

Key highlights (21 February – 6 March 2022)

- In the past 14 days, 5,731 new COVID-19 cases and 22 deaths were reported. 94% of the cases were locally acquired, while 6% were imported. Cambodia is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases, with widespread community transmission in Phnom Penh.
- A total of 132,708 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3,042 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 126,921 have recovered.
- As of 6 March 2022, a total of 2,562,797 tests have been performed using reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Since January 2020, a total of 1,831,656 individuals have been tested using RT-PCR, with a positivity rate of 5.2%.
- 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. Some of the recent decline in cases may be attributed to reduced testing. Number of hospitalizations have increased though healthcare capacity is not under strain. Calibrated public health and social measures (PHSM) to suppress transmission, strengthening patient pathway and accelerated vaccination remain priority areas for sustained management of COVID-19 and beyond.

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 including reviewing the current capacity and system.
 - ❖ MOH guidance on contact tracing and quarantine has been reviewed and an updated version is being finalised.

Public health and social measures (PHSM)

- On 21 February, the National Committee for Clean City Assessment announced implementation of carrying capacity management system required for all shops and markets via www.camccms.org. The Ministry of Tourism (MoT) also reminded Capital-provincial departments of tourism and tourism businesses about enforcing 3 dos and 3 don'ts measures and MoT's minimum tourism safety SOPs.
- Siem Reap Provincial Administration on 28 February issued a guidance, instructing sub-national administrations and armed forces to continue promoting vaccination and implementation of health and other measures, restaurants to step up implementation of PHSM as well as encouraging the general public and event organizers to limit the number of guests and conduct rapid test.

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 has been working with NCHP to finalise the community engagement strengthening plan in nine priority provinces. This included technical support in organising virtual community engagement review and planning meeting with Provincial Health Departments, focusing on capacity building and community dialogues to identify issues and local solutions, and supporting community surveillance, monitoring and reporting to the health centre.
- 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.

Vaccination

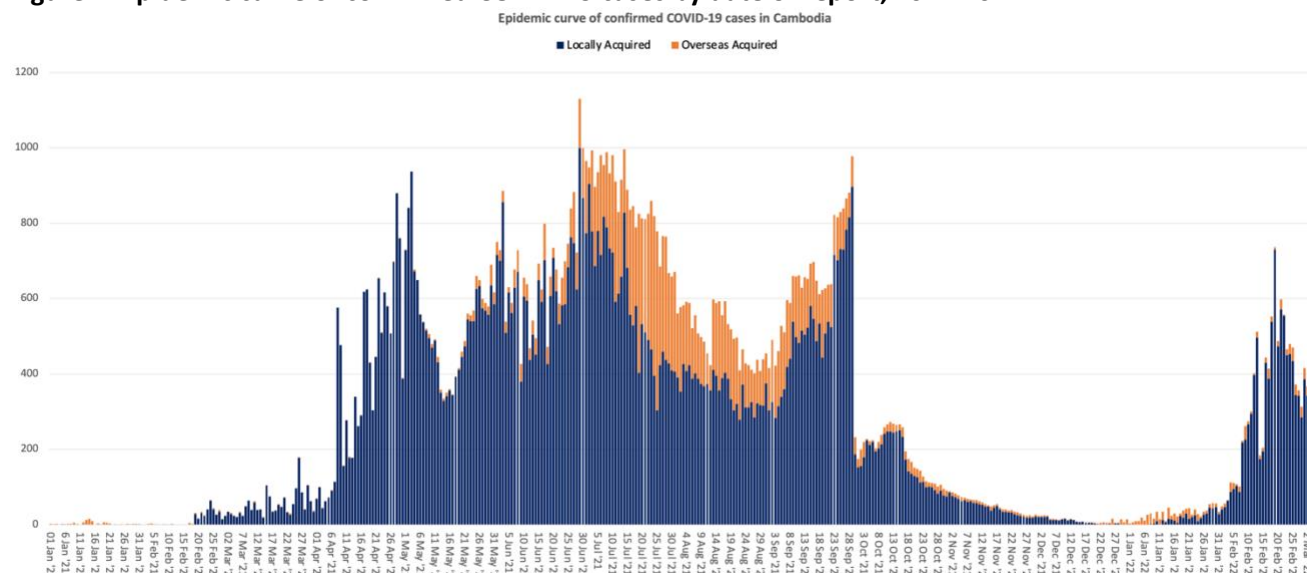
- 33 ultra-low temperature (ULT: -90°C) freezers for storing Pfizer vaccine and 100 freezers (-20°C) were distributed to provinces and operational districts respectively.
- Pfizer vaccines were distributed to 10 provinces (Svay Rieng, Steung Treng, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Battambang, Pailin, Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Preah Sihanouk and Kandal province) that have installed ULT freezers (-90°C) and freezer refrigerators (-20°C) at operational districts.
- Pfizer vaccination in 10 provinces will start next week for the fourth dose.
- 139,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine from ASEAN distribution will arrive in Cambodia in the second week of March. As of 6 March 2022, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) received a total of 43,792,530 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, the current balance is 4,180,096 doses.
- WHO's support to the National Immunization Program:
 - ❖ Conducted training on Pfizer vaccination and vaccine management to Provincial Health Department, Operational District and Health Centre on 5 March 2022.
 - ❖ Conducted monitoring and supervision at COVID-19 vaccination site in Phnom Penh.
 - ❖ Finalization of activity plan for catch-up COVID-19 vaccination activities.
 - ❖ Revision of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines.
 - ❖ 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 discussions: Three virtual discussion sessions were organized on 22 February, 1 March and 2 March with clinical case presentations from Preah Vihear, Phnom Penh, Svay Rieng and Battambang Province.
- Oxygen Therapy onsite coaching were conducted in Kampot Province last week at four district referral hospitals. It will be conducted in Kampong Cham Province this week at another four district referral hospitals. At least ten hospital personnel in each hospital attended the session.
- WHO's Therapeutics and COVID-19: living guideline was updated, including conditional recommendation on the use of molnupiravir for non-severe patients at highest risk of hospitalization such as those unvaccinated, older people, people with immunodeficiencies or chronic diseases.
- WHO is working with MOH to strengthen home-based recovery and hospital surveillance to avoid exceeding health care capacity including revision of communication materials and guidance. A survey on home-based care and recovery will be conducted from 14 March in 5 provinces.

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 |
| | 10,617 NAT Tests past 14 days | 5,731 New cases past 14 days | 22 New deaths past 14 days |
| Health Service Provision COVID-19 | 2,562,797 Cumulative NAT Tests | 132,708 Cumulative Cases | 3,042 Cumulative Deaths |
| | 79 Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients | 145 Treatment centers for COVID-19 patients | 1,626 Total ICU beds available at hospitals and treatment centers |

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 | Adults | | 3-4 years | 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=610,730) | (N=304,317) | (N=1,897,382) | (N=1,827,348) |
| Started | 10 Feb 21 | 10 Feb 21 | 10 Feb 21 | 22 Feb 22 | 1 Nov 21 | 17 Sep 21 | 1 Aug 21 |
| 1 st dose | 43,646 (100%) | 1,406,508 (102.0%) | 10,248,592 (102.5%) | 222,404 (36.4%) | 361,184 (118.7%) | 2,034,061 (107.2%) | 1,826,933 (100.0%) |
| 2 nd dose | 43,646 (100%) | 1,389,421 (100.8%) | 9,897,272 (99.0%) | N/A | 263,320 (86.5%) | 1,947,992 (102.7%) | 1,757,849 (96.2%) |
| 3 rd dose | | 5,702,630 (57.0%) | | N/A | | 611,461 (32.2%) | 1,114,053 (61.0%) |
| 4 th dose | | 1,027,580 (10.3%) | | | | N/A | N/A |

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 | 100 | 79 | 29 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 215 |
| Total dose administered | 23,383,154 | 7,438,328 | 323,344 | 1,053,151 | 2,616,220 | 334,768 | 813,215 | 35,962,180 |
| AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses | 0.43 | 1.06 | 8.97 | 0.38 | 0.08 | 0.60 | 0 | 0.60 |

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.