

# COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of May 16, 2022



# COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

## Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 522 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to BlueDot's COVID Brief, since the spread of the Omicron variant in late November 2021, the number of people infected by COVID-19 has grown exponentially. Of the population infected, children accounted for a substantial proportion of infections, although this has not been fully represented in official statistics. The true number of infected children may have been greater than reported case data suggest for a number of reasons: 1) children ages 0-4 years are ineligible for vaccines, 2) they have the lowest level of vaccine protection among all eligible age groups (5-11 years old), and 3) children have high risk of exposure. Additionally, due to a lack of testing during the last Omicron wave, changes in testing criteria, and because most of the cases at this age may present as asymptomatic or with very mild symptoms the true number of infected children may not be fully represented. There is still low vaccination coverage in the eligible child population between 5-11 years, while the youngest ages remain ineligible for vaccination. Vaccine effectiveness against infection with the Omicron BA.1 variant was estimated to be very low for children, although protection against severe disease remained high. Previous infections with Omicron BA.1 may not protect well against infection with new variants, particularly Omicron BA.4, BA.5 and BA.2.12.1 As a result, COVID-19 infection rates, and re-infections, are expected to continue to rise in these groups. The findings presented are relevant as reported cases in children and adults have grossly under-represented the true rate of infection when based on PCR and antigen testing results. Testing across all age groups, regardless of clinical presentation, may lead to a better understanding of the epidemiology of a disease. In children, symptoms of COVID-19 have mostly been described as mild or asymptomatic and can overlap with many other respiratory viruses such as Influenza. Although laboratory findings may not change the short-term treatment of a COVID-19 infection, the confirmed diagnosis could provide insight into long-term consequences. This can be true for any emerging disease or diseases that may be not yet known or fully described. One recent example is the ongoing unknown acute hepatitis in children reported globally.
- North Korea: State media KCNA reported a total of 42 COVID-19 related deaths, with 820,620 cases in three days, and at least 324,550 under medical treatment. In addition to that, KCNA reported that all provinces, cities, and counties of North Korea have been totally locked down and working units, productions units, and residential units closed from each other. Despite activating its maximum emergency quarantine system to slow the spread of the virus through its unvaccinated population, North Korea is now reporting large numbers of new cases daily. It was the government's first official admission of COVID-19 cases and marked failure of two-year coronavirus blockade maintained since the beginning of pandemic. It was also confirmed that the highly contagious Omicron variant had been detected in the capital Pyongyang, with Kim ordering nationwide lockdowns. North Korea has one of the worst public health systems in the world – no COVID-19 vaccines, antiviral treatments, or mass testing capacity. North Korea has previously refused offers of COVID-19 vaccines from China and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Covax scheme, but Beijing and Seoul have issued fresh offers of aid and vaccines. The KCNA report did not specify whether the new cases and deaths had tested positive for COVID-19, but experts say the country will be struggling to test and diagnose on this scale.

## Regional Update

- ASEAN: Health ministers and secretaries from ASEAN member states have agreed to work towards mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificates to facilitate seamless inter-border travel. The agreement was made at the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings held from May 14 to 15 in Bali, Indonesia. During the meetings, member states shared updates and exchanged views on strengthening the resilience of health systems, and enhancing collective preparedness and response to pandemics. They also welcomed the operationalization of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), which will enhance ASEAN's capacity in prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies. Singapore's Health Minister Ong Ye Kung highlighted at the meetings that ASEAN member states have managed to weather the COVID-19 pandemic because of their close cooperation, but countries must remain vigilant and guard against complacency. In the coming few months, ASEAN member states are likely to see new waves as societal immunity wanes, or a new variant that drives re-infections, said Mr. Ong. In light of this, he highlighted three areas of focus. The first - testing and surveillance - would be centered around the establishment of ACPHEED. It would form the nucleus of a regular monitoring and surveillance capabilities and response system in the region. In turn, this will provide early warning of new COVID-19 variants of concern and other emerging infectious diseases. The second area - the availability of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics - comes as immunity wanes over time, with current vaccines becoming less effective against the next variant of concern. Current efforts to vaccinate and boost populations have to continue, with ASEAN collaborating better to ensure that vaccine supplies are available for those who need them, such as doing more to facilitate vaccine donations and swaps among member states. The third area is to ensure resilience of travel lanes and supply chains. This comes amid an unprecedented rise in shipping costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has not subsided. Following the discussion on establishing an ASEAN mutual recognition system for vaccine certificates, Mr. Ong said that this can lead to similar systems with other regions including the United States, China, India and the European Union.
- Singapore: Ministry of Health (MOH) announced on May 15 that Singapore has detected three local COVID-19 who were infected by the two new Omicron subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5. recently, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control classified BA.4 and BA.5 as variants of concern, MOH said. The subvariants were detected by genome sequencing of positive samples. All the cases were either asymptomatic or had mild symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose and sore throat. They are fully vaccinated, and had received their booster dose. They had self-isolated after testing positive for COVID-19. BA.4 and BA.5 have become the dominant variants in South Africa after they were first reported early this year. They contain mutations in the spike protein that appear to make them more contagious than the BA.1 and BA.2 variants that caused the Omicron wave earlier this year. On May 15, Singapore detected a total of 2,594 local COVID-19 cases and 57 imported cases, with one reported death from the infection. The weekly infection growth rate – or ratio of community cases for the past week over the week before – fell for a fourth consecutive day. It dropped to 1.39 on Sunday from 1.42 a day earlier. A figure of over one means that the number of new weekly cases is on the rise.
- South Korea says it intends to donate COVID-19 vaccines and other medical supplies to North Korea, which is currently suffering from a surge of the virus, President Yoon Suk-yeol said on May 13. However, Pyongyang has not responded if they will accept the offer as previous offers were declined.

## Vaccine Update

- Indonesia: More than 42.4 million citizens of Indonesia have received their third dose or booster of the COVID-19 vaccine as of May 14, according to the report released by the COVID-19 Handling Task Force. On the other hand, fully vaccinated individuals have reached 166,160,498 and those who have at least one dose have reached 199,556,458. As part of efforts to boost community immunity against COVID-19, the Indonesian government launched a nationwide vaccination program on January 13, 2021, targeting as many as 208,265,720 citizens across the country. President Joko Widodo was the first vaccine recipient under the program. Earlier, government spokesperson for COVID-19 handling, Wiku Adisasmito, emphasized that Indonesia needs to be wary of the increasing trend in people's mobility that can potentially cause a spike in COVID-19 cases after the Eid al-Fitr holiday. Adisasmito noted that according to data from Google Mobility, as of May 6, 2022, an increase in mobility has been seen at retail outlets, recreational and grocery stores, parks, and public transportation centers. Meanwhile, overall, people's mobility in the workplace and offices has declined. Due to the risk of COVID-19 transmission presented by the increase in people's mobility, he asked people to remain aware of their health and promptly get tested if they experience COVID-19 symptoms to prevent putting vulnerable people at risk. In addition, the community has also been urged to implement a healthy lifestyle, including wearing masks continuously.
- Malaysia: According to the CovidNow website, a total of 1,058,626 children aged between five and 11 years, or 29.8% of their population in Malaysia have completed their vaccination under the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of yesterday. A total of 1,644,027 children in the same age group, or 46.3%, have received at least one dose of the vaccine. For adolescents aged between 12 and 17, a total of 2,904,772 of them, or 93.4% of their population in the country, have completed the vaccination, while 3,002,404 of them or 96.5% of the population, have received at least one dose of the vaccine. As for the adult population, a total of 16,064,239 individuals, or 68.3% of their population, have received the booster dose, while 22,971,113 individuals, or 97.6%, have completed two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and 23,246,597 individuals of 98.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

## Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Vietnam: NDO – Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam has signed a document on the suspension of COVID-19 testing for international travellers before entering Vietnam. The document stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has begun to see reductions in both the number of cases and deaths on a global scale while COVID-19 vaccines are still effective against current variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In addition, many other countries and territories have been gradually easing anti-pandemic measures, including the requirement for COVID-19 testing for entry. In Vietnam, the pandemic prevention and control has seen positive results while the number of new cases in the country has decreased continuously since March 15. The number of serious cases and deaths related to COVID-19 has also declined while the coverage of COVID-19 vaccines is high. Previously, the Ministry of Health decided to stop the requirement for medical declaration for people entering Vietnam from April 27 and for domestic travel from April 30. Vietnam has so far injected more than 216.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, with nearly 68.7 million people administered with at least two doses.
- South Korea has decided to add an additional 230 international flights next month to meet increasing travel demand amid the weakening pandemic. With the addition, the number of weekly international flights will come to 762 in June, up from 532 in May and 420 in April, Interior Minister Lee Sang-min said during a COVID-19 response meeting on Friday. From May 23, the government would also take

rapid antigen test results for travelers coming to South Korea. Previously, the government only accepted travelers with polymerase chain reaction test results. Starting June 1, international arrivals will be allowed to receive PCR tests within three days of their arrival. They are currently mandated to take the test on the day of arrival. The government's decisions came amid increasing international travel demands, which followed the government's lifting of major social distancing rules. Even after the country lifted social distancing rules and the outdoor mask mandate, the number of daily COVID-19 cases has stayed relatively low.

- Japan will resume accepting foreign tourists beginning in June. Foreign tourists are required to have at least three doses of COVID-19 vaccine and participating in small group tours. The sources said the government plans to expand the arrival restrictions depending on the infection situation gradually. In his speech in London on 5 May, Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio said that Japan would ease its border controls to the levels of other G7 countries.

## Cases and Deaths as of 16 May 2022

- As of 16 May 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **522,234,402** confirmed cases, including **6,298,019** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 59,967,969 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,633,617 cases** in the ASEAN region and **28,334,352 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

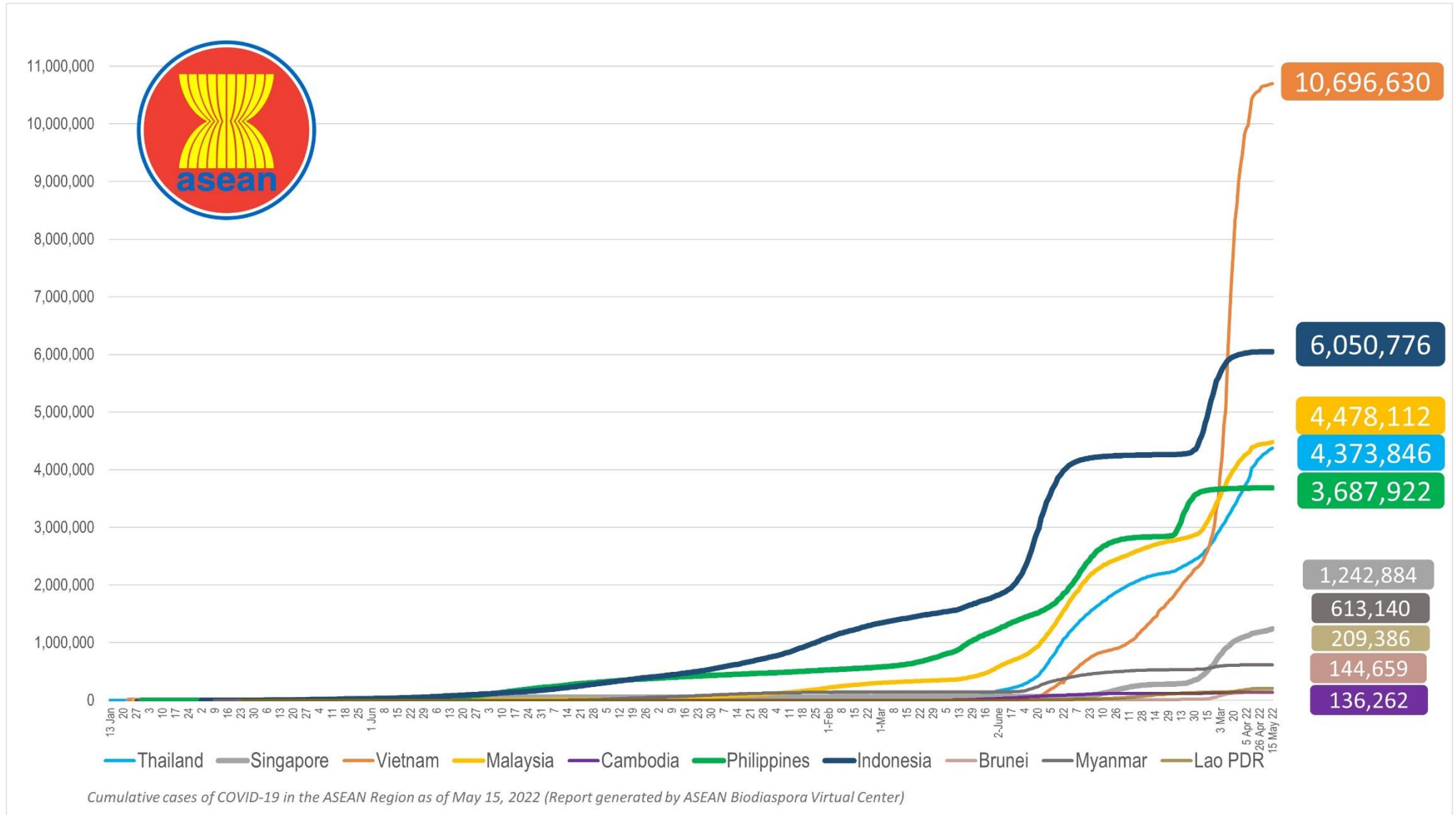
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	15-May-22	144,659	248	220	-	0.2%	33,387		432,057	409,091	282,887	92.7
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	15-May-22	136,262	-	3,056	-	2.2%	827	66	14,958,188	14,217,963	8,604,242	83.9
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	15-May-22	6,050,776	257	156,458	5	2.6%	2,236	-	199,556,458	166,160,498	37,458,813	60.1
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	15-May-22	209,386	-	754	-	0.4%	2,921	63	5,791,016	4,977,532		67.5
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	15-May-22	4,478,112	2,239	35,615	3	0.8%	14,016	1,010	27,883,092	26,920,418	16,062,963	82.1
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	15-May-22	613,140	4	19,434	-	3.2%	1,134	161	30,994,375	24,329,862		44.4
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	15-May-22	3,687,922	-	60,455	-	1.6%	3,411	-	70,173,137	68,526,134	13,519,545	61.7
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	14-May-22	1,242,884	2,651	1,363	1	0.1%	21,686		5,013,834	4,984,296	4,029,232	91.4
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	15-May-22	4,373,846	6,094	29,475	51	0.7%	6,282	-	56,299,203	51,773,215	26,805,637	74.0
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	15-May-22	10,696,630	1,594	43,065	-	0.4%	11,089	7	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
<b>ASEAN COUNTRIES</b>				<b>31,633,617</b>	<b>13,087</b>	<b>349,895</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1.1%</b>			<b>491,048,549</b>	<b>440,053,117</b>	<b>152,206,396</b>	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	15-May-22	17,782,061	25,434	23,709	48	0.1%	34,389	2,601	45,044,084	44,562,789	36,692,573	86.9
	Japan	16-Jan-20	15-May-22	8,353,356	35,008	29,893	25	0.4%	6,616	889	103,347,146	101,730,582	70,123,412	80.7
	China	31-Dec-19	15-May-22	2,198,935	81,440	15,638	23	0.7%	19,483	3,138	1,314,432,322	1,278,162,121	781,337,158	83.5
	<b>PLUS THREE COUNTRIES</b>				<b>28,334,352</b>	<b>141,882</b>	<b>69,240</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>0.2%</b>			<b>1,462,823,552</b>	<b>1,424,455,492</b>	<b>888,153,143</b>
<b>ASEAN +3</b>				<b>59,967,969</b>	<b>154,969</b>	<b>419,135</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>0.7%</b>			<b>1,953,872,101</b>	<b>1,864,508,609</b>	<b>1,040,359,539</b>	

- 462,266,433 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	12,270,819	4,584	255,292	3	1.0	229,879	5,937	306,259,946	232,028,463	23,180,124
AMERICAS	157,391,382	19,170	2,768,389	21	0.8	967,452	45,157	798,295,606	704,544,587	365,758,434
ASIA PACIFIC	72,122,959	9,798	733,159	40	0.2	329,353	23,061	1,407,029,193	1,236,963,667	116,429,884
EUROPE	199,674,023	69,963	1,889,036	207	0.6	1,754,241	69,173	557,391,831	529,833,612	310,933,349
MIDDLE EAST	20,807,250	3,564	233,008	12	0.3	189,628	36,529	141,177,733	126,507,238	54,893,276
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>462,266,433</b>	<b>107,079</b>	<b>5,878,884</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>1.3%</b>			<b>3,210,154,309</b>	<b>2,829,877,567</b>	<b>871,195,067</b>

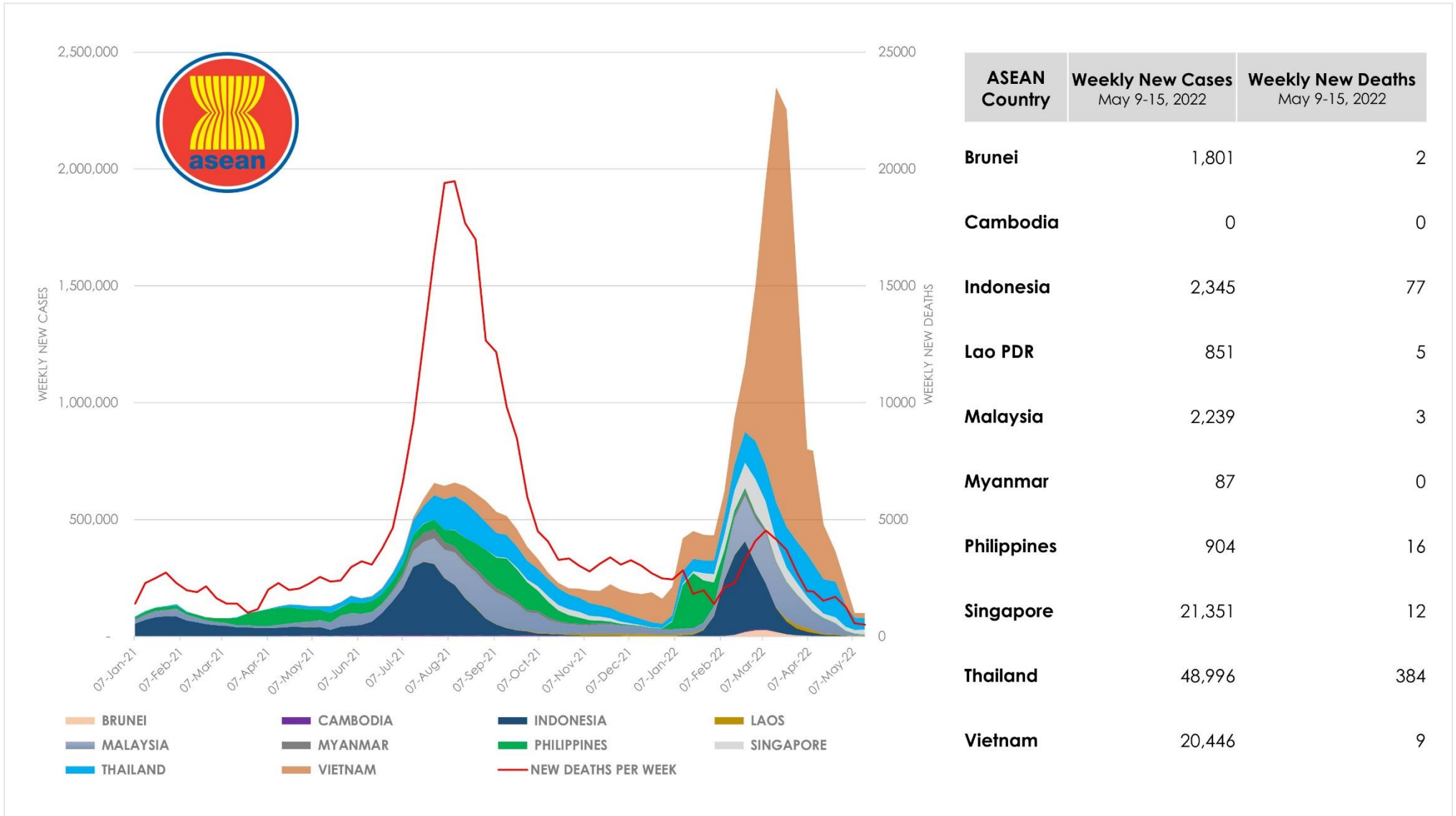
# COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to May 15, 2022



# Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

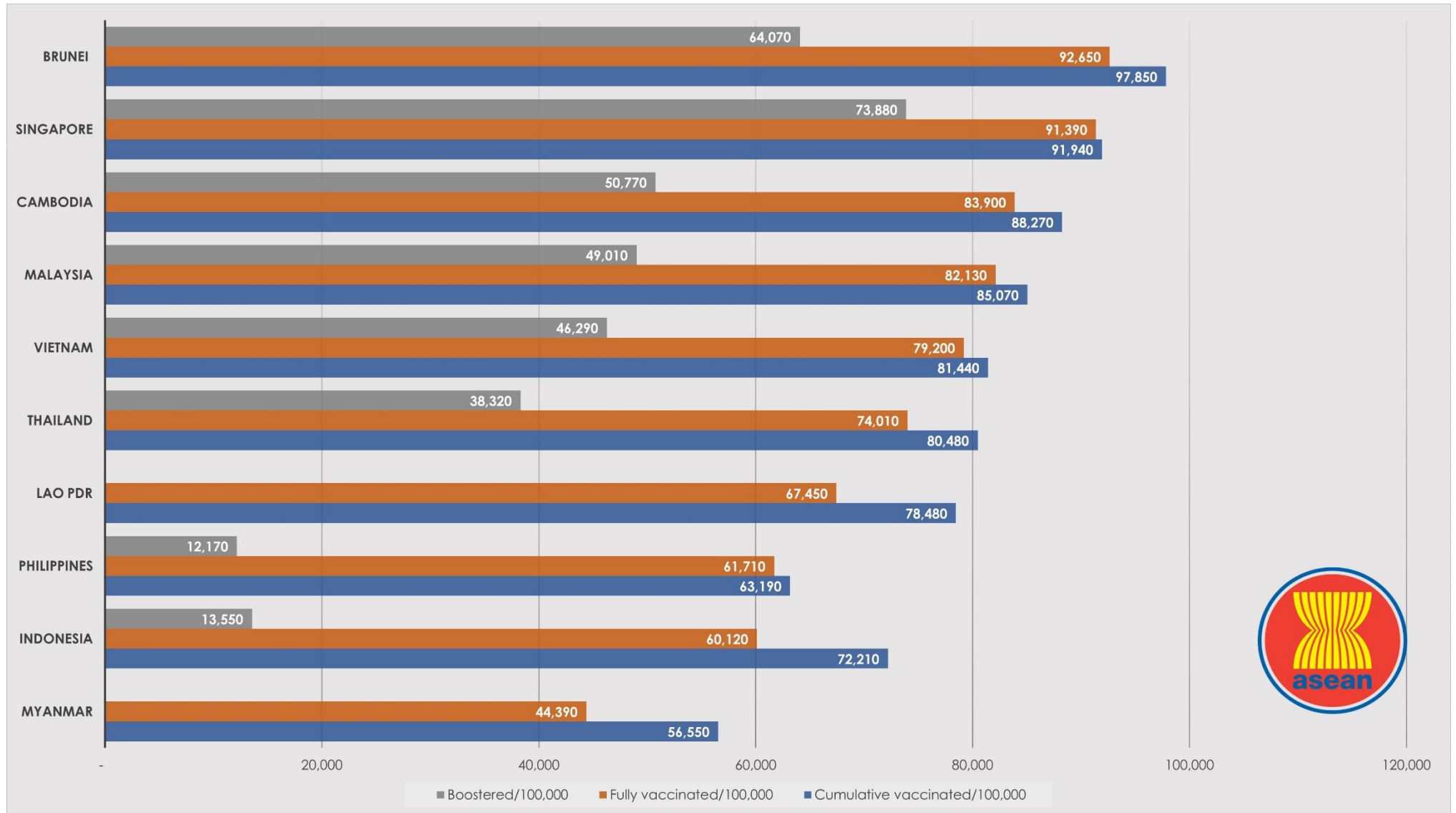
From January 1, 2021 to May 15, 2022






# COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 15 May 2022



# COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 13 May 2022

 <b>ASEAN MEMBER STATE</b>	REQUIREMENT							
	At least <b>80% of the high-risk population has been vaccinated</b> with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.		At least <b>65% of the total population has a level of immunity</b> 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	≥90.0/64.1	Unknown	58.82	Unknown	65.5/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/50.8	0.06%/day	0.00	0.7	31.3/100	-6.8
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	63.6/13.6	0.03%/day	0.12	Unknown	53.0/100	-4.5
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	73.7/ND	0.41%/day	1.69	46.8	71.2/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	82.5/49.0	0.06%/day	8.55	4.8	58.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	46.0/ND	0.46%/day	0.023	0.2	63.1/100	-14.6
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	66.3/12.2	Unknown	0.13	1.0	62.8/100	+1.8
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.4/73.9	0.02%/day	61.40	Unknown	58.9/100	-11.9
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	75.2/38.2	0.06%/day	10.46	Unknown	47.9/100	0.0
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	3.12	100	58.3/100	-3.0



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