

10	250 108	4 040	11 621 963	177 133
Countries reporting cases	New cases (week 51/2020)	New deaths (week 51/2020)	Total cumulative cases (at end of week 51)	Total cumulative deaths (at end of week 51)

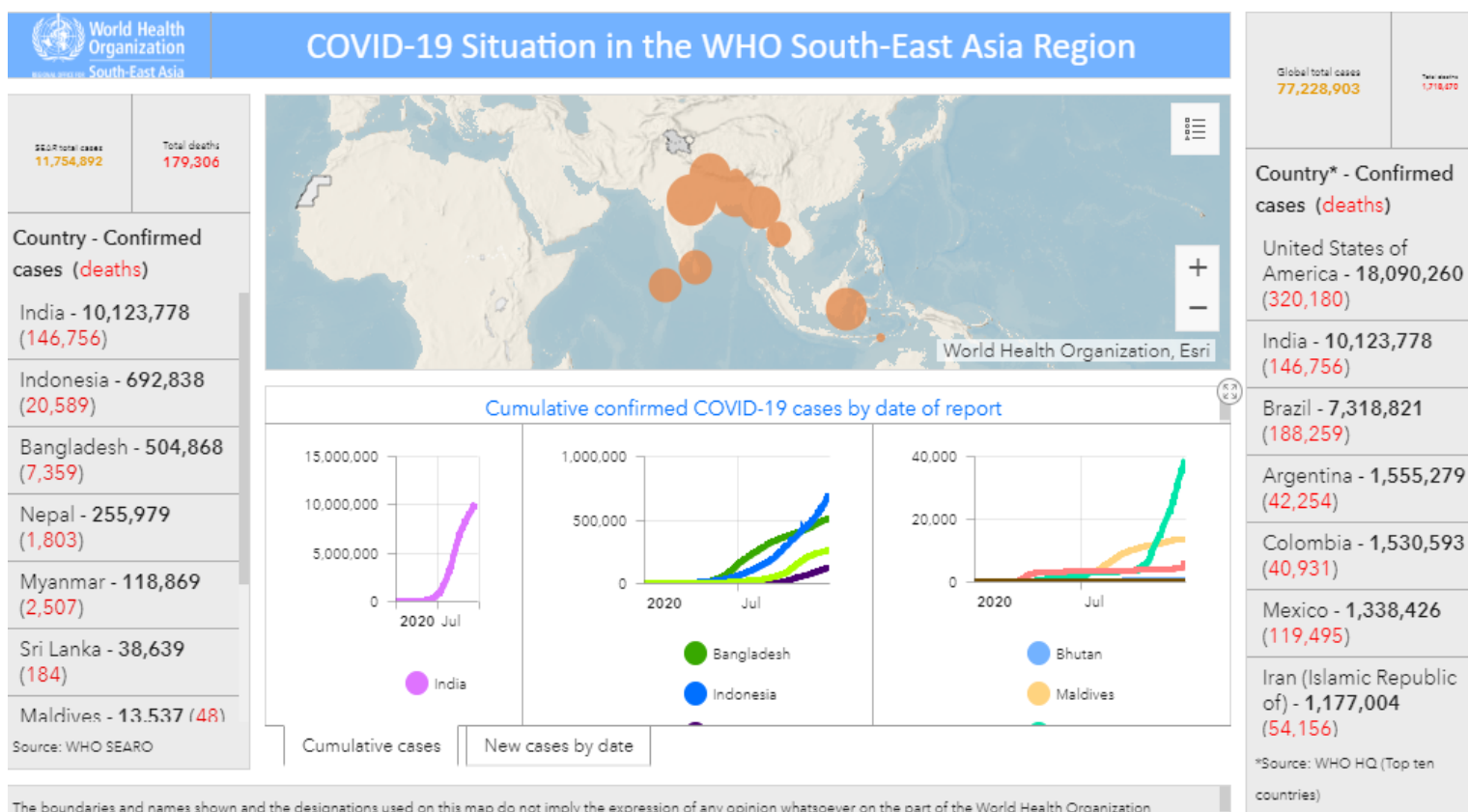
Situation update:

- The weekly percentage increase in cumulative cases in the Region for week #51 was 2.2% (250 108 new cases) slight decrease than previous weekly increase of 2.6% reported and percentage increase in deaths was 2.3% (4 040 new deaths) which again is slightly lower than reported percentage increase last week of 2.6%
- The South-East Asia Region (SEAR) has the lowest weekly increase (2.1%) in cumulative cases among all WHO Regions viz European Region (7.7%), Region of Americas (7.6%), Africa Region (5.9%), Western Pacific Region (5%) and Eastern Mediterranean Region (3.8%)
- The highest weekly percentage increase in cases in the Region was reported from Thailand (16.6%, 698 cases) followed by Sri Lanka (13.6%, 4 471 cases), Indonesia (7.6%, 47 110 cases), Myanmar (7.4%, 7 972 cases), Nepal (2.2%, 5,349 cases) and Bangladesh (2.1%, 10 180 cases)
- Two Member States in the Region, Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to report community transmission, while seven – Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand reported clusters of cases and only Timor-Leste reported sporadic cases
- In Thailand a new outbreak of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases was reported in Samut Sakhon province with cases linked to a fish market. As of 23 December, outbreak is evolving with a total of 1 278 cases reported from Samut Sakhon and 65 cases linked to the fish market reported in 22 provinces.g. Active case finding and contact tracing are ongoing
- In Sri Lanka, the Peliyagoda fish market cluster has led to several sub clusters at district levels. 90% of cases reported so far in Sri Lanka belong to the Minuwangoda/Peliyagoda cluster
- In Maldives, cases continue to show a declining trend and cases 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
- In Nepal, number of new cases as well as number of tests continue to decrease following the festival season, the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) also shows a decline from last week and is around 11-13%

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	504 868	7 359	1.5	3 065.6	44.7	9.4%
Bhutan	Clusters of cases	519	-	0	672.6	0	0.3%
DPR Korea	No cases	-	-	0	-	0	
India	Clusters of cases	10 123 778	146 756	1.4	7 336.0	106.3	2.3%
Indonesia	Community transmission	685 639	20 408	3.0	2 506.7	74.6	19.8%
Maldives	Clusters of cases	13 537	48	0.4	25 043.4	88.8	0.6%
Myanmar	Clusters of cases	117 946	2 484	2.1	2 167.7	45.7	5.1%
Nepal	Clusters of cases	255 979	1 803	0.7	8 785.4	61.9	13.0%
Sri Lanka	Clusters of cases	38 639	184	0.5	1 804.4	8.6	4.9%
Thailand	Clusters of cases	5 762	60	1.0	82.6	0.9	1.3%
Timor-Leste	Sporadic cases	36	-	0	27.3	0	0.0%

Table data as of 24 December 2020; 12 PM IST

SEAR Dashboard COVID-19



as of 04:00 PM (IST); 24 December 2020

Operational update

Key updates

Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:

- Contact tracing continues to be a challenge in countries affected by community transmission or large numbers of clusters of cases

Points of entry, international travel, and transport:

- All Points of Entry (PoEs) are closed with some relaxation for certain types of visa. Quarantine is required in all Member States except Maldives
- India suspended the flights from United Kingdom (UK) temporarily from 23 December till 31 December

Laboratory:

- Sub-National external quality assurance program (EQAP) panels have been successfully delivered to 6 Member States while delivery to 3 Member States is under process. Planning is underway for a second phase of sub-national EQAP
- The key challenges on laboratory diagnostic testing at National and Sub-national level was consolidated from Country offices, further efforts are planned to address these challenges
- Needs assessments are underway to support the leveraging of Influenza surveillance for COVID-19

Infection prevention and control:

- Technical support to WHO Country Office (WCO) for Myanmar on selection of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Key country updates

Bangladesh

- In the reported week (14-20 December), the number of new weekly cases compared to previous week decreased by 21.6% (10 180 in week 50 and 12 988) and deaths increased by 13.5% (235 and 207 respectively)
- Of 500 713 total confirmed cases – 87.4% (437 527) recovered, 1.45% (7 280) died and 11.17% (55 906) are active cases. Male represented 71% and 76% of the total reported confirmed cases and deaths respectively as of 21 December
- A total of 3 075 680 laboratory tests with 16.28% overall positivity rate conducted by 160 laboratories as of 21 December
- In week 51, the number of international flights has decreased by 5.9% compared to previous week (160 and 170) leading to decrease in number of incoming passengers by 3.3% (26 547 and 27 448 respectively). 433 incoming passengers sent to institutional quarantine after screening at the airport

Bhutan

- Government announced nationwide lock down for a week starting 23 December 2020 to control the spread and intensify testing and contact tracing
- Ministry of Health (MoH) started mass testing as a part of surveillance. People will be randomly selected and will be communicated via phone with detail of time and station for testing. MoH has trained Dessups (volunteers) to support mass screening
- The Queen has commanded to put in all the necessary measures in place to assist people who had experienced or feel at risk of domestic violence and abuse during the current lock down
- National team at MoH had discussion with district health teams in providing essential health services and activation of micro plan in the districts during this nationwide lock down
- MoH has facilitated two refrigerated vans for transportation and distribution of vaccines from national cold chain store in Thimphu to central and eastern regions
- WHO supported setting up two additional influenza clinics in Thimphu to test more people

DPR Korea

- No reported case of COVID-19 as of 17 December
- Continuous surveillance is ongoing, samples are being tested for COVID-19 in 15 laboratories including 13 sub-national laboratories
- A total of 23 140 samples from 11 707 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 as of 17 December. 777 persons were tested during the week from 11-17 December
- All points of entry (PoEs) are closed for uncertain period

India

- Active cases comprise 2.86% (289 240) of total positive cases (10 099 066) as of 23 December. Steady decline in active coronavirus infections indicating adoption of COVID Appropriate Behaviour
- President emphasized that public hospitals have played a leading role in the fight against COVID-19
- Union Health Minister emphasizes that the nation has effectively repurposed capacities from multiple research disciplines across a wide range of public and private institutions to efficiently fight COVID-19
- Ministry of Health issued Standard Operating Procedure for Epidemiological Surveillance and Response in the context of new variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus detected in United Kingdom
- Government of India and New Development Bank sign agreement for \$1,000 million to support India's economic recovery from COVID-19

Maldives

- Total number of new cases continue to show a declining trend. 122 new confirmed cases reported since last week as of 23 December
- Government extended state of emergency until January 2021. New regulations and guidelines imposing fines up to USD 6 490 (MVR 100 000) for violating safety guidelines set by the Director General of Public Health
- Over 291 924 samples tested to date. Daily testing rate increased during the last week as of 16 December
- Government announced revised quarantine guideline for people travelling from Greater Male region to other islands
- Health Protection Agency (HPA) released guidelines for sports activities and announced resuming sports and ceremonies
- The Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) conducted fourth round of mass inspections of cafes, restaurants, shops, salons and other similar establishments to inspect adherence to HPA and WHO guidelines
- WHO in partnership with the Ministry of Health and partners, is working to finalize the plan for vaccine introduction and deployment in the Country

Myanmar

- All parks and public places will be shut down from 21-31 December to prevent large gatherings during the holiday season on recommendation from national level central committee on prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19
- Government has ordered the suspension of large-scale mining activities in Hpakant Township of Kachin State following surge in COVID-19 cases
- Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) intend to secure 3 months stock of RT-PCR and Cobas kits including reagents, other consumables and personnel protective equipment (PPE) for 5 laboratories
- A total of 1 366 Myanmar nationals returned home between 15 and 21 December with government-assisted relief flights

Sri Lanka

- The total cluster size of Minuwangoda/Peliyagoda including sub-clusters is at 34 380 (90.3% of total cases) as of 23 December. A few sub clusters have been detected in Western Province
- The President of Sri Lanka shared a social media post (tweet) thanking WHO for ongoing support and donation of second batch of 100 000 rapid antigen test kits
- Ministry of Health (MoH) has initiated random rapid Antigen checking of people who are leaving Western province
- Points of entry (POEs) will be open to commercial passenger carriers from 26 December. The initial group of tourists to enter the country will act as pilot group
- 6 359 people were repatriated during the week. Total cumulative repatriations are at 64 750 people as of 23 December
- A consultation was held with all stakeholders to formulate the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) intervention plans for the quarantine centers
- All COVID-19 testing laboratories have completed external quality assurance program (EQAP) and have submitted results
- WHO supported dashboard providing information on COVID-19 surveillance, case management and laboratory services is integrated to the COVID-19 national surveillance system. It functions as an information hub for effective management of COVID-19

Thailand

- Ministry of Public Health reported 1 501 new cases since the last reporting on 16 December following an outbreak in Samut Sakhon centered around seafood market
- Government has asked people to monitor their symptoms for 14 days who have visited the province after 1 December
- Emergency Operating Centres have been activated in eight provinces neighbouring Samut Sakhon to support provincial health teams to conduct active case finding for COVID-19 cases
- The official numbers of migrant workers in Samut Sakhon was not formally reported
- Ministry of Public Health clarified that there is no evidence of seafood products contaminated with COVID-19 that can cause infection in humans

Timor-Leste

- Ministry of Health (MoH) announced 2 new confirmed cases on 22 December, thus the total cumulative confirmed cases reported is 33 as of 23 December
- The two patients were in quarantine and are now admitted to the designated isolation and treatment facility. Further investigation and contact are being done by the surveillance team as per the national guideline
- WHO in collaboration with Rede Feto Timor-Leste conducted a sensitization seminar against gender-based violence against women and girls focusing on domestic violence in the context of COVID-19

Feature story

COVID-19 reignites drive for a “One Health” approach to tackle preventable illnesses at the animal-human-ecosystems interface

As COVID-19 continues to inflict illness and misery across the Asia-Pacific region, three international organizations have vowed to collaborate and intensify their joint efforts to respond to all health threats, including zoonotic influenza, rabies, antimicrobial resistance and those affecting food safety, through a One Health approach.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have reaffirmed their joint commitment to work with their Members through multi-sectoral coordination. A joint Statement of Intent to Coordinate was signed by Asia-Pacific representatives from the organisations in support of the Tripartite One Health Coordination Group.












































































The Regional Tripartite partners are committed to work with Members through multi-sectoral coordination efforts to support countries’ efforts to prevent and manage health threats and strengthen their coordinated efforts, with the aim of protecting the health of animals and people.

The [Tripartite One Health Coordination Group for Asia and the Pacific](#) undertakes [joint activities](#) including regional workshops on multisectoral collaboration at the animal-human-ecosystems interface.

In October 2020, regional representatives from the Tripartite organisations signed [a Statement of Intent to Coordinate](#). This statement acknowledges the importance of close coordination and communication across sectors and commits to working together to partner with their Member States and regional organisations to strengthen coordinated efforts to fight existing and emerging health threats.

Link: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/24-12-2020-covid-19-reignites-drive-for-a-one-health-approach-to-tackle-preventable-illnesses-at-the-animal-human-ecosystems-interface>

Public Health and Social Measure (17-24 December 2020)

Member State	Movement restriction	Public transport (Inter province movement)	School measures	Public gathering	Mask use
Bangladesh	None 	Resumed    		Ban 	Mandatory
Bhutan	Nationwide  (Seven days from 23 December)	Resumed    		Ban 	Mandatory
DPR Korea	Partial 	Restricted    		Ban  >5	Mandatory
India	Partial  (Restrictions in containment zones; for other areas local authorities to decide)	Restricted*    	 (Vary across States)	 (Ban >100 indoor gatherings; vary across States)	Mandatory
Indonesia	Partial 	Restricted*    	 (Vary across provinces)	 (Requirements vary across Provinces)	Mandatory
Maldives (Emergency extended until 4 January)	Partial 	Resumed   	 (Schools remain closed for grade 8 & lower)	Ban  > 15	Mandatory
Myanmar	Partial 	Restricted*    		Ban  >30	Mandatory
Nepal	None 	   	 (Reopened in some Municipalities)	Ban  >25	Mandatory
Sri Lanka	Partial  (Restrictions imposed in specified Isolation areas)	Restricted*    	 (Schools remain closed only in isolation areas)	Ban 	Mandatory
Thailand (Emergency extended until 15 Jan)	None  (Restrictions imposed at Samut Sakhon province)	Restricted*     (At Myanmar border)		No restriction 	Mandatory
Timor-Leste (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