

Situation Summary

Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of 100 COVID-19 cases including 25 deaths were reported. Of the 100 cases, 11% (11/100) were imported and 89% (89/100) were locally acquired;
- As of 13 December 2021, 10 am ICT, 120,355 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,985 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 116,708 have recovered. A total of 19,852 (16.5%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,762,653 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 4.9%. As of 12 December 2021, a total of 2,445,530 tests have been performed using RT-PCR

Upcoming Events and Priorities

Surveillance

- WHO is technically supporting MOH to implement the surveillance strategy for endemic COVID-19.
- 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

- National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) has been working with Pasteur Institute in Cambodia, 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.
- WHO is supporting MOH to integrate Omicron detection into current genomic surveillance workflow.

Healthcare delivery and pathways

- As of 10 December 2021, all 25 provinces have received onsite coaching on oxygen therapy.
- The COVID-19 Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee is updating the 4th version of the clinical treatment protocol for COVID-19 cases to incorporate new development after publishing the current version.
- The COVID-19 Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee continues to monitor severe cases and ICU bed capacity (bed occupancy) through the network of provincial hospital.
- The COVID-19 Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee led by H.E. Prof. Heng Sothy visited Banteay Meanchey Provincial Hospital where the onsite coaching on oxygen therapy was organized there.



Some of oxygen equipment and materials supported by WHO has been officially delivered to Banteay Meanchey Provincial Hospital: pulse oximeters, posters on oxygen providing instruments, and guidebooks on Oxygen therapy for COVID-19 patients.

- There will be a case study discussion from Prey Veng Provincial Hospital to be virtually presented this week.
- One session of discussion on Essential Health Services improvement was conducted virtually by Department of Hospital Services to understand what essential services affect the most and what are the reasons. The invitees were Directors of provincial hospitals and other referral hospitals in Kampong Cham Province, WHO, FHI360, and other partners.

Risk Communication and community engagement

- WHO is closely working with Ministry of Health in strengthening risk communication and community engagement, engaging local influencers, VHSOs, health care workers, and local authorities to improve and strengthen public health and social measure compliance as new normal in Cambodia.
- WHO is technically supporting MOH/NCHP to develop the Communication Strategy for living with the virus
- 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.

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

13, 270

NAT Tests past 7 days

2,445,530

Cumulative NAT Tests

Cases

100

New cases past 7 days

120,355

Cumulative Cases

Deaths

25

Deaths past 7 days

2,985

Cumulative Deaths

116

Imported cases in the past 28 days

11

Imported cases past 7 days

Health Service Provision COVID-19

79

Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients

145

Treatment centers for COVID-19 patients

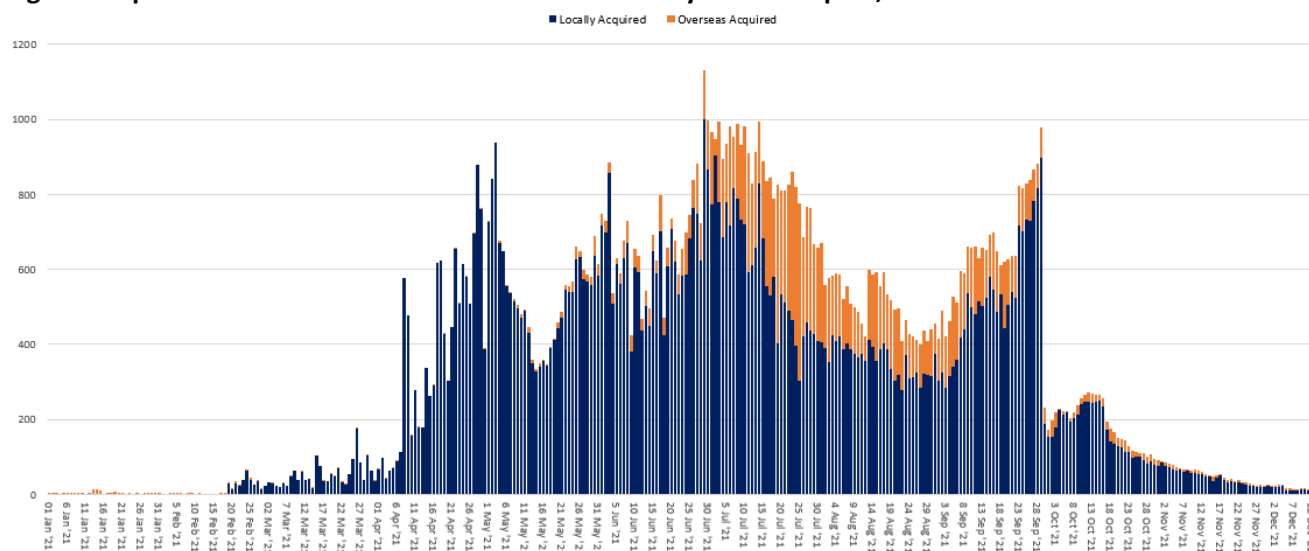
1,626

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

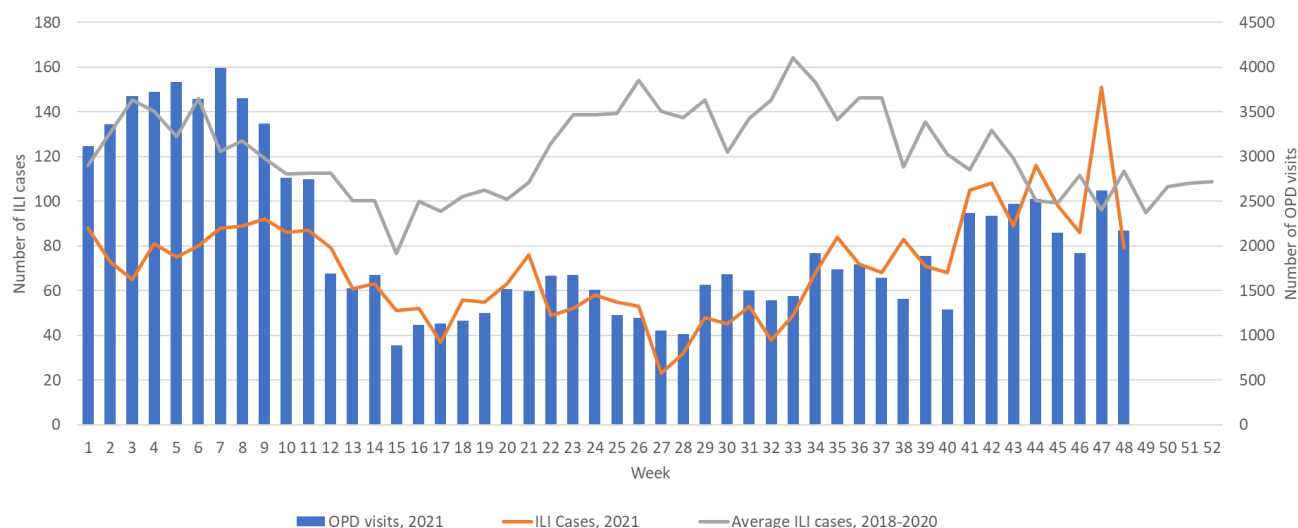
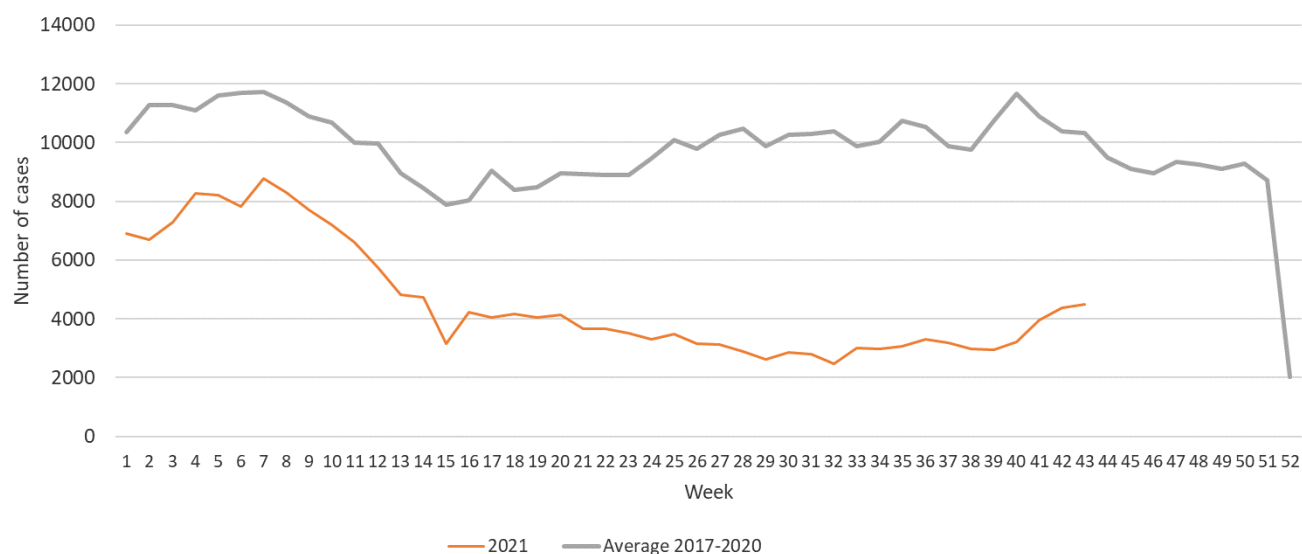


Figure 3. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2017-2020¹



¹ 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 13 December 2021:

- **COVID-19 vaccine updates**
 - ❖ The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) received 40,783,600 doses of COVID-19 vaccines
 - 28,500,000 (70%) doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccine procured by the Royal Government of Cambodia from the People's Republic of China
 - 8,715,040 (21%) doses donated from the People's Republic of China (8,300,000 doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm/BIBP) and the UK (415,040 doses of AstraZeneca)
 - 3,568,560 (9%) doses of AstraZeneca, J&J, Moderna, and Sinovac through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan, USA, Sweden, and the Netherlands)
 - ❖ **Next arrivals of vaccines:**
 - 308,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine - COVAX dose sharing from Japan, expected to arrive by the end of 2021
 - 2,350,530 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) donated from Australia, expected to arrive in Cambodia on 24 December 2021
 - The current balance is 6,094,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at national stock of Central Medical Store (CMS)
 - ❖ **The current balance** is 6,094,800 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:**
 - ❖ 1,390,212 (100.8%) of elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and
 - ❖ 1,366,573 (98.3%) with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
 - **COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for adults aged 18 years old and over:**
 - ❖ 10,121,648 (101.1%) of people aged ≥ 18 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 9,761,165 (97.6%) 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 :**

- ❖ 1,807,642 (98.9%) of children aged from 12 to under 18 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 1,724,415 (94.4%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first 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:**
 - ❖ 1,989,601 (104.9%) of children aged from 6 to under 12 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 1,888,380 (99.5%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first 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:**
 - ❖ 288,651 (94.9%) of children aged 5 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 185,356 (60.9%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first is 50.1% and the second dose is 49.3% among total doses vaccinated.
- **Third dose of COVID-19 Vaccination coverage:**
 - ❖ 2,860,685 (28.6%) people aged ≥ 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 47.7% among total doses vaccinated.
- **Vaccine Safety:**
 - 208 AEFI cases were reported from 25 provinces and AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses =0.71
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (96 cases) = 0.50
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine = (78 cases) =1.08
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for AstraZeneca (Covishield)= (29 cases) =3.93
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for J&J vaccine= (4 cases) = 0.38
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)= (1 case) =0.09
- **Activity updates**
 - ❖ National Immunization Program (NIP) in organizing a workshop training with all provinces (opened by Under Secretary of State, and Director General for Health of MOH) on Moderna vaccination booster dose deployment strategy, planning, vaccine management/handling, implementation, and reporting. Vaccines will be distributed to 12 provinces.
- **Communication**
 - ❖ Prepared coms on COVAX vaccine arrival and preparing for Omicron
 - ❖ Determined Facebook communication materials.
- Field monitoring and supervision COVID-19 vaccination roll out at designated vaccination sites and Routine Immunization (RI) and Vaccination Planning and Deployment activities in Koh Kong Province:
 - ❖ Briefing with the provincial health department Director, Deputy Director, Chief of Technical Bureau, Expanded Programme on Immunization, (EPI) Manager and National Maternal and Child Health Centre Manager.
 - ❖ Monitored integrated vaccination activity (COVID-19 vaccination catch up activities for children aged 5 years old and above, and RI) at the Smach Mean Chey Health Centre. COVID-19 catch up was supported by the Provincial Health Department and Operational District (OD), while RI activities was conducted by health centre staff.

Interviewed people including several fishermen who just returned from the sea after 2 months came in for vaccination.

- ❖ Monitored Neangkok Health Centre, where coordinated COVID-19 vaccination activities for several international electronic factories and casino workers nearby.
- ❖ Monitored RI activity at Kirisakor Health Centre, where RI coverage was negatively affected by COVID-19. Discussed with Health Centre chief about future COVID-19 vaccination strategy and catch-up RI.
- ❖ Conducted RI Data Quality Assessment at 2 health centres of 2 districts: The data were in order with some discrepancies between HMIS and monthly report.
- ❖ Conducted Rapid Convenience Assessment (RCA) to assess all target populations are vaccinated and not left behind especially the elderly and vulnerable populations.
 - 2 pregnant women missed among 30 households in 3 villages near Cham Yeam International Border Check Point. Vaccination information was disseminated through village chief.
 - 1 elderly person and 1 pregnant woman missed among 14 households in Kirisakor Island. COVID-19 catch up is held in the mainland, which was found the barriers for residents.
- ❖ Debriefing with Smach Mean Chey OD director of health, shared findings and recommendations on COVID-19 vaccine strategy and implementation, especially in strategy for reaching to the island and hard to reach areas, cold chain, data quality, social mobilization for booster dose, AEFI monitoring, AEFI case management and report.
- ❖ Met with Srea Ambel OD director to be briefed on the COVID-19 vaccination roll out. Human resource issue was raised by OD Director for catch up activity and booster dose.

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

- On 29 November, in response to Omicron, the Royal Government banned travellers or those with a history of travel in 10 African nations from entering Cambodia, effective 1 December. On 5 December, this ban was lifted and replaced with additional testing and quarantine requirements.
- On 05 December, the Royal Government introduced standard operating procedures for management of passenger arrivals at Cambodia's international airports. The SoPs require fully vaccinated travelers to have negative Ag-RDT result on arrival to freely travel in the country or confirm with PCR test result if they test positive on Ag-RDT. 14-day quarantine is required for not fully vaccinated or unvaccinated travelers.

Table 1. 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	12 November 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	05 December 2021	National	Required	Yes	Yes
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-