

Data as reported by 19 May 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) reported 1,320 new cases of COVID-19 since the last time of reporting (19.05.2021) – this takes the total tally of COVID-19 cases to **4,949**. All patients are admitted to the designated isolation and treatment facilities at Vera Cruz, Tasitolu, Tibar, Lahane and other government identified isolation hotels. The MoH has also granted permission for some cases to be in home isolation. For more details, please see the epidemiological update section of this issue.

As on 19.05.2021 – the National Health Laboratory (NHL) performed **86,643** COVID-19 tests including samples collected through targeted mass screenings and other testing activities in the affected municipalities.

- The surveillance team, as per the national guideline is working on further investigation and contact tracing. More details about the new cases can be found at the Ministry of Health's (MoH) Facebook page, [Palacio das Cinzas](#).
- The MoH continues to proactively conduct door-to-door sensitization and advocacy for the second phase of COVID-19 vaccination with support from WHO and UNICEF in Dili municipality.
- The MoH reported 6 cases of COVID-19 deaths on 13, 16 and 19 of May. On 13 of May, 3 deaths due were reported – a prisoner in Becora, a woman in Caicoli and another death reported from Liquiça. On Saturday, 16 May, a man was reported dead while working. Post mortem swab test was done and the sample tested positive. On 16 of May, a Chinese businessman who was admitted in Vera-Cruz isolation centre passed away due to COVID-19. and the sixth death case reported today on 19th May - 60 years old male, admitted to the National Hospital with Respiratory Distress Syndrome and other organ failure.
- UNICEF, together with WHO and other partners, continues to support the Ministry of Health to roll out the COVID-19 vaccines in Timor-Leste, including through ongoing training for health workers at the municipality level, advocacy meetings, and in raising awareness on the importance of being vaccinated.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

4949 confirmed (**1320** new)
2636 recovered (**744** new)
2302 active cases
11 deaths

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

Follow WHO Timor-Leste on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

More information and guidance by WHO regarding the current COVID-19 outbreak can be found [here](#).

GLOBAL SITUATION IN NUMBERS

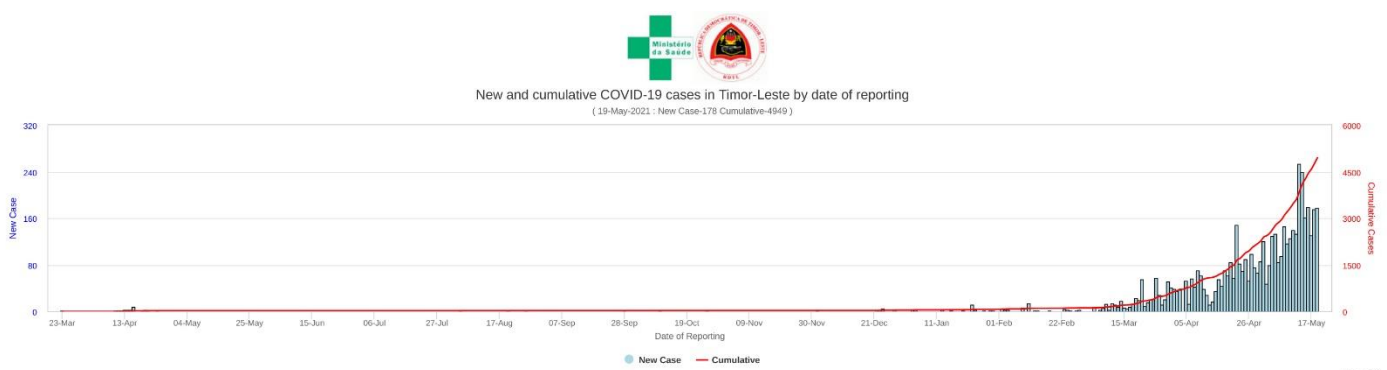
Total (new) cases in last seven days

Globally
162 184 263 confirmed (**4 809 520**)
3 364 446 deaths (**85 975**)

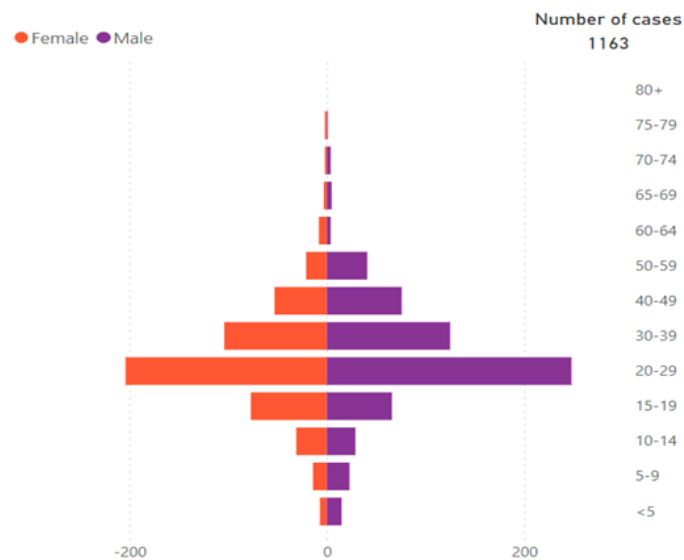
- UNICEF and WHO are providing technical assistance to the COVAX secretariat and technical working group to review enumeration to introduce additional COVID-19 vaccine.
- UNICEF provided personal hygiene material to the Dili Municipality Health Services (MNS) for distribution to 203 COVID-19 confirmed inmates at the Dili prison and provided personal hygiene materials to 29 COVID-19 positive inmates in Suai, Covalima.
- UNICEF continues to support SAMES in the procurement of cold-chain equipment, vaccine distribution, power supply and maintenance.
- UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health to monitor utilization of essential health services through Community Health Centers (CHC) and health post to ensure continuity of routine immunization for children and other essential health services for children and mothers
- UNICEF continues to raise awareness of COVID-19 prevention on television, community radio, and online media.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES

- As on 19 May 2021, a total of 4,949 COVID-19 cases have been reported in Timor-Leste. The numbers of cases have increased drastically compared to early March 2021. Some of the factors beside the wider spread of infection itself are measures like mass screening and targeted testing among illegal returnees in the three municipalities that share border with Indonesia (Bobonaro, Covalima, Oecusse), capacity city of Dili, to trace contacts of confirmed cases and passengers to other municipalities requesting for testing (as part of “sanitary fence”). More recently, more cases have been detected without clear links with source or common exposures. As demonstrated by different indicators, Timor-Leste is considered in the stage of “**community transmission**”

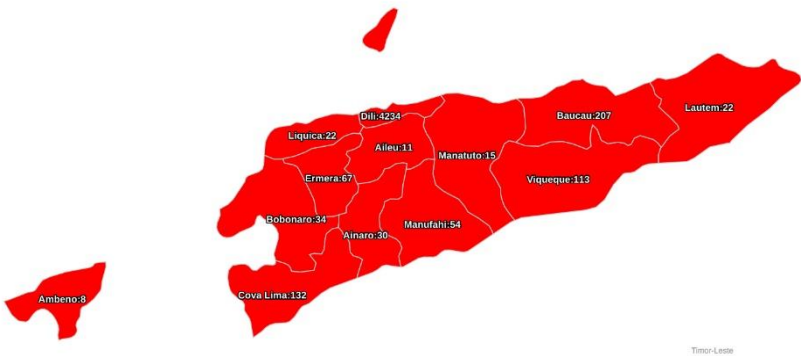


- As for the characteristics of the cases reported, majority are in the 20-29 age group, followed by 30-39 years age group, and the 40-49 years age group. The gender split of the data shows that there are more male cases compared to female.

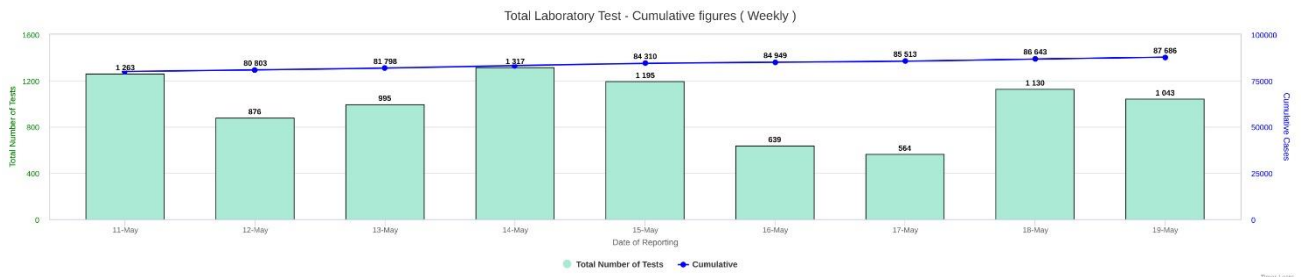


- Cases have been reported across all 13 municipalities, but majority are from Dili Municipality.

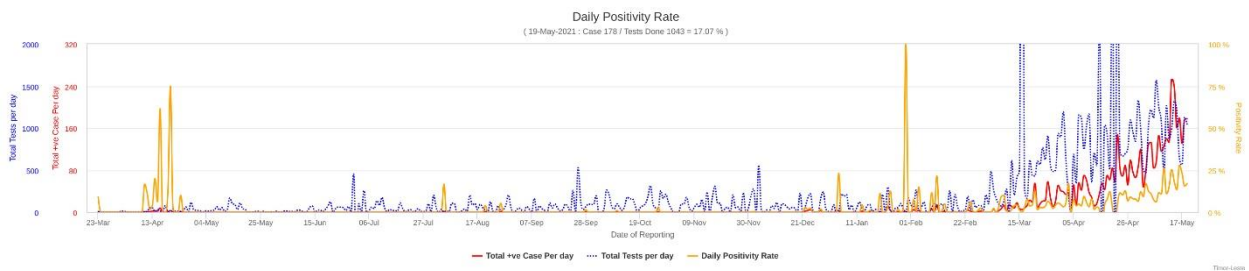
District wise: Positive case
Dili : 4234 | Other Districts : 715



- Laboratory testing performance has been improving constantly. As on 19 May 2021, a total of **86,643** PCR tests were conducted by the National Health Laboratory and referral hospital laboratories since the beginning of the response. Every day, during the working days, an averaged 1200 tests are being conducted. Recently, the results for PCR tests could be returned within 24 hours.

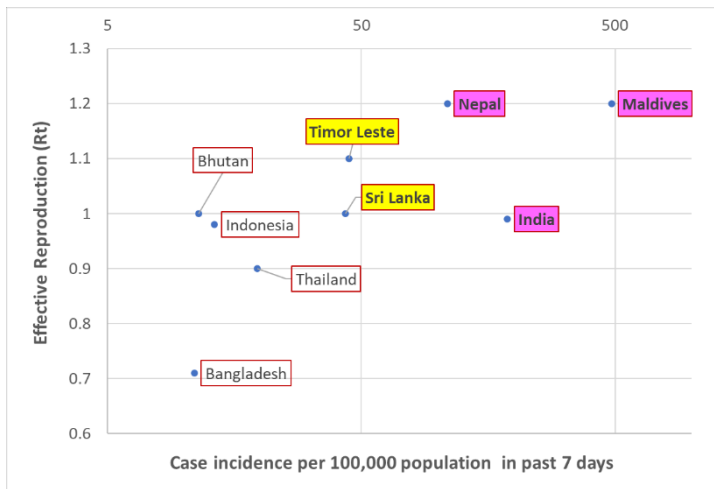


- Along with the increasing number of tests every day, the number of positive cases has been increasing as well, and so are the daily test positivity rate. The current daily test positivity rate is averaged around 9%, with an upward trend. This shows that the epidemic is still expanding in the country.



- The case incidence is around 48 / 100,000 population in the past 7 days, which is higher than countries like Indonesia and Thailand. The reproduction number is 1.1, which means the transmission is still spreading in the populations. Compared to other countries like Indonesia and Thailand in the region, this is relatively a higher level of transmission.

Case Incidence and Reproduction Number



(Source: WHO SEARO update, 11 May 2021)

WHO TIMOR-LESTE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Interrupt human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events;
- Strengthening of surveillance systems and increasing laboratory capacity to detect COVID-19 cases;
- Ensuring adherence to the strictest standards of infection prevention and control (IPC) and increase capacity for IPC;
- Identify, isolate and care for patients early, including providing optimized care for infected patients;
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation;
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

Wash your hands frequently

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

Maintain physical distancing

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and others.

Why? When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing is infected.

Use face mask when physical distancing is not possible

Why? If when you're in a setting where maintaining the physical distance of 1 meter or more is not possible due to the space constraint, then it is imperative that you use a face mask as it can help in stopping the transmission of COVID-19

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and make you sick.

Practice respiratory hygiene

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue safely immediately.

Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of health authorities.

Why? Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

Protect ourselves and our loved ones against #COVID19:

- **Wash your hands frequently**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
- **Avoid touching your face**
- **Avoid crowded places and limit time in enclosed spaces**
- **Keep a distance of at least 1 metre from others**
- **Use of mask is imperative when physical-distancing is not possible.**
- **Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces**
- **Isolate yourself from others if feeling unwell and seek care, if needed**

More guidance on preventive measures is available [here](#).

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 and hasane@who.int
-