

# COVID-19 CASES IN GAZA STRIP

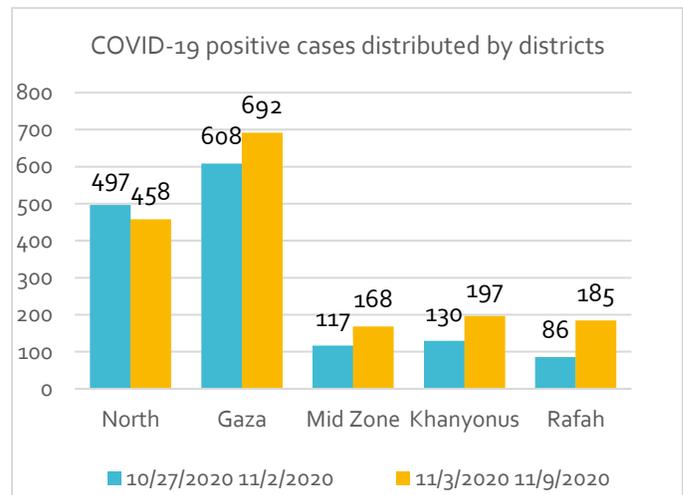
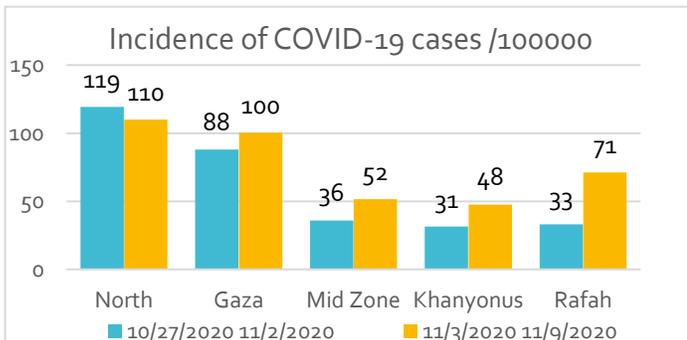
Weekly comparison from 27/10-2/11 to 3/11-9/11 2020

## GENERAL

|                     | Weekly cases         |                     | Cumulative        |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                     | 27/10/2020-2/11/2020 | 3/11/2020-9/11/2020 | 31 Jan -9/11/2020 |
| # of samples tested | total 16723          | 18454               | 139,190           |
| # of positive cases | total 1438           | 1701                | 8,932             |
|                     | mild 1408            | 1672                |                   |
|                     | moderate 19          | 7                   |                   |
|                     | severe 6             | 17                  |                   |
|                     | critical 5           | 5                   |                   |
| positivity rate     | total 9%             | 9%                  | 6.4%              |
|                     | contacts 17%         | 12%                 |                   |
|                     | suspect 18%          | 22%                 |                   |
|                     | surveillance 3%      | 5%                  |                   |

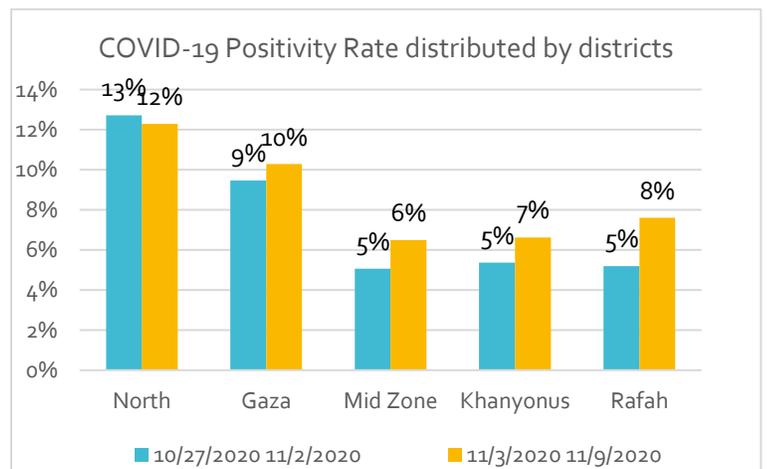
The classification of cases reflects the initial patient status at day1 of detection

The total cases and incidence per 100,000 population increased in all districts in Gaza Strip except the North district it slightly decreased. Also, total tested samples increased



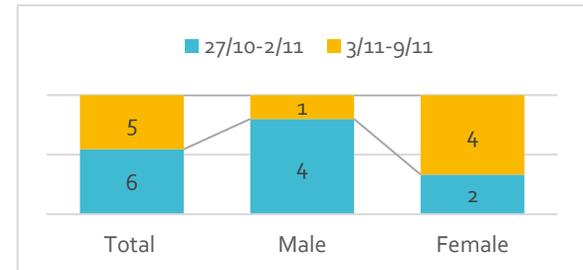
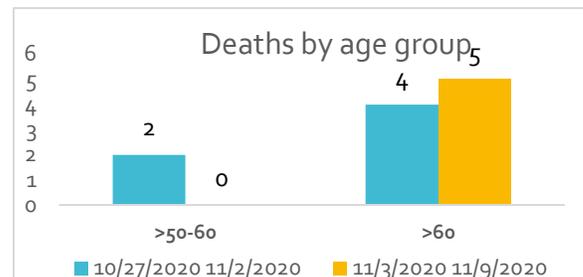
## POSITIVITY RATE

- The total positivity rate did not change during the comparison weeks (9%) which is considered high in comparison with the acceptable positivity rate for EMRO region (5%).
- The positivity rate increased during the comparison weeks when disaggregated by districts. The higher increase level is at southern districts where the positivity rate increased from 5% to 8% in Rafah district and from 5% to 7% in Khanyounis district. The same increase in the positivity rate was also noticed in the previous bi-weekly report.



## REPORTED DEATHS

- The total reported deaths in the week 27Oct-2 Nov were 6 deaths distributed between two age groups as illustrated in the graph below. While the deaths decreased to 5 in the period from 3-9 Nov and were all among the age group higher than 60 years.
- In the previous report, we highlighted that there is a general increase in number of COVID-19 infected people at from higher age groups specially among females. We can see that the number of deaths decreased in comparison between the two reporting weeks but the number of women who died from the total death increased (1female deaths to 4) as illustrated in the figure.

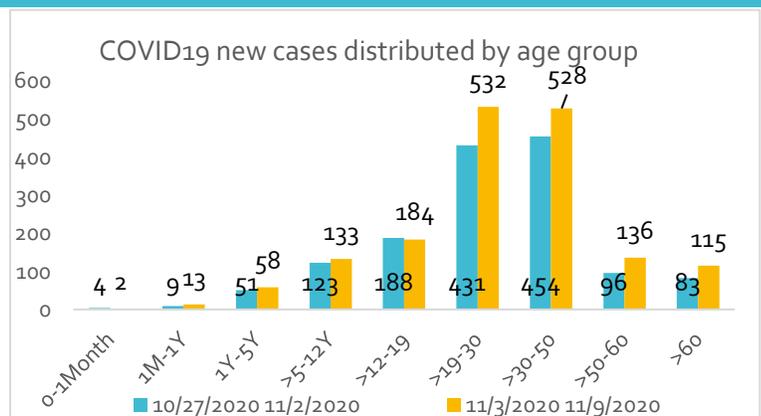


### Available data on some COVID-19 Deaths who were admitted and/or died in the reporting period at EGH

- Case A:** Age is 79 years Old female, stayed at hospital for 21 days, admitted at EGH at moderate stage on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The patient condition fluctuated between moderate and severe stage, then deteriorated to critical stage and then died.
- Case B:** 52 years old male. Cancer patient was treated in Naser Hospital. Arrived dead in the way to EGH after one day he had positive corona result.
- Case C:** 85 years old female, admitted to hospital at moderate stage, stayed at hospital for 3 days, her situation rapidly deteriorated and died.
- Case D:** 84 years old female, admitted to hospital at severe stage on 24<sup>th</sup> October, stayed at hospital for 15 days. Her condition fluctuated between severe and moderate stage, stayed at critical stage for two days during admission period then died.
- Case E:** 68 years old male, admitted to hospital at critical stage on 27<sup>th</sup> October and stayed at critical stage for 7 days and died.
- Case F:** 58 years old female, admitted to hospital at critical condition stayed for 3 days and died.
- Case G:** 62 years old female, admitted to hospital at severe stage, rapidly deteriorated at the second day of admission and

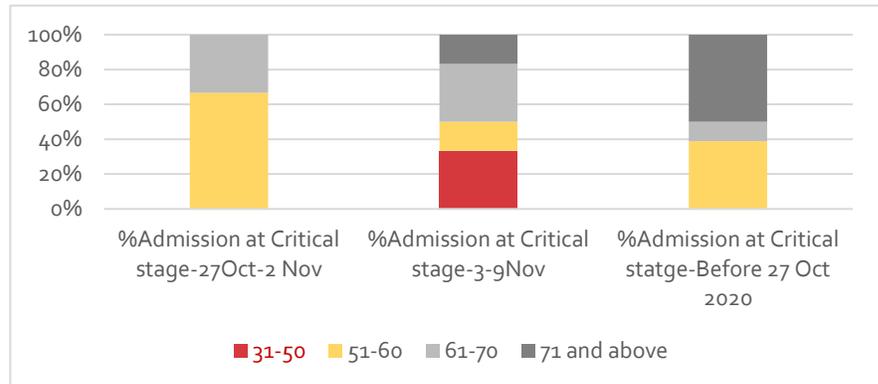
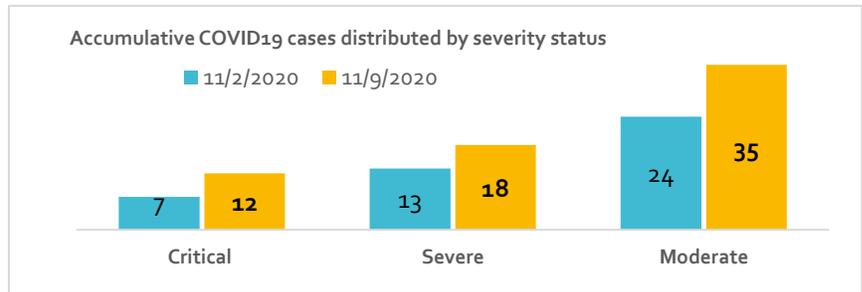
## DISTRIBUTION OF CASES AMONG AGE GROUPS

- There is a noticeable increase in number of COVID19 cases among higher age groups (>50-60 and >60) which reflect the continuous increase in number of higher risky groups. The increase was almost equal among males and females among these higher age groups.



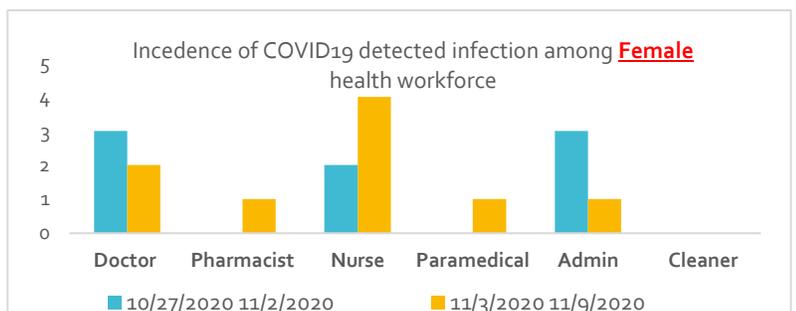
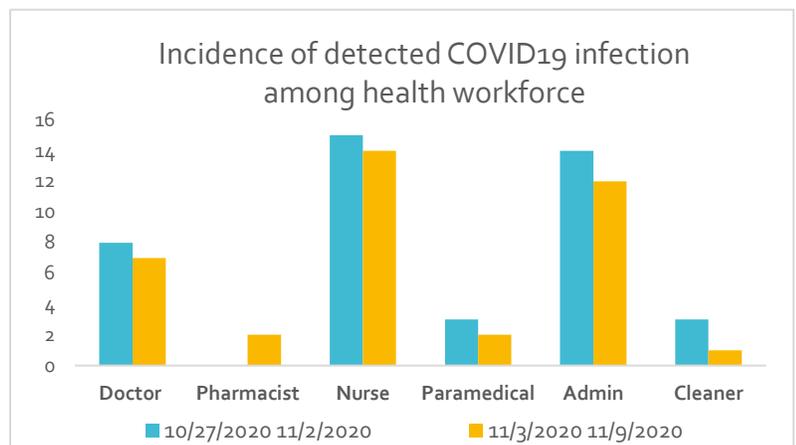
## DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 CASES BY SEVERITY

- The total number of accumulative severe and critical cases increased at the end of the second week more than the first week of comparison.
- This increase in the total accumulative severe and critical cases indicates that the infection is reaching more vulnerable groups at the community level.
- The following figure illustrates the distribution by age groups of all cases admitted at day 1 to EGH at critical condition. During the period before 27 October 2020, the majority of cases admitted to hospital at critical stage were from the age group of 71 and above. In the period between 27 October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November, more than 60% of admitted cases at critical condition were from the age group 51-60.
- For the first time since the beginning of COVID-19 community outbreak in Gaza Strip, 2 COVID-19 cases from the age group 31 to 50 years were admitted to European Gaza Hospital (EGH) at critical condition in the period between 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November. This observation might be related to the two cases health status and presence of co-morbidities but closer monitoring for this condition should be continued during the coming weeks to see if there are any modifications in the virulence of COVID19 virus.



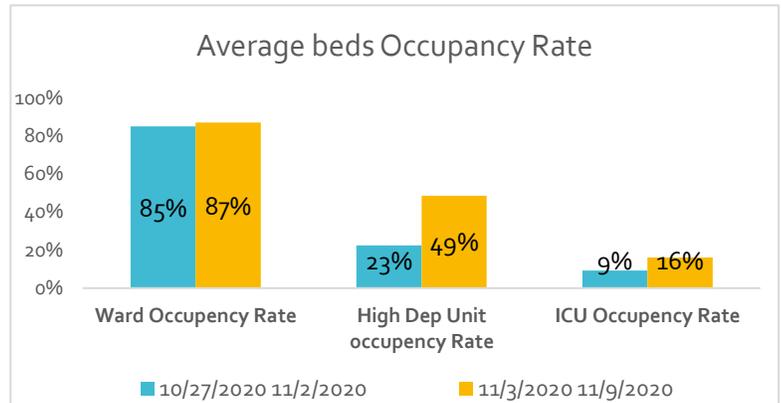
## HEALTH CARE WORKERS INFECTIONS

- The reporting of detected COVID19 infection among healthcare workforce is being improved even after including more health workforce from all health sectors (MOH, UNRWA, NGOs). The illustrated figures are reflecting the current available updated data.
- There is a slight decrease in newly detected COVID19 cases among health workforce when comparing between the two reporting weeks. Still, further monitoring is needed to identify the specific risk factors for COVID19 infections among health workforce and understand the root causes of infection to set suitable policies to decrease the rates of infection. From the noticeable observations this week, the increased number of infection among female Nurses/midwives and also paramedics between the two reporting periods.



## HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY (COVID<sub>19</sub> MANAGEMENT)

- There is an increase in total ward occupancy rate from 85% on the first reporting week to 87% in the second reporting week.
- Among available ICU beds, the occupancy rate increased from 9% to 16%.
- Among available high dependency unit, the occupancy rate increased from 23% to 49%.
- The health system tolerance capacity decreased from 46 days to 34 days. The MOH in Gaza measure this tolerance capacity based on the availability of 100 high dependency and ICU beds. Yet, there is a limitation in the oxygen station capacity (1200 L/M) which decrease the actual available ICU bed to almost 50 beds. Accordingly, the real tolerance capacity is much less than 34 days.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is an increase in number of cases in all districts in the Gaza Strip which will necessarily increase the possibility of infection among the most vulnerable population.
- There is an increase in infections among older age groups indicating the urgent need for further measures to protect these vulnerable populations and investigate the sources of the increase in infection.
- There is a change in the status of severity of COVID<sub>19</sub> infection among younger age groups. This situation should be closely monitored.
- The capacity of Oxygen station at EGH should be urgently increased to be able to serve the available 100 ICU and high dependency units.
- Increase monitoring on adherence of IPC measures at all health care settings and activate rapid detection and isolation of cases to prevent higher health workforce infections.
- The previous report and this report reached similar alarming trends of increase in total cases, increase in the severity of cases and also the higher occupation for MOH capacity. Thus, urgent and stricter social procedures is recommended to avoid further deterioration of situation and the breakdown of health care system in Gaza.