

# Philippines

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### Situation Report #119

16 Jan 2023

Data reported by the Department of Health on 15 Jan 2023



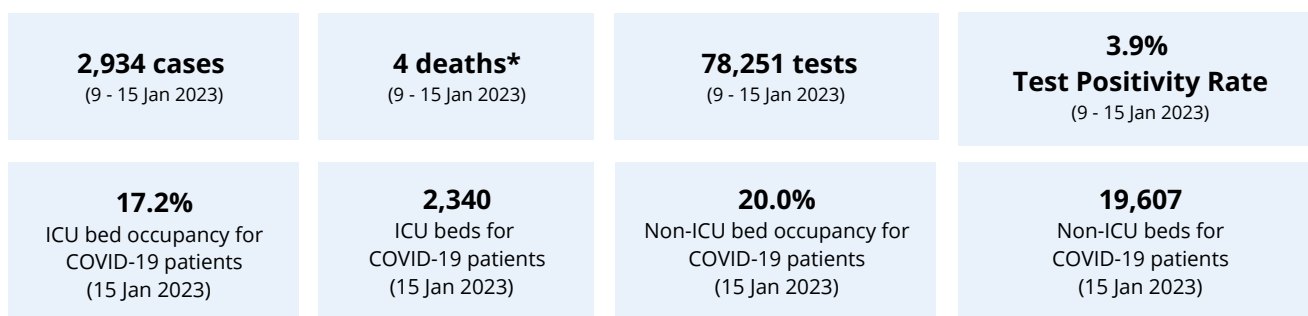
Photo credit: DOH Philippines



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

## Summary of the epidemiological situation in Philippines<sup>2</sup>

### Key numbers



\*Obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 death tally as of 16 Jan 2023

### COVID-19 cases

The trend of reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines is decreasing. On 9 - 15 Jan 2023, 2,934 2.6 cases per 100,000 population<sup>3</sup>) were reported and this is 6.0% lower than cases reported on 2 - 8 Jan [3,125 cases (2.8 cases per 100,000 population<sup>3</sup>)]. On 26 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023, there were 3,458 cases; and on 19 - 25 Dec, there were 5,690 cases. Among the 17 regions, National Capital Region (947 cases), Region IV-A: CALABARZON (467 cases), and Region II: Cagayan Valley (240 cases) recorded the highest case counts on 9 - 15 Jan 2023.

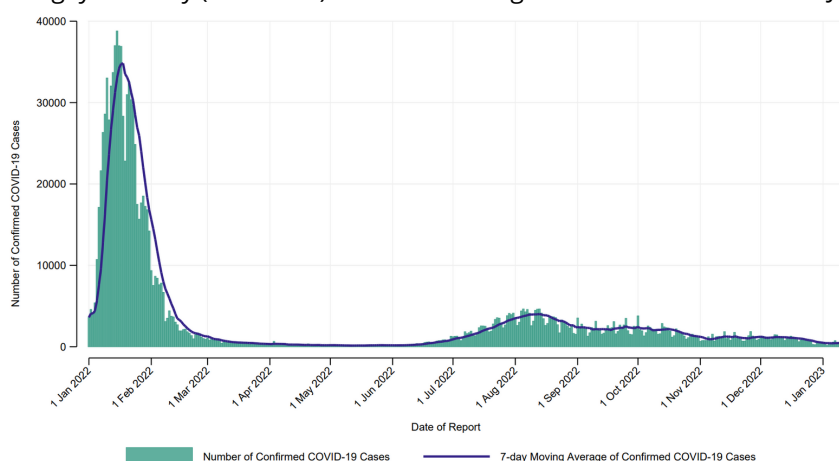


Figure 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (1 Jan 2022 - 15 Jan 2023)

<sup>1</sup>Percent of total population (n = 111,572,254)

<sup>2</sup>Weekly case counts were obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 PROJECT

<sup>3</sup>Total population (n=111,572,254)

## Healthcare utilization

Over the last four weeks (19 Dec 2022 - 15 Jan 2023), the daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 occupied ICU beds (Figure 2) and the number of utilized COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators (7-day average) were at a stable level.

The number of ICU beds occupied in the last four weeks are as follows: 9 -15 Jan 2023 (415 beds), 2-8 Jan (435 beds), 26 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023 (429 beds), and 19 - 25 Dec 2022 (489 beds). The ICU utilization as of 15 Jan 2023 is 17.2%.

The number of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators utilized in the past four weeks are as follows: 9 -15 Jan 2023 (257 ventilators), 2-8 Jan (256 ventilators), 26 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023 (243 ventilators), and 19 - 25 Dec 2022 (272 ventilators). As of 15 Jan 2023, there were 214 ventilators utilized.

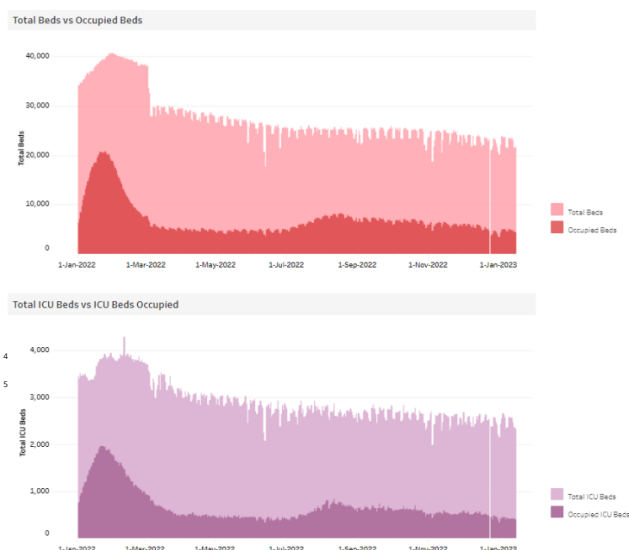


Figure 2. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time stratified by occupancy (1 Jan 2022 - 15 Jan 2023)

## COVID-19 deaths

As of 15 Jan 2023, 65,590 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Philippines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 3).

From 9 - 15 Jan 2023, there were four deaths reported.

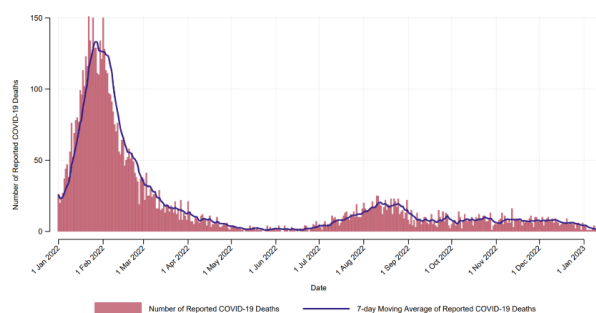


Figure 3. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death since 2020 (1 Jan 2022 - 15 Jan 2023)

## Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

Over the last three weeks (26 Dec 2022 - 15 Jan 2023), the number of RT-PCR tests conducted have been increasing while the test positivity rates were in a decreasing trend. On 9 -15 Jan 2023, 78,251 tests were conducted; 2 - 8 Jan: 74,378 tests; and on 26 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023: 55,972 tests. The test positivity rate on 9 -15 Jan 2023 was 3.9%, 5.3% on 2 - 8 Jan, and 7.7% on 26 Dec 2022 - 1 Jan 2023.

Of the 137 samples sequenced by the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center and Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) on 3 - 9 January 2023: 52 (38.0%) were classified as Omicron BA.2.3.20, 28 (20.4%) were XBB, 24 (17.5%) were tagged as Other Omicron subvariants, 13 (9.5%) were XBC, ten (7.3%) were BA.5 (including three cases classified as BF.7 and one case as BQ.1), one (0.7%) was BN.1 (reported under BA.2.75), and one case was Delta (with specimen collection date in mid-Dec 2022).

Of the 52 BA.2.3.20 cases, 51 were local cases from nine regions (Regions I, II, III, IV-A, V, VI, VII, CAR, and NCR), while the remaining case was a Returning Overseas Filipino (ROF). All XBB and XBC cases were local cases from eight regions (Regions I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, XI, CAR, and NCR). Of the ten BA.5 cases, six were local cases from Regions VI and XI, while the remaining four cases were classified as ROFs.

The BN.1 case was a local case from Region VI while the Delta case was from Region III. The eight XBC cases were from Region XI while the BA.4 case came from Region IV-A.

## Vaccination

As of 15 Jan 2023, 27.4% of the eligible population received the first booster dose while 4.3% received the second booster dose. From 9 - 15 Jan 2023, 117,140 jabs were administered. Among healthcare workers (A1 priority group), 64.2% have received the first booster dose and 29.0% received the second booster dose. Among elderly population (A2 priority group), 32.0% received the first booster and 6.3% with the second booster dose (Figure 4). NCR is the only region that has vaccinated at least 50.0% of their elderly population with first booster dose (Table 1).

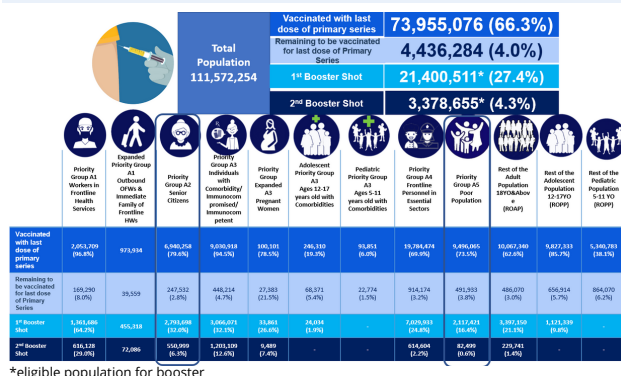


Figure 4. Overview of COVID-19 vaccination status of Philippines' population (15 Jan 2023)

Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A2)						
REGION	Projected Pop (Priority Group A2)	Vaccinated with last dose of primary series	%	1st Booster Shot	%	2nd Booster Shot
NCR	1,154,257	1,101,853	95.5%	676,428	58.6%	305,781
CAR	135,093	123,078	91.1%	62,658	46.4%	17,396
1	501,412	454,765	90.7%	219,741	43.8%	17,858
2	323,017	301,714	93.4%	123,273	38.2%	9,251
3	1,064,045	844,209	79.3%	402,169	37.8%	66,054
4A	1,273,740	1,051,445	82.5%	433,973	34.1%	78,577
Mimaropa	235,283	166,941	71.0%	54,373	23.1%	3,225
5	466,893	363,403	77.8%	95,026	20.4%	5,816
6	735,157	568,957	77.4%	146,266	19.9%	7,769
7	677,107	411,658	60.8%	104,723	15.5%	10,990
8	389,645	275,197	70.6%	71,610	18.4%	2,951
9	273,362	209,501	76.6%	65,697	24.0%	3,221
10	384,311	287,380	74.8%	114,882	29.9%	7,136
11	407,116	267,792	65.8%	82,116	20.2%	9,810
12	306,824	219,451	71.5%	57,085	18.6%	2,727
CARAGA	207,153	185,220	89.4%	50,729	24.5%	2,244
BARMM	186,876	107,694	57.6%	32,949	17.6%	193
PHIL	8,721,291	6,940,258	79.58%	2,793,698	32.0%	550,999

Table 1. Overview of vaccination of A2 population per region in the Philippines (15 Jan 2023)

## Partner Coordination

### Updates from USAID

#### USAID's EpiC facilitates back-to-back community of practice webinars on COVID-19 case management

COVID-19 continues to change our lives and how we do things, especially in promoting and protecting public health. USAID's Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) COVID-19 Project managed by FHI 360 conducted two clinical community of practice webinars on the latest local COVID-19 guidelines and long COVID in the last two months of 2022. Cumulatively, 900 healthcare workers across the country participated in these learning sessions.

In Nov 2022, Dr Regina Berba, the hospital infection control unit head of the UP-Philippine General Hospital shared and discussed the current guidelines and practices in the management of COVID-19 in the Philippines in terms of Prevention, Detection, Isolation and Quarantine, Treatment, and Reintegration.

In Dec 2022, EpiC discussed long COVID with Dr Rontgene Solante, an infectious disease specialist from San Lazaro Hospital. This session aimed to increase the knowledge and awareness of long COVID by presenting real-world evidence and discussing the symptomatology, pathophysiology, diagnostics, and management of various post-COVID conditions.

USAID's EpiC Community of Practice (CoP):  
A COVID-19 Webinar Series

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#### COVID-19 During the 2022 Omicron

Best Practices, Re-integration, and FAQs

November 9, 2022 (Wednesday)  
10 AM to 11:30 AM PHT (Manila Time) via Zoom

#### Long COVID:

What we know so far

December 20, 2022 (Tuesday)  
10 AM to 11:30 AM PHT (Manila Time) via Zoom

SPEAKER



**Regina Pascua-Berba, MD, MPH**  
• Infectious Disease Specialist, Research  
University of the Philippines - College of  
• Chair of Hospital Infection Control Unit  
Protocol, University of the Philippines  
• 2022 Most Influential Filipino Women in  
Thought Leaders Category, Filipino Women  
• People of the Year 2022, People's Voice  
• Presidential Award from 2015 to 2021, I  
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

SPEAKER



**Rontgene M. Solante, MD, FPCP**  
• Chairman, Adult Infectious Diseases and Tissue  
• Vice President, Phil College of Physicians  
• Associate Professor, UERMAMC Department  
• ID Attending Physician, ManilaMed, Adventist  
• Past President, Phil Society for Microbiology  
• Fellow, Philippine College of Physicians (PCP)  
and Infectious Diseases (PIMAD)  
• Fellow, Infectious Diseases Society of America