

Philippines

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report #114

7 November 2022

Data reported by the Department of Health on 6 November 2022



4,009,466 Cases	3,928,577 Recoveries	64,274 Deaths	73,575,365 (65.9%)¹ Vaccinated with last dose of primary series

Please see the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) [Daily Case Bulletins](#) and [COVID-19 Tracker](#) for further information.

Summary of the epidemiological situation in Philippines²

Key numbers

6,346 cases (31 Oct - 6 Nov 2022)	9 deaths* (31 Oct - 6 Nov 2022)	83,613 tests (31 Oct - 6 Nov 2022)	11.2% Test Positivity Rate (31 Oct - 6 Nov 2022)
20.6% ICU bed occupancy for COVID-19 patients (6 Nov 2022)	2,437 ICU beds for COVID-19 patients (6 Nov 2022)	24.3% Non-ICU bed occupancy for COVID-19 patients (6 Nov 2022)	21,181 Non-ICU beds for COVID-19 patients (6 Nov 2022)

*Obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 death tally as of 7 November 2022

COVID-19 cases

The trend of reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines for the past three weeks (17 October - 6 November 2022) is decreasing. There were 6,346 new cases (5.7 cases per 100,000 population³) reported on 31 October - 6 November 2022 that is 30.0% lower than new cases reported on 24 - 30 October 22 [9,086 new cases (8.1 cases per 100,000 population³)], while on 17 - 23 October 2022, there were 11,982 new cases (10.7 cases per 100,000 population³). On 31 October - 6 November 2022, the following regions recorded the highest case counts: National Capital Region (1,196 cases), Region IV-A: CALABARZON (718 cases), and Region VI: Western Visayas (603 cases).

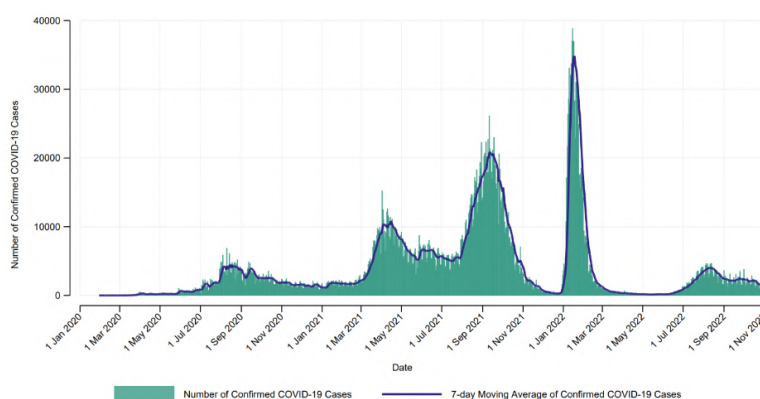


Figure 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (30 January 2020 - 6 November 2022)

¹Percent of total population (n = 111,572,254)

²Weekly case counts were obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 PROJECT

³Total population (n=111,572,254)

Healthcare utilization

The daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 occupied ICU beds had been in decreasing trend in the past two weeks (24 October - 6 November 2022). There were 509 ICU beds occupied on 31 October - 6 November which is 7.6% lower than the 551 ICU beds occupied on 24 - 30 October, while there were 610 ICU beds utilized on 17 - 23 October 2022. As of 6 November 2022, the COVID-19 ICU bed utilization is 20.6%.

The utilization of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators is in declining trend. There were 273 ventilators utilized (7-day average) on 31 October - 6 November which is 5.7% lower than the 289 ventilators utilized on 24 - 30 October. On 17 - 23 October 2022, there were 293 ventilators utilized. As of 6 November 2022, there are 277 COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators utilized.

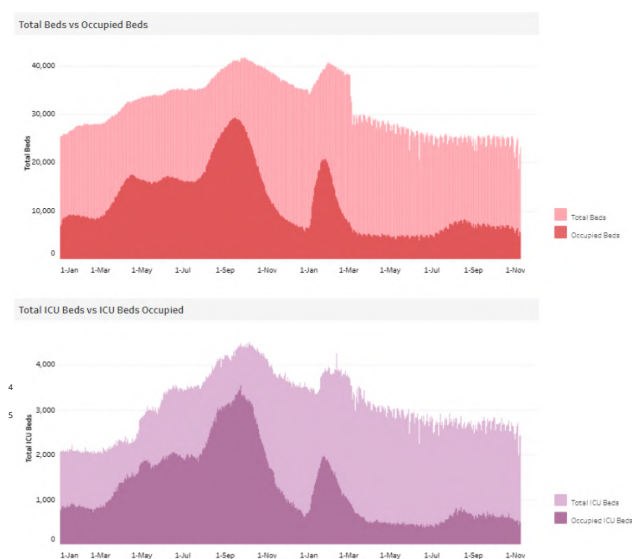


Figure 2. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time stratified by occupancy (as of 6 November 2022)

COVID-19 deaths

As of 6 November 2022, 64,274 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Philippines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 3). From 31 October - 6 November 2022, there were five deaths reported.

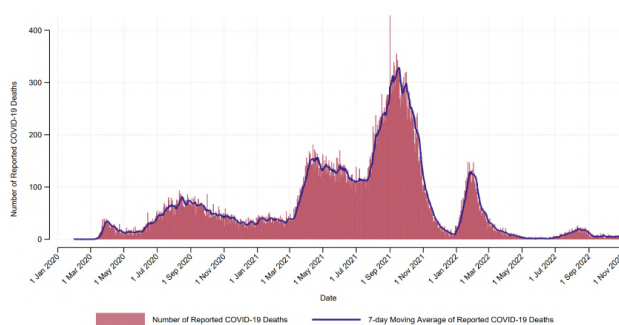


Figure 3. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death since 2020 (as of 6 November 2022)

Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

There is a declining trend in the number of RT-PCR tests conducted and test positivity rates. On 31 October - 6 November, the testing rate was 0.7 tests per 1,000 population (83,613 tests); 10.1% lower compared to testing rate on 24 - 30 October in which 0.8 tests per 1,000 population (93,025 tests) were recorded. On 17 - 23 October, there were 0.9 tests per 1,000 population (105,157 tests) were recorded.

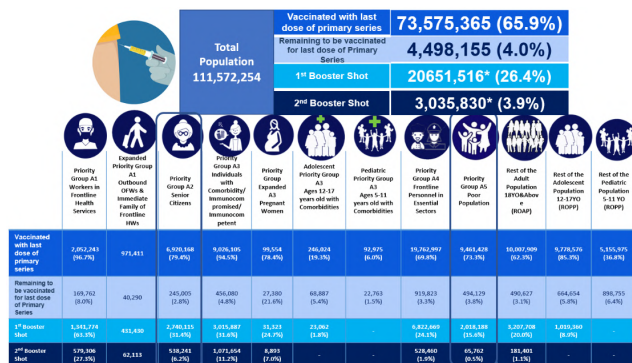
On 31 October - 6 November, the test positivity rate was 11.2%, which is 8.2% lower than the test positivity rate reported on 24 - 30 October (12.2%). On 17 - 23 October, the positivity rate was 13.4% while 14.8% was reported on 10 - 16 October.

From 24 October to 6 November 2022, there were no updates on genomic surveillance from the Department of Health.

Vaccination

As of 6 November 2022, 65.9% of the total population were vaccinated with last dose of primary series. From 31 October - 6 November 2022, 152,716 jabs were administered. Among healthcare workers (A1 priority group), the coverage is 96.7%, with 63.3% having received the first booster dose and 27.3% received the second booster dose.

The vaccination coverage (last dose of primary series) of the vulnerable sectors of the population - elderly population (A2 priority group), persons with comorbidities (A3) and poor population (A5), were 79.4%, 94.5%, and 73.3% (Figure 4). For the booster shots, 26.4% of the eligible population received the first booster while 3.9% received the second booster jab.



*eligible population for booster

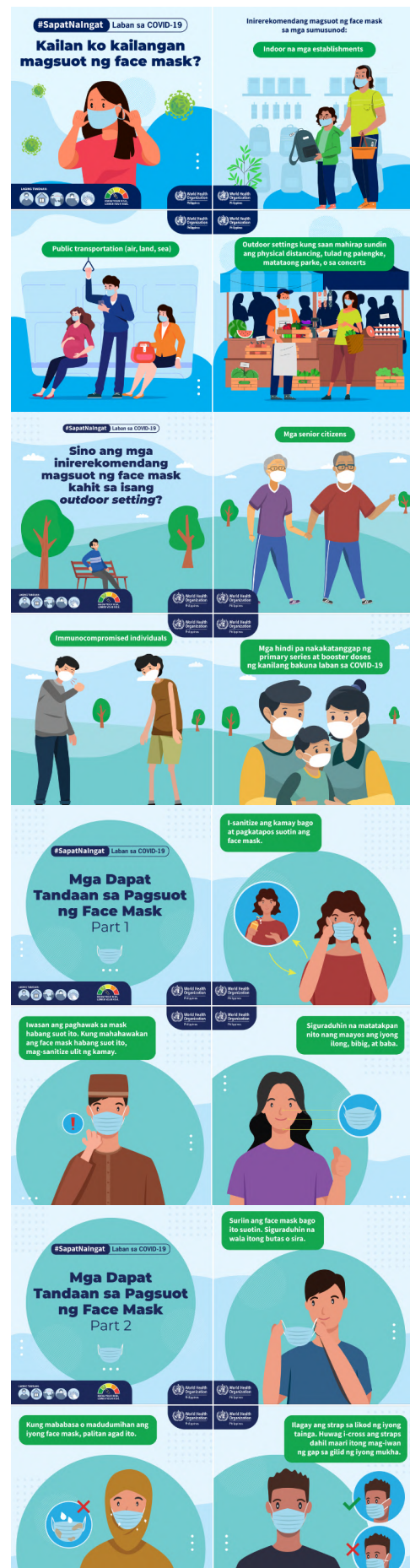
Figure 4. Overview of COVID-19 vaccination status of Philippines' population, as of 6 November 2022

Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection, and Control

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Risk Communications

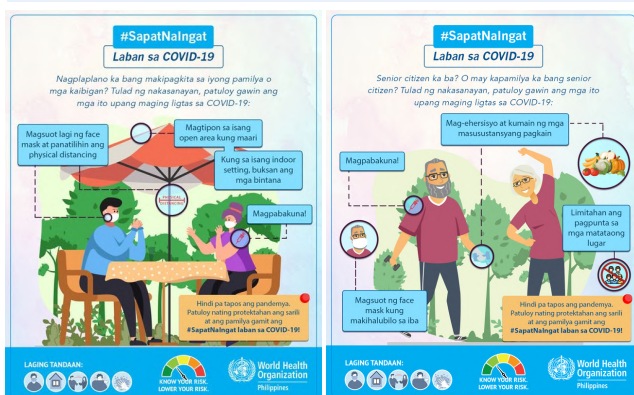
WHO Philippines published risk communication messages on mask wearing especially for people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 disease and during gatherings this coming holidays. These cards are part of the #SapatNalngat campaign.



WHO Philippines published videos on the importance of wearing masks in different settings and based on people's risks.



WHO Philippines re-published two #SapatNalngat cards which focuses on safe gatherings and protecting our senior citizens during the pandemic.



Community Engagement

WHO Philippines published the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) People In Need - Philippines story entitled, Philippines: Local health workers champion COVID-19 safety on remote islands. People on a remote island in the Philippines have enhanced their defences against COVID-19, with the help of a civil society organization, local government units, local health care workers and the World Health Organization (WHO). This initiative is also supported by the European Union.

Partner Coordination

Updates from USAID

USAID's EpiC visits Zamboanga del Norte Medical Center (ZDNMC) to provide capacity-building support on mechanical ventilator use

USAID's Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) COVID-19 Project, managed by FHI 360 in the Philippines, recently conducted a two-day field visit in ZDNMC. EpiC met with ZDNMC Acting Chief of Hospital Dr Oswald Lamdag and discussed key programmatic areas in their COVID-19 response and how EpiC can provide the needed support. EpiC noted the lack of mental health programs, wherein healthcare workers had limited access to psychosocial support before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. EpiC conducted a mental health seminar attended by 35 healthcare workers to address mental health challenges within the institution and with the help of knowledge-sharing and advocacy activities. Ms. Rea Celine Villa, Technical Consultant for Mental Health, discussed immediate remedies for mental health challenges during the seminar.

EpiC also trained 24 hospital staff in medical oxygen basics, including safety precautions and infection prevention and control. During the training, EpiC recommended ways to improve the oxygen ecosystem, such as the manual setup of the oxygen system or manual transport of cylinders from the oxygen storage to the areas of request.



Engr Christian Macale, Biomedical Engineering Consultant, elaborated on his proposals and recommendations to improve ZDNMC's hospital oxygen ecosystem.

USAID's EpiC conducts an integrated technical visit at Masbate Provincial Hospital (MPH) to help in their overall COVID-19 response

On 6 and 7 October 2022, USAID's Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) COVID-19 Project managed by FHI 360 in the Philippines facilitated an integrated technical visit to MPH. The two-day visit focused on the conduct of learning sessions for both the clinical and non-clinical staff. Physicians and nurses participated in the LEARN COVID-19: Clinical Care Pathways Training, while both clinical and ancillary staff participated in the mental health awareness session. In addition, ancillary staff (e.g. utility, housekeeping) and maintenance department staff, who are tasked to handle the oxygen system and related operations at the hospital, attended the medical oxygen ecosystem seminar.

Each session served as a venue for discussion of technical and operational concerns, ranging from patient care and referral, vaccination status of staff and patients, stress debriefing for healthcare workers, ventilator use and management by the clinical staff, and medical oxygen delivery as well as oxygen system operations, protocols, and best practices.

Masbate Provincial Hospital is situated in the southernmost part of mainland Luzon. Its geographic location is one of the main reasons for the limited services in the province, including healthcare, supply and transport, and human resources. Laboratory testing for COVID-19 is done outside the province with a turnaround time of three to four days. The hospital is the province's main healthcare facility with a bed capacity of 200 and manages COVID-19 cases. Currently, COVID-19 case admissions in the province are primarily incidental and among children. The mobile network connection was also observed to be difficult in the area, posing a challenge in coordination and reliable connection, as well as access to online resources and virtual meetings or webinars.



MPH's physicians and nurses enrolled and trained in the LEARN COVID-19 Clinical Care Pathways Training Workshop. USAID's EpiC Senior Clinical Technical Advisor, Dr Ma. Bella Siasoco, facilitated the session via Zoom.



USAID's EpiC also trained physicians, nurses, technicians, and utility and maintenance personnel on various topics in the oxygen ecosystem and ventilator management, including a discussion on best practices and recommended oxygen system setup and handling.

USAID's EpiC conducted a stress debriefing and management session among the learners to increase their awareness and understanding of the importance of building mental health resilience among healthcare workers. Learners shared their experiences and insights on stress at work, especially during the COVID-19 case surge, and how they cope to maintain good mental health.



USAID's ReachHealth activity rolls out initiatives integrating COVID-19 vaccination and Family planning

USAID's ReachHealth project conducted demand generation activities to encourage more people to get vaccinated as they receive family planning information and services. In Albay, an integrated activity was conducted at the SM Legazpi mall where modern family planning information and commodities were provided along with COVID-19 vaccination. A similar family planning caravan with COVID-19 vaccination was conducted in Caloocan City in October with a total of 84 new family planning clients and 228 attendees were vaccinated.

USAID has been implementing innovative ways to conduct social mobilization for COVID-19 vaccination and dispelling misinformation about vaccines in Caloocan. With the Caloocan City Health Department and Save the Children, USAID's ReachHealth project helped deploy church leaders, barangay health worker leaders, and senior citizens as "Rumor Warriors" to promote accurate and beneficial information about COVID-19 vaccines to residents of barangays 171 and 176 .



Rumor Warriors of Barangay 176 in Caloocan as they plan out their target residents to convince to get their shots

This encouraged nearly 12,000 people to get vaccinated in these two barangays. The USAID-supported mobile vaccination team in Caloocan also took advantage of the recent holidays to conduct the *Oplan Kaluluwa* and vaccinated residents at their homes during the Undas weekend (31 Oct - 2 Nov). In Laguna Province, mobile vaccination teams have been roaming in economic zones to target workers who may not have time after work to get their COVID-19 shots.



USAID supported Mobile Vaccination Teams (MVT) in Caloocan taking advantage of the long weekend to conduct the Oplan Kaluluwa vaccination drive

USAID and U.S. Peace Corps visited a couple of vaccination sites in Cebu, particularly in Ubos Poso pop-up vaccination site and SM City Fixed vaccination site on 26 October 2022, wherein a total of 130 jabs were administered. Since May 2022, USAID's ReachHealth project and U.S. Peace Corps have worked together in supporting the Cebu City Government's vaccination efforts through human resource augmentation to fixed and pop-up COVID-19 vaccination sites.



Peace Corps Agency Director, Ms Carol Spahn (2nd from the left), and Dr Daisy Villa, Cebu City Health Officer (2nd from the right), visited Basak San Nicolas pop-up vaccination site (left) and SM City Fixed vaccination site (right) where USAID ReachHealth and Peace Corps are providing technical support

Updates from UNICEF

Support to Early Childhood Education (ECE) in COVID-19

UNICEF, in partnership with the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council conducted a pilot initiative on safe ECE reopening. This resulted in an increase in the number of children attending from 2,458 at the start of the pilot to 2,481 at the end of the pilot. The experiences during the pilot were considered in the adoption of the ECCD Council's guidelines for safe reopening of child development centers (CDCs) and Supervised Neighborhood Playgroups (SNPs) starting 5 September 2022.

As part of UNICEF's support to safe Early Childhood Education (ECE) and school reopening, key local government officials in almost all of the municipalities and cities of Northern Samar, Samar and Zamboanga del Norte and majority of Valenzuela City and Cagayan de Oro City were oriented on the guidelines for ECE reopening.



Jolina Murallos, a child development worker, engages learners at the National Child Development Center of Gamay, Northern Samar during the last week of the Safe ECE Reopening in Region VIII.
© UNICEF/2022/Cecille Dajoyag



Lorraine Cinco, ECCD focal person of Gandara, Samar, shares plans for safe reopening of CDCs in their municipality. © Cecille Dajoyag/2022



Psyche Vetta Olayvar, ECD Specialist, discusses with participants the importance and urgency to safely reopen CDCs and Supervised Neighborhood Playgroups (SNPs) during the orientation on safe ECE reopening workshop in Calbayog City.
© Cecille Dajoyag/2022

Risk communication and community engagement

UNICEF, together with WHO and DOH, updated the *Usapang Bakuna* – the COVID-19 communication guide for community health workers, social mobilizers and other frontline workers. The printing is ongoing for over 80,000 copies to be distributed to frontline workers through the regional health offices. Through the support of Relief International, the guide is also being translated into the major Philippines languages of Cebuano, Hiligaynon, and Maranao.



UNICEF, together with WHO and Relief International, supported DOH in the RCCE weeklong microplanning training with 382 health promotion officers and demand generation planners and implementers for COVID-19 vaccination at the regional, provincial, and city levels. UNICEF delivered modules on microplanning, supportive supervision, and risk communication, and provided technical assistance in updating the regional and local demand generation plans in 17 regions across the country.



Kathleen Solis, Social and Behavior Change Specialist from UNICEF Philippines, provides an overview of the demand generation planning process and strategies to participants of the DOH training on RCCE microplanning. © DOH/2022



Aly Narvaez, a Social and Behavior Change Consultant, delivers the module on risk and crisis communication for COVID-10 vaccination. © DOH/2022

UNICEF and Human Development and Empowerment Services (HDES) have officially wrapped up its support on COVID-19 and routine immunization risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) in Region IX.

Through this support, 8 local governments received technical assistance on demand generation planning; 1,670 health workers, volunteers, and other frontline workers were trained in RCCE; 3,759 people, including local officials and community leaders, were engaged to support COVID-19 and routine immunization actions; 293,321 people, including 25,124 parents and caregivers, 18,762 IPs and 376 people with disabilities who are vaccine-eligible, were reached with messages on immunization, and; 5,691 people shared concerns and asked questions through established and strengthened feedback mechanisms.



Health promotion officers, municipal health officers, and other demand generation implementers across the country gather for the week-long training. © DOH/2022

In the project implementation reviews, most partners attributed their increase in vaccination acceptance and uptake to social mobilization (especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas), risk communication, and capacity-building support from UNICEF and HDES.

UNICEF and Relief International completed its technical support on COVID-19 demand generation in select municipalities and cities in Region IX.

A total of 1,386,971 people, including 208,921 vaccine-eligible individuals, were reached with messages regarding COVID-19 vaccination, prevention, WASH, and COVID-19 home care using different communication platforms such as radio, mobile loudspeakers, and in-person learning sessions, and through participating in community activities.

In addition, 1,762 local officials, 1,624 community leaders and 451 community-based organizations from partner municipalities and cities were engaged to support vaccination and address issues and barriers related to access to vaccination.

Around 4,528 people also provided feedback, asked questions, and/or raised concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccination and related services.



UNICEF Philippines and Relief International conducted project implementation reviews and exit meetings with local government partners in Region IX to wrap up the technical assistance. © UNICEF/2022

UNICEF, through Relief International, is supporting selected areas in Regions IV-A, VI, CARAGA, and BARMM on demand generation planning and integration of routine messages in COVID-19 RCCE activities, training of barangay health workers, advocacy with local officials, and social mobilization to reach senior citizens and booster-eligible populations.

Through the support, 2,993 health workers and other frontline workers were trained on RCCE; 5,515 people, including local officials and community leaders, were engaged to support COVID-19 actions; 877,843 people, including 36,406 vaccine-eligible individuals were reached with COVID-19 messages, and 3,512 people shared concerns and asked questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms.

UNICEF and Relief International also supported the *Bakunahang Bayan*, the national government's social mobilization campaign, which integrates multiple efforts of local government units, national government agencies, development partners, and the private sector to intensify COVID-19 vaccination. The support provided includes demand generation planning, coordination with partners, awareness-raising, social mobilization, and social listening.

Through the support, 5,046 people, including eligible individuals, were reached and engaged in the RCCE activities for the *Bakunahang Bayan*.



A social mobilizer from Relief International conducts RCCE activities in the *Bakunahang Bayan* Launch in Region VI. ©Relief International/2022



A social mobilizer from Relief International helps promote the *Bakunahang Bayan* in Quezon through group learning sessions. © Relief International/2022