

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



## Weekly Report No. 236 - Saudi Arabia

15-21 April, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
<b>Current</b>	142,557,268	3,037,398	8,609,860	173,334
<b>Last Week</b>	136,996,364	2,951,832	8,220,531	167,283
<b>In 7 days</b>	5,560,904	85,566	389,329	6,051

### Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
<b>Total</b>	<b>408,038</b>	<b>391,362</b>	<b>6,858</b>	<b>9,818</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>16,352,116</b>
<b>In 7 days</b>	<b>6,881</b>	<b>5,921</b>	<b>77</b>	-	-	<b>379,207</b>
14/4/2021	985	661	10	9,249	999	45,953
15/4/2021	964	918	10	9,285	1,034	53,744
16/4/2021	948	775	9	9,449	1,018	51,126
17/4/2021	916	907	13	9,445	1,044	51,225
18/4/2021	970	896	11	9,508	1,087	56,583
19/4/2021	1,070	940	12	9,626	1,105	62,069
20/4/2021	1,028	824	12	9,818	1,145	58,507

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (3,038), Makkah (1,448), Eastern (1,006), Madinah (258), Asir (247), Al Qassim (170), Jazan (157), and Hail (151).
- 7.66 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered so far in 587 vaccination centres. More appointments for the Pfizer vaccine are available at the vaccination centers in the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah. The dates for the second dose will reach the beneficiaries automatically.
- MoH :55% of COVID-19 infections among women and more than half of critical cases are 60 years and over.
- SFDA: All vaccines approved in the Kingdom are of high safety. The cases of strokes reported among those who received Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine doses were very rare. Benefits of AstraZeneca vaccine outweigh risks.
- Saudi Arabian Airlines: the decision to resume international flights from May 17 is not applicable to 20 countries Saudi Arabia imposed a travel ban on in early February.
- Ministry Interior: a fine of up to one million riyals and imprisonment for anyone who spreads false rumors about Coronavirus.
- 27,377 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures from 11-17 April, Riyadh recorded the highest while Jazan recorded the lowest.
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs closed 33 mosques temporarily in 8 regions after Coronavirus cases identified among worshippers bringing the total of the mosques closed in all regions within 71 days to 677 mosques, 628 of them were opened after completing the sterilization.
- WHO publishes disability considerations for COVID-19 vaccination: WHO and UNICEF policy brief, 19 April 2021, 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 WHO COVID-19 essential supplies forecasting tool (COVID-ESFT), 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>
- **Disability considerations for COVID-19 vaccination: WHO and UNICEF policy brief, 19 April 2021:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-vaccination-and-disability-policy-brief-2021.1>
- **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 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/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\\_cr\\_f\\_postcovid\\_feb9\\_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14\\_1&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/3rd-edl-submissions/who_cr_f_postcovid_feb9_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14_1&download=true)
- **WHO COVID-19 essential supplies forecasting tool (COVID-ESFT):** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Tools-Essential-forecasting-2021-1>

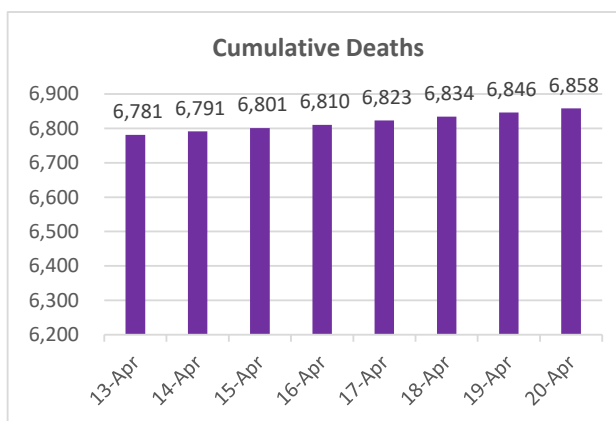
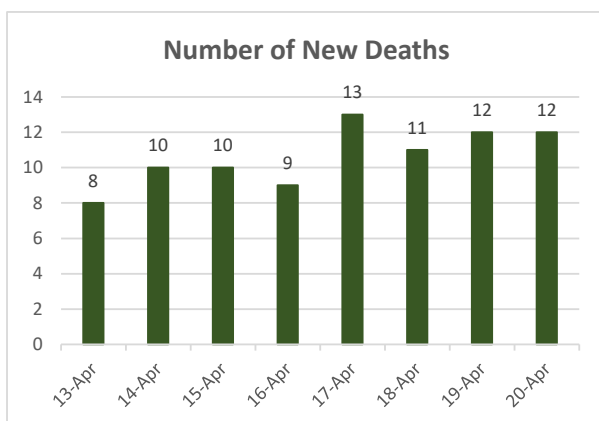
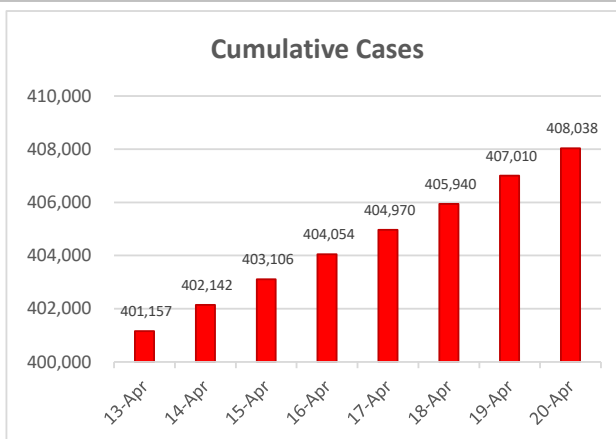
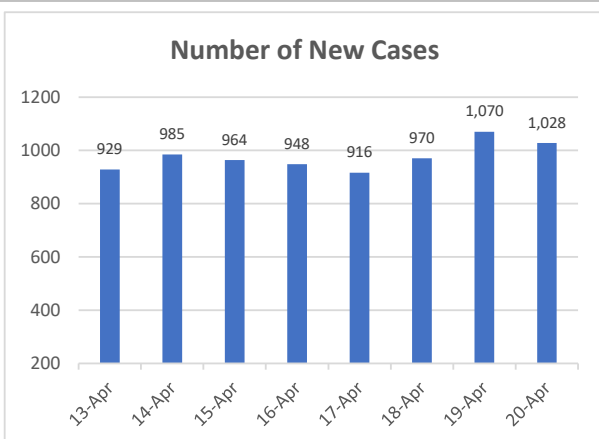
## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

### Interim statement of the COVID-19 subcommittee of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety Regarding the AstraZeneca vaccine

The subcommittee has reviewed reports of rare cases of blood clots with low platelets following vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. At its meeting on 7 April, 2021, the subcommittee reviewed latest information from the [European Medicines Agency](#) along with information from the [United Kingdom's Medicines and other Health products Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\)](#), and other Member States and noted the following:

- Based on current information, a causal relationship between the vaccine and the occurrence of blood clots with low platelets is considered plausible but is not confirmed. Specialised studies are needed to fully understand the potential relationship between vaccination and possible risk factors.
- It is important to note that whilst concerning, the events under assessment are very rare, with low numbers reported among the almost 200 million individuals who have received the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine around the world.
- Rare adverse events following immunizations should be assessed against the risk of deaths from COVID-19 disease and the potential of the vaccines to prevent infections and reduce deaths. In this context, it should be noted that as of today, at least 2.8 million people have died of COVID-19 disease worldwide.
- Side effects within two- or three-days following vaccination, the majority of which are mild and local in nature, are expected and common. However, individuals who experience any severe symptoms – such as shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain, neurological symptoms, such as severe and persistent headaches or blurred vision, tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the site of the injection - from around four to 20 days following vaccination, should seek urgent medical attention. [Clinicians should be aware of relevant case definitions and clinical guidance for patients presenting thrombosis and thrombocytopenia following COVID-19 vaccination.](#) To this end, the subcommittee also suggested that a committee of clinical experts is convened, for advice on clinical diagnosis and case management.
- Active surveillance should be considered to further characterise these rare events. The subcommittee will meet again next week to review additional data and will be issuing further recommendations as relevant

In extensive vaccination campaigns, it is normal for countries to identify potential adverse events following immunization. This does not necessarily mean that the events are linked to vaccination itself, but they must be investigated to ensure that any safety concerns are addressed quickly. Vaccines, like all medicines, can have side effects. The administration of vaccines is based on a risk versus benefit analysis.



## 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](mailto:AbdullahM.Asiri@moh.gov.sa)