

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 274 - Saudi Arabia

20-26 January, 2022

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	356,955,803	5,610,291	18,458,629	320,133
Last Week	332,617,707	5,551,314	17,936,874	318,766

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	666,259	617,114	8,927	40,218	789	37,149,074
in 7 days						
19/1/2022	5,591	5,238	2	45,363	540	212,831
20/1/2022	4,884	6,090	2	44,155	591	204,057
21/1/2022	4,608	4,622	2	44,139	637	142,887
22/1/2022	4,535	5,072	2	43,600	655	131,762
23/1/2022	4,838	6,296	2	42,140	705	165,134
24/1/2022	4,541	5,212	2	41,467	750	167,889
25/1/2022	4,526	5,772	3	40,218	789	189,347

Vaccination in Saudi Arabia

Total Doses Administered	Total of 1 st Dose	Total of 2 nd Dose	Total of Booster Dose
56.3 million	25.5 million	23.6	7.2 million

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh followed by Jeddah.
- MoH: Automatic sick leave for COVID-19 cases will be issued through Tawakkalna application only for 3 categories; fully immunized individuals, children under the age of 12 and individuals exempted from vaccination.
- Public Health Authority announces guidelines for dealing with suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 among kindergarten and elementary school students. 7-day quarantine for children in contact, and suspension of study in classroom.
- Dr. Abdullah Asiri: Omicron is the only COVID-19 variant found at present in the Kingdom. Children between the ages of 5 and 11 are required to administer a second dose of the coronavirus vaccine 4 weeks after taking the first dose.
- MoH: PCR tests should be performed in the event of the symptoms appearing, and quarantine is for people who had come in contact with non-vaccinated cases. If symptoms of coronavirus appear on an unvaccinated person after contacting an infected person, then he is obliged to quarantine and conduct a PCR test after the fourth or fifth day.
- Ministry of Interior records 28,657 violations against precautionary measures nationally in 1 week.
- WHO launches recommendations on mask use by health workers, in light of the Omicron variant of concern: WHO interim guidelines, 22 December 2021, see link.
- 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 launches Interim recommendations for use of the Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2, under Emergency Use Listing, see link.
- WHO publishes recommendations on the Co-administration of seasonal inactivated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, 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 recommendations on mask use by health workers, in light of the Omicron variant of concern: WHO interim guidelines, 22 December 2021:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_Masks-Health_Workers-Omicron_variant-2021.1
- **WHO interim statement on COVID-19 booster doses:**
[Interim statement on booster doses for COVID-19 vaccination \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_booster-doses-2021.1)
- **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 interim recommendations for use of the Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2, under Emergency Use Listing:**
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-IPC_influenza_COVID-19_vaccines-2021.1)
- **Therapeutics and COVID-19: living guideline:**
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-therapeutics-2022.1>

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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

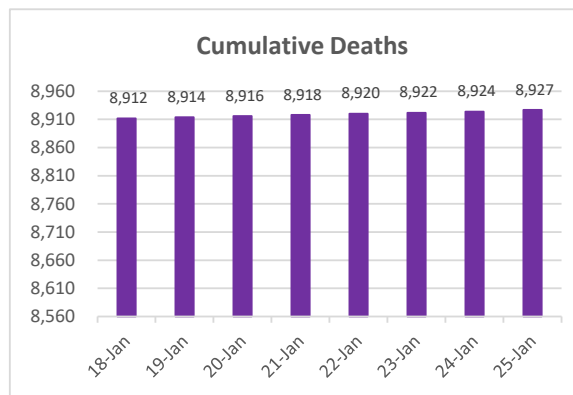
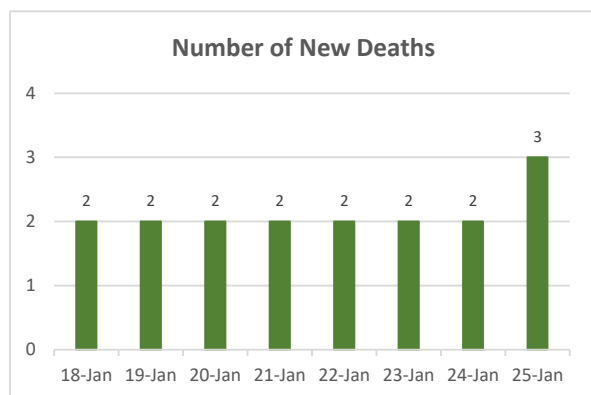
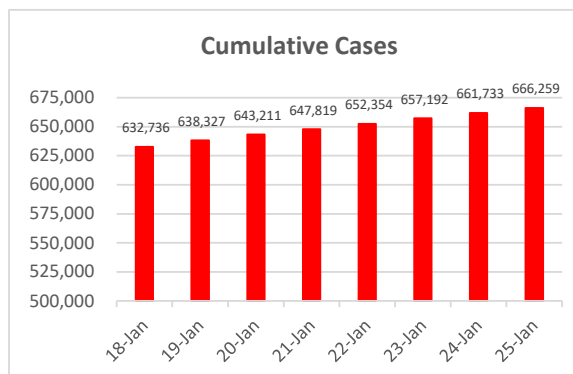
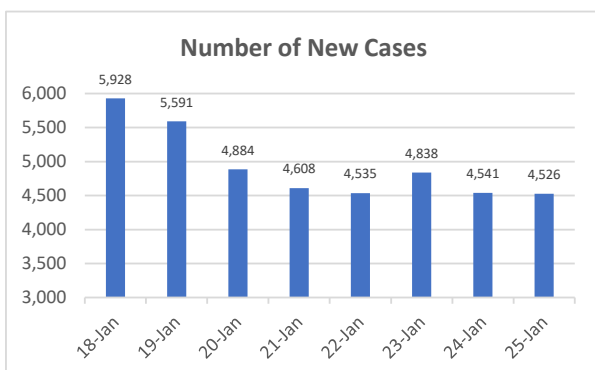
The new vaccine was developed by Novavax and the [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) (CEPI), and is the originator product for the Covovax™ vaccine that received WHO emergency use listing on 17 December.

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