

Key highlights (7 February – 20 February 2022)

- In the past 14 days, 5,096 new COVID-19 cases and 5 deaths were reported. 96% of the cases were locally acquired, while 4% were imported. Cambodia is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases, with widespread community transmission in Phnom Penh.
- A total of 126,977 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3,020 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 120,767 have recovered.
- As of 20 February 2022, a total of 2,552,180 tests have been performed using reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Since January 2020, a total of 1,826,181 individuals have been tested using RT-PCR, with a positivity rate of 5.0%.
- Overall, Cambodia is experiencing an increase in cases due to circulation of Omicron in the community with clusters detected in settings including schools, workplaces and entertainment venues. Despite increases in cases and deaths, healthcare capacity remains stable though with some early signs of increasing hospitalisations. Calibrated public health and social measures to suppress transmission, strengthen patient pathway and accelerated vaccination remain priorities areas.

Early detection and targeted response

- **Surveillance:**
 - ❖ WHO supported CDC to review the surveillance component of the National Work Plan and identify priorities for 2022 including a review of the influenza surveillance system.
 - ❖ WHO is supporting MOH to reassess use of rapid antigen tests for diagnostics, surveillance and calibration of PHSM.
 - ❖ WHO is also technically advising on developing genomic sequencing surveillance system.
 - ❖ A standard operating procedure (SOP) for multisource surveillance at provincial level has been reviewed and updated.
 - ❖ MOH guidance on contact tracing and quarantine is currently being reviewed.
- **Laboratory:** As a part of the global move to ensure continued provision of reliable results by member states, WHO is preparing to send the second round of external quality assurance panels for SARS-CoV-2 testing to three laboratories in Cambodia.

Public health and social measures (PHSM)

- Samdech Techo Prime Minister on 9 February called on everyone to reduce gatherings and parties as well as stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially Omicron which is widely circulating in Phnom Penh. He urged entities to strengthen implementation of 3 dos and 3 don'ts measures and for everyone to be fully vaccinated and get a booster jab.
- In a circular dated 17 February, the RGC instructed capital-provincial administrations and relevant authorities to strengthen PHSM against COVID-19. The RGC also urged the public and event organizers to limit the number of participants to ensure physical distancing and conduct rapid test for the guests.
- MOH on 20 February issued a guidance on conducting rapid test, isolation, notifying local authorities, treatment as well as instructions for implementing 3 dos and 3 don'ts measures, getting a booster jab and limiting large gatherings.
- WHO is supporting MOH to engage beyond the health sector and implement systems to monitor implementation of and compliance to PHSM, particularly at the provincial level.

Risk communication and community engagement

- With technical and financial support of WHO, MOH has been promoting public health and social measures such as wearing masks when going out, frequent hand washing with soap, avoid crowded places and social gatherings, and get vaccinated when it's your turn, especially focusing on pregnant women through major local TV and radio stations and social media. The video and radio spots were developed and published in Khmer language.
- WHO is working with CDC/MOH to finalise the national awareness campaign plan expected to be launched by mid-March 2022 to promote and engage individuals and families to adopt the right choices to suppress transmission in Cambodia.
- With support of WHO regional office, Facebook campaign on Vax Facts (using Khmer language materials) to increase vaccine acceptance among targeted populations is currently running from 10 February to 9 March 2022.

Vaccination

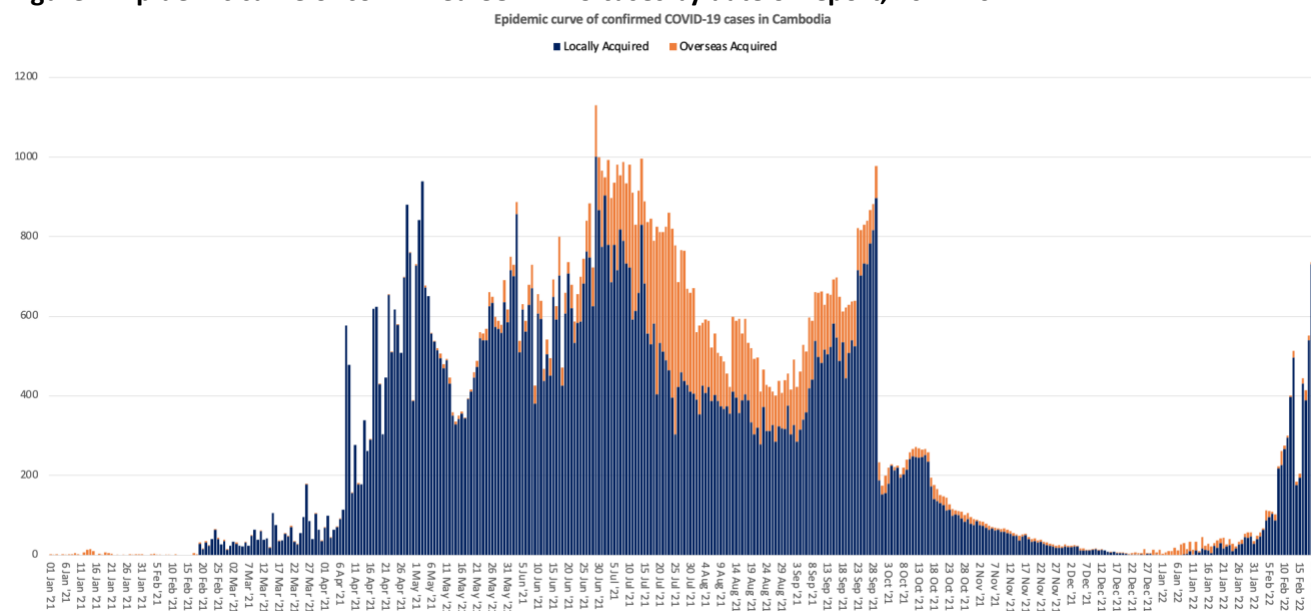
- COVID-19 third dose vaccination (Sinovac) for children aged 6 to under 12 years and children aged 5 years will start from 21 February 2022.
- COVID-19 vaccination (Sinovac) primary series (first and second doses) to children aged 3 to under 5 years will start from 23 February 2022.
- 33 ultra-low temperature (ULT: -90°C) freezers for storing Pfizer vaccine and 100 freezers (-20°C) arrived on 18 February and are planned to be distributed to provinces and operational districts respectively.
- 139,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine from ASEAN distribution will arrive in Cambodia this week. As of 20 February 2022, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) received a total of 43,792,530 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, the current balance is 4,604,422 doses.
- WHO's support to the National Immunization Program:
 - ❖ Finalization of activity plan for catch-up COVID-19 vaccination activities.
 - ❖ Revision of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines.
 - ❖ COVID-19 vaccination deployment.
 - ❖ Analysis and reporting of vaccination and adverse event following immunization (AEFI) data, including sharing to internal and external stakeholders.

Healthcare delivery and pathway

- Clinical case discussion: a virtual discussion was organized on 17 February 2022 with presentation from Monduliri provincial hospital. This forum provides opportunity for healthcare workers at sub-national hospitals to exchange knowledge and practical experience with frontline clinicians or senior doctors at national hospitals or COVID-19 treatment centers.
- Oxygen Therapy onsite coaching is under way in Siem Reap Province this week at four district referral hospitals: Angkor Chum, Kralanh, Puok and Sot Nikum. At least ten hospital staff in each hospital attended the onsite coaching session.
- On 13 February, the Ministry of Health issued an instructional reminder to strengthen and support the implementation of SOP for home-based care. This guideline includes health and hygiene measures, medication for the treatment of mild/asymptomatic COVID-19 cases including Molnupiravir, deisolation and waste management.

Epidemiology

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
	39,106 NAT Tests past 14 days	5,096 New cases past 14 days	5 New deaths past 14 days
Health Service Provision COVID-19	2,552,180 Cumulative NAT Tests	126,977 Cumulative Cases	181 Imported cases past 14 days
	79 Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients	145 Treatment centers for COVID-19 patients	3,020 Cumulative Deaths

Table 2. Transmission stage assessment¹ by province

Transmission stage	Provinces
Stage 3 – Large-scale community transmission	Phnom Penh

¹Transmission stages for sub-national classification from the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.

Stage 2 – Localized community transmission	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, Oddar Meanchey, Koh Kong, Kep, Kratie and Pailin
Stage 1 – Imported cases	Pursat, Monduliri and Ratanakiri

Table 3. COVID-19 vaccination roll-out by target groups (healthcare workers, elderly, 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)
		10 Feb	10 Feb	1 Nov	17 Sep	1 Aug
1st dose	43,646 (100%)	1,393,494 (101.1%)	10,224,938 (102.2%)	330,647 (108.7%)	2,016,416 (106.3%)	1,822,429 (99.7%)
2nd dose	43,646 (100%)	1,369,756 (99.4%)	9,880,925 (98.8%)	256,263 (84.2%)	1,932,041 (101.8%)	1,750,344 (95.8%)
3rd dose		5,423,267 (54.2%)				902,354 (49.4%)
4th dose		813,180 (8.1%)				

Table 4. Adverse event following immunization (AEFI) reporting rate per 100,000 doses by vaccine product

COVID-19 Vaccine	Sinovac (CoronaVac)	Sinopharm (BBIBP-CorV)	AstraZeneca (Covishield)	Janssen (Ad26.COV2-S)	AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)	Moderna (Spikevax)	Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty)	Total
Number of cases	98	79	29	4	1	0	0	211
Total dose administered	22,063,861	7,406,431	323,344	1,053,151	2,332,383	249,859	383,600	33,379,502
AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses	0.44	1.07	8.97	0.38	0.08	0	0	0.62

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.