

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



WHO Office - Riyadh

## Weekly Report No. 255 - Saudi Arabia

9-15 September, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
<b>Current</b>	225,680,357	4,644,740	15,317,719	279,814
<b>Last Week</b>	221,648,869	4,582,338	15,024,157	274,211

### Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
<b>Total</b>	<b>546,251</b>	<b>535,260</b>	<b>8,640</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>28,198,776</b>
<b>in 7 days</b>						
8/9/2021	103	195	6	2,289	565	49,965
9/9/2021	102	74	6	2,311	542	55,462
10/9/2021	83	75	7	2,312	528	43,519
11/9/2021	80	95	6	2,291	508	44,227
12/9/2021	75	66	5	2,295	481	38,410
13/9/2021	96	46	5	2,340	459	51,681
14/9/2021	88	70	7	2,351	449	50,198

### Vaccination in KSA

Total of Doses Administered	Total of 1 Dose	Total of 2 Doses
40.2 million	23 million	17.2 million

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (222), Makkah (111), Eastern (52), Madinah (48), Jazan (37), Al Qassim (36), Asir (31), and Najran (24).
- Saudi Arabia inks memorandum of understanding with Pfizer to manufacture viral and genetic vaccines.
- Civil Aviation updated entry mechanism for arrivals from non-banned countries, shortened institutional quarantine period to 5 days.
- Saudi Arabia donated SR20 million to support OIC's initiative to provide COVID-19 vaccines for health workers and the elderly in the less developed countries of OIC member states.
- Ministry of Education: University and school students over the age of 12 will be considered absent if they have not yet received both COVID-19 vaccine doses starting from Sunday Sept.12
- Ministry of Hajj: Tourist and visit visa holders can perform Umrah by registration on Eatmarna and Tawakkalna applications. SR10,000 will be fined to who tries to perform Umrah without a permit.
- Ministry of Interior: 22,875 is the total number of violations of COVID-19 precautionary measures from 5 - 11/9/2021, Riyadh recorded the highest while Najran was the lowest.
- MoH: Mixing first and second doses of COVID19 vaccines gives better response .95% noticeable positive decrease in the curve of coronavirus cases and 65 % drop in the critical cases.
- WHO publishes guidance for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants: Interim guidance, 9 August 2021, see link
- WHO launches interim guidance on critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19, see link.
- WHO publishes digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates: vaccination status: technical specifications and implementation guidance, see link.
- WHO publishes holding gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO policy brief, see link.
- WHO publishes guidance on utilization of COVID-19 vaccines before the date of expiry, 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>
- **Guidance for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants:** [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO\\_2019-nCoV\\_surveillance\\_variants](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO_2019-nCoV_surveillance_variants)
- **Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/critical-preparedness-readiness-and-response-actions-for-covid-19>
- **Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates: Vaccination Status:** [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Digital\\_certificates-vaccination-technical\\_briefing-2021.1](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Digital_certificates-vaccination-technical_briefing-2021.1)
- **Holding gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO policy brief:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/holding-gatherings-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-who-policy-brief-2-august-2021>
- **Guidance on utilization of COVID-19 vaccines before the date of expiry** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/guidance-on-utilization-of-covid-19-vaccines-before-the-date-of-expiry>

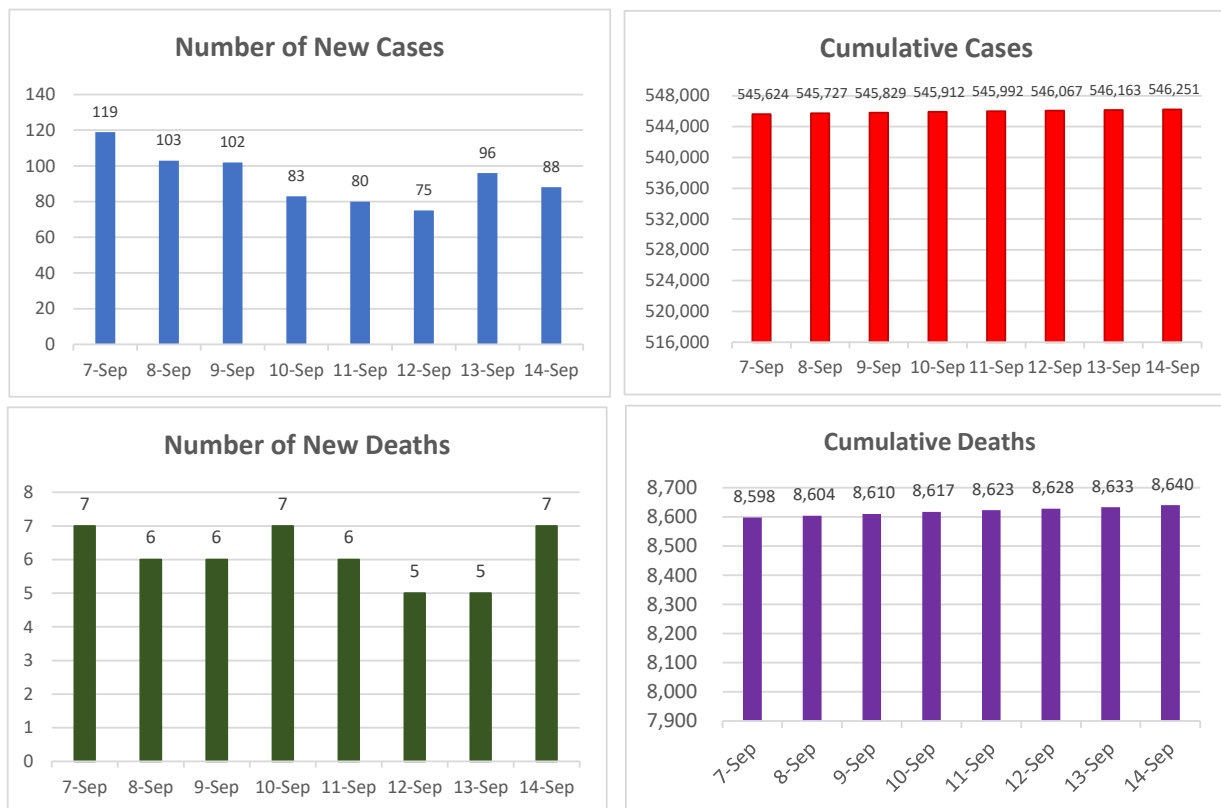
## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

### Update on COVID-19 Variants of Interest and Variants of Concern

WHO, in collaboration with national authorities routinely assesses if variants of SARS-CoV-2 alter transmission or disease characteristics, or impact vaccine, therapeutics, diagnostics or effectiveness of public health and social measures applied by national authorities to control disease spread. "Signals" of potential Variants of Concern (VOCs) or Variants of Interest (VOIs) are detected and assessed based on the risk posed to global public health.

As surveillance activities to detect SARS-CoV-2 variants are strengthened at national and subnational levels, including through the expansion of genomic sequencing capacities, the number of countries reporting VOCs continues to increase.

Based on the latest round of assessments, variant B.1.621 was classified as a VOI on 30 August 2021 and given the WHO label "Mu". The Mu variant has a constellation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune escape. Preliminary data show a reduction in neutralization capacity of convalescent and vaccinee sera similar to that seen for the Beta variant, but this needs to be confirmed by further studies. Since its first identification in Colombia in January 2021, there have been a few sporadic reports of cases of the Mu variant and some larger outbreaks have been reported from other countries in South America and in Europe. Although the global prevalence of the Mu variant among sequenced cases has declined and is currently below 0.1%, the prevalence in Colombia (39%) and Ecuador (13%) has consistently increased. More studies are required to understand the characteristics of this variant.



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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