

Data as reported by 26 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 **6,245**. 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 26.05.2021 – the National Health Laboratory (NHL) performed **93,421** COVID-19 tests including samples collected through targeted mass screenings, inter-district travel related 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 at the community level for the second phase of COVID-19 vaccination with support from WHO and UNICEF and several other partners in Dili municipality.
- The MoH reported three more COVID-19 deaths since the last time of reporting (19 May 2021). A 72-year-old diabetic woman was admitted to Vera Cruz and died on 22 May due multi-organ-failure. Another 52-year-old woman was admitted to HNGV with COVID-19 symptoms and other underlying conditions and died on 23 May due to multi-organ-failure. In the third case, a 35-year-old man with COVID-19 symptoms collapsed at home and died.
- UNICEF provided personal hygiene kits for 557 prisoners in Dili (Becora prison). It will help prisoners maintain hygiene actions and protect themselves from COVID-19.
- UNICEF and WHO support the COVAX secretariat and technical working groups to finalize vaccination plans for Dili and other municipalities with incoming COVAX allocated doses and vaccines from other sources.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

6245 confirmed (**1296** new)
3492 recovered (**856** new)
2739 active cases
14 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
166 352 007 confirmed (**4 144 658**)
3 449 189 deaths (**84 306**)

- Emergency flood response in Dili in partnership with Dili District Health Services (DHS) continues to provide essential health services through mobile clinics in evacuation centres, distribution of mother kits and support supervision.

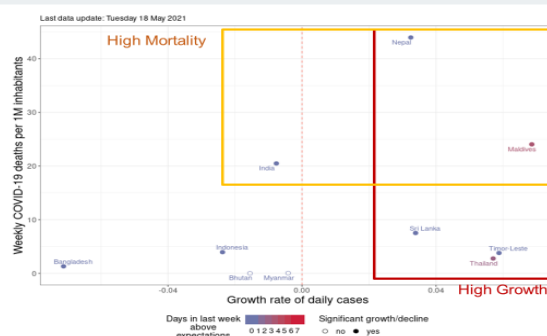
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES

- The number of COVID-19 cases has been increased drastically since early March 2021. As of 26 May 2021, a total of 6,245 cases are reported, of which 3,492 cases have been recovered, and 14 death reported. Currently there are 2,739 active cases in the isolation/treatment centers of Tasi Tolu, Vera Cruz and other facilities or at home for isolation and follow up. Most of the cases have been detected without clear links with sources or common exposures. As demonstrated by different indicators, Timor-Leste is considered at a stage of “community transmission”.



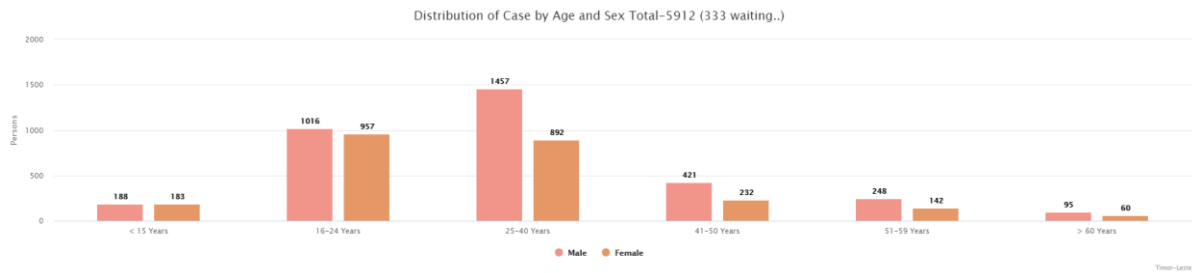
- Timor-Leste is currently at the stage of high growth of incident cases with low mortality, in the same group of Thailand and Sri Lanka. The R_t is 1.37, indicating a rapid growth of the epidemic (IMST/SEARO, 18 May 2021)

SEARO COVID-19 | South-East Asia Region: Growth Rate x Mortality

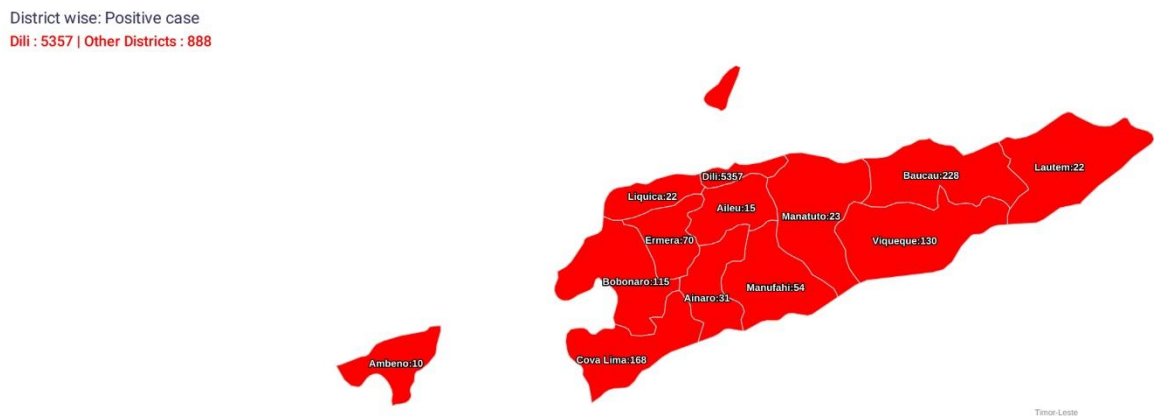


Source: WHO SEARO, 18 May 2021

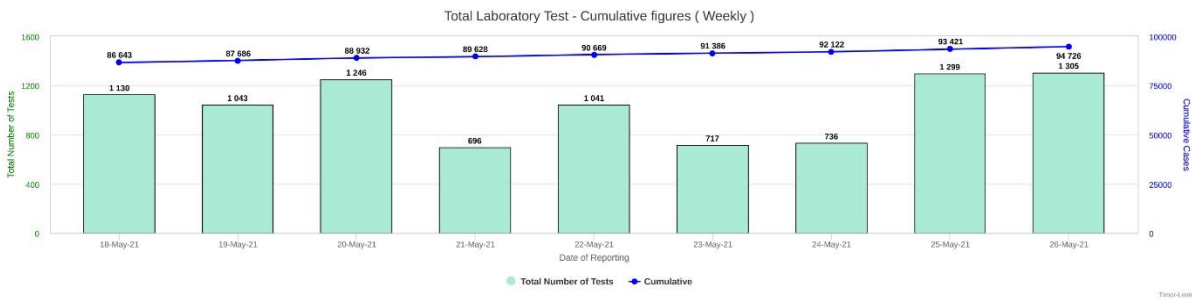
- Majority of the cases are in the 20-29 age group, followed by 30-39 years old group, and the 40-49 years old age group. There are slightly more male cases than females.



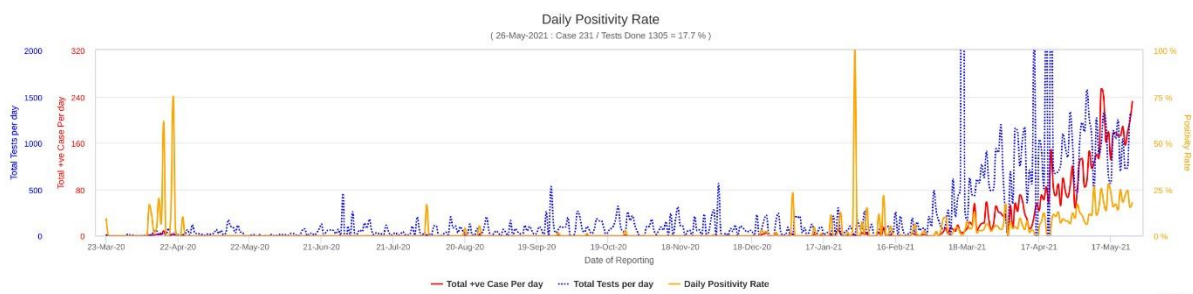
- Cases have been reported across all 13 municipalities, but majority are from Dili Municipality.



- Laboratory testing capacity has constantly been improving. As of 25 May 2021, a total of 93,421 PCR tests have been done by the National Health Laboratory and referral hospital laboratories since the beginning of the response. 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 12-15%, with an upward trending (yellow line). This shows that the epidemic is still expanding in the country.



- The case incidence is 12.7 / 100,000 population in the past 7 days countrywide, with the highest in Dili which is 40%, followed by Covalima (7.9%), Bobonaro (7.9%), and Viqueque (6.9%).

VACCINATION UPDATES

- As on 22 May 2021, there have been over 55,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in Timor-Leste. Following the second shipment of AstraZeneca vaccine, phase 2 of the rollout which started on 10 May 2021 and has seen over 28,500 more people in Dili municipality vaccinated with their first dose. Approximately **12%** of people aged 18 years and above in Dili have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

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
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