

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report



Weekly Report No. 239 - Saudi Arabia

13-19 May, 2021

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	163,869,893	3,398,302	9,737,714	195,749
2 Weeks ago	153,954,491	3,221,052	9,274,240	185,875
In 15 days	9,915,402	177,250	463,474	9,874

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	436,240	420,671	7,201	8,367	1,372	18,194,963
In 7 days	6,851	7,661	90	-	-	399,995
12/5/2021	1,116	1,129	11	9,244	1344	71,457
13/5/2021	927	1,608	12	8,551	1,323	56,495
14/5/2021	837	1,012	13	8,363	1,331	47,586
15/5/2021	825	1,028	15	8,145	1,376	N/A
16/5/2021	886	1,127	12	7,892	1,377	61,665
17/5/2021	1,047	847	14	8,078	1,384	73,933
18/5/2021	1,213	910	13	8,367	1,372	88,859

HIGHLIGHTS

- Regions with the highest new infections over the past 7 days: Riyadh (2,104), Makkah (1,934), Eastern (824), Madinah (494), Asir (421), Jazan (298), Al Qassim (220) and Tabuk (136).
- In the preceding week (during Eid El-Fitr vacation) confirmed cases were 7,037, Recovered were 7,403, and 93 deaths were recorded in 7 days.
- More than 12 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered so far in 587 vaccination centres.
- Saudi Arabian Airlines resumed its international flights to 30 destinations on 17th of May. 18,675 Saudi citizens travelled abroad during the first 36 hours of resumption of international flights for Saudi citizens.
- Saudi Arabia allows only fully vaccinated citizens (or recovered) who are over the age of 18 to travel to Bahrain through the King Fahd Causeway.
- Public Health Authority: institutional quarantine measures will be applied to non-Saudis who have not completed their vaccine doses approved in the Kingdom. Vaccinated travellers are allowed to enter Saudi Arabia without the need to quarantine themselves.
- GACA: all unvaccinated travellers will have to bear expenses for their institutional quarantine, which will be included in their ticket price. An electronic portal allows registration of vaccinated travellers before arriving at the Kingdom.
- Prior approval needed by citizens before traveling to 13 countries (Afghanistan, Armenia, Belarus, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Turkey, Venezuela and Yemen) due to security circumstances, the COVID-19 pandemic and presence of new variants.
- Saudi Arabia allows serving of shisha from May 17, only vaccinated customers to enter cafes according to their status on Tawakkalna. All workers in cafes must be immunized or present a negative PCR test result every 7 days.
- Ministry of Interior: COVID-19 vaccine a must for entering workplaces and commercial facilities from August 1st.
- MoH launched a travel guide for tourists and travellers and approved Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines for incoming visitors.
- WHO publishes preventing and mitigating COVID-19 at work, see link.
- WHO launches Information Note: COVID-19 considerations for tuberculosis (TB) care, see link.
- WHO publishes COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction and Deployment Costing Tool (CVIC tool), see link.
- WHO launches document on COVID-19 natural immunity, see link.
- WHO publishes Interim recommendations for use of the inactivated COVID-19 vaccine BIBP developed by China National Biotech Group (CNBG), Sinopharm, 7 May 2021, 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>
- **Preventing and mitigating COVID-19 at work:**
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-workplace-actions-policy-brief-2021-1>
- **WHO Information Note: COVID-19 considerations for tuberculosis (TB) care:**
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-TB-care-2021.1>
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction and deployment Costing tool (CVIC tool):**
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-vaccine_deployment_tool-2021.1
- **COVID-19 natural immunity:** <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Sci-Brief-Immunity-passport-2021.1>
- **Interim recommendations for use of the inactivated COVID-19 vaccine BIBP developed by China National Biotech Group (CNBG), Sinopharm, 7 May 2021**
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BIBP-2021.1

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine Receives Emergency Use Listing from WHO

WHO listed the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the green light for the vaccine to be rolled out globally. The vaccine is produced by Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products Co Ltd, subsidiary of China National Biotec Group (CNBG).

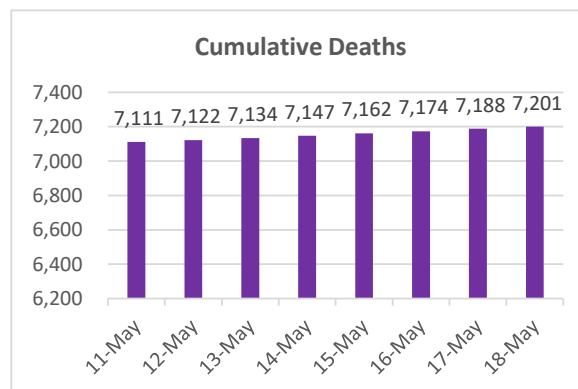
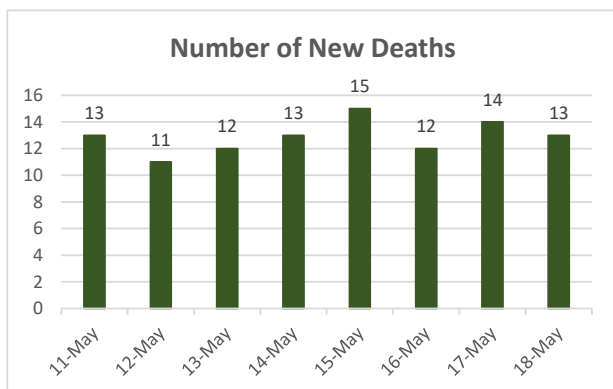
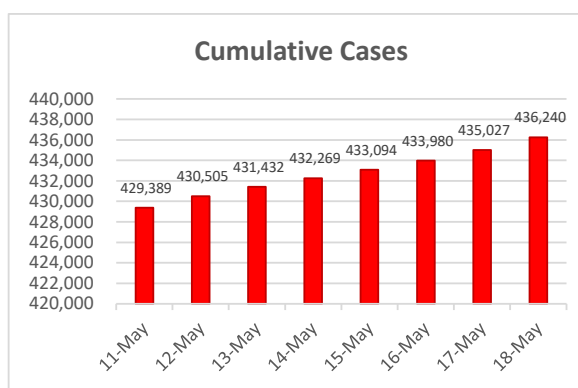
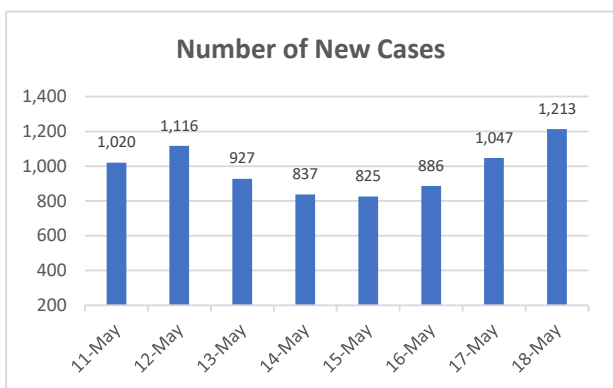
Emergency Use Listing (EUL) of this vaccine has the potential to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine access for countries. The WHO urged the manufacturer to participate in the COVAX Facility and contribute to the goal of more equitable vaccine distribution globally. WHO's Emergency Use Listing (EUL) is a prerequisite for COVAX Facility vaccine supply. It also allows countries to expedite their own regulatory approvals.

The EUL assesses the quality, safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as risk management plans and programmatic suitability, such as cold chain requirements.

The Sinopharm product is an inactivated vaccine called SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell). Its easy storage requirements make it suitable for low-resource settings. It is also the first vaccine that will carry a vaccine vial monitor, a small sticker on the vaccine vials that changes colour as the vaccine is exposed to heat, letting health workers know whether the vaccine can be safely used.

On the basis of all available evidence, WHO recommends the vaccine for adults 18 years and older, in a two-dose schedule with a spacing of three to four weeks. The vaccine is given intramuscularly. Vaccine efficacy for symptomatic and hospitalized disease was estimated to be 79%, all age groups combined.

Few older adults (over 60 years) were enrolled in clinical trials, so efficacy could not be estimated in this age group. Nevertheless, WHO is not recommending an upper age limit for the vaccine because preliminary data and supportive immunogenicity data suggest the vaccine is likely to have a protective effect in older persons.



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