

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 237 - Saudi Arabia

22-28 April, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	148,329,348	3,128,962	8,967,703	179,885
Last Week	142,557,268	3,037,398	8,609,860	173,334
In 7 days	5,772,080	91,564	357,843	6,551

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	415,281	398,454	6,935	9,892	1,298	16,774,888
In 7 days	7,243	7,074	77	-	-	422,772
21/4/2021	1,055	1,086	11	9,776	1182	61,923
22/4/2021	1,098	1,205	9	9,660	1,205	63,320
23/4/2021	1,072	858	9	9,847	1,224	58,733
24/4/2021	953	1,028	13	9,759	1,246	50,346
25/4/2021	958	1,047	13	9,657	1,290	57,483
26/4/2021	1,045	983	9	9,710	1,277	64,782
27/4/2021	1,062	867	13	9,892	1,298	66,185

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (2,992), Makkah (1,584), Eastern (1,089), Asir (305), Madinah (273), Jazan (198), Al Qassim (195) and Tabuk (167).
- 8.9 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered so far in 587 vaccination centres.
- MoH is recommending that pregnant women receive COVID-19 vaccine after study shows it's safe.
- Saudi Arabia sends 80 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen to India to help India dealing with the shortage of medical oxygen.
- SR 500,000 fine and 5 years jail for intentionally spreading COVID19.
- It is mandatory for passengers boarding flights in the Kingdom to have the "Tawakkalna" app on their mobile phones.
- Ministry of Hajj: Parents are prohibited from bringing along their children for Umrah or prayers at the Grand Mosque in Makkah during the holy month of Ramadan.
- 24,288 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures from 18-24 April, Riyadh recorded the highest while Jazan recorded the lowest.
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs closed 34 mosques temporarily in 9 regions after Coronavirus cases identified among worshippers bringing the total of the mosques closed in all regions within 81 days to 901 mosques, 869 of them were opened after completing the sterilization.
- WHO publishes disability considerations for COVID-19 vaccination: WHO and UNICEF policy brief, 19 April 2021, 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 WHO COVID-19 essential supplies forecasting tool (COVID-ESFT), 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>
- **Disability considerations for COVID-19 vaccination: WHO and UNICEF policy brief, 19 April 2021:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-vaccination-and-disability-policy-brief-2021.1>
- **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 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/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
- **WHO COVID-19 essential supplies forecasting tool (COVID-ESFT):** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Tools-Essential-forecasting-2021-1>

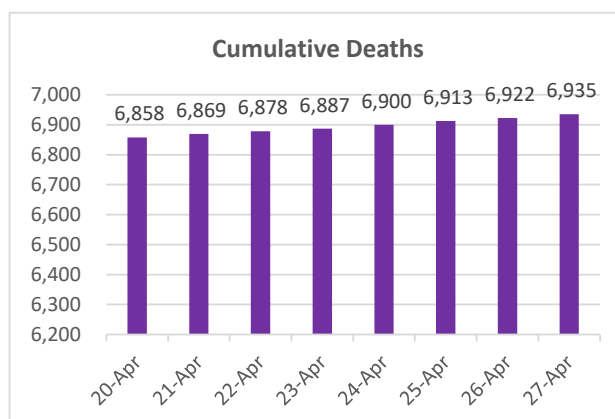
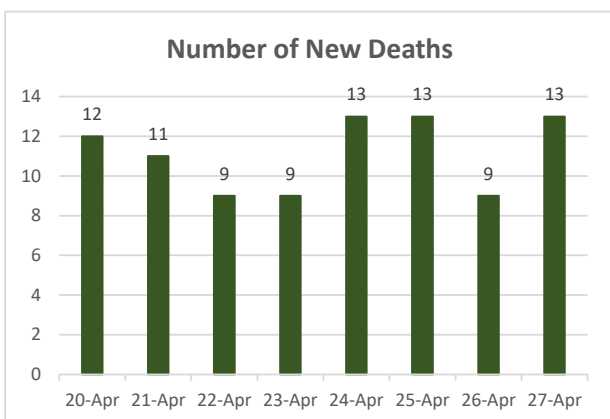
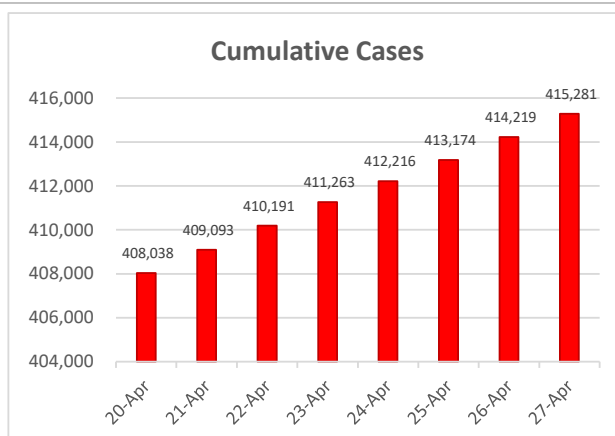
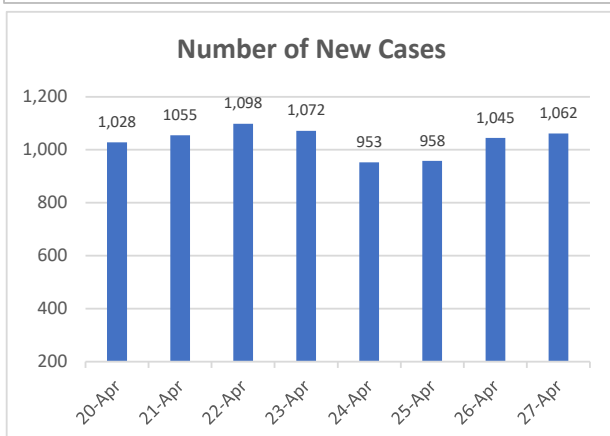
IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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