

# COVID-19 CASES IN THE GAZA STRIP

Monthly Epidemiological Bulletin February - March 2022

DATA SOURCES: Ministry of Health (MOH-PHIC) daily reports on COVID-19 in Gaza Strip

## GENERAL

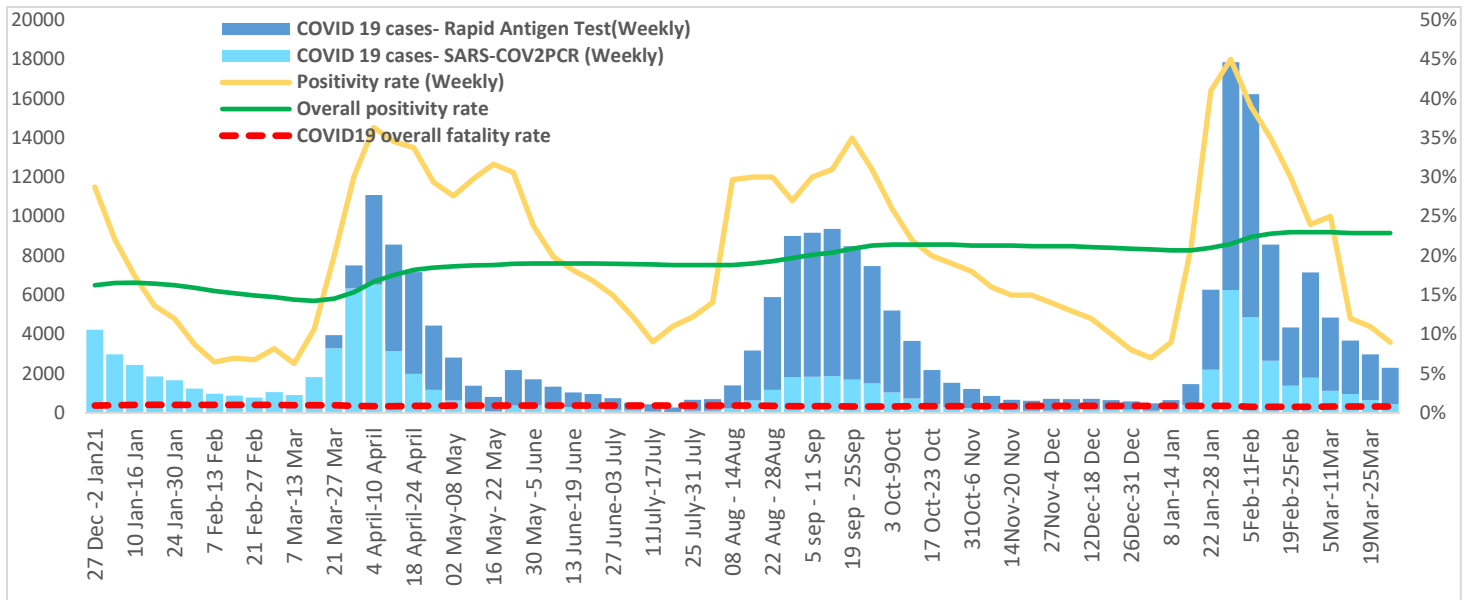


Figure 1: Reported monthly COVID-19 cases, monthly positivity rates, overall positivity rates and overall fatality rate

Reporting Period	Monthly cases		Cumulative	
	01/02/2022-28/02/2022	01/03/2022-31/03/2022	Cumulative since 23/8/2020	
Total No. of samples tested	106,343	17,184	1,085,763	
Total No. of positive cases	40,528	2,928	249,033	
Total No. of closed cases	234990	248594		
Total No. recovered cases (%closed)	233079 (99.22%)	246621(99.2%)		
Total No. reported deaths (%closed)	1911(0.78%)	1973(0.8%)		
Classification of positive cases by severity*	<b>Mild</b>	40,337 (99.5%)	2909 (99.5%)	
	<b>Moderate</b>	83 (0.2%)	6(0.2%)	
	<b>Severe</b>	67 (0.16%)	9 (0.16%)	
	<b>Critical</b>	41 (0.1%)	4(0.1%)	
Positivity rates	%	38.3%	17%	23%

## GENERAL INDICATORS

- This report provides a comparison of COVID-19 infections in February 2022 and March 2022.
- After the spike in the number of COVID-19 infections in Gaza in February 2022, there was a significant decrease in the number of cases in March (Figure 1), from 40,528 in Feb. to 2,928 in March with positivity rate among tested persons decreasing from 38% to 17% (Table 1). However, the number of people coming for testing decreased by 83.8% between February and March: from 106,343 to 1,7184, respectively.
- Due to the sharp decrease in the number of new COVID-19 cases in March, MoH decided to scale back the enforced COVID-19 related emergency measures.
- The decline in number of positive cases occurred across the 5 all five governorates of the Gaza Strip, across all age groups, and among both males and females (Figure 2).
- Likewise, in March, lower number of health care workers got infected compared to February, 133 vs. 1,551, respectively (Figure 3).
- While there were 112 critical and severe COVID-19 cases hospitalized in Gaza in February, only 2 patients were hospitalized in March.
- As a result, there was a decrease in the number of COVID-19 deaths between February and March; from 148 (96 M and 52F) to 62 (40 M and 22 F), respectively (Figure2).

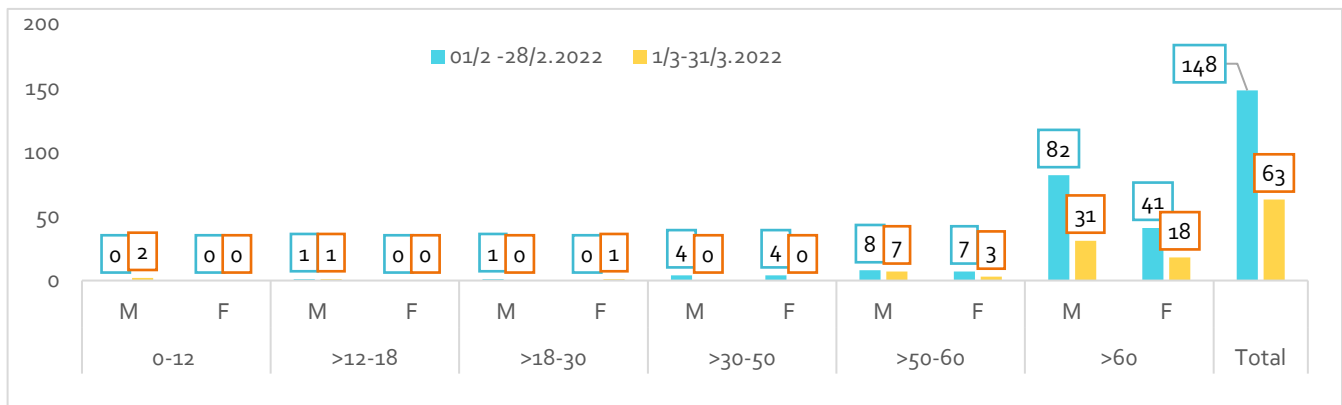


Figure 2: Distribution of reported COVID-19 deaths by age groups and gender

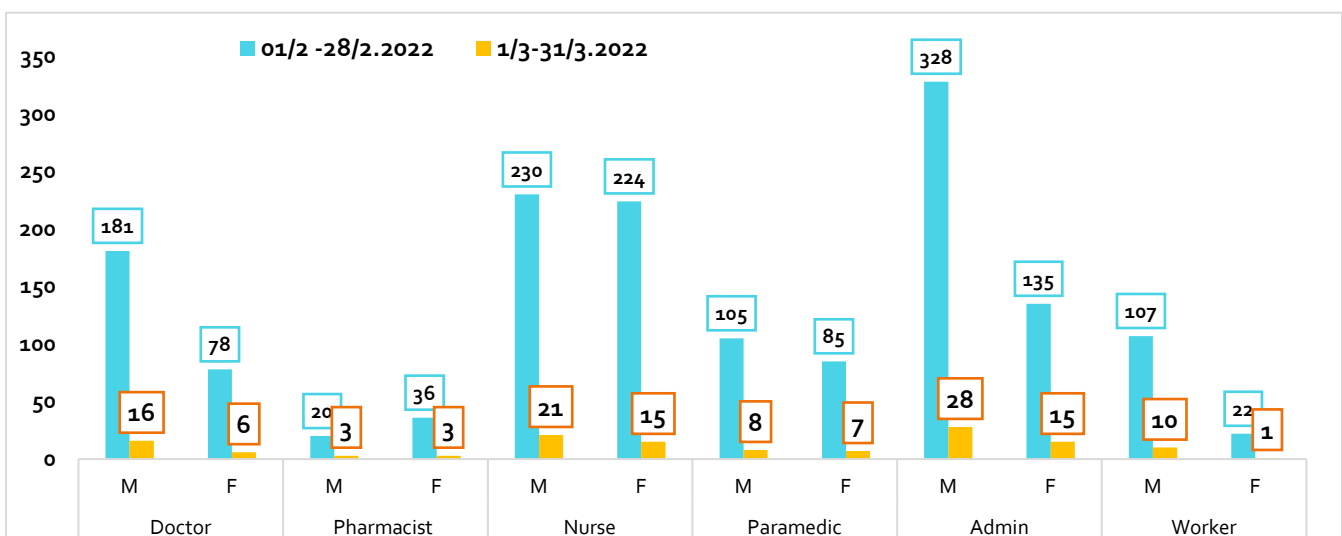


Figure 3: newly reported COVID-19 cases among health workforce distributed by gender

## COVID19 VACCINATION

- By the end of February 2022, a total of **663,992 people had** received the first dose, **348,350** had received the second dose, and **68,416** the third.
- By the end of March 2022, a total of **679,877** had received the first dose, **381,604** had received the second dose, and **90,792** the third.
- Vaccines are still available in considerable amount in the Ministry of Health.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Despite the decrease in all COVID-19 figures and the global trend to scale back emergency measures; a robust surveillance system should remain in place to detect any unexpected spike in cases to ensure timely interventions.
- MoH and other health providers should continue encouraging people to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their communities.
- Despite the decrease in reported cases, the health system must keep its full capacity to handle potential increase in number or severity of COVID-19 infections.