

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



## Weekly Report No. 257 - Saudi Arabia

23-29 September, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
<b>Current</b>	232,636,622	4,762,089	15,731,766	288,560
<b>Last Week</b>	229,373,963	4,705,111	15,545,768	284,701

### Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
<b>Total</b>	<b>547,090</b>	<b>536,125</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>307,534</b>
<b>in 7 days</b>						
22/9/2021	546,792	535,783	5	2,325	279	51,621
23/9/2021	546,843	535,842	4	2,313	271	43,650
24/9/2021	546,882	535,892	6	2,296	255	32,549
25/9/2021	546,926	535,950	5	2,277	244	37,910
26/9/2021	546,985	536,028	5	2,253	244	44,262
27/9/2021	547,035	536,079	5	2,247	227	48,516
28/9/2021	547,090	536,125	4	2,252	224	49,026

### Vaccination in KSA

Total of Doses Administered	Total of 1 Dose	Total of 2 Doses
42 million	23.4 million	18.6 million

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days continue to be Makkah and Riyadh followed by the Eastern region.
- 25 new paths added around the Tawaf at the Grand Holy Mosque, some allocated to people with disabilities, to accommodate a larger number of worshipers performing Umrah.
- The General Authority for Entertainment announces the launch of the "Riyadh Season" (which includes concerts, performances and exhibitions) on 20th of October.
- Booster doses of COVID-19 are given to high-risk groups, in addition, population 60 years of age and above will start to receive a booster dose 8 months after their last dose.
- Ministry of Interior records 19,870 violations against precautionary measures nationally in one week. The highest number was recorded in the Riyadh Region, followed by the Eastern Region. The smallest number of violations was recorded in Najran.
- WHO publishes guidance for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 variants: Interim guidance, 9 August 2021, see link.
- WHO publishes the updated living guideline for therapeutics and 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 conditional recommendation on the use of a combination of neutralizing monoclonal antibodies, 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)
- **WHO living guideline on COVID-19 therapeutics:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-therapeutics-2021.3>
- **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 use of combination of monoclonal antibodies for non-severe and for severe/critically ill COVID-19 patients:**  
<https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/nBkO1E/rec/jOp0R7>

## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

### WHO Therapeutics and COVID-19: Living Guideline recommendations for the use of monoclonal antibodies for treatment:

Earlier versions of the living WHO guideline, provided recommendations for the use (or non-use) of corticosteroids, remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir, ivermectin, and IL-6 receptor blockers. This update does not include changes to these earlier recommendations.

The new recommendation is regarding the use of a combination of neutralizing monoclonal antibodies, casirivimab and imdevimab in the treatment of non-severe patients at highest risk of hospitalization, and those with severe infection and are critically ill.

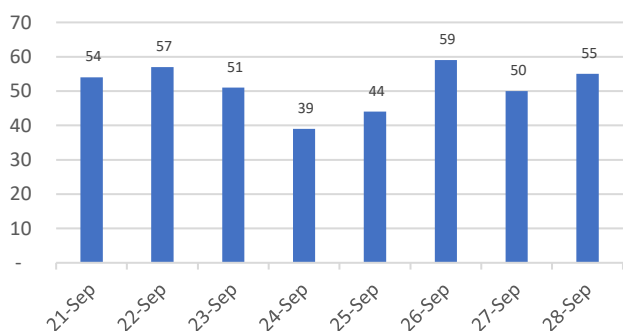
**For patients with non-severe COVID-19**, WHO suggests treatment with casirivimab and imdevimab, conditional to those who are at highest risk of hospitalization:

- \* Whereas casirivimab and imdevimab achieves a substantial reduction in the relative risk of hospitalization, the absolute benefit will be trivial or unimportant in absolute terms for all but those at highest risk for which the intervention should be reserved.
- \* A risk beyond 10% of being hospitalized for COVID-19 represents the threshold at which most people would want to be treated with casirivimab and imdevimab.
- \* In the absence of credible tools to predict risk for hospitalization, typical characteristics of people at highest risk include lack of vaccination, older people, or those with immunodeficiencies and/or chronic diseases (e.g. diabetes).

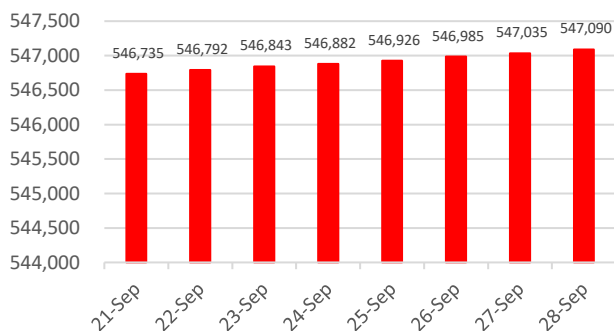
**For patients with severe or critical COVID-19**, WHO recommends treatment with casirivimab and imdevimab, under the condition that the patient has seronegative status:

- \* Clinicians will need to identify these patients by credible tests available at the point of care.
- \* Treatment with casirivimab and imdevimab is in addition to the current standard of care, which includes corticosteroids and IL-6 receptor blockers.

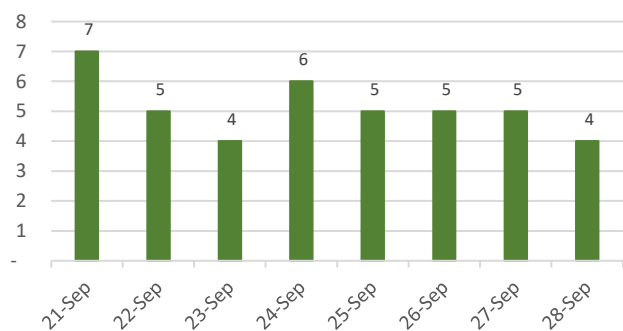
Number of New Cases



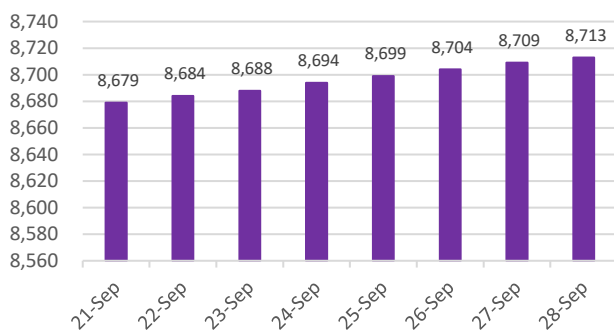
Cumulative Cases



Number of New Deaths



Cumulative Deaths



## 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