

The coronavirus disease COVID-19 continues to spread at the regional and global levels. As of 3 December 2022, the global cumulative incidence reached 641 469 076 reported cases and 6 636 830 associated deaths at a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 1.03%. Meanwhile, the 22 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) have reported a total of 23 200 400 cases representing about 3.62% of the global count, with 348 928 associated deaths (CFR 1.5%). Most countries in the Region are in the community transmission phase.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the country that has reported the highest number of total cases in the Region is Islamic Republic of Iran (7 559 799; 32.58% of the Region's total), followed by Iraq (2 464 316; 10.62%) and Jordan (1 746 997; 7.53%). Islamic Republic of Iran also reported the highest number of total COVID-19 associated deaths (144 637; CFR 1.91%), followed by Pakistan (30 633; CFR 1.94%) and Tunisia (29 269; CFR 2.55%). The highest CFRs were reported by Yemen (18.07%), followed by Sudan (7.84%) and Syria (5.51%), while the lowest CFRs were reported by United Arab Emirates (0.22%), Bahrain (0.22) and Qatar (0.14%).

During epidemiological week 48, the Region reported no significant change in cases as compared to the previous week (7940 cases compared to 7977 cases). A decrease by 25 % was also observed for associated deaths (30 deaths in the current week compared to 40 deaths in the last week).

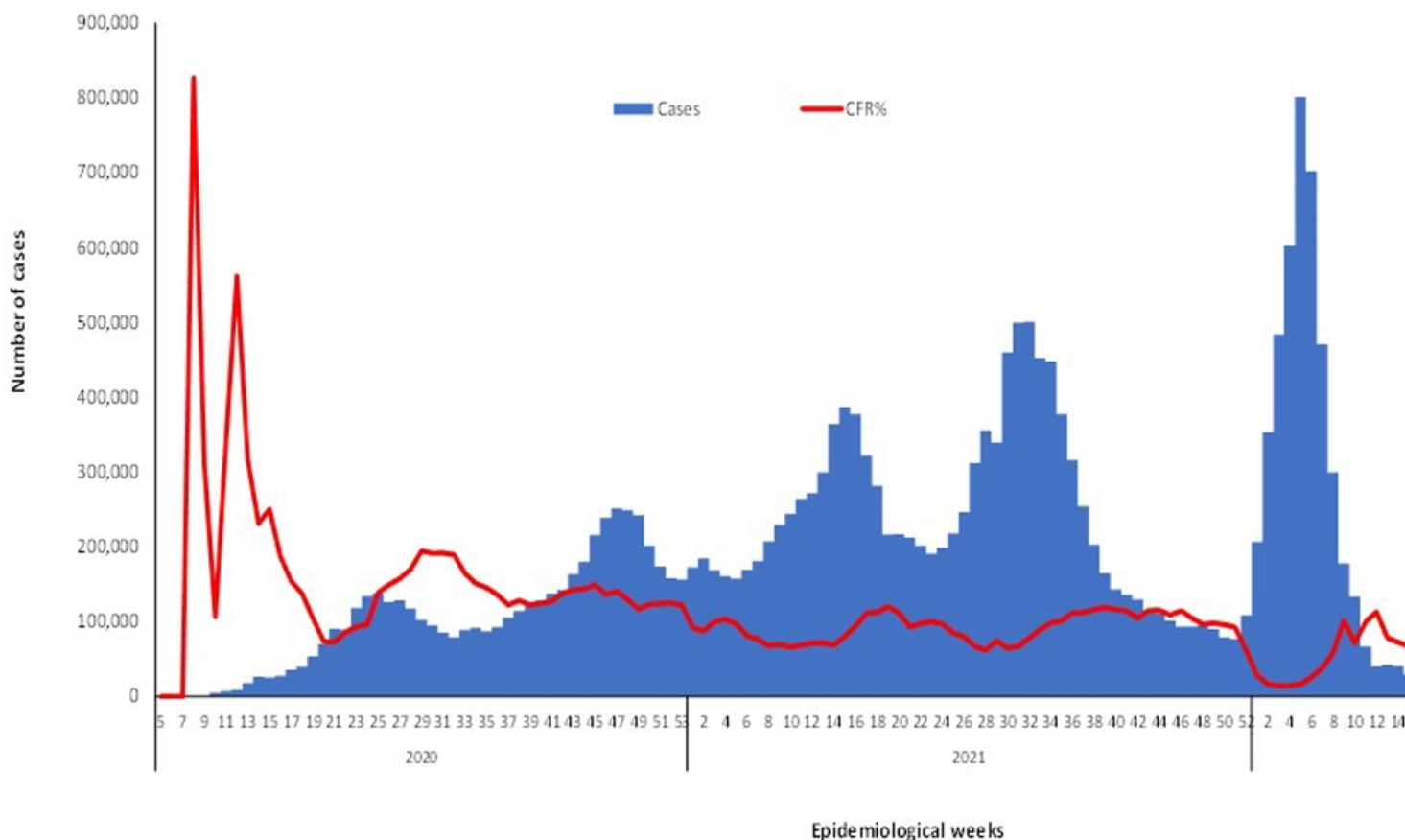
The weekly number of cases have decreased in all countries except in 7 out of 22 countries in the Region compared to the previous week. This week the number of COVID-19 associated deaths also decreased in all countries except in one out of 22 countries of the Region as compared to the previous week.*

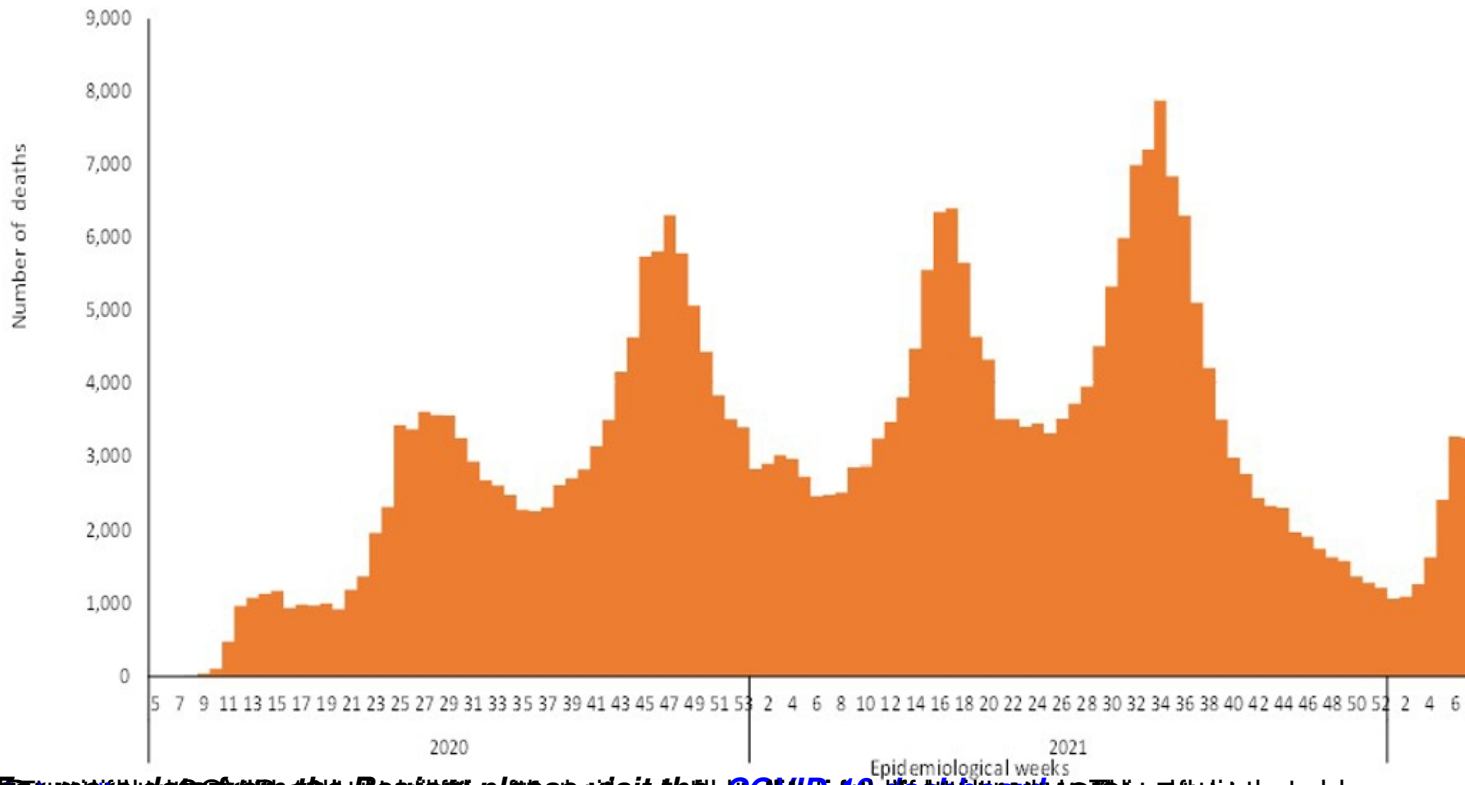
In terms of testing, a total of 441 170 314 laboratory tests were conducted since the start of the outbreak across the Region including 419 278 tests in week 48, which shows a 40% increase as compared to the previous week when 698 654 tests were conducted. The highest number of PCR tests were reported from United Arab Emirates (197 086 031), followed by Islamic Republic of Iran (54 544 836) and Saudi Arabia (44 800 113). The average positivity rate for the Region is 5.26%. WHO recommends a positivity rate of around 3% to 12% as a general benchmark indicating adequate testing, which was achieved in most countries of the Region.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccination continues across the Region. The total number of doses administered so far in the 22 countries is 843 034 964. Pakistan has administered the highest number of doses at 316 652 198 followed by Islamic Republic of Iran at 154 742 051 and Egypt at 100 825 424. On the other hand, Bahrain (3 476 024), Yemen (1 239 152) and Djibouti (329 146) administrated the lowest number of COVID-19 doses in the Region.**

Supporting countries in the Region

The regional incident management support team continues to coordinate the response and provide technical support to countries and partners in the Region in the areas of coordination and partnership, surveillance, laboratory capacity, clinical management, infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, points of entry according to the International Health Regulations (2005), research, health systems, and essential health services among others.





<https://www.emro.who.int/emergency-response-and-outbreak-control/2022/11/2022-11-27-3-12-2022>