

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of April 11, 2022



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 499 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) urged the governments in Western Pacific region to continue vaccinating the most vulnerable populations as some of the countries in the region ease restrictions in a move to live with COVID-19. Dr. Takeshi Kasai, director of WHO Western Pacific Region, said in that while the virus won't probably disappear, anti-covid programs implemented by the government particularly in the said region will be the key in controlling surges and avoiding disruption of livelihood. Kasai advised the governments to vaccinate vulnerable populations including the healthcare workers, elderlies, and persons with underlying conditions; furthermore, they should be followed up with boosters. Maintaining mitigating measures and high vaccination coverage will allow countries and territories in the region to enable their public health system to not just respond to surges, but also prepare for the next pandemic, Kasai added. WHO Regional Emergencies Director Dr. Babatunde Olowokure also mentioned the people must remain vigilant with the possibility of occasional surges and deaths due to waning vaccine immunity even if COVID-19 continues to be manageable. WHO is tracking the development of the Omicron XE recombinant variant. WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned that the inequality access in COVID-19 vaccines could lead to the emergence of new, possibly more infectious variants. This statement comes after wealthier nations such as the European Union and G7 are approaching oversupply and had a surplus of 497 million doses of vaccine at the end of last month. Meanwhile, billions of people remain unvaccinated globally, most of them in developing countries.
- Several recombinant variants of circulating SARS-CoV-2 strains are currently being monitored globally. Recombinant variants can occur when two or more SARS-CoV-2 strains coinfect an individual and share genetic material during replication. This is a common way that viruses evolve to overcome selective pressures and adapt to new hosts or environments. Recombinant variants that contain advantageous mutations can spread at a faster rate than the strains that are circulating in a given location. BlueDot recently reported on a potential Delta-Omicron recombinant (also referred to as 'Deltacron') that was considered to likely be the result of laboratory contamination. Since that time, further Delta-Omicron recombinant variants have been detected globally. It is now considered likely that Delta and Omicron strains have recombined independently in different regions of the world, driven by high rates of co-circulation. As of April 8, five countries have submitted 83 sequenced genomes of Delta (AY.4) - Omicron (BA.1) recombinant variants to GISAID. To date, these countries include France (72), Denmark (8), Germany (1), the Netherlands (1), and Belgium (1). Evidence of the first Delta (AY.4)-Omicron (BA.1) recombinant sequence was reported in France by the Institut Pasteur through GISAID. Through further analysis, this recombinant variant was determined to have been circulating in France since early January 2022 and later spread to other European nations of Denmark and the Netherlands. By March 19, the WHO acknowledged that the Delta (AY.4) - Omicron (BA.1) recombinant variant was detected globally but did not show changes in severity compared to other variants. In addition, several Delta (AY.4) - Omicron (BA.2) recombinant cases were detected in Sweden and India. However, these recombinant variants did not appear to circulate further.
- Shanghai, China recorded 26,087 new COVID-19 infections as China's largest documented outbreak continues to spread despite an extended lockdown. According to the city's authority, about 95% of the cases were among people already under isolation. In addition, Shanghai government has classified communities into three zones according to COVID-19 risk. Lockdown zones refer to neighborhoods

that have reported new infections over the past week, and residents are required to stay at home for a week. Controlled zones refer to neighborhoods where no infections have been reported over the past week. Residents are allowed to retrieve food deliveries or take a walk at designated spots at staggered timings within the compound. Precautionary zones are communities that have not reported infections over the past 14 days. Residents in these areas can travel within their own sub-districts. As of 8AM of April 11 (Monday), a total of 7,624 communities in Shanghai were categorized as lockdown zones in the city's next phase to contain the outbreak, while 2,460 communities were designated precautionary zones and 7,565 marked as controlled zones. Meanwhile, the southern metropolis of Guangzhou is implementing a series of restrictions after local authorities warned the 20 cases they found in the latter part of last week could be the tip of the iceberg, and Omicron is likely to have already spread through densely populated neighborhoods. The city has shut schools until April 17 and will conduct mass-testing, while two districts have closed indoor entertainment venues. Guangzhou also requires people leaving the city to have a negative nucleic acid test result within 48 hours of departure.

- South Korea recorded below 100,000 new COVID-19 cases for the first time in seven weeks since its peak in mid-March. According to Korea Disease Control Prevention Agency (KDCA), 90,928 new cases including 21 imported, bringing a total of 15,424,598 COVID-19 cases. Though cases tend to fall on Mondays due to fewer tests conducted on the weekend before rising toward the end of the week. The latest number still reflects a downward curve in the virus trend in the country which has declined from 400,000 in the past several weeks, with the peak of over 620,000 on March 17. Health authorities are expected to announce later this week as the country transitions to endemic phase aimed at further lifting social distancing and normalizing the medical response to the pre-pandemic days. As of April 10, 44.51 million individuals or 86.7% of total population were fully vaccinated, while 32.92 million or 64.2% were boosted according to KDCA.
- Japan: Authorities are alarmed by seventh wave of COVID-19 surge in the country, with the pace of growth in new cases varying from region to region. The infections are significantly increasing among people of aged 10 to 29, the government aims to accelerate the administration of COVID-19 booster among younger population. COVID-19 infection increased to 8% compared to the previous week, up for the second straight week, according to the health ministry. Regional gaps of new cases reflect the differences in the number of people who acquired immunity against the virus after being infected the previous wave, Takaji Wakita, chief of National Institute of Infectious Diseases, said.
- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allows 1 million Hajj pilgrims from Indonesia this year, the Ministry of Religion of Indonesia announced. The Hajj is open to those aged below 65 and who have received a complete COVID-19 vaccination approved the Saudi Health Ministry. Furthermore, they are also required to submit a negative result of RT-PCR test taken 72 hours before departure to Saudi Arabia.

Regional Update

- Cambodia: Prime minister Hun Sun has decided to lift mandatory wearing of face masks for four provinces in Cambodia, in a move which appears to signal the loosening of restrictions, and gearing towards a new normal. The move was considered due to the upcoming Khmer new year and mass movement of Cambodians that accompanies the festival that will begin on April 14; however, it is hoped that the move signals the start of new normalcy as the country was under restrictions for two years due to the pandemic.
- Malaysia's Ministry of Health (MoH) on April 10 (Sunday) recorded 8,114 new COVID-19 infections, the first time since February 5 where cases have fallen below the 10,000-mark. As of April 10, the country has reported a total of 4,325,818 and 35,292 COVID-19 related deaths.

According to the Health Minister, 8,056 or 99.31% were asymptomatic or had only mild symptoms, while 29 patients were placed in Category 3, 10 patients in Category 4 and 17 in Category 5 for the most severe symptoms. He also added that out of these, 174 were in intensive care units (ICU) wherein 110 requires ventilator. Meanwhile, only one new cluster was detected, bringing the total number of active clusters to 130.

- Thailand: Annual Songkran festival will start next week, all are keeping an eye on the government to learn how its strict COVID-prevention measures will affect tourism spending and mitigate new infections, which are expected to spike after the holiday according to Kasikorn Research Centre. The Public Health Ministry warns its citizens of post-Songkran daily infections in the 100,000 range if they don't strictly adhere the COVID-19 health protocols.

Vaccine Update

- Philippines: Only 27% of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's (BARMM) population were vaccinated against COVID-19 and the Philippines' lowest vaccine coverage, Vaccine Czar Carlito Galvez, Jr. told President Rodrigo Duterte earlier this week. Vaccine coverage in the region is extremely low despite having enough supply of vaccine in the country. Galvez pointed the misinformation about the vaccine, cultural beliefs, and accessibility as reasons for low vaccine acceptance in the region. On the other hand, the Department of Health (DOH) has requested Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to amend the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of some COVID-19 vaccine brands so they can be used as booster for adolescents aged 12 to 17. The government is also pushing for the fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine to select population.
- According to CovidNow website of Malaysia, a total of 132,390 children aged five to 11 were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 under the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of April 11. A total of 1,365,915 children aged five to 11 or 38.4% of their population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. A total of 2,860,287 or 91.9% of adolescents aged 12 to 17 have been fully vaccinated, while 2,961,642 or 95.2% of adolescents have received at least one dose of vaccine. A total of 22,957,184 or 97.6% of adult population have been fully vaccinated, 23,234,427 or 98.8% have received at least one dose of vaccine, and 15,922,033 of 67.7% of total adults have been boosted.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Indonesia: Tourism Minister Sandiaga Uno made his first official trip to Australia since the borders reopened and appealed to travelers of the said country to visit Bali. Bali is the fourth most popular international destination for Easter with Los Angeles, Singapore, and Fiji taking out the top three. Before the pandemic, Bali has welcomed up to 15,000 tourists daily, but it is currently receiving 1,500. Australians must be fully vaccinated and a negative RT-PCR test both before departure and upon arrival must be presented; on the other hand, quarantine is not required anymore.

Cases and Deaths as of 11 April 2022

- As of 11 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **499,076,695** confirmed cases, including **6,197,266** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 54,077,889 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **30,331,219 cases** in the ASEAN region and **23,746,670 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.8**.

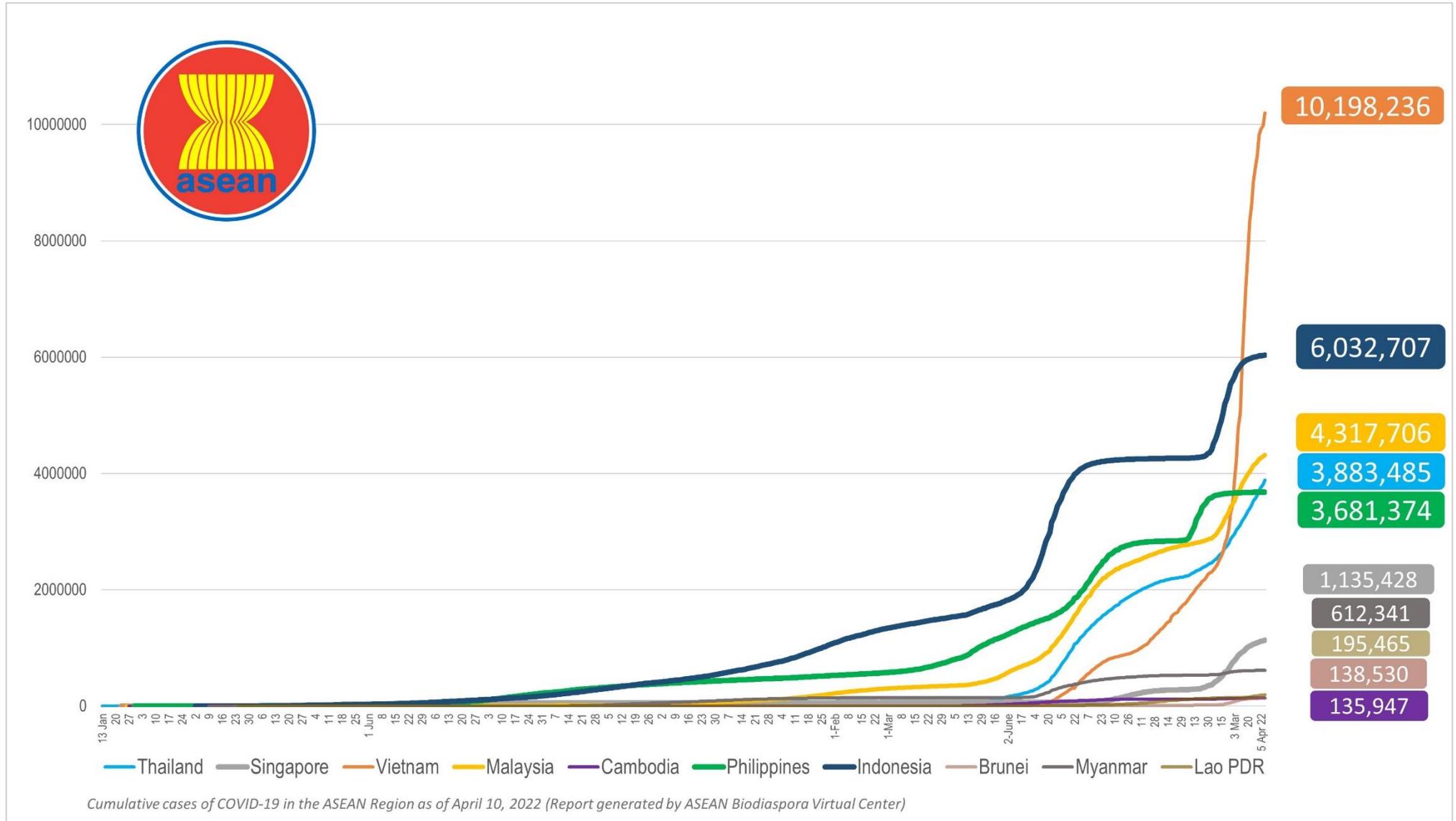
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	10-Apr-22	138,530	269	215	-	0.2%	31,972		408,162	405,286	265,042	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	10-Apr-22	135,947	33	3,055	-	2.2%	825	104	14,839,240	14,075,160	9,216,818	83.1
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	10-Apr-22	6,032,707	1,071	155,626	29	2.6%	2,229	-	197,216,895	160,935,915	25,945,875	58.2
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	10-Apr-22	195,465	924	698	6	0.4%	2,726	190	5,669,700	4,614,286		62.5
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	09-Apr-22	4,317,706	-	35,280	-	0.8%	13,514	3,140	27,543,413	25,870,912	15,899,713	78.9
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	10-Apr-22	612,341	63	19,434	-	3.2%	1,133	244	27,425,323	22,023,688		40.2
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	10-Apr-22	3,681,374	273	59,769	39	1.6%	3,405	-	70,173,137	66,341,257	12,264,402	59.7
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	09-Apr-22	1,135,428	-	1,299	-	0.1%	19,907		5,007,369	4,969,220	3,888,050	91.1
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	10-Apr-22	3,883,485	25,139	26,086	108	0.7%	5,578	522	55,718,469	50,364,329	24,339,168	72.0
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	04/10/22	10,198,236	28,307	42,813	19	0.4%	10,572	959	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
ASEAN COUNTRIES				30,331,219	56,079	344,275	201	1.1%			483,948,897	427,354,161	137,262,145	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	10-Apr-22	15,333,670	164,481	19,421	329	0.1%	29,654	8,700	44,985,960	44,508,703	32,878,452	86.8
	Japan	16-Jan-20	10-Apr-22	7,030,932	49,172	28,527	39	0.4%	5,568	1,125	102,744,247	100,835,084	56,154,806	80.0
	China	31-Dec-19	05-Apr-22	1,382,068	3,846	14,262	65	1.0%	15,998	49,720	1,305,323,958	1,267,938,511	720,966,653	79.9
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				23,746,670	217,499	62,210	433	0.3%			1,453,054,165	1,413,282,298	809,999,911
ASEAN +3				54,077,889	273,578	406,485	634	0.8%			1,937,003,062	1,840,636,459	947,262,056	

- 444,998,806 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	11,793,830	1,106	253,118	10	1.1	201,261	6,493	281,615,879	211,042,114	19,461,665
AMERICAS	153,306,594	8,559	2,730,163	67	0.8	871,702	25,102	792,452,686	694,486,127	287,721,704
ASIA PACIFIC	69,993,150	62,093	728,341	87	0.2	287,956	14,909	1,389,163,189	1,189,266,389	103,532,276
EUROPE	189,294,544	253,999	1,847,118	625	0.6	1,686,005	282,969	553,753,795	525,859,065	298,020,518
MIDDLE EAST	20,610,688	8,008	232,041	74	0.3	186,913	49,343	140,007,622	124,928,616	53,533,317
TOTAL	444,998,806	333,765	5,790,781	863	1.3%			3,156,993,171	2,745,582,311	762,269,480

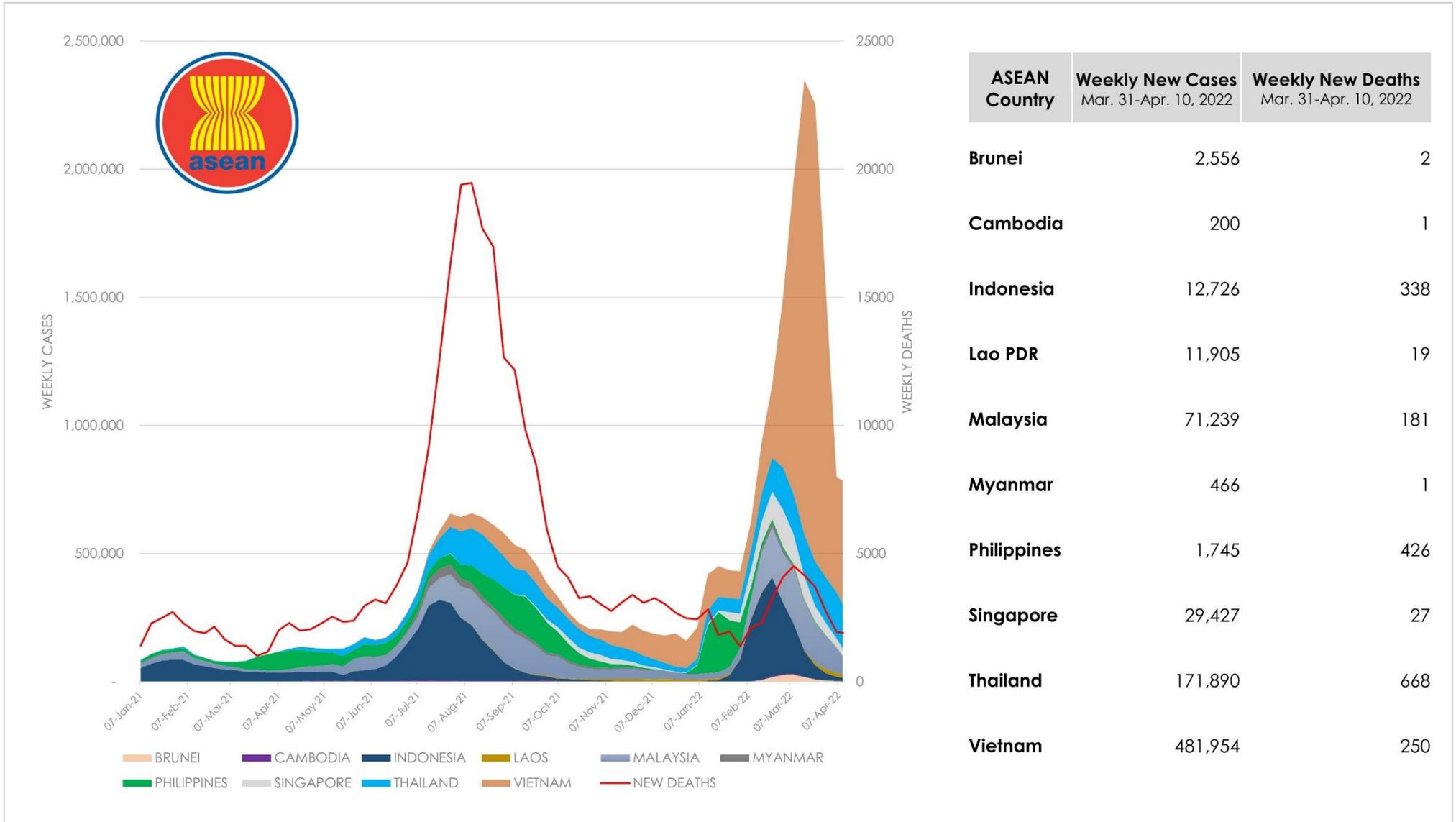
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to April 10, 2022



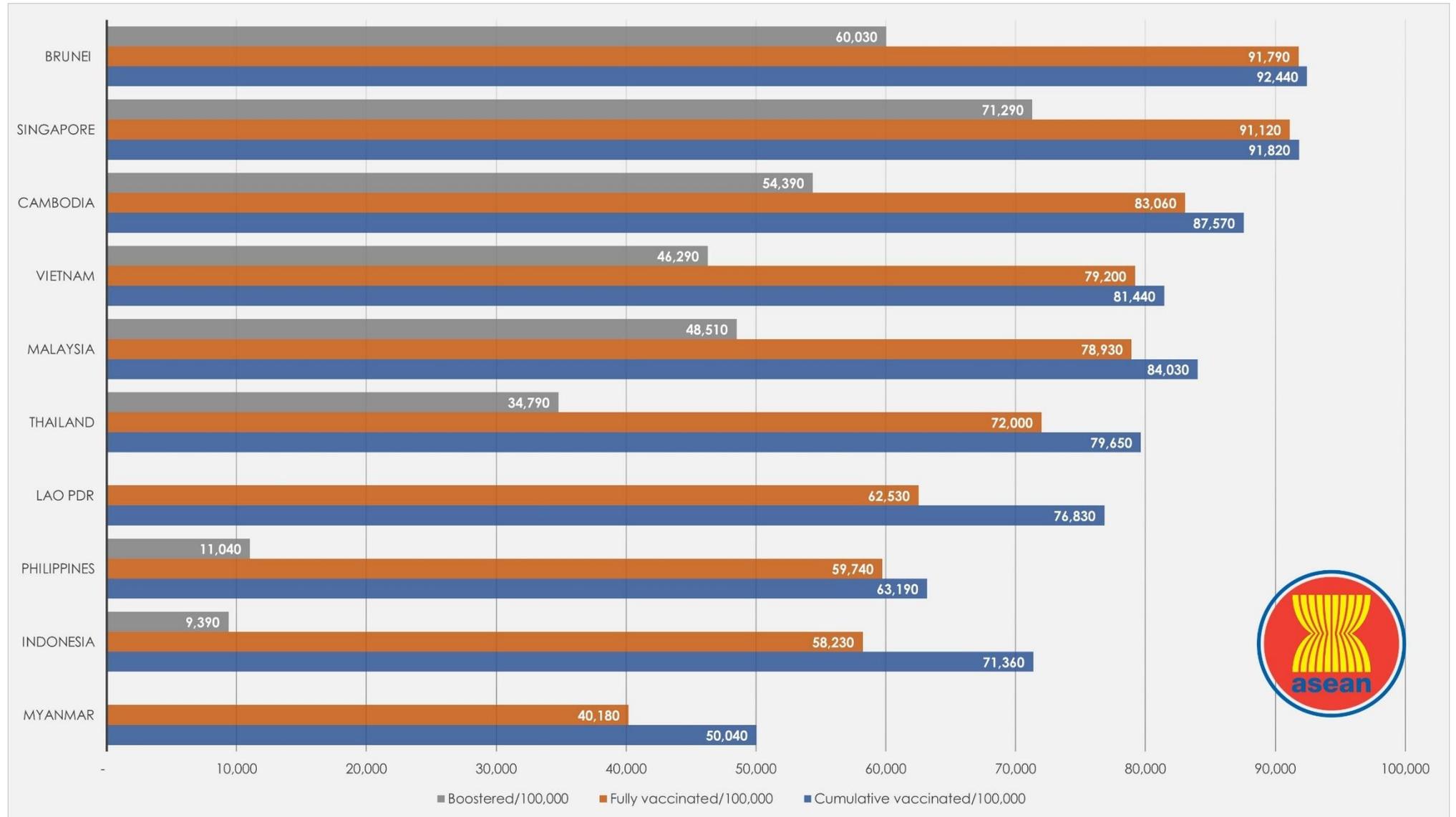
Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

From January 1, 2021 to April 10, 2022



COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 10 April 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 08 April 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	≥90.0/60.0	Unknown	99.97	Unknown	67.9/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	89.3/54.4	0.05%/day	0.18	4.3	37.5/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	61.6/9.4	0.08%/day	0.76	11.3	55.7/100	0.0
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	68.3/ND	0.51%/day	26.50	100	78.3/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	79.4/48.5	0.03%/day	32.73	13.9	58.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	41.6/ND	Unknown	0.17	1.8	77.7/100	0.0
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	64.2/11.0	0.17%/day	0.29	Unknown	82.4/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.1/71.3	0.04%/day	89.52	Unknown	74.4/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	73.1/34.8	0.03%/day	36.18	Unknown	53.3/100	0.0
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	74.95	100	71.4/100	-1.8

