

Philippines

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report #124

27 Mar 2023

Data reported by the Department of Health on 26 Mar 2023



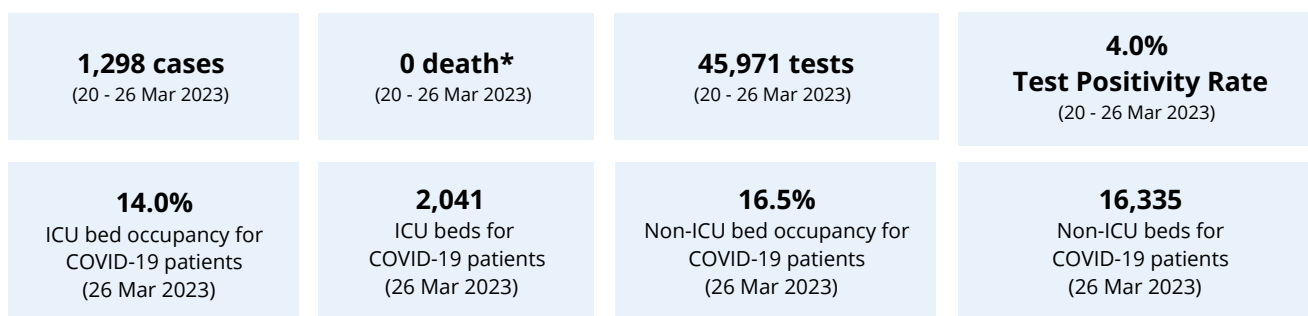
Photo credit: DOH Philippines



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

Summary of the epidemiological situation in Philippines¹

Key numbers



*Obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 death tally as of 27 Mar 2023

COVID-19 cases

As of 26 March 2023, four weeks of increasing trend in the number of reported COVID-19 cases has been observed; 20 - 26 Mar 2023, 1,298 (1.2 cases per 100,000 population); 13 - 19 Mar, 1,170 (1.0 case per 100,000 population); 27 Feb - 5 Mar 2023, 913 cases (0.8 case per 100,000 population) and 6 - 12 Mar, 983 cases were reported (0.9 case per 100,000 population).

From 20 - 26 Mar, the three regions with highest reported case counts were, National Capital Region reporting 354 cases, Region X: Northern Mindanao reporting 175 cases, and Region XI: Davao Region reporting 171 cases.

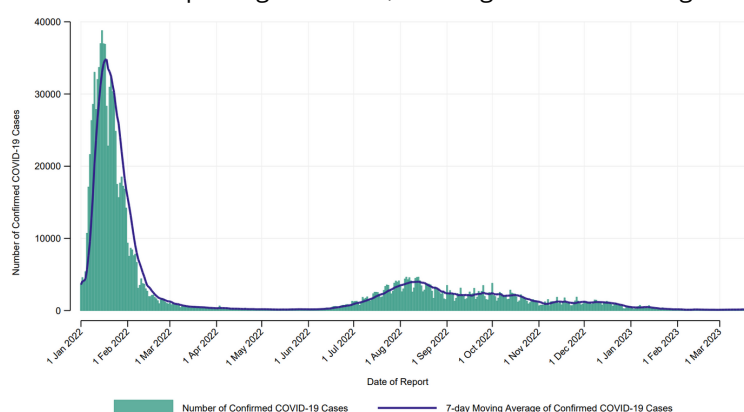


Figure 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (1 Jan 2022 - 26 Mar 2023)

¹Weekly case counts were obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 PROJECT

Healthcare utilization

From 27 Feb - 26 Mar 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 both stable.

The number of ICU beds occupied per week are as follows: 20 - 26 Mar (299 beds), 13 - 19 Mar (300 beds), 27 Feb - 5 Mar (289 beds), and 6 - 12 Mar (291 beds). The ICU utilization as of 26 Mar 2023 is 14.0%.

The number of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators utilized per week are as follows: 20 - 26 Mar (159 ventilators), 13 - 19 Mar (161 ventilators), 27 Feb - 5 Mar (179 ventilators), and 6 - 12 Mar (182 ventilators). As of 26 Mar 2023, 150 ventilators were utilized.

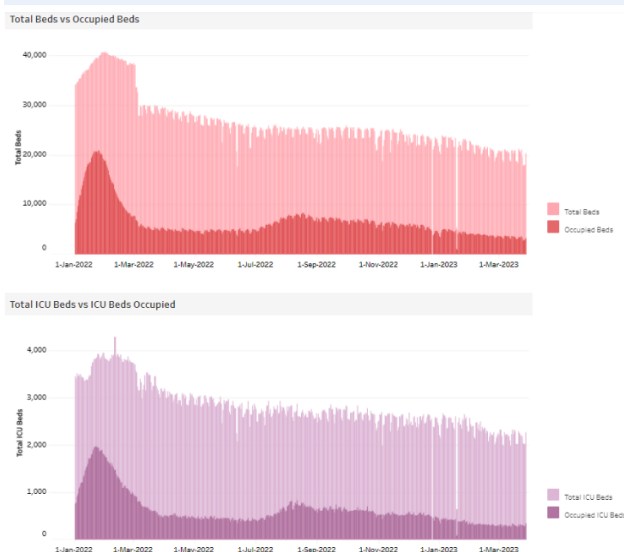


Figure 2. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time stratified by occupancy (1 Jan 2022 - 26 Mar 2023)

COVID-19 deaths

As of 26 Mar 2023, 66,332 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Philippines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 3).

No deaths were reported from 20 - 26 Mar 2023.

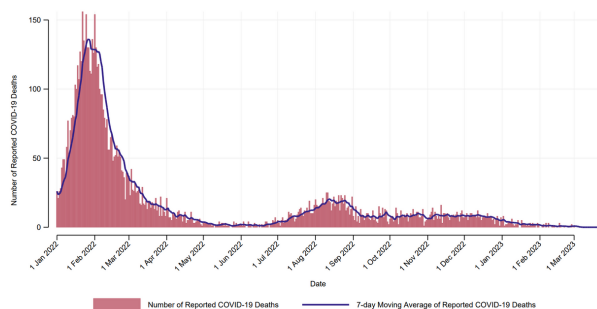


Figure 3. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death (1 Jan 2022 - 26 Mar 2023)

Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

From 27 Feb to 26 Mar 2023, the number of RT-PCR tests conducted continued to decline.

On 20 - 26 Mar, 45,971 tests were conducted; 13 - 19 Mar: 49,992 tests; 6 - 12 Mar, 50,531 tests were conducted; and on 27 Feb - 5 Mar: 56,750 tests.

The test positivity rates are in an increasing trend from 27 Feb - 26 Mar 2023. The test positivity rate on 20 - 26 Mar (4.0%) was 21.2% higher than the previous week (13 - 19 Mar: 3.3%). On 6 - 12 Mar, the test positivity rate was 2.9%, while on 27 Feb - 5 Mar it was 2.5%.

Of the 798 samples sequenced by UP-PGC 6 - 10 March 2023: 264 (33.1%) were classified as BA.5, 259 (32.5%) were BA.2.3.20, 81 (10.2%) were other Omicron sublineages, 72 (9.0%) were XBB, 28 were XBC (3.5%), four (0.5%) were BA.2.75, and three (0.4%) were BA.4.⁴

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

Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

Risk Communications

WHO Philippines published messages encouraging continued practice of public health and social measures (PHSM) to protect individuals and families from COVID-19.

#SapatNalngat Laban sa COVID-19

Kailan at bakit mahalaga ang bentilasyon?

1. May kasama kang may high risk na magkaroon ng malubhang sakit dahil sa COVID-19 (e.g. senior citizens).

2. Nag-aalaga ka ng taong may COVID-19.

Ang wastong bentilasyon ay nakatutulong upang makapasok ang sariwang hangin mula sa labas, at dumagay ang hangin mula sa loob papalabas. Napabababa nito ang panganib na kumalat ang virus sa loob ng isang lugar.

World Health Organization Philippines

#SapatNalngat Laban sa COVID-19

Kailan dapat maghugas ng kamay?

1. Pagkatapos gumamit ng banyo.

2. Matapos suminga, umubo o bumahing.

3. Bago at pagkatapos mag-alaga ng maysakit.

4. Bago kumain.

Tandaan: Maghugas ng kamay nang matatag gamit ang sapon at tubig, o magpahid ng alcohol-based sanitizer.

World Health Organization Philippines

World Health Organization Philippines **#SapatNalngat** Laban sa COVID-19

Mga hakbang para maprotektahan ang sarili at mga mahal sa buhay laban sa COVID-19

LAGING TANDAAN: KNOW YOUR RISK, LOWER YOUR RISK.

1. Magpabakuna laban sa COVID-19. Kunin ang lahat ng inirekomendang dose, kasama ang mga booster dose.

2. Patuloy na gawin ang mga nakaugalian para maprotektahan ang sarili at mga mahal sa buhay (e.g. physical distancing, paghuhugas ng kamay, pagbubukas ng bintana).

3. Kausapin ang iyong komunidad tungkol sa panganib ng COVID-19 at mga paraan para protektahan ang isa't isa.

Magpa-booster tayol!

World Health Organization Philippines