

COVID-19 Weekly Situation Report

# of Countries Reporting	New Cases Reported in the Week	New Deaths Reported in the Week	Total Cases Reported	Total Deaths Reported
11 out of 11	197 673	3 309	43 782 373	687 913

as of 24 October 2021

# of Countries introduced COVID-19 vaccine	Total number of doses administered	# of person received at least one dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	Fully vaccinated persons per 100 population
10 out of 11	1 412 480 593	953 512 153	458 968 440	22.24

as of 27 October 2021

Highlights

- The WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 43.8 million cases, after the Region of Americas (92.9 million cases) and European Region (74.9 million cases).
- Globally, there was a 4.8% increase in new cases (n=2 963 870) reported as compared to the previous week. During this period, all regions except the European region (19.3% increase), reported declines in the number of new cases compared to the previous week.
- In the South East Asia Region during the week 42, there was a 8.1% decrease in new cases (n=197 673) compared to the previous week. Most countries in the region reported declines of COVID-19 cases in the past week, except Nepal, Maldives and Timor-Leste.
- More than 1.41 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered by ten countries in the SEA Region with more than 1.03 billion doses being administered in India alone.

Overview of the situation (epidemiological week #42 for the period between 18 – 24 October 2021)

- India reported a 5.7% decrease in new cases (n=107 749) during week 42 compared to the previous week. The state of Kerala alone is contributing to more than 50% of new cases reported in the country, but cases are declining in the state. A few states including Assam and West Bengal are reporting a higher number of cases than that was reported during the previous week. The high number of deaths reported in the last week compared to the previous week was mainly due to the backlog reporting of deaths from Kerala. The test positivity rate (TPR) has declined and is at 1.2% at the national level.
- Thailand reported a decline in new cases for the ninth consecutive week and in week 42, there was a 8.0% decline in new cases (n=66 781) 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 border Malaysia. TPR has slightly been reduced and is currently 13.9% at the national level.
- Myanmar reported a 30% decrease in new cases (n=6 410) in week 42 compared to the previous week. Higher case incidence in the week 42 is reported in Kayah (62 cases per 100 000 population) than other states. The top 5 states/regions reporting the highest number of new cases in the last week are Shan South, Shan North, Shan East, Kachin and Magway. The TPR has been reduced and is 6.5% at the national level.
- Indonesia continues to report a decline in new cases, and in the week 42, there was a 22.9% decline in new cases (n=5 261) compared to the previous week. The weekly case incidence declined further from the previous week and is 2.5 per 100 000 population at the national level. The TPR is at 0.5% at the national level, which is similar level as the previous week.

- Sri Lanka reported a 16% decline in new cases (n=4 436) in the week 42 compared to the previous week. In week 42, most provinces are reporting a decline in new cases compared to the previous week, except for Sabaragamuwa (2.9% increase, n=430) and Central province (21.1% increase, n=299). The TPR has slightly declined from the previous week and is at 10.3% at the national level.
- Nepal reported a 41.6% increase in the number of new cases (n=4 019) in the week 42 compared to the previous week. This increase follows a 43.3% decline in the previous week (the week 41) and is likely attributable to resumption of the health services including testing and reporting after public holidays. The average daily testing numbers have increased by 49.5% in the week 42 compared to the previous week. Of the total new cases reported in the week 42, 56% of the cases have been reported from Bagmati province. The TPR has been reduced from the previous week and is 7.9 % at the national level.
- Bangladesh continues to report a declining trend in new cases. In the week 42, there was a 29.6% decrease in new cases (n=2 204) compared to the previous week. All divisions in the country reported a decrease in new cases except Sylhet (6% increase, n=56). Dhaka division contributed 73.0% of new cases and 34.5% of the new deaths in the past week. TPR has further declined to 1.8% at the national level.
- Maldives continues to report an increase in new cases for the second consecutive week; there was a 22.7% increase in new cases (n=757) in the week 42 compared to the previous week. Outside of the Greater Male' Region (GMR), there are 936 active cases across 48 inhabited islands. The highest number outside of the GMR is reported from Addu atoll, with 221 active cases across 5 districts. The TPR has slightly increased from the previous week and is at 2.8% at the national level, whereas the TPR in the atolls outside greater Male' is at 11-12%.
- Timor-Leste reported a 36.6% increase in new cases (n=56) in the week 42 compared to the previous week. In week 42, 85% of the new cases were reported in Dili. The TPR is 3.9% at the national level and is slightly higher than the same reported in the previous week.
- No new cases and deaths were reported in Bhutan in the week 42. For past ten consecutive weeks, no community cases were reported in Bhutan.

Figure 1: The COVID-19 epidemiological curve for the WHO South-East Asia Region from 1 January 2020 to 24 October 2021

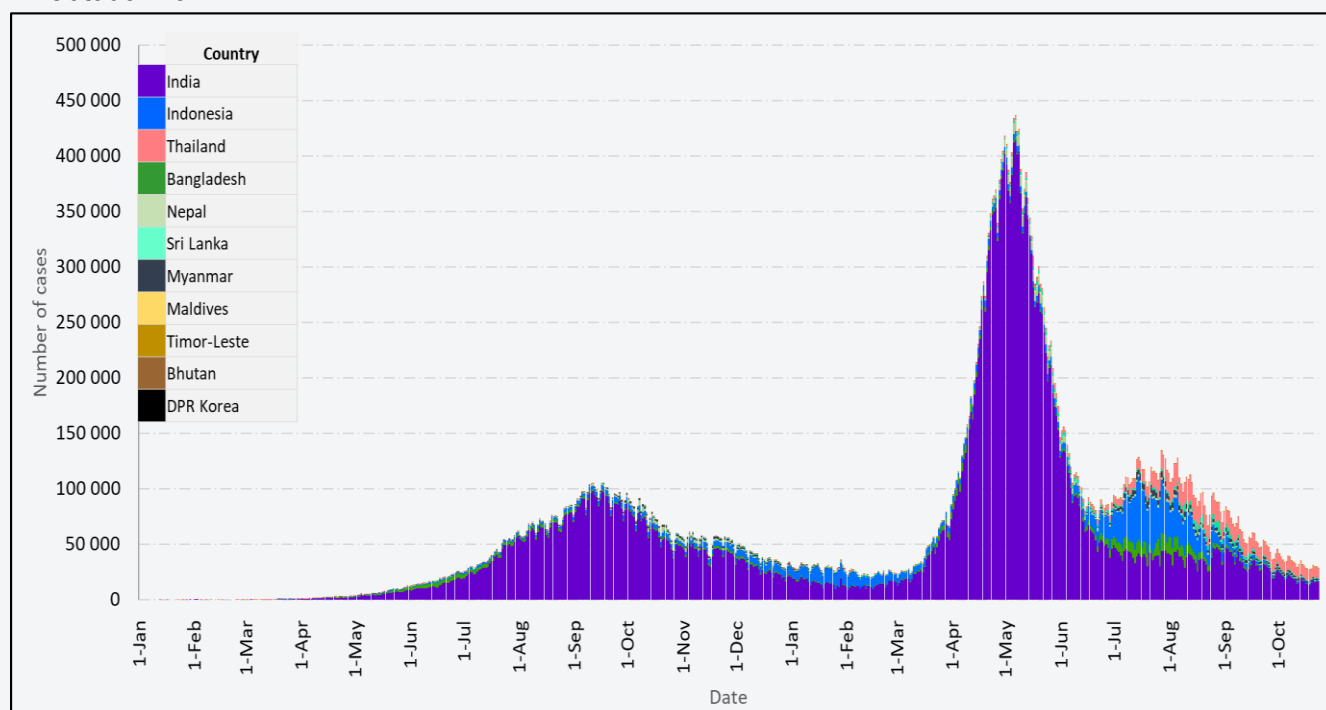


Table 1: Regional and country specific COVID-19 situation, as of 24 October 2021

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		34 231 809	24 806	456 386	1.3	104 359	-2.2	1.2	6.4
Indonesia		4 242 532	15 511	143 333	3.4	4 698	-18.1	0.5	4.0
Thailand		1 884 973	27 005	19 006	1.0	63 394	-9.3	13.8	4.7
Bangladesh		1 568 857	9 526	27 847	1.8	1 950	-19.5	1.8	0.8
Nepal		811 407	27 848	11 382	1.4	3 885	19.7	7.9	1.6
Sri Lanka		538 860	25 165	13 696	2.5	5 000	21.8	10.3	1.8
Myanmar		497 700	9 147	18 622	3.7	6 116	-15.8	6.5	2.0
Maldives		87 487	161 851	243	0.3	937	51.6	2.8	48.7
Timor-Leste		19 785	15 006	121	0.6	36	-34.5	3.9	1.4
Bhutan		2 621	3 397	3	0.1	4	300.0	0.0	12.9
DPR Korea		0							
SEAR total		43 886 031	21 711	690 639	-	190 379	-4.8	-	-

*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

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

Table 2: SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOC) reported in SEAR, as of 26 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

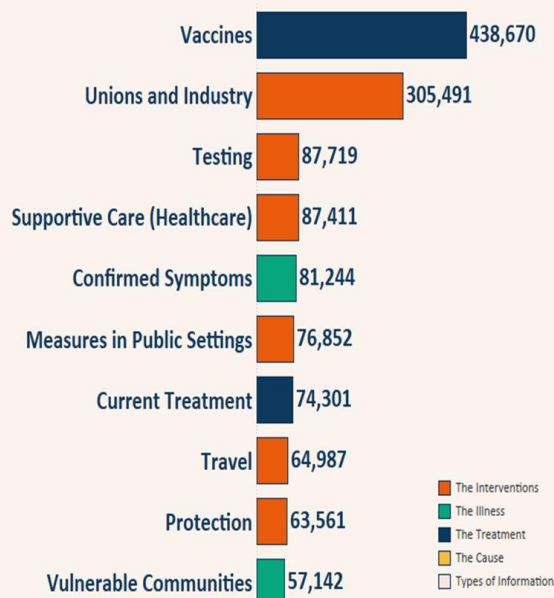
Key operational updates

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- The SEARO COVID-19 infodemic report revealed that as the number of cases was declining, there was also a decline in the number of digital conversations around COVID-19. All countries reported the topic of Vaccines as the main topic of conversation, with much attention on India's achievement of 'getting 1 billion jabs in arms'.
- The number of rumours and misinformation are also showing a decline.
- A series of social media tiles focusing on vaccines and rumours was developed, posted on SEARO website and shared with RCCE country focal points.

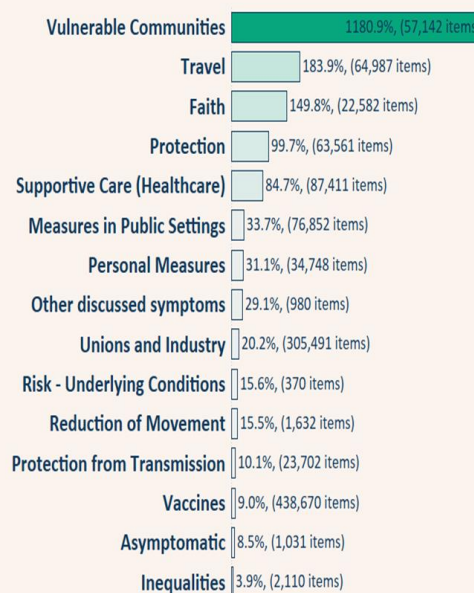
Top 10 topics by volume

Social media mentions of selected categories per taxonomy



Top rising topics

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week



18 - 24 OCT 2021

Operations Support and Logistics

- WHO SEARO and country offices continue to coordinate with SEAR Member States and WHO headquarters to facilitate expedition of the supply requests including personal protective equipment/biomedical/laboratory diagnostics items through the COVID-19 supply chain system (CSCS) to the end users and to resolve some of the supply challenges faced by Member States.
- WHO SEARO coordinated the disbursement of 40 units of noncommunicable diseases (NCD) kits¹ to Nepal (10 units) Myanmar and Timor-Leste (15 units each) from the regional stockpile.
- Discussions are ongoing with WHO headquarters to support the procurement of 1 000 oxygen concentrators for the regional stockpile.
- WHO SEARO is also supporting Bhutan in collaboration with WHO headquarters for setting up of the pressure swing absorption (PSA) plant for medical oxygen.

Key country updates

Bangladesh:

- The COVID-19 vaccination programme for adolescents (12 to 17 years) in school will be launched on 1 November 2021.
- Over 5.4 million second doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in mass vaccination campaign held on 28 October 2021 for those who received the first dose four weeks ago in the previous campaign

¹ One NCD kit to support 10 000 for 3 months for chronic disease patients in emergency settings.

Bhutan:

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has started comprehensive health screening and providing specialized services to residents of high-risk areas along the country's land border from 18 October till mid-December 2021.
- The Ministry of Health reiterates on the use of 'Druk Trace' application for people visiting public places, health care facilities and public transport. The application has been used for surveillance, and contact tracing
- Bhutan has not reported any community acquired COVID-19 case for more than 70 days from high-risk bordering districts, as of 29 October 2021.

DPR Korea:

- No case of COVID-19 has been reported as of 21 October 2021.
- Cumulatively 43 464 persons were tested using reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method at an interval of 10 days (total samples: 86 654 and all were found negative for COVID-19. These include 691 persons who were tested during the period of 15-21 October 2021, of which 109 were people with influenza-like illness or severe acute respiratory infections and rest 582 were health care workers.

India:

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a month-long door-to-door COVID-19 vaccination campaign to cover all eligible unvaccinated persons for both first and second doses.
- The government has extended the insurance scheme for health workers fighting COVID-19 for another 180 days effective from 21 October 2021.

Indonesia:

- The National COVID-19 Task Force issued a new circular for domestic travel by air, requiring vaccination certificate and COVID-19 negative test report with effect from 21 October 2021
- Indonesia received 1.2 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine procured by the government on 21 October 2021. On the same day 698 090 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine were donated by the Government of Japan.

Maldives:

- Over 1 500 people have received a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The government started administering a 'booster shot' (third dose) to frontline healthcare workers and high-risk individuals who have completed six months after the second dose.
- As of 25 October 2021, Maldives has vaccinated 72.21% of the total population with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and more than 65% of the same population with the second dose.

Myanmar:

- The government extended the school closure until 31 October 2021.
- Myanmar received 4 million doses of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines on 22 October 2021 through a bilateral agreement from China.

Nepal:

- Nepal received 1.02 million doses of Vero Cell COVID-19 vaccines procured through COVAX's cost-sharing mechanism on 27 October 2021.

Sri Lanka:

- The government revised quarantine measures for travelers arriving from overseas. The quarantine period for unvaccinated travelers has been reduced to 7 days from 14 days with COVID-19 PCR test being performed on the first day of arrival and the second PCR test being done on the last day of quarantine.
- Despite the declining trend of COVID-19 cases, the integrated home-based management system of asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic COVID -19 patients continue.
- As of 27 October 2021, more than 69% of its total population have been vaccinated with one dose of COVID-19 vaccine while more than 60% of the same group have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- All primary schools were re-opened on 25 October 2021 in accordance with the adjustment of public health social measures.
- The government has extended the inter-provincial travel restrictions until 31 October 2021





















Thailand:

- Thailand has planned to allow quarantine-free travel to foreign visitors from 46 countries. Royal palaces and other locations will reopen from 1 November 2021.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be introducing the 'Thailand Pass' where a QR code will be issued that needs to be presented to the airlines and Thai border control officials on arrival in the country.

Timor-Leste

- Timor-Leste launched the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, targeting approximately fifty thousand school children aged 12-18 years in the capital Dili.
- WHO along with partners conducted a series of training on COVID-19 preventive measures to the border police units, customs officers, and migration services officers.

Table 3. The summary of Severity of Public Health and Social Measures (PHSM) implemented by countries in WHO's South-East Asia Region (as of 26 October 2021)

Countries	PHSM severity index						Key updates
	Mask wearing	School measures	Business workplace measures	Gathering restrictions	Stay at home	Public transport	
	0 50 100	0 50 100	0 50 100	0 50 100	0 50 100	0 50 100	
Bangladesh							Bangladesh: Nationwide mobility restrictions lifted, and all workplaces continue to function with safety protocols.
Bhutan							Bhutan: Schools re-opened, business and workplace measures relaxed nationwide.
India							India: Reduction in duration of night curfew at sub-national level; education sector reopening gradually across all states.
Indonesia							Indonesia: Ongoing public activities restrictions in Java and Bali, extended through 1 November 2021.
Maldives							Maldives: No restrictions on gatherings and stay at home orders lifted nationwide.
Myanmar							Myanmar: Stay-at-home orders in 113 townships. Schools continue to remain closed.
Nepal							Nepal: Local administration to impose stay at home orders based on COVID-19 situation.
Sri Lanka							Sri Lanka: Gradual reopening of schools, non-essential business and easing restrictions on inter-provincial travel.
Thailand							Thailand: Night-time curfew hours relaxed dark-red zone provinces and eased workplace restrictions.
Timor-Leste							Timor-Leste: Face to face teaching resumed at Dili. Restrictions on gathering lifted and business and workplace measures eased.

Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea- No specific updates available for 21-26 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).

- Ongoing support is provided by WHO SEARO for COVID-19 vaccine delivery, vaccine safety surveillance and reporting, conducting vaccine effectiveness studies and COVID-19 vaccine post-introduction evaluations (cPIE)
- Real time information on COVID-19 vaccination in WHO's SEA Region is available at <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/immunization/covid-19-vaccination>.

Table 5. Summary of vaccination status and vaccine utilization in the 11 countries of the WHO SEAR (as of 27 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	13 789 792	8 342 322	5 447 470	23.70	12.22	89%	26-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	25 May 21	42 414 617	29 363 158	13 051 459			73%	
	Pfizer	21 Jun 21	656 579	554 884	101 695			7%	
	Moderna	13 Jul 21	5 206 907	2 698 192	2 508 715			95%	
Bhutan	AstraZeneca	27 Mar 21	1 104 456	586 321	518 135	77.54	68.53	65%	24-Oct-21
	Pfizer	22-Jul-21							
	Moderna	20 Jul 21							
	Sinopharm	20-Jul-21							
India	AstraZeneca*	16 Jan 21	1 034 836 594	721 319 294	313 517 300	50.76	22.06	100%	26-Oct-21
	Covaxin*	16 Jan 21							
	Sputnik V	14 May 21							
Indonesia	AstraZeneca	13 Jan 21	21 726 630	15 105 330	6 621 300	42.18	25.51	88%	24-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	23 Mar 21	2 654 521	1 459 054	1 195 467			32%	
	Sinovac	18 May 21	146 813 084	89 147 883	57 665 201			91%	
	Moderna	25 Jul 21	4 426 980	2 788 371	1 638 609			55%	
	Pfizer	23 Aug 21	6 382 461	4 708 148	1 674 313			47%	
Maldives	AstraZeneca	01 Feb 21	480 691	256 595	224 096	72.14	65.02	99%	19-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	22 Mar 21	188 472	97 253	91 219			83%	
	Pfizer	13 Apr 21	76 137	39 878	36 259			57%	
Myanmar	AstraZeneca	27 Jan 21	3 337 710	1 810 426	1 527 284	22.52	10.36	74%	23-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	June 21	14 751 399	10 577 147	4 174 252			55%	
Nepal	AstraZeneca	27 Jan 21	4 428 666	2 866 234	1 562 432	28.55	22.01	82%	25-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	07 Apr 21	9 296 608	5 755 215	3 541 393			78%	
	Janssen	19 July 21	1 538 117	1 538 117	1 538 117			100%	
Sri Lanka	AstraZeneca	29 Jan 21	2 868 275	1,479,575	1,388,700	68.74	60.20	105%	26-Oct-21
	Sinopharm	05 Apr 21	22 396,937	11 880 818	10 516 119			87%	
	Sputnik V	06 May 21	314 750	159 096	155 654			95%	
	Pfizer	07 Jul 21	1 258 320	824 527	433 793			44%	
	Moderna	18 Jul 21	1 574 730	803 098	771 632			105%	
Thailand	AstraZeneca	16 Mar 21	30 008 800	10 636 009	19 372 791	60.96	43.38	100%	25-Oct-21
	Sinovac	28 Feb 21	23 247 281	19 722 907	3 524 374			87%	
	Sinopharm	25 Jun 21	11 795 636	6 551 665	5 243 971			79%	
	Pfizer	6 Aug 21	4 008 468	3 435 700	572 768			61%	
Timor-Leste	AstraZeneca	07 Apr 21	805 819	495 822	309 997	41.21	26.86	80%	26-Oct-21
	Sinovac	8 Jun 21	91 156	47 231	43 925			91%	
TOTAL			1 412 480 593	953 512 153	458 968 440	46.21	22.24	94%	

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