

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.

Regional overview

- As of 10 April 2023, 202 153 158 cases with 409 585 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 0.2%) have been reported. The overall trend has been decreasing since mid-January 2023 and has stabilized since mid-March 2023 (Figures 1 and 2).
- In the previous 14 days, a total of 324 350 new cases with 618 new deaths (Table 1) were reported in 19 countries and areas: Australia 27 266, Brunei Darussalam 2 676, Cambodia 3, China 1 109, Cook Islands 5, Fiji 3, Guam 35, Japan 102 142, the Republic of Korea 144 600, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) 4, Malaysia 3 069, Marshall islands 290, Mongolia 32, New Caledonia 20, New Zealand 10 653, Papua New Guinea 2, the Philippines 3 496, Singapore 28 410, and Viet Nam 535.
- As of 1 April 2023, BA.5 variant was the dominant variant, accounting for 32.4% of sequences.

Biweekly country situation updates

- A slight increase in daily COVID-19 cases has been observed in the Philippines in April. Between 27 March and 9 April 2023, 3,476 cases were reported nationally, a 53% increase from the previous two weeks. This increase in cases has been accompanied by a slight increase in hospitalizations, which remain relatively low at 15.8% bed occupancy.
- An increasing trend of COVID-19 cases has been observed in Viet Nam in the past two weeks. From 3 April to 9 April, 418 cases were reported compared to the previous week of 116. Ha Noi accounts for approximately 47% of these cases. This increase in cases has been accompanied by an increase in hospitalizations. The number of severe cases remains low, and zero COVID-19 deaths have been reported in Viet Nam since 31 December 2022.
- Singapore continues to report an increase in weekly COVID-19 cases, which reported nearly double the number of cases between 27 March to 2 April 2023 compared to the previous week (97% increase). Severe cases have also increased; from 27 March to 2 April 2023, 339 new hospitalized cases were reported, and four cases admitted to ICU.

SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Interest and Variants Under Monitoring in the Region

- A total of 8 987 sequences from 11 countries and areas were uploaded to GISAID from 19 March to 1 April 2023.
- For weeks 12 and 13 (19 March to 1 April 2023) the distribution of Variants of Interest (VOI) and Variants Under Monitoring (VUM) among the 11 countries and areas was 32.4% for BA.5, 11.5% for BA.2.75, 11.5% for XBB.1.5, 10.8% for XBB and 7.8% for BQ.1.

Deployments COVID-19 response

564	534	18	1	16
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 42 destinations in the Western Pacific Region (as of 10 April 2023)



37 764 374
surgical masks



6 492 719
particulate
respirators



2 069 199
medical gowns



369 336
goggles



1 408 324
face shields



9 104 960
pairs of gloves



38 189
alcohol-based
hand rub (100mL)



782 344
laboratory tests



1 998 669
point of care tests



3 730 390
swab kits



706
ICU ventilators



3 198
oxygen concentrators



30 155
pulse oximeters



333 490
rapid antigen tests

Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries and areas with the highest number of cases, as of 10 April 2023 10:00 (GMT+8)

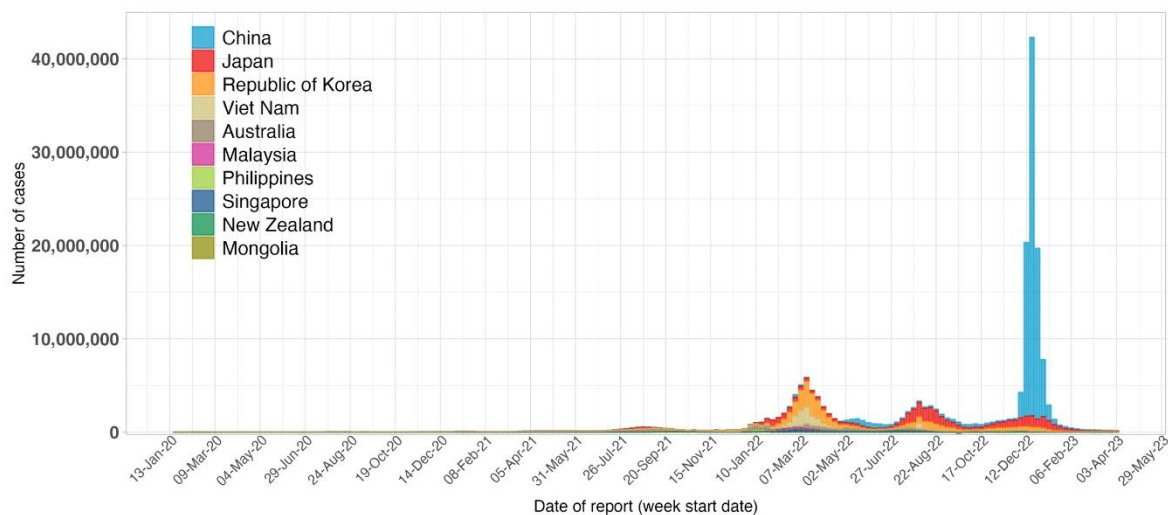


Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with the lowest number of cases, as of 10 April 2023 10:00 (GMT+8)

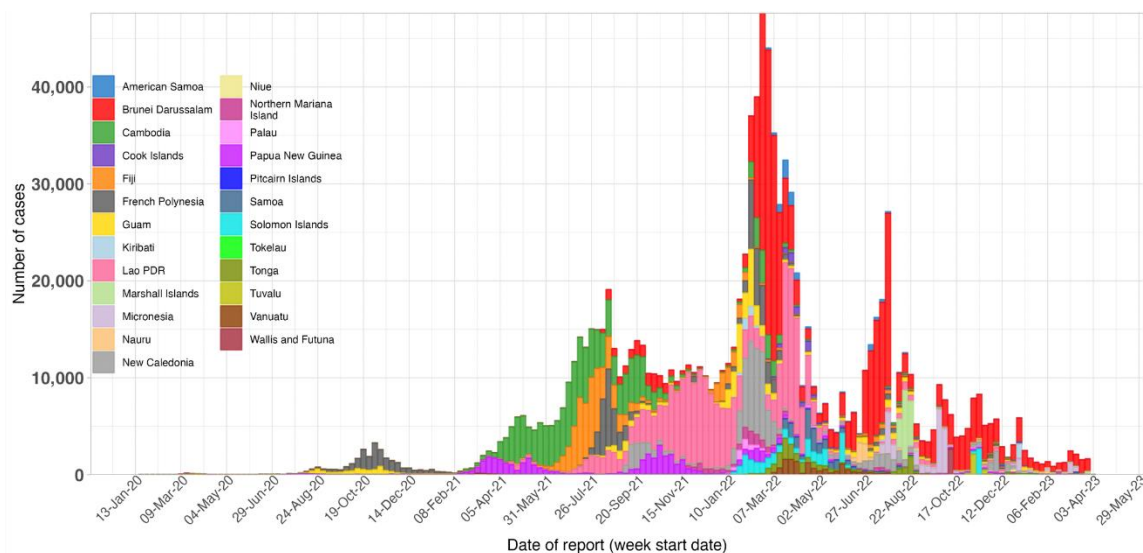


Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 27 March 2023 to 10 April 2023, as of 11 April 2023 (GMT+8)

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change (14-day average of cases)
American Samoa	0 (8 326)	0 (34)	-0.36
Australia	27 266 ¹ (11 077 631)	37 ¹ (19 906)	-1 541.57
Brunei Darussalam	2 676 (284 632)	0 (153)	27.21
Cambodia	3 (138 726)	0 (3 056)	0
China	1 109 ² (99 239 252)	11 ² (120 905)	-4 907.71
Cook Islands	5 (7 042)	0 (2)	0.07
Fiji	3 (68 914)	0 (883)	-0.71
French Polynesia	0 (78 219)	0 (649)	-8.43
Guam	35 (51 017)	0 (415)	-1.93
Japan	102 142 (33 523 927)	349 (74 096)	277.07
Kiribati	0 ¹ (5 014)	0 ¹ (18)	0
Korea, Republic of	144 600 (30 918 060)	99 (34 332)	719.21
Lao PDR	4 (218 037)	0 (641)	-0.43
Malaysia	3 069 (5 052 337)	3 (36 982)	-71.93
Marshall Islands	290 (16 013)	0 (17)	15.43
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0 (25 703)	0 (63)	-31.57
Mongolia	32 (1 007 943)	0 (2 136)	2.0
Nauru	0 ¹ (5 393)	0 ¹ (1)	-2.64
New Caledonia	20 (80 052)	0 (314)	0.36
New Zealand	10 653 (2 217 047)	25 (2 687)	-650.64
Niue	0 ¹ (747)	0 (0)	0
Northern Mariana Islands	0 (13 748)	0 ¹ (41)	-3.64
Palau	0 (5 997)	0 (9)	-0.21
Papua New Guinea	2 (46 837)	0 (670)	-0.5
The Philippines	3 496 (4 083 678)	83 (66 420)	86.36
Pitcairn Islands	0 ¹ (4)	0 ¹ (0)	0
Samoa	0 ¹ (16 675)	0 ¹ (31)	-17.71
Singapore	28410 (2 298 689)	0 (1 722)	248.5
Solomon Islands	0 ¹ (24 575)	0 ¹ (153)	0
Tokelau	0 ¹ (5)	0 ¹ (0)	0
Tonga	0 (16 814)	0 (12)	-0.07
Tuvalu	0 ¹ (2 779)	0 ¹ (0)	0
Vanuatu	0 (12 014)	0 (14)	0
Viet Nam	535 (11 527 745)	0 (43 186)	25.86
Wallis and Futuna	0 ¹ (3 427)	0 ¹ (7)	0
Total	324 350 (202 153 158)	607 (409 585)	-5 838.0

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

¹ Countries and areas did not report in the 14-day period.

² Some territories/areas did not report for 14-day period.

Table 2. Countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region that have reported currently circulating Variants of Concern, as of 1 April 2023 10:00 (GMT+8)

Country or area	Omicron Sub-lineage ¹							
	BA.5*	BA.2.75*	BF.7*	XBB [^]	XBB.1.5	CH.1.1	BQ.1*	XBF
American Samoa	X					X		X
Australia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brunei Darussalam	X	X		X			X	
Cambodia	X	X	X	X			X	
China	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cook Islands								
Fiji								
French Polynesia								
Guam	X					X	X	X
Japan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kiribati	X							
Lao PDR	X							
Malaysia	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Marshall Islands		X					X	
Micronesia (Federated States of)	X	X			X		X	
Mongolia	X						X	
New Caledonia								
New Zealand	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Northern Mariana Islands	X	X			X		X	
Palau	X						X	
Papua New Guinea	X	X		X			X	
The Philippines	X	X		X	X		X	
Republic of Korea	X	X		X			X	
Samoa	X							
Singapore	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solomon Islands	X							
Tonga	X							
Vanuatu	X							
Viet Nam	X	X		X		X		

*Includes sub-variants.

[^]Includes sub-variants, except for XBB.1.5. XBB.1.5 is a Variant of Interest and is reported separately.

Note: GISAID submission data is subject to change.

¹ 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 in countries and areas across the Region. Updated information is available on the [dashboard for the Western Pacific Region](#).

Strategic Communication

The Regional Office continues to support COVID-19 strategic communications in countries and areas across the Region, including developing health messages and campaigns, monitoring and responding to mis- and disinformation through social listening, gathering behavioural insights and media relations.

Messages for the public

- On social media, published posts about public health and safety measures, post-COVID condition, vaccination and staying safe during holidays like Ramadan and Easter.
- Facebook
 - [With important celebrations coming up, like #Easter, #Eid and #PiMai](#), it's important that we #CelebrateSafely as #COVID19 continues to circulate. If you're a leader in your community, encourage others to stay safe while celebrating with family and friends.
 - [Children 🧒🧒🧒 under 5 are at greater risk of severe disease or complications following infection with influenza](#). During the #COVID19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to protect children from #flu.
 - [Post COVID-19 condition can affect people of all ages](#), including those who had only mild or no symptoms during their initial COVID-19 infection. However, the risk is higher for people who have suffered from severe #COVID19.
- Twitter
 - [Sadly, people are still getting ill and dying from #COVID19 every week](#). It's important to assess your risk based on where you are, what you're doing, your health and vaccination status, and take appropriate protective measures. #LiveLifeSafely
 - [With important celebrations coming up, like #Easter, it's important that we #CelebrateSafely as #COVID19 continues to circulate](#). If you're a leader in your community, encourage others to stay safe while celebrating with family and friends.
 - [Post COVID-19 condition can affect people of all ages](#), including those who had only mild or no symptoms during their initial COVID-19 infection. However, the risk is higher for people who have suffered from severe #COVID19.