



Coronavirus disease update

Myanmar as at 20 June 2021

confirmed cases	confirmed deaths	recovered cases
148,022	3,262	133,606

source: Ministry of Health & Sports, 20 June 2021

do 3Ws

wear a mask



wash your hands



watch your distance



transmissibility:

- all variants of concern have shown **increased transmissibility**, but **modes of transmission** have **not changed**.

severity:

- all variants of concern have possible **increased risk of hospitalization, severity and mortality**, but further analysis is needed.

WHO's advice on SARS CoV-2 new variants

- reducing transmission through established and proven disease control methods are crucial aspects of the global strategy to reduce the occurrence of virus mutations.
- available information thus far suggests that proven public health and social measures, vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics continue to work against these virus variants.
- public health and social measures remain critical to curb the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants.
- national and local authorities are encouraged to continue strengthening existing public health and social measures, infection prevention and control, disease control activities, including epidemiological surveillance, strategic testing, and systematic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2.

SARS CoV-2 Variants

- currently, there are **4 variants of concern** and **7 variants of interest** that WHO is tracking around the world **based on risk posed to global public health**.

WHO label	variant of concern	first detected country	transmission as at 15 June 2021
Alpha	B.1.1.7	United Kingdom	164 countries
Beta	B.1.351	South Africa	115 countries
Gamma	P.1	Brazil	68 countries
Delta	B.1.617.2	India	80 countries

- seven variants of interest**; variant **B.1.429** was labelled as **Epsilon**, variant **P.2** was labelled as **Zeta**, variant **B.1.525** was labelled as **Eta**, variant **P.3** was labelled as **Theta**, variant **B.1.526** was labelled as **Iota**, variant **B.1.617.1** was labelled as **Kappa** and variant **C.37** was labelled as **Lambda**.

* **Alpha and Delta VOCs, Kappa VOI were detected in Myanmar as per information from the Ministry of Health & Sports as at 15 June 2021**



avoid crowded places



avoid close-contact settings



avoid confined and enclosed spaces with poor ventilation

avoid 3Cs

preventive measures

- wash your hands** regularly, thoroughly - with soap and water or with alcohol-based hand rub if soap & water is not available;
- watch your distance** to maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing;
- make wearing a mask** a normal part of being around other people;
- avoid spaces that are closed, crowded or involve close contact**;
- ventilate the houses, offices, restaurants and closed settings**;
- meet people outside**;
- avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth**;
- cover mouth & nose** to follow good respiratory hygiene - with your bent elbow, or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Safely dispose the used tissue immediately;
- clean & disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces;
- stay home if you feel unwell**;
- if you have fever, cough, difficulty breathing, seek medical attention**.

Adherence of simple preventive measures like *washing your hands with soap & water or with alcohol based hand rub*; is important even **for mass gathering setting**; *observing physical distancing*, and *adopting respiratory/cough etiquette* are very important in **mass gathering setting** to control Covid19.

Covid19 Vaccines

- vaccines are a crucial new tool in the battle against Covid19. They help save lives, reduce hospitalization, stabilize health systems, and can help drive an economic recovery.
- Myanmar received the first batch of 1.5 million doses of Covid19 vaccines (Covidsheild - SII) donated by India, which can cover about 750,000 people, each person needing 2 doses. Vaccination started with healthcare workers and frontline health volunteers on 27th January 2021, followed by the nationwide programme with the priority groups.
- as per the national deployment and vaccination plan (NDVP), Myanmar aims to cover 100% of population in phases, during 2021, 2022 and 2023; first 67% during 2021 and early 2022, remaining 33%, aged 0-18 years, urban & rural areas across states & regions, following WHO SAGE recommendations.
- **at the global level**, WHO is working in collaboration with partners and organizations through the ACT accelerator to speed up the pandemic response.
- the access to Covid19 tools (ACT) accelerator brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, philanthropists and global health

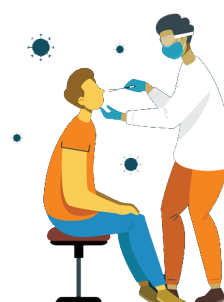
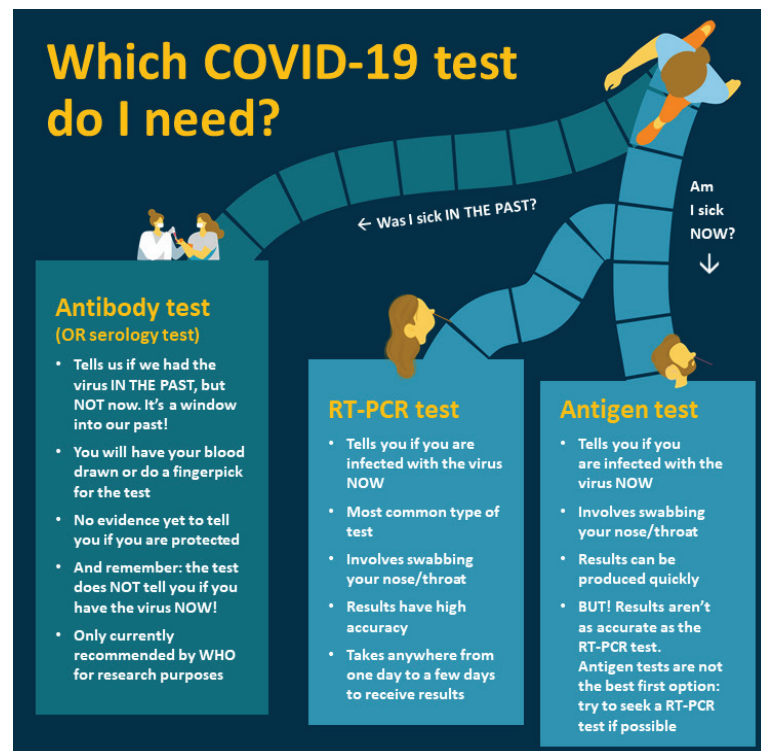
organizations to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

- **in Myanmar**, WHO and UNICEF supported vaccine introduction readiness assessment and finalization of robust Covid19 national deployment and vaccination plan (NDVP), covering all elements of planning and management needed to deliver a vaccine. This provides technical support in finalizing the health workers training modules. National immunization technical advisory group and adverse effect following Immunization members are being engaged. WHO, UNICEF and partners have also supported development of COVAX application for Myanmar, which was submitted 7 Dec 2020.
- it is important to realize that this pandemic still has a long way to run. Vaccines will help end the Covid19 pandemic. However, initially, they are bound to be limited supplies. We do need to continue to take all necessary prevention measures. These include all core public health and social measures – detect, test, trace, isolate, treat and to prevent the virus from spreading and causing deaths.

possible impact on vaccines by new variants

- **for B.1.1.7, Alpha variant, protection retained against disease.**
- **for B.1.351, Beta variant, protection against disease is reduced with limited evidence**
 - **PfizerBioNTech** is no/minimal loss of vaccine effectiveness in *severe disease* and moderate loss of vaccine effectiveness in *infection*.
 - **AstraZeneca vaccine** is substantial loss of vaccine effectiveness but limited sample size in *mild to moderate disease*.
 - **Janssen Ad26.COV2.5** is no/minimal loss of vaccine effectiveness in *severe disease* and moderate loss of vaccine effectiveness in *mild to moderate disease*.
- **for P.1, Gamma variant and B.1.617.2, Delta variant, protection is likely against disease, with very limited evidence** on only Sinovac vaccine for Gamma variant and on only Pfizer BioNTech and AstraZeneca for Delta variant.

Which COVID-19 test do I need?



further Covid19 info available at:



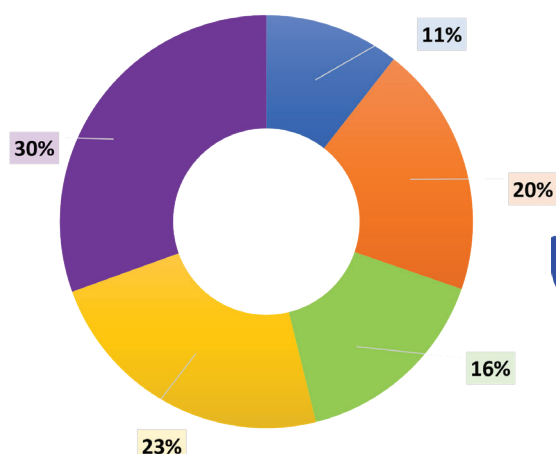
WHO resources utilized to support Covid19 preparedness & response in Myanmar

from Jan 2020 to 31 Jan 2021

USD 4.5 million approx.

pillar	cost USD
Leadership, coordination, planning, and monitoring	178,296
Risk comms & community engagement	233,700
Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation	720,585
National laboratory system including diagnostics roll out	1,122,570
Infection prevention & control	312,028
Case management including therapeutics rollout	389,335
Operational support and logistics	1,129,525
Maintaining and strengthening essential health services	330,694
projected total	4,416,733

WHO Myanmar Covid19 fund sources, 2020



- Germany (30%)
- Covid19 pooled funds (23%)
- Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO, UK) (20%)
- USAID (16%)
- UN central emergency response Fund (CERF) (11%)



WHO supported an online platform for Covid19 related resource monitoring where partners can directly provide the relevant information from their respective organizations. For 2020, a total of 190.2 million USD was reflected including known government allocations and bank loans from Asian Development Bank and World Bank. About 72.8 million USD was supported from UN, multi-bilaterals, INGOs and private contributions of which 14.9 million USD was reported to have directly supported MoHS across the nine pillars.



WHO and European Union (EU) joined together to support eight South East Asian countries including Myanmar in their response to Covid19 and to strengthen preparedness for future pandemics. EU provides €20 million for a "South East Asia pandemic response and preparedness programme". WHO will utilize the funds to continue supporting the governments of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Allocation for Myanmar is at €2.34 million, implementation for 2021 in process.



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announces on extension of the precautionary restriction measures relating to control of the Covid19 pandemic until 30 June 2021.



in 2020, Department of Medical Research conducted whole genome sequencing of 52 samples from returnees and local transmitted cases and, there was no evidence on introduction of Covid19 new variants in Myanmar.



Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) conducted an analysis on Covid19 mainstreaming in existing projects of non-governmental organizations. Covid19 specific activities were reported in 184 townships as implemented by 50 of the 213 agencies in Myanmar (23%).



WHO also supported the Covid19 3W dashboard, which shows the Covid19 response activities from different partners across states and regions. 43 partners are covering in 176 townships across 9 pillars, with the most supported is pillar two: risk communication and community engagement.



WHO published a statement on 1 June 2021, marking the 9th anniversary of the World Health Assembly Resolution in relation to protection of health care in complex humanitarian emergencies. It is available at <https://bit.ly/352B5nu>. Furthermore, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlighted at the global media briefing, on 15 March 2021; "Syria is one of many crises around the world, from Myanmar to Yemen and Tigray in Ethiopia, where millions of people have been denied access to essential health services, and where health facilities have been destroyed and health workers have been attacked and intimidated. This must stop."



WHO's global surveillance system (monitoring attacks on health)
<https://extranet.who.int/ssa/Index.aspx>



WHO strategic areas for intervention by pillar up to 31st January 2021

Pillar 1: Leadership, coordination, planning, and monitoring

- partner coordination, capacity building of field partners and support for the health emergency operations centers (HEOC)
- technical assistance for development, updating and monitoring of key planning and guiding documents
- outbreak modelling for strategic decision-making and response planning
- information management support and resource mapping

Pillar 2: Risk communication and community engagement

- regular coordination with RCCE partners
- development, translation and dissemination of key public health messages in local languages
- support to conduct community need assessment survey on people's knowledge, attitude and behavior related to Covid19
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Pillar 3: Surveillance, rapid response teams and case investigation

- technical and operational assistance for enhancing surveillance through case investigation & contact tracing
- information and data management support
- support international surveillance and case investigations under International Health Regulations (2005).
- operational and capacity building support of rapid response teams at States and Regional levels.

Pillar 4: Points of entry, travel and trade

- technical assistance and participation in regular coordination platforms concerning returning migrants and quarantine procedures
- support for strengthening border health posts especially at international land crossings

Pillar 5: National laboratory system, including diagnostics roll out

- technical assistance for updating testing and laboratory expansion strategies
- logistics support for testing kits, laboratory machines, equipment, consumables, and reagents
- capacity building of laboratory staff at States and Regions
- human resource support for strengthening of laboratory and data management capacity
- with support from WHO & partners, Myanmar made remarkable progress from having no local Covid19 testing capacity to the current Covid19 testing via 13 PCR platforms (7 laboratories from civilian side, 5 laboratories from Defense side and one private laboratory) and 29 GeneXpert laboratories in addition to the rapid antigen-based tests.

Pillar 6: Infection, prevention and control

- technical assistance for IPC related priorities and recommendations both in the clinical and public settings
- disseminate WHO DG's media brief, IPC principles & procedures for Covid19 vaccination activities, and WHO guidances related to Covid19 one stop service center

Pillar 7: Case management, including therapeutics rollout

- regular partner coordination and sharing of global updates on technical guidance related to clinical case management
- capacity-building for clinicians and hospital administrators on updated practices in managing Covid19 patients and severe acute respiratory diseases
- facilitate case management webinar series in collaboration with key partners
- support data management of clinical cases

Pillar 8: Operational support and logistics

- technical assistance for strengthening of eLMIS
- cross-cutting logistics support for operations including procurement of priority items in limited global supply through utilization of the Covid19 supply portal

Pillar 9: Maintaining and strengthening essential health services (Health Systems Connector)

- technical assistance for preparation of necessary plans to continue essential health services such as immunization, HIV-TB, malaria, nutrition, RMNCAH and non-communicable diseases
- operational support for essential health service provision to fragile, conflict, and vulnerable settings with ongoing humanitarian operations and other hard to reach areas
- proposals developed, with WHO Myanmar as penholder, to Global Fund to secure an additional \$17.7 million to support mitigation of Covid19 impact on TB, HIV and malaria services, in addition to strengthening an expanding number of Covid19 testing laboratories in strategic locations in the country.

Pillar 10: Vaccines readiness and rollout

- technical assistance for the Covid19 national coordination committee, Covid19 Technical Working Group, with 8 subgroups, joined by National Immunization Technical Advisory Group or NITAG, with a key role in vaccine planning and deployment Coordination assistance with regional and global stakeholders for in country vaccine roll out

Pillar 11: Research and development

- technical assistance for seroprevalence survey in Yangon Region and Rakhine State, including among health care staff in Yangon Region
- strategic support for genomic and molecular surveillance to detect and report possible Covid19 variants

Important dates

World TB Day
24 March 2021

World Health Day
7 April 2021

World Malaria Day
25 April 2021

World Immunization Week
24-30 April 2021

World Hand Hygiene Day
5 May 2021

World No Tobacco Day
31 May 2021

**74th World Health
Assembly**
24 May - 1 June 2021

World Food Safety Day
7 June 2021

**World Blood Donor
Day**
14 June 2021

**Nutrition promotion
month**
August 2021