

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Weekly Update

Report No. 282 - Saudi Arabia

24 March, 2022



World Health
Organization

WHO Office - Riyadh

	Global		Eastern Mediterranean Region	
	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths	COVID-19 Cases	COVID-19 Deaths
Current	472,816,657	6,099,380	21,523,010	339,713
Last Week	460,280,168	6,050,018	21,466,737	338,737

Saudi Arabia

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered Cases	Deaths	Active Cases	Critical Cases	PCR Tests
Total	749,965	732,596	9,033	8,336	161	41,421,261

Vaccination in Saudi Arabia

Total Doses Administered	Total of 1 st Dose	Total of 2 nd Dose	Total of Booster Doses
62.4 million	26.2 million	24.5 million	11.8 million

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Global update:** After a consistent decrease since the end of January 2022, the number of new weekly cases rose for a second consecutive week, with a 7% increase reported during the week of 14 through 20 March 2022, as compared to the week before. The number of new deaths has continued a decreasing trend (-23% as compared to the week before). During the past 7 days, over 12 million new cases and almost 50,000 deaths were reported.
- **Regional update:** In the Eastern Mediterranean Region the number of new cases and deaths decreased by 45.8% and 29.3% respectively over the past 7 days.
- **Saudi Arabia update:**
 - Major COVID-19 travel-related restrictions have been lifted including submission of a vaccination certificate, a negative PCR or antigen test result, and institutional / home quarantine. Travelers from countries facing travel ban still need a 14-day stay in a third country.
 - Umrah pilgrimage is now allowed at full capacity. Number of pilgrims for the coming Hajj is not determined yet.
 - **COVID-19 variants:** in the last 30 days Omicron continues to be the most dominant variant, accounting for 99.8% of all circulating variants, while Delta accounts for only 0.1%. Omicron has a number of descendant lineages: BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2 and BA.3. BA.1 was the most dominant, however since the end of 2021 the relative proportion of BA.2 has continued to increase, now accounting for about 86% of all sequenced samples.
 - WHO Technical Advisory Group issues a statement on **COVID-19 vaccines** to ensure they provide optimal protection into the future, recommending updating them as new antigenically distinct variants emerge. The updated vaccines may be monovalent targeting the predominant circulating variant, or multivalent based on a number of different variants.

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>
- **Important WHO publications / sources:**
 - [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants \(who.int\)](#)
 - [Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19 \(who.int\)](#)
 - [About | View Hub \(view-hub.org\)](#)
 - [Statement on Omicron sublineage BA.2 \(who.int\)](#)
 - [COVID-19 \(openwho.org\)](#)
 - [WHO COVID-19 Case definition](#)
 - [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) \(who.int\)](#)