

10	374 799	4 533	10 025 449	153 974
Countries reporting cases	New cases (week 46/2020)	New deaths (week 46/2020)	Total cumulative cases (at end of week 46)	Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 46)

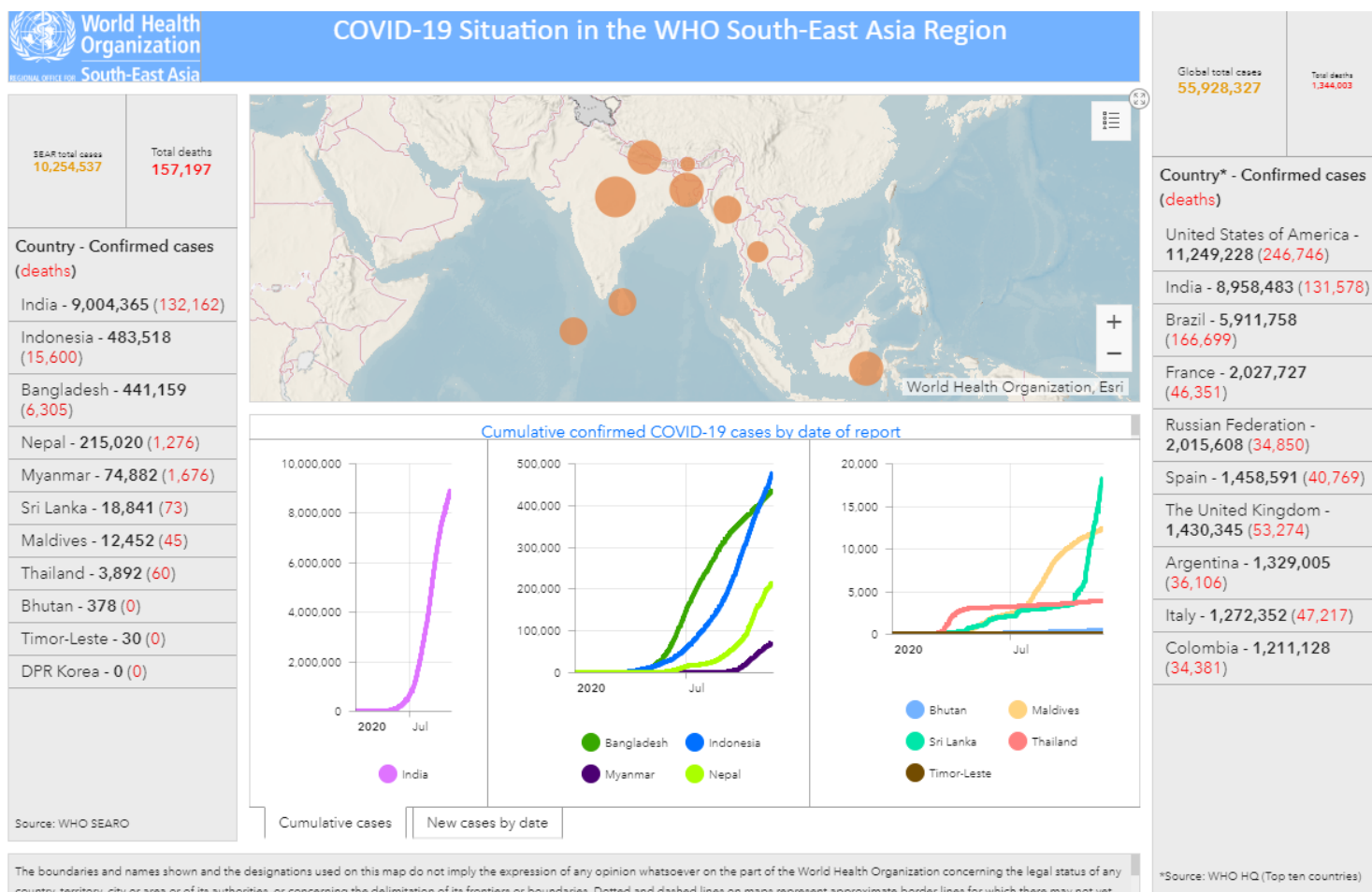
Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #46 was 3.9% (374 799) marginally less than the previous weekly increase of 4.0% and percentage increase in deaths also recorded marginal decline of 3.0% (4 533 deaths) as compared to last week. The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) is now ranked fourth highest in weekly increase (3.9%) in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions followed by European Region (17%), Eastern Mediterranean Region (7%) and Region of Americas (5%) regions
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region was reported from Sri Lanka (24%, 3 358 cases), followed by Myanmar (12%, 7 530 cases), Nepal (8%, 15 323 cases), Indonesia (7%, 29 397 cases) and India (4%, 306 825 cases)
- Two Member States in the Region, Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to report community transmission, while five India, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Myanmar reported clusters of cases and remaining three, Bhutan, Thailand and Timor-Leste have reported sporadic cases
- In Sri Lanka, the sub-cluster at Peliyagoda fish market has led to several sub clusters at district levels and in response contact tracing efforts are on the verge of overwhelming. More than 99% of cases detected last week belong to the Minuwangoda/Peliyagoda cluster. All second contacts of COVID-19 Peliyagoda fish market exposed patients were detected during the week
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a declining trend in Greater Malé region, despite a recent spike due to a cluster of cases detected among migrant workers
- In Myanmar, community transmission is likely in many States with evidence of spread across the country. Yangon region contributes to 78% of total cases and 95% of deaths in the country. Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction testing (RT PCR) testing ceiling levels have likely been reached and antigen based rapid diagnostic test (Ag. RDT) have been introduced in month of October and now reaching almost 50% of testing numbers

Country	Transmission Status Reported by Member State	Cases	Deaths	CFR	Cases Per Million population	Deaths per Million population	Test Positivity Rate (Last 7 DMA)
Bangladesh	Community transmission	441,159	6,305	1.4	2,678.7	38.3	12.9%
Bhutan	Sporadic cases	378	0	0.0	489.9	0.0	0.8%
DPR Korea	No cases	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
India	Clusters of cases	8,958,483	131,578	1.5	6,491.6	95.3	4.4%
Indonesia	Community transmission	483,518	15,600	3.2	1,767.7	57.0	12.9%
Maldives	Clusters of cases	12,384	45	0.4	22,910.3	83.2	3.1%
Myanmar	Clusters of cases	73,322	1,650	2.3	1,347.6	30.3	7.6%
Nepal	Clusters of cases	215,020	1,276	0.6	7,379.7	43.8	21.2%
Sri Lanka	Clusters of cases	18,402	69	0.4	859.4	3.2	4.7%
Thailand	Sporadic cases	3,888	60	1.5	55.7	0.9	0.4%
Timor-Leste	Sporadic cases	30	0	0.0	22.8	0.0	0.2%

Table data as of 19 November 2020; 06 PM IST

SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be a firm basis.

as of 11:00 AM (IST); 20 November 2020

Operational update

Key updates

Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

- The weekly public insights through digital monitoring reveal an increased interest (+389%) in vaccines in nine of the eleven countries in South-East Asia Region
- An analysis of rumours and misinformation in the Region during month of September and October revealed that the highest engagements (25% of all rumours and misinformation identified) in social media were on rumours about cures for COVID-19. More than 500 rumours were detected in these two months, of which 42% of the rumours were trending

Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:

- Focused technical support to WHO Country Office (WCO) in DPR Korea, Myanmar and Nepal for epidemiology and surveillance
- WHO SEARO is supporting WCOs for transition to the new Global COVID-19 Surveillance reporting platform

Points of entry:

- All Points of Entry (PoE) are closed or with some restrictions in all Member States except Maldives
- Bangladesh has established bubble arrangements with India for air travel and some relaxation for land transport

National laboratories

- WHO SEARO participated in the special webinar for the launch of antigen RDT training package organized by WHO HQ. Following the session, regional webinar will be organized to roll out the training packages in the Region and support will be provided to countries for specific adaptations
- The latest Laboratory capacity, testing strategies and antigen tests usage in the region was consolidated and compiled in collaboration with the Country offices for review by experts from WHO SEARO
- The external quality assessment project (EQAP) for sub-national laboratories is under process with over 1 600 panels being packed and ready for shipments by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs (RCPAQAP). Countries from SEARO will be receiving these panels in the coming weeks

Clinical Management:

- Experts from WHO South-East Asia Region and WHO focal point for clinical management represented in the guideline development group session for developing the living document on 'Lopinavir' and 'Ritonavir'
- Preliminary discussion was held to conduct a training of trainers (ToT) for a core group of clinical management trainers for all Member States of South-East Asia Region (SEAR) on management of severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) cases in intensive care units (ICU) and non-ICU settings
- Ongoing coordination with clinical management expert networks to find a clinical management experts to technically support Bangladesh in clinical management
- WHO SEARO is planning to conduct a workshop to implement new guidance on Maintaining surveillance of influenza and monitoring SARS-CoV-2 – adapting Global Influenza surveillance and Response System (GISRS) and sentinel systems during the COVID-19 pandemic
- WHO to conduct a consultation meeting with countries supported by pandemic influenza preparedness (PIP) funding to plan influenza activities in integration with COVID-19 response in the Region
- WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) team along with the Health Systems Development (HSD) team in process of finalizing the infection prevention and control (IPC) key performance indicators (KPIs) with WHO headquarters
- On request, facilitation of key information sharing on bio safety level 4 (BSL-4) laboratories and national IPC programmes to WHO country office in India

Operational Support and Logistics:

- Diagnostics: South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) coordinated shipment and delivery (shipment pipeline) of 1 639 800 (324 068) tests of Manual PCR, 1 234 200 (1 927 814) swabs, 1 480 688 (420 438) of extractions
- Infection Prevention and Control: 5 406 400 three-ply face masks, 1 895 500 gloves, 218 050 gowns, 353 075 respirators, 81 550 goggles and 87 336 face shields have been shipped to the countries
- Case management: 50 units of Patient monitors, 671 units of oxygen concentrators, 200 units of pulse oximeter, and 110 infrared thermometers were shipped and others in pipeline

Key country updates**Bangladesh**

- In the reported week (9-15 November), the number of new weekly cases increased by 10.1% compared to previous week (12 095 and 10,986 respectively) while the number of new weekly deaths increased by 0.8% (127 and 126 respectively)
- Case Fatality Ratio (CFR) decreased from 1.44 last week to 1.43 in the current week
- Of 434 472 total confirmed cases – 67.4% of reported cases were from Dhaka division, followed by Chattogram (12.2%) and Khulna (5.4%) division. The highest death rate was reported in age group of 61 to 70 years old (31.5%). Male represented 72% and 77% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 16 November
- A total of 2 556 962 laboratory tests with 16.99% overall positivity rate conducted by 116 laboratories (1 new laboratory during the reporting period) as of 16 November
- In week 45, the number of international flights has increased by 0.7% compared to previous week (144 and 143 respectively) leading to increase in number of incoming passengers by 5.6% (22 896 and 21 683 respectively). 335 incoming passengers sent to institutional quarantine after screening at the airport
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 23.1% (total 11 453) and 50.6% (total 564) respectively as reported by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 16 November

Cox's Bazar

- During the reporting week (9-15 November), 8 new cases were confirmed among Rohingya refugee camps.
- The incidence rate is 40.7 per 100 000 people and 8.6% of the cases showed severe symptoms at the time of admission while 7% reported at least one co-morbidity
- WHO organized a two-day training for 86 participants on the seroprevalence study among Rohingya refugees and the micro plans for the seroprevalence study was developed
- During the reporting period, 3 280 kilograms and 10.67 cubic meters (CBM) of medicines, flip charts, viral transmission media (VTM), stationary and medical equipment were distributed to implementing partners in the camps

Bhutan

- 14 new cases were reported last week, the number of weekly cases increased by 133% compared to previous week. In total, all 21 active cases in isolation ward are in stable condition. No deaths reported due to COVID-19 as of 19 November
- High level of compliance was observed among the general public in following COVID-19 protocol
- WHO organized a three-day workshop on development of COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan
- WHO handed over 2 534 waste-bins to Ministry of Health (MoH) to strengthen infection prevention and control through proper waste management

DPR Korea

- No reported cases so far as of 19 November
- 15 306 total samples were tested by RT-PCR at an interval of 10 days, no positive case was found as of 12 November

- 7 790 total people (including 7 782 nationals and 8 foreigners) were detected as suspected cases; 810 among nationals were suspected between 5 – 12 November as a result of intensified surveillance
- Movements within city are relaxed but inter-districts and inter-provincial movements are restricted. Educational institutes are still closed

India

- Active cases comprise 5.01% (446 805) of total positive cases (8 912 907) as of 18 November
- New cases continue their downward slope indicating adoption of COVID Appropriate Behaviour among the population, and effective containment measures by the State/UT governments.
- India's capital, Delhi, has seen an alarming spike in recent weeks, recording more new cases than any other state. The increase in cases has put pressure on hospitals, with more than half the available beds reported to be occupied
- Union Home Minister directed measures for controlling spread of COVID-19 in National capital Delhi
- Minister of Health called for engendering in the health workforce, a desire to make a real difference in the post-COVID world
- From development of indigenous vaccines to novel point-of-care diagnostics, country is hosting clinical trials for all the major vaccines, and about 20 vaccines are in different stages of development

Indonesia

- In week 46 (9 to 15 November), there were 30 602 new cases reported with an average of 4 372 new cases per day and the mortality rate was 0.22 per 100 000 population
- Of 478 720 cumulative cases, 59.2% cases were in Java
- WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health to establish an active reporting system for data on Adverse Events of Special Interest (AESI) in preparation for COVID-19 vaccination
- WHO and the National Institute of Health Research and Development are conducting external quality assurance programmes to strengthen laboratory capacities nationwide
- WHO supported MoH and the National COVID-19 Task Force (Satgas) with a training on contact tracing for 3 200 newly recruited volunteers for 10 priority provinces

Maldives

- 195 new confirmed cases reported since last week; 99.84% of cases are from known and existing clusters as of 17 November
- Over 220 500 samples tested to date, around 1 500 tests per day was maintained during last week. With overall positivity rate of 2% as of 17 November
- Two new clusters have developed over the week - one among airport cargo handlers (22 positive so far from 317 staff) and second cluster in a non-operational resort under construction (47 positive of 2000 staff)
- Cases continue to be concentrated mostly in Greater Malé region. 663 active cases reported from Malé, with 99% of all cases in the atolls having link to a history of travel from greater Malé area and quarantine

Myanmar

- The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) reinforced its order of prohibition on gathering of more than 30 people, stating effective actions will be taken against violations
- The government of Mandalay region has extended COVID-19 restrictions until the end of November. The restrictions were first imposed in March and renewed every 15 days
- MoHS to allow private hospitals in Yangon and Mandalay regions to use COVID-19 antigen rapid test kits and provide treatment for COVID-19 patients
- The suspension of domestic flights has been extended until 30 November to contain the local transmission of COVID-19, according to the Yangon International Airport

- Department of Medical Research, MoHS has planned to conduct seroprevalence survey in Yangon Region
- A total of 1 532 Myanmar nationals returned home between 10 to 16 November with the government-assisted relief flights as of 18 November

Nepal

- Of 212 917 total cumulative cases, 10 588 cases were reported last week
- A total of 1 623 754 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 76 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the country as of 18 November. WHO is supporting National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in forecasting laboratory tests/supplies
- WHO handed over ELISA kits to Ministry of Health (MoH), provided technical support for protocol preparation of Anti SARS-CoV-2 total antibody testing ELISA (Wantai- SARS-CoV-2 Ab ELISA)

Sri Lanka

- Total cumulative cases are 18 075 of which 3 360 new cases reported during the week as of 18 November
- The total cluster size of Minuwangoda factory including sub-clusters is 14 562 (80.6% of total cases). The current clusters have spread to almost all 25 districts in the country. The most affected province is the Western Province, which accounts for about 25% of the population as of 18 November
- Curfew has been imposed in high risk areas
- Ministry of Health (MoH) issued guidelines on the usage of antigen based rapid diagnostic test (Ag RDT) and management of dead during COVID-19
- MoH reported 24 deaths during the week, total cumulative deaths now rise to 66. A committee has been appointed to analyze all COVID deaths by MoH, WHO has shared the guidelines related to death audits
- Repatriation flights commenced on 11 November which was temporarily stopped, 1 071 people were repatriated during the week. Cumulative number is 51 992 people
- 3 192 people were quarantined in facilities and over 62 000 people in home quarantine as of 18 November
- WHO handed over 100 000 Ag RDT to expand the surveillance and contact tracing capacity to MoH
- WHO has contributed 500 hospital beds, medical equipment and supported in upgrading of nine COVID-19 divisional hospitals for strengthening case management

Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 41 new cases since last reporting on 11 November, majority of new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals traveled from abroad and later tested positive while in quarantine centers. A few cases were detected at the Points of Entry
- Of total 3 888 confirmed cases, about 96% (3 742) have recovered, 2% (60) have died and 2% (86) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 19 November
- From 7 to 13 November, 26 231 samples were tested for COVID-19. Accumulative number is 1 246 192 samples. Currently, 237 laboratories across country have been approved by Department of Medical Sciences for testing of SARS-CoV-2
- The Cabinet has agreed to supply a vaccine for COVID-19 by advance reserving. The bilateral cooperation with two vaccine manufacturers, AstraZeneca (Thailand) and AstraZeneca (UK), will provide Thailand with 26 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine
- The Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) committee approved an extension of the emergency decree until 15 January 2021. The main reason of the extension was to effectively manage and respond to COVID-19 in the country. Mass gathering can be done as usual
- The CCSA also agreed to increase the number of audiences in concerts, music, dance and cinema from 30% to 50% of the performance area

Timor-Leste

- The last active case of COVID-19 tested positive on 26 October was discharged on 14 November. Currently, there are no active cases in the country
- Serviço Autónomo de Medicamentos e Equipamentos de Saúde (SAMES) together with UNICEF completed the distribution of IPC supplies to 15 health facilities in five municipalities to help protect the health workers as they provide health services in these municipalities
- WHO supported one-week of health promotion activity at community level in several locations in Dili carried out by Timor-Leste midwives association. The activity mainly promoted and stressed on COVID-19 preventive measures among communities with focus on infection prevention control (IPC) followed by two-days seminar on COVID-19 case management of mild cases and case management for pregnant woman with COVID-19

Resource mobilization

- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 96.01 million which is 55% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 93% (USD 88.9/ USD 96.01 million) and remaining 7% (USD 7.15 million) distributed to WHE/SEARO
- Implementation rate against distributed resources increased from 48% to 49% and utilization from 67% to 70%

Cover story

WHO supplies rapid antigen detection tests for COVID-19 response

WHO South-East Asia Regional Office and WHO Sri Lanka supplied 100,000 rapid antigen detection tests to support COVID-19 surveillance activities in Sri Lanka. An additional 100,000 will be provided in the upcoming weeks.













































Rapid antigen tests are commonly used in the diagnosis of respiratory illnesses. In this case, the rapid antigen detection test looks for proteins produced by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is the virus that causes the disease called COVID-19. Antigen tests are immunoassays that detect the presence of a specific viral antigen, which means they identify people who currently have a viral infection. In some situations, they may be a viable alternative to nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT or PCR tests), which look for viral RNA in the sample.

Rapid antigen tests are typically used outside of laboratories, at the point of care. The turnaround time for these tests is short, 10-30 minutes, and therefore they are useful for the detection of infected contacts in an outbreak setting where urgent decisions need to be made. They can be used to screen for high-risk individuals who require urgent management in locations like emergency rooms. They can also be used to monitor trends in community epidemiology, especially among healthcare workers or other exposed cohorts.

In the current context, Sri Lanka plans to use this as a fast and efficient contact tracing test to manage the current cluster and for screening high-risk groups beyond the cluster. The use of rapid antigen tests is in line with the WHO technical guidance and will allow the country to detect individuals with COVID-19 early and take the necessary steps to reduce transmission. Therefore, a testing strategy that includes the use of rapid antigen tests to complement the current capacity for PCR testing will lead to the more efficient management of the current cluster and beyond.

Link: <https://www.who.int/srilanka/news/detail/09-11-2020-who-supplies-rapid-antigen-detection-tests-for-covid-19-response?fbclid=IwAR1FD4X8mdbLz4PPKe8PFiiW7FuFuttepstna6ip1Q51K9SAk8POwkSDoho>

Public Health and Social Measure (14 – 20 November 2020)

Member State	Movement restriction	Public transport (Inter province movement)	Education sector	Public gathering	Mask
Bangladesh	None 	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory (Religious places specifically)
Bhutan	None  (Travel from high risk areas- 7 days quarantine & test on day 8)	Resumed 	 (students moved to schools in low risk districts)	Ban 	Mandatory
DPR Korea	National level  (within cities 	Restricted 		Ban  >5	Mandatory
India	Partial  (only in containment zones)	Resumed* 	 (Flexibility for online classes)	 (Outdoor allowed; Indoor gathering <200)	Mandatory
Indonesia	Partial 	Restricted* 		Requirements vary across Provinces	Mandatory
Maldives (Emergency until 5 Dec)	Partial  (Greater Male region curfews 12pm -4 am)	Resumed 	 (schools for grade 8 & lower to remain closed)	Ban  > 15	Mandatory
Myanmar	Partial 	Restricted* 		Ban  >30	Mandatory
Nepal	Partial  (District & sub-district-level Kathmandu valley)	Restricted* 		Ban  >25	Mandatory
Sri Lanka	Partial  (Restrictions imposed in specified Isolation areas)	Restricted* 		Ban 	Mandatory
Thailand (Emergency extended until 15 Jan)	None 	Restricted*  (at Myanmar border)		No restriction 	Mandatory
Timor-Leste (Emergency extended until 3 Dec)	None 	Resumed 		No restriction 	Mandatory

* Public transport resumed with limited capacity and in limited routes – variations at Sub National level

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