

Overall strategy

The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific (the Regional Office) encourages Member States to continue to suppress transmission of COVID-19 in order to avoid exceeding health system capacities and to protect vulnerable populations. A risk-based approach using the following tools is recommended: COVID-19 vaccination, calibrated public health and social measures, strengthened health system capacity, early detection and targeted response, and international border measures.

Key highlights

- New cases of COVID-19 were reported in 19 countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region within the past seven days: Cambodia 106, China 171 563, Cook Islands 27, Fiji 77, French Polynesia 82, Guam 131, Japan 1 173 540, the Republic of Korea 469 722, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) 200, Malaysia 5415, Micronesia (Federated States of) 21, Mongolia 168, New Caledonia 824, Niue 44, Palau 13, the Philippines 5188, Singapore 7027, Tonga 201, Vanuatu 2, and Viet Nam 1112.
- Two Western Pacific countries or areas that had previously reported cases have reported no new cases within the past seven days: Tokelau (14 days) and Pitcairn Islands (159 days). American Samoa, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna did not update the number of cases due to reporting issues. Tokelau reported its first COVID-19 cases on 13 December, but the number of cases have not been updated since then.

Epi update COVID-19

Member States	Cases	Deaths
19 countries or areas reporting cases in the past 7 days	1 835 463 past 7 days	3 184 past 7 days
16 countries or areas reporting ZERO cases for more than 7 days	105 571 120 cumulative cases	294 202 cumulative deaths

Deployments COVID-19 response

562	500	19	12	31
total deployments	deployments completed	actively supporting country offices	actively supporting the Regional Office	currently supporting remotely

Supplies and logistics for health care workers shipped to 38 destinations in the Western Pacific Region (as of 28 December 2022)



23 626 474
surgical masks



4 755 804
particulate
respirators



1 423 099
medical gowns



331 452
goggles



1 227 464
face shields



6 617 960
pairs of gloves



23 994
alcohol-based
hand rub (100mL)



682 312
laboratory tests



1 863 974
point of care tests



3 646 460
swab kits



601
ICU ventilators



2 938
oxygen concentrators



29 035
pulse oximeters



213 240
rapid antigen tests

Weekly situation updates

- In the Region, 35 countries and areas have reported COVID-19 cases since December 2019. From 21 December to 27 December 2022, a total of 1 835 463 cases with 3 184 deaths were reported, for a cumulative 105 571 120 cases with 294 202 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 0.3%) as of 28 December 2022, 10:00 (GMT+8). Available data indicate that countries and areas in the Region have identified imported cases and/or localized community transmission, while subnational areas in some countries and areas have identified large-scale community transmission. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of cases reported in the last seven days.
- Globally, 651 918 402 COVID-19 cases with 6 656 601 deaths have been reported in 234 countries or areas (PFC 1.0%) as of 23 December 2022 10:00 (CEST). The number of newly reported weekly cases decreased in other regions except for the Region of the Americas and the Western Pacific Region. For the number of newly reported weekly deaths, it decreased or remained stable across regions except for the Western Pacific Region.

Figure 1. Countries or areas with reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 from 21 December to 27 December 2022, as of 28 December 2022 10:00 (GMT+8)

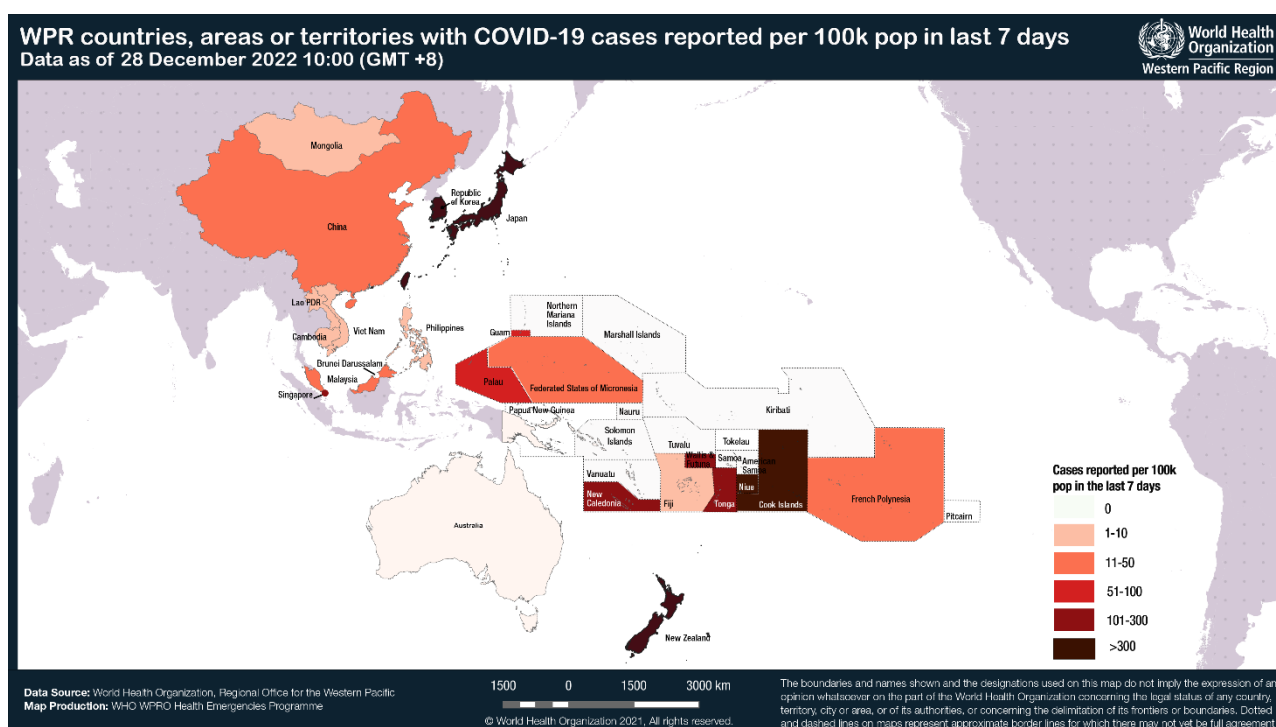


Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with the highest number of cases, as of 28 December 2022 10:00 (GMT+8)

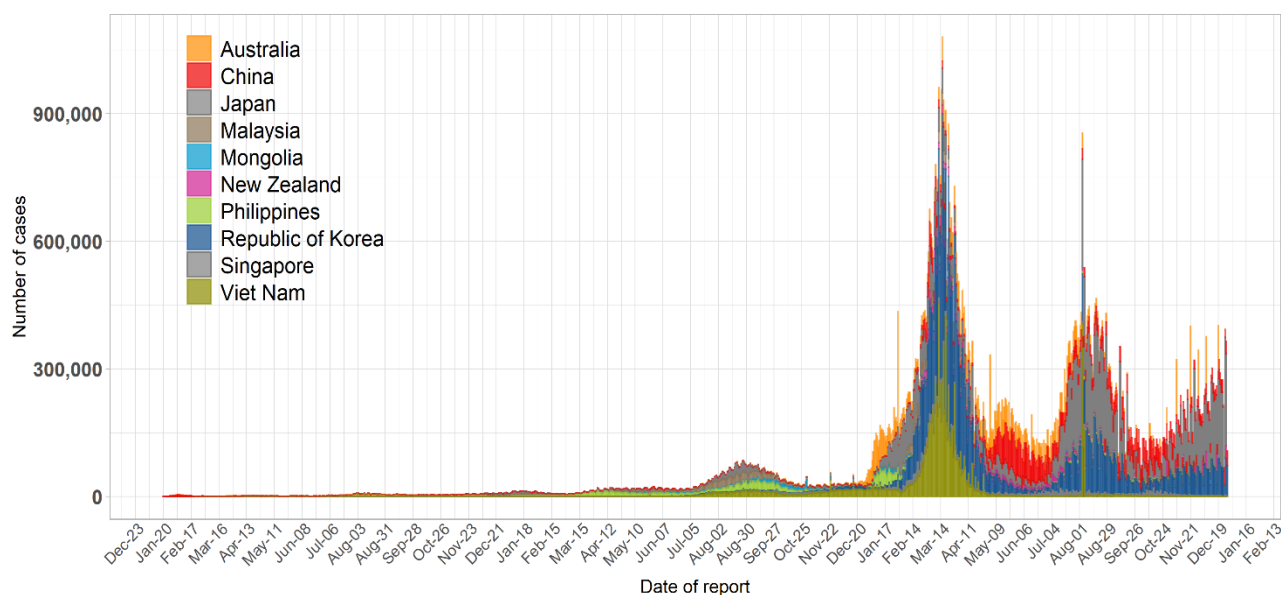


Figure 3. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with the lowest number of cases, as of 28 December 2022 10:00 (GMT+8)

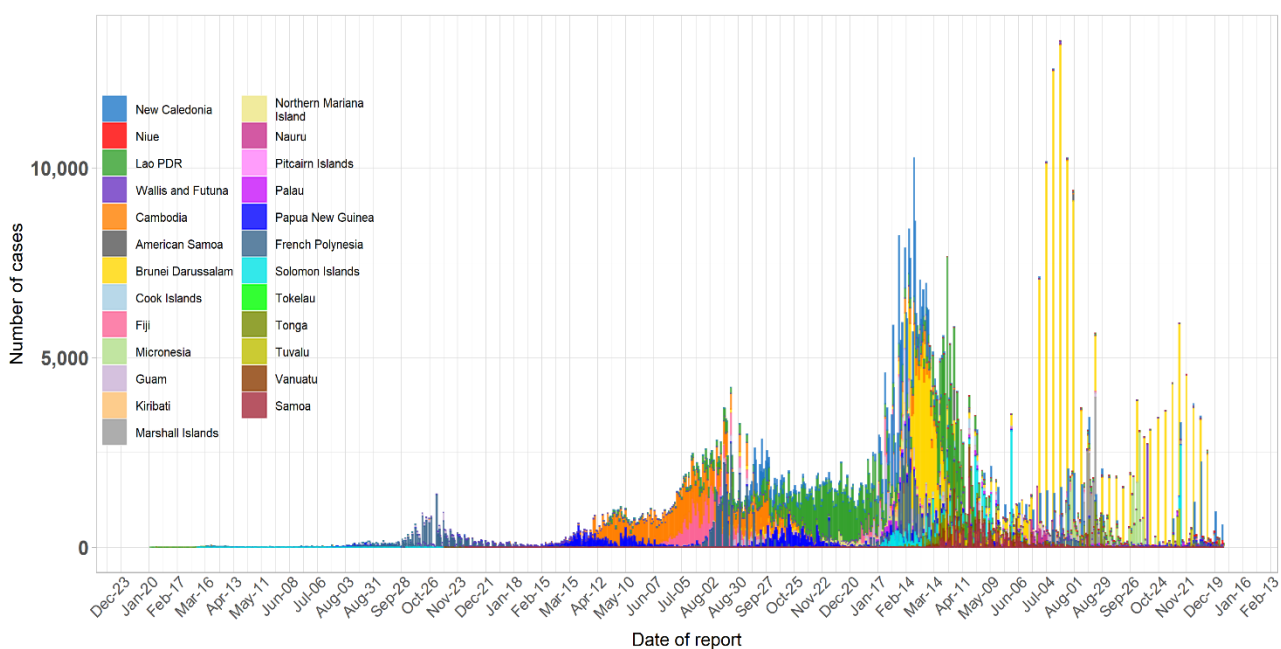


Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 21 December to 27 December 2022, as of 28 December 2022 (GMT+8)

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change (7-day average of cases)	Days since last reported case
American Samoa	0 ¹ (8 266)	0 (34)	0.00	0
Australia	0 ¹ (11 047 174)	0 (15 937)	-15 582.57	0
Brunei Darussalam	0 ¹ (266 819)	0 (146)	0.00	0
Cambodia	106 (138 525)	0 (3 056)	-5.29	0
China	171 563 (10 260 112)	505 (31 882)	3 272.00	0
Cook Islands	27 (6 625)	0 (1)	-26.00	0
Fiji	77 (68 702)	3 (881)	0.71	0
French Polynesia	82 (77 957)	0 (649)	-12.71	0
Guam	131 (49 938)	0 (411)	15.57	0
Japan	1 173 540 (28 548 004)	2 083 (55 813)	15 461.29	0
Kiribati	0 ¹ (3 430)	0 (13)	0.00	0
Korea, Republic of	469 722 (28 772 196)	392 (31 882)	1 178.43	0
Lao PDR	200 (217 658)	0 (757)	-3.00	0
Malaysia	5 415 (5 023 999)	27 (36 835)	-246.57	0
Marshall Islands	0 ¹ (15 547)	0 (17)	0.00	0
Micronesia (Federated States of)	21 (22 069)	0 (58)	3.00	0
Mongolia	168 (1 007 400)	1 (2 136)	-19.29	0
Nauru	0 ¹ (4 621)	0 (1)	0.00	0
New Caledonia	824 (79 162)	0 (314)	117.71	0
New Zealand	0 ¹ (2 027 981)	0 (2 288)	-5 674.57	0
Niue	44 (335)	0 (0)	-7.00	0
Northern Mariana Islands	0 ¹ (13 236)	0 (41)	-9.29	0
Palau	13 (5 968)	0 (9)	1.86	0
Papua New Guinea	0 ¹ (46 663)	0 (669)	-20.71	0
The Philippines	5 188 (4 062 191)	168 (65 262)	-248.57	0
Pitcairn Islands	0 (4)	0 (0)	0.00	159
Samoa	0 ¹ (15 982)	0 (29)	-1.00	0
Singapore	7 027 (2 197 084)	1 (1 711)	-177.43	0
Solomon Islands	0 ¹ (24 575)	0 (153)	0.00	0
Tokelau	0 (5)	0 (0)	0.00	14
Tonga	201 (16 412)	0 (12)	24.57	0
Tuvalu	0 ¹ (2 779)	0 (0)	0.00	0
Vanuatu	2 (12 013)	0 (14)	0.29	0
Viet Nam	1 112 (11 524 273)	4 (43 184)	-146.71	0
Wallis and Futuna	0 ¹ (3 415)	0 (7)	0.00	0
Total	1 835 463 (105 571 120)	3 184 (294 202)	-2 107.00	

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

¹ The number of cases was not updated due to reporting issues

Table 2. Countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region that have reported currently circulating variants of concern, as of 28 December 2022 10:00 (GMT+8)

Country or area	Omicron Sub-lineage ²						
	BA.5*	BA.2.75*	BJ.1	BA.4.6*	XBB*	BA.2.3.20	BQ.1*
American Samoa	X			X			
Australia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brunei Darussalam	X	X		X	X	X	X
Cambodia	X	X		X	X		
China	X	X					
Cook Islands							
Fiji							
French Polynesia							
Guam	X					X	
Japan	X	X		X	X	X	X
Kiribati	X						
Lao PDR	X						
Malaysia	X	X		X	X	X	X
Micronesia (Federated States of)	X						
Mongolia	X					X	X
New Caledonia							
New Zealand	X	X		X	X	X	X
Northern Mariana Islands	X						
Palau	X						
Papua New Guinea	X						
The Philippines	X	X		X	X	X	X
Republic of Korea	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Samoa	X						
Singapore	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solomon Islands	X						
Tonga	X						
Vanuatu	X						
Viet Nam	X	X		X	X		X

*Includes sub variants

Note: GISAID submission data is subject to change.

² Based on sequences uploaded to [Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data \(GISAID\)](https://gisaid.org/)

Key information and announcements

Information and planning

- The Regional Office continues to monitor COVID-19 incidence and transmission levels within countries and areas across the Region. Updated information is available on the [dashboard for the Western Pacific Region](#).

Partner Coordination

- On 17 December 2022, the Pasifika Medical Association's Emergency Medical Team (EMT), PACMAT, deployed to Niue to support the Pacific Island Country's response to community transmission of COVID-19. The deployment is ongoing.

Strategic Communication

- The COVID-19 risk communication package has been published. Aimed at community members and leaders for various settings, the package contains key messages for sustained management of COVID-19, lists the benefits of practicing protective measures, describes how to know the risk of COVID-19 to oneself and explains when it's especially important to apply the protective measures. It provides tips for community leaders in different settings, such as workplaces, schools, restaurants, food markets, on how to keep others safe from COVID-19: Please see link [here](#).
- A Facebook campaign has also launched to promote the dissemination of the risk communication package. Its short video with key messages about living life safely is shared with the public on the Regional Office's [YouTube channel](#).

Messages for the public

- A Facebook campaign to promote the COVID-19 risk communication package is running in countries across the region: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Pacific Island countries and areas.