Situation Report: COVID-19 and other local and global health issues

A. COVID-19

1. Daily reported cases of COVID-19

- A total of 667 573 cases have been reported as of 11 August.
- The number of daily reported cases has been above 100 since 26 July.
- The number of cases reported over the past 2-week period (29 July – 11 August) is 2 173 which is a 114% increase compared to the previous two weeks (15 - 28 July).
- The average weekly incidence over the past 7 days is 6.1 per 100 000 population.

2. Daily reported deaths due to COVID-19

- A total of 16 605 deaths have been reported as of 11 August with 56% being males. More than three quarters (76%) of the deaths are in age group of 60+, while 22% are in the 30-60 years age group.
- The number of deaths reported over the past 2-week period (29 July – 11 August) is 57 which is a 159% increase compared to the previous two weeks (15 - 28 July).
- The average weekly case fatality rate over the past 7 days is 0.14 per 100 000 population.
3. COVID-19 Vaccination (*source: Ministry of Health*)

- 82% of the over 12 years age group have been vaccinated with two doses and this corresponds to 66% of the total population (14.5 million persons).
- A single booster dose (with Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine) has been administered to 8 million persons (36.5% of the total population). The second booster dose has been administered to 82,238 persons as of 11 August.

4. COVID-19 Regional situation

![Regional situation](image)

*Source: WHO SEARO. Data for the seven-day period from 4 to 10 August considered.*

5. Genomic sequencing

- University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) sequenced 67 samples during the first week of August from the community in Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala and Puttalam and BA.5 sub-lineage of Omicron was detected in 60 samples (89.6%).

**Sequencing results from USJP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Omicron sub lineage</th>
<th>Number of samples positive (n=67)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BA.2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<td>BA.2.3</td>
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<td>1.5%</td>
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<td>BA.2.74</td>
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<td>1.5%</td>
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<td>BA.5.1</td>
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<td>BA.5.2.1</td>
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<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF.3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Allergy Immunology and Cell Biology Unit, Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura*

6. WHO support on COVID-19 response

- Posts were shared on social media reminding public to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The next (32nd) health cluster meeting co-chaired by WHO, MoH and CSO collective will be held on 17 August.
B. Dengue

- During week 30, 2,198 suspected dengue cases were reported from 23 districts. In week 30, a 14.1% reduction in the number of dengue cases was observed compared to week 29 (2,560 cases were reported in week 29). The total number of cases reported by week 30 of 2022 was 46,436, while the corresponding figure for 2021 was only 16,615.

- Majority of cases have been reported from Western Province (49.4%). The highest number of cases during week 30 is observed in Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Kalutara and Kegalle. Sixty-seven Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas were flagged as high-risk areas during the week.

WHO support in Dengue prevention and control:

- Risk communication has been strengthened by developing video clips with key messages for different target audiences:
  - Video for construction sites with key action points on how to prevent mosquito breeding in the premises.
  - Video for pregnant mothers with key messages on preparedness and treatment seeking in case if dengue fever is suspected.

Source: National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health
C. WHO support in the context of the current economic crisis and its impact on health

- WHO has supported in the immediate response by facilitating donations of emergency medicines and supplies and by providing access to foreign currency needed to complete the procurement process for orders already placed through local/international suppliers. On the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, WHO will provide additional medicines and consumables worth 4.1 million US dollars.
- WHO in collaboration with the other UN agencies and development partners is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health to highlight policy actions needed for health in the context of the dual challenge of a prolonged global pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis.

D. Global health issues

1. Multi-country monkeypox (MPX) outbreak in non-endemic countries

- As of 10 August 2022, a total of 31,665 laboratory confirmed MPX cases and 150 probable cases, including 12 deaths, have been reported to WHO from 91 Member States across all 6 WHO regions (since 1 Jan 2022). The number of weekly reported new cases globally has increased by 19.3% in week 31 (n=6,217 cases) compared to week 30.
- The majority of cases reported in the past four weeks were notified from the European Region (50.7%) and the Region of the Americas (48%). The ten most affected countries globally are: United States of America (n = 8,902), Spain (n = 5,162), Germany (n = 3,025), The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (n = 3,017), France (n = 2,423), Brazil (n = 2,293), Canada (n = 990), Netherlands (n = 959), Portugal (n = 710), and Italy (n = 599). Together, these countries account for 88.7% of the cases reported globally.
- As of 11 August 2022, 13 laboratory-confirmed MPX cases have been reported from SEAR with nine cases in India and four cases in Thailand. Out of these six are imported cases while the others are likely to be locally-acquired.
- The risk at the global level and in the South-East Asia Region is currently assessed as moderate while the risk at the European Region is graded as high.
- Human-to-human spread of MPX can be controlled by public health measures including early case-finding, diagnosis and care, isolation and contact-tracing.
- WHO Sri Lanka handed over Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test kits for diagnosis and c

For further details:

2. Severe acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology in children - Multi-country

- As of 11 August 2022, 1,141 probable cases of acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology in children have been reported from 38 countries in five WHO regions.
- Of the probable cases, 53 (5%) children have required transplants, and 28 (2%) deaths have been reported to WHO.
- South-East Asia Region has reported 25 probable cases (Indonesia – 24; Maldives – 1) and ten cases are pending classification from Indonesia. A total of nine deaths have been reported thus far from the region.