

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	152 535	3 530	44 273 117	699 920

as of 14 November 2021

# of Countries introduced COVID-19 vaccine	Total number of doses administered	# of persons received at least one dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	Fully vaccinated per 100 population
10 out of 11	1 599 625 211	1 026 417 869	569 124 170	27.53

as of 17 November 2021

Highlights

- The WHO South East Asia Region (SEAR) remains the third most affected WHO Region with 44.3 million cases, after the Region of Americas (95.1 million cases) and the European Region (80.9 million cases).
- Globally, there was an increase in new cases for the fourth consecutive week, and in week 45, there was a 6% increase in new cases (n=3 346 517) compared to the previous week. During this period, the Americas, European, and Western Pacific regions reported an increase in new cases compared to the previous week and the remaining regions reported a decrease in new cases.
- In SEAR during week 45, there was a 3.1% decrease in new cases (n=152 535) compared to the previous week. Most countries in the region reported a decline of COVID-19 cases in the past week, except Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste.
- More than 1.59 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given by ten countries in the SEAR with more than 1.13 billion doses (71%) in India alone.

Overview of situation (epidemiological week #45 for the period between 08 – 14 November 2021)

- India reported a similar number of new cases in week 45 compared to the previous week (n=81 771). The state of Kerala contributed approximately 55% of the new cases. The test positivity rate (TPR) was at 1.0% at the national level and has decreased from the previous week.
- Thailand reported a decline in new cases for the twelfth consecutive week, and in week 45, there was a 9.9% decline in new cases (n=50 411) compared to the previous week. Severe and ventilated cases were declining at a faster rate than that of the previous week. Higher case incidence (>200 cases per 100 000 population) continues to be reported in the southern provinces including Pattani, Yala, and Songkla which are bordering Malaysia, but the number of new cases was declining in these provinces. The TPR was 11.0% at the national level and has decreased compared to the previous week.
- Myanmar reported a 4.4% decrease in new cases (n=6 446) in week 45 compared to the previous week. In the past week, all the states/regions reported decrease in new cases except Kachin, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. The top 5 states/regions reporting the highest number of new cases last week were Shan South, Shan East, Shan North, Kachin and Nay Pyi Taw. The TPR continues to decline and was at 3.8% at the national level.
- Sri Lanka reported a 50.3% increase in new cases (n=6 286) in the week 45, compared to the previous week. The primary reason for this increase appears to be a backlog of cases (n=1 345) from the previous two weeks, which were reported after verification. Six out of nine provinces reported an increase in new cases in week 45 compared to the previous week. The Eastern and Southern provinces reported more than 100% increase in new cases compared to last week. The TPR was at 11.8% at the national level and has increased from the previous week.

- Indonesia continues to report a decline in new cases. In week 45, there was a 29.3% decline in new cases (n=2 690) compared to the previous week. The TPR has further decreased and was at 0.2% at the national level.
- Nepal reported a 21.1% increase in the number of new cases (n=2 408) in week 45 compared to the previous week. The daily tests have increased compared to previous week (78% increase) apparently due to resumption of testing services after the festival holidays. Majority of the new cases (52%) in the last week were reported from Bagmati province. The TPR has reduced from the previous week and is now at 6.2% at the national level.
- Bangladesh reported a 0.9% increase in new cases (n=1 488) in week 45 compared to the previous week. All divisions in the country reported a decrease in new cases except Dhaka (5% increase, n=1,122), Khulna (11% increase, n=81) and Rajshahi (24% increase, n=82). Dhaka division contributed 75% of the new cases in the past week. TPR was at 1.2% at the national level; similar to that of the previous week.
- Maldives reported a 1% decrease in new cases (n=1 023) in week 45 compared to the previous week. Majority of the new cases were reported in the Atolls outside the Greater Male Region (GMR). The highest number of cases (more than 400 active cases) were reported in Addu Atoll across 6 districts. Outside of the GMR, the case numbers have been increasing. The TPR has slightly increased and was at 4.2% at the national level with 2% in GMR and 15% in the atolls.
- Timor-Leste reported a 11.1% increase in new cases (n=10) in the week 45 compared to the previous week. Majority (62%) of the new cases were reported in Dili. The TPR has increased and was at 0.7% at the national level.
- In Bhutan, 2 new cases were reported in week 45. Both cases were detected among incoming travelers. For the past thirteen consecutive weeks, no community case was reported in Bhutan.

Figure 1: The COVID-19 epidemiological curve for WHO South-East Asia Region from 1 January 2020 to 14 November 2021.

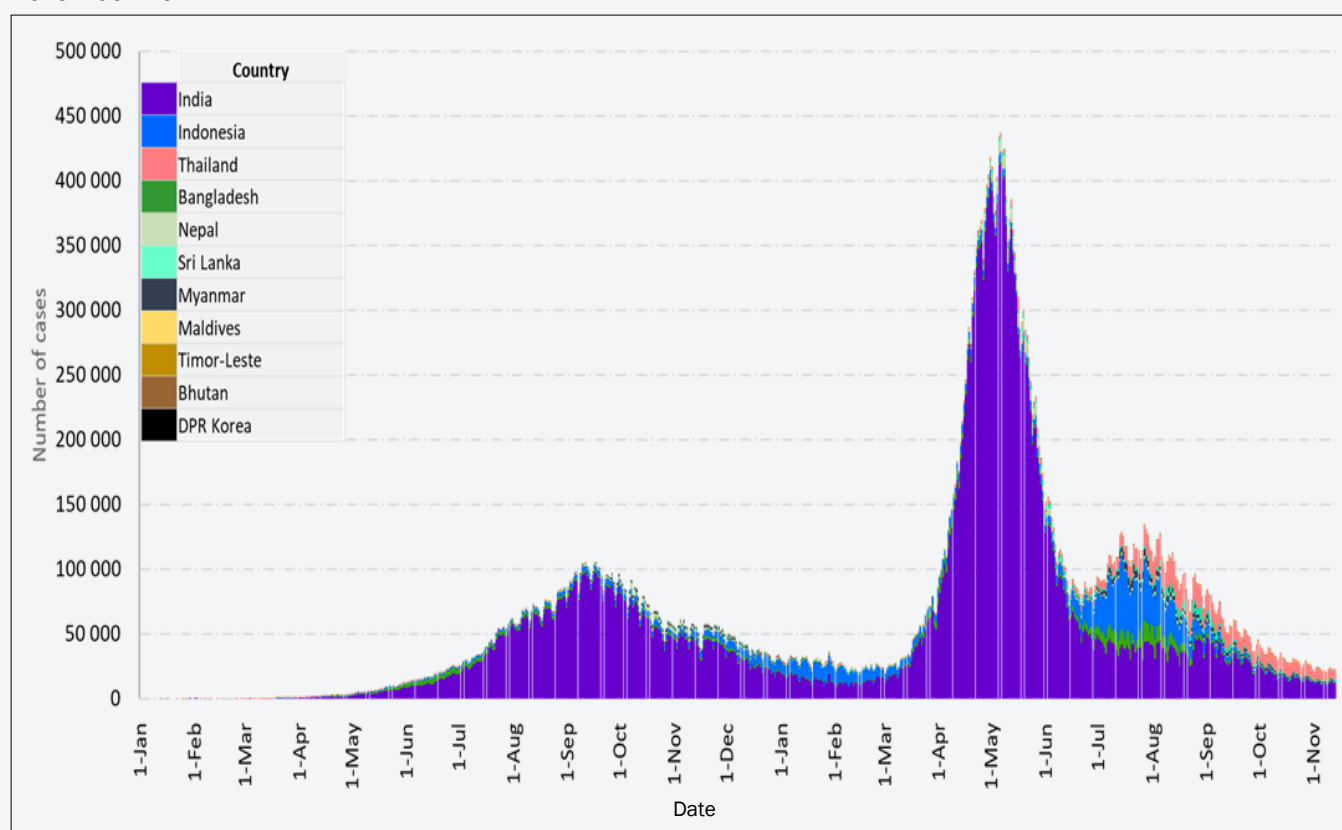


Table 1: Regional COVID-19 situation, as of 14 November 2021

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		34 437 307	24 954	463 530	1.3	81 771	-0.6	1.0	5.9
Indonesia		4 250 855	15 541	143 659	3.4	2 690	-29.3	0.2	4.3
Thailand		2 018 410	28 917	20 036	1.0	50 411	-9.9	11.0	4.7
Bangladesh		1 572 501	9 548	27 922	1.8	1 488	0.9	1.2	0.7
Nepal		816 966	28 039	11 477	1.4	2 408	21.1	6.2	1.9
Sri Lanka		551 542	25 757	13 995	2.5	6 286	50.3	11.8	2.0
Myanmar		513 262	9 433	18 929	3.7	6 446	-4.4	3.8	3.3
Maldives		89 840	166 204	247	0.3	1 023	-1.0	4.2	47.7
Timor-Leste		19 809	15 025	122	0.6	10	11.1	0.7	0.1
Bhutan		2 625	3 402	3	0.1	2		0.0	11.6
DPR Korea		0							
SEAR total		44 273 117	21 902	699 920	-	152 535	-3.1	-	-

*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

Note: CFR, TPR and average test per 1000 population are not calculated at SEAR level, due to the large difference in the size of populations across countries.

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 SEAR, as of 16 November 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 of studies is non exhaustive.

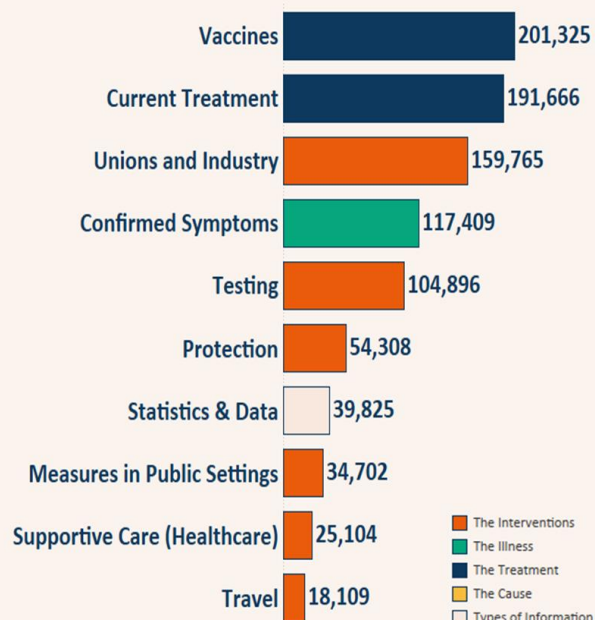
Key operational updates

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE):

- The SEAR COVID-19 Infodemic report reveals a slight increase in digital conversations around vaccines and current treatments.
- The number of rumours and misinformation are showing a decline, indicating a rather slow "news" week.

Top 10 topics by volume

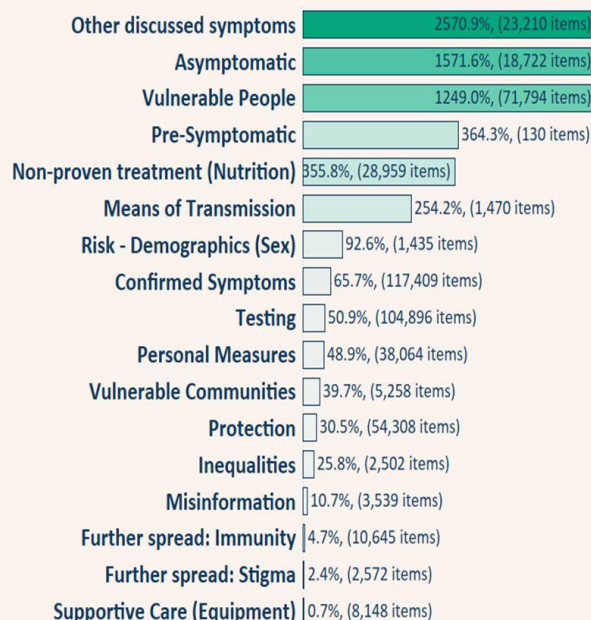
Social media mentions of selected categories per taxonomy



8 - 14 NOV 2021

Top rising topics

Based on % change of conversation volume from the previous week



Key country updates

Bangladesh:

- The Directorate General of Health Services has approved the use of the new oral COVID-19 medicine Molnupiravir for the treatment of mild to moderate symptomatic patients.
- Bangladesh received 1 500 000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines donated by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Approximately 31.7% and 20.3% of the country's total population received first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, respectively as of 18 November 2021

Bhutan:

- People travelling from high-risk border areas within the country still need to complete one week in quarantine followed by COVID-19 test at the end of quarantine period.
- As of 17 November 2021, Bhutan has not reported any community acquired COVID-19 case for more than 3-months.

DPR Korea:

- No case of COVID-19 has been reported as of 11 November 2021.
- Cumulatively 45 564 persons were tested with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days (total samples: 90 854 and all were found negative for COVID-19). These include 734 persons who were tested during the period of 5 - 11 November 2021, of which 162 were people with influenza-like illness or severe acute respiratory infections and 572 were health care workers.

India:

- The Union Health Minister assured of no shortage of vaccine doses and urged people to come forward for COVID-19 vaccination.

- India started allowing fully vaccinated international arrivals from 99 countries/territories (called category A) from 15 November 2021. Passengers need to upload vaccination certificate on 'Air Suvida' portal in addition to a COVID-19 negative test report obtained within 72 hours of departure.

Indonesia:

- The government announced extension of restrictions on community activities in Java and Bali from 16 to 29 November 2021.
- Indonesia received 1.2 million additional doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine on 12 November 2021 as part of a donation from the Australian government.
- An increasing trend in community mobility was observed in all provinces in Java and Bali, particularly in transit stations and retail and recreation. A notable increase in community mobility in retail and recreation was observed in West Java, Central Java, DI Yogyakarta, East Java and Banten, where pre-pandemic mobility levels have been reached.

Maldives:

- The government is planning to introduce new measures and reinforce existing ones to counter the surge of COVID-19 cases across the atolls.
- As of 17 November 2021, Maldives has vaccinated over 72% of the total population with the first dose and over 66% with the second dose.

Myanmar:

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has removed 17 townships from the 'Stay-at-Home' programme. In total 52 townships continue to be under stay-at-home orders.
- As of 17 November 2021, 19 townships remain under special investigation townships. All incoming travelers without valid test reports must undergo COVID-19 testing at entry/check points.
- Myanmar received 2 million doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine donated by China on 12 November 2021 as part of the countries' bilateral agreement.
- WHO along with UNICEF conducted joint monitoring of COVID-19 vaccination sites in Yangon on 10 November 2021. Sub-optimal vaccination of high priority groups and long queues were observed during the visit.

Nepal:

- Nepal received 368 000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from the Government of Canada on 16 November 2021.

Sri Lanka:

- The government has revised public health and social measures to further relax restrictions including restarting supplementary classes (private tuitions and coaching) at 50% of capacity on 16 November 2021. The new guidance will be effective until 30 November 2021.
- As of 17 November 2021, more than 72% of the total population was vaccinated with one dose of COVID-19 vaccine while more than 62% of the total population has received two doses.

Thailand:

- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) planned to extend vaccination to migrant workers to increase the nation's immunity and reduce the spread of the virus.
- MoPH issued advisory for public to be vigilant during the Loy Krathong festival on 19 November 2021.

Timor-Leste

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Education continued advocacy towards parents and teachers for vaccinating children aged 12-18 years of age with COVID-19 vaccines
- WHO conducted a field visit to Liquica municipality to extend the support to the health workers to accelerate the COVID-19 vaccine in the country.

Key challenges in the Region

- Ensuring precautionary measures such as proper mask wearing, physical distancing, hand hygiene and indoor ventilation throughout the Region, in the context of low level of transmission and pandemic fatigue.
- Adherence to Public Health Social Measures in the context of anticipated increased social mixing and mass gathering events like religious festivals, Christmas and New-Year holidays
- Declining testing rates as demand for testing decreases.
- Achieving high COVID-19 vaccination coverage in priority populations (such as the old adults), other vulnerable populations, and in hard-to-reach areas.
- Insufficient supply of COVID-19 vaccines to meet the needs of some Member States.
- Monitoring delivery of multiple COVID-19 vaccines to different target groups and managing vaccine preference by beneficiaries.

Cover story

Government of India's effort to address shortage of medical oxygen during COVID-19



Photo: WHO India

Pressure swing adsorption plant with assistance from PM CARES fund at Dimapur District Hospital, Nagaland

The devastating second wave of COVID-19 across India during March to early May 2021 saw the daily demand for supplemental medical oxygen rising to roughly 12 times the historical baseline. The already fragile health sector, was unable to speedily ramp up critical care, provide oxygenated hospital beds, ICUs, medicines, and ventilators, much less back up supplies.

COVID-19 has made it clear that, in an emergency, supplies of medical oxygen must be managed with advanced planning and rigorous monitoring. However, planning for such emergencies is not easy, and there are at least three challenges- (i) it is difficult to predict the demand for oxygen at any level (national, state, district) that might arise in a future emergency, (ii) logistics of distribution from the supply sources to state capitals, further to district headquarters, and still further to the facility levels are extremely difficult, and (iii) information flow, and compliance with the directions of planning authorities, takes time.

The Government of India took cognizance of the chaotic situation and put a mechanism of regular monitoring to address the challenges and ensure smooth supply of essential medical equipment including medical oxygen to the affected states. The Prime Ministers Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation Fund (PM CARES Fund) was utilized to establish medical oxygen manufacturing units across country. Moreover, it also accorded sanction for procurement of 1 50 000 units of oxycare system¹ developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at a cost of around USD 43.4 million and allocated funds to establish 500 Medical Oxygen Plants across the country. The Ministry of Railways geared up to transport liquid medical oxygen (LMO) and oxygen cylinders across a green corridor and run the special oxygen express trains. State governments like Odisha and Gujarat (through bilateral agreement with private/government institutions) supported the nation by converting industrial production of oxygen for medical use. Many States had established 24/ 7 control room to monitor the situation for ensuing availability of medical oxygen. Few states also initiated concurrent auditing in both public and private hospitals for rational use of oxygen. Oil and gas public sector companies, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas set up about 100 pressure swing adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation plants in public health facilities across the country.

Additional efforts of innovation included the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Bhopal developed an affordable oxygen concentrator 'oxycon' to meet the rising demand of medical oxygen amid the second wave. Also, the Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam designed and developed Mobile oxygen generation plants, 'Oxygen on Wheels' to provide a direct feed to any hospital's pipeline system.

The WHO country office in India along with regional office supported the Government of India by supplying 4 000 oxygen concentrators distributed to the states based on the actual need assessment and guidance from the Ministry of Health with prime focus on Northeastern, Hilly and Island states with limited capacities and hard-to-reach areas.

¹ a comprehensive system developed by DRDO to regulate oxygen being administrated to patients based on the sensed values of their SpO2 levels.

Table 3: Summary of International Travel Measures Implemented by Countries in SEAR (as of 16 November 2021)

Country	Entry and Visa Restrictions	Quarantine upon Arrival	COVID-19 Testing Requirement	Proof of vaccination or Recovery from infection
Bangladesh	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	7-day facility quarantine & testing on Day 7 Or 14-day home quarantine (depending on countries of departure and vaccination status)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure RT-PCR on 7 day after arrival for those under facility quarantine	Facility quarantine requirement exempted with proof of full vaccination (7-day home quarantine – group A countries)
Bhutan	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	21-day facility quarantine (14-day facility quarantine for those fully vaccinated)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	Mandatory 14-day facility quarantine for fully vaccinated travellers (reduced from 21 days)
DPR Korea	Entry ban	30-day facility quarantine	Not applicable	Not applicable
India	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	14-day self-monitoring (travellers from specified countries at risk and not listed as Category A are required to undergo 7-day home quarantine and 7-day self-monitoring)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure Additional on-arrival self-paid PCR test for travellers from certain countries	Home quarantine exempted for the fully vaccinated, if they are from category A countries even if the countries are listed as at risk
Indonesia	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	3–5-day facility quarantine followed by 14-day self-quarantine	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure PCR test on arrival and 3-4 day after arrival	Proof of vaccination required for entry 3-day facility quarantine for fully vaccinated
Maldives	No restriction on entry and visa	No quarantine (tourist) 14-day facility quarantine (non-tourist)	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure and PCR test within 5 -7 days of arrival	Quarantine requirement (non-tourist) exempted with proof of full vaccination or history of past infection within 60 days
Myanmar	Some restriction on entry and/or visa	10-day facility quarantine	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure	7-day facility quarantine for fully vaccinated
Nepal	No restriction on entry and visa	10-day facility quarantine with PCR test on day 11 for those not fully vaccinated No quarantine for fully vaccinated	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure. RT-PCR based COVID-19 on 11 th day after arrival for those not fully vaccinated	Facility quarantine requirement exempted with proof of full vaccination
Sri Lanka	No restriction on entry and visa	7-day facility quarantine. Diplomatic/ UN staffs and family from unrestricted countries can opt for home quarantine.	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure. Unvaccinated children of 12-18 years released with their parents who are exempted for quarantine should undergo PCR test on day 1 Day 7 exit PCR for unvaccinated	Quarantine requirement exempted with proof of full vaccination or history of past infection within 90 days and received at least one dose of vaccine
Thailand	No restriction on entry and visa	1. Test and Go (Exempt quarantine for fully vaccinated I travelers from 63 countries) 2. The blue zone, 17 sandbox destinations (Exempt quarantine, but have to stay in the sandbox destination for 7 days prior travelling to other parts of the country) 3. Alternative quarantine 7-day facility quarantine for those fully vaccinated and 10–14-day quarantine for those not fully vaccinated	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure Test and Go <ul style="list-style-type: none">On arrival PCR test Sandbox travellers <ul style="list-style-type: none">On arrival PCR testAntigen self- test on Day 6-7 Alternative quarantine <ul style="list-style-type: none">PCR test on Day 6-7 (air, sea arrival) / Day 8-9 (land arrival)	No quarantine if on arrival RT PCR test negative for fully vaccinated travellers from 63 countries
Timor Leste	Some restriction on entry and visa	14-day facility quarantine	RT-PCR based COVID-19 negative test result within 72 hours prior to departure On arrival PCR for vaccinated	No quarantine for fully vaccinated travellers

- Support for development of proposals for COVID-19 Vaccine delivery (CDS) needs-based financing in AMC countries.
- Continuous support 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 SEA Region is available at <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/health-topics/immunization/covid-19-vaccination>.

Table 4. Summary of vaccination status in the countries of the SEA Region and the vaccine utilization (as of 17 November 2021)

Country	Vaccine name	Start date	Total doses administered	Persons vaccinated with one dose	Persons fully vaccinated	Additional dose	At least one dose per 100 total population	Fully vaccinated per 100 total population	Utilization rate	Last update
Bangladesh	AstraZeneca	27 Jan 21	15 282 069	9 025 817	6 256 252		30.38	19.52	96%	16-Nov-21
	Sinopharm	25 May 21	63 954 710	39 392 318	24 562 392				92%	
	Pfizer	21 Jun 21	1 683 058	1 382 049	301 009				17%	
	Moderna	13 Jul 21	5 323 174	2 707 064	2 616 110				73%	
Bhutan	AstraZeneca	27 Mar 21	1 152 120	588,682	563 438		77.86	74.52	68%	14-Nov-21
	Pfizer	22-Jul-21								
	Moderna	20 Jul 21								
	Sinopharm	20-Jul-21								
India	AstraZeneca*	16 Jan 21	1 136 168 939	755 421 684	380 747 255		53.16	26.79	100%	16-Nov-21
	Covaxin*	16 Jan 21								
	Sputnik V	14 May 21								
Indonesia	AstraZeneca	13 Jan 21	25 744 450	17 639 242	8 104 715	493	48.37	31.50	99%	14-Nov-21
	Sinopharm	23 Mar 21	2 937 455	1 614 683	1 322 711	61			36%	
	Sinovac	18 May 21	168 057 173	98 350 437	69 691 192	15 544			88%	
	Moderna	25 Jul 21	6 249 424	3 085 634	1 995 997	1 167 793			78%	
	Pfizer	23 Aug 21	12 944 854	9 693 392	3 245 228	6 234			84%	
	Janssen	28 Oct 21	61 095	61 095	61 095				12%	
Maldives	AstraZeneca	01 Feb 21	488 997	257 267	231 730		72.31	66.10	101%	15-Nov-21
	Sinopharm	22 Mar 21	189 270	97 439	91 831	5 199			83%	
	Pfizer	13 Apr 21	83 254	40 419	37 636				62%	
Myanmar	AstraZeneca	27Jan 21	3 337 710	1 810 426	1 527 284		26.71	17.30	74%	13-Nov-21
	Sinopharm	June 21	24 253 764	14 692 607	9 561 157				91%	
Nepal	AstraZeneca	27 Jan21	4 727 487	2 991 749	1 735 738		29.51	25.24	87%	16-Nov-21
	Sinopharm	07 Apr 21	10 262 914	5 918 111	4 344 803				86%	
	Janssen	19 July 21	1 538 766	1 538 766	1 538 766				100%	
Sri Lanka	AstraZeneca	29 Jan 21	2 898 224	1 479 631	1 418 593		72.10	62.09	107%	16-Nov-21
	Sinopharm	05 Apr 21	22 805 268	11 932 021	10 873 247				89%	
	Sputnik V	06 May 21	314 892	159 110	155 782				95%	
	Pfizer	07 Jul 21	2 093 408	1 512 490	452 107	128 811			68%	
	Moderna	18 Jul 21	1 587 531	804 801	782 730				106%	
Thailand	AstraZeneca	16 Mar 21	37 128 632	11 274 313	23,703,183	2 151 136	68.30	55.15	124%	13-Nov-21
	Sinovac	28 Feb 21	25 621 998	22 082 619	3 539 379				96%	
	Sinopharm	25 Jun 21	13 311 971	7 037 440	6 274 531				89%	
	Pfizer	6 Aug 21	8 405 130	4 810 181	2 987 048	607 901			128%	
Timor-Leste	AstraZeneca	07 Apr21	898 773	541 858	356 915		46.75	30.45	89%	16-Nov-21
	Sinovac	8 Jun 21	91 500	47 184	44 316				92%	
	Pfizer	27 Oct 21	27 201	27 201					27%	
TOTAL			1 599 625 211	1 026 417 869	569 124 170		49.64	27.53	96%	

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
 *doses received is considered equivalent to total doses administered; ** AZ/Moderna given as second dose



WHO South-East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi
 Dr Nilesh Buddh, Acting 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>