Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Data as reported by national authorities by 23:00 local time 16th of January 2021

Situation Report No. 219 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
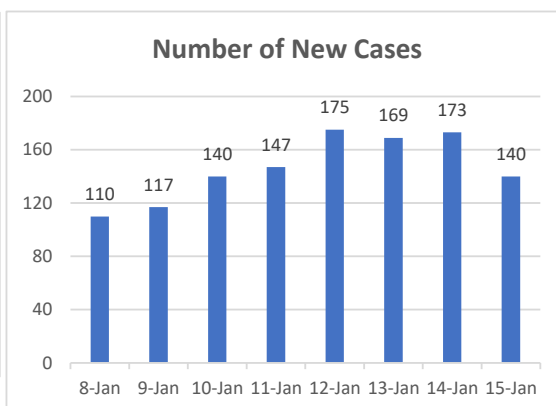**17th of January, 2021**

World Health Organization
WHO Office - Riyadh

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	**COVID-19 Deaths**	**COVID-19 Cases**	**COVID-19 Deaths**
Total	92,506,811	2,001,773	5,309,701	127,388
New	2,171,803 in 3 days	47,437 in 3 days	87,235 in 3 days	1,346 in 3 days

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

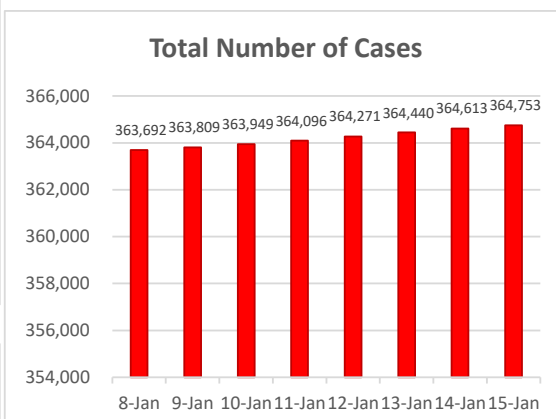|	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	364,753	356,541	6,318	1,894	321	11,629,158
New	482 in 3 days	528 in 3 days	14 in 3 days	-	-	143,083 in 3 days

HIGHLIGHTS

• Regions with the highest new infections over the past 3 days: Riyadh (170), Makkah (113), Eastern (91), Madinah (33), Asir (24), Al Qassim (14) and Northern Borders (7).
• Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University has successfully completed preclinical research studies to produce the first Saudi vaccine against coronavirus.
• Minister of Health: The vaccination will begin in Makkah and Madinah within few days and all vaccines arriving are being subjected to close scrutiny for safety and quality.
• Unicef publishes a "Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide", see link.
• WHO provides analysing and using routine data to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on essential health services: practical guide for national and subnational decision-makers, below
• WHO published a background document to the WHO Interim recommendations for use of the Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2, under Emergency Use Listing, see link.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- **MoH COVID-19 updates:** https://twitter.com/saudimoh
- **WHO's COVID-19 global situation reports:** https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports
- **WHO's COVID-19 dashboard:** https://covid19.who.int/
- **MoH COVID-19 dashboard:** https://covid19.my.gov.sa/ar/Pages/default.aspx
- **Unicef's Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide:** https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/vaccine-misinformation-management-field-guide
- **Analysing and using routine data to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on essential health services**: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-essential_health_services-monitoring-2021.1
- **Background document on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/background-document-on-mrna-vaccine-bnt162b2-(pfizer-biontech)-against-covid-19
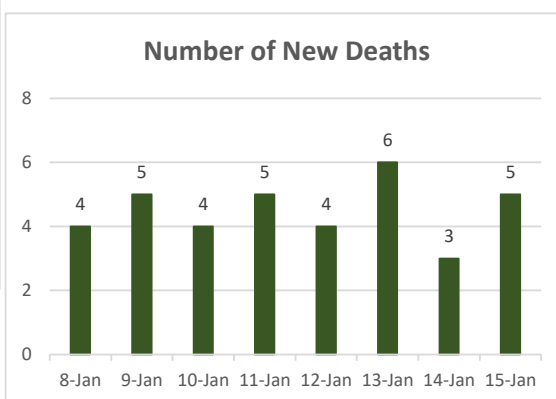
IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Who can take the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine?

According to SAGE (WHO's Strategic Group of Experts on Immunization), the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is safe and effective. Nevertheless, there are specific populations for whom vaccination is not recommended for a variety of reasons. These populations currently include people with a history of severe allergies, (particularly it is contraindicated for People with a history of severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine), most pregnant women (except for those with unavoidable high risk of exposure such as health workers), international travellers who are not part of a prioritized group (due to limited supplies of the vaccine at present), and children under 16 (due to lack of data). Further studies are needed for immune-compromised persons.
The priority is to start vaccinating health workers at high risk of exposure, followed by older adults, before immunizing the rest of the population. For more details see the link above.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- **The National Focal Person for COVID-19 is Dr Abdullah Asiri, Assistant Deputy for Preventive Health, MoH, email:** AbdullahM.Asiri@moh.gov.sa

Number of New Cases

8-Jan	9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan
110	117	140	147	175	169	173	140

Total Number of Cases

8-Jan	9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan
363,692	363,809	363,949	364,096	364,271	364,440	364,613	364,753

Number of New Deaths

8-Jan	9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan
4	5	4	5	4	6	3	5