



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

National Surveillance Report as of 22/11/2021

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Summary

- As of November 22nd, 2021, 129,364 COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed, of which 590 died due to COVID-19 (case fatality risk: 0.5%).
- In the last 14 days (9 – 22 November, 2021), 4,204 cases were diagnosed. The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate is 473.4 per 100,000 population.
 - The median age was 34 years (IQR: 15-48); 53.3% were females (n = 2,241), 46.7% males (n = 1,961), and for two cases information was unknown at the moment.
 - By place of exposure, information was available for 4,106 (97.7%) cases, of which 3.7% (n = 153) were imported and 96.3% (n = 3,953) were locally-acquired.
- As of November 24th, 2021, 117 people were still hospitalized (currently notified and among those diagnosed till November 22nd). The median age of patients still hospitalized due to COVID-19 (n = 117, including those discharged on that day) is 61 years (IQR: 52-71 years), 64.1% (n = 75) are males, and 29.5% (n = 33 out of 112 with information on district) are from Nicosia district. Forty-seven cases (49.5%) still hospitalised have comorbidities (out of 95 with available information).
- As of November 24th, 2021, of 19 cases in intensive care units (ICU), who are currently notified and diagnosed till November 22nd, 16 (84.2%) are intubated. The median age of current ICU patients is 66 (IQR: 55-71) years and 11 (57.9%) are females. Thirteen (72.2%) ICU patients have comorbidities (out of 18 with available information).
- Over the last 14 days, 59,992 RT PCR and 770,816 rapid antigen tests have been performed (6,755.9 RT PCR and 86,803.6 rapid antigen tests per 100,000 population).

Epidemiological surveillance in the Republic of Cyprus

Analyses are based on laboratory-confirmed cases notified to the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health.

As of November 22nd, 2021, 129,364 cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been diagnosed (laboratory-confirmed) (Figure 1, 2 and 3).

In the last 14 days (9 – 22 November, 2021), 4,204 cases have been diagnosed. The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate of COVID-19 (per 100,000 population)¹, a measure which reflects the number of active COVID-19 cases in the population (prevalence)², is 473.4 per 100,000 population (Figure 3).

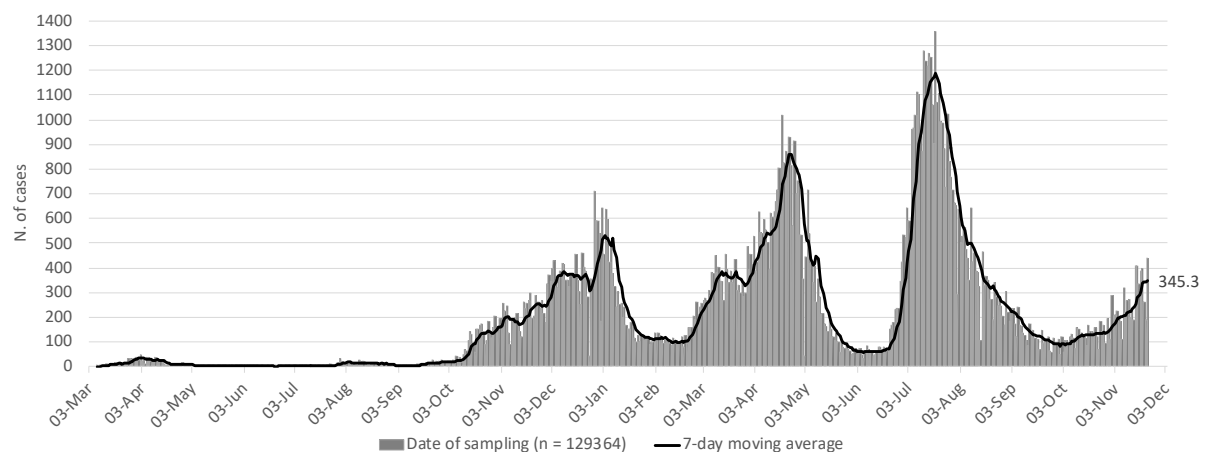


Figure 1: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on November 22nd, 2021, is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of sample collection*.

* when date of sample collection was not available, laboratory result date or hospitalisation date was used.

¹Population denominator for end of year 2019, available at https://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/populationcondition_21main_en/populationcondition_21main_en?OpenForm&sub=1&sel=4

²Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic: increased transmission in the EU/EEA and the UK – seventh update, 25 March 2020. Stockholm: ECDC; 2020. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/RRA-seventh-update-Outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-COVID-19.pdf>

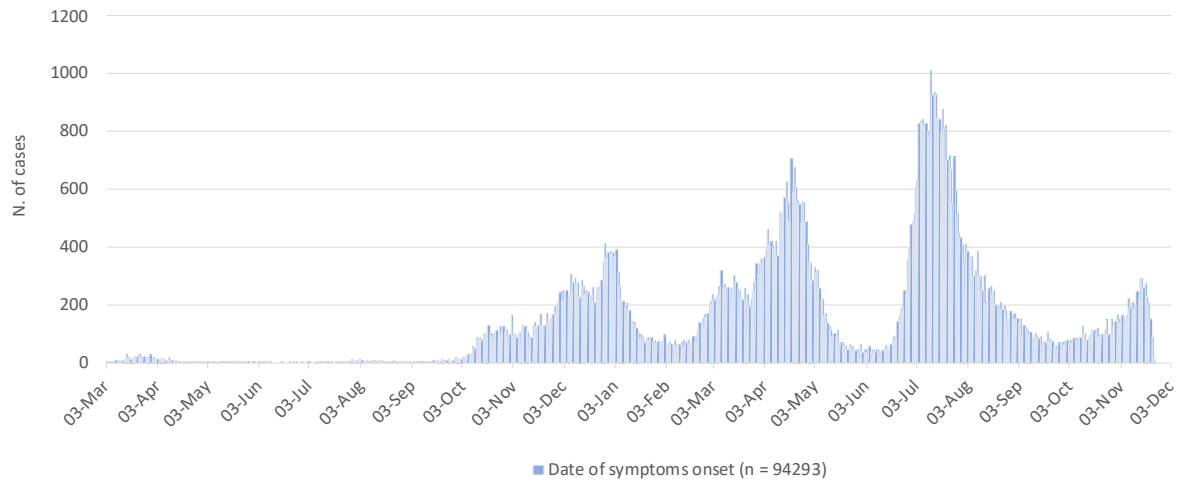


Figure 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus since 03/03/2020 by date of symptoms onset.

Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases with date of onset within the reporting period have not yet been diagnosed.

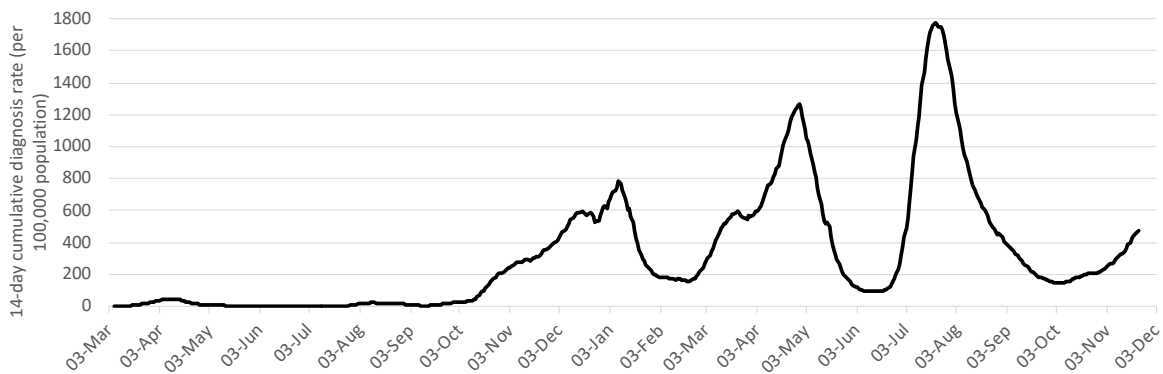


Figure 3: COVID-19 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate per 100,000 population (proxy of COVID-19 prevalence).



Characteristics of cases diagnosed in the last 14 days

Age, sex, and place of residence

Among 4,204 cases diagnosed since November 9th, 2021, 53.3% were females (n = 2,241), 46.7% males (n = 1,961), and for two cases information was unknown.

By age group, cases included 1,266 individuals aged 0-19 years-old (30.1%), 2,424 individuals aged 20-59 years (57.7%), and 514 individuals aged 60 years and older (12.2%). Figure 4 shows the number of cases by 10-year age band and sex. The median age of all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days is 34 years (IQR: 15-48 years). The median age of adult cases (≥ 18 years) is 41 years (IQR: 32-54 years). The 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by age group is shown in figure A1 in the Appendix.

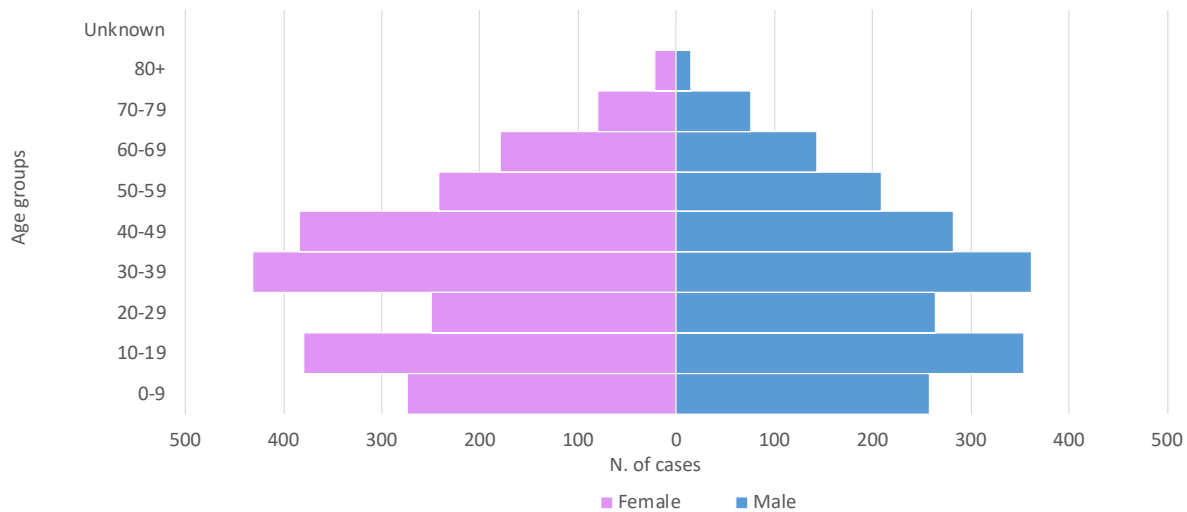


Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus, diagnosed in the last 14 days, by age group and sex (including only cases with sex information available).

Among all cases diagnosed in the last 14 days, district information was available for 4,095 (97.4%) cases, of which 1,678 (41%) were reported in Nicosia district, 930 (22.7%) in Limassol, 676 (16.5%) in Pafos, 646 (15.8%) in Larnaka, and 165 (4%) in Ammochostos. Figure A2 in the Appendix shows the 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district.



Epidemiological link

In the last 14 days (9 – 22 November, 2021), epidemiological link information was available for 4,106 (97.7%) cases, of which 3.7% (n = 153) were imported and 96.3% (n = 3,953) were locally-acquired.

Clinical features

In the last 14 days (9 – 22 November, 2021), information was available for 3,445 (82%) cases of which 4.1% (n = 140) reported no symptoms and 95.9% (n = 3,305) reported at least one symptom.

Pre-existing conditions

In the last 14 days (9 – 22 November, 2021), information was available for 3,119 cases (74.2%) of which 512 cases (16.4%) reported at least one comorbidity.



Deaths

Among cases diagnosed until November 22nd 2021, 590 COVID-19 associated deaths were reported in the Republic of Cyprus until November 24th, 2021 (Case Fatality Risk - CFR: 0.5%).

The COVID-19 associated mortality is 66.4 per 100,000 population.

Deaths occurred in 377 men (63,9%) and 213 (36.1%) women; the median age of all COVID-19 associated deaths was 77 years (IQR: 69-85 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 212 (35.9%) from Limassol, 185 (31.4%) from Nicosia, 109 (18.5%) from Larnaka, 45 (7.6%) from Pafos, 30 (5.1%) from Ammochostos, six deaths (1%) occurred among cases for which district information was not available, and three (0.5%) deaths were reported among cases who had a residence abroad.

The median time from date of sampling to death (due to COVID-19) was 15 days (IQR: 8-23 days).

Figure 5a reports the number of COVID-19 associated deaths by date.

Among cases diagnosed until November 22nd 2021, 679 COVID-19 associated deaths were reported in the Republic of Cyprus until November 24th, 2021 (CFR: 0.5%).

The mortality (all-causes) for people with COVID-19 is 76.5 per 100,000 population.

Deaths occurred in 436 men (64.2%) and 243 (35.8%) women; the median age of all deaths was 77 years (IQR: 69-85 years). By district of residence, deceased cases were 249 (36.7%) from Limassol, 211 (31.1%) from Nicosia, 124 (18.3%) from Larnaka, 53 (7.8%) from Pafos, 33 (4.9%) from Ammochostos, six deaths (0.9%) occurred among cases for which district information was not available, and three (0.4%) deaths were reported among cases who had a residence abroad.

The median time from date of sampling to death (all-causes) was 14 days (IQR: 7-23 days).

Figure 5b reports the number of all deaths among people with COVID-19 by date.

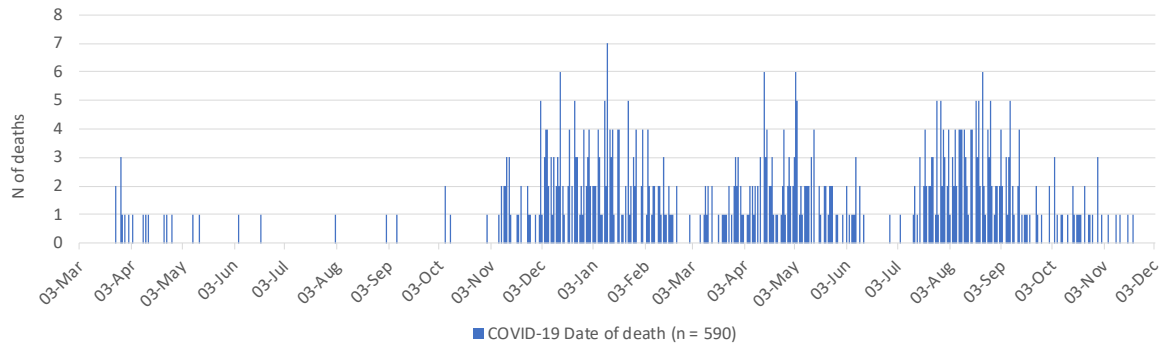


Figure 5a: Number of COVID-19 associated deaths in the Republic of Cyprus by date of death.

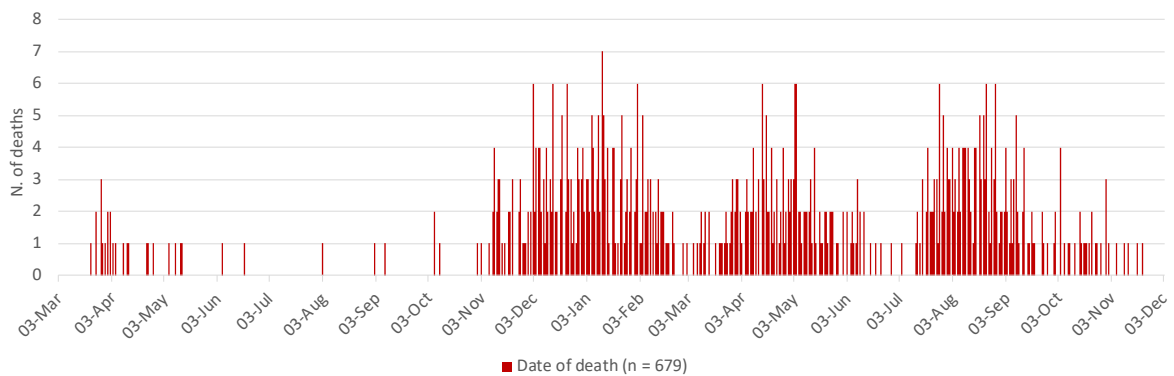


Figure 5b: Number of deaths (all causes) among COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Cyprus by date of death.



Hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU³) admissions⁴

In total, 4.6% (n = 5,950) of people with COVID-19 received hospital care, as of November 24th, 2021. The median age of hospitalized patients was 60 years (IQR: 47-72 years). Excluding 6 cases (0.1%) for which sex information is not available, hospitalized cases were mainly males (n = 3,372; 56.7%).

The median age of patients diagnosed till November 22nd and still hospitalized, due to COVID-19, as of November 24th, 2021 (n = 117, including those discharged on that day) is 61 years (IQR: 52-71 years), 64.1% (n = 75) are males, and 29.5% (n = 33 out of 112 with information on district) are from Nicosia district. Forty-seven cases (49.5%) still hospitalised have comorbidities (out of 95 with available information).

Figure 6a shows the total number of first hospital admissions by date.

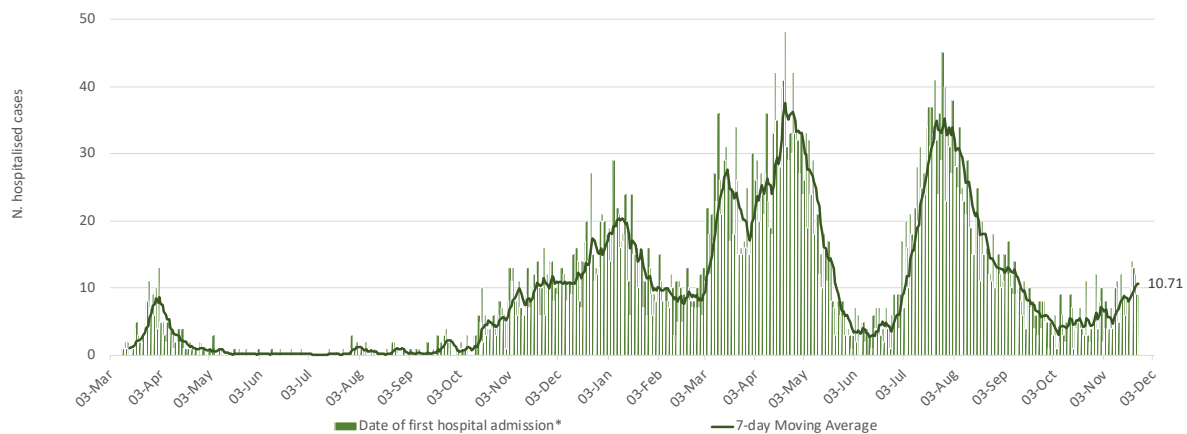


Figure 6a: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on November 24th, 2021 is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by date of first hospital admission, since 03/03/2020.

**Date of hospital admission was replaced with date of sampling for inpatients hospitalised prior to the beginning of the epidemic.*

Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently hospitalised could have not been notified.

³ Intensive care unit (ICU) refers only to the ICU in Limassol General Hospital and to the ICU in Nicosia General Hospital.

⁴ Data on hospitalisation and ICU are provisional and should be interpreted with caution because delay in data reporting is likely; for the construction of the curve, people are no longer in an ICU/hospital the day next to the date of their discharge, death or transfer.



Figure 6b reports the number of individuals in hospital every day (excluding those in ICU).

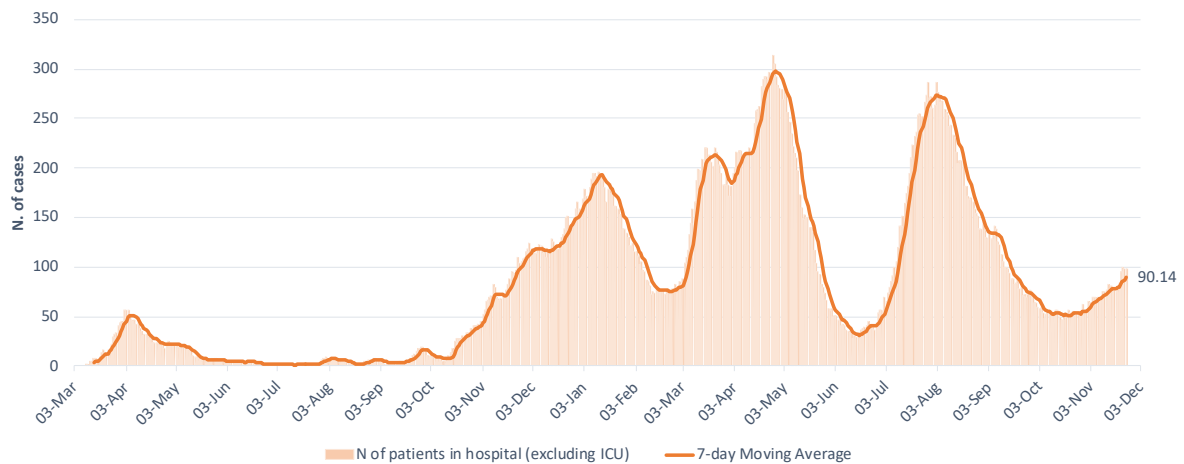


Figure 6b: Number and 7-day moving average (last moving average on November 24th, 2021 is shown on the graph) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospital every day, since 03/03/2020, excluding those in ICU.

Patients in hospital for only part of the day (e.g. transferred, dead) are included.

Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently hospitalised could have not been notified.



Overall, 635 cases (10.7% of all hospitalized patients) have been admitted to ICU. The median age of patients ever admitted to ICU was 66 years (IQR: 57-73 years). ICU patients were mainly male (n = 404; 63.6%). The overall median length of stay in ICU (for all ICU cases) was 13 days (IQR: 8-22 days).

As of November 24th, 2021, and based on records which rapidly evolve, of those diagnosed till November 22nd, 19 cases are still in ICU (including deaths / discharged on that day). The median age of current ICU patients is 66 (IQR: 55-71) years and 11 (57.9%) are females. Thirteen (72.2%) ICU patients have comorbidities (out of 18 with available information).

The number of cases currently in ICU is 2.1 per 100,000 population (as of November 24th, 2021, including deaths/discharged on that day).

A total of 607 ICU patients (95.6% of all ICU patients) have been intubated - currently 16 (84.2%) patients in ICU are intubated (including deaths/discharged/extubated on that day).

Figure 7 shows the number of patients in ICU, by day and intubation status.

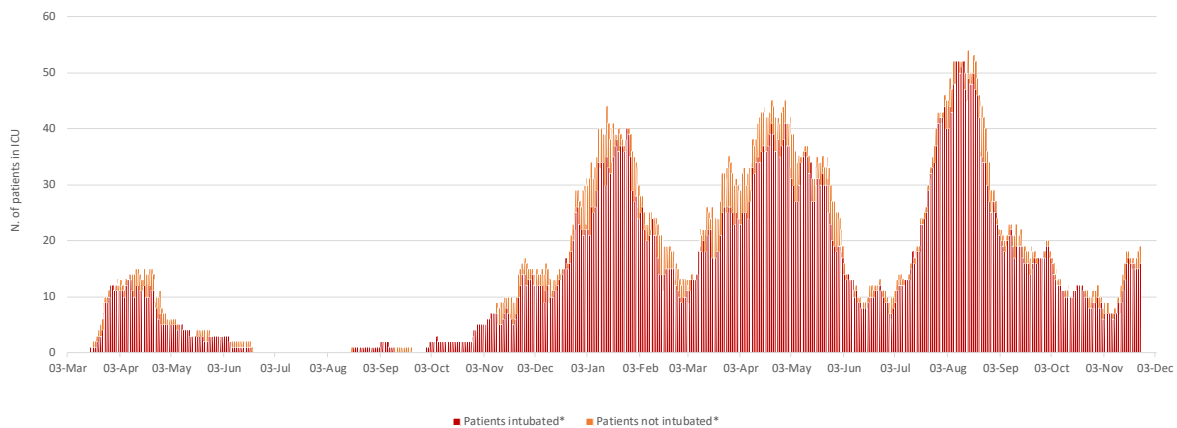


Figure 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in ICU by date and intubation.

**Date of discharge/transfer/death included*

Recent data should be interpreted with caution due to the possibility that cases recently admitted in ICU or intubated could have not been notified/recorded.



Recovered/released

As of November 22nd, 2021, among cases alive, 97.3% (n = 125,143) of COVID-19 cases have recovered/released from isolation^{5,6,7}.

⁵ For symptomatic cases, or for cases hospitalised, a COVID-19 case can be considered cured after the resolution of symptoms and two negative tests for SARS-CoV-2 at 24-hour interval at least. For asymptomatic cases, or for persons isolated at home, the negative tests to document virus clearance should be obtained at a minimum of 14 days after the initial positive test (end of the quarantine period).

Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). Discharge criteria for confirmed COVID-19 cases- When is it safe to discharge COVID-19 cases from the hospital or end home isolation? - Technical Report, 10 March 2020. Stockholm: ECDC; 2020.

⁶ May – November 2020: A person is released 21 days after the initial diagnosis, if he/she has a positive test 14 days after the initial diagnosis and remains in isolation for one more week without being further tested.

Since 8th November 2020: A person who remained asymptomatic throughout his/her follow-up is released 14 days after initial diagnosis (date of sampling) and General Practitioner (GP) confirmation; a person with mild/moderate symptoms is released in absence of fever AND improvement of other symptoms (confirmed by GP) AND 14 days after onset of symptoms; cases requiring hospitalisation (severe cases), immunosuppressed individuals, residents and staff of vulnerable groups (i.e., nursing homes, refugee camps, prisons) are released in absence of fever AND 20 days after onset of symptoms. The criterion of two consecutive negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR results from respiratory samples, taken at least 24 hours apart, is recommended for immunosuppressed and critically ill COVID-19 patients.

⁷ Since 4th August 2021: Asymptomatic individuals are discharged from self-isolation 10 days after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2. Individuals with mild/moderate symptoms are discharged from self-isolation 10 days after the onset of symptoms, provided that the patient has no fever for at least 3 days (without use of antipyretics) and has improvement of all other symptoms.



Acknowledgments

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Appendix

Figure A1. 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by age group.

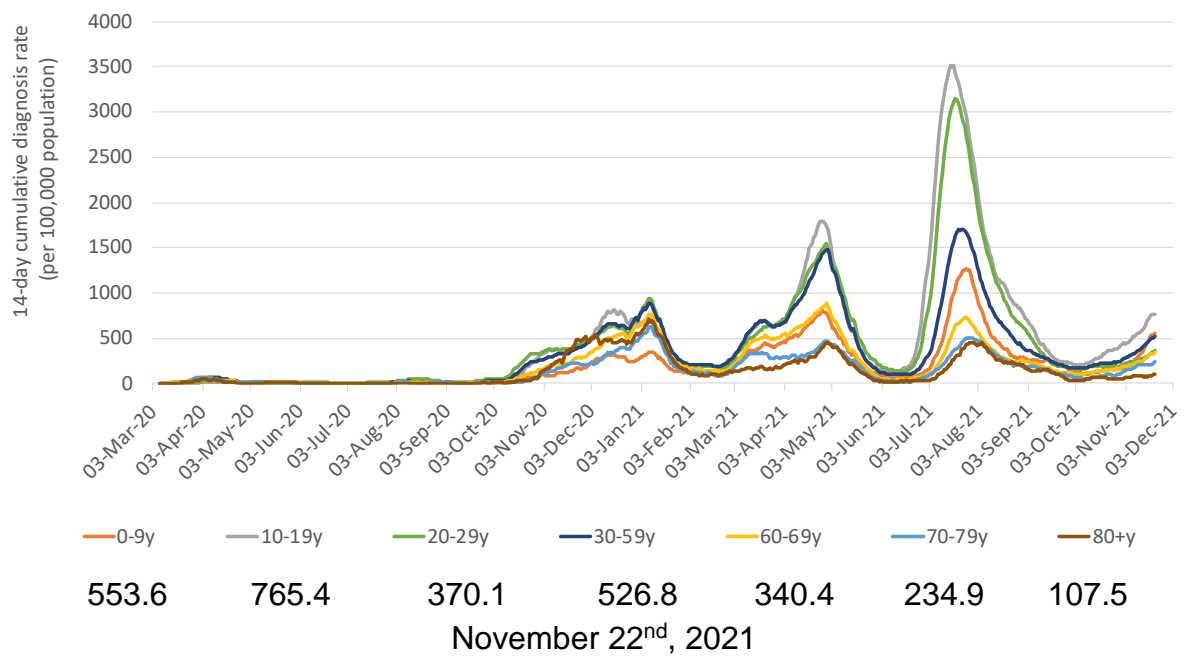




Figure A2: 14-day cumulative diagnosis rate (per 100,000 population) by district for the last 14 days.

