

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Weekly Update

Report No. 281 - Saudi Arabia

17 March, 2022



World Health
Organization

WHO Office - Riyadh

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	460,280,168	6,050,018	21,466,737	338,737
Last Week	448,313,293	6,011,482	21,362,890	337,357

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	749,268	731,638	9,024	8,606	223	41,320,890

Vaccination in Saudi Arabia

Total Doses Administered	Total of 1 st Dose	Total of 2 nd Dose	Total of Booster Doses
62.1 million	26.1 million	24.4 million	11.6 million

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global update:** After a consistent decrease since the end of January 2022, the number of new weekly cases increased by 8% during the week of 7 through 13 March 2022, while the number of new deaths continued a decreasing trend. Over 11 million new cases and just over 43,000 new deaths were reported.
- **Regional update:** new weekly cases in the Eastern Mediterranean Region declined by 24% as compared to the previous week, only two countries have reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, these are Tunisia and Afghanistan.
- **Saudi Arabia update:**
 - Travelers to the Kingdom from countries facing travel ban including Turkey and Lebanon still need a 14-day stay in a third country.
 - The Saudi Government will no longer bear the treatment costs of COVID-19 patients in the private sector facilities.
 - Ministry of Health merges the services of Tetamman clinics with the rest of primary care services. Unvaccinated people with critical cases allowed to enter health facilities.
 - Ministry of Education cancels all social distancing requirements between students at schools.
- **COVID-19 variants:** in the last 30 days there is global dominance of the Omicron variant, accounting for 99.9% of all circulating variants, while Delta accounts for 0.1%. Detection of variants Alpha, Beta and Gamma has been negligible during the past 90 days, while during the same period Lambda and Mu were not detected (see links below for additional details).
- WHO Technical Advisory Group issues a statement on **COVID-19 vaccines** to ensure they provide optimal protection into the future, recommending updating them as new, antigenically distinct variants emerge. The updated vaccines may be monovalent targeting the predominant circulating variant, or multivalent based on different variants.

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>
- **Important WHO publications / sources:**
 - [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants \(who.int\)](#)
 - [Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19 \(who.int\)](#)
 - [About | View Hub \(view-hub.org\)](#)
 - [Statement on Omicron sublineage BA.2 \(who.int\)](#)
 - [COVID-19 \(openwho.org\)](#)
 - [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)
 - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) \(who.int\)](#)