COVID-19 Update on Epi situation and vaccination
August 2021

1 COVID-19 Epi and Health situation update (data as of August 31, 2021, unless stated otherwise)

The total number of COVID-19 cases in the country has continued to increase and reached 267,526 at the end of August.

The number of active cases has continuously increased over the past month and on August 31 it stood at 3,691, marking a two-fold increase compared to August 1.

The 7-day average number of deaths has fluctuated, marking a three-month high of 8.00 on August 23 and decreasing to 3.86 at the end of the month. As of August 31, the total number of deaths was 6,401.
The number of very serious cases increased somewhat in July, reaching an average of 74 in the week of Aug 23-29. The total number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 at the end of the month was 1,120, out of which 116 were in a very serious condition.

The effective reproductive number has remained above 1 throughout August and it stood at 1.08 at the end of the month. The effective reproductive number is uneven across regions, with values ranging from 0.87 (Donduseni) to 1.87 (Nisopreni). The effective reproductive number in Chisinau stands at 1.27.

The percentage of positive tests has substantially increased over the course of August and by the end of the month the 7-day average reached 6.8%, compared to 2.5% on Aug 1.
Overall, 59% of all cases have been recorded among women and 41% among men. Moreover, women (51%) account for a slightly higher proportion of all deaths than men (49%).

Even though infections among people aged 60 and over accounted for 32% of the total number of cases, 81% of all deaths were registered in this age group. The average age of patients who have died from the disease is 67.9.

Overall, the number of new cases in August increased by 193% compared to the previous month and reached 8,048. The crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 population for the last 30 days was 230. The number of deaths increased by 139%. The monthly number of recoveries partially reflected the increase in cases and rose by 130%.

The number of weekly cases has gradually increased over the course of the past month and reached 2,556 for the week of Aug 23-29. This represents a 7% increase compared to the previous week. The crude cumulative incidence of cases per 100,000 population for the last 7 days was 65. Conversely, the number of deaths has decreased by 44%, while the number of recoveries rose by 47%.
The number of vaccinations administered in August was 233,550 marking a 30% decrease compared to the previous month. As of August 31, an estimated 21% of the country’s population or 27% of the population aged 18+ has received at least one vaccine dose.

As of August 31, a total of 1,276,186 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Overall, 19.8% of the country’s population has received a full vaccination course. As of the last day of the month, over 330,000 vaccine doses were available for use.

Note: Data for the received and administered vaccines by manufacturer is as of August 29.

Vaccine uptake is unevenly distributed between the different age groups. The highest vaccination rate is among people aged 70-79 (50%) and the lowest is among people aged 19-29 (18%). For the other two clinically vulnerable groups 60-69 and 80+, the vaccination rates are 45% and 23%, respectively.

Vaccine uptake is also unevenly distributed between men and women. Overall, 56% of all vaccines have been administered to women.
Restrictions

- The Extraordinary National Commission for Public Health issued its Decision No. 60 from 23 August, 2021. The Decision regulates the process of starting of the new school year and the sanitary measures connected to organization of the national holidays.

The new school year will start with the following sanitary and epidemiological measures:

- All forms of education (pre-school to university) will start the year with physical presence.
- The main principles/measures of starting the education process are: promotion of vaccination for teachers and other non-teaching staff (the recommended target vaccination rate is 95% until October 1\textsuperscript{st}), wearing of masks, ventilation and sanitation of premises, social distance of min. 1m, organization of class spaces with respect of the social distancing, prevention of crowding, training and information on the rules of the teaching staff and parents, sport classes to be organized only in large spaces or outside and others.
- Until the reaching of the 95% vaccination target of all education staff, the non-vaccinated staff will need to do on its own expense and present a negative PCR or antigen test once in every 14 days. Non-vaccinated staff can also present a test on the presence of antibodies as well as proof of COVID-19 passed infection within 6 months.
- All festive activities in schools are cancelled starting with September 1\textsuperscript{st} until further notice.