

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of April 18, 2022



Canada



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 504 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- Several recombinant variants of circulating SARS-CoV-2 strains are currently being monitored globally. One of these recombinants being monitored is referred to as XE. It is a combination of the BA.1 and BA.2 sublineages of the Omicron variant. Similar to other recombinants, XE likely arose in an individual who was infected with BA.1 and BA.2 at the same time which allowed for the sharing of genetic material during viral replication. Recombinant XE was first detected in England in mid-January, and has since been identified in Canada, China, India, Thailand, and the United States. As of April 5, 1,125 cases of the recombinant XE have been identified in England. According to the most recent data from the UK Health Security Agency, pre-existing Omicron sublineages (BA.1 and BA.2) account for approximately 99.5% of sequenced samples in England between March 27 and April 3, 2022, with just 0.5% being from other variants including recombinant XE. Latest estimates from the UK (as of March 25) have suggested that recombinant XE has a modest growth advantage over Omicron sublineage BA.2 with a 10% increase in transmissibility. In comparison, BA.2 has been estimated to have a 40% increased transmissibility compared to BA.1. This suggests that recombinant XE is slightly more contagious than the other sublineages of Omicron. However, experts state that more data is required to confirm whether recombinant XE is more transmissible compared to other Omicron sublineages. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that they will continue to consider recombinant XE as an Omicron sublineage, and will not give it a separate Greek letter name until significant differences in the transmission and disease characteristics of recombinant XE have been reported. At this time the WHO has designated XE as a 'variant under monitoring' (VUM). The risk of new variants, including recombinants, emerging remains high and drives the continued need to track and understand the evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 virus through continuous, comprehensive, and representative sampling and sequencing of SARS-CoV-2. BlueDot will also continue to closely monitor and assess the public health risk associated with recombinant variants, in addition to other SARS-CoV-2 variants, in order to provide further updates as new evidence becomes available.
- South Korea had a 32% decline in weekly cases and deaths were third in the world with 1,797 behind United States and Russia. However, Korea still has the most cases in the world in the past week with 1,043,562. On April 17, Korea reported 93,001 new cases, first time go below 100,000 since February 22 and deaths were 203. Health authorities announced on April 15, the plans to virtually end all restrictions, including no limits on hours for retail and restaurants and no restrictions on number of individuals for weddings and rallies. Furthermore, seven-day isolation requirement for those who tested positive would end in late May. The government will also consider removing the requirement to wear mask outdoors in two weeks.
- China: Shanghai the financial capital of China and home to 25 million residents, has been battling the onslaught of Omicron variant of COVID-19 and has been under lockdown for weeks. Shanghai has reported its first three COVID-19 deaths since its lockdown, Frustrated residents in Shanghai have taken to social media to vent their anger at local authorities over difficulties sourcing food, loss of income, separated families, and poor central quarantine conditions. Tensions have increased into public protests or scuffles with police.
- Japan: Public health experts have warned a possible outbreak of the XE Omicron subvariant in Japan, where signs of a potential seventh COVID-19 surge are emerging. The health ministry reported the first XE strain in Japan on April 17, found in a woman in her 30s who arrived

from the United States on March 26. She had no symptoms upon arrival. The health experts in Japan said on Wednesday that it is important to keep a close watch on the XE subvariant through genome sequencing. XE is believed to be more transmissible than BA.2.

Regional Update

- Cambodia: Khmer New Year was celebrated in Cambodia by more than 1.5 million people who visited various tourist attractions across the country. The Ministry of Tourism recorded 1,579,251 travellers of which 9,769 were foreigners residing in Cambodia on April 15. The first two days of new year recorded a total of 2,442,148 travelers and it is expected to increase beyond the holiday through the weekend. Despite the mass gatherings during the holidays, Cambodia has only recorded 16 new COVID-19 cases, all of which are Omicron variant, a total of 136,060 cases and 3,055 deaths.
- Thailand: Chulalongkorn University Science lecturer Jessada Denduangboripant said that Thailand is now on a downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases. Omicron variant surged in the country in February and peaked at the beginning of March. Thailand's infection curve declined slower than the rest of the world as the country was hit by BA.1 and BA.2 subvariants of Omicron simultaneously. It is projected that there would be an increase of COVID-19 cases after Songkran but they are not expecting to be as high at the beginning of Omicron outbreak. Thailand recorded 17,775 new cases and 128 deaths on April 17.
- Philippines: The Department of Health (DOH) reported that the Philippines recorded 195 new COVID-19 cases on April 17, lowest daily tally since December 21, 2021, when 168 new infections were recorded. The latest data brought the country's active cases to 21,038, the lowest in three months since January 1.
- Singapore: Health Minister Ong Ye Kung said on April 17 that Singapore ponders over the next steps of its reopening and keeping two considerations. First is the overall COVID-19 situation in Singapore and will keep a close eye on hospital capacity and the number of severe cases. Second, they will also check for risks that could drive the next wave of infection such as emergence of a new variant of concern. Singapore has observed a declining trend of COVID-19 cases despite relaxing its restrictions in the past month. Additional easing will be done along the five parameters: group sizes, wearing of mask, workplace rules, social distancing, and capacity limits.
- Vietnam's Ministry of Health (MOH) issued a new guideline wherein individuals who have been in close contact with COVID-19 cases (F1 cases) are now no longer required to self-quarantine but have to avoid going to large gatherings. The new guideline also include the new definitions of COVID-19 patients (F0), and F1 cases, along with medical measures for these patients. Accordingly, F0 cases are those testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR method, or those who show clinical symptoms (fever, coughing, or three among the symptoms: fever, coughing, body aches, exhaustion, chills, headache, sore throat, blocked or runny nose, reduced or loss of taste and smell, nausea, diarrhea, and breathing difficulties). F0 cases can also be defined as those who have "epidemiological factors" and have tested positive using antigen test result. Epidemiological factors are defined as in presence in the same space/event/vehicles and having close contact with confirmed cases in the transmission period. The suspected F0 cases are those with epidemiological factors and show clinical symptoms, or those with positive antigen test results, or those with severe acute respiratory infection or severe pneumonia that are suspected to have been caused by a virus and have to be hospitalized. Meanwhile, F1 cases are those who have direct body contact (hugging, kissing, hand shaking, skin-to-skin contact, etc.) with F0(s) during the transmission period, or have stayed together with F0(s) within 1m in distance, or in closed space for at least 15 minutes wearing masks or not, or personally care for, administer medical examinations and treatment to F0 during the transmission period without wearing personal protective equipment. Even if F1 cases no

longer required to self-quarantine, they are still required to wear face masks, regularly wash or disinfect hands, and avoid close contact with others –especially those considered at high risks of severe COVID-19.

Vaccine Update

- Brunei has begun administering COVID-19 boosters for adolescents aged 12 to 17 at vaccination centers nationwide. Brunei Health Minister Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohd Isham Jaafar said that the booster is not mandatory but highly recommends for children aged 12 to 17; because similar to adults, immunity from the primary series of vaccine wanes over time. Over 60% of Brunei's population already received their booster dose against COVID-19.
- Based on Malaysia's CovidNow portal, a total of 22,960,906 or 97.6% of the adult population have completed both doses of COVID-19 vaccine, 23,238,026 or 98.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and 15,974,034 or 67.9% have received booster dose. For adolescents aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,873,414 individuals or 92.4% of their population have completed the vaccination, while 2,974,984 individuals or 95.7% have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Meanwhile, a total of 412,026 children aged five to 11 years, or 11.6% of their population have completed their vaccination while 1,412,867 children in the same group or 39.8% have received at least one dose of the vaccine under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme for Children (PICKids) as of April 17 (Sunday). On April 17 (Sunday), a total of 60,184 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were dispensed, with 11,268 as first dose, 45,359 as second dose and 3,557 as booster dose, bringing the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (PICK) to 69,633,398.
- Philippines: Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted the emergency use authorization (EUA) last week for a second booster or fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine for senior citizens, immunocompromised, and frontline health workers. The Department of Health (DOH) said that the fourth dose will be given at least four months after the third dose, as the FDA warned of waning immunity in the specific populations. DOH earlier requested FDA to amend the EUA to allow the third and fourth dose for adolescents aged 12 to 17.
- Thailand: Department of Disease Control (DDC) said on April 17 that adolescents aged 12 to 17 with no chronic or underlying conditions will be given COVID-19 booster dose in preparation for reopening of schools next month. Adolescents will be given a Pfizer booster to protect them once they start attending school. Students will be given their booster through the school system, though those who have chronic diseases and are being home schooled must get their booster at a hospital.
- Vietnam: Children aged five to 11 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City get first vaccine shot against COVID-19 during the weekend. Second dose will follow after 28 days. All children in sixth grade who are not infected with COVID-19 or has recovered from the virus are eligible for the vaccination. Medical workers still advise parents to monitor child's health and nutrition after inoculation. Parents are told to contact medical workers immediately in case of any adverse reactions. Children with underlying diseases including those who are undernourished or obese, will be given priority. Hanoi Center for Disease Control (CDC) said on April 15 that they have received 73,000 doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from the Ministry of Health (MOH). Vietnam has approved two COVID-19 vaccines for use on children aged five to 11, Pfizer and Moderna. Around 11.8 million children are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Malaysia: Sabah welcomes first international flight after two years. Malaysia started its transition to endemic phase since April 1 with some concessions being given including the opening of borders to international arrivals. Prior to the pandemic, Sabah received 126,000 arrivals from Singapore. Sabah is also expecting direct route from Thailand and the Philippines to begin in the first half of the year, with the rest to follow on the second half.
- Myanmar: Yangon International Airport in Myanmar reopened on April 17, after more than two years the country suspended all the commercial flights due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Arriving passengers need to present proof of vaccination with a Ministry of Health-approved vaccine and a negative RT-PCR test as part of the health protocol against COVID-19. All foreign travelers must submit their COVID-19 medical insurance purchased from Myanmar Insurance and they must also wait at their designated hotels upon arrival until the release of their negative RT-PCR test results to be sent by the Health Ministry within 24 hours.

Cases and Deaths as of 18 April 2022

- As of 18 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **504,490,682** confirmed cases, including **6,231,819** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 55,903,135** confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **30,820,535** cases in the ASEAN region and **25,082,600** cases in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

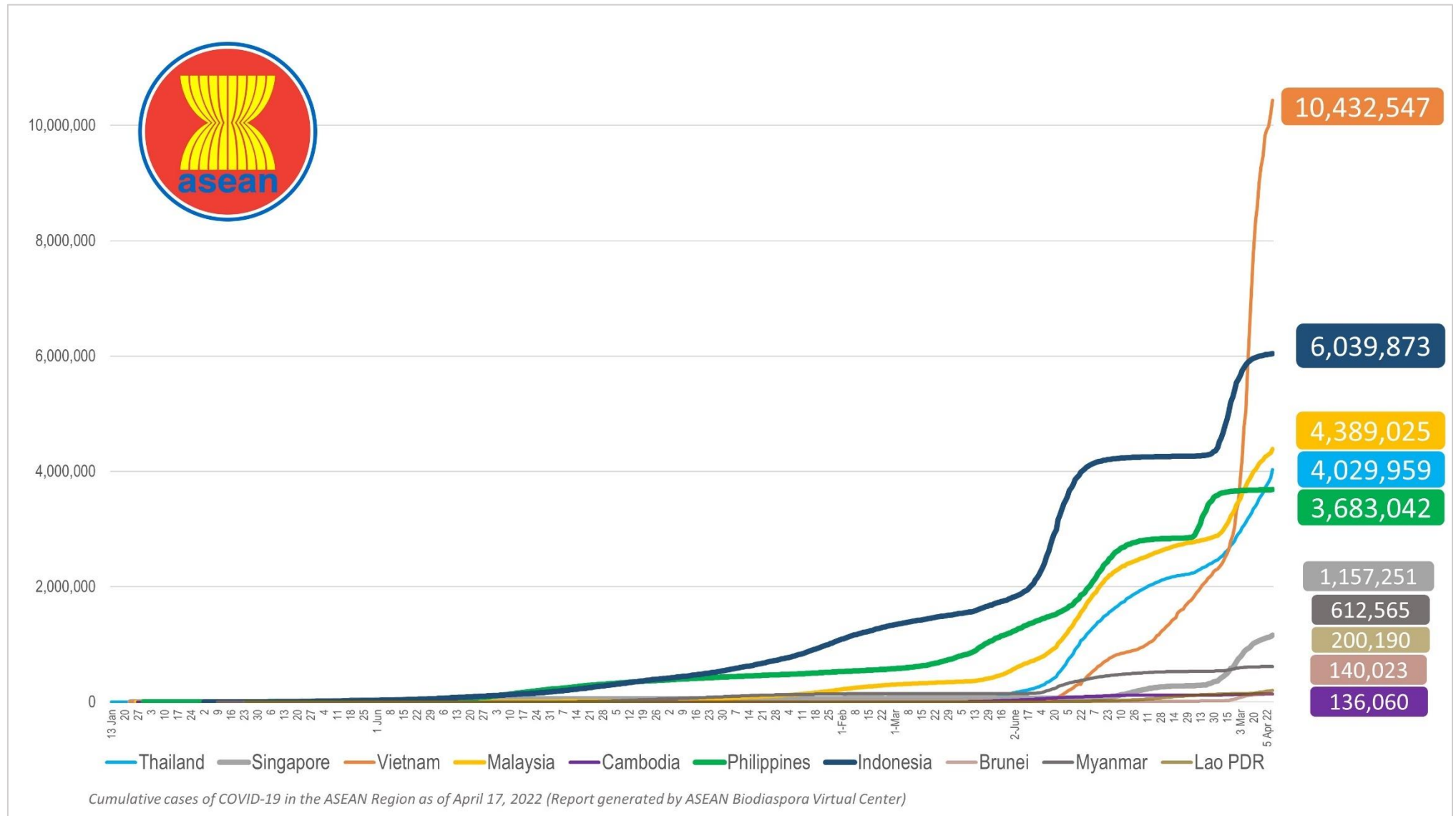
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	17-Apr-22	140,023	176	218	1	0.2%	32,317		412,058	405,414	267,071	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	17-Apr-22	136,060	28	3,055	-	2.2%	825	86	14,850,948	14,106,382	9,296,464	83.2
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	17-Apr-22	6,039,873	607	155,866	22	2.6%	2,232	-	197,910,765	162,204,973	29,687,453	58.7
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	17-Apr-22	200,190	322	718	4	0.4%	2,792	115	5,732,256	4,727,576		64.1
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	17-Apr-22	4,389,025	6,623	35,421	12	0.8%	13,737	2,529	27,587,017	26,097,771	15,959,507	79.6
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	17-Apr-22	612,565	20	19,434	-	3.2%	1,133	264	28,522,949	22,337,339		40.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	17-Apr-22	3,683,042	195	59,969	5	1.6%	3,407	-	70,173,137	66,652,616	12,477,480	60.0
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	17-Apr-22	1,157,251	1,670	1,313	3	0.1%	20,290		5,009,323	4,974,519	3,917,670	91.2
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	17-Apr-22	4,029,959	17,775	26,885	128	0.7%	5,788	-	55,849,949	50,520,022	24,830,921	72.2
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	17-Apr-22	10,432,547	19,540	42,944	10	0.4%	10,815	1,011	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
ASEAN COUNTRIES				30,820,535	46,956	345,823	185	1.1%			485,995,591	429,780,720	141,879,643	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	17-Apr-22	16,305,752	93,001	21,092	203	0.1%	31,534	6,584	45,004,871	44,521,723	32,974,504	86.78
	Japan	16-Jan-20	17-Apr-22	7,362,141	39,214	28,855	26	0.4%	5,831	1,177	102,872,721	101,024,896	59,699,124	80.15
	China	31-Dec-19	17-Apr-22	1,414,707	5,578	14,631	29	1.0%	16,132	1,872	1,306,845,613	1,269,826,007	735,225,452	80.8
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				25,082,600	137,793	64,578	258	0.3%			1,454,723,205	1,415,372,626	827,899,080
ASEAN +3				55,903,135	184,749	410,401	443	0.7%			1,940,718,796	1,845,153,346	969,778,723	

- 448,587,547** 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	11,824,496	969	253,363	4	1.1	203,841	3,608	291,678,925	221,778,302	20,117,573
AMERICAS	153,532,746	2,046	2,732,138	36	0.8	879,448	26,239	794,240,736	696,726,571	293,316,535
ASIA PACIFIC	70,427,825	37,946	728,956	51	0.2	299,744	15,495	1,394,515,940	1,199,764,305	105,744,140
EUROPE	192,132,079	199,191	1,856,609	594	0.6	1,703,984	216,919	554,391,190	526,572,306	299,868,168
MIDDLE EAST	20,670,401	6,285	232,352	52	0.3	187,596	35,239	140,356,257	125,671,512	53,901,046
TOTAL	448,587,547	246,437	5,803,418	737	1.3%			3,175,183,048	2,770,512,996	772,947,462

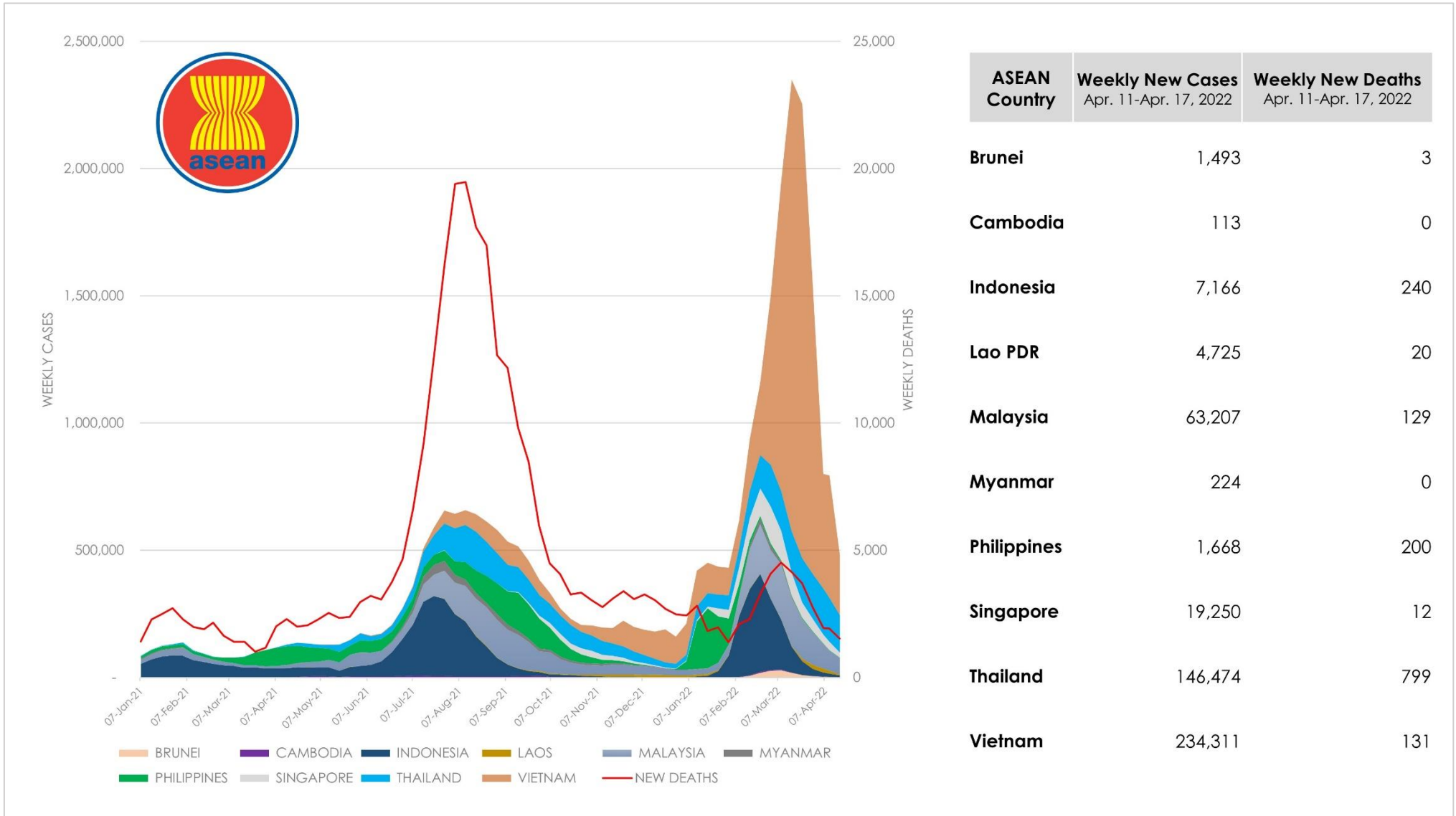
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to April 17, 2022



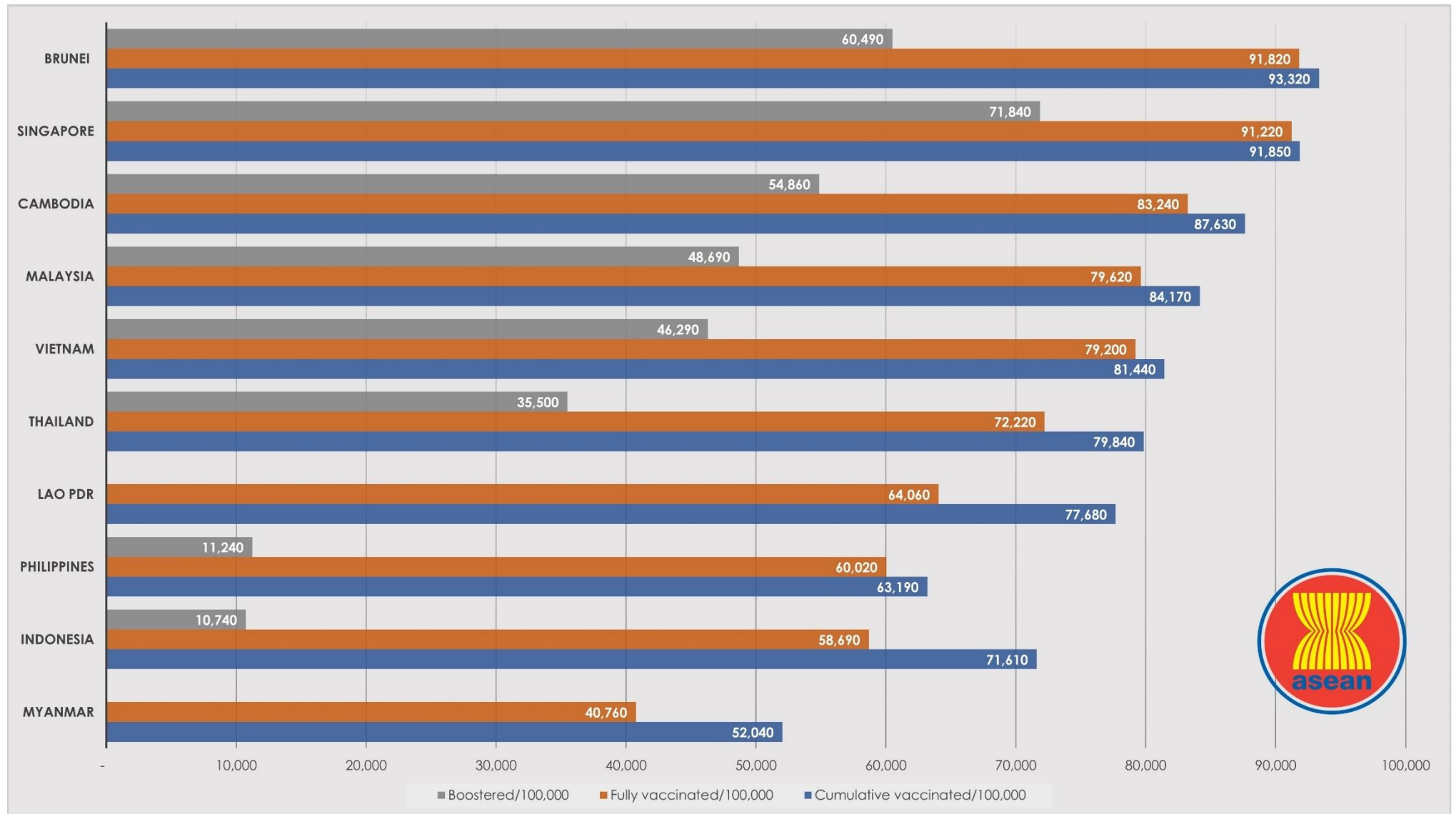
Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

From January 1, 2021 to April 17, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 17 April 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 15 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	≥90.0/60.5	Unknown	52.29	Unknown	67.9/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	89.5/54.9	0.02%/day	0.10	2.5	37.5/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	62.1/10.7	0.07%/day	0.40	Unknown	55.7/100	0.0
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	70.0/ND	0.84%/day	10.61	100	78.3/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	80.1/48.7	0.11%/day	24.60	13.6	58.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	42.2/ND	Unknown	0.07	0.6	77.7/100	0.0
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	64.5/11.2	0.13%/day	0.23	1.8	82.4/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.2/71.8	0.03%/day	50.47	Unknown	74.4/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	73.4/35.5	0.02%/day	31.56	44	53.3/100	0.0
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	33.30	65.1	71.4/100	0.0



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