

COVID-19 and Monkeypox

Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

— ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- **Worldwide**, there have been over 587 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to the Weekly Epidemiological Report of the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, globally, the number of weekly cases decreased by 9% during the week of 25 to 31 July 2022 as compared to the previous week, with over 6.5 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths remained stable this week as compared to the previous week, with over 14 000 fatalities reported. As of 31 July 2022, over 574 million confirmed cases and over 6.3 million deaths have been reported globally. [[Full Report](#)]
- According to a research letter entitled “Two-Year Prevalence and Recovery Rate of Altered Sense of Smell or Taste in Patients with Mildly Symptomatic COVID-19” published on August 4 (Thursday) in JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, before COVID-19's Omicron variant emerged, smell and taste dysfunction were among the most commonly reported symptoms of people who were mildly symptomatic from the virus.¹² They noted that 7% of patients are “functionally anosmic”—have lost their sense of smell -- one year after SARS-CoV-2 infection. The study involved 168 adults, aged 18 years and older.¹² Initially, they were assessed during the acute phase of the disease at Treviso General Hospital and included if they tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by polymerase chain reaction (PCR), testing between March 2019 and March 2020.¹² Among the 119 patients whose onset of COVID-19-associated smell or taste dysfunction occurred within four weeks, 105 of them, or 88.2%, reported complete recovery at two years; 11, or 9.2%, reported a decrease in the severity, and three, or 2.5%, reported the symptom was unchanged or worse.¹² A late recovery, defined as more than six months after the coronavirus' onset, was reported in 13 patients, or 10.9%.¹² At the study participants' two-year follow-up, the other most frequently reported post-COVID symptoms were fatigue in 18.5% of them, followed by shortness of breath, 10.7%. Some 28% of patients reported the persistence of at least one symptom.¹² The scientists cited the importance of estimating the “long-term persistence” of these symptoms, given the huge caseload of COVID-19 during the ongoing global pandemic.¹² [[Full Report](#)]
- **South Africa's** health regulator reported on August 4 (Thursday) a causal link between the death of an individual and Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine, the first time such a direct link has been made in the country. The person presented with a rare neurological disorder Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) soon after being given J&J's Janssen vaccine, after which the person was put on a ventilator and later died. Last July, the United States of America authorities added a warning to a factsheet for J&J's vaccine saying data suggested there was an increased risk of GBS in the six weeks after vaccination. At the time it noted 100 preliminary reports of GBS in vaccine recipients, including 95 serious cases and one reported death. J&J said at the time of the U.S. warning it was in discussions with regulators and the rate of reported cases of GBS in Janssen vaccine recipients exceeded the background rate only slightly. South Africa's Health Minister Joe Phaahla told news conference on August 4 that as of mid-July there had been just over 6,200 “adverse events” reported to South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) out of the more than 37 million COVID vaccine doses administered in the country, equivalent to 0.017%. SAHPRA chief executive added that the benefit of vaccination still far outweighs the risk, adding that the regulator had assessed around 160 deaths since the COVID-19 vaccination rollout started but had not seen a causal link to vaccination until now.

Regional Update

- **Brunei:** August 4, Brunei Darussalam continued to have no COVID-19 instances in Category 5, but the Ministry of Health stated that four individuals in Category 4 were getting respiratory support and were being closely watched.¹³ Cases in Category 5 need to be treated in an intensive care unit.¹³
- **Laos:** The number of COVID-19 cases in Laos is increasing despite the government's efforts to stop the virus's spread.¹⁴ According to a report released on Wednesday by the Center of Information and Education for Health, which is part of the Lao Ministry of Health, the nation registered 66 new instances of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, increasing the total number of infections to 211,441.¹⁴ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **Philippines:** The Philippines recorded 4,439 more COVID-19 cases on August 4 – the greatest number in a single day in over six months.¹⁶ It was the highest number since the Department of Health recorded 4,575 cases on February 10.¹⁶ Metro Manila continues to be at a moderate risk for the COVID-19 outbreak, the CDC stated on Monday.¹⁶ But there was little danger to the Philippines.¹⁶ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **Japan:** According to official figures, Japan has become the world's No. 1 COVID-19 hot zone as yet another wave of coronavirus infections ravages the nation.¹⁸ Data indicate that many people now only experience moderate symptoms, yet the country's healthcare system is nonetheless under more pressure than ever.¹⁸ According to Our World in Data, as of August 1, Japan had recorded a seven-day rolling average of 202,823 newly confirmed cases each day, followed by 124,840 in the U.S. and 68,609 in Germany.¹⁸ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **South Korea:** The number of new COVID-19 cases in South Korea remained above 100,000 on August 4 despite a new wave of infections brought on by a particularly contagious omicron strain.¹⁹ According to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), the nation gained 107,894 new COVID-19 infections, including 435 from outside, increasing the overall caseload to 20,160,154.¹⁹ [\[Full Article\]](#)

Vaccine Update

- **Malaysia:** The COVID-19 booster dosage, which medical professionals advise for high-risk individuals, is not being widely used in Malaysia.¹⁵ By Tuesday (Aug 2), 49.6% of Malaysians, or just under half, had received their COVID-19 booster dose.¹⁵ Only 1.5% of those between the ages of 12 and 17 had gotten a third dosage, a far lower take-up rate than the general population.¹⁵ On the other hand, the COVID-19 vaccination has been administered to around 84% of the population as a whole.¹⁵ The initial booster shot given to immunocompromised children and teens was reclassified as the third dosage required to complete their main immunization on August 3.¹⁵ The announcement was made by Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.¹⁵ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **Vietnam:** AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine is thought to have avoided 232,766 fatalities in Vietnam, according to a third-party evaluation of the vaccine's efficacy.¹⁷ AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, one of the most popular in the nation, was supplied to Vietnam in excess of 72 million doses between December 8, 2020, and December 8, 2021, according to a study by the health data company Airfinity.¹⁷ The national vaccination campaign and pandemic response effort in Vietnam were supported by the AstraZeneca vaccine, which was the first COVID-19 vaccine to be licensed by the Ministry of Health and the first to be given in significant numbers.¹⁷ The information also revealed that the AstraZeneca vaccine is thought to have saved more than 6.3 million lives worldwide.¹⁷ [\[Full Article\]](#)

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

ASEAN+3 Country	Published	Foreign travelers allowed	COVID-19 vaccination requirement	Required COVID-19 testing for fully vaccinated	Required COVID-19 testing for NOT fully vaccinated	Quarantine upon arrival	Health insurance requirement	Arrival health declaration/ registration/ documents
Brunei	August 2, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* with booster dose certificate for 18 years old and above.	No	Yes – Subjected to a rapid antigen test upon arrival and an RT-PCR test on the day 3 at their own expense. Payment shall be done on this link .	Self-quarantine at a private residence or hotel for NOT fully vaccinated until a negative result of RT-PCR is released. No quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated	Minimum coverage: BN\$20,000	Must download and register on the BruHealth app before departure. Passengers must submit an “Arrival Declaration” form on the Travel Portal. The form must be completed online on www.pmo.gov.bn/travel-portal at most 24 hours before departure.
Cambodia	July 21, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate.	No	Yes – Passengers are subject to a COVID-19 rapid antigen test upon arrival at their own expense.	No	No	No
Indonesia	June 16, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 18 years old and above.	Maybe subjected to RT-PCR test upon arrival	Maybe subjected to RT-PCR test upon arrival	5-day quarantine for NOT fully vaccinated. No quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated	No	Traveler is required to download and register at PeduliLindungi app before departure.
Laos	May 9, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 12 years old and above.	No	Yes – Negative rapid antigen test within 48 hours before departure for 12 years old and above.	No	No	No
Malaysia	August 2, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Myanmar	August 1, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 12 years old and above.	Yes – printed negative COVID-19 antigen test result for 12 years old and above taken within	Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated are not allowed to enter or transit Myanmar.	No	Required to obtain Myanmar Insurance	No

			48 hours before arrival.					
Philippines	August 1, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* with booster dose certificate for 12 years old and above.	No	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure or negative rapid antigen test within 24 hours before departure for 3 years old and above.	No	No	Traveler is required to download and register at One Health Pass app before departure for those without visa.
Singapore	July 1, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 13 years old and above and vaccination status on the HealthHub app or TraceTogether app or acceptance letter issued by the Safe Travel Office (STO) or SGAC acknowledgment email.	No	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure for 13 years old and above.	No	No	Traveler is required to download and register at SG Arrival Card app before departure.
Thailand	July 1, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate or certificate with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine for 18 years old and above.	No	Yes – Negative RT-PCR/rapid antigen test within 72 hours before departure for 18 years old above. Does not apply to travelers below 8 years old accompanied by fully vaccinated parents or guardian; passengers younger than 18 years with COVID-19 vaccination	No	No	No

					certificate with at least one dose.			
Vietnam	May 16, 2022	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
China	July 5, 2022	No	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong	August 1, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 12 years old and above.	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure for 3 years old and above.	Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated are not allowed to enter Hong Kong.	Travelers are subject to medical screening upon arrival and quarantine for up to 14 days.	No	No
Macao	June 15, 2022	Yes	Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 12 years old and above.	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure.	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure.	Travelers are subject to medical screening upon arrival and quarantine for up to 17 days.	No	No
Japan	July 28, 2022	Limited	No	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours before departure for 6 years old and above. Travelers could be subject to COVID-19 test upon arrival.	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours before departure for 6 years old and above. Travelers could be subject to COVID-19 test upon arrival.	Travelers could be subject to quarantine for 5 days.	No	Traveler is required to download and register at MySOS app before departure.
South Korea	August 2, 2022	Yes	No	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure or negative rapid antigen test within 24 hours before departure for 6 years old and above and certified in English or Korean translation and be uploaded at https://cov19ent.kd	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure or negative rapid antigen test within 24 hours before departure for 6 years old and above and certified in English or Korean translation and be uploaded at https://cov19ent.kd	No	No	Passengers with an A-1 visa, an A-2 visa, or a Self-Isolation Exemption Certificate must install the 'self-check mobile app' found at http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/selfcheck before departure or upon arrival.

			ca.go.kr/ or be printed. Passengers are subject to a COVID-19 RT-PCR test within 1 day upon arrival.	ca.go.kr/ or be printed. Passengers are subject to a COVID-19 RT-PCR test within 1 day upon arrival.				
Taiwan	July 22, 2022	Limited	No	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure. Travelers are subject to RT-PCR test upon arrival at their own expense.	Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 48 hours before departure. Travelers are subject to RT-PCR test upon arrival at their own expense.	Travelers are subject to quarantine for 3 days. Travelers must have confirmed booking of quarantine facility or hotel.	No	Traveler is required to download and register at Quarantine System for Entry Form before departure.

- Reference: IATA Travel Centre
- *Fully vaccinated – at least 14 days from 2nd dose for two-dose vaccine or 14 days from a single dose vaccine upon arrival.

Cases and Deaths as of 05 August 2022

- As of 05 August 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **587,717,192** confirmed cases, including **6,445,939** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.1%**.
- 73,069,532 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **33,007,291 cases** in the ASEAN region and **40,062,241 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the **ASEAN +3** region is range between **0.1 to 3.2%**.
- There have been no tests reported in the last 14 days in the **ASEAN** Region.

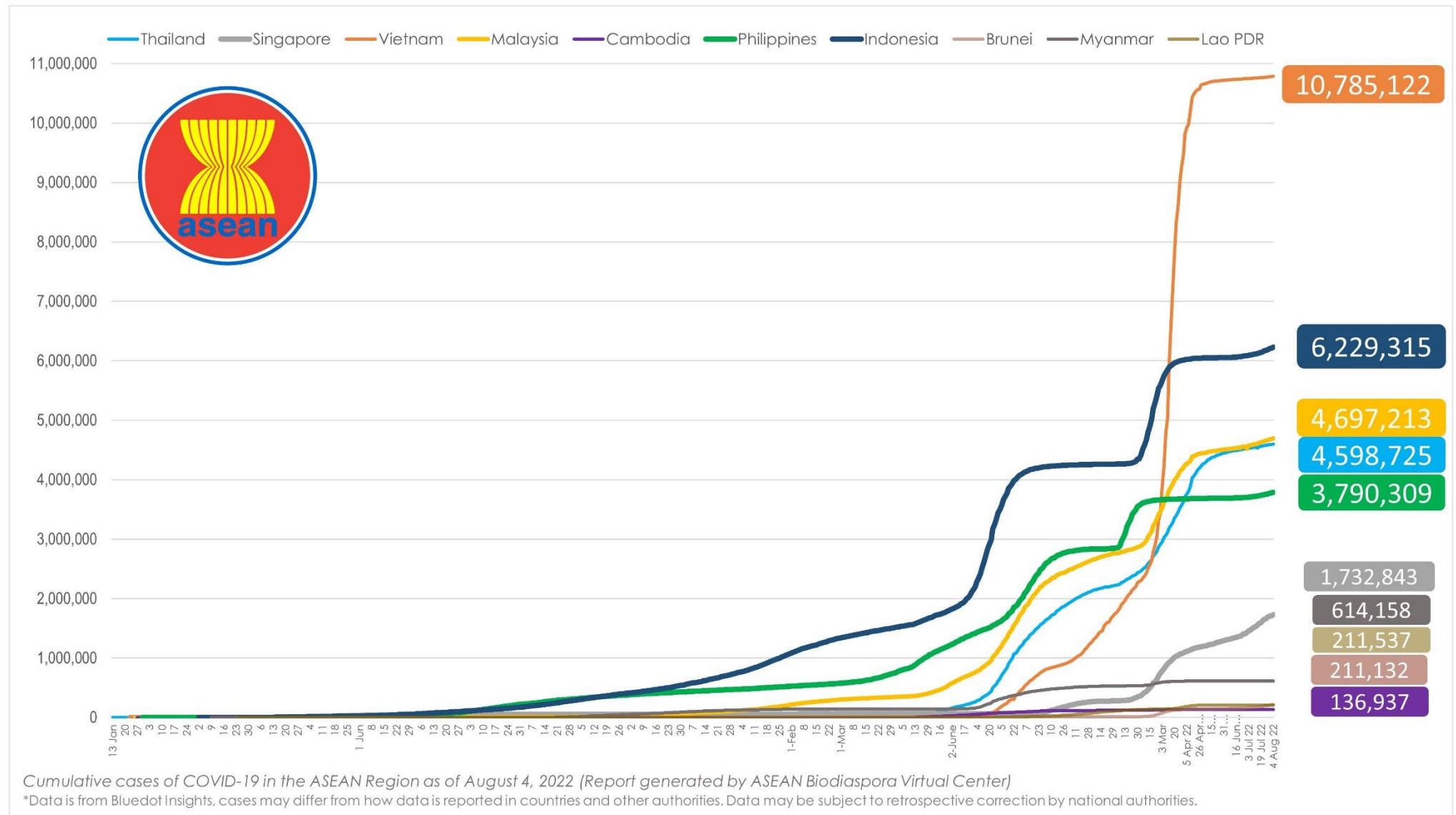
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED/ 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	04-Aug-22	211,132	715	225	-	48,728	444,293	426,764	301,719	95.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	04-Aug-22	136,937	29	3,056	-	831	15,104,932	14,411,480	9,582,177	86.9
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	04-Aug-22	6,229,315	6,527	157,060	14	2,302	202,268,728	169,882,385	54,941,943	62.1
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	04-Aug-22	211,537	96	757	-	2,951	5,817,695	5,076,787		68.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	04-Aug-22	4,697,213	4,413	36,003	8	14,702	28,074,561	27,455,292	16,556,798	81.8
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	04-Aug-22	614,158	12	19,434	-	1,136	34,777,314	27,545,329	2,227,351	51.2
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	04-Aug-22	3,790,309	4,440	60,773	11	3,506	76,438,466	71,835,024	15,523,764	63.1
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	04-Aug-22	1,732,843	7,231	1,528	4	30,382	5,022,441	5,000,501	4,258,592	91.7
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	04-Aug-22	4,598,725	2,166	31,495	29	6,605	56,849,571	53,196,637	30,880,230	74.3
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	04-Aug-22	10,785,122	-	43,094	-	11,181	86,785,069	80,185,029	61,431,250	82.3
ASEAN COUNTRIES				33,007,291	25,629	353,425	66	122,323	511,583,070	455,015,228	195,703,824	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	04-Aug-22	20,160,154	107,849	25,144	34	38,988	45,089,088	44,653,291	39,364,787	86.2
	Japan	16-Jan-20	04-Aug-22	13,624,317	238,735	32,858	146	10,790	103,918,476	102,523,836	93,027,103	82.3
	China	31-Dec-19	04-Aug-22	6,277,770	28,073	23,841	59	38,835	1,327,349,357	1,291,938,270	821,572,089	86.3
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				40,062,241	374,657	81,843	239	88,613	1,476,356,921	1,439,115,397	953,963,979
ASEAN +3				73,069,532	400,286	435,268	305	210,935	1,987,939,991	1,894,130,625	1,149,667,803	

- 514,647,660 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	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED
AFRICA	12,784,037	877	257,946	7	243,367	367,159,832	288,916,351	34,908,004
AMERICAS	174,425,546	33,764	2,828,489	205	1,133,545	813,303,855	716,620,502	453,642,005
ASIA PACIFIC	82,988,714	68,900	742,317	201	424,863	1,430,303,210	1,310,272,838	243,425,510
EUROPE	222,393,616	236,621	1,946,325	726	1,922,190	561,858,815	533,846,139	337,592,231
MIDDLE EAST	22,055,747	14,953	235,594	86	206,185	142,862,526	128,204,751	56,366,563
TOTAL	514,647,660	355,115	6,010,671	1,225	3,930,150	3,315,488,238	2,977,860,581	1,125,934,313

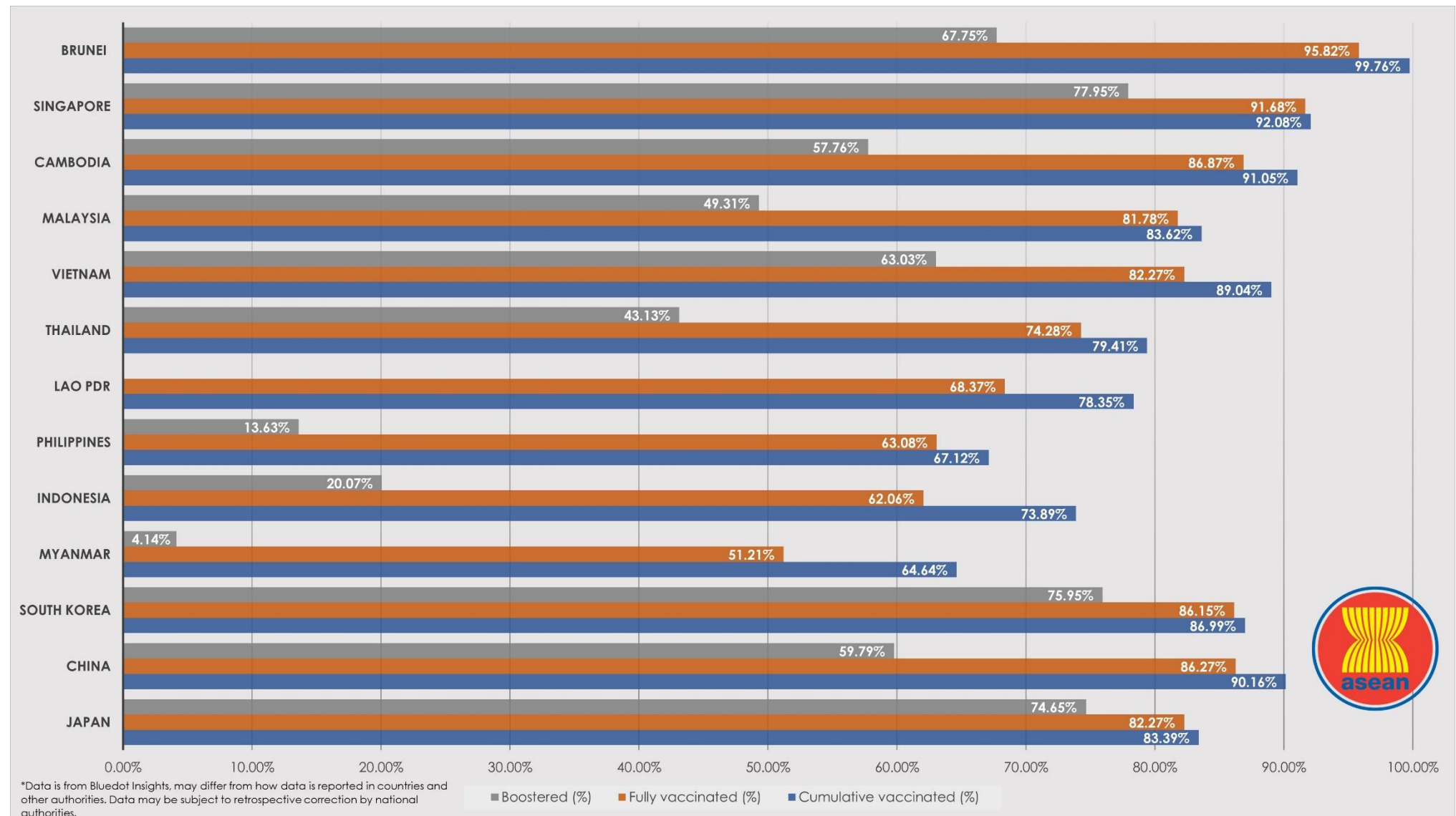
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to August 4, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 04 August 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

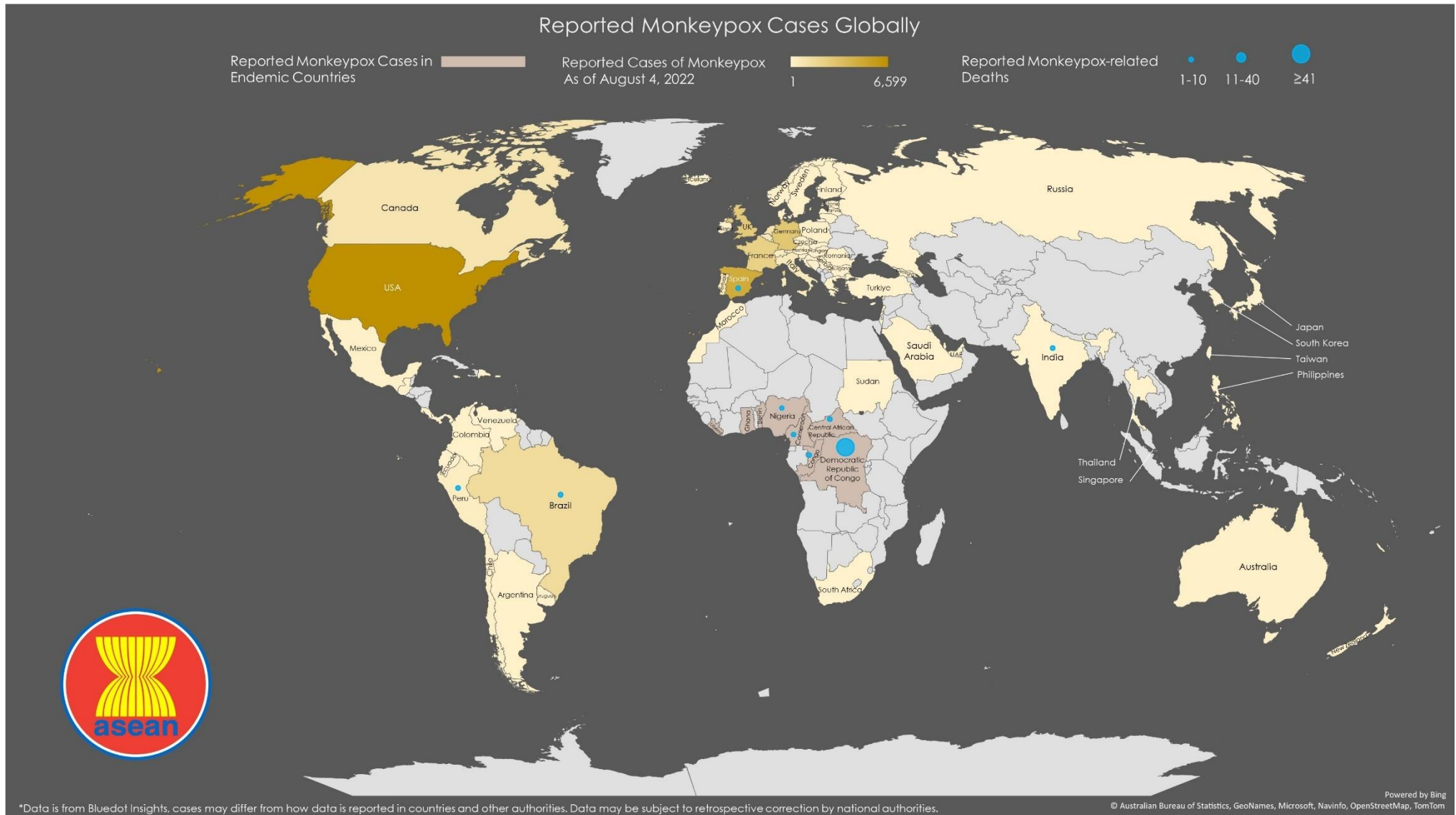
as of 02 August 2022

 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)	
	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	0%/day	≥90.0/67.8	Unknown	282.22	Unknown	31.0/100	0.0
Cambodia	0%/day	≥90.0/57.8	Unknown	0.24	Unknown	31.5/100	-1.8
Indonesia	0%/day	65.1/20.1	Unknown	1.97	Unknown	54.2/100	+3.6
Lao PDR	0%/day	75.1/ND	Unknown	0.95	Unknown	61.6/100	0.0
Malaysia	0%/day	84.3/49.2	0.01%/day	12.78	Unknown	51.8/100	0.0
Myanmar	0%/day	52.1/4.1	Unknown	0.04	Unknown	69.1/100	0.0
Philippines	0%/day	69.5/13.6	Unknown	3.35	Unknown	55.4/100	0.0
Singapore	0%/day	88.7/77.9	0.01%/day	129.91	Unknown	58.9/100	0.0
Thailand	0%/day	77.2/43.0	0.02%/day	2.95	Unknown	31.5/100	0.0
Vietnam	Unknown	86.5/63.0	Unknown	2.19	Unknown	43.5/100	0.0
Japan	0%/day	81.0/71.6	0%/day	167.62	Unknown	42.9/100	0.0
South Korea	0%/day	86.5/75.6	0%/day	167.24	Unknown	38.1/100	0.0
China	Unknown	≥90.0/56.0	Unknown	0.008	Unknown	84.5/100	0.0

All of the countries have achieved the estimated high-risk population fully vaccinated of ≥90.0% except China with 34.6%.

Monkeypox Cases Reported Globally

as of August 4, 2022



Monkeypox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 05 August 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **27,700** confirmed cases, including **71** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.26%**.
- **22 confirmed cases** of Monkeypox have been reported in the **ASEAN+3** region composed of **17 cases** in the ASEAN region and **5 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0%**.
 - **Singapore** – 13 cases
 - **Thailand** – 3 cases
 - **Japan** – 2 cases
 - **Taiwan** – 2 cases
 - **Philippines** – 1 case
 - **South Korea** – 1 case
- **27,678 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in other **5 regions** (other than ASEAN +3 countries):

Top 5 countries with most monkeypox cases globally

Region	Country	Cases	Deaths	Case Fatality Rate
Americas	USA	6,599	-	0.00%
Europe	Spain	4,646	2	0.04%
Europe	Germany	2,839	-	0.00%
Europe	United Kingdom	2,672	-	0.00%
Europe	France	2,241	-	0.00%

Monkeypox cases per region

REGION	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2022	NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT	TOTAL DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE
AFRICA*	1,699	0	66	3.88%
AMERICAS	9,571	1,075	2	0.02%
ASIA PACIFIC	66	9	1	1.52%
EUROPE	16,154	944	2	0.01%
MIDDLE EAST	188	15	-	0.00%
TOTAL	27,678	2,043	71	0.26%

Global update

- **USA:** Monkeypox has become a public health issue in the US. On Thursday, the administration of US President Joe Biden deemed monkeypox a public health emergency, opening up fresh funding, facilitating data collection, and enabling the deployment of more troops to combat the illness.² Experts cautioned that prompt action was required if the outbreak was to be halted in its early stages as cases worldwide surpassed 6,600, with around a quarter of them coming from New York state.² Health and Human Services secretary Xavier Becerra called and said, "We're prepared to take our reaction to the next level in combating this virus.² We ask every American to take monkeypox seriously and to take responsibility to assist us battle this illness."² Since symptoms in the current worldwide

outbreak, which started in May, have included mild indicators, such as solitary lesions, in addition to the more recognizable broad rashes, observers believe the true number of cases might be far higher than official data show.² Due to the presentation's resemblance to prevalent sexually transmitted illnesses, this might result in instances being overlooked or incorrectly diagnosed.² About 600,000 JYNNEOS vaccinations, which were first created to protect against smallpox, a virus related to monkeypox, have been distributed in the US to date, but this amount is still well below the 1.6 million individuals who are thought to be most at risk and in need of the vaccine.² According to Dawn O'Connell, a senior HHS official, the nation's next shipment of 150,000 JYNNEOS vaccinations, which was developed with US federal money but is produced by a small Danish business called Bavarian Nordic, should arrive only by September.² [\[Full Article\]](#)

- **Guatemala:** The Guatemalan Ministry of Health reported the first case of monkeypox in the country on August 3. The statement indicated that the affected individual is a 31-year-old man from Guatemala City who did not require hospitalization and is recovering at home. It was also stated that the man had no history of recent travel and acquired the disease after close contact with foreigners. Three other cases are also under investigation.
- **Lithuania:** The Lithuanian Public Health Department has confirmed the country's first monkeypox case. According to the statement, the affected individual is a man belonging to the age group of 40-49 years who recently arrived in Lithuania from another European country. Further information on travel history, including country of origin, symptom history, disease severity, and close contacts are limited.

Regional update

- **Indonesia:** On Thursday, the Indonesian Ministry of Health said that a sample from a single suspected monkeypox case was being examined at one of the government's labs.⁷ They stated that more tests are being conducted in order to confirm the case that was discovered in Pati, Central Java, despite the ministry's first oropharyngeal testing coming back negative on August 4.⁷ One of the diagnostic procedures to confirm instances of monkeypox is an oropharyngeal test.⁷ The suspected case was discovered on July 19, according to an official announcement yesterday from Indonesian Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin, which was released at the Vice-Presidential Palace.⁷ On July 21, the patient was sent to the hospital due to a fever.⁷ To distinguish between smallpox and monkeypox, a genome sequencing test method will need to be used, which will take at least three to five days after the sample was extracted.⁷ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **Malaysia:** Although there are sufficient public health measures in place to stop the spread of monkeypox, medical professionals advise travelers returning from overseas to report any signs of the virus right once.⁸ Associate Professor Dr. Malina Osman, an epidemiologist and biostatistician at Universiti Putra Malaysia, said travelers are obligated to provide information if an infection arises.⁸ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **Myanmar:** As part of Sergey Lavrov's official visit to Myanmar, Russia has delivered 500 locally produced monkeypox test kits, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced on August 3.⁹ According to the ministry, Lavrov had cordial discussions with top officials, as is customary in their interactions.⁹ Earlier on August 3, Lavrov conducted an official visit to Myanmar to discuss security cooperation and bilateral commercial ties.⁹ His first visit to the country of Southeast Asia was in 2013, and this is his second.⁹
- **Philippines:** The Department of Health (DOH) stated on August 2 that it would be "irrational" for the Philippines to restrict its borders after the discovery of the virus that causes monkeypox.¹ I want to be clear that COVID-19 is not the monkeypox virus.¹ At this moment, it seems foolish to close our borders since we can only confirm the virus "pag nakita mo na ang lesion" (if you detect lesions), said Maria Rosario Vergeire, the DOH official in charge.¹ Monkeypox, in contrast to COVID-19, is not airborne and cannot be readily transmitted if

there is no direct contact, according to Vergeire.¹ On Friday, July 29, a 31-year-old Filipino who had recently returned from abroad reported having monkeypox to the DOH.¹ The matter has already been closed and closed successfully.¹ [[Full Article](#)]

- **Singapore:** On Wednesday (Aug. 3), the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced the addition of one additional case of monkeypox infection, increasing the nation's total number of illnesses since June to 13.⁴ According to a MOH update posted on its website, the patient is a 33-year-old male who has no recent travel history.⁴ The individual was identified as a local unrelated case after testing positive for the virus on Tuesday.⁴ [[Full Article](#)]
- **Thailand:** After a meeting of top authorities from the Public Health Ministry, Director-General Dr. Opas Karnkwinpong informed media that the third case of monkeypox had been verified in a lab test on August 3.⁵ The 25-year-old German traveler, according to him, entered Thailand on July 18 with plans to visit Phuket.⁵ [[Full Article](#)]
- **Vietnam:** Following the discovery of cases in the region, the health ministry encouraged towns all across the country to keep an eye on visitors from countries where monkeypox is still prevalent.¹⁰ According to the most recent ruling, visitors from nations where monkeypox is present will have their body temperatures taken and undergo additional monitoring procedures.¹⁰ People who are thought to have the illness will be segregated and have biological samples obtained for examination.¹⁰ The government has not yet provided detailed instructions on how to monitor visitors from countries where monkeypox is present or when exactly these procedures are to be put into place.¹⁰ As of yet, no cases of monkeypox have been reported in Vietnam.¹⁰ [[Full Article](#)]

Vaccine update

- **Cambodia:** The country's possible monkeypox epidemic has been allayed, according to Health Minister Mam Bunheng, who also stated that the Kingdom is prepared to act swiftly in the event of an outbreak.⁶ While receiving vaccinations for monkeypox that were gifts from the Russian government, Prof. Bunheng made the comment.⁶ Although there has only been one instance of monkeypox in Cambodia, the government is prepared to handle an outbreak, he claimed.⁶ In a ceremony that was held today, Minister Bunheng got the shots.⁶ Anatoly Borovik, the Russian Federation's Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, presided over the event.⁶ [[Full Article](#)]
- **Japan:** The monkeypox vaccine developed by the Japanese pharmaceutical company KM Biologics Co., which just received domestic regulatory approval, has already attracted attention from other countries.¹¹ A spokesman from KM Biologics, a division of the confectioner Meiji Holdings Co, told Reuters on Wednesday that the business had received "many enquiries from abroad" but would not comment on any potential export strategies for the shot.¹¹ Following a panel of experts' recommendation last week, Japan's health ministry on August 2 approved the use of the company's freeze-dried smallpox vaccine, LC16 KMB, against monkeypox.¹¹
- Large-scale global demand for a smallpox vaccination that has been demonstrated to protect against monkeypox has prompted health officials to issue a warning against replicating the uneven distribution witnessed during the COVID epidemic.³ Since May, there have been outbreaks of monkeypox all over the world, despite the disease long being endemic in some regions of West and Central Africa.³ It has led to a rush for the sole monkeypox vaccination that is legally available globally, which is made by the Danish pharmaceutical company Bavarian Nordic.³ Here is the current situation about the vaccine's availability and efficacy.³ The vaccine, known as MVA-BN and sold as Jynneos in the US and Imvanex in Europe, was initially created to combat smallpox.³ The orthopoxvirus family includes both of these viruses.³ According to Olivier Schwartz, chief of the virus and immunology division at the Pasteur Institute in France, the monkeypox and smallpox viral proteins are 90–95% identical.³ So, he explained, using a vaccination that is

quite similar to block it is a tried-and-true method.³ Bavarian Nordic's vaccination against monkeypox appears to be extremely successful, despite the lack of extensive evidence on its effectiveness.³ According to Schwartz, "the vaccination protection statistic of 85% stems from field investigations in the DR Congo in the 1980s and 1990s and is fairly inaccurate."³ [\[Full Article\]](#)

References

1. Magsambol, B., 2022. *Why the Philippines is not closing borders vs monkeypox for now.* [online] Rappler. Available at: <<https://www.rappler.com/nation/why-philippine-government-not-closing-borders-against-monkeypox/>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
2. France 24. 2022. *US declares monkeypox a public health emergency.* [online] Available at: <<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220804-us-declares-monkeypox-a-public-health-emergency-1>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
3. France 24. 2022. *Monkeypox vaccine availability and effectiveness.* [online] Available at: <<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220803-monkeypox-vaccine-availability-and-effectiveness>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
4. Leo, L., 2022. *Singapore reports 13th case of monkeypox infection since June.* [online] Channel News Asia. Available at: <<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/monkeypox-13th-case-man-no-recent-travel-history-moh-2855961>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
5. The Nation | Thailand. 2022. *Third monkeypox case in Thailand confirmed.* [online] Available at: <<https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018460>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
6. Khmer Times. 2022. *Minister of Health says Cambodia is ready for a monkeypox outbreak.* [online] Available at: <<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501125689/minister-of-health-says-cambodia-is-ready-for-a-monkeypox-outbreak/>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
7. Afifa, L., 2022. *First Suspected Monkeypox Case in Indonesia Undergo Further Tests.* [online] Tempo. Available at: <<https://en.tempo.co/read/1619475/first-suspected-monkeypox-case-in-indonesia-undergo-further-tests>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
8. Yusof, T., 2022. *Health safeguards are in place, but report symptoms of monkeypox immediately, say experts.* [online] New Straits Times. Available at: <<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/08/819031/health-safeguards-are-place-report-symptoms-monkeypox-immediately-say>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
9. Oreanda. 2022. *Russia Delivers 500 Monkeypox Test Kits to Myanmar as Humanitarian Aid.* [online] Available at: <https://www.oreanda.ru/en/nauka_i_tehnika/russia-delivers-500-monkeypox-test-kits-to-myanmar-as-humanitarian-aid/article1441307/> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
10. Nga, L., 2022. *Vietnam to monitor entrants from countries with monkeypox.* [online] VnExpress International. Available at: <<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/vietnam-to-monitor-foreign-entrants-from-countries-with-monkeypox-4496023.html>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
11. Swift, R., 2022. *Japan's KM Biologics sees overseas demand for newly approved monkeypox vaccine.* [online] Reuters. Available at: <<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/japans-km-biologics-sees-overseas-demand-newly-approved-monkeypox-vaccine-2022-08-03/>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
12. Boscolo-Rizzo, P., Fabbris, C., Polesel, J., Emanuelli, E., Tirelli, G., Spinato, G. and Hopkins, C., 2022. *Two-Year Prevalence and Recovery Rate of Altered Sense of Smell or Taste in Patients with Mildly Symptomatic COVID-19. JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery.*
13. Kon, J., 2022. *No COVID-19 cases in Category 5.* [online] Borneo Bulletin Online. Available at: <<https://borneobulletin.com.bn/no-covid-19-cases-in-category-5/>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].

14. Xinhuanet. 2022. *COVID-19 cases keep rising in Laos*. [online] Available at: <<https://english.news.cn/20220803/94b7e193cb604eee9296a78a23268c34/c.html>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
15. Hassan, H., 2022. *Malaysia sees low take-up of Covid-19 booster shots*. [online] The Straits Times. Available at: <<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysia-sees-low-takeup-of-covid-19-booster-shots>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
16. Bollozos, W., 2022. *'Highest since February 10': Philippines logs 4,439 new COVID-19 cases*. [online] PhilStar. Available at: <<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/08/05/2200507/highest-february-10-philippines-logs-4439-new-covid-19-cases>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
17. VietnamPlus. 2022. *AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine prevented 232,000 deaths in VN: study*. [online] Available at: <<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/astrazeneca-covid19-vaccine-prevented-232000-deaths-in-vn-study/234992.vnp>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
18. Otake, T., 2022. *Japan's biggest COVID wave yet pushes medical system near to its limit*. [online] The Japan Times. Available at: <<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/08/03/national/japan-seventh-wave-medical-strain/>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].
19. Inquirer.net. 2022. *South Korea's new COVID-19 cases above 100,000 for 3rd day*. [online] Available at: <<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1640812/south-koreas-new-covid-19-cases-above-100000-for-3rd-day>> [Accessed 5 August 2022].



Report generated by

ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

in collaboration with **Bluedot Inc.**

Email: support@biodiaspora.org

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ASEANBiodiaspora>



In partnership with

Canada