

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN+3 Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of May 30, 2022



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 532 million cases and over 6 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.
- North Korea: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and other top officials discussed revising stringent anti-epidemic restrictions during a meeting Sunday, state media reported, as they maintained a widely disputed claim that the country's first COVID-19 outbreak is slowing. The discussion at the North's Politburo meeting suggests it will soon relax a set of draconian curbs imposed after its admission of the omicron outbreak this month out of concern about its food and economic situations. Kim and other Politburo members "made a positive evaluation of the pandemic situation being controlled and improved across the country," the official Korean Central News Agency said. They also "examined the issue of effectively and quickly coordinating and enforcing the anti-epidemic regulations and guidelines given the current stable anti-epidemic situation," KCNA said. On Sunday, North Korea reported 89,500 more patients with fever symptoms, taking the country's total to 3.4 million. It didn't say whether there were additional deaths. The country's latest death toll reported Friday was 69, setting its mortality rate at 0.002%, an extremely low count that no other country, including advanced economies, has reported in the fight against COVID-19. Many outside experts say North Korea is clearly understating its fatality rate to prevent any political damage to Kim at home. They say North Korea should have suffered many more deaths because its 26 million people are largely unvaccinated against COVID-19 and it lacks the capacity to treat patients with critical conditions. Others suspect North Korea might have exaggerated its earlier fever cases to try to strengthen its internal control of its population. Since its May 12 admission of the omicron outbreak, North Korea has only been announcing the number of patients with feverish symptoms daily, but not those with COVID-19, apparently because of a shortage of test kits to confirm coronavirus cases in large numbers. But many outside health experts view most of the reported fever cases as COVID-19, saying North Korean authorities would know how to distinguish the symptoms from fevers caused by other prevalent infectious diseases. The outbreak has forced North Korea to impose a nationwide lockdown, isolate all work and residential units from one another and ban region-to-region movements. The country still allows key agricultural, construction and other industrial activities, but the toughened restrictions have triggered worries about its food insecurity and a fragile economy already hit hard by border shutdowns because of the pandemic.
- A path to "serious and sustained dialogue" with North Korea remains open, according to a joint statement by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin issued by the U.S. State Department on Friday. The officials expressed "deep concern" about North Korea's launch of a suspected intercontinental ballistic missile and two shorter-range ballistic missiles on the heels of U.S. President Joe Biden's visit to the region. They urged North Korea to stop violating international law and return to talks, and reaffirmed their commitment to work more closely with the international community to that end. The joint statement also noted the nations' concern over the "grave hardship" North Korea's people are facing due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and their hope that North Korea will accept outside offers of aid.

Regional Update

- Cambodia: The Ministry of Health, National Commission for Combating COVID-19 (NCCC) and commission in charge of medical drug supply have authorized and arranged for the import of Pfizer's Paxlovid pill to treat COVID-19 in patients aged 12 years and older. Paxlovid will be available from May 30 at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications – on Monivong Boulevard just north of the train station – at US\$95 per five-day course, with a US\$105 resale price cap, the NCCC said in a press statement. Individuals will be able to purchase up to five courses, while pharmacies, clinics and private hospitals will be allowed to buy 10-50. Similarly, molnupiravir – locally marketed as Molnatis – for patients aged 18 and over, will still be on sale for US\$50 a course at the telecoms ministry, with a US\$60 resale price cap. Individuals will be able to purchase up to 10 courses, while pharmacies, clinics and private hospitals will be allowed to buy 10-100. Multiple orders for either drug must be placed at least one week apart, the NCCC said, warning that breaching price cap rules may result in legal action. It suggested that patients be treated with Paxlovid only if they exhibit mild to moderate symptoms, and that the pills should be taken after a meal.
- Thailand will be adjusting its daily COVID-19 count. According to the Department of Disease Control (DDC) of Thailand, it will remove rapid antigen test kits (ATK) results from its daily COVID-19 count because most of these cases are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. A spokesperson for the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) spokesperson, said that the removal of ATK results from the DDC dashboard will have no effect on the country's estimate of COVID-19 cases because the figures would now focus on people with severe symptoms that need hospitalization. She added that the new system of counting COVID-19 cases will be applied from the beginning of next month and that the DDC will propose to the emergency operating committee of the Public Health Ministry that its daily dashboard will only include people with severe symptoms who must be admitted to the hospital. If the committee agrees, the proposal will then be forwarded to the CCSA for approval.
- South Korea reported fewer than 20,000 COVID-19 cases for the fourth consecutive day on Sunday, amid the receding omicron wave. In a statement carried by Yonhap News Agency, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said that the country added 12,654 new infections, including 26 cases from overseas, bringing the total caseload to 18,080,323. Moreover, the country added 19 deaths from COVID-19, taking the total to 24,158.
- Japan: A Japanese team said Thursday it has developed a device that can detect COVID-19 in about nine minutes with a sensitivity on par with that of PCR tests. The device, named opn-SATORI, is capable of identifying mutant strains of the COVID-19 and can also be configured to detect many types of viruses, including influenza, at once. To develop the device, the team — including Rikiya Watanabe, chief researcher at government-linked research institute Riken, and Hiroshi Nishimasu, professor at the University of Tokyo — is working with Sysmex Corp., a clinical testing equipment maker based in Kobe. Watanabe said the team wants to put the device into production within the fiscal year starting next April if not earlier. PCR tests are time-consuming because they involve a procedure to convert coronavirus RNA into DNA and then increase its amount. In April last year, the team developed a method in which saliva and other samples are mixed with an enzyme that binds to viral RNA sequences and with special fluorescent molecules. A sample glows when it contains viral RNA, enabling an immediate determination that the examinee is positive for the coronavirus. The team succeeded in improving the sensitivity of the technology to the level of PCR tests by using a different enzyme and introducing a concentration technology. A prototype of the device takes no more than nine minutes to conduct the whole process of placing a sample in the equipment, capturing fluorescence under a microscope, giving positive or negative results, and identifying possible mutant strains. The

cost per test using the technology would be about JP¥200. Even after the COVID-19 pandemic recedes, the device could be used at airports since it is capable of detecting many types of viruses at once on the scene, according to the team. Details of the research were published in international scientific journal *Communications Biology*.

- China: The Chinese metropolis of Shanghai inched further towards a gradual reopening from two months of grinding COVID-19 lockdown, while officials in Beijing prepared to ease curbs in parts of the capital, saying on Saturday the outbreak was under control. Shanghai aims to essentially end its lockdown from Wednesday after relaxing restrictions over the last week. More people have been allowed out of their homes, and more businesses permitted to reopen, though most residents remain largely confined to their housing compounds, with shops mainly limited to deliveries. Shanghai officials urged continued vigilance, even though the vast majority of its 25 million residents live in areas that are in the lowest-risk "prevention" category. Videos on social media showed Friday night revelers including many foreigners drinking and dancing in the street in a central area of the city before police interrupted and told them to go home. Another video showed a group in the street singing an emotional 1985 pop anthem called "Tomorrow will be better", accompanied by a keyboard player.

Vaccine Update

- Malaysia: A total of 1,166,385 children or 32.9% of those aged five to 11 had completed their vaccination under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme for Children (PICKids) as of yesterday. According to the CovidNow portal, a total of 1,714,171 children or 48.3% have received at least one dose of vaccine. For adolescents aged 12 to 17, a total of 2,913,093 or 93.6% have completed their vaccination while 3,009,604 or 96.7% have received at least one dose. A total of 16,094,258 individuals or 68.4% of the adult population have received a booster dose while 22,974,281 individuals or 97.6% have completed two doses of vaccine. A total of 23,250,933 individuals or 98.8% have received at least one dose. Yesterday, a total of 10,883 vaccine doses were dispensed, with 5,172 as first doses, 4,709 as second shots and 1,002 as booster jabs. This brings the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered under the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme (PICK) to 70,908,659.
- On May 23, Pfizer-BioNTech announced favorable topline results for the Phase 2/3 trial assessing the three-dose COVID-19 vaccine regimens in children six months to under five years of age according to the press release by the company. After beginning the rolling submission to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in February 2022, the company is in the process of submitting an emergency use application (EUA) for third dose use in this age group to regulatory agencies including the FDA and European Medicines Agency. This was after the two-dose series did not meet the primary endpoint of non-inferiority for the two-to-under-five age group, suggesting a need for a third dose. According to the FDA, the next meeting for the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee to discuss the EUA submissions from Pfizer and Moderna for this age group will be on June 15. This Pfizer trial included 1,678 children six months to under five years of age vaccinated with a third dose (3 µg) at least two months after a second dose. Initial results include data up to April 29, 2022, during a time period when the dominant variant was Omicron. One month after receiving the third dose in a subset analysis, the elicited immune response for the six-to 24-month-old group and the two-to under five-year-old group was as effective or more (non-inferior) than a second dose in the 16-to 25-year-old age group. Additionally, the COVID-19 vaccine was well tolerated, with side effects being comparable to those observed in previous trials. No new safety concerns were identified. Early analysis indicates an 80.3% vaccine

efficacy in preventing symptomatic infections in children six months to under five years based on the 10 identified COVID-19 cases. A final analysis will be performed after at least 21 cases have been identified (pre-specified threshold as per protocol).

- Myanmar: China has donated 10 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines along with 13 million COVID-19 vaccine syringes and two mobile laboratory vehicles to Myanmar, according to a statement from the Chinese embassy in Myanmar on Sunday. The Chinese embassy handed them over to Myanmar's Ministry of Health at the Yangon International Airport on Sunday. The China-donated COVID-19 vaccines and syringes arrived in Myanmar in separate batches starting from May 18 to May 29. China has been continuously providing medical supplies to Myanmar in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic, and has helped Myanmar in filling and packing COVID-19 vaccines to boost the country's vaccination rate, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Chen Hai said at the handover ceremony. Myanmar's Union Minister for Health Thet Khaing Win expressed thanks for China's donation. The currently-donated COVID-19 vaccines will be used in the inoculation of children aged five to 12 years old, and the two mobile laboratory vehicles will be used at the country's border checkpoints, Thet said. The friendly cooperation between Myanmar and China will contribute to epidemic prevention and control as well as the socio-economic development of both countries, Thet said. Myanmar has already administered vaccination to more than 92 percent of its adult population aged 18 years and above, Thet added. As of May 24, Myanmar has fully vaccinated more than 26.11 million people, or roughly 47 percent of the population, against COVID-19 in the country, official data showed. As of Saturday, Myanmar confirmed 613,298 cases of COVID-19 and 19,434 related deaths, official data showed.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Thailand: The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) on May 28 (Saturday) has issued airlines with a special Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) on the country's latest entry policy, reflecting the cancellation of the Thailand Pass system for returning Thai nationals starting June 1 (Wednesday). Thai nationals should only show a vaccine certificate or their negative rapid antigen (ATK) or RT-PCR test to enter Thailand. Travellers with a certificate of full vaccination against COVID-19 will not have to take a test upon arrival, however, they are advised to take a test if they display COVID-like symptoms. Meanwhile, partially vaccinated or unvaccinated travellers who show a negative ATK or RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of arrival can enter Thailand in the same way as vaccinated travellers. Foreign travellers, however, are still required to register for Thailand Pass to receive the QR code, which will be checked at the airport upon arrival. The QR code is generated immediately on registration, with no waiting period. Foreign travellers must also show evidence of COVID-19 insurance with coverage of USD 10,000 or similar evidence of coverage for COVID-19 treatment during their stay in Thailand.
- Philippines: Starting May 30 (Monday), fully-vaccinated Filipinos and foreign travellers will no longer be required to present a negative RT-PCR test upon arrival in the Philippines on conditions that travellers are 18 years old and above, and have at least one booster shot against the COVID-19. Meanwhile, the testing requirement will also apply to those aged 12 to 17 who have received two COVID-19 vaccine shots, as well as those aged below 12 who are accompanied by fully vaccinated or boosted parents or guardians. The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has also lifted the travel insurance requirement for incoming passengers. According to the new IATF-EID resolution, travellers are still required to present acceptable proof of vaccination and passports valid for a period of at least six months at the time of their arrival.
- Japan: In an update on Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs website on May 27, Singapore has been categorized as having the lowest virus risk, under the "Blue" category, which comprises 98 countries and territories. Starting June 1 (Wednesday), travellers from Singapore to

Japan will no longer have to undergo an on-arrival test or serve quarantine. Travellers from countries on the Blue list, including the United States, China, Australia, and South Korea, do not need to undergo an on-arrival test or serve quarantine regardless of their vaccination status. However, they need to present a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken up to 72 hours before their departure and only small tour groups from countries on the Blue list will be allowed to enter Japan.

- China: As Beijing will ease curbs in some low-risk areas, public transportation including buses, taxis, and subway will resume service in three districts namely Fangshan, Chaoyang, and Shunyi. Meanwhile, Hong Kong will relax some COVID-19 testing requirements for incoming passengers. While travellers still need a nucleic acid test within 48 hours prior to the scheduled departure, they will no longer have to give documentary proof of the lab's accreditation. The country will also drop requirements for transit passengers to have a pre-flight polymerase chain reaction-based nucleic acid test starting June 1.

Cases and Deaths as of 30 May 2022

- As of 30 May 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **532,532,924** confirmed cases, including **6,319,253** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.2**.
- 62,021,857 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **31,805,919 cases** in the ASEAN region and **30,215,938 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.7**.

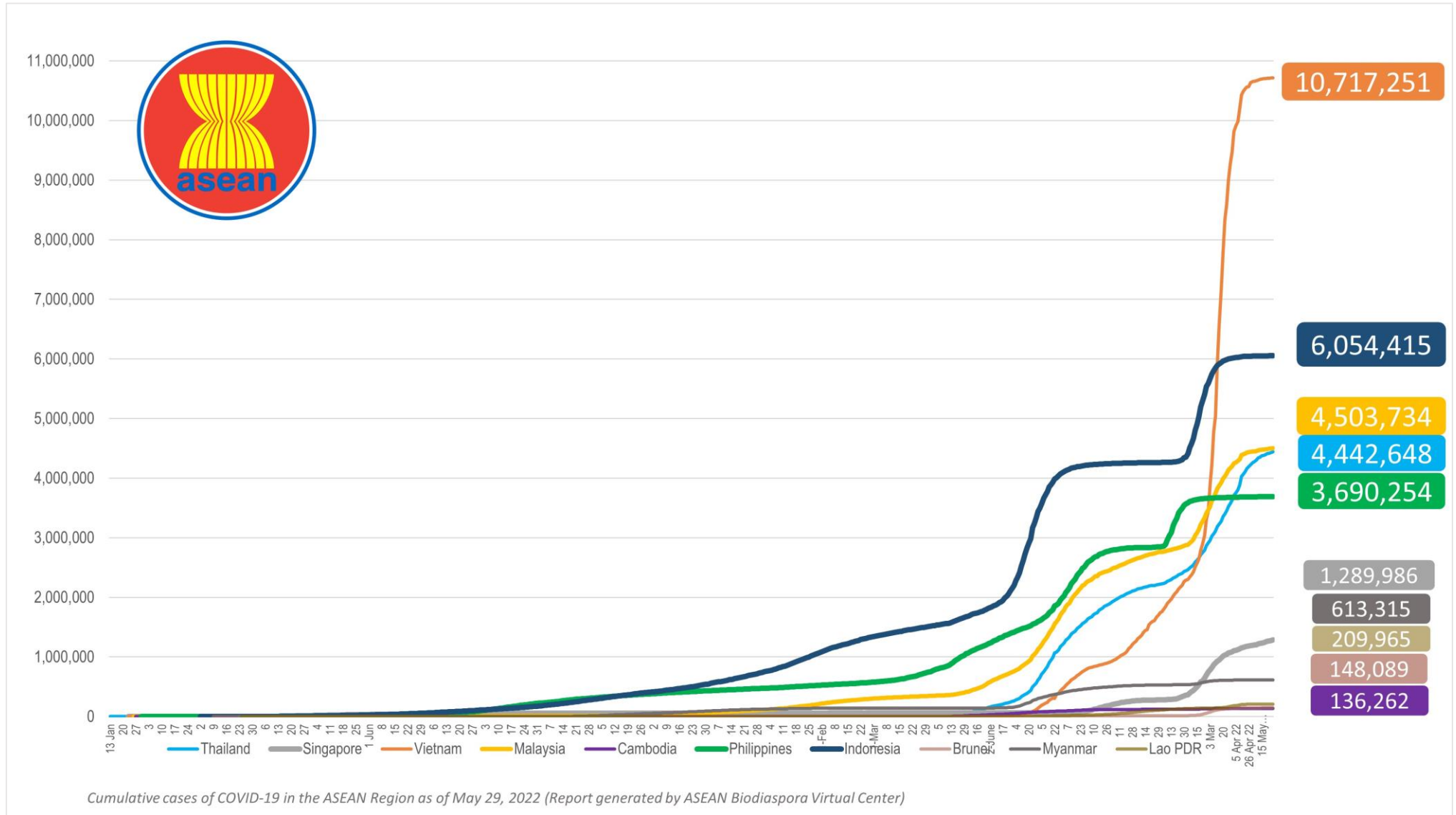
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	29-May-22	148,089	217	223	-	0.2%	34,178		440,900	415,977	292,713	94.2
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	29-May-22	136,262	-	3,056	-	2.2%	827	44	15,017,756	14,280,965	9,085,668	84.3
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	29-May-22	6,054,415	242	156,574	1	2.6%	2,237	-	200,163,526	167,264,389	37,458,813	60.5
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	29-May-22	209,965	15	756	-	0.4%	2,929	20	5,809,365	5,050,155		68.4
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	29-May-22	4,503,734	1,155	35,665	5	0.8%	14,096	1,129	27,969,283	27,048,334	16,093,145	82.5
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	29-May-22	613,315	17	19,434	-	3.2%	1,135	140	30,994,375	24,329,862	1,665,569	44.4
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	29-May-22	3,690,254	199	60,455	-	1.6%	3,413	-	70,173,137	70,754,670	14,027,031	63.7
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	29-May-22	1,289,986	3,323	1,383	-	0.1%	22,617		5,015,471	4,987,927	4,085,464	91.5
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	29-May-22	4,442,648	3,649	29,975	24	0.7%	6,381	-	56,486,483	52,398,429	27,838,477	74.9
	Vietnam	23 Jan 20	29-May-22	10,717,251	890	43,078	-	0.4%	11,110	7	84,298,599	79,007,965	57,328,546	80.5
ASEAN COUNTRIES				31,805,919	9,707	350,599	30	1.1%			496,368,895	445,538,673	167,875,426	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	29-May-22	18,080,323	12,654	24,158	19	0.1%	34,965	2,530	45,053,524	44,584,307	37,347,293	86.9
	Japan	16-Jan-20	29-May-22	8,807,150	20,828	30,378	19	0.3%	6,975	1,032	103,523,757	101,984,505	73,894,135	80.9
	China	31-Dec-19	29-May-22	3,328,465	76,888	16,658	145	0.5%	24,440	4,490	1,317,260,562	1,281,563,781	793,967,213	84.3
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				30,215,938	110,370	71,194	183	0.2%			1,465,837,843	1,428,132,593	905,208,641
ASEAN +3				62,021,857	120,077	421,793	213	0.7%			1,962,206,738	1,873,671,266	1,073,084,067	

- 470,511,067 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	12,365,094	2,229	255,821	6	1.0	232,570	14,759	310,449,424	237,389,797	24,156,470
AMERICAS	159,421,293	14,003	2,775,803	12	0.8	1,018,621	55,176	801,408,424	706,933,712	382,089,890
ASIA PACIFIC	76,387,423	98,444	734,522	26	0.2	352,231	28,619	1,411,012,336	1,251,370,399	123,498,965
EUROPE	201,472,601	43,708	1,898,069	153	0.6	1,767,097	75,072	558,088,874	530,178,620	315,289,962
MIDDLE EAST	20,864,656	3,224	233,245	7	0.3	190,562	51,822	141,482,395	126,904,717	55,275,094
TOTAL	470,511,067	161,608	5,897,460	204	1.3%			3,222,441,453	2,852,777,245	900,310,381

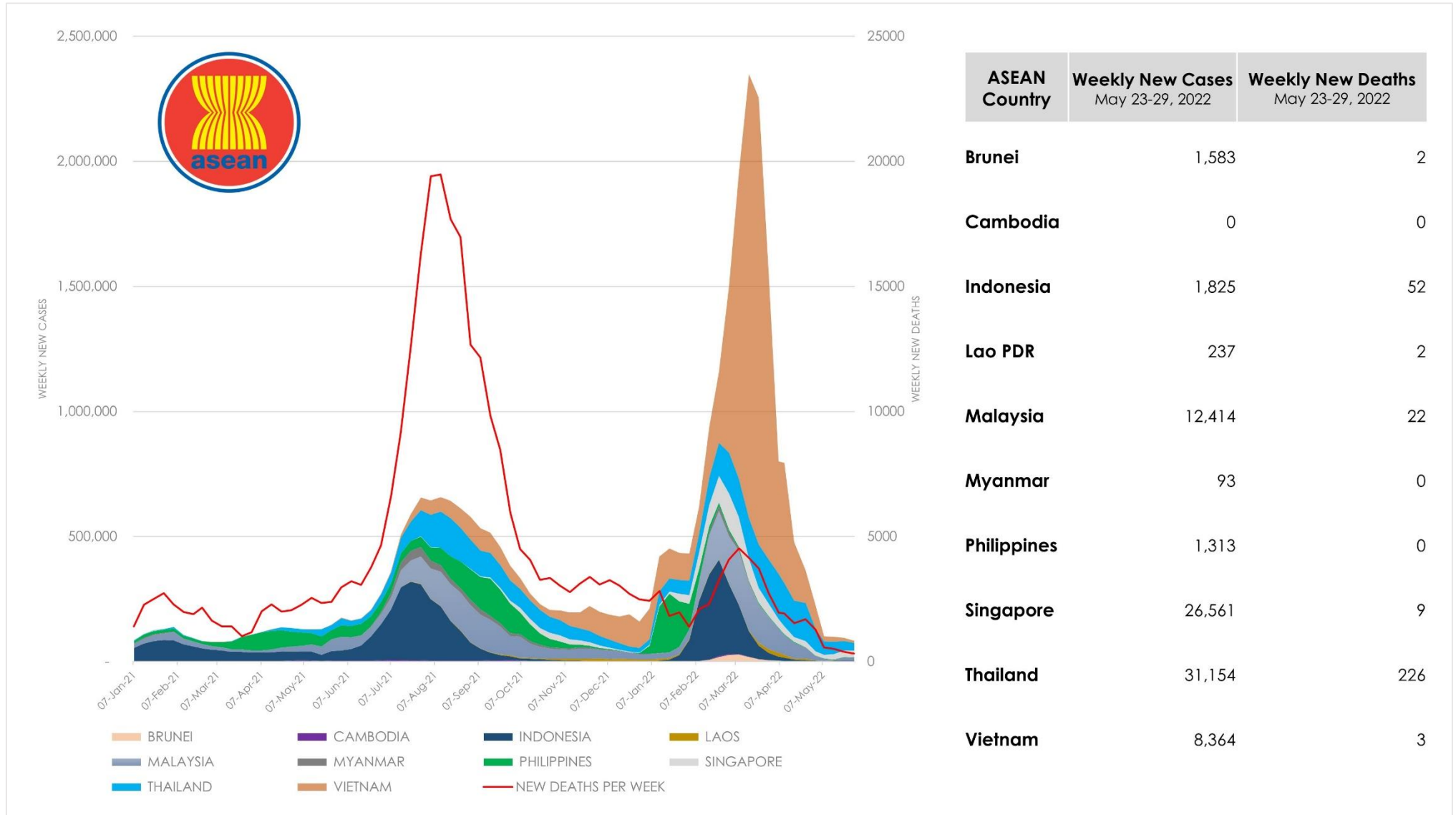
COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

From January 1, 2021 to May 29, 2022



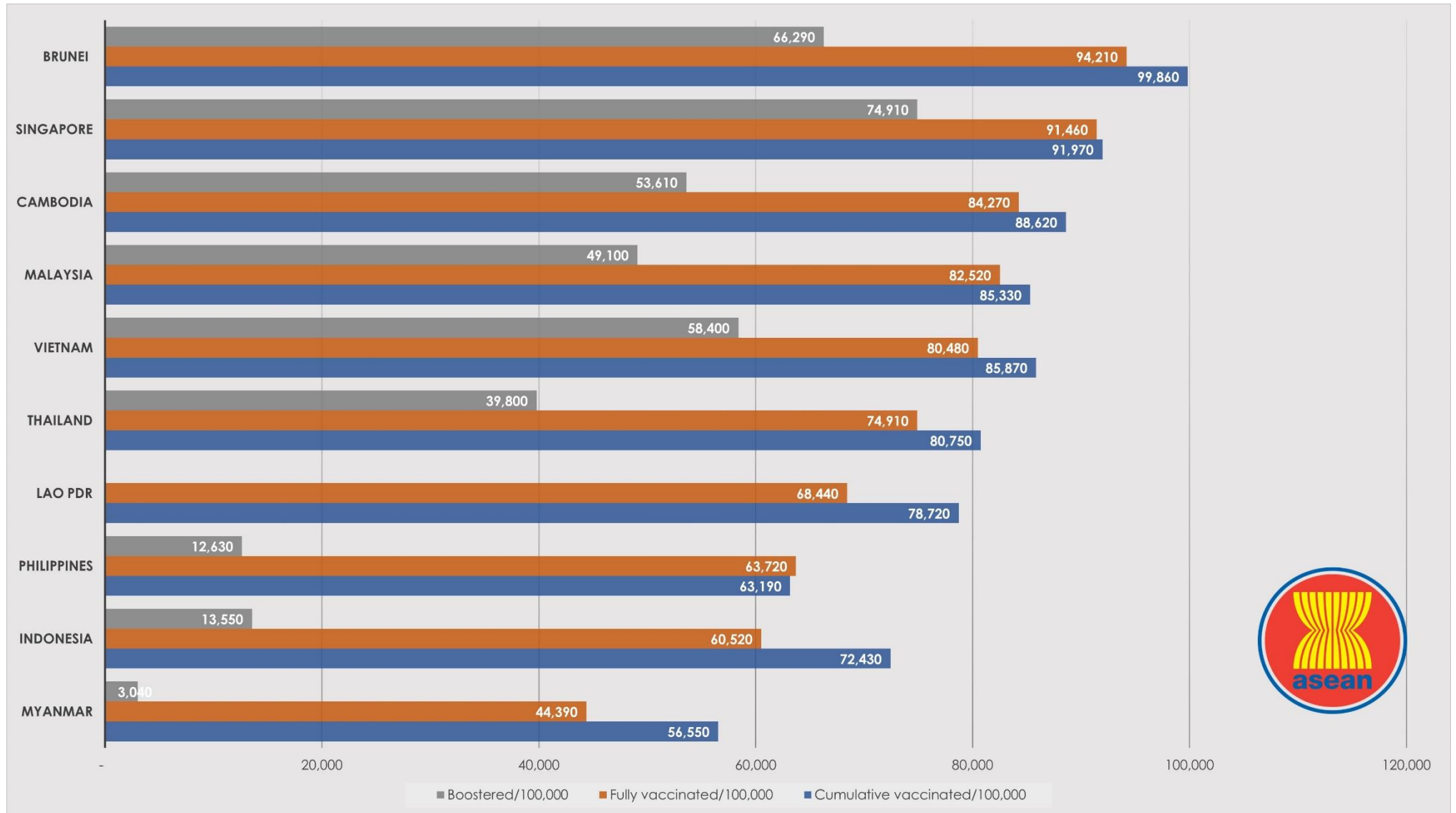
Weekly COVID-19 New Cases and New Deaths

From January 1, 2021 to May 29, 2022




COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 29 May 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 27 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	≥90.0/66.3	Unknown	51.33	Unknown	65.5/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	≥90.0/50.7	Unknown	0.00	Unknown	31.3/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	64.0/13.6	0.03%/day	0.10	Unknown	57.7/100	0.0
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	74.6/ND	Unknown	0.50	44.1	62.9/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	83.0/49.1	0.03%/day	5.84	4.9	64.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	46.0/3.0	0.89%/day	0.02	0.2	65.5/100	+2.4
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	68.5/12.5	Unknown	0.17	Unknown	56.5/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.5/74.9	0.02%/day	67.65	Unknown	58.9/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	76.0/39.6	0.05%/day	6.61	Unknown	56.3/100	+8.3
Vietnam	89.3	0.07%/day	85.2/58.3	0.07%/day	1.30	100	43.5/100	-12.5



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