

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



## Weekly Report No. 234 - Saudi Arabia

01-07 April, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
<b>Current</b>	132,046,206	2,867,242	7,837,399	162,476
<b>Last Week</b>	127,877,462	2,796,561	7,519,257	158,426
<b>In 7 days</b>	4,168,744	70,681	318,142	4,050

### Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
<b>Total</b>	<b>394,952</b>	<b>381,189</b>	<b>6,719</b>	<b>7,044</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>15,533,915</b>
<b>In 7 days</b>	<b>4,945</b>	<b>3,106</b>	<b>50</b>	-	-	<b>407,803</b>
31/3/2021	590	386	7	5,452	699	58,199
1/4/2021	728	404	8	5,768	735	61,083
2/4/2021	684	439	6	6,007	761	53,777
3/4/2021	673	504	7	6,169	782	51,414
4/4/2021	695	489	7	6,368	836	56,906
5/4/2021	792	467	7	6,686	846	62,432
6/4/2021	783	417	8	7,044	852	63,992

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (2,208), Makkah (924), Eastern (743), Madinah (206), Asir (148), Hail (144), Al Qassim (135), and Northern Borders (102).
- 5.6 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered so far in over 587 vaccination centers. The number of vaccine recipients exceeded 15% of the population.
- Minister of Education directed to vaccinate all education employees before the next school year.
- 27,083 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures last week, Riyadh had the highest record accounting for 32% of the total number while Jazan recorded the lowest.
- Ministry of Hajj: Permits for Umrah and visits to the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque during the month of Ramadan will be issued only for those who have been vaccinated against coronavirus.
- The Saudi Food and Drug Authority: A new group of vaccines are under study and evaluation, and their approval will be announced soon.
- Ministry of Islamic affairs has banned iftars and suhoors from being held in mosques during Ramadan and suspended 'I'tikaaf.
- Ministry of Interior: Violators of the isolation or quarantine directives will be fined up to SAR 200,000, or a receive a prison sentence of 2 years at most. In some cases, both penalties may be imposed.
- New research highlights risks of separating new-borns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic, 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 a guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 new-borns:** [New research highlights risks of separating new-borns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic \(who.int\)](#)
- **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\\_cr\\_f\\_postcovid\\_feb9\\_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14\\_1&download=true](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/3rd-edl-submissions/who_cr_f_postcovid_feb9_2021.pdf?sfvrsn=76afd14_1&download=true)
- **A guide to contracting for health services during the COVID-19 pandemic:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/a-guide-to-contracting-for-health-services-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

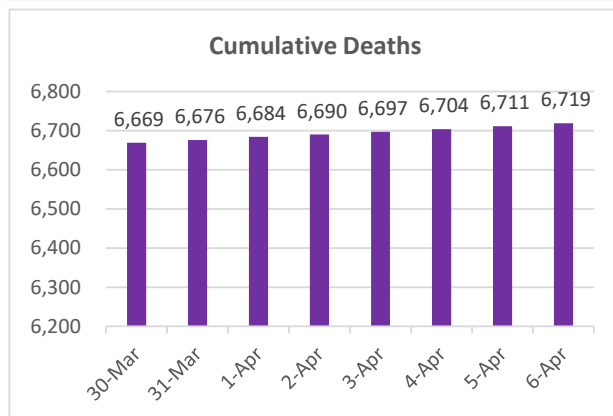
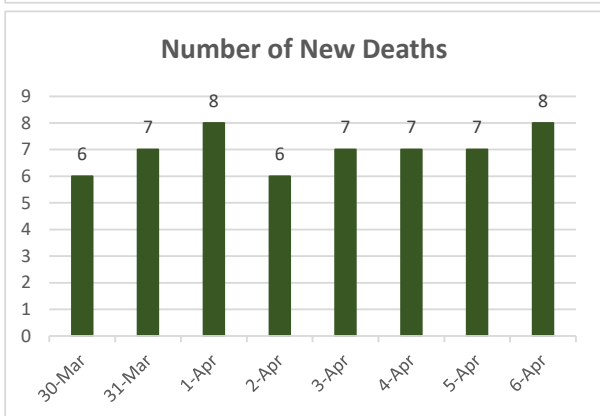
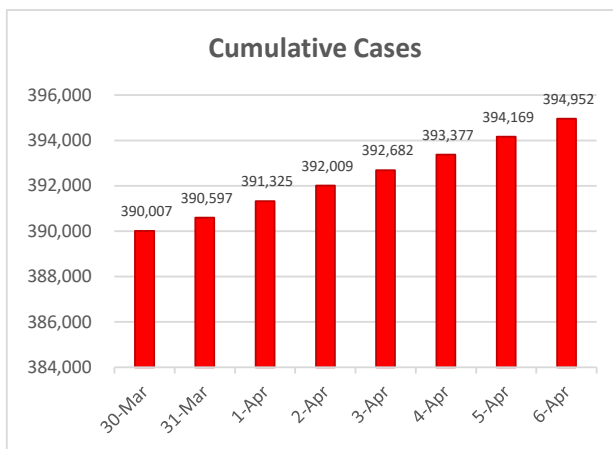
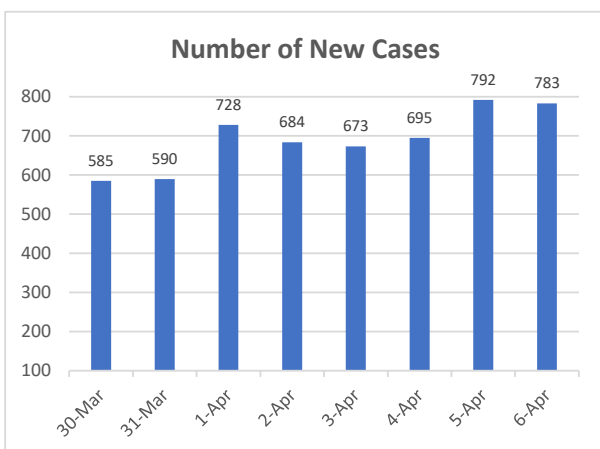
## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

### Interim statement of the COVID-19 subcommittee of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety Regarding the AstraZeneca vaccine

The subcommittee has reviewed reports of rare cases of blood clots with low platelets following vaccination with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. At its meeting on 7 April, 2021, the subcommittee reviewed latest information from the [European Medicines Agency](#) along with information from the [United Kingdom's Medicines and other Health products Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\)](#), and other Member States and noted the following:

- Based on current information, a causal relationship between the vaccine and the occurrence of blood clots with low platelets is considered plausible but is not confirmed. Specialised studies are needed to fully understand the potential relationship between vaccination and possible risk factors.
- It is important to note that whilst concerning, the events under assessment are very rare, with low numbers reported among the almost 200 million individuals who have received the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine around the world.
- Rare adverse events following immunizations should be assessed against the risk of deaths from COVID-19 disease and the potential of the vaccines to prevent infections and reduce deaths. In this context, it should be noted that as of today, at least 2.8 million people have died of COVID-19 disease worldwide.
- Side effects within two- or three-days following vaccination, the majority of which are mild and local in nature, are expected and common. However, individuals who experience any severe symptoms – such as shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain, neurological symptoms, such as severe and persistent headaches or blurred vision, tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the site of the injection - from around four to 20 days following vaccination, should seek urgent medical attention. [Clinicians should be aware of relevant case definitions and clinical guidance for patients presenting thrombosis and thrombocytopenia following COVID-19 vaccination.](#) To this end, the subcommittee also suggested that a committee of clinical experts is convened, for advice on clinical diagnosis and case management.
- Active surveillance should be considered to further characterise these rare events. The subcommittee will meet again next week to review additional data and will be issuing further recommendations as relevant

In extensive vaccination campaigns, it is normal for countries to identify potential adverse events following immunization. This does not necessarily mean that the events are linked to vaccination itself, but they must be investigated to ensure that any safety concerns are addressed quickly. Vaccines, like all medicines, can have side effects. The administration of vaccines is based on a risk versus benefit analysis.



## 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](mailto:AbdullahM.Asiri@moh.gov.sa)