

Situation Summary

Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 4,583 COVID-19 cases including 74 deaths were reported in the last 7 days. Of the 4,583 cases, 21% (962/4,583) were imported and 79% (3,621/4,583) were locally acquired;
- In total, 3,731 Delta cases (1,904 females) have been detected from 31 March to 9 September 2021, affecting 24 municipality and provinces, involving migrants returning from Thailand and Viet Nam, airline passengers, health care workers and community cases;
- As of 19 September 2021, 10 am ICT, 104,716 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,123 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 97,700 have recovered. A total of 17,995 (17.2%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,562,134 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 5.4%. As of 19 September 2021, a total of 1,944,019 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 supporting MOH to develop subnational guidance on monitoring implementation of and compliance to NPIs as part of calibrating subnational NPIs.
- 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 expanded and sustained testing capacity.
- Laboratory expansion plan continue with 16 active laboratories and a further four planned in the coming months. Newly constructed regional laboratory in Battambang is now active.
- NIPH is strengthening capacity to perform 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.
- WHO is supporting NIPH to strengthen Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to detect mutations and monitor Variants of Concern (VoC)/Variants of interest (VoI) by procuring laboratory commodities.
- WHO is providing technical advice and guidance to MoH on sampling strategies for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance and has developed a protocol.

Healthcare delivery and pathways

- Support MOH to conduct onsite coaching on oxygen therapy which plan to cover all provinces by end of this year. Next week, national team will conduct oxygen therapy training for ICU staffs from provincial and district hospital in Svay Rieng and Prey Veng province.
- Support finalization of skill checklist for intubation which to be used for the oxygen therapy.
- Support DHS to finalize indicators for monitoring of ICU bed capacity (bed occupancy) at subnational level and strengthening surveillance systems to monitor severity of cases.
- Support continuous mentorship to support and strengthen patient pathway, IPC, clinical management, ICU bed capacity and efficiency especially at border provinces.

Risk communication and community engagement

- WHO and health partners continue to proactively engage communities, focusing on high-risk settings, to suppress the transmission of the COVID-19.
- WHO has supported CDC/NCHP in adapting and disseminating key messages on 'safe markets/food safety', 'vaccine optimism' and 'Do it All' via CDC Facebook page.
- WHO is working with partners to address compliance issues at the construction sites, to promote PHSM measures among the construction workers.
- WHO in partnership with Facebook, Jonhs Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (JHU CCP) has launched the new [COVID Behaviors dashboard](#). The dashboard was designed by JHU CCP data communication experts to help public health stakeholders explore trends in knowledge, attitudes, and practices that affect the spread of COVID-19 at the global, regional and country level. It also features written analysis developed by global health experts from JHU CCP and WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)—so insights are actionable and ready for immediate policy making, campaign strategy, and resource distribution use.
- For WHO's Science in 5 on COVID-19 on Mixed and fractional vaccine does on YouTube, click [here](#).

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

55,445

NAT Tests past 7 days

1,944,019

Cumulative NAT Tests

Cases

4,583

New cases past 7 days
(4.4% 7-day)

104,716

Cumulative Cases

Deaths

74

Deaths past 7 days
(3.5% 7-day)

2,123

Cumulative Deaths

3,694

Imported cases in the past
28 days

962

Imported cases past 7 days

Health Service Provision
COVID-19

225

Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients

13,782

Total public hospital beds

116

Number of hospitals with experience in COVID-19 case management (including 9 in PP, 27 provincial hospitals and 80 District Hospitals)

Epidemiology

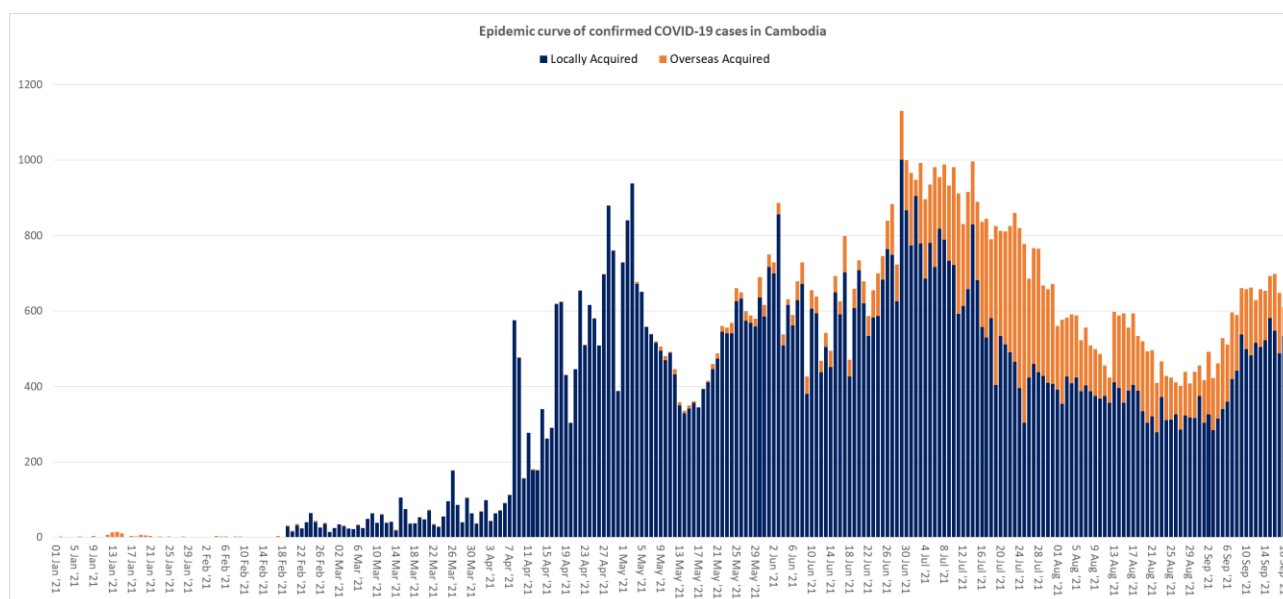


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report, 2021

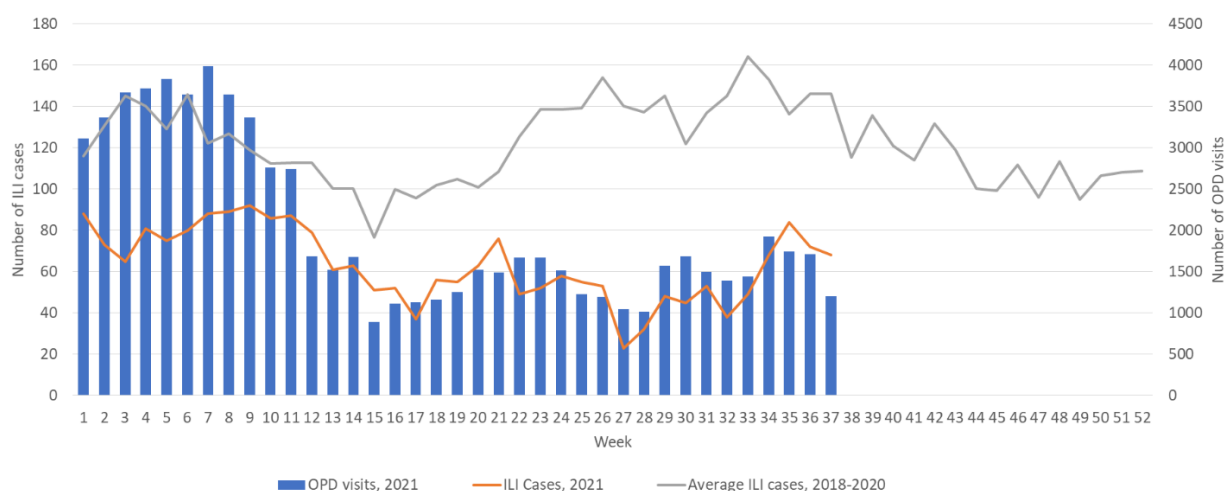


Figure 2. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites (n=7) by week, 2021 and 2018-2020*

*Delayed reporting for some sentinel sites in recent weeks

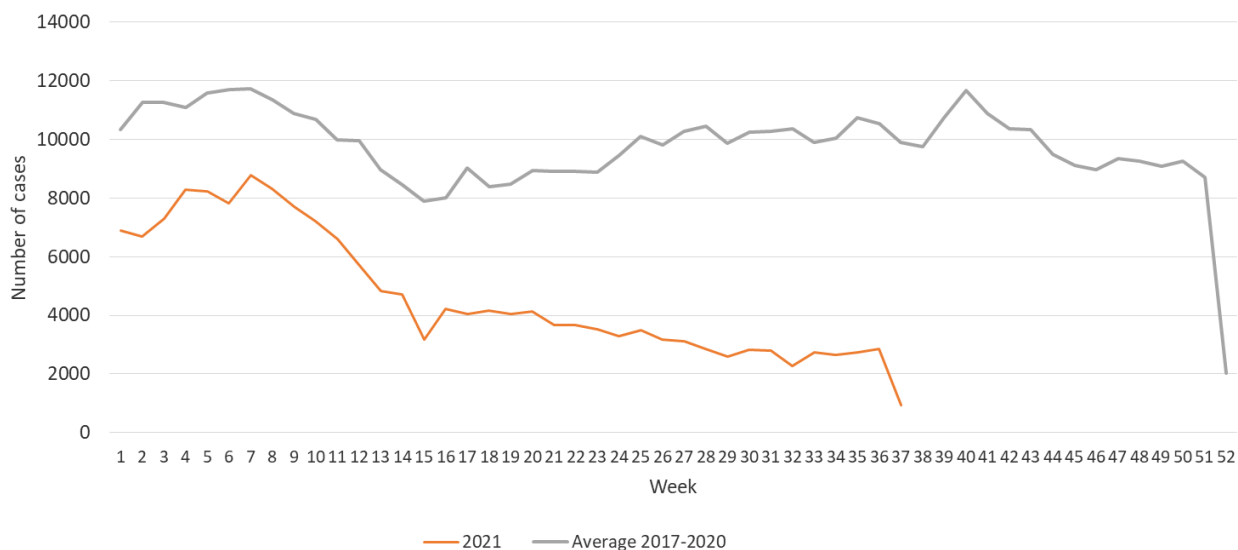


Figure 3. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2017-2020

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 20 September 2021:

- **COVID-19 vaccine updated**
The Royal Government of Cambodia **received 29,606,600 doses of COVID-19 vaccines**
 - ❖ 22,500,000 (76%) doses procured from China
 - ❖ 4,715,000 (16%) doses donated: China (4,300,000) and UK (415,000)
 - ❖ 2,391,600 (8%) doses through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan and USA)
- **COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out**
 1. **Vaccination coverage for ≥ 18 years old**
 - ❖ **9,833,468** (Female: 50%) and **8,966,117** (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 **98%**, and for the second dose is **90%**.
 2. **Vaccination coverage for children aged from 12 to under 18 years old**
 - ❖ **1,733,974 (88%)** children aged from 12 to under 18 years were vaccinated with first dose COVID-19 vaccine and **1,446,606 (74%)** with second dose COVID-19 vaccine
 - ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first and second dose is 50% among total doses vaccinated.
 3. **Vaccination coverage for children aged from 6 to under 12 years old**
 - ❖ **708,571 (37%)** children aged from 6 to under 12 years were vaccinated with first dose COVID-19 vaccine
 - ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first dose is 50% among total doses vaccinated.
 4. **Booster dose vaccination coverage for for frontline health workers and civil servants**
 - ❖ **838,744** frontline health workers, civil servants, people aged 60 years old and older, and immunocompromised persons were vaccinated with booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine (835,979 with AstraZeneca vaccine and 2,765 with Sinovac vaccine)
 - ❖ The proportion of female receiving the booster dose is 36% among total doses vaccinated.

- **COVID-19 Vaccine safety**
- **205 AEFI cases were reported from 24 provinces and four national hospitals; AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses = 0.91**
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (94 cases) 0.71
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine = (78 cases) = 1.15
 - ❖ 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 = (4 cases) = 0.39

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

On 18 September 2021, Minister of Health and Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 urged capital-provincial governors to step up efforts into consistently implementing the national campaign “acting responsibly to stop COVID-19 transmission through:

- Continued promotion of education about and dissemination of the campaign among individuals, family and community;
- Consistent implementation of 3 do and 3 don't measures;
- Monitoring of the implementation at public spaces, especially 3C settings; and
- Taking administrative and legal measures against non-compliance

On 17 September, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training required factories/enterprises to allow workers/employees three paid holidays on the 5th, 6th and 7th of October 2021 for the upcoming Pchum Ben holidays. Factories/enterprises can however negotiate with representatives of workers/employees to arrange or change this holiday to any other time as agreed upon by workers/employees.

Factories whose business is of global nature that requires regular operation shall arrange workers/employees to have a public holiday as per each public holiday in a rotating manner and keep the rotating list for the inspection of the labour inspector. Workers/employees working on Pchum Ben holidays shall be paid additional pay equal to the wage of the normal working day. Workers having holiday shall strictly comply with the instruction of the Ministry of Health.

As Pchum Ben Festival will begin from 22 September to 06 October 2021, seven provincial administrations of Kampong Cham, Koh Kong, Oddar Meanchey, Pailin, Preah Sihanouk, Preah Vihear and Ratanak Kiri issued respective guidance, instructing all sub-national departments, local authorities, pagodas and Buddhists to strictly implement administrative and health measures as per the guidance of the Royal Government and Ministry of Health as they organize the festival over the upcoming 15-day festive period.

Over the past week:

- Kandal Province required banks and microfinance institutions to conduct regular COVID-19 rapid antigen test on their staff, Battambang imposed a ban on high-risk business activities and gatherings of people and five other provinces (Kampong Cham, Kep, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Sihanouk and Preah Vihear) extended their administrative measures, including prohibition of high-risk businesses, gatherings, and alcohol sales;
- Kampong Cham continued to impose curfew, while Siem Reap introduced curfew, red and orange zones for many parts of its city and two districts and Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey implemented lockdown and zoning;

- A beverage company, and four markets were closed in Preah Sihanouk, Siem Reap and Svay Rieng, while two markets were reopened in Kampong Chhnang and Preah Sihanouk; and
- Battambang, Kampong Cham, Koh Kong and Svay Rieng reopened lower secondary and high schools.

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	-	-	-	-