

COVID-19 Situational Report in the ASEAN Region

ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Center (ABVC)

as of April 4, 2022



COVID-19: Highlights and Situation Overview

Global Update

- Worldwide, there have been over 492 million cases, almost 6.2 million deaths (corrected from previous report 6.6 million on April 1, 2022) attributed to COVID-19, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.3%.
- According to Bluedot's COVID Brief, the top 5 countries with the highest 7-day rolling average of daily cases of COVID-19 include: (1) South Korea, (2) Germany, (3) France, (4) Vietnam, and (5) United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the 5 countries with highest 7-day average of daily cases per million population include: (1) South Korea, (2) St. Pierre-Miquelon, (3) Cook Islands, (4) American Samoa, and (5) Cyprus. The incidence rates of COVID-19 among continents with largest proportion of countries: (1) 44% of Oceania (7 out of 16 countries) have high (>350 per 100,000) incidence rate in the past 14 days, (2) 16% of Africa (9 of 56 countries) have low to moderate (≤ 140 -350) incidence rate in the past 14 days, and (3) 68% of Africa (38 of 56 countries) have low (≤ 140) incidence rate in the past 14 days. The five highest countries in terms of cumulative individuals fully vaccinated in every 100,000 population include: (1) Gibraltar, 122,540, (2) United Arab Emirate, 96,120, (3) Brunei Darussalam, 91,710, and (5) Singapore, 91,040.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported, Omicron remains the dominant variant of COVID-19 globally. Among the 382,789 sequenced to GISAID in the last 30 days, 99.7% (381,824) were Omicron, only less than 0.1% (175) were Delta, and 0.2% (649) sequenced were not assigned to a Pango lineage. The WHO also reported that more than 600 cases of XE variant, a recombinant of BA.1 and BA.2 subvariants of Omicron, have been first detected in the United Kingdom (UK) on January 19. The XE variant is estimated to be 10% more transmissible than the dominant BA.2 subvariant, but further confirmation is needed. The Health Security Agency of UK is also monitoring XD and XF variants which are recombinants of Delta and BA.1 subvariant of Omicron. Recombinant variants are not unusual, especially if there are existence of multiple variants and many of them have been identified over the course of the pandemic.
- South Korea has reported 127,190 new COVID-19 cases on April 4, a hundred thousand less than the cases on Sunday, partly due to fewer tests done over the weekend. The new COVID-19 cases in the country have dropped to the lowest tally in six weeks, but there are still concerns of another surge over the eased protocols against the virus. The government of Korea eased social distancing rules for two weeks in a move to boost economy of small businesses. Furthermore, private gatherings have been allowed up to 10 people from eight, and business operating hours have been extended by one hour to midnight. Fully vaccinated citizens in Korea are more than 44.5 million (86.7% of 52 million population), and 63.9% have been boosted according to the KDCA data. Health authorities of Korea are considering to allow people to be mask-free outdoors if the virus continue to wane for the next two weeks.

Regional Update

- Brunei: Children aged 5-11 regardless of vaccination status will be back to face-to-face in school on May 14, the education minister said. The decision to resume face-to-face classes was decided after the decline trend of COVID-19 in the country; furthermore, 50,000 students are expected to return to school on May 14. International schools in Brunei were initially given with the permission to resume face-to-face

on April 11, which also coincide the start of their third school term. Brunei recorded less than 1,000 new cases for nine straight days after daily cases of the third wave of pandemic has reached up to 4,885 on March 3.

- Cambodia: Australia has committed to provide Cambodia with 33 ultra-low temperature freezers for the storage of COVID-19 vaccines and as cooperative support to the agricultural sector. The freezers to be donated by Australia were part of the larger AU\$35.7 million (US\$26.7 million) package to be delivered in partnership with UNICEF. Only 33 new COVID-19 cases were reported on April 3 in Cambodia.
- Malaysia: Ministry of Health recorded 12,380 new cases of COVID-19 on April 3, as cases continue to decline in the country and as they begin their transition towards endemicity to loosen more restrictions. The decline in cases helped reduce the burden on Malaysia's healthcare system as more beds and equipment are freed that allow to focus them on more critical patients. The country's hospital bed utilization rate was just over 57% on April 3 and admission were just averaging 873 compared to 2,000 daily admissions in March. ICU admissions for COVID-19 patients in Malaysia were just 27% and overall utilization rate of 55%.
- Singapore: The Ministry of Health (MOH) will review the relevance of TraceTogether app and vaccination-differentiated safe management measurements as Singapore transitions to living with COVID-19. MOH said that they no longer rely on TraceTogether for contact tracing the general public as majority of its citizens are already fully vaccinated.
- Thailand records its first case of XE variant of COVID-19, Public Health Commission Vice-Chairman Chalermchai Boonyaleephan said on April 2. The case was reported by the Centre for Medical Genomics, Ramathibodi Hospital. The Vice-Chairman has predicted that the new virus might spread in Thailand. He added that it is important for them to monitor the severity of XE and its resistance against the available COVID-19 vaccines and to whether it could replace the current dominant BA.2 subvariant of Omicron. If this happens, this could be the fifth wave of COVID-19 in Thailand. The country is expecting to peak between April and May before declining in June to allow lifting restrictions in the country.

Vaccine Update

- Laos: The daily COVID-19 surge in Laos has reached its record high of positivity rate of 50%. The country is now focused in accelerating its vaccinations against the virus and urged its citizens to vaccinate their children and family. Amid vaccine shortage, Laos government went as far recommending herbal and traditional medicines to combat COVID-19, including plant extracts to help build immunity. The deputy director of communicable diseases control department of Laos, encourages its citizen to get boosted regardless of vaccine brand received after three months to boost their immune system against the deadly virus.
- Myanmar: More than 50 million COVID-19 vaccines were administered, the ministry of health reported on April 3. Only 66 new confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported and a daily of positivity rate was as low as 0.57% only after 11,512 laboratory samples have been tested in the past 24 hours.
- Philippines: More than 27 million COVID-19 vaccine doses purchased by the government and private sector are expiring in July. The cost of the vaccines that are about to expire are about PHP13 billion according to Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion and Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon. Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) were advised to require booster shots for people entering establishments by June or July to encourage more fully vaccinated Filipinos to get their booster. More than 65.8 million Filipinos are full vaccinated against COVID-19; however, only 12 million are boosted.

- Vietnam: Vaccine passports will be issued beginning April 15, according to the Health Ministry. Vietnam's vaccine passport will include name, date of birth, diseases which they're vaccinated against, number of doses and date of vaccination, and QR code. The vaccine passport will be used in conjunction with other valid IDs. Data that identify people will not be encoded into QR codes for security reasons. QR codes of vaccine passports must be renewed every 12 months and they will be notified before expiry. Vietnam has currently administered more than 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Travel Advisories (new update/s)

- Laos: In a bid to counter economic fallout, the government of Laos has reopened its country for foreign tourists; however, some restrictions are still in place. Foreign tourists are required to be at least fully vaccinated from the past 14 days before arrival, get tested with RT-PCR before departure, and hold a mandated health insurance policy.
- Malaysia has finally reopened its borders for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated foreign tourists as the country made the transition to the endemic phase. However, foreign travelers are still required to show a negative RT-PCR test taken 48 hours before departure regardless of vaccination status.

Cases and Deaths as of 04 April 2022

- As of 04 April 2022 (2PM, GMT+8), worldwide, there were **492,344,707** confirmed cases, including **6,182,083** deaths. Globally, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was **1.3**.
- 51,565,273 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 have been reported in the **ASEAN +3** countries including **29,649,157 cases** in the ASEAN region and **21,916,116 cases** in the PLUS THREE countries, with CFR of **0.8**.

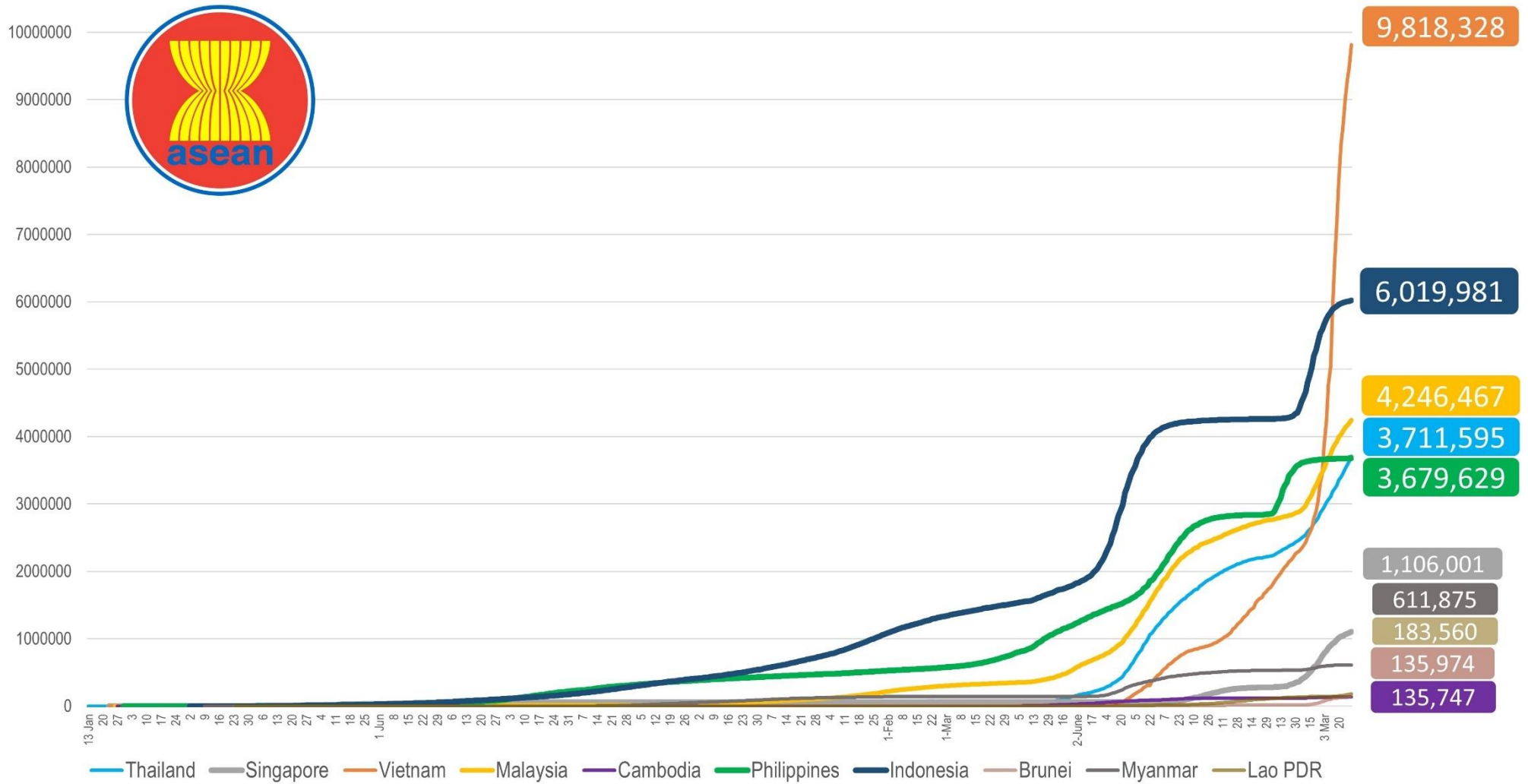
REGION	COUNTRY	FIRST CONFIRMED CASE(S)	LATEST REPORT ON CONFIRMED CASE(S)	TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES	NEW CASES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW DEATHS	CASE FATALITY RATE	CUMULATIVE CASES/ 100,000	NUMBER OF TESTS LAST 14 DAYS/ 100,000	CUMULATIVE VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE FULLY VACCINATED	CUMULATIVE BOOSTERED	FULLY VACCINATED / 100
ASEAN REGION	Brunei	10 Mar 20	03-Apr-22	135,974	544	213	-	0.2%	31,382		407,945	404,935	255,588	91.7
	Cambodia	27 Jan 20	03-Apr-22	135,747	33	3,054	-	2.2%	823	177	14,819,579	14,006,306	9,089,185	82.7
	Indonesia	02 Mar 20	03-Apr-22	6,019,981	1,933	155,288	47	2.6%	2,224	38	196,534,266	159,325,260	23,014,251	57.7
	Lao PDR	24 Mar 20	03-Apr-22	183,560	1,593	679	6	0.4%	2,560	240	5,605,948	4,475,255		60.7
	Malaysia	25 Jan 20	03-Apr-22	4,246,467	12,380	35,099	30	0.8%	13,291	4,076	27,506,802	25,805,425	15,808,761	78.7
	Myanmar	23 Mar 20	03-Apr-22	611,875	66	19,433	1	3.2%	1,132	282	26,473,700	21,803,150		39.8
	Philippines	30 Jan 20	03-Apr-22	3,679,629	661	59,343	19	1.6%	3,403	-	70,173,137	65,804,988	11,954,585	59.3
	Singapore	23 Jan 20	03-Apr-22	1,106,001	4,563	1,272	2	0.1%	19,391		5,005,722	4,964,989	3,854,882	91.0
	Thailand	13 Jan 20	03-Apr-22	3,711,595	26,840	25,418	97	0.7%	5,331	-	55,494,669	50,209,631	23,695,842	71.8
Vietnam	23 Jan 20	03-Apr-22	9,818,328	50,730	42,600	37	0.4%	10,073	2,772	79,947,189	77,754,108	45,443,077	79.2	
ASEAN COUNTRIES				29,649,157	99,343	342,399	239	1.2%			481,968,957	424,554,047	133,116,171	
ASEAN PLUS THREE	South Korea	20-Jan-20	03-Apr-22	13,874,216	234,301	17,235	306	0.1%	26,831	11,047	44,956,453	44,489,555	32,746,789	86.7
	Japan	16-Jan-20	03-Apr-22	6,691,346	47,345	28,106	34	0.4%	5,299	1,041	102,528,330	100,670,133	52,521,088	79.9
	China	31-Dec-19	03-Apr-22	1,350,554	5,494	13,663	111	1.0%	15,734	49,540	1,302,081,858	1,265,302,323	686,031,591	79.0
	PLUS THREE COUNTRIES				21,916,116	287,140	59,004	451	0.3%			1,449,566,641	1,410,462,011	771,299,468
ASEAN +3				51,565,273	386,483	401,403	690				1,931,535,598	1,835,016,058	904,415,639	

- 438,312,737 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	11,773,390	1,078	253,134	7	1.1	199,379	6,654	278,485,298	208,408,902	18,336,426
AMERICAS	152,935,079	9,286	2,727,354	89	0.8	855,295	28,378	790,765,922	691,806,903	280,659,429
ASIA PACIFIC	69,441,133	70,100	727,427	158	0.2	273,731	17,042	1,383,801,697	1,180,113,353	101,022,710
EUROPE	185,650,808	288,537	1,833,423	700	0.6	1,664,235	335,936	553,158,421	524,738,897	294,315,869
MIDDLE EAST	20,979,024	11,414	239,342	64	0.3	186,839	60,780	138,684,313	123,297,617	52,512,300
TOTAL	440,779,434	380,415	5,780,680	1,018	1.3%			3,144,895,651	2,728,365,672	746,846,734

COVID-19 Epi curve among ASEAN Countries:

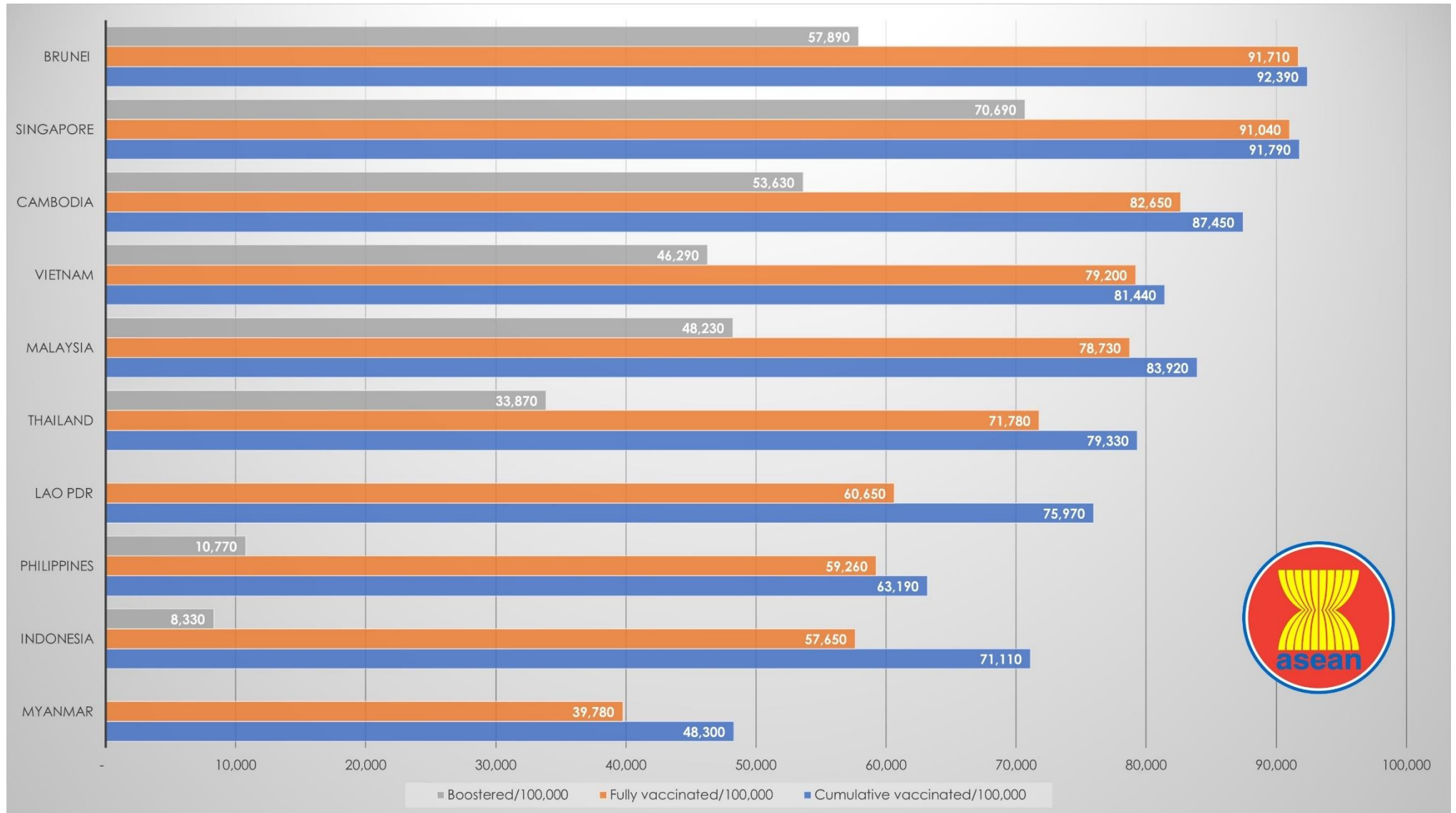
From January 1, 2021 to April 3, 2022



Cumulative cases of COVID-19 in the ASEAN Region as of April 3, 2022 (Report generated by ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center)


COVID-19 Vaccination Status

as of 03 April 2022



COVID-19 Outlook Assessment

as of 01 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	≥90.0/57.9	Unknown	158.88	Unknown	67.9/100	0.0
Cambodia	≥90.0	0%/day	88.9/53.6	0.09%/day	0.27	4.3	37.5/100	0.0
Indonesia	≥90.0	0%/day	61.0/8.3	0.13%/day	1.17	11.3	55.7/100	-6.0
Lao PDR	≥90.0	0%/day	66.2/ND	0.22%/day	35.64	100	78.3/100	0.0
Malaysia	≥90.0	0%/day	79.2/48.2	0%/day	43.54	14.0	58.0/100	0.0
Myanmar	≥90.0	0%/day	41.2/ND	Unknown	0.34	1.8	77.7/100	0.0
Philippines	≥90.0	0%/day	63.7/10.8	0.27%/day	0.34	2.4	82.4/100	0.0
Singapore	≥90.0	0%/day	88.1/70.7	0.05%/day	101.97	Unknown	74.4/100	0.0
Thailand	≥90.0	0%/day	72.9/33.9	0.02%/day	37.23	Unknown	53.3/100	0.0
Vietnam	88.0	0.06%/day	83.9/46.3	0.06%/day	141.43	100	71.4/100	-1.8



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