

Data as reported by 12 May 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) reported 840 new cases of COVID-19 since the last time of reporting (05.05.2021) – this takes the total tally of COVID-19 cases to **3,626**. All patients are admitted to the designated isolation and treatment facilities at Vera Cruz, Tasitolu, Tibar, Lahane and other government identified isolation hotels. MoH has also granted permission for some cases to be in home isolation. Details please see the epidemiological update section of this issue.

As on 12.05.2021 – the National Health Laboratory (NHL) performed **80,803** COVID-19 tests including samples collected through targeted mass screenings and other testing activities in the affected municipalities.

- The surveillance team, as per the national guideline is working on further investigation and contact tracing. More details about the new cases can be found at the Ministry of Health's (MoH) Facebook page, [Palacio das Cinzas](#).
- The second phase of COVID-19 vaccination kicked off in Dili municipality on 10 May 2021. In this phase, the following priority groups will be covered – people with underlying disease, those above 60 and frontline workers who haven't been covered in the previous phase.
- The MoH is proactively carrying out door to door sensitization and advocacy for the second phase of COVID-19 vaccine with support from WHO and UNICEF in Dili municipality.
- The MoH's surveillance team Pillar 3, with support from WHO and other partners, is continuing carrying out active case finding in Dili municipality.
- The MoH announced fifth COVID-19 death on 9 May 2021. A 70-year old woman after testing positive was admitted to the Vera Cruz facility on 5 May 2021 with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and severe anaemia.
- MoH's Pillar 7 with the support from WHO conducted a technical assessment to scale up the isolation centers, IPC and critical care capacity at Suai and Maliana Referral Hospitals.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

3 626 confirmed (**840** new)
1 894 recovered (**526** new)
1 727 active cases
5 deaths

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

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More information and guidance by WHO regarding the current COVID-19 outbreak can be found [here](#).

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

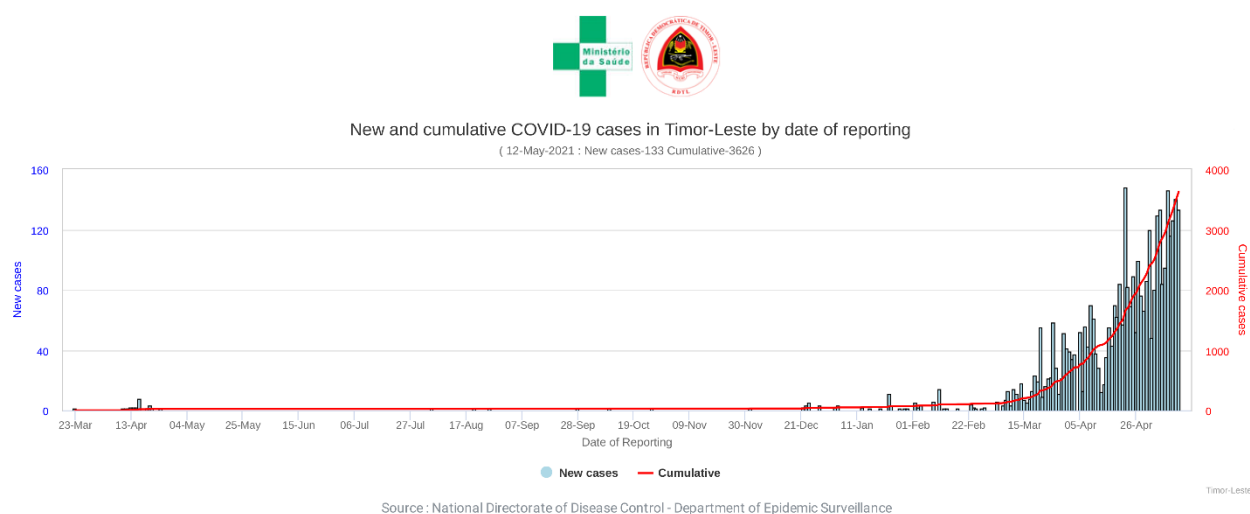
Total (new) cases in last seven days

Globally

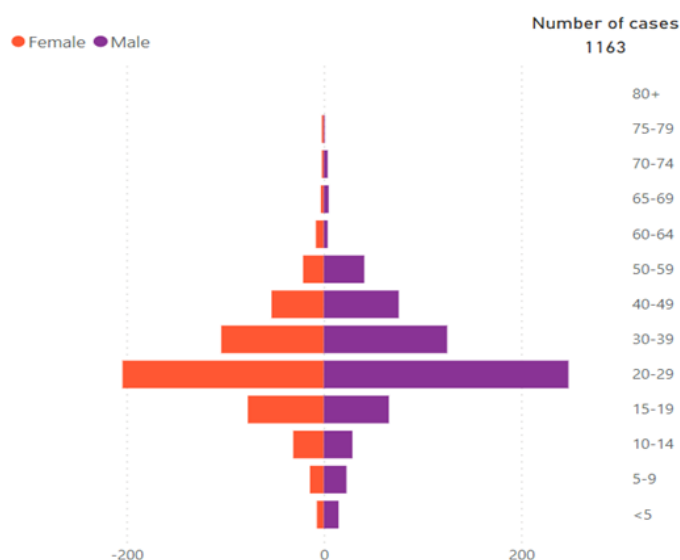
157 362 408 confirmed (**5 517 602**)
3 277 834 deaths (**90 242**)

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES

- As on 12 May 2021, a total of 3,626 COVID-19 cases have been reported in Timor-Leste. The number of cases have increased drastically since early March 2021. Some of the factors beside the wider spread of infection itself are measures like mass screening and targeted testing among illegal returnees in the three municipalities that share border with Indonesia (Bobonaro, Covalima, Oecusse), capacity city of Dili, to trace contacts of confirmed cases and passengers to other municipalities requesting for testing (as part of “sanitary fence”). More recently, more cases have been detected without clear links with source or common exposures. As demonstrated by different indicators, Timor-Leste is considered in the stage of “**community transmission**”.

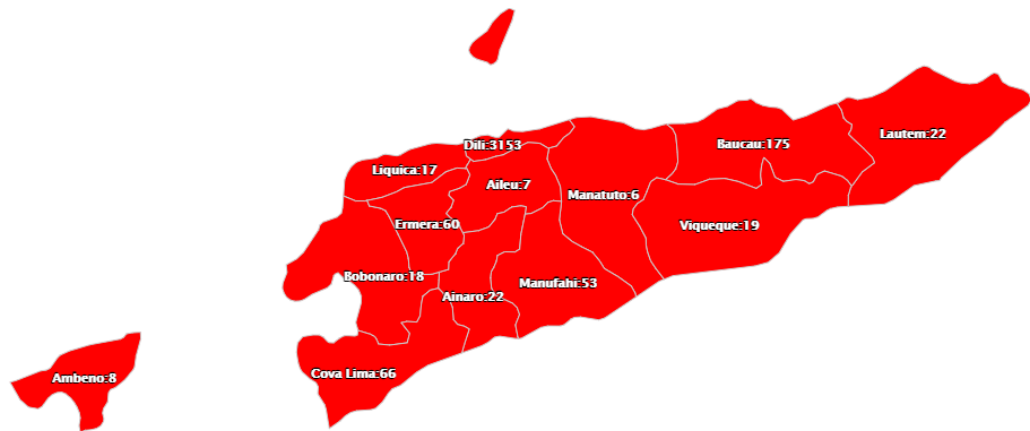


- As for the characteristics of the cases reported, majority are in the 20-29 age group, followed by 30-39 years age group, and the 40-49 years age group. The gender split of the data shows that there are more male cases compared to female.

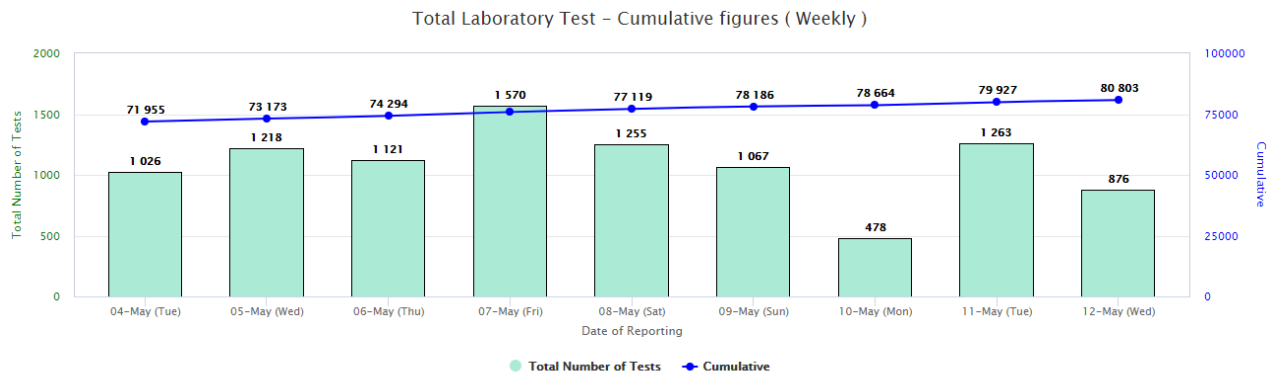


- Cases have been reported across all 13 municipalities, but majority are from Dili Municipality.

District wise: Positive case
Dili : 3153 | Other Districts : 473

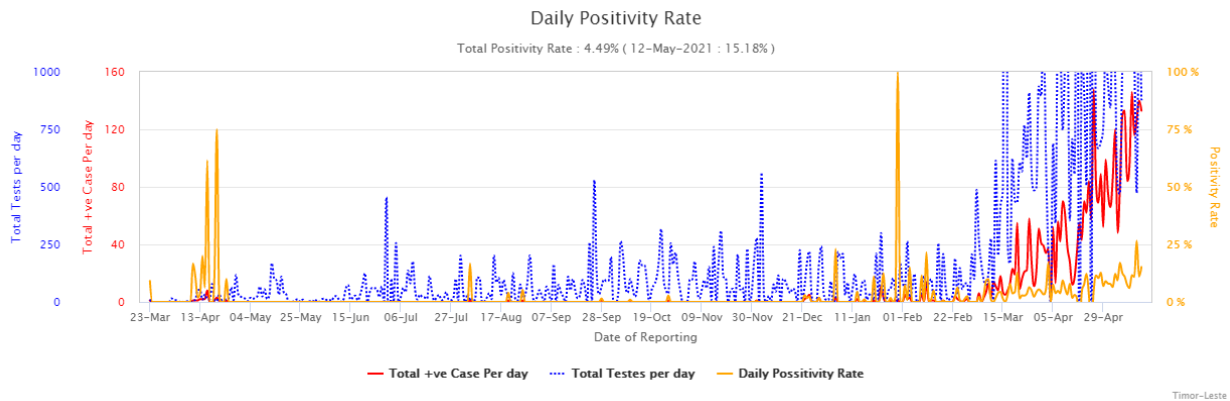


- Laboratory testing performance has been improving constantly. As on 11 May 2021, a total of 80,803 PCR tests were conducted by the National Health Laboratory and referral hospital laboratories since the beginning of the response. Every day, during the working days, an averaged 1200 tests are being conducted. Recently, the results for PCR tests could be returned within 24 hours.



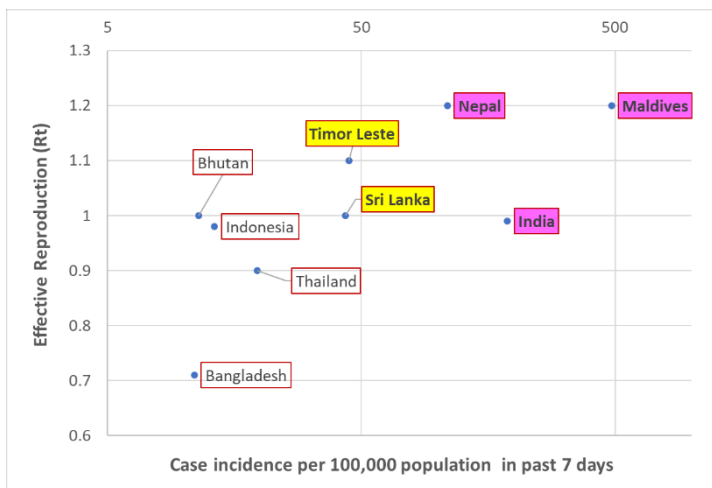
Source : National Directorate of Disease Control - Department of Epidemic Surveillance

- Along with the increasing number of tests every day, the number of positive cases has been increasing as well, and so are the daily test positivity rate. The current daily test positivity rate is averaged around 9%, with an upward trend. This shows that the epidemic is still expanding in the country.



- The case incidence is around 48 / 100,000 population in the past 7 days, which is higher than countries like Indonesia and Thailand. The reproduction number is 1.1, which means the transmission is still spreading in the populations. Compared to other countries like Indonesia and Thailand in the region, this is relatively a higher level of transmission.

Case Incidence and Reproduction Number



(Source: WHO SEARO update, 11 May 2021)

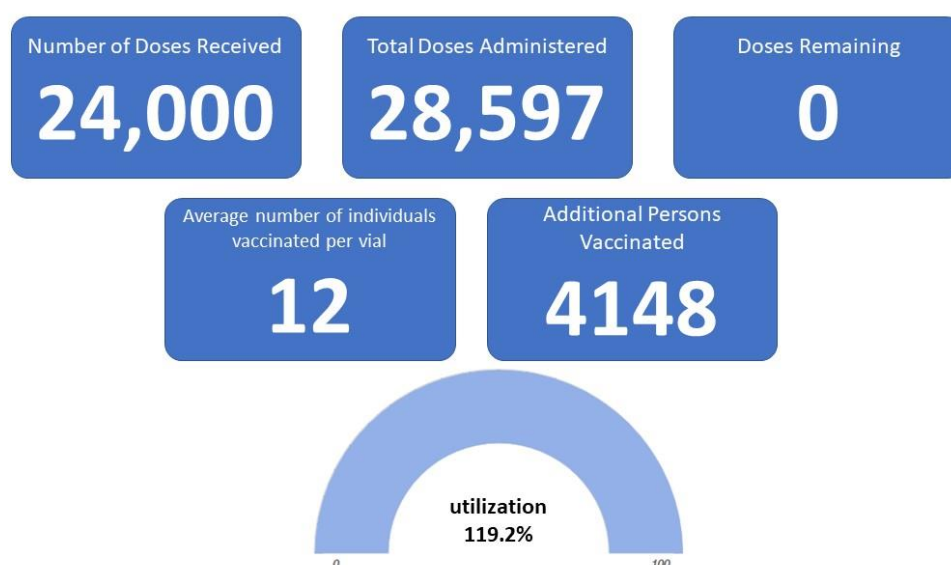
PROGRESS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

For the Phase 1 COVID-19 vaccination campaign, a target of 119% has been achieved of the 24,000 doses of COVAX allocations, with which 28,597 people were vaccinated with the first dose. This was possible by utilising the extra doses per vial.

The Phase 2 vaccination campaign started on 10 May 2021, with the doses donated by DFAT, the Australian government.

Progress of the COVID Vaccination Campaign

as of 05/05/2021 9.00am



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.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

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 given 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 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 and hasane@who.int
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