

<b>10</b>	<b>374 356</b>	<b>4 973</b>	<b>10 750 428</b>	<b>163 708</b>
<b>Countries reporting cases</b>	<b>New cases (week 48/2020)</b>	<b>New deaths (week 48/2020)</b>	<b>Total cumulative cases (at end of week 48)</b>	<b>Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 48)</b>

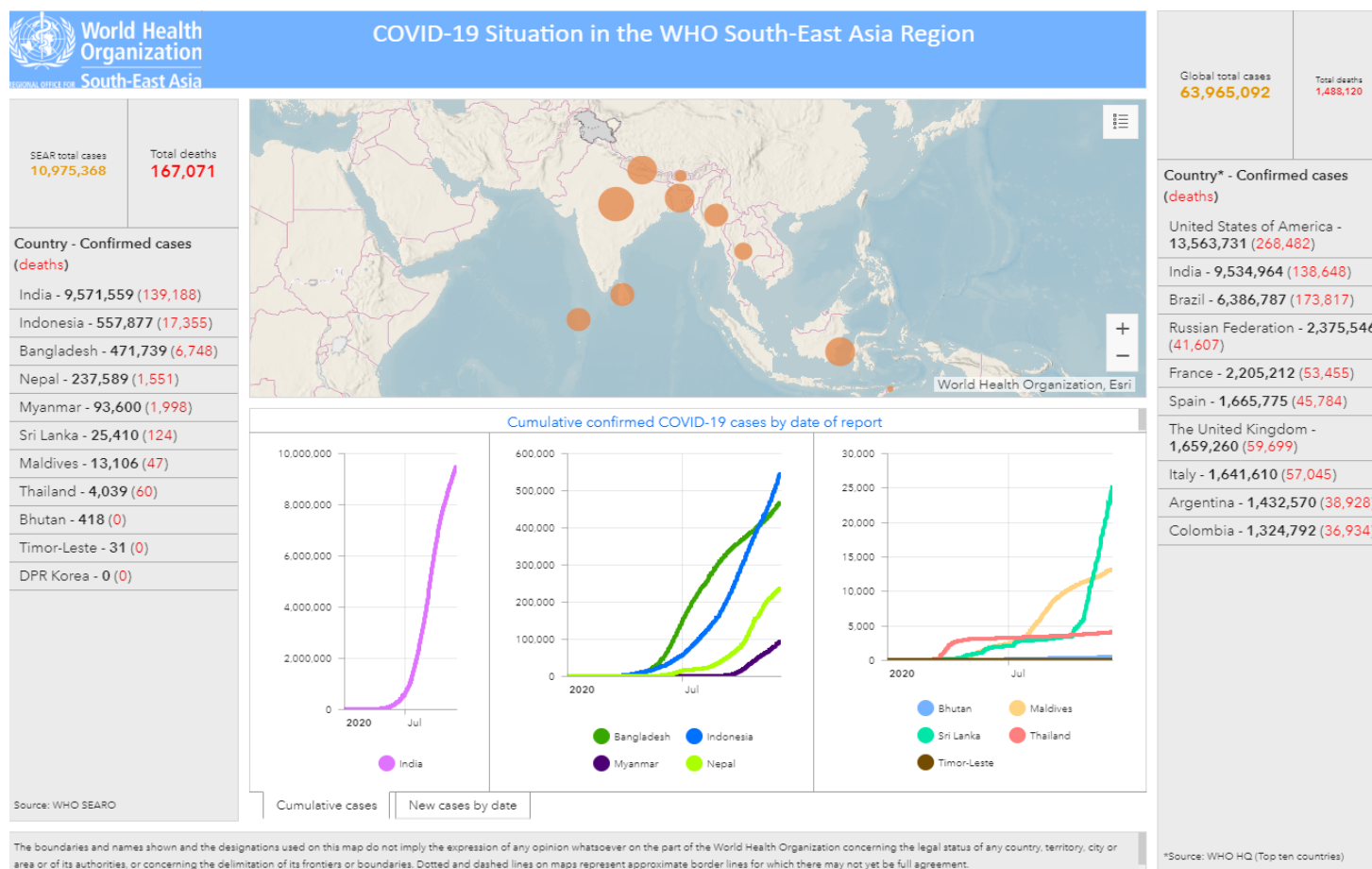
#### Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #48 was 3.6% (374 356) - slight increase than previous weekly increase of 3.5% reported, while percentage increase in deaths was 3.1% (4 973 deaths) as compared to last week. The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) is now ranked fifth for the highest weekly increase (3.6%) in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions followed by European Region (11%), Eastern Mediterranean Region (7%), Region of Americas (7%) and Western Pacific Region (5%)
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the region was reported from Sri Lanka (16.4%, 3 313 cases), followed by Myanmar (13%, 10 129 cases), Indonesia (7.4%, 36 598 cases), Nepal (5.3%, 11 670 cases) and India (3.3%, 281 227 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 reported sporadic cases
- Timor-Leste reported one new case this week after 35 days since last reported case - a non-Timorese diagnosed at quarantine facility
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a declining trend which are mostly concentrated in Greater Malé region and outside Malé there is a significant decline of cases and all have reported travel history to greater Malé region. Two new clusters identified last week are being contained through contact tracing and lab testing
- In Sri Lanka increasing number of cases are reported compared to previous weeks and 99% of the newly reported cases belong to Minuwangoda/Peliyagoda cluster. This cluster has created several sub-clusters at various districts
- In Thailand, sporadic cases in quarantine centers and refugee camps, including in border areas continue to be reported. These are being contained through extensive contact tracing and necessary PHSMs

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	469 423	6 713	1.4	2 850.4	40.8	14.1%
Bhutan	Sporadic cases	415	0	0.0	537.8	0.0	0.6%
DPR Korea	No cases	0	0	0	0	0	
India	Clusters of cases	9 534 964	138 648	1.5	6 909.4	100.5	3.9%
Indonesia	Community transmission	549 508	17 199	3.1	2 009.0	62.9	14.9%
Maldives	Clusters of cases	13 070	47	0.4	24 179.4	86.9	2.2%
Myanmar	Clusters of cases	92 189	1 972	2.1	1 694.3	36.2	8.2%
Nepal	Clusters of cases	236 246	1 538	0.7	8 108.2	52.8	16.4%
Sri Lanka	Clusters of cases	25 410	124	0.5	1 186.6	5.8	4.3%
Thailand	Sporadic cases	4 026	60	1.5	57.7	0.9	0.5%
Timor-Leste	Sporadic cases	31	0	0.0	23.5	0.0	0.0%

Table data as of 03 December 2020; 12 PM IST

## SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



as of 11:00 PM (IST); 2 December 2020

### Key updates

#### Points of entry, international travel, and transport:

- All Points of Entry (PoE) are closed or with some restrictions in all Member States except Maldives
- Bangladesh: All passengers arriving shall mandatorily obtain 'PCR based COVID-19 certificate' within 72 hours of the flight time. 14 days of home quarantine needed if COVID-19 symptoms free
- Myanmar: Extension of temporary entry restriction until 15 December including temporary suspension of VISA issuance on arrival and e-VISA. All incoming passengers have to present laboratory evidence of COVID-19 negative certificate

#### National laboratories:

- An orientation webinar was organized during the week on use of sub-national external quality assessment project (EQAP) panels, presented by the senior scientist of Royal College of Pathologists of Australia Quality Assurance Program. Over 80 participants from 6 Member States attended the webinar. Planning is underway for the second phase of sub-national EQAP for the year 2021
- The diagnostic consortium from WHO Headquarters has shared the allocations of GeneXpert cartridges for the months of January and February 2021. Member States could avail these cartridges through existing procurement mechanisms

#### Infection prevention and control:

- WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) team along with the Health Systems Development (HSD) team shared new guidance on Use of Mask in context to COVID\_19 and intend to provide support to operationalize its implementation
- Facilitated, SEAR participation of infection prevention and control (IPC) focal points in a joint webinar on 'Launch of the global progress report on WASH in healthcare facilities' organized by UNICEF and WHO

#### Clinical Management:

- Experts from WHO South-East Asia Region and WHO focal point for clinical management participated in the guideline development group (GDG) for developing recommendations on the anticoagulants to be used in COVID-19
- Nomination for 'WHO academy course on respiratory pathogens' steering committee submitted. Steering committee will be represented by WHO Health Emergencies (WHE/SEARO) department, Immunization & Vaccine Development (IVD/SEARO) unit and WHO Country Office for Nepal
- Technical expert group from WHO country office in Sri Lanka and Ministry of Health (MoH) are working on a medical decision support system for enhanced decision making for the patients
- WHO SEARO is planning virtual "Regional meeting on Implementation of WHO guidance on maintaining influenza surveillance and monitoring SARSCoV-2 through national sentinel surveillance systems during the COVID-19 pandemic in SEAR Member States" in January 2021
- Monitoring of epidemiological situation in the Region and status of data reporting by countries to the global data sharing platform ongoing
- SEARO to conduct 'Annual meeting on progress review of implementation of Pandemic Influenza preparedness (PIP) partnership contribution (PC) funds in priority countries in SEAR in December 2020

#### Operational Support and Logistics:

- Diagnostics: South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) coordinated shipment and delivery (shipment pipeline) of 1 934 700 (539 780) tests of manual PCR, 100 000 (2 500 000) tests of Ag RDTs, 2 261 150 (1 927 814) swabs, 1 886 166 (733 134) of extraction kits

- Infection Prevention and Control: 6 838 000 three-ply face masks, 2 030 500 (766 905) gloves, 553 500 (800) gowns, 591 295 (3 200) respirators, 84 070 goggles and 369 236 face shields have been shipped to the countries
- Case management: 81 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 (23 – 29 November), the number of new weekly cases increased by 0.4% compared to previous week (from 15 066 to 15 008) while the number of new weekly deaths increased by 13.9% (from 221 to 194 )
- Case Fatality Ratio (CFR) is static (1 out of 43) since last week
- Of 464 932 total confirmed cases – 81.9% (380 711) recovered, 1.43% (6 644) died and 16.69% (77 577) are active cases. Male represented 72% and 77% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 30 November
- A total of 2 772 701 laboratory tests with 16.77% overall positivity rate conducted by 118 laboratories (1 new laboratory during the reporting period) as of 30 November
- In week 48, the number of international flights has increased by 3.4% compared to previous week (153 and 148 respectively) leading to increase in number of incoming passengers by 5.4% (25 765 and 24 455 respectively). 1 104 incoming passengers sent to institutional quarantine after screening at the airport
- Bed occupancy rate for general beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was 17.4% (total 11 338) and 56.2% (total 566) respectively as reported by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) as of 30 November

### Cox's Bazar

- In week 48, 6 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the Rohingya refugee camps
- The COVID\_19 seroprevalence study was launched by representatives of DGHS, WHO and partners, the study will be completed by the end of December
- Sixteen out of 19 points of entry (POE) have been functional in different strategic locations across the 34 camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. A total of 43 302 individuals have been screened during the reporting period

### Bhutan

- 28 new cases were reported last week- an increase of 250% compared to previous week. In total, all 29 active cases in isolation ward are in stable condition. No deaths reported due to COVID-19 as of 3 December
- Khesar Gyalpo university of medical sciences organized 3 days' workshop to develop COVID-19 training module to train health workers
- Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO and other stakeholders participated in a workshop on earthquake impact assessment using a model disseminated by World Food Programme (WFP) and Department of Disaster Management (DDM) to mitigate risk in case severe earthquake

### DPR Korea

- No reported case as of 3 December
- A total of 18 472 samples from 9 373 person were tested with reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at an interval of 10 days and all were found negative for COVID-19. Of the total person tested 4 275 were SARI/ ILI cases and people who developed fever during their quarantine period, remaining were health workers deployed at quarantine stations and involved in sample collection and testing. 779 persons were tested during the week from 19 to 26 November
- A total of 33 044 persons released from quarantine by 26 November

- All Points of Entry (PoE) remain closed, the commodities including items for COVID-19 have been procured to be stored at WHO warehouse in Dubai. WHO's operations support and logistic (OSL) team is exploring the possibilities to store items which are originating from China or arrived in China
- WHO handed over six reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) machines with 3 type of accessories to DPR Korea Consulate at Dangdong

#### **India**

- Active cases comprise 4.44% (422 943) of total positive cases (9 534 964) as of 3 December. Steady decline in active coronavirus infections indicating adoption of COVID Appropriate Behaviour.
- Prime Minister interacted with Institutes working on developing and manufacturing COVID-19 vaccine. Mission COVID Suraksha launched by the Government of India to accelerate national COVID-19 vaccine development
- Ministry of Home Affairs issued revised guidelines for surveillance, containment and caution
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) released SOP on preventive measures in markets to contain spread of COVID-19
- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) releases 'Mitigation and Management of COVID-19: Practices from India's States & UTs'
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) issued a new advisory on convalescent plasma therapy (CPT), which insists on screening for antibody levels in patients so that the CPT can be prioritized for risk groups with recent symptom onset, who may actually benefit from the CPT. Plasma donors will also be screened for detecting the levels of neutralizing antibodies against COVID-19

#### **Indonesia**

- In the reported week, there were 37 672 new cases with an average of 5 382 per day. On 29 November, the daily number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases surpassed 6000 for the first time, 6 267 new cases recorded on that day
- Of 549 508 cumulative cases, 60.6% cases were in Java. Jakarta had the highest number of confirmed cases per one million population, followed by West Papua, East Kalimantan, West Sumatra and Bali
- During the week of (23 to 29 November), the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths was 0.34 per 100 000 population, compared to 0.25 per 100 000 population in the previous week
- WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities for quality care and patient safety during the COVID-19 pandemic  
WHO is providing technical assistance to the government for continuity of essential health services

#### **Maldives**

- 253 new confirmed cases reported since last week as of 1 December. Of 1,019 active cases, 772 are in Malé Area, 22 in atolls, 60 in resorts, 13 in other tourist establishments (yacht/Safari), 151 in islands under development and 1 in an industrial island
- Over 240 000 samples tested to date. Daily testing rates have been increased during the last week to 1 800 tests a day as of 1 December
- A total 67 564 tourists have arrived since 15 July after reopening of borders. The country has also received the award for World's Leading Destination 2020
- WHO is supporting human resource to strengthen National Influenza Surveillance of the Health Protection Agency
- WHO is supporting preparedness activities for COVID-19 vaccine deployment while expanding cold chain system for vaccine introduction

## Myanmar

- The Government further extended existing instructions, orders and directions until 15 December, while international flight suspension is extended until 31 December
- A total of 1 077 Myanmar nationals returned home between 25 to 30 November with government-assisted relief flights organized by Myanmar Embassies
- National health laboratory (NHL) in collaboration with hospitals in Yangon is conducting seroprevalence survey among health care providers in Yangon Region. The ongoing surveillance had tested 5 478 health care personnel, of them 5.7% were detected with antibodies
- Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has planned to establish regional public health laboratories and point of care PCR testing in 2021. MoHS approved Muse laboratory in Shan North for testing of Covid19 and it can test 300-330 tests per day
- WHO supported IT equipment to Medical Care Department, MoHS for COVID-19 clinical data management

## Nepal

- Of 234 755 total cumulative cases, 77.6% (182 082/234 755) of cases were reported from three provinces, namely- Province 1, Bagmati province and Lumbini province as of 2 December
- Government of Nepal (GoN) has inaugurated the establishment of 5 provincial infectious diseases hospitals and 309 basic hospitals at the municipal level across the country. The government plans to establish one infectious disease hospital in each province and 5 bedded hospitals in each municipality
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) is working with Kathmandu Municipality, one of the hardest hit areas, to institutionalize community based active surveillance and testing
- A total of 1 763 919 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 77 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the country as of 3 December
- MoHP is conducting an assessment of major COVID-19 hospitals to assess oxygen capacity and management options from 1 December. Specifications for the medium size oxygen plant are presently being prepared for the hospitals to procure and install the oxygen plants with the funds provided by MoHP
- WHO has provided technical support to the National Health Training Center (NHTC) for a 3-day training program on "Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) & Essential Critical Care Management"

## Sri Lanka

- Total cumulative cases are 24 532 of which 3 565 new cases reported during the week as of 2 December
- The total cluster size of Minuwangoda factory including sub-clusters is at 20 983 (85.5% of total cases) as of 2 December. The most affected is Western Province, which accounts for about 25% of the population. Sub-clusters in Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) area, police and prison inmates are active
- Curfew has been imposed in high risk areas
- Ministry of Health (MoH) released guidance on work place testing strategy for COVID-19 and deployment of mobile medical team to affected (lock down) areas
- A team of professionals from the MoH / clinical management technical expert group are working on establishment of a Medical Decision support system for better decision making for the patients
- 2 253 people were repatriated during the week. Cumulative number is 57 270 people as of 2 December
- 6 608 people were quarantined in 74 facilities and over 62 000 people in home quarantine as of 2 December
- Basic data analysis for first 109 deaths was completed by the committee appointed to analyze all COVID-19 deaths by MoH. 27.5% (30) of deaths were in the 65-74 age group and 69% of all deaths were persons over the age of 55 years
- Family Health Bureau, WHO, UNICEF and Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention, University of Oxford are discussing a Parent Text Pilot project – 'Keeping Children Safe During COVID-19 Crisis'



## Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported 97 new cases since the last reporting on 26 November, the majority of new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals who traveled from abroad and later tested positive while in quarantine centers. A total cumulative confirmed case as of 3 December were 4 039, about 95% (3 832) have recovered, 2% (60) have died, and 3% (147) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals
- There was a report of 10 Thai nationals who have been smuggled into the country via natural border crossing. These people did not quarantine themselves as per the national quarantine policy. Some of them developed symptoms and sought medical care. Provincial public health and national security officials are in the process of investigating and searching for those in contact with these new cases. There is no domestic transmission reported so far
- MoPH in cooperation with Agoda online travel agency has introduced a platform for booking alternative state quarantine packages in Thailand. This aims at providing convenience to repatriating Thai persons and foreign tourists who are allowed to enter Thailand
- Thailand would at least have 26 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine through signing an agreement with AstraZeneca. It is expected that Thailand would have the vaccine by the first half of 2021. Thailand would also continue seeking vaccines from other sources and working on domestic vaccine research and development

## Timor-Leste

- A new case of COVID-19 was reported on 2 December, in a 35-year-old male, non-Timorese, non-health worker, who underwent routine PCR testing towards the end of his mandatory quarantine period after entering the country. This takes the total tally of COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste to 31
- Ministry of Health (MoH) with support from UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, and Australian Embassy is working to strategise the COVID-19 vaccine deployment

## Resource mobilization

- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 96.5 million which is 55% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020. Additional fund amounting to USD 403 000 received last week and distributed to WHO Country Office for Myanmar and Nepal
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 92% (USD 89.2/ USD 96.5 million) and remaining 8% (USD 7.3 million) distributed to WHE SEARO
- Implementation rate against distributed resources increased from 52% to 57% and utilization from 72% to 77%
- WHO Country Offices to accelerate and ensure full implementation of the funds expiring by December 2020

## Cover story

### Reinvigorate response to HIV among challenges posed by pandemic

WHO cautioned countries in South-East Asia Region against slow-down in services for HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, saying this could leave many vulnerable populations at greater risk of HIV infection and AIDS-related death. Addressing a virtual meeting of Ministers of Health and heads of National HIV programmes of Member States today, Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, the Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region said, 'The theme for this year's World AIDS Day, Global Solidarity – resilient services is very relevant. It's a timely reminder that we must continue to work together and ensure that HIV services remain an integral part of our response to COVID-19. This year we must take stock of our response to HIV, learn from what has worked and accelerate those efforts to reach our goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.'

Between 2010 and 2019, the Region has taken large strides in its response to HIV. Epidemiological trends show that both new infections and HIV-related deaths are continuing to decline, with the number of new HIV infections dropping by an estimated 23.8% and the number of AIDS-related deaths coming down by 26.7%. In 2019, an estimated 38 million people were living with HIV globally, of which 3.7 million were in the WHO South-East Asia Region.

However, Dr Khetrapal Singh pointed out that the rate of decline has plateaued over recent years and also that the region and across globe, we are lagging behind on 90-90-90 targets to be achieved by 2020. (These targets mean 90% of all people estimated to be living with HIV will know their HIV status, -90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression).

According to the UNAIDS 2020 Global AIDS Report, nearly 98% of new HIV infections in the Asia- Pacific Region are occurring among key and vulnerable populations. 'Acting on the insights and advice of key populations is a precondition of success,' said the Regional Director.

Further, the COVID-19 pandemic, which took a huge toll on essential health services, has also affected access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services. There is a clear and present danger of many vulnerable populations finding themselves at greater risk of HIV infection and AIDS-related death.

'The COVID-19 pandemic has given us the opportunity to learn from adversities. The examples of differentiated service delivery (reaching out to people at facility nearer to them or outside of health facility), dispensing of drugs for 3 months ( as against existing practice on monthly dispensation), tasking shifting ( dispensation of drugs by nurse/community workers to stable patients) and use of e-medicine for consultation , virtual interactions have led to greater comfort levels among service providers and clients. This is a step towards strengthening HIV prevention, one that can help and re-invigorate our response to HIV,' said Dr Khetrapal Singh at the high-level meeting.

Highlighting the role of community participation, she said, 'We must harness the rich experience of communities affected by HIV. By empowering communities to prevent, detect and treat HIV, countries can make full use of a range of new tools such as pre-exposure prophylaxis and community-based and HIV self-testing, as well as better antiretroviral drugs such as Dolutegravir.'











































At the virtual meeting, countries in the Region took the opportunity to share experiences and best practices on HIV service delivery amidst the pandemic, and the need to build even more resilient health systems to ensure rights-based HIV services continued to be available to people. Member States also outlined what was required to integrate HIV programmes within Universal Health Coverage.

'As we stand at the last 10 year stretch of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, our response to HIV in the Region remains critical and central to the goals of 2030,' added Dr Khetrapal Singh.

**Link:** <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/01-12-2020-reinvigorate-response-to-hiv-among-challenges-posed-by-pandemic-who>



# Public Health and Social Measure (27 November – 3 December 2020)

Member State	Movement restriction	Public transport (Inter province movement)	School measures	Public gathering	Face Cover
<b>Bangladesh</b>	None 	Resumed 		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Bhutan</b>	None  (Travel from high risk areas- 7 days quarantine & test on day 8 )	Resumed 	 (students moved to schools in low risk districts)	Ban 	Mandatory
<b>DPR Korea</b>	Information awaited	Restricted 		Ban  >5	Mandatory
<b>India</b>	Partial  (restrictions in containment zones & for other areas local authorities to decide)	Resumed* 	 (vary across States)	 (>100 indoor gatherings; vary across States)	Mandatory
<b>Indonesia</b>	Partial 	Restricted* 		Requirements vary across Provinces	Mandatory
<b>Maldives</b> (Emergency until 5 Dec)	Partial  (Greater Male region curfews 12pm -4 am)	Resumed 	 (schools remain closed for grade 8 & lower)	Ban  > 15	Mandatory
<b>Myanmar</b>	Partial 	Restricted* 		Ban  >30	Mandatory
<b>Nepal</b>	None 	Restricted*  (few restrictions on private vehicles in Kathmandu valley)		Ban  >25	Mandatory
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Partial  (Restrictions imposed in specified Isolation areas)	Restricted* 	 (grade 6 upwards allowed except in isolated areas)	Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Thailand</b> (Emergency extended until 15 Jan)	None 	Restricted*  (at Myanmar border)		No restriction 	Mandatory
<b>Timor-Leste</b> (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