



Animal Disease Outbreaks and News - Asia

Edition: 188

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COVID-19 Update

Coronavirus COVID-19 death toll at 6,516,661 and confirmed cases at 613,863,036 worldwide

Date: 12 September 2022

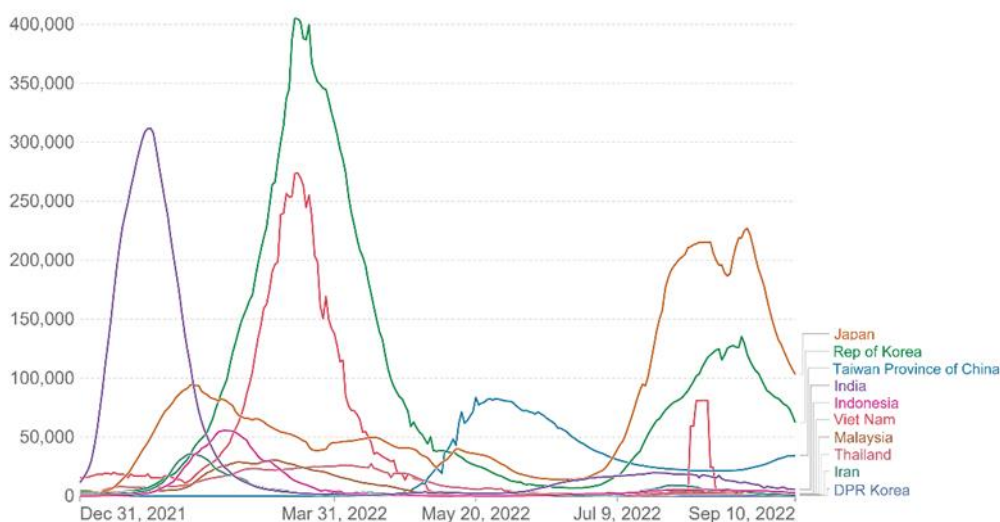
Globally, the death toll from the COVID-19 has reached 6,516,661 while the confirmed case count has reached 613,863,036. In the global scene, the top five countries reporting the total number of cases are USA, India, Brazil, France and Germany. Data sourced from: Worldometers, Government websites and Our World in Data. The table below presents the situation in Asia and the Pacific.

Table: Top ten countries with highest numbers of cumulative COVID-19 cases in Asia and the Pacific (Source: [Worldometers](#), trusted media sources, Govt. websites).

Countries	Total cumulative cases	New cases in past seven days [1]	Total cumulative deaths	New deaths in past seven days [1]	Total cumulative recovered	New recovered in past seven days [1]	Active cases	Serious/critical
India	44,498,134	↓ 37,651	528,150	↓ 159	43,919,264	45,834	50,720	698
Rep of Korea	24,041,825	↓ 435,085	27,498	↓ 349	22,674,445	840,242	1,339,882	525
Japan	20,156,992	↓ 811,780	42,637	↓ 1,808	19,023,717	1,403,487	1,090,638	412
Viet Nam	11,439,613	↑ 20,719	43,129	↑ 9	10,322,003	110,440	1,074,481	113
Iran	7,538,821	↓ 5,734	144,178	↓ 183	7,315,563	8,271	79,080	547
Indonesia	6,392,492	↓ 19,950	157,770	↓ 123	6,200,776	27,695	33,946	2,771
Taiwan Province of China	5,682,133	↑ 239,152	10,284	↑ 221	5,049,855	155,336	621,994	/
Malaysia	4,805,107	↓ 13,651	36,280	↓ 35	4,742,488	16,238	26,339	68
DPR Korea	4,772,813	↔ 0	74	↔ 0	4,772,739	0	0	
Thailand	4,668,244	↓ 8,342	32,557	↓ 132	4,624,207	12,145	11,480	1,496
Global Total	613,863,036	3,589,544	6,516,661	12,905	592,670,063	5,547,553	14,676,312	41,510

[1] Number of newly confirmed cases and deaths since past seven days; / indicates the information is not available

Figure 1. Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases in the top 10 countries with highest numbers of cumulative cases in Asia and the Pacific (Source: [Our World in Data](#) sourced from Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data)



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Figure 2. Daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the top 10 countries with highest numbers of cumulative cases in Asia and the Pacific (per million people)

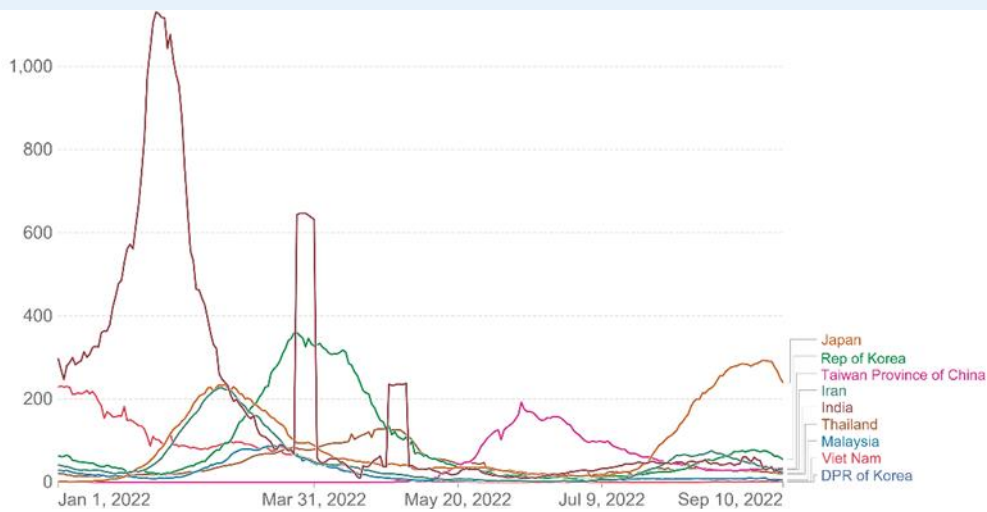


Figure 3. Share of people vaccinated against COVID-19 in the top 10 countries with highest numbers of cumulative cases in Asia and the Pacific (Source: [Our World in Data](#))

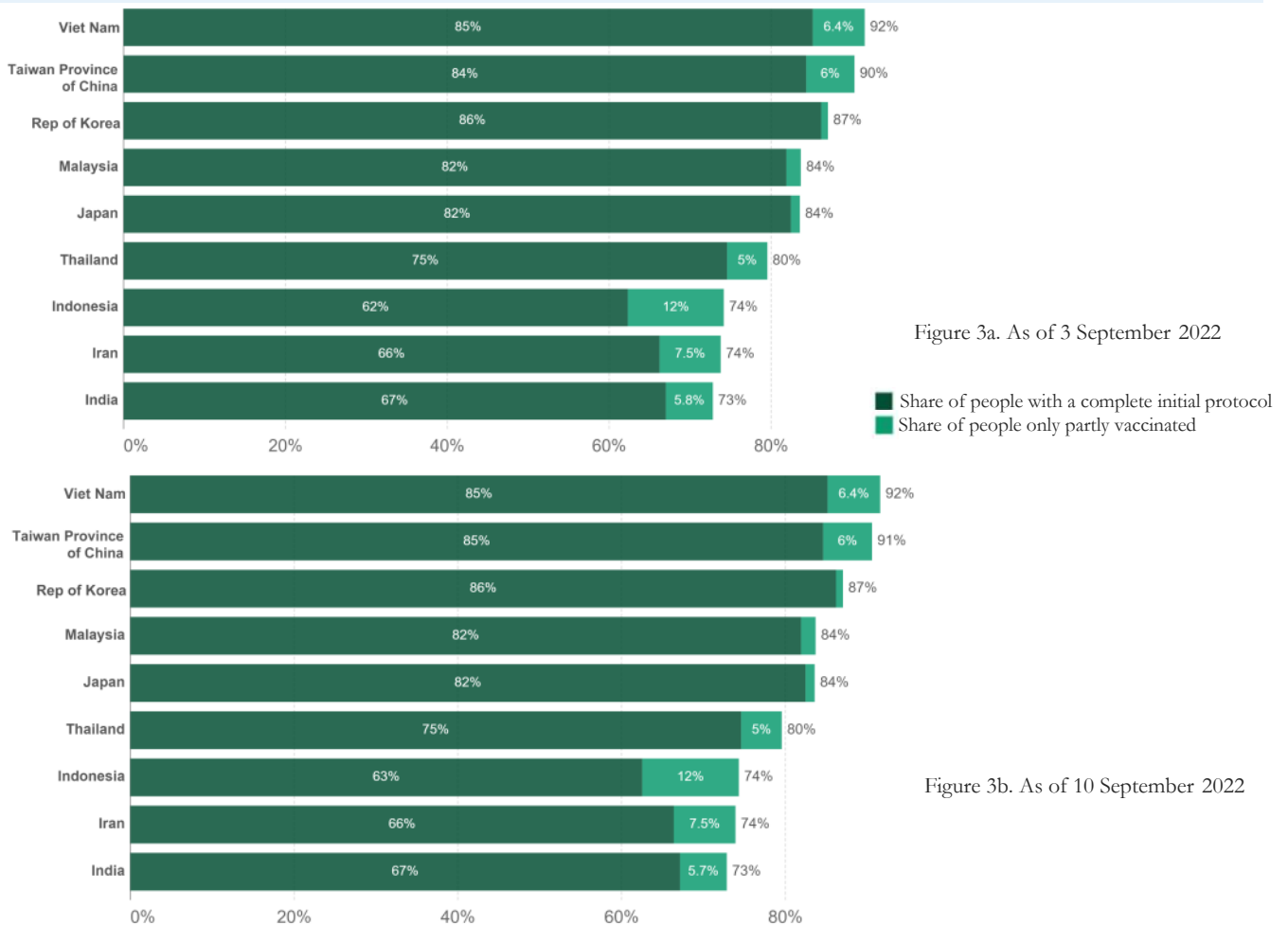


Figure 3a. As of 3 September 2022

Figure 3b. As of 10 September 2022

Disease Outbreaks

India: First cases of lumpy skin disease (LSD) reported in Nashik, Maharashtra

Date: 11 September 2022; Disease: LSD; Location: Nashik, Maharashtra, India

Three cases of LSD have come to the fore for the first time in Nashik district this year. District animal husbandry officer Vishnu Garje said the three cases were detected in two villages of the Sinnar taluka three days ago, and all the affected animals have now been cured. Read more at [Times of India](#). [India.com](#) reports LSD virus has caused havoc in many states of the country. In states like **Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and Gujarat**, not enough space is left to bury cow carcasses. According to the latest report, about

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

FAO Animal Health - Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD)

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57,000 cows have died due to this virus across the country. Out of these, maximum of 37 thousand deaths have been registered in Rajasthan.

India: A girl's death from rabies sparks outrage in Kerala

Date: 7 September 2022; Disease: Rabies; Location: Kerala, India

The death of a 12-year-old girl after being bitten by a stray dog has sparked outrage in the Indian state of Kerala. The girl was bitten in August and died on Monday in hospital. This is the 21st rabies death in Kerala this year. She had received three doses of the anti-rabies vaccine and was set to take the fourth soon, reports said. The World Health Organization (WHO) says rabies is endemic in India, which accounts for 36% of the world's rabies deaths. "True burden of rabies in India is not fully known; although as per available information, it causes 18,000-20,000 deaths every year in the country," the WHO says. Read more at [BBC](#).

Philippines: More than 200 deaths from leptospirosis registered

Date: 6 September 2022; Disease: Leptospirosis; Location: Philippines

Cases of rat-borne leptospirosis are on the rise in the Philippines, with more than 200 deaths since the beginning of 2022, the Philippine News Agency reported. The statement indicates that between 1 Jan and 20 Aug, the number of leptospirosis infections increased by 15% compared to the same period of the previous year, going from 1278 to 1467 cases, and, according to the agency, 205 people have died in 2022 due to the disease. Most of the confirmed cases were reported in the Metro Manila area. In recent weeks, an epidemic alert has been issued in the Bicol, Central and Eastern Visayas, and Davao regions; however, no outbreak has been reported in the country. Read more at [National Information Center for Medical Sciences](#) and [Inquirer](#).

Nepal: Unidentified disease spreads in yaks

Date: 6 September 2022; Disease: Unknown (Suspected: hemorrhagic septicemia); Location: Manang, Nepal

A large number of yaks in the pastureland in Disyang Rural Municipality in Manang have taken ill and around 30 have died from an unidentified disease. Chief of Veterinary Hospital and Livestock Services Expert Center, Manang said that a team of livestock technicians have visited the site for the treatment of the disease after the issue was notified. The yaks have developed the symptoms of high fever, maximum salivation, difficulty in breathing, swollen throat, among others. Based on the observed symptoms in yaks, technicians have suspected the spread of the foot and mouth disease. However, it is yet to be confirmed from the sample test of blood and bone marrow of yaks. Read more at [Nagarik News](#) and [Promed](#).

Philippines: Culling of hogs ordered as African swine fever (ASF) spreads

Date: 5 September 2022; Disease: ASF; Location: Santa Magdalena, Sorsogon, Philippines

Santa Magdalena town in Sorsogon province is now included in the list of areas in Region 5 affected by ASF, according to the Department of Agriculture in Bicol (DA-5). In an interview, the DA-5 information officer said the local government unit (LGU) of Santa Magdalena submitted to DA-Bicol blood samples of a dead swine, "and based on the ASF testing conducted by our Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL) last 31 August, the swine is positive for ASF." She said 39 backyard-raised pigs owned by 14 farmers were ordered depopulated due to the ASF. Read more at [PNA](#).

Neighbouring Countries

Russian Federation: Recurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) – H5N1

Date: 5 September 2022; Disease: ASF; Location: Dergachi-Ptitsa, Russian Federation

5 birds were tested positive and subsequently died due to HPAI (H5N1) out of 8000 bird population in a single outbreak. The event is ongoing. Read more at [WOAH](#).

Russian Federation: Recurrence of African swine fever (ASF)

Date: 5 September 2022; Disease: ASF; Location: Bol'shaya Pogorelka and Pi'l'ninskoe, Russian Federation

12 wild boars died of ASF in two locations, as reported to WOAH. The event is ongoing. Read more at [WOAH](#). Similarly, 12 animals died of ASF out of 67 confirmed cases in a backyard farm in Phot'yanovo. Read more at [WOAH](#).

News and Updates

SARS-CoV-2 in animals - situation update

Date: 7 September 2022

Latest update on SARS-CoV-2 in animals includes a map of published SARS-CoV-2 findings in animals; updated list of animal species found naturally infected by SARS-CoV-2; updated list of regional and national projects addressing SARS-CoV-2 under FAO's COVID-19 Recovery and Response Programme; and 9 new relevant publications. Read more at [FAQ](#).

Similarly, The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture updated its "dashboard" that tracks confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 in animals in the United States. The data continues to show that the incidence of the COVID-19 virus in animals is quite low. Access the dashboard at [APHIS](#).

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The prevalence, genetic diversity, and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 in white-tailed deer in New York

Date: 6 September 2022

In a recent study posted to bioRxiv*, researchers investigated the prevalence, genomic diversity, and evolution of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) among white-tailed deers (WTD) in New York (NY). Studies have reported SARS-CoV-2 spillover from human beings into WTD and the capability of SARS-CoV-2 to transmit among deers, raising concerns about the role of WTD in SARS-CoV-2 ecology and epidemiology. Continued surveillance programs for monitoring SARS-CoV-2 dynamics in WTD and developing measures to curtail SARS-CoV-2 transmission between animals and humans are required. Overall, the study findings showed that WTD (*Odocoileus virginianus*) could be a potential reservoir for nearly extinct SARS-CoV-2 VOCs. Read more at [bioRxiv](#) and [News Medical](#). Another **study has revealed widespread coronavirus infection in deer from Iowa**, read more at [World Nation News](#).

India: Spillover of African swine fever virus to the wild pigs - An emerging threat

Date: 5 September 2022

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly transmissible haemorrhagic and fatal viral disease of wild boars and domestic pigs. It is caused by the African swine fever virus (ASFV), a complex, large, cytoplasmic, icosahedral dsDNA virus classified as the unique member of the family Asfarviridae. Since the first outbreak of ASF in China in August 2018, several hundred cases of ASF have been reported in other Asian countries. India recorded the first outbreak of ASF in its North-eastern region (NER) in the year 2020.

The current study was undertaken to investigate the spillover of ASFV in the wild pigs of Northeast India, particularly of Assam. ASF suspected mortal tissue remains, and blood samples of wild boar collected from different locations of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh were sent to Advanced Animal Disease Diagnosis and Management Consortium (ADMaC) Laboratory, College of Veterinary Science (Guwahati, India). The samples were processed for molecular detection of swine viruses which includes Classical swine fever virus (CSFV), Porcine Circovirus 2 (PCV2), Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) and ASFV. **One each sample received from Manas National Park and Nameri National Park & Tiger Reserve were found to be positive for ASFV**. Besides this, one of the samples was positive for CSFV and two other samples were positive for PCV2. Several striking gross and microscopic alterations were noticed in different organs of ASFV infected animals. **Sequencing and phylogenetic analysis of the 3' end of B646L gene confirmed the presence of ASFV genotype-II in wild pigs**. Circulation of similar genotype in domestic pigs of NER in the contemporary period as well as locations near to the aforementioned national parks indicates the spillover of ASFV from domestic to wild pigs. The detection of ASFV in the wild pigs of Assam is alarming as it is an impending threat to pig population and other endangered species (particularly pygmy hog), making it increasingly daunting to control the disease as well as there are high chances for ASFV to become endemic in this region if stringent measures are not taken at right time. Read more at [Springer](#).

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine candidate protects monkeys after single dose

Date: 30 July 2022

Rather than building its COVID-19 vaccine candidate with mRNA—the new technology that rivals Moderna and Pfizer have turned to—Johnson & Johnson selected an older vaccine platform that had proven to be safe in diseases like RSV and Ebola. Now, it's reporting that a single dose of the vaccine protected nonhuman primates in a preclinical study. Scientists led by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston tested seven different vaccine candidates from J&J's Janssen unit in 32 monkeys. Another 20 animals received placebo shots. The team said all of the vaccinated monkeys developed neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and six that received the optimal vaccine did not show the infection in their lungs after being exposed to the virus. Read more at [Fierce Biotech](#).