



The rapidly accelerating surge in cases associated with spread of the previously reported Beta B.1.351 variant progressively declined at an equally rapid rate during April. Following introduction of the Delta variant from India, case and bed occupancy rates in Rajshahi began increasing in mid-May followed by increases in other western districts. As of time of writing, new case rates have now risen to over 10% in over 50 districts and community transmission of Delta variant in Dhaka has been reported, increasing the likelihood of an imminent surge and increasing bed utilization in Dhaka. Previous immunity from the Beta variant may confer some cross-protection to the Delta variant, however the spreading west-to-east surge in cases suggests that previous Beta immunity is not providing significant levels of herd immunity. Considering current global vaccine shortages and that infection from the Beta or Delta variants is not significantly prevented by the one dose of AstraZeneca vaccine, spread of the Delta variant will not be prevented by current coverage. **Strict adherence to mask-wearing, especially indoors, and reduction of all non-essential movement are strongly recommended to prevent a further spike of the Delta variant, particularly in Dhaka.**

COVID-19 vaccination

7,248,829
Registrations¹

5871008
Received first dose

4287583
Received two doses

- More than 10.1 million doses have been administered in Bangladesh including the first and second doses of AstraZeneca, Sinopharm and Pfizer vaccines. More than 6.2 doses have been administered per 100 population; 3.6 % of total population received one dose and 2.5 % of total population received two doses.
- The government has received 1.1 million doses of Sinopharm as donation from the Chinese government and 100,620 doses of Pfizer through COVAX Mechanism. It is expected to receive 2.5 million doses of Moderna and 1,000,800 doses of AstraZeneca through COVAX Facility in July 2021.
- The priority population for vaccination with Sinopharm vaccine includes medical and nursing, IHT, MATS students, Chinese citizens and other priority groups including people above 40 years of age at 69 health facilities and medical colleges.
- For Pfizer vaccine, the priority group remains population above 40 years of age those who have already registered in Surokha App at seven health facilities in Dhaka.

Points of entry (PoE) and quarantine

- The IHR National Focal Point, Director of Disease Control and Line Director of CDC held several meetings with the Civil Surgeons of the border districts along with respective Divisional Directors (Health) to implement control measures amid sudden increase of cases along the border.
- Health screening surveillance at PoEs is being continued in three international airports and two land crossings in the country with the support of WHO. DGHS remains vigilant of the PoE activities for monitoring and implementing directives from the ministry and cabinet secretariat.
- CDC-DGHS conducted CPR training at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka for health workers including physicians, nurses, sanitary inspectors, officers and staff of the Airport Aviation Security, police, immigration, customs working in the airport. A total of 221 persons were trained.
- A virtual meeting was organized with all the laboratories conducting RT-PCR tests for outgoing passengers in response to reports of positive cases received by the IHR National Focal Points of several countries.

2,222,211
Passengers screened at PoEs²

87
Isolation of confirmed cases³

40,986
Confined in quarantine facilities⁴



13.5%

Test positivity rate⁵



50

Isolation centres



- Currently, 503 laboratories are under operation across the country, of which 129 are rRT-PCR, 44 are GeneXpert in (public and private) and 330 are government labs using the rapid antigen test.
- Free-of-cost online training on 'Real-Time PCR Detection of COVID-19' is being conducted by IEDCR. The training has been designed for laboratorians, microbiologists, virologists, or molecular biologists tasked with conducting COVID-19 diagnostic testing in national laboratories or partner laboratories.
- Laboratory consumables and laboratory HR support are being considered as critical areas of immediate response. The HR support provided in 2020 is being continued and UNFPA is working to finalize additional HR support.



COVID-19 case management and infection prevention and control (IPC)



904,436

Total confirmed cases⁶



12,619

Total COVID-19 deaths



11,952

Number of COVID-19 general beds



1,128

ICU beds for COVID-19

- Bed occupancy in COVID-dedicated general beds and ICU beds in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions are currently nearing 100% and the oxygen demand and ICU support needs have likewise increased significantly.
- The case management and IPC pillar supporting the Bangladesh Preparedness and Response Plan (BPRP) is closely monitoring the situation and a quick assessment of the needs in bordering areas has been prioritized.
- UNICEF has reviewed the oxygen needs and expedited oxygen supply system in the bordering districts and USAID is mobilizing urgent COVID-19 supplies to those areas.
- WHO, along with government officials, is conducting a rapid assessment of facility needs in the bordering districts of Jhenaidah, Jashore, Satkhira, Meherpur and Chuadanga under Khulna division, and Joypurhat and Naogaon under Rajshahi division.

Contact tracing and mitigating community transmission



193,071

Household visits⁷



11,314

COVID-19 screenings



1,223

Suspected cases identified

- UNFPA, in collaboration with FCDO, was able to secure support to continue Community Support Team (CST) operations in Dhaka for an additional six months in partnership with FAO and BRAC. CST activities such as, household screening for identifying COVID-19 cases, identification of vulnerable individuals for targeted messaging, and supporting vaccination registration, are now being continued in Dhaka North and Dhaka South City Corporations. In addition, 104,000 locally produced 3-layer cloth masks were procured and a robust distribution and monitoring mechanism has been developed targeting low-income households in the densely populated areas of Dhaka.
- A new intervention has been designed to target specific points of congregation (shopping malls, public transportation, bus stands, railway stations) in Dhaka city corporations to raise awareness about wearing masks and other protective measures against COVID-19 and establishing WASH facilities to limit community transmission in these densely-populated areas.



Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- A task team formed under RCCE pillar drafted a set of messages for the border areas where COVID-19 transmission has increased. The draft messages were shared with the DGHS for review and approval.
- With support from WHO, ADAB is implementing community engagement activities in 90 wards of Dhaka North, Dhaka South, and Chattogram city corporations through its 33 member NGOs. The activities include local miking, sensitization sessions with local leaders, religious leaders and selected representatives as well as transport sector personnel.
- An action plan to intensify RCCE activities has been developed for border areas (Rajshahi and Khulna) which will then be scaled up to 16 hotspot districts following the lessons learned and fund availability.
- In collaboration with the NGO network partners, community radio stations, and social media platforms, messages on cyclone preparedness were disseminated in the coastal districts.

> 76,000,000

People engaged through RCCE activities⁸

2,229,040

People reaching out through feedback mechanisms



Procurement, logistics and supply management



11,993

Biomedical equipment and consumables⁹



27,053

Diagnostics items procured



130

Hospital equipment



384,851

PPE

- UNICEF has received and is now distributing 11,993 units of biomedical equipment and consumables, 27,053 diagnostics items, 130 pieces of hospital equipment, and 384,851 PPE in response to the national supply needs identified by the Logistics and Supply Management pillar of the BPRP.
- WHO has agreed to provide the Government of Bangladesh with 58,000 additional COVID-19 PCR testing kits, genome sequencing equipment, and supporting reagents and supplies totalling USD 1.5 million. The equipment and the kits will be handed over to government laboratories shortly and USD 371,045 worth of PPE is now in the process of delivery.
- Dr. Farid Hossain Mia has recently been designated as the new DGHS lead to the BPRP Logistics and Supply Management pillar.

1. as of 28 Jun 2021

2. as of 31 May

3. 1 January- 31 May

4. 1 January- 31 May

5. as of 31 May

6. As of 29 June 2021

7. 7. 1-31 May

8. as of 30 April

9. as of 1 April- 31 May

