

COVID-19 Results Briefing

The Eastern Mediterranean Region

July 18, 2022

This document contains summary information on the latest projections from the IHME model on COVID-19 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The model was run on July 15, 2022, with data through July 13, 2022.

Daily infections, reported cases, and deaths are increasing in the region due to the rapid spread of Omicron and its variants – mainly BA.5 – high mobility, low mask wearing, and low vaccination rates in some countries. We expect that this trend will continue, and reported cases will peak by July 24 and decline after. However, our models predict a surge starting in late September. In this release, we extended our projections to November 1 and made some changes to our models.

At the global level, the BA.5 Omicron subvariant has been associated with a modest increase in cases and deaths but a larger increase in hospital admissions in the US. In other countries, such as South Africa, the BA.5 wave lasted from start to peak about 4–5 weeks and was associated with a minimal increase in deaths. Across nations in Europe and Latin America, many different patterns have emerged with very different increases in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. The heterogeneity of response is likely related to different levels of home testing that is not reported in official data, along with inclusion in many – but not all – countries of hospitalizations with deaths with COVID-19 but not due to COVID-19.

The main strategies available to control the spread of the virus are 1) encourage vaccination, as it is very low in many countries, and encourage boosters for those vaccinated more than 5 months ago to counteract declining immunity in those who have not been recently infected; 2) secure and use Paxlovid, especially in those at risk of severe disease; 3) selective use of social distancing and mask wearing in individuals at risk due to age or comorbidities. The most important short- to medium-term strategy is to maintain and improve surveillance.

Current situation

- Daily infections in the last week increased to 1,829,000 per day on average compared to 1,615,000 the week before (Figure 1.1). Daily hospital census in the last week (through July 13) increased to 8,900 per day on average compared to 6,900 the week before.
- Daily reported cases in the last week increased to 19,000 per day on average compared to 16,000 the week before (Figure 2.1).
- Reported deaths due to COVID-19 in the last week increased to 26 per day on average compared to 20 the week before (Figure 3.1).

- Total deaths due to COVID-19 in the last week increased to 180 per day on average compared to 140 the week before (Figure 3.1). This makes COVID-19 the number 14 cause of death in the Eastern Mediterranean Region this week (Table 1). Estimated total daily deaths due to COVID-19 in the past week were 6.9 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 and no subnational locations (Figure 4.1).
- The daily rate of total deaths due to COVID-19 is greater than 4 per million in no countries and no subnational locations (Figure 4.2).
- We estimate that 88% of people in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have been infected at least once as of July 11 (Figure 6.1). Effective R, computed using cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, is greater than 1 in 18 countries and five subnational locations (Figure 7.1).
- 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 21 countries and six subnational locations, that the Beta variant is circulating in 19 countries and two subnational locations, that the Delta variant is circulating in 22 countries and seven subnational locations, that the Gamma variant is circulating in 20 countries and five subnational locations, and that the Omicron variant is circulating in 22 countries and seven subnational locations.

Trends in drivers of transmission

- Mobility last week was 45% higher than the pre-COVID-19 baseline (Figure 11.1). Mobility was lower than 15% of baseline in no countries and no subnational locations (Figure 12.1).
- As of June 24, in the COVID-19 Trends and Impact Survey, 13% of people self-reported that they always wore a mask when leaving their home compared to 14% the previous week (Figure 13.1).
- There were 65 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on July 11 (Figure 15.1).
- As of July 11, seven countries and no subnational locations have reached 70% or more of the population who have received at least one vaccine dose, and six countries and no subnational locations have reached 70% or more of the population who are fully vaccinated (Figures 17.1 and 17.2). 52% of people in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have received at least one vaccine dose, and 45% are fully vaccinated.
- As of June 24, 2022, 5% of the population in the Eastern Mediterranean Region say they would accept a vaccine for COVID-19 but have not yet been vaccinated.
- In our current reference scenario, we expect that 388.4 million people will be vaccinated with at least one dose by November 1 (Figure 19.1). We expect that 48% of the population will be fully vaccinated by November 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 1,904,470 by July 14, 2022 (Figure 21.1).
- Daily estimated infections in the **80% mask use scenario** will decline to 255,530 by September 14, 2022 (Figure 21.1).
- Daily estimated infections in the **antiviral access scenario** will rise to 1,904,470 by July 14, 2022 (Figure 21.1).

Cases

- Daily estimated cases in the **reference scenario** will rise to 23,540 by July 24, 2022 (Figure 21.2).
- Daily estimated cases in the **80% mask use scenario** will rise to 20,010 by July 18, 2022 (Figure 21.2).

- Daily estimated cases in the **antiviral access scenario** will rise to 23,540 by July 24, 2022 (Figure 21.2).

Hospitalizations

- Daily hospital census in the **reference scenario** will rise to 12,900 by August 5, 2022 (Figure 21.3). At some point from July through November 1, no countries will have high or extreme stress on hospital beds (Figure 23.1). At some point from July through November 1, four 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 10,800 by July 22, 2022 (Figure 21.3).
- Daily hospital census in the **antiviral access scenario** will rise to 12,900 by August 5, 2022 (Figure 21.3).

Deaths

- In our **reference scenario**, our model projects 357,000 cumulative reported deaths due to COVID-19 on November 1. This represents 13,000 additional deaths from July 11 to November 1. Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in the **reference scenario** will rise to 230 by August 12, 2022 (Figure 21.4).
- Under our **reference scenario**, our model projects 2,167,000 cumulative total deaths due to COVID-19 on November 1. This represents 57,000 additional deaths from July 11 to November 1 (Figure 21.5).
- In our **80% mask use scenario**, our model projects 351,000 cumulative reported deaths due to COVID-19 on November 1. This represents 6,700 additional deaths from July 11 to November 1. Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in the **80% mask use scenario** will rise to 170 by August 4, 2022 (Figure 21.4).
- In our **antiviral access scenario**, our model projects 357,000 cumulative reported deaths due to COVID-19 on November 1. This represents 13,000 additional deaths from July 11 to November 1. Daily reported COVID-19 deaths in the **antiviral access scenario** will rise to 230 by August 12, 2022 (Figure 21.4).
- Figure 22.1 compares our reference scenario forecasts to other publicly archived models. Forecasts are widely divergent.

Model updates

This month, we have made two alterations to our reference scenario assumptions and one alteration to our antiviral scenario assumptions in the model. First, in the reference scenario, we included an estimate for an additional vaccination dose (second booster). As was previously done with the first booster, we assumed 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. In this model, we assume 80% of those who receive an additional dose (first booster) receive a second additional dose (second booster) 4-6 months later. Distribution assumptions were time-corrected based on reported data. We estimated each vaccination course using the doses administered in the previous course, taking into account the number of doses available based on manufacturer distribution data. We updated this process to estimate supply and demand on a daily basis rather than periodically.

Second, we expect the recent rollout of Paxlovid treatments in high-income settings to greatly reduce severe disease and death outcomes. We only currently have data from the United States to inform levels of antiviral coverage and have used these data to update our scale-up model from last month. The model assumes individuals in high-income countries had been targeted for treatment, and access to treatment among this group had risen from 0% on March 15, 2022, to a maximum of 80% for high-risk individuals and 50% for low-risk individuals by June 1, 2022. This rollout assumption follows a similar pattern to global vaccine rollouts. [Clinical trials](#) suggest that Paxlovid provides an 88% reduction in the risk of hospitalization and death among people treated within five days of symptom onset. We made an additional assumption that if roughly 70% of deaths and 50% of admissions are incidental (defined as patients who test positive for COVID after being admitted to the hospital for other reasons), Paxlovid effectiveness among patients admitted primarily for COVID treatment would be 25-30% for deaths and 40-50% for admissions.

Lastly, we have made one alteration to our antiviral scenario assumptions in the model. Our scale-up model assumes that global distribution of antivirals will extend to all low- and middle-income countries between August 15, 2022, and September 15, 2022. Similar to the reference scenario, we assume a linear scale-up to a maximum of 80% access for high-risk individuals and 50% for low-risk individuals during this time frame.

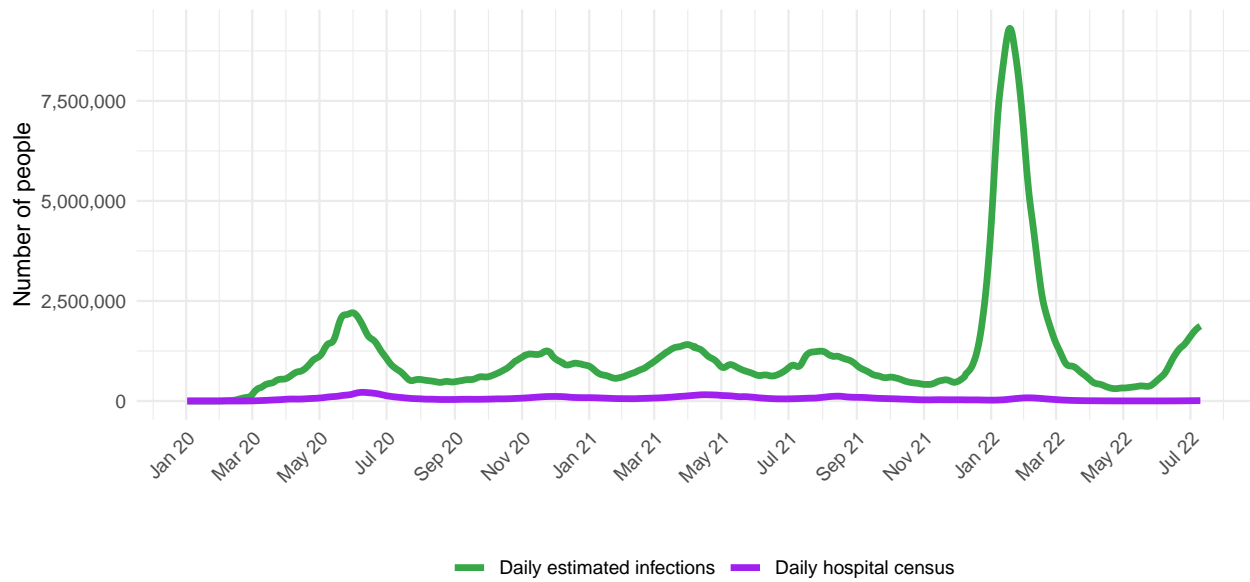
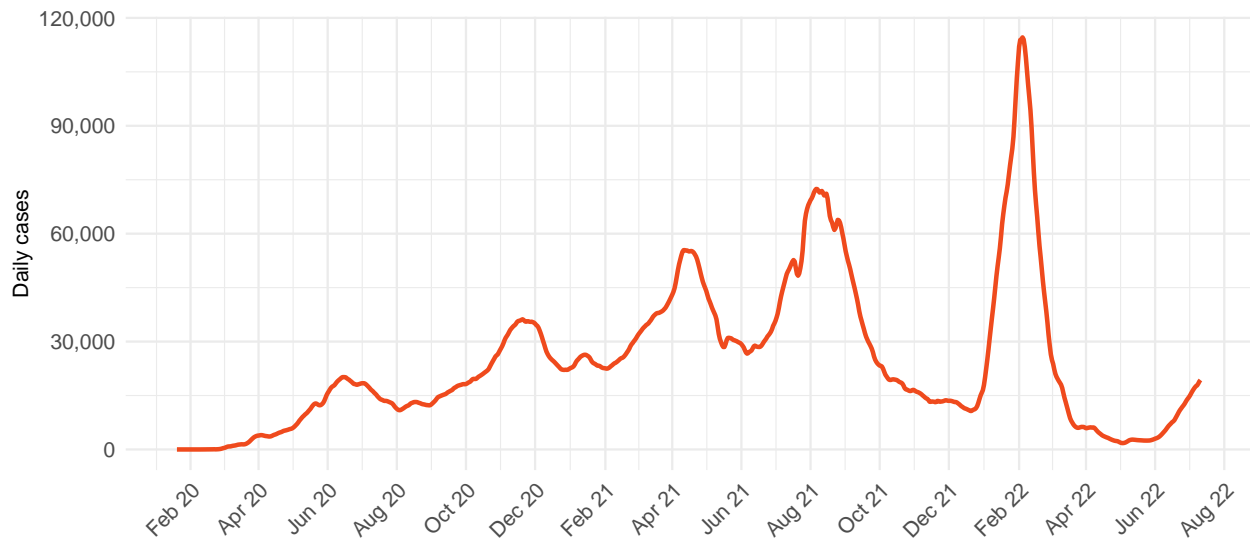
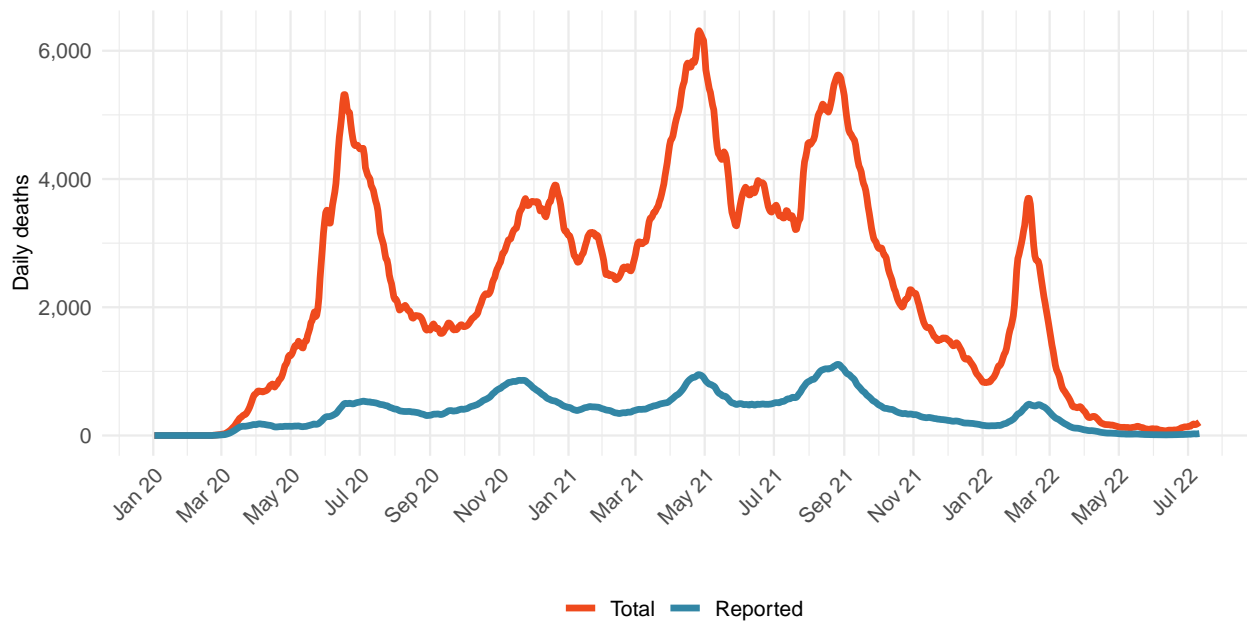
Figure 1.1: Daily COVID-19 hospital census and estimated infections

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

Cause name	Weekly deaths	Ranking
Ischemic heart disease	15,912	1
Neonatal disorders	7,028	2
Stroke	6,729	3
Lower respiratory infections	3,385	4
Road injuries	2,935	5
Cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases	2,806	6
Chronic kidney disease	2,501	7
Diabetes mellitus	2,403	8
Diarrheal diseases	2,386	9
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	2,315	10
COVID-19	1,276	14

Figure 3.1: Smoothed trend estimate of daily COVID-19 deaths



Daily COVID-19 death rate per 1 million on July 11, 2022

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

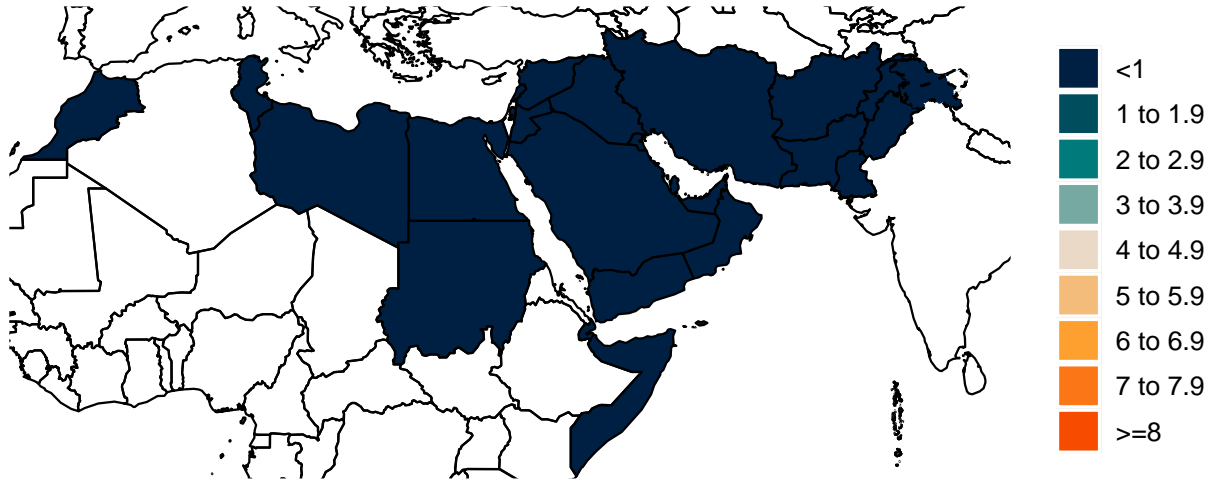


Figure 4.2: Daily total COVID-19 death rate per 1 million



Cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 on July 11, 2022

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

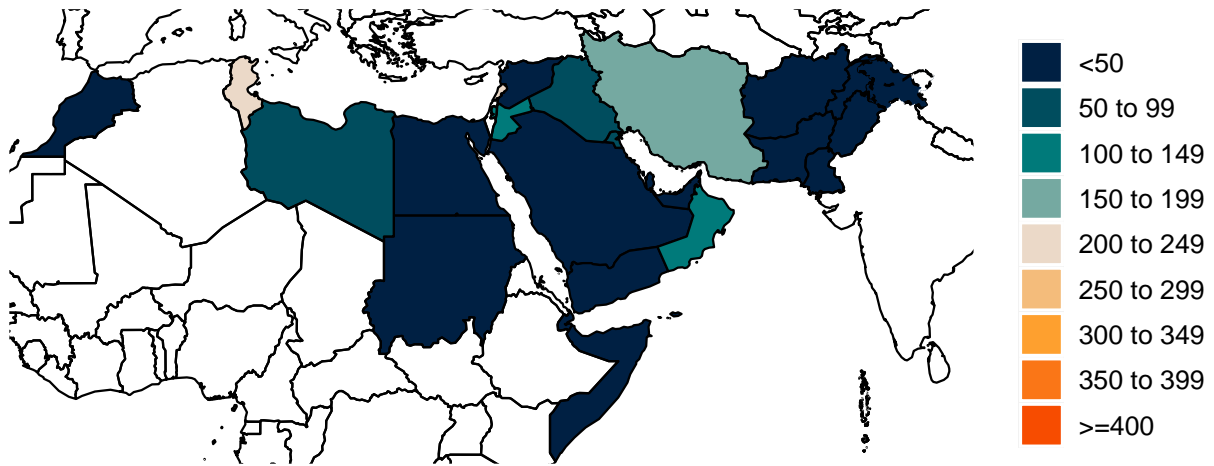


Figure 5.2: Total cumulative COVID-19 deaths per 100,000

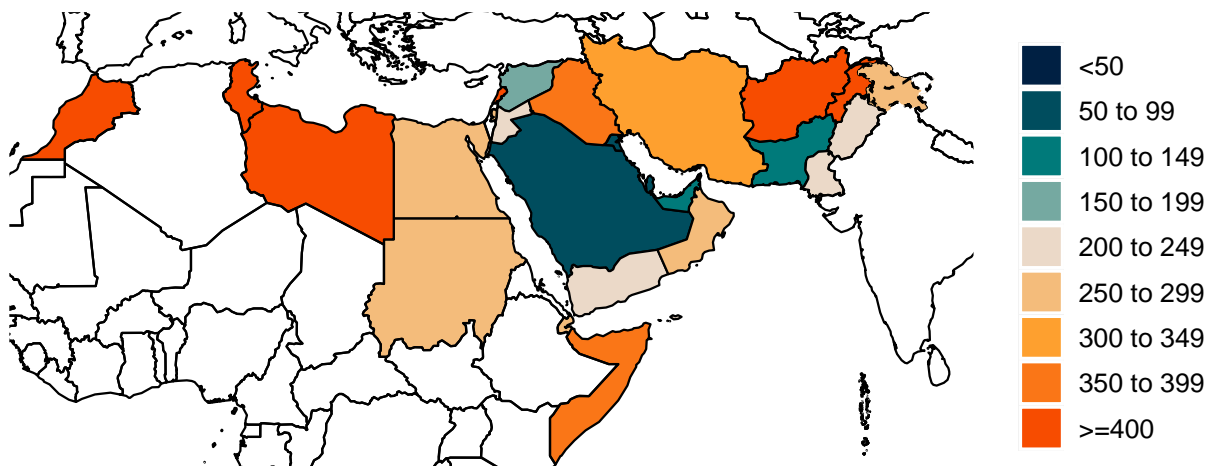


Figure 6.1: Estimated percent of the population infected with COVID-19 on July 11, 2022

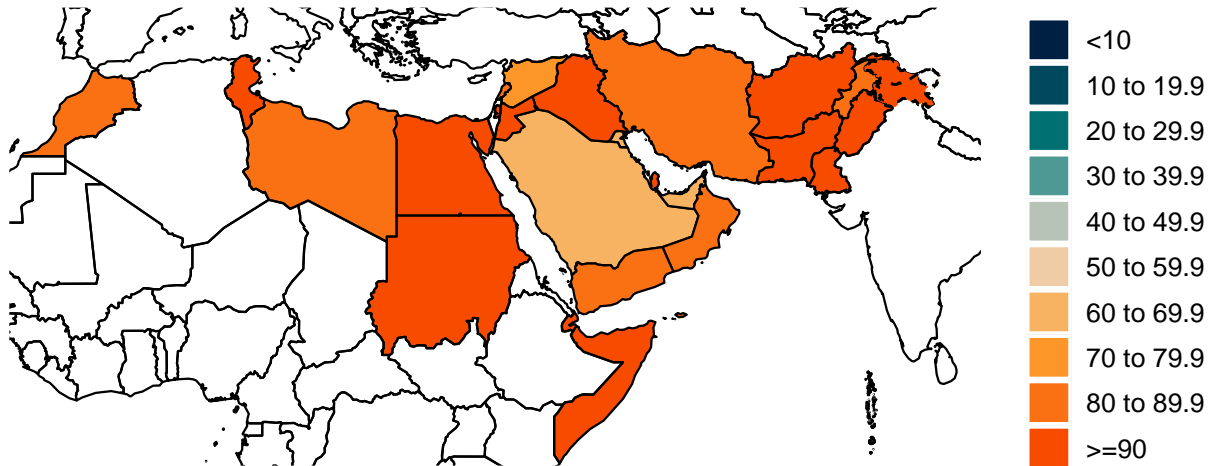
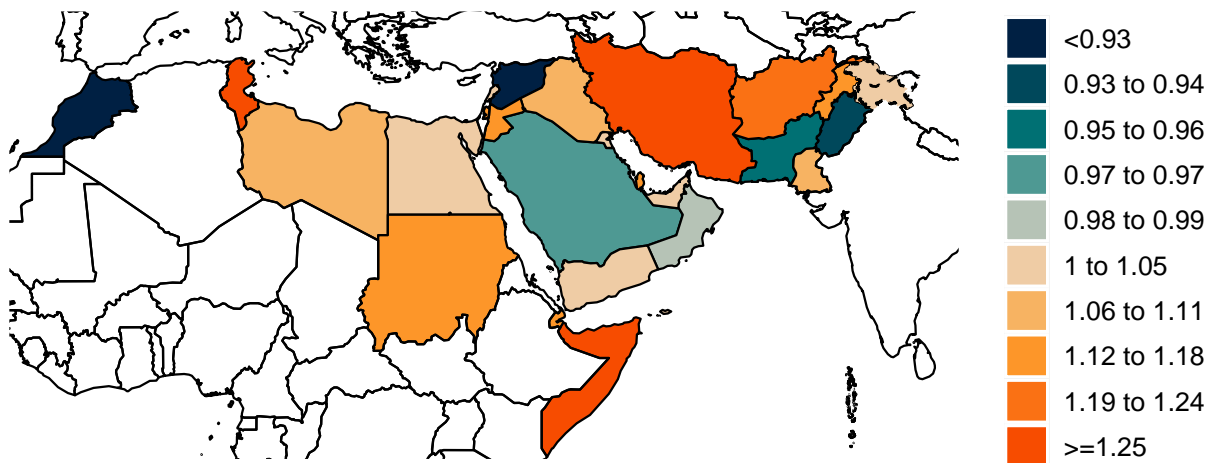


Figure 7.1: Mean effective R on June 30, 2022. Effective R less than 1 means that transmission should decline, all other things being held the same. The estimate of effective R is based on the combined analysis of deaths, case reporting, and hospitalizations where available. Current reported cases reflect infections 11-13 days prior, so estimates of effective R can only be made for the recent past.



Estimated percent of circulating SARS-CoV-2 for primary variant families on July 11, 2022

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

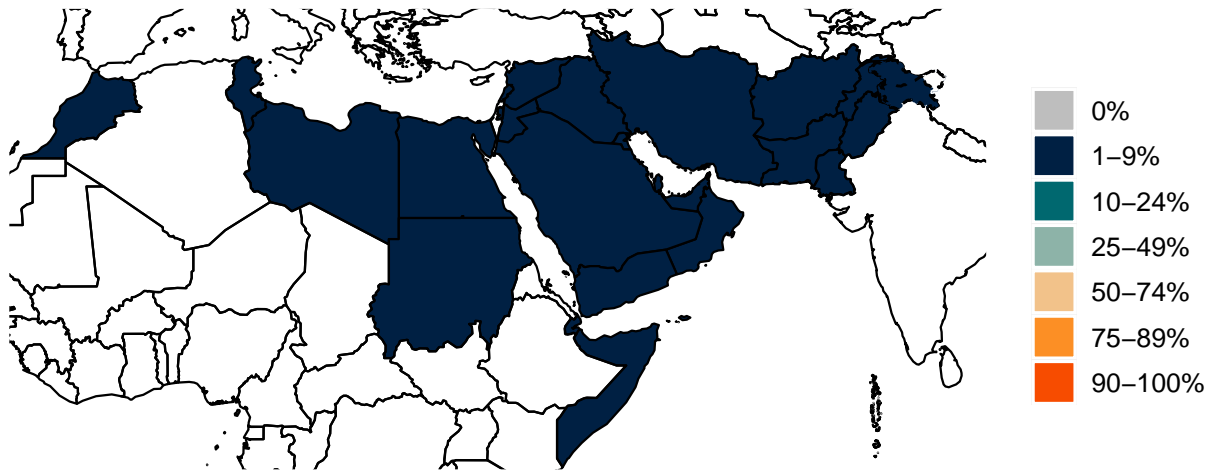


Figure 9.2: Estimated percent of new infections that are Beta variant

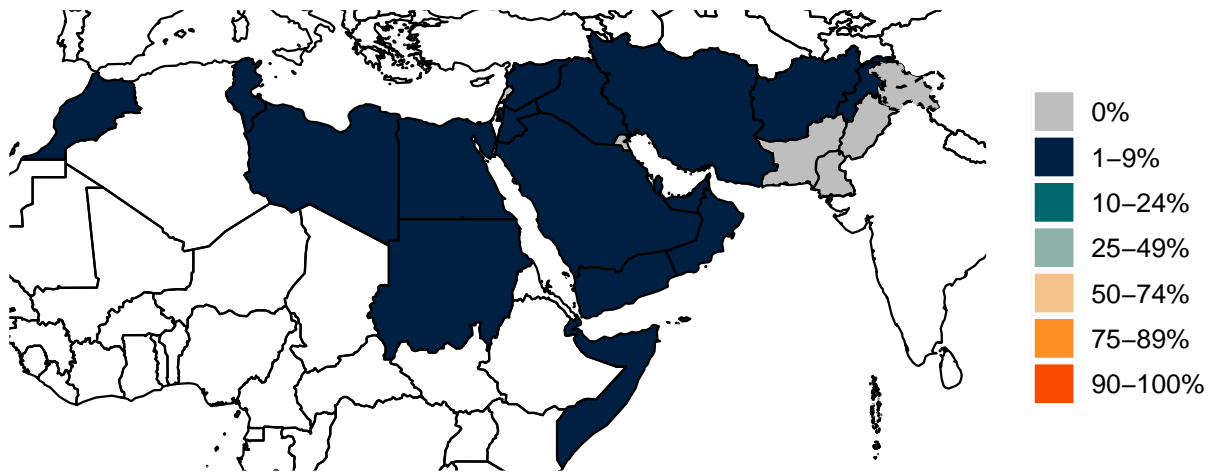


Figure 9.3: Estimated percent of new infections that are Delta variant



Figure 9.4: Estimated percent of new infections that are Gamma variant



Figure 9.5: Estimated percent of new infections that are Omicron variant

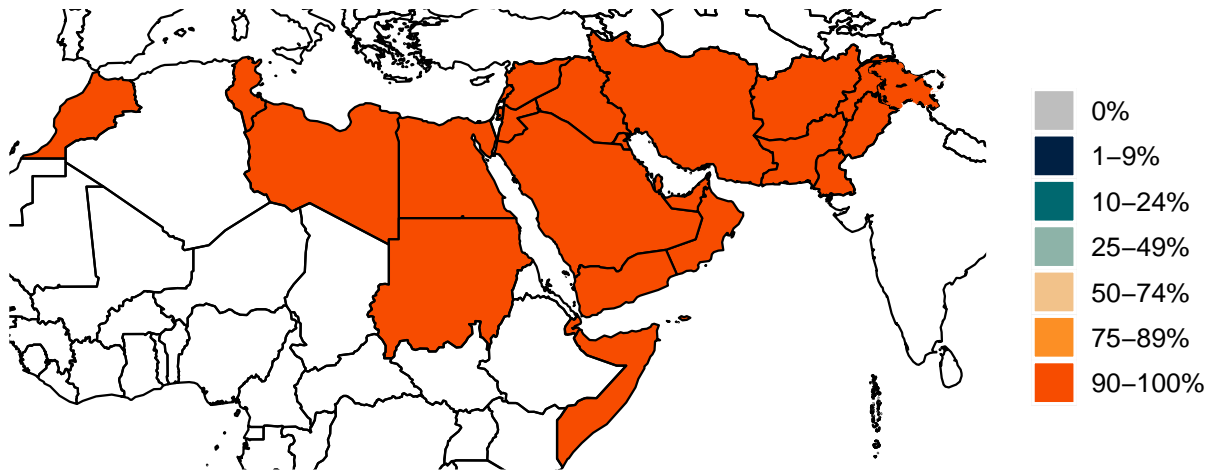
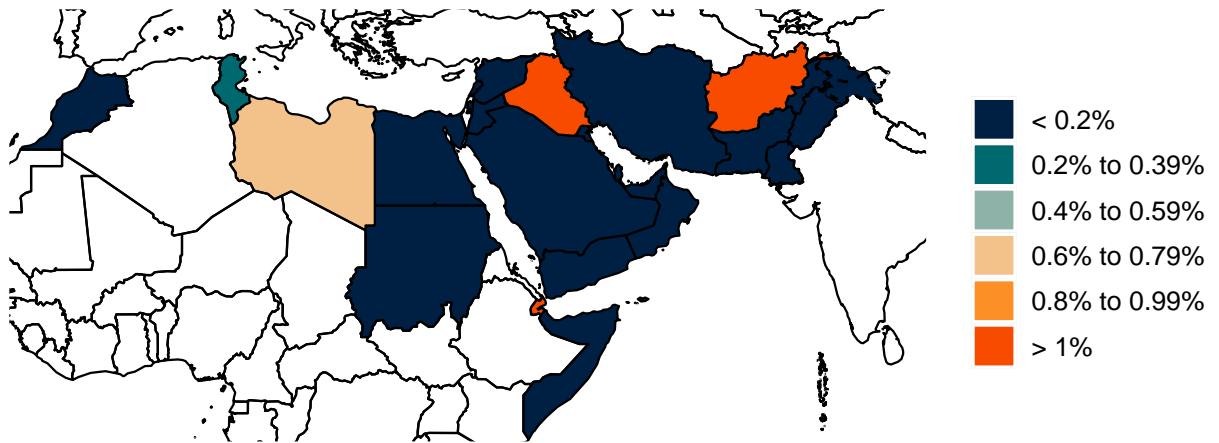
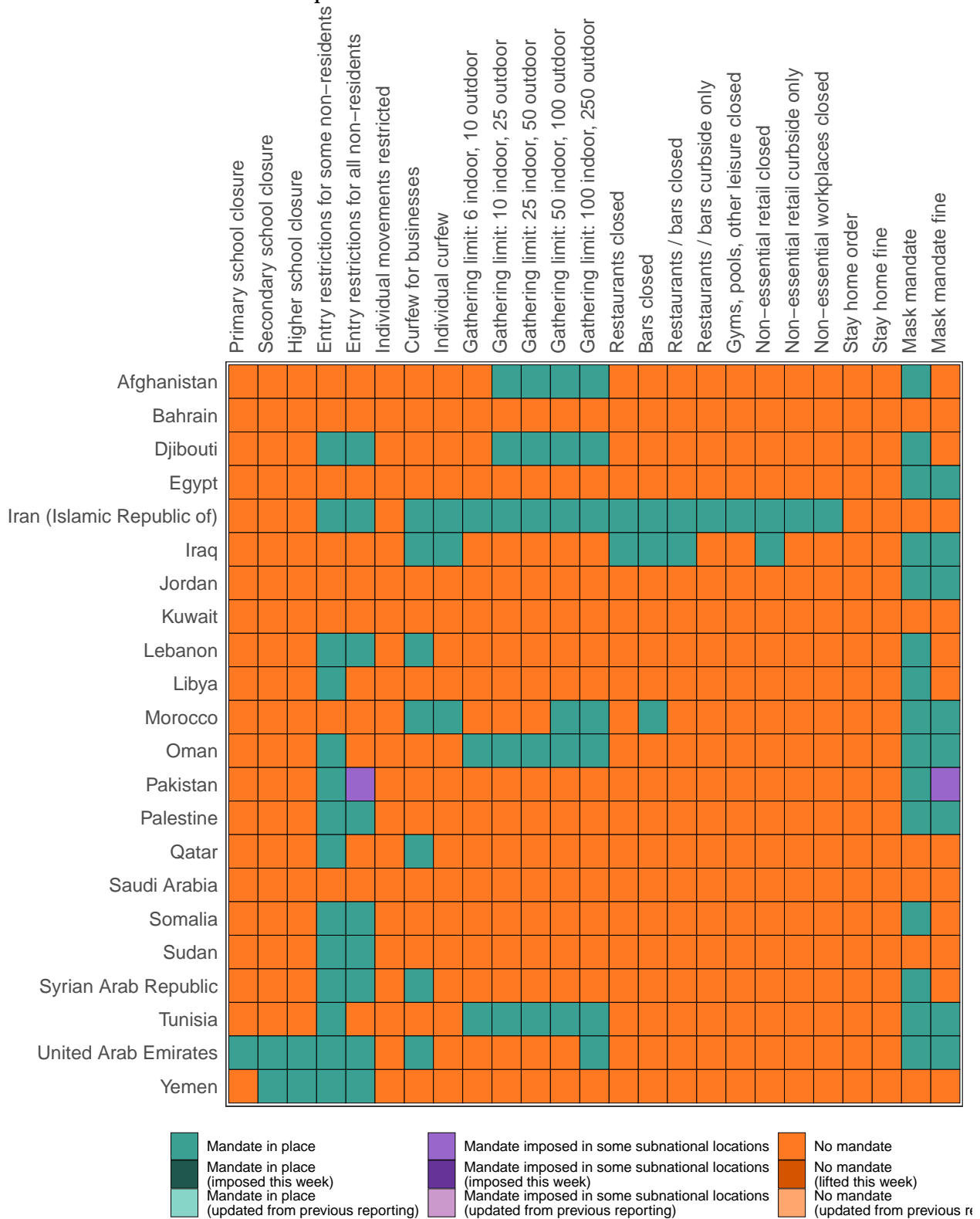


Figure 10.1: Infection-fatality rate on July 11, 2022. This is estimated as the ratio of COVID-19 deaths to estimated daily COVID-19 infections.



Critical drivers

Table 2: Current mandate implementation



*Not all locations are measured at the subnational level.

Figure 11.1: Trend in mobility as measured through smartphone app use, compared to January 2020 baseline

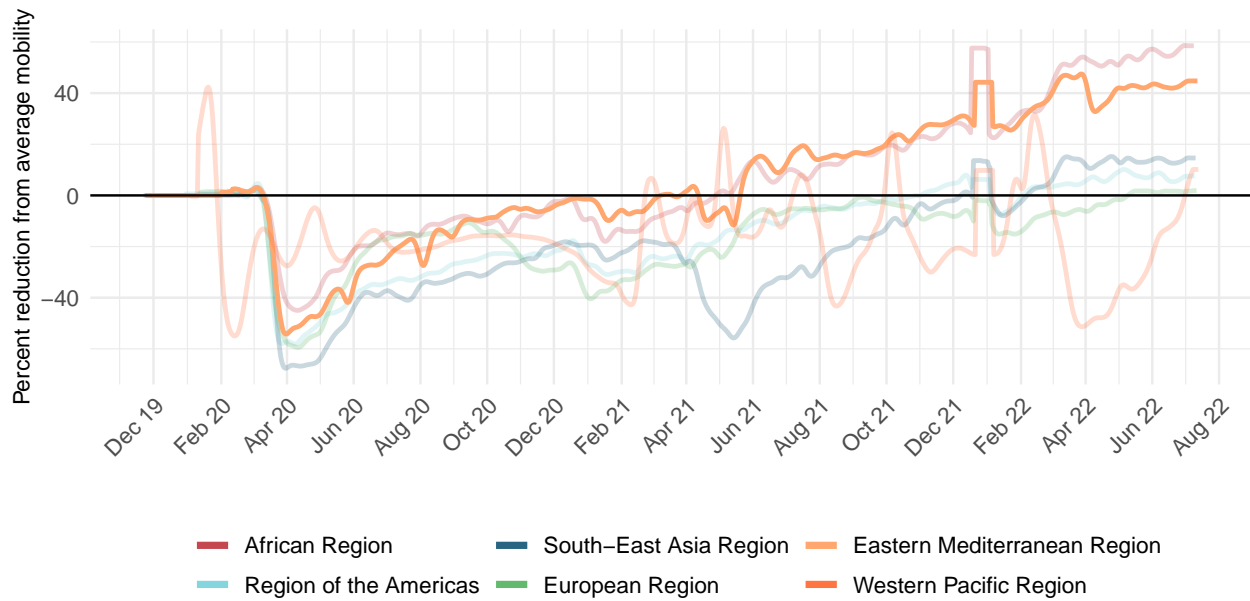


Figure 12.1: Mobility level as measured through smartphone app use, compared to January 2020 baseline (percent) on July 11, 2022

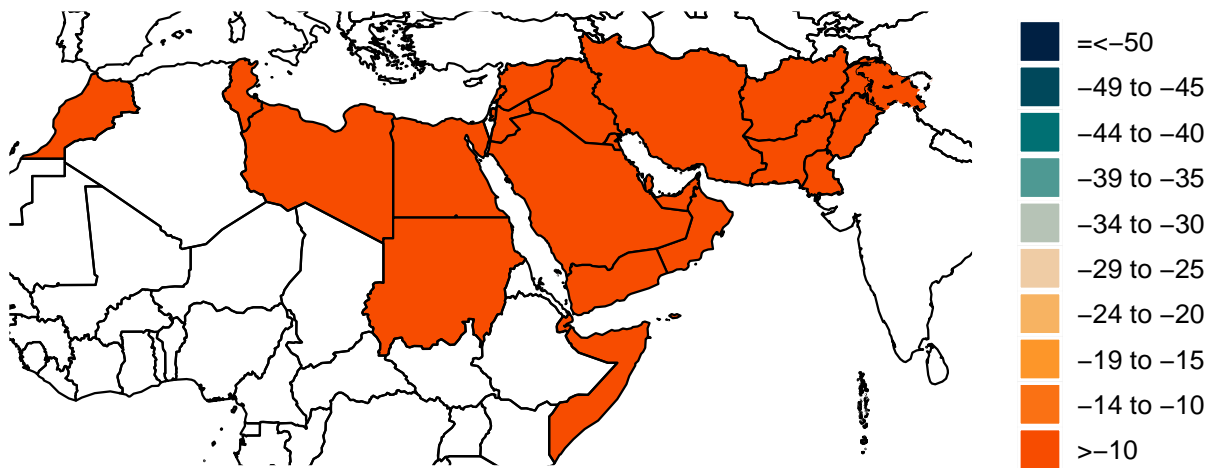


Figure 13.1: Trend in the proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home

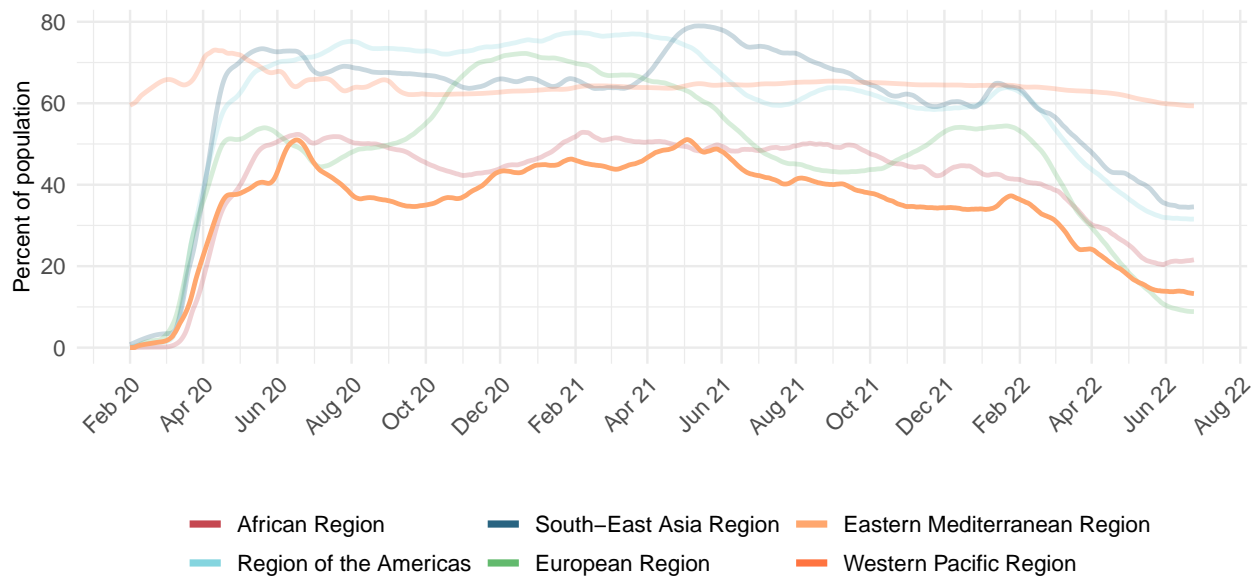


Figure 14.1: Proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home on July 11, 2022

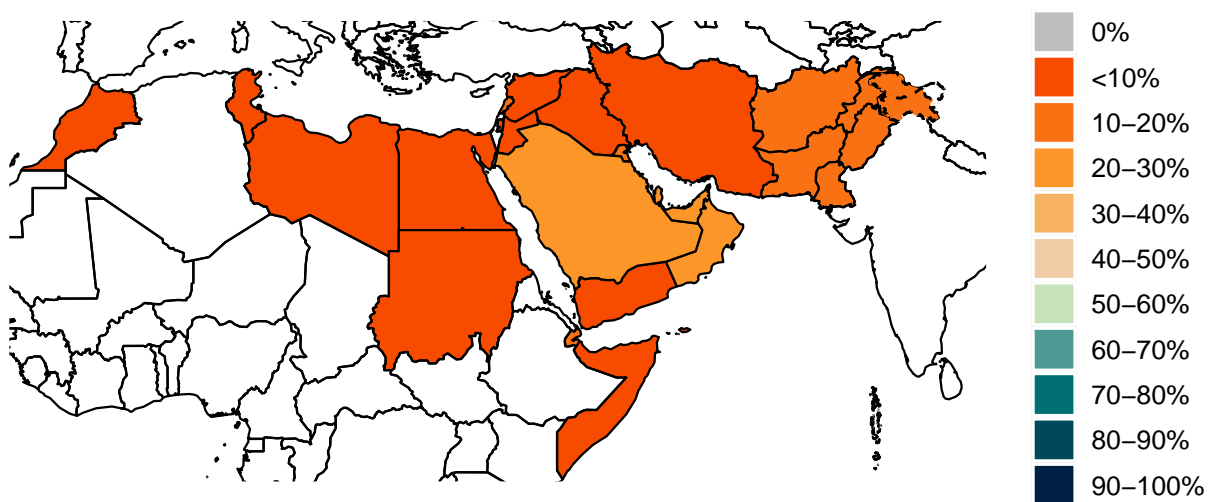


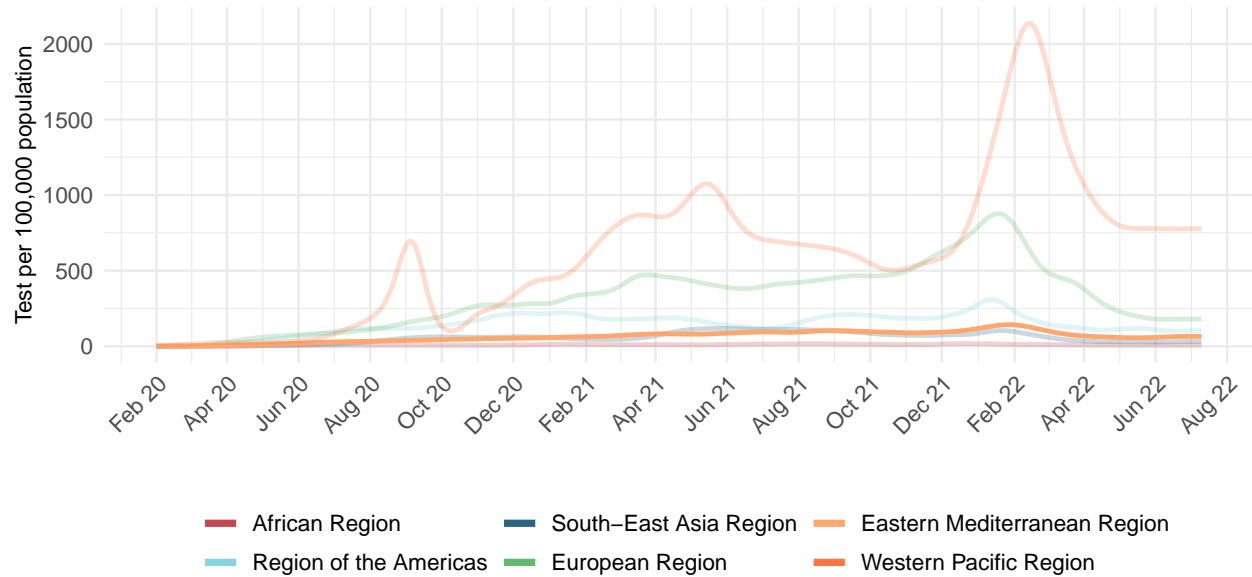
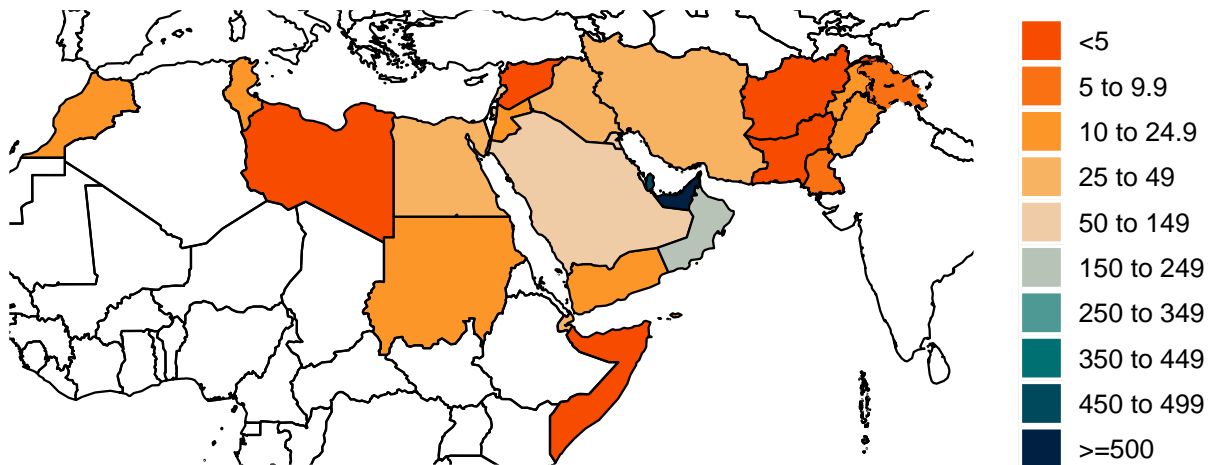
Figure 15.1: Trend in COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people

Figure 16.1: COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on July 11, 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](#).

Vaccine	Effectiveness at preventing											
	Ancestral		Alpha		Beta		Gamma		Delta		Omicron	
	Severe disease	Infection	Severe disease	Infection	Severe disease	Infection	Severe disease	Infection	Severe disease	Infection	Severe disease	Infection
AstraZeneca	94%	63%	94%	63%	94%	69%	94%	69%	94%	69%	71%	36%
CanSino	66%	62%	66%	62%	64%	61%	64%	61%	64%	61%	48%	32%
CoronaVac	50%	47%	50%	47%	49%	46%	49%	46%	49%	46%	37%	24%
Covaxin	78%	73%	78%	73%	76%	72%	76%	72%	76%	72%	57%	38%
Johnson & Johnson	86%	72%	86%	72%	76%	64%	76%	64%	76%	64%	57%	33%
Moderna	97%	92%	97%	92%	97%	91%	97%	91%	97%	91%	73%	48%
Novavax	89%	83%	89%	83%	86%	82%	86%	82%	86%	82%	65%	43%
Pfizer/BioNTech	95%	86%	95%	86%	95%	84%	95%	84%	95%	84%	72%	44%
Sinopharm	73%	68%	73%	68%	71%	67%	71%	67%	71%	67%	53%	35%
Sputnik-V	92%	86%	92%	86%	89%	85%	89%	85%	89%	85%	67%	44%
Other vaccines	75%	70%	75%	70%	73%	69%	73%	69%	73%	69%	55%	36%
Other vaccines (mRNA)	91%	86%	91%	86%	88%	85%	88%	85%	88%	85%	67%	45%

Percent of the population having received at least one dose (17.1) and fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 (17.2) by July 11, 2022

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

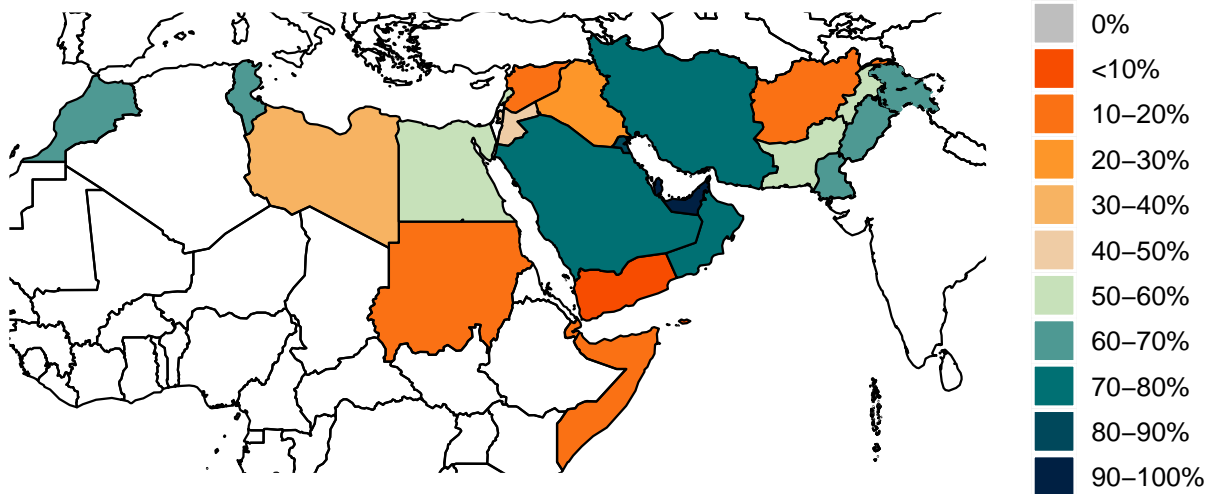


Figure 17.2: Percent of the population fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2

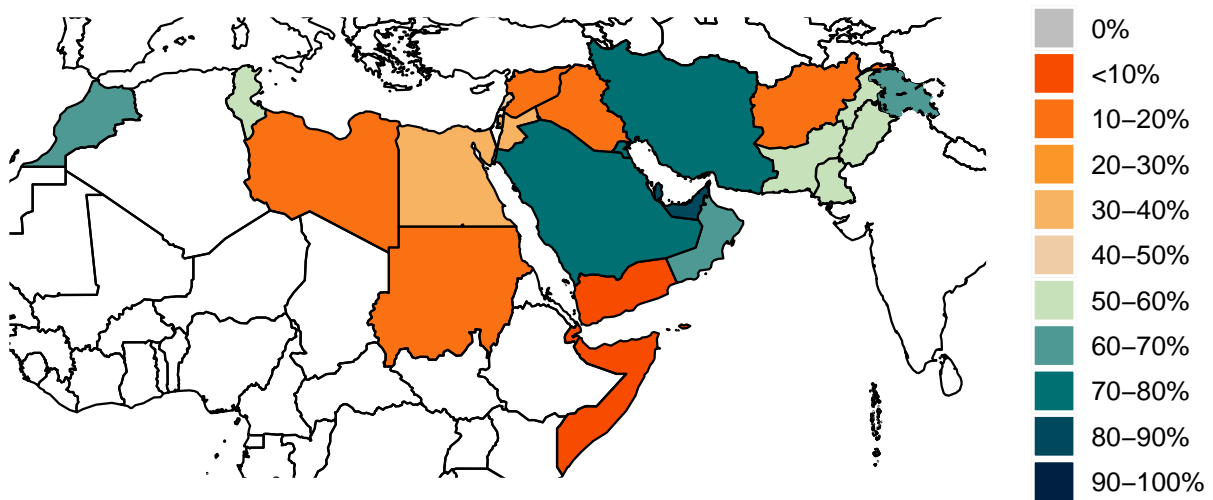


Figure 18.1: Estimated proportion of the total population that is not vaccinated but willing to be vaccinated as of June 24, 2022

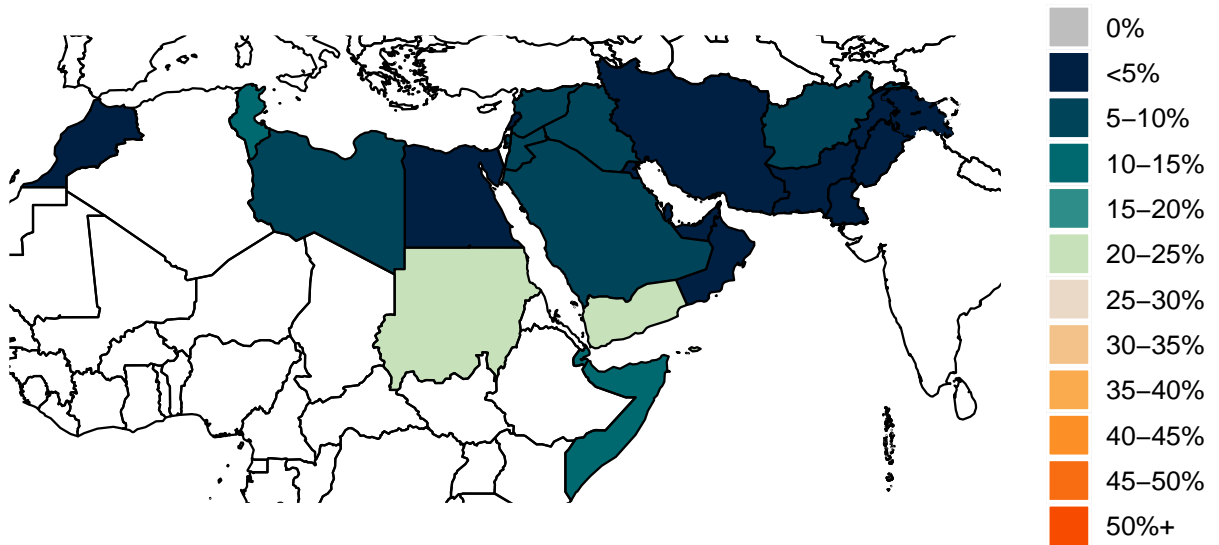


Figure 19.1: Percent of people who receive at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and those who are fully vaccinated

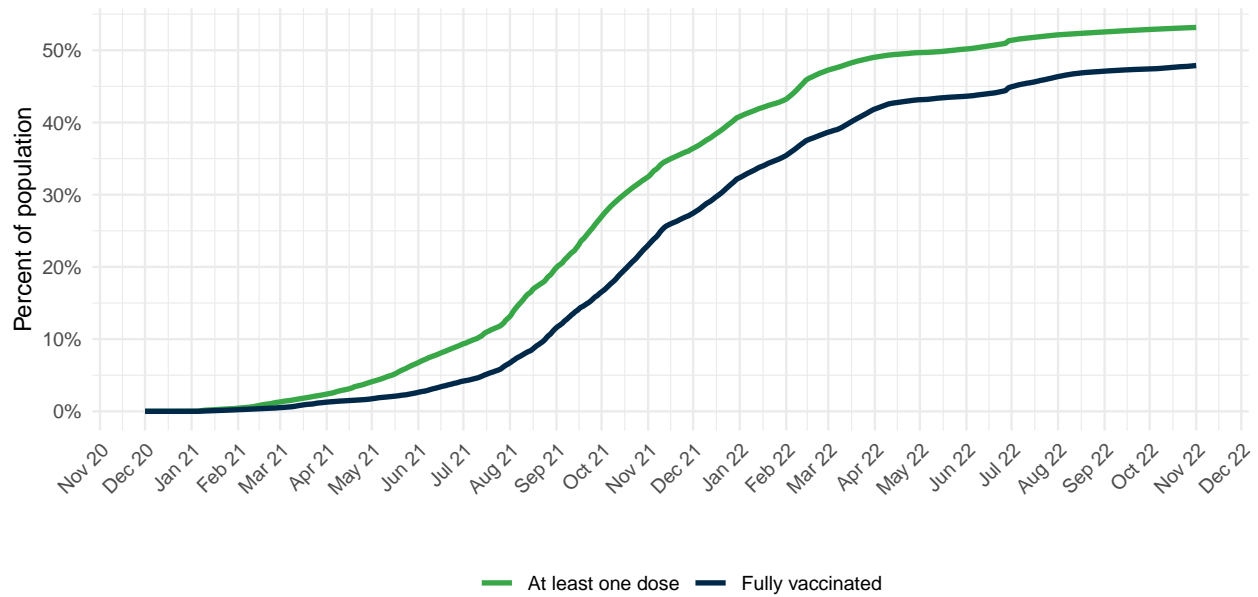
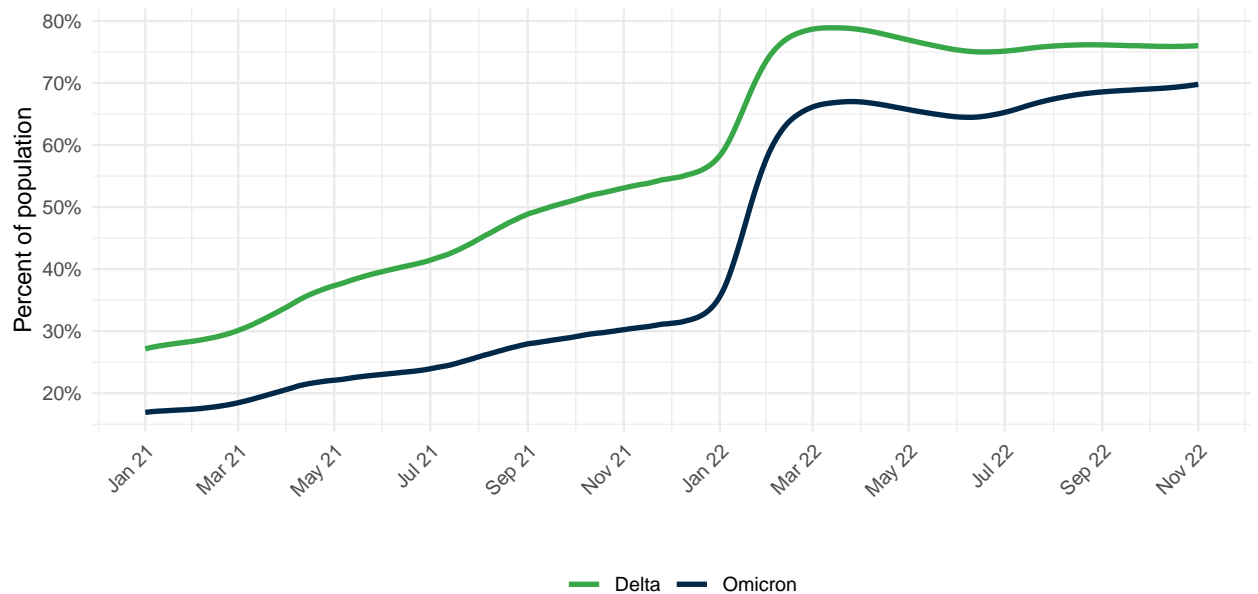


Figure 20.1: Percent of people who are immune to Delta or Omicron. Immunity is based on protection due to prior vaccination and infection(s). Moreover, variant-specific immunity is also based on variant-variant specific protection.



Projections and scenarios

Figure 21.1: Daily COVID-19 infections until November 01, 2022 for three scenarios

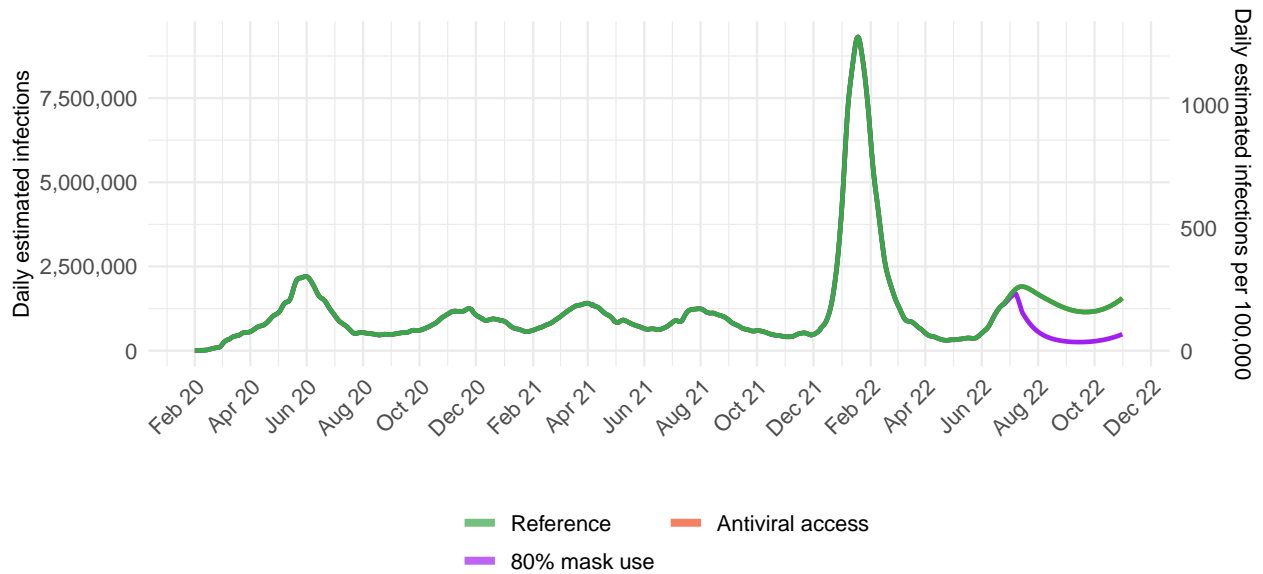


Figure 21.2: Daily COVID-19 reported cases until November 01, 2022 for three scenarios

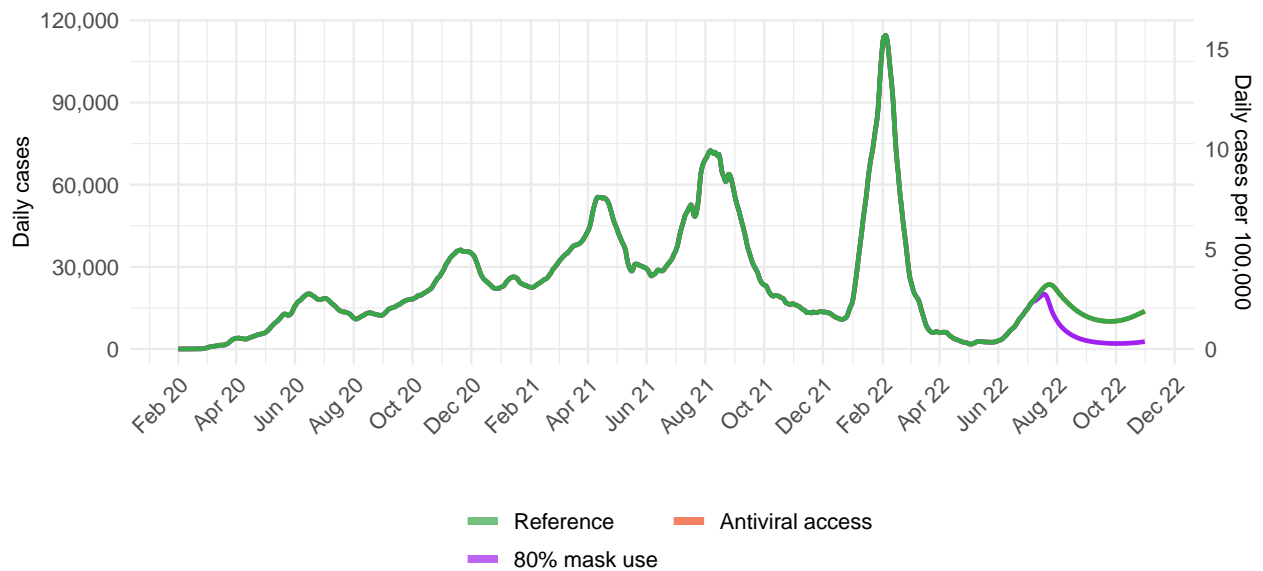


Figure 21.3: Daily COVID-19 hospital census until November 01, 2022 for three scenarios

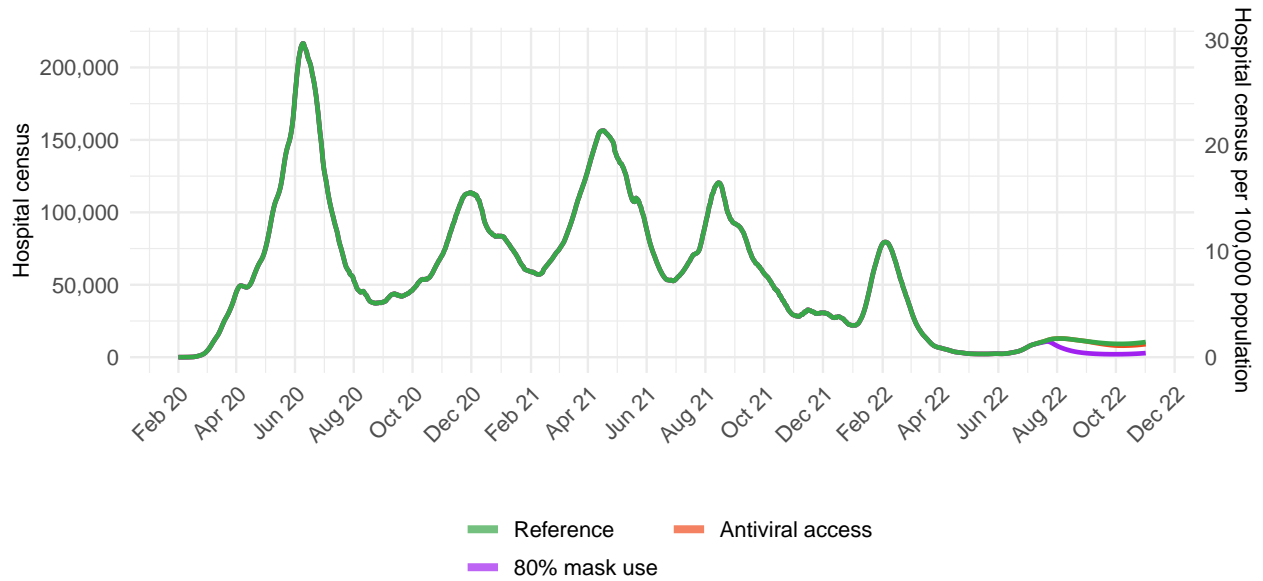


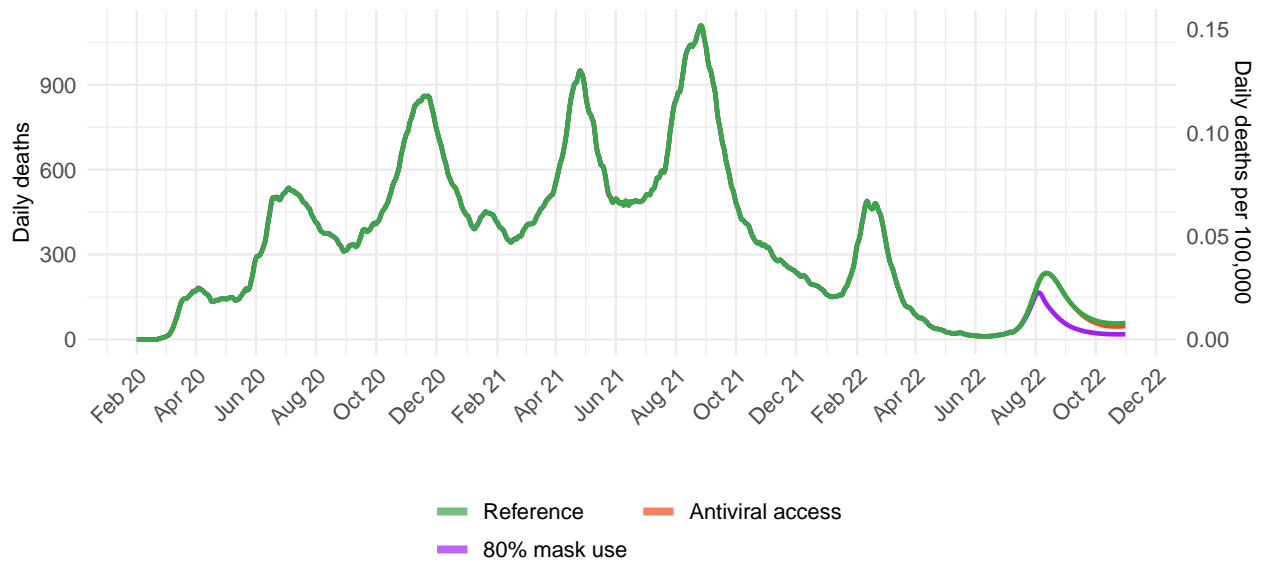
Figure 21.4: Reported daily COVID-19 deaths per 100,000


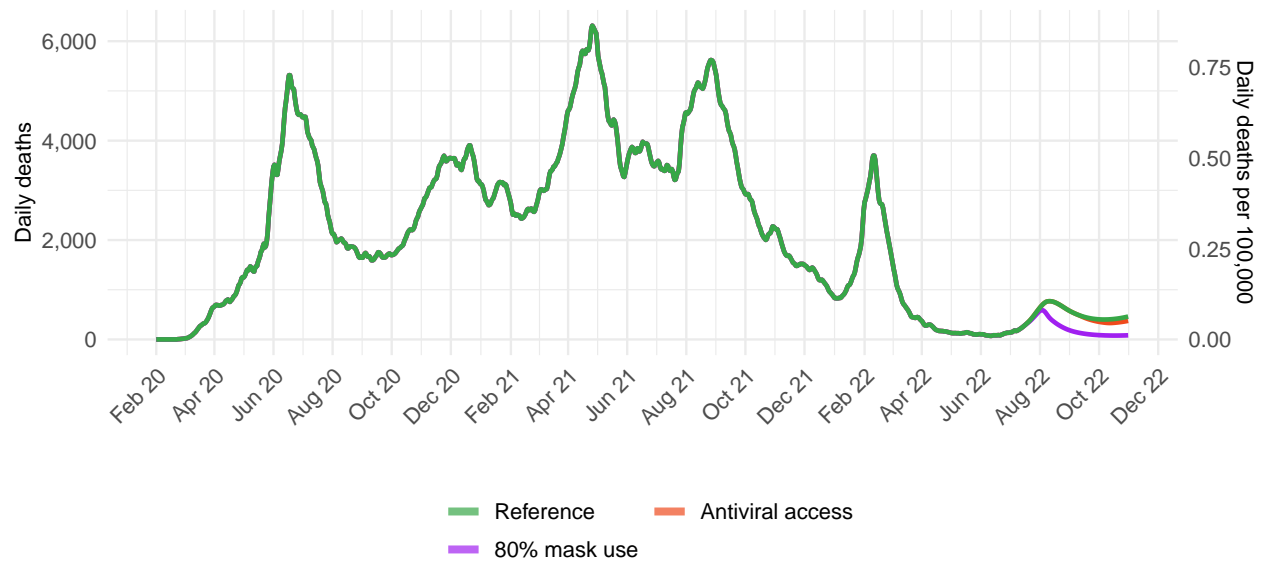
Figure 21.5: Total daily COVID-19 deaths per 100,000

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](#)) [July 18, 2022]. Regional values are aggregates from available locations in that region.

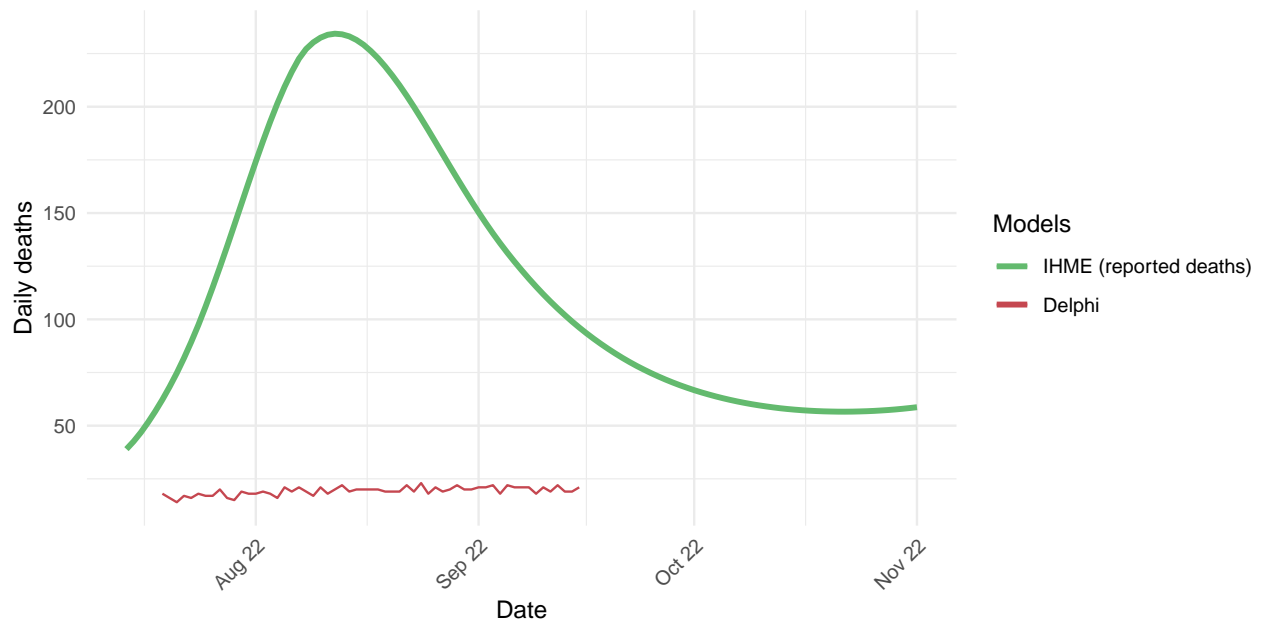


Figure 23.1: The estimated inpatient hospital usage is shown over time. The percent of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is color-coded based on observed quantiles of the maximum proportion of beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Less than 5% is considered *low stress*, 5-9% is considered *moderate stress*, 10-19% is considered *high stress*, and 20% or greater is considered *extreme stress*.

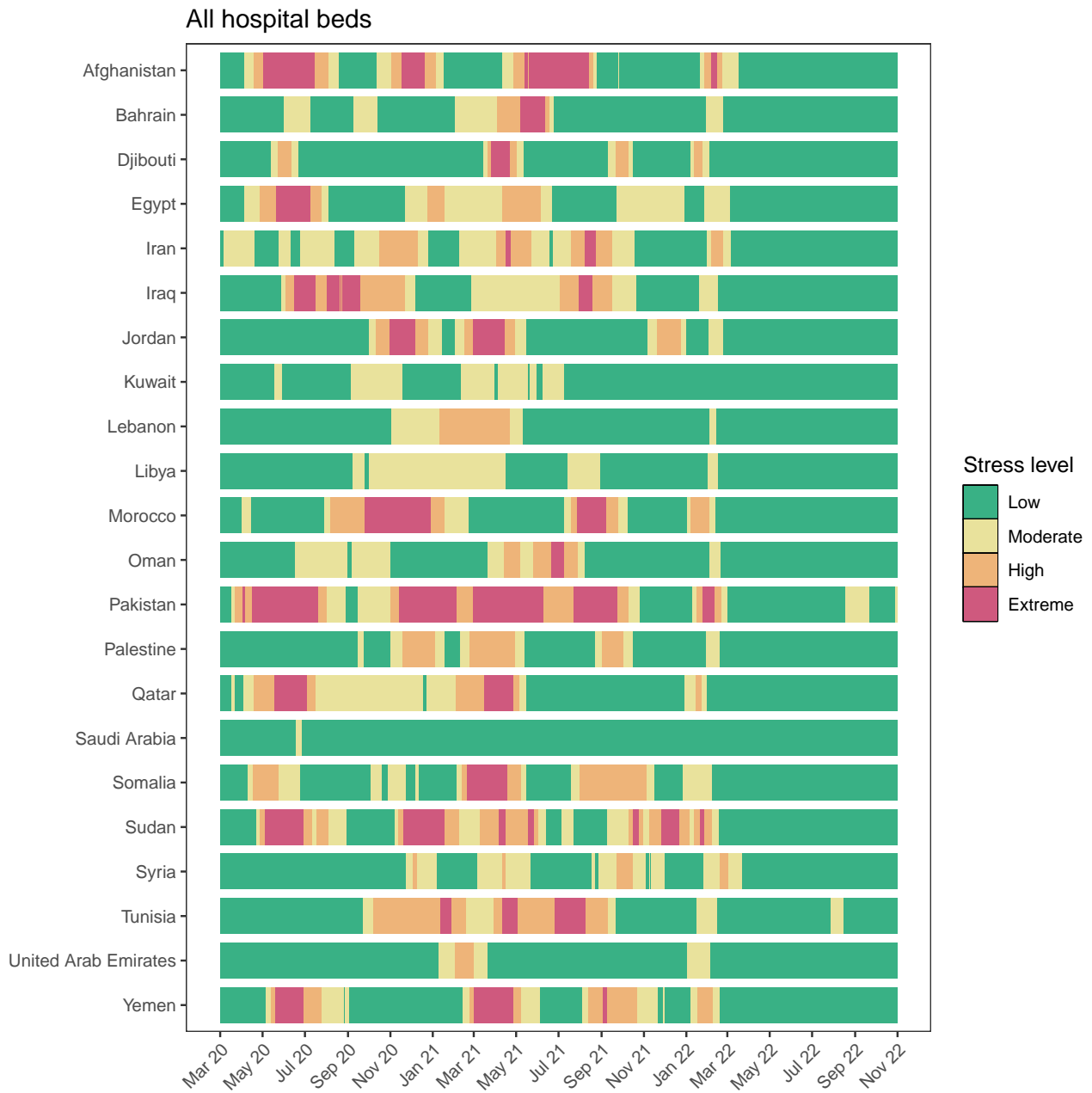
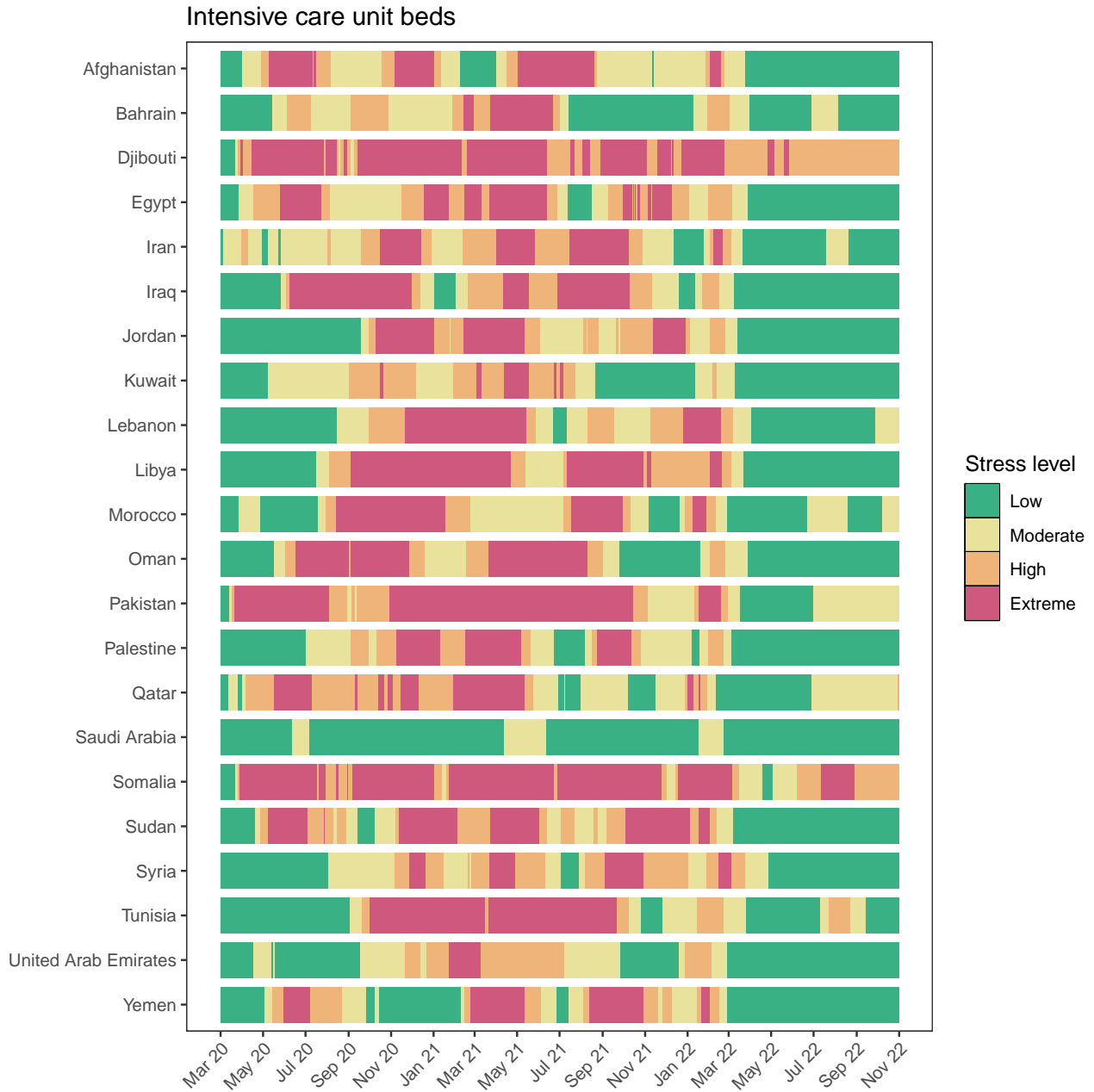


Figure 24.1: The estimated intensive care unit (ICU) usage is shown over time. The percent of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is color-coded based on observed quantiles of the maximum proportion of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Less than 10% is considered *low stress*, 10-29% is considered *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](#).

Questions? Requests? Feedback? Please contact us at <https://www.healthdata.org/covid/contact-us>.