



Libya COVID-19 Surveillance Weekly Bulletin

Epidemiological Week 29 (19 – 25 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
1,265,555	32,091	46,342	236,961	12,041	187,221	3,168	3,398	99

Highlights:

- 29 COVID-19 labs (out of 32) reported 32,091 new lab tests done in Epi-week 29. Thus, out of the total 1,265,555 tests in Libya since the beginning of the response, 236,961 (18.7%) were confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- Libya has seen a sharp rise in the number of new cases between Week 25 and Week 28: from 246/day to 2486/day, and weekly attack rates rise from 25.1/100,000 to 253.3/100,000. On the other hand, cases declined during week 29 (Eid week) to an average of 1,708/day, mainly **due to decreased testing due to holidays**.
- Compared to Epi-week 28, there was a 32% decrease in overall national testing: by regions, West (31% decrease), South (42% decrease) and East (48% decrease). Thus, **97.3% (32,091) of national testing was performed in the West** as compared to both East (only 269 tests) and South (only 607 tests) Regions. (-see fig. 1)
- There is an increase in the number of tests from 3.1/1000 to 6.7/1000 between weeks 25 and 28. It decreased to 4.2/1000 in Eid week, and the positivity ratio: 8.1% to 37.5% between weeks 25 and 29. The national positivity rate for Epi-week 29 has decreased to **37.5%**, which mainly represents the West with a positivity rate of 36.9%. It cannot be generalized based on the positivity rate in the East (34.9%) and **South (72%)**, which differ markedly from the national-level positivity rate. National numbers of cases, deaths and lab tests are skewed to West.
- The overall number of new cases reported in EPID week 29 shows a 34% **decrease (12,041 cases)** compared to the prior week (18,151 cases), with **West reporting a 34% decrease** in new patients. East reported a 26% decrease, and South a 22% decrease 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 five weeks and **remain an underestimate for East and South due to insufficient tested numbers in general and specifically the Eid week**. 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 25 and 29 from 2/day to 13/day. In Epi-week 29, the number of new deaths (99) showed a 77% increase compared to last week. As a result, the mortality rate increased to 1.5 deaths per 100,000 cases, with a case fatality rate of 0.8%.
- As compared to last week, West reported a 71% increase in deaths for the reporting week, East (no increase) and 160% increase reported in South (- see table 1)

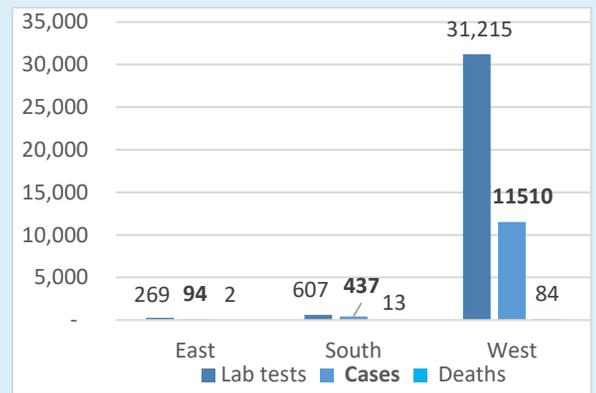


Fig. 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths, and lab tests for Epi-week 29 by region

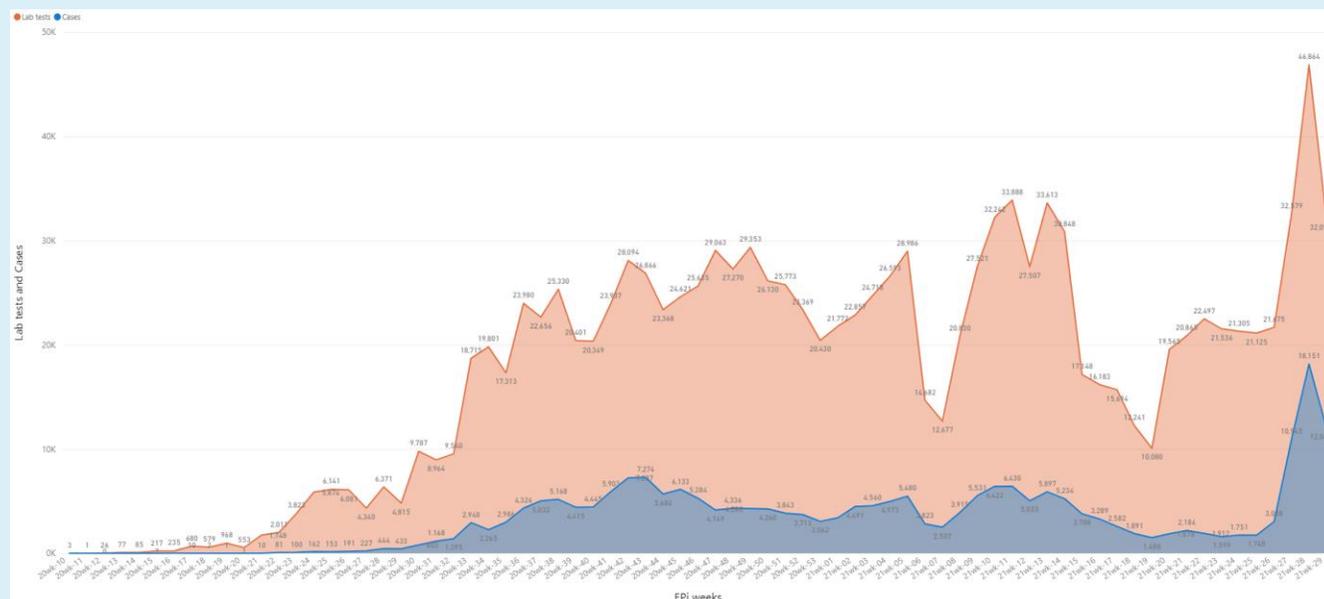
- Libya remains classified under community transmission with the circulation of Alpha and Beta Variants of Concern (VOC).
- As a part of PHSM, Libya has suspended schools and universities as of July 11th, 2021. Summer resorts, parks and public gardens have also been closed in some municipalities until further notice. As of July 8th, 2021, borders with Tunisia have remained closed. In addition, GNU has officially issued a curfew from 6 pm to 6 am starting on July 27th, 2021, for two weeks in Tripoli, central and western regions.

Epidemiological situation:

		Positivity Rate		Case incidence per 100,000			Mortality rate per 100,000			Case Fatality Rate	
Epi-week 29		37.5		176.8			1.5			0.8%	
Cumulative		18.7%		3,479			50			1.4%	
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	11,510 (95.6%)	-34%	218,847 (92.4%)	84 (84.9%)	71%	2,742 (80.7%)	31,215 (97.3%)	-31%	1,192,808 (94.3%)	36.9	18.3
East	94 (0.8%)	-26%	8,887 (3.7%)	2 (2%)	0%	376 (11.1%)	269 (0.8%)	-48%	44,705 (3.5%)	34.9	20
South	437 (3.6%)	-22%	9,227 (3.9%)	13 (13.1%)	160%	280 (8.2%)	607 (1.9%)	-42%	28,042 (2.2%)	72	33
Libya	12,041 (100%)	-34%	224,920 (100%)	99 (100%)	77%	3,398 (100%)	32,091 (100%)	-32%	1,265,555 (100%)	37.5	18.7

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 week 28, Libya achieved the highest number of tests performed in a week with 46,864 tests which shows the threshold and capacity that Libya can achieve in one week, provided resources are available, and the highest number of tests performed in a month was in March 2021, with 135,571 tests.



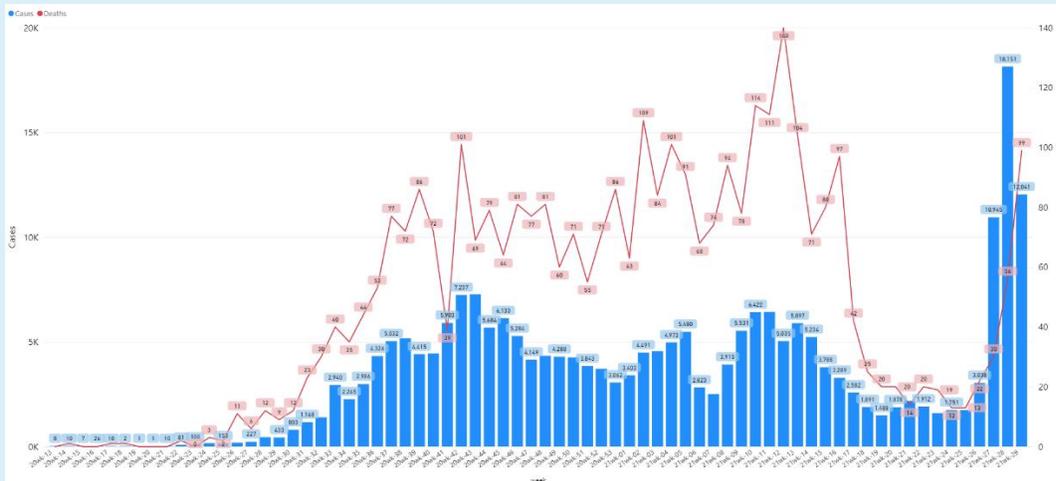


Fig. 3: Weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths, as of July 25th, 2021 (Epi-week 29)

The above figure #3 reflects the weekly number of cases and deaths for this year, reflecting the **overall increasing trend in cases and deaths since July 3rd, 2021**, with a sudden spike in cases and number of deaths. Eleven out of 22 districts did not report any deaths in the reporting week. The death numbers usually follow with a lag period as compared to the number of cases.

In the past epi-week, **Aljufra (137% increase; 194 cases) and Murzuq (6% increase; 52 cases) in South, Al Kufra (52 cases) in East and Al Jabal al Gharbi (5% increase; 577 cases) in West**, showed a significant increase in cases compared to last reporting week. The three districts reporting the highest number of new cases continue to be: **Tripoli with 4538 (20% decrease), Misrata with 2965 (51% decrease) and Azzawya 1002 (63% decrease)**. 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 sixteen weeks. The main reason for the non-inclusion of data from municipalities is referral testing in COVID-19 in labs of the nearest municipalities. Derna and Ejdabia in East and Ubari in South did not report any cases in the current week.

All districts except those mentioned above showed decreased cases due to less testing in the Eid holidays. Therefore, 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-29	
		wk-28	wk-29			wk-28	wk-29			Case incidence per 100,000	Mortality rate per 100,000
East	Al Jabal Al Akhdar	0	0	-	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
East	Alkufra	3	52	1633	●	0	0	-	●	92	0
East	Almarj	0	0	-	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
East	Benghazi	120	40	-67	●	0	0	-	●	5	0
East	Derna	2	0	-100	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
East	Ejdabia	0	0	-	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
East	Tobruk	2	2	0	●	2	2	0	●	1	1
South	Aljufra	82	194	137	●	1	2	100	●	324	3
South	Ghat	0	0	-	●	0	0	-	●	0	0
South	Murzuq	18	19	6	●	0	1	-	●	20	1
South	Sebha	290	160	-45	●	3	10	233	●	95	6
South	Ubari	0	0	-	●	1	0	-100	●	0	0
South	Wadi Ashshati	169	64	-62	●	0	0	-	●	67	0
West	Al Jabal Al Gharbi	551	577	5	●	7	12	71	●	157	3
West	Aljifara	998	802	-20	●	0	6	-	●	146	1
West	Almargeb	349	594	70	●	6	11	83	●	111	2
West	Azzawya	2730	1002	-63	●	10	16	60	●	274	4
West	Misrata	6000	2965	-51	●	15	27	80	●	438	4
West	Nalut	144	123	-15	●	0	2	-	●	112	2
West	Sirt	45	87	93	●	0	0	-	●	57	0
West	Tripoli	5701	4538	-20	●	0	0	-	●	372	0
West	Zwara	947	822	-13	●	11	10	-9	●	228	3
Total		18151	12041			56	99			176.8	1.5

- Increase
- No change
- Decrease

Table II: Comparative number and trends of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths in epi week 28 vs 29 by district

Epidemiological Focus of the current epidemiological week: Delta Variant of Concern in Eastern Mediterranean Region

- In Libya, vaccination coverage is low, with only 6.9% of the population administered the first dose.
- More unvaccinated young people get infected with the Delta VOC with severe symptoms and a higher hospitalization rate.
- The Delta VOC has become the predominant strain in some countries, contributing to the 4th wave observed in the Region
- 15 EMR countries have reported the Delta VOC: Afghanistan, Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the occupied Palestinian territory, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates
- Need to prepare for the worst, even in countries with a high vaccination coverage (“breakthrough infections”)

Technical guidance and other resources

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

- [Guidance on conducting vaccine effectiveness evaluations in the setting of new SARS-CoV-2 variants: Interim guidance, July 22nd, 2021. Addendum to Evaluation of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness](#)

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