

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Data as reported by national authorities by 23:00 local time 22nd of December 2020

Situation Report No. 205 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
23rd of December, 2020



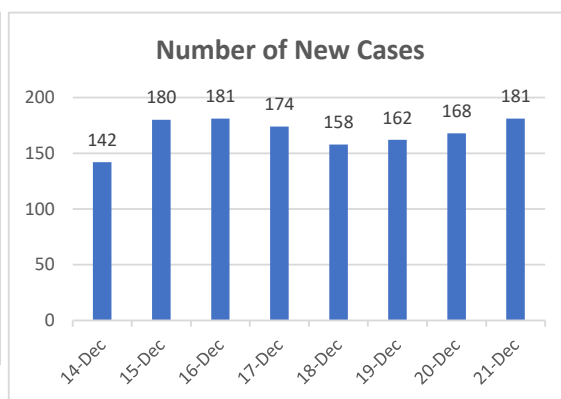
	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Total	76,250,431	1,699,230	4,708,243	116,538
New	524,065	8,775	19,892	518

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	361,359	352,249	6,139	2,971	404	10,715,628
New	181	160	8	-	-	39,610

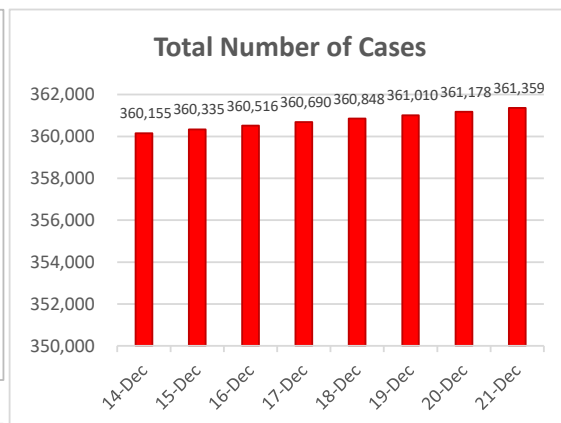
HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections: Riyadh (64), Makkah (36), Eastern (31), Madinah (12), Al Qassim (11), Asir (6), Northern Borders (5) and Najran (3).
- Ministry of Health: No change on the vaccination plan and all the citizens and expatriates who took the vaccine are in a good health; have not shown any unexpected symptoms.
- More than 4.5 million visitors have entered the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Al Madinah since the resumption of Umrah service on October 4.
- WHO produces guide on developing a national deployment and vaccination Planning for COVID-19 vaccines, see link.
- WHO updated guidance on mask use in the context of COVID-19, see link.
- WHO produces a draft landscape of current COVID-19 candidate vaccines.



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>
- Saudi Arabia shuts land, air, and sea borders temporarily: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2170933#2170933>
- WHO guide on developing a national deployment and vaccination Plan: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Vaccine_deployment-2020.1
- WHO updated guidance on mask use in the context of COVID-19: [https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)-outbreak](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/advice-on-the-use-of-masks-in-the-community-during-home-care-and-in-healthcare-settings-in-the-context-of-the-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)-outbreak)
- Draft landscape of COVID-19 candidate vaccines: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

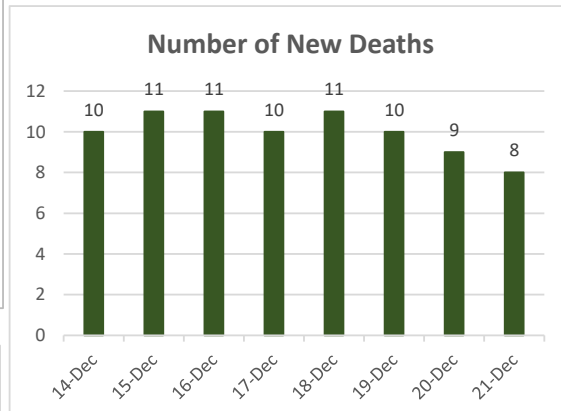


IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

What is the COVID-19 Infodemic?

An infodemic is an overabundance of information, both online and offline. It includes deliberate attempts to disseminate wrong information to undermine the public health response and advance alternative agendas of groups or individuals. Mis- and disinformation can be harmful to people's physical and mental health; increase stigmatization; threaten precious health gains; and lead to poor observance of public health measures, thus reducing their effectiveness and endangering countries' ability to stop the pandemic.

Misinformation costs lives. Without the appropriate trust and correct information, diagnostic tests go unused, immunization campaigns (or campaigns to promote effective vaccines) will not meet their targets, and the virus will continue to thrive. Furthermore, disinformation is polarizing public debate on topics related to COVID-19.



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