



Situation summary

Please see the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) daily [Situation Update](#) for further information.



2,756,932
Cases



2,654,173
Recoveries



41,793
Deaths



25,614,366
Vaccinated

- DOH recorded 60,957¹ active cases as of 24 October 2021, with the breakdown of active cases (based on disposition upon accomplishing case investigation forms) as follows:
 - Asymptomatic: 3,732 (6.1%)
 - Mild: 47,234 (77.5%)
 - Moderate: 5,607 (9.2%)
 - Severe: 3,079 (5.1%)
 - Critical: 1,305 (2.1%)

- Top regions by Active Cases:

1	National Capital Region (NCR)	11,624
2	Region IV-A: CALABARZON	7,258
3	Region III: Central Luzon	5,811
4	Region II: Cagayan Valley	5,731
5	Region VI: Western Visayas	4,014
6	Region I: Ilocos Region	3,453
7	Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	3,148
8	Region IX: Zamboanga Peninsula	2,941
9	Region VII: Central Visayas	2,867
10	Region XI: Davao Region	2,746

- Out of the total 41,793 confirmed deaths, the most affected age group was 60-69 years old (27%) followed by 70-79 years old age group (22%) and 50-59 years old age group (19%).
- Twenty-four percent (24%) of the total number of deaths reported were from NCR, followed by Central Luzon (13%), CALABARZON (12%), Central Visayas (10%), and Western Visayas (7%).
- DOH recorded a total of 27,213 healthcare workers that tested positive for COVID-19 as of 24 October 2021. Of these, 26,900 (98.8%) have recovered, 106 (0.4%) have died and 207 (0.7%) were active cases. Of the 207 active cases, 87 (42.0%) were mild, 59 (28.5%) were asymptomatic, 27 (13.0%) in severe condition, 25 (12.1%) in moderate condition, and 9 (4.3%) in critical condition.

¹ Data as of 24 October 2021 can be found in [DOH's BEAT COVID-19 report](#).

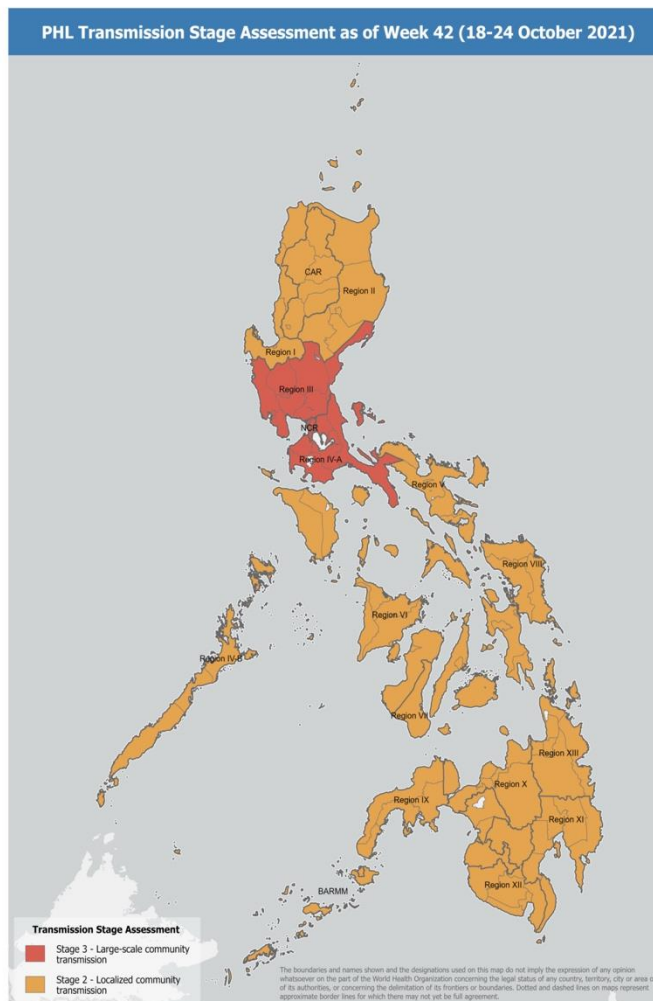


Transmission stage assessment

The Philippines remains at **Stage 2, localized community transmission** with some geographic areas showing higher transmission intensity and indications of widespread community transmission. There is ongoing evidence of higher transmission in **NCR, Region III, and Region IV-A at Stage 3, large scale community transmission**.

In terms of the overall situation of the Philippines, there were 36,629 new cases (33 cases per 100,000 population) reported in week 42, that is 32% lower than the previous week (53,864 new cases, 49 cases per 100,000 population).

A lower 7-day positivity rate (number of individuals that tested positive/number of individuals tested) was reported for week 42 at 10.4% (37,253/357,995), compared to week 41 at 13.2% (49,721/377,920). A reported decrease in the daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 dedicated ICU beds occupied was observed (2,400 beds this week compared to 2,807 beds last week⁴), and a downtrend in the utilization of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators (7-day average) for week 42 (1,303 ventilators compared to 1,541 ventilators last week) was observed.



Data for analysis was extracted on 25 October 2021 from DOH COVID-19 Case Tracker wherein ROFs and records with no regions were excluded in the analysis. Projected 2021 population (national, n=110,198,654) was used as the denominator.



Epidemiological updates

As of 24 October 2021, a total of **2,756,923** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **41,793** deaths have been reported in the Philippines. The case fatality ratio is 1.5%.

Epi Update COVID-19

Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU Occupancy
357,995	36,756	431	52%
Tests past 7 days	Cases past 7 days	Deaths past 7 days	
21,332,398	2,756,923	41,793	4,242
Cumulative unique individuals tested	Cumulative cases	Cumulative deaths	ICU beds for COVID-19 cases
13.7%			
Cumulative Positivity rate			

Health service provision COVID-19

27,213	1,291	39,878	126,698
Healthcare worker cases as of 24 October 2021 (cumulative)	Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients	Total hospital beds for COVID-19 patients	TTMF beds for COVID-19 cases (as of 25 October)
207		41%	
HCW active cases		hospital beds for COVID-19 occupied	

Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

Health Service Delivery

- WHO Philippines coordinated with Bacolod City Emergency Operations, University of St. La Salle, the Department of Health and The Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital on their collaborative work on monitoring home care management. WHO also discussed with the technical department of Cagayan Valley Center for Health Development to further understand the increased deaths at home and isolation/quarantine facilities and recommend possible solutions.
- WHO provided the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) with technical guidance on their return-to-work protocol. BJMP requested WHO to provide recommendations on: (1) return to work policy, (2) preventive measures, work arrangements, 14 days quarantine prior to going back to the workplace and (3) face-to-face visitation policy.
- WHO joined the hand-over of 100 units of oxygen concentrators donated by the Australian government to the Philippines. This life-saving equipment will be allocated to several hospitals in Regions I, II, CAR, IX and BARMM experiencing limited access to medical oxygen.



- WHO Philippines coordinated the arrival of over 840,000 AstraZeneca doses donated by the government of Germany through the COVAX Facility. See the Joint DOH/WHO/UNICEF Press Release [here](#) and the Twitter thread [here](#).

Surveillance and Subnational Assessment

- In Pampanga, increasing trend of cases between August and September was due to the following observations: reported delta variant cases, household and workplace transmission, and poor compliance to the minimum public health standards among vaccinated individuals. Most of the cases admitted in hospitals in full capacity are severe to critical.
- In Zamboanga City, the following is the health care capacity: ICU rate (82%), isolation beds (78%), ward beds (87%), and mechanical ventilators (66%). To address the shortage of medical oxygen in the region, One Oxygen Command Center was activated.
- In Bulacan, the local government units (LGUs) issued ordinances to intensify the PDITR Plus strategies strengthening physical distancing in public places, mandatory use of PPEs (face masks, face shields), and movement restrictions in areas on lockdown, among others.
- In Oriental Mindoro, clustering of cases was reported in several cities, municipalities, barangays, including in some workplaces. This was compounded by late/no detection of cases in geographically isolated and disadvantaged (GIDA) barangays, poor adherence to basic health protocols, and concerns on border and screening controls (i.e. tampered RT-PCR and vaccination cards). Factors facilitating the demand surge of medical oxygen identified were irregular delivery of suppliers to the province and reports of private individuals hoarding medical grade oxygen. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already reiterated its guidelines in regulating the purchase of oxygen and considered it to be a prescription drug.



- In Basilan, a high two-week growth rate at 305% of COVID-19 cases was reported as of 13 October 2021. Basilan General Hospital is the only COVID-19 Referral Hospital which is a Level 1 hospital with no ICU capacity but with a critical care set-up (7 mechanical ventilators and 2 Bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP) machines available). Their oxygen-generating plant has the capacity to provide 14 tanks in 24 hours but currently facing challenges in FDA accreditation due to lack of pipeline. The hospital is in close coordination with the Provincial/City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (P/CDRRMO) to cope with these challenges.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- WHO supported the 4th Public Health Forum on Mental Health hosted by DOH (see DOH Healthy Pilipinas Page on [Facebook](#)) and Region I Center for Health Development Storybook Making contest.
- WHO provided a resource speaker for the Department of Tourism's [Mental Health and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) and for the DZRI [Serbisyo Ora Mismo \(SOS\)](#) to talk about the Investment Case for Mental Health, Special Initiative for Mental Health.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- WHO Representative Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe shared in the [Malacañang Press Briefing](#) WHO's recommendations on giving the third dose to the immunocompromised and the elderly. On 18 October, the DOH announced that it will follow WHO's recommendation.
- WHO recorded an interview for *Evangelicals Today* with Bishop Noel Pantoja of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC). The interview focused on the collaboration of DOH, WHO and the PCEC, and some key issues on the vaccination of senior citizens.
- WHO donated 1,500 rapid antigen diagnostic tests to the Bureau of Jail and Penology – National Capital Region, for testing of persons deprived of liberty and jail staff. See Facebook post [here](#).
- WHO supported the launch of a routine immunization catch-up and community-based immunization campaign aimed to reach children with missed doses for routine vaccines. See Facebook post [here](#).
- WHO provided technical assistance to the Department of Health on communicating about the vaccination of young people aged 12-17 with comorbidities as part of the expanded A3 priority group.
- WHO conducted a field visit to monitor the project implementation of Davao Medical School Foundation (DMSF). A total of 1,331 families were reached by the information campaign in the two barangays (708 families in Sirib; 623 families in Tamayong) during the first phase of the Initiative.
- WHO with UNICEF discussed how to improve vaccination uptake in BARMM, which has 29% coverage among the elderly. Rumors and misinformation on vaccination continue to perpetuate in the region. Among the interventions identified is the development of a package of materials for non-literate audiences. UNICEF is leading the project, using participatory approaches to develop the materials.

Vaccines

- As of 25 October 2021, a total of 56,254,529 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Out of these, 33,914,828 eligible individuals received their 1st dose, and 22,339,701 eligible individuals received their 2nd dose.
- There were 1,559,680 frontline healthcare workers (A1) fully vaccinated and 75,149 partially vaccinated. Collectively, these amount to 99.8% of the master list.



Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A1)				
REGION	Fully Vaccinated	%	Partially Vaccinated	%
NCR	301,749	100.0%	-	0.0%
5	85,506	100.0%	-	0.0%
11	84,692	100.0%	-	0.0%
4A	135,014	99.2%	1,155	0.8%
1	85,749	98.1%	1,660	1.9%
10	82,814	97.7%	1,919	2.3%
7	126,693	96.1%	5,088	3.9%
Mimaropa	44,048	95.5%	2,072	4.5%
2	61,207	95.1%	2,609	4.1%
BARMM	20,237	94.3%	1,214	5.7%
9	53,547	94.3%	2,212	3.9%
8	77,376	94.3%	4,671	5.7%
CAR	41,883	94.0%	2,732	6.1%
12	70,730	93.9%	3,822	5.1%
3	136,670	90.3%	14,732	9.7%
CARAGA	49,709	89.8%	3,860	7.0%
6	102,056	78.8%	27,403	21.2%
PHIL	1,559,680	95.2%	75,149	4.6%

Vaccination Coverage per region for Priority Group A1 as of 25 October 2021.

- A total of 4,612,325 senior citizens, or 55.9% of the masterlisted eligible A2 population, were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and a total of 444,394 senior citizens, or 5.4% of the Priority Group A2 population, were partially vaccinated.



Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A2)

REGION	Fully Vaccinated	%	Partially Vaccinated	%
NCR	933,342	88.8%	40,981	3.9%
4A	735,364	65.8%	86,497	7.7%
CAR	97,137	64.5%	10,163	6.8%
2	216,939	61.9%	20,596	5.9%
10	177,546	56.1%	17,072	5.4%
8	160,156	53.4%	14,671	4.9%
CARAGA	104,276	52.4%	9,058	4.6%
1	280,710	52.3%	34,497	6.4%
3	597,581	52.2%	74,016	6.5%
6	325,174	49.6%	33,915	5.2%
5	224,926	47.5%	15,228	3.2%
9	110,479	46.6%	8,249	3.5%
7	227,385	40.1%	21,177	3.7%
12	122,326	38.0%	9,106	2.8%
11	171,204	37.3%	27,333	6.0%
Mimaropa	94,875	36.3%	15,051	5.8%
BARMM	32,905	29.3%	6,784	6.0%
PHIL	4,612,325	55.9%	444,394	5.4%

Vaccination Coverage per region for Priority Group A2 as of 25 October 2021.

Operations Support Logistics

- WHO Philippines shipped a seventy-two square meter tent and 1,500 Rapid Antigen Tests to Batanes medical center to increase response capacity.
- The Global Fund under their COVID-19 Response Mechanism approved 600 oxygen concentrators with the arrival date to be confirmed soon.



Partner Coordination

Updates from UNICEF

Support to the COVID vaccination roll-out

- UNICEF facilitated the acceptance of additional doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines co-procured by the German government through the COVAX Facility. The UNICEF Philippines post on this arrival reached 3.5 million Facebook users.

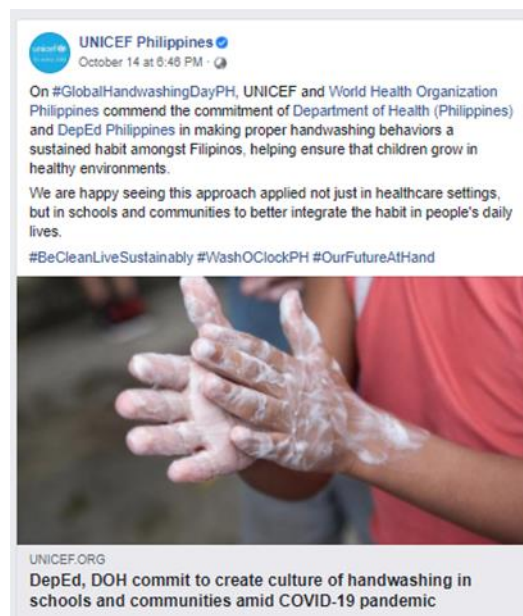


The Philippine Government, through DOH, receives the Astra Zeneca vaccines donated by Germany at NAIA. Representatives from UNICEF, WHO and the German Embassy attended the reception. ©UNICEF/Gimeno/2021



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF, together with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), and WHO, co-convened the Global Handwashing Day symposium last 15 October, to feature best practices in encouraging handwashing in schools, communities, and workplaces amid the pandemic. The symposium reached 700,000 Facebook users, was viewed over 300,000 times and generated 393,600 engagements through reactions, comments, and shares. The symposium can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/8IQvtkYDuw>
- UNICEF reached an additional more than 500,000 users on Facebook with messages on the importance of handwashing to prevent COVID-19 infection.



- UNICEF, in partnership with DOH, developed the campaign “WASH o’clock” as part of the National Handwashing Campaign and launched it on Global Handwashing Day. The campaign uses behavioral nudges to remind people to wash their hands during critical moments as they move around their communities. It includes the installation of signages and public handwashing stations to nudge people to wash their hands in markets, malls, transport hubs, government offices, churches, and health centers. The campaign will be implemented from October 2021 to March 2022.
- UNICEF provided technical assistance in drafting the guidelines for WASH-related infection prevention and control standards and measures in the recently released DepEd and DOH Joint Memorandum Circular no. 1 series of 2021: Operational Guidelines on the Implementation of Limited Face-to-Face Learning Modality last September 27, 2021. This follows the President’s approval of the pilot phase of reopening 120 schools. UNICEF has started processing ‘kick-start’ school hygiene kits and cleaning and disinfection kits to the pilot schools. UNICEF is also working through the DepEd WASH in Schools Technical Working Group on the delivery of material support and technical assistance to capacity-building and managing safe school operations.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF reached 5.7 million users on Facebook through the #SaferTogether social media campaign as part of its continuing efforts to promote the proper practice of COVID-19 prevention actions and



vaccine confidence and uptake. The latest post promotes vaccination for pregnant women under the A3 priority group.

- The campaign also highlights the role of the youth in promoting reliable and fact-based information on COVID-19.



- UNICEF, in partnership with the Human Development and Empowerment Services Inc. (HDES), is supporting select local governments units (LGUs) in Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) on demand generation and RCCE for COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization. UNICEF and HDES work closely with Health Education and Promotion Officers, COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization program managers, and other partners to support LGUs in updating and implementing their demand generation plans on COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization, including components such as capacity building, advocacy, social mobilization, awareness raising, and social listening.
- UNICEF continues to support DOH in the distribution and use of the latest COVID-19 communication guide for health workers and other frontline workers. The Usapang Bakuna guide offers practical tips and techniques on how and what to communicate with vaccine-eligible populations pre-, during, and post-vaccination, and how to handle difficult conversations and respond to vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and adverse effects following immunization.



Health workers and other frontline workers in Masbate go over the Usapang Bakuna guide as part of their contact-tracing training. ©Masbate Provincial Health Office/2021

Early childhood development and education

- Under the 'COVID-19 Recovery Programme for Children in Multigrade Schools in the Philippines', UNICEF and partners DepEd, Fundación Educación y Cooperación, and Smart Communications, Inc., turned over the 'School in a Bag' – a portable digital classroom package – to multigrade schools in Samar and in Northern Samar on October 12 and 14, respectively.
- The 'School in a Bag' supports multigrade instruction and improve student learning by making it more engaging through digital educational materials. Each bag contains a laptop and Smart LTE Pocket WiFi for teachers, and 10 tablets for students preloaded with digitized learning materials such as the gamified Learning Activity Sheets by DepEd, and the #LearnSmart apps, an education program developed by Smart for mother tongue-based literacy and numeracy learning. A total of 50 schools in Northern Samar and Samar received the 'School in a Bag', benefitting about 2,500 children in multigrade education.



- The storybooks *Alas Singko* (Five O' Clock), *Manatiling Ligtas* at Nakangiti (COPE Covid-19 Booklet: Stay Safe and Smiling), and *Ikaw ang Aking Bayani* (My Hero is You) were uploaded on 'Commons', the Learning Resources Portal of DepEd. These books were co-developed and enhanced by UNICEF as part



of the concerted efforts to ensure that learning materials reach the youngest learners in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The books are now available to and accessible for a wider audience.

- UNICEF continues to support DepEd, through the Bureau of Learning Delivery and ICTS, to ensure the delivery of basic education services to learners with disabilities as outlined in the COVID-19 Learning Continuity Plan. To support the 21,175 deaf learners and learners with hearing impairment from Kinder to Grade 10, UNICEF has started a project on embedding the Filipino Sign Language in 200 DepEd-produced learning episodes on TV. These materials will be uploaded to DepEd's online platforms, including DepEd Commons and DepEd TV. Through a more accessible and more inclusive format, deaf learners and learners with hearing impairment will be able to experience quality learning in a blended distance learning modality.

Updates from USAID

- In partnership with the Quezon City Government and its Health Department, USAID's ReachHealth project will deploy mobile testing and mobile vaccination teams. The mobile teams will use jeepneys to best advertise the mobile efforts and attract clients; as well as promote the Philippines and USAID's 60-year development partnership. As part of Quezon City's efforts to re-energize the COVID-19 public awareness, the mobile testing and vaccination initiatives will be launched through a ceremonial activity in early November.



Dr. Juhani Capeding, Service Delivery Advisor of USAID ReachHealth, facilitated the microplanning session, helping the four barangays identify gaps and challenges in their COVID-19 response activities.



Frontliner Llwelyn Furiscal, 31, preparing for the mass swabbing of residents in Bistekville 4 Barangay Culiati, Quezon.

- In Manila, USAID ReachHealth organized a micro planning workshop for four barangays last September 21 to 22. Twenty-two BHERTs, contact tracers, health kagawad, and barangay chairpersons were trained. The workshop helped the barangays develop their COVID-19 response microplans to strengthen surveillance, active case finding, and prioritize vaccine messaging and home-based care. The activity also helped tailor and revise barangays' COVID-19 response plans based on present community conditions.
- In partnership with the Vice Mayor's Office of Davao City, USAID ReachHealth conducted an orientation on COVID-19 Cluster Clinics and Cluster Rapid Action Team (RAT) last September 22 for 74 high risk barangays in the city. Around 200 participants from 74 high-risk barangays in Davao City were introduced to the COVID-19 Cluster Clinic System, a new institutional framework of streamlining COVID-19 response operations at the LGU level, as well as the Cluster Rapid Antigen test (RAT) method which will help COVID-19 first-responders deliver much quicker and efficient response at the



community level and facilitate patient transport from community to Community Isolation Units (CIUs) and Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs).

- USAID, through USAID ReachHealth, supported Cebu City in conducting home vaccination and organizing pop-up vaccination sites. A total of 1,201 mountain barangay community members and senior citizens were vaccinated with a WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine in Barangays Tisa, Punta, and Talamban. USAID donated IT equipment, deployed healthcare workers for data management and operations and oversaw the setup of the pop-up vaccination sites and supported the conduct of the home vaccination.

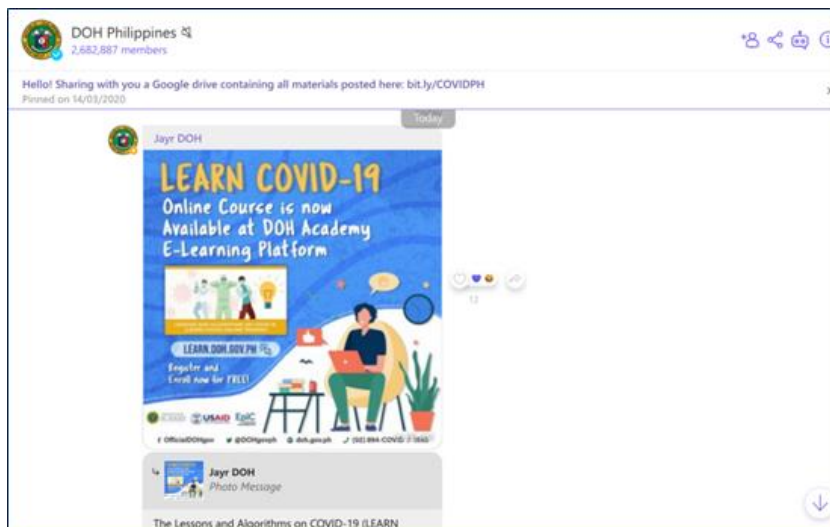


An elderly woman gets registered for a COVID-19 vaccine through the project's mobile vaccination deployment in Daughters of St. Camillus Home Care Facility in Barangay Talamban, where 61 senior citizens were inoculated.



Mountain barangay community members trooped to the pop-up vaccination site in the Cebu City Resource Management and Development Center (CREMDEC). Here, doctors from Cebu Medical Society helped orient them to vaccines and screened them for any allergies or contraindications.

- USAID's EpiC project with support from the Department of Health-Health Human Resource Development Bureau, developed and launched the LEARN COVID online course. The course received accreditation from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to provide Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units to at least 9 professional council boards, including medicine and respiratory therapy. The LEARN COVID is now actively promoted through different social media platforms of the DOH.



- USAID's Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) Project continues to support the Philippines in boosting its COVID-19 testing capacity by upgrading laboratories, training, and expanding specimen transport systems. In collaboration with the Department of Health's Centers for



Health Development and Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit, USAID's IDDS project safely and timely transported 2,154 COVID-19 specimens from collection units within the project sites to designated COVID-19 testing laboratories from September 1 through 30, 2021. On average, 113 samples from Bulacan, Palawan, and Rizal are transported daily to the designated laboratories with reduced turnaround time of 39 minutes to 3 hrs. 42 minutes (from 24 – 48 hours baseline).

