



**Ministry of Health
& Wellness**

Cayman Islands Government



Public Health Spotlight

Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

Issue 7 | 13 July 2022

COVID-19 - Epidemiological Week 27

3 - 9 July 2022 (Data as of 09-07-2022)

International Situation

COVID-19 reported cases continue to increase globally, with a decrease reported in deaths internationally by 12%.

Cayman Islands Local Trends

Key epidemiological metrics have increased over the past week. There has been a 13% increase in the number of new cases from 347 to 424, and the case rate has increased to 611 cases per 100,000 population from 539 cases per 100,000. Following the change in COVID-19 regulations, there has been a notable drop in testing which has decreased by 36%, from 1,360 tests conducted in Epi Week 26 to 876 tests conducted in Epi Week 27. The combination of an increase in cases and decrease in testing has resulted in an increase in the test positivity from 28% to 48%.

The microbiology lab has provided genomic sequencing results for a sample of 47 positive isolates giving insight into the sub-lineage information for the Omicron variant circulating in Cayman Islands. The sub-lineage BA.5 has been detected for the first time, which has been reported by the UK to be driving the recent wave of infections. The sub-lineage BE.1 has also been detected, which was first detected in March 2022 in Germany and has since been identified in 47 countries worldwide. We anticipate there is shift occurring from the BA.2 to the BA.5 Omicron sub-lineage in Cayman.

Hospital Admissions

Two new hospital admissions were registered during Epi Week 27, a decrease from six in the previous week. Of the two new admissions, both were admitted due to COVID-19 morbidity. A total of 6 patients required inpatient treatment, which decreased from 14 patients in the previous week.

Vaccination

During Epi. Week 27, there were 51 adults who received a COVID-19 vaccine (20 first dose and 31 second dose).

Key Message

There is clear evidence of a reduction in testing since the recent change in COVID-19 regulations, however cases are increasing. It is really important that symptomatic individuals get a PCR test to understand the spread of COVID-19 in the community. Furthermore, the genomic sequencing enables insight into what variants are circulating, and the presence of BA.5 Omicron sub-lineage and the novel BE.1 variant support our understanding of a shift away from the dominant BA.2 Omicron sub-lineage. In the UK BA.5 has been associated with an increase in COVID-19 incidence, however the impact on vaccine effectiveness is not yet known.

COVID-19 - Epidemiological Week 26

Statistics

Table 1: COVID-19 case numbers

Indicator	Current EpiWeek	Previous EpiWeek	Percentage change	Total
Newly confirmed cases ¹	424	374	+13%	28,389
Case rate ² per 100,000 population	611	539	+13%	40,936
Daily average (7-day rolling average)	61	53	+13%	-
Number of PCR tests conducted	876	1,360	-36%	-
New positive PCR test results	423	375	+13%	28,389
Test positivity ³	48%	28%	+71%	-
Testing rate per 100,000 population	1,263	1,961	-36%	-
Deaths	0	0	0%	29

¹Newly confirmed cases (PCR) reported to Public Health with a sample collection date between 00:00 to 23:59 on 3 July 2022 –9 July 2022.

²Case Rate = proportion of persons who tested positive over population standardized to 100K population (New cases/total population)*100,000

³Number of new positive PCR results over total number of PCR tests done (new positive PCR results/total number of PCRs conducted)*100

Figure 1: Total COVID-19 cases since March 2020 by specimen date

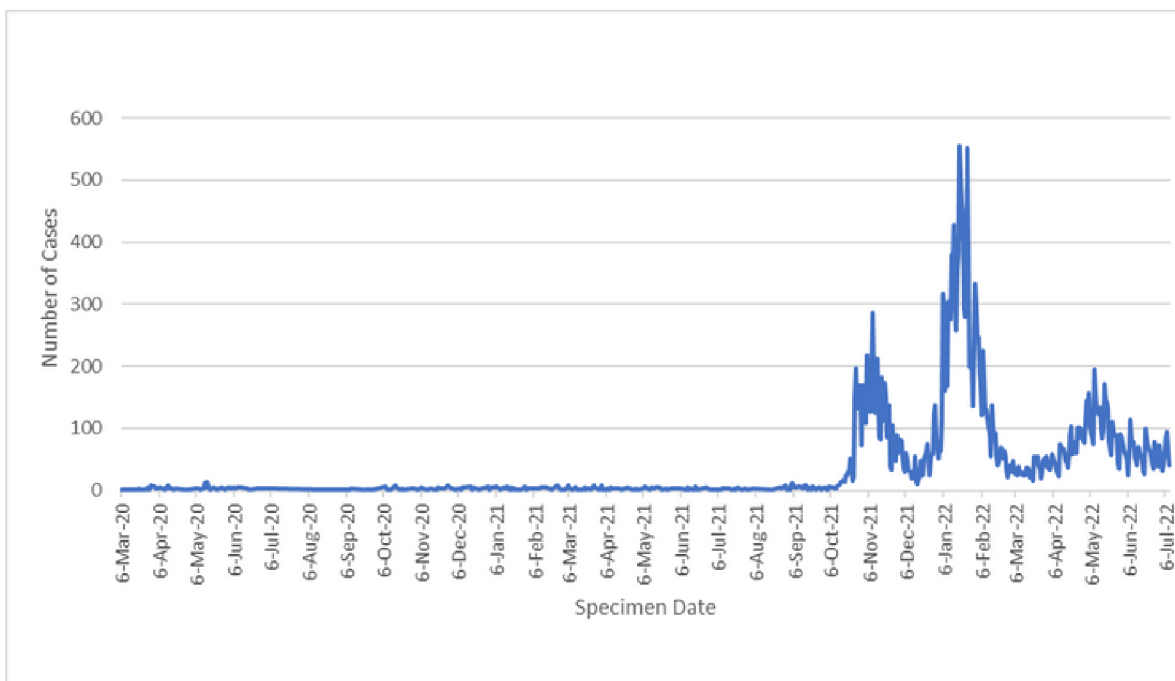
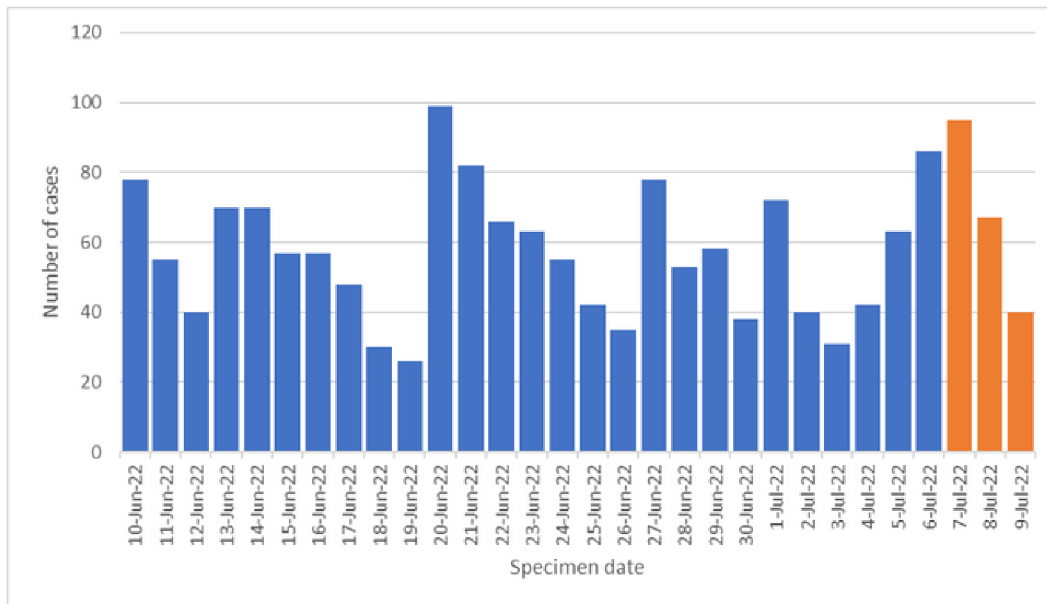
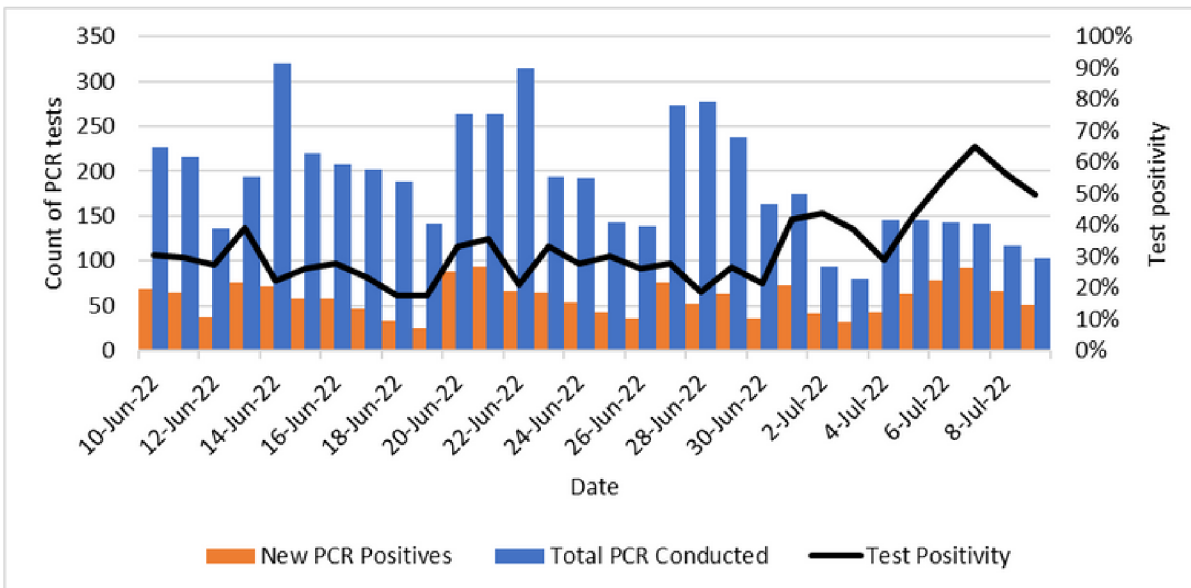


Figure 2: Number of COVID-19 cases in the last 30 days by specimen date



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

Figure 3: Number of PCR tests conducted, new PCR positive results and test positivity rate for the last 30 days by test date



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

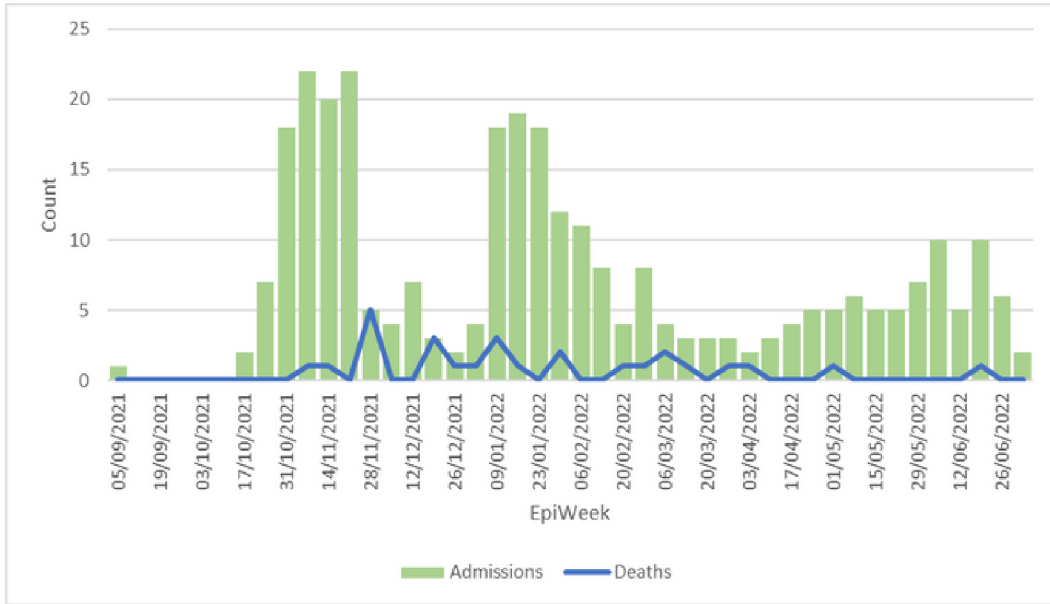
Table 2: COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital

Indicator	Current EpiWeek	Previous EpiWeek	Percentage change	Total
Total				
New COVID-19 patients admitted	2	6	-67%	328
By age, vaccination, and reason for admission				
New admissions <10 years	1	0	-	27
New admissions >10 years	1	6	-83%	301
New admissions with ≥ 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	0	4	-100%	113
Admitted for COVID-19 morbidity	2	1	+100%	-
Admitted with COVID-19, detected by screening	0	5	-100%	-

Table 3: COVID-19 inpatients

Indicator	Current EpiWeek	Previous EpiWeek	Percentage change	Total
Total number of inpatients	6	14	-57%	328
Supplemental O2 inpatients	2	1	+100%	-
ICU inpatients	1	1	0%	-
Ventilated inpatients	0	0	0%	-

Figure 4: Weekly hospitalisations and deaths (since 8 September 2021*)



*First COVID-19 patient was in March 2020, but hospitalisation figures begin September 2021 for graphical reasons.

Table 4: Hospitalisation and Death statistics March 2020 – Present.

Vaccination Status	Hospitalisations	Proportion	Deaths	Proportion
Unvaccinated	204	62%	24	83%
Partially Vaccinated	11	3%	1	3%
Fully vaccinated	86	26%	4	14%
Fully vaccinated +1 Booster	26	8%	0	0%
Fully vaccinated +2 Boosters	1	0%	0	0%
Total	328	100%	29	100%

Figure 5: Weekly COVID-19 hospital admissions stratified by those aged above and below 10

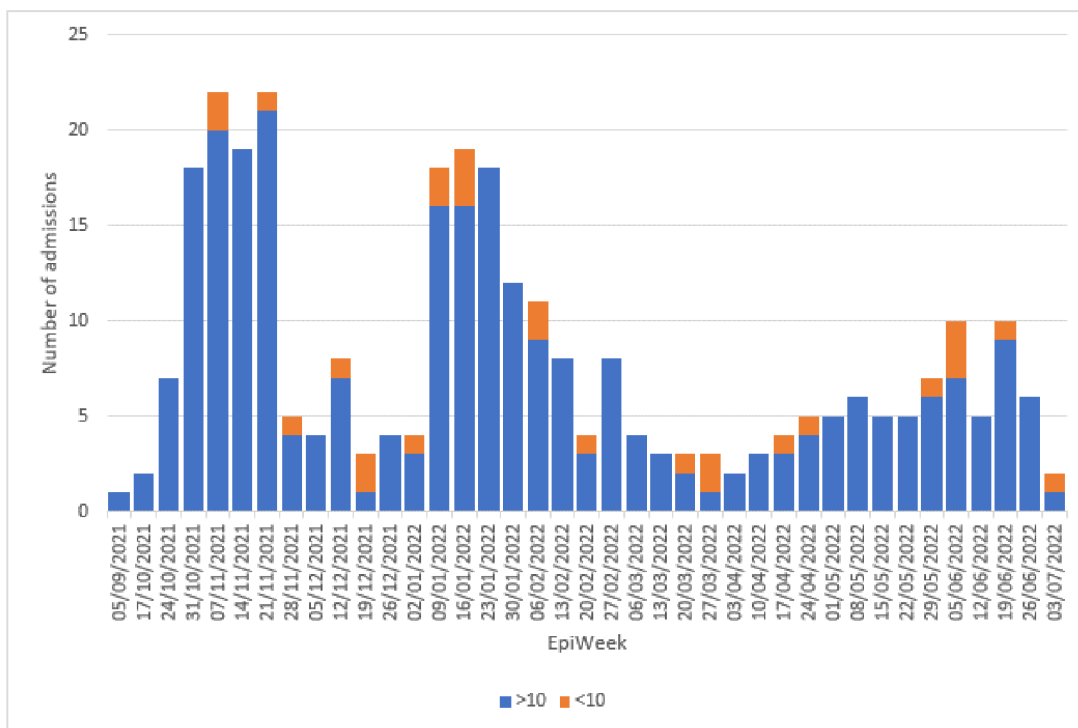


Table 5: COVID-19 vaccine uptake and coverage

Dose Number	Number administered in the week	Total Count	Coverage of Total Population	Coverage of population over 5
1	20	61,453	88.6%	94.9%
2	31	59,810	86.2%	92.4%
3	21	23,670	34.1%	36.6%
4	82	1,860	2.7%	2.9%

Based on total population of 69,350

Table 6: COVID-19 paediatric vaccine doses administered and booster coverage

Indicator	Total
Number of paediatric 1st doses administered within the EpiWeek	-
Number of paediatric 2nd doses administered within the EpiWeek	-
Number of children (5-11) immunized with the paediatric vaccine	760
Booster (3rd dose) coverage for population >20 (Fig.7)	43.0%

Figure 6: Vaccine coverage for the total population (69,350)

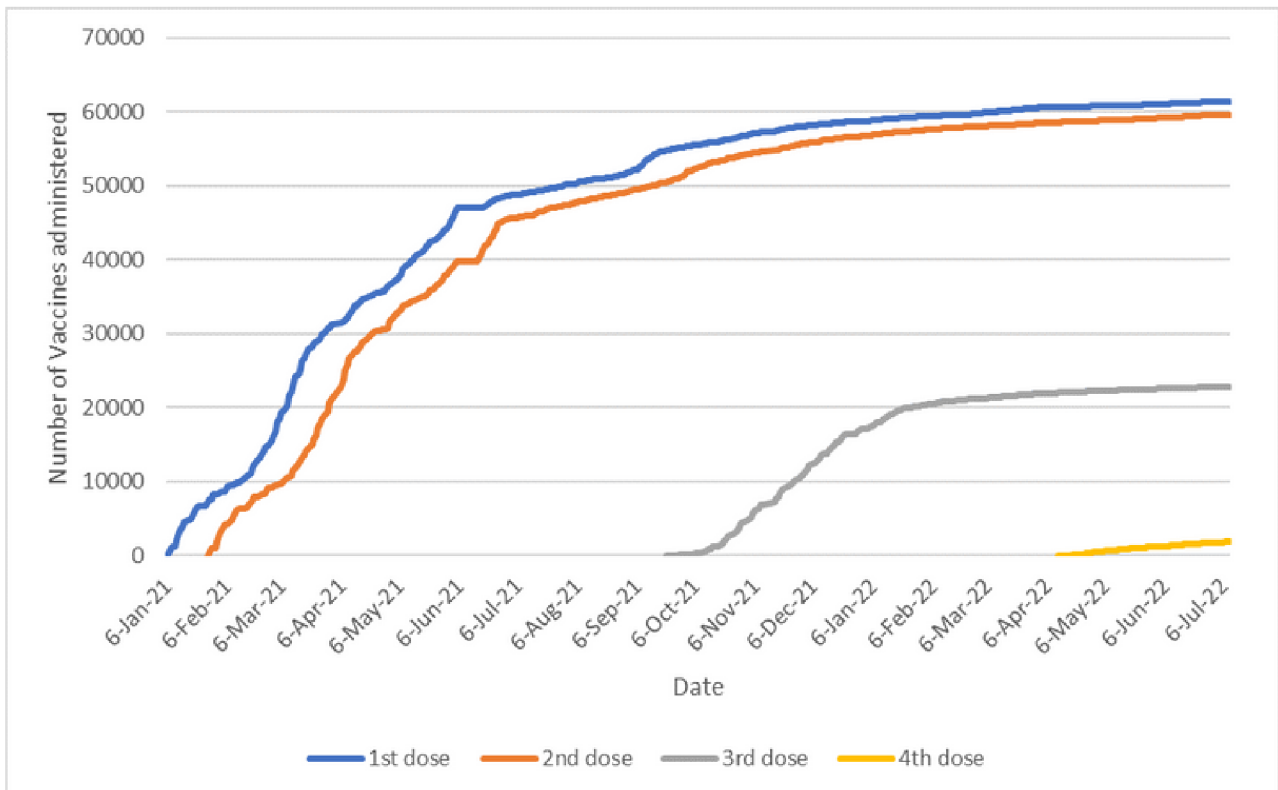


Figure 7: Booster (3rd dose) Vaccine Coverage per Age Group

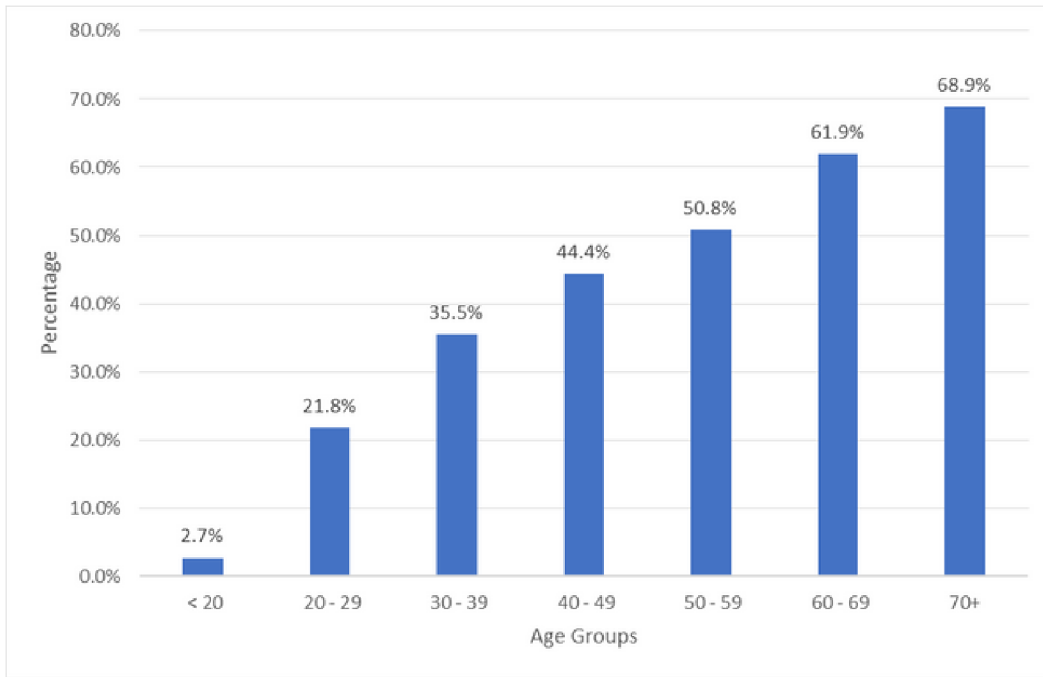
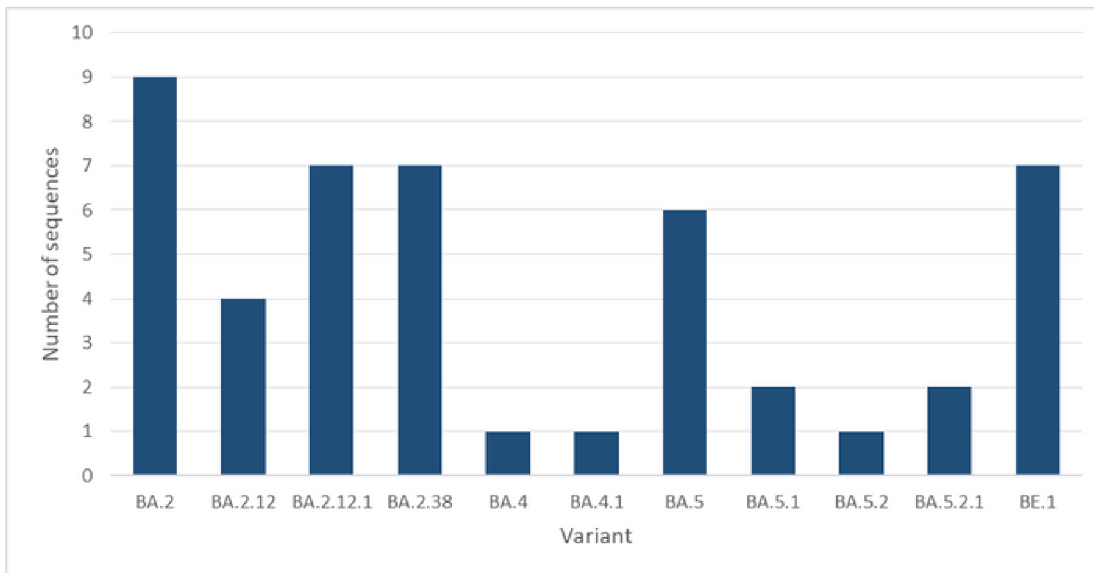


Figure 8: Genomic sequencing of positive SARS-CoV2 isolates (N=47) from the end of June 2022.



This data indicates that the BA.2 Omicron variant is currently still the highest proportion among sequenced isolates, however there is a notable number of BA.5 and BE.1 sequences. In the UK BA.5 and BA.4 are now the dominant variants and modelling work has shown that they have contributed to the increase of COVID-19 incidence in the UK. There is currently insufficient data to assess the vaccine effectiveness for these variants. As this is a relatively small sample of 47 isolates that were sequenced, this provides an indication of what is circulating in the community but is insufficient to determine prevalence.

Monkeypox

Overview

There have been over 6,000 laboratory confirmed monkeypox cases reported to WHO since the beginning of 2022. This has included 59 countries over five WHO Regions and there has been a 77% increase in cases reported compared to two weeks ago. In addition, three deaths have been reported. Of cases reported to date, 82% have occurred in the European Region. To date, ten countries have reported a halt in transmission with no new cases reported over the past 21 days which is the maximum incubation period for monkeypox.

Harmful use of alcohol

High alcohol consumption has many health implications, as well as wider social and economic consequences. Globally 3 million people die each year as a result of harmful alcohol use, and drinking is linked with 27% of traffic injuries and 18% of suicides worldwide (WHO report, 2018).

Alongside the risk of developing alcohol dependence, drinking alcohol is also associated with health issues such as liver cirrhosis, cancer and cardiovascular disease. Among pregnant women, alcohol consumption can lead to fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and pre-term birth complications.

The STEPs survey conducted in Cayman Islands in 2012 indicated that 52% of the population reported current alcohol use (drank alcohol in the past 30 days), and daily drinking of alcohol was low at 3.8% of the population. However, a larger proportion of men than women (25% compared to 14%) reported heavy episodic drinking/binge drinking.

**The Public Health Spotlight is published weekly by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
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