



Libya COVID-19 Surveillance Weekly Bulletin

Epidemiological Week 41 (11 – 17 Oct)

COVID-19 Surveillance and Vaccination Data Source: as received from the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Libya

Total tested	New tested	Total active	Total confirmed	New confirmed	Total recovered	New recovered	Total deaths	New deaths
1,761,655	26,963	64,773	350,628	3,815	280,951	9,501	4,904	112

Highlights:

- At the national level, Libya reported a declining trend in cases and COVID-19 testing with increased deaths in Week 41 compared with Week 40, with a high incidence of community transmission and moderate lab testing capacity.
- 30 COVID-19 labs (out of 39) reported 26,963 (26268 PCR and 695 Ag-RDT) new lab tests done in Epi-week 41. Thus, out of the 1,761,655 tests in Libya since the beginning of the response, 350,628 (20%) were confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- Compared to Epi-week 40, there was an 8% decrease in overall national testing: by regions, West (9% decrease), South (26% increase) and East (5% decrease). Thus, **89.7% (24,176) of national testing was performed in the West** as compared to both East (only 2522 tests) and South (only 265 tests) Regions. (-see fig. 1). The decrease in East and West is attributable to low reporting of cases by RRTs and constraints in lab supplies.
- The national positivity rate for Epi-week has a decreasing trend since week 28. It slightly decreased from 14.4% in week 40 to 14.1 in week 41, mainly in the West, with a positivity rate of 12.2%. It cannot be generalized based on the positivity rate in the East (31.2%) and South (32.8%), which differ markedly from the national-level positivity rate. It is recommended that positivity rates should be kept below 5% in all districts. National numbers of cases, deaths and lab tests are skewed to West.
- Case incidence per 100,000 decreased from 62 in week 40 to 56 in week 41. The overall number of new cases reported in EPID week 41 shows a 10% decrease (**3,815 cases**) from **4,255 cases last week**, with **West reporting an 11% decrease** in new patients. East reported an 8% decrease, and South had a 6% decrease in cases.
- Libya has not reported an official confirmation of the Delta variant. However, Delta circulation has been detected in neighboring Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria. In addition, neighbouring Sudan has reported a Gamma variant. Therefore, Libya stays classified under community transmission (high incidence) with Alpha and Beta Variants of Concern (VOC) circulation.
- In Epi-week 41, the number of new deaths (112) showed a 24% increase compared to last week (90). As a result, the mortality rate increased from 1.3 to 1.6 deaths per 100,000 cases, with a case fatality rate of 2.9%. The CFR remained high in East (8.3) and South (2.3), showing increased disease severity. Compared to last week, West reported a 45% increase in deaths for the reporting week, East (20% increase) and 60% decrease reported in South (- see table 1).
- In the last four weeks, a decoupling of mortality and incidence trends (i.e., mortality higher than expected for a given incidence) shows an increase in disease severity and increased transmission in a particular age or high-risk group. (Fig 3).

Epidemiological situation:

Region	New cases in the last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in the previous 7 days	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in the last 7 days (%)	Change in new deaths in the last 7 days	Cumulative deaths (%)	New lab tests are done in the last 7 days (%)	Change in new lab tests in the last 7 days	Cumulative lab tests (%)	Positivity rate	Cumulative positivity rate	Deaths		Week_41	
												wk_40	wk_41	Mortality rate per 100,000	CFR%
West	2,942 (77.1%)	-11%	314,767 (89.8%)	45 (40.2%)	45%	3,645 (74.3%)	24,176 (89.7%)	-9%	1,644,692 (93.3%)	12.2	19.1	31	45	1.04	1.5
East	786 (20.6%)	-8%	19,846 (5.6%)	65 (58%)	20%	840 (17.1%)	2,522 (9.3%)	-5%	77,107 (4.4%)	31.2	25.7	54	65	3.4	8.3
South	87 (2.3%)	-6%	16,015 (4.6%)	2 (1.8%)	-60%	419 (8.6%)	265 (1%)	26%	39,856 (2.3%)	32.8	40.2	5	2	0.4	2.3
Libya	3,815 (100%)	-10%	350,628 (100%)	112 (100%)	24%	4,904 (100%)	26,963 (100%)	-8%	1,761,655 (100%)	14.1	19.9	90	112	1.6	2.9

Table 1: Cumulative and within 7 days comparative positive COVID-19 cases, deaths, and Mortality rates.

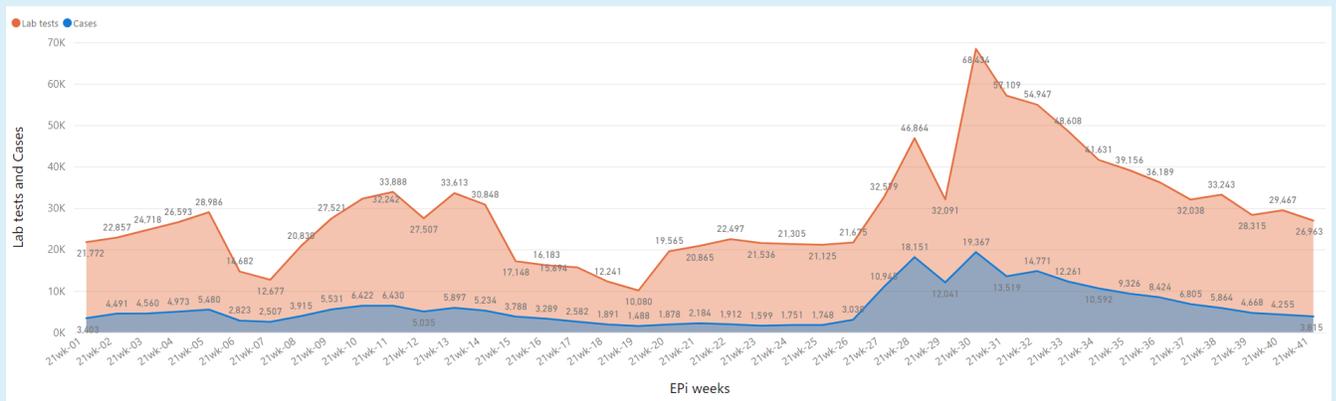


Fig. 2: Number of COVID-19 Laboratory tests performed vs confirmed positive cases per Epi-Weeks 2021 calendars.

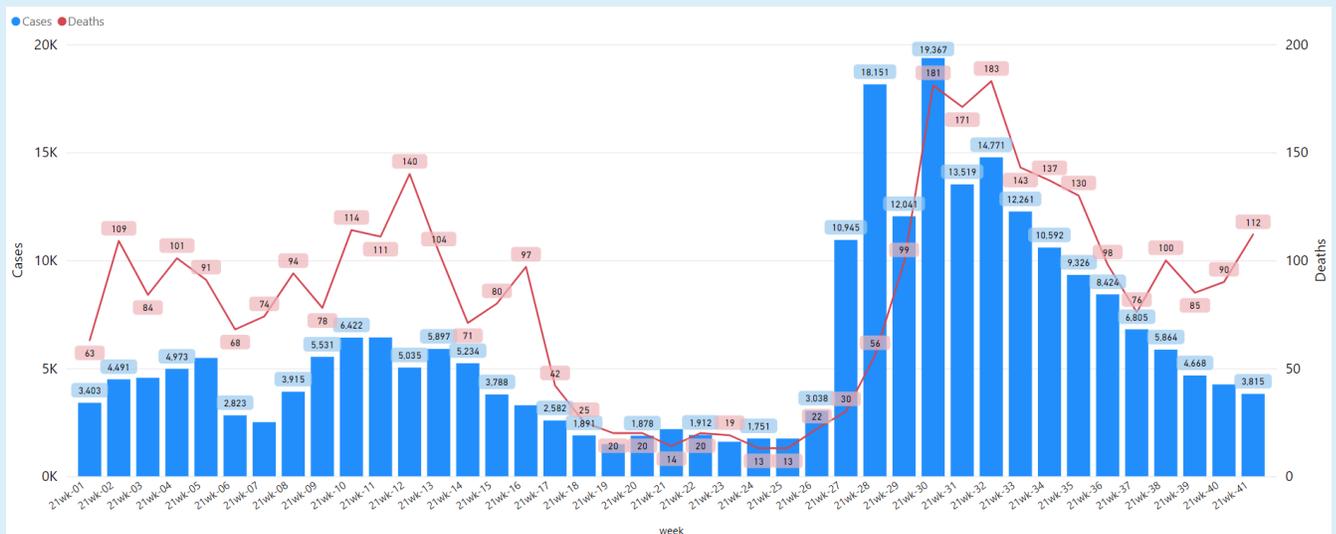


Fig. 3: Weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths, as of 17 Oct 2021 (Epi-week 41)

In the past epi-week, **Al Jabal al Akhdar, Al Kufra and Ejadbia in East, Wadi Ashaati in South, Misrata, Azzawya and Al Margeb in West** showed a significant increase in cases compared to last reporting week. However, the three

Region	District	Cases		% Increase / decrease
		wk-40	wk-41	
	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	71	125	76
	Alkufra	112	131	17
	Almarj	0	0	-
	Benghazi	348	228	-34
	Derna	132	69	-48
	Ejdabia	3	99	3200
	Tobruk	190	134	-29
East Region		856	786	-8
	Aljufra	0	0	-
	Ghat	0	0	-
	Murzuq	3	0	-100
	Sebha	86	82	-5
	Ubari	1	1	0
	Wadi Ashshati	3	4	33
South Region		93	87	-6
	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	128	131	2
	Aljifara	266	274	3
	Almargeb	422	534	27
	Azzawya	100	122	22
	Misrata	122	145	19
	Nalut	12	1	-92
	Sirt	116	120	3
	Tripoli	1924	1517	-21
	Zwara	216	98	-55
West Region		3306	2942	-11
Libya		4255	3815	-10

Table II: Comparative number and trends of COVID-19 positive cases in epi week 40 vs 41 by district

districts reporting the highest number of new cases continue to be: **Tripoli with 1517 (21% decrease), Almargeb with 534 (27% increase) and Aljifara with 274 (3% increase)**. See Table II below for absolute numbers.

Epidemiological Risk of the current epidemiological week

The highest case incidences per 100,000 were recorded in Tripoli (124) for West, Sabha (49) in South and Alkufra (231) for East, showing elevated levels of ongoing community transmission. The recommended levels of 20 and less than 20 cases per 100,000 population signify low incidence levels of community transmission.

The national lab tests per 100000 population remained 396 tests per 100000 which are moderate for response to COVID-response. At the regional level, the national adequacy of lab

testing cannot be generalized to regions and districts. The lab response in the West (557/100000 pop) remains adequate, East (130/100000 pop) remained moderate for reporting week, while it was limited in the South (49/100000 pop). The lab testing stayed a limiting factor and was underestimated in seven districts of Almarj in East, Al Jufra, Ghat, Murzuq, Ubari, Wadi Ashaati in South, Aljifara in West. (See Table III for district-based risk analysis)

Region	District	Total population	Cases	New confirmed cases per 100000 population per week (<20=CT1, 20-50=CT2, 50-150=CT3, 150+=CT4)	Level of Community transmission (CT) based on case incidence	Tests	Number of persons tested per 100000 population per week (400+= Adequate, 100-400= Moderate, <100=Limited)	Lab capacity to respond to transmission	Test positivity rate per week (<2%=CT1, 2%-5%=CT2, 5-20%=CT3, >20%=CT4)	Level of Community transmission (CT) based on Positivity Rate	Risk (10-12= Extremely High, 7-9 = High, 4-6= Medium, 1-3= Low)
East	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	242804	125	51	CT3	237	98	Limited	53	CT4	11
East	Alkufra	56727	131	231	CT4	286	504	Adequate	46	CT4	9
East	Almarj	162266	0	0	CT1	0	0	Limited	-	NA	9
East	Benghazi	849660	228	27	CT2	706	83	Limited	32	CT4	10
East	Derna	206809	69	33	CT2	263	127	Moderate	26	CT4	9
East	Ejdabia	212363	99	47	CT2	434	204	Moderate	22.8	CT4	9
East	Tobruk	202064	134	66	CT3	596	295	Moderate	22	CT4	10
East Region		1932693	786	41	CT2	2522	130	Moderate	31.2	CT4	9
South	Aljufra	59875	0	0	CT1	0	0	Limited	-	NA	9
South	Ghat	28346	0	0	CT1	0	0	Limited	-	NA	9
South	Murzuq	94609	0	0	CT1	0	0	Limited	-	NA	9
South	Sebha	168249	82	49	CT2	265	158	Moderate	31	CT4	9
South	Ubari	92444	1	1	CT1	0	0	Limited	-	NA	9
South	Wadi Ashshati	95563	4	4	CT1	0	0	Limited	-	NA	9
South Region		539086	87	16	CT1	265	49	Limited	32.8	CT4	9
West	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	367461	131	36	CT2	788	214	Moderate	17	CT3	8
West	Aljifara	551111	274	50	CT2	0	0	Limited	-	NA	10
West	Almargeb	536255	534	100	CT3	1247	233	Moderate	43	CT4	10
West	Azzawya	365111	122	33	CT2	1237	339	Moderate	10	CT3	8
West	Misrata	676706	145	21	CT2	2197	325	Moderate	7	CT3	8
West	Nalut	109484	1	1	CT1	9	8	Limited	11.1	CT3	8
West	Sirt	151330	120	79	CT3	552	365	Moderate	22	CT4	10
West	Tripoli	1220712	1517	124	CT3	17793	1458	Adequate	9	CT3	7
West	Zwara	360769	98	27	CT2	353	98	Limited	28	CT4	10
West Region		4338939	2942	68	CT3	24176	557	Adequate	12.2	CT3	7
Libya		6810718	3815	56	CT3	26963	396	Moderate	14.1	CT3	9

Table III: Generic risk assessment based on primary epidemiological and public health response indicators calculated for Epid Week 4 I

Links to important resources:

- [COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Libya](#)
- [National Center for Disease Control Libya Facebook page](#)
- [WHO Libya Facebook page](#)
- [WHO Libya Twitter handle](#)

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For more information, please visit www.who.int | www.reliefweb.int | www.humanitarianresponse.info