

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 233 - Saudi Arabia

25-31 March, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	127,877,462	2,796,561	7,519,257	158,426
Last Week	123,902,242	2,727,837	7,235,154	154,875
In 7 days	3,975,220	68,724	284,103	3,551

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	390,007	378,083	6,669	5,255	693	4,432,572
In 7 days	3,707	2,612	45	-	-	361,789
24/3/2021	482	360	6	4,321	622	48,937
25/3/2021	510	372	7	4,452	630	56,341
26/3/2021	502	355	6	4,593	635	46,328
27/3/2021	531	389	7	4,728	638	44,058
28/3/2021	541	357	6	4,906	674	48,775
29/3/2021	556	410	7	5,045	694	57,262
30/3/2021	585	369	6	5,255	693	60,088

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (1,543), Eastern (672), Makkah (632), Madinah (153), Northern Borders (144), Al Qassim (142), Hail (110), and Asir (93).
- 4.46 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered so far in over 587 vaccination centers. Registration to receive the Corona vaccine is available now at the age of 18 and above.
- MoH spokesperson: 60% - 70% of new infections are related to indoor gatherings.
- 30,306 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures in 1 week during the period from 21 - 27/03/2021.
- Ministry of Human Resources: Staff of recruitment companies must be vaccinated before May 13. Coronavirus vaccines will be mandatory for all those who provide services to pilgrims and Umrah performers in the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah.
- Royal order sets exam dates for all levels, Summer vacation to begin before Eid.
- Ministry of Sport: Vaccinated people will be allowed to attend sports events as of 17 May.
- Minister of Media: Saudi Arabia will vaccinate all citizens and residents before the end of 2021.
- The local production of masks reached 5 million masks per day.
- New research highlights risks of separating new-borns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic, see link.
- WHO made an announcement regarding the safety of the AstraZeneca vaccine reiterating that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh its risks and recommends continuing its use, see link
- WHO publishes WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19, see link
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, see link.
- WHO launches Global COVID-19 Clinical Platform Case Report Form (CRF) for Post COVID condition, see link
- WHO publishes a guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, see link.

IMPORTANT LINKS

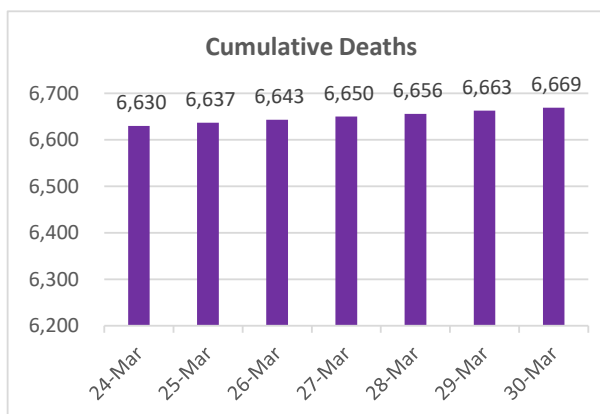
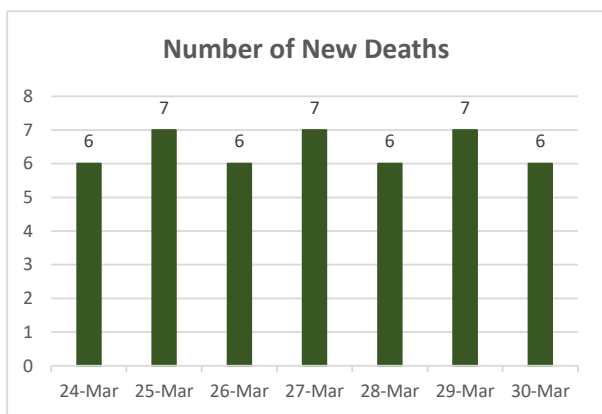
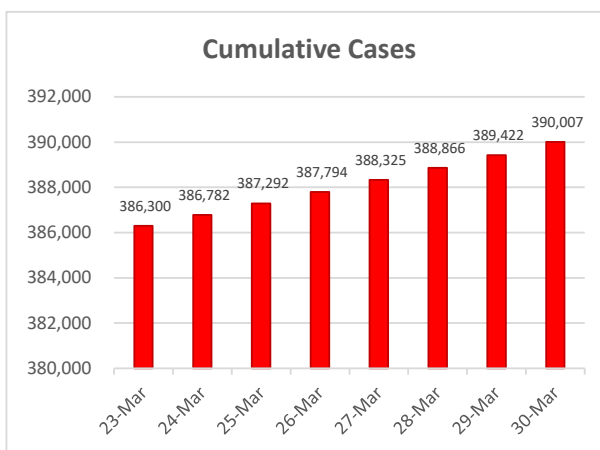
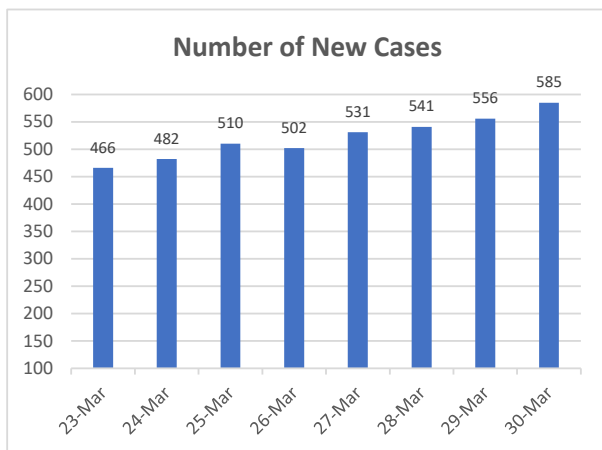
- **MoH COVID-19 updates:** <https://twitter.com/saudimoh>
- **WHO's COVID-19 global situation reports:** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>
- **WHO's COVID-19 dashboard:** <https://covid19.who.int/>
- **MoH COVID-19 dashboard:** <https://covid19.my.gov.sa/ar/Pages/default.aspx>
- **New research on risks of separating new-borns:** [New research highlights risks of separating new-borns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic \(who.int\)](#)
- **WHO reiterates recommendation to continue using the AstraZeneca vaccine:** [WHO statement on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine safety signals](#)
- **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 Janssen vaccine:** [Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S \(COVID-19\) vaccine: interim guidance, 17 March 2021 \(who.int\)](#)
- **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
- **A guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/a-guide-to-contracting-for-health-services-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Summary of statement by WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) COVID-19 subcommittee on safety signals related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine:

So far, more than 20 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been administered in Europe and more than 27 million doses of the Covishield vaccine (AstraZeneca vaccine by Serum Institute of India) have been administered in India. The subcommittee met virtually on 16 and 19 March 2021 and reviewed clinical trial data and reports based on safety data from Europe, the United Kingdom, India, and Vigibase, the WHO global database of individual case safety reports. Based on a careful scientific review, the subcommittee came to the following conclusions:

- * The AstraZeneca vaccine continues to have a positive benefit-risk profile, with tremendous potential to prevent infections and reduce deaths.
- * The available data do not suggest any overall increase in clotting conditions following administration of COVID-19 vaccines. Reported rates of thromboembolic events after COVID-19 vaccines are in line with the expected number of diagnoses of these conditions. These conditions occur naturally and are not uncommon. They also occur as a result of COVID-19. The observed rates have been fewer than expected for such events.
- * It is not certain that the reported cases have been caused by vaccination. The European Medicines Agency’s Pharmacovigilance and Risk Assessment Committee has reviewed 18 cases out of a total of more than 20 million vaccinations with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in Europe. A causal relationship between these rare events has not been established at this time.
- * Adequate education should be provided to health-care professionals and persons being vaccinated to recognize the signs and symptoms of all serious adverse events after vaccinations, so that people may seek and receive prompt and relevant medical care and treatment.
- * The subcommittee recommends that countries continue to monitor the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines and promote reporting of suspected adverse events.
- * The subcommittee also agrees with the European Medicines Agency’s plans to further investigate and monitor for these events.



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