

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



## Weekly Report No. 267 - Saudi Arabia

2-8 December, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
<b>Current</b>	266,504,411	5,268,849	16,887,269	311,383
<b>Last Week</b>	262,178,403	5,215,745	16,793,616	309,838

### Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
<b>Total</b>	<b>550,043</b>	<b>539,205</b>	<b>8,849</b>	<b>1,989</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31,825,816</b>
<b>in 7 days</b>						
1/12/2021	24	27	2	2,005	42	33,947
2/12/2021	38	24	1	2,018	41	40,358
3/12/2021	29	21	2	2,024	39	43,915
4/12/2021	35	45	2	2,012	39	43,915
5/12/2021	43	26	1	2,028	37	42,931
6/11/2021	42	59	2	2,012	33	46,108
7/11/2021	46	64	2	1,989	29	38,407

### Vaccination in KSA

Total Doses Administered	Total of 1 Dose	Total of 2 Doses	Total of Booster Doses
47.9 million	24.7 million	22.7 million	446,726

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh followed by Makkah.
- Ministry of Interior: Booster dose of Covid vaccine is mandatory from February 1 after 8 months of getting the 2nd dose to secure the "immune" status on Tawakkalna app.
- MoH updates the "immune" status for visitors including Hajj and Umrah's visitors by approving 2 doses from Sinopharm, Sinovac and Covaxin vaccine starting from Dec.1, 2021 and 2 doses from Sputnik V starting from Jan.1, 2022 (48 hours negative PCR after arrival and institutional quarantine for 3 days are required).
- President of Al-Jouf University: 70% of health workers engaged in combating COVID-19 are women.
- Wearing masks and social distancing remain mandatory in mosques. Also, wearing mask is mandatory in crowded open areas.
- Ministry of Interior records 1134 violations against precautionary measures nationally in 1 week.
- WHO Publishes Injection safety in the context of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination.
- WHO launches Interim recommendations for use of the Bharat Biotech BBV152 COVAXIN® vaccine, Moderna mRNA-1273, and Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2 against COVID-19.
- WHO Updates guidelines on the management of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children associated with COVID-19 MIS-C
- WHO publishes recommendations on the Co-administration of seasonal inactivated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, see link.
- WHO publishes holding gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic: WHO policy brief, 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>
- **Injection safety in the context of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination:**  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Policy-brief-Vaccination-Injection-safety>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the Bharat Biotech, Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines against COVID-19:**  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE-recommendation-bbv152-covaxin>  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/interim-recommendations-for-use-of-the-moderna-mrna-1273-vaccine-against-covid-19>  
[https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE\\_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1)
- **WHO updates guidelines on the management of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children associated with COVID-19**  
[WHO issues guidelines on the treatment of children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1)
- **WHO recommendations on the co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines:** [Coadministration of seasonal inactivated influenza and COVID-19 vaccines \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1)
- **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>

## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

### COVID-19 new Variant of Concern: Omicron (B.1.1.529)

The Technical Advisory Group of the WHO convened on 26 November 2021 to assess the new variant: B.1.1.529.

The new variant was first reported to WHO from South Africa on 24 November 2021. In recent weeks, infections have increased steeply, coinciding with the detection of B.1.1.529 variant. The first known confirmed B.1.1.529 infection was from a specimen collected on 9 November 2021.

This variant has a large number of mutations, some of which are concerning. Preliminary evidence suggests an increased risk of reinfection with this variant, as compared to other VOCs. The number of cases of this variant appears to be increasing in almost all provinces in South Africa.

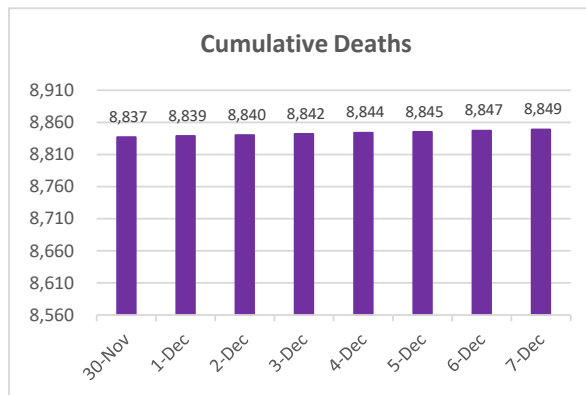
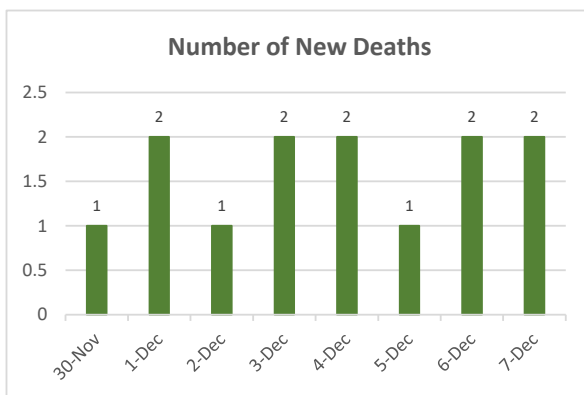
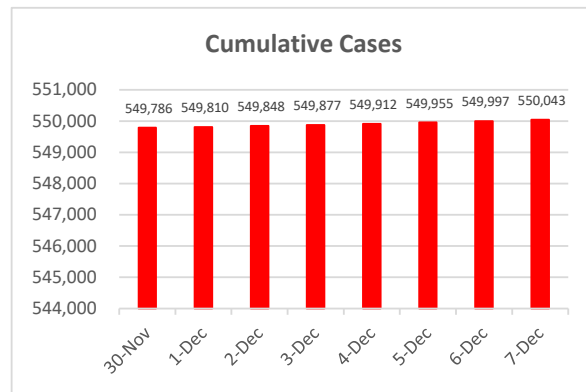
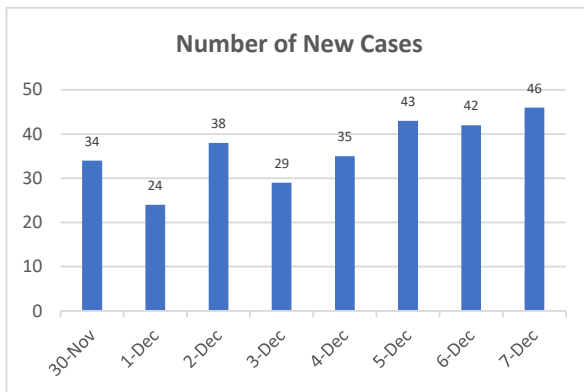
Current PCR diagnostics continue to detect this variant. Several labs have indicated that for one widely used PCR test, one of the three target genes is not detected (called S gene dropout or S gene target failure) and this test can therefore be used as marker for this variant, pending sequencing confirmation. Using this approach, this variant has been detected at faster rates than previous surges in infection, suggesting that this variant may have a growth advantage.

There are a number of studies underway, and the WHO will communicate new findings with Member States and to the public once available.

Countries are asked to do the following:

- enhance surveillance and sequencing efforts to better understand circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants.
- submit complete genome sequences and associated metadata to a publicly available database, such as GISAID.
- report initial cases/clusters associated with VOC infection to WHO through the IHR mechanism.
- where capacity exists and in coordination with the international community, perform field investigations and laboratory assessments to improve understanding of the potential impacts of the VOC on COVID-19 epidemiology, severity, effectiveness of public health and social measures, diagnostic methods, immune responses, antibody neutralization, or other relevant characteristics.

Individuals are reminded to take measures to reduce their risk of COVID-19, including proven public health and social measures such as wearing well-fitting masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing, improving ventilation of indoor spaces, avoiding crowded spaces, and getting vaccinated.



## 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)