

Situation Summary

Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 3,212 COVID-19 cases including 78 deaths were reported in the last 7 days. Of the 3,212 cases, 29.6% (952/3,212) were imported and 70.4% (2,260/3,212) were locally acquired;
- In total, 2,647 Delta cases (1,317 females) have been detected from 31 March to 4 September 2021, affecting 23 municipality and provinces, involving migrants returning from Thailand and Viet Nam, airline passengers, health care workers and community cases;
- As of 06 September 2021, 10 am ICT, 95,828 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1,970 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 91,131 have recovered. A total of 15,981 (16.7%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,523,139 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 5.2%. As of 06 September 2021, a total of 1,838,417 tests have been performed using RT-PCR.

Upcoming Events and Priorities

Surveillance

- MOH with WHO support is conducting weekly transmission stage, situation assessments and analyses to understand the effectiveness of interventions using multisource surveillance at subnational level.
- WHO is providing support on monitoring ICU bed capacity (bed occupancy) at subnational level and strengthening surveillance systems to monitor severity of cases especially with the introduction of the delta variant in the community.
- WHO continues to technically support MOH to review and update a COVID-19 surveillance strategy to inform the response.
- MOH with technical guidance and support from partners is conducting death investigations in Phnom Penh to strengthen understanding of causes of death, access to care, and investigate underlying transmission in the community.
- MOH and WHO continue to work in 6 provinces to strengthen RRT capacity for investigations and use multisource surveillance to assess the epidemiological situation.

Laboratory

- WHO, IPC and partners are providing technical and coordination support to NIPH, CCDC and COVID-19 laboratories to ensure sustained testing capacity.
- Laboratory expansion plan continue with 12 active labs and a further eight planned in the coming months. Newly constructed Regional laboratory in Battambang is in progress of setting up.
- NIPH have successfully established whole genome sequencing, in addition to IPC.
- NIPH has been working with IPC, WHO and partners to develop inventory management tool and External Quality Assurance (EQA) program to manage commodities and ensure quality testing at all COVID-19 laboratories.

Healthcare delivery and pathways

- Roll out of Oxygen therapy training to provinces was conducted between August-November 2021 for all 25 provinces.
- The second regular meeting on clinical management with all provincial hospitals was conducted.
- A draft Oxygen Preparedness Plan has been completed and circulated for comment.
- The development of the IPC strategic plan for 2021-2025 has started.

Risk communication and community engagement

- WHO completed the 2nd wave of 'COVID-19 perceptions and behavioural insight' survey, between 5 June to 5 July 2021. The detailed analysis of the survey will be shared with MoH and partners to further strengthen RCCE interventions.
- WHO together with other UN agencies and health partners is reviewing the RCCE material and key messages for high-risk settings. such as prisons, factories and point of entry, to identify the gaps and refine material and messaging to enhance the reach and increase awareness and practice of key preventable behaviours.
- NCHP conducted a two-day ToT for PHDs and ODs of 9 priority provinces on strengthening community engagement, as a part of WHO's extended support to improve community surveillance.
- WHO and MOH continue to provide media and press updates on the COVID-19 situation and to increase mass awareness to reinforce preventive behaviours and social measures.
- WHO and partners continue to proactively engage communities, focusing on high-risk settings, to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus.
- WHO continues working with other UN agencies and (I)NGOs in strengthening RCCE interventions including development of need based materials.

Transmission Assessment

The current multi-source surveillance assessment indicates Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Tbong Khmum, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey is in stage 2 transmission (localized community transmission), the other 10 provinces (Koh Kong, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, Kep, Kratie, Pailin, Pursat, Preah Vihear, Mondul Kiri, and Ratanak Kiri) are in Stage 1 transmission.

Epi Update COVID-19

Tests

40,310

NAT Tests past 7 days

1,838,417

Cumulative NAT Tests

Cases

3,212

New cases past 7 days
(3.3% 7-day)

95,828

Cumulative Cases

Deaths

78

Deaths past 7 days
(4.0% 7-day)

1,903

Cumulative Deaths

3,871

Imported cases in the past
28 days

Health Service Provision COVID-19

225

Hospitals admitting
COVID-19 patients

13,782

Total public hospital
beds

37

Number of hospitals with
experience in COVID-19 case
management (includes 10
repurposed HCF)

Epidemiology

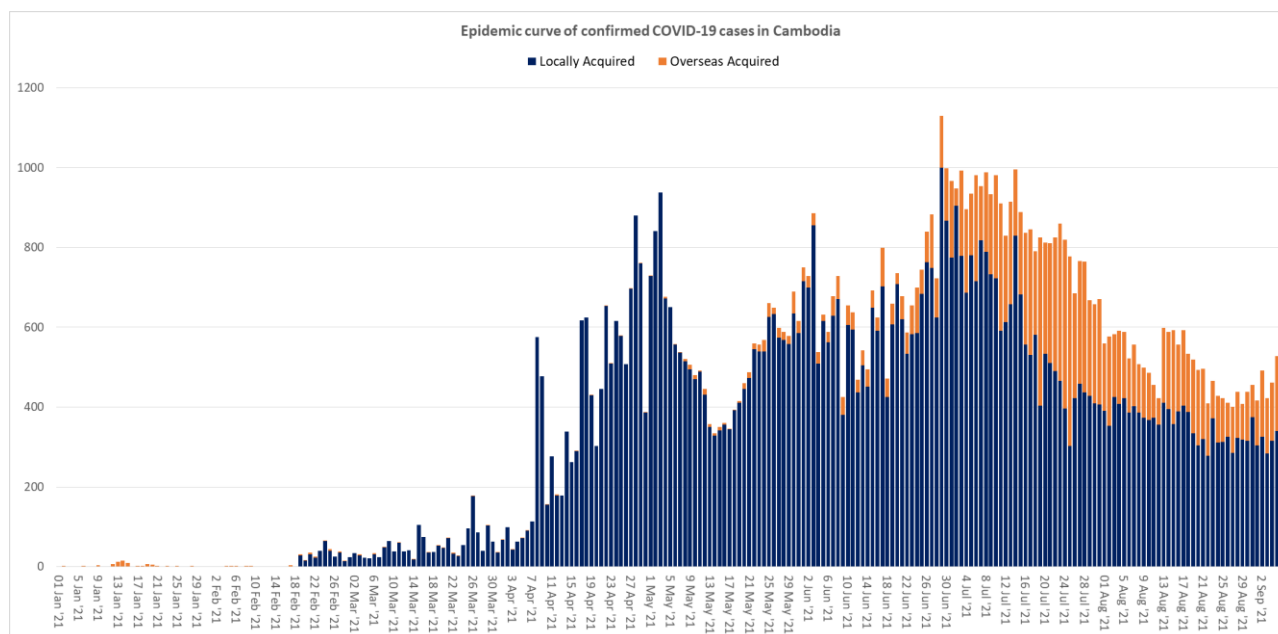


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report

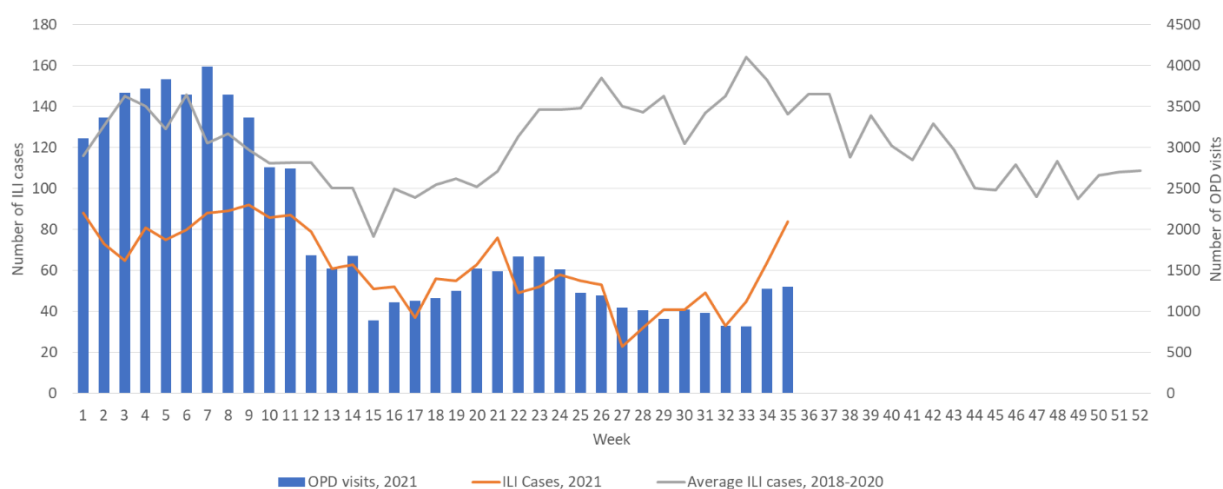


Figure 2. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites (n=7) by week, 2021 and 2018-2020*

*Delayed reporting for some sentinel sites in recent weeks

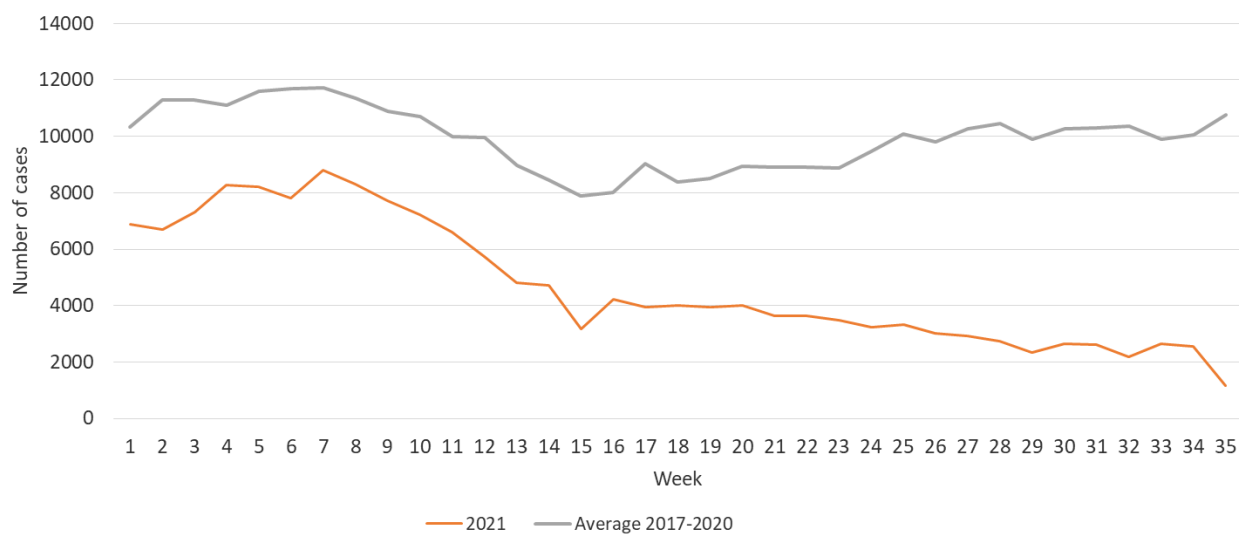


Figure 3. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2017-2020

Strategic Approach

National and Provincial Public Health Response

Incident Management Systems

- National COVID-19 Committee (CCC), chaired by Samdech Prime Minister
- Standing committee of CCC, Chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance
 - ❖ Municipal-Provincial COVID-19 committees, chaired by Municipal-Provincial Governors
 - ❖ Ad Hoc committee on national COVID-19 vaccination
 - ❖ Ad-Hoc committee in charge of COVID-19 vaccine procurement
- Inter-Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Minister of Health, with Secretaries of State
- Sub-committee for Evaluation, Planning, and Strategy, chaired by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Management at Points of Entry and Quarantine, chaired by Director-General of the General Department of Intelligence, Ministry of National Defense
- Sub-Committee for Rapid Response and Investigation into Persons with COVID-19, chaired by Deputy National Police Commissioner, Ministry of Interior
- Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Laboratory Services, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Education, Training and Public Affairs, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Supplies and Finance chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee on Technology and Data chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
- Sub-Committee for Construction and Repair chaired by Deputy Commissioner of National Police, Ministry of Interior
- Sub-Committee for Management and Handling of Bodies of Persons with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior
- 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 a multisource dataset on testing and surveillance.

Key Priorities

- WHO have supported MOH to conduct joint field missions to the provinces throughout June-August to support local preparedness and response for COVID-19.
- A survey of clinical management and infection prevention and control training is being implemented by MOH/DHS to support the development of a national curriculum for COVID-19.

- Number of health system readiness assessments on hospital readiness, ICU capacity, oxygen, staffing, etc. are currently being conducted by MOH/DHS.
- National programs are developing specific COVID-19 preparedness and response plans.
- The laboratory expansion strategy and molecular diagnostics training plan are being implemented to ensure sustained testing for COVID-19 at the National and Regional level.
- Strengthening local preparedness in case of a potential localized outbreak in the future and minimizing 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. Targeted testing of high-risk populations is 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 center 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.

- *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 a budget of \$62 million for the first year.
- ❖ On 01 July 2021, Samdech Prime Minister introduced six COVID-19 response strategies that are aimed at preventing the importation of new variants, reducing cases, providing effective and standard treatment, strengthening contact tracing and management, handling of bodies and vaccination.

- **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.

- ❖ Risk-based approach for the development of targeted communication materials for at-risk groups, including migrants and garment factory workers, markets, prisons, restaurants/pubs, etc.
 - ❖ Community engagement strategy being rolled out to encompass all aspects of surveillance and response for COVID-19, particularly in the event of community transmission.
 - ❖ Close coordination and collaboration with other UN agencies, INGOs, and other stakeholders on RCCE implementation, monitoring, adapting, and reinforcing.
- **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 Point.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

As of 6 September 2021:

- **COVID-19 vaccine updated**
The Royal Government of Cambodia received **29,606,600 doses of COVID-19 vaccines**
 - ❖ **23,000,000 (78%)** doses procured by Royal Government of Cambodia from China
 - ❖ **4,215,000 (14%)** doses donated by government of China (3,800,000) and UK (415,000)
 - ❖ **2,391,600 (8%)** doses through COVAX Facility (including dose sharing from government of Japan and USA)
- **COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out**
 1. **Vaccination coverage for ≥ 18 years old**
 - ❖ **9,608,676** (Female: 50%) and **8,439,230** (Female: 50%) target individuals received the first dose and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, respectively. The coverage among the total target population for the first dose is **96%**, and for the second dose is **84%**.
 2. **Vaccination coverage for children aged from 12 to under 18 years old**
 - ❖ **1,682,786 (86%)** children aged from 12 to under 18 years were vaccinated with first dose COVID-19 vaccine and **561,893 (29%)** with second dose COVID-19 vaccine
 - ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first and second dose is 50% among total doses vaccinated.
 3. **Booster dose vaccination coverage for for frontline health workers and civil servants**
 - ❖ **680,353** frontline health workers and civil servants were vaccinated with booster dose of AstraZeneca vaccine
- **COVID-19 Vaccine safety**
189 AEFI cases were reported from 24 provinces and four national hospitals; AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses = 0.95
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (79 cases) 0.69
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine = (78 cases) =1.21
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for AZ COVISHIELD vaccine= (29 cases) = 8.97
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for J&J vaccine = (3 cases) = 0.33

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

On 31 August, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen instructed Minister of Education, Youth and Sport and municipal and provincial governors to prepare for school reopening in COVID-19 low-risk areas.

On 31 August, following the Prime Minister's guidance, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport issued a directive, instructing capital-municipal departments as well as city and district offices of education, youth and sport to prepare for school reopening in COVID-19 low-risk areas.

On 01 September, Phnom Penh Capital Hall established working groups to review and evaluate the reopening of all general education institutions in Phnom Penh.

On 31 August, Ministry of Tourism introduced standard operating procedures for tourism hotel and accommodation services operating in the new normal. The Ministry also issued a circular providing tourism restaurants and other eatery services with updated tourism safety measures.

Over the past week:

- Phnom Penh Capital Hall and seven other provinces (Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Sihanouk, Siem Reap, and Stung Treng) extended their administrative measures, prohibiting all high-risk business activities and banning private gatherings of more than ten people;
- Partial lockdown or zoning continued in Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear and in some areas in Phnom Penh. Some red zone casinos and hotels in Poi Pet City of Banteay Meanchey, four orange and yellow zone villages, a market and 17 houses in Oddar Meanchey were, however, reopened;
- Markets were closed in Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Stung Treng;
- Alcohol sales continued in Kampong Thom, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Sihanouk, Siem Reap and Stung Treng; and
- Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham and Stung Treng continued implementing curfew

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	03 May 2021	National	Required		No
School Closure	16 March 2020	19 June 2021	National	Required	No	No
Workplace Closure	None	None				
Mass Gatherings	3 April 2020	19 June 2021	National	Required	No	No
Stay at Home	Government recommends staying home if possible	None				
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	9 April 2020	29 July 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	No
Restrictions on International Travel	27 March 2020	11 November 2020	National	Required	Yes	No
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-