

COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 507 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the number of new COVID-19 cases globally has declined by nearly a quarter last week, continuing a decrease since the end of March. WHO also said in a weekly report that nearly 5.59 million cases were reported from April 11 to 17, which is 24% less cases than in the previous week. The number of newly reported deaths also declined by 21%. Last week, South Korea reported the highest cases with more than 972,000, followed by France with over 827,000, and Germany with more than 769,000. Countries with highest COVID-19-related deaths last week were reported by US with 3,076, Russia with 1,784, and South Korea with 1,671. The WHO on April 21 (Thursday) endorsed the use of Pfizer Inc's oral COVID-19 antiviral treatment in high-risk patients after an analysis of trial data by the U.N. agency showed the therapy dramatically cut the risk of hospitalization. The recommendation comes as thousands of people die of COVID-19 every week, despite a waning global infection rate. According to the WHO, Pfizer's Paxlovid is by far the most potent among existing COVID-19 treatments. A WHO analysis of two Paxlovid clinical trials involving nearly 3,100 patients suggested it reduced the risk of hospitalization by 85%. In high-risk patients – those with over 10% risk of hospitalization – using Paxlovid could lead to 84 fewer hospitalizations per 1,000 patients. Separately, the WHO also updated its recommendation on Gilead's remdesivir, saying it should be used in mild or moderate COVID-19 patients at high risk of hospitalization. WHO had previously recommended its use in all COVID-19 patients, regardless of disease severity.
- Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said on April 21 (Thursday) that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 11,389,783 cases. The specialized healthcare agency of the African Union (AU) said the death toll across the continent stands at 251,873 and some 10,776,694 patients have recovered from the disease so far. Africa CDC added that South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya are among the countries with the most cases on the continent. South Africa has so far recorded the most COVID-19 cases in Africa with 3,746,424 cases followed by the northern Africa country Morocco with 1,164,507 cases as of April 21 (Thursday) evening. In terms of the COVID-19 caseload, southern Africa is the most affected region, followed by the northern and eastern parts of the continent, while central Africa is the least affected region
- US will hold a virtual global COVID-19 summit on May 12. The aim of the summit is to end COVID-19 crisis and plan for future upheavals will occur. Aside from US, the summit will be co-chaired by the current G7 president Germany, G20 president Indonesia, African Union chair Senegal and Belize, and the current chair of the CARICOM Caribbean grouping. This will be the second global summit on pandemic, which has killed more than 6 million people around the world and triggered profound disruption to leading economies and trading partners in the two years since it began to spread. Biden hosted a similar summit in September 2021 at which he urged partner nations to ensure vaccination of 70% of the population of each country by September 2022. Despite low death rates due to the coronavirus worldwide, the disease continues to spread that prevents countries from fully lifting restrictions. Shanghai, China is currently under the strictest lockdown due to the surge of Omicron. While the latest variants of COVID-19 are less deadly, the summit statement stressed there must be a focus on stopping similar future catastrophes from taking the world by surprise. US has pledged to deliver at least 1.1 billion of COVID-19 vaccine doses for global use before 2023 and currently has delivered half of that.

- The Government of Ghana received US\$748,000 worth of COVID-19 diagnostic kits and vaccine deployment logistics from South Korea to aid its COVID-19 measures. The donation includes 63,000 RT-PCR tests for COVID-19, 150,000 auto-disable syringes, 10,625 safety boxes, and 100 vaccine carriers. The donations were part of the grant agreement between Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Ministry of Health of Ghana last year. The South Korea Ambassador to Ghana, Lim Jung-Take commended the efforts of Ghana in managing the pandemic leading to decrease of cases that resulted in the ease of restrictions. Furthermore, the Government of Korea aims at tailoring its support to meet the present needs of its partners including Ghana. Ghana has inoculated about 13.7 million COVID-19 vaccines with 9.2 million individuals have received at least one dose of vaccine, and about 5.5 million were fully vaccinated.

Regional Update

- Malaysia: Beginning April 22, mandatory quarantine for COVID-19 close contacts will no longer be required for any group even for unvaccinated individuals, the Health Ministry announced. Close contacts who show symptoms are only encouraged to quarantine and perform rapid antigen self-test on the day, followed by another test on the third day after. Persons with negative antigen and improving symptoms may end their quarantine but must observe health preventive measures. Asymptomatic close contacts can skip the quarantine and COVID-19 tests entirely, but still advised to practice health preventive measures for at least five days after exposure. Health preventive measures include wearing of face masks when leaving home, avoiding crowded areas, ensure good ventilation, avoid visiting high-risk groups, and to travel for essential needs only.

Vaccine Update

- Cambodia: Prime Minister Hun Sen urged all its citizens to get their third and fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine in a bid to further build up the country's COVID-19 herd immunity to enable the health department to end the mandated wearing of face masks. Vaccination campaign would be launched for factory workers, market vendors, and those working in the informal sectors because they are some of the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 infection. Large population of Cambodia work in the informal sector. Hu Sen said that Cambodia currently has the lowest COVID-19 infection rate among the 10 nations members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and despite the success of COVID-19 management in the country, the health system cannot be left alone. Earlier this month, and in time of Khmer New Year, Cambodia removed the mandatory wearing of masks in four northern provinces – Ratanakiri, Monduliri, Stung Treng, and Preah Vihear. In September 2021, Cambodia donated 200,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Laos when the pandemic was entering a second wave which had left authorities of Laos struggling to cope.
- Indonesia: The El Tari Air Force Base authority in Maumere, Sikka District, East Nusa Tenggara Province, held a vaccination drive on April 21 to inoculate 400 local residents ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday season on first week of May. The vaccination drive was organized to commemorate the Indonesian Air Force's (TNI's) 76th anniversary that took place at the office of state-owned port operator PT Pelindo. Locals were given with first, second, or booster dose against COVID-19. Indonesia has been struggling to battle against COVID-19 since March 2020.
- Malaysian government donated 500,000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin of Malaysia said. Myanmar's Ministry of Information posted a statement that the vaccines were handed over by Malaysia-Myanmar Business

Chamber (MMBC) Chairperson Ms. Loi Jin Choo, Counsellor Mr. Muhammad Syukri Bin Azmi, and Head of Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department, Dr. Tun Min. The vaccines will be stored in a depot of the Public Health Department on Mindhamma road in Mayangon Township. More than 28.97 million people in Myanmar have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 1.3 million were already boosted.

- Based on Malaysia's CovidNow portal, 22,963,218 or 97.6% of the adult population have completed COVID-19 vaccination, 23,240,041 or 98.8% have received at least one dose, and 15,998,406 individuals or 68% have received the booster shot. For adolescents aged between 12 to 17, a total of 2,881,518 individuals or 92.6% of this age group are fully vaccinated, while 2,982,044 or 95.8% have received the at least one dose. In addition, a total of 572,744 children aged between five to 11 years or 16.1% of this age group are fully vaccinated while 1,447,377 children in the same group or 40.7% have received at least one dose under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme for Children (PICKids). On April 21 (Thursday), a total of 59,460 doses of the vaccine were dispensed, with 13,412 as first dose, 39,883 as second dose, and 6,165 as booster dose, bringing the total the number of vaccine doses administered under the National COVID-19 Immunization Programme (PICK) to 69,872,350.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Southeast Asian nations are discussing the possibility of a unified health passport to facilitate seamless travel for tourists, Philippine Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said on April 21. The statement was made during the 2022 World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) Global Summit. The summit was attended by more than 1,000 delegates in Manila; tourism stakeholders highlighted the need to standardize COVID-19-related travel requirements in countries of destination, especially now that travel demand is recovering from the pandemic-driven restrictions. WTTC president and CEO Julia Simpson cited that it wouldn't be easy to adopt each other's health protocols but every country should use a single platform that connects every system and the traveler's phone. European Union's green travel pass or the Digital COVID Certificate is being used in 62 countries. WTTC said earlier that innovation and digital technologies are important for the industry to balance the need to prevent virus transmission and at the same time still provide smooth travel experience to tourists.
- Cambodia: The Health Ministry reduced the quarantine requirement for unvaccinated foreign travelers from 14 days to seven and must be tested on the seventh day. Those unvaccinated foreign travelers who will enter the country by land must take COVID-19 test on the first day before entering the quarantine facility and on the seventh day before leaving the facility. Cambodia has opened its borders to fully vaccinated foreign travelers without quarantine since November 2021 after most of its population have been vaccinated. Cambodia has vaccinated more 14.86 million or 92.9% of its population with at least one dose against COVID-19 and 14.12 million or 88.3% of the population were already fully vaccinated.
- The Minister for Religious Affairs Datuk Idris Ahmad announced that only 14,306 Malaysian pilgrims are allowed to perform Haj this year, or equivalent to 45% of the normal quota of Malaysian pilgrims given by Saudi Arabia. 31,600 Malaysian pilgrims were allowed to join the Haj prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, Saudi Arabia only allowed 1 million pilgrims to perform Haj with foreign pilgrims getting a major slot of 85% compared to the 75% in 2019. Haj pilgrims need to be not older than 65, have no chronic illnesses, must have a COVID-19 vaccination certificate, and have a negative result of the COVID-19 swab test taken within 72 hours prior to departure. Furthermore, pilgrims are urged to make appropriate preparations in terms of knowledge, finance, mental, and physical health, passport-related documents, and taking the mandatory meningococcal vaccine in addition to COVID-19 vaccine.

- Thailand is set to ease COVID-19 testing rules to attract more foreign tourists in their country. The mandatory RT-PCR test on arrival for foreign visitors will be removed as some of the pandemic-era measures seen as deterring global tourists. RT-PCR will be replaced by a faster and more convenient antigen tests, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha said. Therefore, travelers do not need to reserve a one-night hotel accommodation to secure visas. Although no date was said when the new measure would take effect, Thai health ministry officials have previously said that COVID-19 testing rules will be relaxed from May 1. Thailand is still battling a surge of Omicron variant with daily new cases around 20,000 and deaths at a six-month high.

Cases and Deaths as of 22 April 2022

- As of 22 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **507,269,551** confirmed cases, including **6,224,146** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 56,679,015 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,045,036 cases** in the ASEAN region and **25,633,979 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

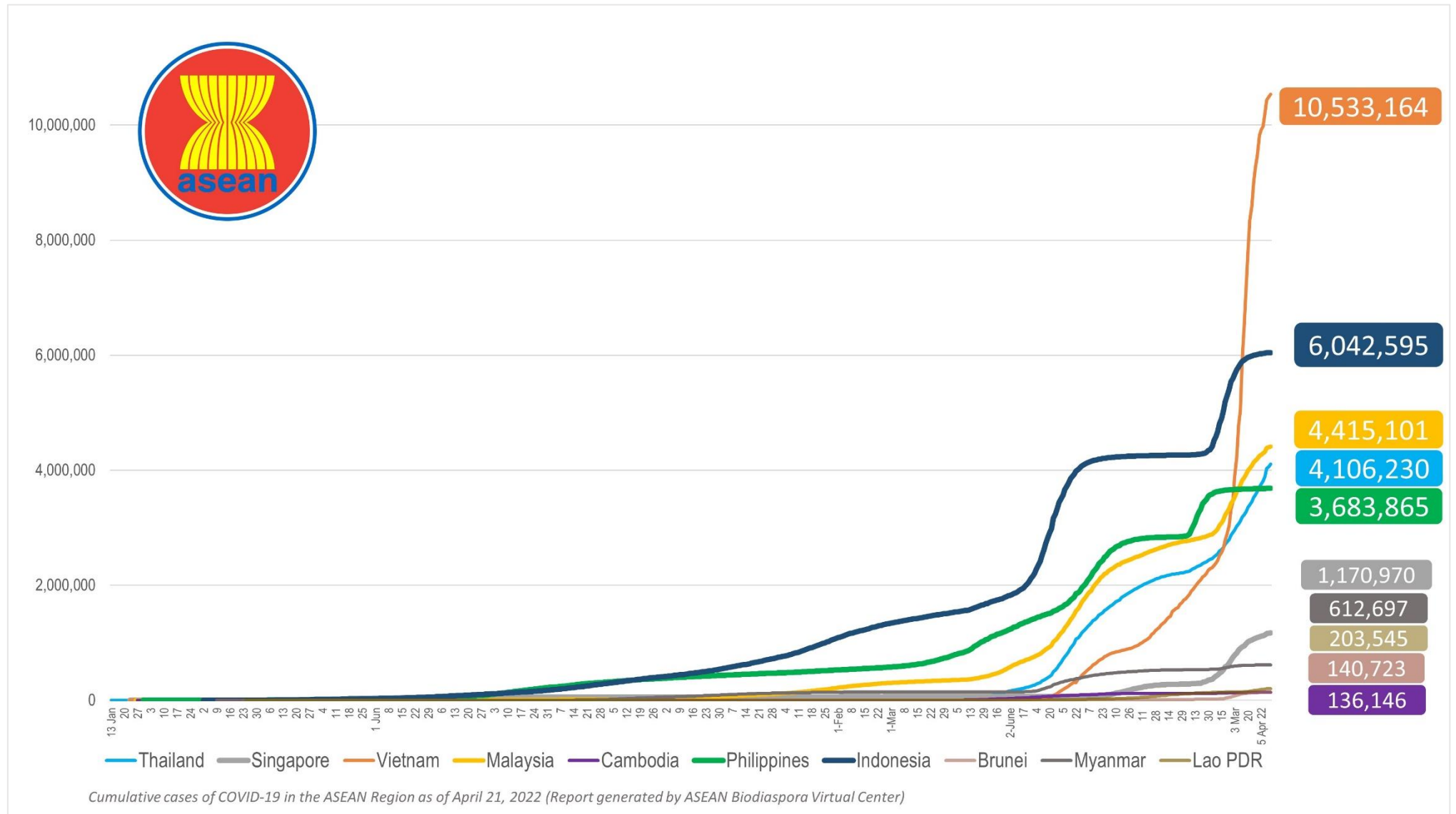
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	21-Apr-22	140,723	181	218	-	0.2%	32,478		412,058	405,414	267,071	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	21-Apr-22	136,146	29	3,056	-	2.2%	826	97	14,855,108	14,110,905	9,328,306	83.3
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	21-Apr-22	6,042,595	585	156,015	41	2.6%	2,233	-	198,351,438	163,036,814	32,780,775	59.0
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	21-Apr-22	203,545	1,003	730	-	0.4%	2,839	64	5,734,044	4,736,698		64.2
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	21-Apr-22	4,415,101	5,899	35,470	5	0.8%	13,819	1,456	27,655,471	26,374,351	15,991,811	80.5
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	21-Apr-22	612,697	20	19,434	-	3.2%	1,134	152	28,974,263	22,480,014		41.0
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	21-Apr-22	3,683,865	133	60,056	66	1.6%	3,407	18	70,173,137	67,100,671	12,736,958	60.4
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	21-Apr-22	1,170,970	3,472	1,319	2	0.1%	20,530		5,010,668	4,977,613	3,943,988	91.3
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	21-Apr-22	4,106,230	21,931	27,395	129	0.7%	5,898	-	55,903,672	50,658,012	25,045,231	72.4
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	21-Apr-22	10,533,164	13,295	42,991	7	0.4%	10,888	870	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
ASEAN COUNTRIES				31,045,036	46,548	346,684	250	1.1%			487,017,048	431,634,600	145,537,217	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	21-Apr-22	16674045	90825	21667	147	0.001	32245.863	4939.659	45015996	44530425	33033722	86.8
	Japan	16-Jan-20	21-Apr-22	7522322	47131	29034	51	0.004	5957.57	938.48	102994947	101238428	62656583	80.3
	China	31-Dec-19	21-Apr-22	1,437,612	6,525	14,731	34	1.0%	16,204	1,804	1,306,949,839	1,271,835,999	749,289,473	81.5
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				25,633,979	144,481	65,432	232	0.3%			1,454,960,782	1,417,604,852	844,979,778
ASEAN +3				56,679,015	191,029	412,116	482	0.7%			1,941,977,830	1,849,239,452	990,516,995	

- 450,590,536 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	11,854,029	4,651	253,634	69	1.1	205,690	3,334	291,764,061	221,872,811	20,184,920
AMERICAS	153,681,521	22,715	2,733,377	130	0.8	882,904	25,332	795,390,231	698,306,053	296,115,472
ASIA PACIFIC	70,677,614	71,745	729,525	145	0.2	305,774	13,711	1,396,669,475	1,205,105,152	107,991,612
EUROPE	193,678,651	469,820	1,863,002	1,966	0.6	1,714,580	143,243	554,640,720	526,785,501	300,796,165
MIDDLE EAST	20,698,721	5,436	232,492	27	0.3	187,941	45,643	140,536,898	125,685,521	54,185,969
TOTAL	450,590,536	574,367	5,812,030	2,337	1.3%			3,179,001,385	2,777,755,038	779,274,138

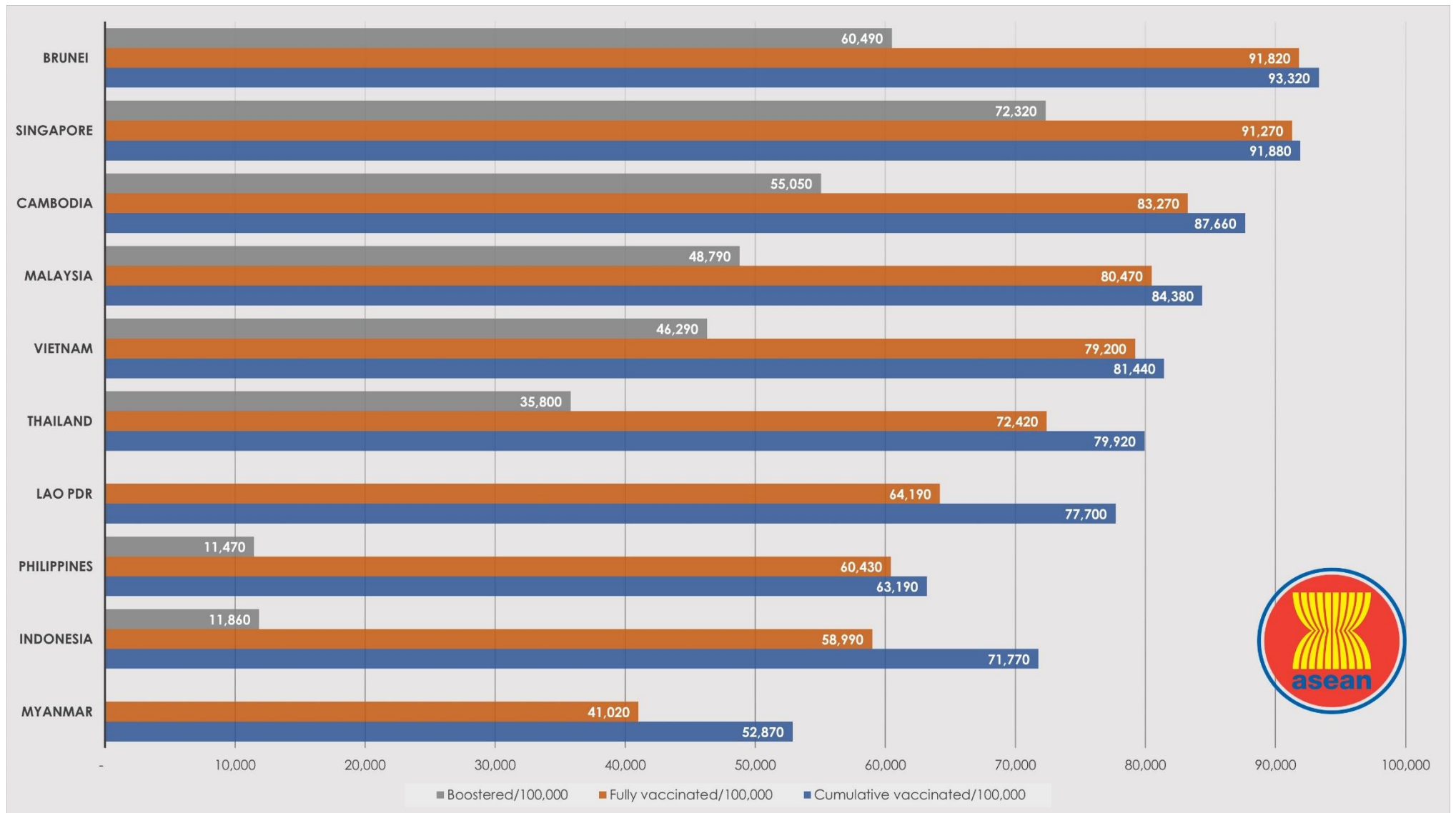
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to April 21, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 21 April 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 20 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	41.68	Unknown	67.9/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	89.5/55.0	0.01%/day	0.10	2.4	37.5/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	62.4/11.7	0.07%/day	0.27	Unknown	55.7/100	0.0
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	70.1/ND	0.07%/day	8.42	100	78.3/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	80.8/48.8	0.14%/day	25.30	13.6	58.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	42.2/ND	Unknown	0.06	0.5	77.7/100	0.0
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	64.8/11.4	0.32%/day	0.22	1.6	82.4/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.3/72.3	0.03%/day	47.19	Unknown	74.4/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	73.5/35.7	0.02%/day	27.79	44	53.3/100	0.0
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	30.36	57.6	71.4/100	0.0

