

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 268 - Saudi Arabia

9-15 December, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	270,791,973	5,318,216	16,970,719	312,896
Last Week	266,504,411	5,268,849	16,887,269	311,383

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	550,457	539,712	8,857	1,888	34	32,123,480
in 7 days						
8/12/2021	45	72	1	1,961	29	41,278
9/12/2021	48	61	1	1,947	29	41,369
10/12/2021	53	71	1	1,928	27	33,895
11/12/2021	51	68	1	1,910	29	37,833
12/12/2021	64	77	2	1,895	31	36,705
13/11/2021	65	82	1	1,877	33	50,068
14/11/2021	88	76	1	1,888	34	56,516

Vaccination in KSA

Total Doses Administered	Total of 1 Dose	Total of 2 Doses	Total of Booster Doses
48.2	24.8	22.9	537,231

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh followed by Makkah.
- Saudi Arabia will use the financial surpluses to meet the needs of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen its financial position.
- Public Prosecution: SAR 500,000 in fine for individuals who fail to disclose details of visit to COVID-19 hit countries.
- Saudi Arabia has announced exempting foreign husbands of Saudi women and non-Saudi wives of Saudi men from presenting PCR tests upon arriving to Saudi Arabia.
- General Authority of Civil Aviation suspends flights from Nigeria over Omicron fears.
- Ministry of Hajj: foreign pilgrims aged 12 years and above will be allowed to enter Saudi Arabia and perform Umrah.
- MoH: It is too early to talk about the 4th dose or any additional doses.
- Ministry of Interior records 1150 violations against precautionary measures nationally in 1 week.
- WHO Publishes Injection safety in the context of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination.
- WHO launches Interim recommendations for use of the Bharat Biotech BBV152 COVAXIN® vaccine, Moderna mRNA-1273, and Pfizer–BioNTech, BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccines, see links.
- WHO Updates guidelines on the management of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children associated with COVID-19 MIS-C
- WHO publishes recommendations on the Co-administration of seasonal inactivated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, see link.
- WHO publishes holding gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO policy brief, 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>
- **Injection safety in the context of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination:**
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Policy-brief-Vaccination-Injection-safety>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the Bharat Biotech, Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines against COVID-19:**
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE-recommendation-bbv152-covaxin>
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/interim-recommendations-for-use-of-the-moderna-mrna-1273-vaccine-against-covid-19>
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1
- **WHO updates guidelines on the management of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children associated with COVID-19**
[WHO issues guidelines on the treatment of children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1)
- **WHO recommendations on the co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines:** [Coadministration of seasonal inactivated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1)
- **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>

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

COVID-19 new Variant of Concern: Omicron (B.1.1.529)

The Technical Advisory Group of the WHO convened on 26 November 2021 to assess the new variant: B.1.1.529.

The new variant was first reported to WHO from South Africa on 24 November 2021. In recent weeks, infections have increased steeply, coinciding with the detection of B.1.1.529 variant. The first known confirmed B.1.1.529 infection was from a specimen collected on 9 November 2021.

This variant has a large number of mutations, some of which are concerning. Preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of reinfection with this variant, as compared to other VOCs. The number of cases of this variant appears to be increasing in almost all provinces in South Africa.

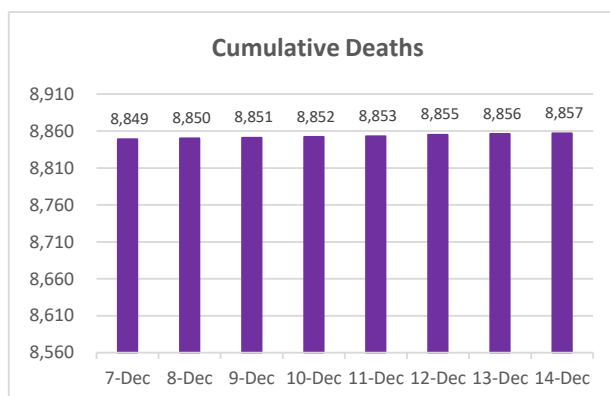
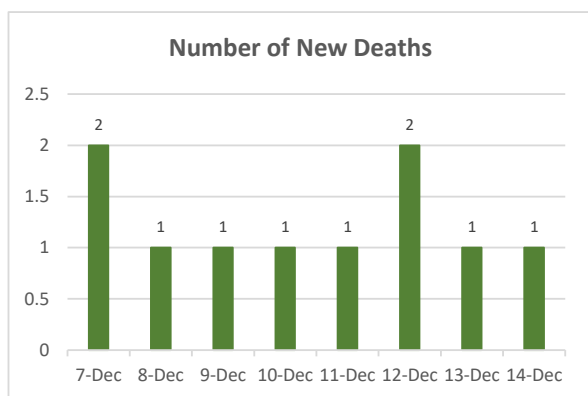
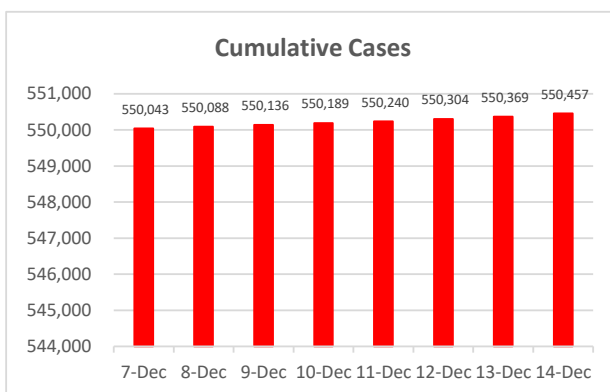
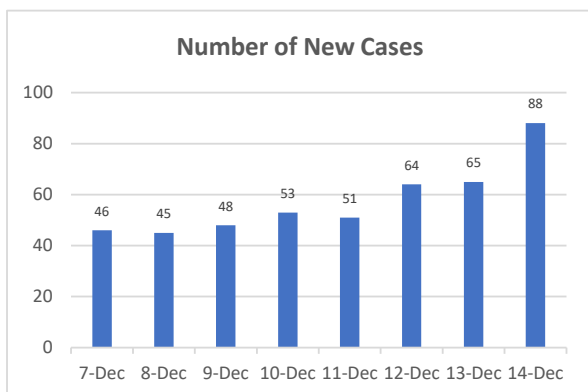
Current PCR diagnostics continue to detect this variant. Several labs have indicated that for one widely used PCR test, one of the three target genes is not detected (called S gene dropout or S gene target failure) and this test can therefore be used as marker for this variant, pending sequencing confirmation. Using this approach, this variant has been detected at faster rates than previous surges in infection, suggesting that this variant may have a growth advantage.

There are a number of studies underway, and the WHO will communicate new findings with Member States and to the public once available.

Countries are asked to do the following:

- enhance surveillance and sequencing efforts to better understand circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants.
- submit complete genome sequences and associated metadata to a publicly available database, such as GISAID.
- report initial cases/clusters associated with VOC infection to WHO through the IHR mechanism.
- where capacity exists and in coordination with the international community, perform field investigations and laboratory assessments to improve understanding of the potential impacts of the VOC on COVID-19 epidemiology, severity, effectiveness of public health and social measures, diagnostic methods, immune responses, antibody neutralization, or other relevant characteristics.

Individuals are reminded to take measures to reduce their risk of COVID-19, including proven public health and social measures such as wearing well-fitting masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, improving ventilation of indoor spaces, avoiding crowded spaces, and getting vaccinated.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- The National Focal Person for COVID-19 is Dr Abdullah Asiri, Assistant Deputy for Preventive Health, MoH, email:

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