

<b>10</b>	<b>331 781</b>	<b>4 974</b>	<b>11 082 209</b>	<b>168 682</b>
<b>Countries reporting cases</b>	<b>New cases (week 49/2020)</b>	<b>New deaths (week 49/2020)</b>	<b>Total cumulative cases (at end of week 49)</b>	<b>Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 49)</b>

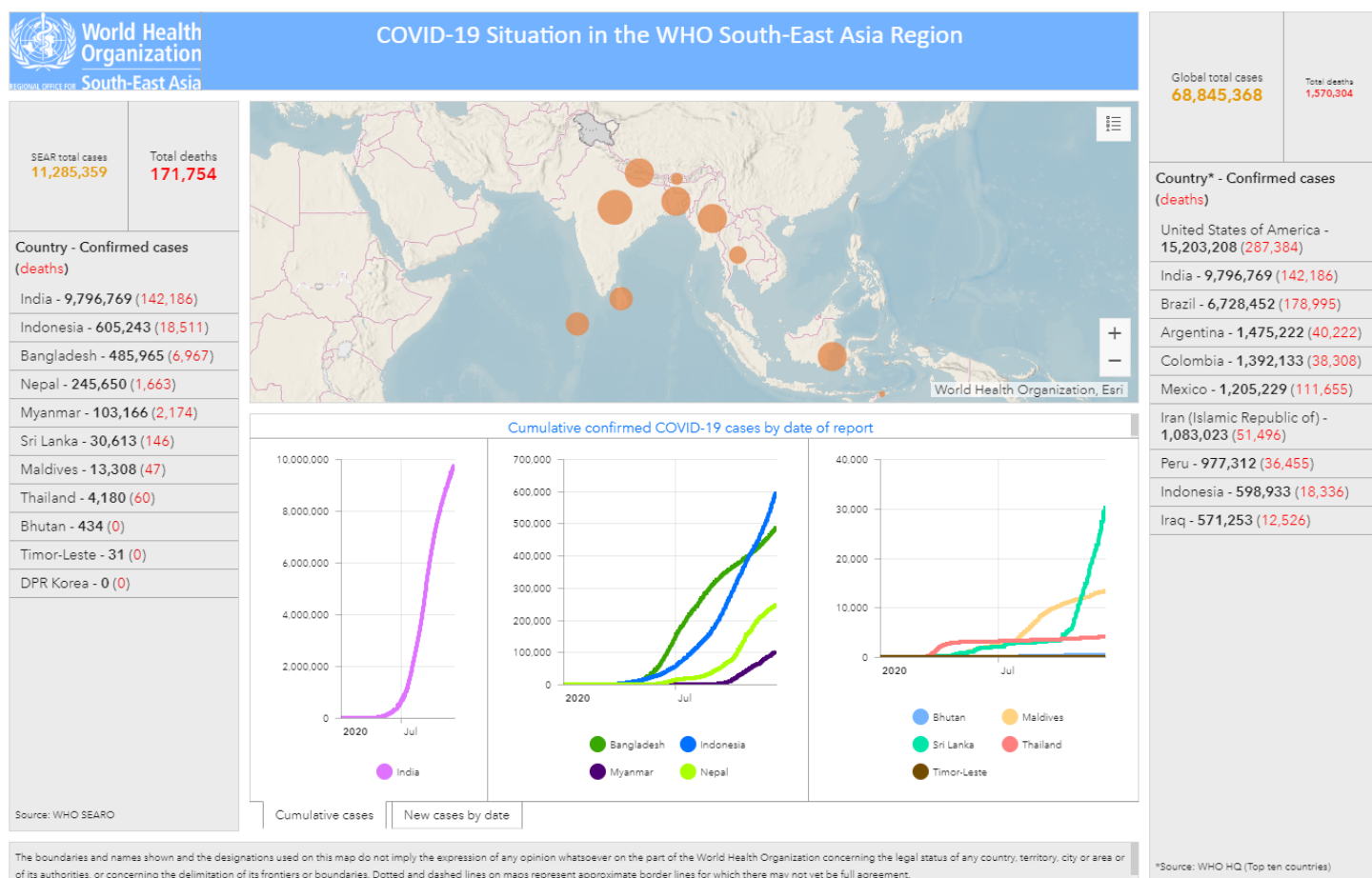
#### Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #49 was 3.09% (331 781) slight decrease than previous weekly increase of 3.6% reported, while percentage increase in deaths was 3.04% (4 974 deaths) a slight decrease as compared to last week. The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has the lowest weekly increase (3.09%) in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions viz European Region (9%), Region of Americas (7%), Eastern Mediterranean Region (6%), African Region (4%) and Western Pacific Region (4%)
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region was reported from Sri Lanka (19%, 4 393 cases), followed by Myanmar (11%, 10 070 cases), Indonesia (8%, 41 530 cases), Bhutan (8%, 30 cases), Nepal (4%, 9 003 cases) and India (3%, 251 303 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
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a declining trend which are mostly concentrated in Greater Malé region and outside Malé there are no new cases reported from Atolls
- In Sri Lanka, the Minuwangoda Garment factory cluster has been controlled and no new cases were reported in the past 3 weeks, however the linked Peliyagoda Fish market cluster has led to several sub clusters at district levels - 99% of newly reported cases last week belonged to this cluster
- In Myanmar there is evidence of widespread transmission in Rakhine, Yangon, Sagaing, Bago, Mandalay etc. 75% of the cases and 93% of the deaths are reported from Yangon. Contact tracing continues to be a challenge.
- In Nepal, number of new cases as well as number of tests continue to decrease following the festival season, however the TPR remains high at around 15%.

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	484 104	6 930	1.4	2 939.5	42.1	13.8%
Bhutan	Sporadic cases	433	0	0	561.2	0	0.7%
DPR Korea	No cases	0	0	0	0	0	
India	Clusters of cases	9 767 371	141 772	1.5	7 077.8	102.7	3.3%
Indonesia	Community transmission	592 900	18 171	3.1	2 167.6	66.4	18.0%
Maldives	Clusters of cases	13 274	47	0.4	24 556.8	86.9	1.7%
Myanmar	Clusters of cases	101 739	2 151	2.1	1 869.9	39.5	6.7%
Nepal	Clusters of cases	244 433	1 651	0.7	8 389.1	56.7	16.3%
Sri Lanka	Clusters of cases	29 378	142	0.5	1 372.0	6.6	4.8%
Thailand	Sporadic cases	4 151	60	1.4	59.5	0.9	0.6%
Timor-Leste	Sporadic cases	31	0	0.0	23.5	0	0.0%

Table data as of 10 December 2020; 12 PM IST

## SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



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

## Operational update

### Key updates

#### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement:**

- The regular weekly digital monitoring of public concerns revealed that the conversation around vaccines symptoms of COVID-19 and the need to follow preventive measures, were some of the key topics

#### **Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:**

- Technical collaboration with Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal since November 2020 to enhance their contact tracing capacities

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

- All Points of Entry (PoEs) are closed with some relaxation for certain types of visa, requiring quarantine in all Member States except Maldives
- Timor-Leste: Ban on land border crossings are maintained, entry of foreign nationals through land border on prior authorization

#### **Infection prevention and control:**

- WHO SEARO facilitated information related to the development of healthcare-associated infection (HAI) and COVID-19, and emerging trends throughout the world upon request from WHO Country Office for India
- WHO SEARO infection prevention and control (IPC) team shared the regional overview of use of mask in the context of COVID-19 in SEAR countries on receiving information from countries
- Ongoing three-level discussion with Ministry of Health, WHO Country Office for Indonesia, WHO SEARO and WHO Headquarters on 'Assessment of risk factors for COVID-19 in health workers' to address the technical and methodological issues

#### **Clinical Management:**

- Experts from WHO SEARO and the WHO focal point for clinical management participated in the guideline development group (GDG) for developing recommendations on the Post COVID-19 patient management
- WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) SEARO to train a core group of Trainers of Trainers (ToT) on clinical management of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) and started the approval process for the programme

#### **Operational Support and Logistics:**

- Diagnostics: South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) coordinated shipment and delivery (shipment pipeline) of 1 936 700 (537 780) tests of manual PCR, 100 000 (2 500 000) tests of Ag RDTs, 2 268 950 (1 927 814) swabs, 1 886 166 (731 384) of extraction kits
- Infection Prevention and Control: 6 840 000 three-ply face masks, 2 030 500 (674 905) gloves, 554 300 gowns, 594 495 respirators, 85 510 goggles and 370 836 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), 15 138 new cases and 229 new deaths were reported as of 7 December
- Case Fatality Ratio (CFR) is static at 1.43 since last three weeks

- Of 477 545 total confirmed cases – 82.9% (395 960) recovered, 1.43% (9 838) died and 16.69% (74 747) are active cases. Male represented 72% and 76% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 7 December
- A total of 2 863 169 laboratory tests with 16.68% overall positivity rate conducted by 127 laboratories (8 new laboratory during the reporting period) as of 7 December
- In week 49, the number of international flights has increased by 5.2% compared to previous week (161 and 153 respectively) leading to increase in number of incoming passengers by 3.4% (26 636 and 25 765 respectively). 1 203 incoming passengers sent to institutional quarantine after screening at the airport

#### **Cox's Bazar**

- In week 49, 7 new COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Rohingya refugee camps. In total, there were 363 confirmed cases of COVID-19 detected out of 19 651 samples tested
- Sample collection for a COVID-19 seroprevalence study started on 2 December in the camps. The aim of this study is to estimate the population-level exposure to SARS-CoV-2 across the Rohingya camps

#### **Bhutan**

- 19 new cases were reported last week - a decrease of 32% compared to previous week. In total, all 38 active cases in isolation ward are in stable condition. No deaths reported due to COVID-19 as of 10 December
- Ministry of Health (MoH) started providing flu vaccine to general population across country. In October flu vaccine was administered to high risk population and children above 6 to 23 months

#### **DPR Korea**

- No reported case of COVID-19 as of 3 December
- A total of 20 054 samples from 10 164 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 4 445 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. 791 persons were tested during the week from 27 November to 3 December
- A total of 33 223 persons released from quarantine by 3 December
- All Points of Entry (PoEs) remain closed. Support is being sought from WHO's operations support and logistic (OSL) team to explore possibilities to store items either at WHO warehouse in Dubai or in China

#### **India**

- Active cases comprise 3.81%% (372 293) of total positive cases (9 767 371) as of 11 December. Steady decline in active coronavirus infections indicating adoption of COVID Appropriate Behaviour
- Prime Minister holds all party meeting to discuss COVID-19 vaccination strategy
- Minister of Health assured that India is on the forefront of developing COVID-19 vaccines. Approximately 300 million line-listed for COVID-19 vaccination, including healthcare, frontline workers and prioritized population groups

#### **Indonesia**

- In the reported week, there were 43 392 new cases with an average of 6 199 per day. On 3 December, 8 369 cases reported which is the highest daily count since the first cases were reported in the country
- Of 592 900 cumulative cases, 60.9% cases were in Java. Jakarta had the highest number of confirmed cases per one million population, followed by East Kalimantan, West Papua, West Sumatra and Papua
- Provincial Government in Jakarta has extended its large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) until 21 December
- Ministry of Health revised the National COVID-19 Response Plan during the first week of December. WHO supported MoH to revise the plan based on the Intra-Action Review (IAR) recommendations

- Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National COVID-19 Task Force (Satgas) conducted a training for the second batch of volunteers who will be involved in contact tracing (CT) activities in provinces
- WHO supported the Ministry of Health with a webinar on life skills for adolescents to prevent psychosocial problems and substance abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### **Maldives**

- 202 new confirmed cases reported since last week as of 8 December
- Government extended the state of public health emergency till 4 January 2021. Quarantine period for travelers (except tourists) has been reduced from 14 days to 10 days, all COVID-19 positive patients and direct contacts have to isolate for 14 days
- Over 260 000 samples tested to date. Daily testing rates have been increased during the last week to 2 000 tests per day as of 8 December
- A survey of seroprevalence of COVID 19 in Malé conducted by Maldives National University showed prevalence of COVID 19 among 13.4% of population; they concluded that 10% of the individuals are unaware of being contracted by COVID-19
- A total 35 759 tourists have arrived in November 2020, crossing 83 000 arrivals since reopening of borders. The government allowed hotels and guesthouses to open for tourists from 15 December
- Government will continue to support income allowance under economic relief package until end of the year
- WHO facilitated meeting with the National COVID-19 vaccine steering committee and COVAX facility during the week to address queries/concerns

#### **Myanmar**

- As cases surge in Mandalay, regional government imposed new restrictions in the District from 5 to 18 December, ordering all businesses to shut, with some exemptions, and preventing people from travelling across townships without permission
- A total of 1 338 Myanmar nationals returned home between 1 and 7 December with government-assisted relief flights
- 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 COVID-19 with capacity of 300-330 tests per day

#### **Nepal**

- Of 244 433 total cumulative cases, 31 516 cases were reported last week as 9 December
- A total of 1 805 972 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 79 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the country, 3 new laboratories established during the week as of 9 December
- WHO provided support to NPHL for distribution of Proficiency Test (PT) panels to all 77 designated COVID-19 laboratories across the country through domestic courier service
- WHO Nepal has been supporting MoHP with the establishment of an extended EDCC call center at Kathmandu District Health Office

#### **Sri Lanka**

- The total cluster size of Minuwangoda/Peliyagoda including sub-clusters is at 25 821 (87.9% of total cases) as of 9 December. The most affected is Western Province, which accounts for about 25% of the population
- Curfew has been continued in high risk areas. Isolation of additional villages/housing schemes including 8 police areas of Colombo district
- Ministry of Health (MoH) released few guidelines on – antigen based RDT testing, workplace testing strategy for COVID-19 using Ag-RDT, treatment of the patients with COVID-19 infections. Also revised guidelines for testing

of prospective returnees from abroad and autopsy practices and disposal of remains during mandatory quarantine

- 2 348 people were repatriated during the week. Cumulative number is 59 106 people as of 9 December
- 7 054 people were quarantined in 73 facilities and over 73 109 people in home quarantine as of 9 December
- WHO provided technical support to consumer action network – mental health (MH) and conducted multi-stakeholder discussion on integration of MH service users in the community

#### Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health reported 112 new cases since the last reporting on 3 December. More than half of new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals who traveled from abroad and later tested positive while in quarantine centers.
- Of total 4 151 cumulative cases, about 93% (3 880) have recovered, 2% (60) have died, and 5% (211) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 9 December
- 46 cases were reported from Thai returnees from Myanmar, 17 crossed the border illegally and did not undergo quarantine and rest 27 were tested in quarantine centres. Provinces sharing borders with the neighboring countries are closely watching their borders to prevent illegal entry
- 5 cases were reported among health care workers who worked in the same quarantine facilities and hospital. 280 contacts and 465 colleagues from other departments were tested negative
- MoPH has ordered all provinces in Thailand to activate an Emergency Operation Center for COVID-19 to assess the situation and prepare for possible new case upsurge

#### Timor-Leste

- Government announced extension of State of Emergency until 2 January 2021
- Ministry of Health (MoH) with technical assistance from WHO and UNICEF has submitted the COVAX vaccine request procedures. This confirms the country's participation/membership to the COVAX facility

### Resource mobilization

- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 97 million which is 55% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020. Additional fund amounting to USD 447 000 received last week and distributed to WHO Country Office for Sri Lanka and Nepal
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 92% (USD 89.7/ USD 97 million) and remaining 8% (USD 7.3 million) distributed to WHE SEARO
- Implementation rate against distributed resources increased from 57% to 59% and utilization from 77% to 80%
- WHO Country Offices to accelerate and ensure full implementation of the funds expiring by December 2020

### Feature story

#### Nepal enhances laboratory capacity for COVID-19 and influenza

A rapid expansion of molecular diagnostic testing capacities has enabled SARS-CoV-2 surveillance in Nepal. It is now being harnessed to strengthen surveillance of influenza and other respiratory pathogens.

As soon as WHO declared the COVID-19 pandemic a public health emergency of international concern, Nepal began expanding its capacity for laboratory testing of the disease. In less than ten months, the country has built a network of 74 laboratories capable of confirming COVID-19 through molecular testing, with more laboratories in the process of approval. Training, proficiency testing and on-site reviews have ensured continuous quality improvement throughout the network, which is now also being leveraged to significantly expand national influenza surveillance.



The new laboratory network was facilitated by the federal Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) with active participation and contribution of provincial and local governments and the private sector. Its strong performance has been secured through a combination of in-person and online training by the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and WHO, as well as a comprehensive five-point quality assurance programme that comprises:

- **Initial validation.** Every laboratory in the network was validated before approval by having ten samples each of its negative and positive results tested at the NPHL.
- **Online assessment.** All laboratories were assessed remotely using an online laboratory quality assessment tool jointly developed by WHO and NPHL.
- **Re-testing.** Five samples each of negative and positive results from all approved laboratories are re-tested at NPHL every month.
- **In-house proficiency panels.** All approved laboratories periodically participated in an in-house SARS-COV-2 rRT-PCR proficiency testing system developed at NPHL with WHO support.
- **On-site review.** All network laboratories are subject to regular on-site inspections by a joint team of reviewers from NPHL, MoHP and WHO.













































































With WHO support, a select number of laboratories from the new network are also planning to participate in an international external quality assessment programme by end of 2020.

Nepal has already incorporated SARS-CoV-2 surveillance into its influenza surveillance system; and is also piloting the integration of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) surveillance. At the same time, the government is identifying those COVID-19 laboratories with optimal assets and performance to significantly expand the national laboratory network for surveillance of influenza and other respiratory pathogens.

With representative laboratories in all provinces including in secondary and tertiary care hospitals both in the public and private sector, Nepal's enhanced laboratory capacity for molecular testing is expected to be a critical asset in strengthening the country's preparedness and response for influenza and other high-threat infectious hazards.

Link: [https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e= test\\_email \\_&u=c35eb4938c7246655f6384192&id=71390dc70d#SEAR2](https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email_&u=c35eb4938c7246655f6384192&id=71390dc70d#SEAR2)

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

Member State	Movement restriction	Public transport (Inter province movement)	School measures	Public gathering	Mask Use
<b>Bangladesh</b>	None 	Resumed    		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>Bhutan</b>	None  (in high risk areas- some movement restrictions)	Resumed    		Ban 	Mandatory
<b>DPR Korea</b>	Partial 	Restricted    		Ban  >5	Mandatory
<b>India</b>	Partial  (restrictions in containment zones & for other areas local authorities to decide)	Resumed*    	 (vary across States)	 (Ban >100 indoor gatherings; vary across States)	Mandatory
<b>Indonesia</b>	Partial 	Restricted*    	 (vary across provinces)	Requirements vary across Provinces	Mandatory
<b>Maldives</b> (Emergency until 4 January)	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)	 (some Municipalities in Kathmandu reopen)	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 2 Jan)	None 	Resumed    		No restriction 	Mandatory

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