



Libya COVID-19 Surveillance Weekly Bulletin

Epidemiological Week 28

(12 – 18 July)

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

Total tested	New tested	Total active	Total confirmed	New confirmed	Total recovered	New recovered	Total deaths	New deaths
1,233,464	46,864	37,568	224,920	18,151	184,053	2,850	3,299	56

Highlights:

- Libya has seen a sharp rise in the number of new cases between Week 25 and Week 27: from 246/day to 1,293/day (425% increase), and weekly attack rates rise from 25.1/100,000 to 131.7/100,000.
- 29 COVID-19 labs (out of 32) reported 46,864 new lab tests done in Epi-week 28. Thus, out of the total 1,233,464 tests in Libya since the beginning of the response, 224,920 (18.2%) were confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- Compared to Epi-week 27, there was a 44% increase in overall national testing: by regions, West (44% increase), South (88% increase) and East (0.4% decrease). Thus, **96.7% (45,310) of national testing was performed in the West** as compared to both East (only 516 tests) and South (only 1038 tests) Regions. (-see fig. 1).
- There has been an increase in the number of tests from 3.1/1000 to 4.3/1000, and positivity ratio: 8.1% to 33.6% between weeks 25 and 27. The national positivity rate for Epi-week 28 has increased) to **38.7%**, which mainly represents the West with a positivity rate of 38.5%. It cannot be generalized based on the positivity rate in the East (24.6%) and South (53.8%) than the national-level positivity rate. Due to low lab testing and positive cases in East and South, national numbers have now skewed to data of the West.
- The overall number of new cases reported in EPID week 28 shows a **66% increase (18,151 cases)** compared to the prior week (10,945 cases), with **West reporting a 65% increase** in new patients. East reported a 20% increase, and South a 106% increase in the number of cases. Although the lab testing remains a limiting factor in East and South, cases numbers have significantly increased in the last three weeks and **remain an underestimate for East and South due to insufficient tested numbers**. The reasons behind the increased case numbers are weak implementation and adjustment of Public Health and Social Measures. In addition, **Libya has not reported an official confirmation of the Delta variant. Delta is suspected because of its circulation in neighbouring Tunisia.**
- There has been an increase in deaths between Weeks 22 and 27 from 51/day to 144/day. In Epi-week 28, the number of new deaths (56) showed an 87% increase compared to last week. As a result, the mortality rate increased to 0.8 deaths per 100,000 cases, with a case fatality rate of 0.3%.
- As compared to last week, West reported a 133% increase in deaths for the reporting week, East (100% increase) and 38% decrease reported in South (- see table 1)
- Libya remains classified under community transmission with the circulation of Alpha and Beta Variants of Concern (VOC).

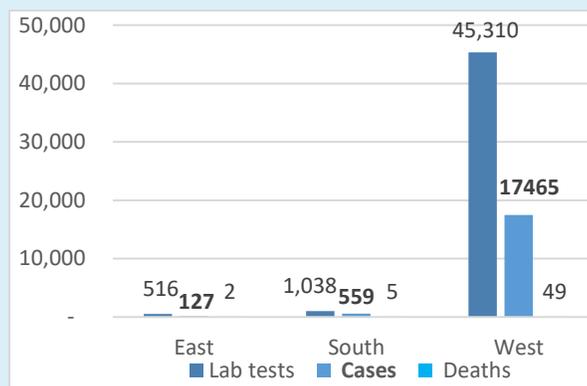


Fig. 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths, and lab tests for Epi-week 28 by region

- As a part of PHSM, Libya has suspended schools and universities as of July 11th, 2021. Summer resorts, parks and public gardens have also been closed in some municipalities until further notice. As of July 8th, 2021, borders with Tunisia have remained closed.

Epidemiological situation:

		Positivity Rate		Case incidence per 100,000			Mortality rate per 100,000			Case Fatality Rate	
Epi-week 28		38.7		266.5			0.8			0.3%	
Cumulative		18.2%		3,302			48			1.5%	
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 labs tests in the last 7 days	Cumulative lab tests (%)	Positivity rate	Cumulative positivity rate
West	17,465 (96.2%)	65%	207,337 (92.2%)	49 (87.5%)	133%	2,658 (80.6%)	45,310 (96.7%)	44%	1,161,593 (94.2%)	38.5	17.8
East	127 (0.7%)	20%	8,793 (3.9%)	2 (3.6%)	100%	374 (11.3%)	516 (1.1%)	-0.4%	44,436 (3.6%)	24.6	19.7
South	559 (3.1%)	106%	8,790 (3.9%)	5 (9%)	-38%	267 (8.1%)	1,038 (2.2%)	88%	27,435 (2.2%)	53.8	32
Libya	18,151 (100%)	66%	224,920 (100%)	56 (100%)	87%	3,299 (100%)	46,864 (100%)	44%	1,233,464 (100%)	38.7	18.2

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

Based on reporting figures, it appears that the highest transmission now exists in the South region, followed by West and then East, signifying the need for sustaining the previous testing levels, especially in East and South. In the current week, Libya achieved the highest number of tests performed in a week with 46,864 tests, and the highest number of tests performed in a month was in March 2021, with 135,571 tests.

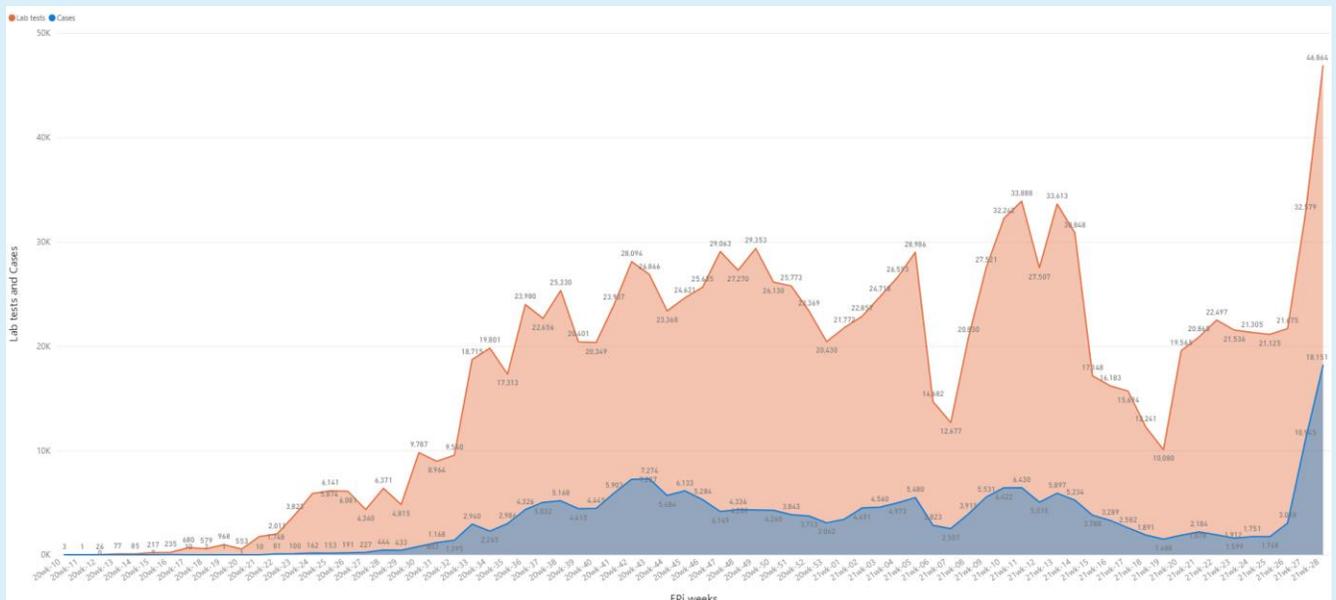


Fig. 2: Number of COVID-19 Laboratory tests performed vs confirmed positive cases per Epi-Weeks 2021 calendars.

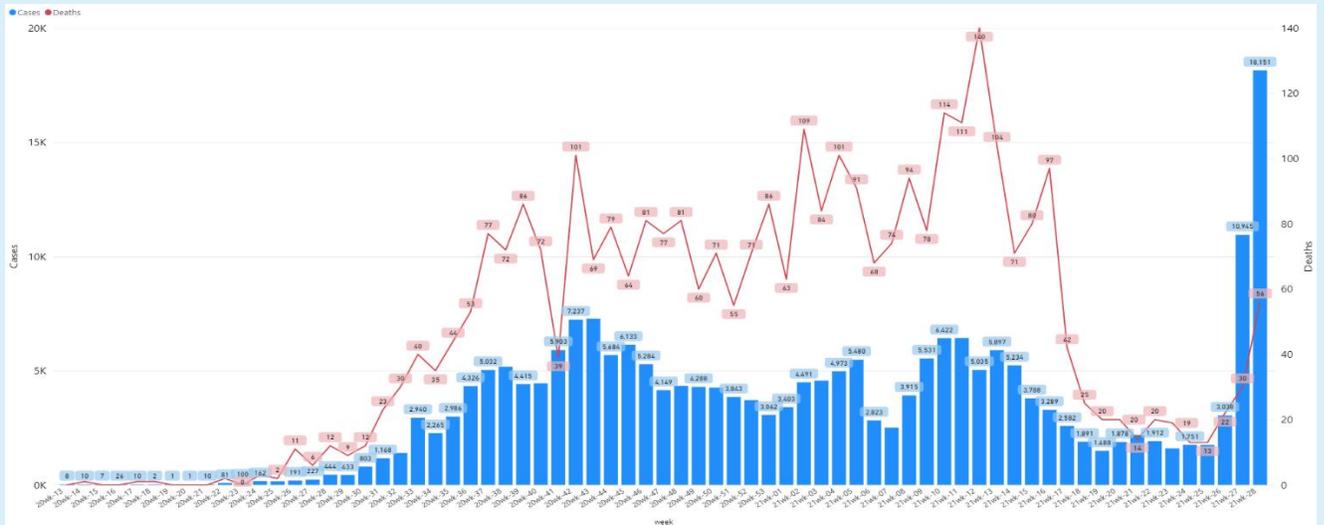


Fig. 3: Weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths, as of July 18th, 2021 (Epi-week 28)

The above figure #3 reflects the weekly number of cases and deaths for this year, reflecting the **overall increasing trend in cases since July 3rd, 2021**, with a sudden spike in cases and the number of deaths. Thirteen out of 22 districts did not report any deaths in the reporting week.

In the past epi-week, **Sirte (275% increase), Nalut (200% increase), Almargeb (177% increase), Aljara (159% increase; 998 cases), Zwara (138% increase; 947 cases) and Al Jabal al Gharbi (88% increase; 551 cases) in the West, Wadi Ashaati (196% increase), Aljufra (86% increase) and Sabha (116% increase) in South, Derna (100% increase) and Benghazi (36% increase) in East**, showed a significant increase in cases compared to last reporting week. The three districts reporting the highest number of new cases continue to be: **Misrata with 6000 (56% increase), Tripoli with 5701 (79% increase) and Azzawya 2730 (20% increase)**. On the other hand, Al Marj and Jabal al Akhdar districts in the East and Ghat in the South have reported no data in the last fifteen weeks. The main reason for the non-inclusion of data from municipalities is referral testing in COVID-19 in labs of the nearest municipalities.

The most significant decrease in cases was reported in Ejdabia and Alkufra in the East and Ubari in the South. Fewer case numbers are directly proportional to less testing in reporting week. See Table II below for absolute numbers.

Region	District	Cases		% Increase / decrease		Deaths		% Increase / decrease		wk-28	
		wk-27	wk-28			wk-27	wk-28			Case incidence per 100,000	Mortality rate per 100,000
East	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	0	0	-	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
East	Alkufra	9	3	-67	●	0	0	-	●	5	0
East	Almarj	0	0	-	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
East	Benghazi	88	120	36	●	0	0	-	●	14	0
East	Derna	1	2	100	●	0	0	-	●	1	0
East	Ejdabia	6	0	-100	●	1	0	-100	●	0	0
East	Tobruk	2	2	0	●	0	2	-	●	1	1
South	Aljufra	44	82	86	●	0	1	-	●	137	2
South	Ghat	0	0	-	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
South	Murzuq	19	18	-5	●	0	0	-	●	19	0
South	Sebha	134	290	116	●	8	3	-63	●	172	2
South	Ubari	17	0	-100	●	0	1	-	●	0	1
South	Wadi Ashshati	57	169	196	●	0	0	-	●	177	0
West	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	293	551	88	●	0	7	-	●	150	2
West	Aljara	385	998	159	●	3	0	-100	●	181	0
West	Almargeb	126	349	177	●	2	6	200	●	65	1
West	Azzawya	2274	2730	20	●	4	10	150	●	748	3
West	Misrata	3845	6000	56	●	8	15	88	●	887	2
West	Nalut	48	144	200	●	1	0	-100	●	132	0
West	Sirt	12	45	275	●	2	0	-100	●	30	0
West	Tripoli	3187	5701	79	●	0	0	-	●	467	0
West	Zwara	398	947	138	●	1	11	1000	●	262	3
	Total	10945	18151			30	56			266.5	0.8

- Increase
- No change
- Decrease

Table II: Comparative number and trends of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths in epi week 27 vs 28 by district

The focus of the current week: Status of COVID-19 vaccination in Libya

- The total number of beneficiaries registered on the e-registration website is 915,364, with 4638 non-Libyans.
- 6.9% of the population has received one dose with no second doses administered till now. 34.9% of the high-risk population has received one dose. 52.5% of the registered population has been vaccinated.
- The total number of COVID-19 vaccine accumulated doses arrived in the country is 830,190 with 70% utilization.
 - AstraZeneca (COVAX) vaccine doses that arrived in two shipments are fully utilized 100%.
 - Sinovac doses (donated by Turkey) are fully utilized 100%.
 - DG NCDC has approved the Pfizer vaccine distribution plan. Vaccination activities have not started yet. Expected to commence after Eid Adha holidays
- The 0.5 million Sputnik V light was supposed to arrive at Mitiga airport from the UAE; unfortunately, the flight was cancelled due to an aeroplane technical fault.
- Support letter sent by Libya Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to European Commission requesting 240,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines. This shipment comes from Greece (200K doses) and Malta (40k doses). The shipment is expected to arrive after the Eid Adha festival.
- In response to the increased number of COVID-19 cases in the western region, the NCDC has decided to scale up C19 vaccination activities on Thursday, July 15th, using the Sputnik V vaccine, targeting the high-risk group in the affected municipalities of Zliten, Zwara, Azzawya, Misurata and Al Khums.
- NCDC officially requested WHO CO support to procure Ultra Cold Chain equipment and vaccine waste management devices and consumables.
- EMRO C19 vaccination tracking dashboard being updated regularly.

Technical guidance and other resources

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

- [Safe Eid al Adha practices in the context of COVID-19](#)
- [WHO technical consultation on oxygen access scaleup for COVID-19](#)
- [Clinical features and prognostic factors of COVID-19 in people living with HIV hospitalized with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)

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](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination tracker for EMRO countries](#)

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