

## Key highlights (7 – 20 March 2022)

- In the past 14 days, 2,377 new RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases and 10 deaths were reported. Of these, 89% (n=2,105) were locally acquired, while 11% (n=272) were imported. The number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths have declined by 59% and 55% respectively, as compared to the previous 14 days.
- A total of 135,085 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3,052 deaths have been reported from Cambodia since 27 January 2020, of which 131,038 have recovered.
- As of 20 March 2022, a total of 2,588,511 tests have been performed using reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Since January 2020, a total of 1,848,721 individuals have been tested using RT-PCR, with an overall positivity rate of 5.2%.
- The number of new COVID-19 cases reported have declined steadily in the past four weeks. This indicates declining community transmission in Phnom Penh. Healthcare capacity remains stable with majority of cases under home-based care and recovery.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has lifted testing requirements for fully vaccinated incoming travellers to Cambodia on 17 March 2022.
- Calibrated public health and social measures (PHSM) to suppress transmission, strengthening patient pathway and accelerated vaccination focusing on vulnerable groups remain priority areas for sustained management of COVID-19 and beyond.

## Early detection and targeted response

- **Surveillance:**
  - ❖ 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.

## Public health and social measures (PHSM)

- On 17 March, the Royal Government of Cambodia announced the cancellation of requirements for a negative PCR test within 72 hours prior to arrival and COVID-19 antigen rapid test on arrival for incoming travellers. Visa on arrival is also resumed for all foreign travellers. All travellers are, however, encouraged to self-test and fully vaccinated travellers are required to present COVID-19 vaccination certificate on arrival, while those who are not fully vaccinated are required to undertake 14-day quarantine.
- On 18 March, with WHO support, the Communicable Disease Control Department of the Ministry of Health conducted a workshop to strengthen public health and social measures monitoring system to avoid the red line and protect the vulnerable. It was participated by representatives from the Ministry of Health, Phnom Penh Capital Hall, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Cults and Religion and Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. As a next step of the meeting, establishment and implementation of a joint monitoring tool for PHSM will be further explored.

## Risk communication and community engagement

- WHO is working with CDC/NCHP to update the risk communication and community engagement strategy, in line with the recent IHR review and planning for 2022. The updated strategy aims to use the best practices and lesson learnt from past two years of COVID-19 response, to further strengthen and promote

the new social norms for sustained management of COVID-19 in Cambodia, with an objective to inform and empower individuals and communities to prepare for and respond to future pandemics.

- WHO is supporting CDC/MoH to adapt and develop videos and live interactive expert consultation in Khmer language, to promote public health and social measures, and addressing mis-information around vaccination, especially focusing on pregnant women and hard-to-reach communities.
- MoH is launching a national COVID-19 awareness campaign to educate, disseminate and raise awareness of the people under the theme “Omicron spreads faster than previous variants and causes a great risk to you and your family” on March 22, 2022.

## Vaccination

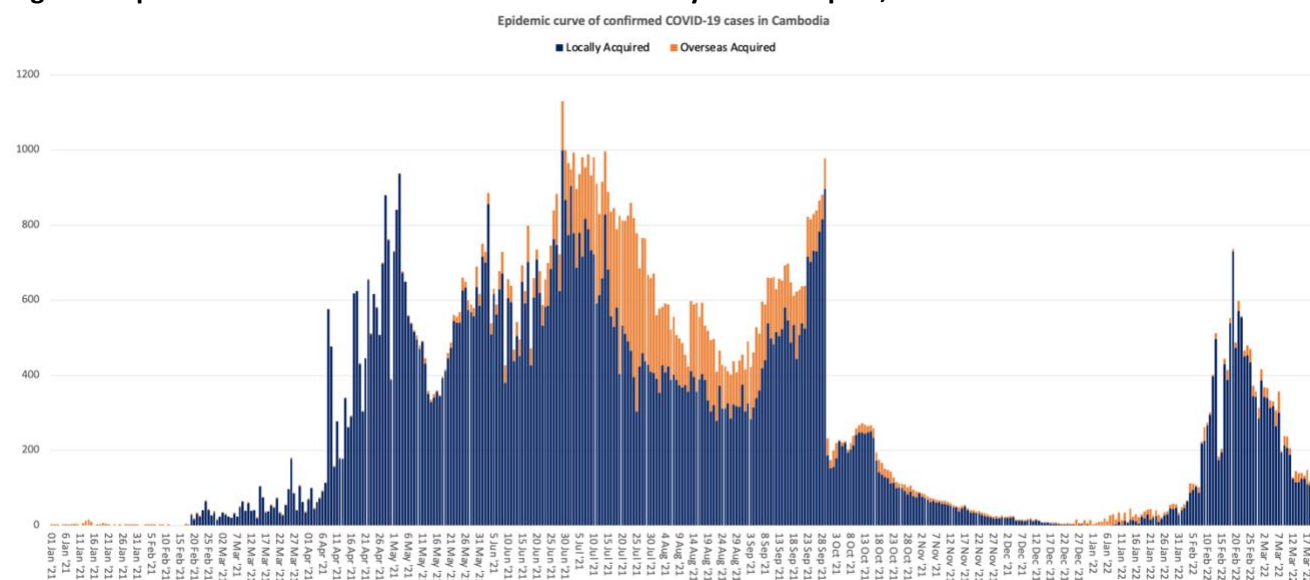
- All 25 provinces received Pfizer vaccines and started vaccination for booster dose last week.
- On 18 March 2022, ACC-19 announced to expand the use of Pfizer vaccines for third and fourth doses, and people aged  $\geq 12$  years, and to suspend the use of the Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines for the third and fourth doses to people aged  $\geq 12$  years until vaccines with shorter expiry dates are used up.
- 523,100 doses of AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) donated from Hungary and 139,230 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from ASEAN allocation arrived in Cambodia in the week of 14 March 2022.
- 5,515,380 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from COVAX facility (round 15) will arrive in Cambodia from March to September 2022. 2 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine donated by the United States through COVAX Facility will arrive in April 2022.
- On 18 March 2022, President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China announced an additional donation of 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Cambodia, of which 5 million doses will arrive by the end of March 2022.
- WHO’s support to the National Immunization Program:
  - ❖ Identifying the unvaccinated, microplanning at subnational levels, implementation at designated sites and mobile team to remote/hard-to-reach communities, communication and community engagement, field monitoring and supervision, in efforts to reach all eligible populations in Cambodia.
  - ❖ Funding support to Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Speu province to conduct catch-up immunization at villages on Tonle Sap and other remote villages.

## Healthcare delivery and pathway

- Three virtual clinical case discussion sessions were organized this month on 11, 16 and 18 March with clinical case presentations from Kep, Kampong Speu and Kratie Provincial Hospitals, respectively.
- Oxygen Therapy onsite coaching were conducted in Kampong Cham Province at eight district referral hospitals over the last two weeks and being conducted in Takeo Province this week at other six district referral hospitals. At least ten hospital personnel in each hospital attended the session.
- 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 were conducted in Siem Reap, Kampong Cham and Prey Veng. It will be conducted in Kandal this week, and in Phnom Penh next week.

## 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	
	25,281 NAT Tests past 14 days	2,377 New cases past 14 days	10 New deaths past 14 days	272 Imported cases past 14 days
	2,588,511 Cumulative NAT Tests	135,085 Cumulative Cases	3,052 Cumulative Deaths	
Health Service Provision COVID-19	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 assessment<sup>1</sup> by province

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

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

<b>Stage 2 – Localized community transmission</b>	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
<b>Stage 1 – Imported cases</b>	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		3–4 years (N=610,730)	5 years (N=304,317)	Children	
		≥60 (N=1,378,688)	≥18 years (N=10,000,000)			6 to 11 years (N=1,897,382)	12 to 17 years (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
<b>1<sup>st</sup> dose</b>	43,646 (100%)	1,406,508 (102.0%)	10,258,409 (102.6%)	280,183 (45.9%)	370,881 (121.9%)	2,040,619 (107.5%)	1,828,588 (100.1%)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> dose</b>	43,646 (100%)	1,389,421 (100.8%)	9,909,359 (99.1%)	N/A	268,156 (88.1%)	1,956,667 (103.1%)	1,760,884 (96.4%)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> dose</b>	43,646 (100%)	855,075 (62.0%)	5,814,377 (58.1%)	N/A		773,395 (40.8%)	1,173,505 (64.2%)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> dose</b>		1,113,738 (11.1 %)				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
<b>Number of cases</b>	101	79	29	4	1	3	0	<b>217</b>
<b>Total dose administered</b>	23,784,464	7,457,401	323,344	1,053,151	2,640,564	345,918	890,768	<b>37,548,761</b>
<b>AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses</b>	0.43	1.06	8.97	0.38	0.08	0.87	0	<b>0.60</b>

## 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.