

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of April 25, 2022



Canada



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 509 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to the WHO's most recent weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19, several lineages of the Omicron variant of concern (VOC) continue to be monitored including BA.1 (the original lineage reported), BA.2, BA.3, BA.4, and BA.5. Both BA.4 and BA.5 are new variants that have been recently detected in a few countries within Southern Africa and Europe. As of April 13, the WHO stated that less than 200 cases of BA.4 and BA.5 combined have been detected worldwide. Countries with BA.4 and/or BA.5 positive sequences include Botswana, South Africa, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, and the United Kingdom (U.K.). The first BA.4 sequence was detected in South Africa on January 10 and as of April 8, South Africa has reported 41 BA.4 cases, Denmark three cases, Botswana two cases, and both England and Scotland have reported one case each. According to the U.K. Health Ministry, despite there only being a small number of BA.4 sequences detected so far, their geographic spread suggests that the variant is transmitting successfully. Cases of BA.5 had initially only been reported in South Africa from samples collected between February 25 and March 25 and as of April 8, 27 sequences of BA.5 have been detected. On April 11, Botswana's health ministry stated that they have identified BA.4 and BA.5 cases among fully vaccinated individuals between the ages of 30 and 50 though the number of BA.4 and BA.5 cases has not been specified. Both BA.4 and BA.5 are closely related to the BA.2 Omicron variant, sharing most mutations with BA.2, but each also containing distinct mutations from BA.2 and each other. Both BA.4 and BA.5 have additional mutations in the spike region, which is a part of the virus where certain mutations can enable the virus to evade human immune response cells, as well as unique mutations outside of that region. Current reports do not suggest that BA.4 or BA.5 differ in epidemiology or disease severity compared to other sublineages of Omicron. However, based on early evidence from South Africa, expert opinion suggests that BA.4 and BA.5 may have a potential growth advantage over BA.2. Cases and hospitalizations in South Africa remain low but further data is required to accurately assess the epidemiological impact of these variants.
- South Korea: Infectious disease categorization system for COVID-19 will be downgraded in four-tier beginning April 25, succeeding the recent pandemic downturn. The downgrading of the COVID-19 infectious level in South Korea will be in transition in four weeks. The government shall assess before officially downgrading COVID-19 infectious level. Downgrading disease level means that COVID-19 patients will be free from seven-day-self isolation and will be able to receive treatment at local clinics and hospitals. The government will no longer have to keep track of the patients' health status. According to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency's report on April 24, South Korea reported 64,725 new COVID-19 infections during the 24 hours of April 23, staying below 100,000 for the fourth consecutive day. The total caseload reached 16,895,194. The number of deaths from COVID-19 reported during the same period came to 109, while that of critically ill patients came to 726, down 12 from a day earlier. With the clear signs that the pandemic is receding, the government is expected to lift the outdoor mask mandate in early May.
- China: Metal barriers were erected in multiple districts in Shanghai by volunteers and government workers to block off small streets and entrances to apartment complexes. Despite growing complaints in the city, China still hardens its strict "zero-COVID" approach. Mass testing will be conducted in Chaoyang district, Beijing on April 25, home to more than 3 million people. At least 41 people were infected by COVID-19 in a fresh outbreak, including 26 in Chaoyang district according to CGTN broadcaster. 21,796 new community transmitted

COVID-19 infection were reported by China on April 24, with the vast majority being asymptomatic cases in Shanghai. Many cities and provinces have enforced some version of lockdown in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. In Shanghai, authorities reported 39 new COVID-19 deaths, raising the official death toll to 4,725 as of the end of Saturday, the National Health Commission said. The city's lockdown has drawn global attention for its strict approach and sometimes dangerous consequences. Many residents in the city have had difficulties getting groceries, resorting to bartering and bulk buying. Others have been unable to get adequate medical attention in time, owing to the strict controls on movement.

- Japan: Shionogi & Co. Ltd.'s S-217622 experimental pill treatment has shown rapid clearance of the virus that causes COVID-19, according to new data, the Japanese drugmaker said on April 24. The company has global aspirations for the antiviral pill, which is now being evaluated by Japanese regulators. The findings released on Sunday also showed "there was no significant difference in total score of 12 COVID-19 symptoms between treatment arms" although the drug showed improvement in a composite score of five "respiratory and feverish" symptoms, Shionogi said. The drugmaker said in March it would launch a global Phase III trial worldwide for the drug with U.S. government support, and Chief Executive Isao Teshirogi has said production could reach 10 million doses a year. Shionogi's shares have been on a rollercoaster on speculation about success of the treatment. The stock climbed on Friday after a report the U.S. government is in talks to acquire supplies of the drug. On April 13 the stock sank by as much as 16% on reports the drug could pose risks to pregnancies, based on preclinical data.

Regional Update

- Malaysia: Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said last week that the government of Malaysia would announce the relaxation of three key measures: the wearing of face masks in public, the need to check-in via My Sejahtera when entering premises, and COVID-19 testing at airports. Health minister Khairy Jamaluddin said that he will make the announcement on April 27. However, surgeon Dr. Timothy Cheng said that it might be too soon to remove mandatory requirement of wearing face mask in public due to the risk of greater community transmission of the virus. Dr. Cheng, suggested that if the relaxation rules are implemented, symptomatic individuals should wear mask when going out, while those without symptoms should continue observing precautions advised by the Health Ministry.
- Singapore: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong paid tribute to more than 62,000 medical frontliners who braved the COVID-19 pandemic through their professionalism and commitment. This came ahead of the lifting of most of its COVID-19 restrictions and transitioning to living with the coronavirus in Singapore. In the past two years, many healthcare workers were unable to take leave and worked long hours every day, often redeployed at short notice to new roles. PM Lee said the authorities have done their best to give healthcare workers some respite and breaks from their duties recover and recharge. Singapore will remove most of the remaining COVID-19 restrictions starting April 26 (Tuesday). The measures include removing limits on group sizes and allowing the full return of employees to workplaces, while lowering the country's alert level for the first time since the pandemic started. The Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) level, which indicates the current disease situation, will be lowered from orange to yellow. Singapore has been at Dorscon orange since February 7, 2020. Some rules will remain, however, such as the mandatory wearing of face masks in indoor public settings and on public transport.
- Thailand: Health authorities are well prepared to take care of COVID-19 patients even if new infections surge after the long Songkran break, the public health minister has announced in a statement to the media. Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said that hospitals

under the Public Health Ministry have enough beds and personnel to deal with a potential outbreak. The current COVID-19 cases have been stable over 20,000 per day, but the ministry will closely monitor the situation for two weeks after Songkran wrapped last Sunday, Anutin added.

Vaccine Update

- Based on Malaysia's CovidNow portal, 22,964,189 or 97.6% of the adult population have completed COVID-19 vaccination, 23,241,082 or 98.8% have received at least one dose, and 16,009,979 or 68% of their population have received booster shot. For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,886,817 individuals or 92.8% have completed the vaccination, while 2,986,324 individuals or 96% received at least one dose of the vaccine. Meanwhile, a total of 705,864 children aged five to 11 years or 19.9% of their population have been fully vaccinated and 1,488,811 children in the same group, or 42%, have received at least one dose of the vaccine under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme for Children (PICKids) as of April 24 (Sunday). A total of 52,712 doses of vaccine were dispensed yesterday, comprising 11,918 as first dose, 11,918 as second dose and 2,820 as booster dose, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (PICK) to 70,070,020.
- Philippines: Second COVID-19 booster or fourth dose kicked off for persons who are immunocompromised, the Department of Health said. The rollout in Metro Manila was held at the Philippine Children's Medical Center, Tala Hospital, Valenzuela Medical Center, and selected venues in Makati City. The goal is to administer 690,000 doses to eligible immunocompromised individuals according to the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC). Persons with comorbidities can get their fourth dose three months after their third dose. Aside from immunocompromised individuals, senior citizens and healthcare workers are also eligible for the fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine. 66.9 million individuals are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the Philippines as of April 18 according the Department of Health. However, only 12.9 million have received the first booster dose.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Indonesia: AirAsia Indonesia will reopen 11 international routes and increase flight frequency ahead of the 2022 Eid al-Fitr holiday. The additional flights will connect more cities in Indonesia and number of cities in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Australia. The reopening of additional 11 routes were taken in response to the efforts of the government and aviation authorities of Indonesia to relax international travel requirements, such as the no quarantine policy for fully vaccinated travelers, free visas, and reopening of international airports. All passengers are urged to comply with the health protocols against COVID-19 for the benefit of everyone.
- Laos: Government authority said on April 24 (Sunday) that travellers entering Laos at Wattay International Airport must have a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test within 24 hours of departure from origin country as well as an RDT (Rapid Diagnostic Test) upon arrival in Lao capital Vientiane. Travellers whose RDT test results are negative may enter the country, while those who test positive will need to quarantine at a designated hotel. All travellers must wait for the test results in the hotel and if the result is positive, they must remain in isolation at their hotel (for mild or asymptomatic cases). Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide authorization for staff on diplomatic or consular missions, those working for international organizations, and representatives of foreign governments or agencies

performing their duties in Laos. This authorization will also extend to spouses, parents and children. However, travellers in these categories must take COVID-19 test upon arrival in Laos and must remain in their booked hotel for 24 hours while they wait for the results.

- Singapore: Starting April 26, all fully vaccinated travellers entering Singapore via air or sea checkpoints will no longer need to take a pre-departure test. According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), the removal of the pre-departure test requirement also applies to non-fully vaccinated children aged 12 and below. MOH added that entry requirements for non-fully vaccinated travellers remain unchanged. Non-fully vaccinated travellers aged 13 and above must take a pre-departure test within two days before departure for Singapore, undergo a seven-day stay-home notice, and take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test at the end of the notice. Non-fully vaccinated Long-Term Pass Holders (LTPHs) and Short-Term Visitors (STVs) aged 13 and above still cannot enter Singapore except for those who are medically ineligible for vaccines or those with valid entry approval such as for compassionate reasons.
- Thailand has eased testing requirements for foreign tourists starting May 1 according to Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). However, travellers are still required to register on the Thailand Pass app, must show proof of insurance coverage worth US\$10,000, vaccination certificate logging details on the Thailand pass, and conduct self-antigen test only if with symptoms. On the other hand, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals are no longer required to have pre-arrival and arrival COVID-19 test but must also register for a Thailand Pass with a five-day confirmed hotel booking, proof of insurance policy coverage worth no less than US\$10,000, and must undergo a five-day quarantine and undergo an RT-PCR test on the 5th day. Unvaccinated travellers can however show a proof of negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours of travel via the Thailand pass and they can enter freely anywhere in Thailand. While in Thailand, both vaccinated, and unvaccinated travellers are advised to strictly follow health and safety standards, including wearing mask. Travellers who are experiencing COVID-like symptoms should get tested. If tested positive, they must obtain the appropriate medical treatment.
- Vietnam: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has issued Document No. 829/PA-BVHTTDL on its plan to reopen the tourism sector in the new normal. Regulations on the reception of international visitors to Vietnam under the document are now much easier than previous proposals submitted by relevant agencies. It is stipulated that travellers from 13 following states (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Russia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Belarus) will be entitled to 15-day visa exemption regardless of passport types and entry purposes, provided they meet all the conditions stipulated by Vietnamese law. This rule is valid from March 15, 2022 until March 14, 2025. International visitors to Vietnam (except for children under 2) need to test negative for SARS-CoV-2 prior to their departure by air within 72 hours if using the RT/PCR/RT-LAMP test method, or within 24 hours if using the rapid antigen test method as verified by competent authorities of the countries conducting the tests. Those who enter Vietnam by road, railway, or sea can take a test before their departure like air passengers if their travel duration is short. Meanwhile, they need to take a test at ports of entry if their travel duration is long. International visitors must also have health insurance or travel insurance with coverage of at least 10,000 USD for COVID-19 treatment.

Cases and Deaths as of 25 April 2022

- As of 25 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **509,058,888** confirmed cases, including **6,231,194** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 57,168,731 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,165,282 cases** in the ASEAN region and **26,003,449 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

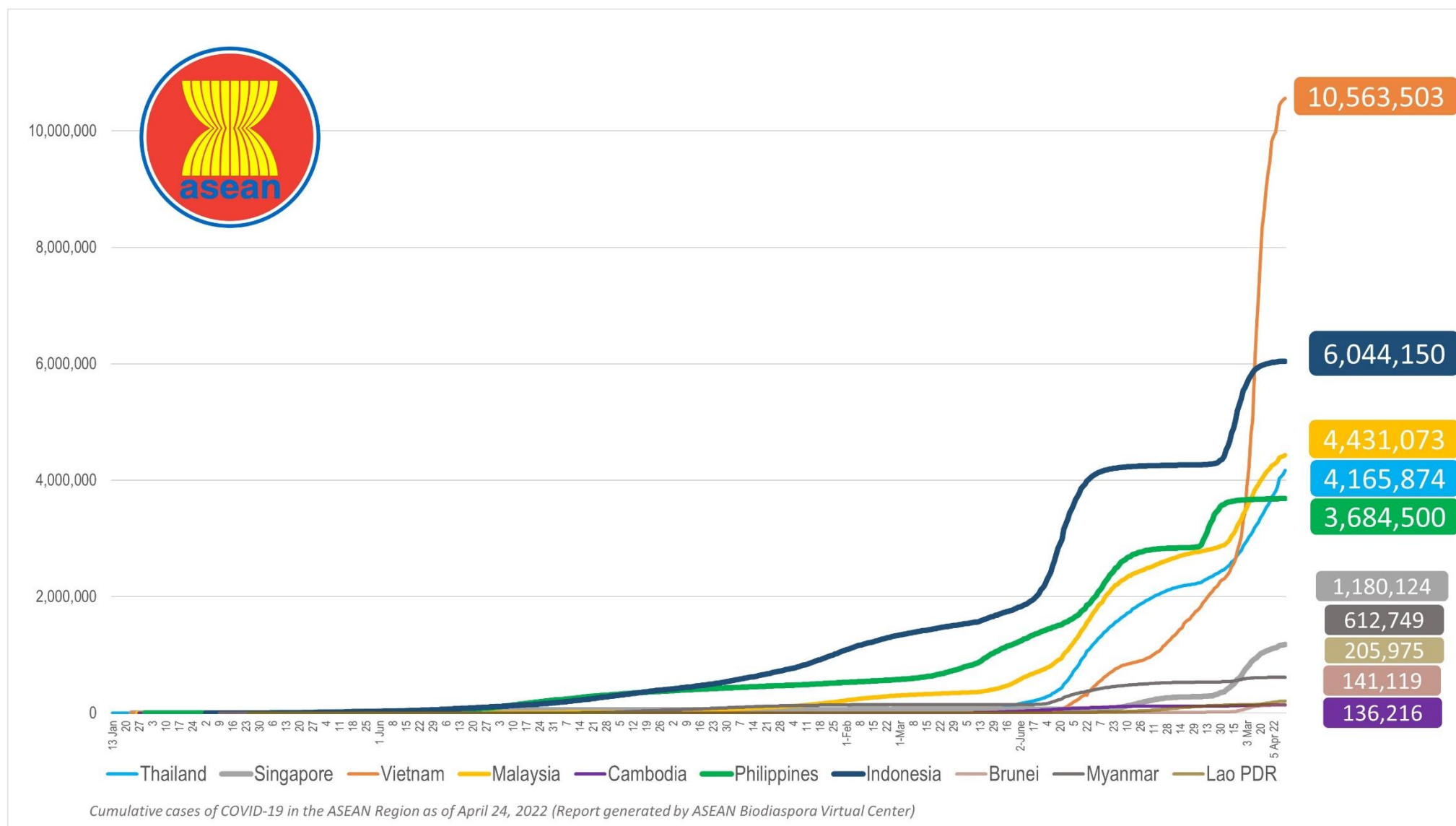
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	24-Apr-22	141,119	105	218	-	0.2%	32,570		412,058	405,414	267,071	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	24-Apr-22	136,216	16	3,056	-	2.2%	826	68	14,868,652	14,128,135	9,402,609	83.4
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	24-Apr-22	6,044,150	382	156,100	33	2.6%	2,233	-	198,831,114	163,874,842	35,005,482	59.3
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	24-Apr-22	205,975	1,082	732	-	0.4%	2,873	64	5,734,044	4,736,698		64.2
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	23-Apr-22	4,431,073	4,006	35,499	8	0.8%	13,856	1,998	27,703,825	26,516,206	16,006,894	80.9
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	24-Apr-22	612,749	16	19,434	-	3.2%	1,134	186	28,974,263	22,480,014		41.0
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	24-Apr-22	3,684,500	200	60,182	3	1.6%	3,408	-	70,173,137	67,100,671	12,736,958	60.4
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	24-Apr-22	1,180,124	2,709	1,325	1	0.1%	20,691		5,010,668	4,977,613	3,943,988	91.3
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	24-Apr-22	4,165,874	17,784	27,778	126	0.7%	5,983	-	55,973,240	50,844,676	25,320,668	72.7
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	24-Apr-22	10,563,502	8,813	43,013	9	0.4%	10,951	797	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
	ASEAN COUNTRIES			31,165,282	35,113	347,337	180	1.1%			487,628,190	432,818,377	148,126,747	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	24-Apr-22	16,895,194	64,725	22,133	109	0.1%	32,674	4,466	45,022,743	44,537,661	33,066,929	86.8
	Japan	16-Jan-20	24-Apr-22	7,649,191	38,610	29,141	16	0.4%	6,058	1,239	103,010,745	101,259,062	63,120,475	80.3
	China	31-Dec-19	24-Apr-22	1,459,064	7,179	14,830	52	1.0%	16,283	2,334	1,308,948,135	1,271,879,071	749,532,848	81.7
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES			26,003,449	110,514	66,104	177	0.3%			1,456,981,623	1,417,675,794	845,720,252	
	ASEAN +3			57,168,731	145,627	413,441	357	0.7%			1,944,609,813	1,850,494,171	993,846,999	

- 451,890,157 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	11,868,026	3,354	253,679	7	1.1	206,180	3,354	291,846,054	221,987,111	20,267,633
AMERICAS	153,774,394	6,622	2,734,150	15	0.8	889,478	27,115	795,826,054	698,964,659	341,737,264
ASIA PACIFIC	70,834,718	42,389	729,847	88	0.2	309,602	13,775	1,397,714,736	1,207,861,515	108,711,725
EUROPE	194,698,330	169,641	1,867,504	389	0.6	1,719,635	139,971	554,832,955	526,952,061	301,651,050
MIDDLE EAST	20,714,689	5,240	232,573	40	0.3	188,162	50,619	140,563,884	125,731,912	54,256,660
TOTAL	451,890,157	227,246	5,817,753	539	1.3%			3,180,783,683	2,781,497,258	826,624,332

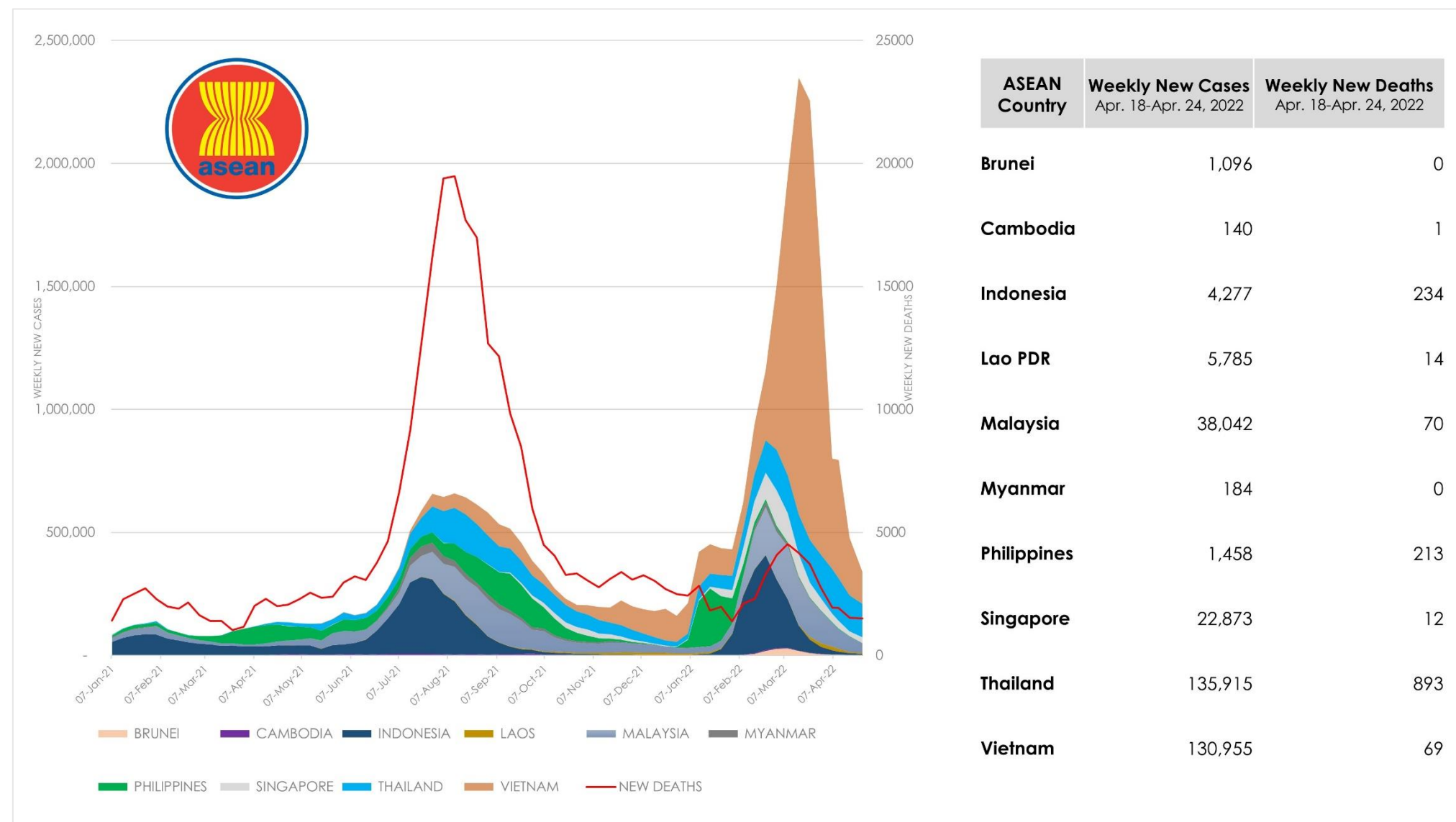
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to April 24, 2022



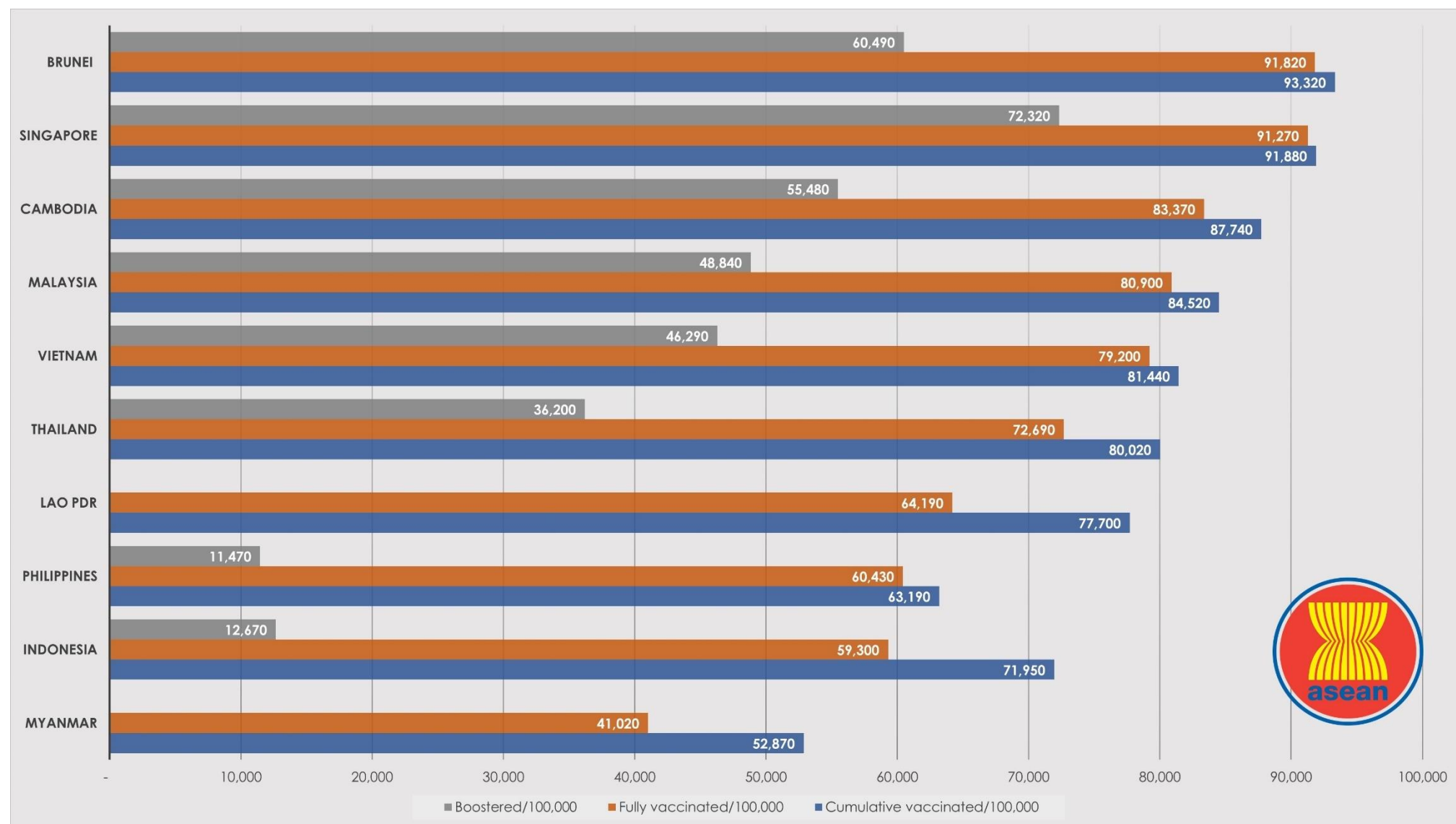
Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

From January 1, 2021 to April 24, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 24 April 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 22 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	38.48	Unknown	67.9/100	Undefined
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	89.6/55.0	0.03%/day	0.15	2.5	37.5/100	Undefined
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	62.7/12.4	0.07%/day	0.24	Unknown	55.7/100	Undefined
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	70.1/ND	0.01%/day	10.01	100	78.3/100	Undefined
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	81.2/48.8	0.13%/day	17.46	13.0	58.0/100	Undefined
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	42.5/ND	Unknown	0.05	0.4	77.7/100	Undefined
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	64.9/11.5	0.22%/day	0.19	1.6	82.4/100	Undefined
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.3/72.3	0.03%/day	54.69	Unknown	74.4/100	Undefined
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	73.8/36.1	0.07%/day	27.89	Unknown	53.3/100	Undefined
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	20.99	54.0	71.4/100	Undefined



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