

Overall strategy

On 5 May 2023, the WHO Director-General declared that COVID-19 no longer constitutes a Public Health of international Concern (PHEIC) and that it is no longer a global health emergency. Despite the termination of the (PHEIC), COVID-19 remains a global health threat.

This means that it is time for those Member States who have not already done so, to shift from emergency mode to the sustained management of COVID-19 taking a risk-based approach using the following recommended tools: COVID-19 vaccination, calibrated public health and social measures, strengthened health system capacity, early detection and targeted response and international border measures.

Regional overview

As of 3 July 2023, 204 787 106 cases with 414 360 deaths (proportion of fatal cases (PFC) 0.2%) have been reported. The overall case trend has been decreasing over the several weeks (Figures 1 and 2). This trend, however, should be interpreted with caution due to decreased testing and changes in reporting frequency in many countries.

In the previous 14 days, a total of 285 106 new cases with 540 new deaths (Table 1) were reported in 14 countries and areas: Australia 13 627, Cambodia 36, China 7 287, Cook Islands 2, Guam 126, Kiribati 44, the Republic of Korea 237 668, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) 120, New Zealand 11 979, Northern Mariana Islands 13, the Philippines 6 189, Singapore 6 882, and Viet Nam 1 301.

As of 25 June 2023, BA.5 variant was the dominant variant, accounting for 17.5% of sequences in region.

Biweekly country situation updates

- Following an increasing trend in the number of cases, the Philippines has reported a declining trend in the number of cases over the past six weeks. The 14-day daily case average was 442 cases reported compared to 779 reported cases two weeks prior. Deaths have remained low, reporting only two in the previous two weeks. There does not appear to be strain on the healthcare system with the Philippines reporting a bed occupancy of 16.4%.
- Following several weeks of increasing case trends, Viet Nam has reported a declining trend in the number of cases over the past eight weeks. The 14-day daily case average was 93 during the past two weeks (19 June to 2 July 2023), compared to 330 cases reported in the two weeks prior (5 to 18 June 2023). There have been no deaths in the past two weeks and no changes in the proportion of severe cases, or strain on the health system.

SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Interest and Variants Under Monitoring in the Region

A total of 17,158 sequences from 9 countries and areas were uploaded to GISAID from 12-25 June 2023. For weeks 24 and 25 (12 - 25 June 2023) the distribution of Variants of Interest (VOI) and Variants Under Monitoring (VUM) among the 9 countries and areas was 17.5% for BA.5, 16.7% for XBB.1.9.1, 12.8 % for XBB, 10.6% for XBB 1.5, 5.3 % for BA 2.75, 4.5% for CH 1.1, 4.0% for BA.1, 2.3% for BA.2, and 1.8 % for BA.4.

Deployments

COVID-19 response

564	534	18	1	16
total deployments	deployments completed	actively supporting country offices	actively supporting the Regional Office	currently supporting remotely

Supplies and logistics for health care workers shipped to 42 destinations in the Western Pacific Region (as of 27 March 2023)



37 764 374
surgical masks



6 492 719
particulate respirators



2 069 199
medical gowns



369 336
goggles



1 408 324
face shields



9 104 960
pairs of gloves



38 189
alcohol-based hand rub (100mL)



782 344
laboratory tests



1 998 669
point of care tests



3 730 390
swab kits



706
ICU ventilators



3 198
oxygen concentrators



30 155
pulse oximeters



333 490
rapid antigen tests

Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries and areas with the highest number of cases, as of 3 July 2023 10:00 (GMT+8)

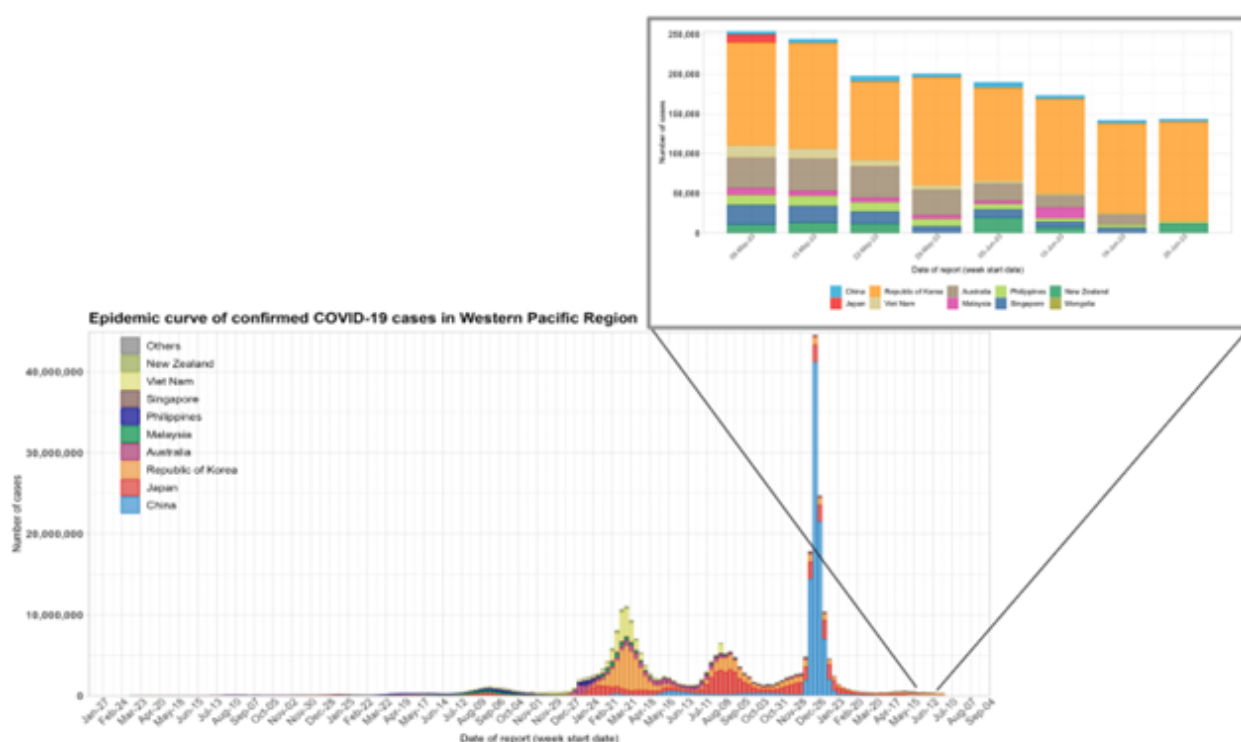


Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases in countries or areas with the lowest number of cases, as of 3 July 2023 10:00 (GMT+8)

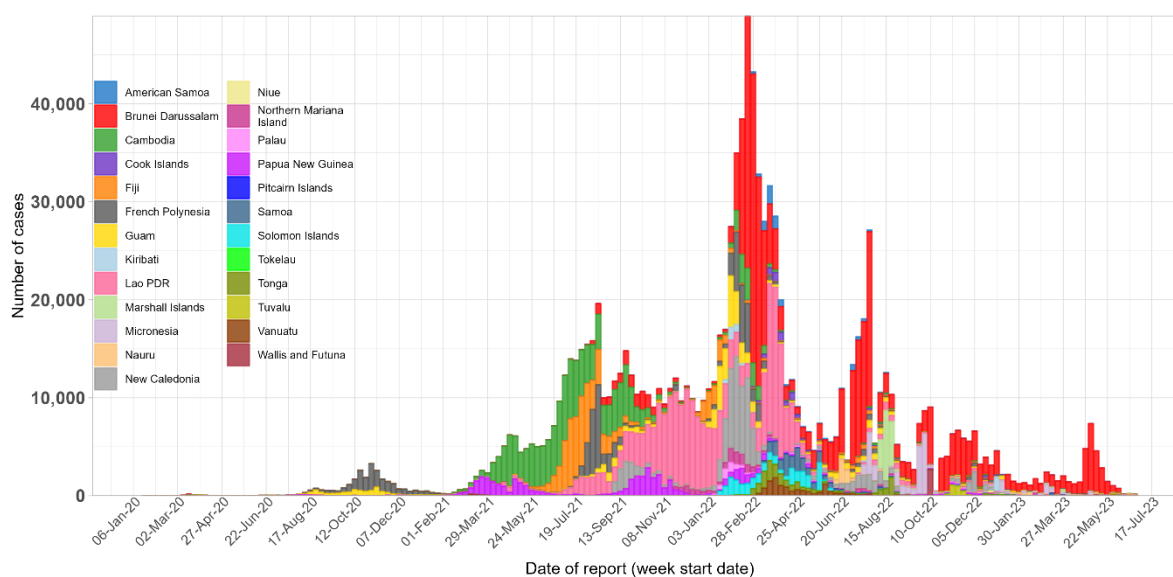


Table 1. Countries or areas with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, covering the period from 19 June to 3 July 2023, as of 3 July 2023 (GMT+8)

Country or area	New cases (cumulative)	New deaths (cumulative)	Change (14-day average of cases)
American Samoa	0 (8 332)	0 (34)	0.0
Australia	13 627 ¹ (11 477 838)	232 ¹ (21 917)	-1 796.93
Brunei Darussalam	0 ¹ (308 777)	0 ¹ (161)	-31.0
Cambodia	36 (138 920)	0 (3 056)	-2.93
China	7 287 ¹ (99 292 081)	100 ¹ (121 490)	-303.0
Cook Islands	2 ¹ (7 144)	0 ¹ (2)	-0.86
Fiji	0 ¹ (69 047)	0 ¹ (885)	-9.0
French Polynesia	0 ¹ (78 601)	0 ¹ (649)	-0.36
Guam	126 (51 675)	0 (413)	5.0
Japan	0 ² (33 803 572)	0 ² (74694)	0.0
Kiribati	44 (5 081)	0 (24)	3.14
Korea, Republic of	237 668 (32 256 154)	111 (35 071)	132.71
Lao PDR	120 (218 491)	0 (671)	1.0
Malaysia	0 ¹ (5 122 019)	34 (37 152)	-1 231.93
Marshall Islands	0 ¹ (16 098)	0 ¹ (17)	0.0
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0 ¹ (26 459)	0 ¹ (65)	-0.07
Mongolia	0 ¹ (1 010 034)	0 ¹ (2 136)	0.0
Nauru	0 ¹ (5 393)	0 ¹ (1)	0.0
New Caledonia	0 ¹ (80 064)	0 ¹ (314)	0.0
New Zealand	11 979 (2 345 892)	61 (3 138)	-1 070.79
Niue	0 ¹ (820)	0 ¹ (0)	-0.21
Northern Mariana Islands	13 ¹ (14 013)	0 ¹ (41)	-2.79
Palau	0 ¹ (6 013)	0 ¹ (9)	-0.14
Papua New Guinea	0 ¹ (46 864)	0 ¹ (670)	0
Philippines	6 189 (4 165 499)	2 (66 484)	-337.14
Pitcairn Islands	0 ¹ (4)	0 ¹ (0)	0
Samoa	0 ¹ (16 771)	0 ¹ (31)	-2.0
Singapore	6 882 ¹ (2 506 870)	0 ¹ (1 841)	-733.36
Solomon Islands	0 ¹ (21 611)	0 ¹ (153)	0.0
Tokelau	14 ¹ (19)	0 ¹ (0)	1.0
Tonga	0 (16 819)	0 (12)	-0.14
Tuvalu	0 ¹ (2 943)	0 ¹ (1)	-2.29
Vanuatu	0 (12 019)	0 (14)	0.0
Viet Nam	1 301 (11 620 623)	0 (43 206)	-212.14
Wallis and Futuna	0 ¹ (3550)	0 ¹ (8)	0.0
Total	341 707 (204 478 043)	899 (413 525)	-4041.71

Note: Data continues to be collected and may change according to Member States' reports.

¹ Countries reported no or partial data for the 14-day period ²Japan no longer reports case numbers as of 8 May 2023.

Table 2. Countries or areas in the Western Pacific Region that have reported currently circulating Variants of Concern, as of 25 June 2023 10:00 (GMT+8)

Country or area	Omicron Sub-lineage ³								
	BA.5*	BA.2.75*	XBB [^]	XBB.1.5	XBB.1.16	XBB.1.9.1	XBB.1.9.2	CH.1.1	BQ.1*
American Samoa	X							X	
Australia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brunei Darussalam	X	X	X		X				X
Cambodia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
China	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Guam	X							X	X
Japan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kiribati	X								
Lao PDR	X								
Malaysia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marshall Islands		X							X
Micronesia (Federated States of)	X	X		X					X
Mongolia	X		X	X	X	X	X		X
New Zealand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Northern Mariana Islands	X	X		X					X
Palau	X								X
Papua New Guinea	X	X	X						X
The Philippines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Republic of Korea	X	X	X						X
Samoa	X								
Singapore	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Solomon Islands	X								
Tonga	X								
Vanuatu	X								
Viet Nam	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

*Includes sub-variants. ^Includes sub-variants, except for XBB.1.5. XBB.1.5 is a Variant of Interest and is reported separately. Note: GISAID submission data is subject to change.

Key information and announcements

Information and Planning

The Regional Office continues to monitor COVID-19 incidence in countries and areas across the Region. Updated information is available on the [dashboard for the Western Pacific Region](#).

Health Service Delivery

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Clinical Management

Continued providing support in strengthening countries IPC programmes, revised IPC scoping reports of Lower Income Countries Member states, based on country' feedback and inputs.

Strategic Communication

The Regional Office actively supports country offices in testing messages to ensure data-driven and audience-focused risk communication and has completed the administration process for continuing to engage a vendor to provide technical support for message testing on COVID-19 and other emergency topics.

Messages for the Public

- On WPRO social media, published posts on COVID-19 vaccination and risk-based COVID-19 measures during the Eid Al-Adha celebrations amplifying materials from WHO Malaysia
- Facebook
 - [While #COVID19 is no longer a global health emergency, people are still getting sick and dying from it https://bit.ly/3zevl9V. If you are planning an event or gathering, look out for one another by taking appropriate measures to reduce everyone's risk of catching the coronavirus.](https://bit.ly/3zevl9V)
 - [COVID-19 vaccines protect you against serious illness, hospitalization and death from the #coronavirus. Get all COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended to you. #VaccinesWork](#)
 - [If you are attending crowded #Eid open houses, take appropriate measures to reduce your risk of catching COVID-19. #CelebrateSafely](#)
- Twitter
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 - [While #COVID19 is no longer a global health emergency, people are still getting sick & dying from it https://bit.ly/3zevl9V If you are planning an event, look out for one another by taking appropriate measures to reduce everyone's risk of catching the coronavirus.](https://bit.ly/3zevl9V)

- [COVID-19 vaccines protect you against serious illness, hospitalization and death from the coronavirus. Get all COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended to you. #VaccinesWor](#)