

COVID-19 Update

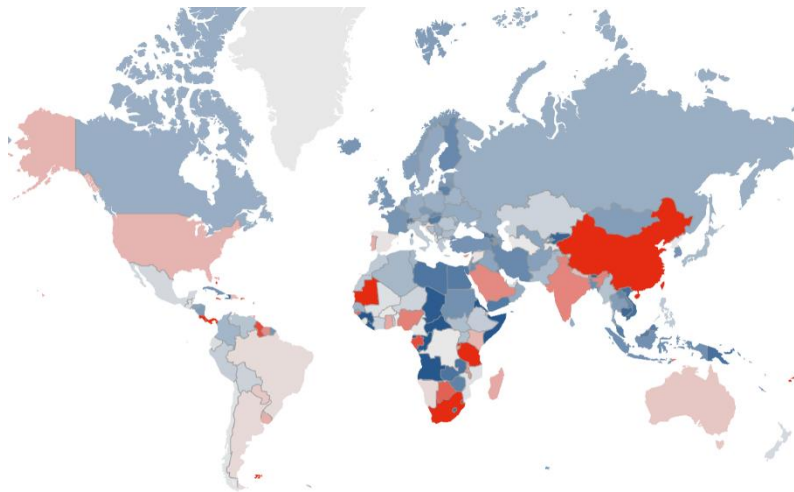


June 2022

Bi-weekly COVID-19 updates from IFRC focusing on the epidemiological trends and updated evidence have changed to a monthly period, but will continue to be shared through the [Health Help Desk](#). Additional external resources for deeper weekly or monthly subject-area analysis have also been added to the public access page on the Health Help Desk. Internal reports from the IFRC are available on [IFRC Go page for the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (including operational updates, immunization updates and updated figures by IFRC region).

Situation update

Bi-weekly percent change in new case



- **Globally there have been over 543 million cumulative cases and 6.3 million cumulative deaths of COVID-19 reported worldwide.**
- Omicron remains the dominant variant of SARS-CoV-2 worldwide in the past month (representing over 94% of sequences), although the overall number of sequences reported from official governments continues to decline.
- An estimated 66.4% of the global population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (*this percentage has only increased by an estimated 1% in the past month*)
- **Only 17.4% of those living in low-income countries have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine**

While officially reported COVID-19 cases have been declining since a peak in March 2022, there has been a steady increase in the past 3 weeks during the month of June. There has been an estimated 18% increase in newly reported cases in the past week compared to previous weeks, with newly reported weekly deaths raising slightly (by an estimated 3% by WHO). Europe and the Americas continue to report the highest number of new COVID-19 cases each week, representing 76% of cases reported in the past week and both reporting increasing trends. The MENA region however reported the most significant increase in newly reported COVID-19 cases and deaths in the past week (47% and 22% respectively). The Omicron variant continues to be the dominant variant worldwide, with the clades BA.4 and BA.5 overcoming the original Omicron clades and causing an estimated 20% increase in caseloads globally due to the potential to escape immunity. Countries such as the United States, Israel, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and South Africa have been reporting increasing trends in hospitalization for COVID-19 compared to previous months.

***Several countries have changed their COVID-19 testing strategies, which reduces the number of officially reported COVID-19 cases.** Therefore, declining trends and cases should be interpreted with caution, although overall country and regional trends can still give useful indication on whether health systems are becoming overwhelmed, or whether prevention and response efforts are adequate to counter uptick in cases and needed care.

Regional Trends¹

Africa Region

- The Africa region reported decreasing trends in newly reported COVID-19 cases compared to the previous week, while reporting on new deaths remained similar.
 - Large increasing trends were reported in many countries including Gabon and Guinea which reported over a 400% increase in bi-weekly case trends.
 - South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia continue to report the highest absolute COVID-19 numbers, while under-reporting from many countries in the region remains a challenge.

Americas Region

- During the past month the Americas region reported mixed trends in COVID-19 cases and deaths, reporting a 14% increase in officially reported cases and 11% increase in officially reported deaths compared to the previous week. Like other regions however, as with other regions, the overall testing rate has decreased significantly and reported cases are likely an underestimate.
 - At least 16 countries reported large increasing COVID-19 trends (of over 20%) compared to the previous week, including Canada and Bolivia reporting over a 100% increase in reported cases.
 - The estimated effective reproductive number is growing, and over 1.1 in most countries in the Americas, meaning it will take additional measures, such as increased vaccination or boosters, or personal protective measures to prevent a large number of people from becoming ill. At this time, all countries in South America are reporting bi-weekly increasing trends in mortality except Uruguay and Guyana.
 - Concern is growing by health officials in PAHO that given that 10-20% of people who get COVID-19 experience long-term health issues- including mental health issues, the recent increasing trend of people getting sick may have long-term repercussions for individuals as well as the health system more broadly. While those who are vaccinated are less likely to experience long-term symptoms, the risk is not zero, and increasing trends throughout the region means increasing risks for long-term health impacts.

Middle East and North Africa Region

- The Middle East and North Africa Region has been reporting increasing trends in officially reported COVID-19 cases during the month of June. In the past week, the WHO EMRO region reported a 47% increase in new COVID-19 cases compared to the previous week, with Iraq, Tunisia and Jordan reporting over a 150% increase in reported cases in the past two weeks.
 - Mortality trends typically lag three weeks behind cases trends at the national and regional level – in the last week the region reported an increasing trend of over 20% compared to officially reported deaths compared to the previous week

Europe and Central Asia

- While the region reported decreasing trends in new COVID-19 cases since the last peak in March, the region has been progressively reporting an increasing trend during the month of June, with an estimated 33% increase in new COVID-19 cases reported since the past week.
- Over 54% of countries in the region reported significant increasing trends in COVID-19 in the last week of June

¹ For good regional summaries please check the [WHO weekly epidemiological highlights](#) and relevant regional pages, the [IFRC Go page](#) and [Our World in Data](#) for visualizations of data

- The highest increases were reported by Romania, Spain, and Kazakhstan, while France, Spain and Italy continued to report the highest overall number of cases.

Asia Pacific Region

- The Asia Pacific region continues to report mixed trends in COVID-19 cases, with some countries reporting significant increasing trends in new cases such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines, all reporting over 60% increasing trends compared to the previous week.
 - The sub region of Southeast Asia saw an increasing trend in mortality (by 15%) compared to the previous week, while the Western Pacific sub region reported a reduction (by 6%).

References

Internal

[IFRC Go COVID-19 response](#)

- Dashboards and operational reports
- Monthly vaccine updates and highlights

[IFRC Health Help Desk](#)

- Webinars
- Operational Guidance related to the health response to COVID-19

External

[ALNAP COVID-19 Response Portal](#)

[British Medical Journal Coronavirus Hub](#)

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)- COVID-19 Reports](#)

[Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security](#)

- Particularly the [COVID-19 Updates](#) (weekly)

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs [COVID-19 Behavior Dashboards](#)

[Journal for American Medical Association COVID-19 focus](#) (JAMA)

[Nature SARS-COV-2 Review](#)

[New England Journal of Medicine COVID-19 page](#) (NEJM)

[Nextstrain](#) (genomic data tracking for mRNA viruses)

[Our World in Data](#)

[Prevent Epidemics In-Depth Science Reviews](#)

[UNDP Vaccine Affordability](#)

[WHO COVID-19 Dashboards](#)

[WHO Epidemiological Situation Reports](#)