World Health Organization Western Pacific Region

Bi-weekly COVID-19 Situation Update

10 October 2025

SARS-CoV-2 laboratory surveillance in the Western Pacific Region

In week 39, 2025 (the week ending on 28 September 2025), a total of 10 970 specimens tested for SARS-CoV-2 were submitted to FluNet from 11 countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region. The positivity rate was 1.8% (Figure 1). The country and area-specific number of tests and calculated positivity rates in week 38 to 39 are presented in Table 1 below. China, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, and New Caledonia reported an increase in their SARS-CoV-2 positivity rates, compared to the previous week. Percent positivity is calculated using the number of samples positive and processed for SARS-CoV-2. The data are provided to FluNet by National Influenza Centres (NICs) of the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) and other national influenza reference laboratories collaborating actively with GISRS. More information on FluNet and its data sharing mechanism are available here.

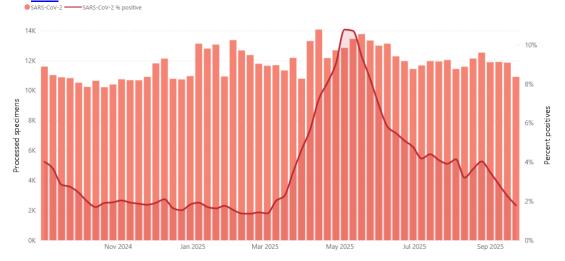


Figure 1: SARS-CoV-2 tested specimens reported to FluNet from countries, areas and territories, Westen Pacific Region, 2024-2025

(Source: GISRS surveillance data reported to FluNet)

Table 1: Weekly number of testing and positive rate reported to FluNet, week 38 to 39 of 2025 (Source: Integrated influenza and other respiratory viruses surveillance dashboard)

Countries and areas	Number of testing	SARS-CoV-2	Trend
(most recent week of data)	for SARS-CoV-2	positivity rate (%)	rrena
Australia (39 of 2025)	2 137	1.5	\downarrow
Cambodia (38 of 2025)	105	0.0	-
China, Hong Kong SAR (39 of 2025)	7 867	0.7	^
Indonesia (39 of 2025)	82	3.7	^
Japan (39 of 2025)	50	16.0	\downarrow
Lao PDR (39 of 2025)	97	1.0	\downarrow
Mongolia (39 of 2025)	33	6.1	-
New Caledonia (38 of 2025)	22	4.6	^
New Zealand (39 of 2025)	67	0.0	-
Papua New Guinea (39 of 2025)	4	0.0	-
Philippines (38 of 2025)	12	0.0	\downarrow
Republic of Korea (39 of 2025)	401	23.2	\downarrow
Singapore (39 of 2025)	228	1.8	↑
Viet Nam (39 of 2025)	4	0.0	-

Notes: The quality and consistency of this surveillance data are influenced by changes in health seeking behaviours, routine in sentinel sites, national testing priorities and capacities, and public health and social measures implementation. In addition, test precent positivity from sentinel surveillance can be very different than that of universal surveillance due to varying objectives, case definitions and coverage. Therefore, the data presented here should be interpreted carefully. The data is also subject to change over time, and there can be difference from national public health authorities and other sources.

Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants in the Western Pacific Region

As of 10 October 2025, relative frequency of circulating variants in the Western Pacific Region is as follows: NB.1.8.1 at 63.9%, B.1.1.529 at 20.9%, KP.3.1.1 at 10.5%, and JN.1 at 3.4% (Figure 2). The country- and area-specific data are available below for certain countries and areas where the information is routinely updated.

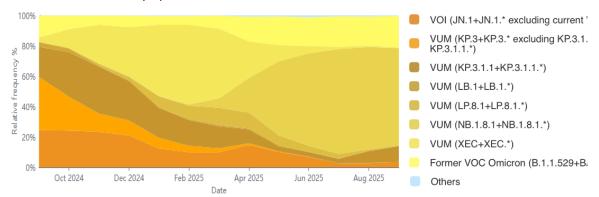


Figure 2: Relative frequency (%) of circulating variants in the Western Pacific Region, 2024-2025

Note: Indonesia data is not included in this figure.

(Source: GISAID hCoV-19 Variants Dashboard)

COVID-19 surveillance summary

COVID-19 surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region reflects the ongoing transition of Member States from pandemic emergency response to sustainable, integrated, and longer-term COVID-19 disease management. In this transitional phase, some countries have already integrated their COVID-19 surveillance into existing systems, while others maintain surveillance from the emergency phase of the pandemic. Due to these varied approaches, population groups, data formats, and reporting mechanisms of COVID-19 surveillance differ across countries.

In the interim, guided by standing recommendations, WHO continues to support Member States in monitoring, assessing and responding to the risks posed by COVID-19. This COVID-19 surveillance summary, therefore, covers countries and areas where routine surveillance is conducted, and the surveillance data is publicly available. A detailed description of COVID-19 surveillance in each country and area included in the report is available in Annex 1. The surveillance data should be interpreted with caution, taking into account various surveillance methodologies and reporting systems described in Annex 1.

Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

China – severe cases and deaths (monthly update)

There is no update for this reporting period. From 1 to 31 August 2025, 187 new severe COVID-19 cases and seven deaths (all deaths from underlying diseases combined with SARS-CoV-2 infection) were reported from 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities (Figure 3). Compared to July 2025 (219 severe cases and two deaths), the number of severe cases has decreased while the number of deaths has increased. For the same reporting period, the main circulating strain is NB.1.8.1. According to the sampling date, NB.1.8.1 accounted for 97.5%, 97.8%, 98.2%, and 95.2% of sequenced samples, from week 32 to 35, respectively.

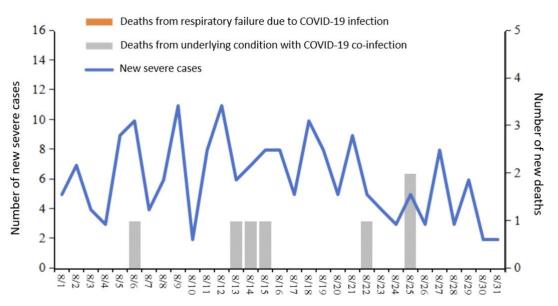


Figure 3: Severe COVID-19 cases and deaths reported in China, August 2025 (Source: China National disease Control and Prevention Administration)

Indonesia - cases and deaths (sentinel and non-sentinel surveillance)

In epidemiological week 39 of 2025 (from 22 to 28 September), Indonesia reported seven new confirmed COVID-19 cases with no death. Since the beginning of 2025, a total of 414 confirmed cases have been reported, including no deaths, indicating a low-level of transmission in the country (Figure 4).

COVID-19 Situation in Indonesia



Figure 4: COVID-19 cases and deaths, as of week 39, 2025 (Source: COVID-19 Dashboard, Emerging Infectious Disease Situation, Ministry of Health, Indonesia) Note: Konfirmasi= Confirmed, Kematian= Deaths, M= epidemiological week

Japan – COVID-19 cases (sentinel surveillance, weekly update)

In week 38 of 2025 (from 15 to 21 September 2025), a total of 26 631 new cases were reported, a decrease from 31 831 cases in week 37. The average number of cases per sentinel site decrease to 6.9, compared to 8.4 in the previous week (Figure 5). New COVID-19—related hospitalisations reported from designated sentinel sites nationwide was on a downward trend from week 35. In week 38, 1 493 hospitalisations were reported, 217 fewer than in the previous week (Figure 6).

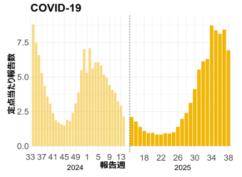


Figure 5: Weekly number of COVID-19 cases reported per sentinel hospital site, 2024-2025 (Source: Japan Institute for Health Security)

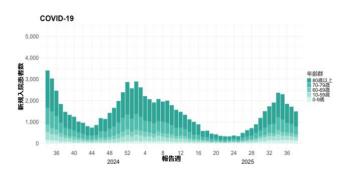


Figure 6: Weekly number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations reported from sentinel sites in Japan, 2024-2025
(Source: Japan Institute for Health Security)

Republic of Korea – COVID-19 cases (sentinel surveillance)

There is no update in this reporting period. In week 38 (the week ending on 20 September 2025), the detection rate of SARS-CoV-2 reported from virological sentinel sites was 31.1%, an increase from 30.8% in the previous week (**Table 2**). COVID-19 associated hospital admissions have increased since week 28, reaching 459 in week 37, and then decreasing to 428 in week 38 (**Figure 7**).

Table 2: Laboratory-based pathogen surveillance in Republic of Korea: respiratory viruses, week 36-39 of 2025 (Source: Public Health Weekly Report, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency)

202	25	Weekly total			Detection rate (%)						
(week)		Detection rate (%) HAdV HBoV HPIV HRS	HRSV	RSV HRV HMPV		HCoV IFV	IFV	SARS- CoV-2			
2025	35	72.6	4.9	2.2	13.0	1.6	10.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	37.7
	36	68.6	2.6	2.6	12.5	0.3	8.4	0.3	0.6	2.3	39.0
	37	68.7	3.3	2.8	13.0	1.3	13.2	1.8	1.0	1.5	30.8
	38	75.3	3.8	2.4	13.1	4.3	14.5	1.9	2.1	2.1	31.1
Cum.*		71.3	3.7	2.5	12.9	1.9	11.6	1.3	1.2	1.8	34.5
2024 Cum. [∀]		65.1	5.8	3.1	5.4	5.2	15.4	4.5	2.6	8.9	14.2

HAdV: human Adenovirus, HPIV: human Parainfluenza virus, HRSV: human Respiratory syncytial virus, IFV: Influenza virus,
 HCoV: human Coronavirus, HRV: human Rhinovirus, HBoV: human Bocavirus, HMPV: human Metapneumovirus

X Cum.: the rate of detected cases between August 24, 2025 - September 20, 2025

^{∀ 2024} Cum. : the rate of detected cases between December 31, 2023 - December 28, 2024

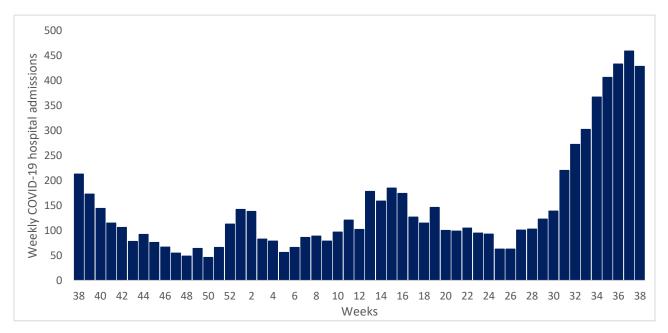


Figure 7: Weekly COVID-19 hospital admissions reported from acute respiratory infection surveillance system in Republic of Korea, week 38 of 2024-week 38 of 2025

(Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency)

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Countries/areas in the tropical zone

China, Hong Kong SAR, laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases, severe cases and deaths

In week 40 of 2025 (from 28 September to 4 October), the weekly number of newly recorded positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus was 31, compared to 37 in the preceding week (Figure 8). The weekly number of severe COVID-19 cases including deaths with cause of death preliminarily assessed to be related to COVID-19 was zero, compared to three in the preceding week (Figure 9). Based on the sewage samples collected for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants, as of 29 September 2025, NB.1.8.1 remains the most prevalent variant, comprising 67.5% of all characterised specimens.

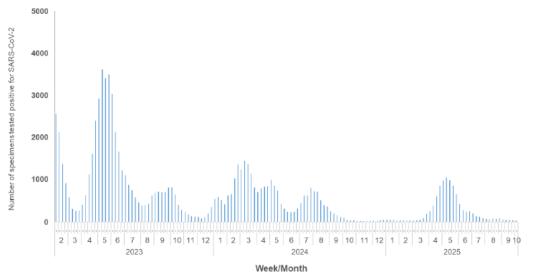


Figure 8: Weekly number of positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus, 2023-2025 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

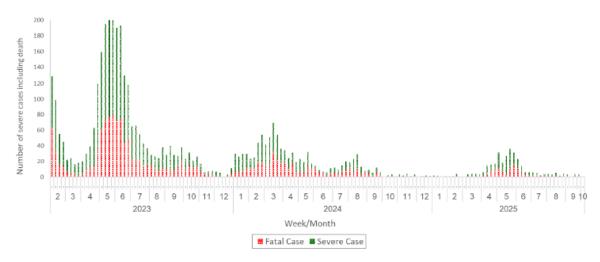


Figure 9: Weekly number of Severe COVID-19 cases including deaths, 2023-2025 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

Viet Nam - COVID-19 cases and deaths

As of 12 October 2025, Viet Nam recorded 12 617 COVID-19 cases, including three deaths in 2025. Compared to the same period in 2024 (7 046 cases including one death), this represents a 79.0% increase in cases and two additional deaths in 2025. During week 41 (from 6 to 12 October 2025), four cases were reported, with no deaths. This represents a 50.0% derecrease compared to the previous week (eight cases with no deaths) (Figure 10).

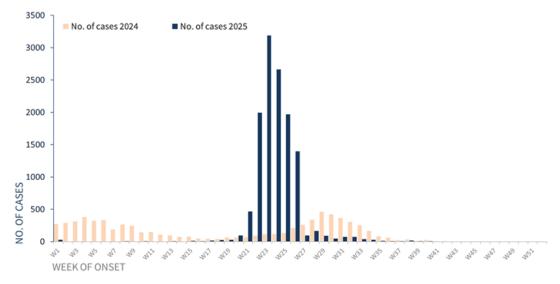


Figure 10: Number of weekly reported COVID-19 cases by region, as of week 41 of 2025, Viet Nam (Source: Viet Nam Administration of Disease Preventino (VADP), Ministry of Health, Viet Nam) Notes: Data reporting might be delayed or updated; recent data will be subject to revision.

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

Australia - COVID-19 confirmed cases

The weekly number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has continued to decrease since week 25 of 2025, with 1 898 new cases reported in week 40 (the week starting on 29 September), compared to 2 197 cases in week 39 (Figure 11).

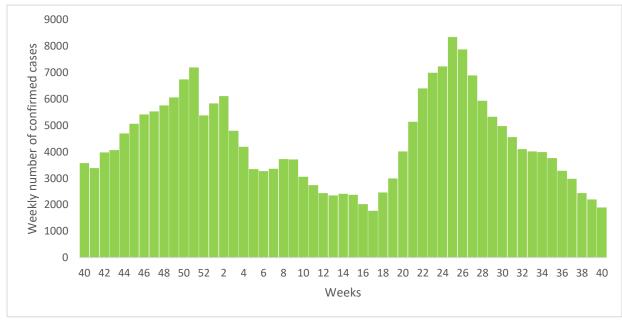


Figure 11: COVID-19 confirmed cases, week 40 of 2024 to week 40 of 2025 (Source: National International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point, Australia)

Notes: Due to a reduction in case ascertainment, including changes in testing and reporting requirements, notifications of COVID-19 are underestimate of disease incidence in the community. For more detail, please refer to reports and data considerations published by individual jurisdictions in Australia.

New Confirmed Cases per week data is derived from The National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (<u>NNDSS</u>) which integrates data from Australia's eight jurisdictions. The NNDSS is a dynamic system, and data are subject to retrospective revisions as updates are received, particularly for recent weeks. Data may vary from data reported in published NNDSS reports and reports of notification data by States and Territories.

New Zealand – COVID-19 cases and deaths

The number of COVID-19 cases is on a decreasing trend since July 2025, with fluctuations. The 7 day-moving average of daily cases per 100 000 population was recorded at 0.23 cases on 21 September 2025 (**Figure 12**). The 7-day moving average of daily attributed hospital admissions per 100 000 population was 0.07 on 14 September 2025. (**Figure 13**).

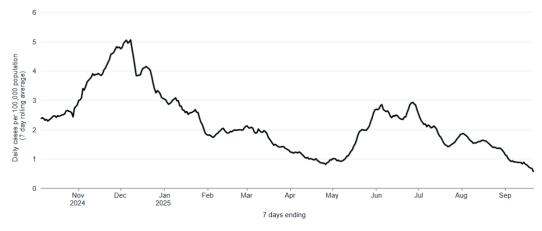


Figure 12: 7-day moving average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population in New Zealand, 2024-2025 (Source: Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand)

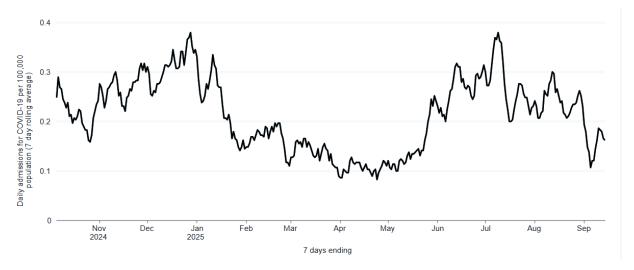


Figure 13: 7-day moving average of daily COVID-19 attributed hospital admissions per 100 000 population in New Zealand, 2024-2025

(Source: Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand)

Global COVID-19 situation updates

Integrated influenza and other respiratory viruses surveillance outputs
COVID-19 monthly epidemiological updates
Global COVID-19 dashboard

Others:

- Report of the Review Committee regarding standing recommendations for COVID-19 Link
- Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants <u>Link</u>
- JN.1 updated risk evaluation <u>Link</u>
- LP.8.1 risk evaluation <u>Link</u>
- NB.1.8.1 risk evaluation Link

Annex 1. Summary of COVID-19 surveillance in countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region

Countries /orose	Case definition	Surveillance system description	
Countries/areas	Case definition	Case surveillance	
Australia	Confirmed case: Newly diagnosed cases with laboratory definitive evidence Laboratory definitive evidence: Detection of SARS-CoV-2 by nucleic amplification acid testing (NAAT); or isolation of SARS-CoV-2 in cell culture, with confirmation using a NAAT; or SARS-CoV-2 IgG seroconversion or a four-fold or greater increase in SARS-CoV-2 antibodies of any immunoglobulin subclass including 'total' assays in acute and convalescent sera, in the absence of vaccination. Probable case: Individuals who have laboratory suggestive evidence Laboratory suggestive evidence: Detection of SARS-CoV-2 by rapid antigen testing (RAT).	COVID-19 is a nationally notifiable disease; The National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) coordinates national surveillance data for diseases on the National Notifiable Disease List. Every day, the state and territory health authorities report to the NNDSS about new cases of notifiable diseases. (Reporting) COVID-19 data includes both confirmed and probable cases reported to NNDSS. Six jurisdictions have stopped collecting probable cases: Victoria on 1 July 2023, Queensland on 1 September 2023, New South Wales on 1 October 2023, Western Australia on 9 October, NT on 21 October2023 and ACT from 22 December 2023. Point of care tests administered in healthcare or aged care settings continue to be reported to the NNDSS by some jurisdictions. New South Wales ceased notification of hospitalization status for COVID-19 cases to the NNDSS on 5 March 2024.	1, 2
China	Diagnosis should be made based on comprehensive analysis of epidemiological history, clinical manifestations and laboratory tests. • Have clinical manifestations associated with the 2019-nCoV infection; • Have one or more of the following pathogenic and serological result: (1) A positive PCR detection of the 2019-nCoV; (2) A positive antigen detection of the 2019-nCoV; (3) A positive 2019-nCoV isolation and cultivation; (4) Four times or more elevated levels of 2019-nCoV-specific IgG antibodies in the recovery phase than in the acute phase.	COVID-19 is a class B notifiable disease: (Case reporting) Medical institutions at all levels and in all categories should report cases in time according to regulations and laws, in line with relevant requirements for information reporting. COVID-19 infection and asymptomatic cases need to be reported directly on China's network-based infectious disease reporting system within 24 hours of diagnosis. For severe, critical and death cases and other special cases identified, disease prevention and control agencies should conduct epidemiological investigations in a timely manner and upload results as required. (Pathogen monitoring) viral gene sequencing is analyzed for patient samples that test positive for COVID-19, which are collected from outpatients admitted to sentinel hospitals, severe and death cases in emblematic cities, as well as inbound travelers entering through emblematic ports. (Sentinel surveillance) outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) and inpatient severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases will be monitored for COVID-19 in 554 sentinel hospitals for national influenza surveillance.	3, 4, 5
		reported based on the National Plan for Surveillance, Screening and Management of Patients with Pneumonia of Unknown Causes	
Hong Kong SAR, China	Confirmed case: Laboratory confirmed cases using PCR or antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic tests	(Reporting) COVID-19 is <u>a notifiable disease</u> . Only severe and death cases are required to be reported, with outcomes (serious, critical, and death) within 28 days of the first positive specimen collection date.	6

Indonesia	Confirmed case: Laboratory-confirmed cases using PCR or rapid diagnostic test	respiratory infections. As of the most recent reporting period, Indonesia maintains 39 ILI and 35 SARI sentinel surveillance sites. Data from these sites are also reported through the NAR system, enhancing the comprehensiveness of national surveillance efforts. Our details reporting systems for Covid-19 present as follow: Data type Reporting frequency Data uses system Individual New All The system facilitates near real-time reporting sites also use as trend monitoring for sentinel and non-sentinel sites; data from sentinel sites; data from sentinel sites; data from sentinel sites;	7, 8
		non-sentinel sites; data from sentinel	

		Individual EWARS-EBS Near-real time Alert and preparedness aggregate			
Japan	Confirmed case: Laboratory confirmed cases using PCR or rapid/quantitative antigen test	COVID-19 is a category five sentinel disease; positive cases must be reported every week. (Clinical surveillance) Sentinel surveillance – positive cases from 5,000 sentinel sites at healthcare facilities for both Influenza and COVID-19; hospitalizations from 500 sentinel sites at healthcare facilities. (Update as of 7 April 2025) With revision of the sentinel surveillance criteria, influenza and COVID-19 case surveillance has been shifted to acute respiratory infection surveillance (ARI surveillance) with approximately 3 000 medical institutions. Sentinel sites for hospitalizations remain unchanged. (Virological surveillance) SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance is conducted every week by the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in collaboration with commercial medical laboratories. Public health institutes at a prefectural level also conduct genomic surveillance for GISAID submission. (Reporting) Weekly number of positive cases, hospitalizations (including those requiring ICU admission or mechanical ventilator), and variant data are reported.			
Republic of Korea	Confirmed case: Laboratory confirmed cases using PCR or RAT	COVID-19 is a level four notifiable disease; positive cases must be reported within seven days of confirmation. (Surveillance) COVID-19 surveillance system has been integrated into existing influenza-like illness (ILI), acute respiratory infection surveillance (ARI), and severe acute respiratory infection surveillance (SARI) system. (Reporting) Weekly detection rate from ILI and COVID-19 hospital admissions from ARI and SARI are reported as part of existing Weekly Infectious Disease Sentinel Surveillance Newsletter.	11, 12		
Malaysia	Suspected case: one of the following options A. A person who meets the clinical AND epidemiological criteria B. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI: acute respiratory infection with history of fever or measured fever of 38 C°; and cough; with onset within the last 10 days; ad who requires hospitalization); C. An asymptomatic person not meeting epidemiologic criteria with a positive SARS-CoV-2 rapid test kit antigen (RTK-Ag) Probable case: One of the following options A. A patient who meets clinical criteria above AND is a contact of a probable or confirmed case or is linked to a COVID-19 cluster	COVID-19 is a notifiable disease. COVID-19 surveillance has transitioned from exhaustive to sentinel surveillance using the existing influenza-like-illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) surveillance. All samples meeting the criteria for ILI and SARI case definition undergo testing for COVID-19 as well. ILI surveillance prioritizes outpatient settings and is categorized into two main types: - Clinical or epidemiological surveillance, which encompasses 1 040 health clinics and eight hospitals, and - Laboratory-based surveillance involving 58 health clinics.	13		

		 B. A suspected case (described above) with chest imaging showing findings suggestive of COVID-19 disease C. A person with recent onset of anosmia (loss of smell) or ageusia (loss of taste) in the absence of any other identified cause D. Death, not otherwise explained, in an adult with respiratory distress preceding death AND who was a contact of a probable or confirmed case or linked to a COVID-19 cluster Confirmed case: One of the following options A. A person with a positive NAAT; RT-PCR, Rapid Molecular, and Gene X-pert B. A person with a positive SARS-CoV-2 RTK-Ag AND meeting either the probable case definition or suspected criteria (A) or (B) C. An asymptomatic person with a positive SARS-CoV-2 RTK-Ag AND who is a contact of a probable or confirmed case 	SARI surveillance is tailored to hospitalized patients with 16 hospitals where laboratory-based surveillance is conducted.	
Nev	w Zealand	Confirmed case: Definitive laboratory evidence, without being a confirmed or probable case in the previous 28 days • Definitive laboratory evidence: SARS-CoV-2 detected from a clinical specimen using a validated NAAT or by RAT in a health care setting. Probable case: Suggestive laboratory evidence, without being a confirmed or probable case in the previous 28 days • Suggestive laboratory evidence: SARS-CoV-2 detected through a self-reported RAT where the quality of result cannot be verified.	Exhaustive surveillance: COVID-19 is a notifiable disease under Section 74 of the Health Act 1956, which requires all health practitioners and those in charge of medical laboratories to officially report actual and suspected cases of COVID-19 to the medical officer of health in the local public health service. Self-diagnosed cases detected by RAT are not required to be reported under the Health Act. (Reporting) With widespread community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, reporting priorities to central communicable diseases units should include a) laboratory notification of positive NAAT results, b) self-reporting of positive RAT results, c) case demographics, d) clusters and outbreaks in high-risk settings and communities, e) cases in hospital and intensive care, and f) COVID-19 related deaths.	14
Vi	iet Nam	Suspected case: one of the following options a) A patient who presents symptoms of - fever and cough; or - at least three of following symptoms: fever; body aches; fatigue; chills; cough; headache; sore throat; runny nose; stuffy nose; reduced or lost sense of smell; reduced or lost sense of taste; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; shortness of breath. b) A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) or severe viral pneumonia (SVP). Confirmed case: one of the following options a) Laboratory-confirmed cases using PCR b) Suspected case (described above) with a positive result of a positive SARS-CoV-2 rapid test kit antigen	Since October 2023, COVID-19 has been classified as a group B notifiable disease and monitored through the Electronic Communicable Disease Reporting System (eCDS), managed by the Ministry of Health. Both suspected and confirmed cases are required to be reported to eCDS within 24 hours from the time of diagnosis.	15,16

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- 16. <u>Circular 54/2015/TT-BYT on the regime of information on reporting and declaration of the latest infectious diseases (thuvienphapluat.vn)</u>