# **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

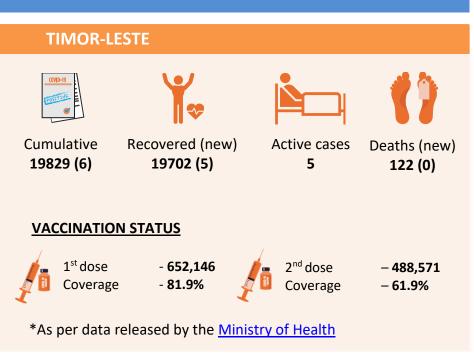
Situation Report – 129

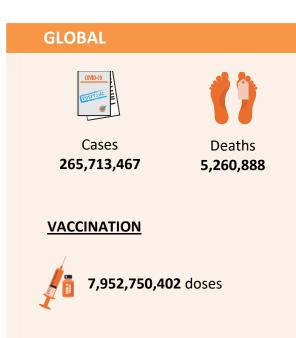
## **Timor-Leste**



\*Data as reported on 07 December 2021

### **SITUATION IN NUMBERS**





### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Since the last edition of the weekly situation report, the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported 6 new cases of COVID-19, 5 recoveries and 0 deaths. The number of new cases and deaths has been remaining low.
- The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Instituto Nacional de Saúde, WHO Timor-Leste and Unicef Timor-Leste conducted 2 days Training of Trainers for 12 municipalities health professionals team, ahead of the Pfizer vaccine roll out in 12 municipalities. More than 80 health professionals consisted of medical doctors, nurses, midwives, EPI focal points, UNICEF team, and the WHO team participated in this training. The vaccination campaign for the 12 to under 18 age group in the 12 municipalities is planned to start early next year.
- To scale up the COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the country, WHO team is on the ground supporting the vaccination teams in all the municipalities.
- With support from WHO, the IHR (International Health Regulation) National Focal Point convened a two-day meeting of multi-sectoral government focal persons for reviewing the work over the past year and conducted a refresher training on IHR implementation.

Participants are from the Ministry of Interior (border control), Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery (quarantine), customs, AIFAESA.IP, and port health (airport, seaport and land crossings).

 To ensure quality data for better decision making, WHO in collaboration with Maternal and Child Health department, Ministry of Health and other partners facilitated and monitored the 2-days orientation on Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) for health worker and municipality health services team in Ermera.

### **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES**

#### 1. Distribution of cases and deaths by municipalities

Distribution of newly reported, recovered, and active cases by municipalities, as of 07 December 2021)

| Municipality | New case<br>(1–7 Dec.<br>2021) | Last 7-day<br>% change<br>(case)* | Cumulative case | New<br>recovered<br>(1-7 Dec.<br>2021) | Cumulative recovered | New death<br>(1 - 7 Dec.<br>2021) | Cumulative<br>death | Active Cases<br>(7 Dec. 2021) |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aileu        | 0                              | 0                                 | 126             | 0                                      | 125                  | 0                                 | 1                   | 0                             |
| Ainaro       | 0                              | 0                                 | 227             | 0                                      | 224                  | 0                                 | 3                   | 0                             |
| Baucau       | 0                              | 100                               | 1541            | 0                                      | 1533                 | 0                                 | 7                   | 1                             |
| Bobonaro     | 1                              | 0                                 | 607             | 1                                      | 597                  | 0                                 | 9                   | 1                             |
| Covalima     | 2                              | 100                               | 790             | 2                                      | 787                  | 0                                 | 3                   | 0                             |
| Dili         | 3                              | 200                               | 13737           | 2                                      | 13653                | 0                                 | 81                  | 3                             |
| Ermera       | 0                              | 0                                 | 1113            | 0                                      | 1111                 | 0                                 | 2                   | 0                             |
| Lautem       | 0                              | 0                                 | 183             | 0                                      | 178                  | 0                                 | 5                   | 0                             |
| Liquica      | 0                              | 0                                 | 125             | 0                                      | 124                  | 0                                 | 1                   | 0                             |
| Manatuto     | 0                              | 0                                 | 203             | 0                                      | 201                  | 0                                 | 2                   | 0                             |
| Manufahi     | 0                              | 0                                 | 265             | 0                                      | 265                  | 0                                 | 0                   | 0                             |
| RAEOA        | 0                              | 0                                 | 393             | 0                                      | 390                  | 0                                 | 3                   | 0                             |
| Viqueque     | 0                              | 0                                 | 519             | 0                                      | 514                  | 0                                 | 5                   | 0                             |
| TOTAL        | 6                              | 100                               | 19829           | 5                                      | 19702                | 0                                 | 122                 | 5                             |

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

- Six new cases are reported during the current reporting period (1-7 Dec. 2021), which
  has been increased from 3 cases reported during the previous reporting period (24 30 Nov. 2021). Incident cases are reported from Dili, Baucau and Covalima
  municipalities.
- No death has been reported from Timor-Leste during this reporting period, which is the fifth consecutive reporting period with no death reported.

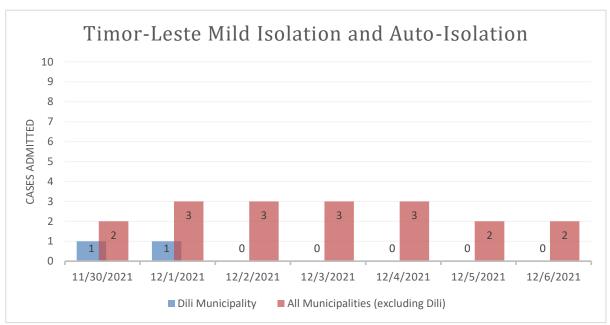
• The number of active cases has been 4 as of 7 Dec. 2021.

### • Number of test and test positivity rates

- During the current reporting period from 1 to 7 December, 1,387 tests were conducted, as compared to 1,558 tests in the previous 7 days.
- The test positive rates of this reporting period averaged to 0.4%, as compared with 0.2% of the previous reporting period.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

The isolation centre admissions in Dili continued to decrease steadily throughout November and December 2021. The numbers admitted to critical care isolation centres (Lahane and Vera Cruz) has been zero since 16 November 2021. Isolation for mild cases is noted in the chart, which shows the total number of people admitted to isolation centres and auto-isolation (at home) in 12 municipalities compared to Dili. Throughout Timor-Leste, number of cases on isolation has been steadily decreased.



## **VACCINATION**

At the time of writing this report (07/12/2021 morning), in total, 1,140,717 COVID-19 vaccine doses comprising 652,146 first doses (coverage 81.9% among population aged 18 years and above and 18.8% among the population aged 12 years to <18 years) and 488,571 second doses (coverage 61.9% among population aged 18 years and above and 11.9% among the population aged 12 years to <18 years) were administered in Timor-Leste. The breakdown of the number of doses administered and coverage by vaccine product and vaccine dose is illustrated 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 07/12/2021

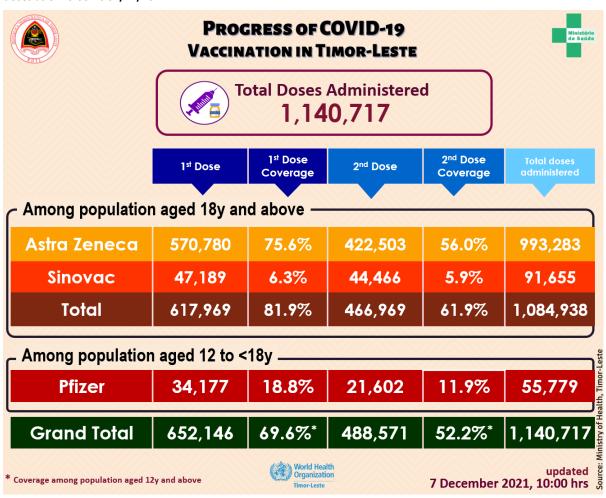


Figure 1: Coverage of COVID-19 vaccination by municipality in Timor-Leste as of 10:00hrs 07/12/2021

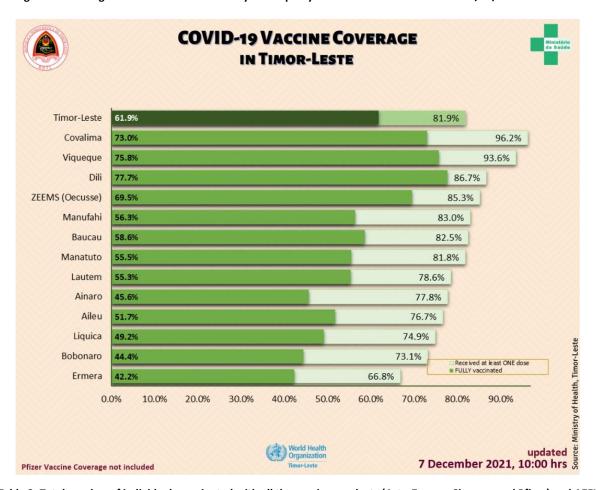


Table 2: Total number of individuals vaccinated with all the vaccine products (AstraZeneca, Sinovac, and Pfizer) and AEFI by sex by district in Timor-Leste as of 10:00 hrs 07/12/2021

|                      |         |            | AEFI    |         |            |         |        |        |       |
|----------------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|
| Municipality         |         | First Dose |         | S       | econd Dose | 2       | Male   | Female | Total |
|                      | Male    | Female     | Total   | Male    | Female     | Total   | Ividie | remale | Total |
| Dili                 | 118,951 | 100,687    | 219,638 | 101,525 | 86,238     | 187,763 | 14     | 26     | 40    |
| Aileu                | 12,397  | 11,545     | 23,942  | 8,551   | 7,613      | 16,164  | 1      | 1      | 2     |
| Ainaro               | 13,985  | 13,352     | 27,337  | 8,379   | 7,647      | 16,026  | 0      | 0      | 0     |
| Baucau               | 30,138  | 30,372     | 60,510  | 22,391  | 20,560     | 42,951  | 0      | 0      | 0     |
| Bobonaro             | 21,108  | 20,390     | 41,498  | 13,422  | 11,763     | 25,185  | 4      | 6      | 10    |
| Covalima             | 19,287  | 19,429     | 38,716  | 14,938  | 14,436     | 29,374  | 7      | 6      | 13    |
| Ermera               | 26,284  | 23,916     | 50,200  | 17,035  | 14,705     | 31,740  | 0      | 0      | 0     |
| Lautem               | 13,739  | 14,875     | 28,614  | 9,654   | 10,485     | 20,139  | 2      | 0      | 2     |
| Liquica              | 16,928  | 16,927     | 33,855  | 11,551  | 10,673     | 22,224  | 0      | 1      | 1     |
| Manatuto             | 12,026  | 11,225     | 23,251  | 8,322   | 7,458      | 15,780  | 2      | 0      | 2     |
| Manufahi             | 14,290  | 13,409     | 27,699  | 9,961   | 8,826      | 18,787  | 1      | 2      | 3     |
| Viqueque             | 20,058  | 21,063     | 41,121  | 16,308  | 16,982     | 33,290  | 6      | 0      | 6     |
| ZEEMS (Oecusse)      | 17,425  | 18,340     | 35,765  | 14,374  | 14,774     | 29,148  | 0      | 0      | 0     |
| Total (without Dili) | 217,665 | 214,843    | 432,508 | 154,886 | 145,922    | 300,808 | 23     | 16     | 39    |
| Total (Timor-Leste)  | 336,616 | 315,530    | 652,146 | 256,411 | 232,160    | 488,571 | 37     | 42     | 79    |



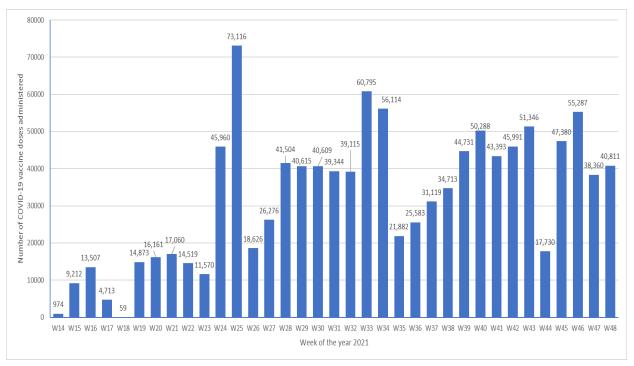


Table 3. Number of individuals among population aged 12 years to <18 years and above\* vaccinated with Pfizer vaccine and coverage by district in Timor-Leste as of 10:00hrs 07/12/2021

|                      |                         |                        | First Do                   | se     | Second Dose |                        |                            |        |          |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| Municipality         | 12to <18y<br>Population | 12 to <18y<br>Students | 12 to <18y<br>Non-students | Total  | Coverage    | 12 to <18y<br>Students | 12 to <18y<br>Non-students | Total  | Coverage |
| Dili                 | 41,822                  | 34,163                 | 14                         | 34,177 | 81.7%       | 21,598                 | 4                          | 21,602 | 51.7%    |
|                      |                         |                        |                            |        |             |                        |                            |        |          |
| Aileu                | 7,770                   | -                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%        | +                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Ainaro               | 10,253                  | -                      | 1.7:                       | -      | 0.0%        | -                      | 3                          |        | 0.0%     |
| Baucau               | 18,189                  | -                      | (4)                        | -      | 0.0%        | +                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Bobonaro             | 14,466                  | -                      | 1.71                       | -      | 0.0%        | -                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Covalima             | 9,729                   | -                      |                            | -      | 0.0%        |                        | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Ermera               | 20,564                  | -                      | 1.7:                       | -      | 0.0%        | -                      | -                          |        | 0.0%     |
| Lautem               | 10,447                  |                        | (4)                        | -      | 0.0%        | -                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Liquica              | 11,137                  | -                      | 1.7                        | -      | 0.0%        | 7.                     | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Manatuto             | 7,108                   | -                      | -                          | ÷      | 0.0%        | -                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Manufahi             | 8,267                   | -                      | 0.7:                       | -      | 0.0%        | -                      | -                          |        | 0.0%     |
| Viqueque             | 11,490                  | -                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%        |                        | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| ZEEMS (Oecusse)      | 10,565                  | -                      | 1.7                        | -      | 0.0%        | 7.                     | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Total (without Dili) | 139,985                 | +                      | -                          | +      | 0.0%        | -                      | -                          | -      | 0.0%     |
| Total (Timor-Leste)  | 181,807                 | 34,163                 | 14                         | 34,177 | 18.8%       | 21,598                 | 4                          | 21,602 | 11.9%    |

\*Based on 2021 population projections

Total Vaccinated (both doses) 55,779

Table 4. Number of individuals among eligible population (18 years and above\*) vaccinated with AstraZeneca and Sinovac in Timor-Leste with COVID-19 vaccine and coverage as of 10:00hrs 07/12/2021

|                      | Ε                    | ligible Populatio         | n       | Number vaccinated & Coverage      |          |  |          |         |          |                                   |          |  |          |         |          |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|----------|---------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|----------|---------|----------|
|                      | High Risk            | 18-59y no                 |         |                                   |          | First D                                | ose      |         |          |                                   |          | Secon                                  | nd Dose  |         |          |
| Municipality         | Groups (20%<br>Pop.) | comorbidity<br>(80% Pop.) | Total   | High Risk<br>Groups (20%<br>Pop.) | Coverage | 18-59y no<br>comorbidity<br>(80% Pop.) | Coverage | Total   | Coverage | High Risk<br>Groups<br>(20% Pop.) | Coverage | 18-59y no<br>comorbidity<br>(80% Pop.) | Coverage | Total   | Coverage |
| Dili                 | 29,980               | 183,822                   | 213,802 | 53,424                            | 178.2%   | 132,037                                | 71.8%    | 185,461 | 86.7%    | 33,619                            | 112.1%   | 132,542                                | 72.1%    | 166,161 | 77.7%    |
|                      |                      |                           |         |                                   |          |  |          |         |          |                                   |          |  |          |         |          |
| Aileu                | 6,292                | 24,943                    | 31,235  | 12,093                            | 192.2%   | 11,849                                 | 47.5%    | 23,942  | 76.7%    | 8,429                             | 134.0%   | 7,735                                  | 31.0%    | 16164   | 51.7%    |
| Ainaro               | 7,410                | 27,726                    | 35,136  | 6,510                             | 87.9%    | 20,827                                 | 75.1%    | 27,337  | 77.8%    | 3,831                             | 51.7%    | 12,195                                 | 44.0%    | 16026   | 45.6%    |
| Baucau               | 18,141               | 55,175                    | 73,316  | 17,224                            | 94.9%    | 43,286                                 | 78.5%    | 60,510  | 82.5%    | 11,154                            | 61.5%    | 31,797                                 | 57.6%    | 42951   | 58.6%    |
| Bobonaro             | 13,268               | 43,476                    | 56,744  | 10,696                            | 80.6%    | 30,802                                 | 70.8%    | 41,498  | 73.1%    | 6,575                             | 49.6%    | 18,610                                 | 42.8%    | 25185   | 44.4%    |
| Covalima             | 8,725                | 31,503                    | 40,228  | 10,175                            | 116.6%   | 28,541                                 | 90.6%    | 38,716  | 96.2%    | 7,056                             | 80.9%    | 22,318                                 | 70.8%    | 29374   | 73.0%    |
| Ermera               | 14,350               | 60,793                    | 75,143  | 10,644                            | 74.2%    | 39,556                                 | 65.1%    | 50,200  | 66.8%    | 5,433                             | 37.9%    | 26,307                                 | 43.3%    | 31740   | 42.2%    |
| Lautem               | 8,455                | 27,963                    | 36,418  | 8,350                             | 98.8%    | 20,264                                 | 72.5%    | 28,614  | 78.6%    | 5,952                             | 70.4%    | 14,187                                 | 50.7%    | 20139   | 55.3%    |
| Liquica              | 9,588                | 35,597                    | 45,185  | 8,705                             | 90.8%    | 25,150                                 | 70.7%    | 33,855  | 74.9%    | 5,210                             | 54.3%    | 17,014                                 | 47.8%    | 22224   | 49.2%    |
| Manatuto             | 6,701                | 21,718                    | 28,419  | 6,672                             | 99.6%    | 16,579                                 | 76.3%    | 23,251  | 81.8%    | 4,112                             | 61.4%    | 11,668                                 | 53.7%    | 15780   | 55.5%    |
| Manufahi             | 7,595                | 25,766                    | 33,361  | 9,427                             | 124.1%   | 18,272                                 | 70.9%    | 27,699  | 83.0%    | 7,691                             | 101.3%   | 11,096                                 | 43.1%    | 18787   | 56.3%    |
| Viqueque             | 11,034               | 32,905                    | 43,939  | 12,439                            | 112.7%   | 28,682                                 | 87.2%    | 41,121  | 93.6%    | 9,703                             | 87.9%    | 23,587                                 | 71.7%    | 33290   | 75.8%    |
| ZEEMS (Oecusse)      | 9,408                | 32,534                    | 41,942  | 11,577                            | 123.1%   | 24,188                                 | 74.3%    | 35,765  | 85.3%    | 7,881                             | 83.8%    | 21,267                                 | 65.4%    | 29,148  | 69.5%    |
| Total (without Dili) | 120,967              | 420,098                   | 541,065 | 124,512                           | 102.9%   | 307,996                                | 73.3%    | 432,508 | 79.9%    | 83,027                            | 68.6%    | 217,781                                | 51.8%    | 300,808 | 55.6%    |
| Total (Timor-Leste)  | 150,947              | 603,920                   | 754,867 | 177,936                           | 117.9%   | 440,033                                | 72.86%   | 617,969 | 81.9%    | 116,646                           | 77.3%    | 350,323                                | 58.0%    | 466,969 | 61.9%    |

\*Based on 2021 population projections. Population with Comorbidity 12.5% among 30-59y based on 2016 DHS data
High Risk Groups (20% of the popyulation) - Healthcare staff, other front line staff, aged 60y and above, and 18-59y with comorbidity

18-59y with no comorbidity (80% of the population)

Table 5: COVID-19 Coverage among TOTAL POPULATION by District as of 10:00 hrs 07/12/2021

|                      |                        | Number Vaccinated & Coverage |          |             |          |  |  |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|--|--|
| Municipality         | Total                  | First Dos                    | se .     | Second Dose |          |  |  |
|                      | Popultion <sup>*</sup> | Number<br>Vaccinated         | Coverage |             | Coverage |  |  |
| Dili                 | 352,553                | 219,638                      | 62.3%    | 187,763     | 53.3%    |  |  |
|                      |                        |                              |          |             |          |  |  |
| Aileu                | 56,242                 | 23,942                       | 42.6%    | 16,164      | 28.7%    |  |  |
| Ainaro               | 65,509                 | 27,337                       | 41.7%    | 16,026      | 24.5%    |  |  |
| Baucau               | 126,996                | 60,510                       | 47.6%    | 42,951      | 33.8%    |  |  |
| Bobonaro             | 99,932                 | 41,498                       | 41.5%    | 25,185      | 25.2%    |  |  |
| Covalima             | 70,194                 | 38,716                       | 55.2%    | 29,374      | 41.8%    |  |  |
| Ermera               | 139,692                | 50,200                       | 35.9%    | 31,740      | 22.7%    |  |  |
| Lautem               | 66,938                 | 28,614                       | 42.7%    | 20,139      | 30.1%    |  |  |
| Liquica              | 81,293                 | 33,855                       | 41.6%    | 22,224      | 27.3%    |  |  |
| Manatuto             | 49,417                 | 23,251                       | 47.1%    | 15,780      | 31.9%    |  |  |
| Manufahi             | 57,831                 | 27,699                       | 47.9%    | 18,787      | 32.5%    |  |  |
| Viqueque             | 72,042                 | 41,121                       | 57.1%    | 33,290      | 46.2%    |  |  |
| ZEEMS (Oecusse)      | 79,141                 | 35,765                       | 45.2%    | 29,148      | 36.8%    |  |  |
| Total (without Dili) | 965,227                | 432,508                      | 44.8%    | 300,808     | 31.2%    |  |  |
| Total (Timor-Leste)  | 1,317,780              | 652,146                      | 49.5%    | 488,571     | 37.1%    |  |  |

Table 6: Number of individuals TO BE VACCINATED by District as of 10:00 hrs 07/12/2021

|                      |                        | Number TO BE VACCINATED and Percentage |            |                            |            |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|------------|----------------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Municipality         | Total                  | First Dos                              | se         | Second Dose                |            |  |  |  |  |  |
| ,                    | Popultion <sup>*</sup> | Number to be<br>Vaccinated             | Percentage | Number to be<br>Vaccinated | Percentage |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dili                 | 352,553                | 132,915                                | 37.7%      | 164,790                    | 46.7%      |  |  |  |  |  |
|                      |                        |  |            |                            |            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aileu                | 56,242                 | 32,300                                 | 57.4%      | 40,078                     | 71.3%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ainaro               | 65,509                 | 38,172                                 | 58.3%      | 49,483                     | 75.5%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baucau               | 126,996                | 66,486                                 | 52.4%      | 84,045                     | 66.2%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bobonaro             | 99,932                 | 58,434                                 | 58.5%      | 74,747                     | 74.8%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Covalima             | 70,194                 | 31,478                                 | 44.8%      | 40,820                     | 58.2%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ermera               | 139,692                | 89,492                                 | 64.1%      | 107,952                    | 77.3%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lautem               | 66,938                 | 38,324                                 | 57.3%      | 46,799                     | 69.9%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Liquica              | 81,293                 | 47,438                                 | 58.4%      | 59,069                     | 72.7%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manatuto             | 49,417                 | 26,166                                 | 52.9%      | 33,637                     | 68.1%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manufahi             | 57,831                 | 30,132                                 | 52.1%      | 39,044                     | 67.5%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Viqueque             | 72,042                 | 30,921                                 | 42.9%      | 38,752                     | 53.8%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| ZEEMS (Oecusse)      | 79,141                 | 43,376                                 | 54.8%      | 49,993                     | 63.2%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total (without Dili) | 965,227                | 532,719                                | 55.2%      | 664,419                    | 68.8%      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total (Timor-Leste)  | 1,317,780              | 665,634                                | 50.5%      | 829,209                    | 62.9%      |  |  |  |  |  |

## **SITUATION ANALYSIS**

- The transmission of COVID-19 remains at a low level in Timor-Leste, as evidenced by record low level of incident cases, test positivity rates and zero death (for fifth consecutive reporting periods).
- During the past several days, cases infected with Omicron variant have been reported from many countries of the world. Several countries in the region have also reported Omicron infected cases, including Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Maldives. The risk of Omicron cases spreading to Timor-Leste is very high.
- Currently there are more uncertainties than knowledge about the variant. At this stage, countries should be vigilant and take firm actions, including intensifying surveillance (including genome sequencing), testing and quarantine measures as per the national policies and guidelines. To the general public, we should still practice the public health and social measures, including the appropriate use of masks, hand hygiene, physical distancing and ventilations of rooms.
- We are quite confident that COVID-19 vaccines are effective against severe diseases, hospitalization and deaths arising from Omicron variant infections, as they do with the other variants of concern. Currently Timor-Leste has reached more than 80% for the first dose and 60% for both doses' vaccination coverages for the eligible adult population in Timor-Leste, which offer us a good level of protection against severe diseases and deaths. Effort continues to reach the remote villages and hard to reach populations until we reach a satisfactory level of vaccination.

## **CURRENT CONCERN**

#### **Update on Omicron variant**

(28 November 2021)

- On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 a variant of concern, named Omicron, on the advice of WHO's <u>Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution</u> (TAG-VE). This decision was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves, for example, on how easily it spreads or the severity of illness it causes. Here is a summary of what is currently known.
- Transmissibility: It is not yet clear whether Omicron is more transmissible (e.g., more easily spread from person to person) compared to other variants, including Delta. The number of people testing positive has risen in areas of South Africa affected by this variant, but epidemiologic studies are underway to understand if it is because of Omicron or other factors.
- Severity of disease: It is not yet clear whether infection with Omicron causes more severe disease compared to infections with other variants, including Delta. Preliminary data suggests that there are increasing rates of hospitalization in South Africa, but this may be due

to increasing overall numbers of people becoming infected, rather than a result of specific infection with Omicron.

#### **Effectiveness of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection**

Preliminary evidence suggests there may be an increased risk of reinfection with Omicron (ie, people who have previously had COVID-19 could become reinfected more easily with Omicron), as compared to other variants of concern, but information is limited. More information on this will become available in the coming days and weeks.

**Effectiveness of vaccines**: WHO is working with technical partners to understand the potential impact of this variant on our existing countermeasures, including vaccines. Vaccines remain critical to reducing severe disease and death, including against the dominant circulating variant, Delta. Current vaccines remain effective against severe disease and death.

**Effectiveness of current tests**: The widely used PCR tests continue to detect infection, including infection with Omicron, as we have seen with other variants as well. Studies are ongoing to determine whether there is any impact on other types of tests, including rapid antigen detection tests.

**Effectiveness of current treatments**: Corticosteroids and IL6 Receptor Blockers will still be effective for managing patients with severe COVID-19. Other treatments will be assessed to see if they are still as effective given the changes to parts of the virus in the Omicron variant.

(Source: <a href="https://www.who.int/news/item/28-11-2021-update-on-omicron">https://www.who.int/news/item/28-11-2021-update-on-omicron</a>)

#### **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, <u>MoH Facebook page</u> provides timely updates on COVID-19 developments in the country.
- WHO Timor-Leste through its <u>Facebook page</u> and <u>Twitter handle</u> 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 hasane@who.int