

Philippines

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Report #140

Data reported by the Department of Health on 12 Nov 2023



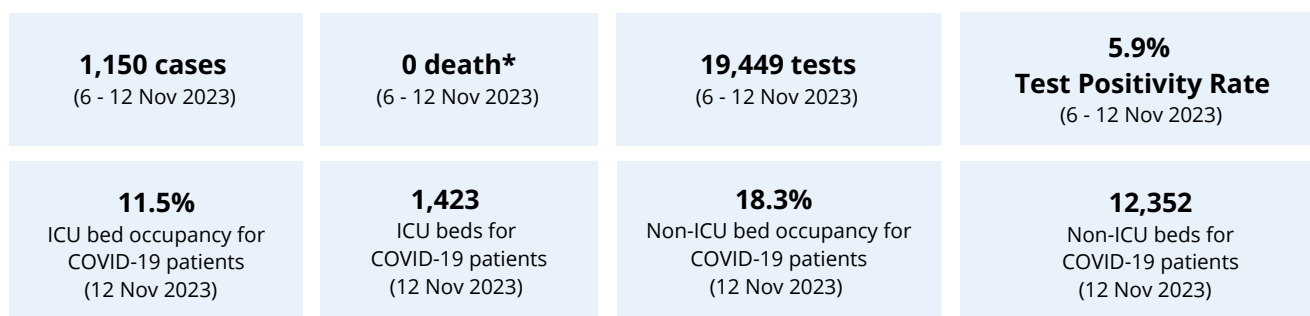
Photo credit: Department of Health



Please see the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) [Daily Case Bulletins](#) and [COVID-19 Tracker](#) for further information.

Summary of the epidemiological situation in Philippines¹

Key numbers



*Number of deaths obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 death tally as of 12 Nov 2023

COVID-19 cases

The number of reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines has remained stable over the previous four weeks (16 Oct - 12 Nov 2023). On 6 - 12 Nov, there were 1,150 cases (1.0 case per 100,000 population²); 30 Oct - 5 Nov, 895 cases (0.8 case per 100,000 population²); 23 - 29 Oct, 1,088 cases (1.0 case per 100,000 population²); and on 16 - 22 Oct, 1,146 cases (1.1 case per 100,000 population²).

The three regions with highest case counts from 6 - 12 Nov 2023 were, National Capital Region reporting 333 cases, Region IV-A: CALABARZON reporting 164 cases, and Region III: Central Luzon reporting 135 cases.

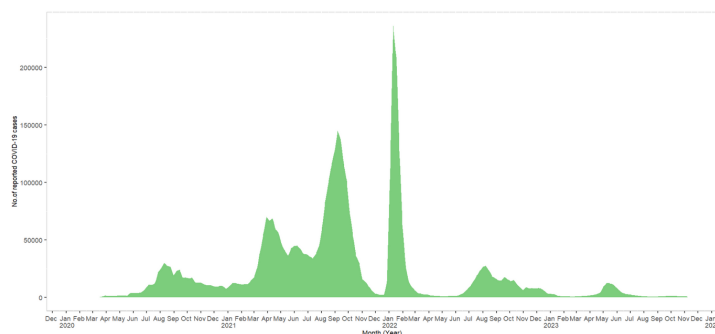


Figure 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (30 Jan 2020 - 12 Nov 2023)

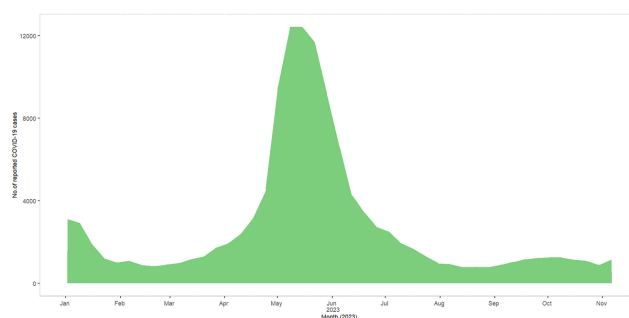


Figure 2. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (1 Jan 2023 - 12 Nov 2023)

¹ Weekly case counts were obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 PROJECT

² Total population (n = 111,572,254)

Healthcare utilization

The daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 occupied ICU beds and daily number (7-day average) of utilized COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators over the previous four weeks (16 Oct - 12 Nov 2023) were stable.

On 6 - 12 Nov (182 beds, 98 ventilators); 30 Oct - 5 Nov (179 beds, 94 ventilators); 23 - 29 Oct (185 beds, 94 ventilators); and on 16 - 22 Oct (190 beds, 95 ventilators).

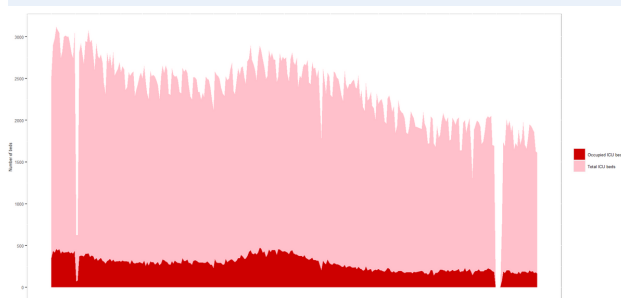


Figure 3. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time (1 Jan 2023 - 12 Nov 2023)

COVID-19 deaths

As of 12 Nov 2023, 66,746 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Philippines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 4).

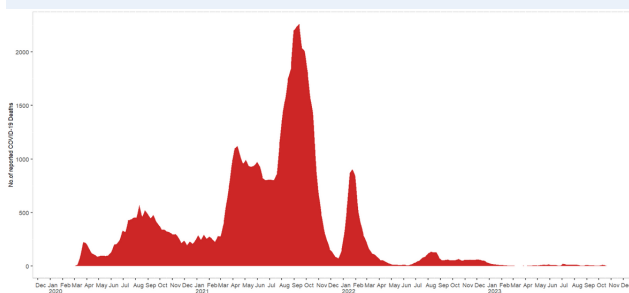


Figure 4. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death (30 Jan 2020 - 12 Nov 2023)

Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

The number of Rt-PCR tests conducted and test positivity rates remain stable (2 Oct - 12 Nov 2023).

From 6 - 12 Nov, there were 19,449 tests (5.9%); 30 Oct - 5 Nov, 16,688 tests (5.7%); 23 - 29 Oct (19,309 tests, 5.4%); 16 - 22 Oct (21,277 tests, 5.5%); 9-15 Oct (21,811 tests, 5.5%); and on 2 - 8 Oct (22,096 tests, 5.8%).

From the 34 Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) samples sequenced by UP Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC) Visayas on 25 October 2023, 32 (94.1%) were classified as XBB (including three XBB.1.9.1 cases, two EG.5 cases, and 27 XBB.2.3 cases), and one (2.9%) as other Omicron sublineages. The XBB subvariant cases were local cases from Regions III and VI³.

³ LATEST COVID-19 BIOSURVEILLANCE REPORT | Department of Health website (doh.gov.ph)

Risk communication

WHO Philippines published a card containing localized risk messages for the Undas activities.

#SapatNaIngat

Ngayong Undas

Laging isipin ang kalusugan ng mga nakapaligid sayo.

Kung masama ang pakiramdam o nakakaranas ng sintomas ng COVID-19, mas mainam na manatili sa bahay.

World Health Organization Philippines

LAGING TANDAAN

Global Additional Resources

World Health Organization

Updates on COVID-19 treatment guidelines

On 10 Nov 2023, WHO released its updated [guidelines](#) (13th update) for COVID-19 therapeutics, with revised recommendations for patients with non-severe COVID-19.

This update includes new baseline risk estimates for hospital admission in patients with non-severe COVID-19.

- 1.High: People who are immunosuppressed remain at higher risk if they contract COVID-19, with 6% estimated hospitalization rate.
- 2.Moderate: People >65 years old, those with obesity, diabetes and/or chronic conditions including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kidney or liver disease, cancer, people with disabilities and those with comorbidities of chronic disease, with 3% estimated hospitalization rate.
- 3.Low: Those who are not in the high or moderate risk categories are at low risk of hospitalization (0.5%). Most people are low risk.

On COVID-19 treatments for people with non-severe COVID-19, WHO strongly recommend nirmatrelvir-ritonavir ('Paxlovid') for people at high-risk and moderate risk of hospitalization; if not available to patients at high-risk of hospitalization, use molnupiravir or remdesivir.

WHO also suggests against the use of molnupiravir and remdesivir for patients at moderate risk in patients at moderate risk of hospital admission. WHO does not recommend any antiviral therapy for people at low risk of hospitalization and recommends against use of a new antiviral for patients, except in clinical trials.

Department of Health

On 15 Nov 2023, DOH announced in its [Facebook page](#) the upcoming 2023 COVID-19 Laboratory Network Recognition Ceremony on 1 Dec 2023. This ceremony will acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments and dedication of the laboratory network in responding to COVID-19. It also marks the commencement of the laboratory network's transition to its long-term functions. The National Laboratory Response Network Unit (NLRNU) will be mounting the COVID-19 Laboratory Network Recognition Ceremony.

