

## Situation Summary

### Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 1,028 COVID-19 cases including 73 deaths were reported in the last 7 days. Of the 1,028 cases, 16.6% (171/1,028) were imported and 83.4% (857/1,028) were locally acquired;
- As of 25 October 2021, 10 am ICT, 117,888 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,743 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 113,264 have recovered. A total of 19,536 (16.6%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,682,830 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 5.2%. As of 24 Oct 2021, a total of 2,244,460 tests have been performed using RT-PCR.
- On 23 October, the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 lifted the ban on direct flights from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to the Kingdom of Cambodia.
- On 21 October, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport expanded the scope of teaching and learning clusters to all general education institutions, public and private higher education institutions and teacher training institutions as part of the move forward towards full-fledged reopening schools in line with the new normal context from 1 November 2021.
- On 20 October, Minister of Health and Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 introduced standard operating procedures for quarantine measures for fully vaccinated travelers entering Cambodia.
- On 20 October, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation informed about the modifications of visa policy, conditions for travels and quarantine for travelers entering Cambodia in line with the new normal context and decision to:
  - ❖ reopen tourism visa for general travelers and re-activate visa exemption policy
  - ❖ re-activate e-Visa but continue to suspend provision of visa on arrival

## 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 are now working in five border provinces to strengthen Incident Management System (IMS), RRT capacity for investigations and use multisource surveillance to assess the epidemiological situation and implement targeted response, and strengthen safe quarantine.

## Laboratory

- WHO, Institute Pasteur in Cambodia (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 18 active laboratories and a further three planned in November.
- NIPH is strengthening capacity to perform whole genome sequencing, in addition to IPC.
- NIPH has been working with IPC, WHO and partners to develop and support the implementation of the SARS-CoV-2 External Quality Assurance (EQA) program to ensure quality testing at all COVID-19 laboratories.
- WHO is providing technical support and facilitating NIPH to undertake an online EQA training course on establishing a national SARS-CoV-2 EQA program.
- 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, with support from WPRO.
- 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

- Oxygen therapy training will cover all provinces by end of December 2021. In each province, staff from ICU and emergency units of provincial hospitals and selected district hospitals receive onsite coaching from the national core team. By 22 Oct 2021, 15 provinces received this training and will continue in two more provinces (Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom) next week.
- Mentorship to strengthen sub-national level on clinical management, patient pathway, ICU bed capacity & efficiency, and infection prevention control with a special focus on border provinces is also ongoing. As of 22 Oct 2021, 14 provinces received a mentorship programme, and the programme will continue in provinces in need of support.
- The sub-committee for technical and treatment of Covid -19 continues to monitor severe cases and ICU bed capacity (bed occupancy) continues through the network with provincial level.
- The regular virtual meeting between the national level and all provincial hospitals is continuing to get updates on the situation from provinces, share experience among provincial, understand challenges at the implementation level and get support and advice from the national level.

## Risk communication and community engagement

- WHO is closely working with MoH in strengthening community engagement, engaging local influencers, VHSGs, health care workers and local authorities in priority provinces.
- WHO is supporting monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for monitoring and reaching the unreached applying evidence based RCCE interventions.
- WHO in collaboration with MoH is developing social media tiles to counter misinformation and rumours.
- WHO has developed the guidance for vaccination of women with breastfeeding infants, women who are pregnant or planning to get pregnant and women who are menstruating and about vaccines and fertility (Please see [LINK](#) for informative video and [LINK](#) for social media tiles and infographics). The material is being translated in Khmer language.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on people's mental health. During this year's World Mental Health Day campaign (Mental health care for all: let's make it a reality), WHO HQ has shared new materials, in easy-to-read formats, of how to take care of your own mental health and provide support to others too ([LINK](#)).



- The Regional Office launched the first WHO Western Pacific Innovation Challenge: Innovation for the Future of Public Health. Calling for solutions to better the health and well-being of people in the Region including for COVID-19 innovation.

[Learn more about the Innovation Challenge](#) and [submit an application](#) before 31 October 2021.

## 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, Monduliri, and Ratanakiri) are in Stage 1 transmission.

### Epi Update COVID-19

#### Tests

**53,261**

NAT Tests past 7 days

**2,244,460**

Cumulative NAT Tests

#### Cases

**1,028**

New cases past 7 days

(1.5% 7-day)

**117,860**

Cumulative Cases

#### Deaths

**73**

Deaths past 7 days

(5.4 % 7-day)

**2,743**

Cumulative Deaths

**782**

Imported cases in the past 28 days

**171**

Imported cases past 7 days

### Health Service Provision COVID-19

**225**

Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients

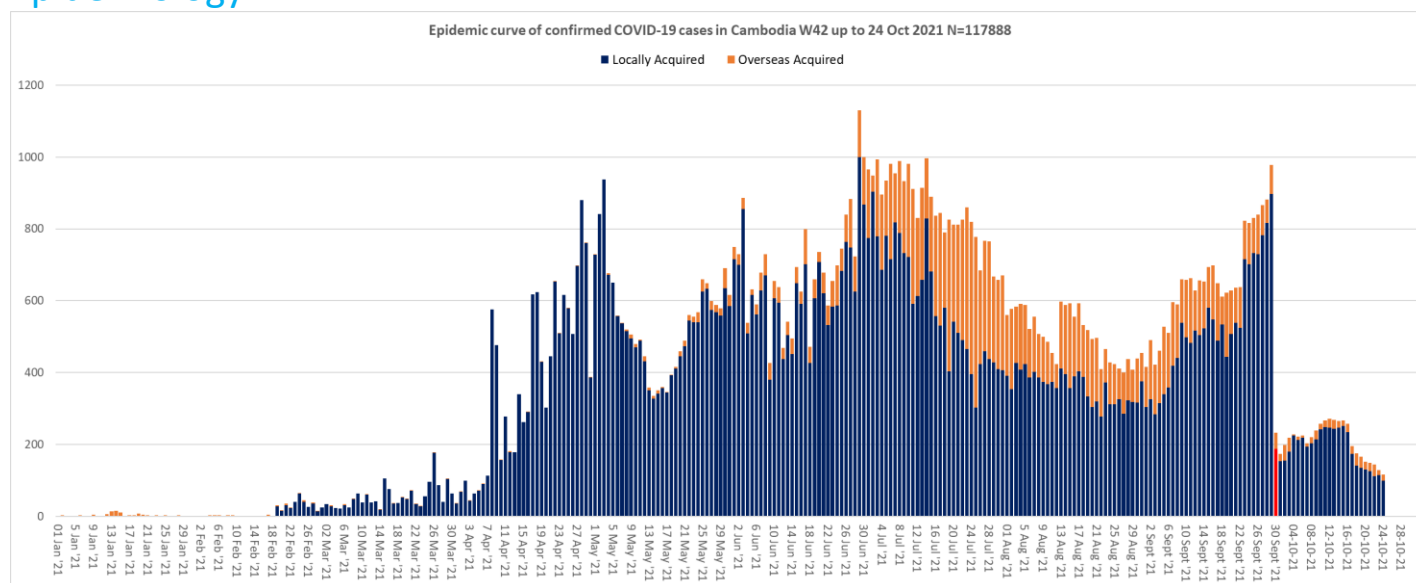
**13,782**

Total public hospital beds

**116**

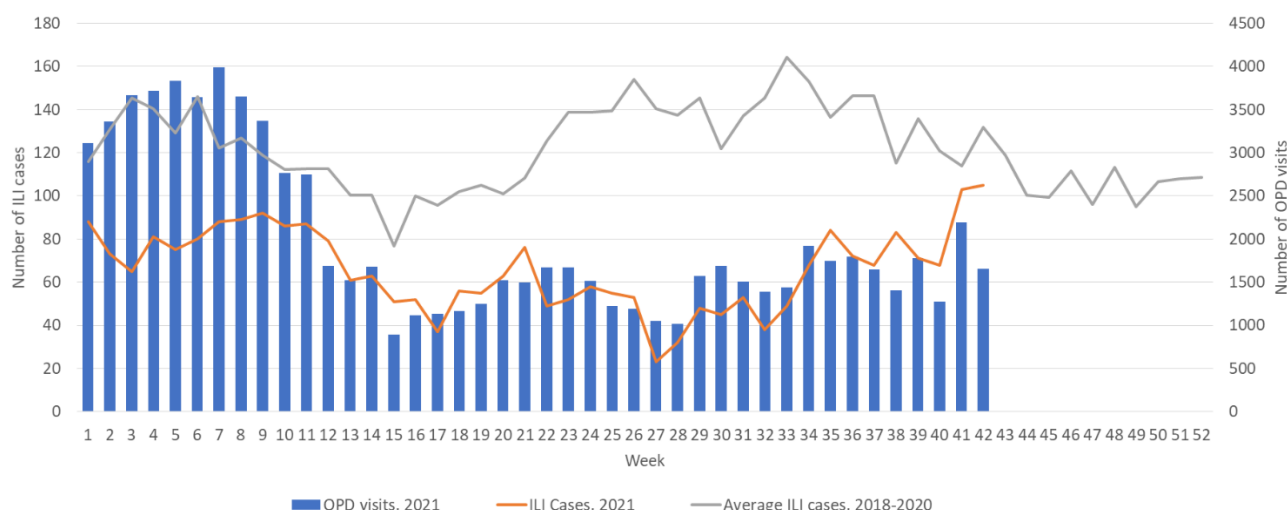
Number of hospitals with experience in COVID-19 case management (including 9 in PP, 27 provincial hospitals and 80 District Hospitals)

## Epidemiology

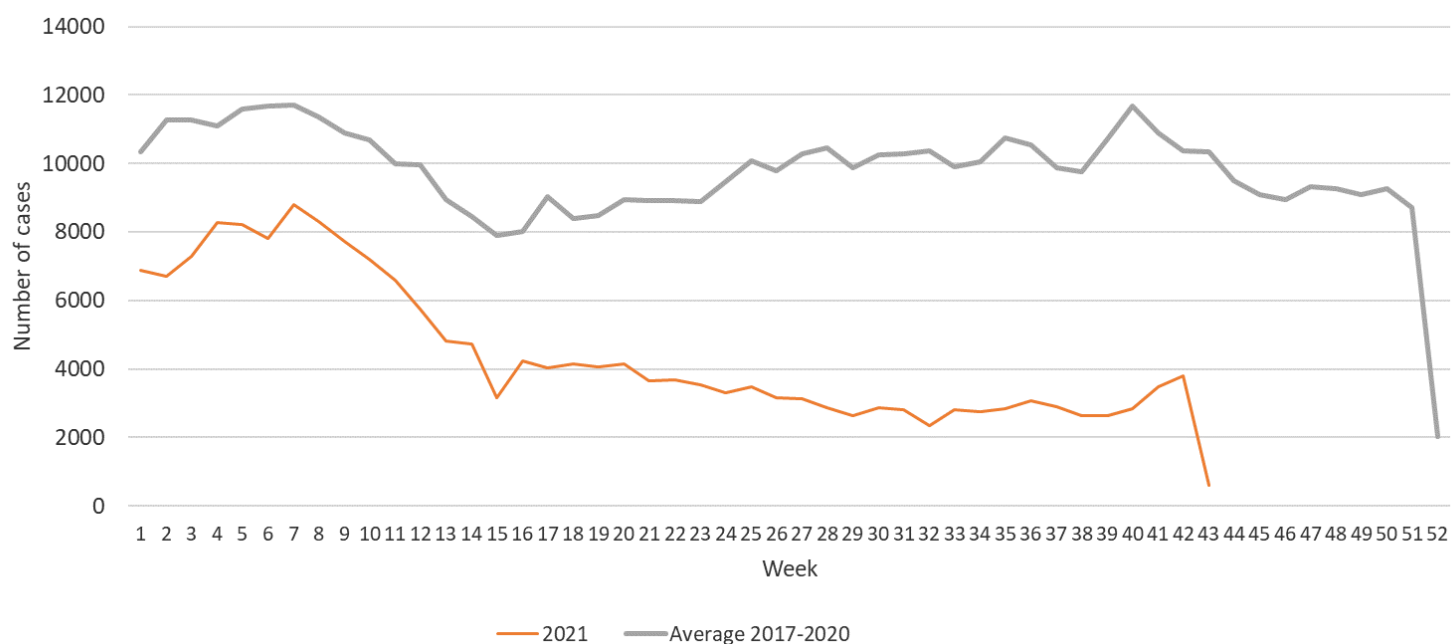


**Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report, 2021\***

\*as of 30 Sep 2021 only RT-PCR test results are being reported in the case numbers



**Figure 2. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites by week, 2021 and 2018-2020**



**Figure 3. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2017-2020<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Week 43 data are not complete

## 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 to prepare for potential localized outbreak and other public health emergencies 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 25 October 2021:**

### COVID-19 vaccine updated

The Royal Government of Cambodia received **37,731,440** doses of COVID-19 vaccines

- ❖ 28,500,000 (75%) doses procured from China
- ❖ 6,715,040 (18%) doses donated: China (6,300,000) and UK (415,040)
- ❖ 2,516,400 (7%) doses through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan and USA)

**Next arrival: 2,000,000**

- ❖ **2,000,000** doses of Sinovac procured from China, expected to arrive on November 2021

### COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out

- **COVID-19 vaccination coverage of HCWs and elderly aged 60 years old and over**
  - ❖ 42,562 (97.6%) health care workers were vaccinated with first dose and
  - ❖ 42,556 (97.6%) health care workers were vaccinated with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
  - ❖ 1,374,626 (99.7%) elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were vaccinated with first dose and
  - ❖ 1,321,258 (95.8%) elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- **COVID-19 Vaccination roll out for adults aged 18 years old and over:**
  - ❖ 9,981,457 people were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (99.8 % of target population ≥ 18 years).
  - ❖ 9,630,099 people were vaccinated with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine (96.3 % of target population ≥ 18 years).

- ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first and second dose is 50% among total doses vaccinated.
- Out of 25 provinces,
  - ❖ Eighteen (18) provinces reported vaccination coverage with first dose  $\geq 90\%$ , and seven (7) Provinces reported 50 % to 89%
  - ❖ Fifteen (15) provinces reported vaccination coverage with second dose  $\geq 90\%$  and ten (10) provinces reported 50 % to 89%
- **COVID-19 Vaccination roll out for children aged 12 to under 18 years old :**
  - ❖ 1,784,326 children were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (90 .8% of target population from 12 to under 18 years old)
  - ❖ 1,692,262 children were vaccinated with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine (86.1 % of target population from 12 to under 18 years)
  - ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first and second dose is 49 % among total doses vaccinated.
- Out of 25 provinces,
  - ❖ Sixteen (16) provinces reported vaccination coverage of first dose  $\geq 90\%$ , and nine (9) Provinces reported 50 % to 89%
  - ❖ Eleven (11) provinces reported vaccination coverage of second dose  $\geq 90\%$  and fourteen (14) provinces reported 50 % to 89%
- **COVID-19 Vaccination roll out for children aged 6 to under 12 years old:**
  - ❖ 1,907,695 children were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (100.5 % of target population from 6 to under 12 years old)
  - ❖ 1,687,120 children were vaccinated with first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (88.9 % of target population from 6 to under 12 years old)
  - ❖ The proportion of female receiving the first and second dose is 49 % among total doses vaccinated.
- Out of 25 provinces,
  - ❖ All twenty-five provinces reported vaccination coverage of first dose  $\geq 90\%$ ,
  - ❖ Eighteen (18) provinces reported vaccination coverage of second dose  $\geq 90\%$  and seven (7) provinces reported 50 % to 89%
- **Third dose of COVID-19 Vaccination coverage:**
  - ❖ 1,727,014 (17.3 %) people aged  $\geq 18$  years old included health care worker, frontline of Government officials, people aged 60 years old and older, and immunocompromised persons, were vaccinated with booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine,
  - ❖ The proportion of female receiving the booster dose is 45.1 % among total doses vaccinated

#### **Vaccine Safety:**

206 AEFI cases were reported from 25 provinces and AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses =0.75

- ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (95 cases) 0.54
  - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine=(78 cases)=1.10
  - ❖ 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 of COVID-19 second dose vaccination roll out among children aged 6-11 years old as well as missed first dose and catch up of missed second dose at 5 vaccination sites in Kampot Province bordering with Viet Nam
  - Conducted field monitoring and supervision on 2 health centres in Kep province on maintaining essential health services focusing on Routine Immunization and discussed

preparation plan on booster dose targeting adult population scheduled first week of November

- Reaching to unreached strategy: Conducted a meeting with Deputy Director of Kampot Provincial Health Department and OD EPI Managers of Kampot province to discuss on Reaching to unreached strategy and Local authority was started listing of unvaccinated target population and health started mobilizing vaccination team to communities by close collaboration with village chief and local authorities
- Continue analysis on vaccination coverage and AEFI data by province and three (3) target age groups (adult, adolescents, and children), prepare report and share to stakeholders, within WHO country and regional office and partner agencies.
- Continue to provide technical support to National Immunization Program of MoH and monitor the completion of COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out from 6 years old and above.

## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

On 23 October, the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 lifted the ban on direct flights from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On 21 October, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport expanded the scope of teaching and learning clusters to all general education institutions, public and private higher education institutions and teacher training institutions as part of the move forward towards full-fledged reopening schools in line with the new normal context from 1 November 2021.

On 20 October, Minister of Health and Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 introduced standard operating procedures for quarantine measures for fully vaccinated travelers entering Cambodia.

On 20 October, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation informed consuls-general and honorary consuls about the modifications of visa policy, conditions for travels and quarantine for travelers entering Cambodia in line with the new normal context and decision to:

- reopen tourism visa for foreign guests and general travelers and re-activate visa exemption policy
- re-activate e-Visa but continue provision of visa on arrival

The provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Tbong Khmum, and Koh Kong required adults and parents or guardians of children aged 6 to under 18 years old to present their kids' vaccination card or certificate when entering a school, a market, restaurant, cafe or business location.

Phnom Penh Capital and four other provinces (Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Kratie, and Oddar Meanchey) continue to suspend high-risk work and business activities, and have gathering restrictions. Kampong Cham, Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap were the last provinces to lift 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	15 September 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	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	-	-	-	-