Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report

Data as reported by national authorities by 23:00 local time 17th of January 2021

Situation Report No. 220 - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
18th of January, 2021

World Health Organization

WHO Office - Riyadh

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	**COVID-19 Deaths**	**COVID-19 Cases**	**COVID-19 Deaths**
Total	93,194,922	2,014,729	5,334,724	127,790
New	683,378	12,893	25,023	402

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	**Recovered Cases**	**Deaths**	**Active Cases**	**Critical Cases**	**PCR Tests**
Total	364,929	356,687	6,323	1,919	319	11,668,932
New	176	146	5	-	-	39,774

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections: Riyadh (62), Makkah (34), Eastern (32), Madinah (12), Al Qassim (11), Asir (7), Najran (5), and Al Bhaha (4).
- Nearly 300,000 received coronavirus vaccination in Saudi Arabia so far.
- Madinah is the 4th city where COVID-19 vaccination starts, with the governor and his deputy receiving 1st doses of vaccine.
- Unicef publishes a "Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide", see link.
- WHO provides analysing and using routine data to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on essential health services: practical guide for national and subnational decision-makers, below
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for the use of the Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, under Emergency Use Listing, 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
- **Unicef's Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide:**
https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/vaccine-misinformation-management-field-guide
- **Analysing and using routine data to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on essential health services**: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-essential_health_services-monitoring-2021.1
- **Background document on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine:**
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/background-document-on-mrna-vaccine-bnt162b2-(pfizer-biontech)-against-covid-19

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS
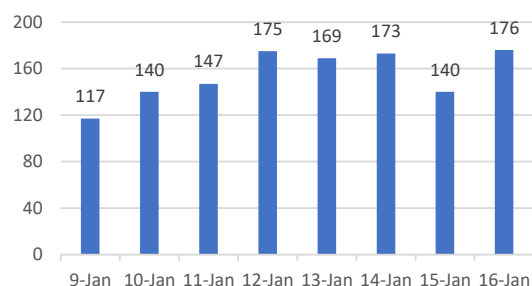
Who can take the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine?

According to SAGE (WHO's Strategic Group of Experts on Immunization), the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is safe and effective. Nevertheless, there are specific populations for whom vaccination is not recommended for a variety of reasons. These populations currently include people with a history of severe allergies, (particularly it is contraindicated for People with a history of severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine), most pregnant women (except for those with unavoidable high risk of exposure such as health workers), international travellers who are not part of a prioritized group (due to limited supplies of the vaccine at present), and children under 16 (due to lack of data). Further studies are needed for immune-compromized persons.

The priority is to start vaccinating health workers at high risk of exposure, followed by older adults, before immunizing the rest of the population. For more details see the link above.
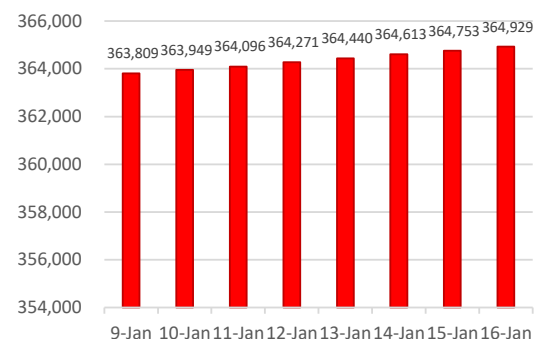
IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- **The National Focal Person for COVID-19 is Dr Abdullah Asiri, Assistant Deputy for Preventive Health, MoH, email:** AbdullahM.Asiri@moh.gov.sa

Number of New Cases

9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan
117	140	147	175	169	173	140	176

Total Number of Cases

9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan
363,809	363,949	364,096	364,271	364,440	364,613	364,753	364,929

Number of New Deaths

9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan
5	4	5	4	6	3	5	5