

COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of April 27, 2022



Canada



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 511 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 26, new COVID deaths have fallen to the lowest level since March 2020, but warned a global decline in testing for the virus could hinder its efforts to fight the pandemic. There were 15,668 recorded new deaths in the last seven days, with Europe and the Americas representing a bulk of that number, according to WHO data. The deaths dropped from more than 18,000 new deaths reported during the week that ended on April 17, the WHO's latest epidemiological report said. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters said that the decline in deaths due to COVID-19 is good news but we must welcome with some caution. He also warned that several countries have reduced COVID-19 testing, which limits the WHO's ability to track the virus' effects and patterns of transmission and evolution. WHO calls on all countries to maintain COVID-19 surveillance systems, which include testing and genome sequencing. Dr. Bill Rodriguez, CEO of global diagnostics nonprofit FIND, who was a guest expert at the briefing, said the decline in testing undermines the world's ability to treat COVID-19 with new therapeutics. Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, also said the global decline in testing gives her "little confidence in the number of cases being reported around the world. Van Kerkhove said the lack of testing limits the world's capacity to monitor newer variants of concern, particularly sublineages of the Omicron variant.
- South Korea: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), reported daily COVID-19 infections on April 25 reached 80,361, while the total caseload came to 17,009,865. The daily tally increased from the previous day's 34,370 as they tend to fall on Mondays due to fewer test over the weekend. The daily count reported on Tuesday was still down from 118,504 cases a week ago and 210,755 cases two weeks' prior, reflecting the recent downward trend. The number of deaths from COVID-19 also decreased to 82 on April 25, down 28 from the previous day's 110. It was also the first time in around eight weeks for the COVID-19 related deaths to drop to two digits. The death toll from COVID-19 came to 22,325, and the fatality rate stood at 0.13%. On the other hand, KDCA reported on April 26 that the new Omicron new subvariant, BA.2.12, made up to 10% of the circulating variants in the country. According to the agency, recently, about 1,600 to 2,000 cases have been whole-genome sequenced per week. As of April 20, a total of 13,138 counts of whole-genome sequencing have been conducted this year. Lee Sang-won, leading the agency's epidemiologic analysis team, said Korea has been seeing about a 30 percent weekly decline in new cases over April and that this trend was anticipated to continue for about a month or two.
- China expands COVID-19 mass testing from one district this week to most of the city of nearly 22 million population, adding to expectations of an imminent lockdown similar to Shanghai's. Beijing has began testing its residents in district of Chaoyang on April 26. By the end of the day, even though only a fraction of the results had come out, the city decided to conduct tests on 10 other districts and one economic development zone on April 30. Beijing reported 33 new locally transmitted cases for April 25, of which 32 were symptomatic and one asymptomatic. The latest COVID outbreak in Beijing brings fears of a Shanghai-style lockdown of the capital, further threatening the country's economic outlook as endless mass testing, a rigorous quarantine regime and tight social distancing rules take their toll.

- Japan: The health ministry task force approved plans for people to receive their third and fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna after a five-month interval, down from six months. The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare's expert task force also approved plans to target fourth dose for elderly population, etc. without indicating specific ages. In an upcoming vaccine panel meeting slated for April 27, the task force plans to recommend that fourth shots be aimed at people aged 60 and older and those who have preexisting conditions. It is expected that the administration of fourth shots will begin as early as the end of May. According to health ministry documents and other sources, in some overseas countries, third and subsequent booster doses have been given after intervals of three to four months. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration sets the interval between the third and fourth shots at least four months. Israel, the first country in the world that started giving fourth shots, says it is possible to administer a fourth jab after an interval of at least four months, but it actually began to do so about five months after the third inoculation. The Japanese government has already secured vaccines on the premise that all people who have received their third shots will also get fourth doses. At the end of March, the health ministry asked local government bodies to start preparing to administer fourth shots near the end of May.

Regional Update

- Cambodia is removing the mandatory wearing of masks in outdoor public places, Prime Minister Hun Sen announced on April 26. Hun Sen cited a large decline in coronavirus cases and a high level of vaccinations in adjusting requirement nationwide. However, Hun Sen clarified that wearing of masks are still required indoors, especially air-conditioned spaces and crowded places like theaters. Hun Sen encourages Cambodians to get boosted, saying about 6.4 million people still have not received a third dose. Fifth dose of vaccine is being considered for frontline workers. More than 93% of Cambodia's population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and more than 88% have been fully vaccinated.
- Philippines: Octa Research warned that the Philippines may reach 5,000 to 10,000 a day once the new Omicron subvariants enter the country. Based on the group's preliminary projections, David said active COVID-19 cases in the country could hit 100,000 any time. Data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed that as of April 25, the number of active COVID-19 cases, or those people still sick with the virus, was 12,639. For the period April 11-17, the DOH said the number of new cases averaged 209 a day.
- Singapore: On the first day free of COVID-19 protocols, office workers queued for trains, restaurants and elevators, and delivery riders raced from building to building as the buzz returned to the business district of Singapore on April 26. The city-state's high-rise commercial heart of global banks, malls and tech firms was in full swing again, with swarms of people headed to work and queues outside restaurants and crowded coffee shops after authorities lowered the pandemic alert level for the first time. Singapore has been praised for its quick and effective vaccine rollout, with 93% of the population vaccinated, one of the highest rates globally, helping to limit COVID-19 fatalities to just 1,331.

Vaccine Update

- The Philippines started on Monday the rollout of the second COVID-19 booster shot, but the DOH on Tuesday reminded hospitals and other vaccination sites to administer this only to immunocompromised individuals as it received reports that some facilities included other priority sectors such as health workers and seniors. The DOH confirmed to the Inquirer that a hospital in Caloocan City gave second

boosters to those who were not immunocompromised, but declined to name the facility. “The DOH and NVOC (National Vaccination Operations Center) are currently coordinating with the relevant health-care facilities and vaccination sites to prevent further instances of these events,” the DOH said. The FDA has approved the provision of second boosters for the top three priority groups, namely medical front-liners, the elderly and the immunocompromised. However, the DOH has to wait, in accordance with the law, for the final review of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC), an independent advisory body. The HTAC has so far issued its final recommendations only for the immunocompromised and is still finalizing its review for health-care workers and seniors.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Thailand: Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on April 26 that the ministry was considering using vaccine passport instead of Thailand Pass system for screening foreign tourists. Based on the current situation, the minimum requirement for a vaccine passport should be three doses of COVID-19 vaccine, as two jabs alone are not enough to raise immunity for a prolonged period. Furthermore, COVID-19 insurance is still necessary for all foreign arrivals even after Thailand switches to vaccine passports.
- Vietnam scrapped the medical declaration requirement for all foreign entrants starting Wednesday as the number of Covid-19 infections and deaths drops globally. However, localities must still continue to monitor entrants at border gates, the Ministry of Health said. Foreign visitors to Vietnam now are only required to test negative for Covid before departure, either via PCR or rapid testing method. Health minister Nguyen Thanh Long on Tuesday said medical declaration requirements for domestic traveling would also soon be scrapped, though a specific timeline has yet to be announced.

Cases and Deaths as of 27 April 2022

- As of 27 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **511,303,821** confirmed cases, including **6,257,376** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 57,414,297** confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,213,934** cases in the ASEAN region and **26,200,363** cases in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

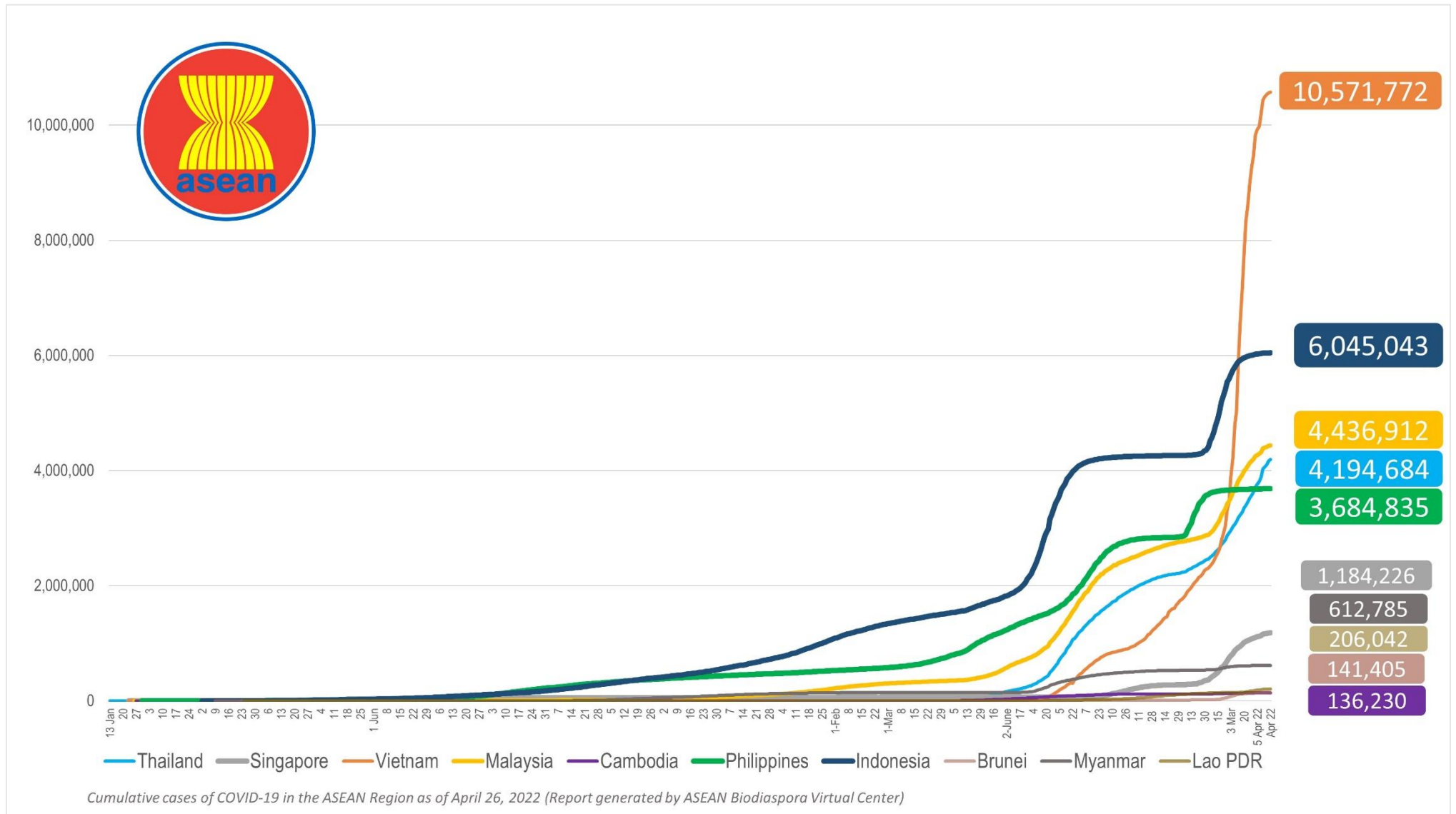
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	26-Apr-22	141,405	136	218	-	0.2%	32,636		412,058	405,414	267,071	91.8
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	26-Apr-22	136,230	2	3,056	-	2.2%	826	51	14,892,264	14,151,943	9,663,361	83.5
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	26-Apr-22	6,045,043	576	156,163	30	2.6%	2,234	-	198,946,361	164,023,683	35,518,317	59.4
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	26-Apr-22	206,042	542	736	2	0.4%	2,874	56	5,762,222	4,799,738		65.0
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	26-Apr-22	4,436,912	3,361	35,520	13	0.8%	13,887	2,002	27,726,986	26,589,345	16,014,864	81.1
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	26-Apr-22	612,785	15	19,434	-	3.2%	1,134	216	29,608,037	22,863,979		41.7
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	26-Apr-22	3,684,835	123	60,195	1	1.6%	3,408	43	70,173,137	67,100,671	12,736,958	60.4
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	26-Apr-22	1,184,226	2,058	1,331	6	0.1%	20,763		5,010,668	4,977,613	3,943,988	91.3
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	26-Apr-22	4,194,684	13,816	28,022	120	0.7%	6,025	632	55,997,765	50,907,597	25,422,715	72.8
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	26-Apr-22	10,571,772	8,270	43,021	8	0.4%	10,960	810	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2
ASEAN COUNTRIES				31,213,934	28,899	347,696	180	1.1%			488,476,687	433,574,091	149,010,351	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	26-Apr-22	17009865	80301	22325	82	0.1%	32,895	4,575	45,022,762	44,537,688	33,067,033	86.8
	Japan	16-Jan-20	26-Apr-22	7714499	40500	29245	65	0.4%	6,110	1,308	103,109,561	101,399,919	65,045,290	80.4
	China	31-Dec-19	26-Apr-22	1,475,999	8,606	14,958	59	1.0%	16,344	2,557	1,308,979,576	1,271,911,541	749,725,017	81.9
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				26,200,363	129,407	66,528	206	0.3%			1,457,111,899	1,417,849,148	847,837,340
ASEAN +3				57,414,297	158,306	414,224	386	0.7%			1,945,588,586	1,851,423,239	996,847,691	

- 453,889,524** 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	11,876,582	5,640	253,731	17	1.1	206,206	5,499	291,848,354	221,994,132	20,271,741
AMERICAS	155,149,213	9,644	2,754,918	69	0.8	891,863	29,403	796,534,580	699,564,759	344,895,296
ASIA PACIFIC	70,942,691	70,747	731,404	1,486	0.2	311,099	14,019	1,399,005,046	1,211,322,508	109,960,723
EUROPE	195,192,296	281,413	1,870,429	1,654	0.6	1,723,043	123,920	554,894,919	527,010,429	301,814,541
MIDDLE EAST	20,728,742	6,170	232,670	55	0.3	188,338	54,986	140,584,638	125,758,945	54,315,793
TOTAL	453,889,524	373,614	5,843,152	3,281	1.3%			3,182,867,537	2,785,650,773	831,258,094

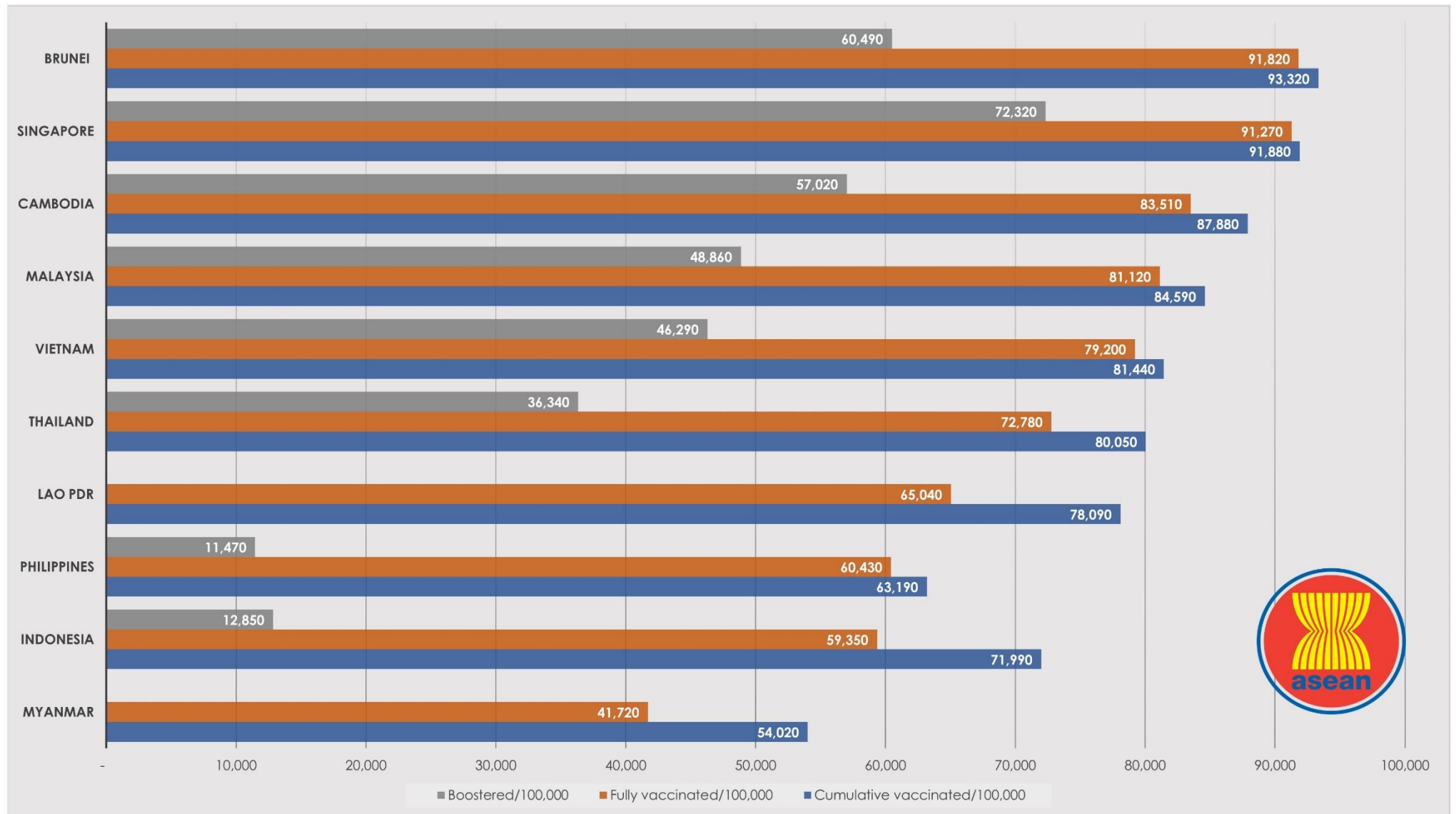
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to April 26, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 26 April 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 24 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	35.83	Unknown	67.9/100	Undefined
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	89.8/57.0	0.04%/day	0.13	2.5	37.5/100	Undefined
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	62.8/12.7	0.07%/day	0.21	Unknown	55.7/100	Undefined
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	70.1/ND	0.01%/day	10.90	100	78.3/100	Undefined
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	81.5/48.8	0.13%/day	16.71	12	58.0/100	Undefined
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	43.2/ND	Unknown	0.04	0.4	77.7/100	Undefined
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	64.9/11.5	Unknown	0.20	1.6	82.4/100	Undefined
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.3/72.3	0.02%/day	54.77	Unknown	74.4/100	Undefined
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	73.9/36.3	0.07%/day	27.47	49	53.3/100	Undefined
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	Unknown	12.98	46.8	71.4/100	Undefined

Infectious Diseases Other than COVID-19 in ASEAN+3

April 20-26, 2022

Rabies in Malaysia

- The Selangor Health Department (JKNS) today confirmed that another elderly man was infected with rabies in the Kuala Langat district on April 22, making it the second case reported in the state thus far. The latest case involved an 85-year-old patient who was admitted to Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital (HTAR) Klang on April 20. He said that the victim was first referred to the Telok Panglima Health Clinic due to anaemia before being admitted to HTAR. The victim's family members also noticed changes in the senior citizen's behaviour, as he used to be an active person and able to manage himself. He had a wound on his right leg that had not healed for the past two months. For the past two weeks, he also complained of headaches and loss of appetite. He also had a history of having been bitten by a wild dog in his residential area on Carey Island two months ago. A cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) sample and a nuchal biopsy of the victim were done on April 22, and confirmed positive for rabies by the Institute for Medical Research (IMR). The senior citizen was in a stable condition and was still being treated at the HTAR isolation ward.

Hand Foot And Mouth Disease in Malaysia

- Cases of Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease (HFMD) have been reported in the western state of Selangor, Malaysia since the beginning of 2022. According to the Selangor State Health Department, a total of 4,383 HFMD cases have been recorded. Of the total cases, 497 cases are from 103 epidemic clusters, of which the majority of outbreak clusters involved children from nurseries, kindergartens, and daycare centres. To date, no deaths have been reported. HFMD primarily affects children under the age of seven. Health officials have recommended that employers and caregivers of children take preventive measures to prevent the further spread of Coxsackie and Enterovirus that causes the disease. These include regular handwashing and maintaining the cleanliness of children's frequently shared spaces and objects, such as toys and food. HFMD is usually diagnosed through clinical signs of skin rashes and is rarely confirmed through laboratory testing. Recently, COVID-19 cases among children have also presented similar skin rashes to HFMD. It is unknown whether these children were also tested for COVID-19.

Dengue in Singapore

- The week ending on April 26 saw 824 dengue infections—the highest seven-day figure since the week of August 30 to September 5 in 2020, when 937 cases were reported. The National Environment Agency (NEA) has said that Singapore is currently facing a serious dengue situation and could see a major outbreak this year. NEA said that the surge in cases this year is due to three factors. First, the recent warm, rainy and humid weather may have led to a high number of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in the community. Second, the previously uncommon dengue virus serotype 3 is now circulating here, along with dengue virus serotype 2, which had contributed to the large outbreak here in 2019 and 2020. Third, a proportion of the workforce is still working from home, leading to greater exposure to the mosquitoes, which feed in the day.

Anthrax in Vietnam

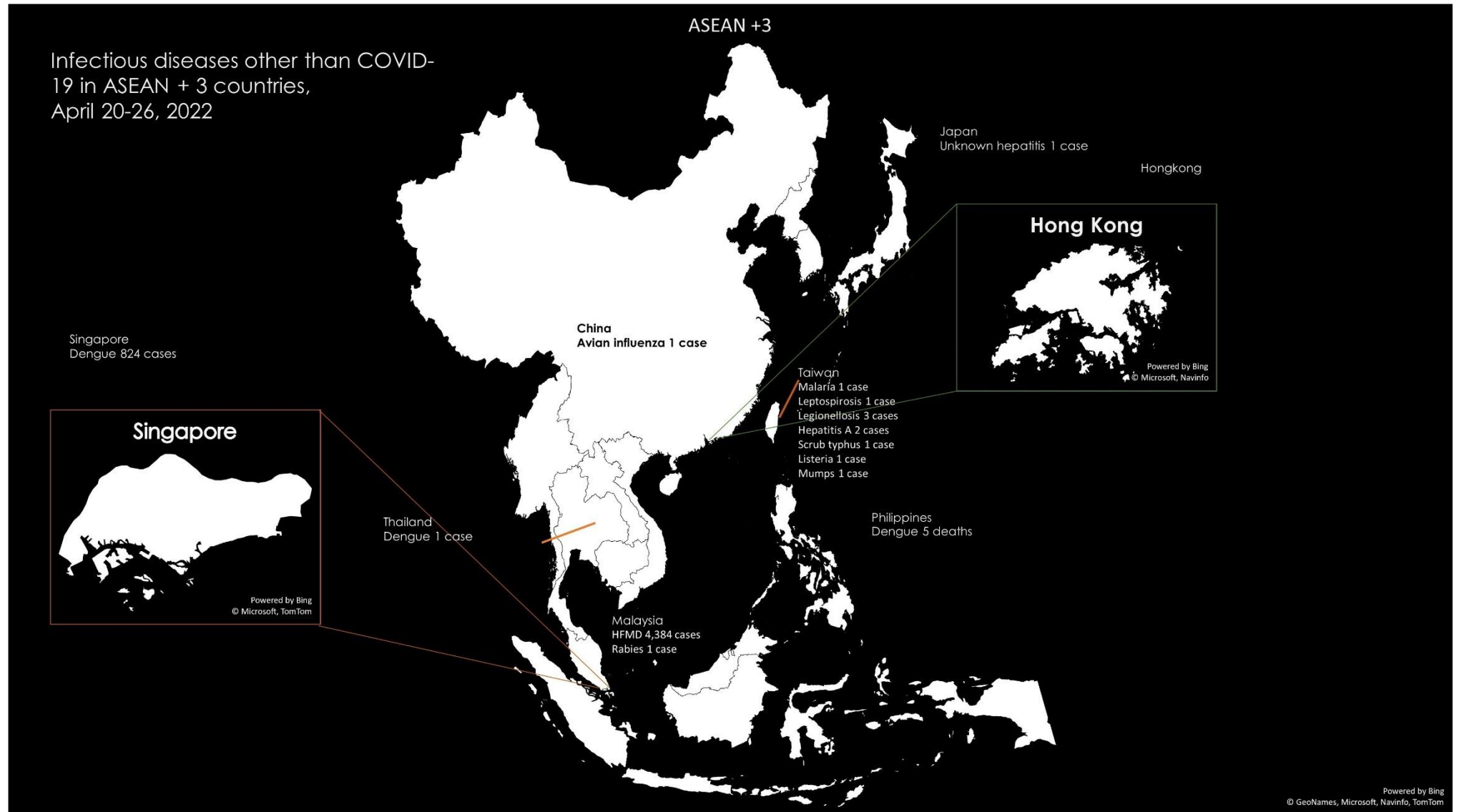
- Cases of anthrax have been reported in Vietnam in 2022. In total, nine individuals have been reported to be affected by the disease from the villages of Nong Gieng, Nong Lay and Huoi Long in the Nong Lay commune, Thuan Chau district, Son La Province. All affected individuals have a history of participation in the slaughtering and eating of dead buffalo meat in Nong Gieng village. In addition, many individuals continue to be monitored for the disease. Affected individuals are receiving treatment and all remain in stable health. In the region, the main source of anthrax infection is infected buffaloes, cows, and horses that then spread to humans through the slaughtering and eating of infected meat. In order to prevent anthrax, Thuan Chau District General Hospital recommends that residents do not slaughter, eat, use or trade products from livestock known to be, or are suspected of being infected with anthrax.

China

- The first worldwide documented cross-species transmission of avian influenza H3N8 strain to a human has been reported. There is limited information about the clinical impact and the potential for human-to-human transmission and thus limited context for further public health impact. According to media sources, the first-ever human case of H3N8, a low pathogenic avian-origin influenza virus, has been confirmed in China. Per these sources, the affected individual, a four-year-old from China's central province of Henan, required hospitalization at a local facility in Zhumadian City on April 10 due to worsening conditions. On April 24, as part of extended genome sequencing, the H3N8 avian influenza virus strain was confirmed by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (NHC). The individual is reported to have had exposure to poultry through at-home farming and proximity to wild birds in the surrounding area. The NHC has reported that no further human cases have been found among close contacts. H3N8 is a low pathogenic strain of the avian influenza virus that is known to affect poultry but has also been detected in horses, dogs, and seals. This is a noteworthy event because newly emerging animal influenza viruses that cross over into humans could catalyze epidemics or pandemics if the animal influenza virus becomes capable of efficiently transmitting among humans. Although, enhanced surveillance of avian influenza in populations increases the likelihood of identifying such spillover events, which otherwise may have been undetected.

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

From April 20, 2022 to April 26, 2022





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