



**Ministry of Health
& Wellness**
Cayman Islands Government



Public Health Spotlight

Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

Issue 4 | 23 June 2022

COVID-19 - Epidemiological Week 24

12 - 18 June 2022 (Data as of 21-06-2022)

International Situation

Internationally, case detection continues to decline since the peak of new cases reported at the beginning of the year. However, for the first week in over a month, the weekly number of COVID-19 deaths has slightly increased by 4%. An increase in deaths occurred in the Region of the Americas and Western Pacific Region.

Cayman Islands Local Trends

The case rate has declined to 532 cases per 100,000 population from 681 cases per 100,000 population in Epi. Week 23. The number of new positive cases has fallen from 472 to 369, and the daily average of new positives from 67 to 53. The test positivity has slightly decreased from 28% to 26%, however, the number of PCR tests conducted has continued to decline by 12% to 1,467 from 1,659. Regarding mortality, the Cayman Islands has still the lowest cumulative fatality rate among the Caribbean UKOTs and is among the lowest of all Caribbean countries.

The role played by vaccination, which has been successfully implemented in Cayman, needs to be recognised when looking at the low cumulative mortality rate in Cayman.

Reviewing epidemiological data throughout the pandemic and analysing among cases that were hospitalised, statistically, 56 hospitalised cases would have died if they had not been vaccinated.

Hospital Admissions

Five new admissions were registered during Epi. Week 24, a decrease from the previous reporting week where ten new admissions were reported. Of the five admissions, one was specifically caused by COVID-19 morbidity, with four patients detected on screening. A total of 9 patients required inpatient treatment, which decreased from 12 patients in the previous week.

Vaccination

During Epi. Week 24, a total of 53 children received the paediatric COVID-19 vaccine (16 first dose and 37 second dose), bringing the total of vaccines administered to children over the last two weeks to 114. There were 19 adults (aged 12 and older) who received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Epi. Week 24, and 35 adults who received their second dose.

Key Message

Key metrics have started to improve again and the declining trend in cases noted prior to last week has since continued. Vaccination continues to be the key protective tool against COVID.

COVID-19 - Epidemiological Week 24 Statistics

Table 1: COVID-19 case numbers and number of PCR tests conducted

Indicator	Total
Total cases to date (Fig 1)	27,171
Total number of PCR positives last 30 days (Fig. 2)	2,059
Total number of PCR tests conducted	1,467
Total number of new ¹ positives	369
Daily average of new positives	53
Test positivity rate ² for EpiWeek	26%
Case Rate ³	532

¹ Newly confirmed cases (PCR) reported to Public Health between 00:00 to 23:59 on 12 June 2022 –18 June 2022.

² Number of new positive PCR results over total number of PCR tests done (new positive PCR results/total number of PCRs conducted)*100

³Case Rate = proportion of persons who tested positive over population standardized to 100K population (New cases/total population)*100,000

Figure 1: Total COVID-19 cases since March 2020

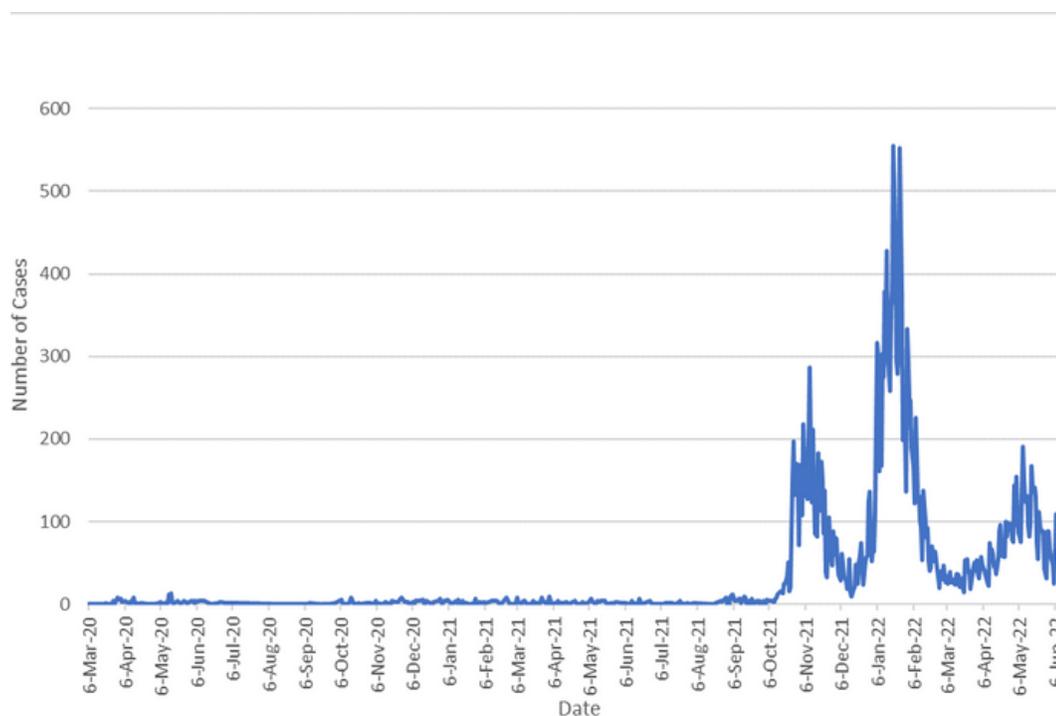
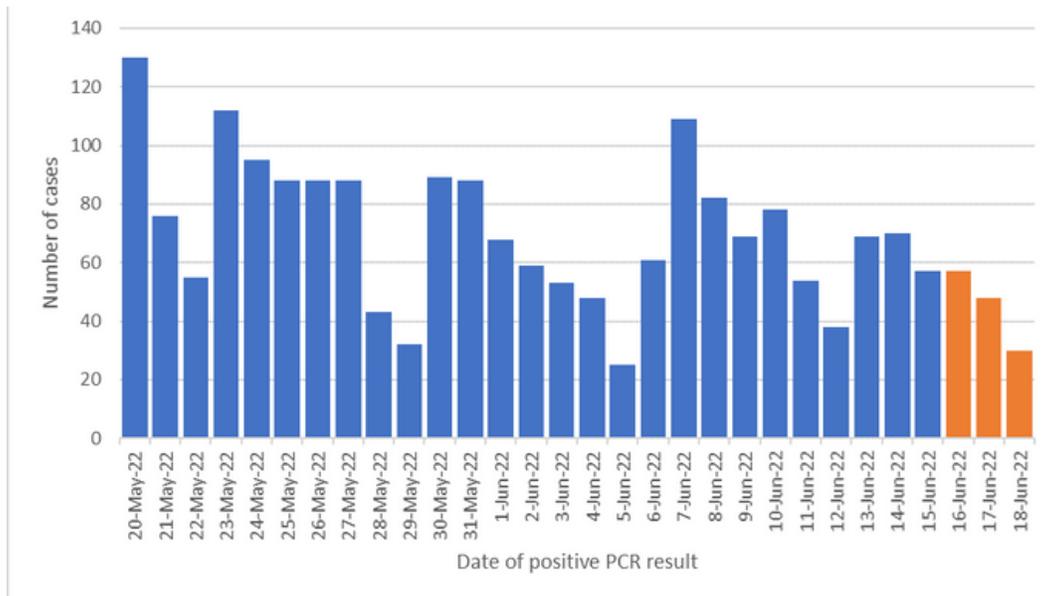
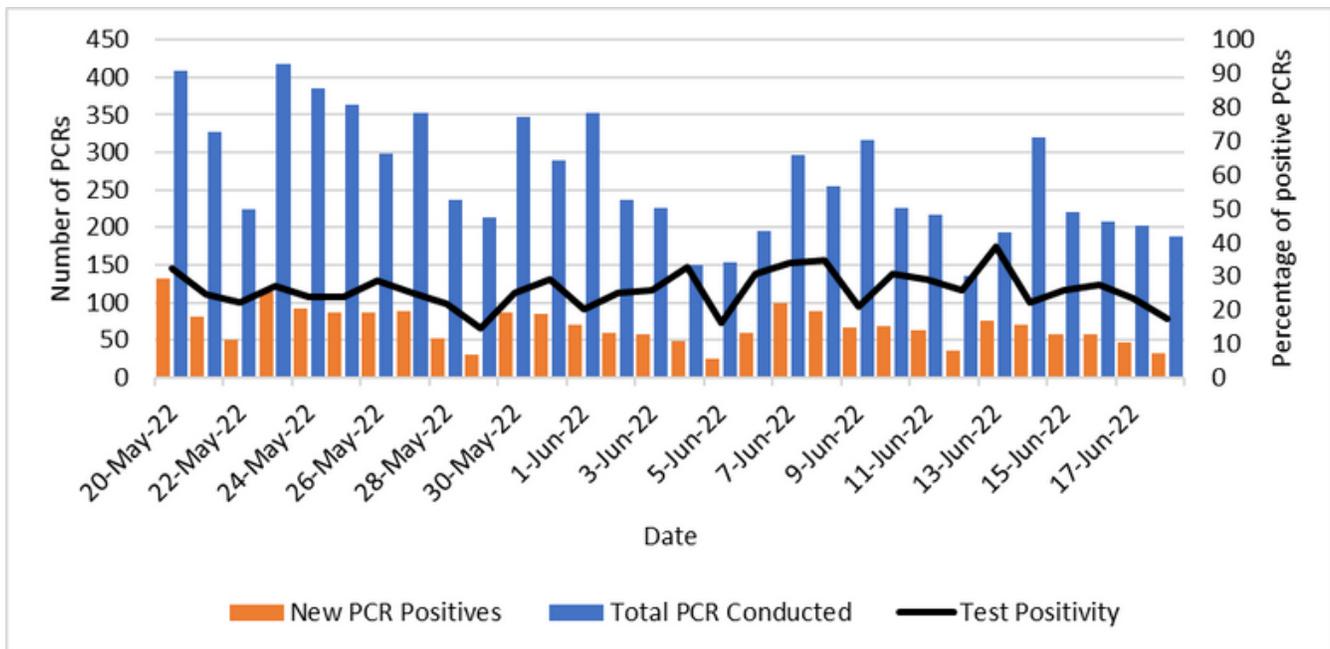


Figure 2: Number of COVID-19 cases for the last 30 days



Orange bars indicate PCR results are pending thus figures may change.

Figure 3: Test Positivity Rate for the last thirty days



Data refers to the percentage of patients who tested positive via PCR in the prior 7-days.

Figure 4: Cumulative COVID-19 mortality rate per 1 million population among Caribbean countries

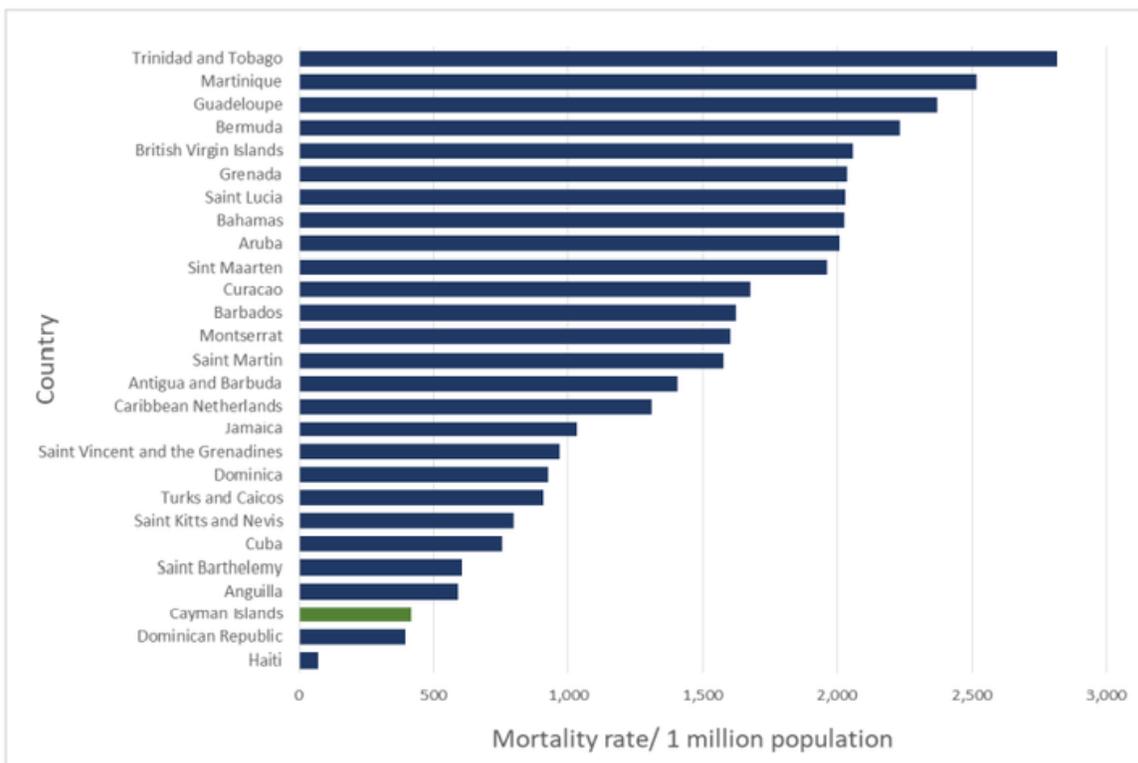


Table 2: COVID-19 hospitalisations

Indicator	Total
Total inpatients for reporting period	9
Percentage of admissions fully vaccinated(boosted)	40% (20%)
New admissions	5 (1/5* in hospital for COVID-19)
Number on supplemental oxygen	0
Number ventilated	0
Number in intensive care	0
Number of new deaths	0
Total COVID-19 inpatients since March 2020 to 11 June 2022	310
Total COVID-19 deaths since March 2020 to 11 June 2022	28
Number of COVID-19 inpatients 10 and older (8 Sep 21 – 18 June 2022) (Fig. 6)	262
Number of COVID-19 inpatients below age 10 (8 Sep 21 to 18 June 2022) (Fig. 6)	25

One out of the five new admissions to hospital was for COVID-19 morbidity related issues; 4/5 tested positive to PCR for COVID-19 as a result of routine in-patient screening.

Figure 5: Hospitalisations and deaths by vaccination status (since 8 September 2021)

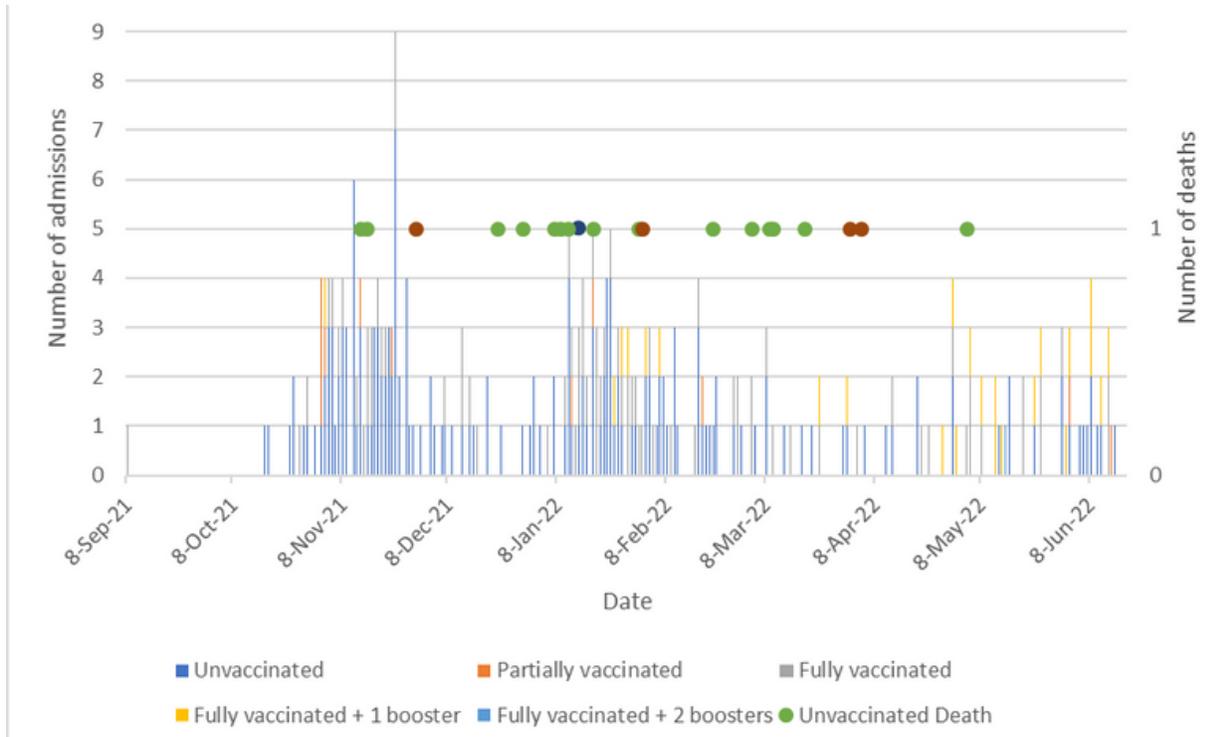
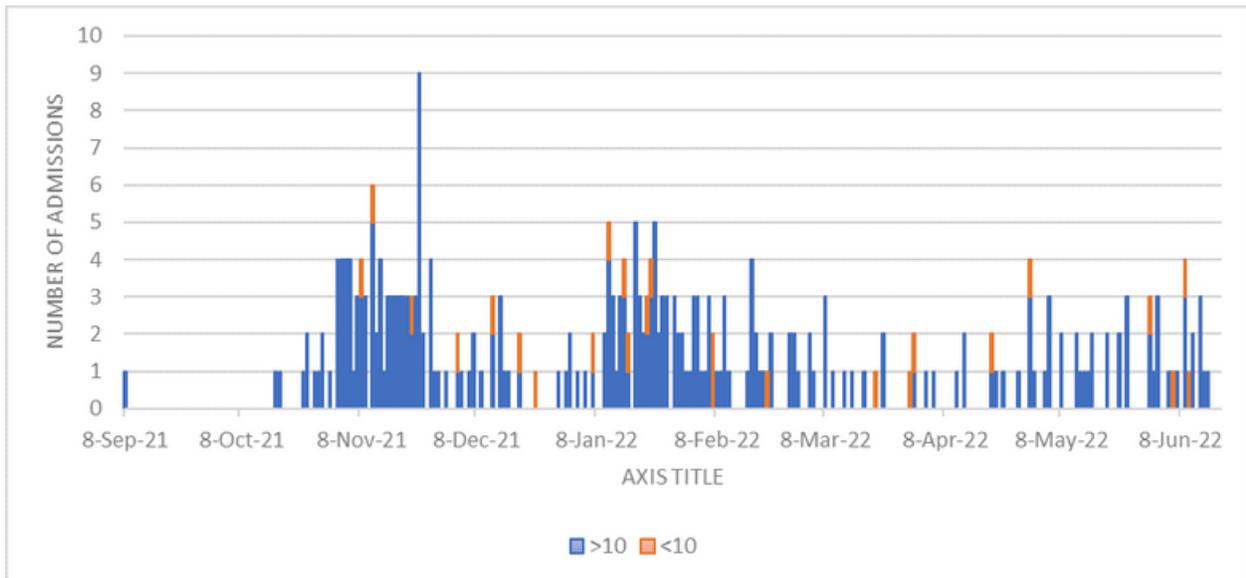


Figure 6: Admissions stratified by those aged above and below the age of 10 (since 8 September 2021*)



*First COVID-19 patient was in March 2020 but represented on Figure 5 is September 2021 for graphical reasons

Table 3: COVID-19 vaccine statistics

<i>Based on Total Population of 69,350 (Fig. 7)</i>				
Dose Number	Number administered in the week	Total Count	Coverage of Total Population (%)	Coverage of population over 5 (%)
1	37	61,307	88.4	94.7
2	74	59,547	85.9	92.0
3	33	23,536	33.9	36.4
4	88	1,516	2.2	2.3

Table 4: Vaccine statistics for Paediatric Vaccine and 3rd Doses

Indicator	Total
Number of paediatric 1st doses administered within the EpiWeek	16
Number of paediatric 2nd doses administered within the Epi Week	37
Number of children (5-11) immunized with the paediatric vaccine	719
3rd dose coverage for population >20 (Fig.7)	42.8%

Figure 7: Vaccine Coverage total population

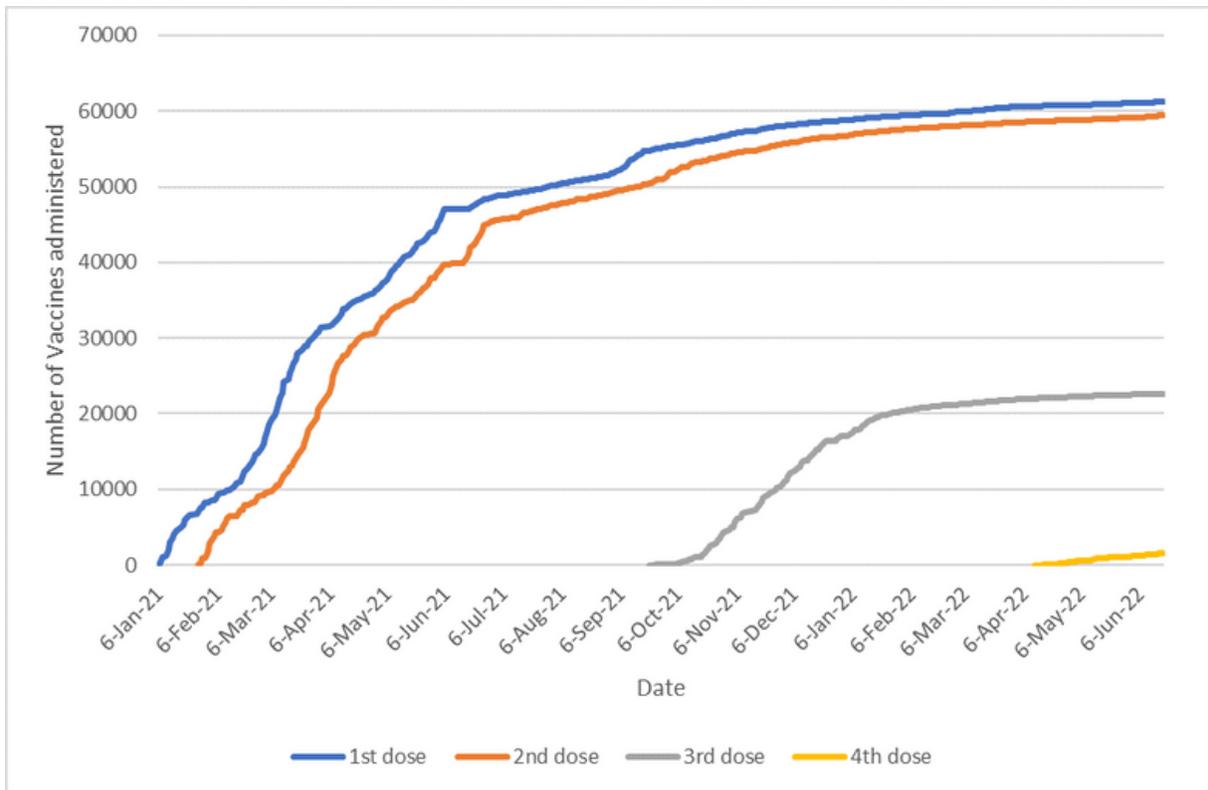
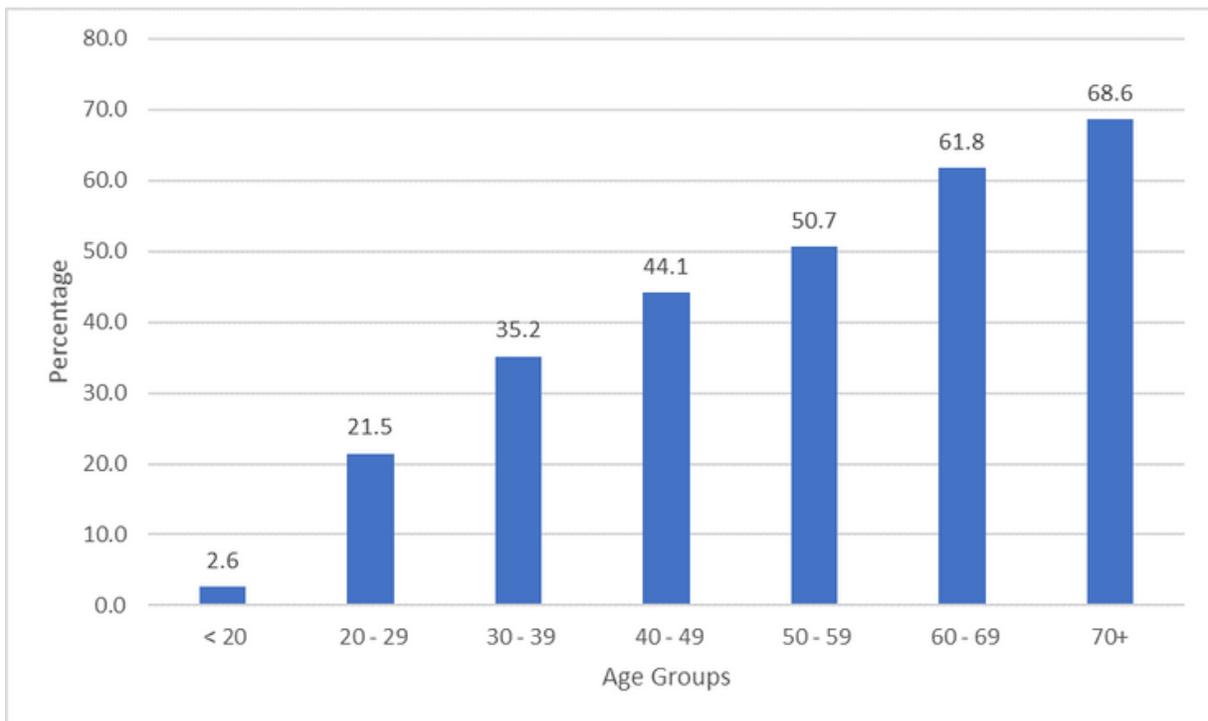


Figure 8: Booster (3rd dose) Vaccine Coverage per Age Group



Monkeypox

Overview

Across countries which are not endemic for monkeypox virus, there have been 2,103 laboratory confirmed cases and one probable case of monkeypox reported to WHO since the beginning of 2022 (data as of 15 June). This includes 42 Member States across five WHO regions. One death has been reported in Australia. The highest number of cases reported in a non-endemic country is the UK, and as of 15 June 524 cases have been reported there.

Cases which report a travel history have mostly travelled to countries in Europe and North America, therefore not acquiring infection from a country in West or Central Africa where the virus is endemic. Such cases have been reported unexpectedly at a similar time across several regions, which suggests that transmission may have been occurring for several weeks and gone undetected.

The global risk level assessed by WHO is moderate.

Cayman Islands

There are no known cases of monkeypox virus detected in Cayman Islands.

The Cayman Islands now have the capacity to diagnose Monkeypox at the Cayman Molecular Laboratory. This means that the laboratory was able to confirm a negative diagnosis for Monkey pox for the case of the young, male patient, who came to the attention of the Health Services a couple of weeks ago. This negative laboratory result, further supports the clinical diagnosis of Chicken pox for this individual.

Hypertension

In the body's arteries, the force of the circulating blood against the arteries walls is called blood pressure. When the blood pressure is too high this is referred to as hypertension, which can often go undiagnosed as symptoms may not be noticeable. Globally, an estimated 46% of adults with hypertension are unaware. The only way to detect hypertension is to have a blood pressure test.

High blood pressure can put strain on your blood vessel, heart and other organs including the brain, kidneys and eyes. If hypertension persists, it can increase the risk of serious and potentially life-threatening conditions including:

- Strokes
- Heart failure
- Heart disease
- Heart attacks
- Kidney disease
- Peripheral arterial disease
- Aortic aneurysms
- Vascular dementia

Hypertension (continued)

There are several modifiable risk factors for hypertension, including consumption of tobacco and alcohol, physical inactivity, being overweight and obese and unhealthy diets. Addressing these risk factors with lifestyle changes can help to prevent and lower high blood pressure.

During 2021 in the Cayman Islands, provisional data indicates a total of 5,787 patients were seen at HSA with hypertension, which equates to 8.3% of the population. Of those patients with hypertension, 60% (3,474 patients) were female and the highest proportion of patients were aged 50-59 years (25%, n=1,442) and 60-69 years (25%, n=1,474). However, as this information is only relating to HSA, this does not indicate national prevalence of hypertension in Cayman Islands, and strengthening of surveillance nationally to include both public and private facilities would be beneficial to enable this.

**The Public Health Spotlight is published weekly by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
For more information, contact gis@gov.ky**