

COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update

Edition 103 published 3 August 2022

In this edition:

- [Global overview](#)
- [Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants of interest and variants of concern](#)
- [WHO regional overviews](#)
- [Summary of the Monthly Operational Update](#)

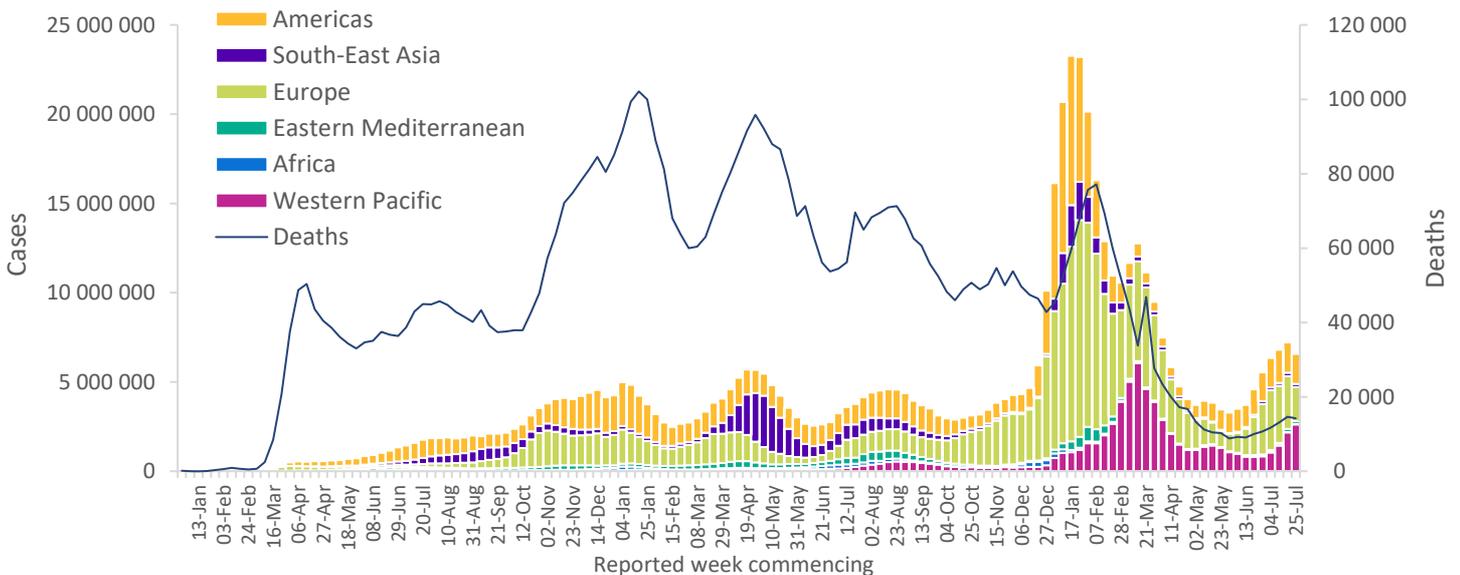
Global overview

Data as of 31 July 2022

Globally, the number of weekly cases decreased by 9% during the week of 25 to 31 July 2022 as compared to the previous week, with over 6.5 million new cases reported (Figure 1, Table-1). The number of new weekly deaths remained stable this week as compared to the previous week, with over 14 000 fatalities reported. As of 31 July 2022, over 574 million confirmed cases and over 6.3 million deaths have been reported globally.

At the regional level, the number of reported new weekly cases increased in the Western Pacific Region (+20%) and the African Region (+5%); at the same time, it decreased or remained stable in the European Region (-35%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-12%), the South-East Asia Region (-2%) and the Region of the Americas (-2%). The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Western Pacific Region (+44%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+26%), the South-East Asia Region (+20%), and the African Region (+12%), while it decreased in the European Region (-26%). The number of new weekly deaths in the Region of the Americas was similar to the figure reported during the previous week.

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 31 July 2022**



**See [Annex 1: Data, table, and figure notes](#)

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (1 379 099 new cases; 42%), the United States of America (923 366 new cases; +2%), the Republic of Korea (564 437 new cases; +25%), Germany (459 724 new cases; -26%), and Italy (394 583 new cases; -26%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2 626 new deaths; -10%), Brazil (1 827 new deaths; +31%), Italy (1 205 new deaths; +27%), Japan (655 new deaths; +141%), and Australia (637 new deaths; +24%).

Current trends in reported COVID-19 cases and deaths should be interpreted with caution as several countries have been progressively changing COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected. Additionally, data from countries are continuously updated by WHO to incorporate changes in reported COVID-19 cases and deaths made by countries retrospectively.

Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 31 July 2022**

WHO Region	New cases in last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in last 7 days *	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last 7 days (%)	Change in new deaths in last 7 days *	Cumulative deaths (%)
Western Pacific	2 618 349 (40%)	20%	71 722 656 (12%)	2 342 (17%)	44%	245 657 (4%)
Europe	1 914 599 (29%)	-35%	240 928 373 (42%)	4 315 (30%)	-26%	2 049 551 (32%)
Americas	1 666 963 (25%)	-2%	170 676 377 (30%)	6 196 (44%)	1%	2 789 118 (44%)
South-East Asia	191 983 (3%)	-2%	59 356 443 (10%)	698 (5%)	20%	792 444 (12%)
Eastern Mediterranean	156 532 (2%)	-12%	22 627 851 (4%)	545 (4%)	26%	345 005 (5%)
Africa	17 253 (<1%)	5%	9 213 803 (2%)	83 (1%)	12%	174 044 (3%)
Global	6 565 679 (100%)	-9%	574 526 267 (100%)	14 179 (100%)	-3%	6 395 832 (100%)

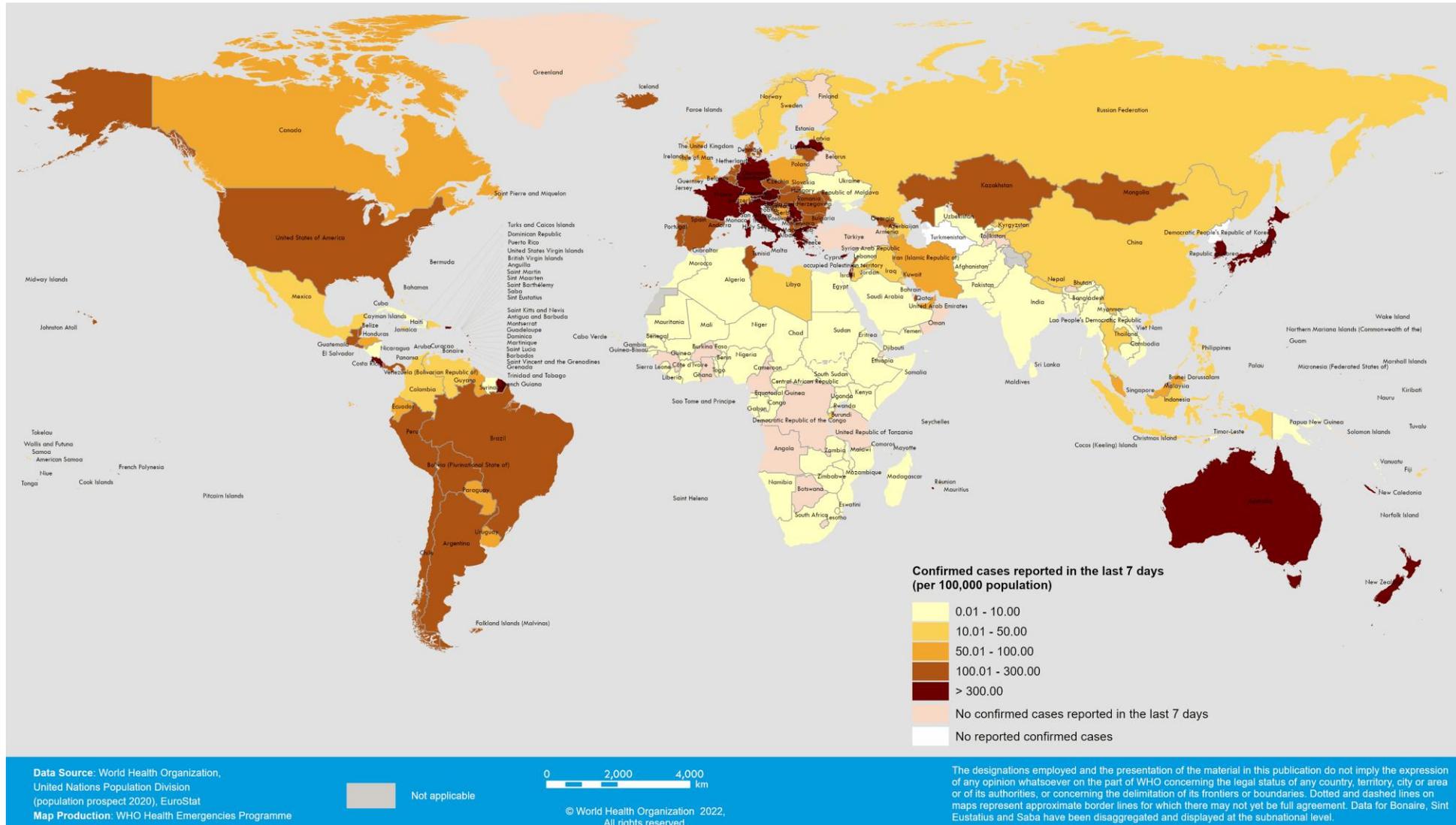
*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in the past seven days, compared to seven days prior

**See [Annex 1: Data, table, and figure notes](#)

For the latest data and other updates on COVID-19, please see:

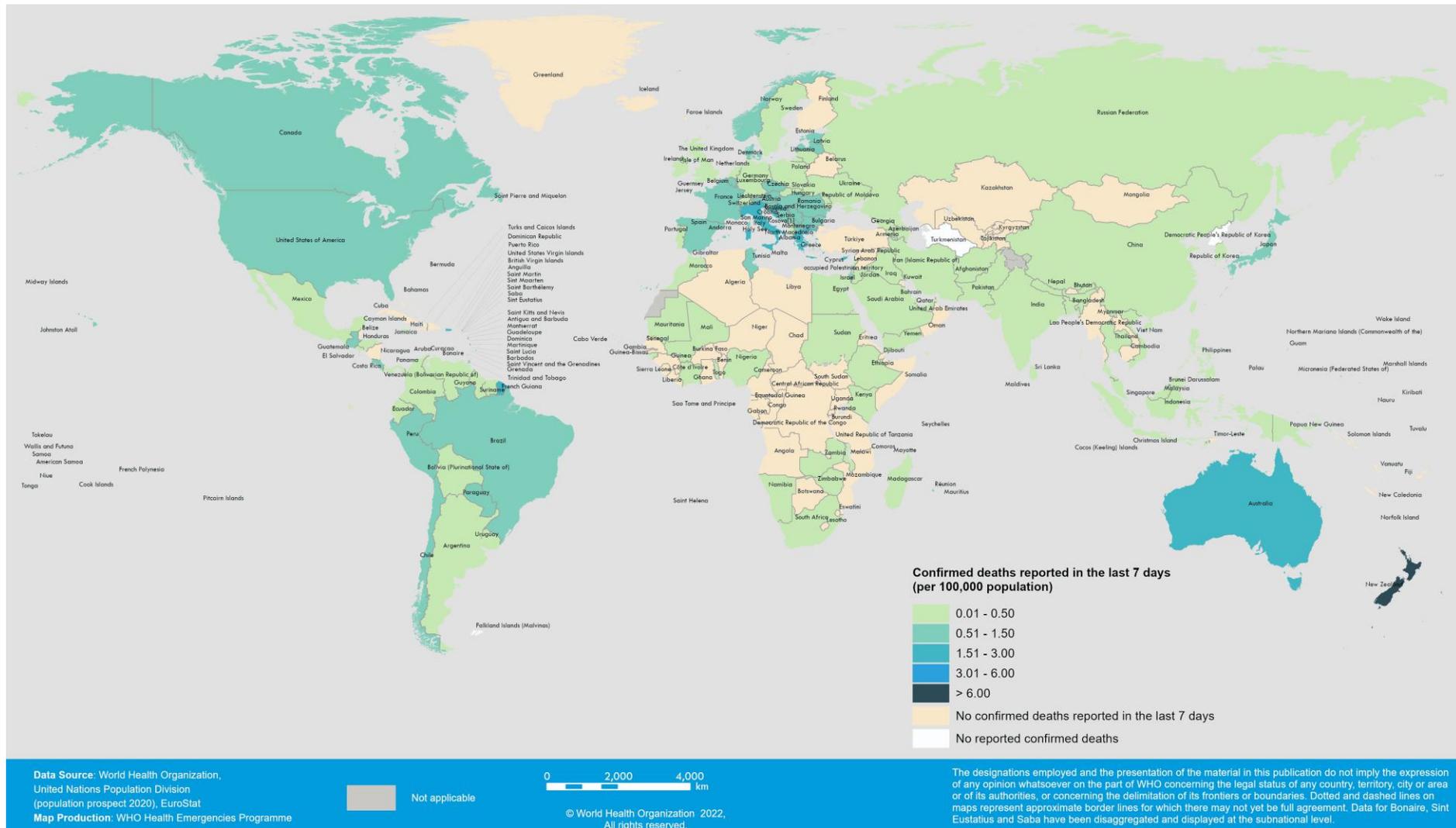
- [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Weekly Operational Update and previous editions of the Weekly Epidemiological Update](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 detailed surveillance data dashboard](#)

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 25 - 31 July 2022*



**See [Annex 1: Data, table, and figure notes](#)

Figure 3. COVID-19 deaths per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 25 - 31 July 2022**



**See [Annex 1: Data, table, and figure notes](#)

Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants of interest and variants of concern

Geographic spread and prevalence of VOCs

Globally, from 1 July to 1 August 2022, 204 668 sequences were collected and uploaded to GISAID. Among these, 203 440 sequences were Omicron variant of concern (VOC) and its descendent lineages, accounting for 99% of sequences reported globally in the past 30 days.

A comparison of sequences submitted to GISAID in epidemiological week 29 (17 to 23 July 2022) and week 28 (10 to 16 July 2022) shows that BA.5 and BA.4 Omicron descendent lineages continued to be dominant globally, with a weekly prevalence that increased from 63.8% to 69.6%, and from 10.9% to 11.8%, respectively. Conversely, within the same time period, BA.2.12.1 and BA.2 sequences showed a decline from 4.4% to 1.9% and from 2% to 1.5%, respectively.

Current trends describing the circulation of Omicron descendent lineages should be interpreted with due consideration of the limitations of SARS-CoV-2 surveillance systems, including differences in sequencing capacity and sampling strategies between countries, as well as changes in sampling strategies and reductions in testing and sequences being conducted and shared from countries around the world.

For more information on the assessment of SARS-CoV-2 variants and the WHO classification refer to Annex 2.

Additional resources

- [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 Variants](#)
- [COVID-19 new variants: Knowledge gaps and research](#)
- [Genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2: a guide to implementation for maximum impact on public health](#)
- [Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [VIEW-hub: repository for the most relevant and recent vaccine data](#)
- [WHO Statement on Omicron sublineage BA.2](#)

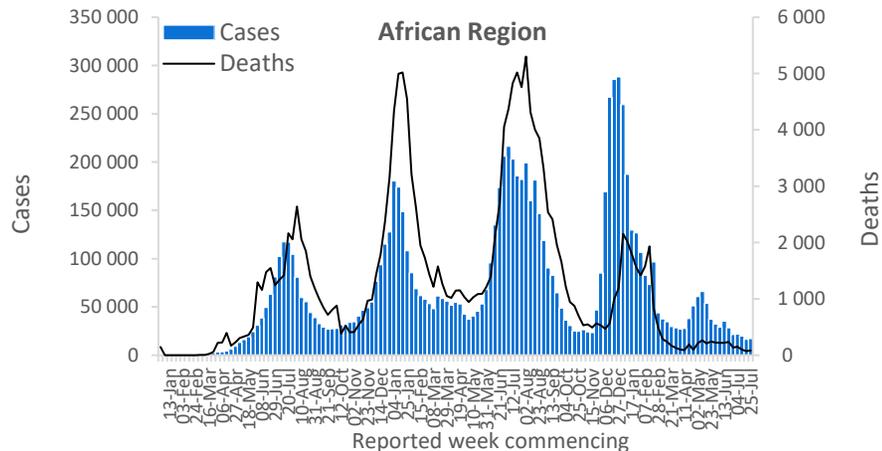
WHO regional overviews:

Epidemiological week 25 - 31 July 2022**

African Region

The Africa Region reported over 17 000 new cases, a 5% increase as compared to the previous week. However, 14 (31%) countries reported an increase in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the greatest proportional increases seen in Liberia (30 vs one new case; +2900%), Seychelles (160 vs seven new cases; +2186%), and Rwanda (323 vs 49 new cases; +559%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Réunion* (5687 new cases; 635 new cases per 100 000 population), South Africa (2422 new cases; 4.1 new cases per 100 000; +2%), and Burundi (1714 new cases; 14.4 new cases per 100 000; +68%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region increased by 12% as compared to the previous week, with 83 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from South Africa (39 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000 population; +56%), Réunion* (seven new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000), and Malawi (seven new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +17%).

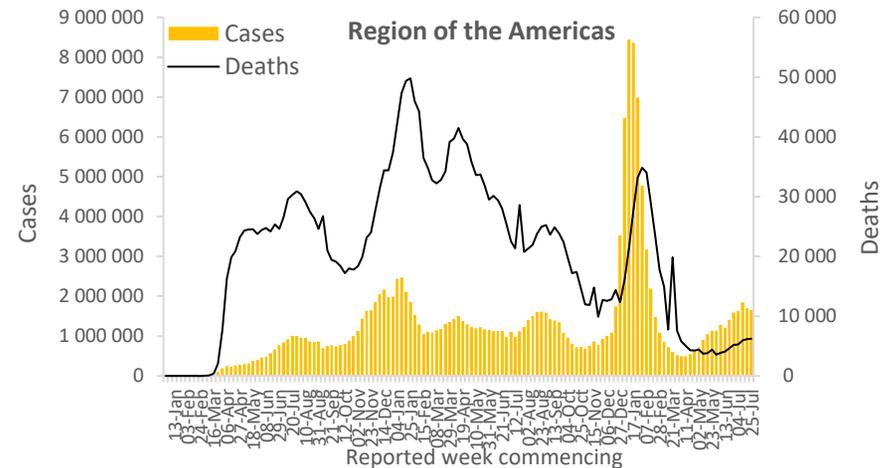


Updates from the [African Region](#)

Region of the Americas

The Region of the Americas reported over 1.6 million new cases, a similar number as compared to the previous week. Eight of 56 (14%) countries for which data are available reported increases in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the greatest proportional increases observed in Montserrat (22 vs seven new cases; +214%), Honduras (5105 vs 2657 new cases; +92%), and Saint Lucia (312 vs 190 new cases; +64%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (923 366 new cases; 279 new cases per 100 000; +2%), Brazil (284 971 new cases; 134.1 new cases per 100 000; +11%), and Peru (78 692 new cases; 238.7 new cases per 100 000; -9%).

The number of new weekly deaths reported in the Region remained similar to the number reported in the previous week, with just under 6200 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the United States of America (2626 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -10%), Brazil (1827 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +31%), and Canada (253 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +22%).

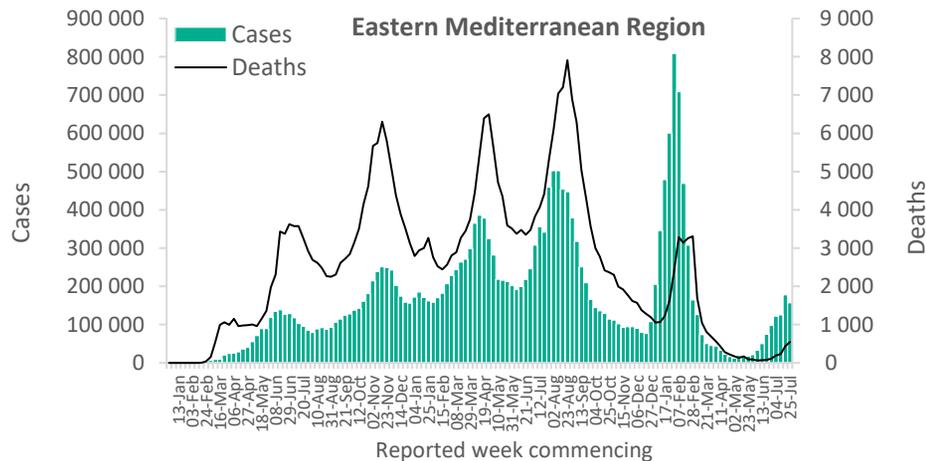


Updates from the [Region of the Americas](#)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Eastern Mediterranean Region reported a 12% decrease in cases this week following an increasing trend observed since late May 2022, with over 156 500 new weekly cases. Five (23%) countries reported increases in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Yemen (28 vs one new case; +2700%), Somalia (45 vs 12 new cases; +275%), and Jordan (4763 vs 2455 new cases; +94%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (61 977 new cases; 73.8 new cases per 100 000; +33%), Lebanon (16 609 new cases; 243.3 new cases per 100 000; -19%), and Iraq (15 888 new cases; 39.5 new cases per 100 000; -38%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region increased by 26% as compared to the previous week, with over 545 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (287 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +75%), Tunisia (99 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -17%), and Iraq (27 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +42%).

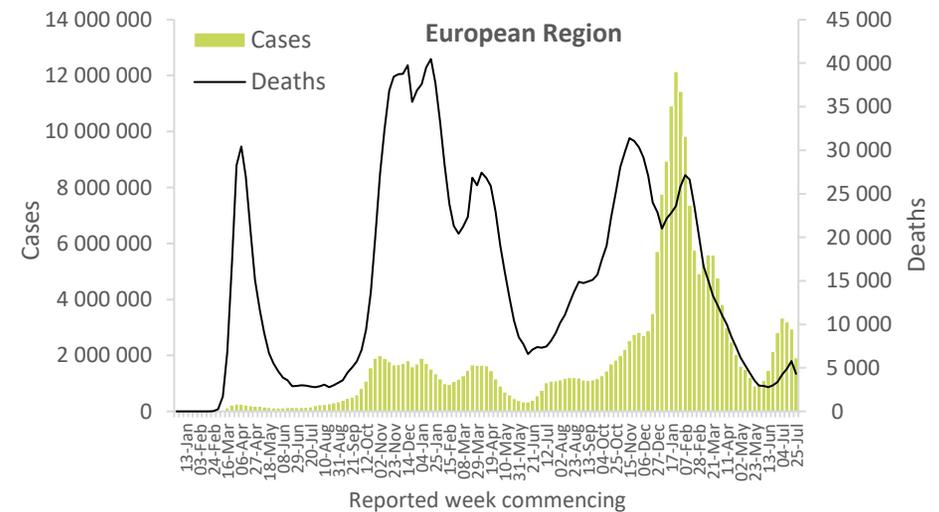


Updates from the [Eastern Mediterranean Region](#)

European Region

The European Region reported over 1.9 million new weekly cases, a 35% decrease as compared to the previous week. Fourteen (23%) countries in the Region reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the highest proportional increases observed in Kyrgyzstan (981 vs 88 new cases; +1015%), the Republic of Moldova (5793 vs 3360 new cases; +72%), and the Russian Federation (69 464 vs 41 959 new cases; +66%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Germany (459 724 new cases; 552.8 new cases per 100 000; -26%), Italy (394 583 new cases; 661.6 new cases per 100 000; -26%), and France (290 392 new cases; 446.5 new cases per 100 000; -46%).

Over 4300 new weekly deaths were reported in the Region, a 26% decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (1205 new deaths; two new deaths per 100 000; +27%), France (552 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -27%), and Spain (532 new deaths; 1.1 new death per 100 000; -34%).

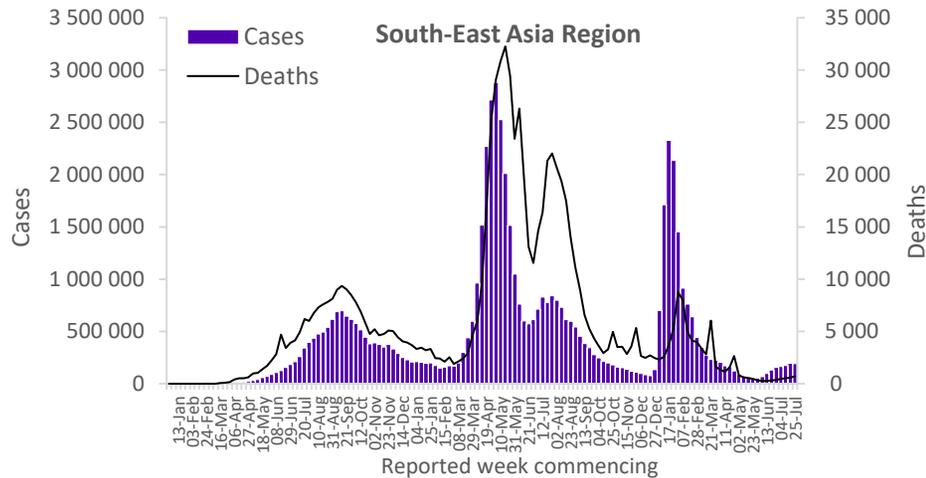


Updates from the [European Region](#)

South-East Asia Region

In the South-East Asia Region, the number of new cases plateaued this week following an increasing trend in cases since early June 2022, with over 191 000 new cases reported. Three of the 10 countries (30%) for which data are available showed increases in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with the largest proportional increases observed in Timor-Leste (18 vs eight new cases; +125%), Sri Lanka (839 vs 452 new cases; +86%) and Nepal (2974 vs 2214; +34%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (131 056 new cases; 9.5 new cases per 100 000; -5%), Indonesia (38 756 new cases; 14.2 new cases per 100 000; +16%), and Thailand (14 323 new cases; 20.5 new cases per 100 000; -15%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region increased by 20% as compared to the previous week, with nearly 700 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (324 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; similar to the previous week's figures), Thailand (228 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +42%), and Indonesia (91 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +72%).

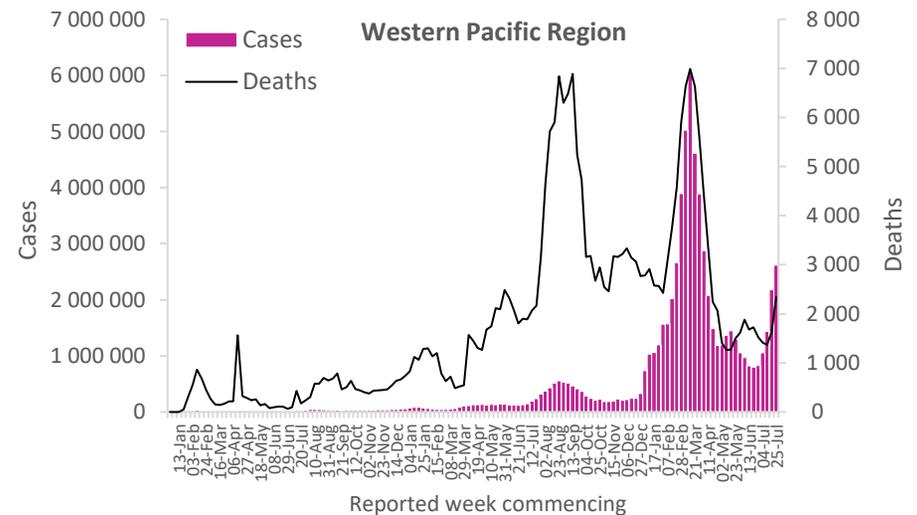


Updates from the [South-East Asia Region](#)

Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Region continues to report an increasing trend in cases for the sixth consecutive week, with over 2.6 million new cases reported, a 20% increase as compared to the previous week. Twelve (35%) countries reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the largest proportional increases observed in the Federated States of Micronesia (5109 vs 111 new cases; +4503%), Cook Islands (195 vs 33 new cases; +491%), and Guam (819 vs 448 new cases; +83%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Japan (1 379 099 new cases; 1090.4 new cases per 100 000; +42%), the Republic of Korea (564 437 new cases; 1100.9 new cases per 100 000; +25%), and Australia (306 679 new cases; 1202.7 new cases per 100 000; -18%).

The Region reported over 2300 new weekly deaths, a 44% increase as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Japan (655 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +141%), Australia (637 new deaths; 2.5 new deaths per 100 000; +24%), and China (403 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -12%).



Updates from the [Western Pacific Region](#)

Summary of the COVID-19 Monthly Operational Update

The [Monthly operational Update](#) is a report provided by the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) monitoring and evaluation team which aims to update on the ongoing global progress against the [COVID-19 SPRP 2021](#) framework.

In this edition, highlights of country-level actions and WHO support to countries include:

- The Eastern Mediterranean Region reflects on genomic sequencing and its future within integrated surveillance of respiratory viruses
- Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) field epidemiologists support the COVID-19 response in Papua New Guinea
- WHO/Europe leads regional dialogue on the importance of strong infection prevention and control programmes for COVID-19, monkeypox and beyond
- An ancient tradition to the rescue: Mayan midwives or “comadronas” dispels COVID-19 vaccination fears
- Reviewing the COVID-19 response in Sudan amidst other national emergencies
- Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) provide support to Eswatini during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Malaysia trials digital community to protect mental health during COVID-19
- Looking back at WHO’s rapid and coordinated response to COVID-19 in Bhutan (2020-21)
- WHO Public Health Laboratories knowledge sharing platform: Enhancing laboratory readiness
- The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) Health Systems and Response Connector: enhancing the equitable access and implementation of COVID-19 tools
- GOARN Steering Committee selects new leadership and agrees on its upcoming four-year strategy
- “Dear Pandemic”: a communication platform empowering woman to navigate the flood of information on COVID-19, presented as part of WHO’s Science Translation initiative
- OpenWHO online course spurs learners to improve infection prevention and control practices
- WHO’s COVID-19 Response Funding in 2022: Delivering science, solutions and solidarity to end the acute phase of the pandemic
- Updated WHO guidance and publications

Annex 1. Data, table, and figure notes

Data presented are based on official laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths reported to WHO by country/territories/areas, largely based upon WHO [case definitions](#) and [surveillance guidance](#). While steps are taken to ensure accuracy and reliability, all data are subject to continuous verification and change, and caution must be taken when interpreting these data as several factors influence the counts presented, with variable underestimation of true case and death incidences, and variable delays to reflecting these data at the global level. Case detection, inclusion criteria, testing strategies, reporting practices, and data cut-off and lag times differ between countries/territories/areas. A small number of countries/territories/areas report combined probable and laboratory-confirmed cases. Differences are to be expected between information products published by WHO, national public health authorities, and other sources.

A record of historic data adjustment made is available upon request by emailing epi-data-support@who.int. Please specify the countries of interest, time period, and purpose of the request/intended usage. Prior situation reports will not be edited; see covid19.who.int for the most up-to-date data. COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths reported in the last seven days by countries, territories, and areas, and WHO Region (reported in previous issues) are now available at: <https://covid19.who.int/table>.

'Countries' may refer to countries, territories, areas or other jurisdictions of similar status. The designations employed, and the presentation of these materials do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Countries, territories, and areas are arranged under the administering WHO region. The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions except, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

^[1] All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). In the map, the number of cases of Serbia and Kosovo (UNSCR 1244, 1999) have been aggregated for visualization purposes.

Updates of an outbreak of COVID-19 reported in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continue through official media since 12 May 2022; however, at present, no confirmed cases or deaths have been reported to WHO.

* For some countries, it was not possible to calculate the weekly percentage change in the number of cases and / or deaths due to batch reporting during the last week.

Annex 2. SARS-CoV-2 variants assessment and classification

WHO, in collaboration with national authorities, institutions and researchers, routinely assesses if variants of SARS-CoV-2 alter transmission or disease characteristics, or impact the effectiveness of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics or public health and social measures (PHSM) applied to control disease spread. Potential variants of concern (VOCs), variants of interest (VOIs) or variants under monitoring (VUMs) are regularly assessed based on the risk posed to global public health.

The classifications of variants will be revised as needed to reflect the continuous evolution of circulating variants and their changing epidemiology. Criteria for variant classification, and the lists of currently circulating and previously circulating VOCs, VOIs and VUMs, are available on the [WHO Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants website](#). National authorities may choose to designate other variants and are strongly encouraged to investigate and report newly emerging variants and their impact.