

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



## Weekly Report No. 231 - Saudi Arabia

11-17 March, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
<b>Current</b>	120,383,919	2,664,386	6,972,925	151,561
<b>Last Week</b>	117,332,262	2,605,356	6,720,130	148,525
<b>In 7 days</b>	3,051,657	59,030	252,795	3,036

### Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
<b>Total</b>	<b>383,499</b>	<b>373,361</b>	<b>6,585</b>	<b>3,553</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>2,582,291</b>
<b>In 7 days</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>40</b>	-	-	<b>325,941</b>
10/3/2021	390	267	6	2,947	538	45,261
11/3/2021	360	367	5	2,935	542	51,656
12/3/2021	351	239	7	3,040	553	44,953
13/3/2021	348	247	4	3,137	555	34,731
14/3/2021	345	223	6	3,253	567	45,647
15/3/2021	354	204	5	3,398	560	53,290
16/3/2021	393	231	7	3,553	566	50,403

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (1,115), Eastern (454), Makkah (375), Al Qassim (105), Madinah (102), Northern Border (100), Hail (77), and Asir (54).
- General Authority of Civil Aviation: International flights to resume normal operations from 1:00 a.m. on May 17.
- 34,763 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures in 1 week during the period from 6 - 13/03/2021.
- Travelers from Saudi Arabia will continue to have unrestricted entry into the UK after the latest update of the "red list".
- Saudi Food and Drug Authority: No cases of blood clots or thrombosis reported for any of the COVID-19 vaccines available in Saudi Arabia and Minister of Health assured that all vaccines used in the Kingdom are safe.
- MoH continues expanding its national vaccination campaign across the country reaching more than 500 sites providing vaccination, with few sites including the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center providing services around the clock. So far, Over 2.6 million doses of vaccines have been administered.
- New research highlights risks of separating newborns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic, see link.
- WHO made an announcement regarding the safety of the AstraZeneca vaccine reiterating that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh its risks and recommends continuing its use, see link
- WHO publishes WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19, see link
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, see link.
- WHO launches Global COVID-19 Clinical Platform Case Report Form (CRF) for Post COVID condition, see link
- WHO publishes 10 steps to community readiness: What countries should do to prepare communities for a COVID-19 vaccine, treatment or new test, 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>
- **New research on risks of separating newborns:** [New research highlights risks of separating newborns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic \(who.int\)](#)
- **WHO reiterates recommendation to continue using the AstraZeneca vaccine:** [WHO statement on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine safety signals](#)
- **WHO Living guideline: Drugs to prevent COVID-19:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-prophylaxes-2021-1>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the Janssen vaccine:** [Interim recommendations for the use of the Janssen Ad26.COV2.S \(COVID-19\) vaccine: interim guidance, 17 March 2021 \(who.int\)](#)
- **WHO's post COVID clinical platform case report form (CRF):** [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/3rd-edl-submissions/who\\_crf\\_postcovid\\_feb9\\_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14\\_1&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/3rd-edl-submissions/who_crf_postcovid_feb9_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14_1&download=true)
- **WHO's 10 steps to community readiness:** [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-Community\\_Readiness-2021.1](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-Community_Readiness-2021.1)

## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

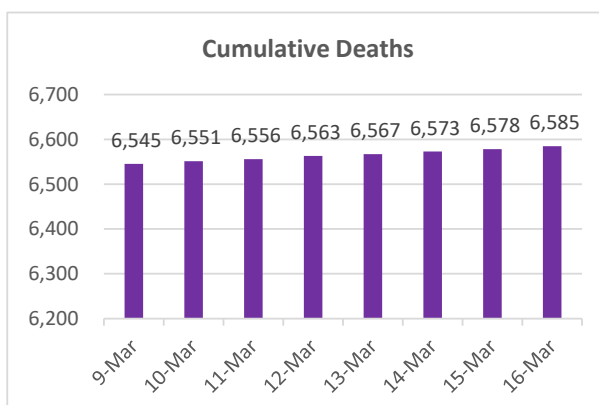
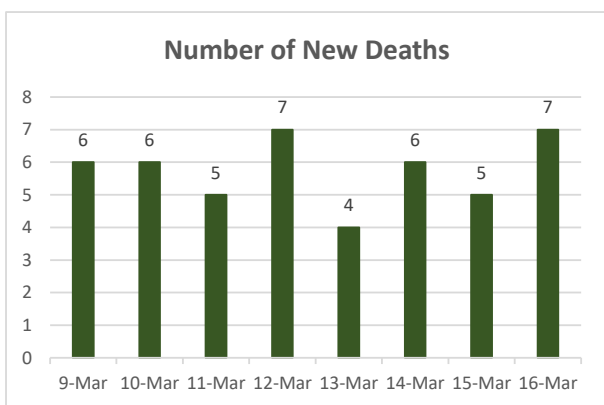
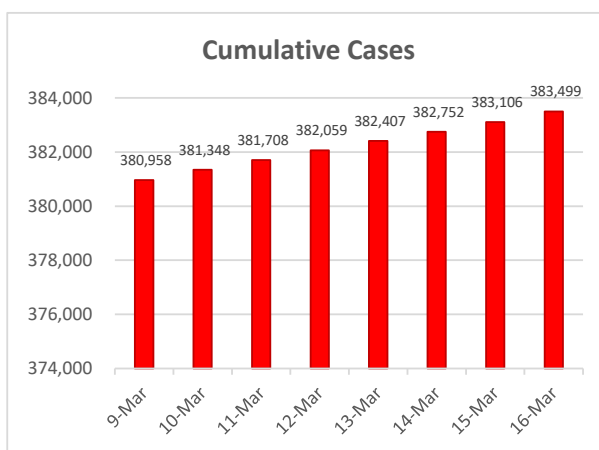
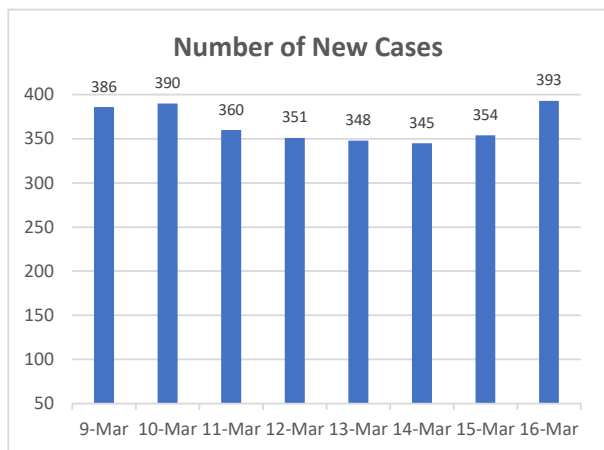
### WHO adds Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) vaccine to list of safe and effective emergency tools against COVID-19

The World Health Organization listed the vaccine developed by Janssen (the vaccine making subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson) for emergency use in all countries and for COVAX roll-out. The decision comes after authorization by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and earlier authorization by the FDA of the US.

The vaccine from Janssen is the first to be listed by WHO as a single dose regimen. The vaccine is given by intramuscular injection to 18 years of age and older. The data from clinical trials also shows that the vaccine is effective in older populations who made up 34% of study subjects in stage 3 clinical trials. The vaccine was 85% effective in preventing severe disease across all regions studied (USA, Latin America and South Africa), and showed protection against COVID-19 related hospitalization and death, beginning 28 days after vaccination.

The vaccine which was made available on not-for-profit basis for the emergency pandemic use can benefit from already available cold chain facilities in countries. Although it needs to be stored at -20 degrees, which may prove challenging in some environments, it can be kept for three months at 2-8°C and it has a long shelf life of two years. This, together with being the first single-dose COVID-19 vaccine, will make logistics much easier in remote or challenging conditions.

The Janssen vaccine uses a virus (a version of an adenovirus, which causes mild cold or flu symptoms in people) modified to include DNA that codes for the spike protein on the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. It's similar to AstraZeneca's vaccine. Janssen has a similar vaccine for Ebola. WHO's Strategic Advisory Group on Immunization Experts formulated recommendations on use of the vaccine (see the links section). The COVAX Facility has booked 500 million doses of the vaccine.



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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