

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of May 20, 2022



Canada 



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 524 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Weekly Epidemiological Update, globally, after the continued decline observed since the end of March 2022, new weekly COVID-19 cases have stabilized during the reporting period (9 May to 15 May 2022), with over 3.6 million cases reported, a 1% increase as compared to the previous week. On the other hand, the number of new weekly deaths continues to decline, with over 9000 fatalities reported during the same period, representing a 21% decrease as compared to the previous week. At the regional level, the number of new weekly cases increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+63%), in the Region of the Americas (+26%), in the Western Pacific Region (+14%) and in the African Region (+6%) and decreased in the remaining two regions. The number of new weekly deaths decreased in all the regions except the African Region, where a 48% increase in new weekly deaths was reported. As of 15 May 2022, over 518 million confirmed cases and over six million deaths have been reported globally. These trends should be interpreted with caution as several countries have been progressively changing COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected. At the country level, the highest number of new weekly cases were reported from the United States of America (605 547 new cases; +33%), China (389 901 new cases; +94%), Germany (376 959 new cases; -20%), Australia (332 451 new cases; -23%), and Japan (279 620 new cases; +54%). The highest number of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (1849 new deaths; -27%), Italy (765 new deaths; -16%), the Russian Federation (724 new deaths; -21%), Brazil (689 new deaths; +1%), and France (590 new deaths; -19%). This week, state media in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reported a COVID-19 outbreak for the first time. The Omicron VOC is the dominant variant circulating globally, accounting for nearly all sequences reported to GISAID. Among Omicron, BA.2 and its descendent lineages (i.e., BA.2.X) are the dominant variants, comprising 97% of all sequences submitted to GISAID from the week of 1 May 2022. Within the last 30 days, BA.1 and its descendent lineages (i.e., BA.1.X), BA.3 and the Delta variant have further declined in prevalence, falling below a global prevalence of <1%. In recent weeks, Omicron descendent lineages BA.4, BA.5 and BA.2.12.1 (all three with characteristic mutations in the spike region and locus S: L452) have increased in prevalence within the countries in which they were first detected (South Africa and the United States of America, respectively) and spread to additional countries. To date, BA.4 has been detected in 20 countries (1 333 sequences submitted to GISAID), BA.5 has been detected in 19 countries (757 sequences), and BA.2.12.1 has been detected in 38 countries (21 711 sequences). At the global level, BA.4 and BA.5 account for 0.5% and 0.4% of all circulating variants, respectively. Lineage BA.2.12.1 accounts for 10% among BA.2 lineages globally as of 24 April 2022. In South Africa, BA.4 and BA.5 appear to be driving an increase in the numbers of cases, accounting for 89% and 7% of sequences submitted as of 13 May 2022, respectively.¹ Since late April, South Africa has also reported a moderate increase in hospital admissions, although this rise has been significantly lower than that observed during the emergence of Omicron in late 2021. Similarly, the first indications of a rise in the number of cases have been observed in Portugal, which recently confirmed circulation of BA.5. Hospital and ICU admissions remain stable in Portugal as of 13 May. In the United States of America, where the prevalence of BA.2.12.1 is 48%, the numbers of cases and hospitalizations have been rising since April 2022, with a 33% increase in cases and 19% increase in admissions during the week of 9 May, respectively, as compared to the previous week. Preliminary modelling by WHO based on sequences submitted to GISAID indicates that BA.4, BA.5 and BA.2.12.1 have a higher growth rate than other

circulating variants, such as Delta, BA.1 and BA.2, that may be attributable to increased immune evasion and/or intrinsic transmissibility. BA.4, BA.5, and BA.2.12.1 remain lineages monitored by WHO under the umbrella of the Omicron VOC given their current low prevalence at the global level and the insufficient evidence of a change in diseases characteristics, such as severity, associated with these Omicron lineages.

- Africa's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa-CDC) has warned that there is a possibility that a new COVID-19 variant would emerge in Africa in the foreseeable future. According to figures from the Africa CDC, the African continent has seen a 36% average increase of new COVID-19 cases over the past four weeks, with Central and Eastern Africa regions reporting increasing new COVID-19 cases by 113% and 54%, respectively. According to the acting director of Africa CDC, five African countries reported the highest numbers of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases over the last one week with South Africa reporting 50,404 cases, Tanzania 1,482, Namibia 1,054, Zimbabwe 910 and Burundi 817 cases. The agency has called for increased testing and sequencing to be able to understand where the outbreaks are and identify what variant is emerging. He also called for an enhanced vaccination rollout to sustainably address low vaccination service against the pandemic across the continent. As of May 19 (Thursday) the African countries have reported 9,188 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the cumulative number of cases in the country to 11,580,073.

Regional Update

- The Cambodian Ministry of Health on May 19 reported zero COVID-19 cases and no new deaths for 12 straight days. As of May 19, Cambodia recorded a total of 136,262 COVID-19 cases with 133,198 recoveries and 3,056 fatalities. The Ministry of Health, meanwhile, renewed its call for officials to pay attention to the examination and treatment of patients with ethics, professionalism and equity, regardless of their political affiliations. Minister Mam Bun Heng made the call during the May 18 inauguration of the maternity and infant care building at Battambang Provincial Referral Hospital. The facility was constructed with the assistance of South Korea, through the Korea Foundation for International Health Care (KOFIH). Bun Heng said this assistance to the people of Battambang was very significant, as the building is equipped with a wide scope of modern equipment to meet the needs of the people. Bun Heng added that officials should pay special attention to the poor, the elderly, women, children and those who faced difficulties and needed assistance. The government, he said, has strived to bring services closer to the people by establishing new health centers and hospitals, and improving health infrastructure.
- Indonesia: Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture Muhadjir Effendy has said that Indonesia is optimistic about entering the COVID-19 endemic phase. Indonesia's strength in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be separated from the leadership of President Joko Widodo (Jokowi), he said. In the past three weeks, the number of COVID-19 cases in the country has declined overall, despite an increase being recorded in several cities such as Jakarta, the minister added. Even though the number of COVID-19 cases in some areas is increasing, he assured that the increase has not been exponential. Earlier, Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin had said that the high level of awareness among the community on health protocol compliance was one factor that contributed to the government's decision to ease more COVID-19 restrictions. The initial step in the transition to the endemic phase has been the lifting of the mask mandate in open spaces that are not crowded with people, he noted. However, people are still being urged to wear masks during indoor activities and while using public transportation. Vulnerable people and those experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are also being advised to mask up. Besides nixing the mask-wearing mandate for outdoor activities, the Indonesian government has also lifted

the obligation for fully vaccinated domestic and international travelers to show a COVID-19 test result before traveling. The first case of COVID-19 in Indonesia was confirmed in March 2020. According to data from the COVID-19 Handling Task Force, as of May 19, 2022, the nation recorded a total of 6,051,850 COVID-19 cases, 5,891,574 recoveries, and 156,510 deaths.

- Philippines: An infectious disease specialist warned that the local transmission of the BA.2.12.1 sublineage of the Omicron variant could trigger a surge especially in areas where vaccination coverage is poor. The Philippines has detected 17 BA.2.12.1 cases from samples coming from the National Capital Region, Iloilo and Palawan. In a televised briefing on May 19, Dr. Rontgene Solante, head of the adult infectious diseases and tropical medicine section at the San Lazaro Hospital, said he expects more than 500 BA.2.12.1 infections in places where the number of vaccinated individuals is low. Health Undersecretary and National Vaccination Operations Center chief Myrna Cabotaje had said a surge is most likely in Quezon, Masbate and Palawan in Southern Luzon and the regions of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Central Luzon, Central Visayas and the Soccsksargen (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City) regions. Solante said that even if there is a surge in BA.2.12.1 cases, he does not expect hospital admissions to go up as the sublineage, like the main Omicron variant, generally causes only mild infection. He called for more surveillance testing, especially among symptomatics and their close contacts to determine whether the variant has spread beyond the areas where it was first detected. The administration of the second booster dose for senior citizens and frontline health workers comes at the most opportune time, Solante said, since they provide increased protection from the subvariants. In a separate interview, Philippine College of Physicians President Dr. Maria Encarnita Limpin urged the government to set up more accessible vaccination sites for primary series and booster shots.
- Thailand's Public Health Ministry estimated that the transition of COVID-19 to an endemic could come half a month sooner than its previous estimation of July 1. According to its permanent health secretary, the ministry sees a decreasing number of daily infections and most confirmed patients have no or mild symptoms. One major factor also is the increasing number of vaccinations administered that are now covering a majority of the country's population. As preparation for this transition, the Department of Medical Services is planning to adjust COVID-19 treatment with focus on treating all patients with medium to severe symptoms as in-patients at hospitals to reduce the chance of death, while those with mild or no symptoms will be treated as outpatients and will be allowed to go into home isolation. Furthermore, the department will prepare a plan to treat patients with Long COVID symptoms, which could occur in 15 to 30% of patients who have recovered from COVID-19. The plan will focus on integrating patient treatment history among medical institutes after patients are sent home, and monitoring of Long COVID symptoms on a weekly or monthly basis to make sure patients receive suitable treatment in time.
- Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) reported that all local and imported cases of COVID-19 last month which underwent genome-wide sequencing were found to have been infected with the Omicron variant. MOH said on May 19 (Thursday) that of the local cases, 99% were sub-variant BA.2 strain and its lineages, which include BA.2.12.1 and the remaining 1% was the BA.1 sub-variant.
- Vietnam: A new seven-month study has been launched into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant workers in apparel and footwear factories in Vietnam. The reluctance of migrant workers to return to work following coronavirus lockdowns is regarded as an ongoing threat to Vietnam's economy, especially for labor-intensive sectors such as the garment industry. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) have partnered to carry out the study which will also focus on the electronics sector.

Vaccine Update

- The World Health Organization (WHO) issued an Emergency Use Listing (EUL) for CONVIDECIA, a single-shot vaccine manufactured by CanSino Biologics, as China battles a resurgence of the virus triggered by the Omicron variant. It is the third Chinese-made vaccine to be approved by the WHO, after Sinovac and Sinopharm. CONVIDECIA was assessed under the WHO EUL procedure based on the review of data on quality, safety, efficacy, a risk management plan, programmatic suitability and a manufacturing site inspection conducted by WHO. The Technical Advisory Group for Emergency Use Listing, convened by WHO and made up of regulatory experts from around the world, has determined that the vaccine meets WHO standards for protection against COVID-19 and that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh risks. The vaccine was found to have 64% efficacy against symptomatic disease and 92% against severe COVID-19.
- Indonesia: The number of Indonesian citizens who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 has reached 166.49 million as of Thursday, according to the Ministry of Health. The number of fully vaccinated citizens or those who have received two doses of the vaccine increased by 85,293 on Thursday to reach 166,492,274, the ministry informed in a press release received by ANTARA here on May 19. Meanwhile, as many as 26,357 citizens received their first vaccine dose on Thursday, taking the total number of first dose recipients to 199,741,802. In addition, the number of people who received the booster or third dose swelled by 208,203 to touch 43,222,983, the ministry reported. 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. Earlier, government spokesperson for COVID-19 handling, Wiku Adisasmito, had pointed to a downward trend in the number of daily cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia despite a continued increase in people's mobility.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Laos: Bokeo province issued a notice about the reopening of the border on Tuesday, following a notice issued by the Prime Minister's Office on May 7. The notice stated that citizens of countries that have signed a bilateral or unilateral visa waiver agreement with Laos can enter Bokeo province, about 350km northwest of Lao capital Vientiane, without applying for a visa, while citizens of countries that have not signed visa waiver agreements with Laos can apply for a visa at a Lao embassy or consulate in another country. Visitors can also apply for a visa online or on arrival at the border crossing in Bokeo province. Vehicles will be allowed to enter and exit as normal, the same as before the pandemic. People who have not been fully vaccinated are required to take a COVID-19 ATK test within 48 hours of their departure for Laos but are not required to have a COVID-19 test upon arrival in Bokeo province. The notice also stated that Bokeo provincial health officials would monitor the possibility of an outbreak of a new COVID-19 variant, in order to develop appropriate responses. According to the Lao Ministry of Health, the average number of new infections reported in Laos each day has plummeted tenfold, from almost 2,000 a day in February and March this year to less than 200 a day at present.
- Myanmar's Ministry of Immigration and Population has announced that it will increase the number of e-visa (Tourist) applications from Friday (May 20), aiming to develop the tourism sector and balance tourism with neighboring countries. Ministry of Immigration and Population launched the resumption of online e-visa (Business) application process on April 1 for the convenience of business people to come and visit. The government has allowed international flights to resume in accordance with the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 health regulations, which is now attracting more foreign tourists. Requirements to apply for an online e-visa (Tourist) can be found at the website

of the Ministry of Immigration and Population. The coordination meeting for the opening of e-visa was held at 2 pm on May 12 at the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw and attended by officials. At the meeting, Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing said Myanmar allowed e-visa (Tourist) to 100 countries and e-visa (Business) to 55 countries through online e-visa system and the e-visa system had been suspended from March 23, 2020 due to the COVID-19 disease. Currently, e-visa (Business) is re-allowed from April 1 due to a significant reduction in the incidence of COVID-19 disease. Since April 17, international airlines have been allowed to return to and from Yangon International Airport, and some applications have been made with e-visa (Business). In addition, the e-Visa (Tourist) visa will be issued as a permit, so it is important to prepare the requirements and provide accurate information for the convenience of foreigners entering the country. The meeting was held to ensure that the relevant departments are ready to provide the necessary information and timely notification when applying for the e-Visa (Tourist) for foreigners entering the country, he said.

- China: Travellers flying to China from the United States of America (USA) will no longer be required to provide three negative RT-PCR test results starting May 20 (Friday). According to the notice posted by the Chinese mission in the USA, the previous requirement of showing a negative RT-PCR test result from seven days before the flight will be scrapped. However, two RT-PCR tests from two different laboratories, carried out within 48 hours and 24 hours before departure, a negative antigen test result done 12 hours before the flight at institutes designated by Chinese authorities and a minimum of 14 days of quarantine upon arrival are still required. In addition, the embassy will only issue green health QR codes – mandatory for entry to China – to passengers flying direct from Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.
- Japan: The Japanese government will begin a trial project this month on accepting fully vaccinated inbound tourists ahead of its broader easing of COVID-19 border control measures scheduled for June. According to Japan Tourism Agency (JTA), small groups of tourists will be accepted from four countries including the United States of America, Australia, Thailand and Singapore to test the effectiveness of its COVID-19 measures. Participants from the four countries will need to meet certain conditions, such as being triple-vaccinated, and must be accompanied by travel agencies in their predetermined itineraries. The trial is expected to start next week and continue until the end of May.

Cases and Deaths as of 20 May 2022

- As of 20 May 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **524,637,999** confirmed cases, including **6,305,494** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 60,567,179 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,680,571 cases** in the ASEAN region and **28,886,608 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

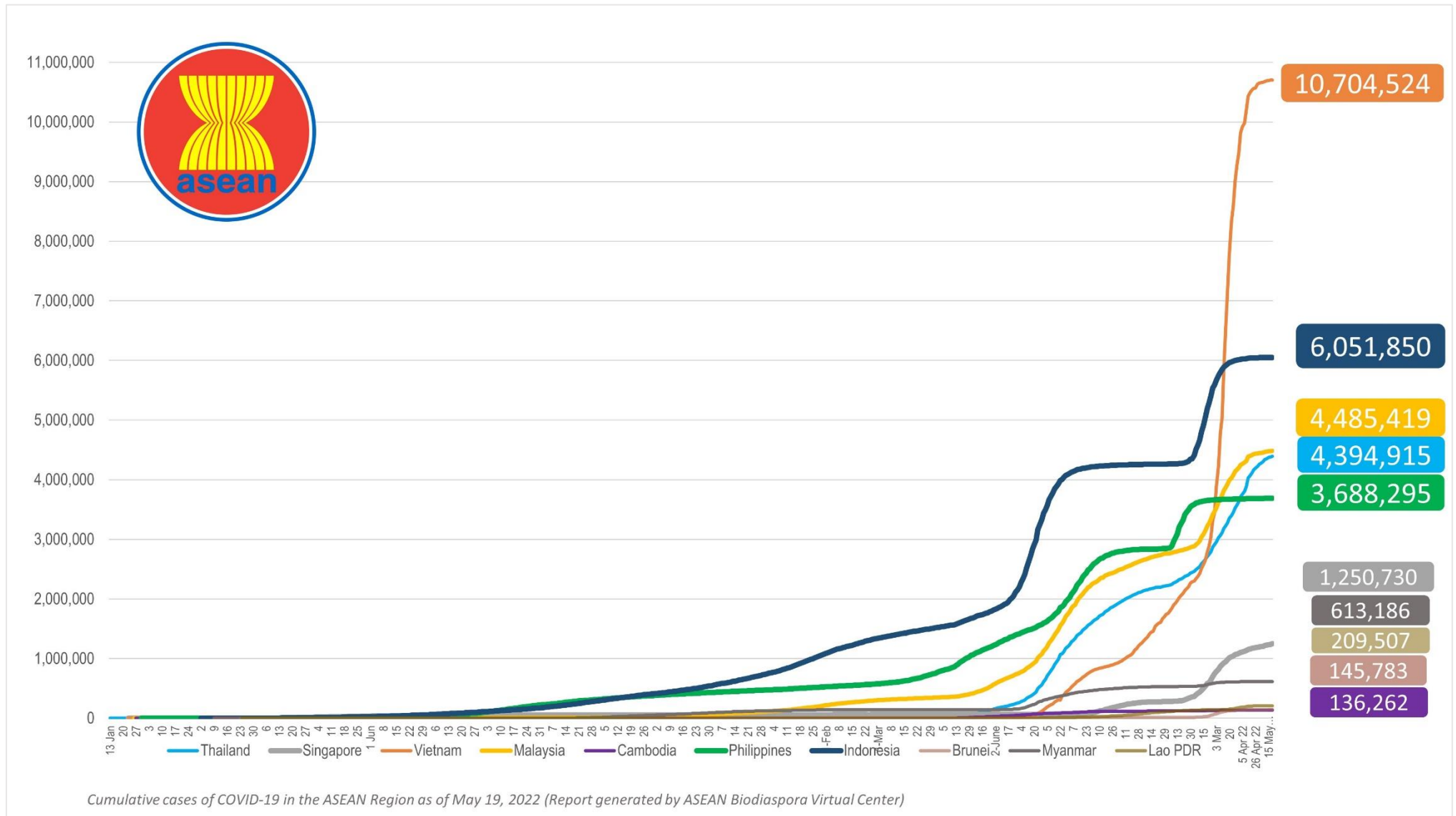
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	19-May-22	145,783	262	221	-	0.2%	33,646		432,057	409,091	282,887	92.7
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	19-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	19-May-22	6,051,850	318	156,510	12	2.6%	2,236	-	199,715,445	166,406,981	37,458,813	60.2
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	19-May-22	209,607	54	754	-	0.4%	2,924	31	5,791,016	4,977,532		67.5
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	19-May-22	4,485,419	2,124	35,633	3	0.8%	14,039	1,840	27,905,242	26,958,363	16,071,981	82.3
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	19-May-22	613,186	4	19,434	-	3.2%	1,135	207	30,994,375	24,329,862		44.4
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	19-May-22	3,688,295	195	60,452	-	1.6%	3,411	-	70,173,137	68,838,393	13,732,500	62.0
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	19-May-22	1,250,730	6,442	1,369	2	0.1%	21,929		5,014,460	4,985,869	4,055,577	91.4
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	19-May-22	4,394,915	6,305	29,640	42	0.7%	6,312	-	56,332,365	51,903,981	27,011,740	74.2
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	19-May-22	10,704,524	1,831	43,073	1	0.4%	11,094	11	82,886,620	78,673,094	55,399,686	80.1
ASEAN COUNTRIES				31,680,571	17,535	350,142	60	1.1%			494,202,905	441,701,129	162,617,426	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	19-May-22	17,889,849	28,105	23,842	40	0.1%	34,597	3,298	45,046,232	44,565,554	36,894,111	86.9
	Japan	16-Jan-20	19-May-22	8,493,846	39,642	30,035	36	0.4%	6,727	1,346	103,435,413	101,881,160	71,977,517	80.8
	China	31-Dec-19	19-May-22	2,502,913	89,923	15,819	62	0.6%	20,818	4,939	1,314,546,687	1,278,256,893	781,649,101	83.8
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				28,886,608	157,670	69,696	138	0.2%			1,463,028,332	1,424,703,607	890,520,729
ASEAN +3				60,567,179	175,205	419,838	198	0.7%			1,957,231,237	1,866,404,736	1,053,138,155	

- 464,070,820 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	12,304,759	7,864	255,516	34	1.0	230,801	19,396	307,245,560	234,264,399	23,745,322
AMERICAS	158,080,853	82,313	2,770,783	301	0.8	990,021	62,399	799,736,965	705,069,770	373,137,162
ASIA PACIFIC	72,486,423	68,396	733,580	76	0.2	333,257	39,184	1,408,105,916	1,240,666,391	118,568,789
EUROPE	200,372,283	157,624	1,892,649	834	0.6	1,758,558	92,588	557,501,849	529,385,022	311,570,677
MIDDLE EAST	20,826,502	4,456	233,128	24	0.3	189,938	52,581	141,302,623	126,662,571	55,027,989
TOTAL	464,070,820	320,653	5,885,656	1,269	1.3%			3,213,892,913	2,836,048,153	882,049,939

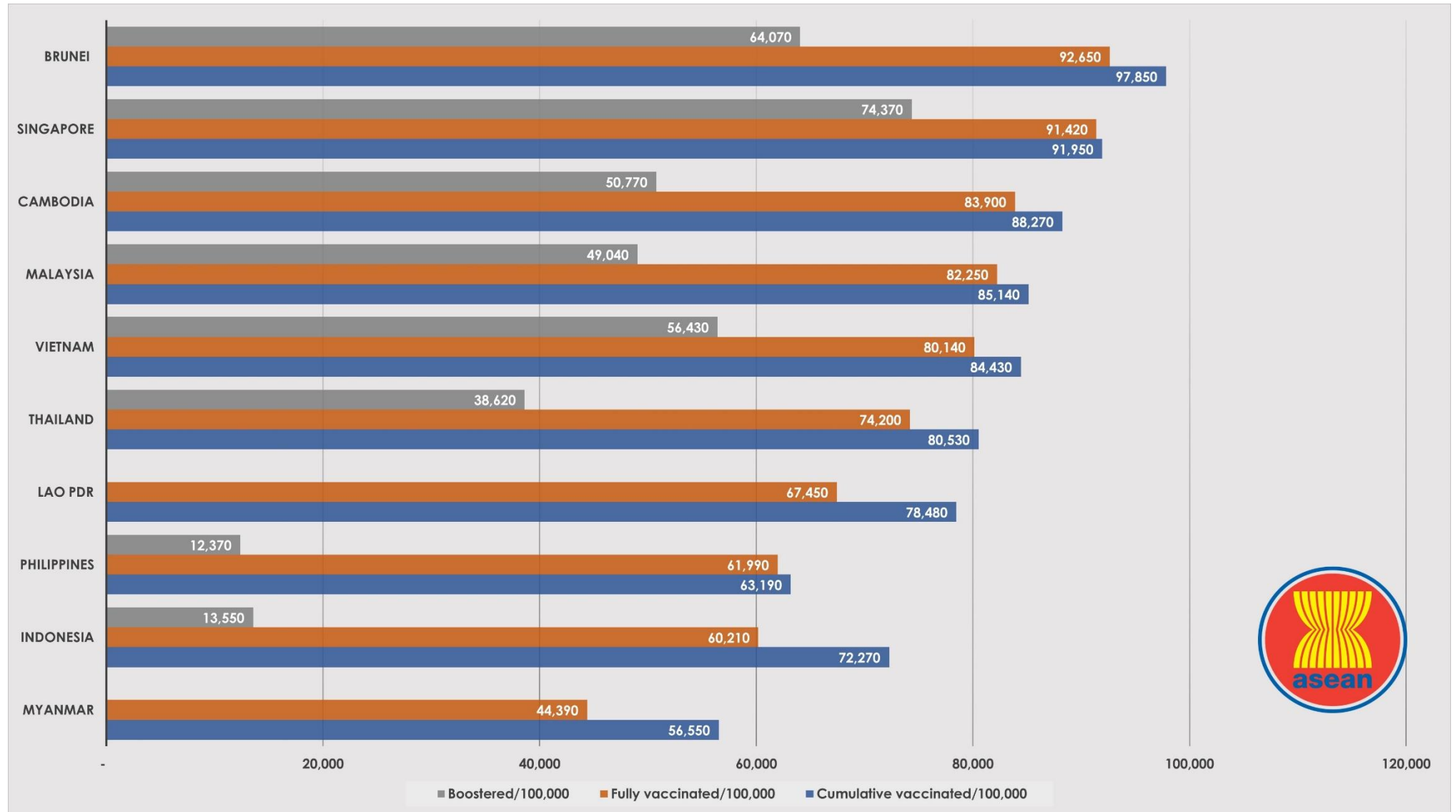
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to May 19, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 19 May 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 17 May 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	≥90.0/64.1	Unknown	62.80	Unknown	65.5/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/50.7	Unknown	0.00	0.7	31.3/100	-6.8
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	63.7/13.6	0.03%/day	0.10	Unknown	57.7/100	+0.3
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	73.7/ND	Unknown	1.16	46.8	71.2/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	82.7/49.0	0.05%/day	6.35	4.6	64.0/100	+6.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	46.0/ND	Unknown	0.03	0.2	70.2/100	-9.3
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	66.3/12.2	Unknown	0.13	1.0	62.8/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.4/74.4	0.03%/day	48.25	Unknown	58.9/100	-11.9
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	75.3/38.5	0.04%/day	8.9	Unknown	47.9/100	0.0
Vietnam	89.0	Unknown	84.9/56.4	Unknown	2.64	100	58.3/100	0.0



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