

Philippines

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

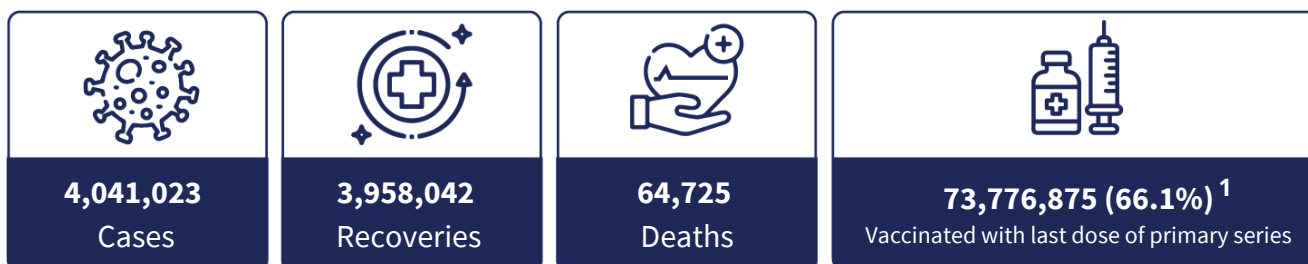
Situation Report #116

5 December 2022

Data reported by the Department of Health on 4 December 2022



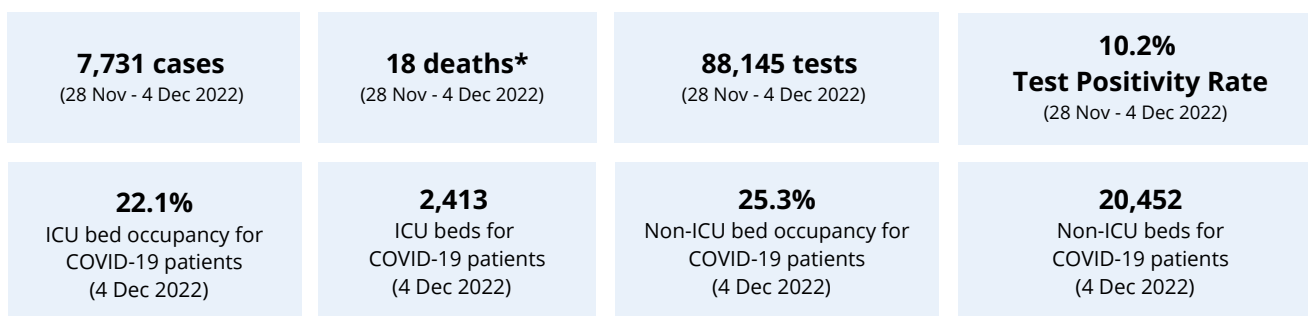
Photo credit: [DOH Philippines](#)



Please see the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) [Daily Case Bulletins](#) and [COVID-19 Tracker](#) for further information.

Summary of the epidemiological situation in Philippines²

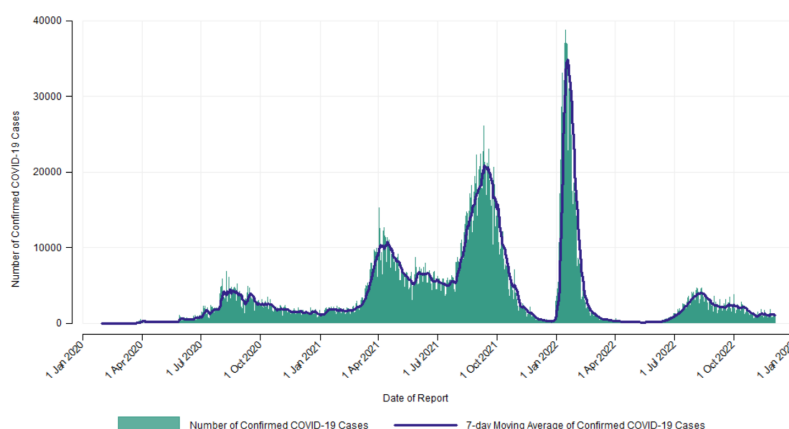
Key numbers



*Obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 death tally as of 5 December 2022

COVID-19 cases

The trend of reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines is stable fluctuating. Following five weeks of decreasing trend in reported cases (17 Oct – 20 Nov 2022), a week of increase has followed [21 - 27 Nov: 8,029 cases (7.2 cases per 100,000 population³)], then another decline on 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022 [7,731 cases (7.0 cases per 100,000 population³)]. On 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022, the following regions recorded the highest case counts: National Capital Region (2,771 cases), Region IV-A: CALABARZON (1,134 cases), and Region III: Central Luzon (556 cases).



¹Percent of total population (n = 111,572,254)

²Weekly case counts were obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 PROJECT

³Total population (n=111,572,254)

Healthcare utilization

The daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 occupied ICU beds is fluctuating. The number of ICU beds occupied in the last six weeks are as follows: 28 Nov – 4 Dec (545 beds); 21 - 27 Nov (513 beds); 14 - 20 November (539 beds); 7 - 13 November, (537 beds); 31 Oct - 6 Nov (509 beds); and 24 - 30 October (551 beds). ICU utilization as of 4 December 2022 is 22.1%.

The number of utilized COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators is in decreasing trend in the last three weeks (14 Nov - 4 Dec 2022). The number of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators (7-day average) utilized are as follows: 28 Nov - 4 Dec (260 ventilators); 21 - 27 Nov (277 ventilators); 14 - 20 Nov (282 ventilators); and 7 - 13 Nov (300 ventilators). As of 4 Dec 2022, there were 232 ventilators utilized.

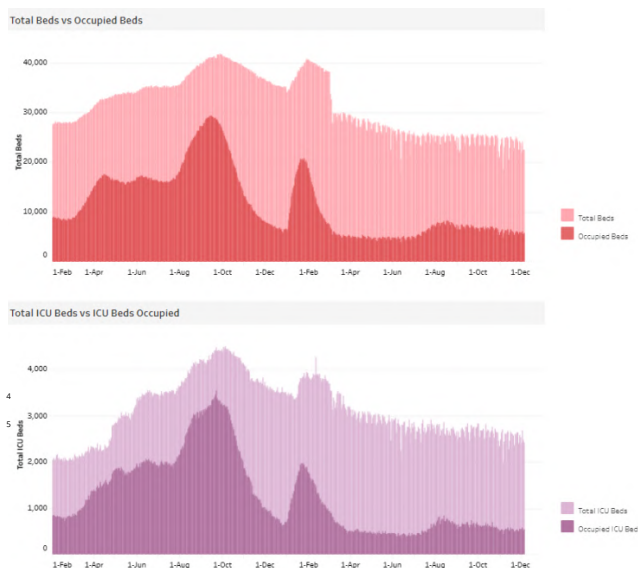


Figure 2. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time stratified by occupancy (as of 4 December 2022)

COVID-19 deaths

As of 4 Dec 2022, 64,725 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Philippines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 3).

From 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022, there were 18 deaths reported.

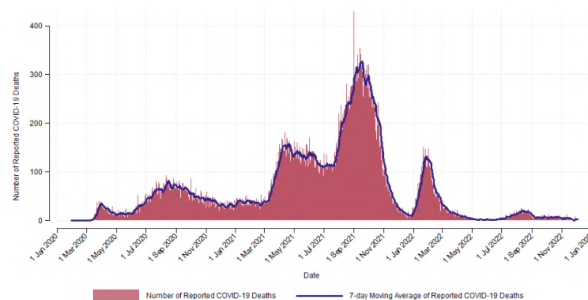


Figure 3. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death since 2020 (as of 4 December 2022)

Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

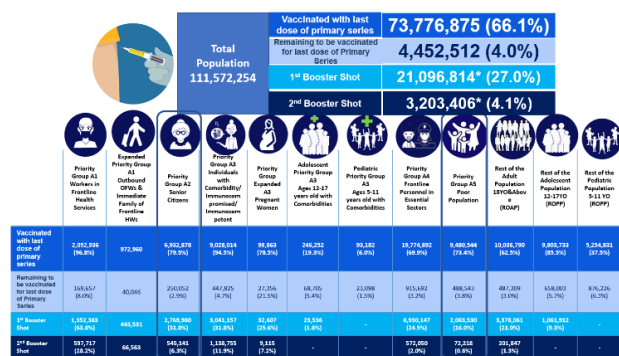
The number of RT-PCR tests conducted and test positivity rate are stable. On 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022, 87,158 tests were conducted; 21 - 27 Nov: 89,246 tests; 14 - 20 Nov: 88,145 tests; and on 7 - 13 Nov: 94,753 tests. On 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022, the test positivity rate is 12.5%; 21 - 27 Nov: 12.2%; 14 - 20 Nov: 10.3%; and on 7 - 13 Nov: 10.3%.

From the latest sequencing run conducted on 21 - 24 Nov, DOH has detected 536 new cases of omicron subvariants - 2 BQ.1 cases (1 - Region II, 1 - Region VII), 353 cases of BA.2.3.20, 1 case of BA.4, 21 cases of BA.5, 133 cases of XBB and 28 cases tagged as Other Omicron sublineages⁴.

Vaccination

As of 4 Dec 2022, 66.1% of the total population were vaccinated with last dose of primary series. From 28 Nov - 4 Dec 2022, 233,374 jabs were administered. Among healthcare workers (A1 priority group), the coverage is 96.8%, with 63.8% having received the first booster dose and 28.2% received the second booster dose. For the booster shots, 27.0% of the eligible population received the first booster while 4.1% received the second booster jab. For the regions, National Capital Region (NCR) has the highest first booster coverage (52.6%) as of 5 Dec 2022.

⁴ PH detects 2 more cases of BQ.1; total now 16 | ABS-CBN News



*eligible population for booster

Figure 4. Overview of COVID-19 vaccination status of Philippines' population, as of 4 December 2022

Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection, and Control

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Risk Communications

WHO Philippines supports the Department of Health's Special Vaccination Days from 5-7 December 2022. Dr Graham Harrison, Officer-in-Charge, encourages families with elderly and immunocompromised members to have up-to-date COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, before any gatherings for the holiday season.



Special Vaccination Days from 5-7 December 2022.

WHO Philippines supports the Department of Health's *Ligtas Christmas sa Healthy Pilipinas* campaign, highlighting the importance of adhering to public health and social measures during the holiday season.



WHO Philippines re-published localised messages on promoting mental health amid COVID-19 pandemic, with reminders for parents and children, elderly, and workers.



WHO Philippines re-published videos promoting COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and sharing tips on COVID-19 home-based recovery.



Community Engagement

WHO teams supported the Immunization Assessment Activity of Region 8 DOH Center for Health Development (CHD) on 22-23 November 2022. The National Immunization Program (NIP) of Region 8 gathered around 200 participants from the 136 municipalities and cities to share accomplishments and discuss ways forward for immunization activities for 2023.

WHO's Venjie Benito, Ava Sharon Batay-an, and Norman Gagarin provided technical assistance on operations and risk communication and community engagement aspects of COVID-19 and Routine Immunization.



WHO team conducted field visits to *Kanangga* and *Burauen* in the province of Leyte. The team provided supportive supervision to the rural health units on their operations and demand generation activities on COVID-19 and routine immunization.



WHO, Region 8's Center for Health Development teams from the National Immunization Program and Health Education and Promotion together with the RHU team members of *Kanangga* (top) and *Burauen* (bottom) during the field visit on 24 November 2022.

Partner Coordination

Updates from USAID

Integrated Activity of *Konsulta* Mass Registration with Family Planning (FP) service provision and COVID-19 vaccination

In Iloilo Province, USAID's ReachHealth project incorporated family planning service provision and COVID-19 vaccination during registration under the PhilHealth's *Konsulta* program - the Philippines' flagship primary care benefit package.

USAID provided medical doctors to help municipalities with medical consultations and COVID-19 vaccination, while the Municipal Health Offices mobilized health workers to provide on-the-spot FP information and services during the registration events. The designated areas for FP and COVID-19 at the mass registration show the realization of USAID's initiative with the Iloilo Provincial Health Office to integrate case finding and service provision for unmet FP needs and COVID-19 vaccine into the *Konsulta* Package of PhilHealth.

As of 30 November 2022, there have been over 18,000 individuals who registered with *Konsulta*. With the integration introduced since October this year, almost 2,000 individuals were provided with FP information and services and 6,413 vaccinated against COVID-19 from 20 municipalities across Iloilo Province.



Dr Beverly Lorraine C. Ho, OIC – Undersecretary Public Health Services Team, DOH (standing 3rd from left) speaks with the Municipal Health Officer of San Miguel, Iloilo Dr Mary Jane Gimeno when she visited the town during recent *Konsulta* mass registration.



Health staff attend to a client who sought information on FP at a designated area at the Konsulta Mass Registration held in San Miguel, Iloilo Province last 25 November 2022.



Some of the nurses prepare to assess a client prior to vaccination during the 25 November mass registration at the Municipality of San Miguel, Iloilo covered court. Behind them is the long queue of clients awaiting their turn for registration.

Evidence Based Community Engagement in Visayas

In Cebu, USAID supported 12 LGUs where USAID ReachHealth project deployed 43 social mobilizers to conduct various barangay assemblies and house-to-house COVID-19 campaigns promoting booster vaccination for the general population and primary series vaccination for senior citizens.

They were oriented on evidence generation (which includes social listening) and risk communication. Using the vaccine hesitancy monitoring tool, the USAID ReachHealth-deployed social mobilizers conducted social listening activities as part of house-to-house visits. This revealed reasons for not receiving the COVID-19 primary series or booster vaccine dose. With this information, LGU COVID-19 vaccination coordinators and municipal/city health officers can map which barangays/areas within their jurisdiction needs to be prioritized more for vaccination and which key messages to convey as guided by data from social listening.

In Lapu-Lapu City and Mandaue City, USAID ReachHealth project oriented and deployed forty (40) volunteers as social mobilizers who are tasked to use the vaccine hesitancy monitoring tool for evidence generation, talk to individuals still needing either primary or booster COVID-19 vaccine doses, and address reasons for non-receipt of COVID-19 vaccines using standard key messages.



USAID ReachHealth deployed social mobilizers trained in guided by data from social listening so they can better communicate with those who are still vaccine hesitant. The social mobilizer in the photo is doing house-to-house visit in one of the towns in Cebu Province.

Updates from UNICEF

UNICEF, through Relief International, continues to support selected areas in Regions IV-A, VI, CARAGA, and BARMM on demand generation planning and integration of routine messages in COVID-19 RCCE activities, training of barangay health workers, advocacy with local officials, and social mobilization and risk communication activities targeting priority groups such as senior citizens, booster-eligible individuals, and eligible school-age children.



Left: A social mobilizer from Relief International leads a group learning session on COVID-19 vaccination in San Roque, Surigao City ; Right: Barangay health workers from Mulanay, Quezon participate in an RCCE training led by a C4D officer from Relief International. © Relief International/2022