

Overall strategy

The World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) encourages countries to improve detection of COVID-19 transmission, to respond to detection with quick and targeted measures, and to focus efforts on preventing transmission among the vulnerable.

Key highlights

- New cases of COVID-19 were reported in 20 Western Pacific Region (WPR) countries or areas within the past 7 days (Australia 122, Brunei Darussalam 4, Cambodia 2 570, China 206, Fiji 9, French Polynesia 42, Guam 37, Japan 29 327, Republic of Korea 4 512, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) 8, Malaysia 15 533, Mongolia 7 592, New Caledonia 3, New Zealand 10, Northern Mariana Islands 2, Papua New Guinea 1 213, Philippines 68 348, Singapore 173, Viet Nam 84 and Wallis and Futuna 2).
- Four countries or areas in the WPR that had reported cases in the past have reported no new cases within the past 7 days (Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu).
- Eleven Pacific Island countries and areas have not reported a case to date (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu).

Epi update

COVID-19

Member States

20

countries or areas reporting cases
in the past 7 days

15

countries or areas reporting ZERO
cases for more than 7 days

Cases

129 799

past 7 days

2 258 194

cumulative cases

Deaths

1 223

past 7 days

35 383

cumulative deaths

Deployments

COVID-19
response

318

total
deployments

242

deployments
completed

38

actively supporting
country offices

20

actively supporting
regional office

13

currently supporting
remotely

Supplies and logistics for health care workers shipped to 37 destinations in the Western Pacific Region (as of 21 April 2021)



9 756 500
surgical masks



1 666 329
particulate
respirators



493 505
medical gowns



313 610
goggles



748 172
face shields



3 239 100
pairs of gloves



16 294
alcohol-based
hand rub
(100mL)



573 024
laboratory tests



166 870
point of care tests



950 690
swab kits



240
ICU ventilators



1 761
Oxygen concentrators

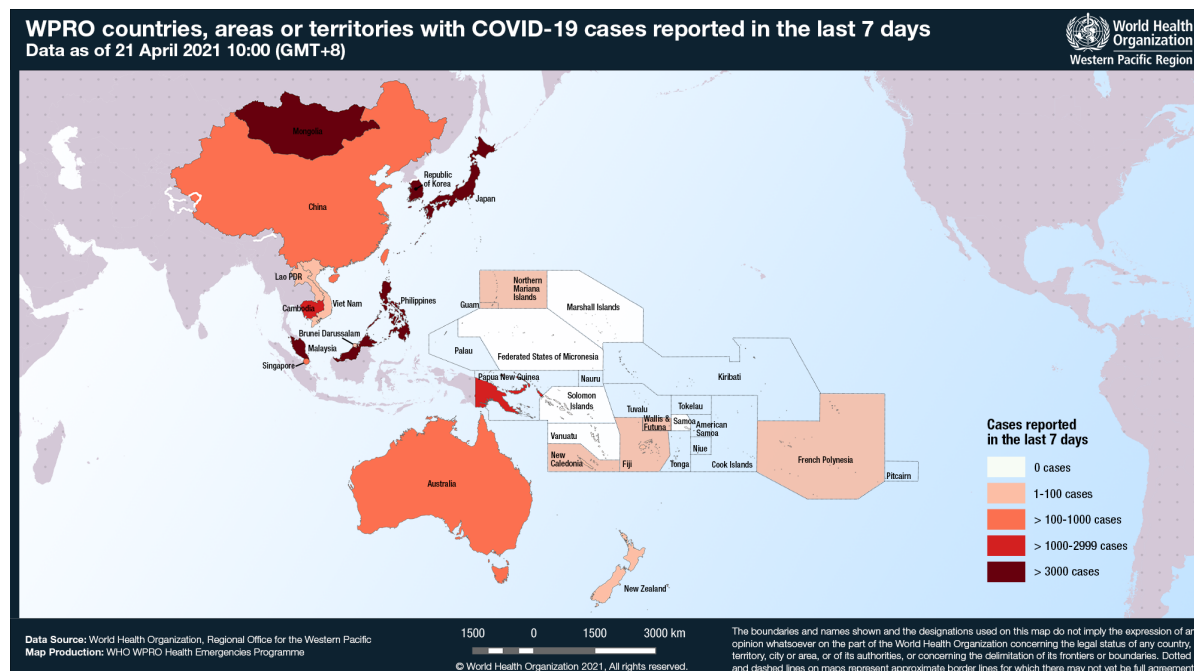


9 917
pulse oximeters

Weekly situation updates

- In the WPR, 24 countries and areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. Between 14 April to 20 April 2021, a total of 129 799 cases with 1 223 deaths were reported, for a cumulative 2 258 194 cases with 35 383 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 1.6%) as of 21 April 2021, 17:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate most countries or areas in the WPR have identified imported cases¹ or localized community transmission, while subnational areas in some WPR countries and areas have identified large-scale community transmission. Data from the Republic of Korea, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Hai Duong province in Viet Nam and Phnom Penh province in Cambodia show localized community transmission. Data from five prefectures of Japan (Hyogo, Miyagi, Nara, Okinawa and Osaka), three states of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Sarawak), Ulaanbaatar province in Mongolia, six provinces in Papua New Guinea (East New Britain, Eastern Highlands, Morobe, National Capital District, Western Highlands and Western Province), and three regions of the Philippines (National Capital Region, Region III and Region IV-A) indicate large-scale community transmission.
- Globally, 141 754 944 COVID-19 cases with 3 025 835 deaths have been reported in 223 countries or areas (2.2% PFC) as of 20 April 2021 15:57 CEST. Recent daily new cases in the Regions of Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean Region and the South-East Asia Region appear to be increasing while the trends of daily new cases in the African Region and European Region appear to have plateaued.

Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19, covering the period from 14 April to 20 April 2021, as of 21 April 2021 10:00 (GMT+8)



¹ 0-No cases—no cases detected and no clear signals of transmission for at least 28 days (or two incubation periods); 1-Imported cases—cases reported in the past 28 days are imported or linked to importation within 3 generations, and there are no clear signals of local transmission; 2-Localized community transmission—cases reported in the past 28 days are localized and cannot be linked to importations, though most are linked to a cluster, and there are no clear signals of large-scale community transmission; 3-Large-scale community transmission—most cases reported in the past 28 days have no known link to a cluster and are spread across the area, and there are clear signals of increasing transmission and severe outcomes.

Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with highest number of cases, as of 21 April 2021 10:00 (GMT+8)

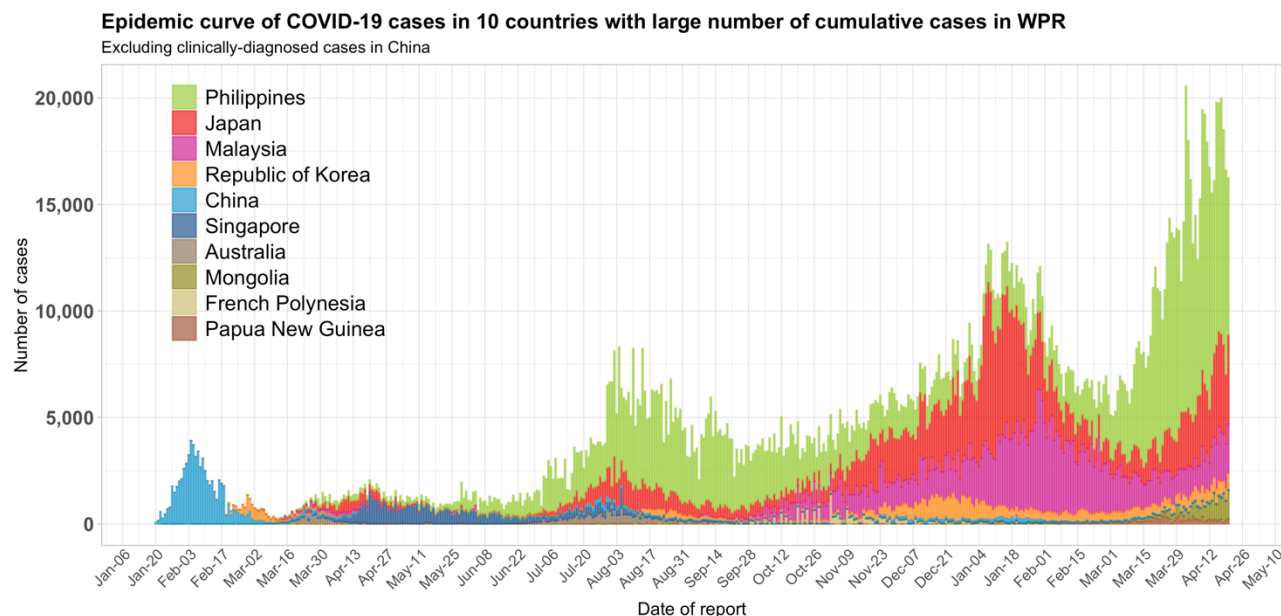


Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with small number of cases, as of 21 April 2021 10:00 (GMT+8)

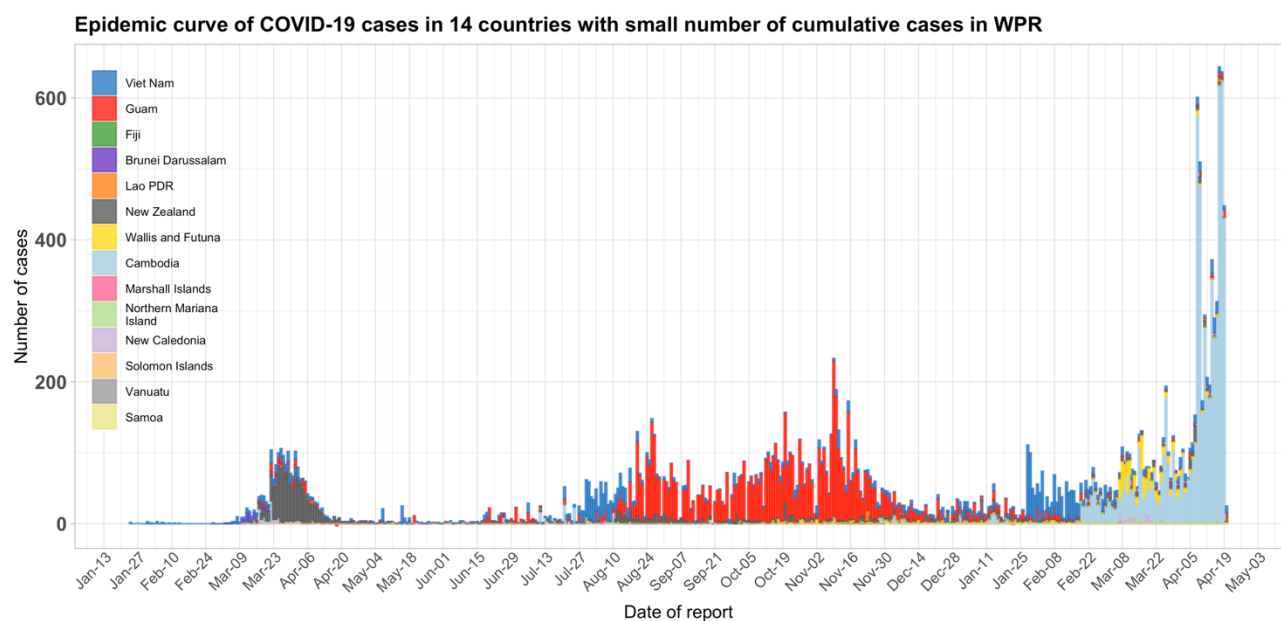


Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 14 April to 20 April 2021, as of 21 April 2021 10:00 (GMT+8) (n = 2 258 194)

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change in 14-day average	Days since last reported case
American Samoa	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Australia	122 (29 559)	0 (910)	7.14	0
Brunei Darussalam	4 (223)	0 (3)	-0.14	0
Cambodia	2 570 (7 444)	14 (49)	87.29	0
China	206 (103 371)	1 (4 856)	1.57	0
Cook Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Fiji	9 (77)	0 (2)	1.14	0
French Polynesia	42 (18 720)	0 (141)	0.57	0
Guam	37 (7 673)	0 (136)	2.29	0
Japan	29 327 (541 496)	241 (9 710)	962.00	0
Kiribati	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Korea, Republic of	4 512 (115 926)	24 (1 806)	-1.29	0
Lao PDR	8 (60)	0 (0)	0.71	0
Malaysia	15 533 (379 473)	44 (1 389)	703.14	0
Marshall Islands	0 (4)	0 (0)	0.00	154
Micronesia (Federal States of)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Mongolia	7 592 (24 195)	24 (51)	377.14	0
Nauru	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
New Caledonia	3 (124)	0 (0)	0.43	2
New Zealand	10 (2 243)	0 (26)	-6.86	0
Niue	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Northern Mariana Islands	2 (162)	0 (2)	0.29	5
Palau	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Papua New Guinea	1 213 (10 197)	20 (91)	-19.57	0
Philippines	68 348 (953 106)	855 (16 141)	-522.86	0
Pitcairn Islands	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Samoa	0 (4)	0 (0)	0.00	65
Singapore	173 (60 865)	0 (30)	0.00	0
Solomon Islands	0 (20)	0 (0)	-0.14	11
Tokelau	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Tonga	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change in 7-day average	Days since last reported case
Tuvalu	0 (0)	0 (0)	-	-
Vanuatu	0 (3)	0 (0)	0.00	44
Viet Nam	84 (2 801)	0 (35)	2.14	0
Wallis and Futuna	2 (448)	0 (5)	-1.86	0

Data continues to be collected and may change according to Member States' daily reports.

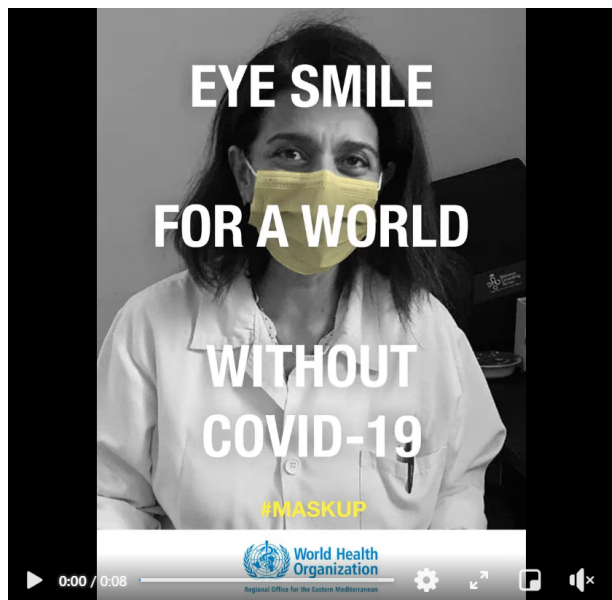
Table 2. Countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region that have reported variants of concern, as of 21 April 2021 10:00 (GMT+8)

Country or area	Variant detected		
	B.1.1.7	B.1.351	B.1.1.28.1
Australia	X	X	X
Brunei Darussalam	X	X	
Cambodia	X		
China	X	X	X
French Polynesia	X		X
Japan	X	X	X
Malaysia	X	X	
New Caledonia	X		
New Zealand	X	X	
Philippines	X	X	X
Republic of Korea	X	X	X
Singapore	X		
Viet Nam	X	X	

New guidance

- On 12 April 2021, WHO Headquarters published an interim guidance on [Reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional food markets](#). Collaboratively published by WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health and the United Nations Environment Programme, this interim guidance provides guidance on actions that national governments should consider adopting urgently with the aim of making traditional markets safer and recognizing their central role in providing food and livelihoods for large populations. In particular, it calls on national competent authorities to suspend the trade in live caught wild animals of mammalian species for food or breeding purposes and close sections of food markets selling live caught wild animals of mammalian species as an emergency measure.

New communications materials



“We continue to [#MaskUp](#) and smile through our eyes as we look forward to all the things we can do in a world without [#COVID19](#).

[#InThisTogether](#)”

Key information and announcements

Finance and administration

- A total of 318 deployments have been made in the WPR since the onset of the pandemic. At present, 38 experts are supporting WHO Country Offices, 20 experts are supporting the WHO Regional Office in Manila and 13 experts continue to provide remote support.

Information and planning

- WHO WPRO is continuing to monitor incidence of COVID-19 and transmission levels within countries and areas across the region. Updated information is available on the [WPRO dashboard](#).
- WHO WPRO continues to work closely with WHO country offices in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines to provide technical assistance for surveillance, analysis and response to the current outbreaks.

Strategic communications

- The WHO Country Office for Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore published a statement on the WHO [website](#) with existing guidance on helping people stay safe during religious observances. The guidance includes the [published advice for the public](#), complemented by [tip sheets for faith leaders](#) on how to maintain religious practices during COVID-19, guidance on [religious events that involve mass gatherings](#) and a series of posters and social media tiles related to safe practices during [Ramadan, Wesak and other major religious events](#).
- The Communication for Health (C4H) Bootcamp: Behavioural Insights for Communication has kicked off with a first session on 15 April attended by over 50 participants from Member States, WHO Regional and Country Offices. Participants engaged in a series of interactive and learning activities to enhance their capacity in applying behavioural insights, in particular to COVID-19 vaccination rollout campaigns.