



## COVID-19 Weekly Situation Report

| # of Countries Reporting Cases | New Cases Reported in the Week | New Deaths Reported in the Week | Total Cases Reported | Total Deaths Reported |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 10 out of 11                   | 216 752                        | 1 522                           | 57 279 840           | 780 082               |

as of 6 April 2022

| # of Countries introduced COVID-19 vaccines | Total number of doses administered | # of persons received at least one dose | # of persons fully vaccinated | Fully vaccinated persons per 100 population |
|---|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 10 out of 11                                | 2 751 317 260                      | 1 439 010 297                           | 1 218 038 701                 | 59.2  |

as of 6 April 2022

### Highlights

- The WHO South-East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 57.2 million cases reported cumulatively, after the European Region (205.3 million cases) and the Americas Region (151.0 million cases).
- Compared to the preceding seven days, the global number of new cases (n=8 317 715) reported during the seven-day period 30 March – 5 April 2022 was 22.3% lower. All the WHO regions reported a decline in new cases. Globally, the number of new deaths decreased during this period by 32.4% (n=23 048) compared to the preceding seven days.
- In the South-East Asia Region, during the reporting period (refer to Table 1), there was a 3% decrease in new cases (n=216 752) compared to the previous seven days. All countries in the Region except Thailand and Bhutan reported a decline in new cases. During the same period, there was a 74% (n=1 522) decline in new deaths in the Region. Most countries reported a decline, except Thailand and Bhutan that reported a 19% (n=652) and 100% (n=2) increase relative to the preceding seven days, respectively.
- As of 6 April 2022, more than 1.21 billion people (59.2% of SEAR's population) have been fully vaccinated.

- Thailand reported a 2.4% increase in new cases compared to the preceding seven days. The total number of new cases reported was 181 040. The weekly case incidence increased from what was reported in the preceding seven days and is at 259.5 cases per 100 000 population at the national level. Provinces reporting higher case incidence are Ang Thong (849), Nong Khai (632), Phatthalung (595), Chachoengsao (594) and Ratchaburi (593). The numbers of severe cases, ventilated cases and deaths continued to steadily increase but are still at <33% in comparison to the peak numbers reported during the Delta wave in August 2021. Test positivity rate (TPR) has decreased relative to the past reporting periods but still remains high at 30.2% at the national level.
- Indonesia reported a 41% decline in new cases compared to the preceding seven days. The total number of new cases reported was 16 838; all the provinces reported a decline in new cases compared to the preceding seven days. The weekly COVID-19 case incidence decreased from the preceding seven days and is at 6.2 cases per 100 000 population at the national level. Provinces reporting high weekly case incidence than the national case incidence are Jakarta (29), Yogyakarta (10), Banten (8), Bangka Belitung (7) and Kepulauan Riau (7). Test positivity rate (TPR) declined and is at 3.8 % at the national level.
- India reported a 26% decline in new cases compared to the preceding seven days. The total number of cases reported was 7 710. The weekly case incidence declined to 0.6 cases per 100 000 population. The TPR also declined further and is 0.2% at the national level.
- Bhutan reported a 123% increase in new cases compared to the preceding seven days. The total number of cases reported was 8 474. The weekly case incidence increased from the figure reported in the preceding seven days and is at 1 098.2 cases per 100 000 population. Dzongkhags (Districts) reporting higher case incidence than the national case incidence include Sarpang (2 452), Thimphu (2 047), Zhemgang (1 461), Paro (1 454), Mongar(1 357) and Trongsa (1 136). The TPR declined and is at 24.7% at the national level.
- Sri Lanka reported an 32% decrease in the number of new cases compared to the preceding seven days. A total of 889 new cases were reported. All provinces are reporting a decline in new cases. The weekly case incidence decreased from the figure reported in the preceding seven days and is at 4.2 cases per 100 000 population. The TPR remains stable from the figure reported in the preceding seven days and is 8.6% at the national level.
- Myanmar reported a 59% decline in new cases compared to the preceding seven days. The total number of new cases reported was 631. All the states and regions reported a decline in new cases except Chin state which reported a similar number compared to the preceding seven days. The weekly case incidence declined and is at 1.2 cases per 100 000 population at the national level. The TPR also declined and is at 1.1% at the national level.
- Bangladesh reported a 31% decline in new cases compared to the preceding seven days. The total number of new cases reported was 363. All the divisions are reporting a decline in new cases. The weekly case incidence decreased from that of the preceding seven days and is at 0.2 cases per 100 000 population. TPR declined and is at 0.9% at the national level.
- Nepal reported a similar number of new cases (1% decline) compared to the preceding seven days. The total number of new cases reported was 136. All the provinces reported a decline. The weekly case incidence decreased from the figure reported in the preceding seven days and is at 0.5 cases per 100 000 population at the national level. TPR declined and is at 0.5% at the national level.
- Timor-Leste reported a 65% decline in new cases compared to the preceding week. A total of 6 new cases were reported. The weekly cases incidence decreased from what was reported in the preceding seven days and is at 0.5 cases per 100 000 population at the national level. TPR declined and is at 1.0% at the national level.
- Maldives is now reporting data on weekly basis since 13 March 2022. The total number of new cases reported during the period 27 March to 2 April 2022 was 665; a 43% decline compared to the preceding seven days (20 to 26 March 2022). For the same period, the weekly case incidence decreased from the figure reported in the preceding seven days and is at 123 cases per 100 000 population at the national level.

Table 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths, and test positivity rate in countries in WHO South-East Asia Region in the seven-day period from 31 March – 6 April 2022.

| Country           | Case trend | New cases      | New cases per 100 000 pop | % change in new cases* | Death trend | New deaths   | New deaths per 100 000 pop | % change in new deaths* | TPR % (7 DMA) | % Change in TPR* |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bangladesh        |            | 363            | 0.2                       | -31                    |             | 1            | 0.0                        | -75                     | 0.9           | -16.6            |
| Bhutan            |            | 8 474          | 1098.2                    | 123                    |             | 2            | 0.3                        | 100                     | 24.7          | -51.8            |
| India             |            | 7 710          | 0.6                       | -26                    |             | 386          | 0.0                        | -91                     | 0.2           | -17.6            |
| Indonesia         |            | 16 838         | 6.2                       | -41                    |             | 464          | 0.2                        | -40                     | 3.8           | -32.1            |
| Maldives          |            | 665            | 123.0                     | -43                    |             |              | 0.0                        | -100                    | NA            | NA               |
| Myanmar           |            | 631            | 1.2                       | -59                    |             | 19           | 0.0                        | 100                     | 1.1           | -48.7            |
| Nepal             |            | 136            | 0.5                       | -1                     |             |              | 0.0                        | -                       | 0.5           | -34.1            |
| Sri Lanka         |            | 889            | 4.2                       | -32                    |             | 13           | 0.1                        | -54                     | 8.6           | 0.0              |
| Thailand          |            | 181 040        | 259.4                     | 2.4                    |             | 652          | 0.9                        | 19                      | 30.2          | 9.6              |
| Timor-Leste       |            | 6              | 0.5                       | -65                    |             | 0            | 0.0                        | -                       | 1.0           | -32.2            |
| <b>SEAR total</b> |            | <b>216 752</b> | <b>10.7</b>               | <b>-3</b>              |             | <b>1 522</b> | <b>0.1</b>                 | <b>-74</b>              | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>         |

\*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to the previous seven days. DMA = day moving average. TPR = test positivity rate. No case reported from DPR Korea (4 023 samples were tested between 25 – 31 March 2022). NA = Not available. Data for Maldives is for period 27 March – 2 April 2022 compared to the previous week 20 – 26 March 2022. The number of tests used as the denominator for the TPR was the number of people tested for Indonesia and the number of samples tested for other countries. Latest testing data for Bhutan as of 3 April 2022 (also includes Ag-RDT); Thailand testing data as of 3 April 2022. Due to variation in testing strategy and the way to count testing number, TPR at the SEAR level was not calculated.

Figure 1: The epidemiological trend of daily COVID-19 cases and deaths in the countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region from 1 January 2020 to 6 April 2022.

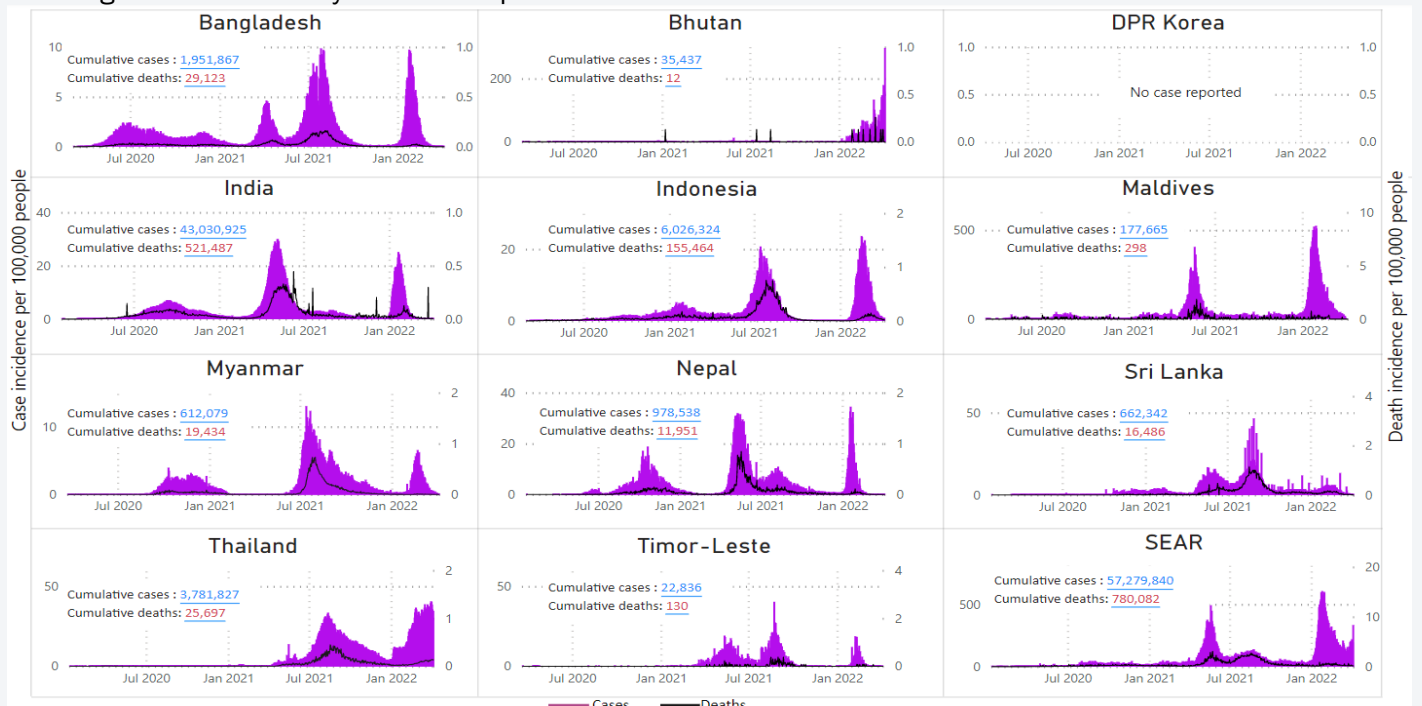


Figure 2: Seven-day moving average of new COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population for the countries in WHO South-East Asia Region in the recent three weeks (17 March – 6 April 2022).



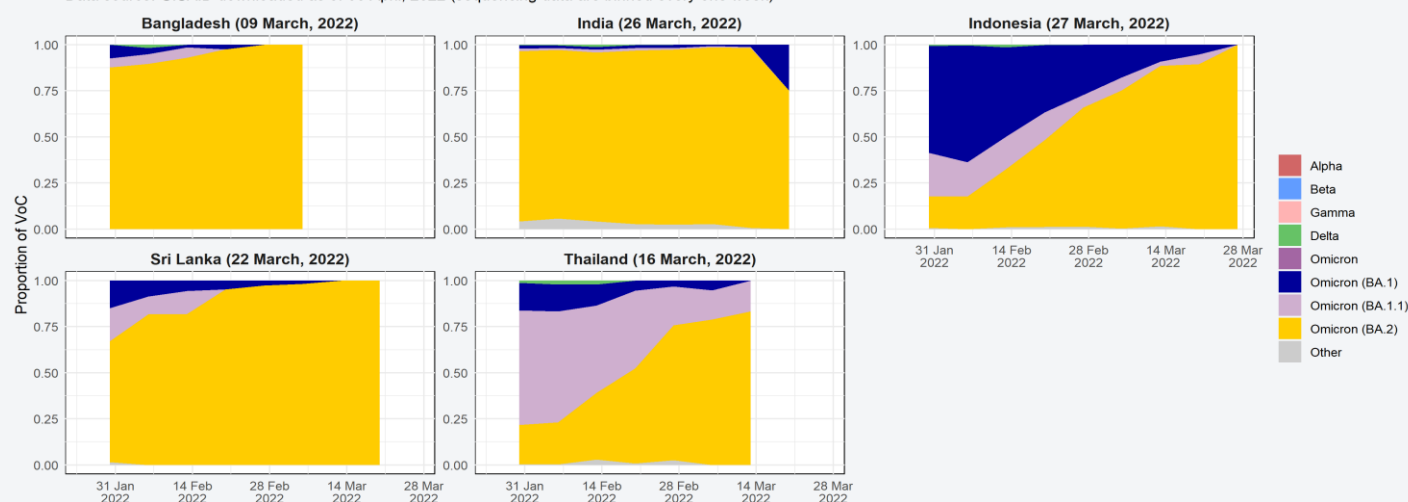
### Updates on the Omicron variant situation

- Globally, of the 417 147 sequences uploaded to GISAID with specimen collection date in the 30-days between 2 to 31 March 2022, 416 175 (99.8%) were of the variant of concern (VoC) "Omicron". In this period, BA.2 was the predominant sub lineage of the VoC -Omicron reported (93.6 % of sequences), followed by sub lineages BA.1.1 (4.8% of the sequences) and BA.1 and BA.3 (<0.1% of sequences).
- As of 6 April 2022, ten countries in SEA Region have detected cases due to the VoC "Omicron". According to the data uploaded to GISAID, BA.2 lineage of the VoC-Omicron is predominant in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, while sub lineages BA.1.1 continues to co-circulate in Thailand.
- More details on the Omicron variant of concern including the summary of available evidence on the epidemiology, immune response, impact on diagnostics and treatment, and vaccine effectiveness can be found at [WHO's weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19](#) published on 5 April 2022.

Figure 3: Relative prevalence of SARS CoV-2 variants of concern including Omicron lineages in WHO South East Asia Region as of 6 April 2022 (based on GISAID data\*)

Prevalence of VOCs by country (date of last submission of sequencing data per country)

Data source: GISAID downloaded as of 06 April, 2022 (sequencing data are binned every one week)



\* Dates in bracket indicate last date of submission of sequencing data to GISAID

Data source: GISAID data accessed on 6 April 2022

Countries consistently submitted data to GISAID up from epi week 9 (the week beginning 23 February) are shown in this figure.

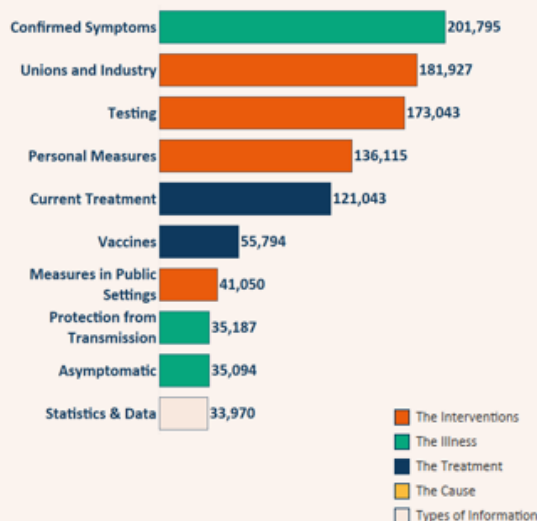
## Key operational updates

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The SEARO COVID-19 Infodemic intelligence report (28 March – 4 April 2022) found out that main discussion over internet based social-media in Thailand and Timor-Leste revolved around differentiating symptoms between Dengue and COVID-19; in Bangladesh, on use of masks to appear in examinations in medical education; and in Indonesia, on COVID-19 vaccines causing unrelated diseases.
- One of the rumours captured on Twitter (74 engagements) was of a post alleging that COVID-19 vaccines are part of a “depopulation plan”.

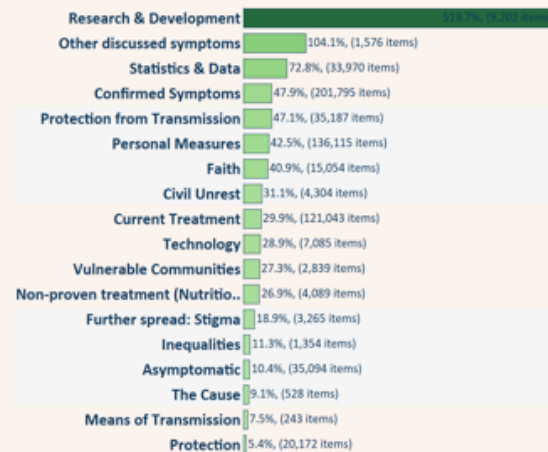
### Top 10 topics by volume

Social media mentions of selected categories per taxonomy



### Top rising topics

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week



28 Mar - 03 Apr 2022

## Key country updates

### Bangladesh:

- The Government of Bangladesh conducted a mega campaign for the second round of COVID-19 vaccination from 28 March to 30 March 2022. A total of 17 380 141 people received second dose, 1 041 834 received first dose and 2 191 472 people received booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine. First round was conducted from 28 February to 1 March 2022.

### Bhutan:

- Bhutan received 90 000 doses of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine through the WHO COVAX Facility on 5 April 2022.

### DPR Korea:

- No case of COVID-19 has been reported as of 31 March 2022.
- Cumulatively 64 207 persons were tested with reverse transcription- polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days (total samples: 182 968) and all were found negative for COVID-19. During the reported period from (24- 31 March 2022), 1 405 persons were tested. Among these, 122 were people with influenza-like illness or severe acute respiratory infections, 570 were health care workers and the rest were persons dealing with imported cargo in border areas including other supporting staff.

#### India:

- The Government of India has allowed resuming of operations of regular international flights after two years of cessation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The COVID-19 Working Group under the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization has recommended the use of the COVOVAX from the Serum Institute of India in the national vaccination programme for those aged 12 years and above.
- The Government of India has announced that the third dose of COVID-19 vaccine will be available to all eligible adults (9 months after the second dose) from 10 April 2022 onwards at private vaccination centres.

#### Indonesia:

- An additional 3.5 million doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine donated by the U.S. arrived in Jakarta on 3 April 2022.

#### Maldives:

- Maldives and India signed an agreement on 2 April 2022 for the mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificate.
- WHO provided a genomic sequencing machine to establish sequencing capacity at the National Health Laboratory, Maldives Food and Drug Authority in Male'.

#### Myanmar:

- Myanmar has started production of Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine (5 doses vial) in collaboration with the China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (Sinopharm), a Chinese state-owned enterprise.
- The country received a batch of 3 million COVID-19 vaccine syringes on 2 April 2022; donated by the People's Republic of China.

#### Nepal:

- Ministry of Health and Population with support from WHO conducted an Interaction programme with parliamentarians on risk communication and community engagement, and COVID-19 vaccination at Janakpur and Biratnagar on 26 March and 28 March 2022 respectively. The rationale behind public health and social measures, post-COVID-19 conditions and role of elected officials in promoting COVID-19 vaccination was explained.
- The provincial health laboratory of the Madhesh Province is the first to start whole-genomic sequencing on 1 April 2022. It will help early detection of infectious virus variants; especially SARS-CoV-2 variants.

#### Sri Lanka:

- As per the statement issued by the Director General of Health, MOH, Sri Lanka, the country has witnessed no deaths due to COVID-19 on a day, 4 April 2022, for the first time since the second wave started in November 2020.

#### Thailand:

- The Centre for Medical Genomics Ramathibodi Hospital, Bangkok confirmed tests of Thailand's first case of the new recombinant variant, a hybrid of the BA.1 and BA.2 variant of SARS-CoV-2.

#### Timor-Leste

- WHO Country Office and Ministry of Health organized a training workshop on 28 March 2022 for over 100 participants from the expanded programme of immunization and, maternal and child health programme to re-emphasize the importance of the national health information system and ensuring continuity of national public health programmes in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## Key challenges in the Region

- In the context of the new variant of concern “Omicron” in SEAR and pandemic fatigue, ensuring compliance with precautionary/preventive measures such as the use of masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and improving ventilation in indoor spaces.
- Improving the sub-optimal COVID-19 vaccination coverage in high-risk priority groups and geographical regions in some countries. This is compounded by the administration of COVID-19 booster/additional doses that shifts the focus from achieving high vaccination coverage in these priority groups.
- Changing testing algorithms with subsequent decline in demand for testing has been a challenge to maintain optimal testing rate.
- Considerable socioeconomic disruptions due to long term travel and movement restrictions in many countries; countries are exploring options to resume international and domestic travel while maintaining safety measures to suppress transmission and avoid excessive pressure on health care systems.

Table 2: Summary of International Travel Measures Implemented by countries in the South-East Asia Region (as of 5 April 2022)

| Country     | Entry and Visa Restrictions   | Quarantine upon Arrival   | COVID-19 Testing Requirement  | Proof of vaccination or Recovery from infection  |
|-------------|---|---|---|--|
| Bangladesh  | No restriction on entry and/or visa   | Quarantine exempted for the fully vaccinated travellers unless symptomatic  | RT-PCR exempted for the fully vaccinated travellers<br>RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure (for the unvaccinated)   | Quarantine exempted with official proof of vaccination   |
| Bhutan      | Some restriction on entry and/or visa   | 5 day facility quarantine   | RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure   | Facility quarantine shortened to 5 days for the fully vaccinated (shortened from 14 days)  |
| India       | No restriction on entry and/or visa   | No quarantine requirement (14 days self monitoring)   | RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure.<br>RT-PCR exempted for fully vaccinated  |  |
| Indonesia   | Some restriction on entry and/or visa.<br>proof of vaccination required for entry | 5 day facility quarantine for the travellers vaccinated with single dose. Quarantine exempted for the fully vaccinated travellers   | RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 48 hours prior to departure.<br>PCR test on arrival on day 4 for the traveller vaccinated with single dose  | Proof of vaccination required for entry<br>Quarantine exempted with proof of full vaccination  |
| Maldives    | No restriction on entry and/or visa   | No quarantine requirement   |   |  |
| Myanmar     | Some restriction on entry and/or visa   | 14 day or 10 day facility quarantine for the unvaccinated and the fully vaccinated travellers respectively.   | RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure.<br>PCR test on day 1, 3 & 9 after arrival  | Quarantine shortened to 10 days with proof of full vaccination   |
| Nepal       | No restriction on entry and/or visa   | No quarantine requirement   | COVID-19 negative test (RT-PCR, True NAAT, Gene Xpert) result within 72 hours prior to departure<br>RT-PCR exempted for fully vaccinated  | Quarantine exempted with proof of full vaccination   |
| Sri Lanka   | No restriction on entry and/or visa   | 7 day facility quarantine for unvaccinated.   | Pre-departure RT-PCR exempted for the fully vaccinated, children <18 years with one dose vaccination and travellers with past history of COVID-19 (within 6 months)<br>RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure for others.<br>PCR test on day 1 and the exit PCR on day 7 for the unvaccinated. | Quarantine exempted with proof of full vaccination or history of past infection within 90 days and receiving at least one dose of vaccine                                  |
| Thailand    | Some restriction on entry and/or visa   | <b>Test &amp; Go</b> (for the fully vaccinated): No quarantine<br><b>Sandbox</b> (for the fully vaccinated): No quarantine (stay at least the first 5 nights within a Sandbox destination)<br><b>Alternative quarantine:</b> 5 days (for both the fully vaccinated and the unvaccinated travellers) |   | Quarantine is exempted with proof of full vaccination<br>(Test & Go and Sandbox)<br>Quarantine shortened to 5 days with proof of full vaccination (alternative quarantine) |
| Timor Leste | No restriction on entry and/or visa   | No quarantine (the fully vaccinated travelers)<br>14 day home/facility quarantine (the unvaccinated/partially vaccinated travellers)  | RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure   | Quarantine exempted with proof of full vaccination   |

\* Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea- No specific updates available for this period



- Ten countries in the Region are administering COVID-19 vaccines.
  - All ten countries have prioritized health workers, frontline workers, elderly populations and all ten are vaccinating individuals 18 years and above.
  - Nine countries have fully vaccinated >40% of the population, and of these three countries have vaccinated >70%
  - Ten countries are vaccinating adolescents 12-17 years old.
  - Two countries are vaccinating children 5-11 years old, and one country is vaccinating children 6-11 years old
  - Ten countries are providing additional/booster doses to the selected population groups and have vaccinated more than 80 million individuals; 1 country is providing the 4<sup>th</sup> dose.
- Real time information on COVID-19 vaccination in SEA Region is available at <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/immunization/covid-19-vaccination>; also seen in the table below.

Table 3. Summary of vaccination status and vaccine utilization in the 11 countries of the Region; as of 6 April 2022

| Country      | Total Population     | Total doses administered | Individuals vaccinated with one dose | Individuals fully vaccinated | Booster / Additional dose | At least one dose administered per 100 population | Fully vaccinated individuals per 100 population | Booster / Additional dose administered per 100 population | Data as of |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|---|------------|
| Bangladesh   | 170 317 066          | 252 731 398              | 128 105 760                          | 114 435 222                  | 10 190 415                | 75.2  | 67.2  | 5.9   | 05-Apr-22  |
| Bhutan       | 756 123              | 1 804 259                | 689 748                              | 582 523                      | 531 988                   | 91.2  | 77.0  | 70.4  | 03-Apr-22  |
| DPR Korea    | 24 701 926           | No information received  |                                      |                              |                           |   |   |   |            |
| India        | 1 420 972 759        | 1 850 212 645            | 990 428 218                          | 836 022 063                  | 23 762 364                | 69.7  | 58.8  | 1.7   | 05-Apr-22  |
| Indonesia    | 272 248 454          | 381 357 749              | 196 913 257                          | 150 182 529                  | 24 261 963                | 72.3  | 58.8  | 8.9   | 05-Apr-22  |
| Maldives     | 546 399              | 935 047                  | 398 516                              | 383 744                      | 154 798                   | 73.0  | 70.3  | 28.4  | 31-Mar-22  |
| Myanmar      | 55 008 057           | 50 072 770               | 27 030 964                           | 21 934 436                   | 1 107 370                 | 49.1  | 39.9  | 2.0   | 02-Apr-22  |
| Nepal        | 30 201 100           | 43 549 489               | 22 053 904                           | 19 195 930                   | 2 299 655                 | 73.0  | 63.6  | 7.6   | 04-Apr-22  |
| Sri Lanka    | 21 919 416           | 39 334 477               | 17 013 894                           | 14 427 857                   | 7 892 726                 | 77.6  | 65.8  | 36.0  | 04-Apr-22  |
| Thailand     | 66 186 727           | 129 944 482              | 55 622 111                           | 50 283 704                   | 24 038 667                | 84.0  | 76.6  | 36.3  | 04-Apr-22  |
| Timor-Leste  | 1 317 780            | 1 374 944                | 753 925                              | 590 693                      | 30 326                    | 57.2  | 44.8  | 2.3   | 05-Apr-22  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2 064 175 807</b> | <b>2 751 317 260</b>     | <b>1 439 101 297</b>                 | <b>1 218 038 701</b>         | <b>94 270 273</b>         | <b>69.7</b>                                       | <b>59.0</b>                                     | <b>4.6</b>  |            |

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.