



Libya COVID-19 Surveillance Weekly Bulletin

Epidemiological Week 13

(22 – 28 March)

Data as received from the National Center for Disease Center (NCDC)

Total tested	New tested	Total confirmed	New confirmed	Total recovered	New recovered	Total deaths	New deaths
869,646	27,507	157,545	5,035	145,882	6,521	2,653	140

Highlights

- 27,507 new lab tests done in 28 (out of 31) COVID-19 labs reporting for Epi-week 13. Out of the total 869,646 tests done in Libya since the beginning of the response, 157,545 (18.1%) were confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- As compared to Epi-week 12, there was a 18.8% decrease in overall testing, and decrease seen in all three regions; West (18% decrease), East (42% decrease) while lab testing slightly decreased by 0.2% in the South during the reporting week. (-see fig. 1)
- The positivity rate for Epi-week 13 decreased from 19% to 18.3%, this is attributable to decreased laboratory testing reported from all three regions but is difficult to generalize based on whether comprehensive surveillance exists in all municipalities of the country especially in the South and West.
- Community transmission is ongoing. The overall number of new cases reported shows a 21.7% decrease compared to the prior week, with South reporting a 4.1% increase in new cases.
- In Epi-week 13, the number of new deaths (140) increased by 26.2% when compared to last week. The mortality rate increased to 2.06 deaths per 100,000 cases with a case fatality rate increasing to 2.8%.
- East region reported an increase (46.2%), West an increase of 25% while South showed an increase of 9% since the previous week. (- see table 1)
- From the data analysis of Epi-week 13, the East Region is having the largest number of deaths and largest decrease in number of lab test done.
- Libya remains classified under community transmission with a verified circulation of Variant of Concern VOC 202012/01(B.1.1.7, UK Variant) and a non-verified presence of VOC 202012/02(B.1.351, South African Variant).

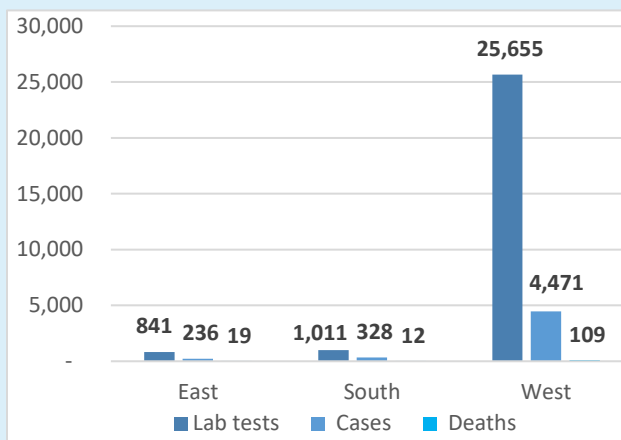


Fig. 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths, and lab tests for Epi week 13 by region

Epidemiological situation:

		Positivity Rate		Case incidence per 100,000			Mortality rate per 100,000			Case Fatality Rate	
Epi week 13		18.3		73.9			2.06			2.8%	
Cumulative		18.1%		2313			39			1.7%	
Region	New cases in the last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in the last 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 labs tests in the last 7 days	Cumulative lab tests (%)	Positivity rate	Cumulative positivity rate
West	4,471 (88.8%)	-23.2%	144,478 (91.7%)	109 (77.9%)	25.3%	2,149 (81%)	25,655 (93.3%)	-18.3%	812,229 (93.4%)	17.4	17.8
East	236 (4.7%)	-20.3%	6,339 (4%)	19 (13.5%)	46.2%	290 (11%)	841 (3%)	-42.4%	36,232 (4.2%)	28	17.5
South	328 (6.5%)	4.1%	6,728 (4.3%)	12 (8.6%)	9%	214 (8%)	1,011 (3.7%)	-0.2%	21,185 (2.4%)	32.4	31.7
Libya	5,035 (100%)	-21.7%	157,545 (100%)	140 (100%)	26.2%	2,653 (100%)	27,507 (100%)	-18.8%	869,646 (100%)	18.3	18.1

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

As seen in figure #2 below, Epi-week 13 shows that testing dropped from 33,888 tests performed last epi-week 12, to 27,507 tests performed in this week 13 (19% decrease).

The positivity rate of the South Region increased from 31% to 32.4%, while the positivity rate of the East region increased from 20.3% to 28%, due to a relative decrease in reported testing in both regions. This means the highest transmission remains in the South followed by East and then West (positivity rate of 17.4%), signifying the need for more testing.



Fig. 2: Number of COVID-19 Laboratory tests performed vs confirmed positive cases per Epi-Week 2020-2021 calendars.

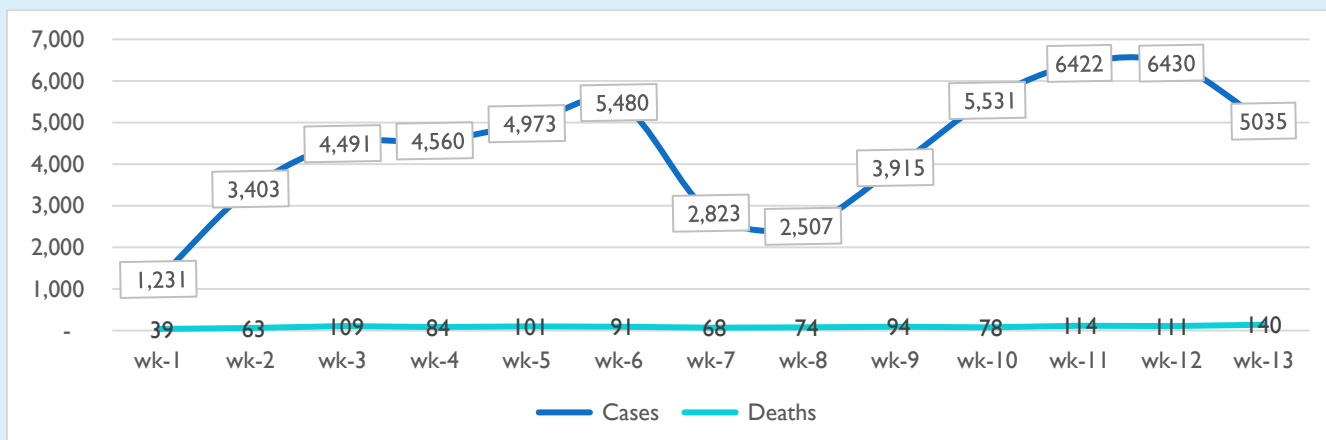


Fig. 3: Weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths, as of 28 March 2021 (Epi week 13)

Figure 3 above reflects the weekly number of cases and deaths for this year, reflecting the significant increase in both testing and the number of cases at the national level. Highest number of deaths (140) were reported in Week 13 for any week for 2021. There is an increasing trend of deaths since Epi-week 10. The increase in deaths was seen in Derna, Murzuq and Jabal al Gharbi.

In the past week, 36% of all districts showed an increase in the number of new cases. The three districts reporting the highest number of new cases continue to be Tripoli, with 1,837 (33% decrease), Misrata 837 (20% decrease) and Al Jabal al Gharbi with 560 new cases, a 16% decrease. Al Marj and Jabal al Akhdar districts in the East and Ghat in South have reported no data in last five weeks.

In terms of the number of confirmed cases in the percentage of change since last week, the highest increase has been seen in districts of Zwara (31% increase) and Sirte (7%) in West; Murzuq (600% increase), Ubari (333% increase) in the South; and Al Kufra (73% increase), Tobruk (50%) and Derna (59%) in the East. The highest case decrease has been seen in Benghazi and Aljufra in the West. See Table II below for absolute numbers.

Region	District	Cases		% Increase / decrease		Deaths		% Increase / decrease		Wk-13	
		wk-12	wk-13			wk-12	wk-13			Case incidence per 100,000	Mortality rate per 100,000
East	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	0	0	0	●	0	0	0	●	0	0
East	Alkufra	11	19	73	●	2	0	-100	●	33	0
East	Almarj	0	0	0	●	0	0	0	●	0	0
East	Benghazi	179	107	-40	●	0	0	0	●	13	0
East	Derna	22	35	59	●	2	12	500	●	17	6
East	Ejdabia	58	36	-38	●	5	7	40	●	17	3
East	Tobruk	26	39	50	●	4	0	-100	●	19	0
South	Aljufra	23	4	-83	●	4	2	-50	●	7	3
South	Ghat	0	0	0	●	0	0	0	●	0	0
South	Murzuq	5	35	600	●	0	2	200	●	37	2
South	Sebha	158	136	-14	●	5	6	20	●	81	4
South	Ubari	3	13	333	●	0	0	0	●	14	0
South	Wadi Ashshati	126	140	11	●	2	2	0	●	147	2
West	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	670	560	-16	●	3	8	167	●	152	2
West	Aljufra	503	461	-8	●	9	8	-11	●	84	1
West	Almargeb	187	146	-22	●	6	9	50	●	27	2
West	Azzawya	271	248	-8	●	5	2	-60	●	68	1
West	Misrata	1046	837	-20	●	8	7	-13	●	124	1
West	Nalut	180	130	-28	●	6	5	-17	●	119	5
West	Sirt	85	91	7	●	2	2	0	●	60	1
West	Tripoli	2754	1837	-33	●	39	64	64	●	150	5
West	Zwara	123	161	31	●	9	4	-56	●	45	1
Total		6430	5035			111	140			73.9	2.1

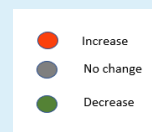


Table II: Comparative number and trends of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths in epi week 12 vs 13 by district

Epidemiological Focus of the current week- Operational considerations to expedite genomic sequencing component of SARS-CoV-2

National laboratories need to move beyond virus detection to genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 PCR positive materials obtained from sentinel surveillance of influenza-like illness (ILI), acute respiratory infection (ARI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI).

- Representative, quality, timely and continuous genetic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 is critical to the COVID-19 outbreak response to monitor genetic variants.
- GISRS sentinel surveillance sites provide specimens for systematic and standardized sampling to conduct sequencing to monitor genetic variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- Countries are encouraged to expedite genomic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 of a minimum of 15 samples per week from sentinel surveillance systems and share the genetic sequence data through a publicly accessible database.
- Libya does not have established sequencing capacity for SARS-CoV-2
- Libya needs to strengthen sentinel surveillance of ILI/ARI/SARI and consider referring all or a subset of these ILI/ARI/SARI samples from cases, but ideally, a minimum of 15 SARS-CoV-2 PCR-positive sentinel specimens per week with Ct value of ≤ 30 for genomic sequencing to WHO COVID-19 Reference Laboratories following an agreement with them.

New global COVID-19 WHO normative guidance made available this week.

- [Operational considerations to expedite genomic sequencing component of GISRS surveillance of SARS-CoV-2](#)

Links to important resources

- [Technical Guidance](#)
- [WHO Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Dashboard](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Operational Updates](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 case definitions](#)
- [WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region Update](#)
- [COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Libya](#)
- [National Center for Disease Control Libya Facebook page](#)
- [WHO Libya Facebook page](#)
- [WHO Libya Twitter handle](#)
- [Risk Communication and Community Engagement Resources and Updates](#)

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