



Libya COVID-19 Surveillance Monthly Bulletin

Epidemiological Month of July

(1– 31 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 |
|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| 1,324,096 | 181,477 | 57,704 | 253,436 | 59,531 | 192,184 | 13,563 | 3,548 | 350 |

Highlights:

- 34 COVID-19 labs (out of 34) reported 181,477 new lab tests done for July.
- This month, two new labs were opened (the total became 34)—Suq Aljuma NCDC Lab and Alkufra new PCR Lab (which merged with ALkufra NCDC lab). Also, Emsaed International Health Control resumed reporting again this month since June 2020.
- Death numbers reporting changed to the region instead of the municipality since the 27th of July 2021 by the Emergency Unit in the MOH.
- Out of the total 1,324,096 tests in Libya since the beginning of the response, 253,436 (19.1%) were confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).
- Compared to June, there was a 95% increase in overall national testing: by regions, West (93% increase), South (197% increase) and East (83% increase). Thus, **96.9% (175,794) of national testing was performed in the West** as compared to both East (only 2116 tests) and South (only 3567 tests) Regions. (-see fig. 1)
- The national positivity rate for July was **32.8%**, which mainly represent's the West with a positivity rate of 32.3%. However, it cannot be generalized based on the positivity rate in the **East (28.7%)** and **South (61%)**, which differ markedly from the national-level positivity rate. Therefore, national numbers of cases, deaths and lab tests are skewed to the West.
- The overall number of new cases reported in July shows a 660% increase (**59,531 cases**) compared to June (7833 cases), with **West reporting a 696% increase** in new patients. East reported a 71% increase, and South a 515% increase in the number of cases. Although the lab testing remains a limiting factor in East and South, cases numbers have significantly increased last month 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.**
- **In July**, the number of new deaths (350) showed a 393% increase compared to June with 71 deaths. As a result, the mortality rate for July 5.1 deaths per 100,000 cases, with a case fatality rate of 1%.

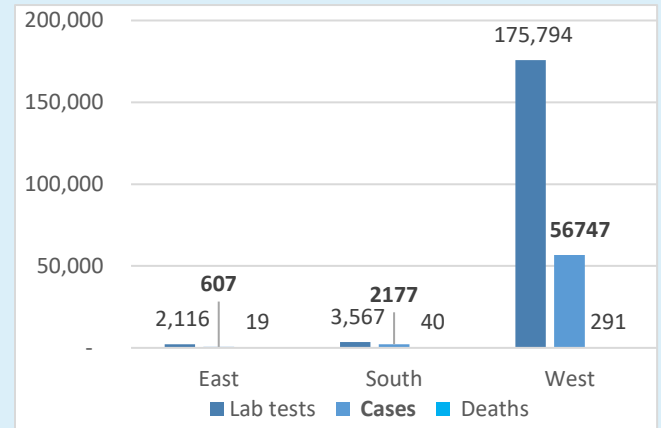


Fig. 1: COVID-19 cases, deaths, and lab tests for July by region

- As compared to June, West reported a 610% increase in deaths for the reporting week, East (10% decrease) and 344% increase reported in South (- see table 1)
- 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 the 11th of July 2021. Summer resorts, parks and public gardens have also been closed in some municipalities until further notice. As of the 8th of July 2021, borders with Tunisia have remained closed except for repatriation. In addition, GNU has officially issued a curfew from 6 pm to 6 am starting on the 27th of July 2021, for two weeks in Tripoli, central and western regions. Furthermore, the Ministry of education suspended all educational activities until till 5th of August. As of the 29th of July, Libyan authorities has made PCR testing mandatory for domestic flights.

Epidemiological situation:

| | | Positivity Rate | Case incidence per 100,000 | | | | Mortality rate per 100,000 | | | Case Fatality Rate | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Month of July | | 32.8 | 874.1 | | | | 5.1 | | | 1% | |
| Cumulative | | 19.1% | 3,721 | | | | 52 | | | 1.4% | |
| Region | New cases in the last 30 days (%) | Change in new cases in the previous 30 days | Cumulative cases (%) | New deaths in the last 30 days (%) | Change in new deaths in the last 30 days | Cumulative deaths (%) | New lab tests are done in the last 30 days (%) | Change in new labs tests in the last 30 days | Cumulative lab tests (%) | Positivity rate | Cumulative positivity rate |
| West | 56,747 (95.3%) | 696% | 234,233 (92.4%) | 291 (83.1%) | 610% | 2,869 (80.9%) | 175,794 (96.9%) | 93% | 1,249,440 (94.4%) | 32.3 | 18.7 |
| East | 607 (1%) | 71% | 9,154 (3.6%) | 19 (5.5%) | -10% | 388 (10.9%) | 2,116 (1.2%) | 83% | 45,472 (3.4%) | 28.7 | 20.1 |
| South | 2,177 (3.7%) | 515% | 10,049 (4%) | 40 (11.4%) | 344% | 291 (8.2%) | 3,567 (1.9%) | 197% | 29,184 (2.2%) | 61 | 34.4 |
| Libya | 59,531 (100%) | 660% | 253,436 (100%) | 350 (100%) | 393% | 3,548 (100%) | 181,477 (100%) | 95% | 1,324,096 (100%) | 32.8 | 19.1 |

Table 1: Cumulative and within 30 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 30, Libya achieved the highest number of tests performed in a week with 58,541 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 July 2021, with 181,477 tests.

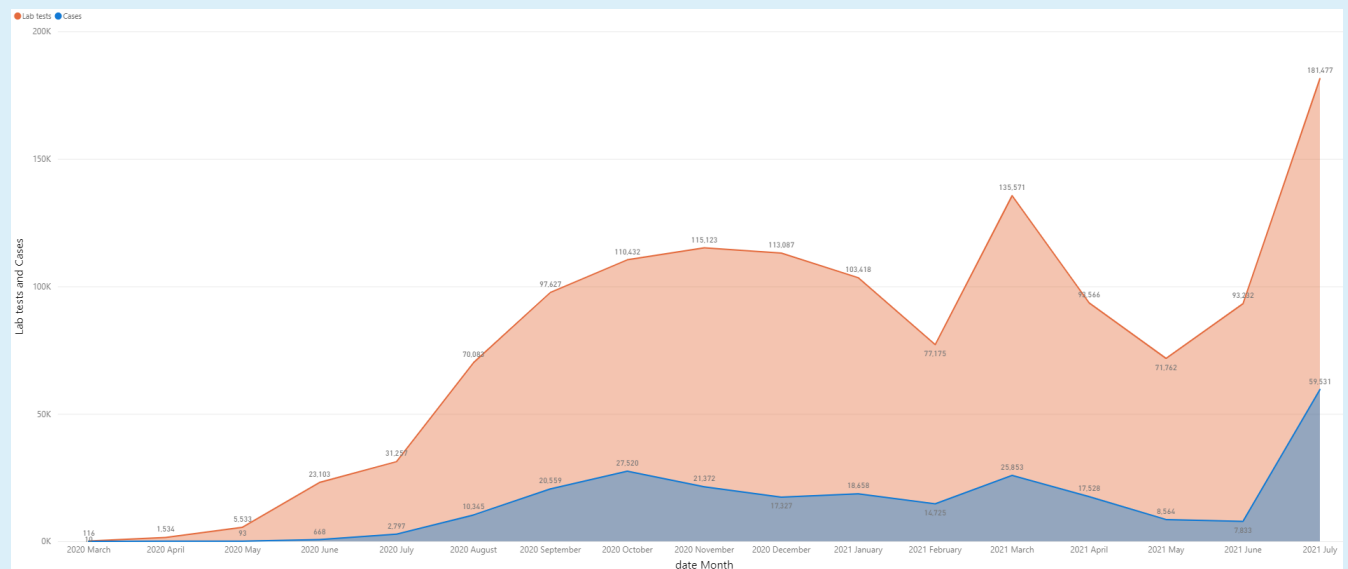


Fig. 2: Number of COVID-19 Laboratory tests performed vs confirmed positive cases per Month 2020-2021 calendars.

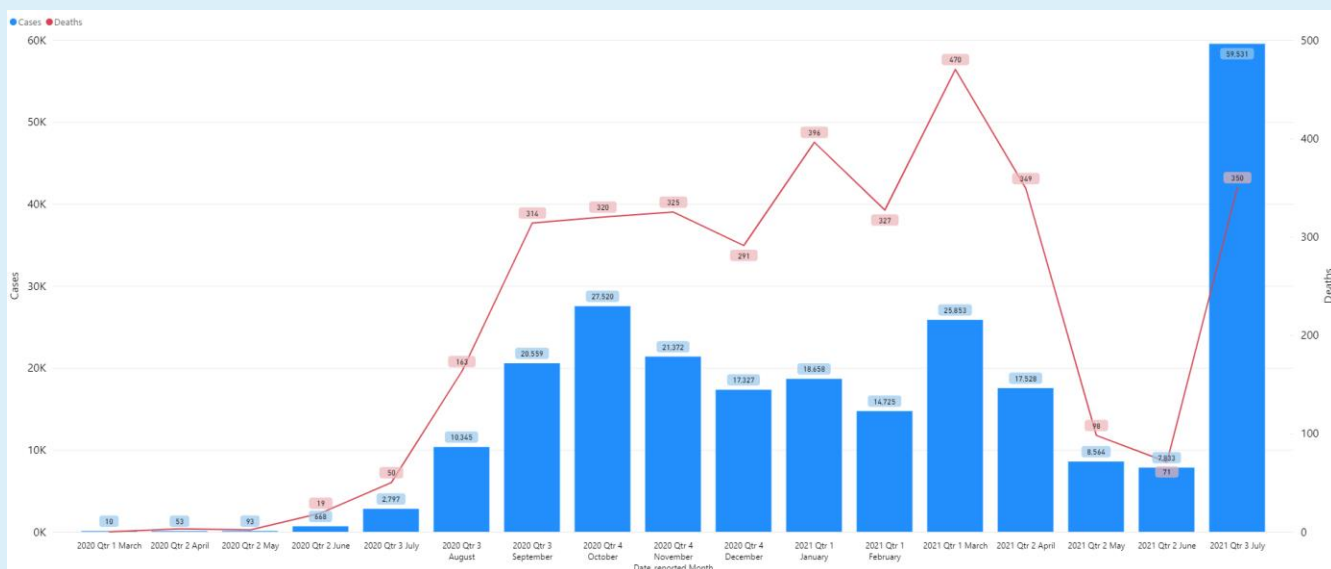


Fig. 3: Monthly COVID-19 cases and deaths, per Months 2020-2021 calendars.

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

In July, **Zwara (3658 cases) and Misrata (16730 cases) in West, Wadi Ashaati (566 cases) and Aljufra (521 cases) in the South** showed a significant increase in the percentage of cases compared to last reporting month. However, the three districts reporting the highest number of new cases continue to be: **Tripoli with 19794, Misrata with 16730 and Azzawya with 7589 cases**. 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 seventeen weeks. The main reason for the non-inclusion of data from municipalities is referral testing in COVID-19 in labs of the nearest municipalities.

All districts except Tobruk, Murzuq and Ghat, showed an increased number of cases. See Table II below for absolute numbers.

| Region | District | Cases | | % Increase / decrease | | Deaths | | % Increase / decrease | | Month-July | |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|---|-----------|------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | June | July | | | June | July | | | Case incidence per 100,000 | Mortality rate per 100,000 |
| East | Al Jabal Al Akhdar | 0 | 0 | - | ● | 0 | 0 | - | ● | 0 | 0 |
| East | Alkufra | 46 | 77 | 67 | ● | 4 | 1 | -75 | ● | 136 | 2 |
| East | Almarj | 0 | 0 | - | ● | 0 | 0 | - | ● | 0 | 0 |
| East | Benghazi | 164 | 318 | 94 | ● | 0 | 12 | - | ● | 37 | 1 |
| East | Derna | 16 | 60 | 275 | ● | 0 | 0 | - | ● | 29 | 0 |
| East | Ejdabia | 81 | 141 | 74 | ● | 5 | 2 | -60 | ● | 66 | 1 |
| East | Tobruk | 47 | 11 | -77 | ● | 12 | 4 | -67 | ● | 5 | 2 |
| South | Aljufra | 29 | 521 | 1697 | ● | 0 | 4 | - | ● | 870 | 7 |
| South | Ghat | 1 | 0 | -100 | ● | 0 | 0 | - | ● | 0 | 0 |
| South | Murzuq | 63 | 60 | -5 | ● | 1 | 1 | 0 | ● | 63 | 1 |
| South | Sebha | 205 | 997 | 386 | ● | 8 | 34 | 325 | ● | 593 | 20 |
| South | Ubari | 21 | 33 | 57 | ● | 0 | 1 | - | ● | 36 | 1 |
| South | Wadi Ashshati | 35 | 566 | 1517 | ● | 0 | 0 | - | ● | 592 | 0 |
| West | Al Jabal Al Gharbi | 959 | 2756 | 187 | ● | 9 | 23 | 156 | ● | 750 | 6 |
| West | Aljafara | 552 | 3574 | 547 | ● | 3 | 10 | 233 | ● | 649 | 2 |
| West | Almargeb | 359 | 1749 | 387 | ● | 9 | 24 | 167 | ● | 326 | 4 |
| West | Azzawya | 797 | 7589 | 852 | ● | 2 | 33 | 1550 | ● | 2079 | 9 |
| West | Misrata | 964 | 16730 | 1635 | ● | 12 | 64 | 433 | ● | 2472 | 9 |
| West | Nalut | 49 | 533 | 988 | ● | 0 | 3 | - | ● | 487 | 3 |
| West | Sirt | 85 | 364 | 328 | ● | 3 | 4 | 33 | ● | 241 | 3 |
| West | Tripoli | 3164 | 19794 | 526 | ● | 0 | 106 | - | ● | 1622 | 9 |
| West | Zwara | 196 | 3658 | 1766 | ● | 3 | 24 | 700 | ● | 1014 | 7 |
| Total | | 7833 | 59531 | | | 71 | 350 | | | 874.1 | 5.1 |

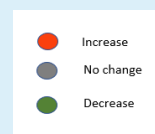


Table II: Comparative number and trends of COVID-19 positive cases and deaths in months June vs July by district

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

- As of the 31st of July, the total number of beneficiaries registered on the e-registration website is 925,842, with 5120 non-Libyans.
- 530,808 total administered doses of all vaccines in use.
- Sputnik V vaccine is dominating vaccine in use, with an average of 15,000 administered doses per day.
- COVID-19 vaccination specifically targeting Migrants and Refugees (hosted or Detention Centres) have not started yet. However, few migrants received their first Jab during a mass campaign conducted last week in Tripoli, Zwara, Zliten Misurata, Zawiya and Al Khums. Unfortunately, no exact figures are available.
- In response to the increased number of COVID-19 cases in the western region, the NCDC/MoH has decided to scaleup COVID-19 vaccination activities on Thursday the 15th of July using Sputnik V vaccine, targeting high-risk groups in Zliten, Zwara, Zawiya, Misurata and AL Khums

Technical guidance and other resources

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

- [Interim recommendations for the use of the ChAdOx1-S \[recombinant\] vaccine against COVID-19 \(AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine AZD1222 Vaxzevria™, SII COVISHIELD™\)](#)
- [Annexes to the interim recommendations for the use of the ChAdOx1-S \[recombinant\] vaccine against COVID-19 \(AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine AZD1222 Vaxzevria™, SII COVISHIELD™\)](#)

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