

Situation Summary

Highlights of Current Situation Report

- A total of **208** COVID-19 cases including **30** deaths were reported in the **last 7 days**. Of the 208 cases, 18.8% (39/208) were imported and 81.3% (169/208) were locally acquired;
- As of 29 November 2021, 10 am ICT, **120,112** confirmed cases of COVID-19, including **2,935** deaths have been reported from Cambodia, of which 116,488 have recovered. A total of 19,820 (16.5%) cases were acquired overseas;
- Since January 2020, a total of 1,752,445 individuals have been tested using real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), with a positivity rate of 5%. As of 29 November 2021, a total of 2,417,080 tests have been performed using RT-PCR.
- On 29 November, the Royal Government of Cambodia announced a temporary ban on travelers from those who transited via or have a history of travelling to 10 African countries in the past 3 weeks to prevent the importation of Omicron.

Upcoming Events and Priorities

Surveillance

- WHO will jointly conduct a risk assessment with MOH for the new variant Omicron to understand the risk of importation and circulation of the variant in the community.
- WHO is technically supporting MOH to update the COVID-19 surveillance strategy in preparation for an endemic COVID-19 scenario and consider the next steps for implementation.
- MOH with technical guidance and support from partners is conducting death investigations in Phnom Penh to strengthen understanding of causes of death, access to care, and investigate underlying transmission in the community.
- MOH and WHO are now working in five border provinces to strengthen Incident Management System (IMS), RRT capacity for investigations and use multisource surveillance to assess the epidemiological situation and implement targeted response, and strengthen safe quarantine.

Laboratory

- WHO, Institute Pasteur in Cambodia (IPC), and partners are providing technical and coordination support to NIPH, CCDC, and COVID-19 laboratories to ensure expanded and sustained testing capacity.
- Laboratory expansion plan continues with 18 active laboratories and a further three planned in November.
- NIPH has been working with IPC, WHO and partners to develop and support the implementation of the SARS-CoV-2 External Quality Assurance (EQA) program to ensure quality testing at all COVID-19 laboratories.
- WHO is providing technical support and facilitating NIPH to undertake an online EQA training course on establishing a national SARS-CoV-2 EQA program.
- WHO is supporting NIPH to strengthen Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) to detect mutations and monitor Variants of Concern (VoC)/Variants of Interest (VoI) by procuring laboratory commodities, with support from WPRO.
- WHO is providing technical advice and guidance to MoH on sampling strategies for SARS-CoV-2 genomic surveillance.
- Minister of Health advised all provinces that have a PCR machine in their laboratories to test their own samples for SARS-CoV-2 without sending them to national laboratories.

- WHO is supporting MOH to integrate Omicron detection into current genomic surveillance workflow.

Healthcare delivery and pathways

- Oxygen therapy training with cover all provinces by end of December 2021. In each province, staff from ICU and emergency unites of provincial hospitals and selected district hospitals to receive onsite coaching from the national core team. As of 26 November 2021, 21 provinces received onsite coaching on oxygen therapy and will continue for two more provinces (Pursat and Banteay Meanchey) next week.
- The Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee continues to monitor severe cases and ICU bed capacity (bed occupancy) through the network of provincial hospital.
- Continue the regular virtual meeting between the national level and all provincial hospitals to get updates on the situation from provinces, share experience among provinces, understand challenges at the implementation level and get support and advice from the national level.
- As part of the effort to build clinical knowledge of frontline providers at the sub-national level on clinical management of COVID-19 cases, the Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee will continue to organize clinical discussion among clinicians on selected COVID-19 as case study, experience sharing, lesson learned, and clinical support to respective provincial hospital. There is a case study from Siem Reap to be virtually presented for discussion this week.

Risk Communication and community engagement

- WHO is closely working with MOH in strengthening risk communication and community engagement, engaging local influencers, VHSGs, health care workers, and local authorities to improve and strengthen PHSM compliance as new normal in Cambodia.
- WHO is supporting the monitoring of vaccination sessions across the country and continues to provide surge support for monitoring and reaching the unreached applying evidence-based RCCE interventions.
- WHO in collaboration with MOH has developed a social media tile to counter misinformation and rumors.
- WHO has developed the guidance for vaccination of women with breastfeeding infants, women who are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, and menstruating women, and about vaccines and fertility (Please see [LINK](#) for informative video and [LINK](#) for social media tiles and infographics). The material is being translated into the Khmer language.
- The World Health Organization in the Western Pacific has launched the first WHO Western Pacific Innovation Challenge: Innovation for the Future of Public Health. The Innovation Challenge is calling for innovators to submit their solutions to better the health and well-being of people in the Western Pacific Region. Applications from Cambodia are highly encouraged and can be submitted at <https://wproinnov.awardsplatform.com/>.
- Review Community Engagement (CE) progress with the National Centre for Health Promotion (NCHP) officials and Provincial Health Department (PHD) staff in nine target provinces.
- WHO will support the development of the Communication Strategy for the New Normal.

Transmission Assessment

The current multi-source surveillance assessment indicates Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, Preah Vihear, Svay Rieng, Tbong Khmum, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, and Oddar Meanchey are in stage 2 transmission (localized community transmission), the other 7 provinces (Koh Kong, Kep, Kratie, Pailin, Pursat, Mondul Kiri, and Ratanak Kiri) are in Stage 1 transmission.

Epi Update COVID-19

Tests

19,633

NAT Tests past 7 days

2,417,080

Cumulative NAT Tests

Cases

208

New cases past 7 days

(0.17% 7-day)

120,112

Cumulative Cases

Deaths

30

Deaths past 7 days

(1.0% 7-day)

2,935

Cumulative Deaths

179

Imported cases in the past 28 days

39

Imported cases past 7 days

Health Service Provision COVID-19

79

Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients

145

Treatment centers for COVID-19 patients

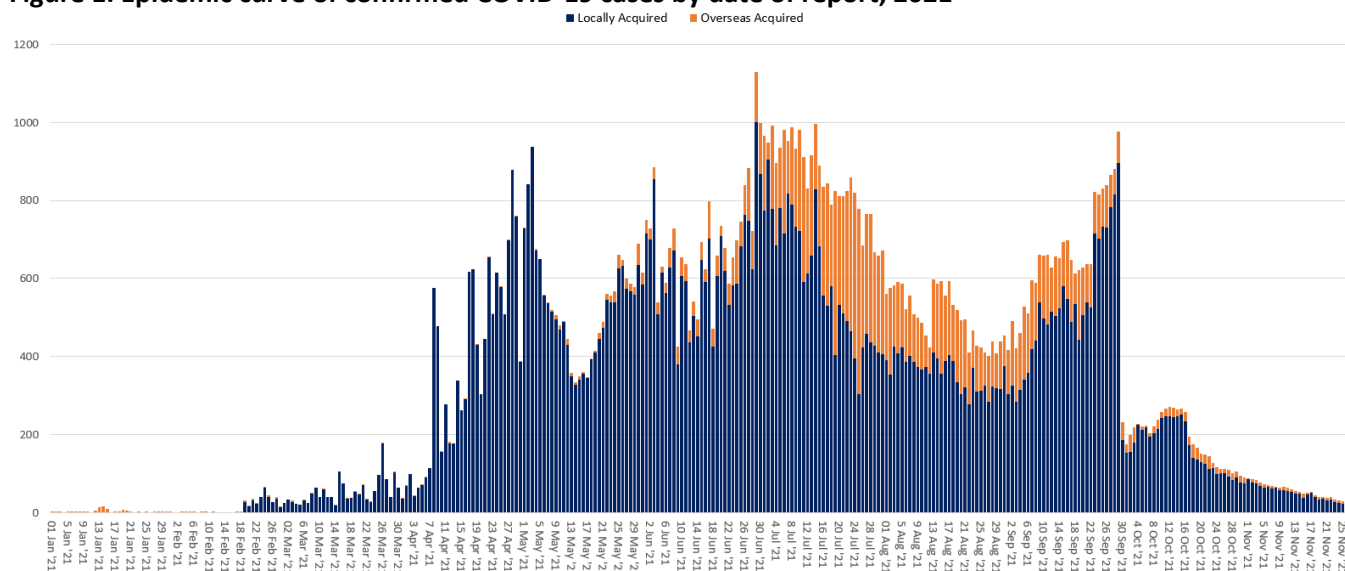
1,626

Total beds available at hospitals and treatment centers

Data source: Royal Government of Cambodia, Strategy for Living in the New Normal within the Context of COVID-19 (Dated: 11 November 2021)

Epidemiology

Figure 1. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of report, 2021*



*As of 30 Sep 2021, only RT-PCR test results are being reported in the case numbers.

Figure 2. Number of ILI cases from ILI sentinel sites by week, 2021 and 2018-2020

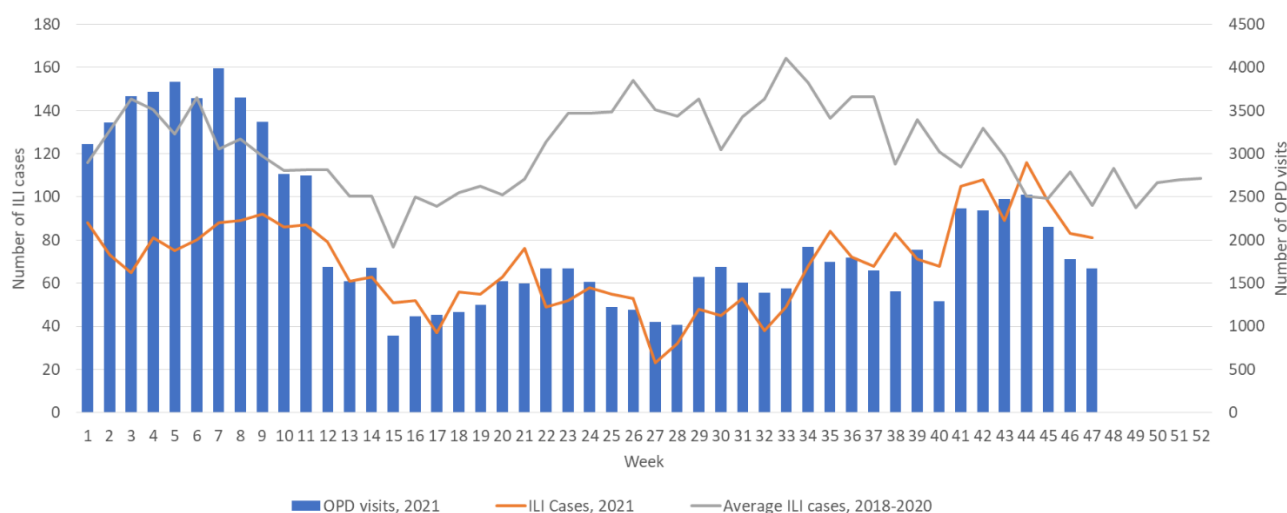
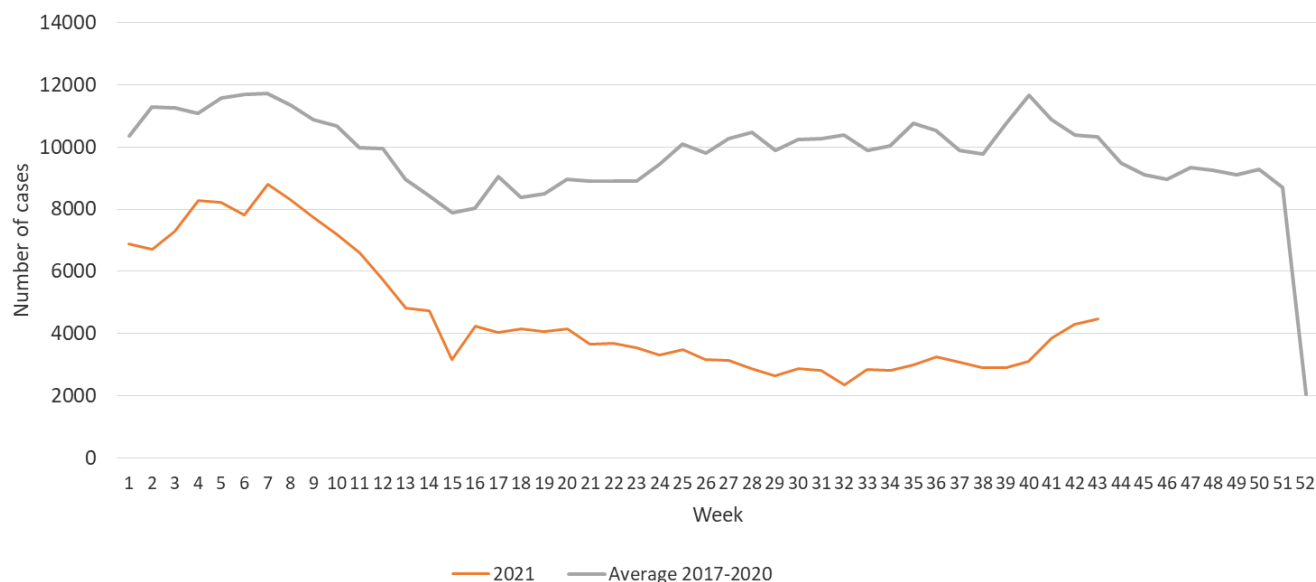


Figure 3. Number of patients with severe respiratory illness by week, 2021 and 2017-2020¹



¹ Week 43 data are not complete.

Strategic Approach

National and Provincial Public Health Response

Incident Management Systems

- National Cambodian COVID-19 Committee (CCC), chaired by Samdech Prime Minister
- Standing committee of CCC, Chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance
 - ❖ Municipal-Provincial COVID-19 committees, chaired by Municipal-Provincial Governors
 - ❖ Ad Hoc committee on national COVID-19 vaccination
 - ❖ Ad-Hoc committee in charge of COVID-19 vaccine procurement
- Inter-Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Minister of Health, with Secretaries of State
- Sub-committee for Evaluation, Planning, and Strategy, chaired by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Management at Points of Entry and Quarantine, chaired by Director-General of the General Department of Intelligence, Ministry of National Defense
- Sub-Committee for Rapid Response and Investigation into Persons with COVID-19, chaired by Deputy National Police Commissioner, Ministry of Interior
- Technical and Treatment Sub-Committee, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Laboratory Services, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Education, Training and Public Affairs, chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee for Supplies and Finance chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Health
- Sub-Committee on Technology and Data chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
- Sub-Committee for Construction and Repair chaired by Deputy Commissioner of National Police, Ministry of Interior
- Sub-Committee for Management and Handling of Bodies of Persons with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 chaired by Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior
- Committee on Economic and Financial Policy (CEFP)/ Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) of four Working Groups to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

System and Policy Development

- On 5 March 2021, the draft law “Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and other Dangerous Infectious Diseases” was approved by the National Assembly.
- State of Emergency legislation was promulgated into law on 29 April 2020; has not been enacted.
- Go.Data Platform used as a surveillance database including laboratory and contact tracing information.
- NIPH and CDC databases have been adjusted to allow for a multisource dataset on testing and surveillance.

Key Priorities

- National programs are developing specific COVID-19 preparedness and response plans.

- Strengthening local preparedness to prepare for potential localized outbreak and other public health emergencies in the future and minimizing disruptions to the delivery of essential health services.

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

- *Testing strategy and contact tracing system in place*
A broad testing strategy is being implemented nationwide, including testing all suspect cases meeting case definition, pneumonia cases in hospitals, testing at POEs at day 1 and day 6 or 13 depending on vaccination status, and testing ILI and SARI samples from sentinel sites for COVID-19. Targeted testing of high-risk populations is also being implemented as necessary.
- *Risk communication and community engagement*
A strategy for surveillance using community engagement has been developed and will be piloted for case detection at the health center level and in the community.
- *NPIs (recorded in table at end of report)*

Best Practices / Lessons Learned

Factors Contributing to Strong Response

- **Strong leadership and coordination**
 - ❖ Whole-of-government, whole-of-society response led by the Prime Minister, with public health actions led by Minister of Health.
 - ❖ National Master Plan for COVID-19 developed with a budget of \$62 million for the first year.
 - ❖ On 01 July 2021, Samdech Prime Minister introduced six COVID-19 response strategies that are aimed at preventing the importation of new variants, reducing cases, providing effective and standard treatment, strengthening contact tracing and management, handling of bodies and vaccination.
- **Past investments have built a functional public health system**
 - ❖ Multisource surveillance for COVID-19, including event-based surveillance (with 115 hotline) and expanded ILI/SARI surveillance.
 - ❖ Almost 3,000 RRT members across the country conduct case investigation and contact tracing.
- **Risk communication and community engagement**
 - ❖ Timely messages disseminated through TV, radio, and social media, regular press releases, press conferences, and media briefings.
 - ❖ Risk-based approach for the development of targeted communication materials for at-risk groups, including migrants and garment factory workers, markets, prisons, restaurants/pubs, etc.

- ❖ Community engagement strategy being rolled out to encompass all aspects of surveillance and response for COVID-19, particularly in the event of community transmission.
- ❖ Close coordination and collaboration with other UN agencies, INGOs, and other stakeholders on RCCE implementation, monitoring, adapting, and reinforcing.
- **International solidarity and cooperation**
 - ❖ Open and transparent health system response in the country.
 - ❖ Close technical and operational cooperation between UN agencies and other development partners.
 - ❖ High-level participation in international meetings, including regular coordination between National International Health Regulations (IHR) Focal Point.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

As of 29 November 2021:

▪ COVID-19 vaccine updates

The Royal Government of Cambodia received 40,055,400 doses of COVID-19 vaccines

- ❖ **28,500,000 (71%)** doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccine procured by Royal Government of Cambodia from the People's Republic of China
- ❖ **8,715,040 (22%)** doses of donated: People's Republic of China (8,300,000 doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccine) and the UK (415,040 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine)
- ❖ **2,978,160 (7%)** doses of COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX (including dose sharing from Japan, USA and Sweden)
 - 324,000 doses of AstraZeneca (Covishield) vaccine through COVAX
 - 137,760 doses of Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine through COVAX
 - 124,800 doses of Corona Vac (Sinovac) vaccine through COVAX
 - 1,007,500 doses of AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine through- dose sharing from Japan
 - 324,000 doses of AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine through- dose sharing from Sweden
 - 1,060,100 doses of Janssen (Ad26.COV 2-S) vaccine through- dose sharing from USA
- ❖ The current balance is 6,797,446 doses of COVID-19 vaccine at the national stock of Central Medical Store (CMS)

Next arrival vaccine:

- ❖ 290,400 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine through COVAX - dose sharing from Netherlands, expected to arrive by the end of 2021
- ❖ 308,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine through COVAX - dose sharing from Japan, expected to arrive by the end of 2021
- ❖ 300,000 doses of Sinovac – COVAX reallocation Round 6, by the end of 2021
- ❖ 2,300,000 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) donated from Australia, expected to arrive end of 2021 or early 2022

▪ COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out

▪ COVID-19 vaccination coverage of Healthcare worker

- ❖ 43,646 (100%) of health care workers were vaccinated with the first dose and second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

▪ COVID-19 vaccination coverage of elderly aged 60 years old and over:

- ❖ 1,380,781 (100.2%) of elderly aged ≥ 60 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and
- ❖ 1,354,748 (98.3%) with second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- **COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for adults aged 18 years old and over:**
 - ❖ 10,087,942 (100.9%) of people aged ≥ 18 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 9,722,571 (97.2%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first dose is 50.5% and the second dose is 50.3% among total doses vaccinated.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for children aged 12 to under 18 years old :**
 - ❖ 1,803,770 (98.7%) of children aged from 12 to under 18 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 1,717,525 (94.1%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first dose is 49.4 % and the second dose is 49.6% among total doses vaccinated.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for children aged 6 to under 12 years old:**
 - ❖ 1,980,534 (104.4%) of children aged from 6 to under 12 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 1,854,508 (97.7%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first is 49.2% and the second dose is 49.4% among total doses vaccinated.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination rolls out for children aged 5 years old:**
 - ❖ 265,396 (87.2%) of children aged 5 years old were vaccinated with the first dose and 25,874 (8.5%) with the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the first is 50.1% and the second dose is 49.3% among total doses vaccinated.
- **Third dose of COVID-19 Vaccination coverage:**
 - ❖ 2,252,792 (22.5%) people aged ≥ 18 years old included health care workers, the frontline of Government officials, people aged 60 years old and older, and immunocompromised persons, were vaccinated with a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ❖ The proportion of females receiving the booster dose is 47.7% among total doses vaccinated.
- **Vaccine Safety:**
 - 208 AEFI cases were reported from 25 provinces and AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses = 0.73
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinovac vaccine = (95 cases) = 0.51
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for Sinopharm vaccine = (78 cases) = 1.09
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for AstraZeneca (Covishield) = (29 cases) = 3.9
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for J&J vaccine = (3 cases) = 0.38
 - ❖ AEFI reporting rate per 100,000 doses for AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) = (1 case) = 0.09
- **Activity updates**
 - ❖ Conducted field monitoring and supervision four COVID-19 vaccination site in Steung Treng province
 - Two vaccination sites in bordering with Laos PDR
 - Two minority population vaccination sites of Steung Treng province
 - ❖ Conducted a meeting with Steung Treng provincial NIP to discuss on reaching the unreached strategy
 - ❖ Conduct Rapid Convenience Assessment (RCA) at villages with minority population and village bordering with Laos PDR of Steung Treng to ensure all target populations especially elderly, with co-morbidities, pregnant women, lactating women, people who had recovered from SARS CoV2, people with HIV are vaccinated

- ❖ Two villages in bordering with Lao PDR
- ❖ Three minority villages
- ❖ Discussed with National Immunization Program and partners to finalize national immunization strategy 2021-2025 (this is not only COVID-19 but including future COVID-19 vaccination planning)
- ❖ Continue analysis vaccination and AEFI data, prepare report and share to stakeholders and within WHO and Ministry of Health
- ❖ Continue to routinely provide technical support to national immunization program of MoH on COVID-19 vaccination Roll Out

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI)

On 29 November, the Royal Government decided to temporarily ban travelers or those who transit via or have a history of travelling to 10 African countries in the past 3 weeks before entering Cambodia from entering Cambodia by land and air until further notice to prevent the importation of Omicron, effective 48 hours after the issuance of the announcement. Those 10 African countries include (1) Botswana, (2) Eswatini, (3) Lesotho, (4) Mozambique, (5) Namibia, (6) South Africa, (7) Zimbabwe, (8) Malawi, (9) Angola, and (10) Zambia.

Table 2. NPI implementation and lifting dates

NPI	Monitoring status					
	Date first implemented	Date last modified	Implementation		Partial lift	Lifted
			Geographical (national or sub-national)	Recommended or Required	Lifted for some area	Lifted for all areas
Wearing Face Masks, Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette	None	16 August 2021	National	Required		No
School Closure	16 March 2020	01 November 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	Yes
Workplace Closure	None	None				
Mass Gatherings	3 April 2020	12 November 2021	National	Required	No	No
Stay at Home	None	None				
Restrictions on Internal Movement (within country)	9 April 2020	29 July 2021	National	Recommended	Yes	Yes
Restrictions on International Travel	27 March 2020	29 November 2021	National	Required	Yes	No
Others; specify in narrative	None	None	-	-	-	-