

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 269 - Saudi Arabia

16-22 December, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	275,233,892	5,364,996	17,049,032	314,247
Last Week	270,791,973	5,318,216	16,970,719	312,896

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	551,462	540,393	8,867	2,202	30	32,536,750
in 7 days						
15/12/2021	85	81	1	1,891	30	60,051
16/12/2021	80	92	2	1,877	31	66,497
17/12/2021	116	96	1	1,896	34	52,239
18/12/2021	104	98	1	1,901	33	60,120
19/12/2021	146	99	2	1,946	31	51,340
20/12/2021	222	106	1	2,061	28	57,354
21/12/2021	252	109	2	2,202	30	65,669

Vaccination in Saudi Arabia

Total Doses Administered	Total of 1 Dose	Total of 2 Doses	Total of Booster Doses
48.9 million	24.9 million	23 million	968,468

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh followed by Jeddah.
- Saudi Arabia starts vaccinating children aged 5-11, the priority will be given for those at higher risk of developing complications.
- The immunization rate of receiving 2 or more doses in the public sector reached 96.6% while the rate stood at 94.2% in the private sector.
- People are urged to avoid unnecessary travel outside the Kingdom, especially to countries with high Omicron transmission. Returning travellers must avoid social contact for 5 days after returning from abroad. Delta continues to be the dominant variant prevalent in the Kingdom.
- MoH announced on Monday the ability to receive the booster dose after 3 months of getting the second dose instead of 6.
- Ministry of Interior: All citizens and residents must take the booster dose to secure their "immune" status on Tawakkalna app. before 1st of February, 2022.
- Ministry of Interior records 1,792 violations against precautionary measures nationally in 1 week.
- WHO issues an updated interim statement on COVID-19 booster doses, see link.
- WHO issues COVID-19 infection prevention and control living guideline: mask use in community settings, see link.
- 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>
- **WHO interim statement on COVID-19 booster doses:**
[Interim statement on booster doses for COVID-19 vaccination \(who.int\)](#)
- **WHO issues COVID-19 infection prevention and control living guideline: mask use in community settings:**
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_masks-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](#)
- **WHO recommendations on the co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines:** [Coadministration of seasonal inactivated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines \(who.int\)](#)
- **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

The World Health Organization issued an emergency use listing (EUL) for Nuvaxovid™

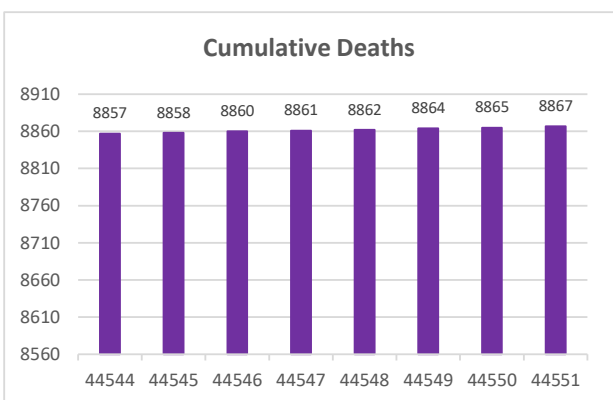
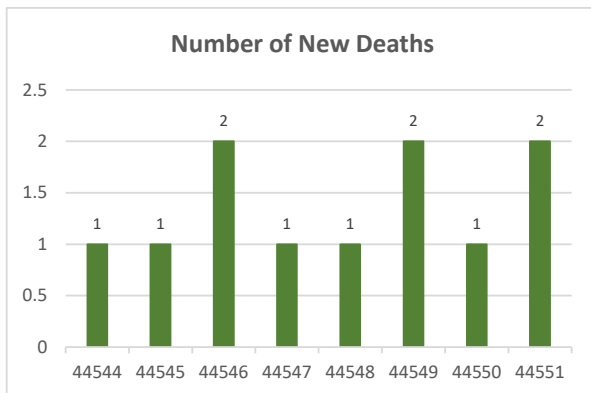
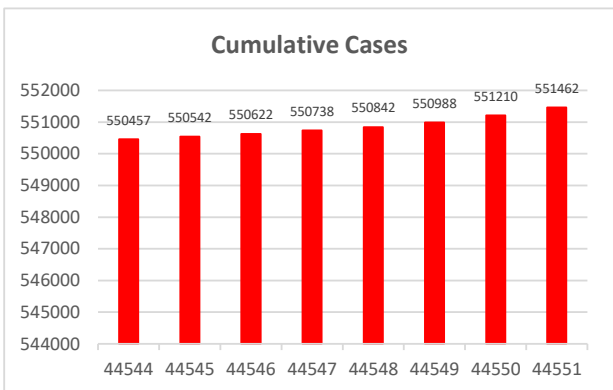
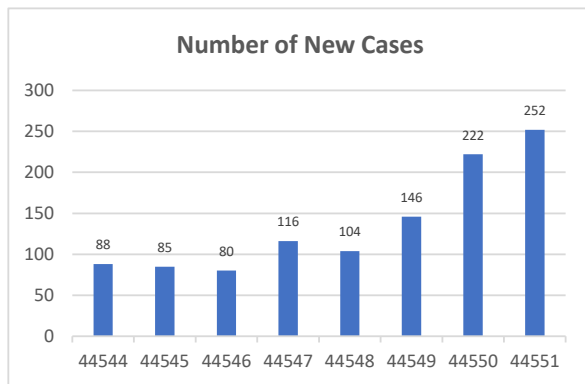
The new vaccine was developed by Novavax and the [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) (CEPI), and is the originator product for the Covovax™ vaccine that received WHO emergency use listing on 17 December.

Both vaccines are made using the same technologies. They require two doses and are stable at 2 to 8 °C refrigerated temperatures.

The Novavax vaccine (NVX-CoV2373) consists of a recombinant SARS-CoV-2 spike protein nanoparticle administered as a co-formulation with the adjuvant Matrix-M. Protein-based vaccines have been used against diseases such as pertussis, human papillomavirus, and hepatitis B. Matrix-M is a novel adjuvant that has been used in studies but has not previously been used in any licensed vaccine .

The efficacy of NVX-CoV2373 has been assessed in three phase 2 and phase 3 trials involving participants aged 18 years or older. In a phase 3 study conducted in the United Kingdom during a period in which the SARS-CoV-2 Alpha variant was predominant, vaccine efficacy (VE) against mild, moderate, or severe COVID-19 was 90% (95% CI: 80–95) from 7 days after the second vaccine dose, with a median follow-up of 56 days after the second dose. VE against mild, moderate, or severe disease in persons less than 65 years of age was 90% (95% CI: 80–95) and in those 65 years and older 89% (95% CI: 20–100). Studies of NVX-CoV2373 have demonstrated an acceptable safety and reactogenicity profile in adults ≥18 years of age, detailed data on the efficacy and safety of this vaccine can be found in the background document on the NVX-CoV2373 vaccine (see WHO website). The data reviewed by WHO support the conclusion that the known benefits of NVX-CoV2373 outweigh the risks that are known or considered possible. Therefore, WHO recommends the use of NVX-CoV2373 in persons aged ≥18 years. As sufficient vaccine supply will not be immediately available to immunize all who could benefit from it, countries are recommended to use the WHO Prioritization Roadmap and the WHO Values Framework as guidance for prioritized vaccine use, based on population subgroup.

The recommended primary vaccine series is two doses given intramuscularly into the deltoid muscle at an interval of 3–4 weeks. The vaccine should not be administered with an interval of less than 3 weeks. WHO is currently assessing the need for and timing of booster doses. Data on the duration of continued protection are currently still missing.



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