

# Situation Report

## COVID-19: Iraq

Epi Weeks 14 - 15 (4 - 17 April 2022)

### Key figures (As of 17 April 2022)

**18.4M**

COVID-19 tests performed in Iraq since the beginning of the pandemic



**10.47M**

people vaccinated against COVID-19 since March 2021



**2.32M**

confirmed cases registered since late February 2020



**5,131**

COVID-19 active cases reported in Iraq up to week 15



**2.29M**

recoveries from COVID-19 reported across Iraq



**25,198**

deaths due to COVID-19 reported in Iraq since March 2020



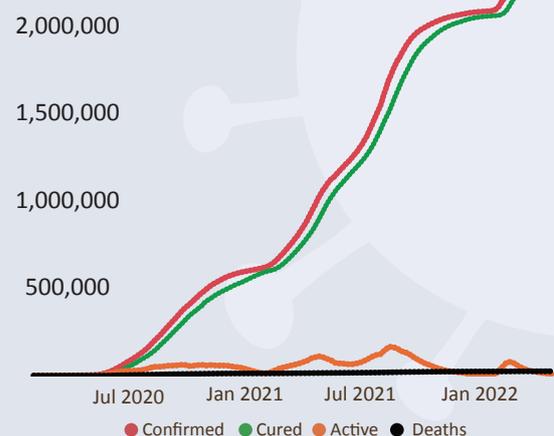
### Epidemiological Highlights:

- During the reporting period (4 - 17 April 2022), the number of new COVID-19 cases decreased by **32%** compared to the two previous weeks. Deaths have also declined by **29%** during the same period.
- Real-time PCR tests during weeks 14 - 15 stood at an average of 70,775, indicating a decrease of 41% more than the average in the previous two weeks.
- The community transmission all over the country has been low since week 11.
- The positivity rate (PR) in weeks 14 and 15 stood at **4.2%** and **3.9%**, respectively. The highest PR in week 14 was reported in Kirkuk governorate (47%), while the highest PR in week 15 was recorded in Missan (21%). Erbil reported the lowest positivity rate in both weeks 14 and 15 (1.4% and 0.9%, respectively).
- The average number of admitted patients during weeks 14 and 15 was 137 and 117 respectively, representing a decrease of 16% compared to the previous two weeks.

Daily positivity rate



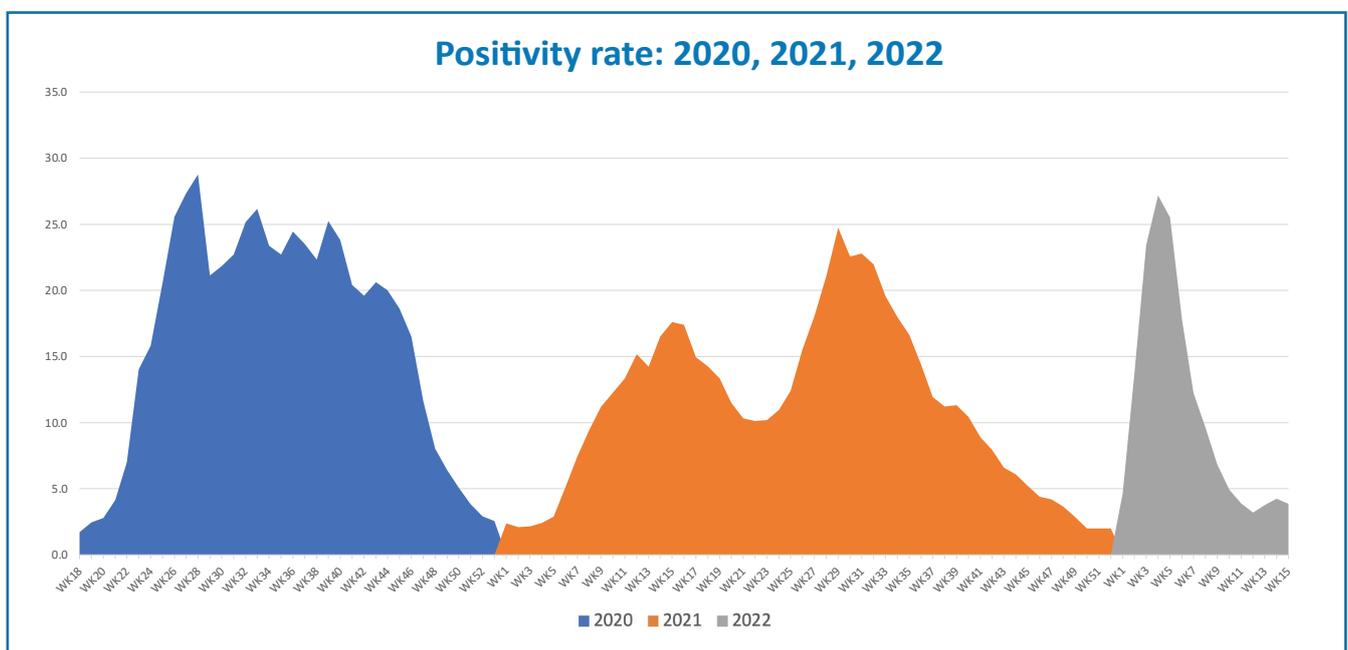
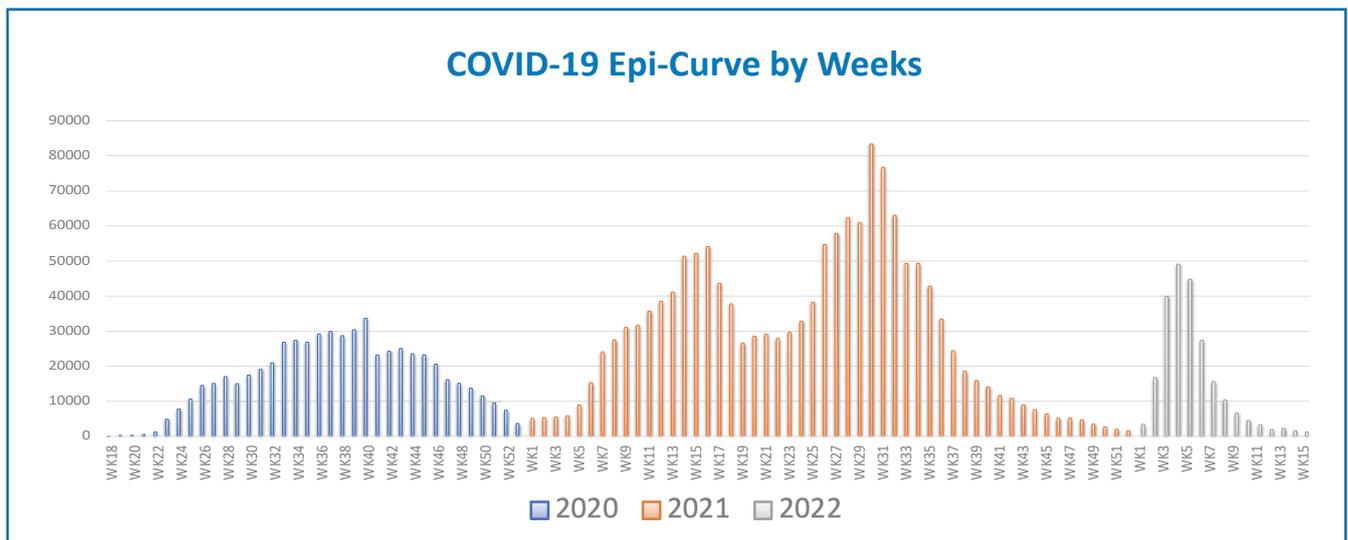
Cumulative distribution of cases by health status



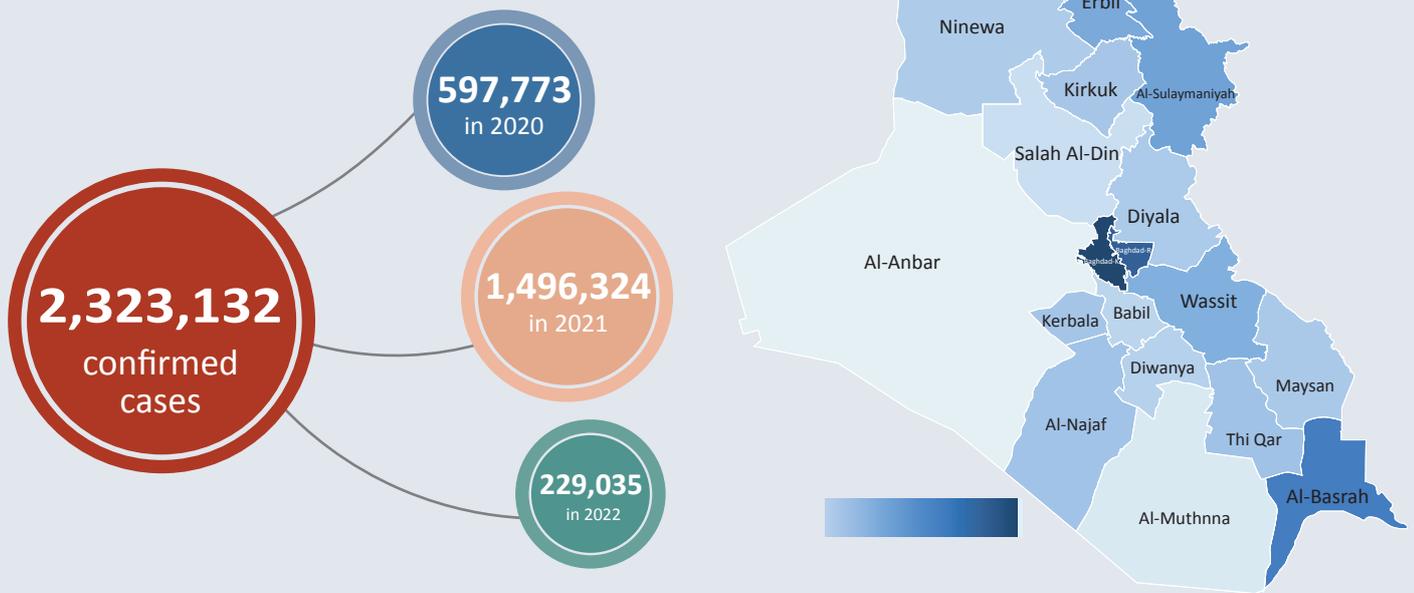
## The COVID-19 epidemiological indicators for weeks 14 - 15:

Since week 11, the overall community transmission in Iraq has been low. The results were analyzed based on three indicators: cases per 100,000 of population, deaths per 1 million of population, and positivity rate.

Week No	Case per 100000	Death Per 1 M	Positivity Rate	Case per 100001	Death Per 1 M	Positivity Rate	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Total Score	Rank
1	20.9	2.5	3.5	Moderate	Low	Low	2	1	1	4	Moderate
2	40.7	1.0	13.5	Moderate	Low	Substantial	2	1	3	6	Moderate
3	96.9	1.0	23.4	Substantial	Low	High	3	1	4	8	Substantial
4	119.3	2.2	27.1	High	Low	High	4	1	4	9	Substantial
5	108.8	3.4	25.1	High	Low	High	4	1	4	9	Substantial
6	66.5	4.6	17.3	Substantial	Low	Substantial	3	1	3	7	Substantial
7	37.9	3.7	11.9	Moderate	Low	Substantial	2	1	3	6	Moderate
8	25.3	2.8	9.5	Moderate	Low	Moderate	2	1	2	5	Moderate
9	16.0	1.8	6.7	Moderate	Low	Moderate	2	1	2	5	Moderate
10	11.0	1.2	4.9	Moderate	Low	Low	2	1	1	4	Moderate
11	8.1	0.7	3.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
12	4.7	0.5	3.2	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
13	5.5	0.6	3.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
14	3.9	0.3	4.1	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
15	3.1	0.3	3.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low

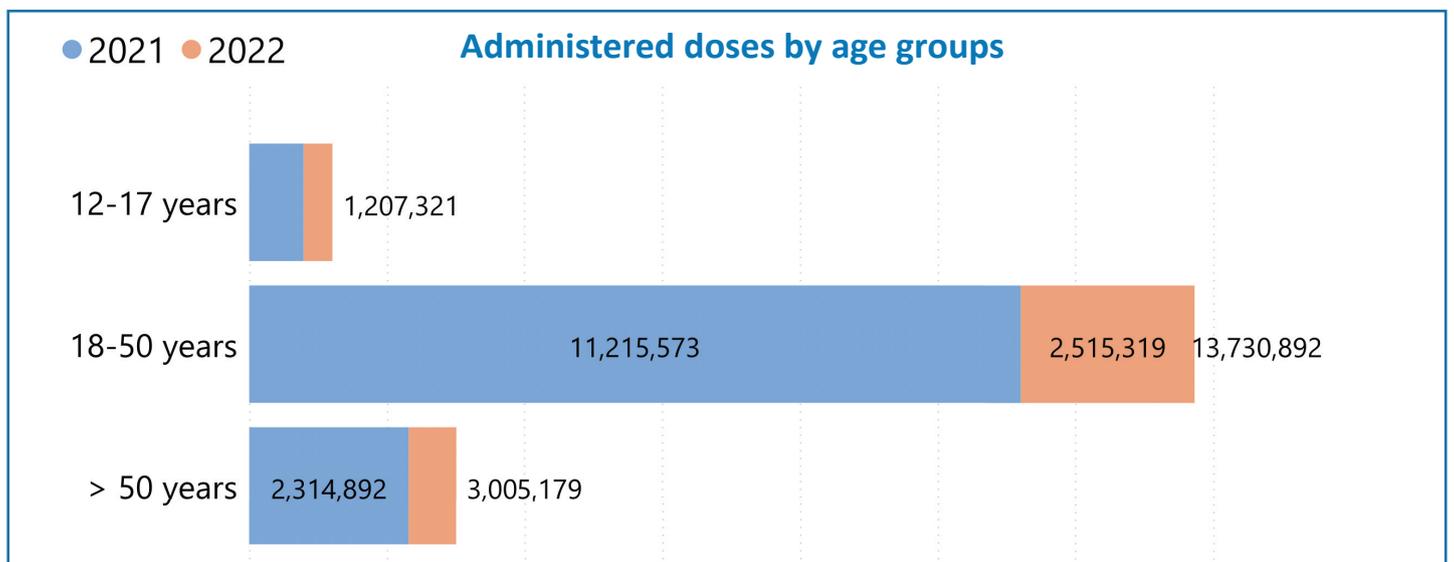
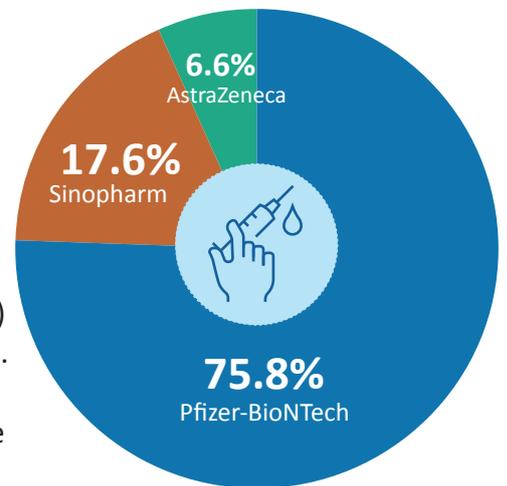


## Cumulative distribution of confirmed cases by DoH



## WHO preparedness and Response:

- As of 17 April 2022, a total of 17,943,392 vaccine doses were administered countrywide. A total of 10,459,618 people -- 25.4% of the population -- have received the first dose, while 7,320,887-- 17.8% of the population -- have been fully vaccinated.
- Vaccine administration statistics showed that 6,411,556 males (61%) were vaccinated with the first dose against 4,048,062 females (39%). The turnout among women remains comparatively low due to several reasons associated with housekeeping requirements and the rumors about the vaccines' side effects.
- Governorates with the highest rate of vaccinated people with the first dose include Dohuk at a rate of (35.7%), followed by Baghdad- Karkh at a rate of 34.6%, Basra (33%), and Salah Al-Din (29.5%). In comparison, the lowest coverage of vaccination as of week 15 was reported in Sulaymaniyah and Diwannia at a rate of (18.2%) each, and Missan at (17.8%).



## Response to COVID-19

- On 10 April 2022, WHO handed over 630 000 rapid antigen tests to the Ministry of Health to be used for a timely and accurate COVID-19 screening and detection of SARS-COV-2 infection. The US\$ 1.6 million shipment came as a part of WHO's overall COVID-19. These modern rapid tests will help the Ministry of Health enhance surveillance for COVID-19 and increase the number of tests performed everywhere in Iraq.



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## Health cluster and partnerships:

- The Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA arranged a Humanitarian Country Team and Donor Contact Group retreat in Baghdad to discuss trends in humanitarian funding, strategies for future international engagement in and out of camps and cluster transition plans from humanitarian assistance to durable solutions and development strategies. The Health Cluster Coordinator made a presentation on the WHO/Health Cluster transition plan and phase-out strategy, which focuses on health system strengthening under the six pillars of the health system while continuing to support essential health care services in the open IDP camps and priority informal settlements till mid-2023, based on available funding.

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- For Ramadan, WHO produced and disseminated messages on healthy habits during the holy month and messages on vaccine uptake and preventive measures against COVID-19. The visual materials were done in Arabic, and most of them were promoted through ads on Facebook and Instagram to reach more audiences, including those in hard-to-reach areas.

## Honoring health workers responding to COVID-19 in Iraq

- On the occasion of the World Health Day and the 30th anniversary of establishing the WHO Iraq office in Iraq, WHO honored a number of health officials & workers across the country for their valuable contributions in preparing for and responding to the COVID19 pandemic across Iraq.
- During the events, organized in Baghdad (on 7 April) and Erbil (on 14 April), WHO Representative in Iraq Dr Ahmed Zouiten stressed the importance of uniting efforts to support the Iraqi Ministry of Health and the national health system in the country. He outlined the WHO contributions to COVID-19 response, including upgrading the diagnostic capacities, establishing thousands of Intensive care units, training thousands of health workers on the management of moderate and severe cases of the infection.

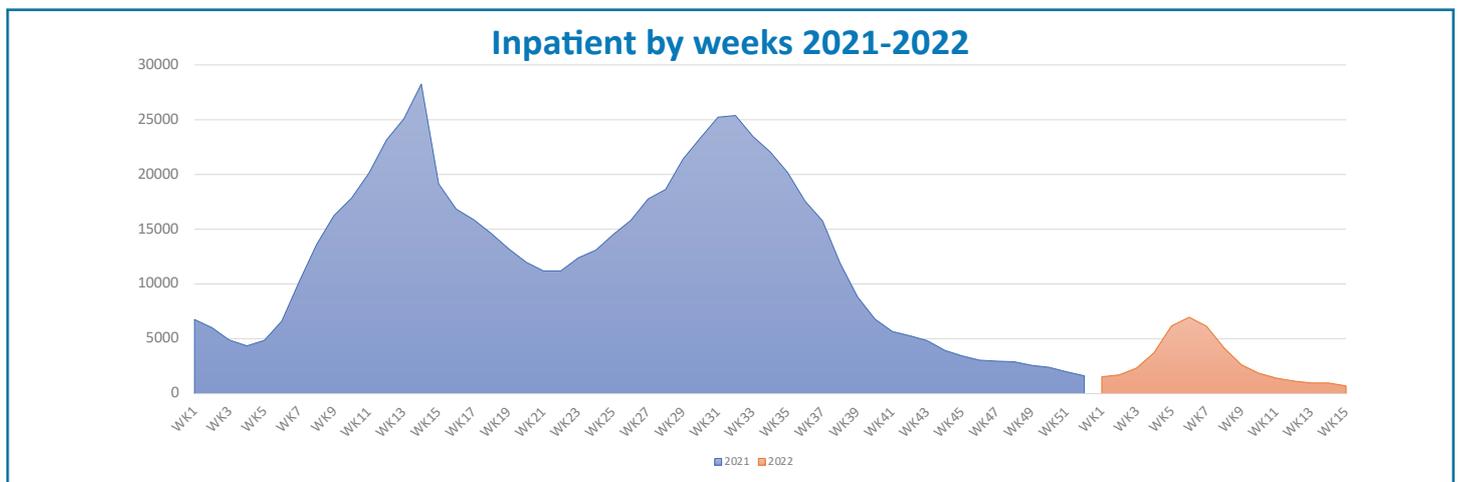


## Conclusions:

- The 4th wave of COVID-19 has been declining since Week 6. Despite the high positivity rate and number of cases during this wave, deaths and inpatients were fewer compared to the previous waves, which can be explained by the low virulence of Omicron or due to the positive effect of the vaccine.
- It is expected that the downward phase to continue in the coming weeks.

## Recommendations:

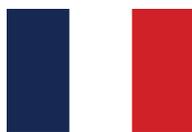
- Considerations for the implementation of individualized public health measures should be enhanced, including immunity status, vaccination, and mask-wearing in public and indoor settings.
- A new strategy for vaccination uptake needs to be considered for further enhancement, particularly among vulnerable groups such as IDPs and refugees.



The response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Iraq is made possible with the generous contributions from WHO Iraq's long-term partners:



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### Notes for the reader:

- The source of the data in this situation report is the Ministry of Health daily reporting system.
- For detailed information on COVID-19 in Iraq, visit the COVID-19 dynamic infographics dashboard for Iraq.