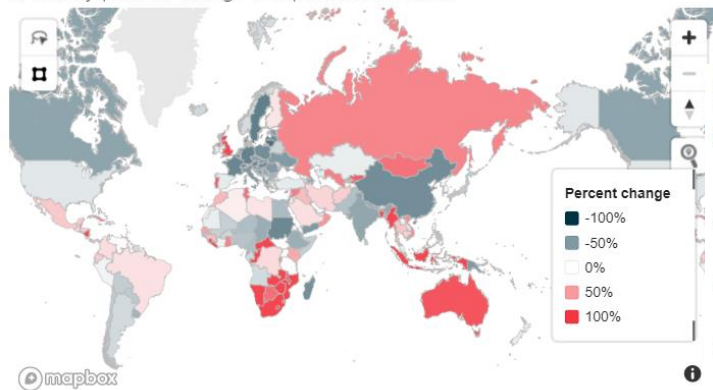


COVID-19 Update: Weeks 22-25

May 30th - June 27th, 2021

Over 181.3 million cases confirmed and reported, with over 3.9 million deaths reported and over 2.6 billion vaccine doses administered to date. Brazil, India, and Colombia are reporting the highest daily incidences in death in the last seven days. Brazil, India, Colombia, Argentina, Russia and Indonesia are reporting the highest number of new cases in the past 7 days. There was little change in new reported cases this week compared to last globally, while new reported deaths continued to decrease to the lowest levels they have been globally since November 2020. The Africa region reported a rapid increasing trend in cases (33% increase) and deaths (42% increase) compared to the previous week and the most significant increasing trends worldwide. Europe and MENA also saw small increasing trends in cases while all regions except Africa saw a decline in reported deaths.

Bi-weekly percent change in reported new cases

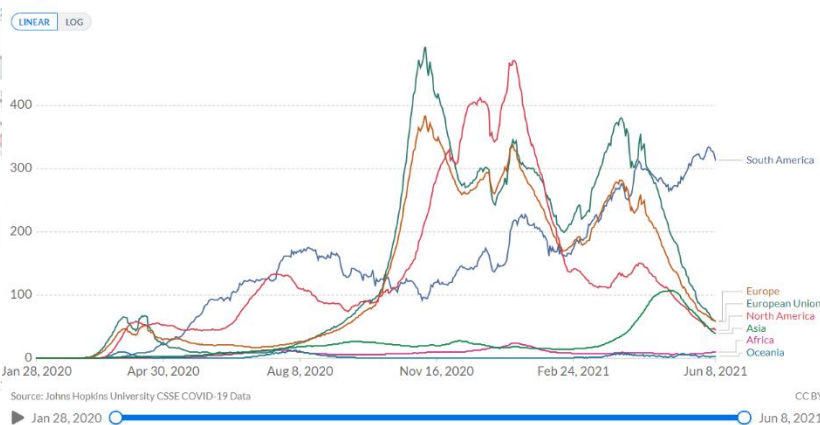


Top 5 countries with biggest bi-weekly percent increase
Daily new cases per 100k people



Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



News / Context

- Countries with **highest reported new cases per 100,000** daily increases (June 30th)¹ Seychelles, Mongolia, Colombia, Namibia, Argentina.
- Countries with **highest reported new deaths** per 100,000 (June 30th): Seychelles, Paraguay, Namibia, Colombia, Argentina.
- **Countries vaccinating at the fastest rate** (highest number of vaccinations relative to population): Andorra, Mauritius, China, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Iceland, Canada.
- An estimated 10.7% of the global population is currently fully vaccinated

¹ Our World in Data [Incidence](#)

Regional Trends

This section has been adjusted to reflect a more simple analysis of “what to watch” in the coming weeks. For more detailed epidemiological descriptions by region, please see [WHO weekly epidemiological updates](#).

Africa Region	
What to Watch	General updates
<p>The Delta variant which has been associated with increased transmissibility and potential increased severity has been identified in several Southern African countries experiencing a surge in new cases.</p> <p>All countries of major concern for bi-weekly increasing trends have reported less than 5% of their population receiving at least one vaccine dose (excluding Botswana reporting just over 6.5% and Zimbabwe reporting just over 5% of its population receiving at least one dose of the vaccine).</p> <p>The majority (76% of all new cases reported and 72% of all deaths) reported were reported from the Southern Africa sub-region.</p> <p>Displacement due to the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in Goma continues to be a concern in Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both DRC and neighboring Uganda continue to see rising COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>Vaccine shipments to the region continue to slow even as the region is experiencing a new surge in cases.</p>	<p>The African Region reported the most significant increase globally, reporting a 34% increase in cases and 42% increase in deaths compared to the previous week. Cases and deaths have been increasing since May 15th.</p> <p>The highest numbers of new cases were reported from South Africa (representing over 58% of reported cases in the region), Zambia, and Namibia.</p> <p>Burkina Faso received its first shipment of vaccines through COVAX</p>
Americas Region	
What to Watch	General Updates
<p>New variants continue to spread in North America, with the Delta variant now representing over 20% of new positive COVID-19 tests in the USA</p> <p>Haiti has not yet administered COVID-19 vaccines, but is seeing significant increases in cases of COVID-19, overwhelming an already weakened health system</p>	<p>Notably, the region continues to report the highest incidence of cases and deaths due to COVID-19 globally.</p> <p>The region reported relatively stable numbers of cases and deaths for the past month, with fluctuating surges occurring within the region</p> <p>Peru updated its calculation on lives lost due to COVID-19 expanding the definition with significant increases in reporting</p>
MENA Region	

What to watch	General Updates
<p>Many migrants in countries such as Lebanon have reported challenges in accessing vaccination and healthcare services.</p> <p>Security deterioration and access to care for Migrants continues to raise concern in Libya.</p>	<p>The region reported relatively stable numbers of cases compared to the previous week with small decreases in both cases and deaths reported.</p> <p>Bahrain to leads the region with an estimated 50% of the population fully vaccinated. Qatar (40%) and Morocco (18%) follow</p>
Europe Region	
What to Watch	General Updates
<p>All four variants of concern are circulating throughout the region raising the importance of continued non pharmaceutical interventions as countries continue to vaccinate</p> <p>Countries to watch of concern due to increasing trends include Denmark, Sweden, Portugal, Russia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine.</p>	<p>The number of cases and deaths have decreased for two months in the European region</p> <p>While the region continues to see declining trends and reopening of activities, Sweden, and the United Kingdom both reported over 65% increase in cases compared to the previous week</p> <p>Russia has recorded its worse figures for corona virus-related deaths since the beginning of the pandemic</p>
Asia Pacific Region	
What to Watch	General Updates
<p>Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are all seeing worrisome trends. Vietnam and Thailand originally had very strong COVID-19 control measures which protected much of its population during the first waves, however the increased number of cases in the region has likely influenced increasing incidence in cases in both countries now. Nepal and Papua New Guinea are also countries to watch.</p> <p>COVID 19 cases attributable to the Delta variant are rising sharply in parts of Indonesia including the capital Jakarta, which has seen an increase in the number of severe cases among younger adults</p> <p>Myanmar continues to experience a complex emergency, with many aid organizations calling on neighbouring countries to assist vaccination and care at the borders</p>	<p>The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Philippines, Malaysia and Mongolia</p> <p>The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Philippines Malaysia and Japan</p>

Afghanistan continues to report a worrisome increase in COVID 19 cases while also reporting less than 2 of the population has received at least one dose of the vaccine

Nepal continues to experience major shortages in human resources and oxygen required to respond to COVID 19 Since the country often relies on neighbouring India to support logistics, they are having challenges receiving supplies as India continues to respond to its own outbreak

Vaccination Updates

- COVID-19 vaccination updates from the IFRC are available through the monthly vaccine newsletter

Resources:

[IVAC/ JHU View-Hub](#) (map shown above); *COVAX and other vaccine distribution in humanitarian settings (HdX)*; *Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker (tables above NYT)*; *COVID-19 vaccine tracker (LSHTM)*; *COVID-19 vaccine tracker (RAPS)*

New variants of SARS-CoV-2²

New variants are expected as virus mutations are common, but the detection of several variants of concern (VOC) and variants of interest (VOI) highlights the need to continue genetic sequencing of samples to better understand the prevalence of different variants. Additional resources on variants are available in footnotes, and definitions per WHO are available [here](#)³ *WHO announced [new easy-to-say/easy-to-remember VOI and VOC labels to facilitate public communication about SARS-CoV-2 variants.](#)*

	Variant of Concern (VOC) or Interest (VOI)	Why is it of concern?	Emerging Evidence
VOC	Alpha 202012/01 or "B.1.1.7" First detected in the UK Now reported in 170 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmissibility & potential increase in severity, with possible implications for testing • None/ minimal impact on vaccines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Evidence for increased severity and mortality (Lancet Infectious Disease) • Real world evidence shows strong support for efficacy (pre-print; PH Ontario; Lancet; pre-print)
	Beta 501Y.V2 or "B.1.351" First detected in South Africa Now reported in 119 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmissibility & potentially mortality among hospitalized • Potential risk for evading vaccine response and potential reinfection 	

² Information primary used from [WHO Situation Reports](#) and updates on New Variants unless otherwise stated. Additional resources listed at the end of the update each week. Definitions of VOC and VOI can be found [here](#).

³ Additional useful sources: [US CDC](#), [WHO](#), [ECDC Risk Assessment related to SARS-CoV-2 VOC in the EU/EEA](#), [Public Health England investigation of novel SARS-CoV-2 variant. Additional resources shared on the last page in the resource section](#), [GISAID variants tracking](#).

	<p>Gamma B.1.1.28 (P.1) first detected in Japan from travellers coming from Brazil Now reported in 71 countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence for increased transmissibility Reinfection has been reported, with potential implications for vaccine efficacy 	Evidence for no/minimal loss of protection against severe disease (NEJM ; NEJM)
	<p>Delta B.1.617.2 Detected first in India Now reported in 94 countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appear to have higher rates of transmission Increased prevalence within the country testing samples where it is prevalent over-taking other variants Some evidence for reduced efficacy of Banlanivimab neutralizing antibodies Evidence for increased severity 	<p>Increased severity associated with B.1.617.2. The association of B.1.617.2 with lower Ct value and longer viral shedding provides a potential mechanism for increased transmissibility. These findings provide a strong impetus for the rapid implementation of vaccination programmes (Lancet preprint)</p> <p>Research on the implications of this variant still ongoing (pre-print)</p> <p>B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2 account for 21 and 7% of sequenced samples in India (GISAID)</p> <p>Studies still underway, potentially reduced neutralizing effect of some vaccines (in lab) more research ongoing (preprint; pre-print on mRNA vaccines) More ongoing studies found here</p>
VOI	B.1525		Detected in multiple countries
	20C/S.452R B.1.427/ B.1.429 First detected in the US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence for increased transmissibility Potential reduced neutralization from antibody treatment and vaccines – more research underway 	US CDC definitions for VOC in the United States
	20B/S.484K B.1.1.28.2, alias P.2		Detected in Brazil in April 2020
	B.1.1.28.3, alias P.3 First detected in the Philippines in February 2021		Research continues into the P.3 variant in Philippines (estimated third generation of the P.1 variant in Brazil)
	20C, B.1.526 with E484K or S477N Detected in the US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown: Two key mutations in the spike protein have been identified and are being followed closely 	
20C, B.1.616		Detected in France in January 2021	

Recent Research/ Evidence

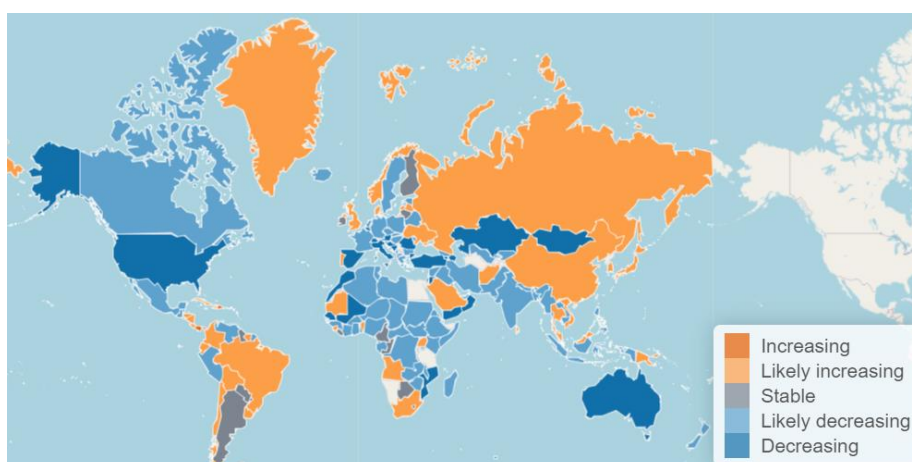
- More promising evidence continues to emerge following a [pre-print](#) showing 2-dose mRNA vaccines, specifically those from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, are highly effective among working-age adults in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections when administered in real-world conditions
- Overall an estimated 284,000 to 594,000 cases have been averted through the use of the mobile application ([Nature](#)).
- Study published in [JAMA](#) suggest that mask mandates may provide an effective way to reduce cases of COVID-19, hospitalizations, and deaths. Along with other studies this

strengthens the use of masks as a non-pharmaceutical interventions especially as many countries continue working towards vaccinating the population and reducing other restrictions.

- Analysis published in [NEJM](#) found vaccination reduced household secondary transmission by 40-50%.
- Abdala (vaccine developed in Cuba) showed [92.28% efficacy](#) among individuals who received all three doses. Prior to completing these trials Cuba has begun vaccinating the population.

Modeling & Forecasting

- Reproductive number estimates from the [LSHTM Mathematical modeling department](#) (showing trends of increasing, no change or decreasing):
 - Regions where COVID-19 has surged most recently such as Southeast Asia are now beginning to experience a decline in the estimated effective reproductive number, while other countries, in particular Afghanistan, Angola and generally in Central and South America are seeing a likely increasing reproduction number (where COVID-19 is estimated to be increasing at a faster rate).



Humanitarian Impacts

- [Mapping of COVID in Humanitarian settings](#) available here depicted below showing COVID-19 cases compared to where vaccination campaigns have been postponed
- Increased infection rates in DRC causing concern- in addition to the ongoing displacement due to the Nyiragongo volcano
- Updated repository of Maternal and Child health and Nutrition relating to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

Guidance Launched or Highlighted This week

Weekly update [from WHO available here](#) (last updated June 1st - June)

- Updated IFRC Guidance available on the [Health Help Desk](#)
- Collective Service: [Operational guide for engaging communities in contact tracing](#)
- WHO: [Use of medical and non-medical/fabric masks for community outreach activities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- WHO: [Guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccines](#)

- WHO: [Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19](#)
- WHO: [The Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine: What you need to know](#)
- WHO: [Guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- WHO: [Young people and COVID-19: Behavioural considerations for promoting safe behaviours](#)
- Update on WHO Interim recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination of pregnant and lactating women
- [WHO supporting South African consortium to establish first COVID mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub](#)
- WHO: [Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)
- WHO: [Interim recommendations for use of the Moderna mRNA-1273 vaccine against COVID-19](#)
- WHO: [Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S \(COVID-19\) vaccine](#)
- UNICEF: [DO NO HARM – Maternal, Newborn and Infant Care during COVID-19](#)
- WHO: [Hypertension and COVID-19](#)

Useful Sources

Some additional sources – such as specific journal articles are shared as a foot note and saved to the “Evidence” folder in Teams.

[ALNAP launched COVID-19 response portal](#)

[Atlantic COVID-19 Tracker \(US focus\)](#)

[BMJ COVID-19 resources](#)

[BMJ living Guidance on clinical treatment for COVID-19 \(from WHO, including visuals\)](#)

[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)

[End Coronavirus Visualizations](#)

[Evidence Aid COVID-19 Evidence](#)

[Center for Humanitarian Health: COVID-19 Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition Literature Reviews](#)

[The COVID tracking project \(US focus\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker](#)

[Global. Health](#)

[Health Map](#)

[Imperial College of London](#)

[ISARIC COVID-19 resources](#)

[Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security](#) and [CSSE](#)

[Humanitarian platform for COVID-19](#)

[The Lancet](#)

[LSHTM COVID-19 mapping tool](#)

[New England Journal of Medicine](#)

[Next Strain \(Phylogeny of SARS-CoV-2\)](#)

[OCHA HdX](#)

[Our world in Data](#)

[PLOS COVID-19](#)

[ProMed](#)

[Switzerland Specific data and charts](#)

Scenario Planning

[International science council COVID-19 scenarios project \(Lancet\)](#)

[University of Basil COVID-19 scenarios](#)

[Transdisciplinary Insights e-journal: Living Paper: COVID-19](#)

[WHO](#)

[WHO Detailed COVID-19 dashbaords](#)

[WHO Technical Guidance for COVID-19](#)

[MobLabs](#)

[MobLabs Domestic and international risk of importing a case](#)

[UNICEF COVID-19 vaccine dashboard](#)

[World Meters](#)