

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 279 - Saudi Arabia

24 February - 02 March, 2022

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	437,333,859	5,960,972	21,219,909	334,421
Last Week	426,624,859	5,899,578	20,981,889	331,550

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	746,066	725,107	9,002	11,957	522	40,829,579
in 7 days						
23/2/2022	677	1,585	1	14,571	697	67,223
24/2/2022	664	1,409	2	13,824	637	69,834
25/2/2022	537	1,085	1	13,275	612	58,612
26/2/2022	632	995	2	12,910	609	62,941
27/2/2022	653	1,081	2	12,480	601	62,940
28/2/2022	563	839	3	12,201	554	64,969
1/3/2023	476	719	1	11,957	522	60,558

Vaccination in Saudi Arabia

Total Doses Administered	Total of 1 st Dose	Total of 2 nd Dose	Total of Booster Doses
61.1 million	26 million	24.2 million	10.9 million

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh followed by Jeddah.
- Ministry of Education: schools not to allow unvaccinated students to take 2nd semester exams, they will be considered absent. No remote exams.
- MoH has approved 9 vaccines for incoming travel: Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford/AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Sinopharm, Sinovac, Sputnik V, Covaxin, Covax. Travellers should register through: <https://eservices.moh.gov.sa/CoronaVaccineRegistration>
- Civil Aviation instructed all airlines to exempt all Saudis returning from Ukraine, and their non-Saudi dependents, from the requirement to provide a PCR tests before entering the country.
 - Ministry of Hajj lifts age limit for entering two Holy Mosques .
 - Ministry of Interior records 18, 576 violations against precautionary measures nationally in 1 week , Riyadh recorded the highest.
- WHO publishes Contact tracing and quarantine in the context of the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant: interim guidance, see link.
- WHO launches Public health surveillance for COVID-19: interim guidance, see link.
- WHO provides Questions and Answers: COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy, see link.
- WHO publishes Global analysis of health care waste in the context of COVID-19, see link.
- WHO issues end-to-end integration of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza sentinel surveillance: revised interim guidance, see link.
- WHO issues: COVID-19 clinical care pathway (CARE): confirm, assess, respond, evaluate, see link.
- WHO launches recommendations on mask use by health workers, in light of the Omicron variant of concern: WHO interim guidelines, 22 December 2021, 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>
- **Contact tracing and quarantine in the context of the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant: interim guidance:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Contact-tracing-and-quarantine-Omicron-variant-2022.1>
- **Public Health Surveillance for COVID-19: interim guidance:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-SurveillanceGuidance-2022.1>
- **Questions and Answers: COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-FAQ-Pregnancy-Vaccines-2022.1>
- **Global analysis of health care waste in the context of COVID-19:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240039612>
- **WHO issues end-to-end integration of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza sentinel surveillance: revised interim guidance:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Integrated_sentinel_surveillance-2022.1
- **WHO publishes: COVID-19 clinical care pathway (CARE): confirm, assess, respond, evaluate:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Clinical-CARE_Pathway-Poster_A-2022.1
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Clinical-CARE_Pathway-Poster_B-2022.1
- **WHO recommendations on mask use by health workers, in light of the Omicron variant of concern: WHO interim guidelines, 22 December 2021:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC_Masks-Health_Workers-Omicron_variant-2021.1

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

The World Health Organization issued an emergency use listing (EUL) for Nuvaxovid™

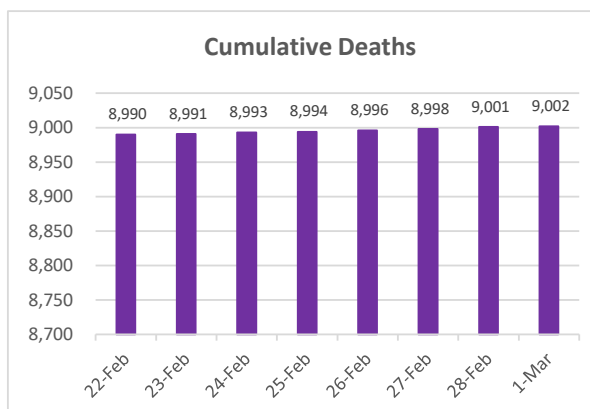
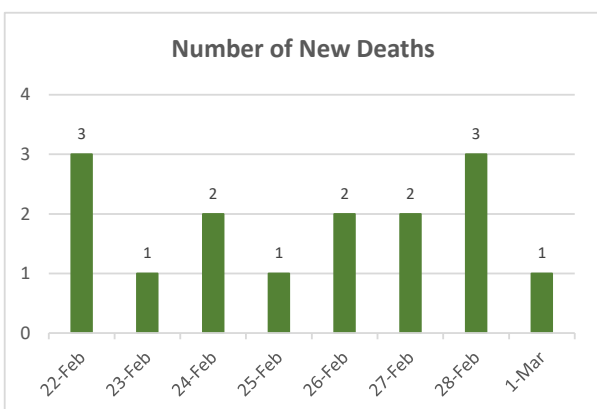
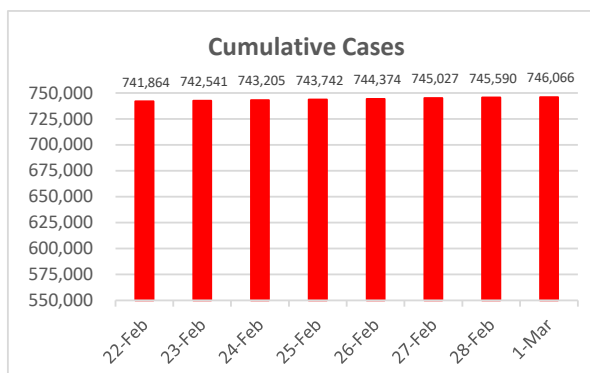
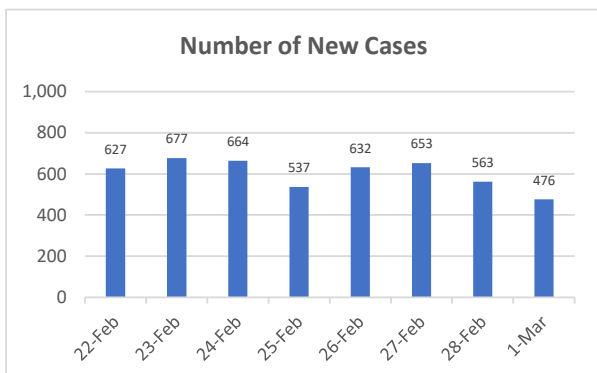
The new vaccine was developed by Novavax and the [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) (CEPI), and is the originator product for the Covovax™ vaccine that received WHO emergency use listing on 17 December.

Both vaccines are made using the same technologies. They require two doses and are stable at 2 to 8 °C refrigerated temperatures.

The Novavax vaccine (NVX-CoV2373) consists of a recombinant SARS-CoV-2 spike protein nanoparticle administered as a co-formulation with the adjuvant Matrix-M. Protein-based vaccines have been used against diseases such as pertussis, human papillomavirus, and hepatitis B. Matrix-M is a novel adjuvant that has been used in studies but has not previously been used in any licensed vaccine.

The efficacy of NVX-CoV2373 has been assessed in three phase 2 and phase 3 trials involving participants aged 18 years or older. In a phase 3 study conducted in the United Kingdom during a period in which the SARS-CoV-2 Alpha variant was predominant, vaccine efficacy (VE) against mild, moderate, or severe COVID-19 was 90% (95% CI: 80–95) from 7 days after the second vaccine dose, with a median follow-up of 56 days after the second dose. VE against mild, moderate, or severe disease in persons less than 65 years of age was 90% (95% CI: 80–95) and in those 65 years and older 89% (95% CI: 20–100). Studies of NVX-CoV2373 have demonstrated an acceptable safety and reactogenicity profile in adults ≥18 years of age, detailed data on the efficacy and safety of this vaccine can be found in the background document on the NVX-CoV2373 vaccine (see WHO website). The data reviewed by WHO support the conclusion that the known benefits of NVX-CoV2373 outweigh the risks that are known or considered possible. Therefore, WHO recommends the use of NVX-CoV2373 in persons aged ≥18 years. As sufficient vaccine supply will not be immediately available to immunize all who could benefit from it, countries are recommended to use the WHO Prioritization Roadmap and the WHO Values Framework as guidance for prioritized vaccine use, based on population subgroup.

The recommended primary vaccine series is two doses given intramuscularly into the deltoid muscle at an interval of 3–4 weeks. The vaccine should not be administered with an interval of less than 3 weeks. WHO is currently assessing the need for and timing of booster doses. Data on the duration of continued protection are currently still missing.



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