

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 229 - Saudi Arabia

25 February - 03 March, 2021

WHO Office - Riyadh

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	114,428,211	2,543,755	6,482,557	145,666
Last Week	111,762,965	2,479,678	6,266,689	142,986
In 7 days	2,665,246	64,077	215,868	2,680

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	378,333	369,277	6,510	2,546	501	13,782,574
In 7 days	2,312	2,262	35	-	-	318,770
24/2/2021	356	308	5	2,574	473	45,608
25/2/2021	346	368	3	2,549	477	45,027
26/2/2021	338	320	5	2,562	475	39,707
27/2/2021	322	294	6	2,584	481	38,931
28/2/2021	317	335	6	2,560	492	47,125
01/03/21	302	286	5	2,571	486	47,290
02/03/21	331	351	5	2,546	501	55,082

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (1,122), Eastern (506), Makkah (282), Al Qassim (59), Asir (59), Northern Border (59), Al Jouf (50), and Madinah (45).
- MoH has approved Al-Dawaa Pharmacy as the first community pharmacy to make available coronavirus vaccination service through its branches across the Kingdom.
- MoH continues to expand coronavirus vaccine centers to cover all regions of the Kingdom, more than a million doses of a coronavirus vaccine have been administered across 405 vaccination sites.
- Minister of Health: Vaccination against COVID-19 will be a main condition for participation in this year's Hajj Muslim pilgrimage.
- 43,428 is the total number of violations of the precautionary measures against Covid-19 in 1 week from 21-27 February 2021, Riyadh recorded the highest number whereas Najran was the least.
- MoH launched vaccination service against coronavirus inside cars in Riyadh, Makkah, Madinah and Abha, both Saudis and expatriates who have registered on Sehhaty app, can take advantage of the service.
- MoH announced reducing the number of cases infected with coronavirus in Madinah region by more than 86%.
- WHO launches Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO's action in countries, territories and areas, 2020, see link
- WHO publishes WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19, see link
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for use of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca, see link.
- WHO provides Interim recommendations for use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, see link.
- WHO launches Global COVID-19 Clinical Platform Case Report Form (CRF) for Post COVID condition, see link
- WHO publishes 10 steps to community readiness: What countries should do to prepare communities for a COVID-19 vaccine, treatment or new test, see link.
- Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines, see link.

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>
- **Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO's action in countries, territories and areas, 2020:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240019225>
- **WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-prophylaxes-2021-1>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-AZD1222-2021.1
- **Interim recommendations for use of the Moderna vaccine:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/interim-recommendations-for-use-of-the-moderna-mrna-1273-vaccine-against-covid-19>
- **WHO's post COVID clinical platform case report form (CRF):** https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/3rd-edl-submissions/who_cr_f_postcovid_feb9_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14_1&download=true
- **WHO's 10 steps to community readiness:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-Community_Readiness-2021.1
- **Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines:** <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

WHO Grants AstraZeneca/Oxford University Vaccine Emergency Use Listing (EUL):

The vaccine was reviewed by WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), which recommended the use of the vaccine for all age groups 18 and above on the 15th of February.

The vaccine is a non-replicating vaccine that has easy storage requirements. The vaccine is given in two intramuscular doses, the vaccine has been found to have 63.09% efficacy that tends to be higher when the interval between the doses was longer, usually between 4 and 12 weeks. There are currently no evidence indicating a need for additional (booster) doses. There are no data available on the interchangeability of doses of this vaccine with other COVID-19 vaccines. There should be a minimum interval of 14 days between administration of this vaccine and any other vaccines against other conditions.

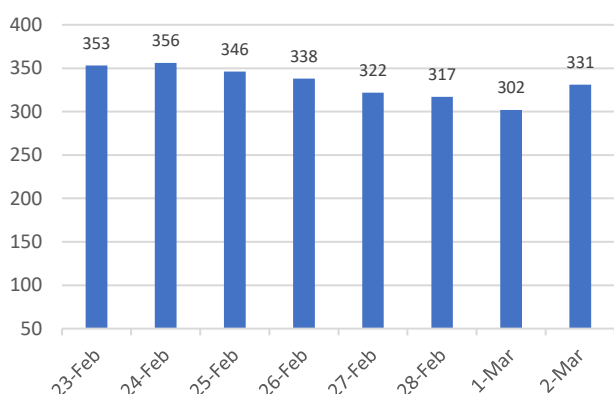
No severe allergic reactions or anaphylaxis caused by the vaccine have been recorded in the context of clinical trials, however, as for all vaccines, it should be given under supervision, with the appropriate medical treatment available in case of allergic reactions.

Anyone with fever above 38.5 °C should postpone vaccination. The vaccine produces an immune response in older persons similar to other age groups and is safe for use in the older age group, it has also been safe when tested in persons with a number of underlying medical conditions.

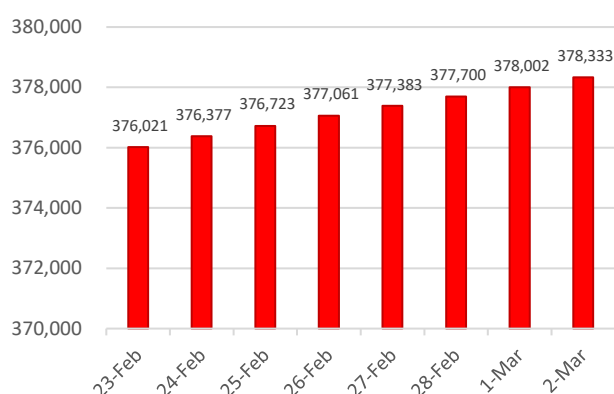
The vaccine has not been tested on pregnant women to assess its safety during pregnancy, however, WHO does not recommend taking a pregnancy test prior to vaccination and does not recommend delaying pregnancy because of vaccination. It is not known whether the vaccine is secreted in human milk, however, since it is not a replicating vaccine, it is unlikely to pose a risk to the breastfeeding child. WHO does not recommend discontinuing breastfeeding after vaccination.

The vaccine can be given to those who already had COVID-19, however should be delayed for 6 months after they have recovered. If antibody treatment was given, the vaccine should be deferred for at least 90 days after the treatment was given. Preliminary analysis shows that the vaccine is less effective against the variant discovered in South Africa, however this needs further study.

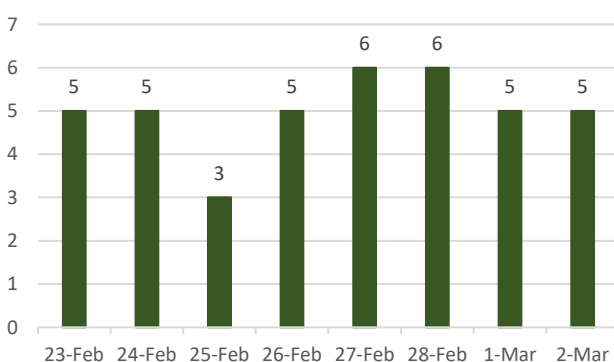
Number of New Cases



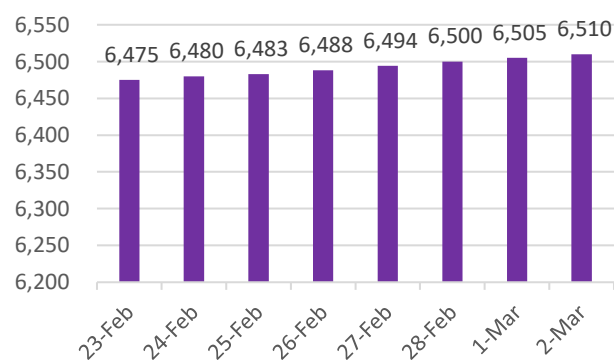
Cumulative Cases



Number of New Deaths



Cumulative Deaths



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**