

## Situation Summary

### Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of **428** COVID-19 cases including **37** deaths were reported in the **last 7 days**. Of the 428 cases, 10.3% (44/428) were imported and 89.7% (384/428) were locally acquired;
- As of 15 November 2021, 10 am ICT, **119,588** confirmed cases of COVID-19, including **2,872** deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 115,979 have recovered. A total of 19,739 (16.5%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,738,407 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 5%. As of 15 November 2021, a total of 2,375,289 tests have been performed using RT-PCR.
- On 14 November 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to lift quarantine obligation for all travelers who are fully vaccinated and tested negative with rapid antigen test on arrival. Unvaccinated travelers will have to do 14 days quarantine and follow the existing testing requirement.
- On 12 November, the Royal Government of Cambodia introduced the National Strategy for Living with COVID-19.

## Upcoming Events and Priorities

### Surveillance

- MOH with WHO support is conducting regular analyses to understand the effectiveness of interventions using multisource surveillance at the subnational level.
- WHO is supporting MOH to develop subnational guidance, SOPs and checklists on monitoring implementation of and compliance to NPIs as part of calibrating subnational NPIs.
- WHO is technically supporting MOH to update the COVID-19 surveillance strategy in preparation for an endemic COVID-19 scenario and consider the next steps for implementation.
- 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 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.
- Minister of Health advised all provinces that have a PCR machine in their laboratories to test their own samples for SARS-CoV-2 without sending them to national laboratories.

### Healthcare delivery and pathways

- Oxygen therapy training with cover all provinces by end of December 2021. In each province, staff from ICU and emergency units of provincial hospitals and selected district hospitals to receive onsite coaching from the national core team. As of 12 November 2021, 17 provinces received onsite coaching on oxygen therapy.
- Mentorship to strengthen the sub-national level on clinical management, patient pathway, ICU bed capacity and efficiency, and infection prevention control with a special focus on border provinces has been conducted in 16 provinces. This activity will continue in 2 provinces next week (Siem Reap and Prey Veng Province).
- 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 at the 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.
- As part of the effort to build clinical knowledge of frontline providers at the sub-level on clinical management of COVID-19 cases, the sub-committee on Technical and Treatment of COVID-19 continue to organize clinical discussion among clinicians who are frontline providers to discuss selected COVID-19 as case study and experience sharing.

### Risk Communication and community engagement

- WHO is closely working with MOH in strengthening risk communication and community engagement, engaging local influencers, VHSGs, health care workers, and local authorities to improve and strengthen PHSM compliance as new normal in Cambodia.
- WHO is supporting the 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 has developed a social media tile to counter misinformation and rumors.
- WHO has developed the guidance for vaccination of women with breastfeeding infants, women who are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, and menstruating women, and about vaccines and fertility (Please see [LINK](#) for informative video and [LINK](#) for social media tiles and infographics). The material is being translated into the Khmer language.
- The World Health Organization in the Western Pacific has launched the first WHO Western Pacific Innovation Challenge: Innovation for the Future of Public Health. The Innovation Challenge is calling for innovators to submit their solutions to better the health and well-being of people in the Western Pacific Region. Applications from Cambodia are highly encouraged and can be submitted at <https://wproinnov.awardsplatform.com/>.
- Supervision activity is being conducted with village chief/local volunteers by HC staff to ensure that community engagement activities were held at village level on PHSM by NCHP.
- WHO is closely working with MoH to provide technical support to develop communication plan for launching of new strategy on living with the virus.

## 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

**31,181**

NAT Tests past 7 days

**2,375,289**

Cumulative NAT Tests

#### Cases

**428**

New cases past 7 days

(0.36% 7-day)

**119,588**

Cumulative Cases

#### Deaths

**37**

Deaths past 7 days

(1.3 % 7-day)

**2,872**

Cumulative Deaths

**374**

Imported cases in the past 28 days

**44**

Imported cases past 7 days

### Health Service Provision COVID-19

**79**

Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients

**145**

Treatment centers for COVID-19 patients

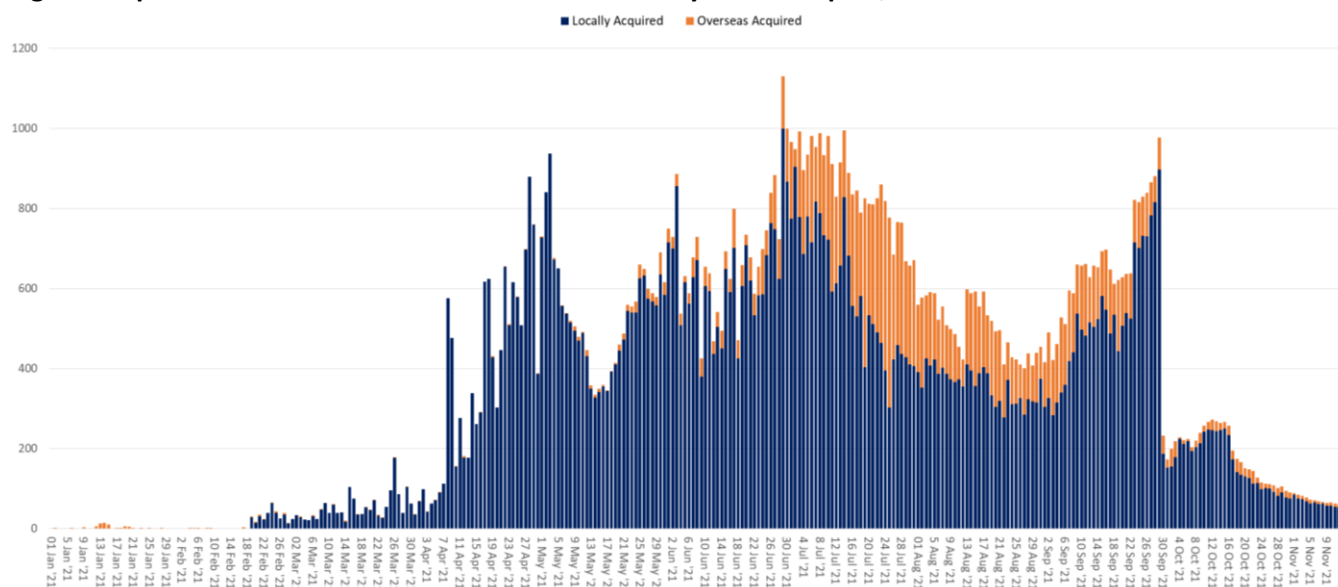
**1,626**

Total beds available at hospitals and treatment centers

Data source: Royal Government of Cambodia, Strategy for Living in the New Normal within the Context of COVID-19 (Dated: 11 November 2021)

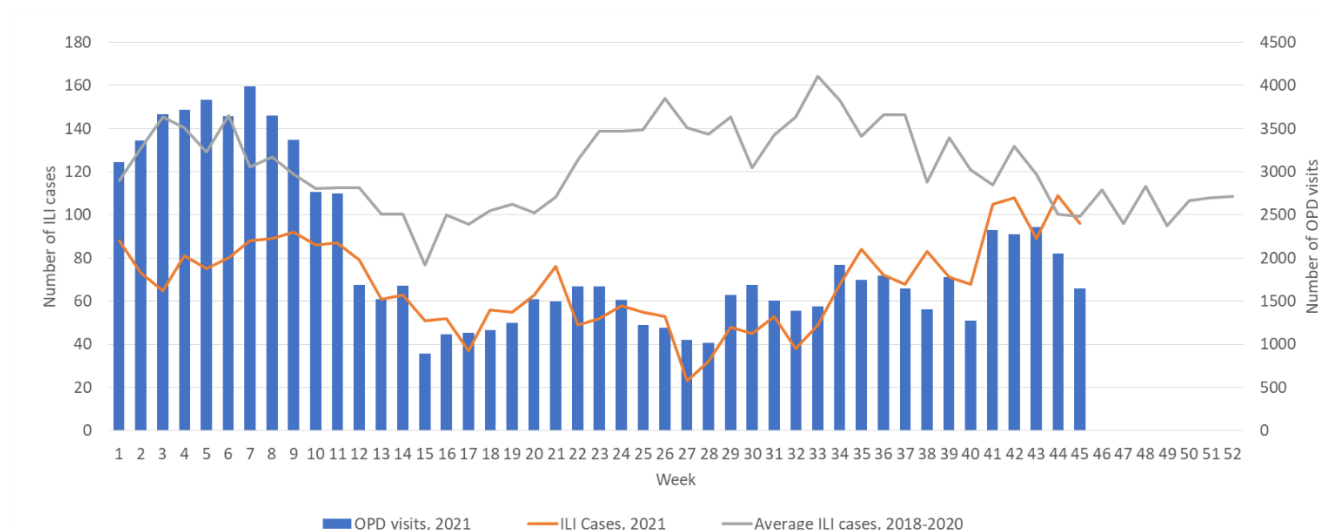
## Epidemiology

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

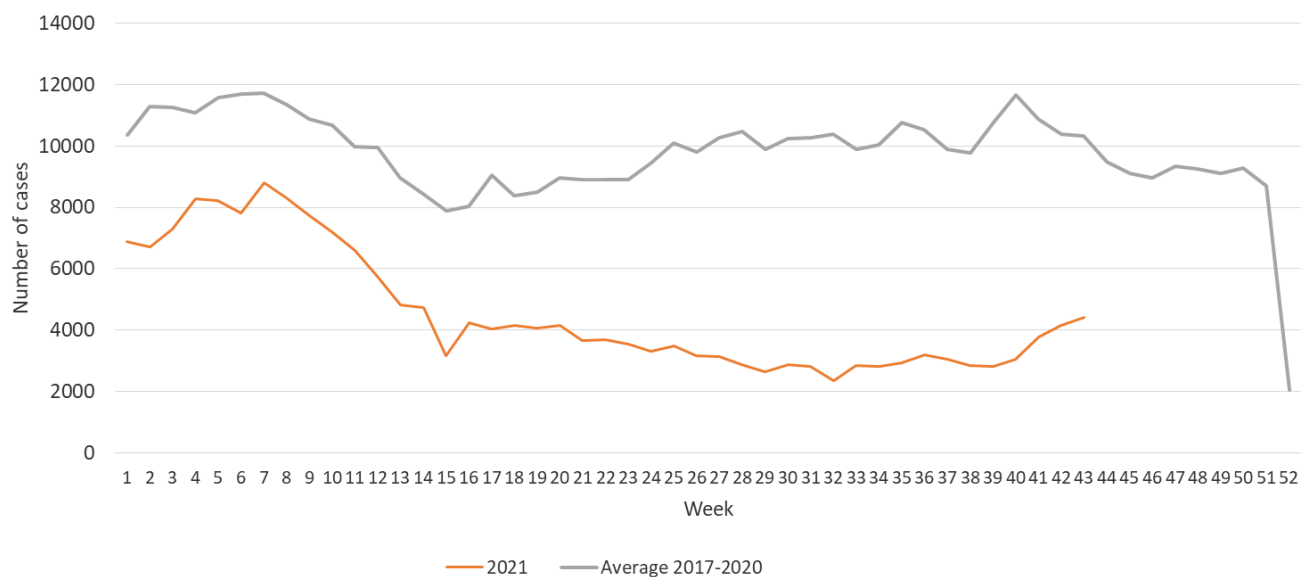


\*As of 30 Sep 2021, only RT-PCR test results are being reported in the case numbers.

**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 Cambodian 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

- National programs are developing specific COVID-19 preparedness and response plans.

- 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, pneumonia cases in hospitals, testing at POEs at day 1 and day 6 or 13 depending on vaccination status, 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.
- *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 15 November 2021:**

### ▪ COVID-19 vaccine updated

On 15 November 2021, Cambodia received 324,000 doses of AstraZeneca (AB), dose sharing from Sweden through COVAX facility, up today the Royal Government of Cambodia received **38,055,440** doses of COVID-19 vaccines

- ❖ 28,500,000 (75%) doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccine procured by the Royal Government of Cambodia from the People's Republic of China
- ❖ 6,715,040 (18%) doses of donated: The People's Republic of China (6,300,000 doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccine) and the United Kingdom (415,040 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine)
- ❖ 2,840,400 (7%) doses of AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, and Sinovac vaccine through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan, the United States of America and Sweden)
- ❖ The current balance is 6,495,370 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at the national stock of Central Medical Store (CMS)

### ▪ COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out

#### ▪ COVID-19 vaccination coverage of Healthcare worker

- ❖ 43,646 (100%) of health care workers were vaccinated with the first dose and second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

#### ▪ COVID-19 vaccination coverage of elderly aged 60 years old and over:

- ❖ 1,378,842 (100%) of elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and
- ❖ 1,344,919 (98%) with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

#### ▪ COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for adults aged 18 years old and over:

- ❖ 10,061,291 (100.6%) of people aged ≥ 18 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 9,687,504 (96.9%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first dose is 50.5% and the second dose is 50.3% among total doses vaccinated.

#### ▪ COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for children aged 12 to under 18 years old :

- ❖ 1,799,937 (98.5%) of children aged from 12 to under 18 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 1,710,014 (93.6%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first and second dose is 49.4 % and the second dose is 49.6% among total doses vaccinated.

#### ▪ COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for children aged 6 to under 12 years old:



- ❖ 1,969,736 (103.8%) of children aged from 6 to under 12 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 1,820,307 (95.9%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first and second dose is 49.2% and the second dose is 49.4% among total doses vaccinated.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for children aged 5 years old:**
  - ❖ 237,864 (78.2%) of children 5 years old were vaccinated with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
  - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first dose is 50.1% among total doses vaccinated.
- **Third dose of COVID-19 Vaccination coverage:**
  - ❖ 2,052,943 (20.5%) people aged  $\geq 18$  years old included health care workers, the frontline of Government officials, people aged 60 years old and older, and immunocompromised persons, were vaccinated with a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
  - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the booster dose is 46.8% among total doses vaccinated.
- **Vaccine Safety:**
  - 206 AEFI cases were reported from 25 provinces and AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses = 0.73
    - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (95 cases) = 0.53
    - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine = (78 cases) = 1.10
    - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for AZ vaccine = (29 cases) = 1.64
    - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for J&J vaccine = (3 cases) = 0.38
- WHO is supporting National Immunization Program to develop annual immunization plan for 2022, which includes the reaching the unreached strategy for routine immunization and COVID-19 vaccination.
- MOH with close support by WHO continue to analyse vaccination and AEFI data, prepare report and share to stakeholders.
- WHO continues to provide technical support to National Immunization Program on COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out.

## Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

On 12 November 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia introduced Strategy for Living in the New Normal within the Context of COVID-19. The strategy envisions a new stage of “endemic COVID-19” where the risk for public health, especially severe illness and deaths is minimized while the country reopens all sectors gradually.

On 14 November, the Government dropped quarantine for fully vaccinated travellers to Cambodia. They only need do COVID-19 rapid antigen test, present evidence of vaccination and negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate on arrival. If they test negative, they can travel freely throughout the country right afterwards. Unvaccinated travellers are required to do PCR test and 14-day quarantine.

On 12 November, Prime Minister announced no limit to the number of guests attending wedding and other traditional ceremonies provided that physical distancing and health measures are complied with. The new rule also applies to other gatherings of people, students, workers, civil servants, forces at work, and political party rallies.

On 11 November, the Government allowed re-organization of religious events, gatherings and activities.

**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	16 August 2021	National	Required		No
School Closure	16 March 2020	01 November 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	Yes
Workplace Closure	None	None				
Mass Gatherings	3 April 2020	19 June 2021	National	Required	No	No
Stay at Home	None	None				
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	9 April 2020	29 July 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	Yes
Restrictions on International Travel	27 March 2020	14 November 2021	National	Required	Yes	Yes
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-