

Philippines

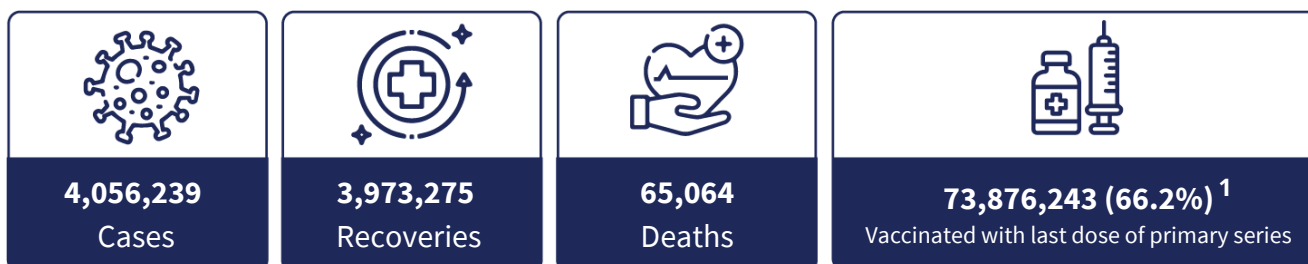
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report #117

19 December 2022
Data reported by the Department of Health on 18 December 2022



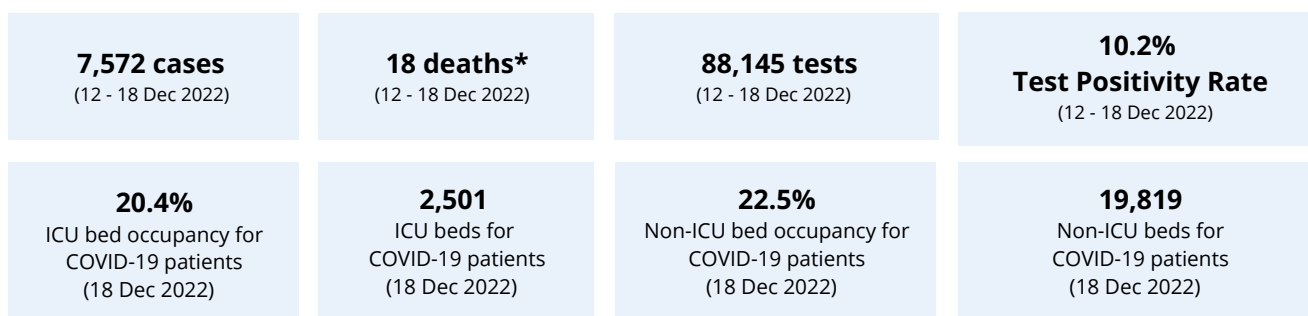
Photo credit: DOH Philippines



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



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

COVID-19 cases

The trend of reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines is fluctuating. On 12 - 18 Dec 2022, 7,572 cases (7.2 cases per 100,000 population³) were reported - 9.0% lower than cases reported in the previous week [5 - 11 Dec: 8,289 cases (7.5 cases per 100,000 population³)]. On 28 Nov - 4 Dec, there were 7,731 cases (7.0 cases per 100,000 population³), and on 21 - 27 Nov: 8,029 cases (7.2 cases per 100,000 population³). On 12 - 18 Dec 2022, the following regions recorded the highest case counts: National Capital Region (3,049 cases), Region IV-A: CALABARZON (1,135 cases), and Region III: Central Luzon (696 cases).

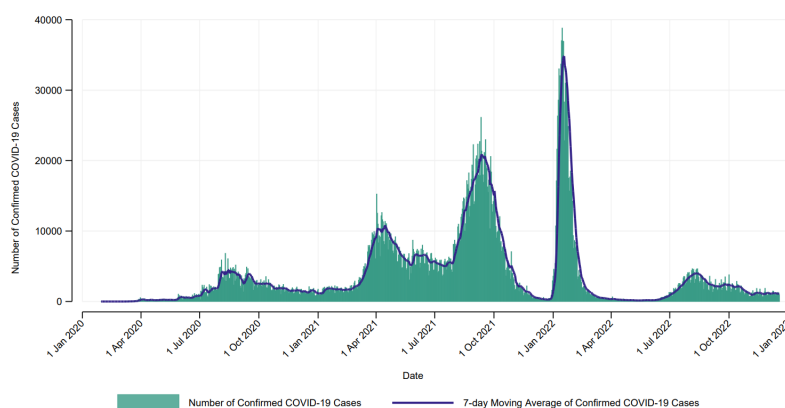


Figure 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (30 January 2020 - 18 December 2022)

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 and the number of utilized COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators (7-day average) are both at stable, low levels (Figure 2).

The number of ICU beds occupied in the last four weeks are as follows: 12 - 18 Dec (524 beds); 5 - 11 Dec (522 beds); 28 Nov - 4 Dec (545 beds); and 21 - 27 Nov (513 beds). ICU utilization as of 18 Dec 2022 is 20.4%.

The number of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators utilized in the past four weeks are as follows: 12 - 18 Dec (279 ventilators); 5 - 11 Dec (264 ventilators); 28 Nov - 4 Dec (260 ventilators); and 21 - 27 Nov (277 ventilators). As of 18 Dec 2022, there were 249 ventilators utilized.

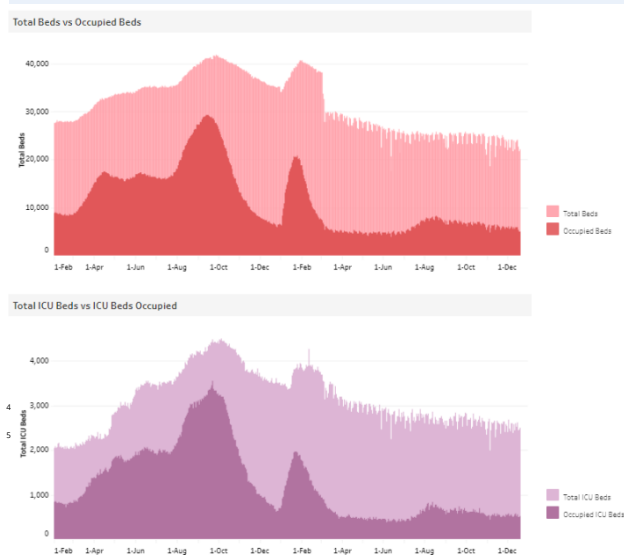


Figure 2. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time stratified by occupancy (as of 18 December 2022)

COVID-19 deaths

As of 18 Dec 2022, 65,064 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Philippines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 3).

From 12 - 18 Dec 2022, there were 13 COVID-19 related deaths reported.

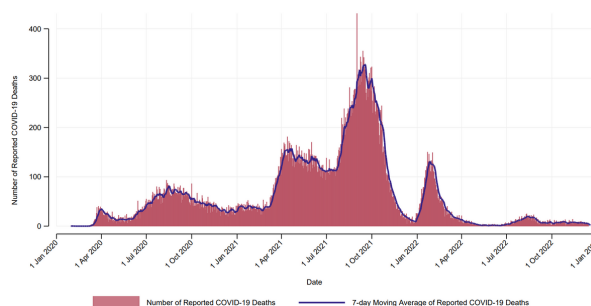


Figure 3. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death since 2020 (as of 18 December 2022)

Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

There is a stable trend in the number of RT-PCR tests conducted. On 12 - 18 Dec 2022, 83,462 tests were conducted; 5 - 11 Dec: 83,270 tests; 28 Nov - 4 Dec: 87,158 tests; and on 21 - 27 Nov: 89,246 tests. On 12 - 18 Dec 2022, the test positivity rate is 12.1%, this is 8.3% lower than the test positivity rate on 5 - 11 Dec (13.2%).

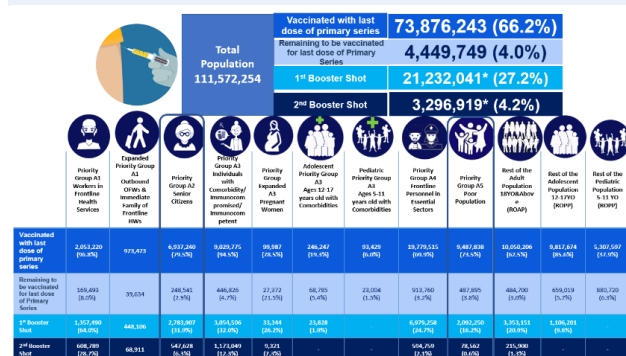
From the 131 samples sequenced by the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center between 5 - 9 Dec, 30 (22.90%) were Omicron BA.2.3.20, one (0.76%) was BA.2.75, three (2.29%) were BA.5, 52 (39.69%) were XBB, nine (6.87%) were XBC, and 32 (24.43%) were other Omicron subvariants (i.e. BA.2.3, BA.2.10.1, B.1.1.529). BA.2.3.20 was detected in samples from Regions III, VI, XI, XII, and BARMM. The single BA.2.75 case was detected in a sample from Region III, while the three BA.5 were detected in samples from Regions XI, XII, and NCR. XBB was detected in samples Regions III, VI, VII, and XI, while the XBC were from Regions VI, XI, and BARMM.⁴

⁴ LATEST COVID-19 BIOSURVEILLANCE REPORT | Department of Health website (doh.gov.ph)

Vaccination

As of 18 Dec 2022, 66.2% of the total population were vaccinated with the last dose of the primary series. From 12 - 18 Dec 2022, 156,137 jabs were administered.

Among healthcare workers (A1 priority group), the coverage is 96.8%, with 64.0% having received the first booster dose and 28.7% 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 79.5%, 94.5%, and 73.5% (Figure 4). Four of the 17 regions have vaccinated (last dose of primary series) at least 90.0% of their elderly population (Table 1).



*eligible population for booster

Figure 4. Overview of COVID-19 vaccination status of Philippines' population, as of 18 December 2022

Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A2)							
REGION	Projected Pop (Priority Group A2)	Vaccinated with last dose of primary series	%	Vaccinated with first dose of primary series	%	1st Booster Shot	2nd Booster Shot
NCR	1,154,257	1,101,845	95.4%	19,489	1.7%	675,232	302,843
CAR	135,093	123,048	91.1%	6,092	4.5%	60,791	16,963
1	501,412	454,593	90.7%	14,817	3.0%	219,233	17,858
2	323,017	301,692	93.4%	10,117	3.1%	123,063	9,251
3	1,064,045	843,985	79.3%	30,601	2.9%	401,087	66,054
4A	1,273,740	1,051,260	82.5%	48,364	3.8%	433,074	78,577
Mimaropa	235,283	166,909	70.9%	10,546	4.5%	54,176	3,225
5	466,893	363,279	77.8%	15,940	3.4%	94,837	5,816
6	735,157	568,789	77.4%	(5,481)	-0.7%	145,826	7,769
7	677,107	411,466	60.6%	9,527	1.4%	104,361	10,990
8	389,645	275,021	70.6%	14,589	3.7%	71,118	2,951
9	273,362	209,463	76.6%	8,892	3.3%	65,562	3,221
10	384,311	287,247	74.7%	15,811	4.1%	114,453	7,136
11	407,116	267,663	65.7%	32,205	7.9%	81,827	9,810
12	306,824	219,227	71.5%	12,610	4.1%	56,782	2,727
CARAGA	207,153	184,894	89.3%	(6,013)	-2.9%	50,377	2,244
BARMM	186,876	107,059	57.3%	10,435	5.6%	32,108	193
PHIL	8,721,291	6,937,240	79.54%	248,541	2.8%	2,783,907	547,628

Table 1. Overview of vaccination of A2 population per region in the Philippines (18 December 2022)

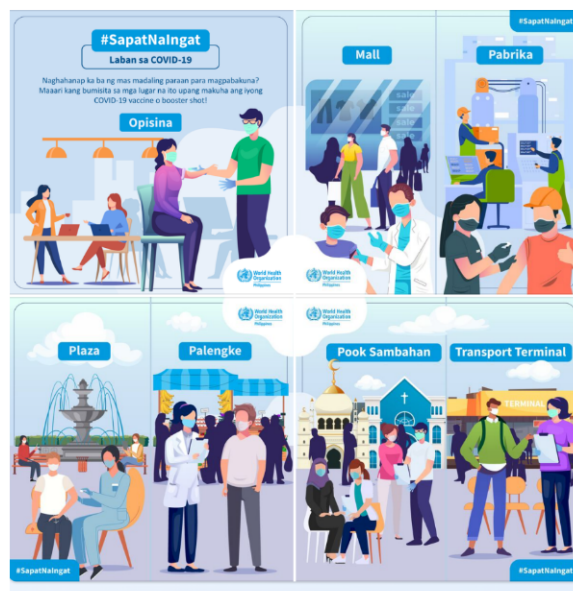
Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection, and Control

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Risk Communications

WHO Philippines published a 4-panel card highlighting the areas where Filipinos can get their COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.

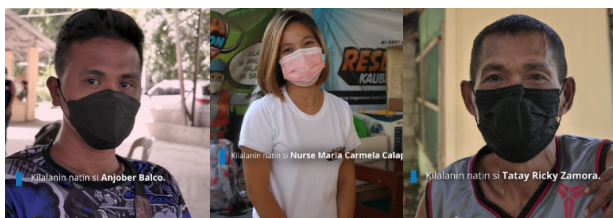
This was published in support of the the Department of Health Special Vaccination Days from 5-7 December 2022.



WHO teams supported the Special Vaccination Days in the National Capital Region on 5-7 December 2022. Christine Joy Peradilla (Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization) and Dr Wendell Asuncion (Subnational Support) visited vaccination sites in Caloocan and Pasig cities. Local Government Units (LGUs) of Caloocan and Pasig cities conducted mobile vaccination teams (*Vax Van* in Pasig and *ReachHealth* in Caloocan) to target the priority population, school age children, during these special vaccination days.

WHO Philippines re-published the #BakunadoAko microstories/videos of Anjober Balco, Maria Calapan, and Ricky Zamora across all social media platforms.

These videos feature the real-life experiences of Filipinos in getting their COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, encouraging others to do the same.



WHO Philippines 2022 Year-End Video was released featuring Dr Graham Harrison, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the WHO Representative to the Philippines, sharing what the country office is hopeful about in 2023 and beyond.

In the Philippines, health sector reform has been accelerated by the passage of the Universal Health Care or UHC Law in 2019. Implementing UHC in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging, but the World Health Organization remains steadfast in supporting the Department of Health and the Philippine Government in achieving the shared vision of "Health for All."



Partner Coordination

Updates from USAID

USAID's EpiC trains healthcare workers in Mindanao on Caring for Carers modules on mental health

USAID continues to support building resilient mental health teams within hospitals. On 16 and 17 November 2022, 32 healthcare workers from 14 hospitals in Mindanao completed the pilot training of the Caring for Carers modules on mental health in Davao City organized by the USAID's Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) COVID-19 project managed by FHI 360.

Packaged and outlined into five modules, the two-day training was designed to equip healthcare workers with knowledge and strategies to foster healthier mental health practices while they continue to ensure the public's health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. The training also introduced and promoted the Department of Health's initiatives and activities to support healthcare workers' mental health.



Ms Rea Celine Villa, Mental Health Advisor of USAID's EpiC, facilitating the two-day training with five topics, including mental health support for self, others, and communities.



Learners identifying and discussing their sources and indicators of stress and how they cope and do self-care.

USAID's ReachHealth handover of COVID-19 Home Isolation Benefit Package Kits in Mandaue City and Western Visayas

USAID's ReachHealth project provided 500 COVID-19 Home Isolation Benefit Package (CHIBP) Kits to help jumpstart Mandaue City's CHIBP PhilHealth accreditation.

The kits were officially received by Dr Dominga Obenza and Dr Debrah Maria Catulong of Mandaue City Health Office.

Additionally, 500 CHIBP Kits were also handed over by the project to help Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) hasten their CHIBP PhilHealth accreditation. The kits were received by Dr Joseph Dean Nicolo, WVMC's Chief of Hospital. The project also officially turned over 4,150 RT-PCR test kits to Usdag Molecular Laboratory of Iloilo City which were received by Dr Roland Jay Fortuna, head of the COVID-19 operations of Iloilo City.



USAID ReachHealth turning over the 500 CHIBP Kits to Mandaue City Health Office. Starting from the left: Mr Miguel Angelo Lucero, USAID ReachHealth Regional Manager for Visayas; Dr Dominga Obenza CHO Mandaue City; Ms Katherine Boiser, USAID ReachHealth Technical Officer for Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu Cities; Dr Debra Maria Catulong, Medical Officer 3.

Updates from UNICEF

UNICEF, through Relief International, continues to support selected areas in Regions IV-A, VI, XIII (CARAGA), and BARMM on demand generation for COVID-19 vaccination

Through the support, 3,612 health workers and other frontline workers were trained on RCCE; 6,199 people, including local officials and community leaders, were engaged to support COVID-19 actions; 4,403,575 people, including 86,743 vaccine-eligible individuals, were reached with COVID-19 messages through different platforms, and; 30,689 people shared concerns and asked questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms.

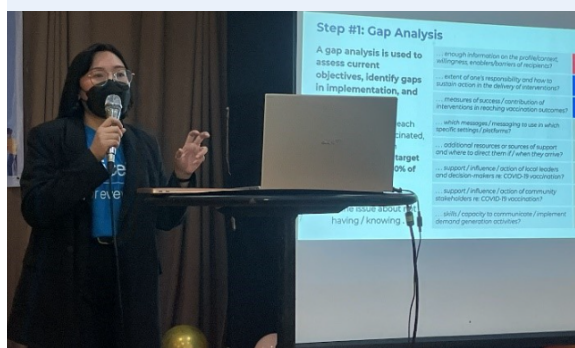
The support recently focused on demand generation activities, such as awareness-raising through local radio and *rekorida*, social listening, and engagement of religious leaders and other influencers,

to contribute to DOH's Bakunahang Bayan: Special COVID-19 Vaccination Days Part II, a three-day nationwide vaccination drive from 5 - 7 December 2022 that aimed to increase booster uptake and vaccination coverage among children aged 5 to 11.



UNICEF and Relief International supports distribution of visibility materials and community-based awareness-raising in Quezon to promote Bakunahang Bayan: Special COVID-19 Vaccination Days Part II.
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UNICEF, together with Relief International, supported the Provincial Health Office of Negros Occidental in conducting the risk communication and community engagement microplanning training in Bacolod City from 12 - 13 December 2022. A total of 41 health promotion officers, social mobilizers, and vaccination implementers for COVID-19 and routine immunization from 14 municipalities in Negros Occidental were trained and supported in building their demand generation microplans. UNICEF delivered modules on microplanning and supportive supervision, and provided technical assistance throughout the training and planning process.



Aly Narvaez, a Social and Behavior Change Consultant from UNICEF, discusses the demand generation microplanning process for COVID-19 vaccination.
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