

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report – 120

## Timor-Leste



World Health  
Organization

Timor-Leste

\*Data as reported on 05 October 2021

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### TIMOR-LESTE



Cumulative  
**19,609 (164)**



Recovered (new)  
**19,050 (557)**



Active cases  
**440**



Deaths (new)  
**119 (5)**

#### VACCINATION STATUS



1<sup>st</sup> dose  
Coverage – **61.4%**



2<sup>nd</sup> dose  
Coverage – **38.3%**

\*As per data released by the [Ministry of Health](#)

#### GLOBAL



Cases  
**234,809,103**



Deaths  
**4,800,375**

#### VACCINATION



**6,188,903,420** doses

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the last edition of the weekly Situation Report, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported **164** new cases of COVID-19, **557** recoveries and **5** deaths. The number of new cases and deaths has been continuing declining since late August.
- The MoH together with European Union (EU) and WHO inaugurated the newly built accommodation facility for families at Lahane Hospital, which went under a major makeover recently. The construction of the new facility for families came to fruition thanks to the timely and generous funding support from the EU under the WHO-EU collaboration to strengthen the national response to COVID-19 overall and to strengthen the critical case management capacity across five regional referral hospitals in the country.
- In a first-of-its-kind initiative against tuberculosis (T.B.), the MoH held a pledge signing ceremony, with support from WHO Country Office. H.E. Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak signed the pledge that envisions comprehensive support and actions to "End T.B." in Timor-Leste. The Prime Minister also launched the "National Plan for Accelerated Actions for Ending T.B. by 2025" at the same event.

- With funding from EU under the EU-WHO collaboration, technical and financial support extended for refurbishment of isolation facilities, including at Vera Cruz and Lahane. This has involved major infrastructural upgrades. In addition, procurement of a range of logistics and equipment have been provided for the laboratories, quarantine and isolation facilities. This includes extensive transport support for specimens, patients and numerous monitoring visits across the various pillars.
- MOH, with funding support from EU and technical support from WHO is conducting another round of refresher training for the surveillance and rapid response teams (RRTs) at municipality level. It is to further enhance the capacity of public health workers at the front lines for case investigation, contact tracing, quarantine, and sample collections.
- UNICEF supported SAMES and the MoH to install and test four ultra-cold freezers received on 22 September. UNICEF has also provided technical guidance to SAMES technicians to develop a temperature monitoring chart to monitor the temperature of the system three times each day. UNICEF is also supporting the online orientation of the SAMES technician on ULT freezers, its operation, maintenance, and repair.
- WHO and UNICEF provided technical support to COVID-19 vaccination evaluation meetings at the municipal level. An evaluation meeting on Monday in Manatuto municipality identified bottlenecks and solutions.
- With funding support from the EU, WHO continues to provide extensive technical support to the MoH to maintain essential health services. This has included the adaption of guidelines and protocols across various disease control programs and conducting country-wide assessments of the impact of the pandemic on the disruption of other essential health services. In addition, logistical and financial support has been provided to maintain these services, e.g. support for the national immunization program, assessments for Neglected Tropical Diseases, roll out of NCD services and mental health capacity building, establishing the country's first Tobacco Cessation Clinics and environmental health activities.
- The MoH, with the technical support from WHO, developed the National Food Safety Strategy to strengthen the national food safety control and reduce the burden of food-borne diseases. The National Food Safety Strategy was disseminated among the national stakeholders along with "5 keys to safer food" information education communication materials that comprise videos and printed materials. The Government of Timor-Leste has taken vital steps to ensure the availability of safe, quality and nutritious food.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES

- New and cumulative COVID-19 cases**

- Number of new cases have decreased further in the current reporting period. There were 164 new cases during the last seven days compared to previous reporting period (21-28 September 2021), there was an 49% reduction.
- Cumulatively 19,609 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been reported since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. However, vast majority of the cases (99%) were reported after March 2021.

- Distribution of cases and deaths by municipalities**

Distribution of newly reported, recovered and active cases by municipalities, as of 05 October 2021)

Municipality	New case (29 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021)	Last 7-day % change (case)*	Cumulative case	New recovered (29 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021)	Cumulative recovered	New death (29 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021)	Last 7-day % change (death)**	Cumulative deceased	Active Cases (5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021)
Aileu	0	0	126	0	125	0	-100	1	0
Ainaro	0	-100	227	1	224	0	0	3	0
Baucau	77	-1	1528	165	1418	1	0	7	103
Bobonaro	8	-60	585	11	510	0	0	9	66
Covalima	1	0	773	101	758	0	0	2	13
Dili	55	-66	13593	213	13320	1	-50	79	194
Ermera	0	0	1113	0	1111	0	0	2	0
Lautem	0	-100	182	0	150	0	-100	5	27
Liquica	0	-100	125	7	123	0	0	1	1
Manatuto	1	-88	203	10	200	1	0	2	1
Manufahi	1	-83	262	10	262	0	0	0	0
RAEOA	19	-10	384	27	352	2	100	3	29
Viqueque	2	-83	508	12	497	0	-100	5	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>-49</b>	<b>19609</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>19050</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-29</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>440</b>

\*Change in new COVID-19 cases as compared with the previous 7 days

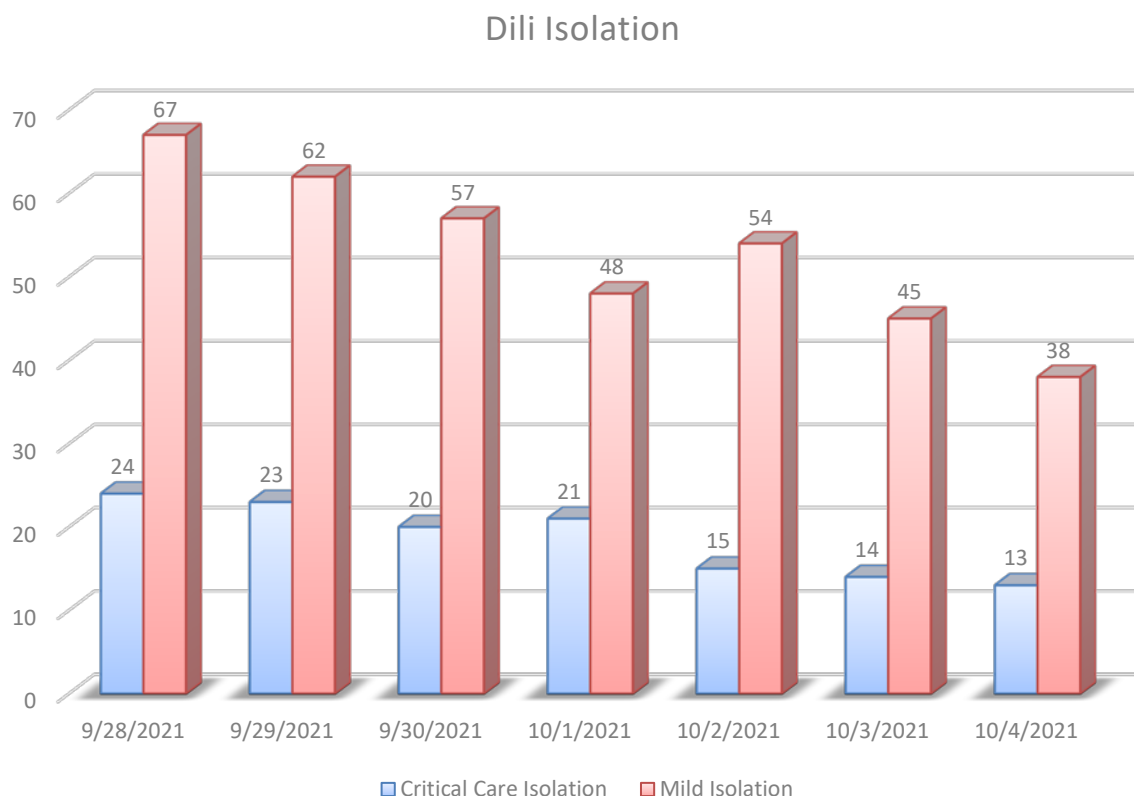
\*\*Change in new COVID-19 related deaths as compared with the previous 7 days

- The number of new cases reported in the current reporting period (29 September – 5 October) has decreased by 49% over the previous reporting period. All municipalities reported a decrease in cases. However, Baucau and Oecusse together with Dili continue to have significant number of new cases.

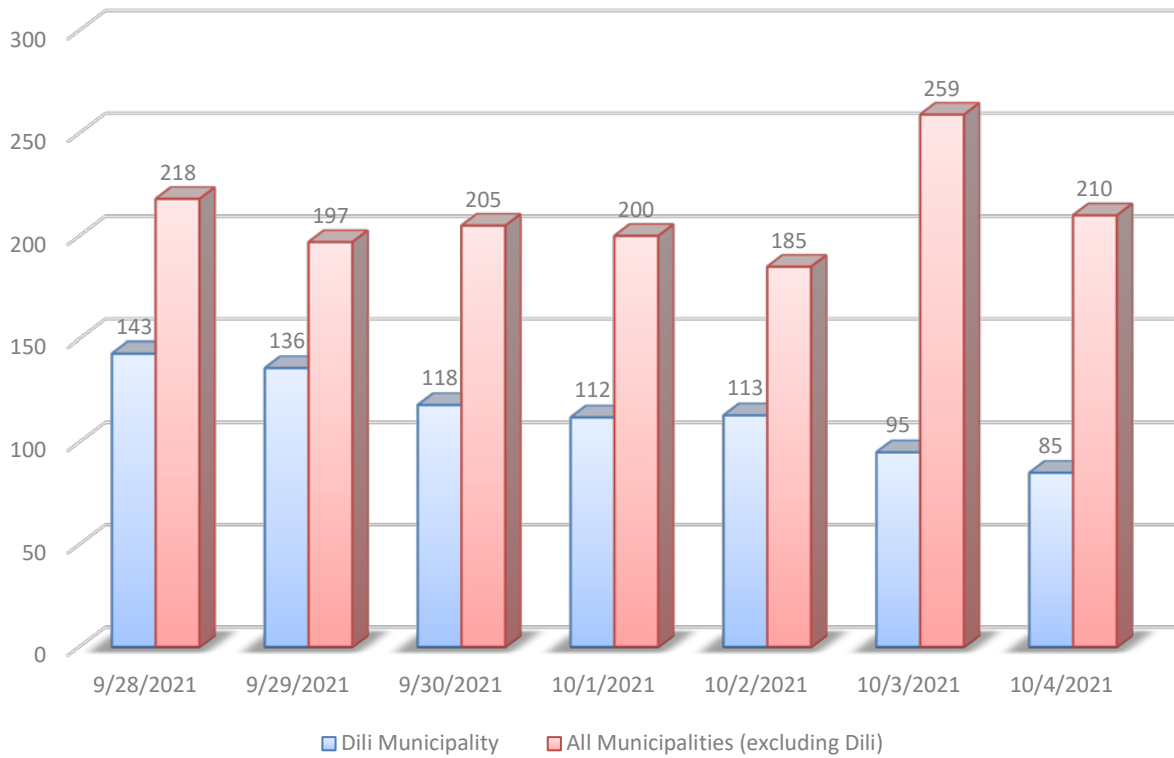
- Nationwide five deaths occurred in the current reporting period, a 29% reduction compared to the previous seven days. There are one death each from Dili, Baucau and Manatuto, and two from Oecusse.
- **Number of test and test positivity rates**
  - During the current reporting period from 29 Sep. to 5 Oct., 2,418 tests were conducted, as compared to 3,571 tests in the previous 7 days.
  - The test positive rates of this reporting period averaged to 6.9% compared to the averaged 9% test positivity rate, with a 22.9% reduction.
  - However, the current 7-day test positivity rate remains high above the 5% level.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

- The isolation centre admissions in Dili continued to decrease steadily throughout September 2021. The numbers admitted to critical care isolation centres (Lahane and Vera Cruz) have also decreased and are between 10-30 patients. Since the start of the lockdown on 27 August 2021, there has been an overall decrease of 90% in admissions in Dili isolation centres.



Timor-Leste isolation and auto-isolation

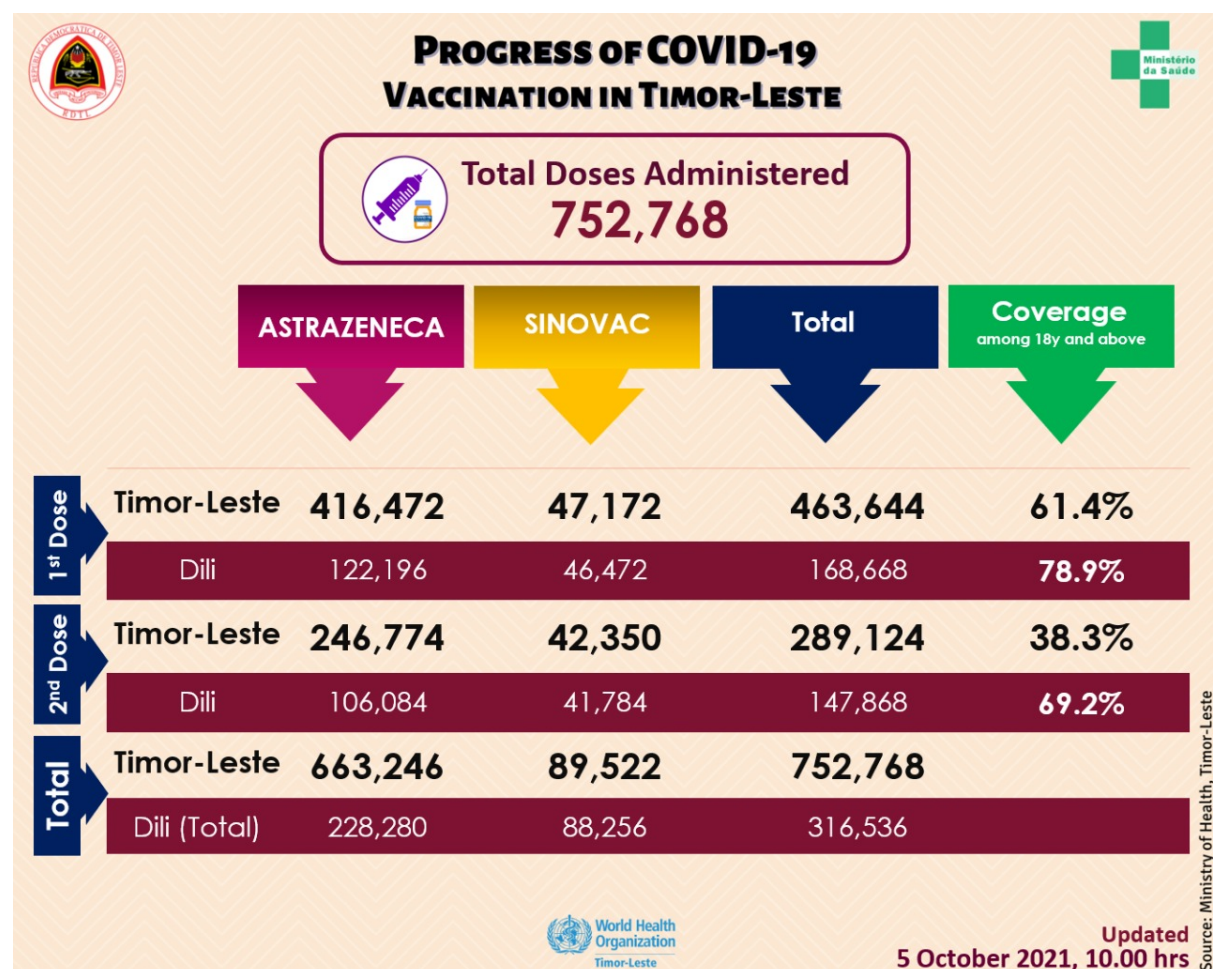


- This chart shows the total number of people admitted to isolation centres and auto-isolation (at home) in 12 municipalities compared to Dili. Throughout Timor-Leste, patients admitted to isolation centres have steadily decreased.

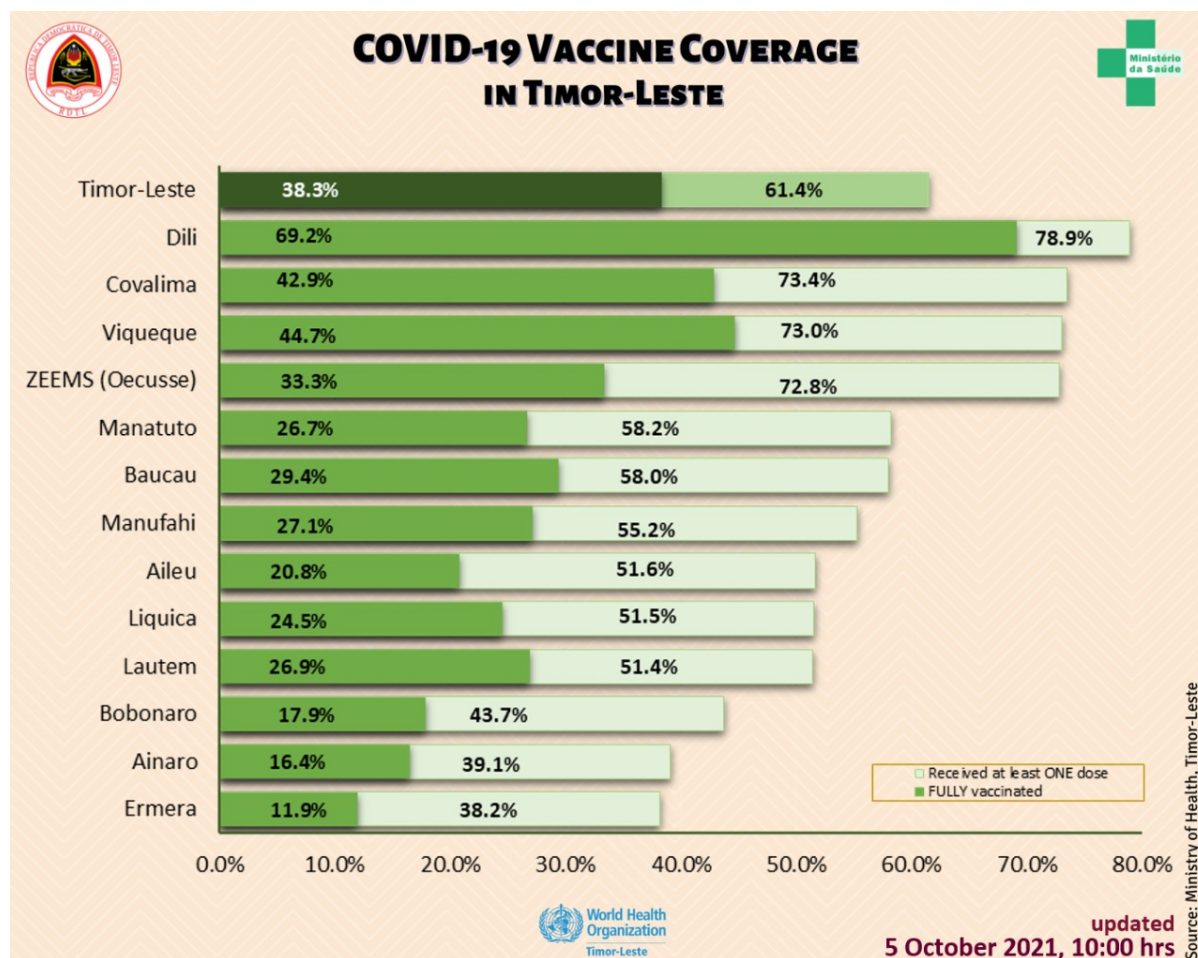
## VACCINATION

At the time of writing this report (5 October morning), in total, 752,768 COVID-19 vaccine doses comprising 463,644, first doses (coverage 61.4%) and 289,124, second doses (coverage 38.3%) were administered in Timor-Leste. The breakdown of the number of doses administered and coverage by vaccine type and vaccine dose is given in Table 1.

**Table 1: Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered and coverage in Dili and Timor-Leste by vaccine brand and doses as of 10:00hrs 05/10/2021**



**Figure 1: Coverage of COVID-19 vaccination by municipality in Timor-Leste as of 10:00hrs 05/10/2021**

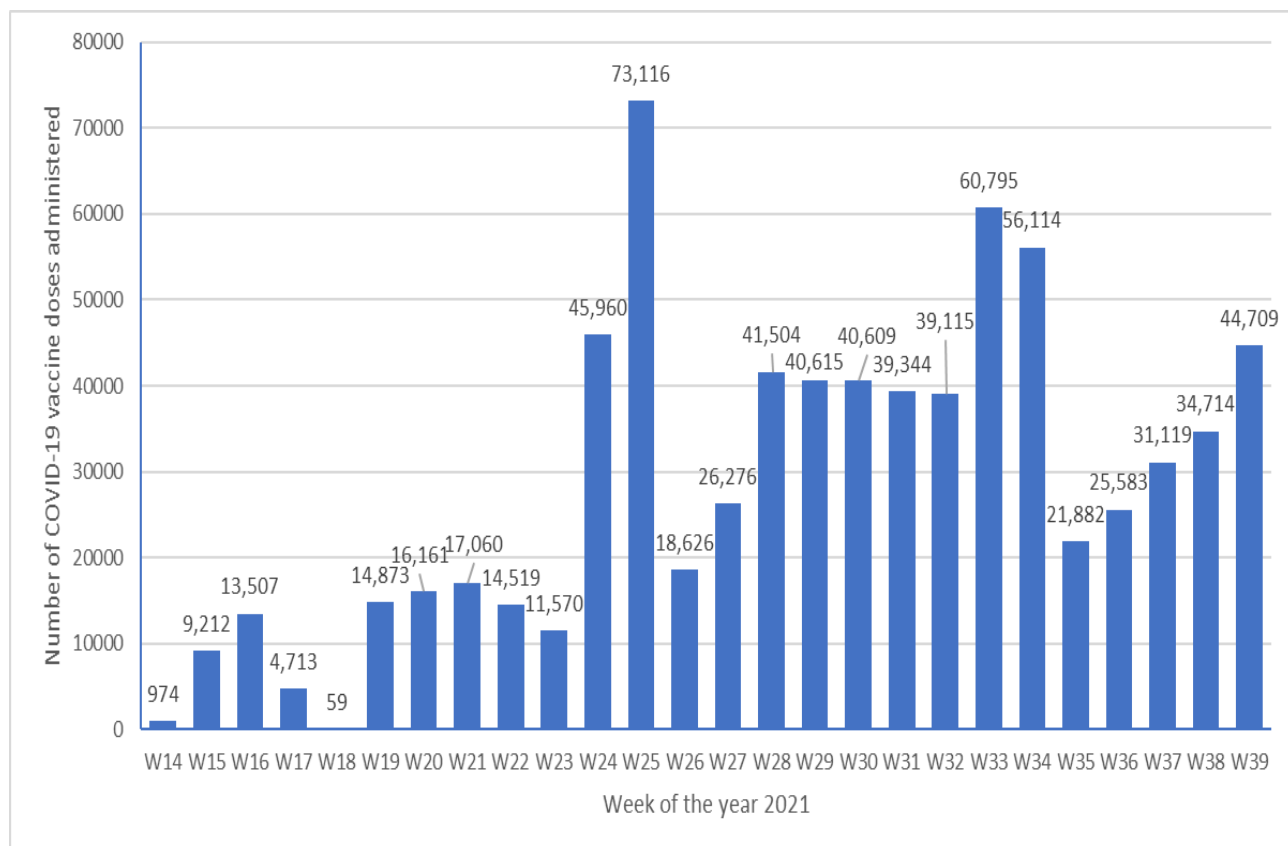




**Table 2: Number of individuals vaccinated and AEFI by sex as of 10:00 hrs 05/10/2021**

Municipality	Number Vaccinated						AEFI		
	First Dose			Second Dose			Male	Female	Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total			
Dili	94,940	73,728	168,668	82,941	64,927	147,868	14	19	33
Aileu	8,880	7,235	16,115	3,966	2,517	6,483	1	1	2
Ainaro	7,698	6,033	13,731	3,417	2,355	5,772	0	0	0
Baucau	22,818	19,692	42,510	12,299	9,254	21,553	0	0	0
Bobonaro	13,807	10,980	24,787	6,007	4,136	10,143	4	6	10
Covalima	15,387	14,148	29,535	9,455	7,789	17,244	7	6	13
Ermera	16,547	12,165	28,712	5,692	3,276	8,968	0	0	0
Lautem	9,788	8,937	18,725	5,193	4,616	9,809	2	0	2
Liquica	12,329	10,956	23,285	6,162	4,893	11,055	0	1	1
Manatuto	9,137	7,389	16,526	4,413	3,163	7,576	2	0	2
Manufahi	10,205	8,207	18,412	5,533	3,505	9,038	0	0	0
Viqueque	16,357	15,731	32,088	10,375	9,263	19,638	2	0	2
ZEEMS (Oecusse)	15,590	14,960	30,550	7,397	6,580	13,977	0	0	0
<b>Total (without Dili)</b>	<b>158,543</b>	<b>136,433</b>	<b>294,976</b>	<b>79,909</b>	<b>61,347</b>	<b>141,256</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total (Timor-Leste)</b>	<b>253,483</b>	<b>210,161</b>	<b>463,644</b>	<b>162,850</b>	<b>126,274</b>	<b>289,124</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>65</b>

**Figure 2: Weekly progress of vaccination in Timor-Leste during as of 10:00 hrs 03/10/2021**





**Table 3. Number of individuals among eligible population (18 years and above\*) vaccinated in Timor-Leste with COVID-19 vaccine and coverage as of 10:00hrs 05/10/2021**

Number Vaccinated and Coverage as of 14/09/2021 10.00hrs among Eligible Population (18y and above)*															
Municipality	Eligible Population			Number vaccinated & Coverage											
	High Risk Groups (20% Pop.)	18-59y no comorbidity (80% Pop.)	Total	First Dose						Second Dose					
				High Risk Groups (20% Pop.)	Coverage	18-59y no comorbidity (80% Pop.)	Coverage	Total	Coverage	High Risk Groups (20% Pop.)	Coverage	18-59y no comorbidity (80% Pop.)	Coverage	Total	Coverage
Dili	29,980	183,822	213,802	51,939	173.2%	116,729	63.5%	168,668	78.9%	32,497	108.4%	115,371	62.8%	147,868	69.2%
Aileu	6,292	24,943	31,235	7,523	119.6%	8,592	34.4%	16,115	51.6%	3,267	51.9%	3,216	12.9%	6483	20.8%
Ainaro	7,410	27,726	35,136	3,539	47.8%	10,192	36.8%	13,731	39.1%	1,987	26.8%	3,785	13.7%	5772	16.4%
Baucau	18,141	55,175	73,316	12,455	68.7%	30,055	54.5%	42,510	58.0%	6,935	38.2%	14,618	26.5%	21553	29.4%
Bobonaro	13,268	43,476	56,744	8,115	61.2%	16,672	38.3%	24,787	43.7%	4,081	30.8%	6,062	13.9%	10143	17.9%
Covalima	8,725	31,503	40,228	8,386	96.1%	21,149	67.1%	29,535	73.4%	5,177	59.3%	12,067	38.3%	17244	42.9%
Ermera	14,350	60,793	75,143	6,948	48.4%	21,764	35.8%	28,712	38.2%	2,354	16.4%	6,614	10.9%	8968	11.9%
Lautem	8,455	27,963	36,418	5,656	66.9%	13,069	46.7%	18,725	51.4%	3,476	41.1%	6,333	22.6%	9809	26.9%
Liquica	9,588	35,597	45,185	5,731	59.8%	17,554	49.3%	23,285	51.5%	2,857	29.8%	8,198	23.0%	11055	24.5%
Manatuto	6,701	21,718	28,419	4,660	69.5%	11,866	54.6%	16,526	58.2%	2,425	36.2%	5,151	23.7%	7576	26.7%
Manufahi	7,595	25,766	33,361	6,796	89.5%	11,616	45.1%	18,412	55.2%	4,370	57.5%	4,668	18.1%	9038	27.1%
Viqueque	11,034	32,534	43,568	9,855	89.3%	22,233	68.3%	32,088	73.6%	6,546	59.3%	13,092	40.2%	19638	45.1%
ZEEMS (Oecusse)	9,408	32,905	42,313	10,741	114.2%	19,809	60.2%	30,550	72.2%	5,079	54.0%	8,898	27.0%	13,977	33.0%
<b>Total (without Dili)</b>	<b>120,967</b>	<b>420,098</b>	<b>541,065</b>	<b>90,405</b>	<b>74.7%</b>	<b>204,571</b>	<b>48.7%</b>	<b>294,976</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>48,554</b>	<b>40.1%</b>	<b>92,702</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>141,256</b>	<b>26.1%</b>
<b>Total (Timor-Leste)</b>	<b>150,947</b>	<b>603,920</b>	<b>754,867</b>	<b>142,344</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>321,300</b>	<b>53.20%</b>	<b>463,644</b>	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>81,051</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>208,073</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>289,124</b>	<b>38.3%</b>

\*Based on 2021 population projections. Population with Comorbidity 12.5% among 30-59y based on 2016 DHS data  
 High Risk Groups (20% of the population) - Healthcare staff, other front line staff, aged 60y and above, and 18-59y with comorbidity  
 18-59y with no comorbidity (80% of the population)

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

- Based on the available information, it is likely that the current wave of COVID-19 transmission is approaching an end. The number of patients in different isolation centres or at home isolation have dropped to a new low. Health system capacity is freeing up particularly at the national level where most of the severe and critical cases are managed.
- However, the test positivity rates remain relatively high fluctuating around 5-10% (averaged as 6.9% at the previous seven days), indicating a relatively high level of community transmission. The incidence rates in some municipalities remain high. Moreover, the government has revoked the quarantine requirement for all entrants to the territory. If the entrants are fully vaccinated with negative PCR test certificate, they need not quarantine. The “sanitary fence” for Dili and several other municipalities ended last week. Subsequently, the movements of people would increase across the country and so the risk of infection. This again highlights the importance of implementing and enforcement of the public health and social measures.
- Rapidly expanding the vaccination coverage is the key to contain the pandemic and return to the normal social economic life. There are gaps in vaccination coverages, particularly in some municipalities. Actions should be taken to encourage people to come out and get vaccinated, including intensive information and communication campaign among the priority groups and advocacy among opinion leaders.

## CHANGES IN NATIONAL COVID-19 POLICIES/GUIDELINES

- The Government has decided to lift the sanitary fence in the capital Dili, starting at 23:59 on 29 September 2021. The movement of the citizens between Dili and Municipalities as well as between the municipalities across the territory will no longer be prohibited. However, the Government called on communities to follow the COVID-19 guideline and safety regulations recommended by the MoH and WHO to keep fighting the spread of coronavirus. (source: [The government decided to lift the sanitary fence in Dili](#)).
- National Parliament authorizes President of the Republic to renew the State of Emergency for another 30 days between 00:00 hours 30 September 2021 and 23:59 hours 29 October, 2021 (Source: [National Parliament authorizes President of the](#)

[Republic to renew the State of Emergency for another 30 days](#)).

- Health workers working at isolation centres will no longer be required to quarantine after completing their shift. A swab for the COVID-19 test will be collected on the last day, and if tested negative, the health workers will return to their families.

## CURRENT CONCERN

- **Variants of concern (VOC)**

A SARS-CoV-2 variant that meets the definition of a VOI (see below) and, through a comparative assessment, has been demonstrated to be associated with one or more of the following changes at a degree of global public health significance:

- Increase in transmissibility or detrimental change in COVID-19 epidemiology;
- OR Increase in virulence or change in clinical disease presentation; OR
- Decrease in effectiveness of public health and social measures or available diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutics.

Current there are four VOCs: Alpha (B.1.1.7); Beta (B.1.351); Gamma (P.1); Delta (B.1.617.2).

The Variants of Interest Eta (B.1.525, first detected in multiple countries), Iota (B.1.526, first detected in the US) and Kappa (B.1.617.1, first detected in India) have been reclassified as 'Variants Under Monitoring' based upon the latest round of assessments, and after consultation with national and regional stakeholders, as well as in consultation with the Virus Evolution Working Group on 13 September 2021.

While all three variants carry mutations with potential or established impacts, the number of reported detections of these variants have decreased over time at the global, regional and country levels. So, it was determined that they do not pose a significant public health risk.

(Source: [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants](#))

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- [For public and professionals on prevention, treatment, and vaccination etc.](#)
- [WHO Recommendations for COVID-19 Related Decisions](#)
- WHO Free Courses in Tetum – [OpenWHO.org](#)

## COVID-19 INFORMATION AND MEDIA QUERIES

- The MoH has established a hotline number – 119 – for COVID-19 on which people can call to get any COVID-19 related information.
- Additionally, [MoH Facebook page](#) provides timely updates on COVID-19 developments in the country.
- WHO Timor-Leste through its [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter handle](#) also disseminates information on preventive measures, questions and answers, myth-busters and latest updates on COVID-19 globally and nationally.
- For media queries and interviews requests can be sent to [singhsho@who.int](mailto:singhsho@who.int) and [hasane@who.int](mailto:hasane@who.int)