

COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update

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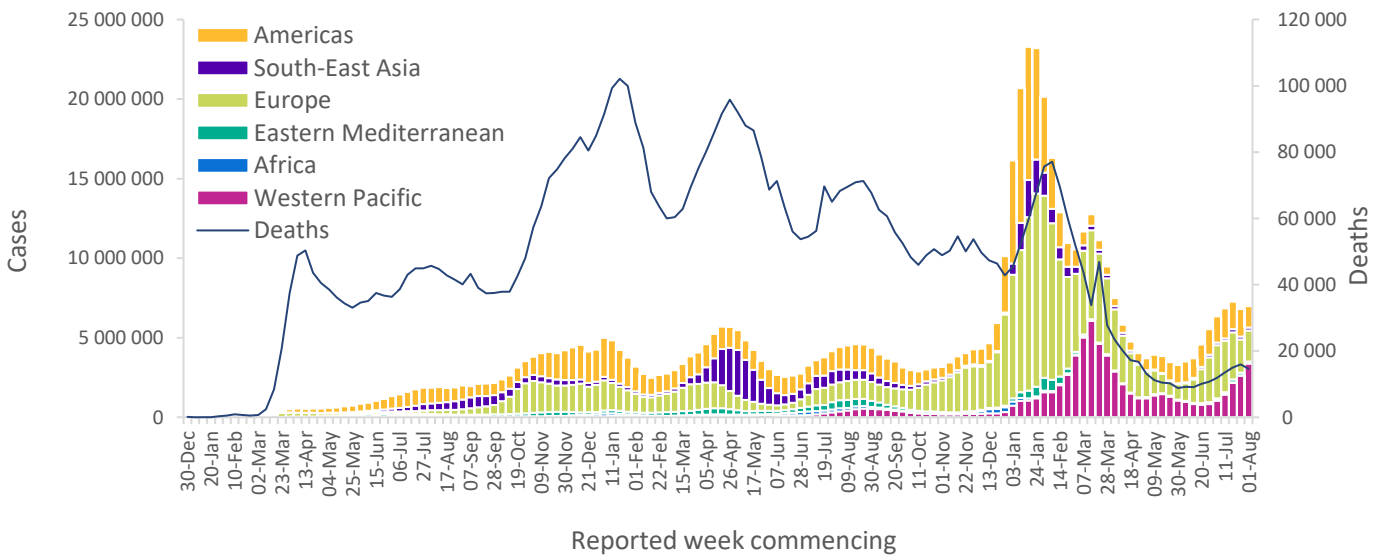
Global overview

Data as of 7 August 2022

Globally, the number of new weekly cases remained stable during the week of 1 to 7 August 2022, as compared to the previous week, with over 6.9 million new cases reported (Figure 1, Table 1). The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 9%, with over 14 000 fatalities reported, as compared to the previous week. As of 7 August 2022, 581.8 million confirmed cases and 6.4 million deaths have been reported globally.

At the regional level, the number of reported new weekly cases increased in the Western Pacific Region (+29%); while the numbers of new cases decreased or remained stable in the African Region (-46%), the Region of the Americas (-22%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-22%), the European Region (-7%), and the South-East Asia Region (-3%). The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+19%), while the numbers decreased or remained stable in the African Region (-73%), the European Region (-15%), the Region of the Americas (-10%), the South-East Asia Region (-1%), and the Western Pacific Region (+4%).

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 7 August 2022**



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

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (1 496 968 new cases; +9%), the United States of America (759 806 new cases; -19%), the Republic of Korea (713 078 new cases; +26%), Viet Nam (571 458 new cases), and Türkiye# (406 322 new cases). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2764 new deaths; -2%), Brazil (1445 new deaths; -21%), Italy (1059 new deaths; -12%), Japan (1002 new deaths; +53%), and Spain (654 new deaths; +23%).

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 7 August 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	3 375 480 (48%)	29%	75 095 910 (13%)	2436 (17%)	4%	248 029 (4%)
Europe	1 938 695 (28%)	-7%	243 079 753 (42%)	4717 (32%)	-15%	2 056 264 (32%)
Americas	1 345 194 (19%)	-22%	172 129 558 (30%)	6040 (41%)	-10%	2 796 241 (44%)
South-East Asia	186 248 (3%)	-3%	59 543 036 (10%)	693 (5%)	-1%	793 137 (12%)
Eastern Mediterranean	122 934 (2%)	-22%	22 751 726 (4%)	652 (4%)	19%	345 660 (5%)
Africa [^]	11 965 (<1%)	-46%	9 230 865 (2%)	25 (<1%)	-73%	174 079 (3%)
Global	6 980 516 (100%)	3%	581 831 612 (100%)	14 563 (100%)	-9%	6 413 423 (100%)

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in the past seven days, compared to seven days prior. Data from previous weeks are updated continuously with adjustments received from countries.

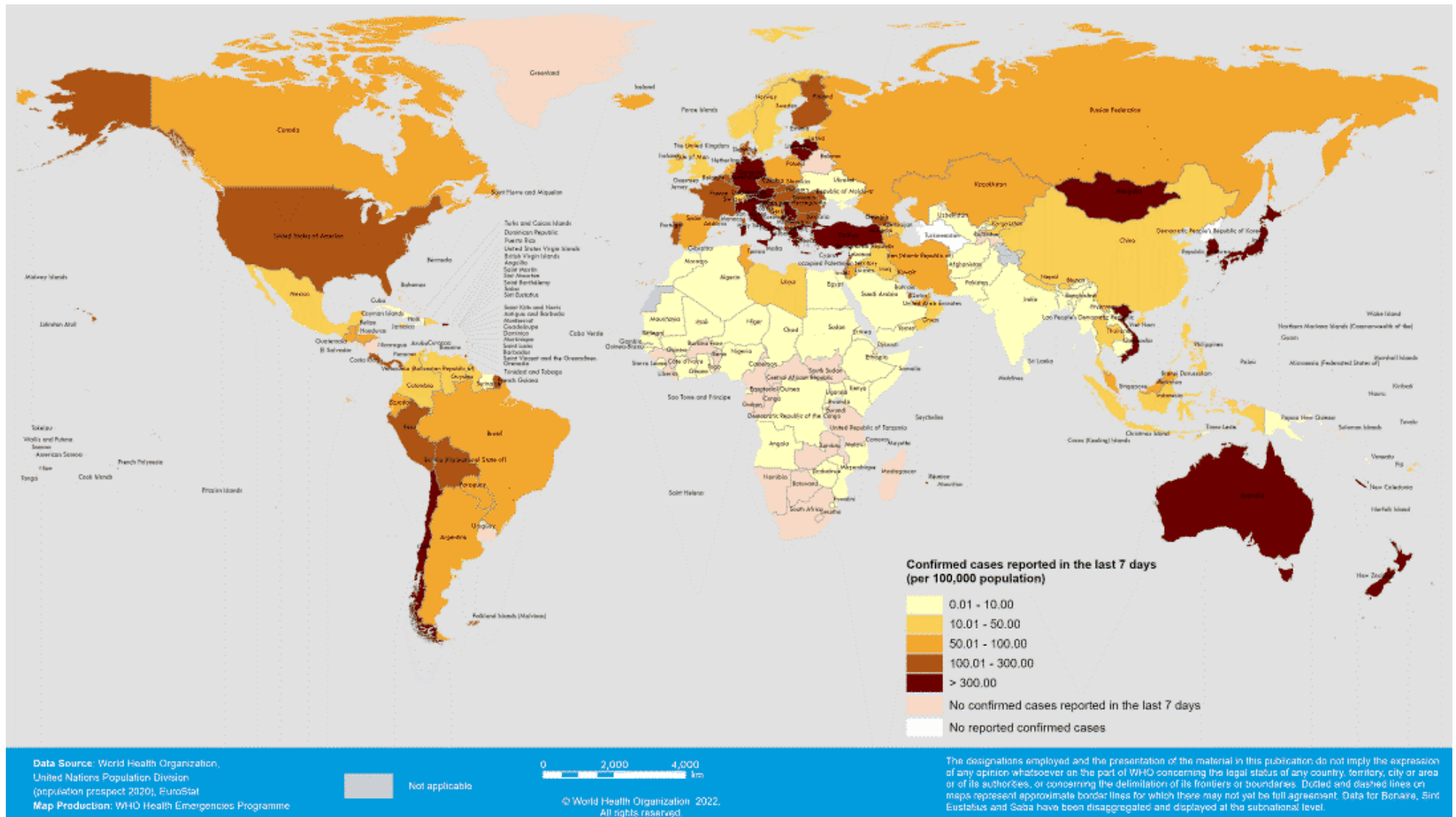
**See [Annex 1: Data, table, and figure notes](#)

[^]Weekly data from the African Region does not include data from South Africa as the country is in the process of moving from daily to weekly reporting.

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

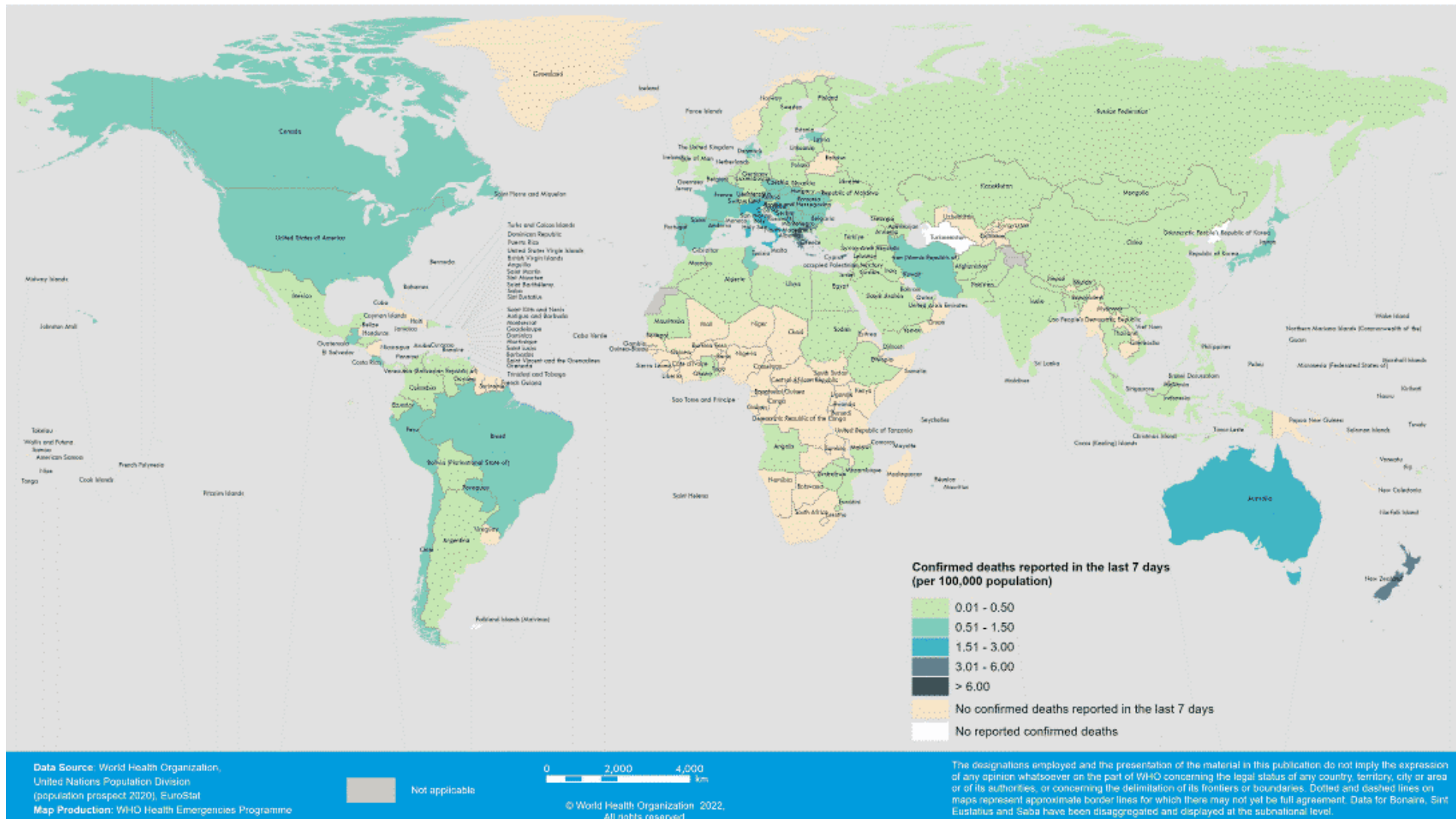
- [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Weekly Operational Update and previous editions of the Weekly Epidemiological Update](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 detailed surveillance data dashboard](#)

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 1 - 7 August 2022*



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

Figure 3. COVID-19 deaths per 100 000 population reported by countries, territories and areas, 1 - 7 August 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 8 July to 8 August 2022, 175 384 sequences were collected and uploaded to GISAID. Among these, 174 089 sequences were Omicron variant of concern (VOC), accounting for 99% of sequences reported globally in the past 30 days.

A comparison of sequences submitted to GISAID in epidemiological week 30 (24 to 30 July 2022) and week 29 (17 to 23 July 2022) shows that BA.5 Omicron descendent lineages continue to be dominant globally, with an increase in weekly prevalence from 68.9% to 69.7%. Within the same time period, the weekly prevalence of Omicron descendent lineages BA.4, BA.2.12.1 and BA.2 decreased globally: BA.4 decreased from 10.8% to 9.1%, BA.2.12.1 decreased from 2.4% to 1.3% and BA.2 decreased from 1.4% to 1.0%.

BA.5 descendent lineages (BA.5.X) are increasing in diversity, with additional mutations in spike and non-spike regions. WHO continues to monitor all lineages, including descendent lineages of VOCs, to track an increase in prevalence and change in viral characteristics.

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](#)

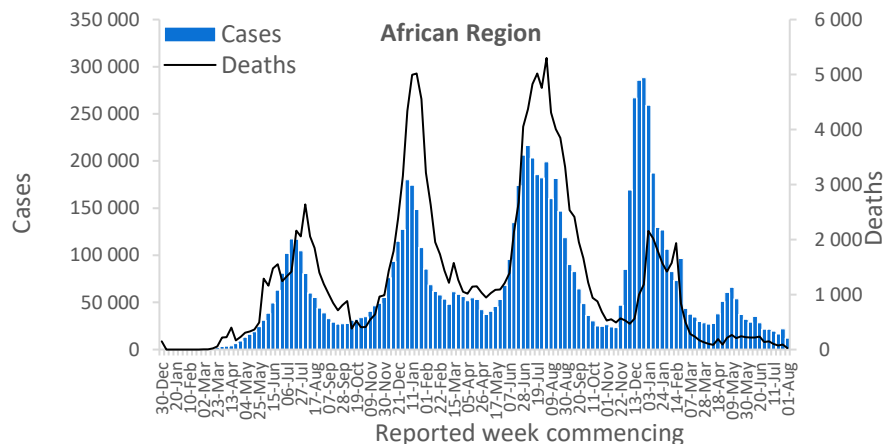
WHO regional overviews:

Epidemiological week 1 - 7 August 2022**

African Region

The African Region reported just under 12 000 new cases, a 46% decrease as compared to the previous week. Five (10%) countries reported an increase in the number of new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the greatest proportional increases seen in Ghana (179 vs 120 new case; +49%), Algeria (767 vs 602 new cases; +27%), and Mayotte (385 vs 313 new cases; +23%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Réunion (5823 new cases; 650.4 new cases per 100 000 population; +2%), Burundi (1096 new cases; 9.2 new cases per 100 000; -36%), and Nigeria (908 new cases; <1 new case per 100 000; -39%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region decreased by 73% as compared to the previous week, with 25 deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Réunion (seven new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000 population; similar to the previous week) and Zimbabwe (seven new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +40%). The decline in the number of cases and deaths reported in the Region should be interpreted with caution following the changes of reporting from daily to weekly or batch reporting by several countries, including South Africa.

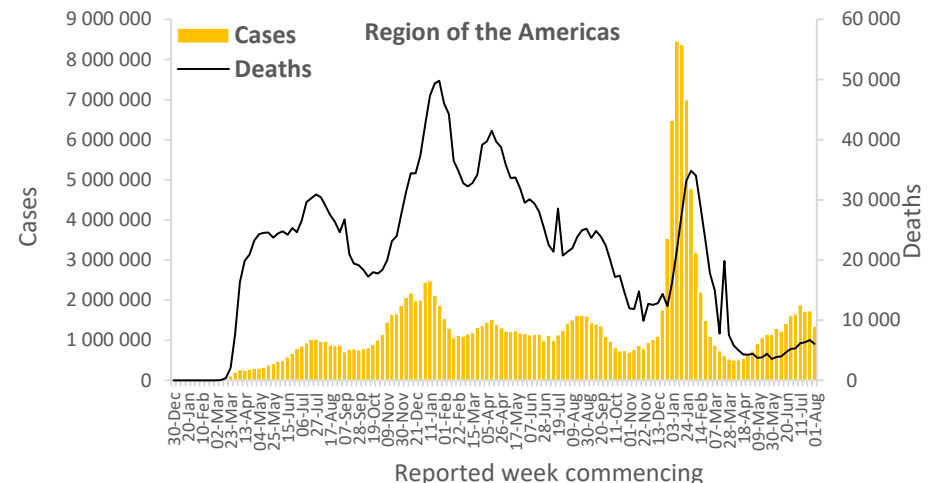


Updates from the [African Region](#)

Region of the Americas

The Region of the Americas reported over 1.3 million new cases, a 22% decrease as compared to the previous week. Four of 56 (7%) 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 Haiti (168 vs 33 new cases; +409%), Saba (22 vs seven new cases; +214%), and the Dominican Republic (3930 vs 2695 new cases; +46%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (759 806 new cases; 229.5 new cases per 100 000; -19%), Brazil (203 772 new cases; 95.9 new cases per 100 000; -28%), and Chile (63 595 new cases; 332.7 new cases per 100 000; +13%).

The number of new weekly deaths reported in the Region decreased by 10% as compared to the previous week, with over 6000 deaths reported. The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2764 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -2%), Brazil (1445 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -21%), and Mexico (374 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -27%).

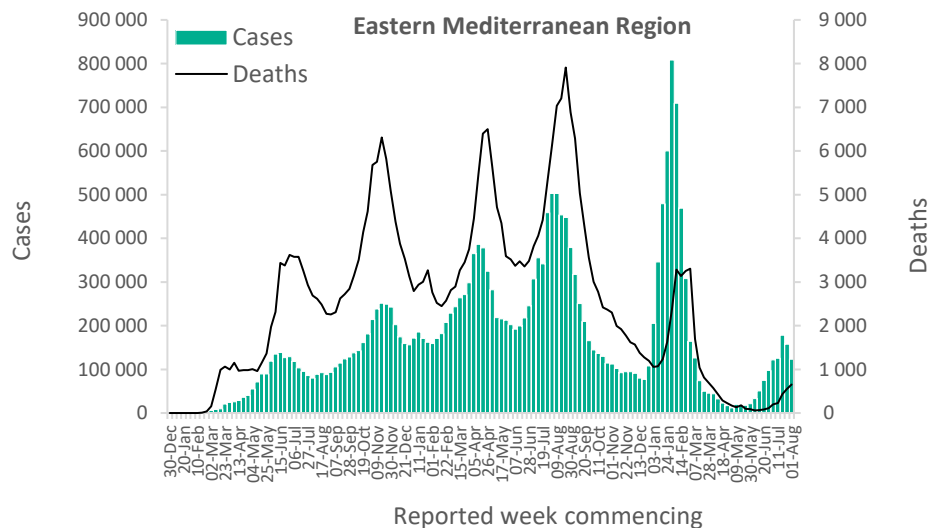


Updates from the [Region of the Americas](#)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Eastern Mediterranean Region reported a decrease in cases for the second consecutive week, with just under 123 000 new cases reported, a 22% decrease as compared to the previous week. Two (9%) countries reported increases in the number of new cases of 20% or greater: Somalia (63 vs 45 new cases; +40%) and Afghanistan (1466 vs 1106 new cases; +33%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (53 646 new cases; 63.9 new cases per 100 000; -13%), Lebanon (13 136 new cases; 192.5 new cases per 100 000; -21%), and the occupied Palestinian territory (8969 new cases; 175.8 new cases per 100 000; -11%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the Region increased by 19% as compared to the previous week, with 652 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Islamic Republic of Iran (461 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +61%), Tunisia (64 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -35%), and Morocco (22 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -4%).

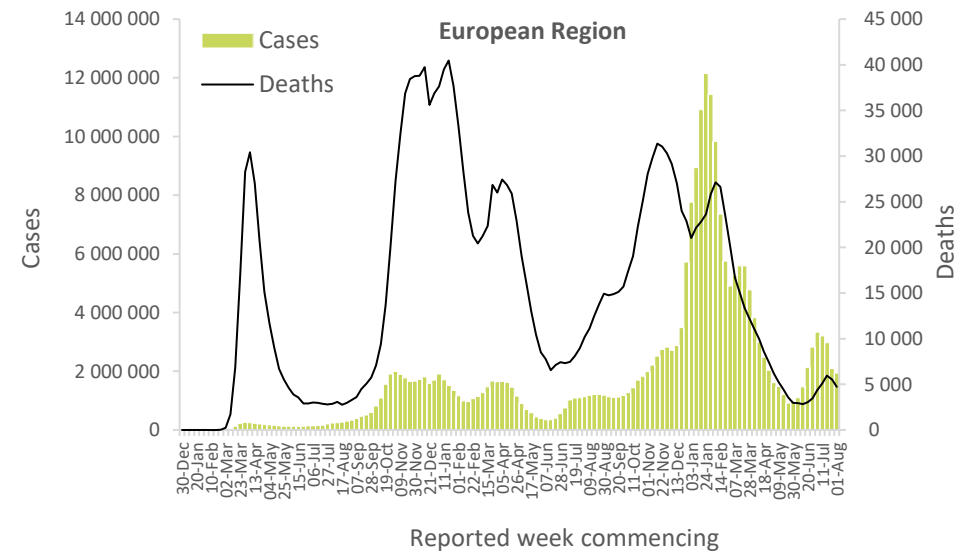


Updates from the [Eastern Mediterranean Region](#)

European Region

The European Region reported over 1.9 million new cases, a 7% decrease as compared to the previous week. Seven (11%) countries in the Region reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in the Republic of Moldova (9528 vs 5793 new cases; +64%), the Russian Federation (110 980 vs 69 464 new cases; +60%), and Andorra (285 vs 182 new cases; +57%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Türkiye[#] (406 322 new cases; 481.8 new cases per 100 000), Germany (331 512 new cases; 398.6 new cases per 100 000; -33%), and Italy (283 998 new cases; 476.2 new cases per 100 000; -28%).

Over 4700 new weekly deaths were reported in the Region, a 15% decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (1059 new deaths; 1.8 new deaths per 100 000; -12%), Spain (654 new deaths; 1.4 new deaths per 100 000; +23%), and France (492 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -19%).

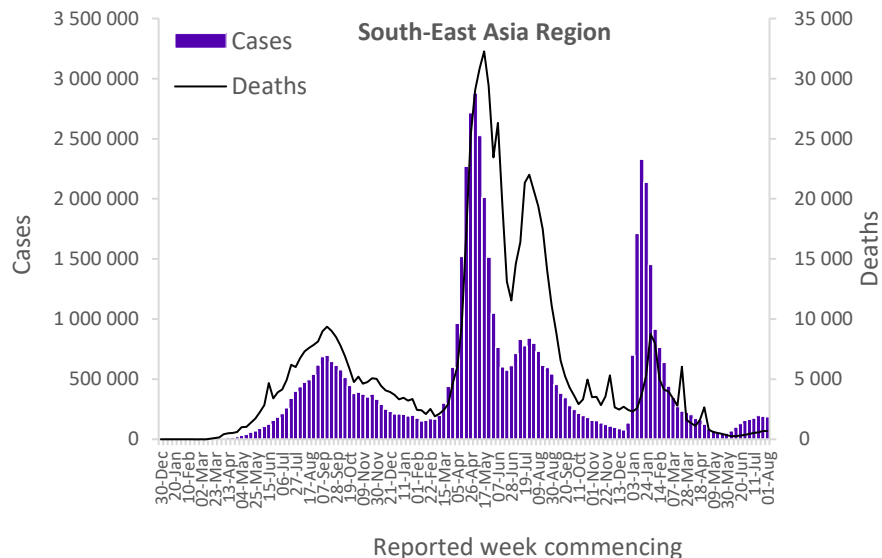


Updates from the [European Region](#)

South-East Asia Region

In the South-East Asia Region, the number of new cases remained stable for the second consecutive week, with over 186 000 new cases reported. Two of the 10 countries (20%) for which data are available showed increases in the number of new cases of 20% or greater: Timor-Leste (35 vs 18 new cases; +94%) and Sri Lanka (1025 vs 839 new cases; +22%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (125 921 new cases; 9.1 new cases per 100 000; -4%), Indonesia (37 880 new cases; 13.8 new cases per 100 000; -2%), and Thailand (15 433 new cases; 22.1 new cases per 100 000; +8%).

The number of new weekly deaths remained stable this week in the Region as compared to the previous week, with nearly 700 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from India (332 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +2%), Thailand (211 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -7%), and Indonesia (102 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +12%).

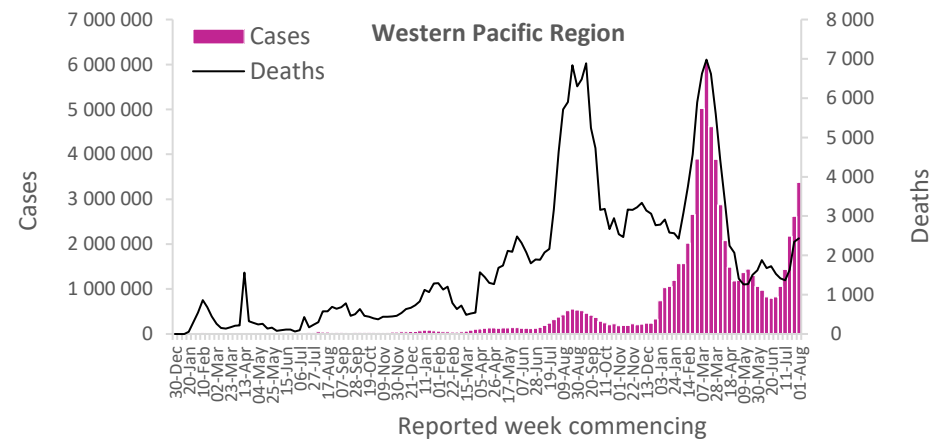


Updates from the [South-East Asia Region](#)

Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Region continues to report an increasing trend in cases since the end of June 2022, with over 3.3 million new cases reported, a 29% increase as compared to the previous week. Five (15%) countries reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the largest proportional increases observed in Mongolia (13 970 vs 9279 new cases; +51%) and Lao People's Democratic Republic (579 vs 426 new cases; +36%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Japan (1 496 968 new cases; 1183.6 new cases per 100 000; +9%), the Republic of Korea (713 078 new cases; 1390.9 new cases per 100 000; +26%), and Viet Nam (571 458 new cases; 587.1 new cases per 100 000; +7541%). The increase reported in Viet Nam is partly due to batch reporting of cases at the provincial level following a review of the data from February 2022.

The Region reported over 2400 new weekly deaths, a figure similar to that of the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Japan (1002 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +53%), Australia (531 new deaths; 2.1 new deaths per 100 000; -17%), and China (272 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -33%).



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. 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 either batch reporting or no 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.