



## Situation Summary

### Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 520 COVID-19 cases, including 8 deaths were reported in the last 7 days. Of these, 515 (99%) were locally acquired.
- Since the beginning of the current outbreak, 1,748 locally acquired cases have been detected in 14 provinces including two new provinces (Tbong Khmum (6), and Kampot (1)) in the past week.
- Among the cases in the current outbreak, 47% are linked to the imported case on 7 February, 15% to a cluster in the community, 27% are under investigation and 12% cannot be linked.
- In addition to testing conducted at national laboratories, over 100,441 tests have been performed by Institute Pasteur Cambodia (IPC) as part of the investigation.
- As of 23 March 2021, more than 10,900 contacts have been identified through contact tracing. Since 19 February 2021, 2,197 contacts have been identified. Of these, 1,257 (57%) are active contacts.
- On 25 March 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) issued guidance on additional measures for mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on economic sector and promoting economic growth during and post COVID-19 crisis. These measures include continuation of support to garment-textile, footwear, travel goods, bags and tourism workers, extension of minimum tax exemption period for civil aviation companies and continuation of the cash transfer scheme for poor and vulnerable households for three months.
- On 24 March 2021, MOH announced the mandatory use of masks in 5 areas/provinces. Phnom Penh Capital, Preah Sihanouk Province, Kandal Province, Prey Veng Province and Siem Reap Province.
- As of 22 March 2021, more than 401,000 vaccine doses have been administered.
- As of 29 March 2021 10am ICT, 2,273 (F:1,042) confirmed cases of COVID-19, including eleven deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 1,172 have recovered. 434 cases were acquired overseas, representing 27 nationalities in addition to Cambodian, with the rest locally acquired. 1,087 patients are currently being hospitalized.
- Since January 2020, a total of 379,954 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 0.6%. In total, 583,869 tests have been performed as of 29 March 2021 including 5,004 ILI/ SARI sentinel surveillance specimens which have been tested negative for SARS-CoV-2.

## Upcoming Events and Priorities

### Surveillance

- MOH CDC with WHO support are working on early detection strategies to increase detection opportunities in the community: daily symptom screening at health care facilities for all patients and staff as well as testing of staff with ILI symptoms; testing of special populations (truck drivers, taxi drivers, police, garbage collectors) if have ILI symptoms, monitoring acute respiratory infections in selected health centres in 4 provinces and asymptomatic screening of prison staff in Phnom Penh every 2 weeks.
- With the support of WHO, MOH will strengthen provincial capacity for using EOC/IMS and multisource surveillance for risk assessment and decision making.

**Laboratory**

- Institute Pasteur, Cambodia (IPC), are conducting laboratory testing, serology and sequencing.
- MOH is conducting laboratory testing and infection source investigations. MOH with partner support is coordinating specimen collection, additional testing to support the current outbreak investigations and laboratory data management and analysis.
- WHO are working with NIPH and IPC to build the Regional Laboratory workforce for Molecular Diagnostics for COVID-19, through a three-phase training program, the first batch of participants attended the training on 8 March 2021.
- WHO has advocated to MOH both at national and provincial levels by re-emphasizing on targeted testing strategy to ensure sustainability of current laboratory testing capacity and reduce delay in turnaround time for timely response to current localized community outbreak.
- MOH is progressing with plans to expand and decentralize laboratory testing capacity for COVID-19 to 13 provincial laboratories and 3 national laboratories. Provincial laboratories include Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Odor Meanchey, Svay Rieng, Tboung Khmom, Koh Kong, Takeo, Kampot, Ratanakiri, Mondul Kiri, and Stung Treng. National laboratories in Phnom Penh are National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control, Preah Keto Mealea Hospital, and National Blood Transfusion Center. Preah Keto Mealea Hospital Laboratory and Takeo Provincial Laboratory were activated on 22 and 25 March 2021, respectively. Two additional high throughput automated Roche Cobas 6800 instruments will be activated soon at the National Blood Transfusion Center and National Institute of Public Health to increase daily testing capacity.

**Healthcare delivery and pathways**

- MOH is conducting the readiness check of clinical management for large scale community transmission.
- MOH Department of Hospital Services (DHS) is finalizing version 3.0 of the clinical guidelines. This version includes content on management of severe and critical cases; oxygen considerations; procedures for SARS-CoV-2 monitoring; discharge criteria; use of medicines; and post-discharge management. A Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services COVID-19 technical brief, led by the National Maternal Child Health Centre, is also being finalized to complement the clinical guidelines.

**Risk communication and community engagement**

- MOH continue to issue 3C hotspot updates in four languages (Chinese, Vietnamese, Khmer and English) with call for contacts to come for testing and quarantine.
- Materials/messages being developed/disseminated:
  - High risk settings and late self referral
  - Everyone is at risk – everyone must be vigilant;
  - Quarantine reminder graphics for: post-discharge and post first test;
- Quarantine do's and don'ts poster is being revised based on three different quarantine options: home, hotel or facility.
- NCHP is revising COVID-19 booklet for VHSG, CCWC and Village Chiefs to include information about vaccines, which will be disseminated nation-wide.
- As part of the NVDP, a vaccine related communication and community engagement plan is being implemented by MOH with support from WHO, UNICEF and GIZ.

### Non-pharmaceutical interventions

- The government continuously assesses the adjustment of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) through a gradual step-wise approach that considers the effectiveness, socio-economic cost, and public acceptability of each measure, while continuing to increase surveillance to inform decision-making.

## Transmission Assessment

Current multi-source surveillance assessment indicates Phnom Penh is in stage 2 transmission (localized community transmission), the other 13 provinces (Preah Sihanouk, Kandal, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Koh Kong, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Battambang, Takeo, Kep, Kampot and Tbong Khmum) with cases are in Stage 1 transmission and the remaining provinces with no cases are in stage 0.

In Phnom Penh, the number of cases and test positivity among symptomatic individuals have been increasing since early March (since 05 March). Overall, 45% of cases are linked to the breach in quarantine and importation event, 14% to other community clusters, 17% cannot be linked and cases from the last two weeks are under investigation. Exported cases to other countries continue to be reported; in the last week there were 5 exported cases and their links have not yet been established. No increases in ILI or SARI cases and no signals from event-based (EBS) through 115, nor from indicator-based (CamEWARN) reporting systems. Media reports do suggest challenges to ensure compliance with quarantine.

### Epi Update COVID-19

#### Tests

**45,097**

NAT Tests past 7 days

**583,869**

Cumulative NAT Tests

#### Cases

**520**

New cases past 7 days  
(21% 7-day)

**2,273**

Cumulative Cases

#### Deaths

**8**

Deaths past 7 days  
(>100% 7-day)

**11**

Cumulative Deaths

#### ICU Admissions

**19**

ICU Admissions past 7 days  
(46% 7-day)

**35**

Cumulative ICU Admissions

**21**

Imported Cases in past 28 days

**1,453**

Cases in past 28 days with no link (696)

**16**

Active clusters

### Health Service Provision COVID-19

**1**

Healthcare worker cases reported past week

**27**

Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients

**13,667**

Total public hospital beds

**17**

Number of hospitals with experience in COVID-19 case management

## Epidemiology

Figure 1. COVID-19 Cases by Date of Sampling and Link Status, 1 January – 28 March 2021, Cambodia

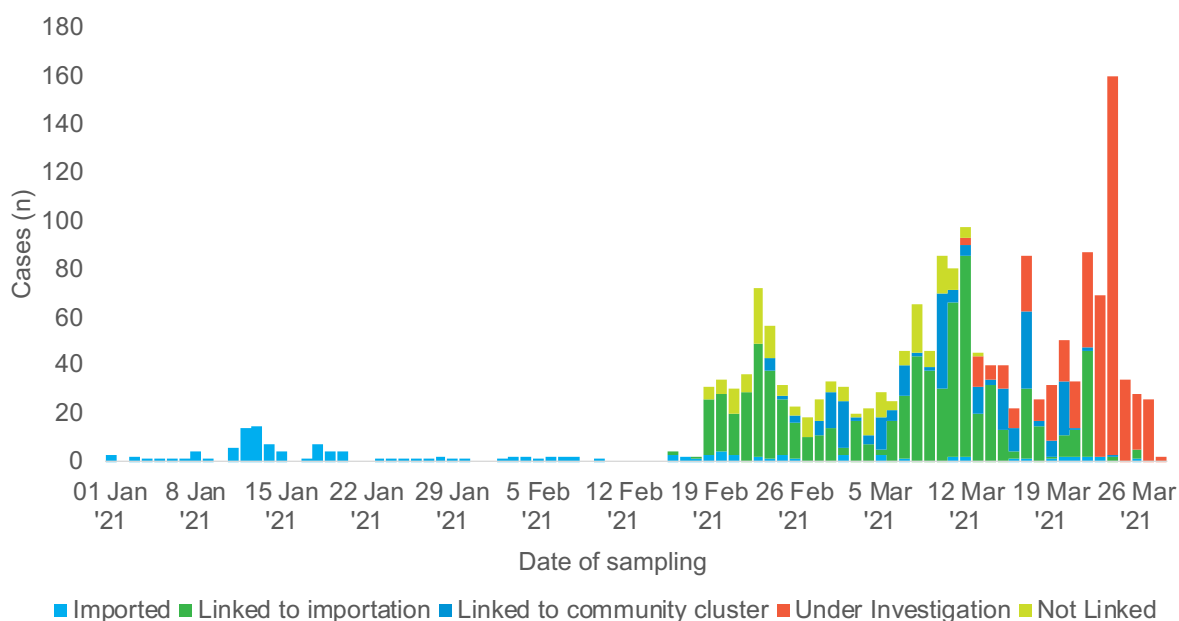
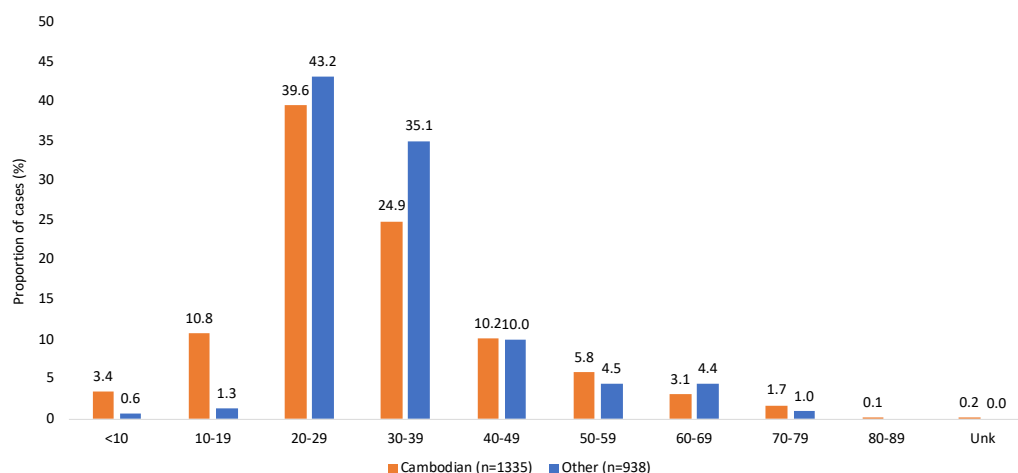


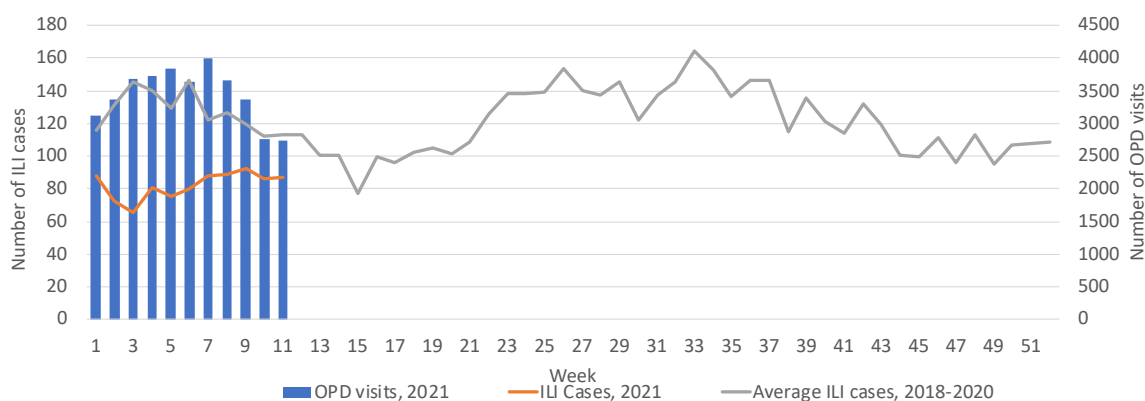
Table 1. Cumulative and new (past 7 days) cases and deaths by age and sex

Age Group	Female		Male		Total
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases
0-9	21(11)	0(0)	31(15)	0(0)	52(26)
10-19	104(42)	0(0)	52(19)	0(0)	156(61)
20-29	466(143)	0(0)	468(75)	0(0)	934(218)
30-39	252(58)	0(0)	408(61)	2(2)	660(119)
40-49	92(25)	0(0)	139(24)	2(1)	230(49)
50-59	55(12)	0(0)	65(16)	2(1)	119(28)
60-69	39(4)	2(1)	44(5)	0(0)	82(9)
70-79	12(5)	2(2)	20(3)	1(1)	32(8)
80-89	0(0)	0(0)	1(1)	0(0)	1(1)
90+	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Unknown	1(1)	0(0)	2(0)	0(0)	3(1)
Total	1042(301)	4(3)	1,128(219)	7(5)	2,273(520)

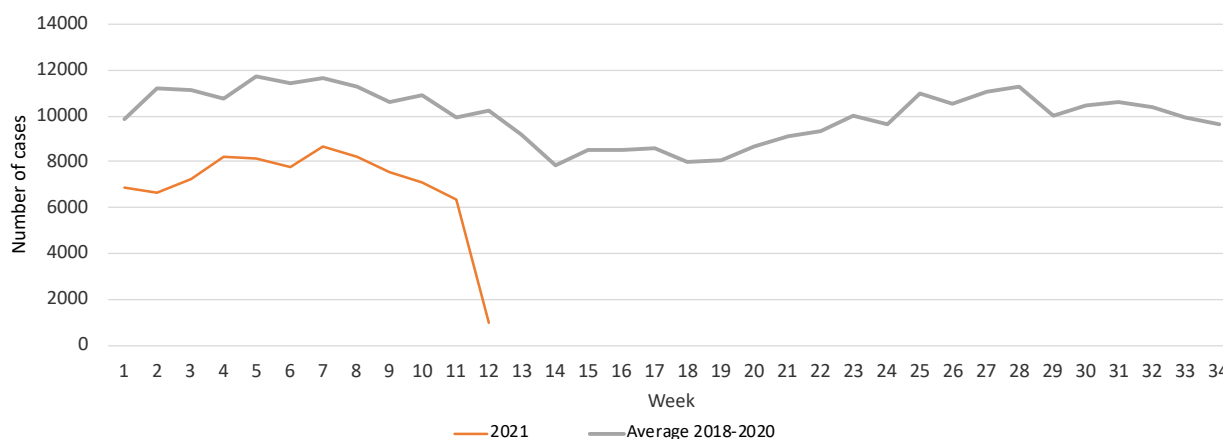
**Figure 2. Proportion of confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group and nationality (n=2,273)**



**Figure 3. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites (n=7) by week, 2021 and 2018-2020**



**Figure 4. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2018-2020**



## Strategic Approach

### National and Provincial Public Health Response

#### Incident Management Systems

- Inter-Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Minister of Health, with Secretaries of State
- Sub-committee chaired by Royal Cambodian Army Chief
- National COVID-19 Committee, chaired by Samdech Prime Minister
- Provincial COVID-19 Committees, chaired by Provincial Governors
- Committee on Economic and Financial Policy (CEFP)/ Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) of four Working Groups to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

#### System and Policy Development

- On 5 March 2021, the draft law “Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and other Dangerous Infectious Diseases “ was approved by the National Assembly
- State of Emergency legislation was promulgated into law on 29 April 2020; has not been enacted
- Go. Data Platform used as a surveillance database including laboratory and contact tracing information
- NIPH and CDC databases have been adjusted to allow for multisource dataset on testing and surveillance

#### Key Priorities

- A primary care strategy for COVID-19 is being developed by MOH departments. This document will include suggested roles and responsibilities for health centres in the potential scenario of community transmission, as well as guidance on clinical management and infection, prevention and control
- A survey of clinical management and infection prevention and control trainings is currently being implemented by MOH/DHS to support the development of a national curriculum for COVID-19
- A number of health system readiness assessments on hospital readiness, ICU capacity, oxygen, staffing, etc. are currently being conducted by MOH/DHS
- National programmes are developing specific COVID-19 preparedness and response plans
- Implementing the laboratory expansion strategy and molecular diagnostics training plan to ensure sustained testing for COVID-19 at National and Regional level
- Strengthening facility quarantine to reduce the risk of onward transmission with the development of simple job aids for facility staff
- The MOH guidance on surveillance and contact tracing for COVID-19 has been updated with the inclusion of an updated suspect case definition that incorporates living in an area with community transmission (updated 07 January 2021)
- Development of an implementation plan for use of multisource surveillance at subnational levels for risk assessment and decision making.
- Strengthening local preparedness in case of potential localized outbreak in the future and to minimize disruptions to the delivery of essential health services

### Strategic Approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

- *Testing strategy and contact tracing system in place*

A broad testing strategy is being implemented nationwide, including testing all suspect cases meeting case definition, active surveillance for pneumonia cases in hospitals, testing at POEs at day

1 and day 13 of 14-day quarantine and testing ILI and SARI samples from sentinel sites for COVID-19. Hot-spot surveillance strategies and targeted testing of high-risk populations are also being implemented as necessary.

- *Risk communication and community engagement*

A strategy for surveillance using community engagement has been developed and will be piloted for case detection at the health centre level and in the community. The Ministry of Interior is reinforcing the monitoring of quarantine through follow-up and fines for individuals who do not follow guidelines.

A community engagement strategy has been drafted. MOH has developed a Risk Communication and Community Engagement monitoring and supervision plan being implemented from May 2020 to July 2020 for health care personnel and village personnel in 12 provinces.

- *NPIs (recorded in table at end of report)*

## Best Practices / Lessons Learned

### Factors Contributing to Strong Response

- **Strong leadership and coordination**
  - Whole-of-government, whole-of-society response led by the Prime Minister, with public health actions led by Minister of Health
  - National Master Plan for COVID-19 developed with budget of \$62 million for first year
- **Past investments have built a functional public health system**
  - Multisource surveillance for COVID-19, including event-based surveillance (with 115 hotline) and expanded ILI/SARI surveillance
  - Almost 3,000 RRT members across the country conduct case investigation and contact tracing
- **Risk communication and community engagement**
  - Timely messages disseminated through TV, radio and social media, regular press releases, press conferences and media briefings
  - Targeted communication materials developed for at-risk groups, including migrants and garment factory workers
  - Community engagement strategy being rolled out to encompass all aspects of surveillance and response for COVID-19, particularly in the event of community transmission
- **International solidarity and cooperation**
  - Open and transparent health system response in the country
  - Close technical and operational cooperation between UN agencies and other development partners
  - High-level participation in international meetings, including regular coordination between National International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Points

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

- As of 22 March 2021, more than 401,000 vaccine doses have been administered
  - As of 24 March 2021, 229,079 individuals been vaccinated with the first dose and 67,070 have been vaccinated with second dose through the MOH system.





- Vaccination coverage at national level as per total target mentioned in NDVP:
  - Health care workers: 60% (18,024)
  - Elderly population coverage 5% (75,861)
- On 26 March 2021, Cambodia received a new batch of 1.5 million doses of Sinovac vaccine. This batch was purchased by RGC from China's Sinovac Biotech.
- At least 400,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine are expected to arrive before the Khmer New Year.
- Vaccination services (Sinopharm) are now provided in all public hospitals across provinces and operational districts.
- As of 26 March 2021, 46 adverse events following immunization (AEFI) have been reported. Of the 46 AEFI, 1 was serious and the rest were minor. MOH continues to closely monitor and investigate AEFIs.

## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

- On 25 March 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) issued guidance on additional measures for mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on economic sector and promoting economic growth during and post COVID-19 crisis.
- Measures for supporting garment-textile, footwear, travel goods, bags and tourism sector: RGC will continue to provide \$ 40 monthly support to each worker in addition to the \$30 which will be provided by enterprise-factory and business owners from April to June 2021.
- Measures for supporting the aviation sector: minimum tax exemption period for civil aviation companies was extended for another three months ( April to June 2021)
- Continuation of the cash transfer scheme for poor and vulnerable households for three months.
- On 24 March 2021, MOH announced the mandatory use of masks in 5 areas/provinces. Phnom Penh Capital, Preah Sihanouk Province, Kandal Province, Prey Veng Province and Siem Reap Province.
- Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts announced the closure of cinemas and museums across the country.
- The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) announced on 20 March 2021, the closure of all public and private educational institutions across the country.
- Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOVLT) announced on 20 March 2021, the closure of technical and vocational training educational establishments across the country.
- On 17 March 2021, Ministry of Cults and Religions temporary suspended all religious ceremonies and gatherings throughout the country.
- As of 16 March 2021, Koh Thom authority in Kandal province temporary suspended all kinds of businesses to avoid large scale community outbreak.
- As of 15 March 2021, five provincial authorities; Svay Rieng, Pailin, Preah Vihear, Kampot and Oddar Meanchey announced the suspension of weddings, parties and religious gatherings.
- On the 10 March, MoEYS announced the temporal closure of all public and private educational institutions/schools in Prey Veng province starting from 10 March 2021 until further notice.
- On 9 March 2021, Samdech Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia gave a voice-recorded message requesting private companies, where possible to reduce the number of employees and have alternative working arrangements.
- On 9 March, the Kandal Provincial administration announced travel restrictions to Chrey Thom, Kandal Province.



- On 21 February 2021, MOH announced on the implementation of a QR Code system "Stop COVID-19" developed by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.
- On 20 February 2021, a press release by PM announced the:
  - Closure of the clubhouse and other areas related to the COVID-19 cases
  - Encouraged all individuals linked to the 32 cases to come for testing
  - Reminded public to practice the three Do's and Don'ts and encouraged non-discrimination against Chinese people
  - Due to the 14-day mandatory quarantine, Cambodian workers are urged not to return from Thailand to participate in the Khmer New Year in April
- On 20 February 2021, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport issued a press release on restrictions on the implementation of health and safety measures at public and private educational establishments in Phnom Penh
  - Gatherings and sporting activities with more than 20 participants are temporarily suspended
  - Staff identified as contacts to strictly follow quarantine measures

**Table 2. NPI implementation and lifting dates**

NPI	Monitoring status					
	Date first implemented	Date last modified	Implementation		Partial lift	Lifted
			Geographical (national or sub-national)	Recommended or Required	Lifted for some area	Lifted for all areas
Wearing Face Masks, Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette	None	24 March 2021	Subnational	Required		No
School Closure	16 March 2020	20 March 2021	National	Required	No	No
Workplace Closure	None	None				
Mass Gatherings	3 April 2020	29 December 2020	National	Required	No	No
Stay at Home	Government recommends stay home if possible	None				
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	9 April 2020	09 March 2021	Subnational	Recommended	Yes	No
Restrictions on International Travel	27 March 2020	11 November 2020	National	Required	Yes	No
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-