

as of April 29, 2022



# Canada



# COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

## Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 512 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Weekly Epidemiological Update, globally, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths has continued to decline since the end of March 2022. During the week of 18 through 24 April 2022, over 4.5 million cases and over 15,000 deaths were reported, decreases of 21% and 20% respectively, as compared to the previous week. However, not all the Regions have shown a decreasing trend: the number of new weekly cases increased in the Region of the Americas (+9%) and in the African Region (+32%) in the past week, while the number of new weekly deaths increased in the South-East Asia Region (+41%) - due to a delay in reporting of deaths from India - and in the Africa Region (+110%). As of 24 April 2022, over 500 million confirmed cases and over six million deaths have been reported globally. These trends should be interpreted with caution as several countries have been progressively changing their COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected. At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Germany (675,022 new cases; -13%), the Republic of Korea (589,442 new cases; -39%), France (542,896 new cases; -34%), Italy (419,374 new cases; -1%), and the United States of America (298,306 new cases; +21%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2 354 new deaths; -24%), the Russian Federation (1,402 new deaths; -21%), the Republic of Korea (1,041 new deaths; -38%), Italy (1,007 new deaths; +7%), and the United Kingdom (903 new deaths; -47%). The Omicron VOC remains the dominant variant circulating globally. Among the 257 337 sequences uploaded to GISAID with specimens collected in the last 30 days, 256 684 (99.7%) were Omicron, 47 (<0.1%) were Delta, and 555 (0.2%) sequences were not assigned to a Pango lineage. While the decrease in sequences is consistent with the overall decreasing trend in new cases reported globally, it may also reflect changes in epidemiological surveillance policies in some countries, including changes in sampling and sequencing strategies. WHO recommends maintaining strong surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 through the remainder of the acute phase of the pandemic. Since the emergence of Omicron in November 2021, the virus has continued to evolve, giving rise to many descendent and recombinant lineages. WHO is monitoring the different Omicron descendent lineages under the umbrella of Omicron (VOC). The genetic diversification of Omicron indicates ongoing selection pressure on the virus to adapt to its host and to its environment. Each lineage has additional and/or different mutations. These may or may not lead to amino acid substitutions in relevant genomic sites; the genetic differences may be small and are often related to local geographic genetic drift rather than having additional amino acid substitutions suspected to impact virus phenotype. Currently, the impacts of each single mutation or constellations of mutations are not well known, and thus it is important to continue to monitor for any associated changes in epidemiology. As for any emerging SARS-CoV-2 variant, WHO applies the same criteria for risk assessment apply to descendent and recombinant lineages. The previously reported upsurge in cases observed in some countries may be due to the higher intrinsic transmissibility and/or higher immune escape properties of the circulating descendent lineages, waning immunity or a combination of these factors in the context of an evolving genetic landscape. To date, and with limited data currently available, there appears to be a growth advantage for BA.4, BA.5 and BA.2.12 over BA.2. Currently, available evidence does not suggest differences in severity or clinical manifestations. More data are expected as studies are ongoing.

## Regional Update

- Indonesians binge on Eid Holidays after easing COVID restrictions. Millions of Indonesians travel home and freely celebrate Eid al-Fitr for the first time in two years due to the pandemic. It's the busiest holiday in the country with the world's largest Muslim population. Indonesians are splurging on everything from food and clothes to cars and hotel stays to mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. With COVID-19 cases down, most movement restrictions have been scrapped and the week-long holiday reinstated.
- Malaysia is lifting most of its restrictions for COVID-19 prevention from May 1, health minister said. Social distancing and mandatory wearing of face mask outdoors will no longer be implemented; however, it is still mandatory to wear mask indoors. Unvaccinated individuals in Indonesia may be allowed to attend events same with vaccinated as checking of vaccine ID or certificates at the entrance of shops and restaurants will be halted. Quarantine individuals may be discharge sooner if they receive their negative rapid test in the presence of a qualified medical worker earlier. The person who tests positive must complete the isolation for a whole week.
- Philippines: Baguio City of the Cordillera Region has detected its first case of sublineage of Omicron, BA.2.12, in the country and was confirmed by the Department of Health. The subvariant has triggered the surge in US and South Korea. The city government of Baguio is still enforcing minimum health standards, testing, isolation, treatment, and reintegration strategies even if some response operations have been scaled down in the past weeks after cases declined since February. Although BA.2.12 is not considered a major threat, residents are urged to continue exercising caution by observing public health standards and getting vaccinated and boosted.
- Vietnam recorded the lowest daily new cases of COVID-19 since November 2021, with 7,116. The three localities with the highest numbers of new infections are Hanoi with 913 cases, Phu Tho with 475 cases and Vinh Phuc with 418 cases. Three deaths were added to the national database on April 28, totaling to 43,037 deaths so far, or 0.4% of all infections. 80.4% of the population have been fully vaccinated, while 57.1% have received their third COVID-19 vaccine shots.
- South Korea: Beginning next week, South Korea will ease their restrictions more against COVID-19 by lifting mandatory wearing of face masks outdoors as it learns to live with the coronavirus. The move came after the country removed midnight curfew on restaurants and other businesses on April 18. However, people are still required to wear face masks at events with 50 attendees or more such as rallies, concerts, and sports stadiums, Minister Kim Boo-kyum said. New COVID-19 cases in South Korea falls below 100,000 a day after it has peaked more than 620,000 a day in mid-March. Widespread vaccination in the country has helped to limit deaths and critical cases to a manageable level. South Korea has also scaled back the aggressive tracing and containment efforts that made it a mitigation success story from most of the first two years of the pandemic. According to Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) data, nearly 87% of South Korea's 52 million population were already fully vaccinated, with 65% already boosted.
- China: Beijing and Shanghai have both introduced lockdown measures, two key cities in powering much of the nation's economy, in an uncompromising bid against COVID-19 outbreaks. China has implemented a strict zero-COVID strategy that uses lockdowns, mass testing, quarantines, and border closures to contain the virus throughout the pandemic. The surge of the more infectious Omicron variant in China has put the government's strategy in to test as the virus spreads faster to different cities and province than the government response. In Beijing, a mass testing campaign has covered nearly 20 million residents -- about 90% of the city's population. Another round of citywide testing is planned for April 27 to 30. Beijing, China has closed some schools and public spaces on April 28 (Thursday). As Beijing rolled out three rounds of mass testing this week across most of the city, it locked down a number of residential compounds, offices and

a university. Some schools, entertainment venues and tourist sites were also shut. According to its municipal health official, Beijing reported 56 new locally transmitted COVID cases within 24 hours as of 3 p.m. on Thursday. Meanwhile, the Chinese megacity of Guangzhou cancelled hundreds of flights on Thursday (Apr 28) and began testing people over one suspected COVID-19 case. The city on Thursday announced mass testing for almost a third of its near 19 million residents after an "abnormal" test result was detected at its airport, where most flights have been cancelled.

- Japan: First case of XE subvariant, a recombinant virus which has a genetic information from both BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron sublineages, has been detected from a patient in Sendai, the health ministry said on April 28. The patient had mild symptoms and has already recovered according to the ministry. The National Institute of Infectious Diseases, which performed a genome analysis on the virus, is currently investigating how virulent or infectious it is, as well as checking with other municipalities to see if they have detected the same variant, the ministry said.

### **Vaccine Update**

- Based on Malaysia's CovidNow portal, 22,966,486 or 97.6% of the adult population are fully vaccinated, 23,242,789 or 98.8% have received at least one dose, and 16,029,483 individuals or 68.1% have received the booster dose. For teenagers aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,892,051 individuals or 93% have completed their vaccination, while 2,990,315 or 96.2% have received at least one jab. Meanwhile, 806,532 children aged five to 11 years or 22.7% in this age group have been fully vaccinated and 1,518,923 children or 42.8% of this group have received at least one dose of vaccine under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme for Children (PICKids) as of April 28 (Thursday). On a daily vaccination report for April 28, a total of 32,106 doses of vaccine were administered comprising 7,973 as first dose, 19,923 as second dose and 4,210 as booster dose, bringing the total doses dispensed under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (PICK) to 70,233,232 doses.

### **Travel Advisories** (new update/s)

- Malaysia: Starting May 1, pre-departure and on-arrival COVID-19 tests for travellers entering the country will be dropped for those who are fully vaccinated. Those who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection six to 60 days before departure date, as well as travellers aged 12 and below, are also exempted from these tests. However, those who are only partially vaccinated or not vaccinated must take an RT-PCR test two days before departure and a supervised RTK-Ag test within 24 hours of arrival. They also must quarantine for five days. Travel insurance will also no longer a prerequisite for foreigners entering the country.
- The Philippines will now recognize the national COVID-19 vaccination certificates of Laos and Rwanda after the approval of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease for interzonal/intrazonal movement. This is in addition to other countries/territories/jurisdictions whose proofs of vaccination the IATF has already approved for recognition in the Philippines, and without prejudice to such other proofs of vaccination approved by the IATF for all inbound travelers.
- Thailand: Thai government announced that the Thailand Pass is not being cancelled (at least not for now) but the process will be streamlined to make it faster and more convenient. According to a Bangkok Post report, Dr Sumanee Wacharasint from the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration says the cancellation of Test & Go from May 1 means there will no longer be a need to

confirm hotel bookings and RT-PCR tests. As checking vaccination certificates takes less time, this will speed up the approval process. Thailand's health minister, Anutin Charnvirakul, had previously hinted that the Thailand Pass requirement might be dropped, subject to the COVID-19 situation stabilising. The Tourism and Sports Minister, Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, has confirmed he plans to submit a proposal to the CCSA to ditch the Thailand Pass by June 1, in order to revive the country's battered tourism sector. For now, from Sunday, vaccinated overseas arrivals will not undergo RT-PCR testing on arrival. They will still be advised to carry out antigen testing during their stay, although this is not mandatory. However, travellers must still go through the Thailand Pass registration process, which requires them to show proof of vaccination. Should they test positive for COVID-19 during their stay in Thailand, they can use their COVID-19 insurance to cover treatment costs. Unvaccinated arrivals will still need to show evidence of a negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of departure, but will be allowed to enter the kingdom without any additional testing.

## Cases and Deaths as of 29 April 2022

- As of 29 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **512,891,393** confirmed cases, including **6,263,885** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 57,774,006 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,325,405 cases** in the ASEAN region and **26,448,601 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

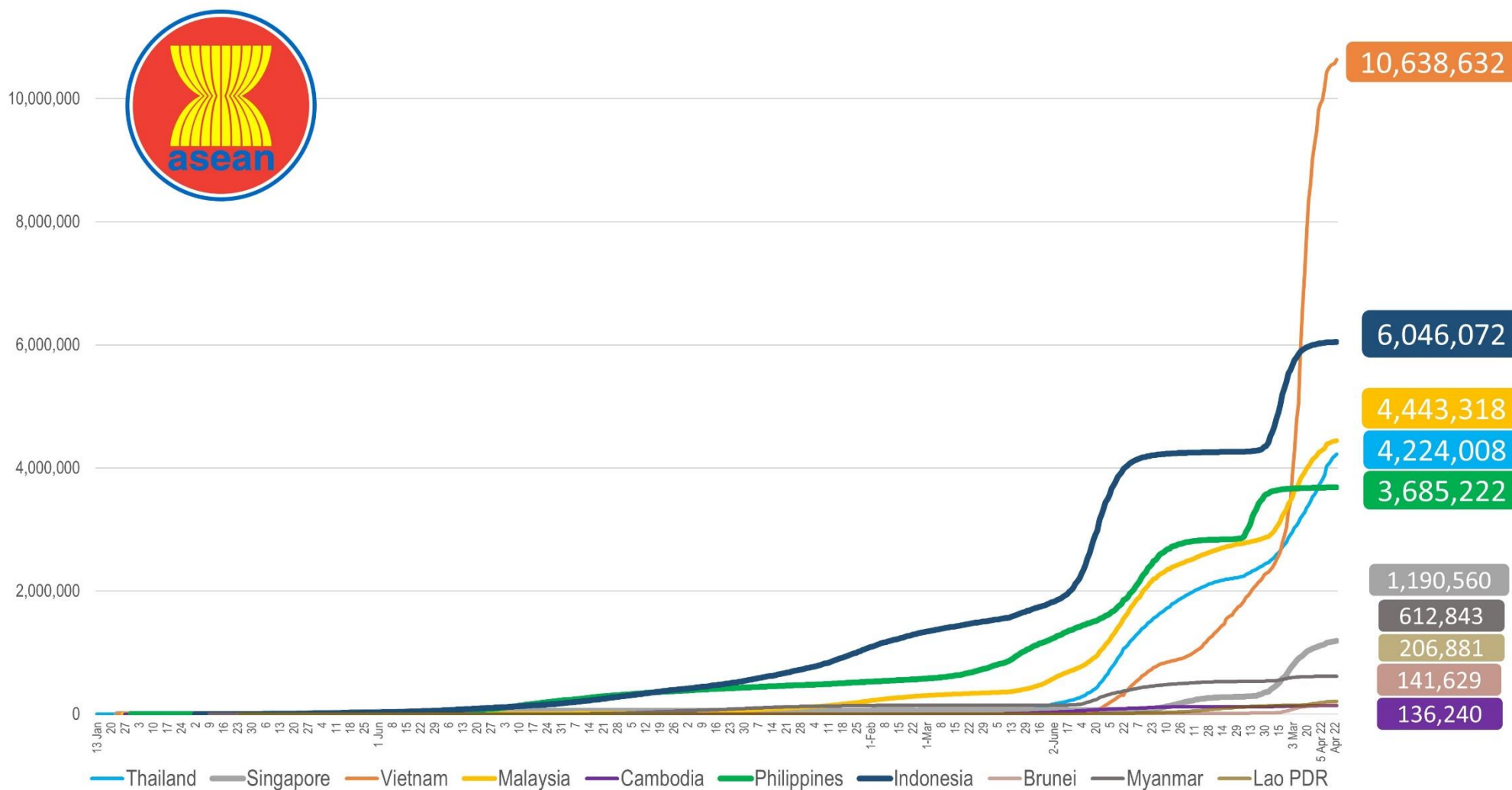
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	28-Apr-22	141,629	98	218	-	0.2%	32,687		412,058	405,414	267,071	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	28-Apr-22	136,240	5	3,056	-	2.2%	826	51	14,892,264	14,151,943	9,663,361	83.5
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	28-Apr-22	6,046,072	412	156,217	18	2.6%	2,234	-	199,113,714	164,338,853	37,458,813	59.5
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	28-Apr-22	206,881	369	739	2	0.4%	2,886	56	5,766,217	4,828,012		65.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	28-Apr-22	4,443,318	2,935	35,536	10	0.8%	13,907	1,550	27,743,589	26,642,291	16,024,957	81.3
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	28-Apr-22	612,843	41	19,434	-	3.2%	1,134	161	30,142,895	23,114,428		42.2
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	28-Apr-22	3,685,222	193	60,267	52	1.6%	3,409	10	70,173,137	67,640,431	13,043,715	60.9
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	28-Apr-22	1,190,560	2,646	1,334	1	0.1%	20,874		5,011,993	4,980,270	3,972,039	91.3
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	28-Apr-22	4,224,008	14,437	28,274	127	0.7%	6,067	534	56,039,359	51,006,925	25,602,092	72.9
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	28-Apr-22	10,638,632	18,429	43,037	8	0.4%	11,029	250	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
	ASEAN COUNTRIES			31,325,405	39,565	348,112	218	1.1%			489,242,415	434,862,675	151,475,125	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	28-Apr-22	17144065	57439	22588	122	0.001	33154.833	3637.217	45026366	44541878	34560691	86.82
	Japan	16-Jan-20	28-Apr-22	7803943	41756	29344	39	0.004	6180.61	1044.476	103134014	101432143	65640430	80.47
	China	31-Dec-19	28-Apr-22	1,500,593	13,424	15,070	54	1.0%	16,445	2,117	1,309,036,082	1,272,000,295	749,959,344	82.2
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES			26,448,601	112,619	67,002	215	0.3%			1,457,196,462	1,417,974,316	850,160,465	
ASEAN +3				57,774,006	152,184	415,114	433	0.7%			1,946,438,877	1,852,836,991	1,001,635,590	

- 455,117,387 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	11,889,211	4,438	253,761	6	1.1	206,662	5,246	292,412,192	222,822,933	20,594,460
AMERICAS	155,429,381	44,396	2,757,047	193	0.8	896,446	24,077	796,829,264	700,215,038	346,851,828
ASIA PACIFIC	71,064,851	68,445	731,643	133	0.2	314,504	9,714	1,400,232,881	1,214,728,062	110,837,303
EUROPE	195,995,436	331,002	1,873,609	1,550	0.6	1,726,421	85,307	555,468,103	527,585,606	302,733,944
MIDDLE EAST	20,738,508	5,871	232,711	20	0.3	188,468	46,573	140,751,402	125,981,676	54,381,491
TOTAL	455,117,387	454,152	5,848,771	1,902	1.3%			3,185,693,842	2,791,333,315	835,399,026

# COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

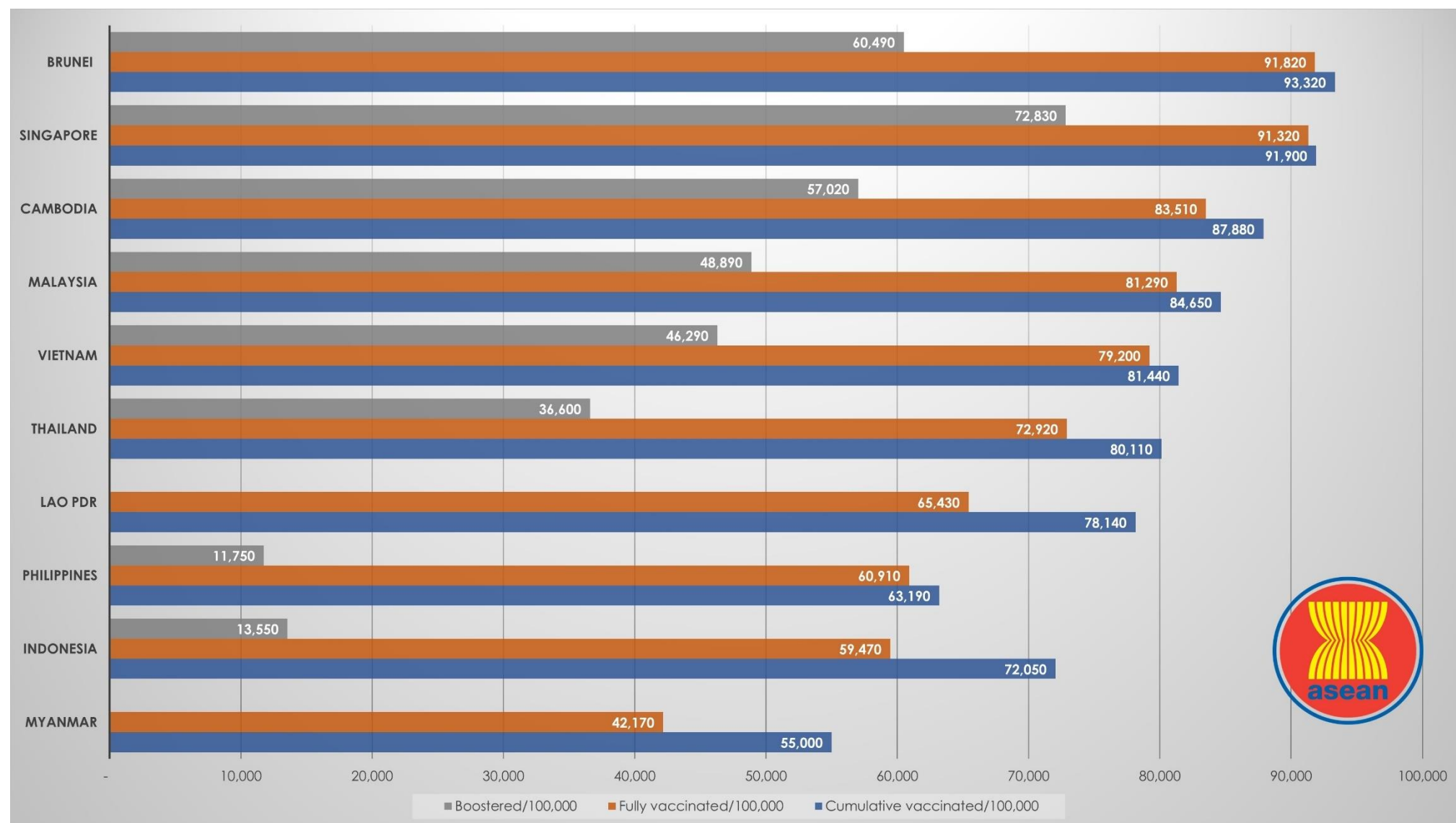
From January 1, 2021 to April 28, 2022



Cumulative cases of COVID-19 in the ASEAN Region as of April 28, 2022 (Report generated by ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center)


# COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 28 April 2022



# COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 26 April 2022

 <b>ASEAN MEMBER STATE</b>	REQUIREMENT							
	At least <b>80% of the high-risk population has been vaccinated</b> with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		At least <b>65% of the total population has a level of immunity</b> to COVID-19; either recovered from COVID-19 or have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		<b>Case levels are generally low</b> (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 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	32.60	Unknown	67.9/100	Undefined
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	89.8/57.0	0.04%/day	0.10	2.5	37.5/100	Undefined
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	62.9/13.1	0.06%/day	0.19	Unknown	55.7/100	Undefined
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	71.4/ND	0.70%/day	7.91	100	78.3/100	Undefined
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	81.7/48.9	0.12%/day	13.94	12	58.0/100	Undefined
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	43.2/ND	Unknown	0.03	0.4	77.7/100	Undefined
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	65.5/11.8	Unknown	0.17	1.6	82.4/100	Undefined
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.3/72.8	0.02%/day	54.13	Unknown	74.4/100	Undefined
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	74.0/36.5	0.07%/day	27.47	49	53.3/100	Undefined
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	17.41	46.8	71.4/100	Undefined



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ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)  
in collaboration with Bluedot Inc.  
Email: [support@biodiaspora.org](mailto:support@biodiaspora.org)

