

COVID-19, Monkeypox, and Other Infectious Diseases

Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

— ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- **Worldwide**, there have been over 598 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to a new study from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania published on August 16, 2022 in the Journal of the American Medical Association, found that hospitalized adult COVID-19 patients before and after SARS-CoV-2 vaccine availability had significantly higher odds of venous—but not arterial—thromboembolism than those hospitalized for influenza before the pandemic. A team led by University of Pennsylvania researchers retrospectively studied rates of venous thromboembolism (blood clot in a vein) and arterial thromboembolism (blood clot in an artery) in 41,443 COVID-19 patients hospitalized before the vaccine rollout (April to November 2020), 44,194 COVID-19 patients admitted after vaccines became available (December 2020 to May 2021), and 8,269 patients hospitalized with the flu from October 2018 to April 2019. The absolute risk of venous thromboembolism by 90 days was 5.3% in flu patients, versus 9.5% in COVID-19 patients before vaccines and 10.9% after. Relative to flu patients, the risk of venous thromboembolism was significantly greater among COVID-19 patients both before and after vaccine availability—a 60% and 89% higher risk, respectively. In both flu and COVID-19 patients, the risk of venous thromboembolism by 90 days was greater for patients admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) or who needed mechanical ventilation or had previous venous thromboembolism. The absolute risk of arterial thromboembolism by 90 days, in contrast, was 14.4% in flu patients, compared with 15.8% in COVID-19 patients before vaccine availability and 16.3% in COVID-19 patients after the vaccine rollout. The researchers said that the elevated risk of venous thromboembolism in COVID-19 patients could be due to virus-induced inflammation and blood-clotting abnormalities. However, the research team says more research is needed to confirm the association and investigate potential causes and possible mechanisms behind the blood conditions. With collaboration from colleagues in Canada and Europe, the Penn researchers plan on examining COVID-19-related thrombotic cases outside the hospital setting and via an international meta-analysis. [\[Full Text\]](#)

Regional Update

- **The Philippines** has been classified by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as “high risk” due to rising COVID-19 cases, even as the Department of Health (DOH) pointed out that severe and critical cases in the country remained low. The US CDC placed the Philippines on Level 3 for COVID-19, its classification for countries with more than 100 cases per 100,000 residents in the past 28 days. It does not recommend travel to so-called Level 3 countries for people who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccination. The DOH earlier reported that around 4,000 new COVID-19 cases were being detected daily in the country but these were predominantly mild or asymptomatic. Around 30 percent of hospital beds dedicated to COVID-19 patients were in use. The Department of Health (DOH) said on August 16 that 1,030 new cases of the coronavirus illness (COVID-19), most of which are of the quickly proliferating BA.5 subvariant, had been found throughout the nation.² The health department said that 1,011 new BA.5 cases and 19 extra BA.4 cases were found in the most recent genome sequencing data.²
- **Hong Kong (SAR)**: In light of the authorities' claims that there has been a “substantial rise” in the number of COVID cases involving youngsters, Hong Kong's daily COVID-19 caseload once more exceeded 5,000 on August 16. In a news briefing, Albert Au Ka-

wing, senior medical and health officer of the communicable disease section of the Centre for Health Protection, said that there were 5,162 new cases, including 272 imported diseases.³ Two clusters were discovered at the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and the Tuen Mun Hospital, according to Lau Ka-hin, chief manager (quality and standards) of the Hospital Authority.³ The last time the number of new cases exceeded 5,000 was on August 13 when 5,308 illnesses were recorded.³ Additionally increasing, cases of the contagious Omicron subvariants BA.5 or BA.4 made for 24.5 percent of all new infections. According to Lau, the overall number of cases in children between the ages of 3 and 9 during the preceding two weeks increased from 3,263 infections to 3,483.³ [\[Full Article\]](#)

- **Vietnam:** The Ministry of Health has issued a warning due to an increase in serious cases and new COVID-19 infections.⁴ Viet Nam has been registering an average of 2,000 new COVID-19 cases every day over the previous week.⁴ Hospitals are providing care for more than 100 COVID-19 patients who are critically sick. According to the ministry, the growth would overwhelm the health system, especially given the emergence of other diseases including dengue fever, influenza A, and hand, foot, and mouth disease.⁴ The likelihood of newly developing infectious illnesses like monkeypox and chronic liver disease entering Vietnam is also very high. The ministry urged localities to continue speeding up vaccination, particularly booster doses for the adult population and the second dose for children between five and under 12 years old.⁴ The BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of Omicron have appeared in many southern localities and the new academic year will start soon.⁴ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **South Korea:** Government statistics on August 15 indicated that the most recent uptick of COVID-19 infections in South Korea halted on August 14.⁵ But the revival is anticipated to last for some time, lasting through the summer vacation period and the Chuseok holiday in early September.⁵ The nation gained 62,078 new COVID-19 illnesses on August 14 according to the report released on Monday by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.⁵ This week, with greater outside activity over the three-day holiday, there may be a rise in the number of daily COVID-19 infections.⁵ Some analysts predicted that until September, the daily infections would not significantly decline.⁵ Some analysts predicted that until September, the daily infections would not significantly decline.⁵ Professor of infectious diseases at Korea University, Dr. Kim Woo-joo, predicted that despite the beginning of classes in September and the Chuseok vacation, which falls in the first week of September this year, the country's daily COVID-19 infection rates would not soon decline.⁵ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **Japan:** As the number of infections rise and doctors are forced to treat more patients at once, the Japanese government is considering abandoning its policy of keeping track of all COVID-19 cases in the nation.⁶ On August 16, the National Governors' Association and the Minister of Health Katsunobu Kato spoke about the issue. Shinji Hirai, governor of Tottori Prefecture, noted that Kato was open to abandoning the rule.⁶ This month's choice might be decided already.⁶ [\[Full Article\]](#)

Vaccine Update

- **U.K.** became the first country in the world to authorize Moderna's bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that targets the original 2020 virus and Omicron variant. The decision to grant approval for this booster vaccine in the UK was endorsed by the government's independent expert scientific advisory body, the Commission on Human Medicines, after carefully reviewing the evidence. In each dose of the booster vaccine, 'Spikevax bivalent Original/Omicron', half of the vaccine (25 micrograms) targets the original virus strain from 2020 and the other half (25 micrograms) targets Omicron. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) decision is based on data from a clinical trial that showed that a booster with the bivalent Moderna vaccine triggers a

strong immune response against both Omicron (BA.1) and the original 2020 strain. In an exploratory analysis, the bivalent vaccine was also found to generate a good immune response against the Omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5. Safety monitoring showed that the side effects observed were the same as those seen for the original Moderna booster dose and were typically mild and self-resolving and no serious safety concerns were identified.

Cases and Deaths as of 17 August 2022

- As of 17 August 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **598,202,356** confirmed cases, including **6,474,457** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.1%**.
- 77,906,775 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **33,847,310 cases** in the ASEAN region and **44,059,465 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries.
- The Case Fatality Rate in the **ASEAN +3** region is range between **0.1 to 3.2%**.
- There have been no tests reported in the last 14 days in the **ASEAN** Region.

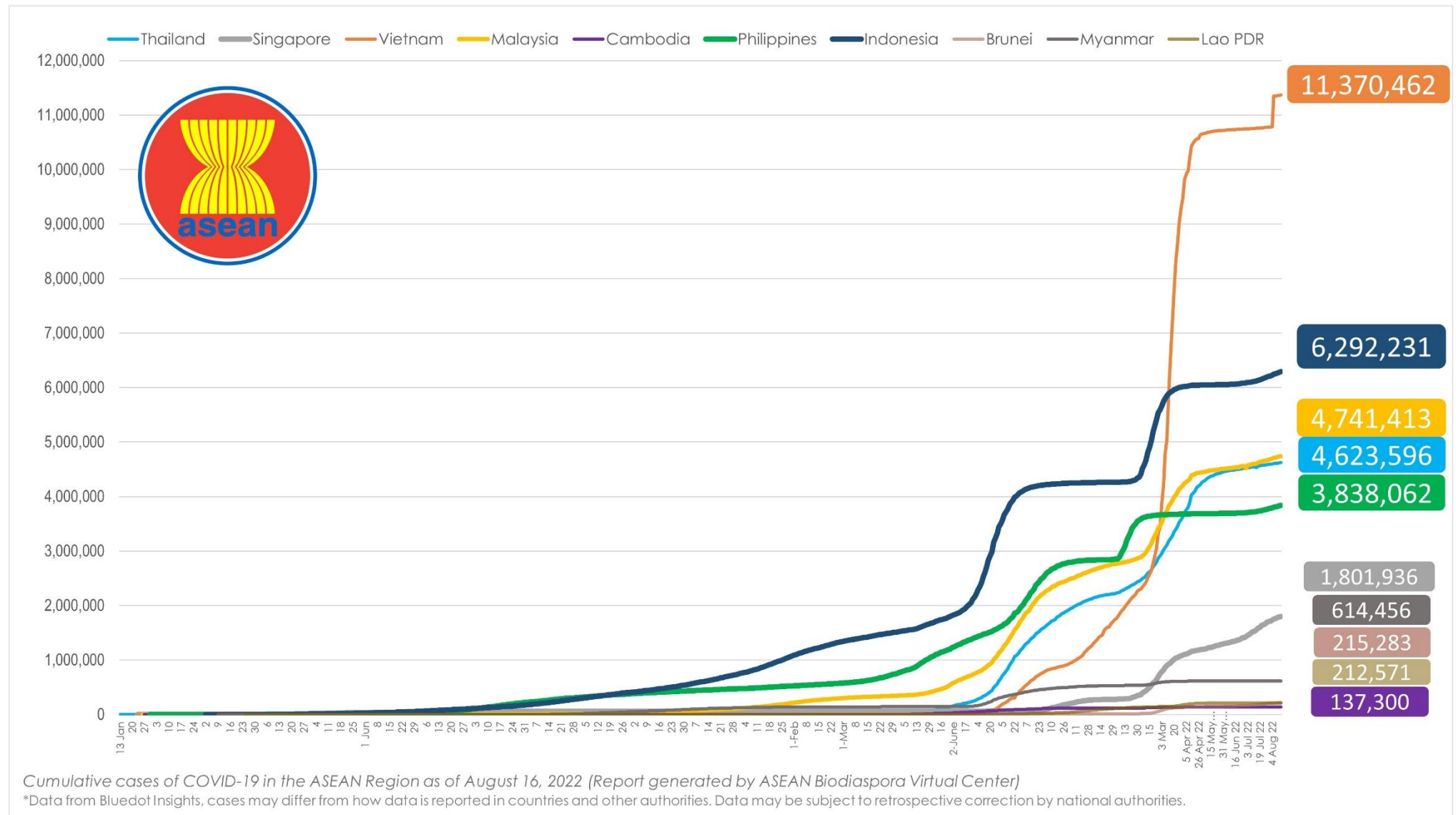
| REGION | COUNTRY | FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S) | LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S) | TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES | NEW CASES | TOTAL DEATHS | NEW DEATHS | CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000 | CUMULATIVE VACCINATED | CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED | CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED | FULLY VACCINATED/ 100 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ASEAN REGION | Brunei | 10 Mar 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 215,283 | - | 225 | - | 49,686 | 445,849 | 436,027 | 307,711 | 97.9 |
| | Cambodia | 27 Jan 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 137,300 | 36 | 3,056 | - | 833 | 15,115,433 | 14,427,169 | 9,655,663 | 87.0 |
| | Indonesia | 02 Mar 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 6,292,231 | 5,869 | 157,277 | 30 | 2,325 | 202,813,315 | 170,356,449 | 57,745,319 | 62.2 |
| | Lao PDR | 24 Mar 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 212,571 | 128 | 757 | - | 2,965 | 5,888,649 | 5,222,417 | | 70.3 |
| | Malaysia | 25 Jan 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 4,741,413 | 3,429 | 36,102 | 9 | 14,840 | 28,084,211 | 27,476,999 | 16,624,556 | 81.8 |
| | Myanmar | 23 Mar 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 614,456 | 67 | 19,435 | - | 1,137 | 34,777,314 | 27,545,329 | 2,227,351 | 51.2 |
| | Philippines | 30 Jan 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 3,838,062 | 2,640 | 61,127 | 49 | 3,550 | 76,848,338 | 72,226,419 | 16,140,825 | 63.4 |
| | Singapore | 23 Jan 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 1,801,936 | 2,665 | 1,560 | 1 | 31,443 | 5,022,906 | 5,001,013 | 4,265,529 | 91.7 |
| | Thailand | 13 Jan 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 4,623,596 | 1,508 | 31,890 | 29 | 6,641 | 56,890,907 | 53,276,810 | 31,286,389 | 74.4 |
| Vietnam | 23 Jan 20 | 16-Aug-22 | 11,370,462 | 2,983 | 43,100 | 2 | 11,787 | 87,717,272 | 81,040,637 | 63,619,909 | 83.2 | |
| ASEAN COUNTRIES | | | | 33,847,310 | 19,325 | 354,529 | 120 | 125,207 | 513,604,194 | 457,009,269 | 201,873,252 | |
| ASEAN PLUS THREE | South Korea | 20-Jan-20 | 16-Aug-22 | 21,502,164 | 84,128 | 25,710 | 37 | 41,583 | 45,096,088 | 44,659,394 | 40,119,361 | 86.2 |
| | Japan | 16-Jan-20 | 16-Aug-22 | 15,965,413 | 166,205 | 35,354 | 307 | 12,644 | 104,004,050 | 102,575,311 | 99,288,674 | 82.3 |
| | China | 31-Dec-19 | 16-Aug-22 | 6,591,888 | 28,886 | 24,285 | 27 | 40,674 | 1,330,178,452 | 1,295,410,214 | 826,186,348 | 86.6 |
| PLUS THREE COUNTRIES | | | | 44,059,465 | 279,219 | 85,349 | 371 | 94,901 | 1,479,278,590 | 1,442,644,919 | 965,594,383 | |
| ASEAN +3 | | | | 77,906,775 | 298,544 | 439,878 | 491 | 220,108 | 1,992,882,784 | 1,899,654,188 | 1,167,467,635 | |

- 520,295,581 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 | 12,827,319 | 2,458 | 258,130 | 36 | 246,014 | 382,402,537 | 298,351,555 | 44,309,865 |
| AMERICAS | 176,528,408 | 18,754 | 2,839,871 | 82 | 1,146,918 | 816,541,438 | 718,320,254 | 457,767,238 |
| ASIA PACIFIC | 84,195,460 | 273,030 | 744,804 | 525 | 439,375 | 1,434,713,746 | 1,317,521,814 | 276,658,626 |
| EUROPE | 224,539,091 | 169,886 | 1,955,543 | 805 | 1,940,956 | 562,330,719 | 534,308,522 | 340,262,396 |
| MIDDLE EAST | 22,205,303 | 11,251 | 236,231 | 87 | 207,897 | 142,929,960 | 128,259,073 | 56,422,028 |
| TOTAL | 520,295,581 | 475,379 | 6,034,579 | 1,535 | 3,981,160 | 3,338,918,400 | 2,996,761,218 | 1,175,420,153 |

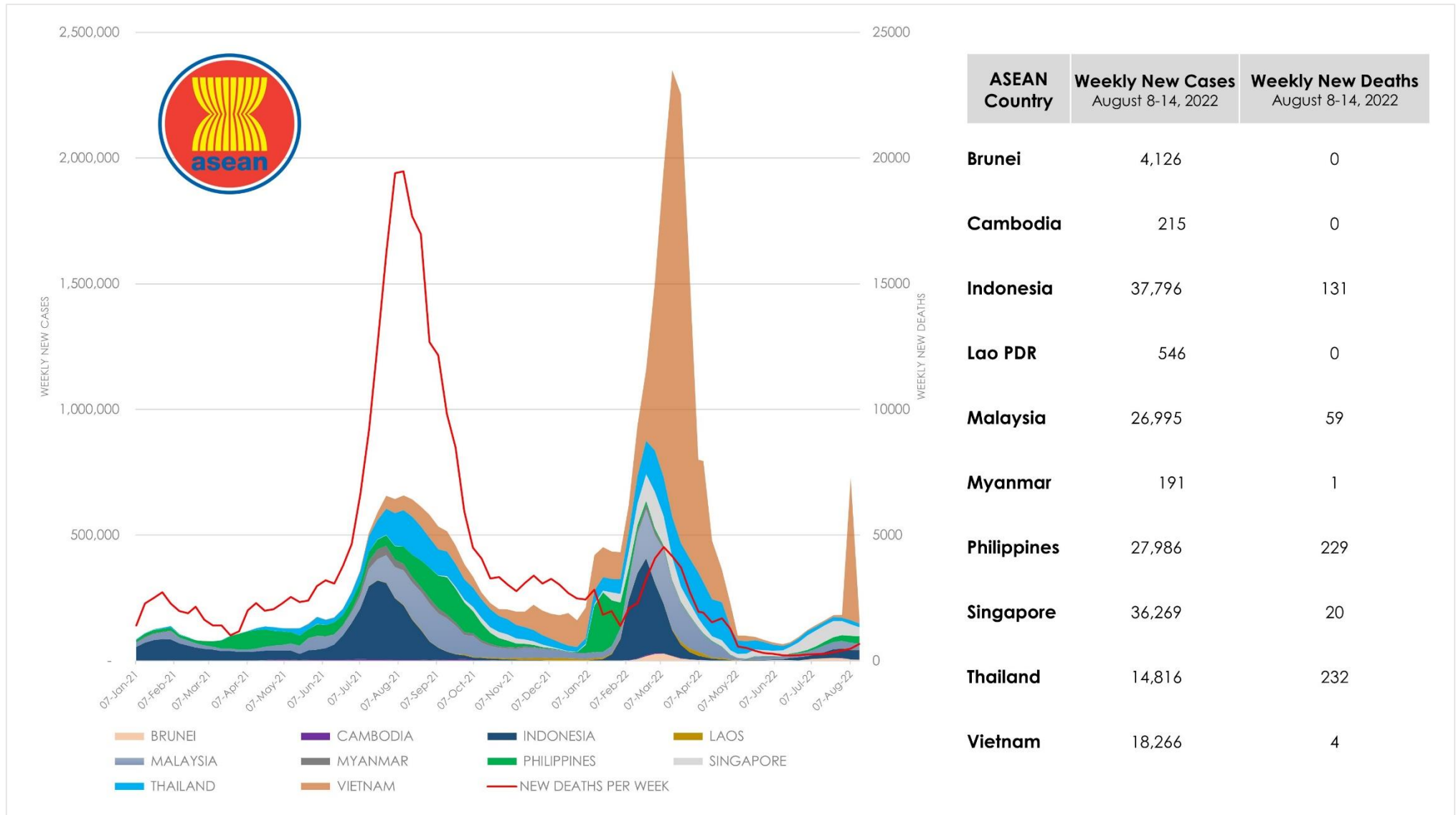
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to August 16, 2022



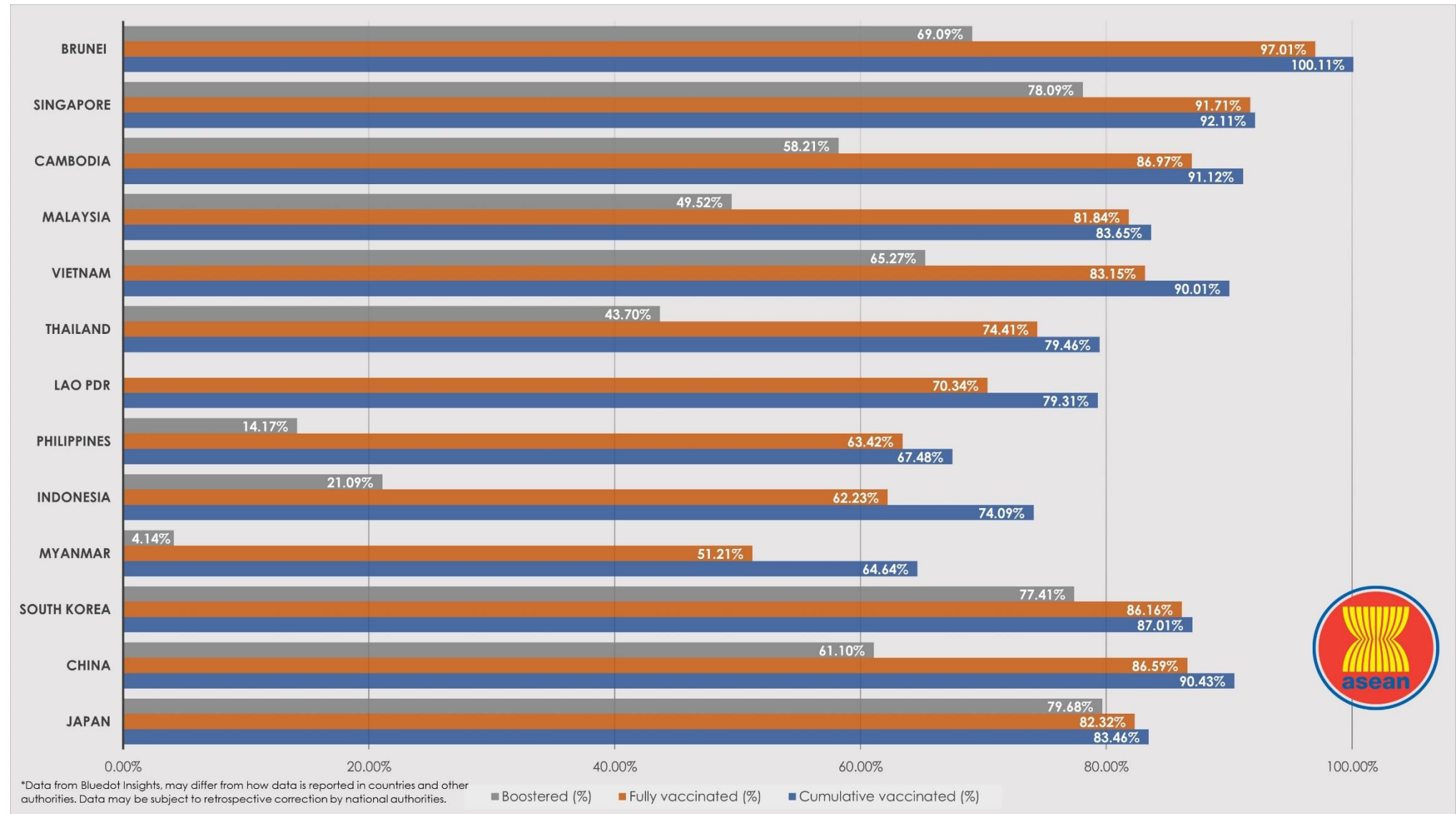
COVID-19 Weekly New Cases and Weekly New Deaths

From January 1, 2021 to August 14, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 16 August 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

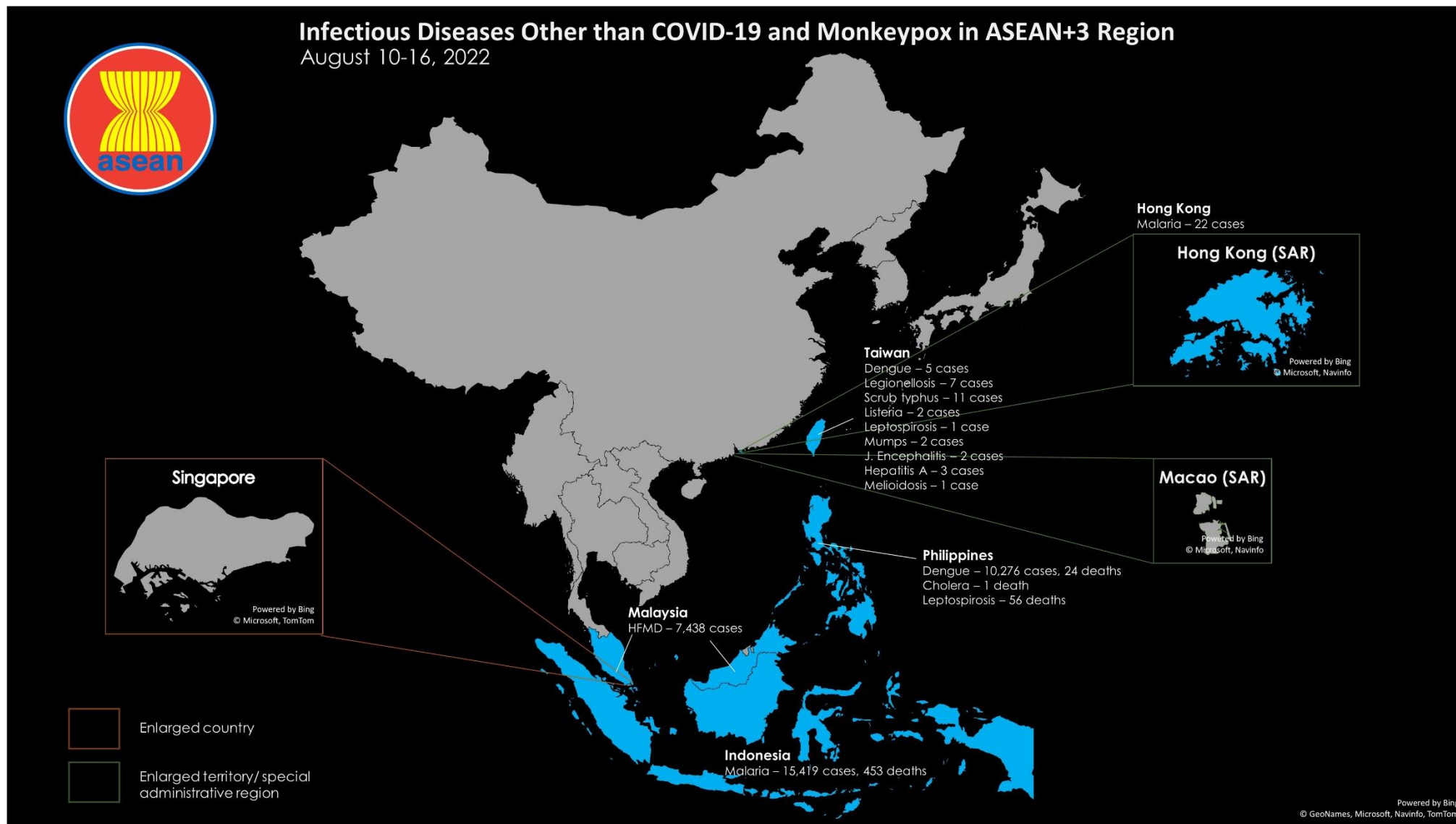
as of 14 August 2022

|  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) | |
| | | 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) |
| Brunei | 0%/day | ≥90.0/69.1 | Unknown | 136.04 | Unknown | 31.0/100 | 0.0 |
| Cambodia | 0%/day | ≥90.0/58.2 | Unknown | 0.18 | Unknown | 31.5/100 | 0.0 |
| Indonesia | 0%/day | 65.2/21.1 | Unknown | 1.95 | Unknown | 54.2/100 | 0.0 |
| Lao PDR | 0%/day | 77.3/ND | Unknown | 1.20 | Unknown | 61.6/100 | 0.0 |
| Malaysia | 0%/day | 84.3/49.5 | 0.01%/day | 11.88 | Unknown | 51.8/100 | 0.0 |
| Myanmar | 0%/day | 52.1/4.1 | Unknown | 0.05 | Unknown | 69.1/100 | 0.0 |
| Philippines | 0%/day | 69.9/14.2 | Unknown | 3.60 | Unknown | 55.4/100 | 0.0 |
| Singapore | 0%/day | 88.7/78.2 | 0%/day | 86.39 | Unknown | 58.9/100 | 0.0 |
| Thailand | 0%/day | 77.4/43.7 | 0.01%/day | 3.01 | Unknown | 31.5/100 | 0.0 |
| Vietnam | Unknown | 87.4/65.3 | Unknown | 2.71 | Unknown | 43.5/100 | 0.0 |
| Japan | 0%/day | 81.1/78.9 | 0%/day | 154.55 | Unknown | 42.9/100 | 0.0 |
| South Korea | 0%/day | 86.5/77.1 | 0%/day | 241.35 | Unknown | 38.1/100 | 0.0 |
| China | Unknown | ≥90.0/56.3 | Unknown | 0.05 | Unknown | 84.5/100 | 0.0 |

All of the countries have achieved the estimated high-risk population fully vaccinated of ≥90.0% except China with 35.1%.

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

From August 10-16, 2022



Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19 and Monkeypox in ASEAN+3 Region

August 10-16, 2022

Infectious Disease Updates

Dengue

- **Philippines:** The Department of Health (DOH) has recorded a total of 102,619 dengue cases from January 1 to July 30, 2022, which is 131% higher than those recorded during the same period last year. According to DOH's National Dengue Data for the week, there were 44,361 cases logged from January 1 to July 30, 2021. Cumulatively, most of the dengue cases this year or 18% were reported in Central Luzon with 18,664 cases, the DOH said. It is followed by Central Visayas with 10,034 (10%) and the National Capital Region (NCR) with 8,870 (9%). A total of 23,414 dengue cases were recorded from July 3 to July 30 alone, with Central Luzon also topping the list with 5,838 cases or 25%.
- **Laos:** As of August 15, Laos health officials report 17,892 total dengue cases with more than half the cases reported from the capital city of Vientiane (9,114). The death toll has risen by three during the two-week period and now stands at 17. Authorities reported approximately 1,400 cases nationwide in 2021 and 7,700 cases in 2020.

Measles

- **Hong Kong (SAR):** The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) is today (August 10) investigating a local case of measles infection and reminded the public that vaccination is the most effective way to prevent measles. The case involves a 6-year-old girl who has developed fever and sore throat since August 2 and 3, and developed rash and conjunctivitis on August 5 and 6. She was taken to a private paediatrician on August 3 and to Hong Kong Baptist Hospital (HKBH) on August 5 and 6 for medical attention. She was admitted to HKBH for treatment on August 7. She is in a stable condition and was discharged on August 8. Her blood sample tested positive for immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies to the measles virus upon laboratory testing. The patient has received measles vaccinations. She had no travel history during the incubation period and the communicable period. According to information provided by family members of the patient, she did not have contact with measles patients during the incubation period. Her home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far and have been put under medical surveillance. Upon notification of the case, the CHP immediately commenced epidemiological investigations and conducted relevant contact tracing. Investigations are ongoing.

Leptospirosis

- **Philippines:** Health authorities have recorded 11 fatalities due to leptospirosis in Bicol region from [1 Jan 2022] to [30 Jul 2022]. Based on data released by the Department of Health Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) Bicol Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit, 3 patients who died of the rodent-borne disease were from Albay province, 2 were from Camarines Norte, 2 from Catanduanes, 1 from Camarines Sur, and 3 from Sorsogon province. There were also 85 cases of the disease covering the same period in the entire region. Dr. Rosa Maria Rempillo, local health support division chief of DOH-CHD in Bicol, told Inquirer in a text message on Tuesday [9 Aug 2022], that there was a 3% decrease of leptospirosis incidence in Bicol this year [2022] compared to 2021 when 88 cases were recorded. "In order not to get infected with the deadly disease, avoid submerging in flood waters particularly if the person has an open wound,"

Rempillo said. Leptospirosis is a rare bacterial infection that is spread through the urine of animals, especially dogs, rodents, and farm animals.

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- **Malaysia:** Johor is one of the five states in Malaysia with the highest cumulative cases of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) as of August 12. State health and unity committee chairman Ling Tian Soon said statistics from the Health Ministry showed the state has 8,782 cases or 6.5% of nationwide cases. He said Selangor was at the top spot with 36,122 cases (26.9%), followed by Perak (13,751 or 10.2%), the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (13,609 or 10.1%), and Sarawak (9,803 or 7.3%). "We recorded an 11.8% decline in HFMD cases in epidemiological week 32 compared with week 31 this year," Ling said in a statement. He said the Johor Baru district recorded the highest cumulative cases with 3,045 (34.7% the state's cases), followed by Kluang (1,129 or 12.9%), Batu Pahat (901 or 10.3%), Tangkak (896 or 10.2%), Segamat (781 or 8.9%), Kota Tinggi (711 or 8.1%), Pontian (579 or 6.6%), Muar (332 or 3.8%), Kulai (274 or 3.1%) and Mersing (132 or 1.5%). "So far, there is only one active outbreak of HFMD reported in the state, in the Johor Baru district," he said.

Japanese Encephalitis

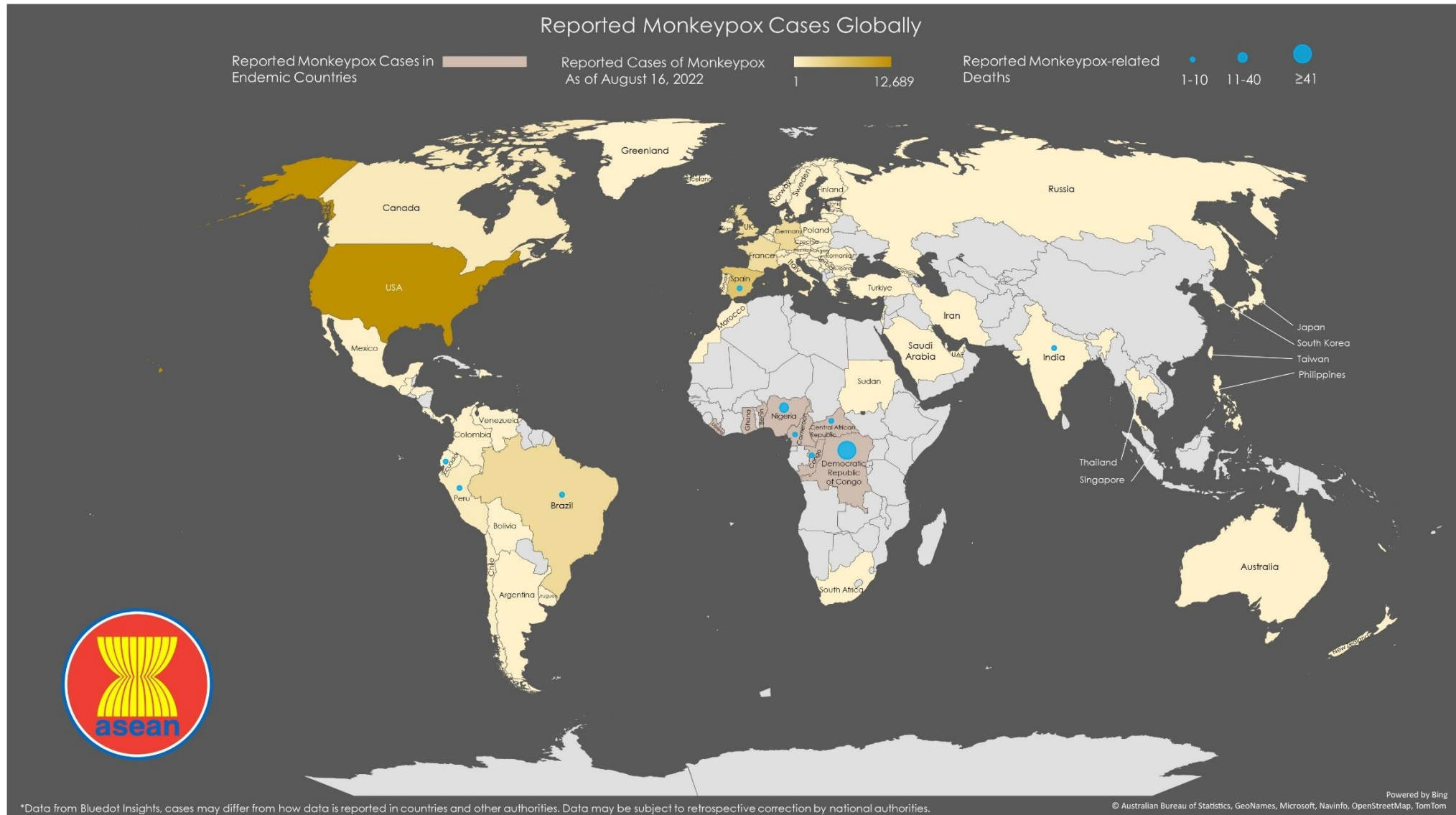
- **Taiwan:** The first case of Japanese encephalitis in Nantou is confirmed, and the source of infection is currently unknown. Nantou County received a notification yesterday that the first case of Japanese encephalitis was confirmed. Currently in hospitalization, the source of infection has yet to be further clarified because the contacts living with him have no similar symptoms. The Health Bureau stated that there have been sporadic cases in various counties and cities in recent years. There are many adults over the age of 40, but all age groups are at risk of infection. The public should take anti-mosquito measures and bring young children to be vaccinated on time. Adults whose homes or workplaces are close to high-risk environments or who feel at risk of infection can go to the travel medicine clinics of Nantou Hospital and Puli Christian Hospital to evaluate and vaccinate at their own expense to reduce the risk of infection.

Malaria

- **Hong Kong (SAR):** The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) today (August 12) reported the latest situation of imported malaria cases involving persons coming from Africa and said that follow-up investigation of the cases is continuing. From July 1 to August 12 (as at 2pm), the CHP recorded a total of 97 imported malaria cases, with 84 of them arriving from Guinea and the remaining 13 from other places in Africa. Among these cases, 22 cases were recorded between August 6 (after 2pm) and August 12. As of noon on August 12, 27 patients infected with malaria were hospitalised in public hospitals. No new death or critical cases were recorded. The CHP will continue to implement a series of measures to follow-up on the imported malaria cases. Together with medical staff of the Hospital Authority, the CHP conducted health screening at Hong Kong International Airport for persons arriving in Hong Kong who had visited Guinea recently. People suspected of being infected with malaria and with clinical needs were immediately sent to hospital for treatment. For the others, arrangement will be made for them to stay in quarantine facility, and those who develop symptoms will be sent to public hospital for treatment. Travellers are urged to be alert to the malaria risk of travel destinations before departing and to take heed of the preventive measures.

Monkeypox Cases Reported Globally

as of August 16, 2022



Monkeypox: Highlights and Situation Overview

- As of 17 August 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **41,001** confirmed cases, including **83** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **0.20%**.
- 29 confirmed cases** of Monkeypox have been reported in the **ASEAN+3** region composed of **21 cases** in the ASEAN region and **8 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0%**.
 - Singapore** 15 cases
 - Thailand** 5 cases (1 new case)
 - Japan** 4 cases
 - Taiwan** 3 cases
 - Philippines** 1 case
 - South Korea** 1 case
- 40,972 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in other **5 regions** (other than ASEAN +3 countries):

Top 5 countries with most monkeypox cases globally

| Region | Country | Total Cases | New Cases | Deaths | Case Fatality Rate |
|----------|----------------|-------------|-----------|--------|--------------------|
| Americas | USA | 12,689 | 1,512 | - | 0.00% |
| Europe | Spain | 5,792 | 73 | 2 | 0.03% |
| Europe | United Kingdom | 3,195 | 178 | - | 0.00% |
| Europe | Germany | 3,186 | 84 | - | 0.00% |
| Americas | Brazil | 3,069 | 611 | 1 | 0.03% |

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* | 2,802 | 1,000 | 77 | 2.75% |
| AMERICAS | 18,377 | 2,466 | 3 | 0.02% |
| ASIA PACIFIC | 87 | 0 | 1 | 1.49% |
| EUROPE | 19,485 | 505 | 2 | 0.01% |
| MIDDLE EAST | 221 | 14 | - | 0.00% |
| TOTAL | 40,972 | 3,985 | 83 | 0.20% |

Global update

- Iran:** Iranian health authorities have announced Iran's first human monkeypox case. Health authorities confirm that the affected individual is a 34-year-old woman living in the southwestern city of Ahvaz. It is reported that the individual presented to a health facility after developing symptoms on the skin of her hands. Health authorities confirm that the affected individual has been in quarantine since her diagnosis was confirmed. There is limited information available regarding the patient's travel and medical history. This event is noteworthy as it represents an additional country reporting monkeypox and the limited information available does not indicate whether this case was acquired through travel, or whether it was community-acquired, which would suggest a possible wider outbreak taking place in the country.

- **USA:** After a dog tested positive for the disease in France, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a warning to persons with monkeypox to confine their pets in order to stop the disease's spread. According to an update released by the CDC on Tuesday, people can contract monkeypox through their pets in addition to contracting it from sick animals. The CDC amended their advice, stating that "affected animals can convey monkeypox virus to people, and it is likely that sick people can spread monkeypox virus to animals through close contact." According to the CDC, animals that have been exposed to someone who has monkeypox should be confined away from animals and people for a period of 21 days, and sick persons should avoid caring for animals whenever possible. The CDC continues, "Ask friends or relatives who live in a different house to take care of the animal until the person with monkeypox fully recovers if the person with monkeypox did NOT have close contact with pets after symptom start." Petting, caressing, embracing, kissing, licking, sharing sleeping spaces, and sharing meals are all examples of close contact. When the owners of an Italian greyhound tested positive for monkeypox in June, it was determined that the dog had the illness. Prior to this year's epidemic, experts had only documented cases of monkeypox in wild animals. [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **France:** Monkeypox was detected in some patients' anal samples from asymptomatic French males who were routinely collected for other monitoring purposes, indicating that vaccination of just known contacts may not be sufficient to stop the transmission of the virus.⁷ A recent case study on a traveler who didn't recently engage in sexual activity but attended a busy outdoor event illustrates additional possible transmission hazards and increases the difficulty of containing the outbreak. In the first study, men who have sex with men (MSM), have multiple sexual partners, and are taking HIV preexposure prophylaxis or treatment were screened for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as part of routine sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening.⁷ The results of the monkeypox tests were used in the first study, which was published today in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. The samples were taken from June 5 to July 11.⁷ 13 (6.5%) of 200 asymptomatic individuals who underwent screening and were negative for two STIs also tested positive for monkeypox.⁷ Later, the signs of monkeypox appeared in two of them.⁷ According to the authors, it is unclear if viral shedding can result in transmission.⁷ If so, they suggested that postexposure ring vaccination surrounding those with suspected or verified illnesses would not be sufficient to stop the virus's transmission.⁷ [\[Full Article\]](#)

Regional update

- **Thailand:** A Thai woman who returned from Dubai is the sixth case of monkeypox to be reported in Thailand.¹ The woman, who is 25 years old, arrived at Suvarnabhumi Airport on August 14, according to Dr. Opas Karnkawinpong, director-general of the Department of Disease Control, who said this on August 15.¹ She became ill before her travel and was a good patient when she arrived.¹ Blisters were discovered on her body, and a test resulted in the diagnosis of monkeypox.¹ According to Dr. Opas, the woman had already been admitted to the hospital for treatment.¹ [\[Full Article\]](#)
- **Philippines:** The scheduled restart of foreign flights at the Iloilo Airport has been hampered by the monkeypox epidemic. "We must wait. According to Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. of Iloilo, the monkeypox is a recent phenomenon. Defensor is looking for new processes for incoming passengers before authorizing their restart due to the potential of monkeypox. The Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Tourism (DOT), or the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, among other national government organizations, must be consulted by the province administration of Iloilo, according to Defensor (OWWA). After the Duterte government stopped requiring COVID-19 swab tests for returning Filipinos and foreign travelers as long as they had gotten COVID-19 booster injections, he stated in June that there is a strong likelihood that international flights will resume. The Marcos government is adamant about not enforcing stringent travel regulations. When a significant airline firm was pushing for the restart of foreign flights, Defensor was likewise eager to let it. Before the

World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed COVID-19 a pandemic in March 2020, Iloilo Airport served international flights to and from Singapore and Hong Kong.

- **Japan:** August 10, 2022, Confirmation of monkeypox infection for the first time in Chiba Prefecture and fourth domestic case at Narita Airport quarantine. Chiba Prefecture announced on the 10th that it was confirmed that a man in his 30s who entered the country from overseas was infected with monkeypox during quarantine at Narita Airport. This is the fourth confirmed case of infection in Japan and the first in the prefecture. According to the prefectural government, the man developed a rash on the 6th, entered Japan from Europe on the 9th, self-reported his symptoms to the quarantine, visited a medical institution in the prefecture, collected a sample, and was hospitalized. Confirmed positive on day 10. His current condition is stable and he has not been transferred outside of the airport and hospital. There are no close contacts in Japan, and there is no risk of infection.

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