



for the Philippines

3,681,374 Cases



3,593,225 Recoveries





66,741,747 (66.4%))¹ Fully Vaccinated

Please see the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) Daily <u>Case Bulletins</u> and <u>COVID-19 Tracker</u> for further information.

Summary of the epidemiological situation in Philippines²

Key numbers

1,905 cases (4-10 Apr 2022)	25 deaths* (4-10 Apr 2022)		143,271 tests (4-10 Apr 2022)	1.6% Positivity Rate (4-10 Apr 2022)
1,025 Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients	18.4% ICU bed occupancy for COVID-19 patients	2,951 ICU beds for COVID-19 cases	16.4% Non-ICU bed occupancy for COVID-19 patients	24,689 Non-ICU beds for COVID-19 patients

^{*}Obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 death tally as of 13 April 2022

COVID-19 cases

As of 10 April, a total of 3,681,374 COVID-19 cases and 59,769 (1.6%) COVID-19 related deaths had been recorded since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a sudden and sharp increase in cases in late December 2021, but after peaking in early January, a decreasing trend has been continuing in the number of cases reported per day (Figure 1). There were 1,905 new cases (1.7 cases per 100,000 population³) reported in week 14 (4-10 April 2022), that is 29% lower than the previous week (28 March – 3 April 2022: 2,670 new cases, 2.4 cases per 100,000 population³). For week 14, NCR, Region IV-A: CALABARZON, and Region III: Central Luzon recorded the highest case counts at 678, 268, and 199 respectively.

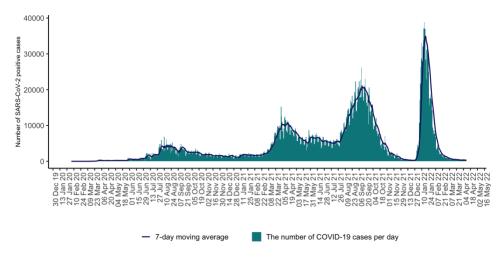


Figure 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (30 January 2020 –10 April 2022)

¹ Percent of total eligible population (5 years and older)

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

³ National population size used (n=110,278,979, Epidemiology Bureau of the Department of Health, 2022)

Healthcare utilization

Following the continuous decreases in COVID-19 cases over the past few weeks, COVID-19 hospital bed and ICU bed utilization has also declined in Philippines since 30 January, and it is currently maintained at stable levels (Figure 2). However, in week 14, there was a slight increase in the daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 dedicated ICU beds: 509 beds compared to 496 beds in the previous week. Utilization of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators (7-day average) also showed a slight increase: 270 ventilators in week 14, compared to 258 ventilators in week 13.

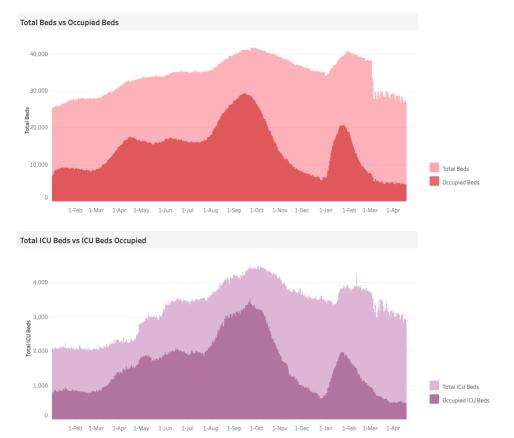


Figure 2. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time stratified by occupancy (as of 11 April 2022)



COVID-19 deaths

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 59,769 COVID-19 deaths were reported in Philippines as of 27 March 2022 with the highest number of over 300 deaths recorded in September 2021 (Figure 3). The deaths increased during the surge in January, but after peaking in mid-January, a declining trend has continued.

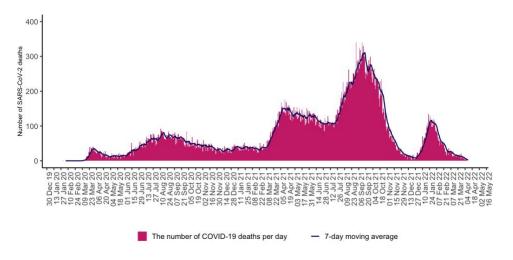


Figure 3. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death since 2020 (as of 10 April 2022)

Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

The testing rate (number of tests per 1,000 population) has decreased in the Philippines to 1.3 tests per 1,000 population for week 14 (previously at 1.4 tests per 1,000 population in week 13). A lower 7-day positivity rate (number of individuals that tested positive/number of individuals tested) was reported for week 14 at 1.6% (2,220/136,821), compared to week 13 at 1.8% (2,618/144,603).

Omicron has become the predominant Variant of Concern (VOC) since the end of January with over 90% dominance in the recently sequenced samples.

Vaccination

As of 11 April 2022, 66% of the target population (5 years and older) were fully vaccinated. Among healthcare workers, who are at increased risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the coverage is high over 94%, with 49% already received a booster dose. Currently, there is particular focus to increase coverage of vulnerable populations; elderly population (A2 priority group), persons with comorbidities (A3) and poor population (A5). Their respective vaccination coverage in Philippines is over 71%, 93%, and 70% (Figure 4). However, it is important to note that there is variation in vaccination coverage between regions, for example, coverage of the A2 population is below 50% in region 7 and BARMM (Table 1). Vaccination coverage of the A5 group is below 50% in 8 regions (Table 2).



Data reported by the Department of Health on 10 April 2022

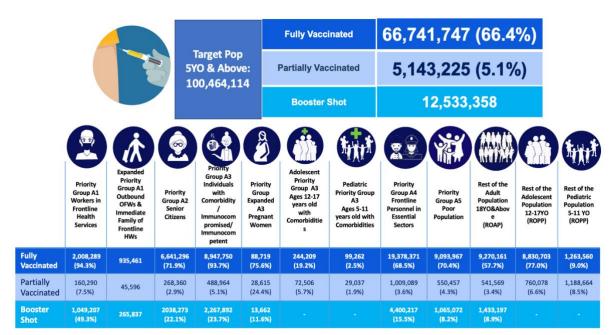


Figure 4. Overview of COVID-19 vaccination status of Philippines' population as of 11 April 2022

Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A2)							
REGION	Projected Pop (Priority Group A2)	Fully Vaccinated	%	Partially Vaccinated	%	Booster Shot	%
2	342,018	301,415	88.1%	10,826	3.2%	83,072	24.3%
CAR	143,040	121,293	84.8%	6,190	4.3%	47,523	33.2%
NCR	1,222,154	1,035,459	84.7%	21,168	1.7%	536,034	43.9%
1	530,907	438,878	82.7%	18,057	3.4%	139,057	26.2%
CARAGA	219,338	169,251	77.2%	(3,572)	-1.6%	26,790	12.2%
4A	1,348,666	1,036,426	76.8%	54,133	4.0%	351,873	26.1%
3	1,126,636	832,145	73.9%	32,892	2.9%	322,916	28.7%
5	494,357	356,574	72.1%	13,772	2.8%	66,002	13.4%
6	778,402	554,903	71.3%	(2,141)	-0.3%	116,395	15.0%
9	289,442	200,590	69.3%	7,921	2.7%	36,990	12.8%
10	406,917	276,195	67.9%	14,887	3.7%	59,968	14.7%
Mimaropa	249,124	162,908	65.4%	9,713	3.9%	34,039	13.7%
8	412,565	267,094	64.7%	14,804	3.6%	43,031	10.4%
12	342,690	208,025	60.7%	8,682	2.5%	37,897	11.1%
11	431,064	259,897	60.3%	31,440	7.3%	55,003	12.8%
7	716,936	354,642	49.5%	17,420	2.4%	74,415	10.4%
BARMM	180,050	65,601	36.4%	12,168	6.8%	7,268	4.0%
PHIL	9,234,308	6,641,296	71.9%	268,360	2.9%	2,038,273	22.1%

Table 1. Overview of vaccination of A2 population per region in Philippines (11 April 2022)

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Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A5)							
REGION	Projected Priority Group A5	Fully Vaccinated	%	Partially Vaccinated	%	Booster Shot	%
NCR	663,588	2,145,915	323.4%	66,682	10.0%	468,751	70.6%
4A	955,143	1,207,117	126.4%	48,816	5.1%	173,925	18.2%
6	967,299	952,671	98.5%	(95,328)	-9.9%	79,369	8.2%
CAR	179,565	148,598	82.8%	7,548	4.2%	17,041	9.5%
2	315,918	228,786	72.4%	22,537	7.1%	17,053	5.4%
3	882,423	629,208	71.3%	53,393	6.1%	97,569	11.1%
1	618,150	403,625	65.3%	36,430	5.9%	43,638	7.1%
7	854,691	471,915	55.2%	39,364	4.6%	30,257	3.5%
11	771,534	424,920	55.1%	40,488	5.2%	24,425	3.2%
9	896,151	443,807	49.5%	33,664	3.8%	28,340	3.2%
5	1,111,587	445,885	40.1%	53,940	4.9%	15,771	1.4%
8	839,772	334,124	39.8%	43,871	5.2%	15,295	1.8%
CARAGA	566,586	214,489	37.9%	27,740	4.9%	10,407	1.8%
10	798,837	301,831	37.8%	28,129	3.5%	17,893	2.2%
Mimaropa	583,026	204,660	35.1%	16,651	2.9%	10,653	1.8%
12	743,511	236,278	31.8%	31,629	4.3%	5,648	0.8%
BARMM	1,163,412	300,138	25.8%	94,903	8.2%	9,037	0.8%
PHIL	12,911,193	9,093,967	70.4%	550,457	4.3%	1,065,072	8.2%

Table 2. Overview of vaccination of A5 population per region in Philippines (11 April 2022)

Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

WCO published a <u>feature story</u> on WHO's support to subnational units of the Department of Health and local government units (LGUs) on increasing the vaccination uptake among senior citizens and indigent populations. WHO staff advocated for closer-to-home and mobile vaccinations, as well as following through on microplanning strategies for a more targeted approach in tackling the "last mile" of COVID-19 vaccination.

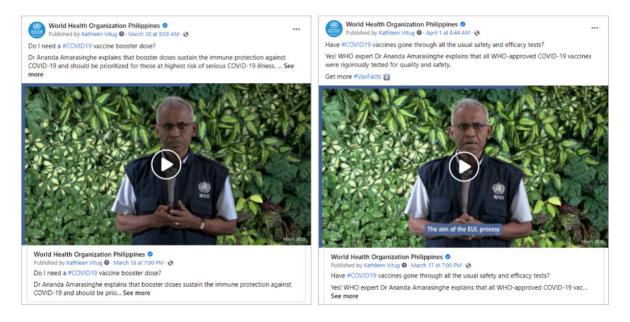


WHO.INT

WHO supports regions to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake among seniors, indigent...



WCO published explainer videos produced by WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific on COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses.



WCO published a press release on the possibility of a surge in COVID-19 cases if unsafe gatherings continue. WHO's statement was picked up by major national media outlets, as well as subnational media and Asia-wide outlets. Citing this pronouncement, key local government authorities, including President Rodrigo Duterte, called on Filipinos to get their booster doses as soon as possible.





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WCO published social media tiles on practising public health and social measures (PHSM) during Ramadan and Holy Week, and the importance of booster doses. The series, published on Facebook and Twitter, also includes messages on factors that must be considered when attending gatherings and celebrations.



for the Philippines



WCO published social media content on the recalibrated strategies to 'reach the unreached' with COVID-19 vaccines to supplement WHO's messages on the importance of booster doses amid the possibility of a surge in cases if unsafe gatherings and social mixing continue.



WCO produced stories for the #BakunadoAko campaign where people's motivations to get vaccinated are highlighted. These stories were gathered during the Special Vaccination Days in Region 11, where WHO staff provided support to local health authorities on reaching more people to complete their primary doses and avail of booster shots.





Partner Coordination

Updates from UNICEF

Education

Under the COVID-19 Recovery Programme for Children in Multigrade Schools in the Philippines, the Multigrade Learning Resource (MGLR) application was handed over to the Department of Education (DepEd) Region VIII. The app will be distributed to 100 multigrade schools in Northern Samar and Samar, which UNICEF has been supporting since 2017. It is expected to benefit about 5,000 multigrade learners.

The MGLR app is a gamified version of the selected quality-assured DepEd Learning Activity Sheets (LAS). It was developed in partnership with the DepEd-Bureau of Learning Delivery (BLD), UNICEF and Fundación Educación y Cooperación (Educo) to supplement students' learning of foundational skills as well as to enhance students' experience in technology-abled learning.



Sample content of gamified DepEd Learning Activity Sheets ©UNICEF/2021/Osawa

UNICEF is currently providing the following technical assistance to the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council in the ongoing piloting of safe Early Childhood Education (ECE) reopening: a) engagement of a Consultant to help the ECCD Council in the management of the pilot, including evaluation and subsequent expansion; b) capacity building of focus LGUs in risk-informed planning for safe reopening of schools and child development centers (CDCs) through the UNICEF-Galing Pook Foundation partnership; and c) coordination and monitoring of pilot CDCs in focus areas.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF, through its implementing partner Relief International, continues to support risk communication and community engagement for COVID-19 prevention and vaccination in Regions VI, IV-A, IX, and NCR. Through the technical support, 14 local governments have continued to update their demand generation plans; 5,159 health workers and volunteers were trained on COVID-19 RCCE; 6,526 local officials, 2,474 local leaders, and 150 community-based groups have been engaged to support the COVID-19 campaign; and 5.4 million people, including eligible populations, were reached with COVID-19 messages through various channels and community-level approaches. Adopting behavior change strategies and working closely with its local government partners, UNICEF and Relief International currently focus their support on reaching unvaccinated populations, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, to promote equity-based vaccination.

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A social mobilizer from Relief International supports house-to-house master listing, social listening and health promotion activities in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna to reach zero-dose and partially vaccinated senior citizens. ©Relief International/2022

Relief International joins health education activities for pregnant women and mothers to promote COVID-19 vaccination, specifically the benefits of booster shots. ©Relief International/2022

UNICEF also works with Human Development and Empowerment Services Inc. (HDES) in supporting seven local government partners in Region IX on demand generation for COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization. Through the support, 516 health workers and other frontline workers have been trained on effectively communicating COVID-19 vaccination, and 1,256 local officials and 2,010 local leaders have been engaged to support COVID-19 and routine vaccination. The support, which focuses on reaching vulnerable and marginalized individuals, has also reached 97,196 COVID-19 vaccine-eligible individuals and parents and caregivers of children under 2 years old with messages on COVID-19 and routine immunization through community-based strategies.



UNICEF and HDES dialogue with members of a Badjao community in Arena Blanco, Zamboanga City to learn more about their unique needs, challenges and concerns on COVID-19 vaccination. The discussion also touches on the causes of hesitancy and refusal in the community, which will be used as evidence in developing more tailored messages and targeted demand generation strategies. ©Zamboanga City LGU/2022



In partnership with the Department of Health-Health Promotion Bureau (DOH-HPB), Zamboanga Peninsula for Health Development and the local government of Zamboanga City, UNICEF is implementing a participatory process to co-create communication materials on COVID-19 prevention and vaccination with vulnerable and differently literate populations. Through ICI Asia, a two-day workshop based on the human-centered design approach was conducted in Zamboanga City to facilitate the co-designing process with vulnerable and marginalized groups, including the elderly, people with comorbidities, indigents, indigenous peoples, the youth and parents. Through the workshop, the participants from these groups developed prototypes of localized COVID-19 communication materials that effectively respond to their unique communication needs and barriers related to COVID-19 vaccination.



Representatives from various vaccine-eligible vulnerable and marginalized groups in Zamboanga City actively participate in the idea generation and prototyping activities during the two-day workshop facilitated by UNICEF, ICI Asia, DOH-HPB, Zamboanga City Demand Generation Team and the Zamboanga Peninsula Center for Health Development to co-create COVID-19 communication materials for individuals with differentiated literacy. ©UNICEF/2022

Updates from USAID

USAID's EpiC project installs mechanical ventilators in Lanao del Sur hospital. On March 29, 2022 USAID's Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Project, together with RG Meditron, successfully installed two units of the U.S. government donated mechanical ventilators in Lanao del Sur in Dr. Serapio B. Montaner Al-Haj Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Serapio B. Montaner Al-Haj Memorial Hospital is one of the three hospitals in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) which USAID supports. The EpiC project trained hospital staff to operate the equipment and perform basic troubleshooting for common issues. Aside from the mechanical ventilators, USAID's EpiC provided additional adult and pediatric patient breathing circuits, heat and moisture exchange filters, and oxygen regulators to augment the capacity of the hospital to provide critical care.

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RG Meditron engineer demonstrating to the hospital staff how to use the mechanical ventilator.

Stakeholders Meet to Better Support COVID-19 Needs in Palawan. USAID's Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) Project teams led by Dr. Soliman Guirgis, Country Lead, facilitated a stakeholders' meeting to better understand the needs of partners in Palawan and identify the best ways to support them under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.



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USAID Supports Safe Return to Face-to-Face Classes in BARMM. The U.S. Peace Corps and USAID's ReachHealth project provided support to the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) in ensuring safe return of face-to-face learning modality in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

USAID handed over a total of PhP3.4M-worth of IT equipment, antigen testing kits and support to 38 data encoders and IT consultants for COVID-19 data management to the Integrated Provincial Health Office of Maguindanao. Cotabato City received a total of PhP1.3M worth of COVID-19 equipment and supplies, while the MHBTE-BARMM received 10,125 antigen testing kits and PPEs for 11 schools' divisions and 28 pilot schools for the face-to-face learning modality in the region.



Engr. Mohajirin Ali, Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) Director General points to the need to further enrich the safe return to school campaign through contingency and communication planning. (Photo by Radzini Oledan/RTI)