

Key highlights (27 December 2021 – 9 January 2022)

- In the past 2 weeks, 172 COVID-19 cases and 4 deaths were reported. Of the 172 cases, 93% (160/172) were imported and 7% (12/172) were locally acquired.
- A total of 120,636 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 3,015 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 117,023 have recovered. A total of 20,048 (16.6%) cases were acquired overseas.
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,785,864 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 4.9%. As of 9 January 2022, a total of 2,486,633 tests have been performed using RT-PCR.
- **Surveillance:** As of 9 January 2022, 195 Omicron cases have been detected in Cambodia, of which 4 were local community transmission. WHO continues to provide technical support to MOH in enhancing the surveillance strategy for endemic COVID-19, ensuring preparedness, early detection and targeted response to support safe and sustainable reopening.
- **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.
- **Vaccination:**
 - ❖ The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) decided to administer the second booster (4th dose) of Pfizer vaccine to elderly people aged 60 years and above, healthcare workers, frontline government officers, leaders of the RGC, the Senate, National Assembly, civil servants, armed forces, national police, local authorities, officers and staff of foreign embassies, United Nations, national and international organizations, journalists and members of Khmer Artist Association. The vaccination will start on 14 January 2022 for those who have completed the first booster dose for more than 4 months.
 - ❖ As of 9 January 2022, the RGC received 43,492,590 doses of COVID-19 vaccines:
 - 28,500,000 (66%) doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccine procured by the RGC from the People's Republic of China;
 - 11,065,570 (25%) doses donated by the People's Republic of China (8,300,000 doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm/BIBP), United Kingdom (415,040 doses of AstraZeneca) and Australia (2,350,530 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech);
 - 3,927,590 (9%) doses of AstraZeneca, J&J, Moderna and Sinovac through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan, USA, Sweden and the Netherlands).
 - ❖ 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 Khmer version of the Strategic Communication Plan formulated in line with the “Strategy for Living in the New Normal within the Context of COVID-19” was completed and shared with NCHP for further discussion.
 - ❖ Key messages from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office have been shared with the Department of Communicable Disease Control (CDC) and seven key messages in the Khmer language on public



health and social measures and vaccination were posted on the CDC Facebook page for awareness raising in Cambodia.

- ❖ Key messages on vaccination for women with pregnancy and breastfeeding are being reviewed for sharing on Facebook.

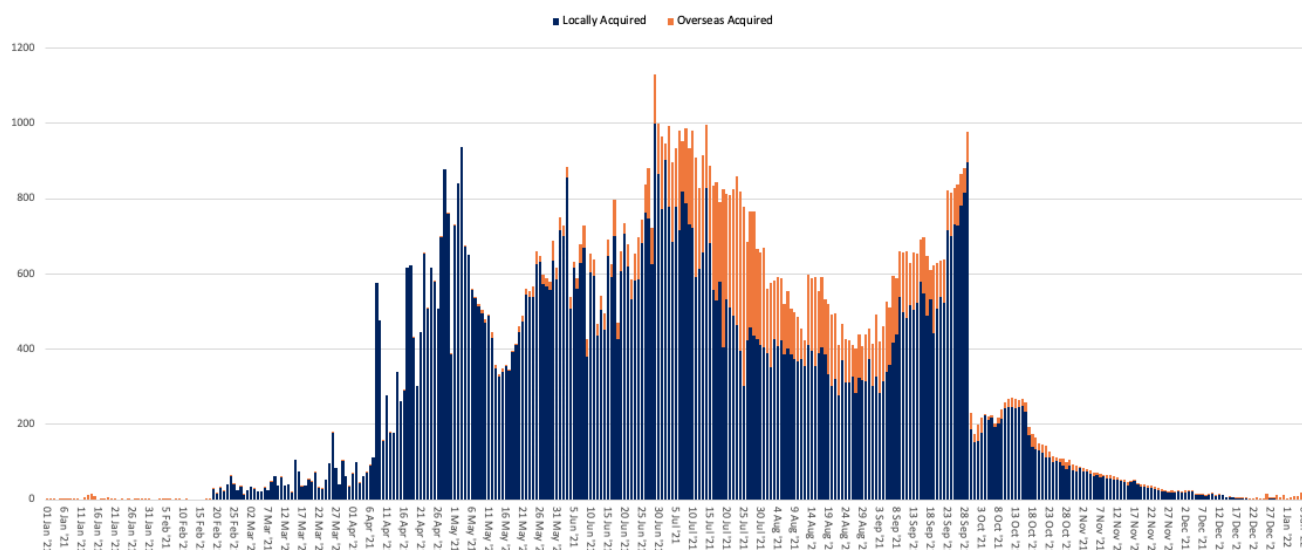
▪ **Non-pharmaceutical interventions:**

- ❖ The Inter-Ministerial Committee to Combat COVID-19 announced on 5 January that COVID-19 patients with Omicron Variant of Concern (VOC) confirmed by laboratory are not allowed to be treated at home, but at a hospital or treatment centre designated by the MOH or capital-provincial committee to combat COVID-19.

▪ **Healthcare delivery and pathway:**

- ❖ A virtual clinical case discussion was conducted with presentation from Chey Chumnas Referral Hospital of Kandal Province, with 73 participants attending the session. This has proven to be a pivotal platform to increase knowledge of frontline health providers who manage COVID-19 cases.
- ❖ In an effort to maintain essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Hospital Services (DHS) of MoH has been trying to understand which services are most affected, what are the reasons and to develop relevant interventions. DHS organized the 3rd virtual meeting on 29 December 2021 with active participation from the Director of Provincial Health Department, directors of provincial hospital as well as six referral hospitals in Battambang Province.
- ❖ As per request from DHS, WHO and DHS will organize a webinar on “Post COVID-19 Conditions” on 14 January. The webinar aimed to build the capacity of clinical practitioners in dealing with people experiencing post COVID-19 conditions.

Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report, 2021-2022*



*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	
	13,240 NAT Tests past 14 days	172 New cases past 14 days	4 New deaths past 14 days	160 Imported cases past 14 days
Health Service Provision COVID-19	2,486,633 Cumulative NAT Tests	120,636 Cumulative Cases	3,015 Cumulative Deaths	195 Imported cases past 28 days
	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)

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	Adults		Children		
		≥60	≥18 years	5 years	6 to <12 years	12 to <18 years
	(N=43,646)	(N=1,378,688)	(N=10,000,000)	(N=304,317)	(N=1,897,382)	(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%)	10,165,224 (101.7%)	310,021 (101.9%)	2,000,267 (105.4%)	1,812,793 (99.02)
2 nd dose	43,646 (100%)	1,369,756 (99.4%)	9,816,984 (98.2%)	232,828 (76.5%)	1,908,876 (100.6%)	1,732,068 (94.8%)
3 rd dose		3,912,044 (39.1%)				111,601 (6.1%)

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	98	78	29	4	1	0	0	210
Total dose administered	20,256,068	7,319,088	323,344	1,053,151	1,905,146	92,758	0	30,209,708
AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses	0.48	1.07	8.97	0.38	0.05	0	0	0.696

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
Limitations on mass gatherings	3 April 2020	12 November 2021	National	Required	Yes	Yes
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.