

# COVID-19 and Mpox Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

– ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

March 20, 2023 | Issue No. 462



### 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 666 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** biweekly report on March 18 stated that COVID-19 indicators continue their downward trend. As of March 15, the 7-day average for new daily COVID-19 cases is 21,422, down 19.7% compared to the previous weekly average. For hospitalizations, the latest 7-day average is 2,757, down 9.5% from the last weekly average. For deaths, about 244 more Americans are dying from their infections each day, down 18.8% from the previous 7-day average. In addition, the 7-day average of COVID-19-related deaths is 244 down 18.8% from the previous 7-day average. Meanwhile, in its updated variant proportions today, the CDC said the Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant makes up 90.2% of infections, up from 88.8% the previous week. It said XBB lineages, which also include XBB.1.5.1, are the only lineages growing nationally. In another report, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory group on March 17 recommended full approval for Paxlovid, Pfizer's COVID-19 antiviral, for use in people ages 50 and older and other high-risk groups. The drug has been available under emergency use authorization (EUA) since December 2021. The FDA said earlier this week that it would keep the EUA in place for Paxlovid's use in high-risk adolescents.
- India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued revised guidelines for COVID-19 as the country saw a surge of cases in the past week. Physical distancing, indoor mask use, and hand hygiene are some of the guidelines advised for the public to follow, with specific instructions on avoiding antibiotics unless under certain circumstances. According to the ministry, India has observed a significant decline in the number of COVID-19 cases during the past few months, however, in the past few weeks a rise in cases has been noted specifically in certain parts of the country with a total of 2,082 cases reported in the week ending March 8 then has increased to 3,264 cases in the week ending March 15. In addition, the State governments of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka were advised to follow a five-fold strategy of test, track, treat, and vaccinations as these states witnessed a rise in COVID-19 cases in India as of the morning of March 19. Among the four states, all having more than 500 active cases, Gujarat reported the steepest spike in active cases.
- Japan confirmed 5,911 new COVID-19 cases on March 18 (Sunday), down by about 1,000 from a week before. The number of severely ill COVID-19 patients across the country has decreased by six from Saturday to 80, while 21 new deaths were reported. In Tokyo, 549 new COVID-19 cases were reported, down by 57 from a week earlier. Four fatalities were newly confirmed among COVID-19 patients, while the number of severely ill patients under Tokyo's criteria stood unchanged from the previous day at six.
- South Korea's new COVID-19 cases fell to the lowest daily count on March 20 (Monday) morning after nine months. According to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), the country reported 3,930 new COVID-19 cases including 14 cases from overseas, bringing the total number of cases to 30,702,960. The government has also lifted the mask-wearing mandate on public transportation starting March 20 (Monday), however, the mask mandate will remain in place in medical facilities, pharmacies, and other infection-prone places. Pharmacies in open public spaces, such as discount stores or train stations, will be exempted from the requirement.



### **Regional Update**

• **Singapore** will establish a specialized public health center to combine its disease control and pandemic management capabilities and experience, as well as a dedicated forward planning team to best prepare for future pandemics, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced in Parliament on March 20.<sup>3</sup> The public health center will allow Singapore to expand its public health skills over time, while the forward planning team will assist the nation in better anticipating the next bound, developing the next course of action, and pivoting more effectively as the situation evolves, he said.<sup>3</sup> This comes after the March 8 release of a 92-page White Paper on Singapore's reaction to the pandemic, which looked at how the country may build on its successes while avoiding the mistakes made in previous pandemics.<sup>3</sup> [Full article]

#### Research Update (Published and peer-reviewed studies)

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, obstetric care practitioners worldwide have • implemented preventive strategies such as universal or risk-based screening, restrictions on support persons, a designated environment for labor and childbirth, and adjustment of obstetric analgesia.<sup>1</sup> In Taiwan, the Taichung Veterans General Hospital implemented a predelivery screening policy in May 2021.<sup>1</sup> This policy required all women hospitalized for childbirth to provide a negative SARS CoV-2 RT-PCR test result.<sup>1</sup> Otherwise, patients were triaged in a negative-pressure room and were denied epidural anesthesia until a negative RT-PCR result was confirmed.<sup>1</sup> This cohort study, **Obstetric and Neonatal** Outcomes Associated with Implementation of a COVID-19 Predelivery Screening Policy in a Taiwan Hospital, aimed to assess the association of obstetric and neonatal outcomes with COVID-19 predelivery screening policy.<sup>1</sup> The Taichung Veterans General Hospital medical records of pregnant women (gestational age >36 weeks) hospitalized for childbirth between May 17 and July 10, 2021, were reviewed.<sup>1</sup> Maternal characteristics, obstetric outcomes, and neonatal outcomes with those of historical control group, which comprised women hospitalized for childbirth between May 15 and July 10, 2020, were compared.<sup>1</sup> A total of 65 study participants (50.8%) received elective labor induction compared with 17 control participants (13.7%) (OR, 6.49 [95% CI, 3.50-12.05]; P < .001).<sup>1</sup> The mean (SD) gestational age at childbirth was earlier for the study group compared with the control group (38.4 [1.4] vs 39.1 [1.0] weeks; P < .001).<sup>1</sup> No differences in rates of cesarean section or assisted delivery were observed.<sup>1</sup> More newborns in the study group were admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) compared with newborns in the control group, OR, 2.71 [95% CI, 1.15-6.41]; P = .02. Their birth weights and Apgar scores were similar.<sup>1</sup> Multivariate analyses showed that elective induction, rather than gestational diabetes, was the main contributing factor for earlier gestational age at childbirth (mean difference, 0.89 [95% CI, 0.58-1.20]; P < .001) and increased NICU admission (adjusted OR, 2.69 [95% CI, 1.13-6.42]; P = .03).<sup>1</sup> More women underwent elective labor induction; their newborns tended to be born earlier and were more likely to require intensive care.<sup>1</sup> Limitations of this study include its retrospective design and generalizability of the findings.<sup>1</sup> [Full text]
- The number of patients with COVID-19 has surged during the Omicron pandemic worldwide.<sup>2</sup> It remains unclear whether and how previous SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccine-induced humoral immunity can protect against Omicron BA.5 infection.<sup>2</sup> This study, Analysis of Previous Infection, Vaccinations, and Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Titers and Protection Against Infection With the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.5 Variant, examined the association between preinfection anti-SARS-CoV-2 spike antibody titers and protection against Omicron BA.5 infection among the staff of a medical and research center in Tokyo, Japan.<sup>2</sup> A total of 2,610 staff members participated in a serosurvey in June 2022 (baseline), were evaluated for anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and answered a questionnaire.<sup>2</sup> Diagnosed infection was defined as a history of COVID-19 that was self-



reported (confirmed against in-house COVID-19 registry), whereas undiagnosed infection was defined as antinucleocapsid seropositive at any of the first (July 2020) through sixth (June 2022: baseline) surveys among those without a history of COVID-19.<sup>2</sup> In July 2022, a large epidemic caused by the Omicron BA.5 variant hit Japan.<sup>2</sup> Using an in-house COVID-19 registry, the study participants for SARS-CoV-2 infection were followed up from baseline until the date of COVID-19 diagnosis, additional vaccination, or September 21, 2022, whichever occurred first.<sup>2</sup> Of the 2,610 participants at baseline, 2,401 (92.0%) had received 3-dose vaccinations, and 418 (16.0%) had previous SARS-CoV-2 infection.<sup>2</sup> Of the 230 previously diagnosed infections, 202 (88.0%) occurred during the Omicron BA.1/BA.2 predominant epidemic.<sup>2</sup> Those with previously diagnosed and undiagnosed infections had higher antispike antibody titers than infection-naive 24,556 (median titer, 29,528 [previously diagnosed], individuals [previously undiagnosed], and 4,849 [infection naive]).<sup>2</sup> During the follow-up period (i.e., Omicron BA.5 predominant wave), 288 participants were diagnosed with COVID-19; the incidence rate was 13.8 per 10 000 person-days.<sup>2</sup> Higher antispike antibody titers were associated with higher protection against Omicron BA.5 infection.<sup>2</sup> 50% protection was achieved at 17,000 AU/mL among previously infected participants and 27,000 AU/mL among infection-naive participants, respectively, and 80% protection was achieved at 50,000 AU/mL among previously infected participants but not among infection-naive participants.<sup>2</sup> Protection against Omicron BA.5 reinfection was 87.0% (95% CI, 68.0%-95.0%) in participants with previously diagnosed infections and 58.0% (95% Cl, 28.0%-76.0%) among those with undiagnosed infections.<sup>2</sup> The protection of the previous infection during the Omicron BA.1/BA.2 epidemic was 91.0% (95% CI, 73.0%-97.0%).<sup>2</sup> The antispike antibody titer required for a 50% reduction in the risk of infection during the Omicron BA.5 epidemic was lower among those with previous infection than among infection-naive individuals.<sup>2</sup> [Full text]

### COVID-19 Cases and Deaths as of 19 March 2023

- As of 19 March 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were 666,341,257 confirmed cases, including 6,789,476 deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was 1.2%.
- 35,627,509 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	Brunei Darussalam	10 Mar 20	16-Mar-23	280,790	1,129	225	-	64,053	450,404	445,929	338,987	99.3
REGION	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	17-Mar-23	138,721	1	3,056	-	841	15,244,858	14,609,937	10,433,215	87.1
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	19-Mar-23	6,741,354	272	160,971	2	2,490	203,657,535	172,693,321	67,952,274	62.7
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	19-Mar-23	218,027	1	758	-	3,041	5,888,649	5,222,417		69.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	13-Mar-23	5,045,192	-	36,967	-	15,788	28,125,245	27,536,657	17,056,957	81.1
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	19-Mar-23	633,992	1	19,490	-	1,173	34,777,314	27,545,329	2,227,351	50.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	19-Mar-23	4,078,994	185	66,272	7	3,771	78,369,243	73,937,435	21,341,197	64.0
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	13-Mar-23	2,234,996	-	1,722	-	39,049	5,161,990	5,120,768	4,440,289	90.8
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	13-Mar-23	4,728,304	122	33,924	6	6,791	57,005,497	53,486,086	32,143,431	74.6
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	19-Mar-23	11,527,139	23	43,186	-	11,950	90,450,881	85,848,363	57,452,750	87.4
		ASEAN CO	OUNTRIES	35,627,509	1,734	366,571	15	148,946	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	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED/ 100
ASIA-	Afghanistan	24-Feb-20	08-Mar-23	209,417	-	7,896	-	550	11,606,705	10,894,509		26.5
PACIFIC	Australia	25-Jan-20	08-Mar-23	11,385,534	-	19,470	-	44,388	22,236,871	21,655,312	19,762,423	82.7
REGION	Bangladesh	08-Mar-20	09-Mar-23	2,037,836	42	29,445	-	1,250	150,629,515	131,182,263	65,897,152	76.6
	Bhutan	05-Mar-20	09-Mar-23	62,623	7	21	-	8,206	699,116	677,669	634,641	86.6
	People's Republic of China*		09-Mar-23	13,503,322	9,627	37,130	0	82,117	1,339,608,531	1,304,575,996	214,031,616	89.7
	Cook Islands	17-Feb-22	07-Mar-23	7,031	-	2	-	32,874	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	08-Mar-23	78,055	-	649	-	27,948	190,765	186,059	112,237	60.8
	Guam	15-Mar-20	08-Mar-23	61,006	-	419	-	36,466	158,611	144,042		85.5
	India	30-Jan-20	09-Mar-23	44,688,879	379	530,775	1	3,271	1,027,279,394	951,464,506	224,093,416	67.1



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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	09-Mar-23	5,013	1	18	-	4,263	96,184	73,888	23,419	56.3
Maldives	07-Mar-20	07-Mar-23	185,738	-	311	-	34,982	399,151	385,081	167,187	73.5
Marshall Islands	26-Oct-20	09-Mar-23	15,649	31	17	-	26,618	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	09-Mar-23	1,007,899	3	2,179	-	31,251	2,272,965	2,175,617	1,044,337	64.0
Nepal	24-Jan-20	09-Mar-23	1,001,151	4	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	06-Mar-23	2,228,291	-	3,922	-	45,318	4,300,097	4,138,926	3,523,903	79.8
Niue	03-Sep-21	08-Mar-23	792	-	-	-	36,565	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	09-Mar-23	1,577,280	50	30,644	-	728	154,665,740	131,368,973	49,551,181	55.7
Palau	31-May-21	09-Mar-23	5,991	2	9	-	33,269	20,750	18,497		85.9
Papua New Guinea	21-Mar-20	08-Mar-23	46,825	-	670	-	534	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	09-Mar-23	30,594,342	10,890	34,061	16	59,166	44,867,046	44,448,105	41,325,954	85.8
Sri Lanka	27-Jan-20	08-Mar-23	672,037	-	16,830	-	3,082	17,143,761	14,752,827	8,220,002	67.6
Timor Leste	21-Mar-20	09-Mar-23	23,419	1	138	-	1,811	878,845	790,466	315,249	58.9
Tonga	05-Nov-21	09-Mar-23	16,810	3	13	-	16,087	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	148,557,798	21,040	875,642	17	689,891	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

### • 482,155,950 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	193,947,099	8,660	2,969,774	78	1,243,252	835,447,892	731,893,384	495,237,137
EUROPE	252,412,212	25,421	2,077,977	109	2,116,302	569,620,774	541,040,894	383,756,585
MIDDLE EAST	22,738,971	986	239,971	1	216,792	144,725,560	130,012,483	60,203,464
TOTAL	482,155,950	35,147	5,547,263	188	3,825,310	2,033,852,677	1,801,758,599	1,005,200,878

# **COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:**

From January 1, 2022 to March 19, 2023



### ASEAN Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

From January 1, 2022 to March 19, 2023



# **ASEAN COVID-19 Vaccination Status**

as of 19 March 2023



# asean

# **ASEAN COVID-19 Outlook Assessment**

as of 17 March 2023

ASEAN MEMBER STATE	At least <b>65% of the total</b> <b>immunity</b> to COVID-19; eith 19 or have been vaccinate a COVID-1	<b>population has a level of</b> ner recovered from COVID- ed with at least one dose of 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%).	<b>Government Policy</b> on containment and health (strictness and comprehensiveness in COVID-19 related government policies)	
	% of Total population fu	lly vaccinated / boosted	Daily cases/ 100,000	Containment and health index score - Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)	
Brunei Darussalam	≥90.0	75.5	0.00	31.0/100	
Cambodia	≥90.0	62.2	0.00	31.5/100	
Indonesia	66.1	24.7	0.00	54.2/100	
Lao PDR	77.3	ND	0.00	61.6/100	
Malaysia	84.5	50.3	0.00	51.8/100	
Myanmar	52.1	4.1	0.00	69.1/100	
Philippines	71.6	18.5	0.00	55.4/100	
Singapore	≥90.0	78.8	0.00	58.9/100	
Thailand	77.7	44.8	0.00	31.5/100	
Vietnam	≥90.0	58.5	0.00	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 17, 2023





### **Mpox Daily Trend Globally**

as of March 17, 2023





### **Mpox: Highlights and Situation Overview**

- As of 19 March 2023 (1PM, GMT+7), worldwide, there were **86,601** confirmed cases, including **112** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.13%**.
- 44 confirmed cases in the ASEAN region, with CFR of 0%.
- **86,557 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	16	-	-	0.00%
Vietnam	2	-	-	0.00%
ASEAN Total	44	-	-	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	46	15	-	0.00%
New Caledonia	1	-	-	0.00%
New Zealand	41	-	-	0.00%
People's Republic of China*	15	-	-	0.00%
Republic of Korea*	5	· _ ·	-	0.00%
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	0.00%
Asia-Pacific Total	276	19	1	0.39%

\*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	30,048	9	38	0.13%
Brazil	10,878	-	15	0.14%
Spain	7,546	3	3	0.04%
France	4,128	-	-	0.00%
Colombia	4,088	-	-	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	1,481	28	19	1.28%
AMERICAS	58,898	35	86	0.15%
ASEAN	44	-	-	0.00%
ASIA PACIFIC	276	19	1	0.36%
EUROPE	25,581	3	6	0.02%
MIDDLE EAST	321	-	-	0.00%
TOTAL	86,601	85	112	0.13%



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