

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 230 - Saudi Arabia

04-10 March, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	117,332,262	2,605,356	6,720,130	148,525
Last Week	114,428,211	2,543,755	6,482,557	145,666
In 7 days	2,904,051	61,601	237,573	2,859

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	380,958	371,583	6,545	2,830	528	1,659,276
In 7 days	2,625	2,306	35	-	-	347,968
3/3/2021	375	336	4	2,581	503	47,118
4/3/2021	384	309	5	2,651	509	52,737
5/3/2021	382	378	5	2,650	494	48,078
6/3/2021	357	314	4	2,689	505	41,701
7/3/2021	351	418	6	2,616	519	47,791
8/3/2021	390	306	5	2,695	515	56,118
9/3/2021	386	245	6	2,830	528	54,425

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (1,257), Eastern (473), Makkah (372), Al Qassim (96), Madinah (86), Northern Border (85), Hail (64), and Asir (52).
- Saudi Arabia to lift ban on Coronavirus-related precautionary measures from Sunday, March 7, however all events and parties including weddings and corporate meetings will continue to remain suspended until further notice.
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs decided to temporarily close 6 mosques in 4 regions after 6 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were detected bringing the total of what were closed to 224 mosques in 27 days, 208 of which were opened after the completion of sterilization.
- MoH continues to expand coronavirus vaccine centers across the Kingdom providing at-home COVID-19 vaccination service, more than 1.5 million people have received coronavirus vaccine shots so far.
- MoH Urges people who had COVID-19 vaccine outside the Kingdom to update their status by calling 937.
- Ministry of Commerce enabled all stores to allocate discounts to everyone who received the vaccine, whether the first or second dose.
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs decided to temporarily close no. of mosques in many regions after some of infected cases bringing the total of what were closed to 99 mosques during 12 days, 79 of which were opened after the completion of sterilization.
- 41,590 is the total number of violations of the precautionary measures against Covid-19 in 1 week from 28 February-7 March 2021, Riyadh recorded the highest number whereas Najran was the least.
- MoH accredits Kingdom Hospital as the first private hospital to provide vaccination services against Coronavirus and extended working hours around the clock in 3 health centers in Riyadh to administer the coronavirus vaccination.
- 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_crf_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.

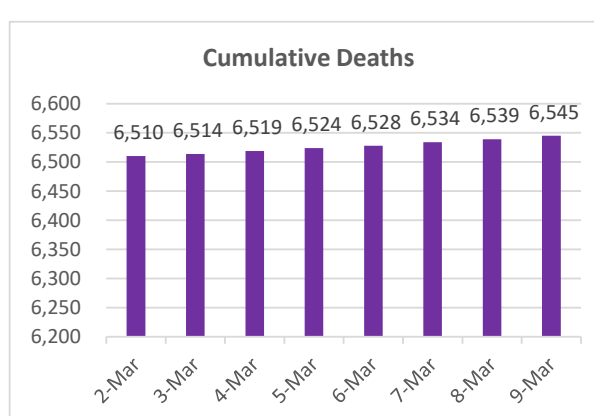
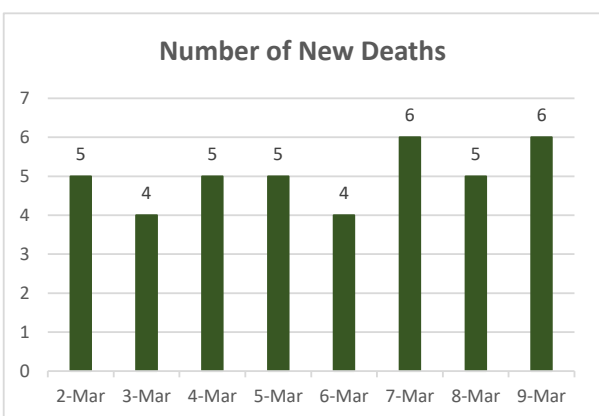
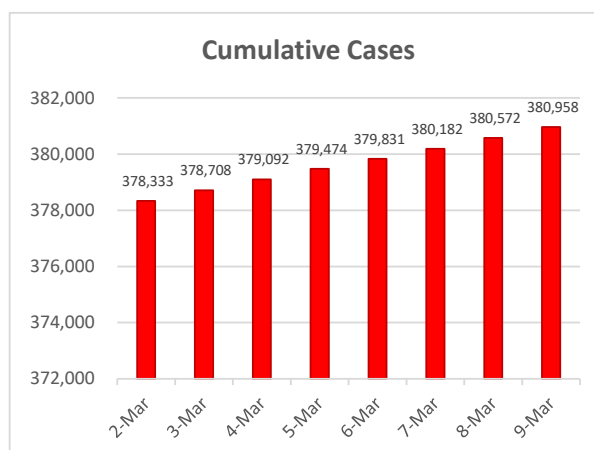
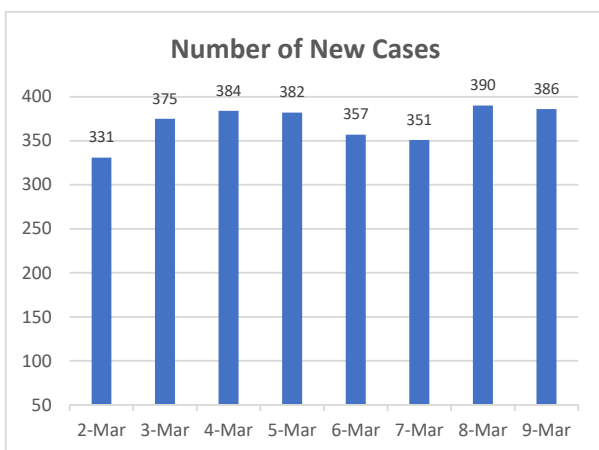
The vaccine is a non-replicating vaccine that has easy storage requirements. The vaccine is given in two intramuscular doses, the vaccine has been found to have 63.09% efficacy that tends to be higher when the interval between the doses was longer, usually between 4 and 12 weeks. There are currently 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.



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