COVID-19 Results Briefing
Malta
September 9, 2022

This document contains summary information on the latest projections from the IHME model on COVID-19 in Malta. The model was run on September 9, 2022, with data through August 29, 2022.

Current situation

- Daily infections in the last week increased to 1,900 per day on average compared to 1,600 the week before (Figure 1.1). Daily hospital census in the last week (through August 29) increased to 15 per day on average compared to 10 the week before.
- Daily reported cases in the last week decreased to 32 per day on average compared to 40 the week before (Figure 2.1).
- Reported deaths due to COVID-19 in the last week remained the same at zero per day on average compared to the week before (Figure 3.1).
- Total deaths due to COVID-19 in the last week remained the same at zero per day on average compared to the week before (Figure 3.1). This makes COVID-19 the number six cause of death in Malta this week (Table 1). Estimated total daily deaths due to COVID-19 in the past week were 1.5 times larger than the reported number of deaths.
- The daily rate of reported deaths due to COVID-19 is greater than 4 per million in no countries (Figure 4.1).
- The daily rate of total deaths due to COVID-19 is greater than 4 per million in two countries (Figure 4.2).
- We estimate that 93% of people in Malta have been infected at least once as of August 29 (Figure 6.1). Effective R, computed using cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, is greater than 1 in 12 countries and 19 subnational locations. Effective R in Malta was 1.1 on August 18 (Figure 7.1).
- The infection-detection rate in Malta was close to 13% on August 29 (Figure 8.1).
- Based on the GISAID and various national databases, combined with our variant spread model, we estimate the current prevalence of variants of concern (Figures 9.1-9.5). We estimate that the Alpha variant is circulating in 50 countries and 59 subnational locations, that the Beta variant is circulating in 29 countries and 13 subnational locations, that the Delta variant is circulating in 51 countries and 60 subnational locations, that the Gamma variant is circulating in 26 countries and 22 subnational locations, and that the Omicron variant is circulating in 51 countries and 60 subnational locations.

Trends in drivers of transmission

- Mobility last week was 19% higher than the pre-COVID-19 baseline (Figure 11.1). Mobility was 15% or more below baseline in three countries (Figure 12.1).
- There were 283 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on August 29 (Figure 15.1).
- As of August 29, 23 countries and 57 subnational locations have reached 70% or more of the population who have received at least one vaccine dose, and 20 countries and 54 subnational locations have reached 70% or more of the population who are fully vaccinated (Figures 17.1 and 17.2). 94% of people in Malta have received at least one vaccine dose, and 88% are fully vaccinated.
- In our current reference scenario, we expect that 413,300 people will be vaccinated with at least one dose by January 1 (Figure 19.1). We expect that 88% of the population will be fully vaccinated by January 1.

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 will decline to 50% of the minimum level it reached between January 1, 2021, and May 1, 2022. This decline begins after the last observed data point in each location and transitions linearly to the minimum over a period of six weeks.

Mobility increases as vaccine coverage increases.

80% of those who are fully vaccinated (two doses for most vaccines, or one dose for Johnson & Johnson) receive an additional dose six months after becoming fully vaccinated, and 80% of those who receive an additional dose receive a second additional dose six months later.

Antiviral utilization for COVID-19 risk prevention has reached 80% in high-risk populations and 50% in low-risk populations between March 1, 2022, and June 1, 2022. This applies in high-income countries, but not low- and middle-income countries, and this rollout assumption follows a similar pattern to global vaccine rollouts.

The 80% mask use scenario makes all the same assumptions as the reference scenario but assumes all locations reach 80% mask use within seven days. If a location currently has higher than 80% use, mask use remains at the current level.

The antiviral access scenario makes all the same assumptions as the reference scenario but assumes globally distributed antivirals and extends coverage to all low- and middle-income countries between August 15, 2022, and September 15, 2022.

Infections
- Daily estimated infections in the reference scenario will rise to 2,640 by December 17, 2022 (Figure 21.1).
- Daily estimated infections in the 80% mask use scenario will rise to 2,860 by January 1, 2023 (Figure 21.1).
- Daily estimated infections in the antiviral access scenario will rise to 2,640 by December 17, 2022 (Figure 21.1).

Cases
- Daily estimated cases in the reference scenario will rise to 260 by December 29, 2022 (Figure 21.2).
- Daily estimated cases in the 80% mask use scenario will rise to 260 by January 1, 2023 (Figure 21.2).
- Daily estimated cases in the antiviral access scenario will rise to 260 by December 29, 2022 (Figure 21.2).

Hospitalizations
- Daily hospital census in the reference scenario will rise to 30 by January 1, 2023 (Figure 21.3). At some point from August through January 1, one country will have high or extreme stress on hospital beds (Figure 23.1). At some point from August through January 1, 15 countries will have high or extreme stress on intensive care unit (ICU) capacity (Figure 24.1).
- Daily hospital census in the 80% mask use scenario will rise to 30 by January 1, 2023 (Figure 21.3).
- Daily hospital census in the antiviral access scenario will rise to 30 by January 1, 2023 (Figure 21.3).

Deaths
- In our reference scenario, our model projects 920 cumulative reported deaths due to COVID-19 on January 1. This represents 100 additional deaths from August 29 to January 1. Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in the reference scenario will rise to zero by October 6, 2022 (Figure 21.4).
- Under our reference scenario, our model projects 1,300 cumulative total deaths due to COVID-19 on January 1. This represents 150 additional deaths from August 29 to January 1 (Figure 21.5).
In our **80% mask use scenario**, our model projects 880 cumulative reported deaths due to COVID-19 on January 1. This represents 56 additional deaths from August 29 to January 1. Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in the **80% mask use scenario** will rise to zero by January 1, 2023 (Figure 21.4).

In our **antiviral access scenario**, our model projects 920 cumulative reported deaths due to COVID-19 on January 1. This represents 100 additional deaths from August 29 to January 1. Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in the **antiviral access scenario** will rise to zero by October 6, 2022 (Figure 21.4).

Figure 22.1 compares our reference scenario forecasts to other publicly archived models. Forecasts are widely divergent.
Model updates

To estimate vaccine-derived immunity to infection we systematically compiled data from several studies estimating vaccine efficacy as a function of time since the second dose. For each vaccine and outcome separately (infection symptoms and severe disease, defined as hospitalization or death), we used Bayesian meta-regression with a monotonically decreasing spline on time since second dose to estimate waning curves by vaccine and outcome. We fit these models in bounded logit (efficacy) space with a constraint that efficacy cannot decline below 10%. We used a spline on time since vaccination and time since booster dose analysis. Values that were not biologically plausible were excluded from this analysis (e.g., negative values for vaccine effectiveness). To estimate infection-derived waning immunity, risk measures of SARS-CoV-2 infection in individuals with previous infection compared with infection-naïve individuals were extracted from relevant study data. We used a Bayesian meta-regression approach similar to estimating waning vaccine protection to estimate time since infection and including studies based on the study population’s mean time since infection. We estimated 95% uncertainty intervals (UI) from fixed effects and between-study heterogeneity using simulation analysis (1,000 draws). We previously modeled all Omicron variants as one, without differentiating between variant surges. The model is now updated to distinguish between the BA.1/BA.2 and BA.5 invasion dates of Omicron.
Figure 1.1: Daily COVID-19 hospital census and estimated infections

Figure 2.1: Reported daily COVID-19 cases, moving average
Table 1: Ranking of total 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>18</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alzheimer's disease and other dementias</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower respiratory infections</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colon and rectum cancer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic kidney disease</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.1: Smoothed trend estimate of daily COVID-19 deaths
Daily COVID-19 death rate per 1 million on August 29, 2022

Figure 4.1: Daily reported COVID-19 death rate per 1 million

Figure 4.2: Daily total COVID-19 death rate per 1 million
Cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 on August 29, 2022

Figure 5.1: Reported cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000

Figure 5.2: Total cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000
Figure 6.1: Estimated percent of the population infected with COVID-19 on August 29, 2022

Figure 7.1: Mean effective R on August 18, 2022. 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 8.1: Percent of estimated 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.
Estimated percent of circulating SARS-CoV-2 for primary variant families on August 29, 2022

Figure 9.1: Estimated percent of new infections that are Alpha variant

Figure 9.2: Estimated percent of new infections that are Beta variant
Figure 9.3: Estimated percent of new infections that are Delta variant

Figure 9.4: Estimated percent of new infections that are Gamma variant
Figure 9.5: Estimated percent of new infections that are Omicron variant
Figure 10.1: Infection-fatality rate on August 29, 2022. 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>Primary school closure</th>
<th>Secondary school closure</th>
<th>Higher school closure</th>
<th>Entry restrictions for some non-residents</th>
<th>Entry restrictions for 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</th>
<th>Restaurants / bars curbside 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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
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</table>
Figure 11.1: Trend in mobility as measured through smartphone app use, compared to January 2020 baseline
Figure 12.1: Mobility level as measured through smartphone app use, compared to January 2020 baseline (percent) on August 29, 2022
Figure 13.1: Trend in the proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home

Figure 14.1: Proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home on August 29, 2022
Figure 15.1: Trend in COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people

Figure 16.1: COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on August 29, 2022
Table 3: Estimates of vaccine effectiveness for specific vaccines used in the model at preventing severe disease and infection. We use data from clinical trials directly, where available, and make estimates otherwise. More information can be found on our [website](https://covid19.healthdata.org/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Ancestral</th>
<th>Alpha</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>Gamma</th>
<th>Delta</th>
<th>Omicron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severe disease</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Severe disease</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Severe disease</td>
<td>Infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>0.9400000</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CanSino</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>0.6408140</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoronaVac</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>0.4854651</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covaxin</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>0.7573256</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>0.7600000</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>0.9700000</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novavax</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>0.8641279</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer/BioNTech</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>0.9500000</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinopharm</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>0.7087791</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sputnik-V</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>0.8932558</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vaccines</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>0.7281977</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other vaccines (mRNA)</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>0.8835465</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent of the population having received at least one dose (17.1) and fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 (17.2) by August 29, 2022

Figure 17.1: Percent of the population having received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine

Figure 17.2: Percent of the population fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2
Figure 18.1: Estimated proportion of the total population that is not vaccinated but willing to be vaccinated as of June 24, 2022
Figure 19.1: Percent of people who receive at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and those who are fully vaccinated

Figure 20.1: Percent of people who are immune to Delta or Omicron. Immunity is based on protection due to prior vaccination and infection(s). Moreover, variant-specific immunity is also based on variant-variant specific protection.
Projections and scenarios

Figure 21.1: Daily COVID-19 infections until January 01, 2023 for three scenarios

Figure 21.2: Daily COVID-19 reported cases until January 01, 2023 for three scenarios
Figure 21.3: Daily COVID-19 hospital census until January 01, 2023 for three scenarios
Figure 21.4: Reported daily COVID-19 deaths per 100,000
Figure 21.5: Total daily COVID-19 deaths per 100,000
Figure 22.1: 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, last model update in brackets: Delphi from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Delphi) [September 9, 2022], and the SI-KJalpha model from the University of Southern California (SIKJalpha) [August 28, 2022]. Regional values are aggregates from available locations in that region.
Figure 23.1: 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 24.1: 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.