COVID-19 Results Briefing

The South-East Asia Region

September 15, 2021

This document contains summary information on the latest projections from the IHME model on COVID-19 in the South-East Asia Region. The model was run on September 14, 2021, with data through September 13, 2021.

In South-East Asia, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to decline at the regional level. While local mandates likely aided in precipitating declines, as of 13 September 2021 we estimate that only 13% of the regional population has been fully vaccinated and 57% have been infected with COVID-19, meaning the number of people susceptible to infection has declined significantly. Across the region, Delta-driven surges have been followed by rapid declines, implying that effective R is well below 1 in all countries at the national level. This week we have extended our forecasts to 1 January 2022, by which time we project the region will reach 753,000 cumulative reported deaths, representing an additional 93,000 deaths between now and the start of next year. While current regional declines are expected through the end of October, end-of-year surges in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and Myanmar will keep regional daily reported death tolls above 600 per day through the end of the year. However, our worse scenario suggests there remains a potential for a more widespread surge with significant increases in mobility and declines in mask use, highlighting the importance of human behaviors and the need to remain vigilant. With a growing body of research showing immunity derived from both vaccines and natural infection wanes over time, strategies to reduce COVID-19 transmission to zero are unlikely to succeed. While our model does not currently include the potential impact of waning immunity, countries should collect data on cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by vaccination status so that more evidence can emerge on waning immunity. Available evidence shows that vaccines are the best protection against hospitalization and death, which is extremely important as seasonal illnesses like influenza and dengue place additional stress on hospital resources. Every effort should be made to increase vaccine coverage by addressing vaccine hesitancy and supply constraints. As schools reopen and workers return to in-person settings, vaccinations and behaviors like mask wearing, physical distancing, and limiting the size of meetings and gatherings are the best strategies for protecting both students and the community from infection.

Current situation

- Daily infections in the last week decreased to 605,700 per day on average compared to 718,500 the week before (Figure 1). Daily hospital census in the last week (through September 13) decreased to 174,500 per day on average compared to 210,000 the week before.

- Daily reported cases in the last week decreased to 65,300 per day on average compared to 75,700 the week before (Figure 2).

- Reported deaths due to COVID-19 in the last week decreased to 1,300 per day on average compared to 1,500 the week before (Figure 3).
• Excess deaths due to COVID-19 in the last week decreased to 3,000 per day on average compared to 3,700 the week before (Figure 3). This makes COVID-19 the number 4 cause of death in the South-East Asia Region this week (Table 1). Estimated excess daily deaths due to COVID-19 in the past week were 2.4 times larger than the reported number of deaths.

• The daily reported COVID-19 death rate is greater than 4 per million in Sri Lanka (Figure 4).

• The daily rate of excess deaths due to COVID-19 is greater than 4 per million in Myanmar and Sri Lanka (Figure 4).

• We estimate that 57% of people in the South-East Asia Region have been infected as of September 13 (Figure 6).

• Effective R, computed using cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, is greater than 1 in no countries at the national level; however, within India, effective R is above 1 in four states and union territories (Figure 7).

• The infection-detection rate in the South-East Asia Region was close to 8% on September 13 (Figure 8).

• Based on the GISAID and various national databases, combined with our variant spread model, we estimate the current prevalence of variants of concern (Figure 9). We estimate that the Beta variant is circulating in two countries, that the Delta variant is circulating in 10 countries, and that the Gamma variant is circulating in no countries.

Trends in drivers of transmission

• Mobility last week was 15% lower than the pre-COVID-19 baseline (Figure 11). Mobility was near baseline (within 10%) in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. Mobility was lower than 30% of baseline in Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste.

• As of September 13, in the COVID-19 Trends and Impact Survey, 68% of people self-report that they always wore a mask when leaving their home compared to 69% last week (Figure 13).

• There were 106 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on September 13 (Figure 15).

• As of September 13, two countries have reached 70% or more of the population who have received at least one vaccine dose and no countries have reached 70% or more of the population who are fully vaccinated (Figure 17).

• In the South-East Asia Region, 80.1% of adults say they would accept or would probably accept a vaccine for COVID-19. This is down by 0.2 percentage points from last week. The proportion of the population who are open to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine ranges from 61% in Maldives to 92% in Sri Lanka (Figure 19).

• In our current reference scenario, we expect that 1.1 billion people will be vaccinated with at least one dose by January 1 (Figure 20).
In our current reference scenario, we expect that by January 1, 70% of people will be immune to non-escape variants and 64% of people will be immune to escape variants (Figure 21).

Projections

- In our reference scenario, which represents what we think is most likely to happen, our model projects 753,000 cumulative reported deaths due to COVID-19 on January 1. This represents 93,000 additional deaths from September 13 to January 1. Daily reported deaths will decline to 600 by October 28, 2021 (Figure 22).
- Under our reference scenario, our model projects 2,054,000 cumulative excess deaths due to COVID-19 on January 1. This represents 198,000 additional deaths from September 13 to January 1 (Figure 22).
- If universal mask coverage (95%) were attained in the next week, our model projects 19,000 fewer cumulative reported deaths compared to the reference scenario on January 1.
- Under our worse scenario, our model projects 905,000 cumulative reported deaths on January 1, an additional 152,000 deaths compared to our reference scenario. Daily reported deaths in the worse scenario will rise to 4,190 by December 3, 2021 (Figure 22).
- Daily infections in the reference scenario will rise to 582,470 by December 13, 2021 (Figure 23). Daily infections in the worse scenario will rise to 2,411,980 by December 7, 2021 (Figure 23).
- Daily cases in the reference scenario will decline to 32,030 by October 20, 2021 (Figure 24). Daily cases in the worse scenario will rise to 209,120 by November 19, 2021 (Figure 24).
- Daily hospital census in the reference scenario will decline to 65,470 by November 2, 2021 (Figure 25). Daily hospital census in the worse scenario will rise to 385,480 by December 26, 2021 (Figure 25).
- Figure 26 compares our reference scenario forecasts to other publicly archived models. Forecasts are widely divergent.
- At some point from September through January 1, four countries will have high or extreme stress on hospital beds (Figure 27). At some point from September through January 1, eight countries will have high or extreme stress on intensive care unit (ICU) capacity (Figure 28).
Model updates

No model updates
Figure 1. Daily COVID-19 hospital census and infections

Figure 2. Reported daily COVID-19 cases, moving average
Table 1. Ranking of excess deaths due to COVID-19 among the leading causes of mortality this week, assuming uniform deaths of non-COVID causes throughout the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause name</th>
<th>Weekly deaths</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ischemic heart disease</td>
<td>39,868</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>27,102</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
<td>21,984</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>21,208</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diarrheal diseases</td>
<td>14,328</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower respiratory infections</td>
<td>11,327</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>10,815</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal disorders</td>
<td>10,504</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>9,152</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases</td>
<td>8,514</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Smoothed trend estimate of reported daily COVID-19 deaths (blue) and excess daily deaths due to COVID-19 (orange)
Figure 4. Daily COVID-19 death rate per 1 million on September 13, 2021

A. Daily reported COVID-19 death rate per 1 million

B. Daily excess COVID-19 death rate per 1 million
Figure 5. Cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 on September 13, 2021

A. Reported cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000

B. Excess cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000
Figure 6. Estimated percent of the population infected with COVID-19 on September 13, 2021

Figure 7. Mean effective R on September 2, 2021. Effective R less than 1 means that transmission should decline, all other things being held the same. The estimate of effective R is based on the combined analysis of deaths, case reporting, and hospitalizations where available. Current reported cases reflect infections 11-13 days prior, so estimates of effective R can only be made for the recent past.
Figure 8. Percent of COVID-19 infections detected. This is estimated as the ratio of reported daily COVID-19 cases to estimated daily COVID-19 infections based on the SEIR disease transmission model. Due to measurement errors in cases and testing rates, the infection-detection rate can exceed 100% at particular points in time.
Figure 9. Estimated percent of circulating SARS-CoV-2 for primary variant families on September 13, 2021

A. Estimated percent Alpha variant

B. Estimated percent Beta variant
C. Estimated percent Delta variant

D. Estimated percent Gamma variant
Figure 10. Infection-fatality rate on September 13, 2021. This is estimated as the ratio of COVID-19 deaths to estimated daily COVID-19 infections.
### Critical drivers

Table 2. Current mandate implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Primary school closure</th>
<th>Secondary school closure</th>
<th>Higher school closure</th>
<th>Borders closed to any non-resident</th>
<th>Borders closed to all non-residents</th>
<th>Individual movements restricted</th>
<th>Curfew for businesses</th>
<th>Individual curfew</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 6 indoor, 10 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 10 indoor, 25 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 25 indoor, 50 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 50 indoor, 100 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 100 indoor, 250 outdoor</th>
<th>Restaurants closed</th>
<th>Bars closed</th>
<th>Restaurants / bars closed only</th>
<th>gyms, pools, other leisure closed</th>
<th>Non-essential retail closed</th>
<th>Non-essential workplaces closed</th>
<th>Stay home order</th>
<th>Stay home fine</th>
<th>Mask mandate</th>
<th>Mask mandate fine</th>
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*Not all locations are measured at the subnational level.
Figure 11. Trend in mobility as measured through smartphone app use, compared to January 2020 baseline

Figure 12. Mobility level as measured through smartphone app use, compared to January 2020 baseline (percent) on September 13, 2021
Figure 13. Trend in the proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home.

Figure 14. Proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home on September 13, 2021.
**Figure 15.** Trend in COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people

![Trend in COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people](image)

- African Region
- South–East Asia Region
- Eastern Mediterranean Region
- Region of the Americas
- European Region
- Western Pacific Region

**Figure 16.** COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on September 13, 2021

![COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on September 13, 2021](image)
### Table 3. Estimates of vaccine efficacy for specific vaccines used in the model at preventing disease and infection. The SEIR model uses variant-specific estimates of vaccine efficacy at preventing symptomatic disease and at preventing infection. We use data from clinical trials directly, where available, and make estimates otherwise. More information can be found on our website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Efficacy at preventing disease: ancestral and Alpha</th>
<th>Efficacy at preventing infection: ancestral and Alpha</th>
<th>Efficacy at preventing disease: Beta, Delta, &amp; Gamma</th>
<th>Efficacy at preventing infection: Beta, Delta, &amp; Gamma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoronaVac</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covaxin</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novavax</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer/BioNTech</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinopharm</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sputnik-V</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tianjin</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>CanSino</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other vaccines</td>
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<td>86%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other vaccines (mRNA)</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 17. Percent of the population (A) having received at least one dose and (B) fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 by September 13, 2021

A. Percent of the population having received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine

B. Percent of the population fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2
**Figure 18.** Trend in the estimated proportion of the adult (18+) population that have been vaccinated or would probably or definitely receive the COVID-19 vaccine if available

![Graph showing the trend in the estimated proportion of the adult (18+) population that have been vaccinated or would probably or definitely receive the COVID-19 vaccine if available.](image)

**Figure 19.** This figure shows the estimated proportion of the adult (18+) population that has been vaccinated or would probably or definitely receive the COVID-19 vaccine if available

![Map showing the estimated proportion of the adult (18+) population that has been vaccinated or would probably or definitely receive the COVID-19 vaccine if available.](image)
**Figure 20.** Percent of people who receive at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and those who are fully vaccinated

**Figure 21.** Percentage of people who are immune to non-escape variants and the percentage of people who are immune to escape variants
Projections and scenarios

We produce three scenarios when projecting COVID-19. The reference scenario is our forecast of what we think is most likely to happen:

- Vaccines are distributed at the expected pace. Brand- and variant-specific vaccine efficacy is updated using the latest available information from peer-reviewed publications and other reports.
- Future mask use is the mean of mask use over the last 7 days.
- Mobility increases as vaccine coverage increases.
- Governments adapt their response by re-imposing social distancing mandates for 6 weeks whenever daily deaths reach 8 per million, unless a location has already spent at least 7 of the last 14 days with daily deaths above this rate, and not yet re-imposed social distancing mandates. In this case, the reference scenario assumes that mandates are re-imposed when daily deaths reach 15 per million.
- Variants Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta continue to spread regionally and globally from locations with sufficient transmission.

The worse scenario modifies the reference scenario assumption in four ways:

- 100% of vaccinated individuals stop using masks.
- Mobility increases in all locations to 25% above the pre-pandemic winter baseline, irrespective of vaccine coverage.
- Governments are more reluctant to re-impose social distancing mandates, waiting until the daily death rate reaches 15 per million, unless a location has already spent at least 7 of the last 14 days with daily deaths above this rate, and not yet re-imposed social distancing mandates. In this case, the reference scenario assumes that mandates are re-imposed when daily deaths reach 38 per million. In either case, we assume social distancing mandates remain in effect for 6 weeks.
- Variants Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta spread between locations twice as fast when compared with our reference scenario.

The universal masks scenario makes all the same assumptions as the reference scenario but assumes all locations reach 95% mask use within 7 days.
Figure 22. Daily COVID-19 deaths until January 01, 2022 for three scenarios

A. Reported daily COVID-19 deaths per 100,000

B. Excess daily COVID-19 deaths per 100,000
Figure 23. Daily COVID-19 infections until January 01, 2022 for three scenarios

Figure 24. Daily COVID-19 reported cases until January 01, 2022 for three scenarios
**Figure 25.** Daily COVID-19 hospital census until January 01, 2022 for three scenarios

**Figure 26.** Comparison of reference model projections with other COVID modeling groups. For this comparison, we are including projections of daily COVID-19 deaths from other modeling groups when available: Delphi from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Delphi), Imperial College London (Imperial), The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and the SI-KJalpha model from the University of Southern California (SIKJalpha). Daily deaths from other modeling groups are smoothed to remove inconsistencies with rounding. Regional values are aggregates from available locations in that region.
Figure 27. The estimated inpatient hospital usage is shown over time. The percent of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is color-coded based on observed quantiles of the maximum proportion of beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Less than 5% is considered low stress, 5-9% is considered moderate stress, 10-19% is considered high stress, and 20% or greater is considered extreme stress.
Figure 28. The estimated intensive care unit (ICU) usage is shown over time. The percent of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is color-coded based on observed quantiles of the maximum proportion of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Less than 10% is considered low stress, 10-29% is considered moderate stress, 30-59% is considered high stress, and 60% or greater is considered extreme stress.
More information

Data sources:
Mask use and vaccine confidence data are from the The Delphi Group at Carnegie Mellon University and University of Maryland COVID-19 Trends and Impact Surveys, in partnership with Facebook. Mask use data are also from Premise, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the YouGov COVID-19 Behaviour Tracker survey.

Genetic sequence and metadata are primarily from the GISAID Initiative. Further details available on the COVID-19 model FAQ page.

A note of thanks:
We wish to warmly acknowledge the support of these and others who have made our COVID-19 estimation efforts possible.

More information:
For all COVID-19 resources at IHME, visit http://www.healthdata.org/covid.

To download our most recent results, visit our Data downloads page.