

# COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update

Edition 102 published 27 July 2022

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## Global overview

Data as of 24 July 2022

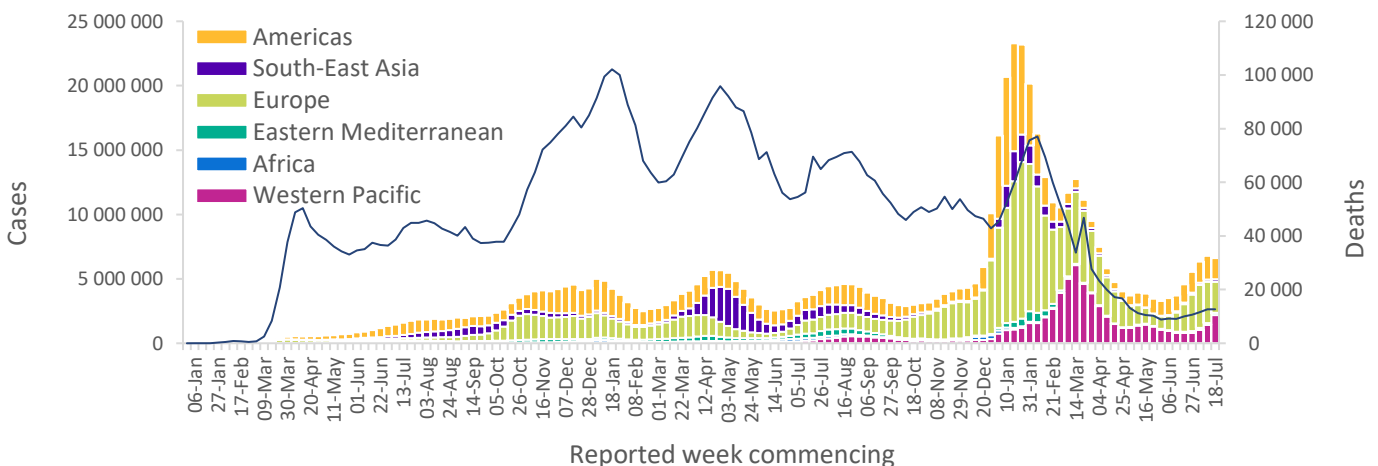
Globally, the number of weekly cases reported during the week of 18 to 24 July 2022 was similar to the number reported last week, with over 6.6 million new cases (Figure 1). Likewise, the number of new weekly deaths was similar to the number reported during the previous week, with over 12 600 fatalities.

At the regional level, the number of new weekly cases increased in the Western Pacific Region (+52%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+45%) and the South-East Asia Region (+13%), while it decreased in the African Region (-44%), the European Region (-24%) and the Region of the Americas (-12%). The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+88%), the Western Pacific Region (+19%) and the South-East Asia Region (+8%), while it decreased in the African Region (-47%) and the European Region (-6%). The number of new weekly deaths in the Region of the Americas was similar to the figure reported during the previous week.

As of 24 July 2022, over 567 million confirmed cases and over 6.3 million deaths have been reported globally.

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 are continuously updated to incorporate regular changes made by countries retrospectively.

**Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 24 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 (969 068 new cases; +73%), the United States of America (860 097 new cases; -3%), Germany (565 518 new cases; -16%), Italy (531 327 new cases; -26%), and France (508 620 new cases; -27%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2 637 new deaths; +3%), Brazil (1 396 new deaths; -20%), Italy (952 new deaths; +21%), Spain (810 new deaths; +33%), and France (737 new deaths; +34%).

**Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 24 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 (%)
Europe	2 418 103 (37%)	-24%	238 475 439 (42%)	4 235 (33%)	-6%	2 042 968 (32%)
Western Pacific	2 180 412 (33%)	52%	69 104 310 (12%)	1 628 (13%)	19%	243 313 (4%)
Americas	1 623 921 (25%)	-12%	168 908 707 (30%)	5 757 (45%)	-2%	2 782 308 (44%)
South-East Asia	196 613 (3%)	13%	59 164 201 (10%)	582 (5%)	8%	791 746 (12%)
Eastern Mediterranean	177 722 (3%)	45%	22 468 513 (4%)	432 (3%)	88%	344 458 (5%)
Africa	10 882 (<1%)	-44%	9 190 691 (2%)	55 (<1%)	-47%	173 942 (3%)
<b>Global</b>	<b>6 607 653 (100%)</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>567 312 625 (100%)</b>	<b>12 689 (100%)</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6 378 748 (100%)</b>

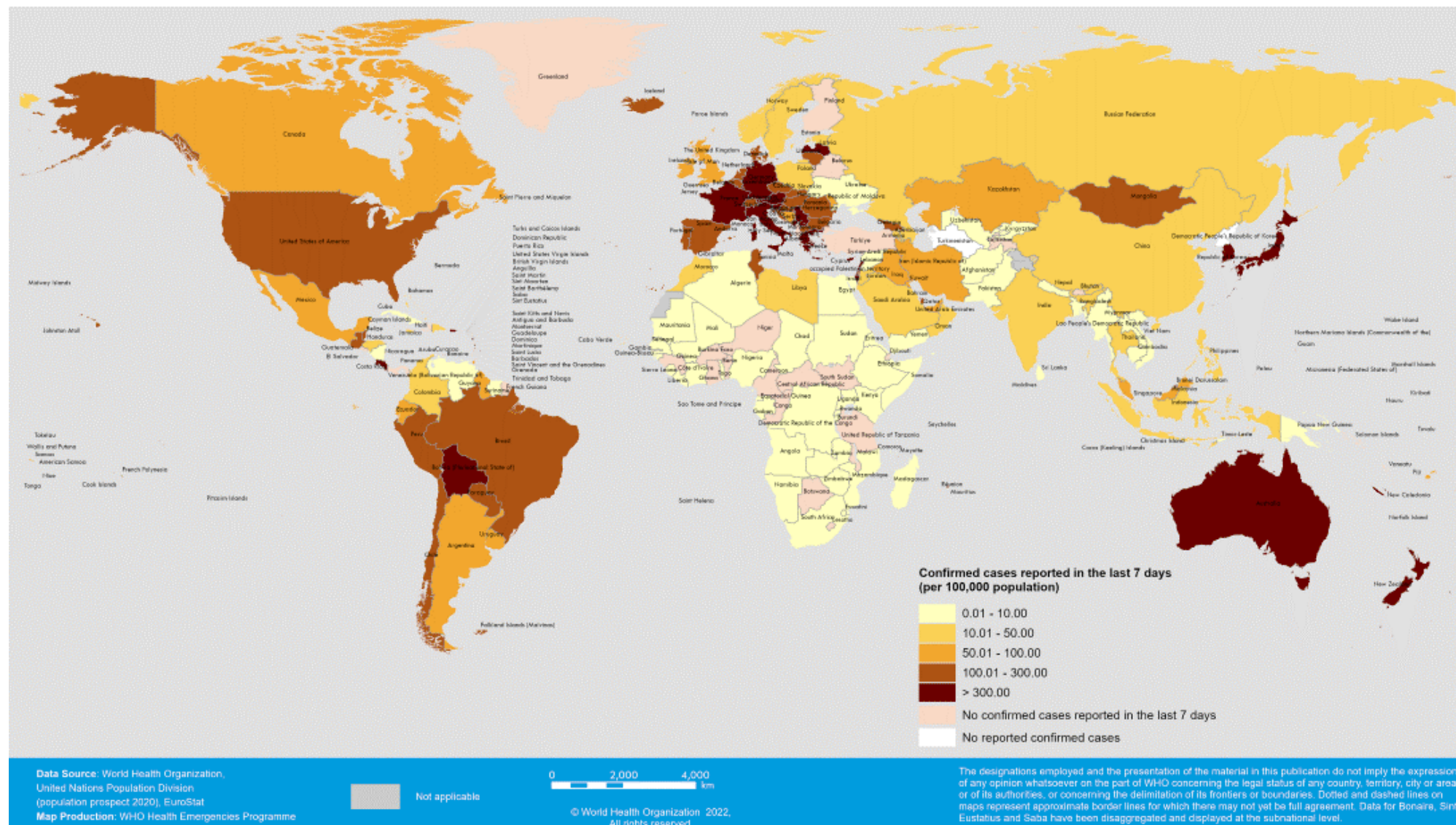
\*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in the past seven days, compared to seven days prior

\*\*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](#)

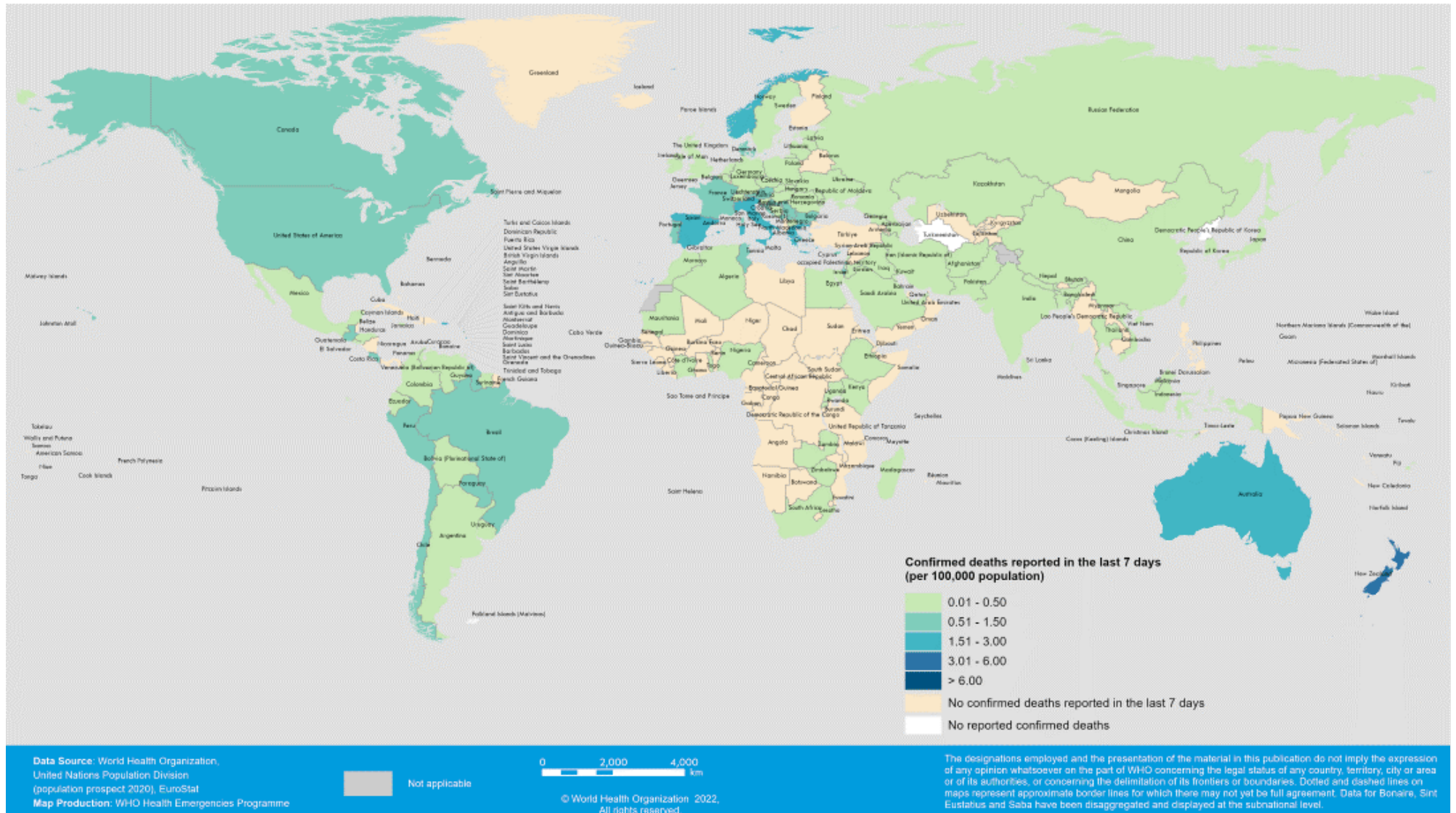
Figure 2. COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 18 - 24 July 2022\*



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



Figure 3. COVID-19 deaths per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 18 - 24 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 21 June to 21 July 2022, 193 561 sequences were collected and uploaded to GISAID. Among these, 175 679 sequences were the Omicron variant of concern (VOC), accounting for 90.1% of sequences reported globally in the past 30 days. During the same period, Delta VOC and recombinants were observed in 49 (<0.1%) sequences. The remaining 18 223 (9.9%) sequences are waiting to be assigned and presumed to be Omicron.

A comparison of sequences submitted to GISAID in epidemiological week 28 (10 to 16 July 2022) and week 27 (3 to 9 July 2022) shows that BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants continued to be dominant globally with a weekly prevalence that remained stable, with BA.4 accounting for 11.1% in week 27 and 11.2% in week 28, and BA.5 accounting for 52.4% and 52%, respectively. Conversely, during the same period, BA.2 and BA.2.12.1 sequences showed a decline from 3.6% to 2.2% and from 6.4% to 2.7%, respectively.

Current trends describing the circulation of Omicron sublineages 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](#)

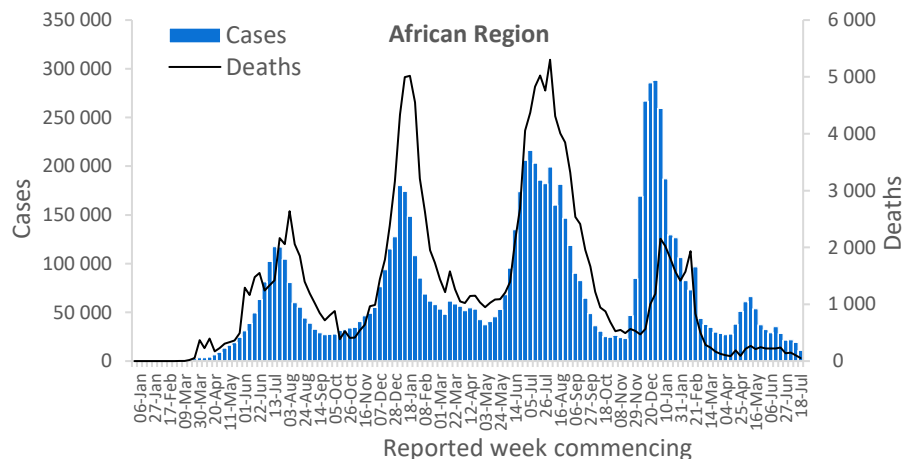
## WHO regional overviews:

Epidemiological week 18 - 24 July 2022\*\*

### African Region

The Africa Region reported over 10 000 new cases, a 44% decrease as compared to the previous week. However, seven (14%) countries reported an increase in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the greatest proportional increases seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (245 vs 80 new cases; +206%), Burundi (1023 vs 451 new cases; +127%), and Algeria (348 vs 178 new cases; +96%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from South Africa (2382 new cases; 4.0 new cases per 100 000 population; -4%), Mauritius (1321 new cases; 103.9 new cases per 100 000; -69%), and Burundi (1023 new cases; 8.6 new cases per 100 000; +127%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region decreased by 47% as compared to the previous week, with 55 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from South Africa (25 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000 population; -40%), Zimbabwe (six new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +200%), and Ethiopia (five new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -50%).

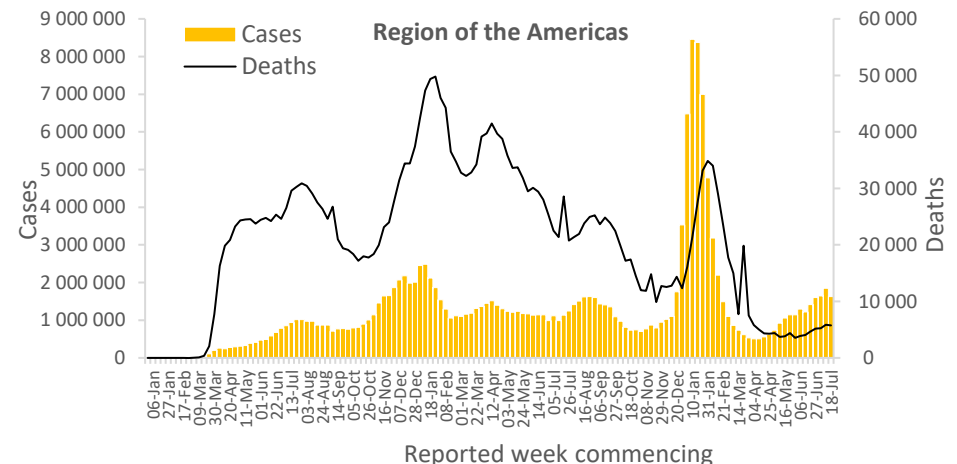


Updates from the [African Region](#)

### Region of the Americas

The Region of the Americas reported over 1.6 million new cases, a 12% decrease as compared to the previous week. Twelve of 56 (21%) 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 Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (40 986 vs 14 322 new cases; +186%), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2579 vs 1595 new cases; +62%), and Cuba (581 vs 365 new cases; +59%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (860 097 new cases; 259.8 new cases per 100 000; -3%), Brazil (255 610 new cases; 120.3 new cases per 100 000; -39%), and Mexico (119 613 new cases; 92.8 new cases per 100 000; -34%).

The number of new weekly deaths reported in the Region remained similar to the number reported in the previous week, with over 5700 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the United States of America (2637 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +3%), Brazil (1396 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -20%), and Mexico (376 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -13%).

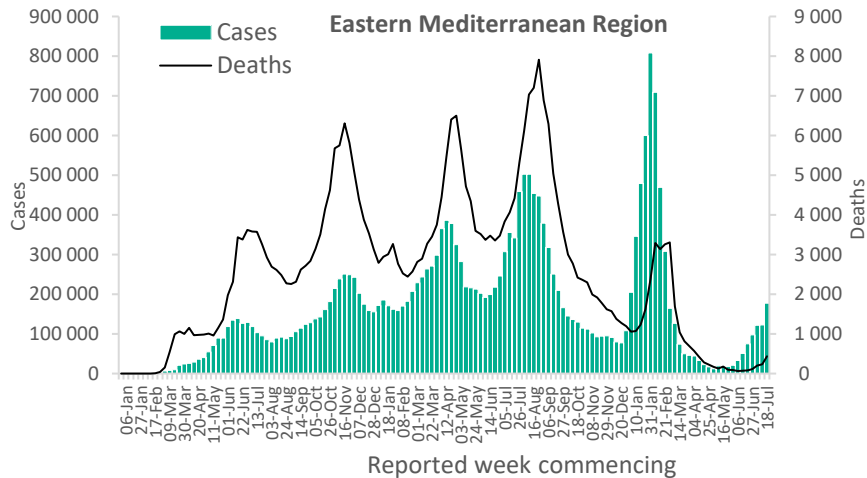


Updates from the [Region of the Americas](#)

## Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Eastern Mediterranean Region has been reporting an increasing trend in cases since late May 2022, with over 120 000 new weekly cases, a 45% increase as compared to the previous week. Twelve of 18 (55%) countries reported increases in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Egypt (231 vs 49 new cases; +371%), Afghanistan (1024 vs 231 new cases; +343%), and the Syrian Arab Republic (106 vs 27 new cases; +293%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (46 595 new cases; 55.5 new cases per 100 000; +85%), Tunisia (27 340 new cases; 231.3 new cases per 100 000; +31%), and Iraq (25 573 new cases; 63.6 new cases per 100 000; +33%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region increased by 88% as compared to the previous week, with over 200 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (164 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +188%), Tunisia (119 new deaths; 1.0 new death per 100 000; +59%), and Morocco (33 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +22%).

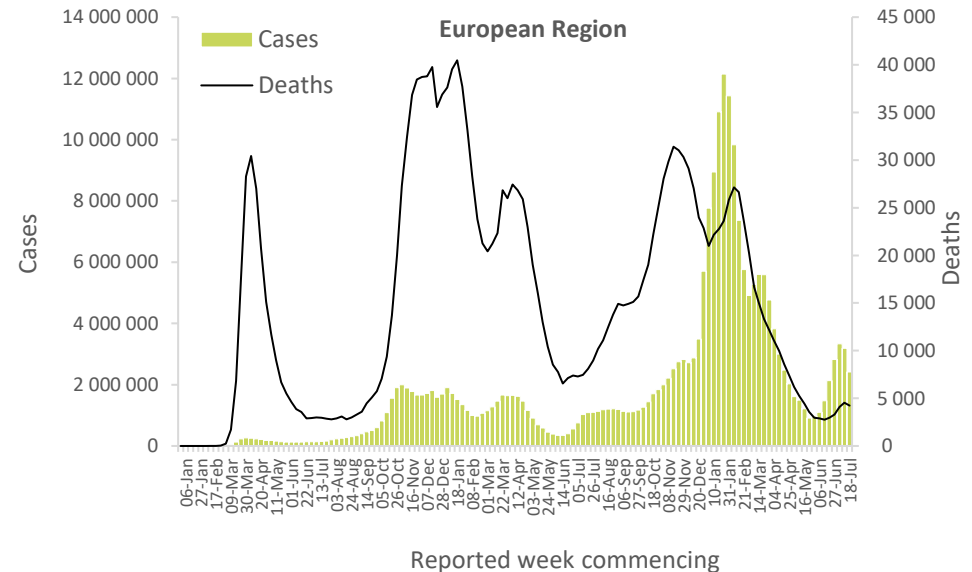


Updates from the [Eastern Mediterranean Region](#)

## European Region

The European Region reported over 2.4 million new weekly cases, a 24% decrease as compared to the previous week. Twenty (33%) countries in the Region reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the highest proportional increases observed in Azerbaijan (1743 vs 703 new cases; +148%), Kazakhstan (15 001 vs 7190 new cases; +109%), and Kosovo<sup>1</sup> (8333 vs 4507; +85%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Germany (565 518 new cases; 680.0 new cases per 100 000; -16%), Italy (531 327 new cases; 890.9 new cases per 100 000; -26%), and France (508 620 new cases; 782.0 new cases per 100 000; -27%).

Over 4200 new weekly deaths were reported in the Region, a 6% decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (952 new deaths; 1.6 new deaths per 100 000; +21%), Spain (810 new deaths; 1.7 new deaths per 100 000; +33%), and France (737 new deaths; 1.1 new deaths per 100 000; +34%).

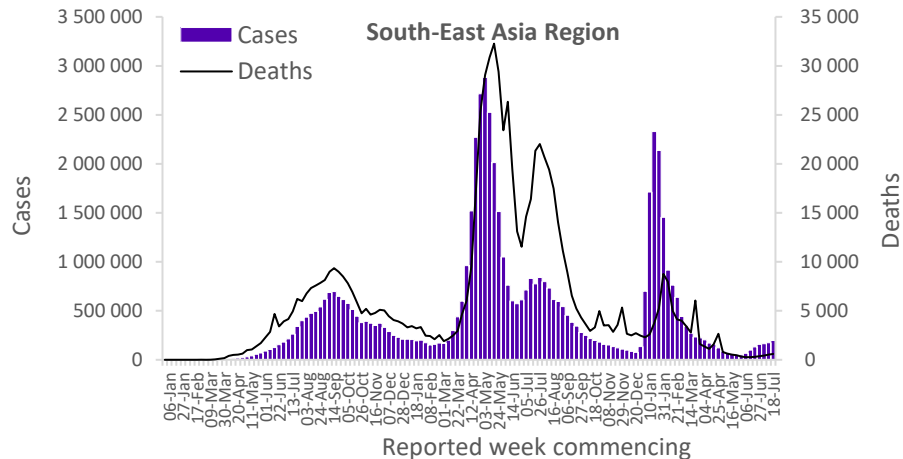


Updates from the [European Region](#)

## South-East Asia Region

The South-East Asia Region has been reporting an increasing trend in cases since early June, with over 196 000 new cases reported, a 13% increase as compared to the previous week. Five of 10 countries (50%) for which data are available showed increases in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with the greatest proportional increases observed in Sri Lanka (452 vs 175 new cases; +158%), Nepal (2214 vs 1091 new cases; 103%) and Myanmar (135 vs 80; +69%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (138 156 new cases; 10.0 new cases per 100 000; +8%), Indonesia (33 389 new cases; 12.2 new cases per 100 000; +41%), and Thailand (16 824 new cases; 24.1 new cases per 100 000; +20%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region increased by 8% as compared to the previous week, with over 500 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (324 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +15%), Thailand (161 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; similar to the previous week's figures), and Indonesia (53 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -9%).

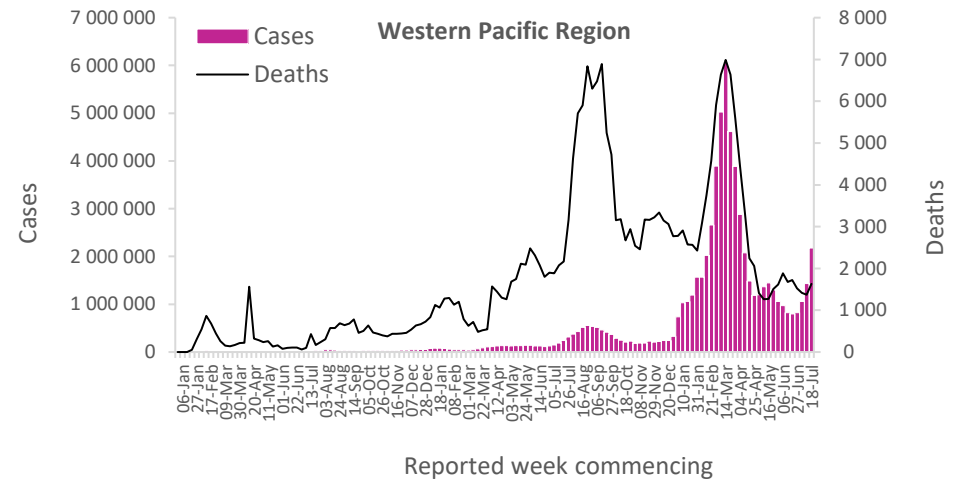


Updates from the [South-East Asia Region](#)

## Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Region has been reporting an increasing trend in cases for the fifth consecutive week, with over 2.1 million new cases reported, a 52% 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 Mongolia (7066 vs 1024 new cases; +590%), Lao People's Democratic Republic (256 vs 149 new cases; +72%), and French Polynesia (696 vs 425 new cases; +64%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Japan (969 068 new cases; 766.2 new cases per 100 000; +73%), the Republic of Korea (449 856 new cases; 877.4 new cases per 100 000; +80%), and Australia (376 260 new cases; 1475.5 new cases per 100 000; +64%).

The Region reported over 1600 new weekly deaths, a 19% increase as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Australia (514 new deaths; 2.0 new deaths per 100 000; +75%), China (457 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -21%), and Japan (272 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +66%).



Updates from the [Western Pacific Region](#)



## 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](mailto: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](https://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.

<sup>[1]</sup> 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.

<sup>[2]</sup> Since 21 May 2022, data for COVID-19 cases and deaths in Northern Ireland are no longer included in the United Kingdom updates.

<sup>[3]</sup> 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.

## **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.