

COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 537 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- In a recent research paper posted to the [medRxiv](#)* preprint server, scientists from Yale School of Public Health analyzed severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)-linked deaths in the United States (US). Novel SARS-CoV-2 variants with higher virulence, transmissibility, and immune evasion have emerged due to sustained worldwide coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) transmission since its emergence in Wuhan, China, at the end of 2019. In the US, over one million SARS-CoV-2-related deaths have been reported so far. In addition, SARS-CoV-2 mutants identified worldwide have shifted the course of the COVID-19 epidemic in the US several times. As of 12 May 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) has described five SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs), first found in four distinct continents. All five VOCs were more contagious than the original SARS-CoV-2 strain and spread to the US. COVID-19 vaccines produced based on the non-variant SARS-CoV-2 (i.e., non-VOC SARS-CoV-2) are weakly efficacious against Omicron and Delta VOCs infections yet extremely effective against severe illness. Notably, over the length of the US SARS-CoV-2 epidemic, the particular burden of death from each viral variant remains unknown. The authors illustrated that 46% (460,124) of the 1,003,419 SARS-CoV-2 mortalities documented as of 12 May 2022 were attributable to WHO-designated SARS-CoV-2 variants in the US at the national level. On the other hand, 54% of all COVID-19 mortalities were attributed to non-variant SARS-CoV-2. The researchers demonstrated the influence of the SARS-CoV-2 variants throughout the US. The variants caused a significant number of deaths in all regions. The South had the highest variant deaths per capita, with a median estimate of 158 per 100,000, while the Northeast had the fewest, with a median estimate of 111 per 100,000, by US census region. Some areas were disproportionately affected, owing to disparities in vaccination coverage, demographics, preexisting immunity, societal vulnerability, and non-pharmaceutical intervention use. SARS-CoV-2 Alpha, with a median estimate of 39,548 deaths, Omicron (117,560), and Delta (273,801) were projected to be responsible for almost 40% of national COVID-19 deaths. Indeed, 3,628 of the COVID-19 deaths documented by NCHS could not be assigned to a SARS-CoV-2 variant since the week of mortality was not specified at the state level in the data. Study findings show that SARS-CoV-2 mutants that have been discovered across the world have claimed a considerable amount of lives in the US. SARS-CoV-2 variants initially found outside the US were responsible for over 40% of COVID-19 deaths in the nation. The current study backs up the claim that "no one is safe until everyone is safe" by demonstrating the notable effect of SARS-CoV-2 mutants on US mortality, which has emerged in the vicinity of uncontrolled circulation both locally and globally. This analysis implies that fast implementation of methods to mitigate the impact of emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants following the commencement of a viral epidemic could be beneficial. The authors noted that more efforts were needed to reduce the likelihood of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants arising, including worldwide COVID-19 vaccination, therapy, and outbreak management, apart from national public health policies. To summarize, the present work emphasizes the risk that novel SARS-CoV-2 variants pose to Americans, a hazard exacerbated by poor global COVID-19 vaccination rates and a scarcity of therapeutics, diagnostics, and prophylactic approaches for SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Regional Update

- Cambodia has become COVID-19 free after the last patient recovered, according to a health ministry's statement on Tuesday. The statement said the country reported no new cases of COVID-19 for 31 days straight. It added that since the pandemic began in January 2020, the southeast Asian nation has logged a total of 136,262 confirmed cases with 133,206 recoveries and 3,056 deaths. Health ministry's secretary of state and spokeswoman, Or Vandine, attributed the country's success in controlling the pandemic to the government's right leadership and the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. She said Cambodian Prime Minister, Samdech Techo Hun Sen, made the right and timely decision to provide free COVID-19 vaccines to all eligible Cambodians and foreigners living in the country. Cambodia has so far vaccinated at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccines to over 15 million people or 94% of its 16 million population, the health ministry said. It added that of them, 14.3 million or 89.4%, have been fully vaccinated with two required shots. Also, some 9.25 million or 58%, have got a third dose and 2.58 million or 16%, have had a fourth dose. Cambodia will begin offering a fifth dose of COVID-19 vaccines to priority groups from June 9. Buoyed by its high vaccination rates, Cambodia has resumed all socioeconomic activities and reopened its borders to fully vaccinated travellers without quarantine since November last year. Most of the COVID-19 vaccines used in the country are China's Sinovac and Sinopharm. Kin Phea, Director-General of the International Relations Institute at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, said vaccines had protected lives, stabilized the health system and helped restore the economy.
- Indonesia's COVID-19 Handling Task Force reported that 12 Indonesian provinces reported zero new COVID-19 cases on June 7 (Tuesday). The 12 provinces were Aceh, West Sumatra, Bengkulu, Bangka Belitung, West Nusa Tenggara, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, Central Sulawesi, Gorontalo, West Sumatra, and Maluku. Meanwhile, Indonesia reported 518 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, bringing the cumulative number of cases in the country to 6,057,660. Jakarta led among the provinces that recorded new infections, with 260 cases reported in the city on Tuesday, followed by West Java (78), Banten (58), East Java (35), and Bali (23). On Tuesday, two provinces, namely East Java and Central Java, recorded one death each, taking the total fatalities to 156,624.
- The Philippines' government announced on June 7 (Tuesday) that restrictions on indoor and outdoor activities in areas placed under the most lenient Alert Level 1 have been lifted. The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) allowed the full operations of establishments in places under Alert Level 1. Under the revised guidelines, all establishments and activities prohibited are allowed to operate or be undertaken in limited capacity under Alert Levels 5, 4, 3, and 2, but can operate at "full 100% capacity" in areas under the most relaxed Alert Level 1. However, a person participating in mass gatherings or entering indoor establishments must present proof of full vaccination against COVID-19.

Vaccine Update

- Malaysia recorded 1,128 new Covid-19 infections on Tuesday (June 7), says the Health Ministry. The Health Ministry said through data released on its CovidNow portal on Wednesday (June 8) that this brings the new total to 4,517,447 cases since the pandemic began. Of the 1,128, one is an imported case while 1,127 are local. The CovidNow portal also said that there were 1,547 recoveries on Tuesday, bringing the total number of active cases in Malaysia to 21,202. Of the active cases, 95.5% or 20,239 individuals are undergoing home quarantine, while 20 people or 0.1% are being treated at low-risk quarantine and treatment centres (PKRC). Only 4.3% of active cases or 918 individuals needed to be hospitalized, with 25 warded in intensive care units (ICU) throughout the country. Of that number, 12 require ventilator support.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- The Indonesian government welcomed Saudi Arabia's decision to lift the travel ban for its citizens to visit Indonesia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs tweeted here on Tuesday. The Saudi authority had earlier banned its citizens from embarking on international travel to 16 countries, including Indonesia, due to the spread of COVID-19. Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, in her communication directly with her Saudi Arabian counterpart, spoke at length about the latest situation in Indonesia with regard to the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. She said that Indonesia is one of the countries that had adequately handled the COVID-19 pandemic up until today. Uno also updated Saudi Arabian Tourism Minister Ahmed Al-Khatib of the situation of COVID-19 in Indonesia and the measures being taken. Up until May 23, 2022, the positivity rate of COVID-19 in Indonesia was recorded at 0.34%, while 166.93 million people had received their second dose of vaccine. The number indicates 80.15% of the total population. Meanwhile, 44.3 million people have received their booster shots, or around 21.28% of the population. Additionally, some 11,968 tourism businesses across 34 provinces were awarded the Cleanliness, Health, Safety, and Environmental Stability (CHSE) certifications.
- Japan: Japan Tourism Agency (JTA) said on June 7 (Tuesday) that foreign travellers on package tours will be allowed in the country for the first phase of reopening starting June 10. However, foreign travellers visiting Japan will be required to wear masks, provide private medical insurance and should be accompanied by the tour agency throughout their stay.

Cases and Deaths as of 08 June 2022

- As of 08 June 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **537,473,020** confirmed cases, including **6,331,969** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 63,012,832 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,893,864 cases** in the ASEAN region and **31,118,968 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

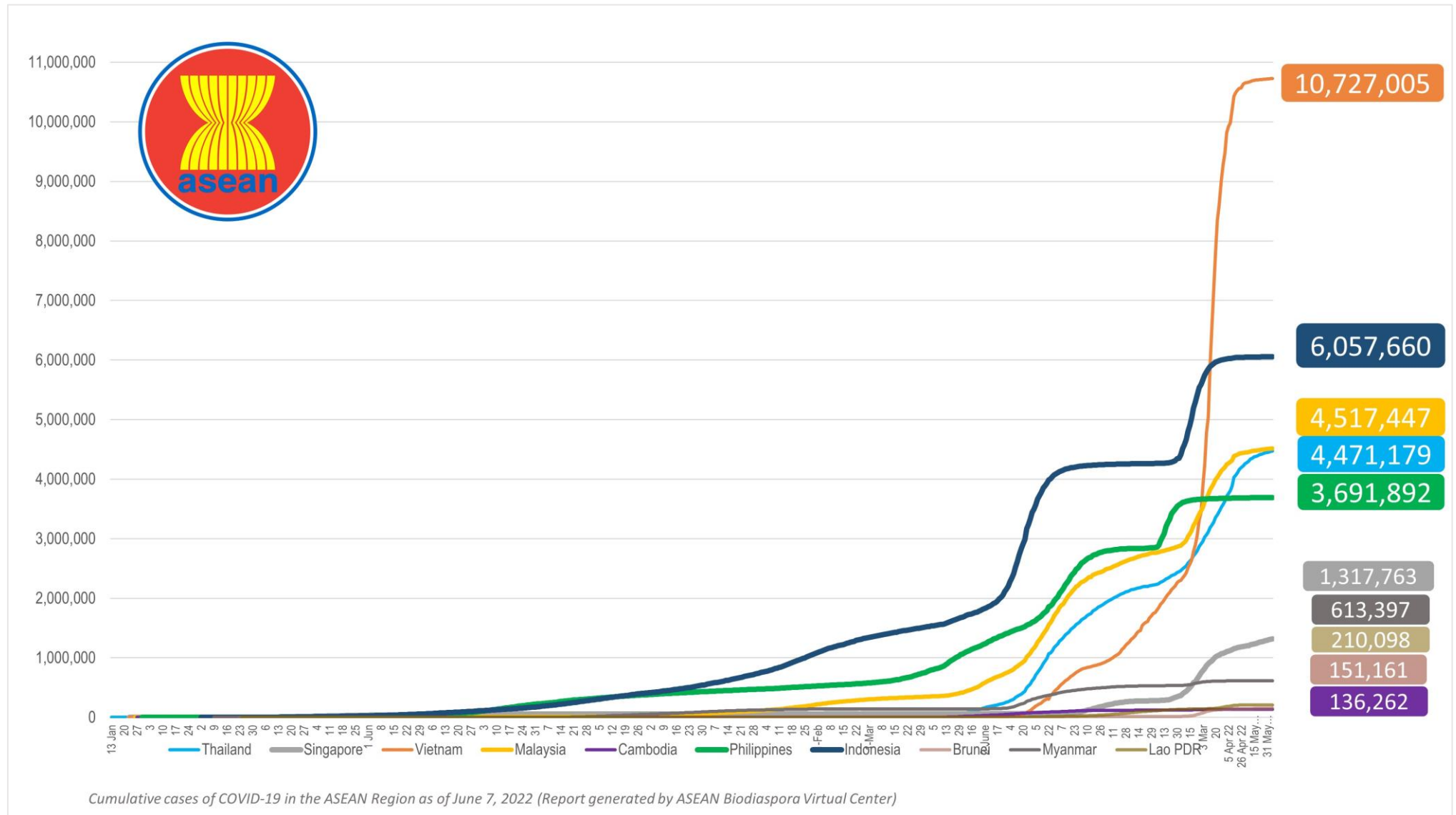
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	07-Jun-22	151,161	380	223	-	0.1%	34,887	-	443,113	421,698	297,699	95.5
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	07-Jun-22	136,262	-	3,056	-	2.2%	827	68	15,017,756	14,280,965	9,085,668	84.3
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	07-Jun-22	6,057,660	518	156,624	2	2.6%	2,238	-	200,394,788	167,598,405	37,458,813	60.6
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	07-Jun-22	210,098	15	756	-	0.4%	2,930	22	5,814,750	5,066,603	-	68.7
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	07-Jun-22	4,517,447	1,128	35,699	9	0.8%	14,139	1,166	28,000,895	27,097,866	16,106,736	82.7
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	07-Jun-22	613,397	10	19,434	-	3.2%	1,135	162	31,345,527	26,110,318	1,997,310	47.6
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	07-Jun-22	3,691,892	168	60,456	-	1.6%	3,415	587	70,173,137	70,953,423	14,230,872	63.9
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	07-Jun-22	1,317,763	2,162	1,393	-	0.1%	23,104	-	5,016,659	4,990,011	4,116,044	91.5
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	07-Jun-22	4,471,179	2,224	30,221	20	0.7%	6,422	-	56,554,618	52,577,760	28,253,326	75.2
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	07-Jun-22	10,727,005	960	43,081	-	0.4%	11,120	5	84,666,253	79,411,087	57,995,655	80.9
ASEAN COUNTRIES				31,893,864	7,565	350,943	31	1.1%			497,427,496	448,508,136	169,542,123	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	07-Jun-22	18,174,880	6,172	24,299	20	0.1%	35,148	2,497	45,057,648	44,599,084	37,497,241	86.9
	Japan	16-Jan-20	07-Jun-22	8,962,801	16,236	30,622	26	0.3%	7,098	1,041	103,622,992	102,140,625	75,938,985	81.0
	China	31-Dec-19	07-Jun-22	3,981,287	83,286	17,829	127	0.4%	27,324	4,806	1,319,116,528	1,283,199,289	800,126,195	84.8
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				31,118,968	105,694	72,750	173	0.2%			1,467,797,168	1,429,938,998	913,562,421
ASEAN +3				63,012,832	113,259	423,693	204	0.7%			1,965,224,664	1,878,447,134	1,083,104,544	

- 474,460,188 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	12,403,818	4,136	256,133	51	1.0	233,473	79,478	311,822,290	238,811,229	24,969,568
AMERICAS	161,035,106	41,452	2,780,997	210	0.8	1,034,070	51,690	786,005,993	693,563,979	394,968,981
ASIA PACIFIC	77,556,998	122,021	735,190	70	0.2	360,006	21,185	1,412,814,431	1,258,533,491	132,288,989
EUROPE	202,550,222	186,353	1,902,627	699	0.6	1,773,811	59,788	557,729,168	530,508,019	317,065,516
MIDDLE EAST	20,914,044	8,641	233,329	8	0.3	191,416	34,539	141,655,163	127,083,941	55,400,299
TOTAL	474,460,188	362,603	5,908,276	1,038	1.2%			3,210,027,045	2,848,500,659	924,693,353

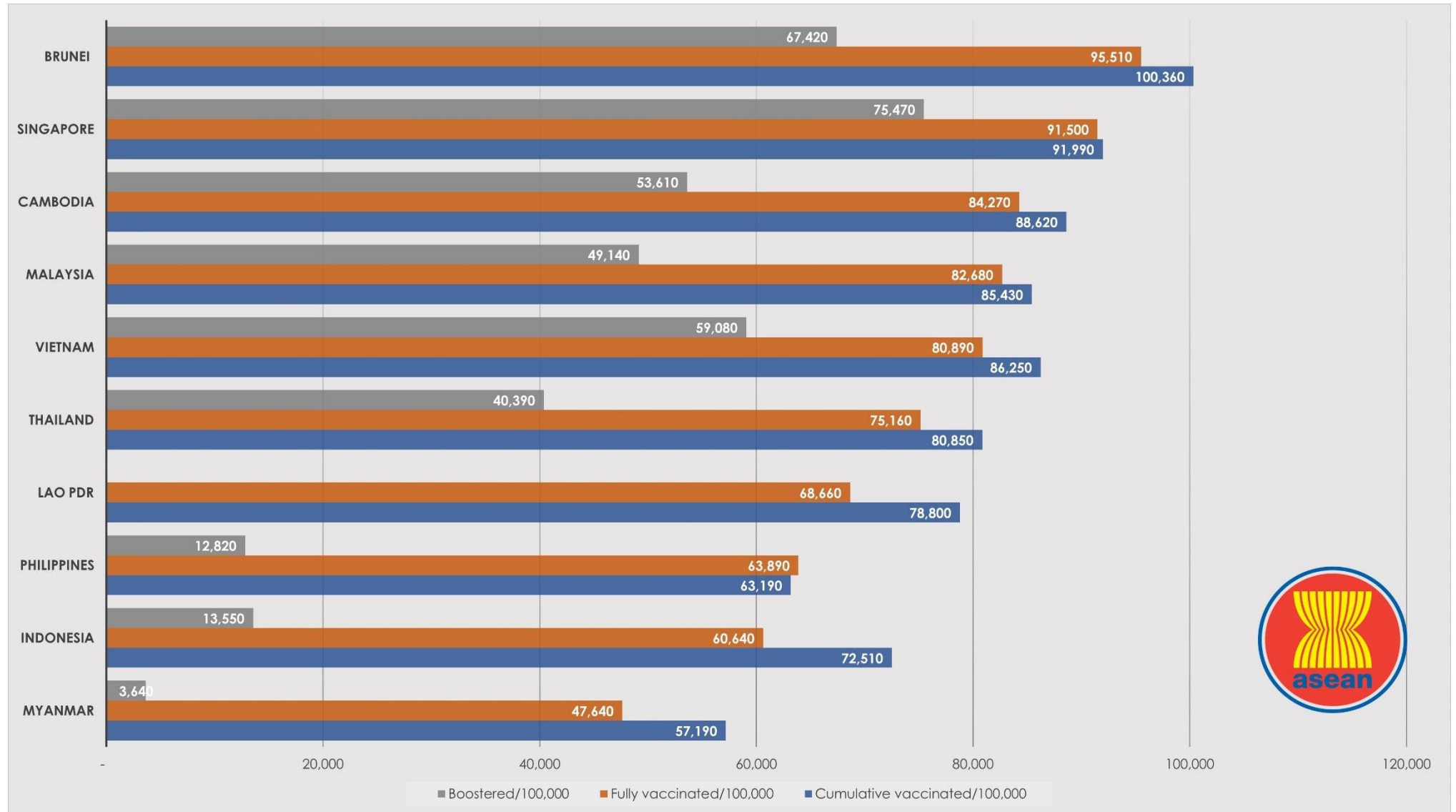
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to June 7, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 07 June 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 05 June 2022

 ASEAN MEMBER STATE	REQUIREMENT							
	At least 80% of the high-risk population has been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		At least 65% of the total population has a level of immunity to COVID-19; either recovered from COVID-19 or have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		Case levels are generally low (a 7-day rolling average number of daily new cases that is <10 cases per 100,000, with each day's past-14-day test positivity is consistently <5%).		Government Policy on containment and health (strictness and comprehensiveness in COVID-19 related government policies)	
	% of High risk population fully vaccinated	Population vaccinated/day (7-day average)	% of Total population fully vaccinated / boosted	Population vaccinated/day (7-day average)	Daily cases/100,000	Test positivity last 14 days	Containment and health index score - Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT)	Change over the past 30 days
Brunei	≥90.0	Unknown	≥90.0/67.4	Unknown	78.66	Unknown	60.7/100	-4.8
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/53.6	Unknown	0.00	Unknown	22.6/100	-9.5
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	64.2/13.6	0.03%/day	0.13	Unknown	61.3/100	+3.6
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	75.0/ND	0.21%/day	0.21	22.5	56.3/100	-4.2
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	83.2/49.1	0.01%/day	5.03	4.5	50.0/100	-14.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	49.4/3.6	Unknown	0.02	0.2	65.5/100	-4.8
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	68.7/12.8	0.1%/day	0.17	1.0	56.5/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.5/75.5	0.02%/day	57.76	Unknown	58.9/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	76.3/40.3	0.02%/day	4.60	Unknown	56.3/100	0.0
Vietnam	89.8	0.08%/day	85.7/59.0	0.08%/day	1.13	100	43.5/100	-1.8

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

June 1-7, 2022

Regional Updates

Malaria in Vietnam

- Additional imported cases of malaria have been reported in Vietnam. Officially available information indicates that the most recent cases were both confirmed with malaria at local hospitals in Ho Chi Minh city. The first affected individual is a 24-year-old female, an international student, living in Binh Thanh district who returned from Cameroon. One day after entering the country, the girl had a fever and took medicine but did not get better. On the 6th day, the patient had a blood test to detect malaria parasites and was treated at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City. At the time of admission, the patient was comatose, jaundiced, high density of malaria parasites, anemia and red-brown urine. The second is a 63-year-old man, with a recent history of travel to Ivory Coast. When he arrived at Tan Son Nhat airport, he was taken to a hospital to check his health because he had fever symptoms. Tests showed high density of malaria parasites, kidney failure, liver damage, lactic acidosis. The patients were actively treated with antimalarial drugs and a combination of supportive treatment means. At present, malaria should be considered if the patient lives or moves from mountainous areas, mangroves, where malaria is endemic such as Binh Phuoc, the Central Highlands or from countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Africa, etc. If the patient has a fever, the patient should go to medical facilities for medical examination and testing for malaria diagnosis.

Dengue in Singapore

- "Singapore is currently facing a serious dengue situation, as the reported number of weekly dengue cases continues to rise sharply," the agency said in a news release on Friday [3 Jun 2022]. "This number is expected to hit another historical peak, surpassing the highest weekly figure of 1787 cases seen in 2020, and may even exceed 2000 in the month of June [2022], which is just the beginning of the traditional peak dengue season." More than 12 000 dengue cases have been reported this year [2022] -- up from 5258 cases in the whole of 2021 - - as Singapore enters the peak dengue season from June to October. The yearly record is 35 315 cases in 2020. National Environment Agency (NEA) inspections have found that a majority of mosquito breeding sites are in residential premises, with a smaller percentage in common areas, followed by construction sites. "Dengue is endemic in Singapore and our population immunity is low and will continue to be so, largely because of comprehensive dengue prevention and control measures over the years," it said. "Some factors contributing to the surge in dengue cases are the high *Aedes aegypti*, mosquito vector population, circulation of the previously uncommon dengue virus serotype 3 (DENV-3), and recent warm, rainy and humid weather.

Dengue in Cambodia

- The National Dengue Control Programme (NDCP) reminded people to be vigilant against dengue fever, as the first five months of this year saw more than 1,200 confirmed cases of the disease, an increase of about 300 compared to the same period last year. The warning comes after the rainy season began with frequent rainfall in almost every part of the Kingdom, creating a large number of pools of

stagnant water for mosquitoes to breed in. NDCP director Leang Rithea told The Post that dengue fever case numbers had risen alarmingly over the last two weeks, though the situation remained under control. "The reason for the increase in dengue fever cases was because of the hot weather, humidity and rainfall. When the heat increases, the rainfall and the number of mosquitoes increase accordingly. Obviously, we see that it has rained quite a bit over the last two weeks," he said. He said that only two out of the more than 1,200 dengue patients have died so far as a result of their illnesses, and in both cases their conditions were made much worse by a delay in receiving treatment at a specialist hospital. Instead, they received treatment in their villages from doctors without legitimate degrees or training and who were unskilled at administering serums to the patients.

Chikungunya in Indonesia

- The secretary of the Bima City Health Service (Dikes) Ahmad admitted that hundreds of residents who were infected with the disease had difficulty standing because their joints were painful and stiff. "Hundreds of our residents who are infected with chikungunya have difficulty standing, because this disease is in their joints," said Ahmad when confirmed, Monday (6/6/2022). Ahmad said this disease has spread to a number of areas in Bima City. Previously, in Penaraga and Matakando Villages, 32 residents were found to be infected. Currently, there are dozens of new cases in West Jati Baru Village, Asakota District, and in Mande Village, Mpunda District, Bima City. However, more than 100 residents have been infected as of Monday. According to him, intense smoking and sowing of abate powder was carried out to suppress the spread of chikungunya disease. However, this step is not optimal if it is not balanced by public awareness to maintain environmental cleanliness independently. Ahmad hopes that the clean Friday program should be re-invigorated by sub-district governments in five sub-districts.

Leptospirosis in the Philippines

- The Department of Health (DOH) on Thursday said it recorded a total of 631 cases of leptospirosis from Jan. 1 to May 7, 2022. This number, said the DOH in a statement, is 6 percent higher compared to the reported cases during the same period in 2021, which was at 596. Meanwhile, 154 cases were recorded from April 10 to May 5 — most of the which were from the same regions, Western Visayas, 31 (20 %), Cagayan Valley, 23 (15 %) and Metro Manila, 20 (13 %). Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Eastern Mindanao, and Cordillera Administrative Region also showed case increases in the recent four morbidity weeks, April 10 to May 7, said the DOH. With this, the DOH cautioned the public to avoid the said bacterial disease by staying dry, and avoiding flood water. However, if the need arises, the DOH recommended the use of footwear like waterproof boots.

Rabies in Vietnam

- On June 7, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of Dak Lak province said that it had just recorded the second case of death from rabies since the beginning of 2022 until now. According to CDC Dak Lak, earlier on May 25, HNH (16 years old, living in Cu Mblim village, Ea Kao commune, Buon Ma Thuot city, Dak Lak province) showed symptoms of fever, fatigue, poor appetite, Fear of water, fear of wind. On May 27, the patient was taken to the Central Highlands General Hospital by family members and was diagnosed with a rabies attack. After that, the patient was asked by his family to be transferred to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City. HCM

treatment. Because his condition did not improve, his family asked to take him home and later died. According to the patient's family, on May 9, the patient was bitten on the hand by a cat but did not get rabies vaccination.

Thailand

- Thailand has reported its first case of Monkeypox, in an air passenger travelling from Europe who stopped over at an international airport in Bangkok for about two hours prior to transiting onto a flight to Australia, where he later developed symptoms, according to the Disease Control Department. 12 crew members and passengers on the same flight, who were in close contact with the infected traveller, have now been quarantined in Thailand for seven days, adding that none of them have shown any symptoms associated with monkeypox, but they will be isolated for 21 days to ensure they are safe, according to Head of the Bureau of Epidemiology Dr. Chakkarat Pittayawonganon. Lab tests on five tourists in Phuket, including three brothers from Ireland, who were initially thought to be infected with monkeypox after they developed blisters, show that they were infected with herpes, said Dr. Chakkarat, not monkeypox.

Unknown hepatitis in Japan

- The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has announced that five new patients were hospitalized for acute hepatitis of unknown cause. Since April, a total of 36 children have been reported as suspected of having acute hepatitis of unknown cause in Japan. There were no cases of liver transplantation.

H9N2 avian influenza in Macao SAR

- According to a statement from the Macao SAR, 2 new cases of human infection with H9N2 avian influenza were confirmed in Hunan and Guizhou provinces. One patient is a 5-year old boy who lives in Yueyang City, Hunan. He developed symptoms on April 26, 2022 and was diagnosed on June 2, 2022. His condition was mild and there were live poultry activities before the onset of the disease. The other patient was a 2-year old boy, who lives in Bijie City, Guizhou. He developed symptoms on May 8, 2022 and was diagnosed on June 1, 2022. He condition was mild and he had a history of poultry market activity before the onset. Four previous H9N2 cases were reported earlier in 2022.

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in Malaysia

- Malaysia's Ministry of Health reported a total of 82,846 cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) as of June 4, which was the last day of epidemiological week (EW) 22/2022. According to the ministry, there's a 32-fold increase compared to 2,485 cases recorded in the same period last year and a 1.7-fold increase compared to 30,489 cases reported in 2019. However, a total of 16,954 HFMD cases were reported nationwide during EW22/2022 week, a 9.3% decrease compared to 18,688 cases recorded in EW21/2022. As of June 4, Selangor contributed the largest number of HFMD cases, with 23,305 cases (28.13%), followed by Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya with 9,540 cases (11.52%), Perak with 8,032 cases (9.70%), Kelantan with 5,782 cases (6.98%) and Johor with 5,234 cases (6.32%). Most of the HFMD cases occurred among children aged six years old and below with 74,841 cases (90%), followed by those aged seven to 12 years old

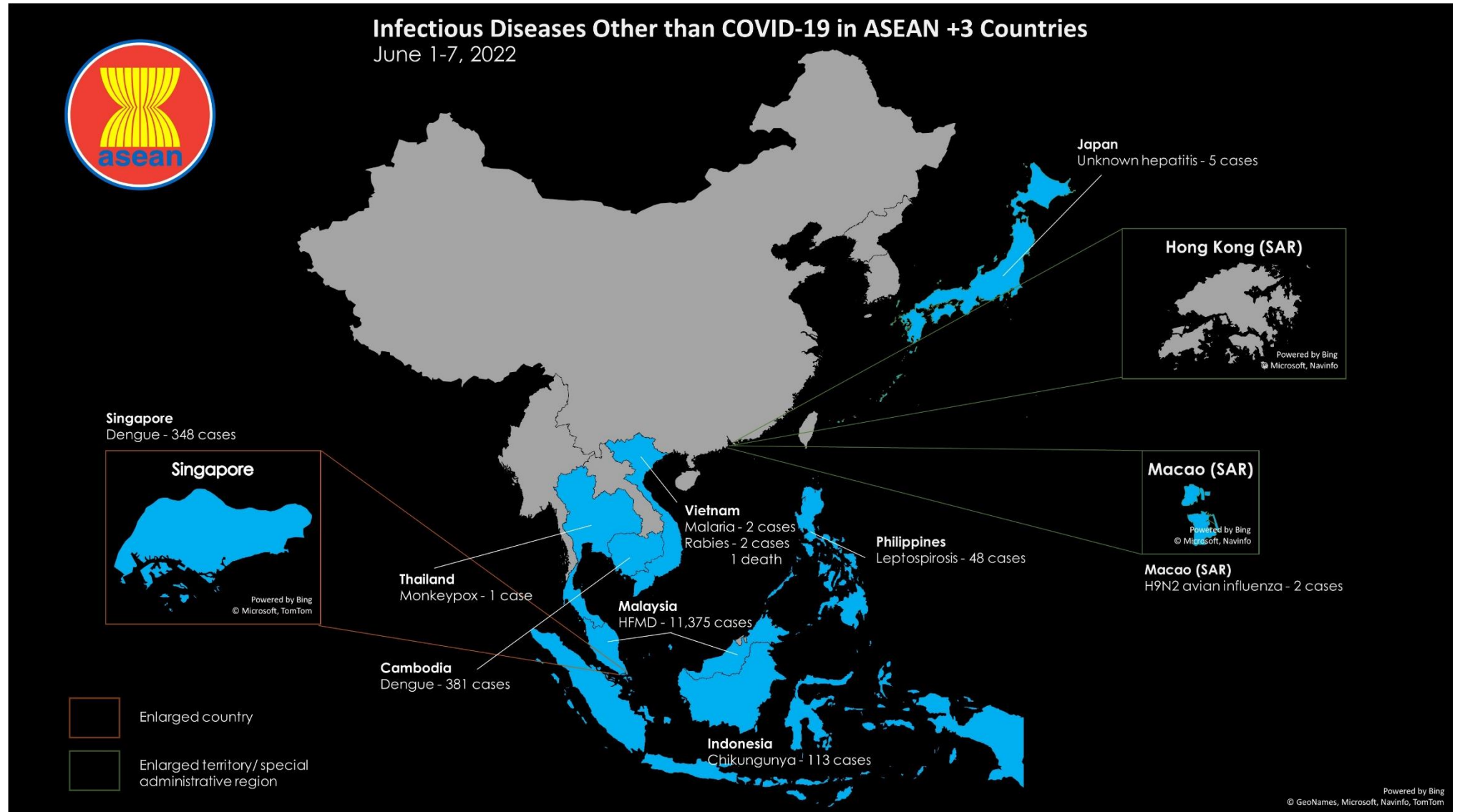
with 6,520 cases (8%) and those over the age of 12 with 1,485 cases (2%). Majority of the disease outbreaks occurred in nurseries, kindergartens and preschools with 1,059 outbreaks or 61% of the total cases, followed by private homes with 605 outbreaks or 35% and also childcare centers with 56 outbreaks (3%) as of June 4.

Monkeypox case transited through Singapore

- A traveler from Barcelona, who transited at Changi Airport on June 2, tested positive for monkeypox after arriving in Sydney the next day. Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) said on June 6 that the ministry was informed of the development last Saturday by its New South Wales counterpart. The confirmed case left Barcelona on June 1 and arrived at Changi Airport on June 2. He remained in the transit holding area until his departure for Sydney on the same day, and did not visit other places in the airport. It added that as the person did not enter Singapore or interact with others in the community, therefore there is currently no significant risk of community transmission. However, as a precautionary measure, MOH have conducted contact tracing for the two affected flights and those who might have come into contact with the traveler at the airport transit area. There were no assessed close contacts, and hence no requirement for quarantine. Thirteen people who may have had casual contact with the traveler have been put on phone surveillance for 21 days and will receive daily calls to determine their health status until the end of the monitoring period.

Infectious Diseases other than COVID-19 in ASEAN+3 Countries

From June 1 to 7, 2022

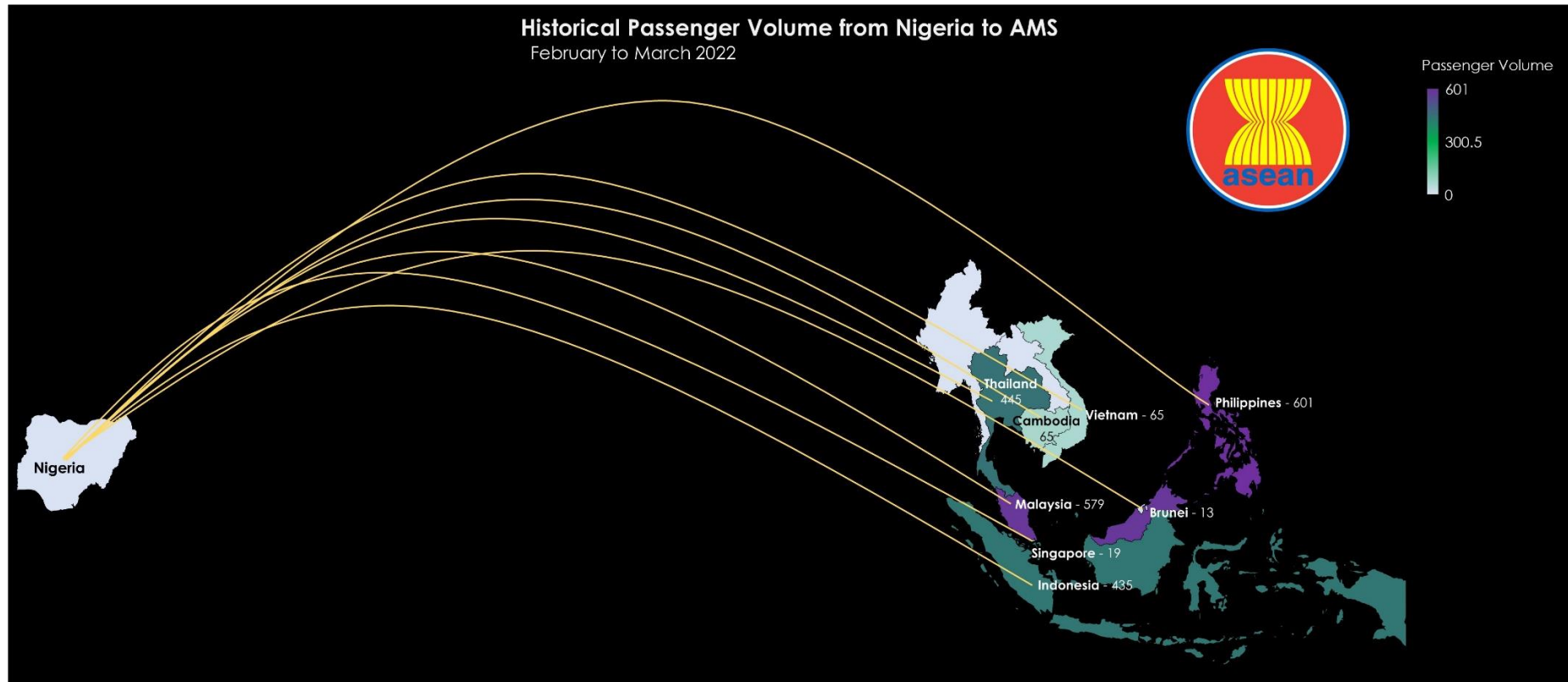


Special Report: Monkeypox cases reported in non-endemic areas

Global update

- The WHO said Wednesday that hundreds of monkeypox cases have surfaced beyond the African countries where the disease is typically found, warning the virus has likely been spreading under the radar. 'Investigations are ongoing, but the sudden appearance of monkeypox in many countries at the same time suggests there may have been undetected transmission for some time,' World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters. Since Britain first reported a confirmed monkeypox case on May 7, more than 550 confirmed cases of the disease have been verified in 30 countries outside of the west and central African nations where it is endemic, the WHO said. The UN health agency's top monkeypox expert Rosamund Lewis said that the appearance of so many cases across much of Europe and other countries where it has not been seen before 'is clearly a cause for concern, and it does suggest undetected transmission for a while'. 'We don't know if it is weeks, months or possibly a couple for years,' she said, adding that 'we don't really know if it is too late to contain'. Monkeypox is related to smallpox, which killed millions around the world every year before it was eradicated in 1980.
- Monkeypox is endemic in 10 countries in West and Central Africa, with dozens of cases this year in Cameroon, Nigeria, and the Central African Republic (CAR). The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has by far the highest burden, with 1284 cases in 2022 alone. Those numbers are almost certainly underestimates. In the DRC, infections most often happen in remote rural areas; in the CAR, armed conflict in several regions has limited surveillance.
- On May 7, 2022, the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed a monkeypox case in England. According to officially available data, the affected individual has a recent history of travel to Nigeria, where monkeypox is endemic and cases are detected regularly in recent years.
- On May 14, 2022, two additional monkeypox cases were confirmed in London. The two new cases are from the same household but are unconnected to the previously confirmed index case reported on May 7, and are not related to a history of travel to any known endemic countries. Since then, and for the first time, additional cases without a history of travel to an endemic region have been reported in the United Kingdom as well as Portugal, Spain, Canada, Italy, Sweden, United States, France, Belgium, Australia, Germany, Netherlands, and Israel.
- On May 16, the U.K. made available genomic sequencing information from the first cases, and preliminary phylogenetic analysis of the genome of one case in Portugal indicates that all the samples from both countries belong to the West African clade of monkeypox. The sample from Portugal is closely related to previous virus samples (from past exportation events) from Nigeria.
- Among endemic countries, Nigeria appears to be the most likely source of the large multinational outbreak given genomic sequencing data, travel connectivity, and known importation in a traveler to the UK. However, there appear to be two distinct clusters of cases originating in West Africa.
- Outbreaks outside Africa, including the current one, have all involved the West African strain, which kills about 1% of those it infects. The Congo Basin strain, found in the DRC and the CAR, is 10 times more lethal, yet despite the relatively high disease burden in the DRC, it has never left Africa.

Historical passenger volumes from Nigeria to AMS February – March 2022



	To AMS	February 2022	March 2022
From Nigeria	Brunei	3	10
	Cambodia	33	35
	Indonesia	188	247
	Laos	ND	ND
	Malaysia	257	322
	Myanmar	ND	ND
	Philippines	230	371
	Singapore	12	7
	Thailand	158	287
	Vietnam	16	49

ASEAN+3 Region Preparedness Against Monkeypox

- In Cambodia, the alarm was raised after the country detected six suspected monkeypox cases. The health authorities later announced on June 2 that all the people involved tested negative for the virus through lab tests by the IPC, according to the Phnom Penh Post.
- Countries such as the Vietnam and Laos also began to tighten the surveillance at airports or border gates.
- Philippines: Director Beverly Ho, of the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, explained that a “four-door strategy” would be implemented should cases of monkeypox be detected in the country. This strategy includes strict border controls as a “primary level of defense” and screening, testing, and quarantine of travelers with monkeypox-like symptoms. International travelers will also be required to register at the BOQ’s onehealthpass.com.ph 48 hours before departure from the country of origin. On May 27, the Department of Health (DOH) said that the country has yet to procure vaccines against monkeypox. It revealed, however, that discussions are underway on the possible acquisition of antivirals against the monkeypox virus. “Monkeypox vaccination is not yet included in the National Immunization Program,” the DOH said in a statement. “Although there is a monkeypox vaccine developed already, this is not yet widely available according to [World Health Organization].” “There are ongoing internal discussions, based on scientific evidence, for the possible acquisition of antivirals in the event of an outbreak of severe cases,” it said. With the country’s anti-COVID-19 response and protocols, experts assured the public, saying that there’s no need to panic or be afraid of monkeypox. Still, Tayag acknowledged that “having small fear about it is okay, since it will make us more careful.” Buensalido emphasized that the country already has the tools to protect people against monkeypox. He added that unlike COVID-19, the monkeypox is less contagious.

Countries reporting confirmed case/s of Monkeypox

- Thailand reported its first monkeypox case in an air passenger from Europe who stayed for about 2 hours in Bangkok before transiting to Australia, broadcaster Thai PBS World reported on May 30. No other cases have been reported in Thailand, but the Thai Public Health Ministry has asked hospitals and healthcare facilities to monitor for infections, according to a briefing by the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration on June 2. Many other countries in the region have also tightened up their surveillance of the virus.
- Latvia’s disease control and prevention center made the announcement Friday, LSM’s English-language portal reports, and said the case concerned an adult aged under 50, who presented with mild symptoms and who had contracted the illness while abroad, in an EU country. The patient remains under medical supervision, while authorities stated that individuals who are potential close contacts of the patient will not require quarantining as was the case with the coronavirus, due to the slower propagation of the disease, but should nonetheless monitor their health.
- Gibraltar: The GHA has confirmed that a case of monkeypox has been detected in Gibraltar. The individual is a resident of Spain who works in Gibraltar and who presented at St Bernard’s Hospital, where they were immediately isolated and assessed in line with the GHA’s monkeypox procedure. According to the GHA, the individual’s only known close contact is also a Spanish national who works in Gibraltar. Gibraltar’s monkeypox response preparations have been underway since the outbreak was announced by the World Health Organization in early May.
- Hungary: Hungarian health authorities have confirmed the country’s first case of monkeypox in a 38-year-old man. The disease does not spread easily, only through close contact, said the chief medical officer Cecilia Muller in a press conference on Tuesday.

- Morocco announced Thursday its first confirmed case of monkeypox infection, at the height of the country's tourist season, health authorities said. According to the H24Info website, this first case was detected in Casablanca, the largest city in Morocco. It is a Moroccan man who arrived in the country from France, H24 Info said, citing informed sources. The Cherifian kingdom is the first country in the Maghreb, to date, to publicly report a confirmed case of this infectious disease, caused by a virus transmitted to humans by infected animals. The patient's health condition is "stable and does not give cause for concern", the health ministry added. Contact cases have been identified and have shown "no symptoms so far", it said. Because of the risk of the virus spreading, Morocco, a major tourist destination, has published a "surveillance and response plan" for the detection and treatment of the disease.

Monkeypox Cases Reported in Non-Endemic Areas

As of June 7, 2022

