

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of May 23, 2022



Canada



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 528 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus, head of the World Health Organization (WHO), delivered his message during the kick-off of the annual World Health Assembly—the decision-making body of WHO comprised of representatives of 194 countries. Noting that it was the first time since 2019 that the Assembly could take place in-person, he asked Ministers where the world stood two years into the most severe health crisis in a century. “So, is it COVID-19 over? No, it’s most certainly not over. I know that’s not the message you want to hear, and it’s definitely not the message I want to deliver”, he highlighted. He added that although in many countries all restrictions have been lifted and life looks much like it did before the pandemic, reported cases are increasing in almost 70 countries in all regions. “...And this in a world in which testing rates have plummeted”, he added. Tedros warned that reported deaths are also rising in Africa, the continent with the lowest vaccination coverage. While agreeing that there is progress with 60% of the world’s population already vaccinated, Tedros reminded that almost one billion people in lower-income countries remain unvaccinated. The WHO chief also warned that increasing transmission means more deaths and more risk of a new variant emerging, and the current decline of testing and sequencing means “we are blinding ourselves to the evolution of the virus”. He pointed out as well that in some countries there is still insufficient political commitment to roll out vaccines, and there are still gaps in operational and financial capacity. Tedros said that WHO’s primary focus now is to support countries to turn vaccines into vaccinations as fast as possible, but they are still seeing supply-side problems for tests and therapeutics with insufficient funds and access. The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-28 May 2022. It is the first in-person Health Assembly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the meeting, country delegates make decisions on health goals and strategies that will guide public health work and the work of the WHO Secretariat to move the world towards better health and well-being for all. The theme of this year’s Assembly is *Health for peace, peace for health*.
- North Korea claims its Covid outbreak is slowing, with its state-run media reporting on Sunday a “positive trend” that has seen the daily number of new “fever cases” drop below 200,000. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said that between Friday and Saturday there had been 186,090 new cases, 299,180 recoveries and one death. If true, that figure would be a marked drop -- the country has been reporting more than 200,000 of what it terms “fever cases” every day for the past week in an outbreak that has infected more than 2.5 million people and killed 67, according to official figures. However, given the lack of independent reporting inside North Korea, it is difficult to verify the figures and there has long been widespread skepticism over the country’s Covid reporting. Before the current outbreak was announced earlier this month, North Korea claimed to be Covid-free. The country of 25 million reported what it said were its first cases earlier this month, referring to the outbreak as “explosive,” raising fears about the ability of the country’s dilapidated health care infrastructure to cope. North Korea is not known to have imported any coronavirus vaccines and has previously snubbed offers such as one from China last year to provide nearly three million doses of its Sinovac shots.

Regional Update

- Cambodia: No new cases were recorded in Cambodia for the 15th day as the country marches relentlessly towards 'COVID Zero'. Today's official daily new COVID case total (diagnosed by PCR test) was 0, bringing the COVID case total to 136,262 cases. Cambodia also announced 0 new deaths, bringing the total to 3,056 direct deaths from COVID-19 in Cambodia. Cambodia has now recorded 15,821 cases of Omicron – 1362 imported and 14420 community cases. There are now 0 (see note above) active COVID cases (diagnosed by PCR test) in The Kingdom. This unprecedented run of 15 zero cases days – the first no case days since the start of the 'February 20th incident' in 2021 – means that Cambodia is now inching closer to a state of 'COVID Zero', placing the country in the top ranks of countries that have recovered from the pandemic. Prime Minister Hun Sen announced the news that Cambodia has now attained 15 consecutive COVID free days during a meeting with more than 2,100 Cambodians living in Europe in Zurich, Switzerland. The Prime Minister has previously stressed that Cambodia will fall into the COVID-19 trap if the right measures are not taken and the people do not participate. The Prime Minister has also reiterated the importance of vaccination, stressing that it will help ensure the sustainability of the recovery process, thus boosting the economic growth, improving people's living standard and alleviating poverty.
- Myanmar recorded 16 new cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, bringing the total tally to 613,219, according to the Ministry of Health on Saturday night (May 21). The ministry said health authorities tested 7,048 people for Covid-19 in the past 24 hours in the country, and the daily positivity rate was 0.23%. According to the ministry's figures, the death toll from COVID-19 remained unchanged at 19,434 as no new deaths were confirmed in the past 24 hours in the Southeast Asian country. As of Saturday, the total number of patients who recovered from COVID-19 in the country has reached 592,174 after eight new recoveries were reported in the past 24 hours, official data showed. Myanmar detected its first Covid-19 cases in March 2020.
- Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) on May 21 (Saturday) reported its first case of COVID-19 Omicron sub variant BA.4 from a Filipino citizen who flew in from the Middle East early this month. DOH said that the asymptomatic patient arrived in the country on May 4 and has tested positive for COVID-19 four days later. DOH urged the local government unit where the first BA.4 case was detected to "rapidly implement detection and isolation" of people who may have been exposed to the patient.
- Thailand's state of emergency has been extended until July 31 to maintain disease controls and ensure smooth transition to an endemic situation. The emergency decree allows the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) to make decisions about COVID-19 restrictions and policies without having to go through parliament first. Likewise, the Thai government has announced changes to COVID-19 prevention measures effective June 1. At the latest meeting of the CCSA, it was agreed to categorize all provinces as either yellow (highest surveillance), blue (tourist zones) and green (low surveillance). There are now 46 yellow provinces, 17 blue, and 14 green. Nightlife is being permitted to resume in green and blue provinces, with the sale of alcohol allowed until midnight. However, there is a ban on alcohol promotions and the sharing of drinks, and staff at bars and other nightlife venues must wear face masks. In addition, business operators are required to apply for permission through the provincial communicable disease committee and employees must be checked for COVID-19 symptoms and are required to take an antigen test every 7 days. Customers are likewise required to show proof of vaccination and follow prevention measures.
- South Korea's daily new COVID-19 infections dropped to below 10,000 for the first time in nearly four months on Monday (May 23), as the highly contagious Omicron variant recedes despite eased pandemic restrictions. The figure of 9,975 is the lowest since South Korea reported 8,570

cases in late January, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. South Korea ditched most of its pandemic-related restrictions, including an outdoor mask mandate, earlier this month as cases slowed after peaking at more than 600,000 in mid-March.

- Japan: Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi suggested Sunday that the government may need to consider assisting North Korea as it apparently struggles with an outbreak of the deadly coronavirus. "We have no diplomatic relations with that country, but it does not mean that we should leave it alone," Hayashi said during a lecture in the city of Niigata.

Vaccine Update

- Based on Malaysia's CovidNow portal, 22,972,728 or 97.6% of the adult population have been fully vaccinated, 3,248,752 or 98.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and 16,080,331 or 68.3% have received booster doses as of May 22 (Sunday). For adolescents aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,909,585 or 93.5% are fully vaccinated, while 3,006,147 or 96.6% of the same group have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Meanwhile, a total of 1,119,411 or 31.5% of children aged five to 11 in the country have been fully vaccinated under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme for Children (PICKids). On a daily vaccination update, 13,706 daily doses were dispensed on Sunday, comprising 1,264 booster shots, 7,377 second doses and 5,065 first doses, bringing the cumulative number of vaccines administered under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (PICK) to 70,799,796.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Thailand: The Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) approved the simplified Thailand Pass registration and entry rules for international arrivals starting June 1. Foreign nationals are still required to apply for a Thailand Pass but will only need to provide passport details, vaccination and a USD10,000 health insurance policy. Non-vaccinated individuals arriving in the country will still be required to produce a negative PCR or Rapid Antigen Test (ATK) result taken 72 hours prior to entering Thailand. The system will then automatically issue a Thailand Pass QR code for the applicants. However, Thai citizens will no longer be required to apply for a Thailand Pass.
- South Korea is set to resume the issuance of tourist visas for the first time in more than two years from 1 June 2022. The justice ministry announced late last week that welcoming back tourists was vital to boosting the nation's economy after relaxing most COVID-19 social distancing measures. Visas for tourism purposes had been cancelled in early 2020, reserved only for diplomats, government officials or those engaged in humanitarian efforts. "The influx of foreign tourists will boost domestic demand and invigorate relevant industries, which will eventually help create more jobs and attract foreign talent," said a ministry official, as quoted by *Yonhap*. From 1 June, fully vaccinated individuals will be eligible to apply for a general C-3 visa which allows for stays of up to 90 days, while e-visas issued online are for "excellent talents" and group tours. All visitors will still be required to submit a negative PCR test result obtained within 48 hours of departure or a negative RAT test result obtained within 24 hours.

Cases and Deaths as of 23 May 2022

- As of 23 May 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **528,559,902** confirmed cases, including **6,309,422** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 61,027,515 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,718,537 cases** in the ASEAN region and **29,308,978 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

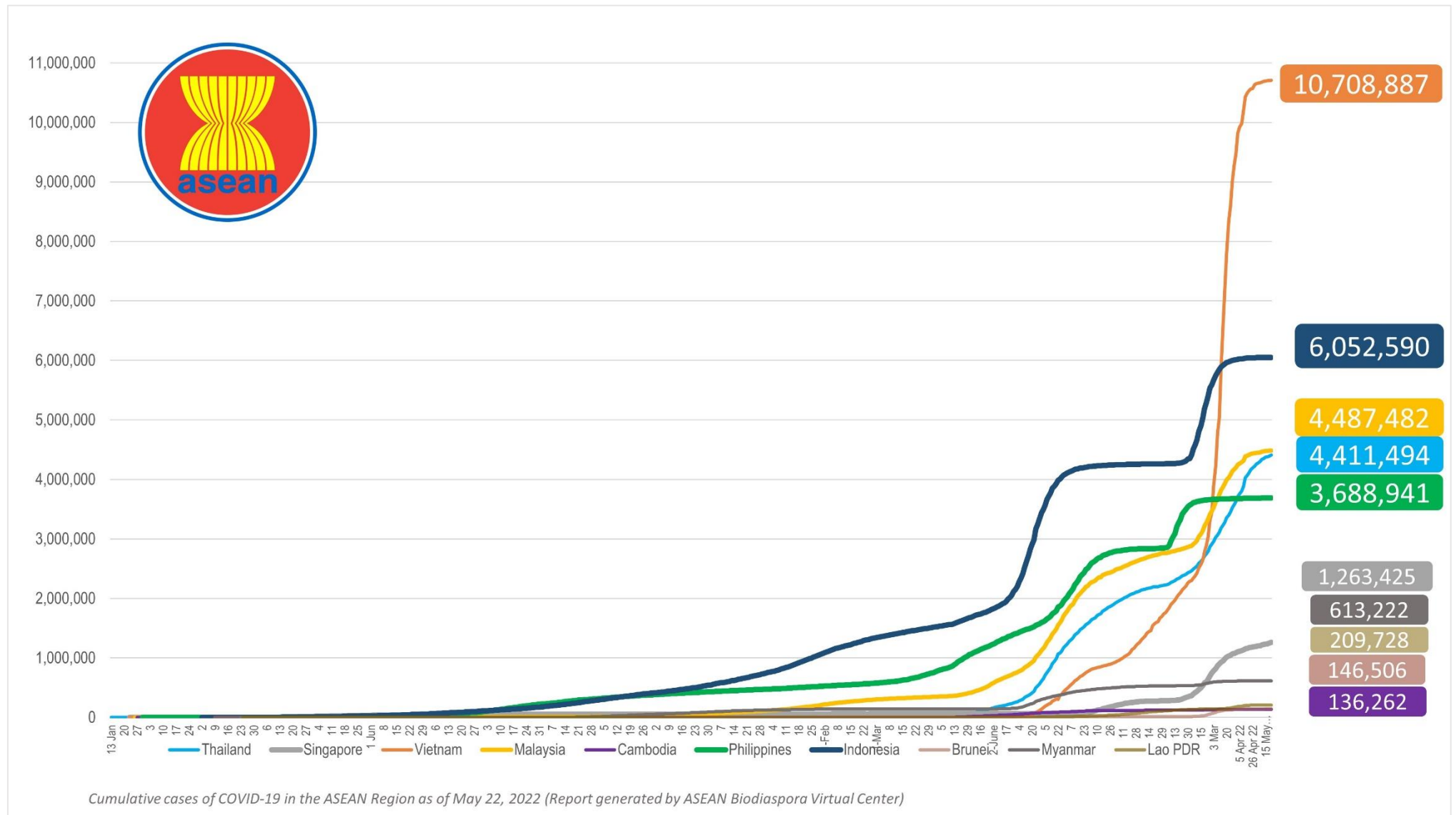
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	22-May-22	146,506	191	221	-	0.2%	33,813		432,057	409,091	282,887	92.7
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	22-May-22	136,262	-	3,056	-	2.2%	827	66	14,958,188	14,217,963	8,604,242	83.9
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	22-May-22	6,052,590	227	156,522	3	2.6%	2,237	-	199,844,276	166,764,720	37,458,813	60.3
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	22-May-22	209,728	29	754	-	0.4%	2,925	31	5,795,828	5,008,225		67.9
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	20-May-22	4,487,482	-	35,638	-	0.8%	14,045	1,454	27,926,082	26,993,161	16,078,909	82.4
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	22-May-22	613,222	3	19,434	-	3.2%	1,135	158	30,994,375	24,329,862		44.4
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	22-May-22	3,688,941	190	60,455	-	1.6%	3,412	-	70,173,137	68,912,256	13,770,466	62.1
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	22-May-22	1,263,425	3,775	1,374	-	0.1%	22,151		5,014,460	4,985,869	4,055,577	91.4
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	22-May-22	4,411,494	4,739	29,749	31	0.7%	6,336	-	56,385,849	52,103,543	27,297,453	74.5
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	22-May-22	10,708,887	1,319	43,075	-	0.4%	11,102	8	82,886,620	78,673,094	55,399,686	80.1
	ASEAN COUNTRIES			31,718,537	10,473	350,278	34	1.1%			494,410,872	442,397,784	162,948,033	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	22-May-22	17,957,697	19,298	23,965	54	0.1%	34,728	2,644	45,048,812	44,569,425	37,079,837	86.9
	Japan	16-Jan-20	22-May-22	8,597,287	30,081	30,126	18	0.4%	6,809	1,064	103,444,272	101,896,169	72,185,908	80.8
	China	31-Dec-19	22-May-22	2,753,994	79,880	15,988	56	0.6%	21,919	4,014	1,314,618,453	1,278,286,297	781,743,768	83.9
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES			29,308,978	129,259	70,079	128	0.2%			1,463,111,537	1,424,751,891	891,009,513	
ASEAN +3				61,027,515	139,732	420,357	162	0.7%			1,957,522,409	1,867,149,675	1,053,957,546	

- 467,532,387 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	12,322,972	3,465	255,559	5	1.0	231,435	15,294	307,331,476	234,564,021	23,789,756
AMERICAS	158,456,397	22,198	2,772,431	31	0.8	997,012	48,518	800,144,918	705,766,736	375,765,205
ASIA PACIFIC	75,213,066	194,547	733,855	82	0.2	344,836	30,693	1,409,124,317	1,244,084,341	119,667,204
EUROPE	200,703,485	49,252	1,894,056	148	0.6	1,760,356	73,713	557,909,291	529,909,450	314,006,056
MIDDLE EAST	20,836,467	2,646	233,164	7	0.3	190,108	43,580	141,317,380	126,686,174	55,088,851
TOTAL	467,532,387	272,108	5,889,065	273	1.3%			3,215,827,382	2,841,010,722	888,317,072

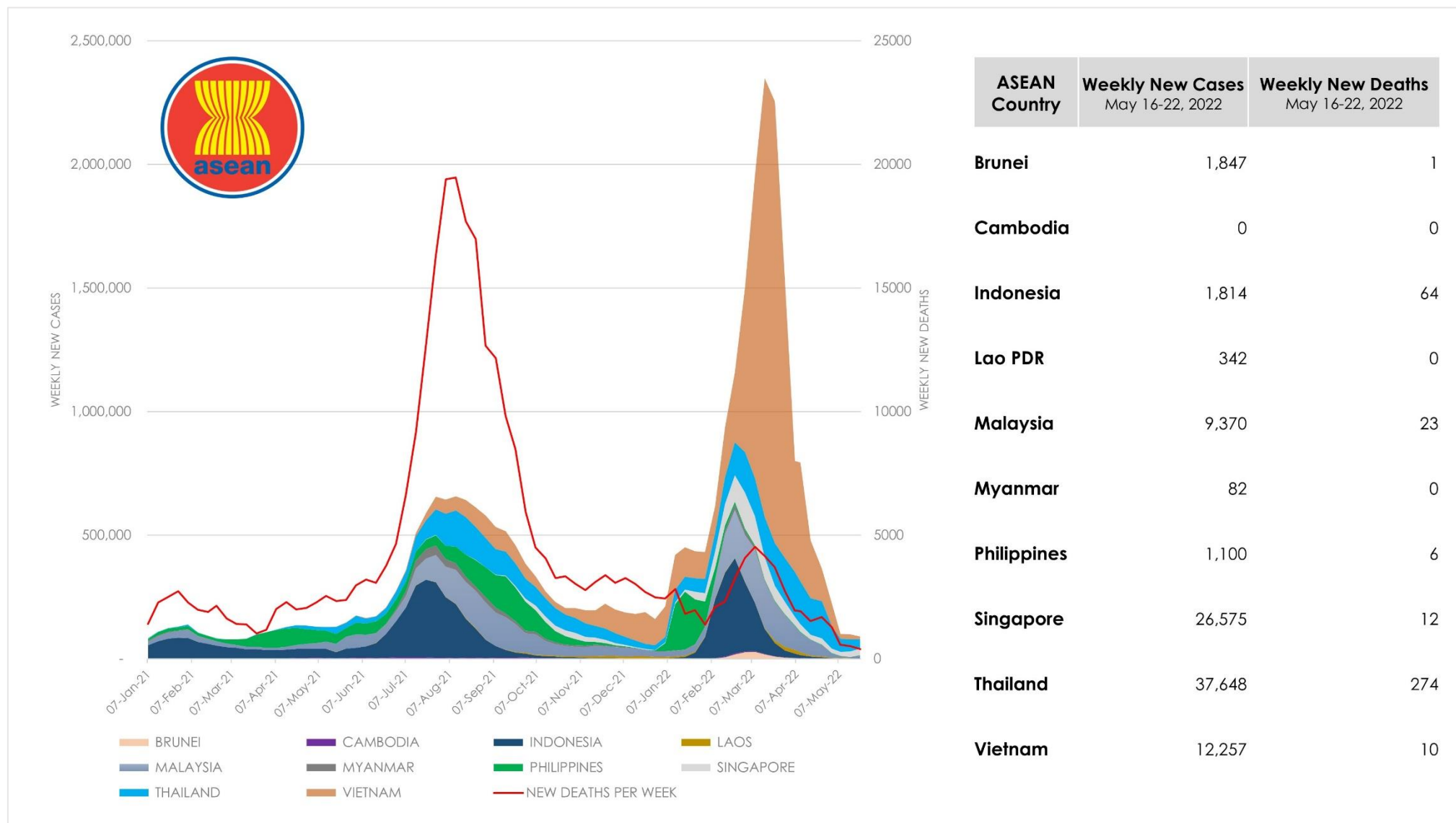
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to May 22, 2022



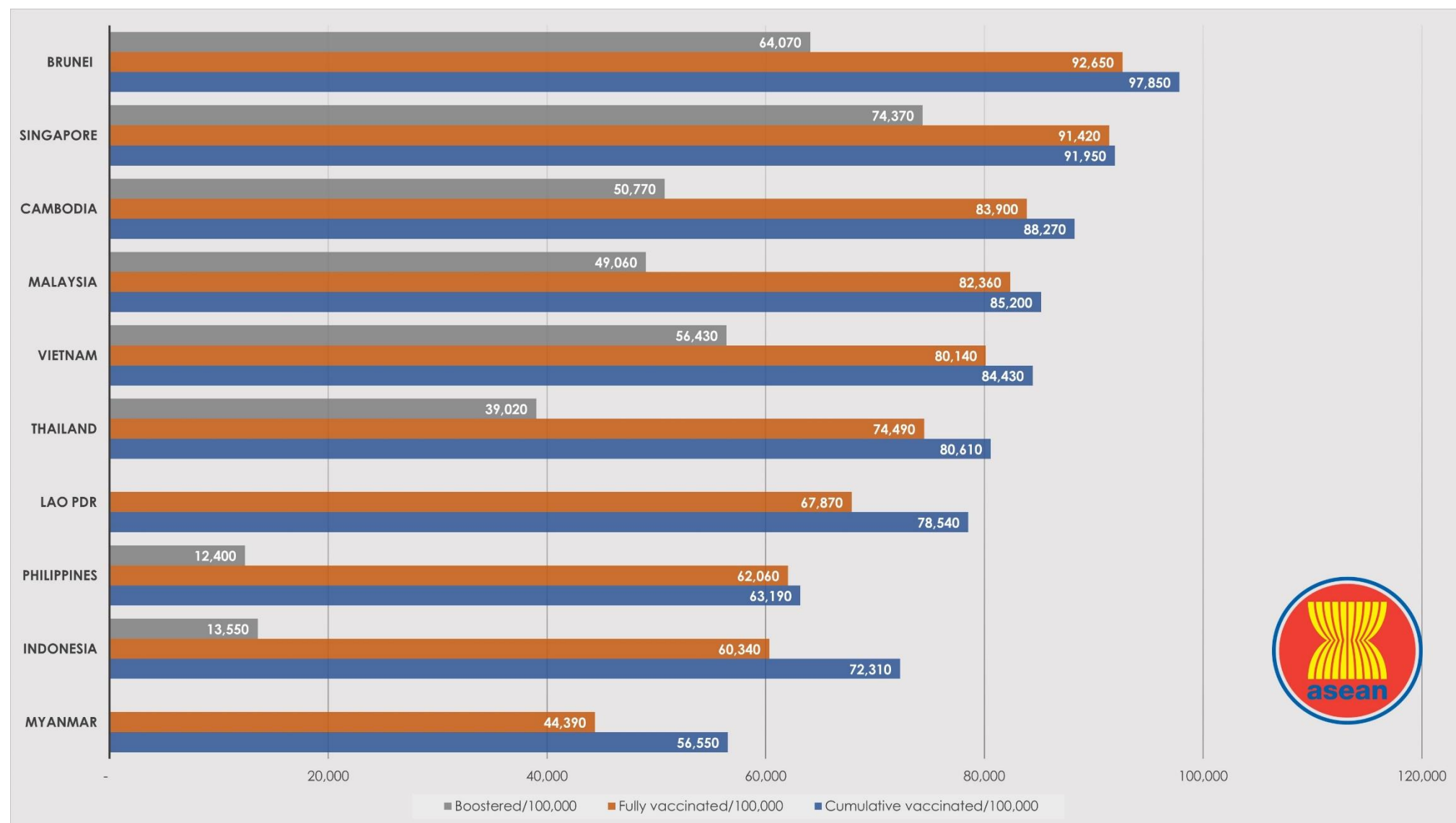
Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

From January 1, 2021 to May 22, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 22 May 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 20 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	62.77	Unknown	65.5/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/50.7	Unknown	0.00	0.7	31.3/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	63.8/13.6	0.03%/day	0.10	Unknown	57.7/100	+4.8
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	74.1/ND	0.45%/day	0.62	46.8	62.9/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	82.8/49.0	0.03%/day	5.19	4.4	64.0/100	+6.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	46.0/ND	Unknown	0.02	0.2	70.2/100	+7.1
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	66.7/12.4	Unknown	0.15	Unknown	62.8/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.4/74.4	0.03%/day	57.10	Unknown	58.9/100	-11.9
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	75.6/38.9	0.06%/day	8.0	Unknown	47.9/100	0.0
Vietnam	89.0	Unknown	84.9/56.4	Unknown	1.85	100	43.5/100	-12.5



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