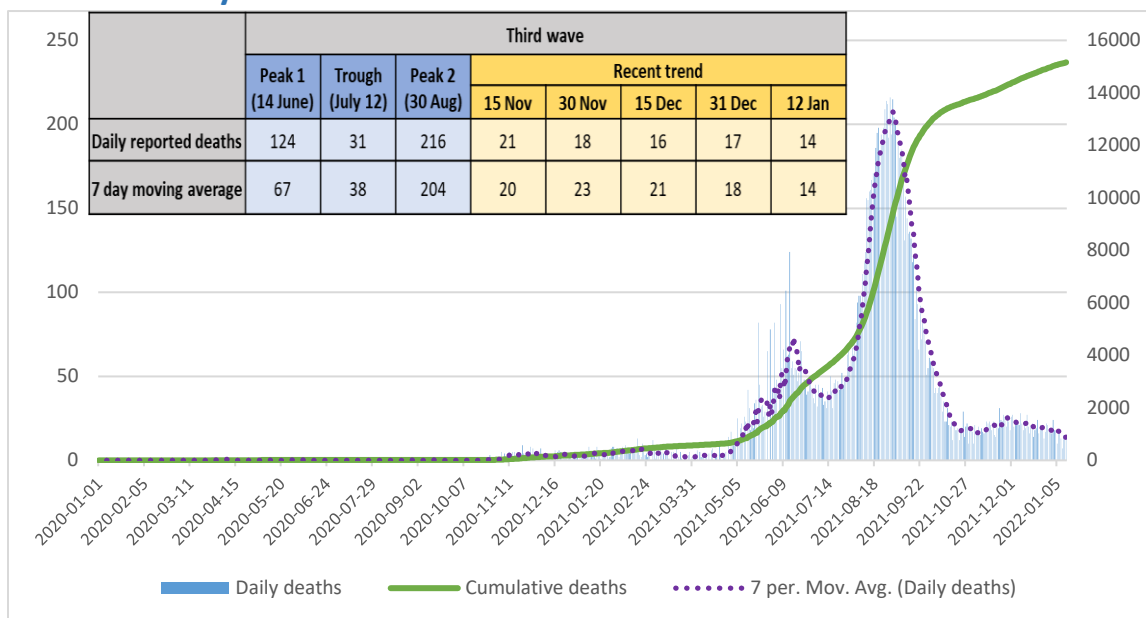




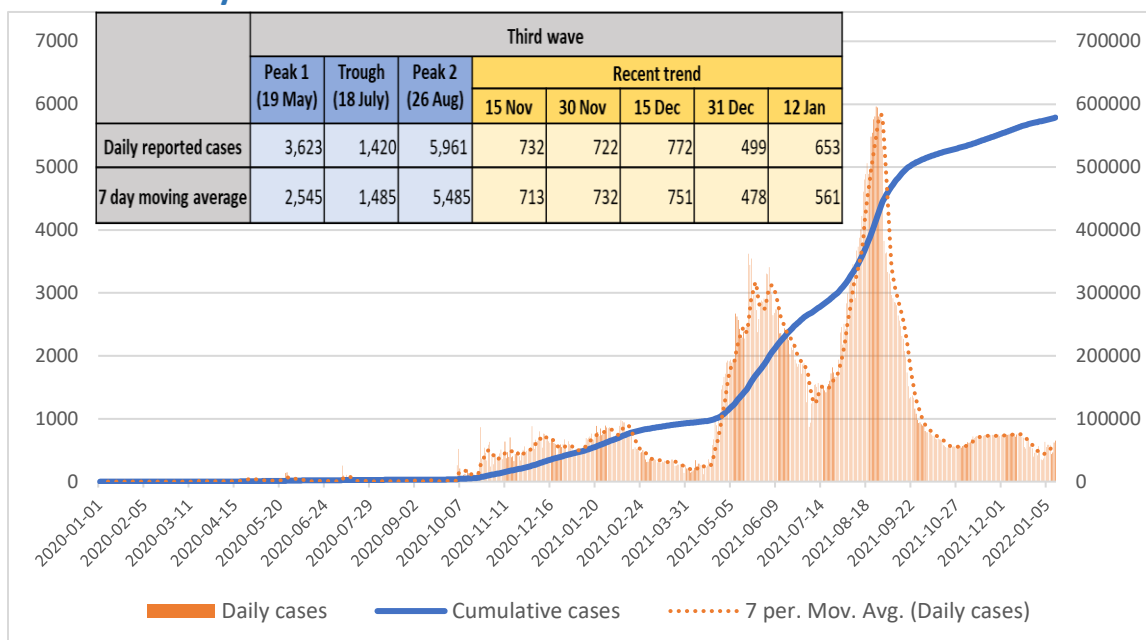
## COVID -19 Situation Report

### 1. Daily deaths and cumulative deaths



- Since 18 December 2021, the 7-day average for daily reported deaths has been below 20 and is currently 14 (12 January 2022)
- Daily reported deaths are still much higher than the pre-3<sup>rd</sup> wave levels (2-3 deaths per day)

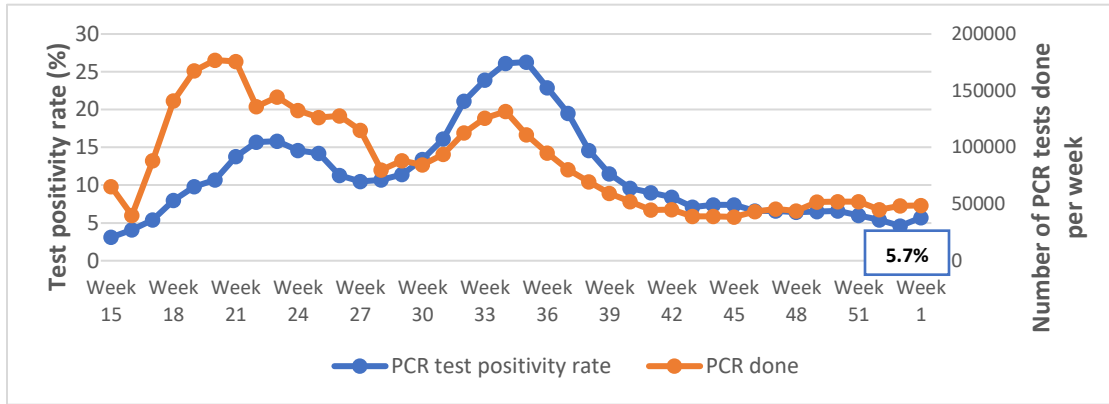
### 2. Daily cases and cumulative cases



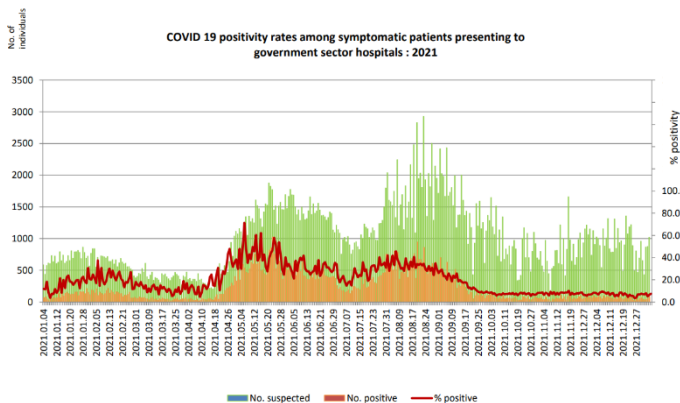
- The 7-day average for the number of daily reported cases has fluctuated between 431 (3 January 2022) and 753 (16 December 2022) over the past 6 weeks
- Daily cases reported are higher than the pre-3<sup>rd</sup> wave levels (200 -300 cases per day)



### 3. Test positivity rate

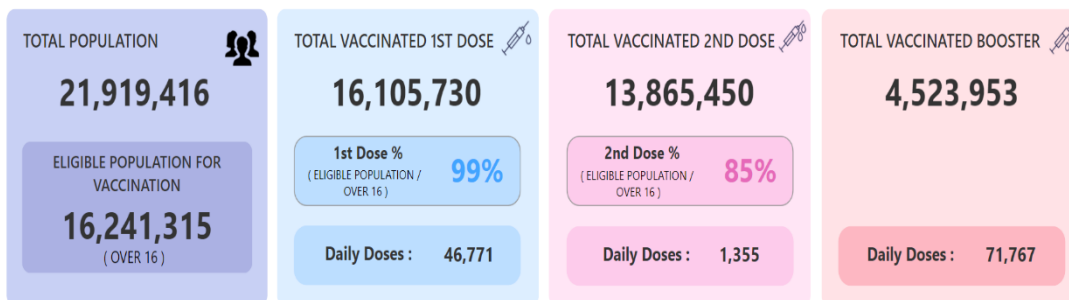


Source: Weekly PCR test positivity rate - National COVID-19 Surveillance System of Sri Lanka. Data updated until 9 January 2022



Source: Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health. Data updated until 12 January 2022

### 4. Vaccination



- PCR test positivity rate has fluctuated between 4.6% to 6.6% over the past 8 weeks
- COVID-19 positivity rates among symptomatic patients presenting to government sector hospitals has been fairly constant during the past 3 months
- Around 49,000 PCR tests were conducted during the week 3-9 January 2022. Rapid Antigen Tests are also widely used to screen the symptomatic patients

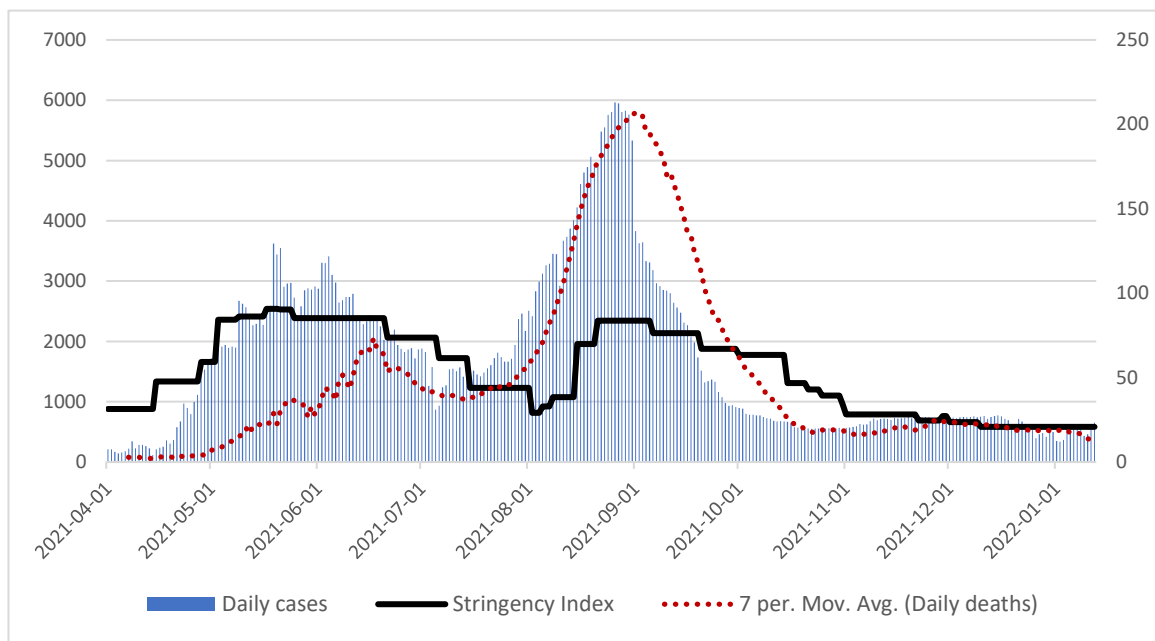


- The accelerated vaccination effort has now covered 85% of the over 16 year population with both doses and this corresponds to 63.2% of the total population
- A third dose (with Pfizer vaccine) has been administered to 4.5 million persons (20.7% of the total population)

Source: <https://www.presidentsoffice.gov.lk/index.php/vaccination-dashboard/>. Accessed on 13 January 2022



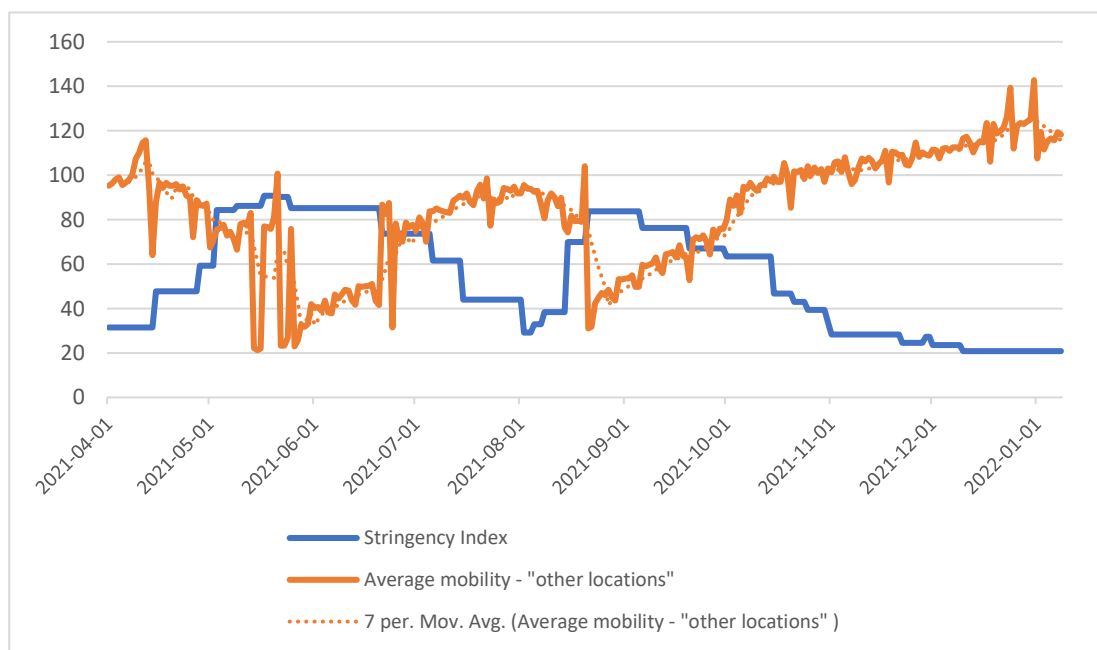
#### 5. Stringency index



- The stringency continues to be low and is currently 21%.

Source: Oxford Stringency Index (SI) values are considered. Data until 21 June accessed from Oxford COVID Government Response Tracker; same methodology used for calculations of SI from 21 June onwards. Data updated until 12 January 2022.













#### 6. Mobility



Source: Google Community Mobility data are considered. Data available until 8 January 2022

- The average mobility which has been above the baseline (pre-COVID levels) since mid-October, reached 140% (compared to the baseline) on December 24 and 31, i.e. the highest mobility levels recorded since the beginning of the pandemic
- The evidence on mobility underlines that for restrictions to be effective, Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) advocacy must be strengthened for better individual/ household compliance

## 7. Regional situation *(Updated as of 11 January 2022)*

Country		New cases (last 7 days)	% change in new cases	New cases per 1M pop	New deaths (last 7 days)	% change in new deaths	New deaths per 1M pop	Test Positivity Rate (last 7DMA)	% change in TPR
India		638,872	524.3	462.9	2,020	-3.3	1.5	5.1	371.9
Thailand		39,992	104.2	573.0	105	-25.0	1.5	8.3	46.6
Bangladesh		7,234	125.1	43.9	25	47.1	0.2	5.1	132.0
Sri Lanka		3,732	-12.9	174.3	100	-25.9	4.7	6.8	-13.7
Nepal		3,603	110.1	123.7	8	-27.3	0.3	5.3	49.9
Indonesia		3,027	114.8	11.1	32	-23.8	0.1	0.2	54.1
Maldives		2,000	68.4	3700.0	2	100.0	3.7	6.1	47.9
Myanmar		1,037	-26.6	19.1	17	-15.0	0.3	1.3	-36.1
Bhutan		121	100.0	156.8	0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0
Timor-Leste		17	183.3	12.9	0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0
DPR Korea		0	0.0	NA	0	0.0	NA	NA	NA
SEAR total		699,635	418.0	NA	2,309	-6.0	NA	NA	NA

Source: WHO SEARO

## 8. New Variant of Concern: Omicron

On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 as a variant of concern (VOC), and has been given the name Omicron. It was initially detected in South Africa and as of 6 January 2022, the Omicron variant has been identified in 149 countries across all six WHO Regions. The first case of Omicron from Sri Lanka was detected on 3 December from a passenger originating from Nigeria. 182 samples were sequenced from last week of December and 1<sup>st</sup> week of January (from the community and arrival and departure samples from the airport) by University of Sri Jayawardenepura and 160 of those were identified as Omicron.

Based on the available information on the Omicron variant, the following are noted;

- There is consistent evidence that Omicron has a substantial growth advantage over Delta
- Early data from South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada and Denmark suggest a reduced risk of hospitalization for Omicron
- Early data suggests that the effectiveness of vaccines is significantly lower against Omicron infection and symptomatic disease compared to Delta, however **booster doses increase vaccine effectiveness**

Some of the key measures recommended by WHO for the countries to consider are as follows;

- Enhance surveillance and sequencing efforts
- Rapidly accelerate COVID-19 vaccination coverage in at-risk populations
- Use of well-fitting masks, physical distancing, ventilation of indoor spaces, crowd avoidance and hand hygiene remain critical to reducing transmission



**Additional resources on Omicron variant:**

- Enhancing Response to Omicron (COVID-19 Variant B.1.1.529): Technical Brief and Priority Actions for Member States (7 January 2022)  
[https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/enhancing-readiness-for-omicron-\(b.1.1.529\)-technical-brief-and-priority-actions-for-member-states](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/enhancing-readiness-for-omicron-(b.1.1.529)-technical-brief-and-priority-actions-for-member-states)

## 9. Concerns regarding a potential new variant: “Deltacron”

Information is circulating over the past few days of a potential new COVID-19 variant dubbed “Deltacron” reportedly discovered in Cyprus. However, based on the available evidence, WHO is of the opinion that it is a result of contamination that has happened during the sequencing process in the laboratory and **not a new variant**. However, it is possible for an individual to be infected with different variants of SARS-CoV-2 at the same time.

**Additional resources:**

- WHO’s live Q&A session on COVID-19 on 11 Jan 2022  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqZxLUPDHDA>

## 10. Recommendation of new drugs to treat COVID-19

WHO has recommended two new drugs for treatment of COVID-19;

- a) **Baricitinib** - Recommended for patients with severe or critical COVID-19
- b) **Sotrovimab** – Recommended for treating mild or moderate COVID-19 in patients who are at high risk of hospitalization

WHO is in discussions with manufacturers to secure global supply capacity and equitable and sustainable access to the newly recommended therapeutics.

**Additional resources:**

<https://www.who.int/news/item/14-01-2022-who-recommends-two-new-drugs-to-treat-covid-19>