

<b>10</b>	<b>289 646</b>	<b>4 411</b>	<b>11 371 855</b>	<b>173 093</b>
<b>Countries reporting cases</b>	<b>New cases (week 50/2020)</b>	<b>New deaths (week 50/2020)</b>	<b>Total cumulative cases (at end of week 50)</b>	<b>Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 50)</b>

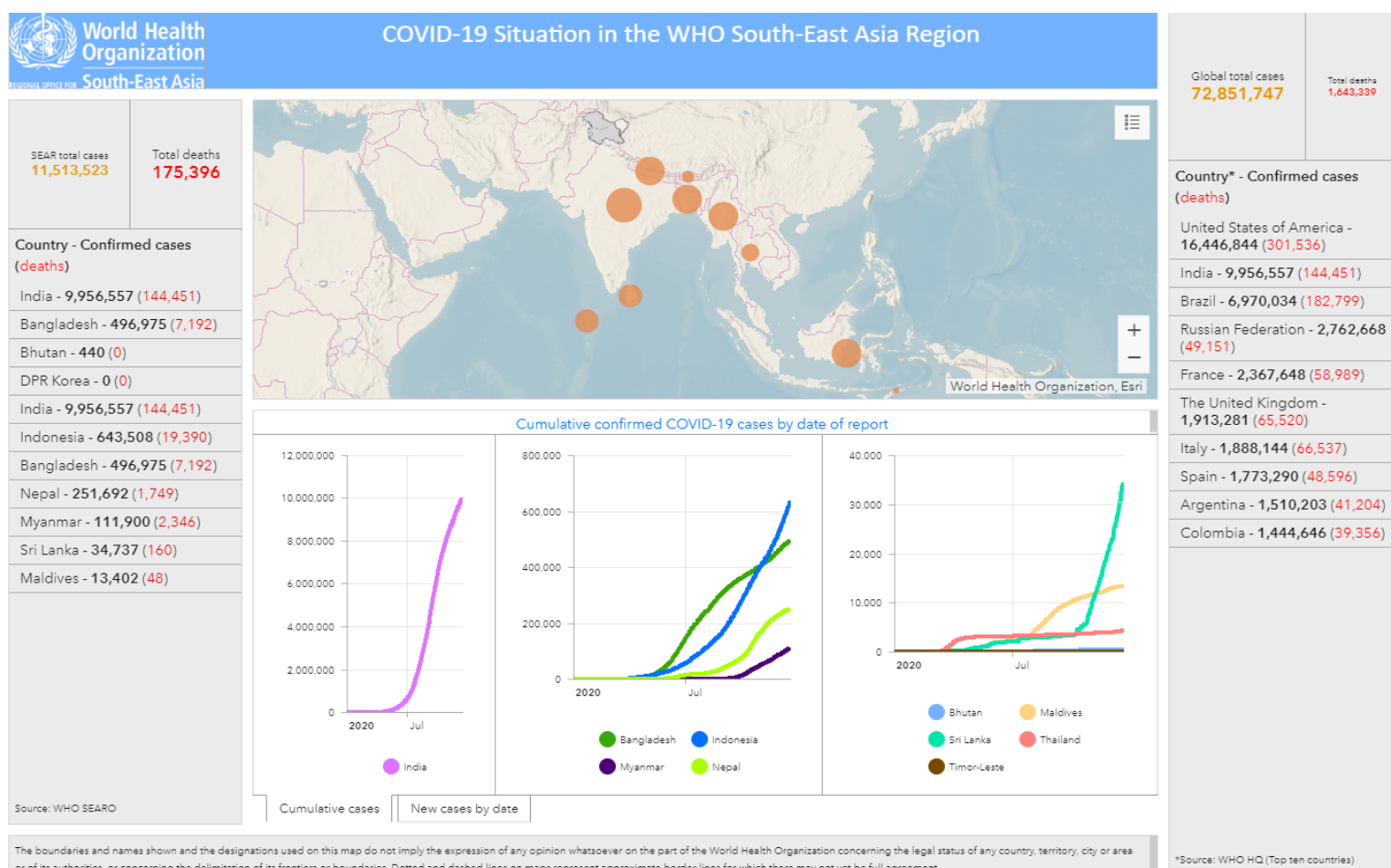
#### Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #50 was 2.6% (289 646 new cases) slight decrease than previous weekly increase of 3.1% reported while percentage increase in deaths was 2.6% (4 411 new deaths) which again is slightly lower than reported percentage increase last week
- The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has the lowest weekly increase (2.5%) in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions viz European Region (8.1%), Region of Americas (7.2%), Africa Region (5.2%), Western Pacific Region (4.9%) and Eastern Mediterranean Region (4.3%)
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region was reported from Sri Lanka (17.6%, 4 913 cases), followed by Myanmar (9.4%, 9 168 cases), Indonesia (7.3%, 42 024 cases), Nepal (3.1%, 7 442 cases), Thailand (3%, 123 cases) and Bangladesh (2.7%, 12 988 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 Sri Lanka, the Peliyagoda fish market cluster has led to several sub clusters at district levels. The total number of new cases (4 913) reported last week is the highest weekly cases reported in the country
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a declining trend which are mostly concentrated in Greater Malé region
- In Myanmar there is evidence of transmission in Rakhine, Yangon, Sagaing, Bago, and Mandalay. Increasing number of new cases are being reported outside of Yangon. Contact tracing continues to be a challenge with only 18% of contacts seen until 4 December
- In Nepal, number of new cases as well as number of tests continue to decrease following festival season, however the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) remains high at around 16%

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	496 975	7 192	1.4	3 017.7	43.7	13.8%
Bhutan	Sporadic cases	440	0	0.0	570.2	0.0	0.7%
DPR Korea	No cases	0	0	0	0	0	
India	Clusters of cases	9 956 557	144 451	1.5	7 214.9	104.7	3.3%
Indonesia	Community transmission	643 508	19 390	3.0	2 352.7	70.9	18.0%
Maldives	Clusters of cases	13 402	48	0.4	24 793.6	88.8	1.7%
Myanmar	Clusters of cases	111 900	2 346	2.1	2 056.6	43.1	6.7%
Nepal	Clusters of cases	251 692	1 749	0.7	8 638.3	60.0	16.3%
Sri Lanka	Clusters of cases	34 737	160	0.5	1 622.2	7.5	4.8%
Thailand	Sporadic cases	4 281	60	1.4	61.3	0.9	0.6%
Timor-Leste	Sporadic cases	31	0	0.0	23.5	0.0	0.0%

Table data as of 18 December 2020; 7 AM IST

## SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



as of 11:00 AM (IST); 18 December 2020

## Operational update

### Key updates

#### Country-level coordination, planning and monitoring:

- The World Health Organization, national regulatory authorities and vaccine manufacturers in WHO South-East Asia Region discussed fast tracking of COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Member countries
- WHO SEARO and WPRO partnered with the EU to sign a proposal for 20 million Euro, to further strengthen the COVID-19 response which will be implemented over next three years in eight countries in the two regions

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

- Technical support to Myanmar for data analysis
- Support for Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) situational analysis in SEAR and its contribution to COVID-19 response in the Region
- Analysis of COVID-19 tests and cases at Sub National level in India has been completed

#### 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

#### Infection prevention and control:

- Technical experts from WHO SEARO contributed to the infection prevention and control section of Strategic Preparedness and Response Planning (SPRP) operational guidelines and action checklist

#### Clinical Management:

- Guideline Development Group (GDG) members from the SEAR and Regional Office focal point participated in the guideline development meeting to update the risk factors in COVID-19 and prediction/prognostic models to guide admission in COVID-19

#### 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, 260 000 (1 240 000) 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 (7-13 December), 12 988 new cases and 207 new deaths were reported
- Of 490 533 total confirmed cases – 85.8% (420 896) recovered, 1.44% (7 045) died and 12.76% (62 592) are active cases. Male represented 71% and 76% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 13 December
- A total of 2 969 630 laboratory tests with 16.5% overall positivity rate conducted by 140 laboratories as of 13 December
- In week 50, the number of international flights has increased by 5.6% compared to previous week (170 and 161 respectively) leading to increase in number of incoming passengers by 3% (27 448 and 26 636 respectively). 580 incoming passengers sent to institutional quarantine after screening at the airport

**Cox's Bazar**

- In week 50, no new COVID-19 case detected in Rohingya refugee camps. In total, there were 363 confirmed cases detected out of 20 462 samples tested
- A seroprevalence study for antibodies against SARS CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19, is currently underway in the Rohingya camps

**Bhutan**

- Government announced mandatory submission of online health declaration form for air travelers from 28 December
- Vaccine for COVID-19 deployment plan developed and the request submitted to COVAX facility
- WHO handed over 300 GO-bags (each GO-bag consists of items for frontline workers such as sleeping bags, fleece blankets, flasks and other essential kits to be used during emergencies) and 28 automatic hand sanitizer dispensers to Ministry of Health

**DPR Korea**

- No reported case of COVID-19 as of 10 December
- A total of 21586 samples from 10,960 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. 766 persons were tested during the week from 3 -10 December

**India**

- Active cases comprise 3.24% (322 366) of total positive cases (9 956 557) as of 17 December. Steady decline in active coronavirus infections indicating adoption of COVID Appropriate Behaviour
- Union Health Minister assured that eight vaccine candidates including three indigenous ones are scheduled to be manufactured in India
- National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) calls for building on standard principles of tackling Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) and making it specific to the requirements of the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine

**Indonesia**

- In the reported week, there were 43 254 new cases with an average of 6 179 per day
- Of 636 154 cumulative cases, 61.4% cases were in Java. Jakarta had the highest number of confirmed cases per million population, followed by East Kalimantan, West Papua, West Sumatra and Papua
- The President announced to deliver COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to all citizens and instructed his cabinet, ministries, and local governments to prioritize the vaccination programme for 2021
- The Government has decided to prioritize Java and Bali islands for the first round of vaccination due to high number of COVID-19 cases on these two islands
- WHO and UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health with a one-day training on improving water, sanitation and hygiene in health facilities for West Nusa Tenggara

**Maldives**

- 166 new confirmed cases reported since last week as of 16 December
- The President declared that the Government will prioritize upholding and promoting human rights without favor or discrimination as part of its resilience and recovery efforts following the COVID-19 pandemic
- Over 271 346 samples tested to date. Daily testing rate has been increased during the last week to 2 300 tests per day as of 16 December

- The Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) and Health Protection Agency (HPA) have released updated COVID-19 guideline for groups of 10 or more people staying in shared accommodations and published on the COVID19 website
- Over 8 500 undocumented migrant workers have been repatriated and government targeted to send back 20 000 undocumented workers before the end of 2020

#### **Myanmar**

- Government further extended the prevailing COVID-19 preventive measures – orders, instructions and directions, except the measures lifted or amended under certain conditions, such as mass gatherings, wearing facemasks, closure of shops and restaurants and nighttime curfew
- National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 lifted the suspension on domestic flights, effective from 16 December
- Myanmar plans to start providing COVID-19 vaccines to about 20 per cent of its 54.4 million population in April 2020 under the global COVAX affordable medicines program
- A total of 1 462 Myanmar nationals returned home between 8 and 14 December with government-assisted relief flights

#### **Nepal**

- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has conducted national joint annual review (NJAR) to review key achievements, lessons learnt and challenges in the health sector. The meeting also discussed COVID-19 situation and future plans
- MoHP has reviewed findings from antigen-based community testing from six wards of Kathmandu valley, which yielded approximately 8% positivity rate. Based on these findings, MoHP has decided to rapidly expand community-based screening, testing and active surveillance using antigen-based test kits in high risk areas
- WHO is supporting Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) with hospital assessments for critical equipment inventory, oxygen source and consumption that started from 2 December
- WHO continued supporting the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in monitoring of the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP)

#### **Sri Lanka**

- The total cluster size of Minuwangoda/Peliyagoda including sub-clusters is at 30 458 (89.2% of total cases) as of 16 December. A few sub clusters have been detected in Western Province
- Curfew has been lifted in certain areas and a few new areas have been placed under curfew during the week
- Ministry of Health (MoH) released new guidelines for points of entry (PoEs) quarantine process
- PoEs will be open for commercial passenger carriers from 26 December. 3 607 people were repatriated during the week. Total cumulative repatriations are at 62 936 people as of 16 December
- 8 237 people were quarantined in 88 facilities and over 77 000 people in home quarantine as of 16 December
- WHO is developing an analytical dashboard which will enable MoH in COVID-19 related decision making and projections. It has already been populated with available data from verified sources

#### **Thailand**

- Ministry of Public Health reported 110 new cases since the last reporting on 9 December. Majority of new cases were Thai and non-Thai nationals who traveled from abroad and later tested positive while in quarantine centers
- Of total 4 261 cumulative cases, about 93% (3 977) have recovered, 2% (60) have died, and 5% (224) are still receiving treatment or under observation in hospitals as of 16 December
- 21 additional cases were reported from Thai returnees from Myanmar, bringing total number of these returnees to 67. All of them were detected during their quarantine

- 2 additional cases were reported among health care workers who worked in the same quarantine facilities and hospital. The total number of health care workers cluster is 7
- Country is open for travelers from all nations. The travelers should have a health certificate showing RT PCR negative for COVID-19, health insurance, necessary travel documents, and undergo 14-day quarantine upon arrival

#### Timor-Leste

- Ministry of Health (MoH) with the support from WHO conducted a two-day surveillance data entry system refresher training for surveillance staff in the context of COVID-19
- MoH with technical support from WHO and partners conducted five-day refresher training on COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC), triage, orientation on laboratory testing and processes to 112 health workers

#### Resource mobilization

- Total distributed resources to South-East Asia Region stand at USD 97.5 million which is 56% of total COVID-19 operational budget (USD 175 million) for 2020. Additional fund amounting to USD 529 000 received during the week and distributed to WHO Country Office for Indonesia
- Proportion of funds distributed to countries stands at 93% (USD 92.2/ USD 97.5 million) and remaining 7% (USD 7.3 million) distributed to WHE SEARO
- Implementation rate against distributed resources increased from 59% to 61% and utilization from 80% to 81%. WHO Country Offices to accelerate and ensure full implementation of the funds expiring by December 2020

#### Feature story

##### Countries in WHO's South East Asia Region resume regular reporting of influenza data

In WHO's South East Asia Region (SEAR), the initial response to COVID-19 caused a significant drop in influenza data sharing through FluMart as key personnel were repurposed to tackle the crisis. With targeted support from WHO, almost all countries in the region have resumed regular reporting of influenza data; several are now also reporting COVID-19 data through the global platform.

The re-purposing of influenza resources to support a COVID-19 response reduced the reporting of both laboratory data (to FluNet) and epidemiological data (to FluID), among other surveillance activities (see [Revitalizing influenza in South East Asia during COVID-19](#)).

Regular reporting of influenza data to a global platform is critical to ensure regional and global monitoring of seasonal epidemics, including the circulating virus types and the impact of influenza illness, and to inform national health authorities' planning and resource allocation activities. Acknowledging this need, WHO's South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) worked with country offices and officials from national programmes to characterize the declining status of influenza data reporting in the region, identify root causes and support workable solutions. They found that in many cases the drop-in reporting was caused by a lack of dedicated staff for the job, information technology issues or delays in receiving laboratory results, among other things.

To address these issues, WHO:

- recruited a dedicated person to support data management in the Maldives;
- provided technical support to map additional variables to the FluMart reporting template and improve national programmes' access to the platform;

- gave countries a short refresher course in FluMart reporting, including a virtual discussion and a practical demonstration of the platform; and
- supported six national influenza centres to combine COVID-19 and influenza reporting through FluMart.

By May 2020, 10 out of 11 Member States in the region had resumed reporting influenza data to FluMart. Between May and October, half of these had also begun submitting COVID-19 sentinel and non-sentinel test results, making the most of the fact that FluMart was configured early in the pandemic to collect these data and add them to FluNet and FluID. In addition to routine channels, WHO continues the dialogue on influenza surveillance in the context of COVID-19 pandemic with countries through its focal points in the Incident Management Supporting Team. And epidemiological and laboratory indicators continue to be shared with WHO Country Offices every month.












































































The region's success in resuming influenza data reporting shows that even though ILI/SARI surveillance systems can be disrupted by nation-wide disease outbreaks, they can also bounce back and be leveraged to detect and monitor other respiratory diseases.

WHO continues to support all Member States to continue reporting aggregated influenza surveillance data, as well as COVID-19 data when feasible, on a weekly basis to regional and global levels.

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 (10 - 17 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 	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)	Restricted*    	 (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 extended 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 	    (few restrictions on private vehicles in Kathmandu valley)	 (reopened in some Municipalities)	Ban  >25	Mandatory
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Partial  (Restrictions imposed in specified Isolation areas)	Restricted*    	 (except in isolation 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