

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

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of May 4, 2022



Canada



# COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

## Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 515 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- South African scientists have found that the two new sublineages, BA.4 and BA.5, of the Omicron variant can avoid antibodies from earlier infection well enough to start a new wave. These two new sublineages are added in the monitoring list of the World Health Organization last month. The two new sublineages have caused the tripling of cases in South Africa in the past week, two cases have been detected in the US, and others have appeared in Denmark, Scotland, and England. BA.5 has been slower to leave South Africa and Botswana. On the other hand, these sublineages are far less able to thrive in the blood of people vaccinated against COVID-19, found in the studies. Researchers have taken blood samples from 39 participants who recovered from Omicron when it first showed up at the end of last year. Among the participants, 15 were vaccinated, eight with Pfizer, seven with J&J, and 24 were unvaccinated. It was found in the study that the vaccinated group showed about five-times higher neutralization capacity which indicates better protection. Meanwhile, unvaccinated individuals showed eight-fold decrease antibody production when exposed to BA.4 and BA.5, compared with original BA.1 Omicron lineage. Blood samples from the vaccinated people showed a three-fold decrease.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a new and highly transmissible coronavirus subvariant was responsible for more than a third of coronavirus cases last week in the United States of America. According to the CDC data, BA.2.12.1, which is a subvariant of omicron, caused more than 36% of new infections last week. That's up from nearly 27% of cases the week prior and 17% of infections the week before that. While BA.2, or "stealth omicron," is still the dominant omicron subvariant circulating at 62% of cases, its proportion has decreased in recent weeks. According to the CDC Director, the new omicron subvariant, which New York state first raised the alarm over in mid-April, could be 25% more transmissible than BA.2, but it is yet unclear how it could affect vaccines. BA.2.12.1 has already become the dominant variant in some areas in the USA accounting 62% of new cases last week in New York and New Jersey. The director added that additional evaluation is currently underway to understand the impact of BA.2.12.1 on vaccine effectiveness.

## Regional Update

- Malaysia recorded 922 new COVID-19 cases on May 3 (Tuesday), bringing the total number of cases in the country to 4,451,781. The Health Ministry's CovidNow portal reported that 921 of Tuesday's new COVID-19 cases were local transmissions while one case was imported. According to the data, the number of recoveries continued to outpace new infections, with 5,520 patients recovering on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative number of recoveries in Malaysia to 4,384,384. The portal also reported that there were 31,833 active cases currently in the country, with 30,821, or 96.8%, observing home quarantine and 14 individuals admitted to low-risk quarantine and treatment centres. 998 patients, or 3.14% of the total, were currently admitted to hospital for treatment while 69 patients are admitted at intensive care units (ICU) with 46 of these patients requiring ventilation support. The ICU utilization rate nationwide stood at 54.2%, with five states or localities recording ICU usage rates of more than 60%. COVID-19 cases are expected to rise in Sabah after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri and Kaamatan Festival celebration according to the Ministry of Health (MOH). The government recommends to follow MOH

guidelines despite masks are no longer required outdoors; however, the government strongly recommends wearing of masks in crowded places for celebration and festivals. It showed in the research data in recent months that the majority of the new cases in Sabah are due to sporadic infections.

- Thailand's Public Health Ministry has told Bangkok authorities to prepare to switch to endemic COVID-19 following a steep drop in COVID-19 infections and deaths. On March 3 (Tuesday), Thailand recorded less than 10,000 new COVID-19 cases, the lowest level since February. He added that the COVID-19 situation in Bangkok is also improving. The ministry is now working with relevant agencies in Bangkok to gradually ease COVID-19 restrictions. The switch to endemic controls will focus on managing infection-risk areas such as public parks, pubs, bars, and public transportation.
- Vietnam reported its first day on May 1 without an official death from COVID-19 since Aug. 21 as recorded daily infections have dropped significantly in recent weeks, the health ministry's publication *Suc Khoe Doi Song* said on Wednesday. Vietnam's seven-day local infection average dropped to 5,121 a day on Tuesday, down from a seven-day average of 75,319 reported on April 3, according to the health ministry. The nation's seven-day average of deaths dropped to two a day from 42 a day a month earlier. The country has administered two vaccine shots to 100 percent of its adult population and provided three shots to 57.4% of them, according to the health ministry.
- South Korea: COVID-19 cases fell below 50,000 on May 3 as the government has lifted the outdoor mask requirement in the latest effort to ease restrictions and return to normalcy amid a downward trend in COVID-19 cases. South Korea reported 49,064 new COVID-19 infections, including 29 from overseas, bringing the total caseload to 17,395,791, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). The country added 72 COVID-19 deaths Wednesday, bringing the total to 23,079, the KDCA said. The fatality rate stood at 0.13 percent.
- Japan: A panel of experts set up by the central government will begin discussions shortly to review its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a report expected as early as June. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said he plans to use the outcome of the review by the eight-member panel to make improvements on the government's strategy in the fight against the deadly virus. High on the panel's agenda will be how authorities and hospitals should cooperate. Health care systems have been strained across the country at times during the pandemic, though Japan is among countries with large numbers of hospitals and hospital beds. The panel is also expected to discuss restrictions on movement. During the height of the pandemic, some called for powerful restrictions such as lockdowns. Since the less severe omicron variant became the dominant strain of the coronavirus, the focus has shifted to reopening the economy. The government's COVID-19 response is currently handled by the Cabinet Secretariat and the health ministry. In addition, there is a cabinet minister in charge of COVID-19 vaccinations.

## Vaccine Update

- The Philippines is considering donating 5 million Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine to Myanmar that are close to expiry, a senior health official said on May 2. It is the first time the Philippines will donate COVID-19 vaccines to another nation after it struggled to procure for its 110 million population. Authorities are seeking clearance to donate the Russian vaccines through the Myanmar Red Cross Society, health undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told a regular news conference. According its health ministry, less than half of the 53 million population have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in Myanmar, a country in turmoil since the military seized power 15 months

ago. That compares to nearly 67.9 million people vaccinated in the Philippines, which has battled one of the worst COVID-19 crises in Asia.

- Philippines: The government is looking into vaccinating basic education students attending in-person classes against COVID-19, as it also set to call on private schools to resume face-to-face learning amid low turnout. Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. has already ordered COVID-19 vaccine doses to be made available immediately in schools according to Presidential Adviser for COVID-19 Vince Dizon, who also assured these can be “easily deployed” for students. Over 11 million children and adolescents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to date. Meanwhile, the Department of Education reported that only 676 or 5.47% of total private schools have resumed physical classes—a stark contrast with public schools where 25,668 or 56.89% of the total have already returned to face-to-face learning.

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

- Thailand: According to a Nation Thailand report, Anutin Charnvirakul says registrations in Thailand Pass have increased, with no problems reported with the simplified system so far. The health minister also commented on the COVID-19 situation in Thailand, saying that daily new infections are dropping, as are severe cases and fatalities. He adds that this can be seen in a decreased demand for ventilators and antiviral drugs, and the fact that there are fewer patients in intensive care. Thailand cancelled its Test & Go and Sandbox entry programs on May 1, meaning that fully vaccinated tourists can now enter the country without having to take a PCR test before, or on arrival. They are still required to have COVID-19 insurance with a minimum coverage of US\$10,000 and to register for the Thailand Pass and are ‘encouraged’ to self-test with an antigen kit during their stay. Unvaccinated arrivals are required to present a negative RT-PCR test result within 72 hours of departure from their home country if they want to enter Thailand. Failure to do so means they will be subject to 5-day mandatory hotel quarantine on arrival.
- Myanmar: The Health Ministry lifted the quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated travellers who tested negative for COVID-19 in a rapid test at the Yangon International Airport. All foreign travellers are, meanwhile, still required to submit COVID-19 medical insurance purchased from Myanma Insurance and a health declaration form. The health ministry also shortened the quarantine period for travellers entering the country with relief flights and through land border gates, from five days to three days for fully vaccinated travellers and from seven days to five days for those who are not fully vaccinated. The ministry said it has lifted and shortened the quarantine periods as the COVID-19 positivity rate of incoming tourists was very low.
- China: Taiwan announced on May 3 (Tuesday) that it would shorten mandatory COVID-19 quarantine for all arrivals from 10 days to seven days. Taiwan's Central Epidemic Command Centre said that the easing of the quarantine rule, which will initiate on May 9 (Monday), was made due to Omicron's short incubation period and to take into account "the maintenance of domestic pandemic prevention capacity, socio-economic activities and effective risk control". It added that all arrivals will still have to take polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests upon reaching Taiwan and will be released on the seventh day of quarantine. The requirement for pre-departure negative PCR tests will still remain in place.

## Cases and Deaths as of 04 May 2022

- As of 04 May 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **515,356,282** confirmed cases, including **6,273,640** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 58,308,502 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,426,141 cases** in the ASEAN region and **26,882,361 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

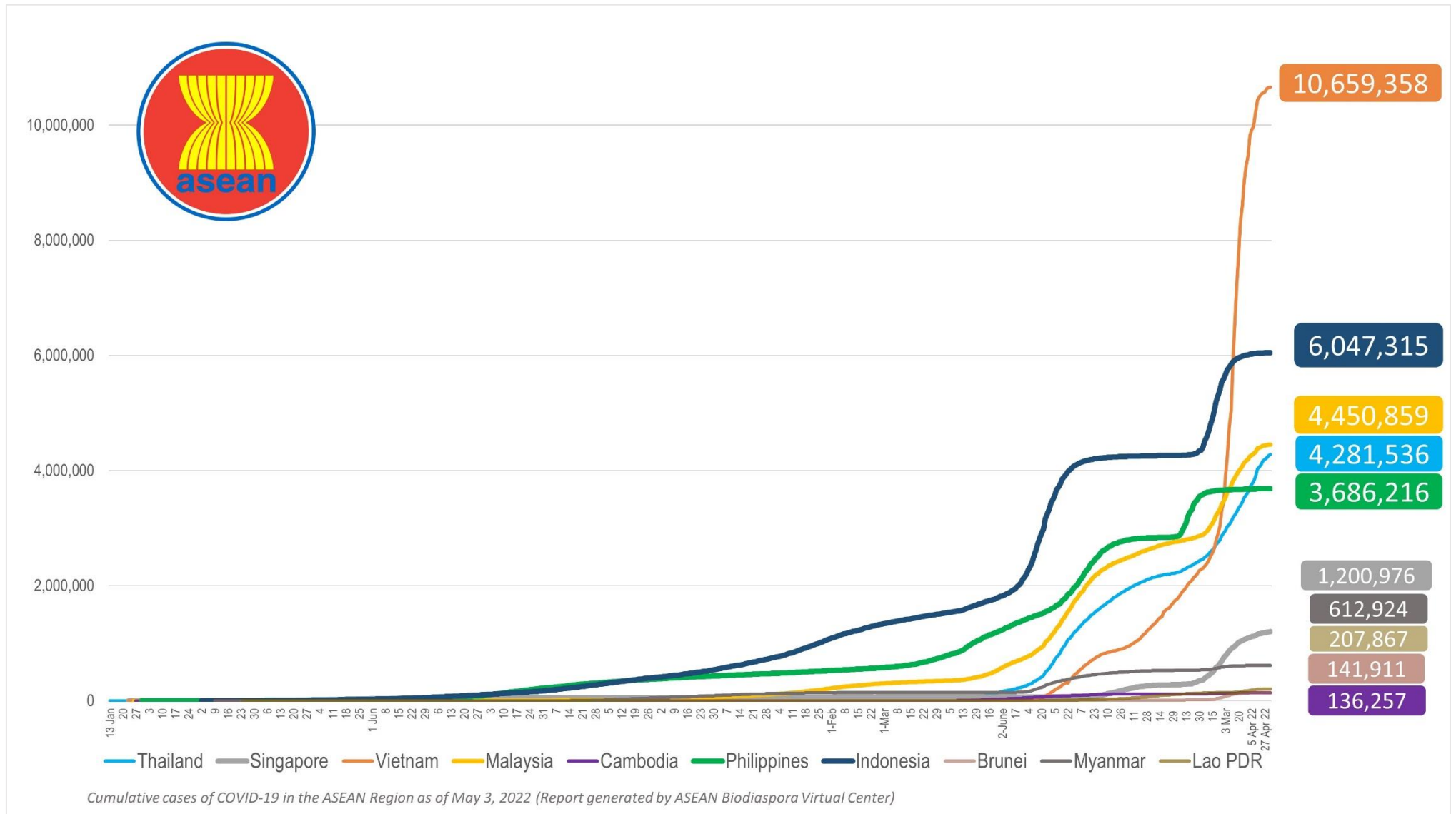
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	02-May-22	141,911	0	218	-	0.2%	32,752		412,058	405,414	267,071	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	03-May-22	136,257	3	3,056	-	2.2%	826	57	14,941,444	14,201,629	10,300,780	83.8
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	03-May-22	6,047,315	107	156,305	18	2.6%	2,235	-	199,346,528	165,230,060	37,458,813	59.8
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	03-May-22	207,867	153	745	1	0.4%	2,899	48	5,766,217	4,828,012		65.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	03-May-22	4,451,781	922	35,564	9	0.8%	13,931	1,723	27,772,392	26,730,577	16,035,520	81.6
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	03-May-22	612,924	10	19,434	-	3.2%	1,134	248	30,637,522	23,476,146		42.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	03-May-22	3,686,216	134	60,412	2	1.6%	3,409	60	70,173,137	67,792,216	13,149,301	61.1
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	03-May-22	1,200,976	1,336	1,338	2	0.1%	21,057		5,011,993	4,980,270	3,972,039	91.3
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	03-May-22	4,281,536	9,721	28,781	77	0.7%	6,149	225	56,113,525	51,191,342	25,904,673	73.2
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	03-May-22	10,659,358	2,709	43,044	-	0.4%	11,050	119	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
<b>ASEAN COUNTRIES</b>				<b>31,426,141</b>	<b>15,156</b>	<b>348,897</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1.1%</b>			<b>490,122,005</b>	<b>436,589,774</b>	<b>152,531,274</b>	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	03-May-22	17346753	51020	23007	49	0.1%	33546.81	3577.28	45032140	44548155	35244454	86.83
	Japan	16-Jan-20	03-May-22	7938665	26555	29522	55	0.4%	6287.308	2102.172	103204264	101532326	67264156	80.55
	China	31-Dec-19	03-May-22	1,596,943	23,808	15,313	32	1.0%	16,840	2,932	1,311,895,306	1,274,966,770	767,727,129	82.5
	<b>PLUS THREE COUNTRIES</b>				<b>26,882,361</b>	<b>101,383</b>	<b>67,842</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>0.3%</b>			<b>1,460,131,710</b>	<b>1,421,047,251</b>	<b>870,235,739</b>
<b>ASEAN +3</b>				<b>58,308,502</b>	<b>116,539</b>	<b>416,739</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>0.7%</b>			<b>1,950,253,715</b>	<b>1,857,637,025</b>	<b>1,022,767,013</b>	

- 457,047,780 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	11,914,038	4,018	253,790	10	1.1	206,965	10,619	301,719,189	227,489,669	21,797,426
AMERICAS	155,871,090	38,552	2,759,931	325	0.8	903,277	32,473	808,607,282	701,542,478	350,963,821
ASIA PACIFIC	71,313,734	48,603	732,096	90	0.2	319,201	11,753	1,402,356,839	1,221,576,914	112,262,661
EUROPE	197,191,219	390,677	1,878,274	1,451	0.6	1,733,835	108,090	556,480,484	528,893,488	307,029,631
MIDDLE EAST	20,757,699	3,877	232,810	24	0.3	188,734	48,338	140,789,307	126,035,475	54,497,216
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>457,047,780</b>	<b>485,727</b>	<b>5,856,901</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1.3%</b>			<b>3,209,953,101</b>	<b>2,805,538,024</b>	<b>846,550,755</b>

# COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

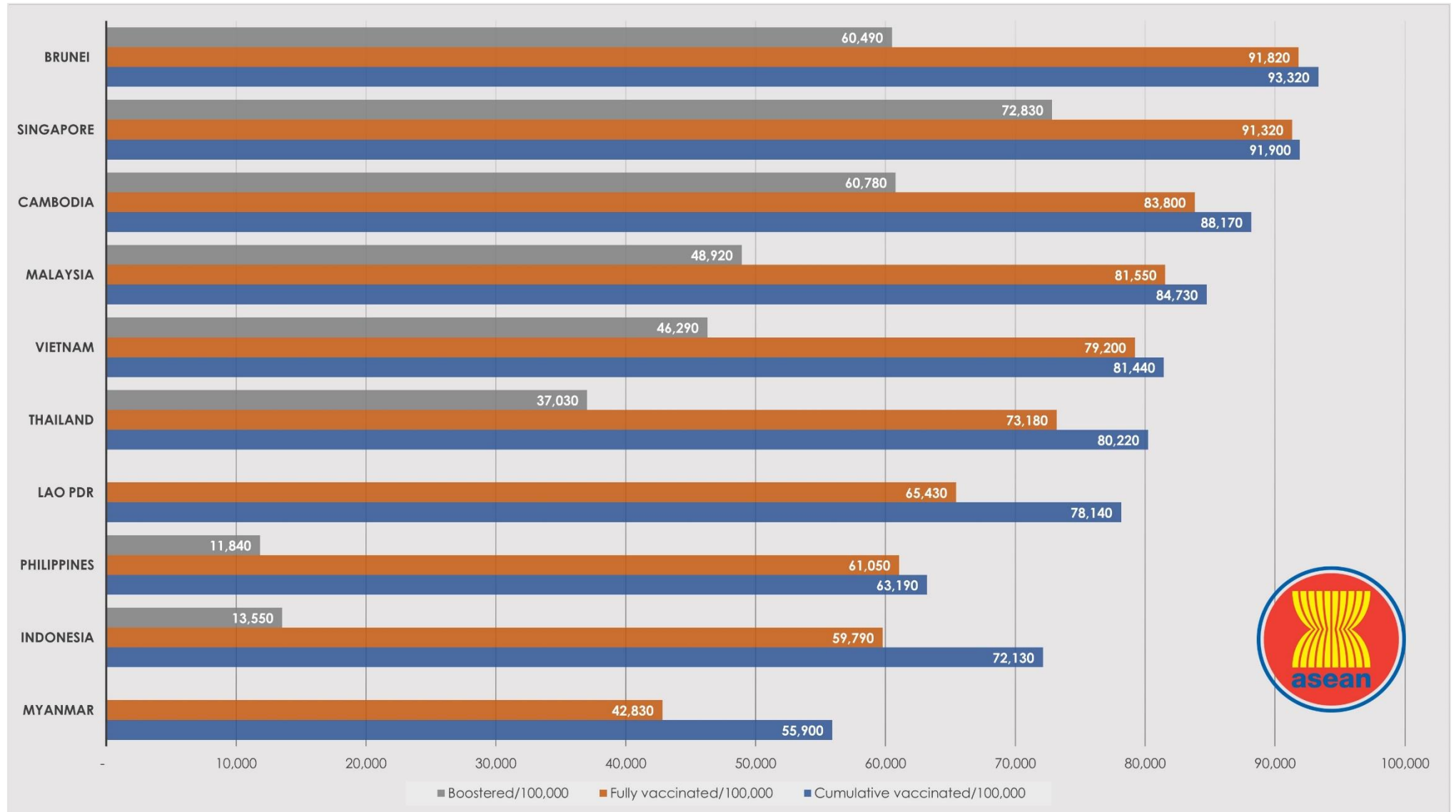
From January 1, 2021 to May 3, 2022






# COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 03 May 2022



# COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 01 May 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.		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	21.16	Unknown	67.9/100	Undefined
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/60.8	0.08%/day	0.02	1.9	37.5/100	Undefined
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	63.3/13.6	0.08%/day	0.14	Unknown	55.7/100	Undefined
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	71.4/ND	Unknown	4.41	100	78.3/100	Undefined
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	82.0/48.9	0.07%/day	7.13	9.2	58.0/100	Undefined
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	44.4/ND	Unknown	0.04	0.3	77.7/100	Undefined
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	65.6/11.8	Unknown	0.18	1.3	82.4/100	Undefined
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.3/72.8	0.02%/day	43.76	Unknown	74.4/100	Undefined
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	74.3/37.0	0.06%/day	18.66	49	53.3/100	Undefined
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	13.80	100	71.4/100	Undefined



# Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19 in ASEAN+3

April 26-May 3, 2022

## Unknown Hepatitis in Japan, Indonesia and Singapore

- Globally, 275 cases and 5 deaths of acute hepatitis of unknown etiology have been reported in 24 countries, including the UK (145 cases/0 deaths), the United States (31/1), Spain (22), Italy (17), Ireland (5), Denmark (6), Cyprus (2), Norway (2), Greece (2), France (2), Belgium (2), Austria (2), Germany (1), Slovenia (1), Romania (1), Poland (1), Israel (20), Palestine (1/1), the Netherlands (4), Canada (unspecified), Costa Rica (1), Japan (3), Singapore (1) and Indonesia (3/3).
- Common Finding Among Countries: (1) Affected children have ranged in age from one month to 16 years old; (2) of the total worldwide cases as of April 23 (169), 17 children (10%) have required liver transplantation and there has been one death reported; (3) common clinical presentation: many cases have reported gastrointestinal symptoms including abdominal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting preceding the severe acute hepatitis with jaundice and increased levels of liver enzymes (aspartate transaminase (AST) or alanine aminotransaminase (ALT) greater than 500 IU/L); (4) most cases did not have a fever which is a remarkable clinical finding: acute infectious diseases in children are usually associated with fever. The absence of fever could indicate more of an autoimmune response as a result of a previous pathogen that may have triggered such severe presentation, (5) international travel or links to other countries based on the currently available information have not been identified as factors; (6) there is also uncertainty around the risk factors and/or transmission routes since a unique confirmed source of infection has not been identified; (7) common causes of infectious hepatitis (i.e., viral hepatitis types A, B, C, D, and E) in children have been ruled out across the affected geographies; there is limited information as to whether other common causes of acute hepatitis in children that could progress to severe cases (e.g., cytomegaloviruses, Epstein-Barr virus aka. mononucleosis) have been tested for and ruled out; and (8) across the affected geographies, adenovirus has been detected in at least 74 cases (18 of these specifically with adenovirus F41, previously rarely linked to cases of hepatitis).

## Japan

- On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said that there were 2 new cases of acute hepatitis in children of unknown cause in the country. According to the news, two patients developed symptoms such as diarrhea and general fatigue. So far, Japan has reported 3 suspected cases of the disease. Japan is the first country to report a possible case outside of Europe and the United States. The first case of acute hepatitis of unknown origin in a child has been reported on April 25, 2022. The affected individual is a child under the age of 17 that has been hospitalized. The case was detected after the health ministry alerted local governments and asked for any information regarding any case that falls within the case definition of a possible case of the unknown childhood hepatitis recently defined by the WHO which excludes those detected with more common causes of acute viral hepatitis (hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D and E).

## Indonesia

- The Indonesian Health Agency indicated in a statement that there have been three probable cases of hepatitis of unknown origin, first observed in the United Kingdom. All three of these cases resulted in death. According to the reports, these cases have been found among children who presented at a local hospital in the capital city of Jakarta with symptoms, including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and epilepsy, for which an underlying cause was not identified. No further details of the age of the affected were provided, and it remains unknown if there are more cases that meet the criteria recently defined by the WHO. Indonesia is the second country in Asia, following Japan, to report cases of unknown hepatitis outside of Europe and America. Worldwide, further investigations are still ongoing to analyze other causes and identify if there are any other factors driving the current disease activity.

## Singapore

- According to media reports, the first case of acute hepatitis of unknown origin in a child has been reported in Singapore on April 29, 2022. This 10-month-old baby boy has tested negative for hepatitis A, B, C, and E. The results of further testing have not been reported. The child is reported to also have been infected with SARS-CoV-2 in December. Further investigations are ongoing globally across geographies reporting cases to identify the underlying cause of disease.

## Malaria in Thailand

- The Department of Disease Control indicated in a warning statement that cases of malaria due to *Plasmodium knowlesi* species, an emerging pathogen, are continuing to be found. The first reported cases of malaria due to *P. knowlesi* in Thailand were found in 2004 and since then around 10 cases per year have been confirmed. And 70 of such cases have been found between 01 October 2021 and 31 March 2022. *Plasmodium knowlesi* is a malaria parasite found in wild monkey populations and transmitted from this animal reservoir to humans via infected mosquitoes. It causes severe and fatal diseases in humans and is the most common cause of malaria in parts of Malaysia. This event is noteworthy since the geographical distribution of this disease is largely unknown because it is often misdiagnosed as one of the common pathogens that cause malaria including *P. vivax*, *P. falciparum*, and *P. ovale*. These pathogens are primarily transmitted between humans via mosquitoes.

## Hand Foot and Mouth Disease in Malaysia

- The number of weekly cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) in Selangor has now exceeded the warning level, said Selangor Health Director, Datuk Dr. Sha'ari Ngadiman. He said, as of April 27 last, as many as 5,346 cases have been recorded in this country for the disease, which usually infects children under the age of seven. At the same time, 112 HFMD clusters have been reported involving 547 cases with 95 percent of them involving clusters in Taska, Tadika and the daily watch center, but no deaths have been reported. Dr. Sha'ari said, the Selangor State Health Service (JKNS) urges the public to take precautionary measures such as always ensuring the cleanliness of the premises, especially floors, water cubicles and equipment used by children. HFMD is a disease caused by a viral

infection, particularly of the Coxsackie A16 and Enterovirus 71 (E71) strains, which are transmitted by direct contact with nasal secretions, saliva, blisters and feces.

### ***Dengue in Singapore***

- Dengue cases in Singapore continue to climb at a worrying rate this year, with the number of cases crossing 6,000 in less than four months. This is more than the 5,258 cases reported last year, said the National Environment Agency (NEA) on Thursday (April 28). Last week alone, there were 941 cases - the highest seven-day figure since the week of Aug 23 to Aug 29, 2020, when 1,153 cases were logged. The sharp increase has occurred even before Singapore has reached the peak dengue season from June to October, the agency noted.

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

From April 26, 2022 to May 3, 2022

## ASEAN +3

Infectious diseases other than COVID-19 in ASEAN + 3 countries,  
April 26 - May 3, 2022

Singapore  
Dengue 358 cases  
Unknown hepatitis 1 case



Thailand  
Malaria 70 cases

Malaysia  
HFMD 963 cases

Japan  
Unknown hepatitis 2 cases

### Hong Kong (SAR)



Taiwan  
Legionellosis 3 cases  
Hepatitis A 4 cases  
Scrub typhus 4 cases  
Listeriosis 5 cases  
Mumps 3 cases  
Leptospirosis 2 cases  
Meliodosis 1 case

### Macao (SAR)



Indonesia  
Unknown hepatitis 3 cases 3 deaths

- Enlarged country
- Enlarged territory/ special administrative region



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