

Situation Summary

Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 5,210 COVID-19 cases including 138 deaths were reported in the last 7 days. Of the 5,210 cases, 14,6% (759/5,210) were imported and 85,4% (4,451/5,210) 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 26 September 2021, 10 am ICT, 109,926 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,261 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 101,185 have recovered. A total of 18,754 (17.1%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,575,047 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 5.5%. As of 26 September 2021, a total of 1,992,399 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.
- WHO is technically supporting MOH to update the COVID-19 surveillance strategy in preparation for an endemic COVID-19 scenario.
- 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 continues with 17 active laboratories and a further three planned in the coming months.
- 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.
- NIPH, IPC and WHO participated in Emerging Molecular Pathogen Characterisation Technologies (EMPACT) meeting
- WHO is providing technical advice and guidance to MoH on sampling strategies for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance and has developed a protocol and is working with IPC to finalise.

Healthcare delivery and pathways

- Support ongoing rollout of onsite coaching on oxygen therapy plan to cover all provinces by end of this year. As of now, 5 provinces already received onsite coaching and next week the training will be conducted for 36 ICU staffs of 12 provincial and district hospitals (CPA1 & 2) in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces.
- Support ongoing mentorship to strengthen sub-national level on clinical management, patient pathway, ICU bed capacity & efficiency and infection prevention control with focus on border provinces. **12** provinces participated in the mentorship program. Currently, the Department of Hospital Service and national hospitals' teams are providing mentorship in Siem Reap province for ten treatment centers for mild cases, one hospital managing severe and the provincial hospital managing critical cases.
- 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.
- Virtual meeting between the Sub-committee for Technical and Treatment and provincial hospitals to get update situation, discuss challenges for timely support and action.

Risk communication and community engagement

- WHO and NCHP/MoH discussed strengthening community engagement interventions in high risk provinces, with focus on tailored solution to promote PHSM by the communities to be implemented and closely monitored by the village leaders, key influencers, volunteers and local health authorities.
- WHO is working with ILO to strengthen compliance with PHSM at construction sites and promote PHSM among workers.
- WHO is working with partners to review and support the development of risk-based communication materials and community engagement approaches, focusing on high risk groups and settings such as prisons, business and entertainment sector, etc.
- WHO is supporting the printing of 20,000 COVID-19 awareness booklets to be distributed to village chiefs, teachers, volunteers and health care workers by NCHP/MoH.
- WHO will be launching a FB campaign on mental health in October 2021.
- HQ's added new Q&As on vaccine safety, covering issues such as -is it safe for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers to receive COVID-19 vaccine? Should women who are on their periods receive COVID-19 vaccine? Do the AZ and J&J COVID-19 vaccines cause Guillain-Barre syndrome? Please access the link [here](#).
- WHO HQ has released informative [Covid-19 Vaccine videos](#)
- WHO has recently launched site on **COVID-19 and educational institutions** that contains key guidance from WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF as well as other UN agencies and partners. Please click [here](#) for the link.

Transmission Assessment

The current multi-source surveillance assessment indicates Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, Preah Vihear, Svay Rieng, Tbong Khmum, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey are in stage 2 transmission (localized community transmission), the other 7 provinces (Koh Kong, Kep, Kratie, Pailin, Pursat, Mondul Kiri, and Ratanak Kiri) are in Stage 1 transmission.



**Epi Update
COVID-19**

Tests
48,380

NAT Tests past 7 days

1,992,399

Cumulative NAT Tests

Cases
5,210

New cases past 7 days
(4.7% 7-day)

109,926

Cumulative Cases

Deaths
138

Deaths past 7 days
(6.1% 7-day)

2,261

Cumulative Deaths

3,725

Imported cases in the past
28 days

759

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

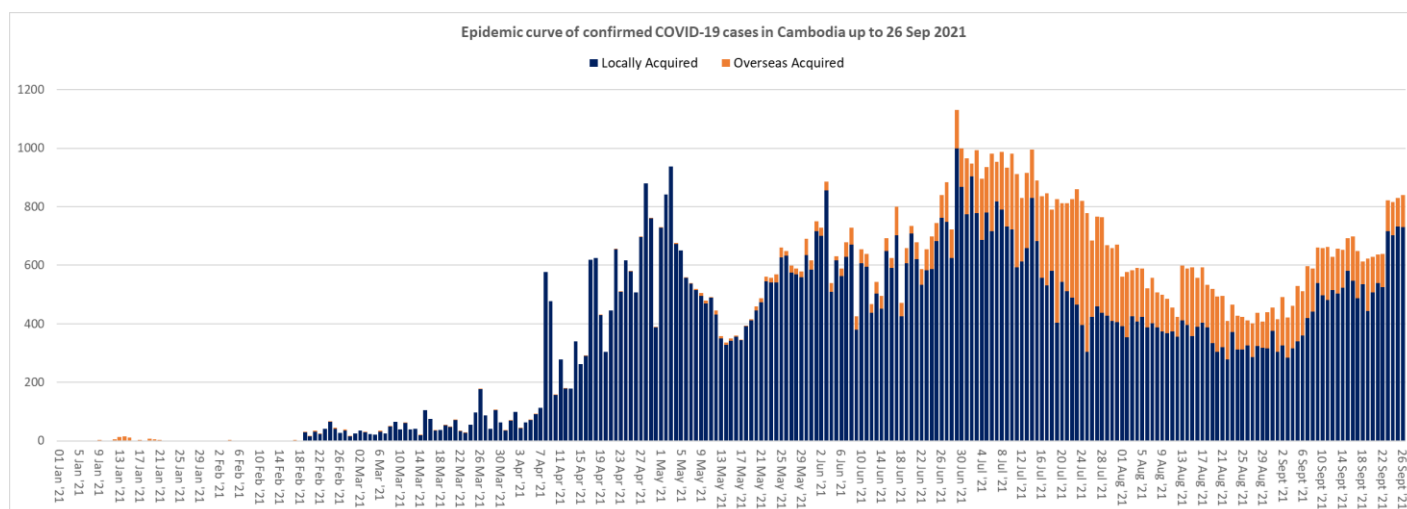


Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report, 2021

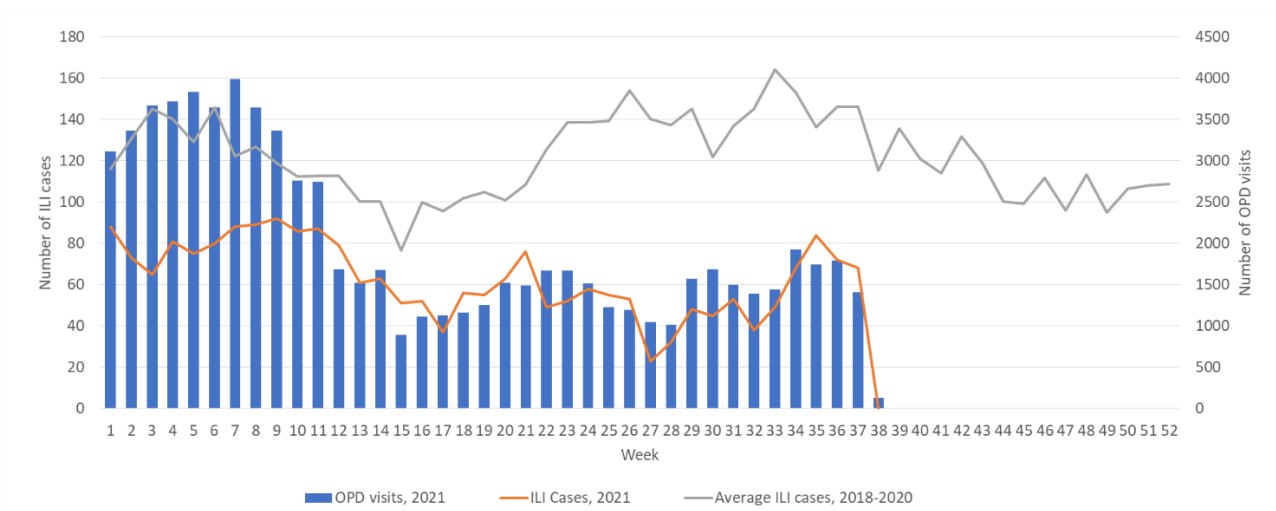


Figure 2. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites (n=7) by week, 2021 and 2018-2020*

*Delayed reporting for some sentinel sites in recent weeks

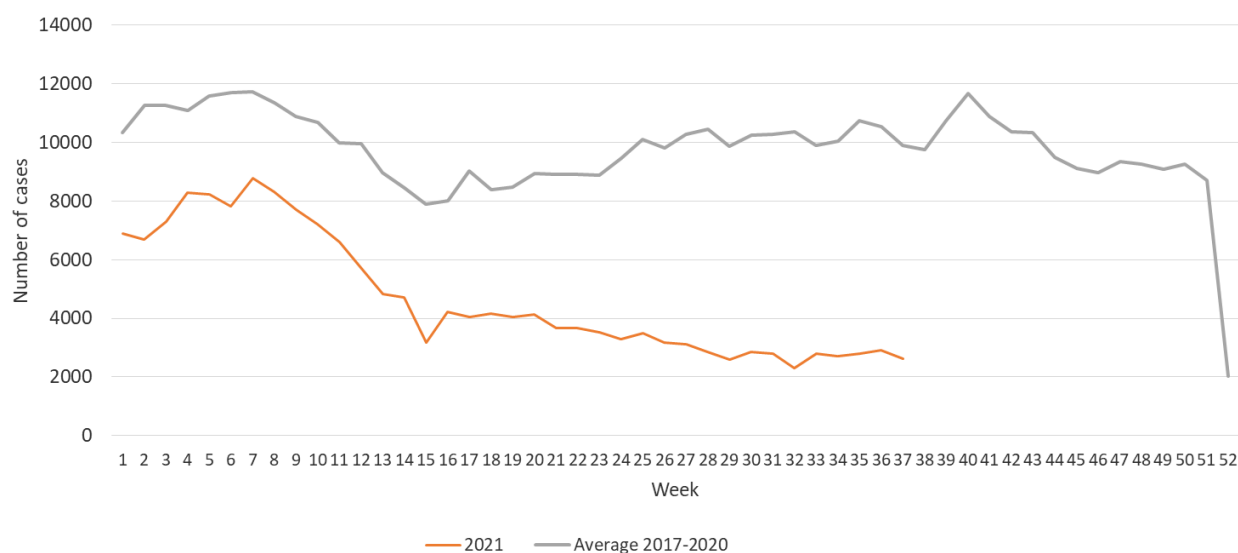


Figure 3. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2017-2020

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 April-September 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 27 September 2021:

▪ **COVID-19 vaccine updated**

The Royal Government of Cambodia **received 35,606,640 doses of COVID-19 vaccines**

- ❖ **28,500,000 (80%)** doses procured from China
- ❖ **4,715,040 (13%)** doses donated: China (4,300,000) and UK (415,040)
- ❖ **2,391,600 (7%)** doses through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan and USA)

Next arrival: 124,800

- ❖ **124,800** doses of Sinovac through COVAX, expected to arrive early October
- ❖ Cambodia donated 200,000 doses of Sinovac vaccines to Lao PDR

COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out

1. Vaccination coverage for ≥ 18 years old

- ❖ **9,886,915** (Female: 50%) and **9,334,886** (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 **99%**, and for the second dose is **93%**.

2. Vaccination coverage for children aged from 12 to under 18 years old

- ❖ **1,754,633 (89%)** children aged from 12 to under 18 years were vaccinated with first dose COVID-19 vaccine and **1,604,353 (83%)** with second dose COVID-19 vaccine
- ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first is **49 %** and second dose is **50%** among total doses vaccinated.

3. Vaccination coverage for children aged from 6 to under 12 years old

- ❖ **1,563,688** children were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (**82 %** of target population from 6 to under 12 years old)
- ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first is **49%** among total doses vaccinated.

4. Booster dose vaccination coverage for for frontline health workers and civil servants

- ❖ **875,238** frontline health workers, civil servants, people aged 60 years old and older, and immunocompromised persons were vaccinated with booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine (863799 with AstraZeneca vaccine and 11,439 with Sinovac vaccine)
- ❖ The proportion of female receiving the booster dose is **36%** among total doses vaccinated.

- **COVID-19 Vaccine safety**
206 AEFI cases were reported from 25 provinces and AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses = 0.86
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (95 cases) 0.65
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine = (78 cases) = 1.12
 - ❖ 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) = 0.38
- Conducted field monitoring and supervision COVID-19 vaccination roll out of vaccination sites international bordering with Thailand:
 - ❖ Pailin province
 - ❖ Battambang province
 - ❖ Banteay Mienchey province
- Conduct Rapid Convenience Assessment (RCA) at villages bordering with Thailand to ensure all target populations are not left behind especially in villages bordering with Thailand, elderly populations, vulnerable populations
 - ❖ 6 villages in Battambang province (two entry points)
 - ❖ 12 villages in Banteay Mien Chey (four entry points)
- Conducted a meeting with management team of Battambang, Pailin and Banteay Mien Chey provincial health departments to discuss on reaching to unreached and mop up strategy of COVID-19 vaccination

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

The Royal Government of Cambodia in a decision numbered 95 SSR dated 23 September 2021 suspended the organization of Pchum Ben Festival at pagodas throughout the country in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially the Delta variant from 24 September until the big Pchum Ben Day on 06 October. Relevant authorities were instructed to facilitate and ensure delivery of foods and other offerings to pagodas during the suspension period. The three-day holidays on the 5th, 6th, and 7th October remain intact as public holidays.

Minister of Health and Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 asked Ministry of Tourism to develop standard operating procedures for all supermarkets and public markets across the country aimed at promoting the national socio-economic recovery in the new normal.

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport on 27 September 2021 issued 11-point guidelines for public and private higher education institutions to follow for their first phase reopening pilot.

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training on 28 September 2021 issued a guidance, instructing owners or directors of factories-enterprises to conduct COVID-19 rapid antigen test on workers-employees after Pchum Ben holidays, workers-employees to participate, report to the Ministry in the event their employer fail to arrange the test, and those who have Pchum Ben holidays to follow the 3 do and 3 don't measures when traveling.

Banteay Meanchey Provincial Administration in guidance numbered 012/21 dated 23 September 2021 instructed city-district governors, director of provincial dept of cult and religion and relevant authorities to suspend Pchum Ben Festival, provide food and other offerings to pagodas.

Over the past week:

- Following the Royal Government's decision, 14 provinces (Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Kep, Koh Kong, Kratie, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Sihanouk, Preah Vihear, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng) issued guidance, instructing city-district governors and all other relevant authorities to suspend the Pchum Ben Festival and facilitate as well as ensure handover of foods and other offerings to monks at pagodas during the suspension period;
- Phnom Penh, Kampong Thom, Pailin imposed administrative measures, including ban on gatherings, alcohol sales and high-risk business activities such as entertainment clubs
- Siem Reap imposed curfew for the whole province, required delivery services to conduct COVID-19 rapid test on their staff every 3 days and put several communes/sangkats in Siem Reap City and two districts on lockdown, designating them red and orange zones. 4 villages in Takeo, two villages in Preah Vihear, a village in Oddar Meanchey, Srei Ambel Commune in Koh Kong were put on lockdown.
- Seven markets in Koh Kong, Oddar Meanchey, Pailin, Prey Veng and Siem Reap, a construction site in Ratanak Kiri, three factories in a special economic zone in Preah Sihanouk and pagodas Phnom Penh and Battambang were closed.

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	-	-	-	-