

COVID-19 and Monkeypox Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

-ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

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COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 626 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- World Health Organization: With more than 2.9 million new cases recorded globally, the number of new weekly cases fell by 6% during the week of September 26 to October 2, 2022, compared to the week before. Just over 8300 fatalities were recorded, a 12% drop in new weekly deaths over the prior week. 615 million confirmed cases and 6.5 million fatalities had been recorded globally as of 2 October 2022. [Full Report]

Regional Update

- Indonesia: In order to preserve awareness against a potential spike in cases during the phase of transition to endemic, the Health Ministry enhanced COVID-19 surveillance networks across the nation's regions. In order to produce a more realistic picture of the situation, sentinel surveillance, according to Syahril, monitors cases in all nations and compares them to the country's case rate. Integrating the monitoring of COVID-19 cases with the ILI / SARI technique, or the Severe Acute Respiratory Infection, which comprises epidemiological data to be monitored by health offices in managing the case rate, is another step to strengthen surveillance. [Full Article]
- Laos: Even though there are relatively few instances reported everyday, the Lao Ministry of Health has asked individuals to maintain adhering to COVID-19 preventive and control measures.⁵ Phonepaseuth Ounaphom, director general of the ministry's Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, says that despite the drop, the COVID-19 virus is still present and that all COVID-19 preventative and control measures should still be followed.⁵ Because more people have developed protection to the virus as a result of vaccination, infections are also declining.⁵
- **Vietnam:** On October 5, the Vietnamese Buddhist Cultural Center in the Republic of Korea presented the State Commission for Overseas Vietnamese (SCOV) of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry with a symbol of COVID-19 preventive and control help amounting to about 1.8 billion VND (75,408 USD) (RoK). The assistance comprises of 5,000 bottles of nose and throat spray to help treat and prevent COVID-19 and other viral and bacterial diseases. They will be sent to the Vietnamese Buddhist population in the RoK that resides, works, and studies there.
- **South Korea:** The government said on October 5 that the COVID-19 virus has affected about 1 in 2 South Koreans, and that the incidence of reinfection is rising.⁸ According to Kim Sung-ho, a senior interior ministry official in charge of emergency management, 48% of the nation's population has so far tested positive for the virus.⁸ In addition, Kim said that the reinfection rate grew gradually, rising from 9.65% in the fourth week of August to 10.17% in the first week of September and 10.92% in the third week of September.⁸ When a person has received the vaccination, according to Kim, the likelihood of reinfection is significantly reduced.⁸

Vaccine Update

• **Singapore:** According to data provided by the Ministry of Health on October 3, there have been 130 instances of persons in Singapore obtaining the wrong dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.⁶ Senior Minister of State for Health Janil Puthucheary stated in Parliament that as of September 26, 11 persons had had overdose while 119 had



experienced underdosing of immunizations.⁶ This is out of the roughly 16 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine that have been given out since the pandemic's beginning.⁶ Seven of the 130 patients—children between the ages of five and eleven—had no negative effects.⁶ According to Dr. Puthucheary, the remaining individuals either experienced no side effects or made a full recovery.⁶ [Full Article]

• **Japan:** A panel from the Japanese health ministry on Wednesday suggested that the COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer Inc. (PFE.N) be approved for use in infants as young as six months old. The vaccination was made available to children as young as five in Japan in January. Health officials began giving booster injections from Pfizer and Moderna Inc (MRNA.O) last month that are designed to treat the Omicron version of the virus. A variation of the Pfizer vaccine that offers defense against the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of Omicron was also recommended for approval by the panel. On October 5, Moderna said that it was looking for Japanese permission for its own subvariant shot.

Research Update

- A 2021 survey on **COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and its determinants among sub-Saharan** African adolescents published on October 5 in PLOS Global Public Health find COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy of up to 88% among adolescents in some sub-Saharan countries, mostly because of concerns about vaccine safety and effectiveness. 10 A team led by George Mason University researchers fielded the survey via computer-assisted phone interviews in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania from July to December 2021.¹⁰ The survey was a follow-up to one conducted with the same respondents from July to November 2020.10 Respondents included about 300 adolescents aged 10 to 19 years from randomly selected households in a rural and urban area in each country but Ghana, which included only a rural area, for a total of 2,662.10 The rate of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, defined as declining or being undecided about vaccination, was 14% in rural Kersa, Ethiopia; 23% in rural Ibadan, Nigeria; 31% in rural Nouna, Burkina Faso; 32% in urban Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; 37% in urban Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 48% in rural Kintampo, Ghana; 65% in urban Lagos, Nigeria; 76% in urban Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and 88% in rural Dodoma, Tanzania.¹⁰ Despite the proven safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, the top reasons for vaccine hesitancy were concerns about vaccine safety and effectiveness. 10 The people most likely to influence vaccine willingness were healthcare workers, parents or family members, and schoolteachers. The study authors noted that while adolescents are less likely than adults to develop severe COVID-19, they can still spread the virus, and some do become severely ill and develop complications. 10 In sub-Saharan Africa, adolescents aged 10 to 19 years make up 23% of the population, making vaccination of this group all the more crucial. 10 [Full Text]
- In the study Effectiveness of a Second COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose Against Infection, Hospitalization, or Death Among Nursing Home Residents, receiving a second mRNA COVID-19 booster dose during the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants was 74% more effective at 60 days against severe COVID-19-related outcomes (including hospitalization or death) and 90% more effective against death alone compared with receiving a single booster dose in a sizable cohort of nursing home residents.¹¹ [Full Text]
- In this cohort research **Association of Household Deprivation, Comorbidities, and COVID-19 Hospitalization in Children in Germany, January 2020 to July 2021**, 688,705 kids and teens, it was shown that kids and teens from families with jobless parents and those who resided in neighborhoods with lower median incomes had greater risk of being hospitalized with COVID-19. Comorbidities were one of several explanatory factors that were considered, but their research failed to provide a clear picture of the underlying mechanisms. [Full Text]



- In the research **The Hidden Factors Associated With Poor Health Outcomes**, socioeconomic factors, such as COVID-19, are the root causes of many health disparities. ¹³ Given the long-term effects of COVID-19, it is crucial to comprehend the potential links between socioeconomic circumstances and COVID-19 diagnosis in infancy. ¹³ Community-based initiatives have often focused on certain downstream concerns, such as access to healthcare, food insecurity, or housing insecurity. ¹³ The financial assistance offered through the COVID-19 pandemic relief initiatives in the United States is an obvious illustration of a thorough strategy that had significant outcomes (such as the Economic Impact Payment and expanded Child Tax Credits). ¹³ These programs succeeded in reducing child poverty, which might ultimately benefit a whole generation, in a way that decades of focused, bureaucratic efforts had failed to do. ¹³ [Full Text]
- In a study **Long COVID in Children**, compared to 38.2% of children who tested negative for SARS-CoV-2, 41.9% of those who were positive showed at least one systemic (diseases), syndromic (symptoms), or medication characteristic of Postacute Sequelae of SARS CoV19 (PASC). The most frequent conditions were myocarditis and cough and cold medications, together with loss of taste or smell, were the most frequent symptoms. According to the study, children with concomitant complicated chronic diseases, children under the age of 5, and children hospitalized to critical care during their illness had the highest risk of PASC. [Full Text]

Travel Update

- Cambodia: With only two new community cases and one additional recovery reported on October 5, Cambodia has maintained strong control over the COVID-19 epidemic.³ Beginning on October 3, travelers entering Cambodia by land, sea, or air will no longer need to present a health declaration or proof of COVID-19 immunization, according to the Cambodian Health Ministry.³ In order to monitor and advise travelers who have symptoms or illnesses, the ministry mandated maintaining remote temperature checkers at the entrance and departure gates in addition to personnel in charge at the border gates.³
- Malaysia: According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM), travellers
 arriving in or leaving Malaysia by air will now have to fill up a customs declaration form.
 A spokesperson from the Customs Department said that the requirement to fill up the
 form will only apply to air travellers.

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 | September 15, 2022 | Yes | No | No | No | No | Minimum coverage: BN\$20,000 | No |
| Cambodia | October 6, 2022 | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Indonesia | September 14, 2022 | Yes | Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 18 years old and above. | No, but may be subject to RT-PCR upon arrival | Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated may not be allowed to enter Indonesia or may be subjected to RT-PCR test upon arrival | No | No | Traveler is required to download and register at PeduliLindungi app before departure. |
| Laos | August 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 | September 13, 2022 | Yes Visa-free travel reimposed to ASEAN Member States travelers | 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 48 hours before arrival. | Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated are not allowed to enter or transit Myanmar. | No | Required to obtain <u>Myanmar</u> <u>Insurance</u> | No |
| Philippines | September 12, 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 | No | No | Traveler is required to download and register at One Health Pass app before departure for those without visa. |

| | | | | | years old and | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----|---|--|--|--|----|--|
| | | | | | above. | | | |
| Singapore | September 27, 2022 | Yes | Yes - fully vaccinated* certificate vaccination status on the HealthHub app or IraceTogether app or acceptance letter issued by the Safe Iravel Office (STO) or SGAC acknowledgment email. | No | Yes – Negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours before departure for travelers born on or before December 31, 2009. | No | No | Traveler is required to download and register at SG Arrival Card app before departure. |
| Thailand | October 1, 2022 | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Vietnam | May 16, 2022 | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| China | August 31, 2022 | No | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hong Kong | September 30, 2022 | Yes | Yes - fully vaccinated* certificate for 18 years old and above. Passengers between 12 and 17 years old with COVID-19 vaccination certificate with at least one dose of Pfizer at least 14 days before arrival. Passengers younger than 12 years accompanied | Yes – Negative rapid antigen test or RT-PCR test within 24 hours before departure and uploaded at https://www.chp.gov.hk/hdf/ Subject to COVID-19 test upon arrival. | Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated are not allowed to enter or transit Hong Kong. | Travelers are subject to medical screening for 3 days. | No | No |

| | | | by a fully vaccinated parent/guardi an. | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|---|--|---|--|----|---|
| Масао | August 12, 2022 | Yes | Yes – fully vaccinated* certificate for 12 years old and above. | Yes – Negative RT- PCR test within 48 hours before departure. | Foreign travelers who are not fully vaccinated are not allowed to enter or transit Macao. | Travelers are subject to medical screening upon arrival and quarantine for up to 10 days. | No | No |
| Japan | October 3, 2022 | Yes | Yes – fully vaccinated with booster dose* certificate for 18 years old and above. | No | Yes – Negative RT-PCR test within 72 hours before departure for 6 or 7 years old and above, depending on the school starting age in the country where they reside. Travelers could be subject to COVID-19 test upon arrival. | Travelers could be subject to quarantine for 3 days. | No | Traveler is required to download and register at MySOS app before departure. |
| South Korea | October 6, 2022 | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Taiwan | September 29, 2022 | Yes | No | No | No | 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 07 October 2022

- As of 07 October 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **626,383,684** confirmed cases, including **6,568,335** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.1%**.
- 89,391,977 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the ASEAN +3 countries including 34,546,841 cases in the ASEAN region and 54,845,136 cases in the PLUS THREE countries.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the **ASEAN +3** region is range between **0.1 to 3.1%**.
- There have been no tests reported in the last 14 days in the ASEAN Region.

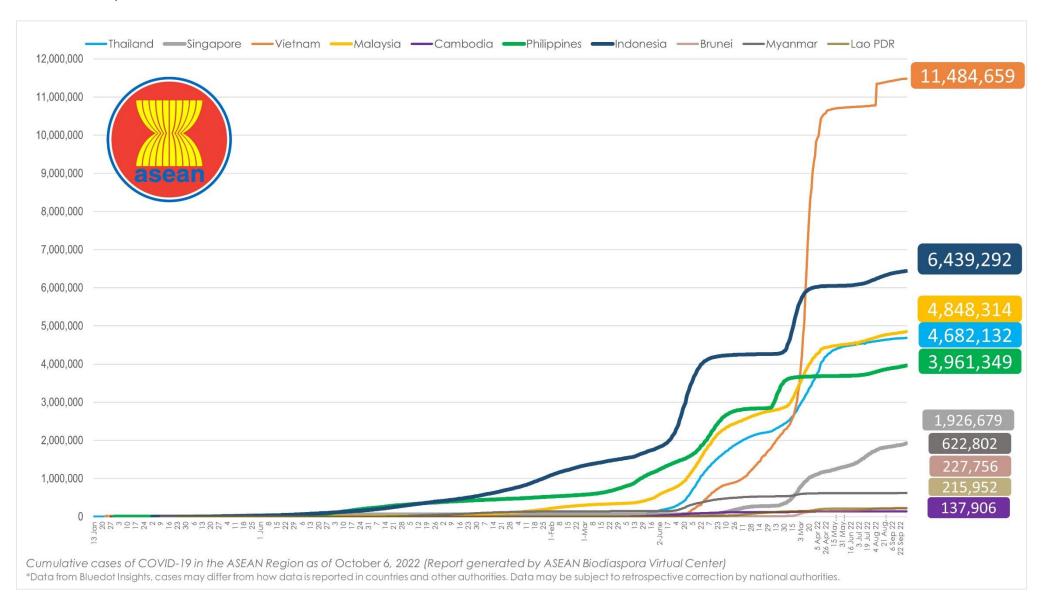
| REGION | COUNTRY | FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S) | LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S) | TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES | NEW CASES | TOTAL DEATHS | NEW DEATHS | CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000 | CUMULATIVE VACCINATED | CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED | CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED | FULLY VACCINATED/ 100 |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ASEAN | Brunei | 10 Mar 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 227,756 | - | 225 | - | 52,565 | 449,769 | 444,757 | 335,738 | 99.9 |
| REGION | Cambodia | 27 Jan 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 137,906 | 9 | 3,056 | - | 836 | 15,186,867 | 14,535,925 | 10,131,597 | 87.6 |
| | Indonesia | 02 Mar 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 6,439,292 | - | 158,165 | - | 2,379 | 204,114,735 | 170,706,806 | 63,046,128 | 62.4 |
| | Lao PDR | 24 Mar 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 215,952 | 26 | 758 | - | 3,012 | 5,888,649 | 5,222,417 | | 70.3 |
| | Malaysia | 25 Jan 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 4,848,314 | - | 36,387 | - | 15,175 | 28,103,503 | 27,511,075 | 16,747,050 | 81.9 |
| | Myanmar | 23 Mar 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 622,802 | - | 19,458 | - | 1,152 | 34,777,314 | 27,545,329 | 2,227,351 | 51.2 |
| | Philippines | 30 Jan 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 3,961,349 | 2,563 | 63,149 | 38 | 3,664 | 77,470,954 | 72,853,661 | 18,779,611 | 64.0 |
| | Singapore | 23 Jan 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 1,926,679 | 5,923 | 1,624 | - | 33,780 | 5,161,644 | 5,121,063 | 4,418,394 | 93.9 |
| | Thailand | 13 Jan 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 4,682,132 | - | 32,771 | - | 6,725 | 57,005,497 | 53,486,086 | 32,143,431 | 74.7 |
| | Vietnam | 23 Jan 20 | 06-Oct-22 | 11,484,659 | 1,130 | 43,151 | - | 11,906 | 89,880,152 | 84,072,281 | 69,805,302 | 86.3 |
| | | AS | SEAN COUNTRIES | 34,546,841 | 9,651 | 358,744 | 38 | 131,195 | 518,039,084 | 461,499,400 | 217,634,602 | |
| ASEAN | South Korea | 20-Jan-20 | 06-Oct-22 | 24,911,497 | 28,603 | 28,573 | 29 | 48,176 | 45,114,764 | 44,681,012 | 41,072,398 | 86.2 |
| PLUS | Japan | 16-Jan-20 | 06-Oct-22 | 21,161,401 | - | 44,576 | - | 16,760 | 104,226,959 | 102,863,617 | 117,901,368 | 82.6 |
| THREE | China | 31-Dec-19 | 06-Oct-22 | 8,772,238 | 50,970 | 26,769 | 63 | 52,659 | 1,332,001,963 | 1,299,080,082 | 833,216,519 | 87.8 |
| | | PLUS T | HREE COUNTRIES | 54,845,136 | 79,573 | 99,918 | 92 | 117,595 | 1,481,343,686 | 1,446,624,711 | 992,190,285 | |
| | • | | ASEAN +3 | 89,391,977 | 89,224 | 458,662 | 130 | 248,790 | 1,999,382,770 | 1,908,124,111 | 1,209,824,887 | |

• 536,991,707 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 | 12,910,106 | 420 | 258,623 | 2 | 241,457 | 402,706,350 | 318,631,604 | 49,088,245 |
| AMERICAS | 181,789,849 | 26,962 | 2,878,138 | 260 | 1,184,045 | 824,457,997 | 722,593,788 | 475,497,210 |
| ASIA PACIFIC | 85,460,531 | 5,797 | 750,610 | 13 | 474,266 | 1,445,162,536 | 1,336,939,511 | 391,382,896 |
| EUROPE | 234,375,187 | 237,842 | 1,984,201 | 529 | 2,005,395 | 566,141,319 | 537,391,697 | 356,782,300 |
| MIDDLE EAST | 22,456,034 | 2,791 | 238,101 | 18 | 211,606 | 144,017,623 | 129,366,181 | 59,340,887 |
| TOTAL | 536,991,707 | 273,812 | 6,109,673 | 822 | 4,116,769 | 3,382,485,825 | 3,044,922,781 | 1,332,091,538 |

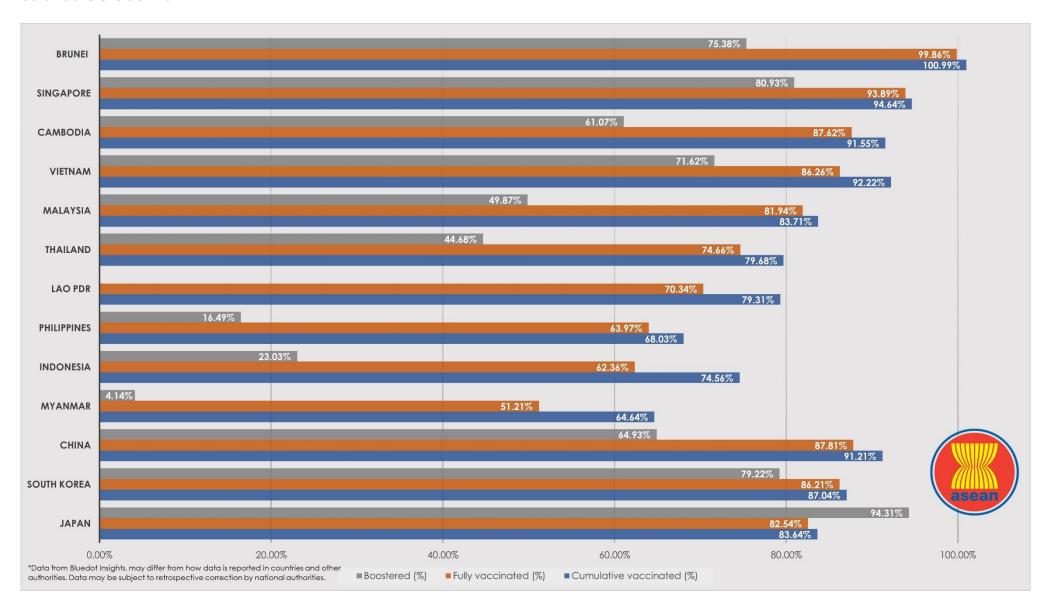
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to October 6, 2022



COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 06 October 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

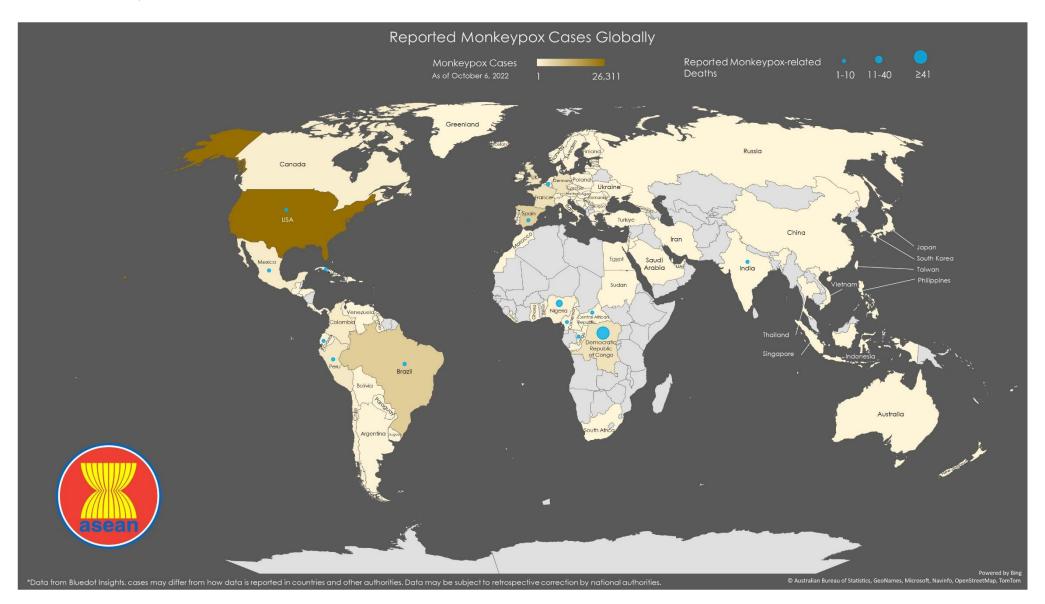
as of 04 October 2022

| ASEAN MEMBER | At least 65% of the to level of immunity to recovered from COV vaccinated with at COVID-19 | o COVID-19; either /ID-19 or have been least one dose of a | Case levels are general average number of <10 cases per 100,000 14-day test positivit | Government Policy on containment and health (strictness and comprehensiveness in COVID-19 related government policies) | |
|--------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| STATE | % of Total population fully vaccinated / boostered | 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) |
| Brunei | ≥90.0/75.4 | Unknown | 50.08 | Unknown | 31.0/100 |
| Cambodia | ≥90.0/61.1 | Unknown | 0.04 | Unknown | 31.5/100 |
| Indonesia | 65.4/23.0 | Unknown | 0.62 | Unknown | 54.2/100 |
| Lao PDR | 77.3/ND | Unknown | 0.26 | Unknown | 61.6/100 |
| Malaysia | 84.4/49.9 | 0.01%/day | 5.41 | Unknown | 51.8/100 |
| Myanmar | 52.1/4.1 | Unknown | 0.30 | Unknown | 69.1/100 |
| Philippines | 70.5/16.5 | Unknown | 2.07 | Unknown | 55.4/100 |
| Singapore | ≥90.0/80.9 | 0%/day | 57.45 | Unknown | 58.9/100 |
| Thailand | 77.7/44.9 | 0%/day | 0.71 | Unknown | 31.5/100 |
| Vietnam | ≥90.0/71.6 | Unknown | 1.12 | Unknown | 43.5/100 |
| Japan | 81.3/≥94.1 | 0%/day | 5.44 | Unknown | 42.9/100 |
| South Korea | 86.5/79.2 | 0%/day | 54.55 | Unknown | 38.1/100 |
| China | ≥90.0/56.5 | Unknown | 0.015 | Unknown | 84.5/100 |

All of the countries have achieved the estimated high-risk population fully vaccinated of ≥90.0% except China with 35.3%. All of the countries have achieved the Population vaccinated/day (7-day average) except Vietnam.

Monkeypox Cases Reported Globally

as of October 6, 2022



Monkeypox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 07 October 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were 74,050 confirmed cases, including 173 deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was 0.23%.
- 54 confirmed cases of Monkeypox have been reported in the ASEAN+3 region composed of 35 cases in the ASEAN region and 19 cases in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of 0%.
- **73,996 confirmed cases** of Monkeypox have been reported in other **5 regions** (other than ASEAN +3 countries):

Monkeypox cases in ASEAN+3 region

| Region | Country | Total Cases | New Cases | Deaths | Case Fatality Rate |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|
| ASEAN | Singapore | 19 | - | - | 0.00% |
| ASEAN | Thailand | 10 | - | - | 0.00% |
| Plus Three | Japan | 6 | - | - | 0.00% |
| Plus Three | China | 5 | - | - | 0.00% |
| ASEAN | Philippines | 4 | - | - | 0.00% |
| Plus Three | Taiwan | 4 | - | - | 0.00% |
| Plus Three | South Korea | 3 | - | - | 0.00% |
| ASEAN | Indonesia | 1 | - | - | 0.00% |
| ASEAN | Vietnam | 1 | - | - | 0.00% |
| Plus Three | Hong Kong (SAR) | 1 | - | - | 0.00% |
| ASEAN+3 Total | | 54 | - | - | 0.00% |

Top 5 countries with most monkeypox cases globally

| Region | Country | Total Cases | New Cases | Deaths | Case Fatality Rate |
|----------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Americas | USA | 26,311 | 698 | 2 | 0.01% |
| Americas | Brazil | 7,869 | 335 | 2 | 0.03% |
| Europe | Spain | 7,209 | 21 | 3 | 0.04% |
| Europe | France | 3,999 | 29 | - | 0.00% |
| Europe | United Kingdom | 3,654 | 19 | - | 0.00% |

Monkeypox cases per region other than ASEAN+3

| REGION | TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2022 | NEW CASES SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT | TOTAL DEATHS | CASE FATALITY RATE |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| AFRICA | 4,780 | 0 | 159 | 3.33% |
| AMERICAS | 42,825 | 1,356 | 8 | 0.02% |
| ASIA PACIFIC | 164 | 0 | 1 | 0.61% |
| EUROPE | 24,573 | 82 | 5 | 0.02% |
| MIDDLE EAST | 298 | 4 | - | 0.00% |
| TOTAL | 74,050 | 1,442 | 173 | 0.23% |

Global Update

• **USA:** According to a recent report from the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data, Black and Latino Americans are disproportionately affected by monkeypox cases in the US, with Black Americans experiencing cases at a rate that is five times higher than that of their White peers (14.4 cases vs. 2.6 per 100,000). The figures are based on CDC information on 68% of cases reported in the US as of September 23. Although the monkeypox outbreak in the US has significantly decreased since July, minorities are still disproportionately affected by new cases. Despite making up just 40% of the population, individuals of color account for 70% of cases with known race or ethnicity. White folks make up 60% of the US population and 30% of cases. The distribution of monkeypox vaccines is another instance of racial injustice. White individuals received 51% of the initial doses of the MPX vaccine as of September 27, while making up 30% of recorded cases, according to KFF. In contrast, just 13% of initial doses were given to Black persons, despite their making up more than a third of cases (35%). [Full Article]

Vaccine Update

According to a single-center trial, the majority of cases of monkeypox following vaccination occurred within two weeks of the first Jynneos dosage, while some breakthrough cases appeared weeks after the second dose of the vaccine.² Aniruddha Hazra, MD, of Howard Brown Health in Chicago, and colleagues found that of 90 people who tested positive for monkeypox following a single dosage of Jynneos, 77% of the cases happened within 14 days of the first dose and 14% occurred within 14-28 days of the first dose.² Hazra and colleagues stated in a JAMA study letter that "of concern is that at least two breakthrough infections were identified in people at least 3 weeks following a second dosage.²" [Full Article]

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