

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Data as reported by national authorities by 23:00 local time 23rd of December 2020

Situation Report No. 206 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
24th of December, 2020



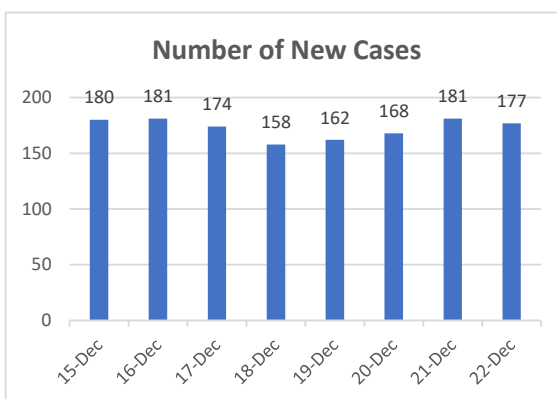
	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Total	76,858,506	1,711,498	4,731,359	117,060
New	570,357	11,496	22,900	515

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	361,536	352,418	6,148	2,970	383	10,755,192
New	177	169	9	-	-	39,564

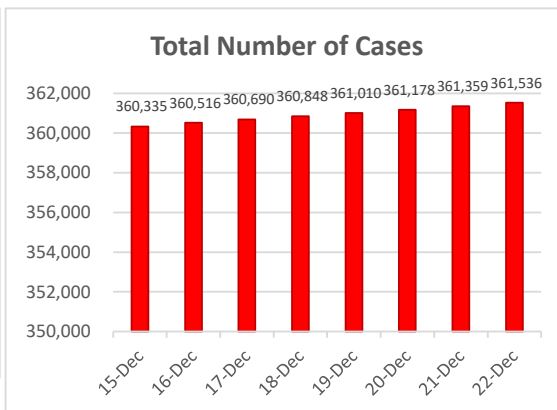
HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections: Riyadh (59), Makkah (31), Madinah (26), Eastern (22), Al Qassim (10), Asir (9), Tabuk (5) and Al Jouf (4).
- Over 500,000 individuals registered for taking COVID-19 vaccine via “Sehaty” application since the launch of the registration .
- Ministry of Health confirms: The Coronavirus vaccine is safe, approved, effective, and does not affect genes.
- Saudi CDC: Working on studying the genetic sequence to follow any change in the virus’s behavior during the pandemic.
- WHO produces guide on developing a national deployment and vaccination Planning for COVID-19 vaccines, see link.
- WHO updated guidance on mask use in the context of COVID-19, see link.
- WHO produces a draft landscape of current COVID-19 candidate vaccines.



IMPORTANT LINKS

- MoH COVID-19 updates: <https://twitter.com/saudimoh>
- WHO's COVID-19 global situation reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>
- WHO's COVID-19 dashboard: <https://covid19.who.int/>
- MoH COVID-19 dashboard: <https://covid19.my.gov.sa/ar/Pages/default.aspx>
- Saudi Arabia shuts land, air, and sea borders temporarily: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2170933#2170933>
- WHO guide on developing a national deployment and vaccination Plan: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Vaccine_deployment-2020.1
- WHO updated guidance on mask use in the context of COVID-19: [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)
- Draft landscape of COVID-19 candidate vaccines: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

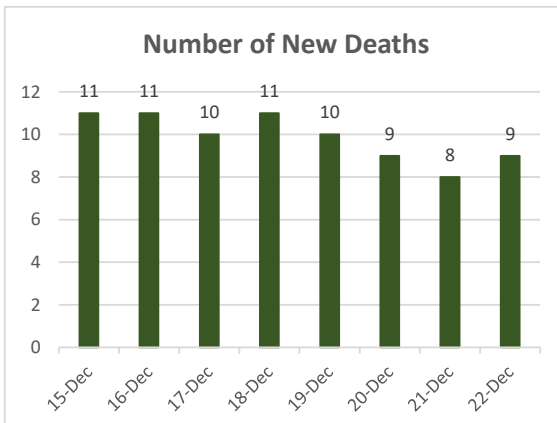


IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

What is the COVID-19 Infodemic?

An infodemic is an overabundance of information, both online and offline. It includes deliberate attempts to disseminate wrong information to undermine the public health response and advance alternative agendas of groups or individuals. Mis- and disinformation can be harmful to people’s physical and mental health; increase stigmatization; threaten precious health gains; and lead to poor observance of public health measures, thus reducing their effectiveness and endangering countries’ ability to stop the pandemic.

Misinformation costs lives. Without the appropriate trust and correct information, diagnostic tests go unused, immunization campaigns (or campaigns to promote effective vaccines) will not meet their targets, and the virus will continue to thrive. Furthermore, disinformation is polarizing public debate on topics related to COVID-19.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- The National Focal Person for COVID-19 is Dr Abdullah Asiri, Assistant Deputy for Preventive Health, MoH, email: AbdullahM.Asiri@moh.gov.sa

