

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	62 552	555	58 047 045	787 912

as of 18 May 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	2 878 887 821	1 463 947 840	1 273 436 625	61.7

as of 18 May 2022

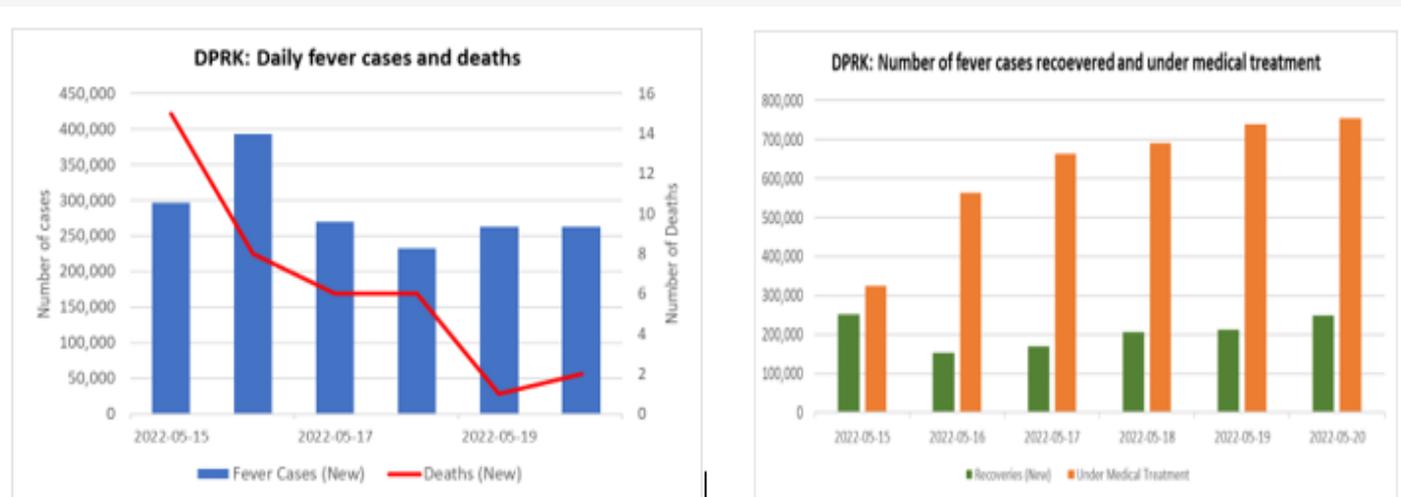
Highlights

- WHO's South-East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 58 million cases reported cumulatively, after the European Region (218.7 million cases) and the Region of Americas (155.1 million cases).
- Globally, 3 745 723 new cases were reported during the seven-day period from 12 to 18 May 2022, which was 3.1% higher than in the previous seven days. The Region of the Americas (+25.9%), Western Pacific (+18.1%), and the Eastern Mediterranean (+17.0%) regions reported an increase in new cases during this period compared to the previous seven days, while the remaining three regions reported a decline. Globally, the number of new deaths during this period was 9 939, a 13.1% reduction compared to the new deaths reported in the previous period of seven days.
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region, during the period from 12 to 18 May 2022, there were 62 552 new cases, a 23.3% decrease compared to the previous period of seven days.
- As of 17 May 2022, more than 1.27 billion (61.7%) persons of the total population in SEAR were fully vaccinated.

Overview of the situation (for the period between 12 – 18 May 2022)

- In the SEAR, only Bangladesh reported an increase in new cases (193 new cases, +33.1%) compared to the previous seven days and all the remaining countries reported a decline. During the same period, 555 new deaths were reported which is a 24% decline compared to the previous seven days. Timor-Leste reported one new death in this period while all other countries reported a decline in new deaths.
- Thailand reported 43 392 new cases, a 20.2% decline compared to the preceding seven days. Bangkok continues to report the highest daily number of cases, but the new cases are declining. For the third consecutive week the new cases, severe cases, ventilated cases, and deaths have all shown a declining trend. COVID-19 cases occupying hospital beds over the past week decreased by 12%.
- DPR Korea confirmed its first COVID-19 outbreak on 12 May 2022. BA.2 sub-lineage of Omicron variant was reportedly detected in Pyongyang. As of 18:00 of 19 May since late April, the total number of persons with fever is over 2 241 610, of which more than 1 486 730 have recovered and at least 754 810 are under medical treatment. The death toll stands at 65. From 13 to 18 May, over 1 628 200 persons with fever and 23 associated deaths were reported to WHO, among whom over 1 075 800 cases have recovered; however, the case definition used to record these cases has not been shared with WHO.

Figure 1. The daily fever cases* and deaths (left) and the number of recovered cases and those under treatment (right) reported by the Korean Central News Agency



*Case definition of reported fever cases and deaths is not yet known

Table 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths and test positivity rate and their weekly change in countries in WHO South-East Asia Region in the seven-day period from 12 – 18 May 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
Thailand		43,392	-20.2	621.6	343	-12.5	177.3	14.1	-6.4
India		16,613	-26.1	16.2	136	-42.6	6.2	0.6	-21.8
Indonesia		1,991	-2.9	8.3	74	-28.2	23.5	0.4	-54.3
Bangladesh		193	33.1	0.7	0	0.0	0.0	0.5	29.6
Sri Lanka		106	-26.9	10.0	1	-66.7	4.5	2.1	-0.8
Myanmar		94	-23.6	2.9	0	0.0	0.0	0.2	-41.0
Nepal		50	-46.8	3.3	0	0.0	0.0	0.4	-35.2
Bhutan		34	-81.3	44.1	0	0.0	16.9	0.8	-75.6
Maldives		77	-75.3	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	2.8	-74.5
Timor-Leste		2	-77.8	10.6	1	100.0	0.0	0.5	-47.5
DPR Korea	#	0	0.0	NA	0	0.0	NA	NA	NA
SEAR total		62 552	-23.3	NA	555	-24.0	NA	NA	NA

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in the past seven days, compared to the previous seven days. DMA = day moving average. TPR = test positivity rate. NA = not available.

Data for the Maldives is for the period 8-14 May 2022 compared to the previous 7 days. Bhutan testing data are as of 15 May 2022.

As of 19 May 2022, DPRK shared the weekly report with WHO, which includes the number of fever cases, recovered cases, and deaths. However, the case definitions used to record numbers have not been shared, and thus the DPRK is not included in the above Table,

The number of tests used as the denominator for the test positivity rate (TPR) was the number of people tested for Indonesia and the number of samples tested for other countries. Due to variation in testing strategy and the way to count the testing number, TPR at the SEAR level was not calculated

#DPRK has reported more than 2.2 million cases of fever and 65 deaths since late April 2022. WHO is currently in the process of verifying COVID-19 data from DPRK Government.

Figure 2: 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 18 May 2022.

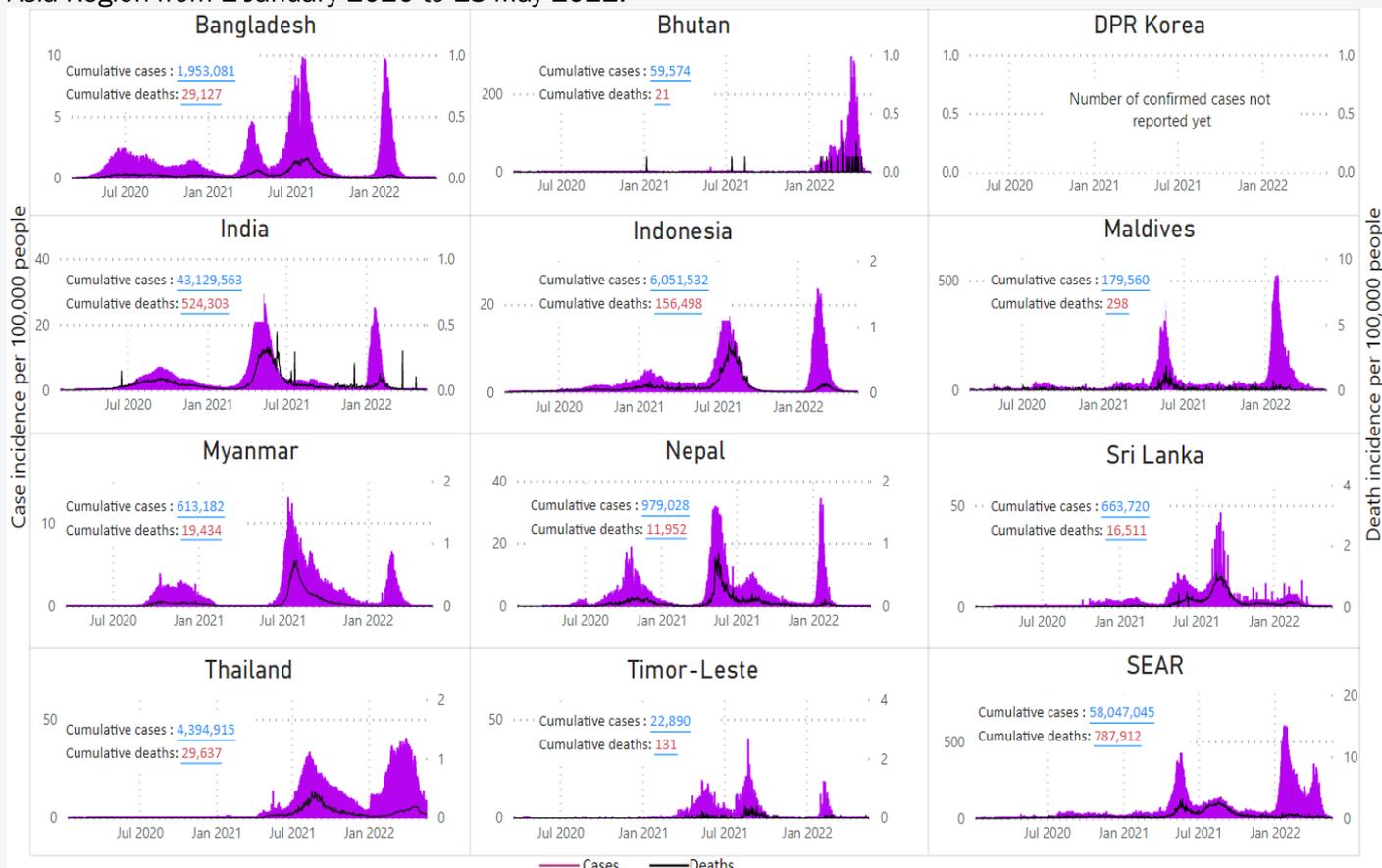
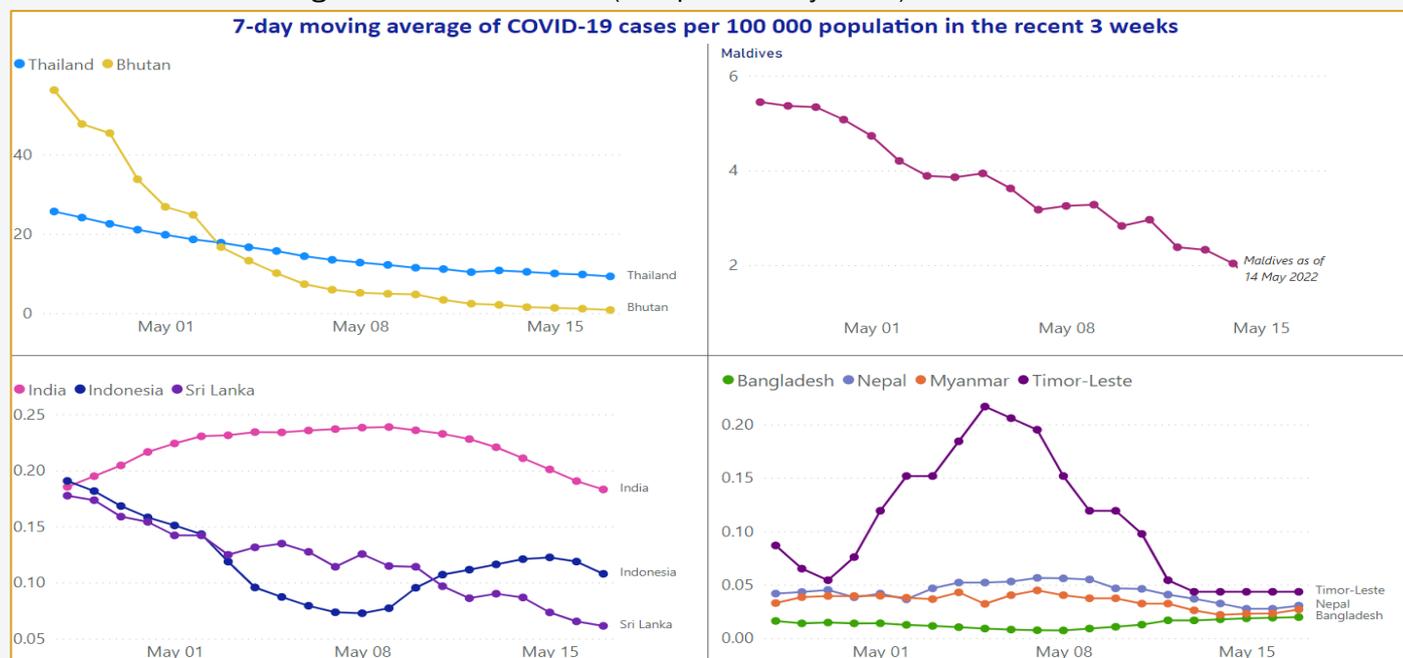


Figure 3: Seven-day moving average of new COVID-19 cases per one million population for the countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region in the last 3 weeks (27 April -17 May 2022).

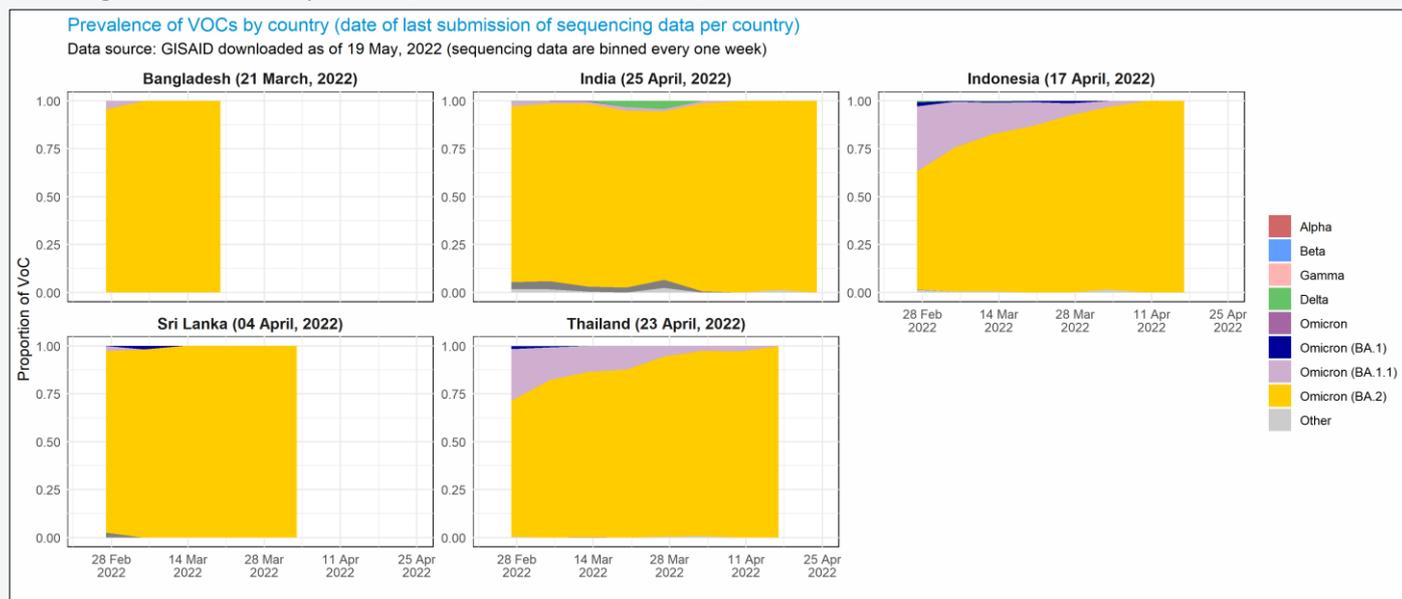


Updates on the Omicron variant situation

- The Omicron variant of concern is the dominant variant of SARS-CoV-2 circulating globally, accounting for nearly all sequences reported to the GISAID in the last 30 days. Among the Omicron variants, BA.2 lineage and its descendant lineages are the dominant variants of SARS-CoV-2 comprising of 97% of all sequences submitted to the GISAID.

- Omicron descendent lineages BA.4, BA.5, and BA.2.12.1 have increased their prevalence within the countries in which they were first detected (South Africa and the U.S.A, respectively) and have spreaded to additional countries. BA.4 lineage has been detected in 20 countries (1 333 sequences submitted to GISAID), BA.5 lineage in 19 countries (757 sequences), and BA.2.12.1 lineage in 38 countries (21 711 sequences).
- At the global level, BA.4 and BA.5 lineages account for 0.5% and 0.4% of all circulating variants of SARS Cov2 , respectively. The lineage BA.2.12.1 accounts for 10% among all BA.2 lineages globally as of 24 April 2022.
- According to the data submitted to GISAID, BA.2 lineage (including descendant lineages) has been predominant in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand (recent data are not sufficiently available for other countries in the Region) (Figure 3).

Figure 4: Relative prevalence of SARS CoV-2 variants of concern including Omicron lineages in WHO South East Asia Region as of 19 May 2022 (based on GISAID data*)



Data source: GISAID data. Dates in bracket indicate last date of submission of sequencing data to GISAID.

Recent selected WHO publication on COVID-19

- [WHO Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 on 18 May 2022](#)
- [Infection prevention and control in the context of coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): a living guideline, 25 April 2022: updated chapter: mask use, part 1: health care settings on 25 April 2022](#)
- [Therapeutics and COVID-19: living guideline on 22 April 2022](#)
- [Environmental surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 to complement public health surveillance – Interim Guidance on 14 April 2022](#)
- [Infection prevention and control in the context of coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): A living guideline on 7 March 2022](#)
- [Strategic Preparedness, Readiness, and Response Plan to End the Global COVID-19 Emergency in 2022 on 30 March 2022](#)
- [Global genomic surveillance strategy for pathogens with pandemic and epidemic potential, 2022–2032 on 28 March 2022](#)
- [Use of SARS-CoV-2 antigen-detection rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19 self-testing. Interim guidance on 9 March 2022.](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Clinical Care Pathway updated on 3 March 2022.](#)
- [WHO Statement on Omicron Sub-lineage BA.2 on 22 February 2022.](#)
- [Contact tracing and quarantine in the context of the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant: Interim guidance. on 17 February 2022.](#)
- [Public health surveillance for COVID-19: Interim guidance on 14 February 2022](#)

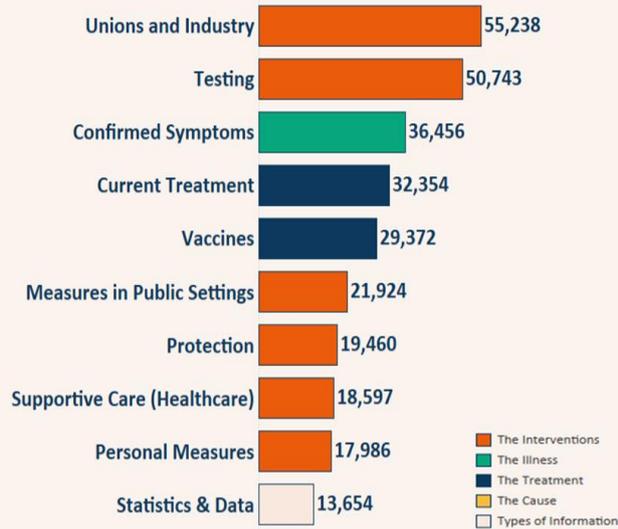
Key operational updates

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Key findings from the COVID-19 infodemic intelligence report (9–15 May 2022) highlight insights related to the pandemic’s socio-economic and health impacts, and laboratory testing. Social media conversations related to the hepatitis of unknown cause in children have also started being monitored.
- Technical support is being provided to country offices with regard to risk communication messages related to the hepatitis of unknown cause in children, especially in the context of COVID-19.

Top 10 topics by volume

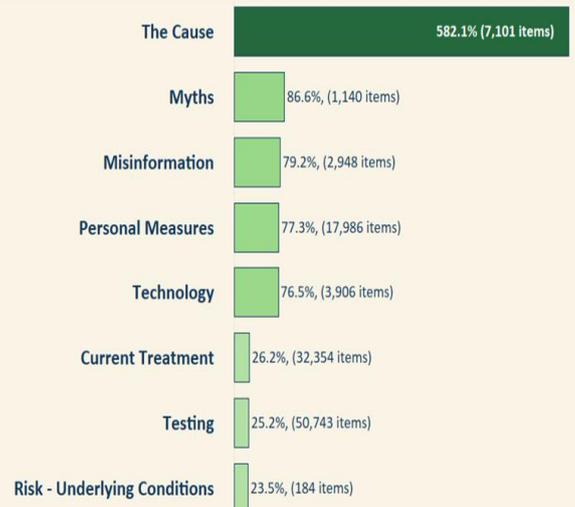
Social media mentions of selected categories per taxonomy



Top rising topics

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week

09 May - 15 May 2022



Key operational updates

Bangladesh:

- The COVID-19 situation continues to show a declining trend, no deaths were reported during last three weeks.

Bhutan:

- In view of the overall decline in COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has announced to update the National Situation on COVID-19 (Dashboard) on weekly basis instead of a daily update starting from 16 May 2022.
- The MoH continues a mandatory quarantine of five days for all travellers coming from other countries.

DPR Korea¹:

- The central emergency epidemic prevention sector established a new command system to more intensively conduct the emergency epidemic prevention work.
- A nationwide lockdown has been implemented, involving all provinces, cities, and counties, since 12 May 2022.
- A nationwide active case finding is implemented to identify persons with fever and other abnormal symptoms. Nearly 500 rapid mobile anti-epidemic groups and rapid diagnosis and treatment groups are engaged confirming and treating infected persons nationwide.
- The state has issued a standard COVID-19 treatment guide to all curative and preventive institutions at all levels in the country. The guide reportedly covers adults, children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers, and contains the definition of the COVID-19, and methods for confirmatory diagnosis. The duration of quarantine and the release criteria have also been developed.
- Nationwide district treatment centres have been started in collaboration with epidemic prevention and public health sectors. More isolation wards have been established nationwide; there is an increasing number of people in home quarantine.

¹ KCNA - Epidemic Prevention Measures Implemented in DPRK; Epidemic Prevention Measures Implemented in DPRK; Guide to treatment of COVID-19 drawn up and issued

- Production and distribution of medicines and medical equipment are enhanced. The military was mobilized to the pharmacies in Pyongyang City to support supplying medicines under the 24-hour service system.
- WHO Regional Director of SEARO sent a letter to the Ambassador of DPRK in New Delhi on 16 May 2022 proposing support for DPRK in responding to the reported COVID-19 outbreak. SEARO issued a press release titled “WHO committed to support DPR Korea respond to COVID-19 pandemic” in this regard .
- SEARO incident management support team developed a Framework for Action, summarizing recommended priority actions for DRPK in responding to the reported COVID-19 outbreak, and listing existing WHO guidance documents. The list of items that can be supplied from WHO to DPRK were also developed.

India:

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reduced the waiting period for the precautionary dose for Indian citizens and students travelling overseas from nine months to three months on 12 May 2022 as recommended by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.
- Biological E. LTD which had earlier received emergency use authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine ‘Corbevax’ for children (5-12 years) has reduced the price to make the vaccine affordable and to help increase the reach of the vaccine to children.

Indonesia:

- Mask policy has been relaxed- Masks are no longer required in non-crowded open spaces. However, masks are still mandatory on public transport and for indoor activities.
- Negative RT-PCR or rapid antigen test is no longer required for domestic and international travelers who are completely vaccinated against COVID-19.

Maldives:

- Transparency Maldives started a social audit of COVID-19 preparedness and response in Maldives.
- WHO is supporting to develop a video to document establishment of Genomic Sequencing capacity in Maldives.

Myanmar:

- The United Nations COVID-19 call center will be phased out as the COVID-19 cases show a declining trend and will be reactivated in case of any surge in cases.
- WHO is supporting the contingency stockpile for COVID-19 essential medicines and commodities for home-based care; processed essential medical supplies for 1 000 cases and is planning for another 5 000 cases.

Nepal:

- The government continues to administer COVID-19 booster dose to all citizens above 18 years of age who have completed the primary series of vaccination in a gap of three months.

Sri Lanka:

- Due to the current low transmission levels of SARS-CoV-2, there is no relative shortages of RDT and PCR as was observed during the period of January to June 2022.
- WHO is following up on providing consumables for the four laboratories of the Ministry of Health for nanopore gene sequencing

Thailand:

- Thailand’s Food and Drug Administration approved the COVID-19 vaccine “Covovax “ developed by the Serum Institute of India for children aged between 12-17 years of age.
- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has recommended guidelines for children in preventing COVID-19 in for on-site learning at schools
- MoPH has reduced the COVID-19 alert to level 3 on 12 May 2022 ; a planning is on the way to further reduce it to the level 2 as number of COVID-19 is on decline.

Timor-Leste

- The Ministry of Health with the support from WHO conducted a refresher training on Timor-Leste Health Information System 2 (TLHIS-2) to health professionals in Ermera Municipality to enhance skills in TLHIS-2 data management.

Table 2: The summary of severity of Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) Implemented by countries in the South-East Asia Region (as of 17 May 2022)

Country	Case trend	Mask wearing	School measures	Business workplace measures	Gathering restrictions	Stay at home	Public transport	International travel measures
Bangladesh		100	25	33	0	0	0	38
Bhutan		100	25	33	20	0	0	75
India		80	25	33	20	0	0	12
Indonesia		100	25	33	40	0	0	62
Maldives		67	25	33	0	0	0	12
Myanmar		100	25	33	20	0	13	62
Nepal		100	25	33	20	0	0	25
Sri Lanka		67	25	33	60	0	0	12
Thailand		100	25	13	40	0	0	12
Timor-Leste		100	25	33	20	0	0	38

Bhutan COVID-19 measures relaxed to extend the closure time for all business activities and permit mass gatherings events (indoor/outdoor) with spectators, while observing basic COVID-19 protocols. Travellers encouraged to be fully vaccinated and to take all precautionary measures while traveling from high to low-risk areas.

Indonesia COVID-19 measures further eased with stay-at home orders and restrictions on public transport limited to few areas in Java and Bali.

- Ten countries in the Region are administering COVID-19 vaccines.
 - All ten countries have reached 40% or more of fully vaccinated individuals in the total population. Three countries have fully vaccinated 70% or more of the population.
 - Ten countries are vaccinating adolescents 12-17 years old; two countries are vaccinating 15-17 years old children and one country is vaccinating children of 6-11 years old.
 - Two countries are vaccinating 5-11 years old children and one country is vaccinating 6-11 years old children
 - Ten countries are providing additional/booster doses to selected population groups and have vaccinated more than 141 million individuals with at least one booster 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 the vaccination status and vaccine utilization in the 11 countries of the WHO SEAR

Country	Total Population	Total doses administered	Individuals vaccinated with one dose	Individuals fully vaccinated	Additional dose	At least one dose administered per 100 population	Fully vaccinated individuals per 100 population	Additional dose administered per 100 population	Data as of
Bangladesh	170 317 066	259 498 657	128 885 746	116 987 693	13 826 975	75.7	68.7	8.1	17-May-22
Bhutan	756 123	1 907 509	692 638	671 861	543 010	91.6	88.9	71.8	14-May-22
DPR Korea	24 701 926	No information							
India	1 420 972 759	1 928 974 137	1 006 795 142	878 095 971	44 083 024	70.9	61.8	3.1	17-May-22
Indonesia	272 248 454	408 771 891	199 688 471	166 317 467	42 785 953	73.3	61.1	15.7	17-May-22
Maldives	546 399	942 138	398 615	384 016	159 507	73.0	70.4	29.2	15-May-22
Myanmar	55 008 057	56 989 806	30 994 375	24 329 862	1 665 556	56.3	44.2	3.0	11-May-22
Nepal	30 201 100	45 817 899	22 346 138	19 740 770	3 730 991	74.0	65.4	12.4	15-May-22
Sri Lanka	21 919 416	39 505 395	17 066 996	14 465 233	7 973 166	77.9	66.0	36.4	14-May-22
Thailand	66 186 727	134 953 345	56 305 044	51 788 568	26 859 733	85.1	78.2	40.6	16-May-22
Timor-Leste	1 317 780	1 527 044	794 675	655 184	77 185	60.3	49.7	5.9	17-May-22
Total	2 064 175 807	2 878 887 821	1 463 947 840	1 273 436 625	141 705 113	70.9	61.7	6.9	

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. Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea: No information.