

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 118

## Timor-Leste



World Health  
Organization

Timor-Leste

- Data as reported on 21 September 2021

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### TIMOR-LESTE



Cumulative  
**19,206**



Recovered (new)  
**17824**  
(1,378)



Active cases  
(new)  
**1,274 (410)**



Deaths (new)  
**108 (9)**

#### VACCINATION STATUS



1<sup>st</sup> dose – **421,912**

1<sup>st</sup> dose coverage – **55.9%**



2<sup>nd</sup> dose – **248,513**

2<sup>nd</sup> dose coverage – **32.9%**

\*As per data released by the [Ministry of Health](#)

#### GLOBAL



Cases  
**228,807,631**



Deaths  
**4,697,099**

#### VACCINATION STATUS



Vaccine doses  
**5,776,127,976**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the last edition of the weekly situation report, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported **410** new cases of COVID-19, **1378** recoveries and **9** deaths. While the number of cases show a declining trend, the death rate has remained largely unchanged since August.
- The KOICA Timor-Leste Office and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Timor-Leste through WHO Timor-Leste, donated 500 non-medical and 50 medical bed sets to the Ministry of Health. These comprise complete bed sets – bed frames, mattress, pillows, bed sheets, and side tables. These were procured and provided immediately to meet the urgent need of isolation facilities and will be distributed across municipalities.
- The MoH, District Health Services from all municipalities along with UNICEF, DFAT and other partners conducted a day-long national review meeting of the COVID-19 vaccine campaign. The objective of the meeting was to review the progress and challenges of the campaign, to update the micro-plans to reach more people as well as to find a solution to increase the demand for COVID-19 vaccination.

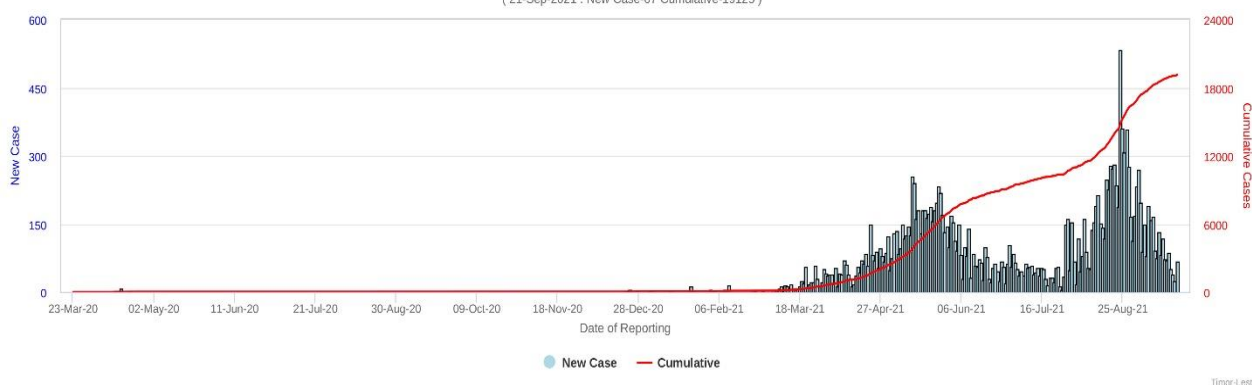
- Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional (JDN), with technical and financial support from WHO Timor-Leste, conducted at least 34 educational sessions and reached more than 600 participants. These sessions included topics like nutrition, healthy diet and nutrition education, COVID-19 prevention measures, COVID-19 vaccine update and training on mental health, which focus on stigma, healthy relationships and life skills.
- The MoH, DHS, and Dili Municipal Authority with the support from WHO conducted a day-long orientation for as many as 80 participants comprising local authorities on community mortality review. The objective is to identify unreported death in the community, discuss the tools (reporting format) to be used, and reporting means. The participants comprised head of villages within Dili municipality, head of administrative posts, representative from the church, pillar 1 to 7 coordinators and PNTL commander from 6 squadron.
- Transmission assessment survey (TAS), the integrated school-based survey to evaluate the impact of the NTD Programme on multiple NTDs, restarted in Manufahi on Sep 22, 2021. TAS 2020-21 was successfully completed in nine municipalities (Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima, Baucau, Ermera, Liquica, Manatuto, and Viqueque) with a favourable result of LF, STH, yaws and scabies prevalence. The survey will continue in Manufahi, Dili and Oecusse till the end of this year. Timor-Leste has been implementing nation-wide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) against LF since 2015 and additional deworming for STH in Dili since 2017 with support of WHO, funded by the Korean government through KOICA.
- UNDP Timor-Leste continues to provide technical support to the MoH in procuring essential medical supplies to respond to Covid-19 and general health system requirements. With co-funding from the MoH and UNDP, UNDP has successfully procured 41 different categories of essential medicines, 23 other Covid-19 testing/diagnostic supplies, and 400 body bags. The diagnostic items include DNase/RNase Free (4,300,800 pieces), SD Biosensor Standard Q COVID 19 Ag swab test (50,000 kits), Sample Collection Kit (50,000 kits), Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV cartridges (40,000 kits), MagMAX™ Viral/Pathogen II (MVP II) Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit (26,000 kits), QIAamp Viral RNA Mini Kit (25,000 kits).
- The MoH, Department of Disease Control, with support from WHO, is conducted a two-week-long joint evaluation of communicable and non-communicable disease programmes. This joint evaluation meeting is together with the National Directors of the MoH and directors and programme coordinators from each municipality. In addition, the Director-General of Health Services took stock of the situation related to the programme performance during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Such joint evaluation meetings to review the challenges and obstacles in communicable and non-communicable diseases programmes due to the impact of COVID-19 will lead to finding solutions and accelerated actions to maintain the essential services in all the country's public health facilities.

- WHO organized the capacity building of crucial TB field workers on TB Vulnerability Assessment, a critical strategic intervention both for 'case detection' and identifying individuals with multiple risk factors for close monitoring using a Mobile TB Application. Encouraging individuals to undergo periodic TB screening is expected to yield maximum TB cases in the country, thereby restoring and accelerating the diagnosis and response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on TB services and provide preventive treatment to the eligible contacts. TB Vulnerability Assessment demonstration project has received approval from INS and is expected to be initiated from mid of October 2021.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES



New and cumulative COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste by date of reporting  
(21-Sep-2021 : New Case-67 Cumulative-19125)



- **New and cumulative COVID-19 cases**
  - There were 410 new cases reported during the previous 7 days (15-21 Sep) – since the last report. The number of newly reported cases has been steadily declining as compared over the past several reporting periods (figure above).
  - Looking closely at the number of new cases reported over the previous 14 days (7-21 Sep.), new cases have been well below 100 for the last seven consecutive days.

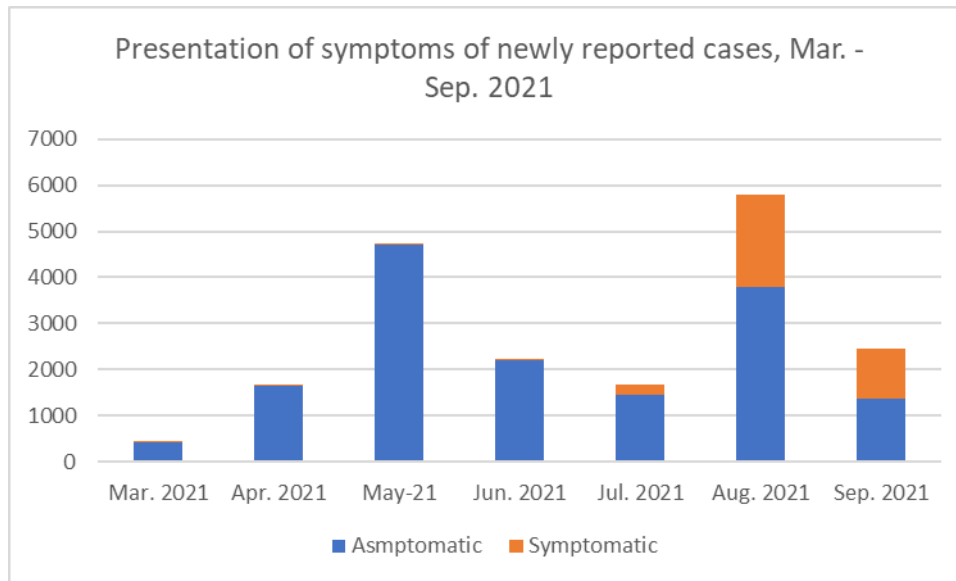
- **Distribution of cases and deaths by municipalities**

Distribution of newly reported, recovered and active cases by municipalities (as of 15-Sep-2021 : 21-Sep-2021)

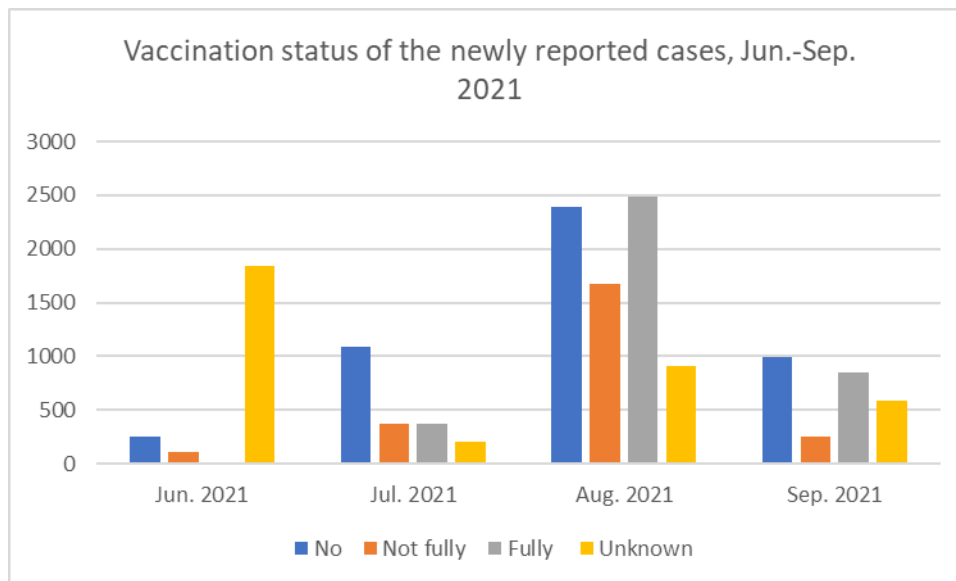
Municipality	New case (15 Sept – 21 Sept 2021)	Cumulative case	New recovered (15 Sept – 21 Sept 2021)	Cumulative recovered	New deceased (15 Sept – 21 Sept 2021)	Cumulative deceased	Active Cases (21 Sept 2021)
Aileu	1	126	9	109	0	0	17
Ainaro	11	226	27	209	0	3	14
Baucau	54	1373	331	1253	1	6	114
Bobonaro	25	557	69	456	0	9	92
Covalima	4	771	65	621	0	2	148
Dili	216	13376	739	12588	8	76	712
Ermera	0	1113	7	1062	0	2	49
Lautem	10	173	51	140	0	4	29
Liquica	8	123	2	112	0	1	10
Manatuto	14	194	18	177	0	0	17
Manufahi	5	255	15	248	0	0	7
RAEOA	50	344	26	260	0	1	83
Viqueque	12	494	19	464	0	3	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	410	19125	1378	17699	9	107	1319

- As indicated in the table above, the number of newly reported cases is 410, with 9 new deaths over the last 7 days (15-21 Sep.) More than half of the new cases (216/410) and most of the deaths (8/9) were reported from Dili municipality, the capital of the country.
- The number of new cases and death of the last 7 days has declined by 50% and 38% respectively over the previous reporting period (7-14 Sep.).
- In addition to Dili, Baucau, Oecusse and Bobonaro (and Covalima) are the municipalities with most number of new cases and active cases.

- **Characteristics of the newly reported cases**

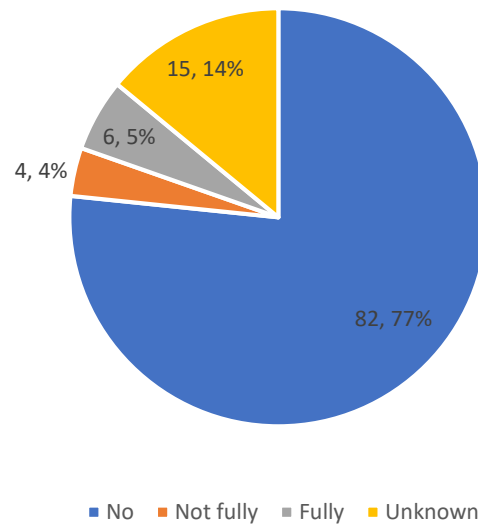


- The analysis of available data was used to interpret the presentation of symptoms when cases are diagnosed. As demonstrated by the table above, over time more cases are presenting with different forms of symptoms, such as cough, sore throat, loss of smell and taste etc. In the months of August and September, above 40-50% of the cases presented symptoms.



- Among the newly reported cases during June to September 2021, majority of them have not been vaccinated. About 20-30% of the cases have been reportedly fully vaccinated, which could be called “breakthrough infections”. It is noted that a significant number of cases don’t know/report their vaccination status.

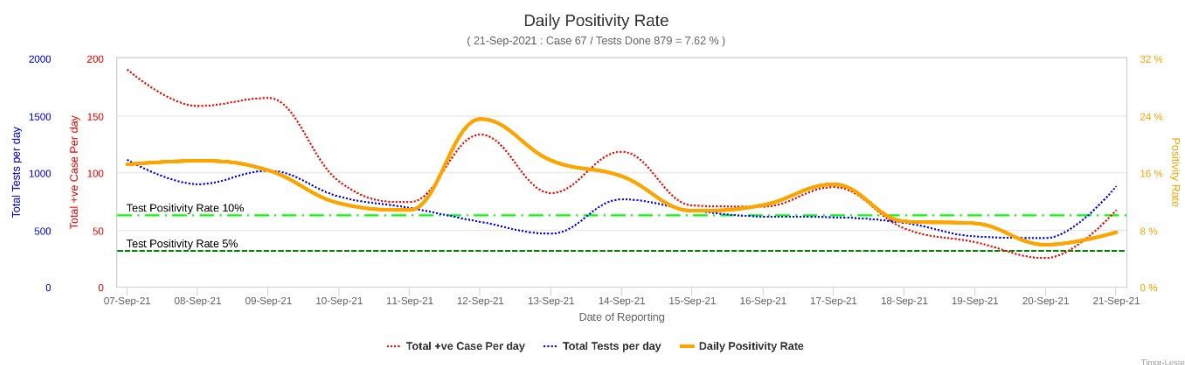
- **Vaccination status of the reported deaths**



- Of the 107 deaths, 86 were not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, accounting for 81% of the total number of deaths. Six cases (5%) were fully vaccinated. It is noteworthy that for 15 deaths (14%) their vaccination status was unknown.

#### Daily tests, positives and test positivity rates

- The number of tests reduced during the past 7 days to around 500 per day, along with declined number of cases reported. Meanwhile, the test positivity rates have dropped to around 5-8% on most of the days indicating a reduced level of transmission at the community level.



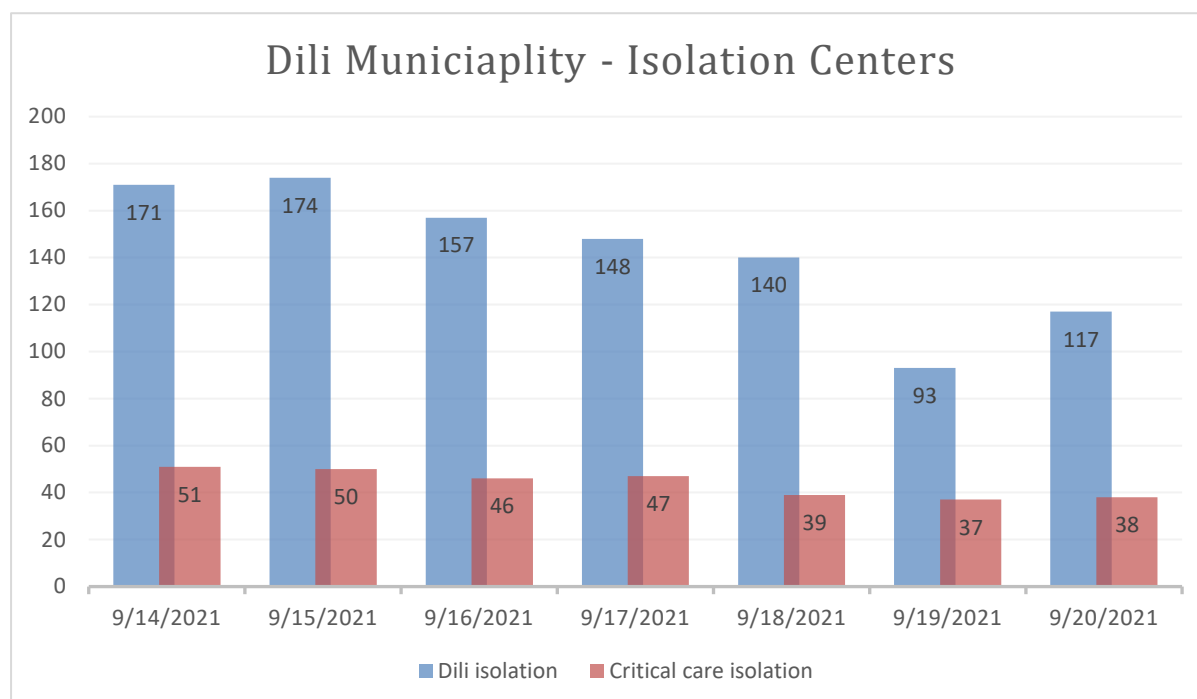
#### Conclusions and recommendations:

- It is likely that the transmission level continues to decline at the national level, as evidenced by reduced number of cases and reported deaths as well as the reduced test positivity rates over a period of time.
- Vaccination provides strong protection against severe diseases and deaths from COVID-19 as evidenced by the data from Timor-Leste and other countries. Every

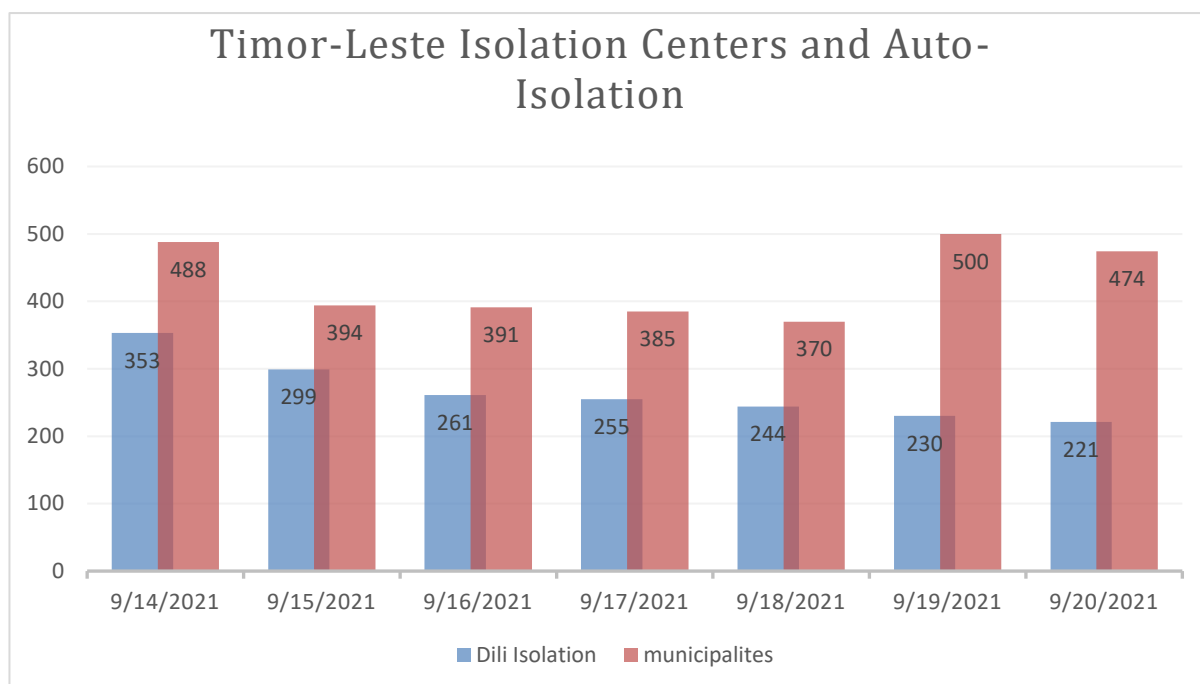
effort should be made to rapidly increase the coverage of vaccination, particularly to the elderly population and those with co-morbidities.

- Efforts should continue to increase the testing numbers. More tests should be done to identify the infected and quarantine the contacts.
- It is important to collect accurate information particularly the vaccination status of the cases and deaths.

## CASE MANAGEMENT



The isolations admissions have steadily decreased since 14 September 2021. This includes those in isolation centres and self-isolation (at homes). The numbers admitted to critical care isolation centres (Lahane and Vera Cruz) are between 30-60 patients. Since the start of the lockdown on 27 August 2021, there has been an overall decrease of 82% in admissions in Dili isolation centres.



This chart shows the number of people admitted to isolation centres and self-isolation in 12 municipalities compared to Dili. While numbers have remained steady, there has been a recent decline in patients admitted.

## VACCINATION

At the time of writing this report (21 Sept), in total, 670,425 COVID-19 vaccine doses comprising 421,912, first doses (coverage 55.9%) and 248,513, second doses (coverage 32.9%) were administered in Timor-Leste. The breakdown of the number of doses administered and coverage by vaccine type and vaccine dose is given in Table 1.



**Table 1: Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered and coverage in Dili and Timor-Leste by vaccine brand and doses as of 10:00hrs 21/09/2021**

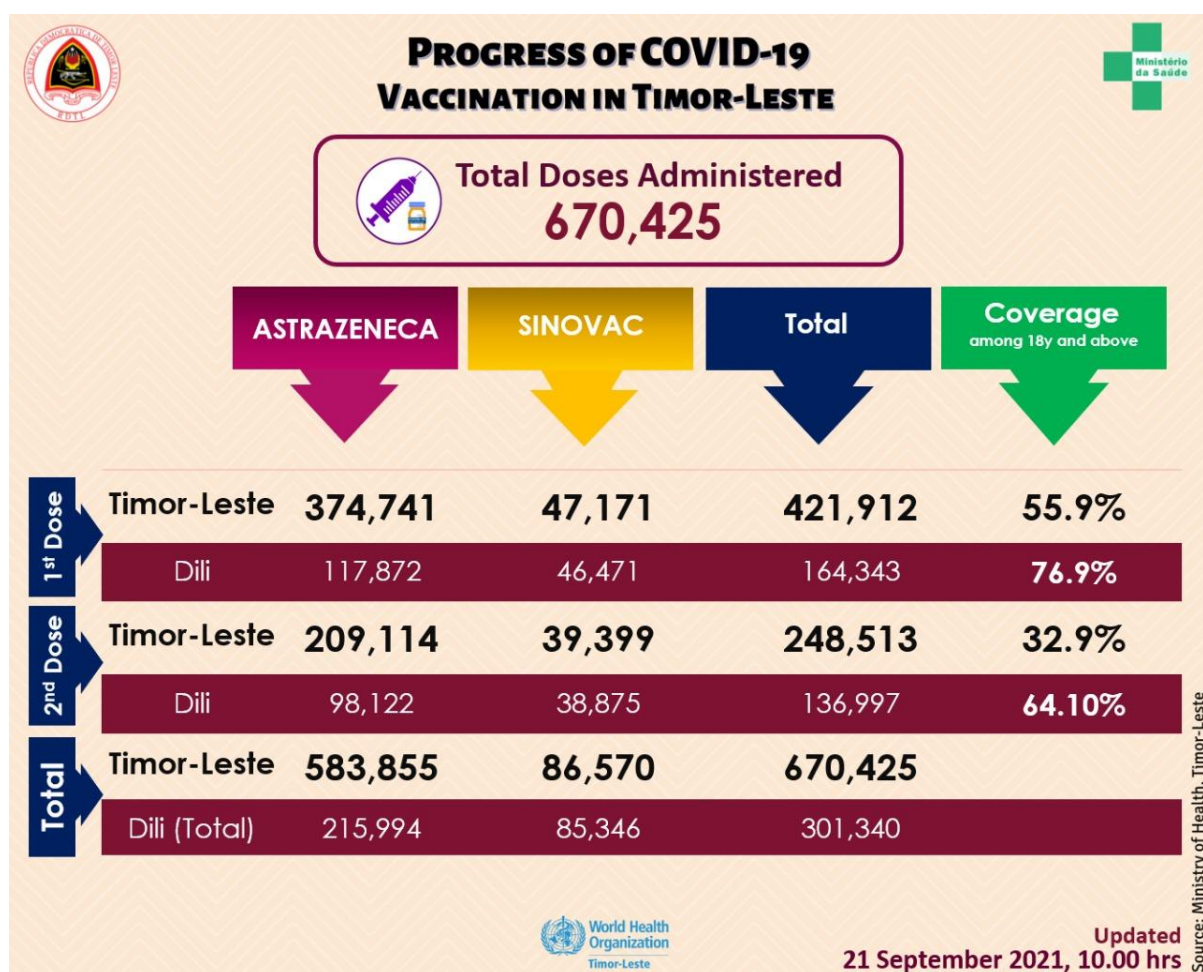


Figure 1: Coverage of COVID-19 vaccination by municipality in Timor-Leste as of 10:00hrs 21/09/2021

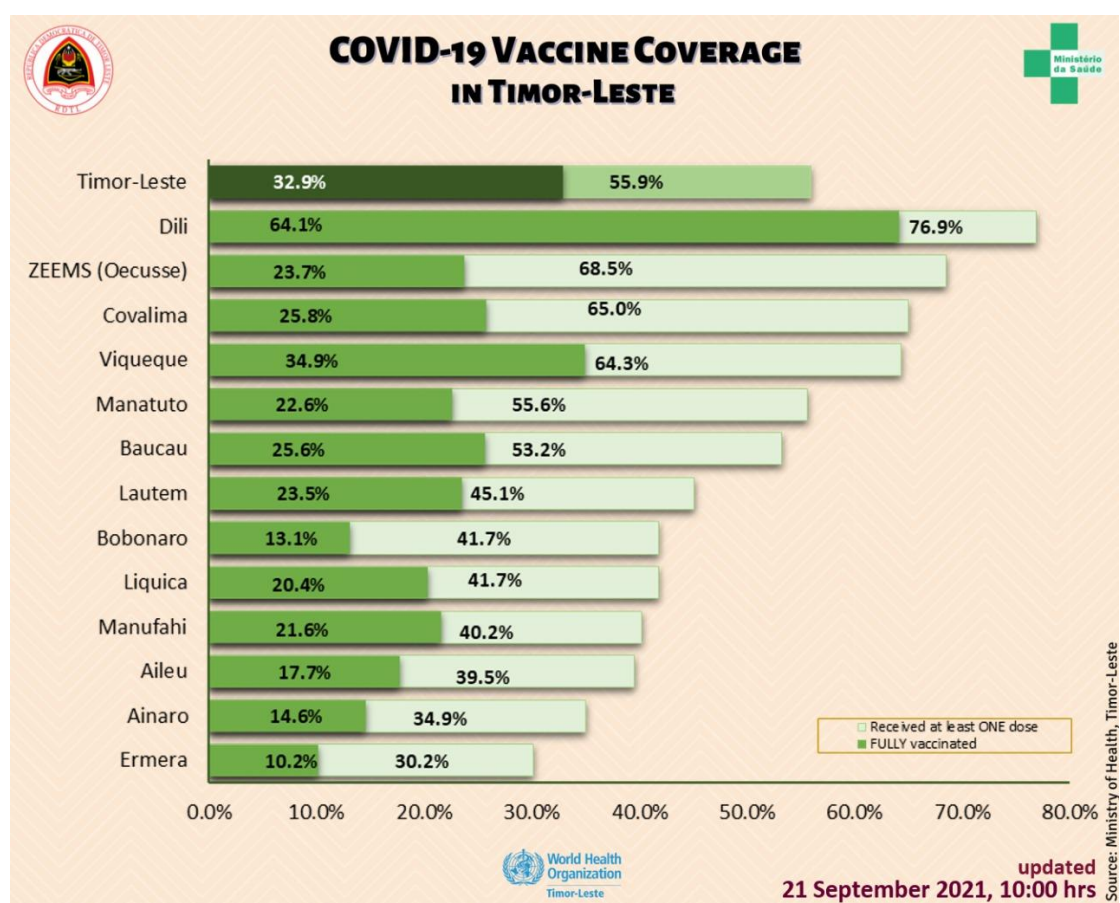
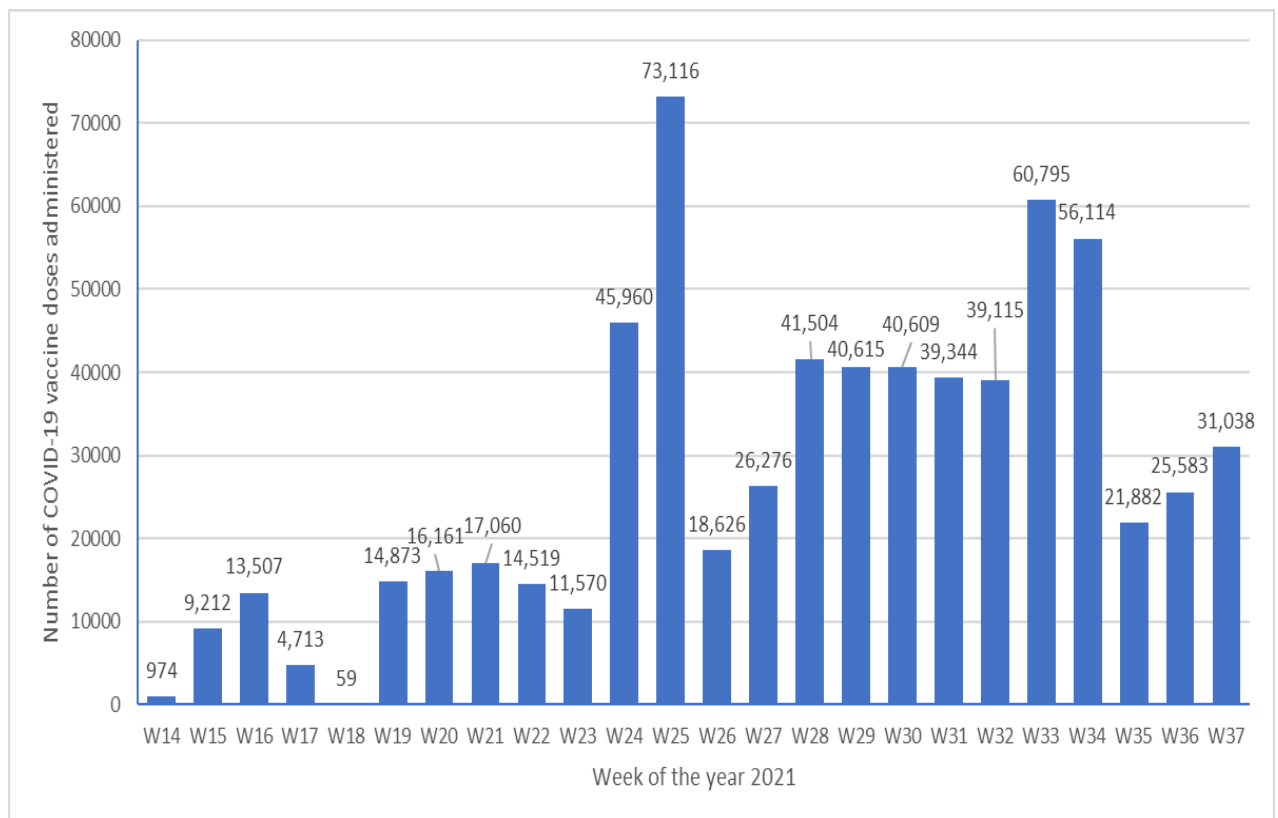


Table 2: Number of individuals vaccinated and AEFI by sex as of 10:00 hrs 21/09/2021

Municipality	Number Vaccinated						AEFI		
	First Dose			Second Dose			Male	Female	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total			
Dili	92,800	71,543	164,343	77,014	59,983	136,997	12	21	33
Aileu	7,160	5,177	12,337	3,411	2,127	5,538	1	1	2
Ainaro	6,967	5,311	12,278	3,038	2,082	5,120	0	0	0
Baucau	21,349	17,636	38,985	10,826	7,945	18,771	0	0	0
Bobonaro	13,251	10,430	23,681	4,441	2,990	7,431	4	6	10
Covalima	13,977	12,184	26,161	5,899	4,483	10,382	7	6	13
Ermera	13,755	8,908	22,663	4,777	2,867	7,644	0	0	0
Lautem	8,741	7,670	16,411	4,531	4,015	8,546	2	0	2
Liquica	10,233	8,621	18,854	5,135	4,069	9,204	0	1	1
Manatuto	8,824	6,984	15,808	3,739	2,673	6,412	2	0	2
Manufahi	7,902	5,499	13,401	4,452	2,757	7,209	0	0	0
Viqueque	14,616	13,653	28,269	8,170	7,156	15,326	3	0	3
ZEEMS (Oecusse)	14,844	13,877	28,721	5,443	4,490	9,933	0	0	0
<b>Total (without Dili)</b>	<b>141,619</b>	<b>115,950</b>	<b>257,569</b>	<b>63,862</b>	<b>47,654</b>	<b>111,516</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Total (Timor-Leste)</b>	<b>234,419</b>	<b>187,493</b>	<b>421,912</b>	<b>140,876</b>	<b>107,637</b>	<b>248,513</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>66</b>

**Figure 2: Weekly progress of vaccination in Timor-Leste during as of 10:00 hrs 19/09/2021**



**Table 3. Number of individuals among eligible population (18 years and above\*) vaccinated in Timor-Leste with COVID-19 vaccine and coverage as of 10:00hrs 21/09/2021**

Municipality	Eligible Population			Number vaccinated & Coverage											
	High Risk Groups (20% Pop.)	18-59y no comorbidity (80% Pop.)	Total	First Dose						Second Dose					
				High Risk Groups (20% Pop.)	Coverage	18-59y no comorbidity (80% Pop.)	Coverage	Total	Coverage	High Risk Groups (20% Pop.)	Coverage	18-59y no comorbidity (80% Pop.)	Coverage	Total	Coverage
Dili	29,980	183,822	213,802	51,456	171.6%	112,887	61.4%	164,343	76.9%	31,499	105.1%	105,498	57.4%	136,997	64.1%
Aileu	6,292	24,943	31,235	5,687	90.4%	6,650	26.7%	12,337	39.5%	2,812	44.7%	2,726	10.9%	5538	17.7%
Ainaro	7,410	27,726	35,136	3,311	44.7%	8,967	32.3%	12,278	34.9%	1,914	25.8%	3,206	11.6%	5120	14.6%
Baucau	18,141	55,175	73,316	11,770	64.9%	27,215	49.3%	38,985	53.2%	6,544	36.1%	12,227	22.2%	18771	25.6%
Bobonaro	13,268	43,476	56,744	7,924	59.7%	15,757	36.2%	23,681	41.7%	3,472	26.2%	3,959	9.1%	7431	13.1%
Covalima	8,725	31,503	40,228	7,964	91.3%	18,197	57.8%	26,161	65.0%	4,190	48.0%	6,192	19.7%	10382	25.8%
Ermera	14,350	60,793	75,143	6,236	43.5%	16,427	27.0%	22,663	30.2%	2,263	15.8%	5,381	8.9%	7644	10.2%
Lautem	8,455	27,963	36,418	5,167	61.1%	11,244	40.2%	16,411	45.1%	3,201	37.9%	5,345	19.1%	8546	23.5%
Liquica	9,588	35,597	45,185	4,567	47.6%	14,287	40.1%	18,854	41.7%	2,557	26.7%	6,647	18.7%	9204	20.4%
Manatuto	6,701	21,718	28,419	4,548	67.9%	11,260	51.8%	15,808	55.6%	2,229	33.3%	4,183	19.3%	6412	22.6%
Manufahi	7,595	25,766	33,361	5,385	70.9%	8,016	31.1%	13,401	40.2%	3,760	49.5%	3,449	13.4%	7209	21.6%
Viqueque	11,034	32,534	43,568	9,000	81.6%	19,269	59.2%	28,269	64.9%	5,629	51.0%	9,697	29.8%	15326	35.2%
ZEEMS (Oecusse)	9,408	32,905	42,313	10,521	111.8%	18,200	55.3%	28,721	67.9%	4,375	46.5%	5,558	16.9%	9,933	23.5%
<b>Total (without Dili)</b>	<b>120,967</b>	<b>420,098</b>	<b>541,065</b>	<b>82,080</b>	<b>67.9%</b>	<b>175,489</b>	<b>41.8%</b>	<b>257,569</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>42,946</b>	<b>35.5%</b>	<b>68,570</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>111,516</b>	<b>20.6%</b>
<b>Total (Timor-Leste)</b>	<b>150,947</b>	<b>603,920</b>	<b>754,867</b>	<b>133,536</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>288,376</b>	<b>47.75%</b>	<b>421,912</b>	<b>55.9%</b>	<b>74,445</b>	<b>49.3%</b>	<b>174,068</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>248,513</b>	<b>32.9%</b>

\*Based on 2021 population projections. Population with Comorbidity 12.5% among 30-59y based on 2016 DHS data  
 High Risk Groups (20% of the population) - Healthcare staff, other front line staff, aged 60y and above, and 18-59y with comorbidity  
 18-59y with no comorbidity (80% of the population)

## WHO TIMOR-LESTE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events.
- Strengthening of surveillance systems and increasing laboratory capacity to detect COVID-19 cases.
- Ensuring adherence to the strictest standards of infection prevention and control (IPC) and increase capacity for IPC.
- Identify, isolate, and care for patients early, including providing optimized care for infected patients.
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation.
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES

### **Wash your hands frequently**

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

**Why?** Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

### **Maintain physical distancing**

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and others.

**Why?** When someone coughs or sneezes, they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing is infected.

### **Use face mask when physical distancing is not possible**

**Why?** If when you're in a setting where maintaining the physical distance of 1 meter or more is not possible due to the space constraint, then it is imperative that you use a face mask as it can help in stopping the transmission of COVID-19.

### **Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth**

**Why?** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and make you sick.

### **Practice respiratory hygiene**

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue safely immediately.

**Why?** Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

**If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early**

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of health authorities.

**Why?** Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

**Stay informed and follow advice by your healthcare provider**

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority, or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

**Why?** National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

**Protect ourselves and our loved ones against #COVID19:**

- **Wash your hands frequently**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
- **Avoid touching your face**
- **Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces**
- **Keep a distance of at least 1 metre from others**
- **Use of mask is imperative when physical-distancing is not possible.**
- **Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces**
- **Isolate yourself from others if feeling unwell and seek care, if needed**

More guidance on preventive measures is available [here](#).

## COVID-19 Vaccine

**Vaccine efficacy, effectiveness, and protection**

- COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe, effective and lifesaving. Like all vaccines, they do not fully protect everyone who is vaccinated, and we do not yet know how well they can prevent people from transmitting the virus to others. So, as well as getting vaccinated, we must also continue with other measures to fight the pandemic.
- Equitable access to safe and effective vaccines is critical to ending the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Safe and effective vaccines are a game-changing tool: but for the foreseeable future we must continue wearing masks, cleaning our hands, ensuring good ventilation indoors, physically distancing and avoiding crowds.



- Being vaccinated does not mean that we can throw caution to the wind and put ourselves and others at risk, particularly because research is still ongoing into how much vaccines protect not only against disease but also against infection and transmission.
- Being vaccinated does not mean that we can throw caution to the wind and put ourselves and others at risk, particularly because research is still ongoing into how much vaccines protect not only against disease but also against infection and transmission.
- But it's not vaccines that will stop the pandemic, it's vaccination. We must ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines, and ensure every country receives them and can roll them out to protect their people, starting with the most vulnerable.

### Delta Variant of SARS-nCoV2

- Delta variant is a variant of concern that WHO is tracking and monitoring around the world. It's a variant of concern because we know it has increased transmissibility. This has been demonstrated by several countries. And we know that where the Delta variant is identified, it rapidly takes off and spreads between people more efficiently than even the Alpha variant that was first detected around December, January 2021. The world remains largely susceptible to infection, including any variants of concern, including the Delta variant.
- There are many things that you can do yourself that can keep yourself protected and keep your loved ones protected against this virus, including the Delta variant. This includes making sure you have clean hands and wearing a mask, making sure that mask covers your nose and your mouth and that you have clean hands when you put on your mask, and you take off your mask. It involves avoiding crowded spaces, keeping your distance from others, making sure that if you are indoors, you are in a room that has good ventilation. And in many respects, that's as simple as opening a window or two windows so that you have good airflow. Taking all those measures will reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and reduce the possibility of you getting infected.

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#### COVID-19 Information and media queries:

- The MoH has established a hotline number – 119 – for COVID-19 on which people can call to get any COVID-19 related information.
- Additionally, [MoH Facebook page](#) provides timely updates on COVID-19 developments in the country.
- WHO Timor-Leste through its [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter handle](#) also disseminates information on preventive measures, questions and answers, myth-busters and latest updates on COVID-19 globally and nationally. For media queries and interviews requests can be sent to [singhsho@who.int](mailto:singhsho@who.int) and [hasane@who.int](mailto:hasane@who.int)