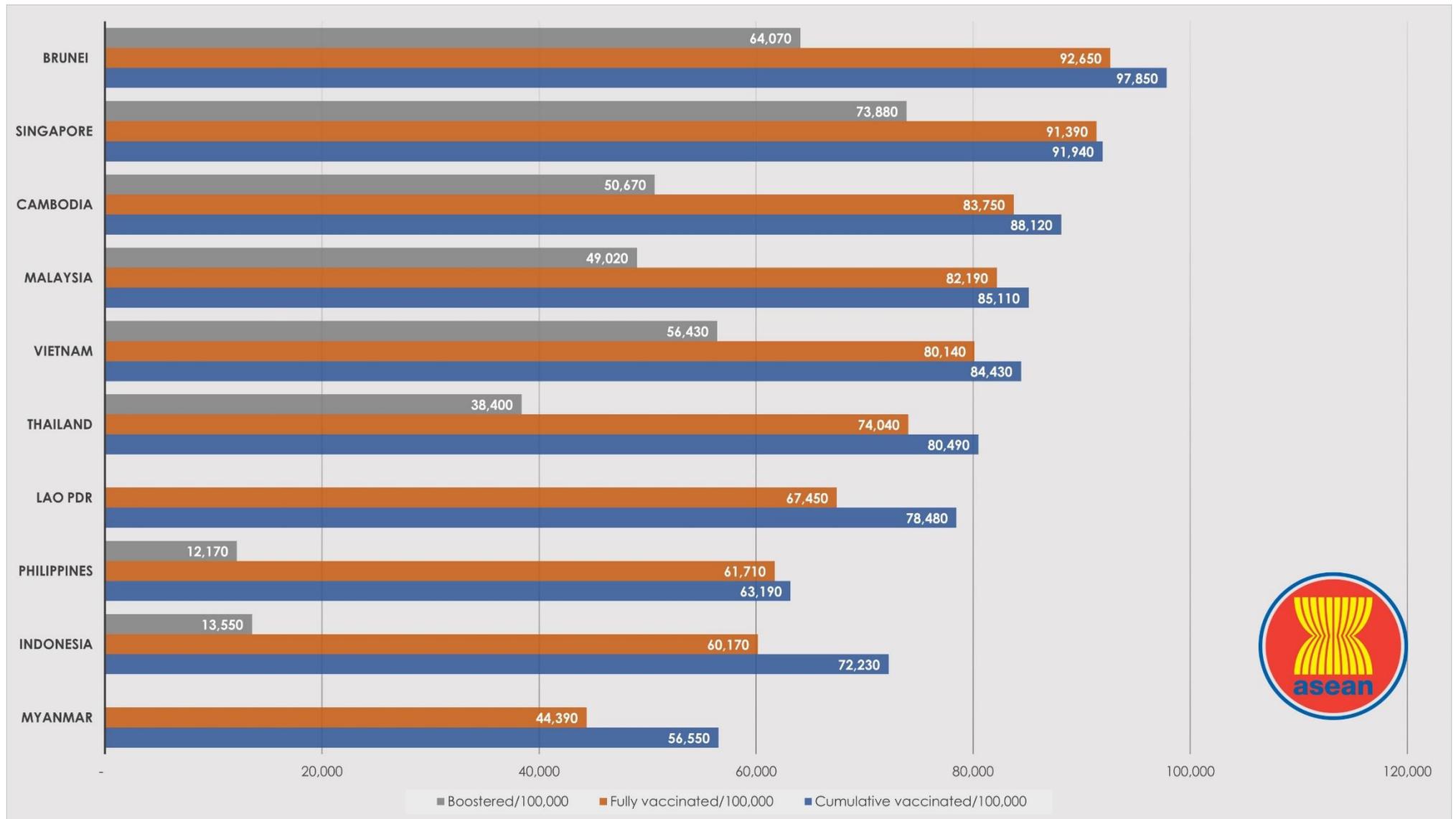
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to May 17, 2022



COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 17 May 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 15 May 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	≥90.0/64.1	Unknown	60.96	Unknown	65.5/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/50.7	0.06%/day	0.00	0.7	31.3/100	-6.8
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	63.7/13.6	0.04%/day	0.12	Unknown	57.7/100	+0.3
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	73.7/ND	0.41%/day	1.34	46.8	71.2/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	82.7/49.0	0.06%/day	8.35	4.6	58.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	46.0/ND	0.46%/day	0.023	0.2	70.2/100	-7.5
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	66.3/12.2	Unknown	0.14	1.0	62.8/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.4/73.9	0.02%/day	54.05	Unknown	58.9/100	-11.9
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	75.2/38.3	0.05%/day	9.80	Unknown	47.9/100	0.0
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	2.93	100	58.3/100	0.0

Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19 in ASEAN+3

May 11 to 17, 2022

Regional Updates

Chikungunya in Indonesia

- Residents in Penaraga Village, Raba District, Bima City, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) who are infected with chikungunya disease are increasing. On Monday (9/5/2022) there were 20 cases of chikungunya in the village. Today, Sunday (15/5/2022), there were five additional cases of chikungunya bringing the total to 25 patients. The 25 people who were infected with chikungunya were currently still being treated and monitored by the health center medical team at their respective homes and are expected to recover within 6 days. They immediately localized the area by fogging and sprinkling abate powder. They hope that this step can suppress the spread of chikungunya disease in Bima City. Another thing that must be done to control chikungunya is public awareness to keep the environment clean by eradicating mosquito breeding points.

HFMD in Malaysia

- The number of cases of foot, hand and mouth disease (HFMD) in the country has increased at an alarming rate of 15 times compared to the same period last year with 31,661 cases reported, said Chief Health Director, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah. He said, a total of 7,526 cases were recorded on Epidemiology Week (ME) 19/2022 ending on May 14 which showed an increase of 349 percent, compared to the previous ME with only 1,676 cases across the country. Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the increase was expected with the reopening of all economic sectors, including the education sector with resumption of face-to-face learning, as well as kindergartens and child care centers.

Cholera in the Philippines

- Two sitios in Colongulo village, Surallah town, South Cotabato were placed under a state of calamity on Saturday because of a cholera outbreak. Colongulo village councilor Roger Maguad, who is also the chairman of the Committee on Health in the said village, said at least 60 families have been infected with cholera in Sitio Villa Ellaga and Sitio Basag. Cholera outbreak was confirmed in the area after the Municipal Health Office (MHO) of Surallah conducted a water sampling and rectal swab of patients who had experienced symptoms of the disease. Based on the MHO-Surallah's water sampling procedure, it was found that two out of the three water sources in the area are positive for cholera bacteria. Aside from this, the MHO-Surallah also found out that the farm snails, which the residents in the area commonly eat, are also positive for cholera. Maguad also said that one child has died in the area, which has been attributed to the cholera outbreak.

Dengue in Singapore

- The number of dengue cases in Singapore continues to rise, with 220 active dengue clusters reported as of May 9. The current number of active clusters is at its highest this year, crossing the 200-cluster mark within the past two weeks. In total, 7,521 cases have been reported this year. This number surpasses the total of 5,258 cases logged in the entirety of 2021. Out of the 220 clusters currently, 54 of them have a red-alert level, which indicates a high-risk area with 10 or more dengue cases.

Unknown hepatitis in South Korea

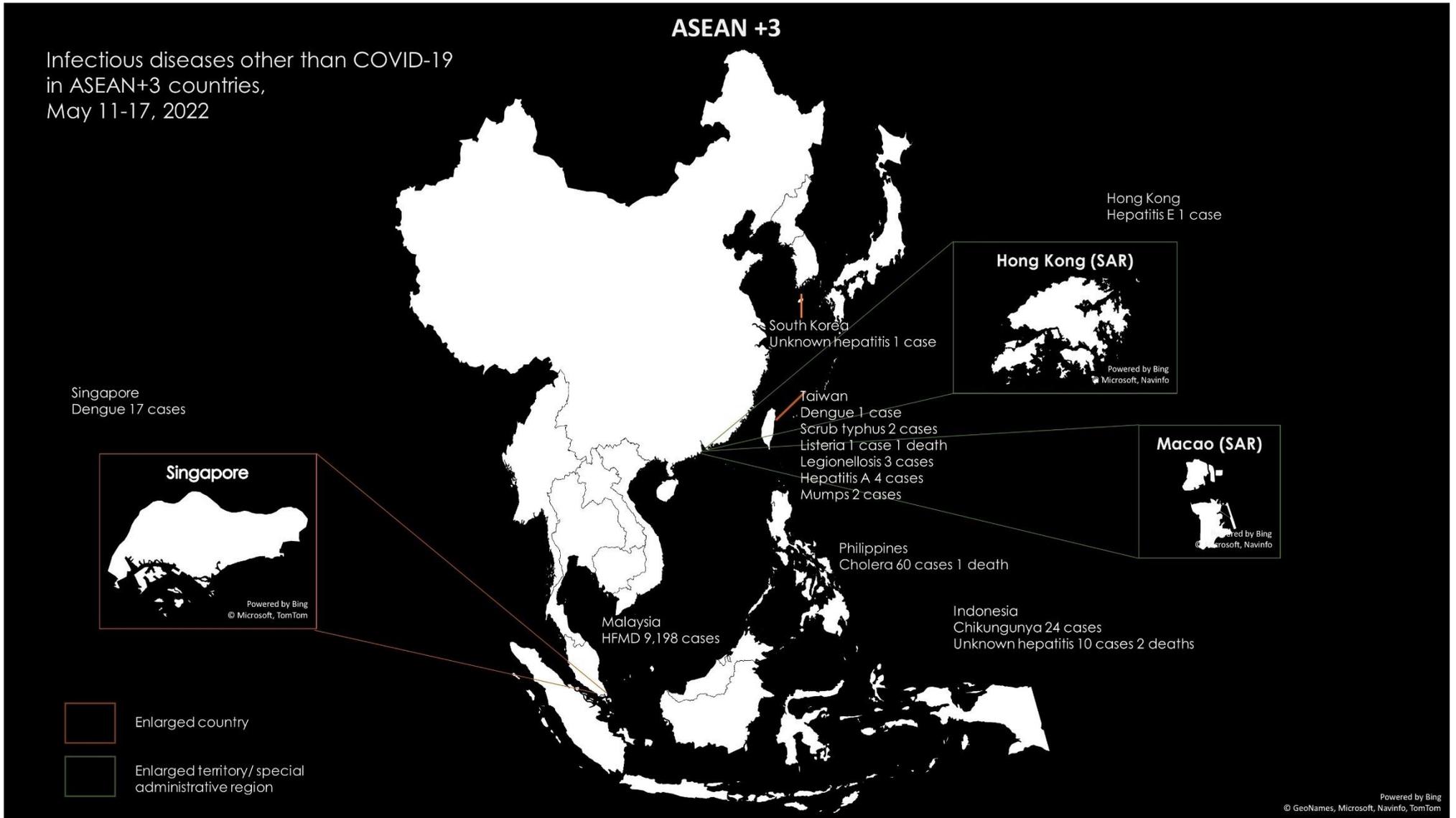
- South Korea has identified its first suspected case of acute hepatitis of unknown origin in a child, health officials said Tuesday, following hundreds of similar cases reported in Europe and around the world. The case of acute hepatitis was reported on May 1, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). The unidentified boy was infected with both adenovirus, which often causes respiratory illness in children, and a normal type of human coronavirus. At a regular briefing, KDCA official Lee Sang-won said the suspected case in South Korea did not appear to be closely related to COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines.

Hepatitis E in Hongkong

- On May 13, 2022, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health was investigating a case of human infection of rat Hepatitis E virus (HEV). The case involved a 55-year-old man with underlying illnesses. He was found to have deranged liver function during his treatment in Prince of Wales Hospital. The patient is now in stable condition. His blood sample tested positive for rat HEV upon laboratory testing. The CHP's epidemiological investigations revealed that the patient resided in Tai Po. He did not have contact with rodents or rats, and had no travel history during the incubation period. "Based on the available epidemiological information, the source and the route of infection could not be determined. The CHP has already informed the Pest Control Advisory Section of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department about the case to carry out rodent control measures and a survey as appropriate. The exact mode of transmission of rat HEV to humans is unknown at the moment. Possible routes of transmission include ingestion of food or water contaminated by rodents or their excreta, exposure to environments or objects contaminated by rodents or their excreta and direct contact with rodents or their excreta. The usual HEV causing human infection is transmitted mainly through the fecal-oral route.

Infectious Diseases other than COVID-19 in ASEAN+3 Region

From May 11 to 17, 2022





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

