

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



## Weekly Report No. 240 - Saudi Arabia

20-26 May, 2021

|                  | Global         |                 | Eastern Mediterranean Region |                 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
|                  | COVID-19 Cases | COVID-19 Deaths | COVID-19 Cases               | COVID-19 Deaths |
| <b>Current</b>   | 167,492,769    | 3,482,907       | 9,955,811                    | 199,581         |
| <b>Last Week</b> | 163,869,893    | 3,398,302       | 9,737,714                    | 195,749         |
| <b>In 7 days</b> | 3,622,876      | 84,605          | 218,097                      | 3,832           |

### Saudi Arabia

|                  | Confirmed Cases | Recovered Cases | Deaths       | Active Cases  | Critical Cases | PCR Tests         |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>444,781</b>  | <b>427,462</b>  | <b>7,295</b> | <b>10,023</b> | <b>1,348</b>   | <b>18,788,835</b> |
| <b>In 7 days</b> | <b>8,541</b>    | <b>6,791</b>    | <b>94</b>    | -             | -              | <b>594,872</b>    |
| 19/5/2021        | 1,330           | 1,055           | 13           | 8,629         | 1,365          | 93,896            |
| 20/5/2021        | 1,136           | 980             | 10           | 8,775         | 1,331          | 81,678            |
| 21/5/2021        | 1,142           | 1,089           | 13           | 8,815         | 1,329          | 78,608            |
| 22/5/2021        | 1,067           | 895             | 12           | 8,975         | 1,344          | 77,269            |
| 23/5/2021        | 1,157           | 987             | 15           | 9,130         | 1,334          | 81,094            |
| 24/5/2021        | 1,389           | 912             | 14           | 9,593         | 1,348          | 89,182            |
| 25/5/2021        | 1,320           | 873             | 17           | 10,023        | 1,348          | 93,145            |

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Makkah (2,412), Riyadh (2,363), Eastern (1,071), Madinah (715), Jazan (430), Asir (409), Al Qassim (318) and Tabuk (229).
- More than 13 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered so far in 587 vaccination centres.
- MoH denies cancelation of second dose of anti-COVID-19 vaccine, reiterating that it has been postponed to reach the largest number of individuals, those who are over 60 years old will receive the date of the second dose automatically without postponement.
- G.A. of Civil Aviation: Travelers who intend to visit Saudi Arabia should have medical insurance that covers COVID-19 treatment, and should complete their vaccination registration online before arriving.
- Public health authority publishes guideline of how to document the vaccines inside the Kingdom.
- Ministry of Interior: More than 25,000 violations of the precautionary measures within a week in all regions of the Kingdom. Workers who violate the regulations by holding gatherings will be fined SR50,000. The penalties apply to the host and attendees.
- Ministry of Education announces that colleges and universities to resume educational activities in person in the next academic year. All employees of the Ministry must obtain the Coronavirus vaccine before the first of August 2021. Attendance in schools still to be determined.
- MoH: no 'black fungus' cases reported in the Kingdom. The age group 50 and above accounts for 78% of Coronavirus deaths, no deaths among those immunized. The MoH is still exploring the possibility of extending immunization to the 12 - 16 years age group.
- Overseas pilgrims to be allowed to perform this year's Hajj under strict health and precautionary measures. Immunization and lack of chronic disease are 2 conditions for performing Hajj. Also, Hajj will be allowed only for the 18 - 60 years age group.
- WHO publishes preventing and mitigating COVID-19 at work, see link.
- WHO launches Information Note: COVID-19 considerations for tuberculosis (TB) care, see link.
- WHO publishes COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction and Deployment Costing Tool (CVIC tool), see link.
- WHO launches document on COVID-19 natural immunity, see link.
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for use of the inactivated COVID-19 vaccine BIBP developed by China National Biotec Group (CNBG), Sinopharm, 7 May 2021, 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>
- **Preventing and mitigating COVID-19 at work:**  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-workplace-actions-policy-brief-2021-1>
- **WHO Information Note: COVID-19 considerations for tuberculosis (TB) care:**  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-TB-care-2021.1>
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction and deployment Costing tool (CVIC tool):**  
[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-vaccine\\_deployment\\_tool-2021.1](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-vaccine_deployment_tool-2021.1)
- **COVID-19 natural immunity:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Sci-Brief-Immunity-passport-2021.1>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the inactivated COVID-19 vaccine BIBP developed by China National Biotec Group (CNBG), Sinopharm, 7 May 2021**  
[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE\\_recommendation-BIBP-2021.1](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BIBP-2021.1)

## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

### Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine Receives Emergency Use Listing from WHO

WHO listed the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the green light for the vaccine to be rolled out globally. The vaccine is produced by Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products Co Ltd, subsidiary of China National Biotec Group (CNBG).

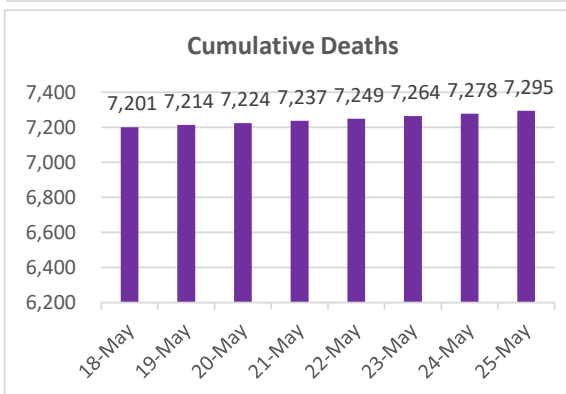
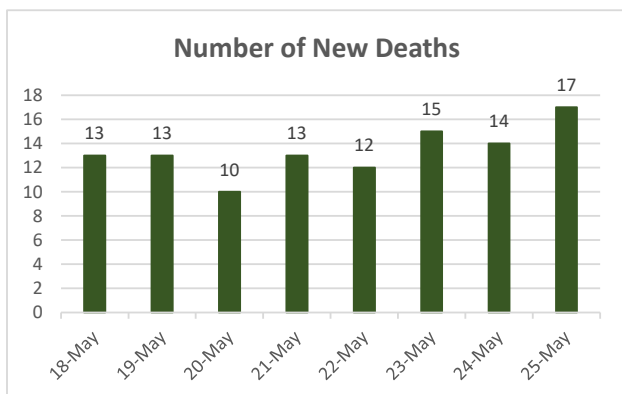
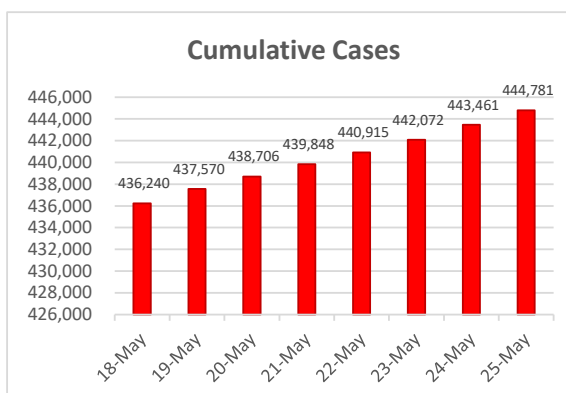
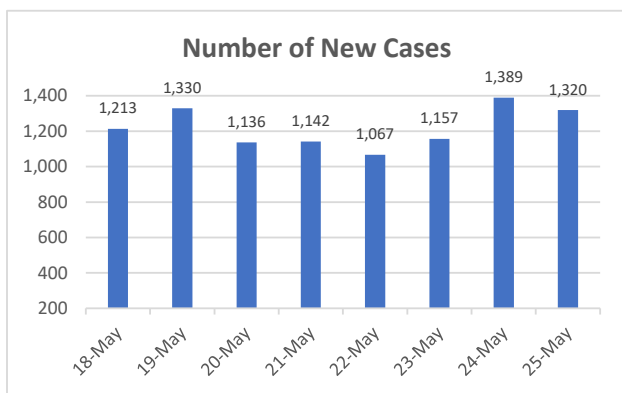
Emergency Use Listing (EUL) of this vaccine has the potential to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine access for countries. The WHO urged the manufacturer to participate in the COVAX Facility and contribute to the goal of more equitable vaccine distribution globally. WHO's Emergency Use Listing (EUL) is a prerequisite for COVAX Facility vaccine supply. It also allows countries to expedite their own regulatory approvals.

The EUL assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as risk management plans and programmatic suitability, such as cold chain requirements.

The Sinopharm product is an inactivated vaccine called SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell). Its easy storage requirements make it suitable for low-resource settings. It is also the first vaccine that will carry a vaccine vial monitor, a small sticker on the vaccine vials that changes colour as the vaccine is exposed to heat, letting health workers know whether the vaccine can be safely used.

On the basis of all available evidence, WHO recommends the vaccine for adults 18 years and older, in a two-dose schedule with a spacing of three to four weeks. The vaccine is given intramuscularly. Vaccine efficacy for symptomatic and hospitalized disease was estimated to be 79%, all age groups combined.

Few older adults (over 60 years) were enrolled in clinical trials, so efficacy could not be estimated in this age group. Nevertheless, WHO is not recommending an upper age limit for the vaccine because preliminary data and supportive immunogenicity data suggest the vaccine is likely to have a protective effect in older persons.



## 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