

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of April 1, 2022



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 488 million cases, almost 6.6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.3%.
- South Korea: The country in East Asia is reporting the most cases of COVID-19 per capita globally due to the surge of Omicron variant. South Korea is one of the places were seen as successful in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. The country's eased restrictions earlier this month and the presidential elections may have played a role in its spike. Easing of restriction was done weeks before the elections to address the economic losses experienced by the small business owners. Another factor to the high cases in Korea compared to other countries was due to their large testing capacities. Funeral homes in Korea are struggling to keep up with the spike; on the other hand, COVID-19 fatality rate in the country remains as low as 0.13%, which is lower than United Kingdom's 0.18%, US' 1.2%, and Globally 1.3%.
- China: Millions of people in China are under lockdown and morgues in Hong Kong are overwhelmed as Omicron variant surges. The country and the special administrative region (SAR) have both maintained strict border rules and still living with social distancing measures as the people wait to move forward with their lives. Hong Kong's death rate per capita has been highest in Asia and Oceania every day, since February 28, and also the region's outlier. 85.4% of the aged 12 and above population in the SAR have been fully vaccinated; however, only 60% of the elderly population, aged 70 and above have had two doses. Similarly, China is also lagging in vaccination of elderly aged 60 and above, about 40 million elderly Chinese are yet to receive a vaccine. Shanghai, China extends lockdown for areas where cases are found. Residential areas where people have tested positive to be sealed off for another 10 days, with those nearby confined to their homes for three more days. The government announced late on Thursday that residential areas would be managed according to their COVID-19 risk, and those where people have tested positive will be sealed off for another 10 days. Residential areas located nearby that do not have cases will remain in lockdown for another three days. Other restrictions will remain in place including a ban on dining in at restaurants, and entertainment venues will remain closed. Residents were also urged not to cross the Huangpu River, which runs through the city. The area to the west of the river will also be subject to stay-at-home orders from (April 1) Friday. China on Thursday reported 8,559 new cases, of which 6,720 had no symptoms. The proportion of asymptomatic cases has been higher than in previous outbreaks, particularly in Shanghai. About 100 of the new cases were imported ones among people who had recently arrived from abroad. Shanghai on March 31 has reported 4,144 asymptomatic COVID-19 cases and 358 symptomatic cases. China is currently maintaining its zero-COVID strategy and relying on strict lockdown to get its spiking cases under control.
- Ivermectin, the anti-parasitic drug touted by some as alternative COVID-19 treatment was found in a double-blind randomized clinical trial in Brazil that it cannot do anything against the coronavirus in terms of alleviating symptoms or keeping infected patients out of the hospital. Health Canada, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of US, and the World Health Organization (WHO) all warned against the use of the drug to prevent or treat COVID-19.

Regional Update

- Laos: An official of the Lao People's Democratic Republic appealed on March 30 to the ASEAN members, that the region should strengthen their cooperation in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 as the virus continues to affect all the member nations. The statement was made during a virtual meeting of the 27th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, Suanesavanh Vignaket, the country's information, culture, and tourism minister. Vignaket added that ASEAN should heighten collaboration in capacity building, human resource development, information and technology sharing, and readiness for new emergencies and environmental challenges.
- Malaysia: After more than two years in the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning April 1, Malaysia is transitioning to endemic phase. Businesses in the country will be allowed to open according to the operating hours stated in the operating license of their premises. Physical distancing measures are lifted for congregational prayers in mosques and sarau, including religious ceremonies at houses of worship. However, face masks in public places and checking in using MySejahtera application is still required, except in open spaces that are not crowded and have no public gatherings. Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin appealed to the public to remain vigilant and continue to practice discipline to prevent another surge of COVID-19 in the country.

Vaccine Update

- Based on Malaysia's CovidNow portal, a total of 22,953,296 individuals or 97.6% of the adult population have received two doses of the vaccine, while 23,228,967 or 98.8% have received at least one dose, and 15,808,761 individuals or 67.2% have received the booster dose. For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,851,819 individuals or 91.7% this age group have completed the vaccination, while 2,948,197 individuals or 94.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine. For children aged five to 11, 310 children have completed two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination, while 1,329,638 children in the same group or 37.4% of their population have received the first dose of the vaccine under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme for Children (PICKids) as of March 31 (Thursday). On a daily inoculation rate on March 31 (Thursday), a total of 57,199 doses of the vaccine were dispensed, involving 6,788 as first dose, 1,895 as second dose and 48,516 as booster dose, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (PICK) to 68,909,031.
- Myanmar: More than 2.2 million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Yangon on March 30 that were donated by China through the COVAX facility. As of March 31, more than 49.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, more than 21.8 million individuals have been fully vaccinated in the country, and over 1 million have been boosted.
- Vietnamese health authorities announced they have expanded the emergency use authorization for Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax) to include children from 6 to 12 years old. The amendment to the original approval of the vaccine is based on the request and subsequent data submission from Zuellig Pharma Vietnam, which distributes the Covid-19 vaccines in the Asian region. According to the Drug Administration of Vietnam, the dosage will be 0.25ml, or half of the dosage for adults and the primary vaccination course is two doses, with the interval between the two shots set at four weeks. Previously, the health ministry has approved Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines (Comirnaty) for use in children aged 5-11 years old. Vietnam is set to start vaccinating children in the 5-11 age range in the second week of April, with the first batch of vaccines (both Pfizer and Moderna's) slated to be delivered as aid from Australia in the

coming days. The Ministry of Health (MOH) has been asking local administrations and health authorities to prepare to get the vaccination campaign rolling as soon as the vaccines are allocated and distributed.

- Philippines: Government officials, experts, and National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC) are in talks if there is a need for the country to redefine the term “fully vaccinated” with the inclusion of the booster dose requirement. Currently, the current definition of fully vaccinated applies to those who received primary series of COVID-19 vaccine and 14 days after. This move is to encourage Filipinos to take advantage of the booster dose to provide additional protection against COVID-19. 65.8 million Filipinos have received the primary series of COVID-19 vaccine, but only 12 million have received a booster dose.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Brunei: The government has updated its travel guideline where individuals entering the country via air travel are now allowed to undergo quarantine at home or at their booked hotels. The new guideline will be implemented from Friday (April 1), however, the government authority said that addresses need to be registered prior to departing from the Sultanate through the online Arrival E-Health Declaration Form. This declaration must be completed by citizens, permanent residents or foreign nationals within 24 hours prior to departure, by submitting their health details including vaccination status, COVID-19 test result and travel history. In addition, inbound travellers are still required to make payment for COVID-19 tests upon arrival. The minister also added that foreign nationals travelling from countries under the Travel Green List – Australia, Cambodia, China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia (air travel only), New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom (UK), United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia – are not required to obtain Entry Travel Pass approval for inbound travel to the Sultanate. Travels to and from the Travel Green List countries are no longer limited to essential travel and are open to non-essential ones, too. However, inbound travel of foreign nationals from Travel Green List countries who wish to work or visit Brunei are still required to apply for employment visa, dependent visa, visit visa (for foreigners who require entry visa), or professional and business visit visa prior to entering the country, as per existing regulations. In addition, they are also required to adhere to enforced health measures such as the completion of COVID-19 vaccinations. Travellers arriving from Travel Green List countries are required to adhere to health protocols which have been revised such as to undergo RT-PCR swab test no more than two days before departing from the country of origin or undergo a certified antigen rapid test (ART) no more than one day before departing the country of origin; to undergo RT-PCR swab test and ART on day of arrival in the country, and subsequently undergo ART only on the second and third day, whereby test results are to be reported through the BruHealth app. ART kits with QR code will be provided upon arrival in the country and travellers must also undergo quarantine at home or hotels upon arrival until a negative RT-PCR swab test result is obtained. Travellers who have previously been infected by COVID-19 and have proof of infection such as a Recovery Certificate, whereby the date is no longer than 90 days, are exempted from the measures but are only required to undergo ART on the day of arrival. Meanwhile, travellers arriving from countries not yet included in the Travel Green List and intend to come to Brunei are required to undergo RT-PCR swab test no more than two days before departing from the country of origin or undergo a certified ART no more than one day before departing the country of origin; undergo antigen rapid test (ART) on the day of arrival in the country and subsequently undergo quarantine for five days at home or hotel accommodation. The minister said they must also undergo RT-PCR swab test on the fifth day and will be allowed to end quarantine as soon as a negative RT-PCR swab test result is obtained. RT-PCR swab tests can be performed at any accredited clinic.

- Singapore: Starting April 1 (Friday), compulsory travel insurance is no longer required for fully vaccinated short-term visitors entering Singapore. According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore on March 31 (Thursday), this is applicable for those coming to Singapore under the Ministry of Health's General Travel Category countries or region by air, land and sea borders. Meanwhile, children aged 12 and below and are not fully vaccinated are allowed to enter Singapore under similar measures as fully vaccinated adults. Travellers are considered fully vaccinated only when they have received the full regime of World Health Organization's Emergency Use Listing of COVID-19 vaccines at least two weeks prior to arriving in Singapore, and have met the minimum dose interval periods.
- Singapore-Malaysia: The government of Singapore and Malaysia are relaxing border restrictions for full vaccinated travellers from both countries and allowing them to cross the land border by private transport. However, a partially vaccinated traveler from Singapore to Malaysia needs to get a travel insurance with a minimum coverage of US\$20,000.

Cases and Deaths as of 01 April 2022

- As of 01 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **488,427,372** confirmed cases, including **6,579,991** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.3**.
- 50,114,635 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **29,142,928 cases** in the ASEAN region and **20,971,707 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.8**.

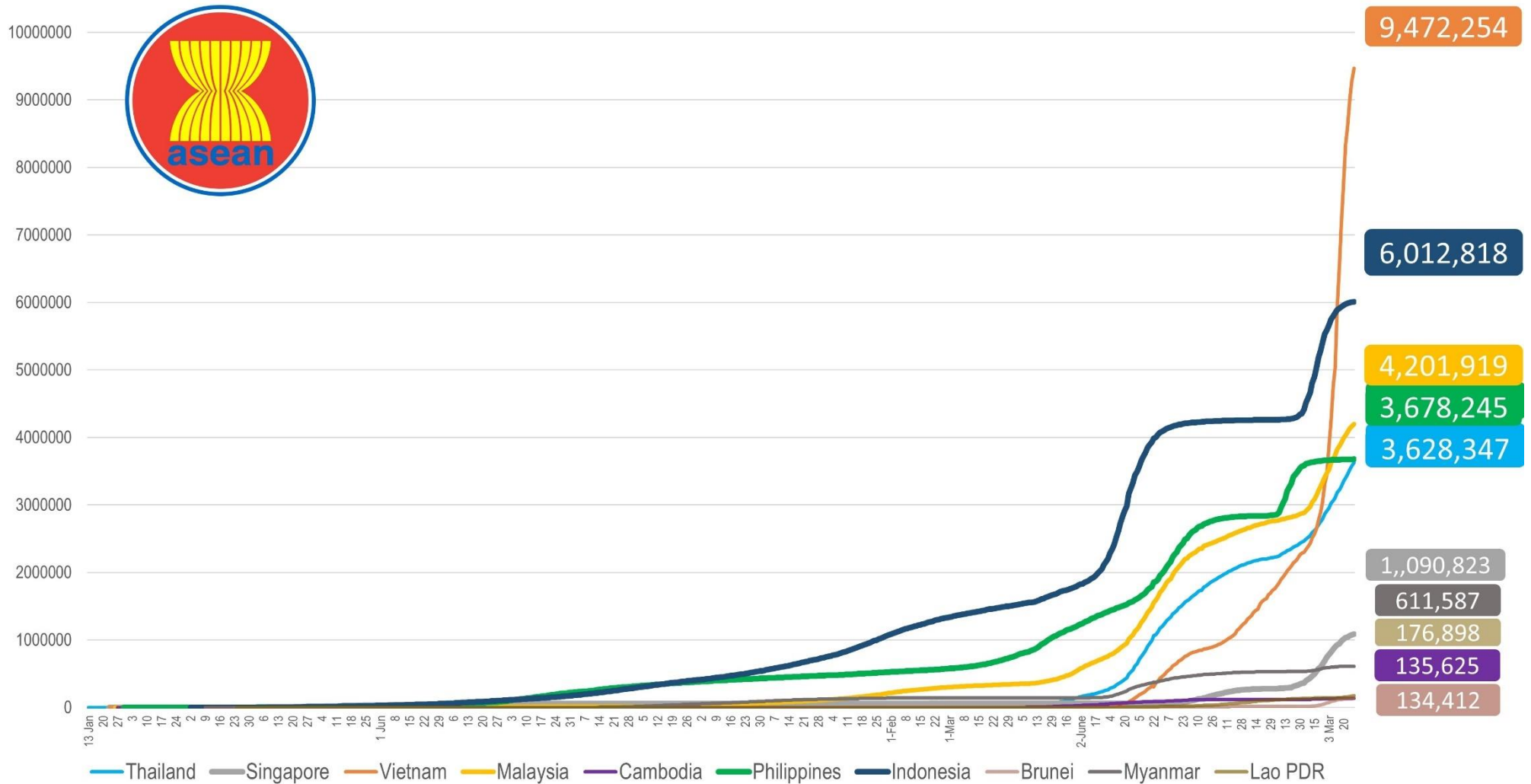
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	31-Mar-22	134,412	686	208	-	0.2%	31,022		407,945	404,935	255,588	91.7
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	31-Mar-22	135,625	40	3,054	-	2.3%	823	137	14,819,579	14,006,306	9,089,185	82.7
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	31-Mar-22	6,012,818	3,332	155,089	89	2.6%	2,222	146	196,354,667	159,025,975	22,215,377	57.5
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	31-Mar-22	176,898	2,762	665	1	0.4%	2,467	160	5,605,948	4,475,255		60.7
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	31-Mar-22	4,201,919	18,560	34,983	44	0.8%	13,152	3,027	27,499,639	25,803,265	15,758,429	78.7
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	31-Mar-22	611,587	139	19,430	-	3.2%	1,132	399	26,473,700	21,803,150		39.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	31-Mar-22	3,678,245	321	59,249	124	1.6%	3,402	20	70,173,137	65,804,988	11,954,585	59.3
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	31-Mar-22	1,090,823	5,729	1,263	5	0.1%	19,125		5,005,722	4,964,989	3,854,882	91.0
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	31-Mar-22	3,628,347	27,560	25,133	85	0.7%	5,211	-	55,429,179	50,182,847	23,521,983	71.7
Vietnam	23 Jan 20	30-Mar-22	9,472,254	-	42,454	-	0.4%	9,820	2,373	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2	
ASEAN COUNTRIES				29,142,928	59,129	341,528	319	1.2%			481,716,705	424,225,818	132,093,106	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	31-Mar-22	13,095,631	320,675	16,230	375	0.1%	25,326	10,482	44,950,348	44,484,725	32,714,951	86.7
	Japan	16-Jan-20	31-Mar-22	6,545,910	51,913	27,958	101	0.4%	5,184	888	102,499,760	100,647,986	51,930,861	79.9
	China		31-Mar-22	1,330,166	8,723	13,316	119	7.4%	15,543	1,008	1,302,077,230	1,265,291,807	685,978,558	316.2
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				20,971,707	381,311	57,504	595	0.3%			1,449,527,338	1,410,424,518	770,624,370
ASEAN +3				50,114,635	440,440	399,032	914	0.8%			1,931,244,043	1,834,650,336	902,717,476	

- 438,312,737 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in **5 continents** (other than ASEAN +3 countries):

CONTINENT	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED
AFRICA	11,758,435	2,943	252,817	20	1.1	199,178	8,210	281,286,484	208,523,493	18,260,780
AMERICAS	152,800,712	22,938	2,725,931	206	1	848,372	26,489	790,575,891	691,466,833	279,777,334
ASIA PACIFIC	69,195,660	97,331	726,623	150	0	268,978	11,059	1,377,475,376	1,161,285,817	98,511,771
EUROPE	184,078,613	754,929	1,829,339	2,213	1	1,655,420	297,728	553,081,353	524,731,960	294,063,240
MIDDLE EAST	20,479,317	18,620	231,395	57	0	185,407	54,985	139,576,485	124,366,167	53,062,541
TOTAL	438,312,737	896,761	5,766,105	2,646	1.3%			3,141,995,589	2,710,374,270	743,675,666

COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

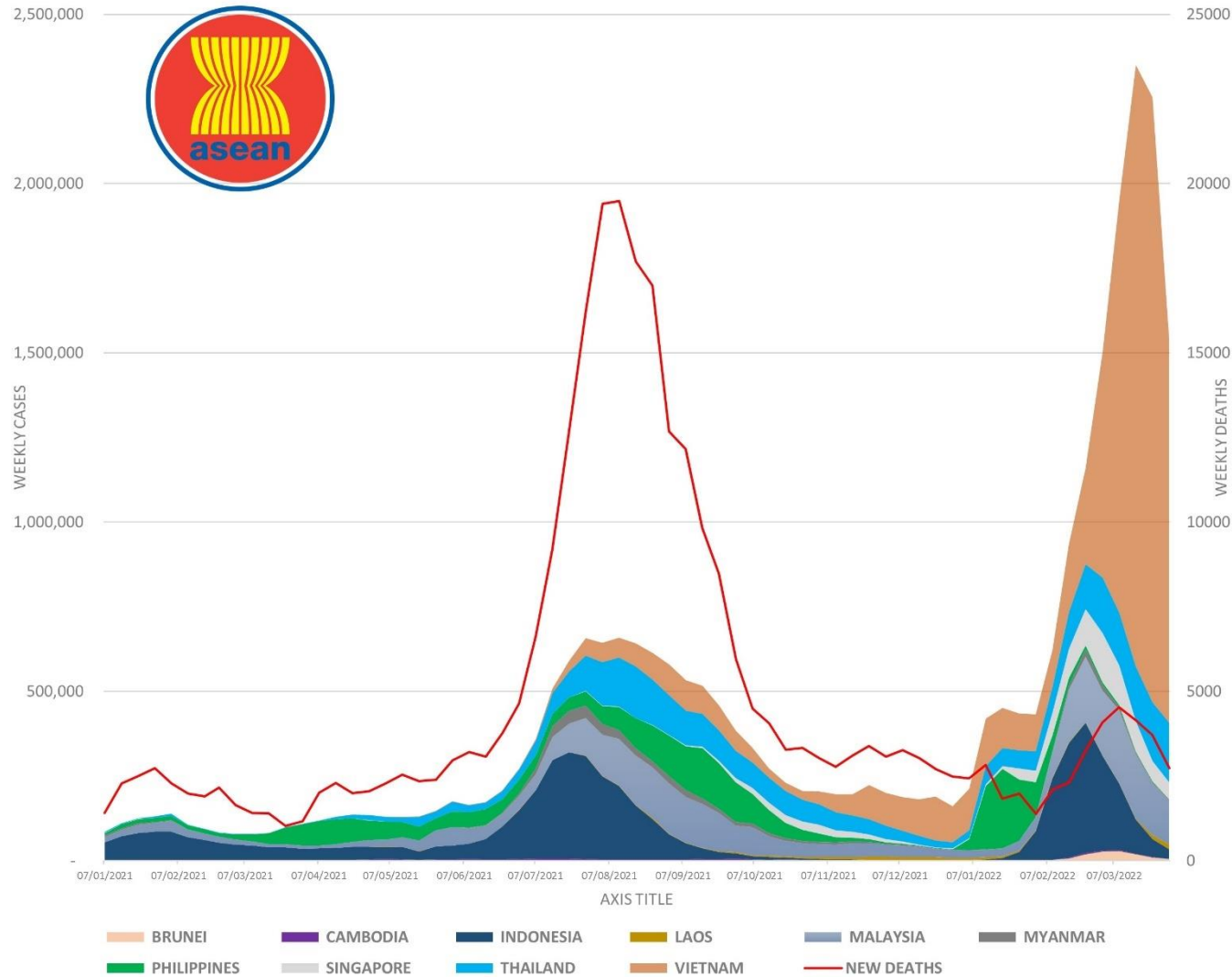
From January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022



Cumulative cases of COVID-19 in the ASEAN Region as of March 31, 2022 (Report generated by ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center)

Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

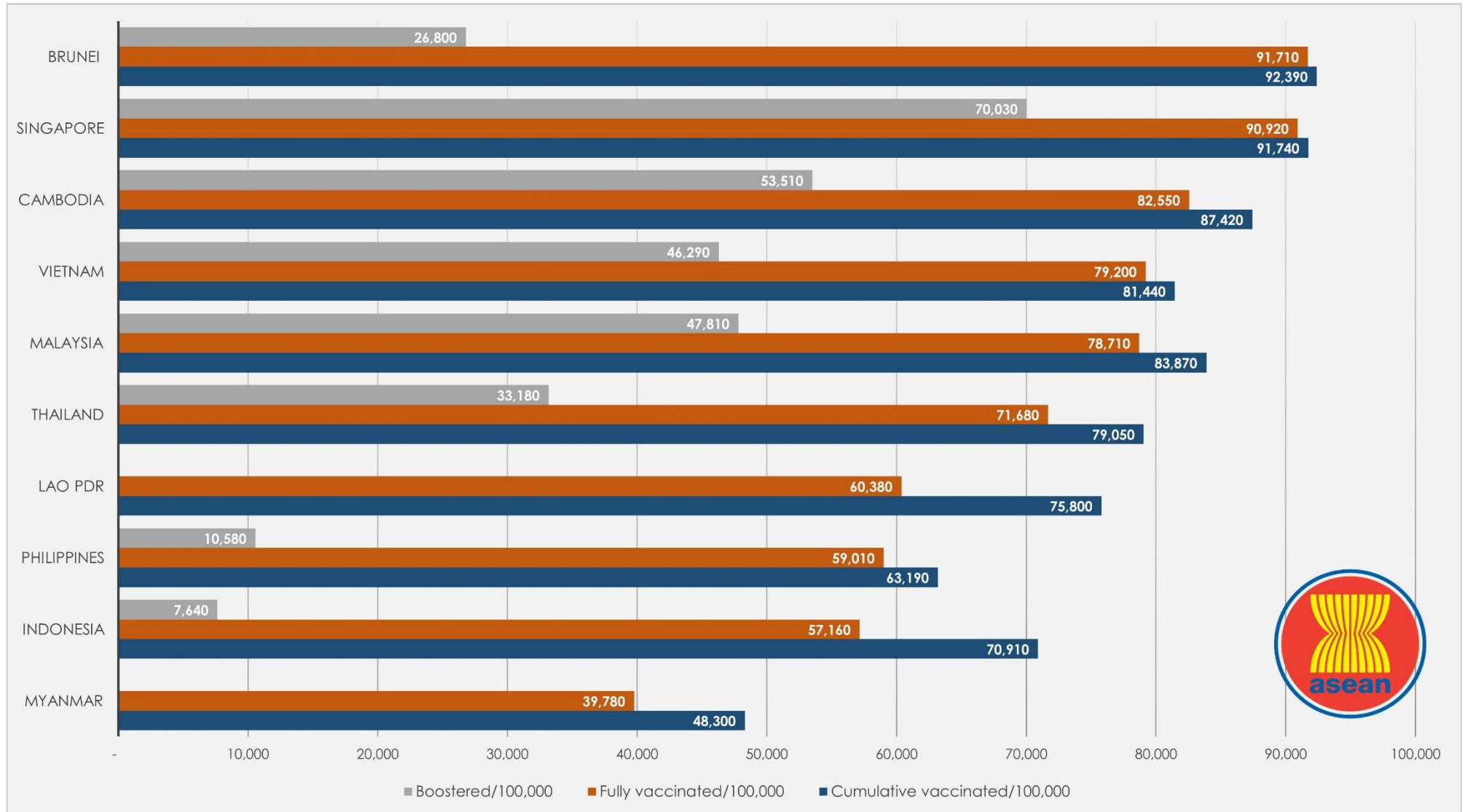
From January 1, 2021 to March 30, 2022



ASEAN Country	Weekly New Cases Mar. 23-Mar. 30, 2022	Weekly New Deaths Mar. 23-Mar. 30, 2022
Brunei	5,420	9
Cambodia	363	2
Indonesia	28,464	779
Lao PDR	5,089	12
Malaysia	128,433	339
Myanmar	1,533	2
Philippines	2,540	562
Singapore	49,373	44
Thailand	176,831	548
Vietnam	1,133,340	440


COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 31 March 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 29 March 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	≥90.0/57.9	Unknown	178.70	Unknown	67.9/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	88.8/53.5	0.09%/day	0.31	5.8	37.5/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	60.8/7.9	0.17%/day	1.50	11.3	55.7/100	-6.0
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	65.9/ND	0.18%/day	30.06	100	78.3/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	79.2/47.9	0%/day	57.43	13.5	58.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	41.2/ND	0.19%/day	0.40	2.7	77.7/100	0.0
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	63.7/10.8	0.27%/day	0.34	2.4	82.4/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	81.1/70.7	0.05%/day	123.66	Unknown	74.4/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	72.8/33.4	0.02%/day	36.30	Unknown	53.3/100	0.0
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	0.06%/day	167.80	100	71.4/100	-1.8



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