

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 228 - Saudi Arabia

18 - 24 February, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	111,762,965	2,479,678	6,266,689	142,986
Last Week	109,217,366	2,413,912	6,074,987	140,510
In 7 days	2,545,599	65,766	191,702	2,476

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	376,021	367,015	6,475	2,531	483	13,463,804
In 7 days	2,319	2,369	30	-	-	306,270
17/2/2021	327	371	5	2,562	493	51,419
18/2/2021	337	346	4	2,549	497	48,779
19/2/2021	325	382	3	2,489	510	38,376
20/2/2021	315	349	4	2,451	508	36,218
21/2/2021	327	318	5	2,455	497	41,010
22/2/2021	335	323	4	2,463	486	45,080
23/2/2021	353	280	5	2,531	483	45,388

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (1,199), Eastern (430), Makkah (294), Al Qassim (83), Madinah (52), , Asir (48), AlJouf (41), and Al Bahah (34).
- Saudi Arabia announced the lifting of travel restrictions for Saudi men and women who are married to non-Saudis.
- Ministry of Education decided to continue with distance education for the remainder of the second semester of the academic year.
- 44,002 is the total number of violations of the precautionary measures against Covid-19 in 1 week ending 20 February 2021.
- Ministry of Islamic Affairs decided to temporarily close no. of mosques in many regions after some of infected cases bringing the total of what were closed to 99 mosques during 12 days, 79 of which were opened after the completion of sterilization.
- SFDA allows the use of AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine to be the second vaccine in the country.
- MoH recommended people who have already recovered from COVID-19 to receive a single vaccine dose.
- MoH has expanded coronavirus vaccine centers to cover all regions of the Kingdom, the number of vaccine recipients exceeded 600,000
- SCDC publishes guidelines for quarantine and medical isolation, and the mechanism for dealing with people coming from abroad, see link.
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for use of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca, see link.
- WHO updated clinical case management guideline for COVID-19.
- WHO provides Interim recommendations for use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, see link.
- WHO launches Global COVID-19 Clinical Platform Case Report Form (CRF) for Post COVID condition, see link
- WHO publishes 10 steps to community readiness: What countries should do to prepare communities for a COVID-19 vaccine, treatment or new test, see link.
- Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines, 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>
- **SCDC's guideline for quarantine, medical isolation and the mechanism for dealing with people coming from abroad:** https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/AR_guideline_for_quarantine_and_isolation.pdf
- **Interim recommendations for use of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-AZD1222-2021.1
- **WHO's COVID-19 Clinical management living guidance:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-clinical-2021-1>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the Moderna vaccine:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/interim-recommendations-for-use-of-the-moderna-mrna-1273-vaccine-against-covid-19>
- **WHO's post COVID clinical platform case report form (CRF):** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/global-covid-19-clinical-platform-case-report-form-crf-for-post-covid-conditions-post-covid-19-crf-1>
- **WHO's 10 steps to community readiness:** https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-nCoV-Community_Readiness-2021.1
- **Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines:** <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

WHO Grants AstraZeneca/Oxford University Vaccine Emergency Use Listing (EUL):

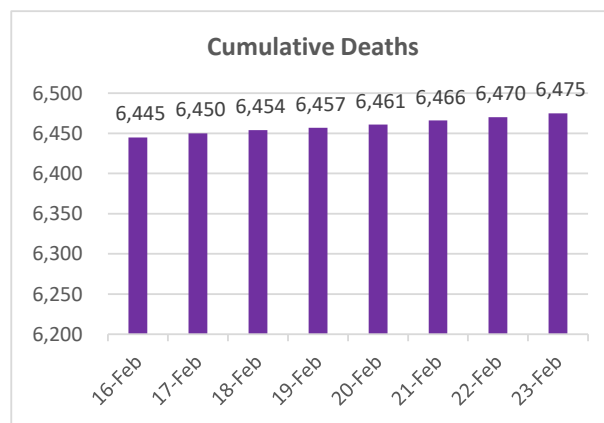
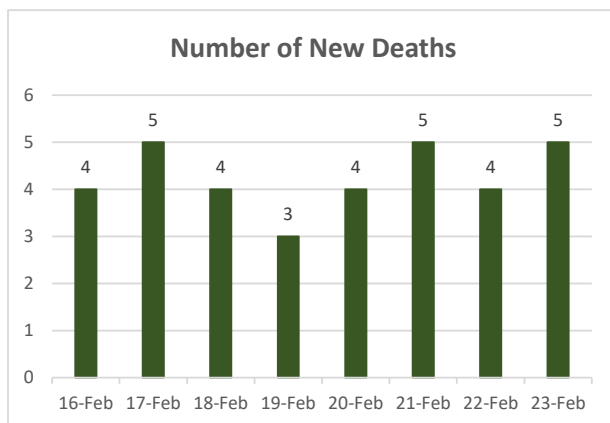
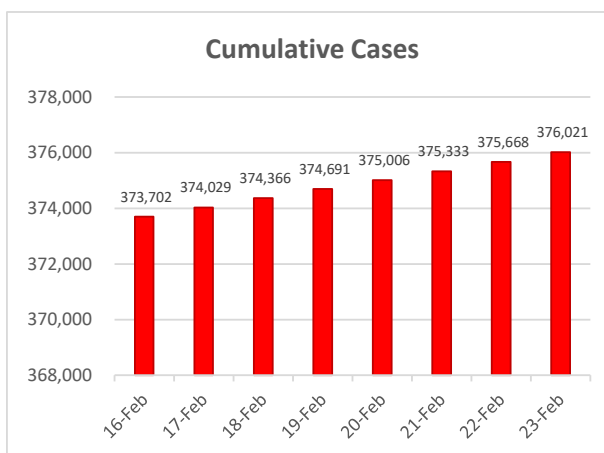
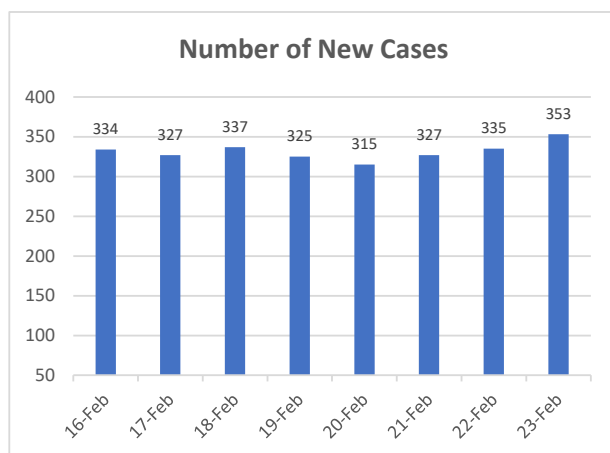
The vaccine was reviewed by WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), which recommended the use of the vaccine for all age groups 18 and above on the 15th of February.

The vaccine is a non-replicating vaccine that has easy storage requirements. The vaccine is given in two intramuscular doses, the vaccine has been found to have 63.09% efficacy that tends to be higher when the interval between the doses was longer, usually between 4 and 12 weeks. There are currently no evidence indicating a need for additional (booster) doses. There are no data available on the interchangeability of doses of this vaccine with other COVID-19 vaccines. There should be a minimum interval of 14 days between administration of this vaccine and any other vaccines against other conditions.

No severe allergic reactions or anaphylaxis caused by the vaccine have been recorded in the context of clinical trials, however, as for all vaccines, it should be given under supervision, with the appropriate medical treatment available in case of allergic reactions. Anyone with fever above 38.5 °C should postpone vaccination. The vaccine produces an immune response in older persons similar to other age groups and is safe for use in the older age group, it has also been safe when tested in persons with a number of underlying medical conditions.

The vaccine has not been tested on pregnant women to assess its safety during pregnancy, however, WHO does not recommend taking a pregnancy test prior to vaccination and does not recommend delaying pregnancy because of vaccination. It is not known whether the vaccine is secreted in human milk, however, since it is not a replicating vaccine, it is unlikely to pose a risk to the breastfeeding child. WHO does not recommend discontinuing breastfeeding after vaccination.

The vaccine can be given to those who already had COVID-19, however should be delayed for 6 months after they have recovered. If antibody treatment was given, the vaccine should be deferred for at least 90 days after the treatment was given. Preliminary analysis shows that the vaccine is less effective against the variant discovered in South Africa, however this needs further study.



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**