

# COVID-19 Asia Monitor

Vol. 2 No. 1 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

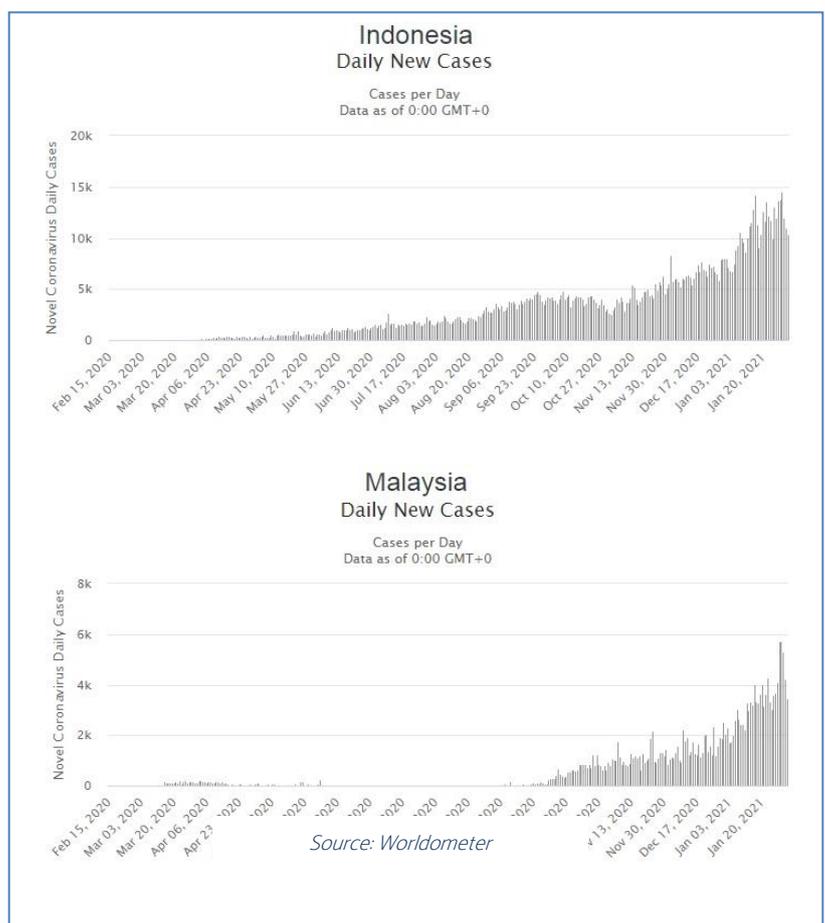
## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The majority of countries in East, Southeast and South Asia show either sustained decline in daily confirmed COVID-19 infections, or case numbers that are well within the capacity of governments to handle. Indonesia and Malaysia are among countries where concern is highest, although in both cases recent daily confirmed totals show early signs of decline. Scepticism remains over the official numbers reported by some countries, however, including Bangladesh and Myanmar.

All countries covered in the Asia Monitor are at some point on their vaccine rollout, with Mainland China leading the pack in terms of raw numbers and the percentage of people vaccinated. Smaller countries will generally lag behind.

COVID-19 restrictions, both in terms of domestic activity and openness to international travel, vary considerably from country to country. Mainland China, Japan and Indonesia, for example, are particularly difficult to enter, while many smaller and more tourist-dependent countries have lifted travel restrictions to one degree or another.

Our general perception is that as of early February 2021, and barring unexpected developments (such as a multiple vaccine-resistant new strain), the beginning of the end of the pandemic is at hand, although it will take at least another year, and probably longer, to resume full international travel.



GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com

## SELECTED COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES

Hill & Associates is tracking the pandemic and response measures in 19 Asian countries and territories:

### MAINLAND CHINA

Mainland China saw a mild resurgence in locally transmitted infections early this year, with some 2,000 cases across nine provincial-level areas, among which Heibei, Heilongjiang and Jilin were the worst affected. While miniscule compared with the infection rates in other countries, the reappearance of clusters has prompted a strong government response, and this appears to have already curbed the problem. Authorities at various levels, including the air and rail transportation administrations, are discouraging travel during the Lunar New Year holiday, although movement is still allowed.

- Mass vaccination of key groups began in mid-December; some 24 million doses had been administered by the end of January. The vaccination campaign is being conducted through “work entities,” not individuals. Specific policy seems to vary at the local level, with foreigners sometimes afforded access to the job, and sometimes not. Universal availability will commence with full market rollout in the coming months;
- Travel within China during the Lunar New Year holiday period has been heavily discouraged, but not banned. Some local governments have imposed strict quarantine rules for even low-risk visitors, while railways and airlines have introduced flexible tickets cancellation policies. Outside the few medium and high-risk zones, activity is largely normal, with moderately heightened precautions, including increased mask and health code enforcement;
- International travel remains highly restricted. All arrivals are required to submit two negative test results 48 hours prior to boarding flights to China; quarantine requirements on arrival vary significantly between cities. Foreign nationals travelling from some countries, including most recently Canada, are entirely restricted from entry, with some narrow exceptions. It is unclear how the vaccination campaign will clear the way for relaxed requirements.

### Hong Kong, Macau & Taiwan

Hong Kong is still battling its fourth wave, which began in late November, 2020. Daily recorded infections are down to the mid-30s after a recent spike in January to over 80. Strict social distancing regulations and “ambush-style” neighbourhood lockdowns are now the city’s major approaches to curbing the virus. In Taiwan, an outbreak involving multiple medical personnel was reported on 12 January, leading to its first death in eight months. Macau recorded one infection in January, the first in some six months. Social activities during the upcoming Lunar New Year are expected to pose additional challenges to the anti-epidemic efforts in all three places.

- **Hong Kong:** The SAR government announced that it had struck advanced vaccine purchase agreements with three pharmaceutical firms, Sinovac, AstraZeneca, and Fosun Pharma. The vaccination program is expected to start in late February, and to run for at least six months. There are, however, some challenges to the roll out. Firstly, in light of the rumors over the EU’s export control on vaccines, supply of the jabs provided by Fosun Pharma, which is handling the BioNTech vaccine, may be affected. Secondly, the phase-three trial data for the Sinovac vaccine has yet to be provided, leading to delays in approval for its use. Thirdly, on the demand side, public confidence across the city for vaccination is low: according to a survey, only 31% of some 800 interviewees said they were willing to

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com

participate in the vaccination. Travel to Hong Kong is still heavily restricted for non-residents.

- **Macau:** BioNTech, AstraZeneca, and Sinopharm are the three vaccine suppliers to the SAR. Although lacking a clear timetable for the roll out, it is expected that BioNTech and Sinopharm vaccines will arrive in the first quarter of 2021. AstraZeneca's will arrive in the second quarter. The authorities have said that the vaccination will be conducted on a voluntary basis, and will be free of charge for residents of Macau as well as non-residents such as non-local students.
- **Taiwan:** On top of Covax and purchases from foreign and Chinese pharmaceutical firms, the island is also trying to manufacture vaccines locally. The locally produced vaccines, however, are unlikely to be available soon as they are still in phase-two trials. On 1 February, Taiwan's Central Epidemic Command Center reported that it had obtained over 10,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which is expected to arrive on 4 February.

## South Korea

South Korea's third and worst wave of COVID-19 peaked in mid-December, with daily recorded cases reaching 1,200. As of late January and early February, case numbers are back down to several hundred per day and on a clear downward trajectory. Social distancing restrictions, including restaurant closures and restrictions on the number of people allowed at public gatherings, are expected to remain in place and to last until the end of the Lunar New Year holiday period, after outbreaks were reported in a number of missionary training schools.

- South Korea's health authorities are aiming to achieve "herd immunity" by November, and will begin mass vaccination of the general public in the third quarter of 2021 with assistance from the military;
- The greatest obstacle to the vaccine roll out is low public confidence. Sentiment about the jab turned sharply negative after more than 100 people died after receiving influenza vaccines late last year;
- Travelers may enter South Korea, but all foreign visitors, are required to present negative test results conducted within 72 hours of arrival. Arrivals from some countries may be restricted.

## Japan

Japan began experiencing a third wave in mid-November, which spiked dramatically in mid-January with nearly 8,000 cases per day. A state of emergency was declared in 11 prefectures, including Tokyo, which is set to last at least until 7 February. Daily recorded cases dropped below 3,000 in early February, but the state of emergency is likely to be extended for another month.

- Japan is planning to roll out its vaccination program in stages. Health workers will be prioritised and are expected to receive their jabs later this month, while those aged 65 or above are expected to be vaccinated from late March. Vaccination of the general public is targeted to begin in mid-2021. Lack of medical personnel and transportation is a challenge for the vaccination campaign;
- Border controls remain in place. Foreign nationals who have been to any of 152 countries/regions within 14 days of travelling to Japan will be denied entry;
- Most tourist attractions across the country have already reopened, with the exception of those in Tokyo;

## Philippines

Daily recorded cases in the Philippines have remained stable since late October last year, ranging between 700 and 2,200. Despite recording 11,000 deaths, the country is viewed as having prevented a much higher number of fatalities by virtue of the extended lockdown it imposed in March last year.

- The Philippines has lagged regional peers in securing vaccines, with plans to secure 148 million doses

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com

with which to inoculate 70 million people this year. At least 5.6 million doses of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines are expected to arrive within the first quarter. China has also agreed to send half a million doses of its own vaccine;

- A ban on international tourist arrivals remains in place, however those holding work visas, or the spouses of Filipinos, are permitted to enter. The Philippines has relaxed travel curbs on foreigners coming from more than 30 countries, including the United States and China, which have detected cases of the more contagious UK variant;
- The Philippines has extended partial COVID-19 restrictions in the capital, Manila, until the end of February, maintaining limited operations at shopping malls and dine-in restaurants, as well as curbs on gatherings and public transport capacity.

## Singapore

Singapore has managed to keep community transmission among citizens and long-term residents under control with effective contact tracing, testing measures, enforcement and a robust healthcare system. Despite early problems, it has now curtailed infections within migrant worker communities through stringent quarantine and testing measures. Daily recorded cases have been in the dozens or lower since September.

- The Ministry of Health said on 22 January that 60,000 people had already been vaccinated. Authorities expect the number of daily vaccinations to increase in the coming weeks as the program ramps up;
- The country has moved into “phase three” of its reopening from “circuit breaker” lockdown measures, which were imposed in April and May 2020. There are looser restrictions in place for residents and migrant workers. However, the government introduced a number of measures to mitigate the potential spread of infections during the Lunar New Year, including limiting visitors to households;
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that from 1 February the “reciprocal green lane” (RGL) travel bubble with Germany, South Korea and Malaysia would be suspended for three months due to outbreaks in those countries. Singapore also temporarily suspended RGL applicants from Indonesia and Japan in December when these countries announced temporary bans on non-resident foreign nationals travelling to their countries. Singapore currently has controlled travel bubbles with New Zealand, Brunei, Taiwan, Mainland China, Vietnam and Australia (except New South Wales);
- Singapore is expected to continue being proactive in dealing with the pandemic, as evidenced by their preemptive approach to introducing measures ahead of the Lunar New Year. The government has considered easing travel restrictions as vaccine programs commence globally. Health Minister Gan Kim Yo said that even as restrictions are eased, Singapore can expect to be in “pandemic mode” for the next 12 to 18 months.

## Indonesia

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases passed the one million mark on 26 January, but epidemiologists believe that the true figure could be many times higher, due in part to low testing rates. The government is under pressure to implement tougher mobility restrictions with daily infections reaching record-high levels of near 15,000 in January but it is facing opposition from business groups due to economic concerns and the kind of strict lockdown implemented in other countries has been ruled out.

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com

- The government started vaccinating frontline health workers on 13 January. It plans to vaccinate 70% of the population through four stages in 15 months – around 180 million people, though logistical challenges such as distribution and a lack of clear public health messaging have prompted suggestions that the timeline is unrealistic. A survey by the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health found that 27% of respondents were hesitant to take a vaccine for various reasons including religious beliefs and concerns of adverse side effects;
- A temporary entry ban for most foreigners remains in place until 8 February and is likely to be extended, with exemptions for foreign diplomats and foreigners who hold residence permits. Inbound travelers must provide a negative PCR test result from their country of origin conducted no more than 48 hours before departure. Arrivals must quarantine at government-appointed hotels for five days at their own expense;
- The implementation of mobility restrictions across Indonesia has generally been haphazard and ultimately left to local authorities. The government is likely to extend the current restrictions (known as PPKM) across the islands of Java and Bali beyond 8 February. The restrictions include limits on capacity in offices, houses or worship and restaurants. Shopping malls remain open.

## Malaysia

Malaysia is expected to remain in a state of emergency until 1 August, even if the pandemic is brought under control, with parliament suspended and security forces granted extra powers to combat a surge in cases that threatens to overload the health system. A nationwide lockdown similar to the one that was in place last year is unlikely to be implemented again given the disproportionate impact such comprehensive measures had on businesses and the economy. Daily cases spiked at nearly 6,000 in late January, with numbers consistently over 3,500 since mid-January.

- The government aims to vaccinate more than 80% of its population (or close to 27 million people) by the first quarter of 2022. It has secured a supply of COVID-19 vaccines for 40% of the population (12.8 million people) through joint agreements with COVAX, Pfizer and AstraZeneca. Malaysia also recently signed deals to purchase 18.4 million doses of a vaccine produced by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute and China's Sinovac. The first stage of the vaccination program is expected to commence in March, with the first 500,000 doses reserved for healthcare professionals. The second stage, likely to begin in April, will cover vulnerable groups, with broad general rollout likely to commence in May.
- International travel to Malaysia remains restricted to foreign diplomats, spouses and dependents of Malaysian citizens, long-term pass holders, and expatriates with a work permit. An entry ban is in place for travellers from countries that have registered more than 150,000 COVID-19 infections, with exemptions made for diplomats and expatriates and professional visit pass-holders if they obtain approval;
- A movement control order (MCO) was extended to include all Malaysian states, except Sarawak, from 22 January through 4 February, with the possibility of an extension. Interstate and interdistrict travel remains banned in areas under MCOs, and a stay-at-home order is in effect. Social gatherings and events remain prohibited. Only businesses in five essential economic sectors across MCO areas can operate at reduced capacity, including manufacturing, construction, services, trade and distribution, as well as plantations and commodities.

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com

## Thailand

COVID-19 is currently at its highest ever in Thailand, with daily confirmed infections numbering over 800 in a second wave of the outbreak seen in late January and early February. This is in significant part due to a comprehensive testing program in Samut Sakhon province, where several thousand cases were detected, mostly among migrant workers in markets and the construction industry. Apart from these clusters, infections now appear to be declining. By implementing a “controlled zone” approach, Thailand has so far avoided another large-scale lockdown.

- Thailand will begin a comprehensive vaccination program which aims to inoculate at least half of its 70 million population by the end of the year. The timeframe of each phase, and the program as a whole, depends on the capacity of hospitals administering the vaccines and number of available doses;
- Thailand has a vaccine pipeline of 63 million doses following a license agreement with UK pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. Siam Bioscience, a local pharmaceutical company, is expected to produce 200 million doses per year for domestic and regional sales, with production expected to begin in June;
- Visa-free travel remains suspended and travel restrictions for international arrivals remain in place. Domestic travel options are limited and subject to disease control measures;
- Small-scale political protests by student groups, opposition activists and volunteer guards are likely to continue, but will remain limited to several dozen people. Police will seek to disperse any mass protests due to COVID-19 measures and minor clashes and scuffles are possible as recent rallies have shown.

## Vietnam

Vietnam is experiencing a new wave of new infections, primarily in the northern parts of the country. The outbreak is the worst it has faced since August 2020, with more than 240 new cases reported since 28 January. In addition, authorities have announced that the more contagious UK and South African strains of the virus have also been detected in foreigners who travelled to the country. The latest outbreak has led authorities to reintroduce restrictions.

- Vietnamese authorities approved the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine on 29 January and said that they aimed to make it available in the first quarter of 2021. The government is in talks to secure 30 million doses of the vaccine. Local authorities in the port city of Haiphong, where the latest outbreak originated, have said that they would secure an additional two million doses.
- Authorities have re-introduced restrictions on social venues in a number of areas due to the latest outbreak, including Hanoi. Other provinces such as Bac Ninh, Son La, and Cao Bang have banned Lunar New Year festivities and entertainment events. Schools in 16 provinces have also been closed.
- Entry of foreign nationals into Vietnam is prohibited, with some exceptions, including highly skilled workers and some businesspeople.

## Cambodia

The daily number of new infections in Cambodia remains in the low single digits, with many of the recent infections found in migrant workers returning from other countries such as Thailand. As of 1 February, the seven-day daily average of new reported infections in Cambodia was one.

- The Cambodian government announced that it would receive its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com

produced by Sinopharm sometime in early February. The government has ordered an initial one million doses, with Prime Minister Hun Sen set to receive the first shot. The prime minister said that Cambodia plans to order enough vaccines to eventually inoculate 80% of its total population of 16 million people. Among those set to be given priority were royal staff, health workers, politicians, the armed forces, teachers, and taxi drivers.

- Cambodian authorities eased restrictions earlier this month as the country recovered from a minor new outbreak. Museums reopened, as well as both private and public schools. Cafes and restaurants remained open throughout.
- Travel restrictions for foreign nationals include suspension of visa exemptions, including visa on arrival and e-visas. All foreign nationals entering the country are required to apply for visas via a Cambodian diplomatic mission and must adhere to stringent regulations such as possessing a recent negative COVID-19 test result, as well as requirements for sufficient medical insurance coverage and a cash deposit to cover expenses such as COVID-19 testing.
- Cambodia's generally low infection rate is likely due to a number of reasons including that a large proportion of its citizens (76% as of 2019 according to the World Bank) live in rural areas. While the country has improved its testing rate, it has still only conducted approximately 24,000 tests per one million inhabitants.

## Laos

The COVID-19 situation in Laos appears to be under control. As of 1 February, there were only three reported active cases in the country, and no new cases have been reported since November. Laos has also yet to record a death from COVID-19.

- Laos has procured COVID-19 vaccine doses from Sinopharm, as well as the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia. The government expects to vaccinate about 20% of the country's population, or 1.6 million people, this year, with the total percentage of the population vaccinated expected to reach 50% by 2022. Healthcare workers, border officials, and the elderly living in at-risk communities are among priority groups for vaccination;
- The Laotian government maintains strict health measures, including the closure of entertainment venues, nightclubs, and restrictions on public events.
- Travel restrictions include a suspension of visa exemptions for foreign nationals, as well as strict health and testing requirements for incoming travelers. Some foreign nationals may be approved for a visa under special circumstances. Limited travel for visitors from China is allowed under a fast track entry scheme.

## Myanmar

Myanmar continues to struggle with a second wave that began declining in late November, with daily confirmed infections in recent days in the low to mid hundreds, although low testing rates likely translate to an inaccurate picture. Sudden changes to movement restrictions and curfew are possible due to the state of emergency declared by the military on 1 February.

- Myanmar began conducting COVID-19 vaccinations on 27 January after the country received its first batch

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E [info@hill-assoc.com](mailto:info@hill-assoc.com) W [www.hill-assoc.com](http://www.hill-assoc.com)

of 1.5 million doses of Covishield, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India. About 110,000 frontline health-workers are the priority, followed by the elderly. The government plans to vaccinate about 40% of its population by the end of 2021, with the remaining expected to be vaccinated between 2022 and 2023. Challenges are likely in the procurement and distribution of the vaccines;

- Authorities continue to impose stay-at-home orders in several townships, including some areas in Yangon. Individuals with emergency needs and those working in certain professions, such as healthcare, food, manufacturing, banking, and financial services are exempt. Authorities allow one person from each household to leave home to obtain supplies. A nightly curfew from 0000hrs to 0400hrs remains in place in several locations;
- The military has suspended all flights until 30 April, extending travel restrictions put in place by the previous government.

## India

Daily confirmed infections in India have gradually declined from peaks of near 100,000 in mid-September, to just over 8,000 on 2 February. Some regions, however, are still struggling to control the pandemic. More than 70% of active cases are from two states: Maharashtra and Kerala. Some experts have warned that the fall in active infection numbers could also be due to a lack of testing, especially in rural areas.

- India's vaccination drive commenced on 16 January after the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) cleared two vaccines, Covishield developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca and Covaxin by India-based Bharat Biotech. A third vaccine, Covovax, is expected to arrive in June. Some 3.75 million jabs have already been delivered. One challenge to mass vaccination is reticence, including among doctors and healthcare workers, due to concerns over AEFI (adverse events following immunization);
- The government is encouraging commercial activities outside COVID-19 "containment zones." Kerala has imposed stringent restrictions, especially in areas with high transmission rates. The government of Maharashtra has extended the general lockdown till 28 February, while Gujarat will continue with curfews (2300-060 IST) in four cities: Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot.
- India has extended the ban on regular international flights till 28 February 2021. Foreigners visiting for the purpose of tourism are banned but visits for other purposes are allowed. Testing regulations vary depending on country of origin.

## Bangladesh

Daily confirmed infections have declined from a recent peak of around 2,500 in late November, to around 500, although some healthcare experts are concerned that the decline reflects limited testing. Poor adherence to pandemic best practices, including mask wearing, has been a constant concern.

- Bangladesh began vaccinations on 28 January after receiving two million doses of Covishield vaccine from India. The nation is set to procure 30 million additional doses. Authorities fear poor turnout during the vaccination drive due to widespread misinformation on social media. A recent study by Dhaka University revealed that 16% of Bangladeshis may avoid vaccination. Supply chain issues may also impact vaccination;
- Enforcement of health safety rules remains poor at airports and quarantine centres in places. Bangladesh

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com

has extended school closure till 14 February.

- Visas on arrival are suspended. The government has enforced a mandatory 14-day institutional quarantine for every incoming passenger from the UK in view of the spread of the more contagious variant discovered there.

## Pakistan

Daily confirmed cases in Pakistan have declined to about 1,200 following a second wave that peaked in mid-December at over 3,000. Reports of high rates of visits to medical facilities suggest that the true situation may be worse than official figures suggest, although there is little doubt that a rapid increase in testing capacity and greater enforcement of anti-pandemic measures had a strong positive impact.

- Pakistan has received 500,000 doses of the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine which will be used to inoculate frontline healthcare workers, beginning 3 February. The country is expected to receive 17 million doses of Covishield in March through Covax, an international alliance that has announced free vaccinations for 20% of Pakistanis. The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has already cleared both vaccines;
- Authorities have lifted most lockdown measures, with schools allowed to resume since mid-January;
- Travel is allowed to Pakistan provided a negative pre-flight test is obtained, with possible exceptions for departures from certain countries.

## Sri Lanka

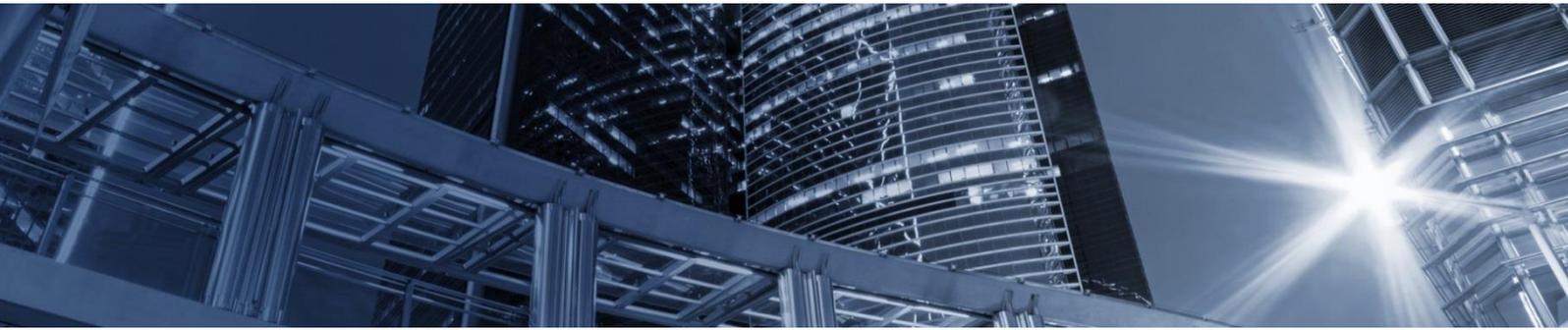
Daily case numbers in Sri Lanka have been steadily rising since mid-October, and have continued to climb with recent figures pushing 900. On the whole, it is considered within the government's capacity to manage. The Sri Lankan authorities have been handling the COVID-19 situation reasonably well but a few infection clusters have pushed up the overall caseload in the country. Sri Lanka has so far reported nearly 65,000 cases, but the current active caseload stands at 6,585. Its low number of deaths to COVID-19, 323, is testimony to the country's prompt treatment and other healthcare support. As Sri Lanka is an island country, authorities have been focused on controlling air transportation which was the only way that the virus could spread.

- Vaccinations commenced in Sri Lanka on 29 January after a consignment of 500,000 doses of Covishield arrived from India. Medical staff and security forces deployed in infection-hit areas are on the priority list for vaccination, with mass vaccination targeted for mid-2021. The Sri Lankan government aims to diversify the vaccine import channels in order to hedge against supply disruption and to maintain balance in its foreign policy. China has already committed 300,000 doses by the middle of February and Russia may emerge as another vaccine source.
- No significant lockdown measures are likely in the country, though authorities may impose social distancing norms in crowded public places and transport;
- Sri Lanka allowed foreign tourists to visit in January following a prolonged closure in order to help the travel industry, which is expected to play an important role in reviving an economy that has been hit hard by the pandemic.
- The government directive to cremate all COVID-19 casualties triggered protests by the Muslim community which has demanded permission to bury its dead in line with religious custom.

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E info@hill-assoc.com W www.hill-assoc.com



---

## SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES & CONTACT INFORMATION

---

### *Special Reports*

Special reports can be compiled as and when clients have specific interests requiring additional research and assessment, or when a major issue arises and a special report is needed to help subscribers understand the developments and its impact. Special reports may also be purchased from the 'Knowledge Centre' on our website.

### *Services*

Please visit [www.hill-assoc.com](http://www.hill-assoc.com) for a comprehensive overview of Hill & Associates and our core service lines, namely:

1. Risk Intelligence
2. Security Risk Management
3. Corporate Intelligence
4. Fraud Prevention & Integrity Risk Management
5. Information Security

### *Disclaimer*

Hill & Associates Ltd makes no representation or warranties with respect to the contents or use of this document, and specifically disclaims any express or implied warranties or usefulness for any particular purpose of this publication. Hill & Associates Ltd reserves the right to change or revise this document, at any time.

### *Copyright*

2021 Hill & Associates Ltd. All rights reserved. Neither this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, photocopied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted without the express prior consent of Hill & Associates Ltd. Any forwarding of this document or parts of it, to recipients outside of the subscriber organisation will constitute a copyright infringement.

### *Contact Us*

For any enquiries, comments or feedback, please contact:

Thomas Nunlist  
Analyst, China and North Asia  
[thomas.nunlist@hill-assoc.com](mailto:thomas.nunlist@hill-assoc.com)

Bryce Green  
Analyst, Indonesia & South East Asia  
[bryce.green@hill-assoc.com](mailto:bryce.green@hill-assoc.com)

Diganta Biswas  
Analyst, India and South Asia  
[diganta.biswas@hill-assoc.com](mailto:diganta.biswas@hill-assoc.com)

Or Ian Betts  
Risk Intelligence Service Line Leader  
[ian.betts@hill-assoc.com](mailto:ian.betts@hill-assoc.com)

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EXPERTS TODAY

Hill Risk Consulting (PRO) Ltd. Room 2406, Zhongrong Hengrui International Building, 620 Zhangyang Rd., Pudong, Shanghai, China 200122

T +86 21 5238 5599 F +86 21 5237 1693 E [info@hill-assoc.com](mailto:info@hill-assoc.com) W [www.hill-assoc.com](http://www.hill-assoc.com)