

Weekly Report No. 252 - Saudi Arabia

19 - 25 August, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	213,050,725	4,448,352	14,243,635	259,857
Last Week	208,470,375	4,377,979	13,813,261	252,418

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	543,028	530,382	8,505	4,141	1,083	27,097,223
in 7 days						
18/8/2021	499	877	10	5,858	1,234	69,991
19/8/2021	458	753	9	5,554	1,205	68,672
20/8/2021	409	710	11	5,242	1,162	60,938
21/8/2021	384	737	12	4,877	1,156	58,799
22/8/2021	360	741	9	4,487	1,127	63,280
23/8/2021	353	456	7	4,377	1,108	68,962
24/8/2021	321	549	8	4,141	1,083	67,929

Vaccination in KSA

Total of Doses Administered	Total of 1 Dose	Total of 2 Doses
35 million	21.7 million	13.5 million

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (768), Makkah (470), Eastern (277), Jazan (250), Al Qassim (225), Asir (211), Madinah (164), and Najran (128).
- Saudi Arabian Airlines would only allow passengers who received 2 doses of a coronavirus vaccine on board domestic flights effective September 1st.
- GACA: fully vaccinated expatriates from banned countries allowed direct entry, this applies only to residents who have received 2 doses of coronavirus vaccination inside KSA before their departure.
- Saudi Arabia sent 600,000 doses of the "AstraZeneca" vaccine to support Tunisia.
- Teachers return to schools after an absence of 18 months; unvaccinated students will be considered absent; 99% of eligible students received first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- SFDA approves the use of the Moderna vaccine in the age group of 12-17 years.
- MoH: 6 COVID-19 vaccines approved in Saudi Arabia, they are Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BionTech, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Sinopharm, and Sinovac. 2 doses from Sinopharm or Sinovac vaccines can be accepted if they are followed by a booster dose of one of the other approved vaccines in KSA.
- Ministry of Interior: 22,345 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures from 15-21 August, Riyadh recorded the highest while Najran was the lowest.
- MoH: recovered persons required to take 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Saudi Arabia can reach community immunity in less than 50 days.
- Public Health Authority launches "back to school" guidelines
- WHO Publishes guidance for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants: Interim guidance, 9 August 2021, see link
- WHO launches health financing for the COVID-19 response, see link
- WHO launches clinical features and prognostic factors of COVID-19 in HIV patients hospitalized with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, see link.
- WHO launches interim guidance on critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19, see link.
- WHO launches guidance on conducting vaccine effectiveness evaluations in the setting of new SARS-CoV-2 variants, see link.
- WHO publishes holding gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO policy brief, see link.
- WHO publishes guidance on utilization of COVID-19 vaccines before the date of expiry, 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>
- **Guidance for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO_2019-nCoV_surveillance_variants
- **Health financing for the COVID-19 response:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240030527>
- **Clinical features and prognostic factors of COVID-19 in people living with HIV hospitalized with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Clinical-HIV-2021.1>
- **Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/critical-preparedness-readiness-and-response-actions-for-covid-19>
- **Guidance on conducting vaccine effectiveness evaluations in the setting of new SARS-CoV-2 variants: Interim guidance, 22 July 2021. Addendum to Evaluation of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccine_effectiveness-variants-2021.1
- **Holding gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO policy brief:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/holding-gatherings-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-who-policy-brief-2-august-2021>
- **Guidance on utilization of COVID-19 vaccines before the date of expiry** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/guidance-on-utilization-of-covid-19-vaccines-before-the-date-of-expiry>

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

WHO validates Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use and issues interim policy recommendations

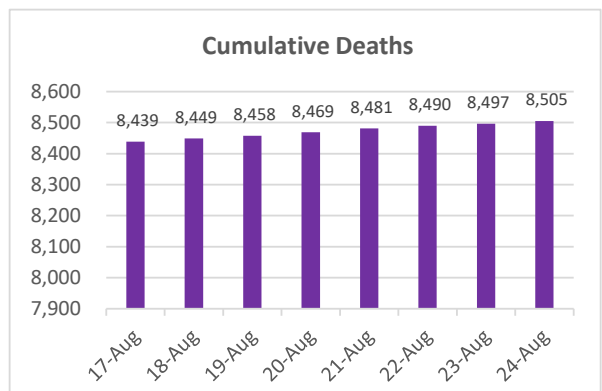
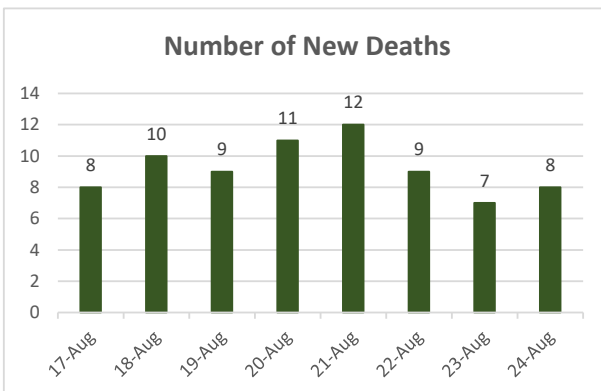
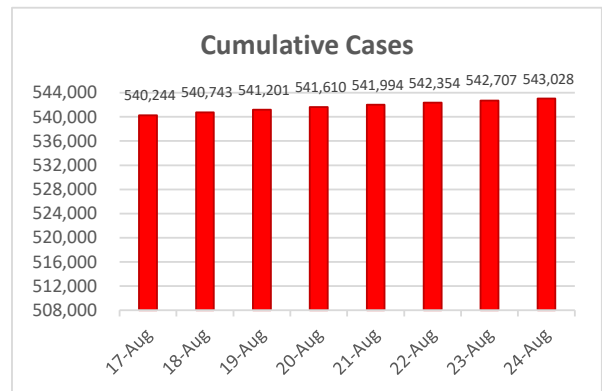
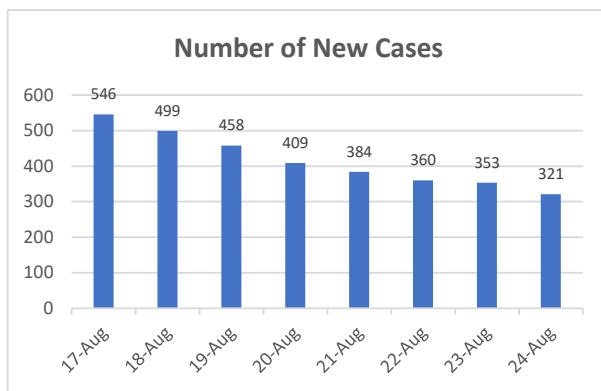
On 1st of May, WHO validated the Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. The vaccine is produced by the Beijing-based pharmaceutical company Sinovac.

WHO's Emergency Use Listing (EUL) is a prerequisite for COVAX Facility vaccine supply and international procurement. It also allows countries to expedite their own regulatory approval to import and administer COVID-19 vaccines.

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 Sinovac-CoronaVac product is an inactivated vaccine. Its easy storage requirements make it very manageable and particularly suitable for low-resource settings. On the basis of available evidence, WHO recommends the vaccine for use in adults 18 years and older, in a two-dose schedule with a spacing of two to four weeks. Vaccine efficacy results showed that the vaccine prevented symptomatic disease in 51% of those vaccinated and prevented severe COVID-19 and hospitalization in 100% of the studied population.

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 data collected during subsequent use in multiple countries and supportive immunogenicity data suggest the vaccine is likely to have a protective effect in older persons. There is no reason to believe that the vaccine has a different safety profile in older and younger populations. WHO recommends that countries using the vaccine in older age groups conduct safety and effectiveness monitoring to verify the expected impact and contribute to making the recommendation more robust for all countries.



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