

Key highlights since the last report

- In the last 14 days, 94 COVID-19 cases including 20 deaths were reported. Of the 94 cases, 37% (35/94) were imported and 63% (59/94) were locally acquired.
- A total of 120,464 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 3,009 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 116,874 have recovered. A total of 19,888 (16.5%) cases were acquired overseas.
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,779,013 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 4.9%. As of 26 December 2021, a total of 2,473,393 tests have been performed using RT-PCR.
- **Surveillance:** As of 27 December 2021, 31 Omicron cases have been detected in Cambodia upon arrival at the borders, of which 4 were symptomatic. The Ministry of Health (MOH) and World Health Organization (WHO) had conducted a joint rapid risk assessment on Omicron and current control measures. WHO continues to provide technical support to MOH in enhancing the surveillance strategy for endemic COVID-19, ensuring preparedness, early detection and targeted response with safe reopening of the country.
- **Laboratory:** WHO is providing technical advice and guidance to MOH on sampling strategies for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance, including integration of Omicron detection into the current workflow. The National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) has been working with Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, WHO and partners in implementing the SARS-CoV-2 External Quality Assurance program to ensure quality testing at all COVID-19 laboratories.
- **COVID-19 vaccination:**
 - ❖ Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen has recommended that 500,000 health workers and frontline government officers be given a second booster dose of Pfizer vaccine.
 - ❖ As of 25 December 2021, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) received 41,091,600 doses of COVID-19 vaccines:
 - 28,500,000 (69%) doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccine procured by the RGC from the People's Republic of China;
 - 8,715,040 (21%) doses donated by the People's Republic of China (8,300,000 doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm/BIBP) and the UK (415,040 doses of AstraZeneca);
 - 3,876,560 (10%) doses of AstraZeneca, J&J, Moderna and Sinovac through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan, USA, Sweden and the Netherlands).
 - ❖ 2,350,530 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) donated from Australia are expected to arrive in Cambodia on 26 and 28 December 2021.
 - ❖ The current COVID-19 vaccine stock balance is 4,870,374 doses at the national Central Medical Store.
 - ❖ Catch-up vaccination activities are ongoing with reaching the unreached strategy to complete all recommended doses especially among vulnerable populations (elderly, with co-morbidities, pregnant women, lactating women, people with HIV, people with disability and migrants) and people who had recovered from SARS-CoV-2 infection. These are implemented through: (1) fixed site at the designated vaccination sites (national, provincial and referral hospital), (2) mobile vaccination, and (3) mobile vaccination integrated with routine immunization.
- **Risk communication and community engagement:**
 - ❖ The National Center for Health Promotion (NCHP) completed the first phase of community engagement activities in nine target provinces. The progress report with recommendations was also submitted to the WHO country office.

- ❖ A Strategic Communication Plan was formulated in line with the “Strategy for Living in the New Normal within the Context of COVID-19”. NCHP is taking the lead in writing this communication plan with the support of WHO. This plan will be shared when the Khmer version is completed.
- ❖ Key messages from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office have been shared with partners (NCHP and CDC) for review and adaptation for awareness raising in Cambodia.
- ❖ Key messages on vaccination for women with pregnancy and breastfeeding are being reviewed for sharing on Facebook.

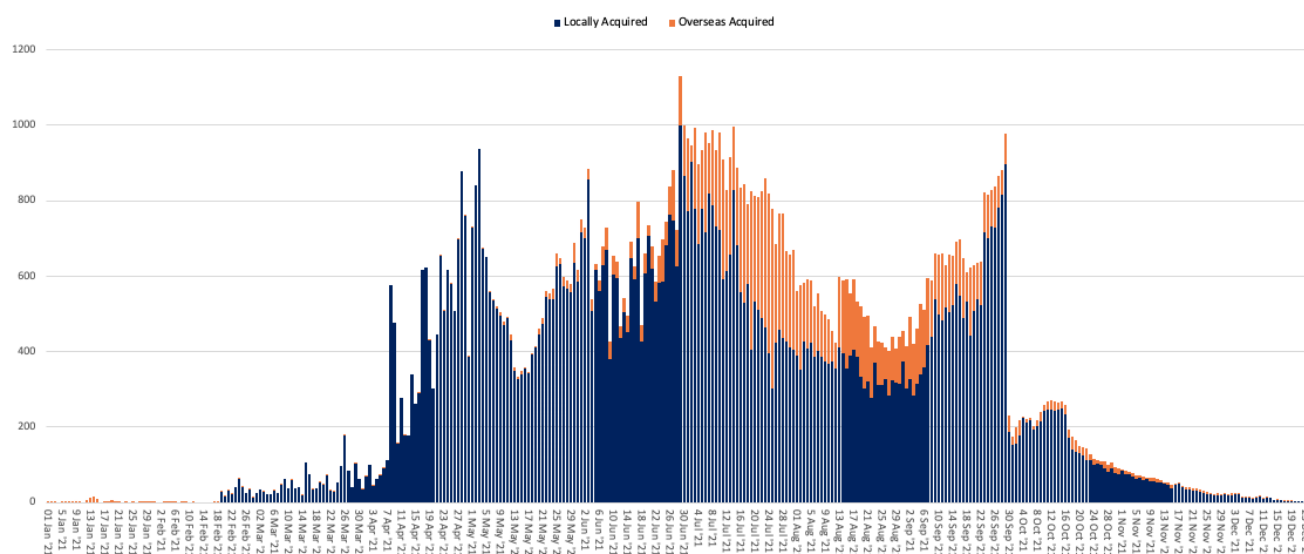
▪ **Non-pharmaceutical interventions:**

- ❖ Samdech Prime Minister announced the end of the 20 February Community Event from 20 December, the first time Cambodia recorded zero deaths after 10 months of the event that saw 120,423 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 3,005 deaths. He, however, urged people to continue extra vigilance, to get fully vaccinated and implement health measures to protect themselves and others in order to contribute to a smooth reopening.
- ❖ 22-24 December: CDC/MOH and Preah Sihanouk Provincial Health Department, with support from WHO, facilitated provincial workshop to strengthen public health and social measures (PHSM) monitoring system with other provinces including Battambang, Kep, Koh Kong and Siem Reap. The participants from both health and non-health sectors have discussed their roles and functions, standard operating procedures and tools to strengthen PHSM compliance and monitoring, especially in the context of living with COVID-19 to ensure safe and sustainable reopening of businesses and societies while avoiding the red line and protecting vulnerable population.

▪ **Healthcare delivery and pathway:**

- ❖ 38 intensive care unit (ICU) staff from 9 selected provinces, namely, Kampong Cham, Thbong Khmum, Kratie, Pailin, Kampong Thom, Svay Rieng, Oddar Meanchey, Mondulkiri, and Ratanakiri have completed the 10-day practical skills on managing COVID-19 severe and critical cases in 3 different national hospitals in Phnom Penh (KSFH, Kossamak hospital and Chak AngRe HC).
- ❖ To date, all 25 provinces received oxygen therapy training/onsite coaching. Oxygen pulse oximeters were also provided to those provincial hospitals during the training.
- ❖ Weekly clinical case discussions were conducted during this period with virtual presentations from Takeo and Prey Veng provincial hospitals. This has been proven to be a pivotal platform to increase knowledge of frontline health providers who manage COVID-19 cases. On average, there were over 100 participants attending each zoom session.
- ❖ In an effort to maintain essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Hospital Services (DHS) has been trying to understand which services are most affected, what are the reasons and to develop interventions in responding to identified challenges. DHS has organized the second virtual meeting on 17 December 2021 with participation from the provincial and referral hospital directors in Prey Veng Province.
- ❖ Clinical Management Version 4 is being updated by the Sub-committee for Technical and Management of COVID-19 to incorporate the changes since its official release since August 2021.
- ❖ Mentorship program and weekly virtual clinical discussion are ongoing to strengthen the capacity of health care workers. For the next meeting, Kandal provincial hospital will present a clinical case.

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.

Table 1. Summary table of COVID-19 indicators

Epi Update COVID-19	Tests	Cases	Deaths
	27,632	94	20
	NAT Tests past 14 days	New cases past 14 days	Deaths past 14 days
	2,473,393	120,464	3,009
	Cumulative NAT Tests	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths
			70
			Imported cases in the past 28 days
			35
			Imported cases past 14 days
Health Service Provision COVID-19	79	145	1,626
	Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients	Treatment centers for COVID-19 patients	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)

Table 2. Transmission stage assessment¹ by province

Transmission stage	Provinces
Stage 2	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
Stage 1	Koh Kong, Kep, Kratie, Pailin, Pursat, Mondul Kiri, and Ratanak Kiri

¹Transmission stages for sub-national classification from WHO WPRO.

Table 3. COVID-19 vaccination roll-out for healthcare workers, adults and children

	Healthcare workers (N=43,646)	Adults		Children		
		≥60 (N=1,378,688)	≥18 years (N=10,000,000)	5 years (N=304,317)	6 to <12 years (N=1,897,382)	12 to <18 years (N=1,827,348)
Started (2021)	10 Feb	10 Feb	10 Feb	1 Nov	17 Sep	1 Aug
1 st dose	43,646 (100%)	1,393,494 (101.1%)	10,141,514 (101.4%)	299,265 (98.3%)	1,994,096 (105.1%)	1,809,909 (99.0%)
2 nd dose	43,646 (100%)	1,369,756 (99.4%)	9,785,526 (97.9%)	213,091 (70.0%)	1,898,960 (100.1%)	1,727,979 (94.6%)
3 rd dose		3,392,519 (33.9%)				

Table 4. Adverse event following immunization (AEFI) reporting rate per 100,000 doses by COVID-19 vaccination

COVID-19 vaccine	Sinovac	Sinopharm	AstraZeneca (Covishield)	J&J	AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)	Moderna	Pfizer	Total
Number of cases	97	78	29	4	1	0	0	209
Total dose administered	19,842,411	7,287,438	323,344	1,053,151	1,664,427	38,937	0	30,209,708
AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses	0.49	1.07	8.97	0.38	0.10	0	0	0.69

Table 5. Non-pharmaceutical interventions implementation and lifting dates

Non-pharmaceutical interventions	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

WHO's support

WHO continues to support the MOH in various technical areas, such as providing technical advice with scientific evidence on Omicron, multi-source surveillance and surveillance strategy for endemic COVID-19, supporting the review and revision of technical guidelines, vaccine development and deployment as well as distribution plans and effective communication (e.g. reinforcement of preventive measures, media engagement and communications on vaccine safety), and implementation of the Strategy for Living in the New Normal within the Context of COVID-19.

Strategic Approach

For information on Strategic Approach – see [previous Situation Reports](#) before 13 December 2021.

Best Practices / Lessons Learned

1. **We must invest in preparedness today so we will not have regrets tomorrow.** Preparedness is the best way to minimize health, social and economic impacts. COVID-19 will not be the last health crisis.
2. **We must transform the health system for the future.** A strong health system is a precondition to managing COVID-19 and for any future health emergencies.
3. **We must create a “new normal”.** COVID-19 will become endemic. We all must adapt to a new way of living, working and interacting with each other and live with the virus.

Related references and links

- [MOH website](#): The official MOH webpage.
- [WHO-MOH country situation report](#): The latest COVID-19 situation reports for Cambodia
- [Regional situation report](#): The latest COVID-19 situation reports for the WHO Western Pacific Region.
- [Global situation report](#): The weekly global epidemiological and operational COVID-19 update from WHO.
- [WHO guidelines](#): The latest WHO COVID-19 technical and country guidance.
- [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#): The latest global and regional-level COVID-19 data.