

COVID-19 Weekly Situation Report

# of Reporting Countries	New Cases Reported in the Week	New Deaths Reported in the Week	Total Cases Reported	Total Deaths Reported
11 out of 11	247 814	3 636	43 369 716	681 671

as of 12 October 2021

# of Countries introduced COVID-19 vaccine	Total number of doses administered	# of person received at least one dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	At least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine per 100 population (of countries vaccinating)
10 out of 11	1 282 771 403	889 946 194	392 825 209	42.99

as of 13 October 2021

Highlights

- The WHO South-East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 43.37 million cases, after the Americas Region (91.32 million cases) and European Region (71.86 million cases). Globally, a 6.8% decrease in new cases (n=2 890 388) was reported in week 40 as compared to the previous week. During this period, all regions except European region (7.6% increase), reported decline in the number of new cases compared to the previous week.
- During week 40, SEAR reported an 11.1% decrease in new COVID-19 cases (n=247 814) compared to the previous week; all SEAR countries reporting COVID-19 cases have reported a decline in new cases.
- India reported a 13.4% decrease in new cases (n=139 572) in week 40, compared to the previous week. The national test positivity rate (TPR) has declined and is at 1.6%, but higher TPR (>10%) is reported in Kerala and Mizoram. Around 50% of total daily cases in the country are reported from Kerala, where cases are also showing a declining trend.
- Thailand reported a decline in new cases for the seventh consecutive week; in week 40, a 3.1% decline in new cases (n=73 452) was reported as compared to the previous week. The rate of decline in the new cases is slowing down. Higher case incidence continues to be reported in the southern provinces including Pattani, Yala, and Songkla which are bordering Malaysia; higher case incidence is also reported in provinces bordering Myanmar. The top five provinces reporting COVID-19 cases are Bangkok, Yala, Pattani, Samut Prakan, and Songkla. The TPR as of 8 October 2021 is 14.7% at the national level.
- Myanmar reported a 1.2% decrease in new cases (n=10 188) in the week 40 compared to the previous week. The rate of decline in new cases has slowed down in the past week. All states and regions have reported decline in new cases except Shan, Shan East, Shan South, Kayin, and Rakhine. The top 5 states/regions reporting the highest number of new cases in the last week are Shan South, Shan North, Shan East, Mandalay, and Kachin. The TPR is 7.9% at the national level and has marginally declined compared to the previous week.
- Indonesia continues to report a decline in new cases and in week 40 there was a 23.3% decline in new cases (n=8 648) compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence has declined from the previous week and is 4.3 per 100 000 population at the national level. All provinces reported a case incidence of less than 20 per 100 000 population except North Kalimantan (43.0) and Bangka Belitung islands (23.1). The TPR has also declined further and is at 0.7% at the national level.
- Sri Lanka reported a 12.8% decline in new cases (n=5 951) in week 40 compared to the previous week. All provinces are showing a declining trend in new cases except Uva, Sabaragamuwa and North Central Provinces. The TPR has declined from the previous week and is at 12.1% at the national level.
- Nepal reported a 13.7% decline in the number of new cases (n=5 006) in week 40 compared to the previous week. In the last week, 50% of the total new cases were reported in Bagmati province, and Kathmandu alone contributed 30% of the new cases. National TPR is similar to that of the previous week at 8.7%.
- Bangladesh continues to report a declining trend in new cases. In week 40, there was a 33.5% decrease in new cases (n=4 395) compared to the previous week. All divisions in the country reported a decrease in new cases except Rangpur division (bordering India), which reported a 19% increase in new cases (n=153). Dhaka division contributed 69.3% of new cases in the past week. The TPR has further declined to 2.7% at the national level.

- Maldives reported a 25.6% decrease in new cases (n=506) in week 40 compared to the previous week. Outside of the Greater Male region (GMR), in the atolls, there were 643 active cases across 40 inhabited islands. The highest number outside of GMR continues to be from the Southernmost atoll of Addu City, with over 196 active cases reported from 4 districts. The TPR has declined and is 1.9% at the national level.
- Timor-Leste reported a 54.5% decline in new cases (n=91) in week 40 compared to the previous week. In the last week, 60% of new cases were reported from Dili. The TPR has declined and is 4.8% at the national level.
- Bhutan reported five imported new cases in week 40. For eight consecutive weeks, no community cases have been reported in Bhutan.
- More than 1.282 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been given by ten countries in the SEA Region with more than 951 million doses in India alone.

Overview of situation (epidemiological week #40 for the period between 4 - 10 October 2021)

Figure 1: The COVID-19 epidemiological curve for WHO's SEAR. The inserted table shows the reported number of cumulative COVID-19 cases, deaths, and the case fatality rate (CFR) in the 11 countries in SEAR from 1 January 2020 to 10 October 2021.

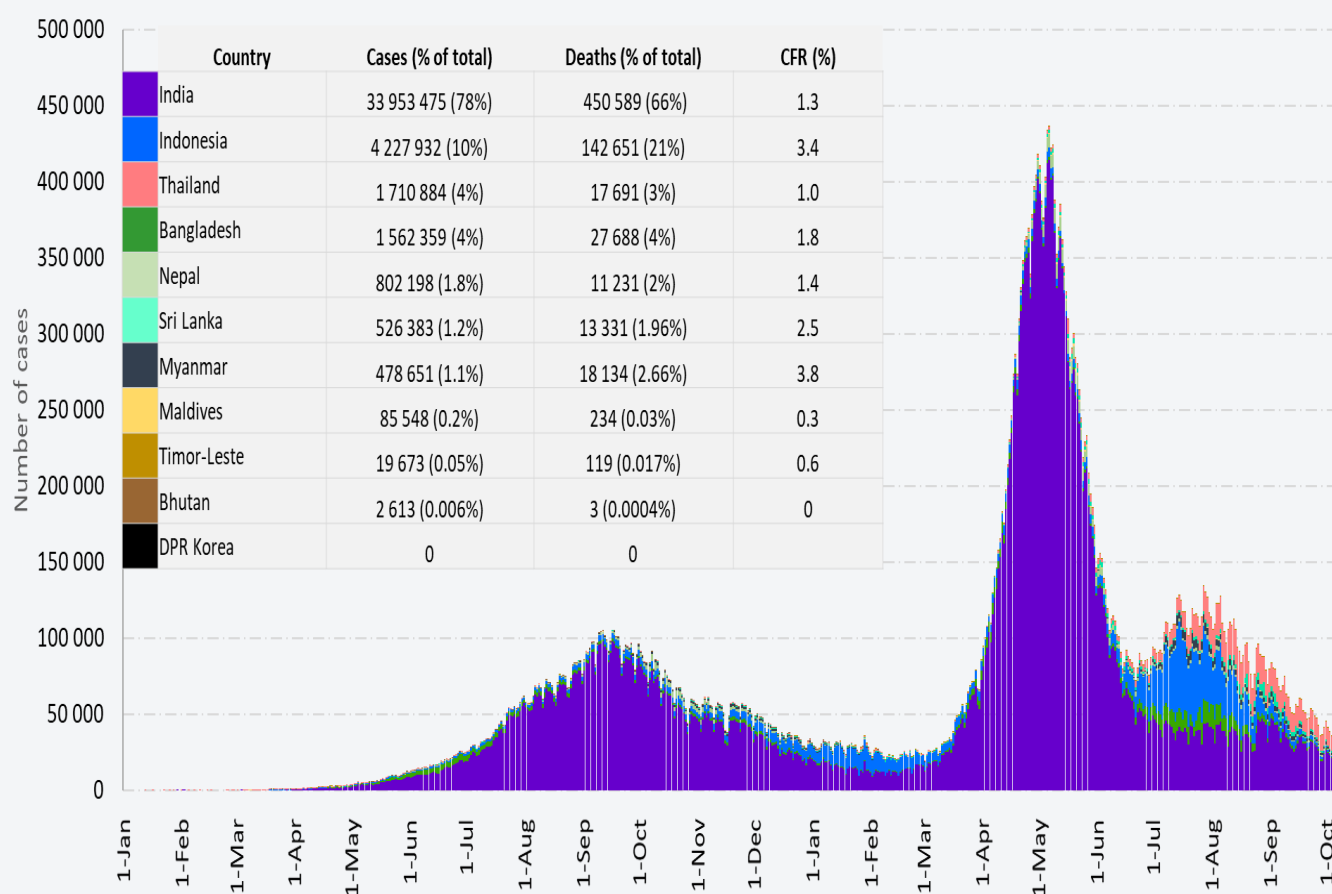











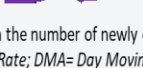


Table 1: Regional COVID-19 situation, as of 10 October 2021

Country		Total cases	Total cases per 1 million pop	Total deaths	CFR	New cases (last 7 days)	% change in new cases* (last 7 days)	TPR (last 7 DMA)	Average test per 1000 population per week
India		33 953 475	24 604	450 589	1.3	139 572	-13.4	1.6	6.5
Indonesia		4 227 932	15 457	142 651	3.4	8 648	-23.3	0.7	4.4
Thailand		1 710 884	24 511	17 691	1.0	73 452	-3.1	14.7	4.5
Bangladesh		1 562 359	9 487	27 688	1.8	4 395	-33.5	2.7	1.0
Nepal		802 198	27 532	11 231	1.4	5 006	-13.7	8.7	2.1
Sri Lanka		526 383	24 582	13 331	2.5	5 951	-12.8	12.1	2.0
Myanmar		478 651	8 797	18 134	3.8	10 188	-1.2	7.9	2.3
Maldives		85 548	158 263	234	0.3	506	-25.6	1.9	47.0
Timor-Leste		19 673	14 921	119	0.6	91	-54.5	4.8	1.5
Bhutan		2 613	3 386	3	0.1	5		0.1	15.6
DPR Korea		0							
SEAR total		43 369 716	21 455	681 671	-	247 814	-11.1	-	

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior.

CFR=Case Fatality Rate; DMA= Day Moving Average; TPR=Test Positivity Rate

TPR for Thailand is as of Oct 8, 2021

WHO SEARO, in collaboration with WHO Country offices, continues to monitor the detection and reporting of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) in the region (Table 2).

Table 2: SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOC) in the WHO SEA Region, as of 12 October 2021

Country	Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta
Bangladesh	●	●	-	●
Bhutan	●	●		●
India	●	●	● **	●
Indonesia	●	●	-	●
Maldives	●	-	-	●
Nepal	●	-	-	●
Sri Lanka	●	●	-	●
Thailand	●	●	● **	●
Timor-Leste	● **	-	-	●
Myanmar	●	-	-	●

** detection of VOCs only in incoming travelers under quarantine

Summary of published Seroprevalence Studies in SEAR:

The compiled SARS CoV-2 related seroprevalence data in SEAR can be accessed at “[published seroprevalence studies](#)”. Please note that this is an ongoing work, and the list is non exhaustive.

Key operational updates

Health Operations and Technical Expertise:

- WHE /SEARO has contributed technically to the ongoing 2nd WHO Global Consultation on the Integrated Sentinel Surveillance of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 and the Development of GISRS Plus. WHE/SEARO facilitated contributions from India, Nepal, Timor Leste and DPR Korea of best practices related to integrated surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza through the national sentinel surveillance systems.

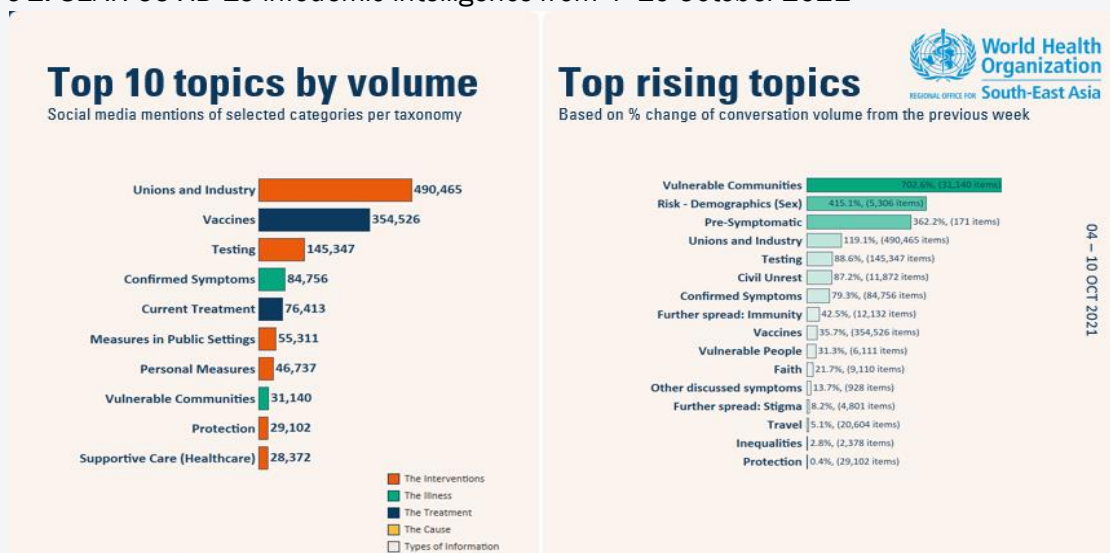
Laboratory:

- Engagement with the regional centre for excellence in genomic sequencing (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, India) has been initiated to support volume testing and capacity building for strengthening genomic sequencing in the Region.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE):

- The SEARO COVID-19 Infodemic report reveals that as the number of cases are declining, there is also a decline in the number of digital conversations around COVID-19. In week 40, unions and industries were the main topic of conversation, with most conversations around the need to be vaccinated before returning to the workplace.
- Rumours and misinformation are also showing a decline.

Figure 2: SEAR COVID-19 infodemic intelligence from 4 -10 October 2021



Operations Support and Logistics:

- Member States have been informed on available ready stock in COVID-19 Supply Portal.
- Supporting the procurement and shipment of laboratory test kits and consumables to Bangladesh.

Key country updates

Bangladesh:

- Bangladesh is prioritizing COVID-19 vaccination of entire population before implementing any plan for vaccination with booster dose. The target is to vaccinate 50% of the entire population by the end of the year.
- Vaccination of adolescents (12-17 years of age) with the Pfizer vaccine was piloted in Manikganj district of Dhaka division. The plan is to expand adolescent vaccination nationwide very soon.

Bhutan:

- Bhutan government has announced re-opening of entertainment centres from 10 October 2021 in the low-risk areas. This will include cinema halls, karaoke, discotheques, pubs, snookers, live music and night clubs that are allowed to operate at 50% capacity until 10:00 pm.
- Enhanced surveillance and monitoring will be done by the Royal Bhutan Police, entertainment committee and other relevant agencies.

DPR Korea:

- No case of COVID-19 has been reported as of 11 October 2021.
- Cumulatively 42 095 persons were tested with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days (total samples: 83 916) and all were found negative for COVID-19. These include 702 persons who were tested during the period of 1- 11 October 2021, of which 117 were people with influenza-like illness or severe acute respiratory infections and rest 585 were health care workers.

India:

- On 7 October 2021, 35 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plants funded under the Prime Minister CARES were commissioned in addition to the 1100 existing plants across 35 States and Union Territories.
- Government of India has permitted export of 4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik Light manufactured in India to Russia.
- After a halt of almost six months, India has resumed export of vaccines to neighbouring countries in South-East Asia including Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal.

Indonesia:

- The Ministry of Health received additional 2 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on 10 October 2021. These vaccines will be distributed to 12 provinces: Aceh, North Sumatra, Riau, Tiau Islands, Jambi, Bengkulu, West Java, East Java, South Kalimantan, Gorontalo, West Nusa Tenggara and East Nusa Tenggara to accelerate vaccination coverage.
- As of 10 October 2021, all provinces have achieved the recommended benchmark of tests per 1000 population per week. All provinces showed a weekly test positivity rate below 5% during the current reporting period.

Maldives:

- Health Protection Agency (HPA) revised travel guidelines thus allowing individuals who are ineligible for the COVID-19 vaccine to travel without quarantine to certain islands.
- From 15 October 2021, Maldives nationals will be exempt from visa requirements for tourism, medical and business purposes in India.
- From 11 October 2021, Maldives nationals vaccinated with two doses of COVID-19 vaccines (COVISHIELD, Sinopharm and Pfizer) administered in country will be allowed to travel to United Kingdom without quarantine.

Myanmar:

- Government of Myanmar has planned the launch of COVID-19 vaccination programme using Sinovac vaccines for school children over 12 years of age.
- Myanmar received one million doses of COVISHIELD vaccines on 9 October 2021; donated by India.
- Effective period for temporary measures to prevent importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through international air travel was extended till 31 October 2021.

Nepal:

- A four-days Paediatric Essential Critical Care Training of 16 doctors and nurses was completed on 6 October 2021 organized by the Nobel Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Morang district in coordination with the Nepal Paediatric Society.

Sri Lanka:

- School reopening is planned in four phases in all provinces, the initial phase for schools with under 200 students will commence on 21 October 2021 while adhering to the public health and social measures.
- Post Introduction Evaluation (PIE) of COVID-19 vaccination has been initiated by the Epidemiology Unit and planned to cover 12 districts and 4 national level centres (National Medicines regulatory Authority, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Medical Supplies Division and Epidemiology Unit). At sub-national levels, vaccination sessions at MOH clinics, hospitals and tri-forces vaccination centres will be observed.

Thailand:

- Thailand started rolling out of COVID-19 vaccines in high schools on 4 October 2021.
- With over 27.7% of the total population now fully vaccinated with two doses, the government aims to reopen the country by applying a policy of “living with COVID-19”. All businesses including medical-related businesses are preparing for the planned opening up.

Timor-Leste

- The National Directorate for Pharmacy and Medicines through its Department of Pharmacovigilance and Medicine Control conducted a one-day dissemination workshop for health professionals (pharmacy technicians, doctors and nurses) of Community Health Centres and Health Posts on 6 October 2021 in Liquica and Dili. The workshop disseminated information on the importance of detecting substandard and falsified medicines and reporting to the national Medicines Regulatory Authority

Key challenges in the Region

- Compliance to public health and social measures (PHSM) throughout the Region, as pandemic fatigue continues and there are upcoming mass gathering events like festivals, and wedding season.
- Vaccination coverage in the hard-to-reach vulnerable populations is still a challenge.
- Limited availability of data from the Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2 poses a challenge towards the accurate understanding of the epidemiology of the disease in a number of countries.

COVID-19 vaccination among 12 to 17 years aged children in Maldives

Maldives started COVID-19 vaccination on 1 February 2021, initially vaccinating healthcare and frontline workers and expanding gradually to all adults over 18 years as per the National Deployment and vaccination plan.

On receipt of 128,700 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on 11 August 2021 from the US government, Maldives Food and Drug Administration and the Maldives Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (MTAGI) recommended to expand the COVID-19 vaccination to include age group of 12 to 17 years. Planning for the expansion needed coordination with Ministry of Education (MoE), strong communication with parents and school authorities, and **cold chain readiness for considering the required storage temperature of -60 degree to -90 degree Celsius. The country decided that vaccine will be thawed to +2 degree to +8 degree Celsius at central level and then transported to atolls and islands where it could be stored for up to 31 days at this temperature after thawing. This helped vaccine distribution to more than 180 inhabited islands.**

Advocacy meetings were held between Ministry of Health (MoH) and MOE and it was decided to have immunization sessions at dedicated COVID-19 vaccination centres, schools, or health centers as feasible. Meetings were held at Atoll and island levels for local coordination among departments and stakeholders. These meetings, chaired by elected representatives, helped in streamlining micro-plans, better community participation and instilling vaccine confidence among parents.

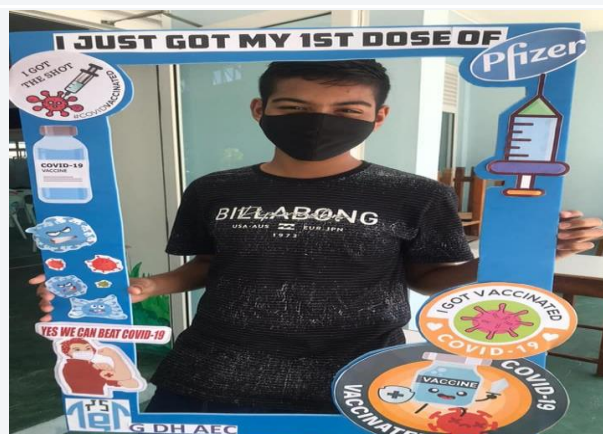
The Health Protection Agency of MoH held various trainings and re-orientations for Pfizer vaccination, covering all aspects of COVID-19 vaccination including, safe injection practices, COVID-19 appropriate behaviors during vaccination sessions, vaccine handling, vaccination of children in schools, obtaining consent from parents, entry in vaccination portal (DHIFAAU: <https://my.health.mv/>), vaccination cards and daily reporting. All islands prepared micro-plans with line-list of target children, dates of vaccination and vaccine logistics. The vaccination portal and reporting forms were updated to include 12-17 years age group and daily coverage was tracked at all levels.

The MoE coordinated online orientation for teachers and parents regarding the vaccination. 'Haalubelun', a weekly live panel discussion and talk show on COVID-19 was telecasted on television, Facebook, Twitter and focused on Pfizer vaccination awareness. Targeted messages and short videos of children getting vaccinated were also circulated through Viber and other social media platforms.

The school vaccination campaign was initiated on 15 August 2021. His Excellency, President of Republic of Maldives and Health Minister visited COVID-19 vaccination sessions during the inaugural day and made an appeal to all parents to get their children vaccinated. Supportive supervision and monitoring of vaccination sessions was done by National EPI team, WHO, UNICEF and MTAGI members. A Central tele-helpline for Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) support was established with live helpline for doctors and health staff to get support on AEFI management from Pediatricians and MTAGI members.



Vaccination orientation session for parents at Afeefuddin School

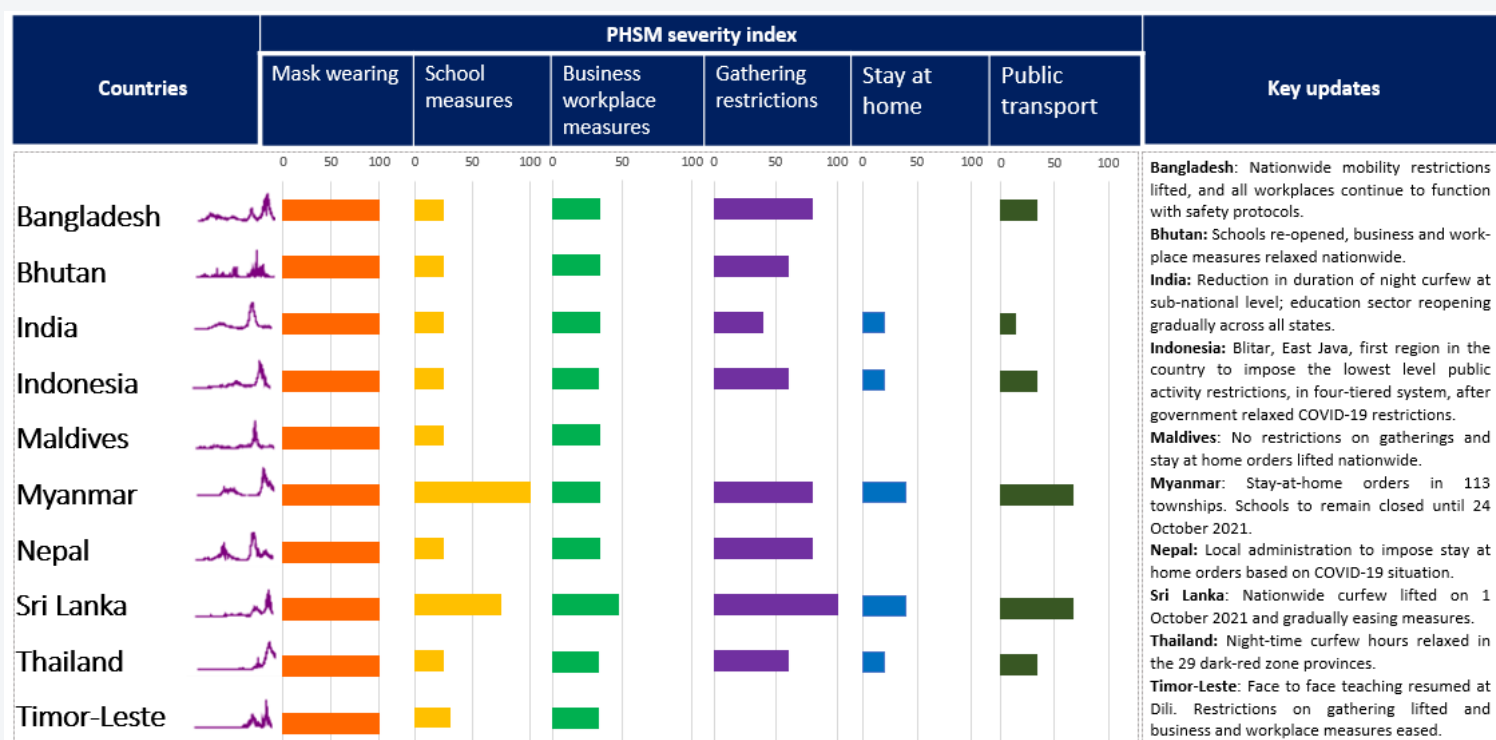


12-17 years aged students getting vaccinated

Photo credit: MOH, Maldives

As of 4 October 2021, Maldives has vaccinated 35,880 (94%) children with first dose and 32,047 (84%) children with both the doses of COVID-19 vaccine among total eligible 12 to 17-year population of 38,163.

Table 3: Summary of Severity of Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) Implemented by Countries in SEAR (as of 12 October 2021)



Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea- No specific updates available for 06-12 October 2021

For more information on PHSM implementation in South-East Asia region, including the methods of calculating severity of PHSM, please visit SEARO COVID-19 dashboard at [LINK to SEARO PHSM Dashboard](#) (please select PHSM tab).

- WHO/SEARO continues to provide support for COVID-19 vaccine delivery, strengthening vaccine safety surveillance and reporting, conducting vaccine effectiveness studies and planning for COVID-19 vaccine post-introduction evaluations (cPIE)
- Real time information on COVID-19 vaccination in SEA Region is available at <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/immunization/covid-19-vaccination>. The table below is a summary of COVID-19 vaccination status and vaccine utilization rates in the countries of the Region, as of 13 October 2021:

Country	Vaccine name	Start date	Total doses administered	Persons vaccinated with one dose	Persons fully vaccinated	At least one dose per 100 total population	Fully vaccinated per 100 total population	Utilization rate	Last update
Bangladesh	AstraZeneca	27 Jan 21	13 240 407	7 814 457	5 425 950	20.73	10.30	92%	11-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	25 May 21	36 489 841	26 166 449	10 323 392			90%	
	Pfizer	21 Jun 21	302 822	248 945	53 877			8%	
	Moderna	13 Jul 21	5 179 999	2 689 496	2 490 503			94%	
Bhutan	AstraZeneca	27 Mar 21	1 087 753	585 479	502 274	77.43	65.43	64%	10-Oct-21
	Pfizer	22-Jul-21							
	Moderna	20 Jul 21							
	Sinopharm	20-Jul-21							
India	AstraZeneca*	16 Jan 21	951 984 373	683 009 792	268 974 581	48.07	18.93	100%	11-Oct-21
	Covaxin*	16 Jan 21							
	Sputnik V	14 May 21							
Indonesia	AstraZeneca	13 Jan 21	19 042 277	12 934 514	6 107 763	37.35	21.57	83%	10-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	23 Mar 21	2 459 815	1 377 950	1 081 865			30%	
	Sinovac	18 May 21	128 549 354	80 802 036	47 747 318			80%	
	Moderna	25 Jul 21	3 854 735	2 536 573	1 318 162			48%	
	Pfizer	23 Aug 21	3 688 033	2 477 611	1 210 422			40%	
Maldives	AstraZeneca	01 Feb 21	476 272	256 213	220 059	71.99	63.61	98%	10-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	22 Mar 21	188 207	97 209	90 998			82%	
	Pfizer	13 Apr 21	75 447	39 719	35 728			56%	
Myanmar	AstraZeneca	27Jan21	3 337 710	1 810 426	1 527 284	15.25	7.48	95%	09-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	June 21	10 675 820	8 090 397	2 585 423			74%	
Nepal	AstraZeneca	27 Jan21	4 377 046	2 824 687	1 552 359	26.63	21.33	99%	10-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	07 Apr 21	8 865 545	5 493 245	3 372 300			75%	
	Janssen	19 July 21	1 538 117	1 538 117	1 538 117			100%	
Sri Lanka	AstraZeneca	29 Jan 21	2 802 719	1 479 565	1 323 154	66.85	56.97	103%	12-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	05 Apr 21	21 702 034	11 813 318	9 888 716			7983	
	Sputnik V	06 May 21	314 688	159 096	155 592			95%	
	Pfizer	7 Jul 21	900 885	476 470	424 415			53%	
	Moderna	18 Jul 21	1 564 995	803 053	761 942			104%	
Thailand	AstraZeneca	16 Mar 21	26 210 230	10 471 685	15 738 545	53.58	35.95	136%	11-Oct-21
	Sinovac	28 Feb 21	21 177 859	17 663 254	3 514 605			114%	
	Sinopharm	25 Jun 21	10 023 635	6 019 401	4 004 234			67%	
	Pfizer	6 Aug 21	1 846 943	1 307 830	539 113			123%	
Timor-Leste	AstraZeneca	07 Apr21	723 432	450 152	273 280	37.63	23.91	71%	12-Oct-21
	Sinovac	8 Jun 21	90 410	47 172	43 238			90%	
TOTAL			1 282 771 403	889 946 194	392 825 209	42.99	19.04	95%	

Source: Bangladesh: MIS unit, DGHS; Bhutan: MoH; India: <https://pib.gov.in/PressRelease>; Indonesia: <https://www.kemkes.go.id/>; Maldives: HPA COVID19 update group; Myanmar: MoHS; Nepal: FWD. MoHP Nepal; Sri Lanka: Epidemiology unit, MoH; Thailand: DDC, MOPH; Timor-Leste: MoH.
 *doses received is considered equivalent to total doses administered; ** AZ/Moderna given as second dose.

Key persistent challenges	Emerging/new challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient supply of COVID-19 vaccines to meet the needs of some countries Monitoring multiple vaccine types and delivery to different target groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deciding on necessity and indication for booster /additional doses Defining optimum and realistic COVID-19 vaccination policies to accompany schools reopening in many countries



WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi
 Dr Jos Vandelaer, Regional Emergency Director; Email: IM_SEAR_2019nCoV@who.int
 Website: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/outbreaks-and-emergencies/covid-19>
 WHO SEARO Situation Reports: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/outbreaks-and-emergencies/novel-coronavirus-2019/sear-weekly-situation-reports>