

Pacific Heads of Health

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

Pacific Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT) COVID-19 Update

1st July 2021

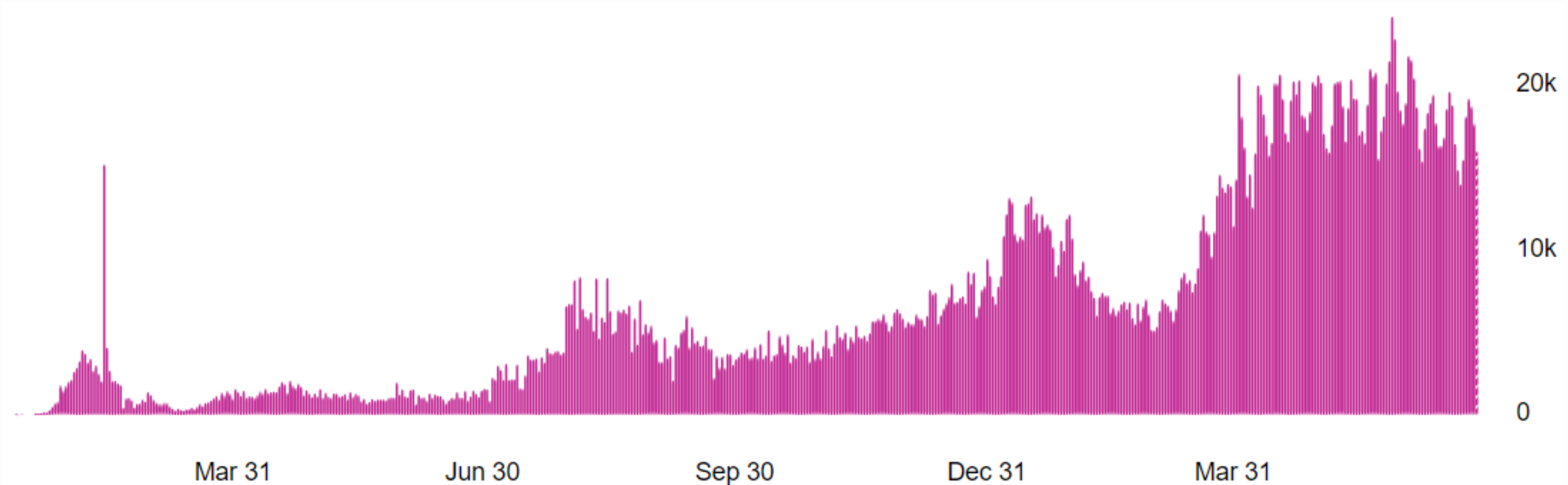


Epidemiological Update – Global/Regional

Globally, over **181M** cases and over **3.9M** deaths have been recorded

In the Western Pacific region, there have been over **3.5M** cases and over **54,000** deaths

COVID-19 cases reported daily in WHO Western Pacific Region as of 29th June



Pacific Island Country and Area Summary

Country/Area	New cases (24 hours)	Deaths (24 hours)	Cumulative cases	Cumulative deaths	CFP (%)	Transmission Stage Classification
Fiji	312	4	4,144	21	0.5	Pending
French Polynesia	N/A	N/A	19,003	142	0.7	Large-scale community transmission
Guam	4	0	8,092	140	1.7	Localized community transmission
Republic of the Marshall Islands	0	0	4	0	0.0	No cases
New Caledonia	0	0	129	0	0.0	Not assessed
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	0	0	183	2	1.1	Imported cases
Samoa	0	0	1	0	0.0	No cases
Solomon Islands	0	0	20	0	0.0	No cases
Vanuatu	0	0	3	0	0.0	No cases
Wallis and Futuna	0	0	453	7	1.1	Not assessed
Total	316	4	32,032	312	1.0	
Papua New Guinea	N/A	N/A	17,190	174	1.0	Large-scale community transmission

Update as of 30th June 2021

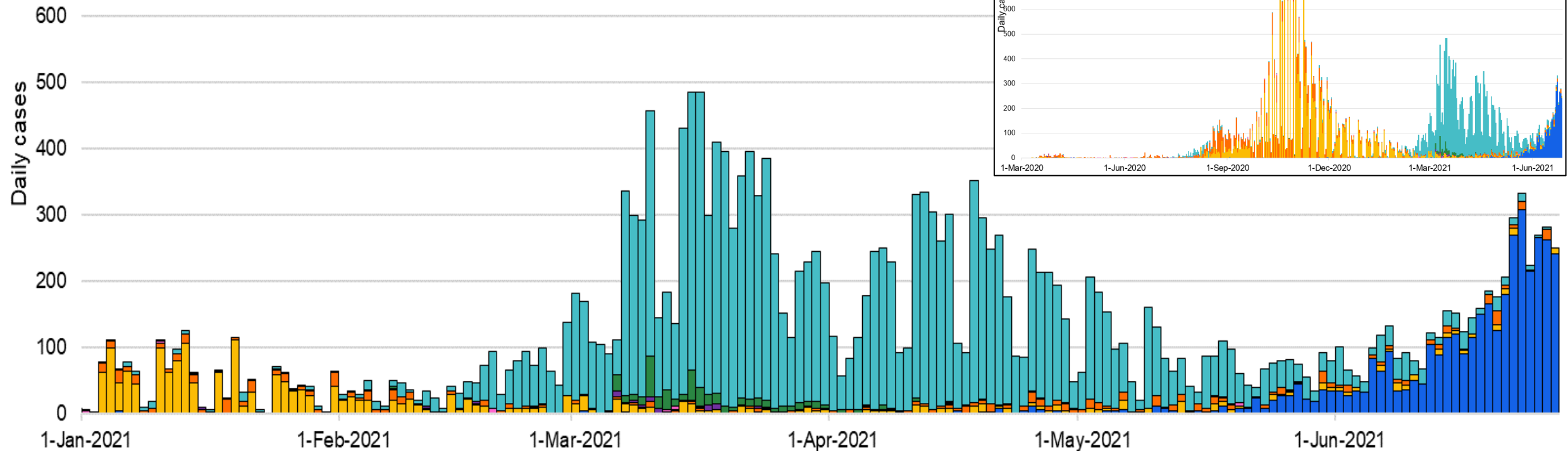
N/A indicates no update available as of report

Epidemiological Update – Pacific

- Fiji
- Guam
- New Caledonia
- Samoa
- Vanuatu
- Papua New Guinea

- French Polynesia
- Marshall Islands, Republic of the (RMI)
- Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth of the (CNMI)
- Solomon Islands
- Wallis and Futuna

Locally-acquired cases
are currently being
detected in **Fiji, French
Polynesia, Guam & PNG**



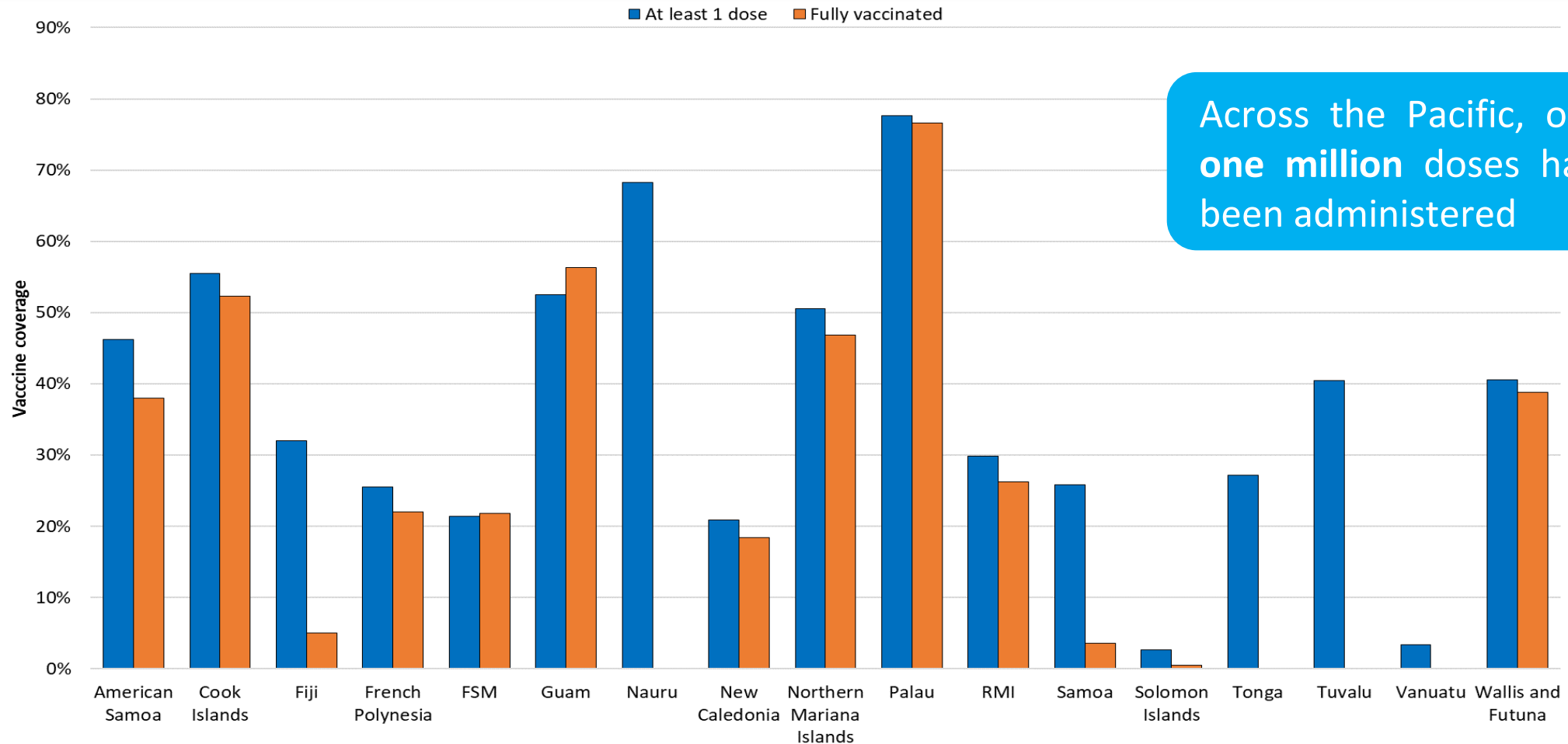
Variants of Concern (VOC)

WHO label	Pango lineage	Earliest documented samples	Pacific Island Countries and Areas with reported VOC	Characteristics
Alpha	B.1.1.7	United Kingdom September 2020	French Polynesia Guam New Caledonia Wallis and Futuna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmissibility and secondary attack rate • Increased risk of hospitalization • Possible increased risk of severity and mortality* • Vaccine: Protection retained against disease
Beta	B.1.351	South Africa May 2020	French Polynesia Guam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmissibility • Possible increased risk of in-hospital mortality • Vaccine: Reduced protection against disease*
Gamma	P.1	Brazil November 2020	French Polynesia Guam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmissibility • Possible increased risk of hospitalization* • Vaccine: Protection likely against disease*
Delta	B.1.617.2	India October 2020	Fiji French Polynesia Guam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmissibility and secondary attack rate • Possible increased risk of hospitalization* • Vaccine: Protection retained against severe disease; possible reduced protection against disease and infection*

*Not confirmed / Limited evidence

COVID-19 Pacific Vaccination Update

Globally, over **2.6 billion** vaccine doses have been administered, with over **485 million** people fully vaccinated



Across the Pacific, over **one million** doses have been administered

Update as of 30th June 2021

Vaccine coverage is expressed as a percentage of the total population.

COVID-19 Pacific vaccination update

Country Name	At least 1 dose	Fully vaccinated	Total doses	Last update
American Samoa	25,507	20,991	46,103	27/06/2021
Cook Islands	9,755	9,187	18,942	23/06/2021
Fiji	287,148	45,139	332,287	29/06/2021
French Polynesia	71,610	61,718	133,32	28/06/2021
Guam	88,695	95,100	183,795	28/06/2021
Kiribati	Pending	Pending	Pending	29/06/2021
Marshall Islands, Republic of the	17,644	15,558	33,202	22/06/2021
Micronesia, Federated States of	24,631	25,123	49,754	28/06/2021
Nauru	7,392	Pending	7,392	14/05/2021
New Caledonia	59,614	52,528	112,142	28/06/2021
Niue	Pending	Pending	Pending	29/06/2021
Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth of the	29,123	26,985	56,108	30/06/2021
Palau	14,048	13,857	27,905	28/06/2021
Papua New Guinea	53,354	Pending	53,354	28/06/2021
Pitcairn Islands	Not started	Not started	Not started	29/06/2021
Samoa	51,163	7,215	58,378	29/06/2021
Solomon Islands	18,050	3,692	21,742	21/06/2021
Tokelau	Pending	Pending	Pending	29/06/2021
Tonga	28,667	Pending	28,667	03/06/2021
Tuvalu	4,772	0	4,772	22/06/2021
Vanuatu	10,480	0	10,480	28/06/2021
Wallis and Futuna	4,565	4,368	8,933	25/06/2021
Total	806,218	381,461	1,187,284	

Pending implies more information about the figure has not been shared as of the date of update

COVAX – Supply Considerations and Deliveries

Key messages

- **Supply cannot match demand:** Whilst the development of COVID-19 vaccines has been astonishingly quick, supply cannot currently match demand, and this is likely to persist in the near future
- **Boosting manufacturing capacity** is a long-term solution to supply constraints – Various WHO EUL manufacturing sites have been used to deliver vaccines to PICs
- To maximize production, vaccines are manufactured in multiple countries – PICs required to update their **regulatory approvals**
- **Dose-sharing** (transfer of doses from a self-financing country to another country) has resulted in additional doses for PICs

Doses allocated, through
May-June
540,000

Doses Shipped, cumulative
278,400

Countries and territories,
doses shipped
8

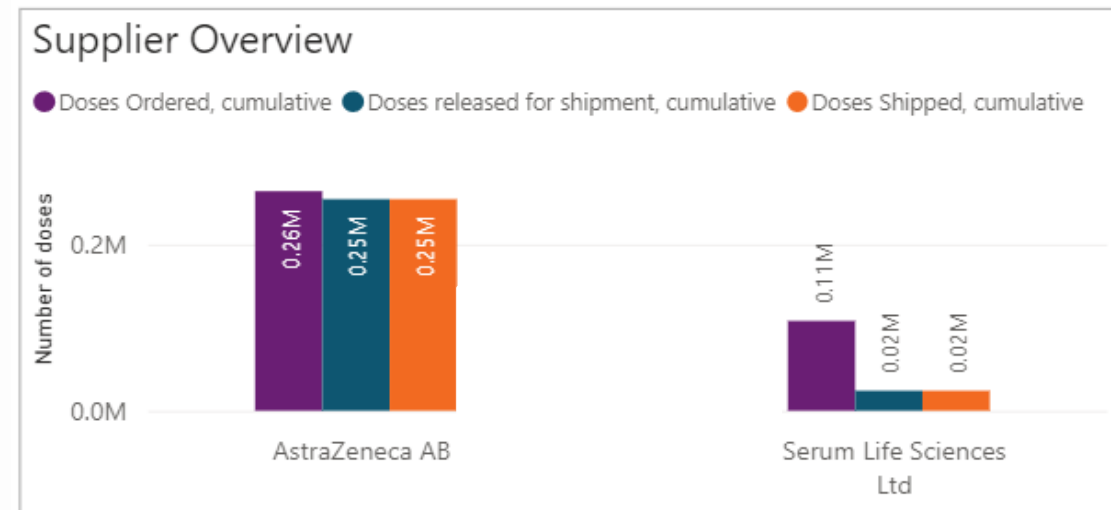
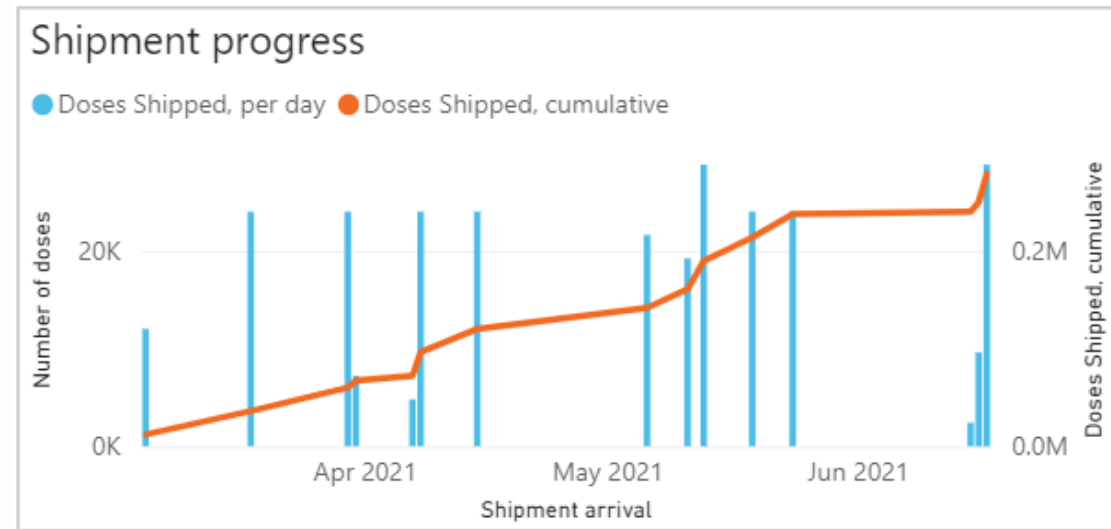
COVAX allocations and deliveries – Pacific Region

WHO countries and territories	Doses Allocated	Doses Shipped, cumulative	Allocated doses shipped, in %
Tuvalu	4,800	9,600	200.0%
Tonga	43,200	48,000	111.1%
Nauru	7,200	7,200	100.0%
Samoa	79,200	52,800	66.7%
Fiji	100,800	60,000	59.5%
Kiribati	48,000	24,000	50.0%
Solomon Islands	108,000	52,800	48.9%
Vanuatu	100,800	24,000	23.8%
Micronesia (Federated States of)	48,000	0	0.0%

COVAX – Supply Considerations and Deliveries

Key logistics considerations

- Actual **shipment dates** depend on flight availability and release of doses by the manufacturer; in-country arrival estimate: 2 weeks from vaccine pick-up
- Shipping to the Pacific remains **challenging** (limited or no flights) – UNICEF continues working with logistics partners to ensure safe and efficient deliveries as soon as doses are released from the manufacturer
- [UNICEF COVID-19 Market Dashboard](#): tracks allocations, doses on order, on-going deliveries and doses delivered. It includes a list of the countries expected to receive doses in the coming 7 days



Vaccination-related issues PICs should be aware of

1. Interpreting vaccine efficacy endpoints – clinical severity, asymptomatic disease, transmission

2. Vaccine effectiveness against VOC – what this means for severity modulation, population immunity, and relaxation of NPIs

3. Serious AEFIs, reporting, and causality assessments

4. Availability of JIMT vaccine pillar expert support to causality assessment, including training and technical advice

5. Horizon scanning – booster doses, mix & match vaccine schedules

Pacific Joint Incident Management Team:

Coordinating partner support for the Pacific COVID-19 response

Facilitated **COVID-19 testing** using the GeneXpert platform in **23 Pacific laboratories** and RT-PCR in several



Over USD 8.7M of **PPE, medical, and laboratory equipment** supplied by JIMT partners in 2021



Advice and support to set up **sustainable, environmentally-friendly technology** for hospital & clinical waste management

Capacity-building of COVID-19 responders to recognise and manage MHPSS needs via **Basic Psychosocial Skills training**



Established strong relationships with institutions and clinicians to support **AEFI investigation and causality assessments**

Coordinated **risk communication & community engagement** support to **20 countries** on COVID-19 & vaccine rollout



Technical support for **IPC, case management, and WASH** guidelines, SOPs, and training

Tailored **contact tracing training** for public health and clinical staff across the Pacific



Key Preparedness Actions

1

IMT, leadership, & decision-making

2

Surveillance, testing strategy & lab capability

3

Contact tracing & data for decision making

4

NPIs & risk communications

5

Case management planning

6

Mental health & psychosocial support

7

Oxygen and critical supply planning/pre-positioning

8

Finance, administration, & human resources planning

9

Training, simulation, & review

10

Vaccine rollout

11

Health facility WASH & waste management

12

Infection prevention & control

Key Messages

Risk of resurgence remains a constant threat. Early lifting of controls, mobility, variants, non-adherence to measures may contribute to surges

PICs must be ready for **quarantine leaks, maritime risks, and vaccine hesitancy** that could lead to large-scale transmission

SARS-CoV-2 likely to be with us for foreseeable future. Changing transmission dynamics and uncertainty with variants (transmissibility, severity, impact) will require **continuous adaptation**

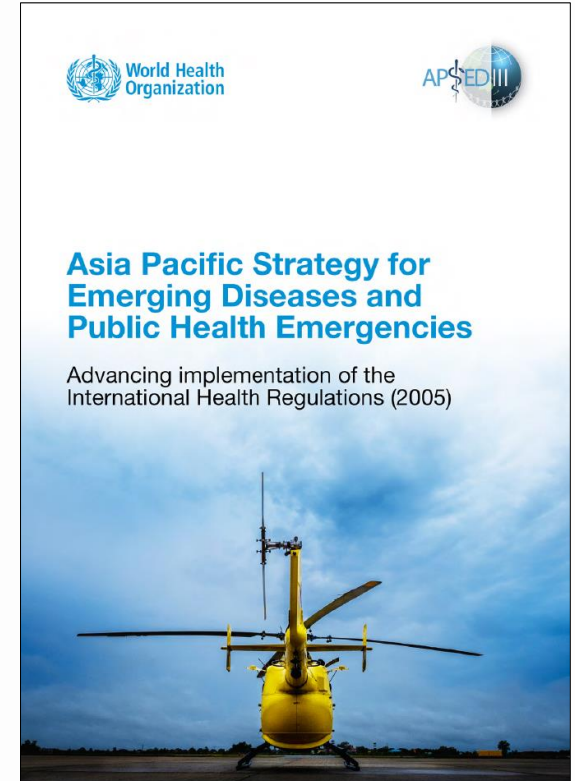
Vaccination is a critical tool to control COVID-19 and there is no room for complacency with rollout, but maintaining and strengthening **other public health measures** remain important

Additional vaccines through donation or dose-sharing will require **regulatory approvals, cold-chain readiness** and early **planning**

Economic recovery **without health at the centre** will not be viable

APSED TAG Consultation – Health Security Priorities from 2021-2030

- At the end of July 2021, WHO will organize the annual bi-regional (WPRO/SEARO) meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III).
- Focus on identifying priority actions/plans in key areas of health security, including:
 - Health laboratory capacity
 - Public health emergency preparedness
 - One Health
 - Surveillance, risk assessment & response
 - Risk communication & community engagement



APSED TAG – Pacific Health Security Priorities

Questions for discussion:

- What has worked well during the response to COVID-19 in the Pacific? What major challenges have been identified?
- Using experiences and key lessons learnt from COVID-19, how will Pacific countries prepare for future pandemics and public health emergencies?
- What has been the PICs' progress in strengthening key health security capacities – particularly in the past 18 months?
- What is the Pacific's vision for health security by 2030? What are the priorities for the next five to ten years?