

COVID-19 CASES IN THE GAZA STRIP

Weekly epidemiological bulletin from (10/05 TO 23/05 2021) AND (24/05 TO 06/06 2021)

DATA SOURCES: MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) DAILY REPORTS ON COVID-19 IN GAZA STRIP

GENERAL

reporting Period	Weekly cases (Biweekly for this report)		Cumulative
	10/05/2021 23/05/2021	24/05/2021 06/06/2021	accumulative since 23/8/2020
# of samples tested	total 6,798	14,438	582,927
# of positive cases	total 2,123	3,808	110,799
# of closed cases	total 104,691	106,704	
# recovered cases (%closed)	103,687	105,676	
# reported deaths (%closed)	1,004	1,028	
classification of positive cases by severity*	mild	2,064	3,764
	moderate	37	14
	severe	15	23
	critical	7	7
positivity rates (weekly)	total	31.23%	19.0%
	contacts	32.8%	23.3%
	suspect	30.0%	29.5%
	surveillance	0%	3.3%

* The reported classification of positive cases by severity reflects the status at first day of admission at the last day of the reporting week. This classification may change over time according to progression of COVID-19 infection among patients.

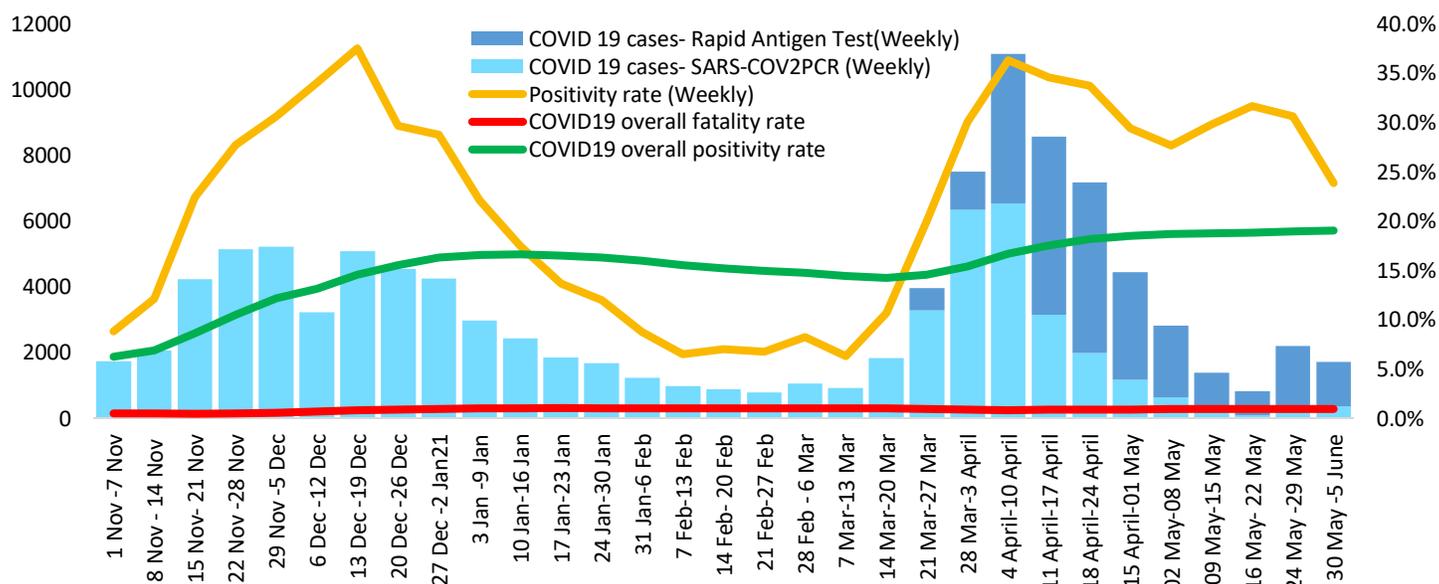


Figure 1: Reported weekly COVID-19 cases, weekly positivity rates, overall positivity rates and overall fatality rate

- Increase in total number of conducted tests (both COVID-19 Antigen Rapid test and SARS-COV2-PCR test) to 14,438 between 24 May-6 June from 6,798 between 10-23 May 2021.
- Increase in number of newly reported COVID-19 cases to 3,808 between 24 May-6 June from 2,123 between 10-23 May 2021 (Figure 1).
- Increase in newly reported COVID-19 cases and incidence per 100,000 along all five Gaza Strip districts (Figure 2 and 3).

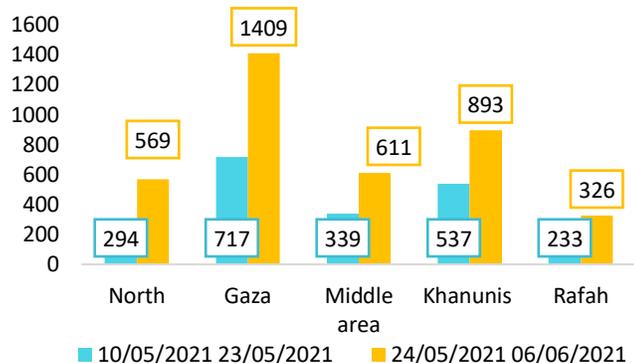


Figure 2: Newly reported weekly COVID-19 cases in Gaza Strip districts

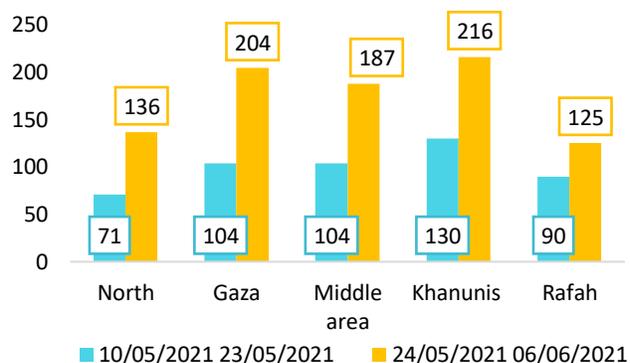
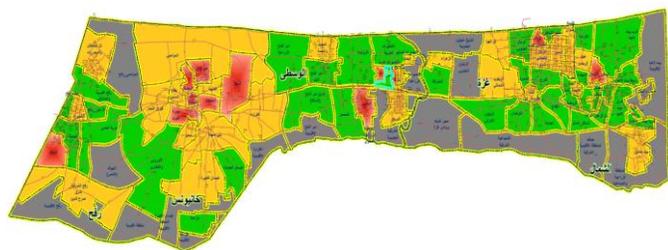
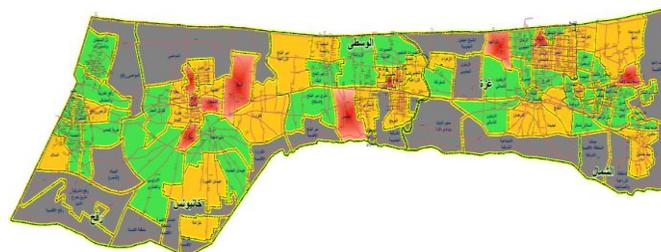


Figure 3: Incidence of weekly COVID-19 reported cases per 100,000 population in Gaza Strip districts

- Twelve (12) red coded areas on 6 June, no change with 23 May 2021. Increase in number of green coded areas between 23 May and 6 June. Figure classifies the neighbourhoods by colour code (Red, Yellow, Green) to visualise the high-risk areas.



23 May 2021



6 June 2021

Figure 4: Geographical distribution of newly reported COVID-19 cases (7 days average) in Gaza Strip neighborhoods

POSITIVITY RATES

- Decrease in COVID-19 positivity rate to 26.37% between 24 May-6 June from 31.23% between 10-23 May 2021.
- Decrease is reported in weekly positivity rates in all five districts comparing between the bi-weekly figures (Figure 5).
- Decrease in positivity rates among contacts and suspected cases comparing between the two periods (Table on page 1). MOH restarted random surveillance with a positivity rate of 3%.
- Increase in overall positivity rate to 19.0% up to 6 June 2021 (Table on page 1).

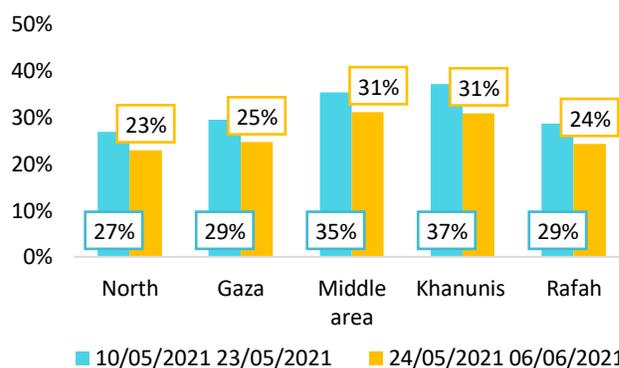


Figure 5: COVID-19 weekly positivity rates distributed by districts

DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 CASES AMONG AGE GROUPS AND GENDER

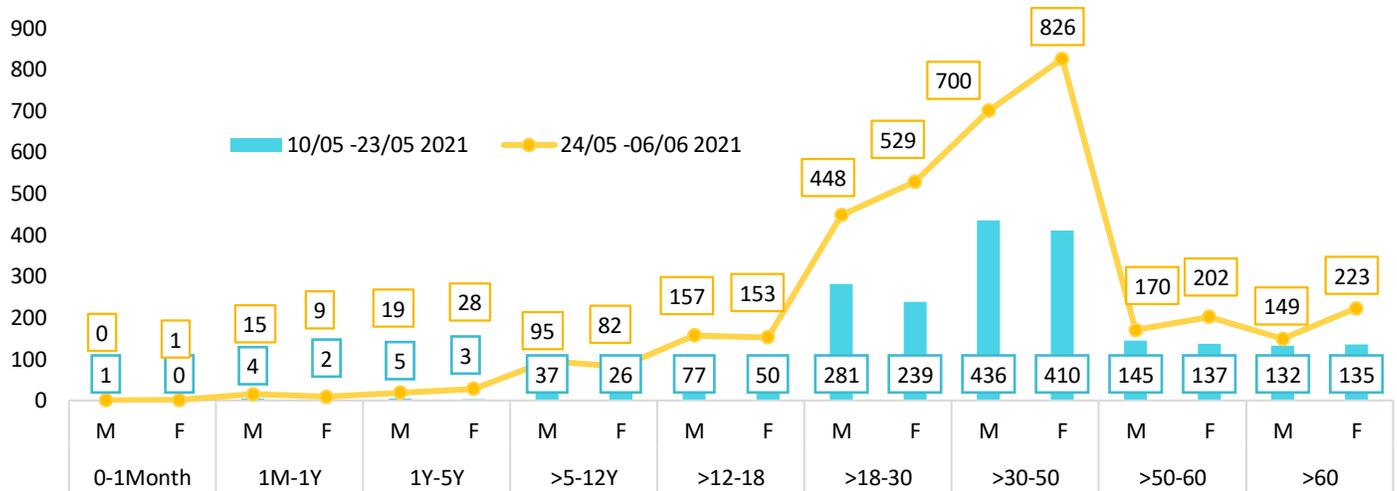


Figure 6: Weekly newly reported COVID-19 cases distributed by age groups and gender

- Increase among all age groups between 24 May-6 June when compared to the period between 10-23 May 2021.
- Highest reported COVID-19 cases among people aged 18 to 50 among males and females in the two reporting periods. The increase rate is higher among females more than males as presented in figure 6.

DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 DEATHS

- Decrease in number of reported COVID-19 deaths to 24 deaths between 24 May-6 June from 47 between 10-23 May 2021.
- Majority of reported COVID-19 deaths are among people aged 60 years and older (Figure 7).
- Total reported deaths since the start of COVID-19 outbreak in the Gaza Strip until 6 June reached 1,028 with an accumulative COVID-19 fatality rate of 1%. Out of the COVID-19 reported deaths, 607 were males (59%) and 421 were females (41%).

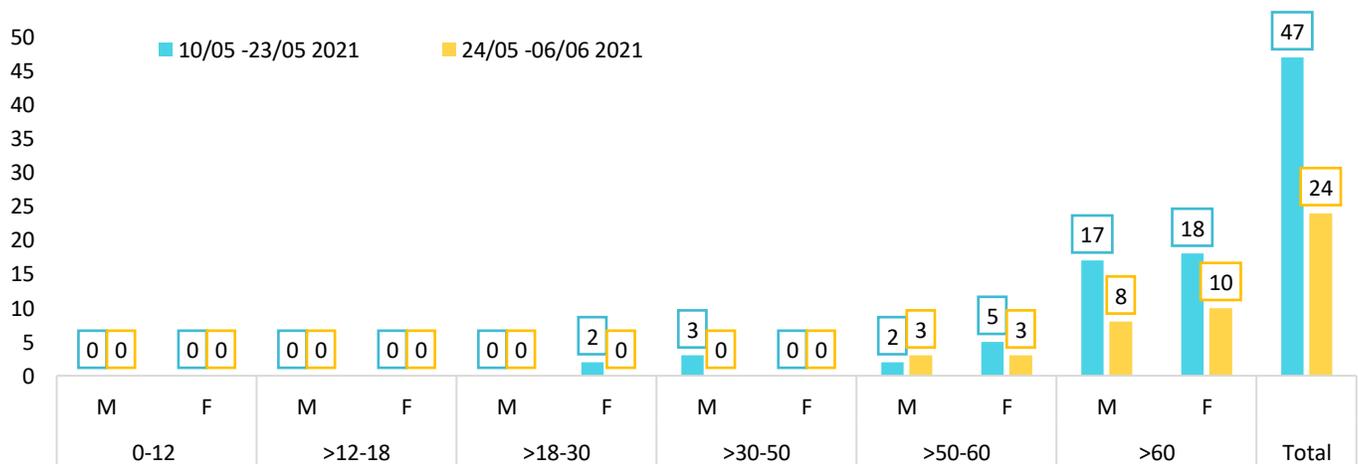


Figure 7: Distribution of reported COVID-19 deaths by age groups and gender

DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 CASES BY SEVERITY

- Decrease in cumulative moderate cases admitted to hospitals to 22 cases on 6 June from 32 cases on 23 May 2021 (Figure 8).
- Decrease in cumulative severe cases admitted to hospitals to 48 cases on 6 June from 60 cases on 23 May 2021 (Figure 8).
- Decrease in cumulative critical cases admitted to hospitals to 11 cases on 6 June from 21 cases on 23 May 2021.

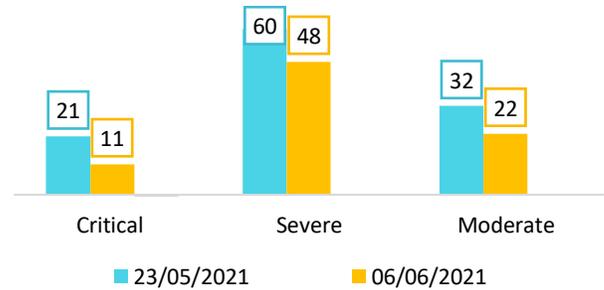


Figure 8: Classification of cumulative hospital admitted COVID-19 patients by severity

HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY (COVID-19 MANAGEMENT)

- Increase in COVID-19 bed occupancy rate to 49% on 6 June compared with 21% on 23 May 2021 (Figure 9) based on 180 COVID-19 beds available in Gaza, including 70 high dependency and 30 ICU beds. MOH decreased number of available beds for COVID-19 as the European Gaza Hospital has resumed normal services.
- Increase in occupancy rate of high dependency and ICU units to 84% on 6 June from 21% on 23 May 2021 (Figure 9).

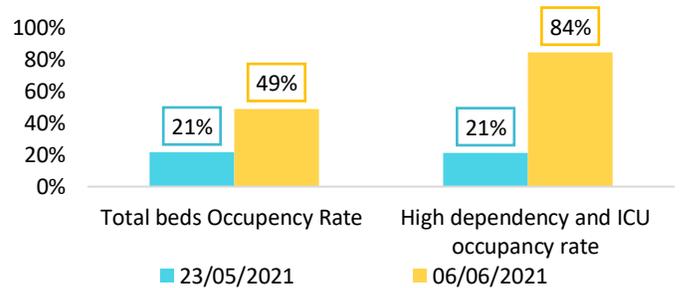


Figure 9: Occupancy rates of COVID-19 beds classified by type of bed

HEALTH CARE WORKERS INFECTIONS

- Decrease in total number of active COVID-19 cases among health workers to 66 on 6 June from 77 on 23 May 2021.
- Figure 10 represents the distribution of cases by sex and profession of health workers.
- Figure 11 represents the distribution of infected health care workers by place of work.

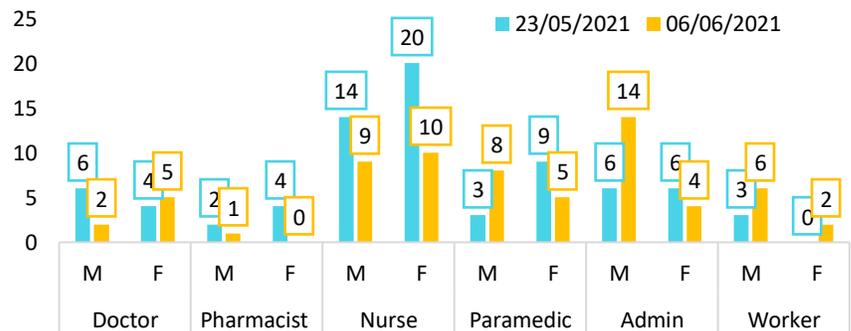


Figure 10: Active reported COVID-19 cases among health workforce distributed by gender and profession

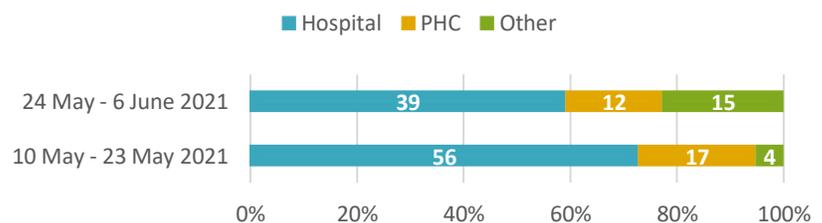


Figure 11: Distribution of newly weekly reported COVID-19 cases among health workforce by work setting

COVID-19 VACCINATION

- MOH received 204,200 doses of COVID-19 vaccine enough to vaccinate 103,600 individuals.
- Number of people who received first vaccination dose reached 42,704 on 6 June 2021. Around 36,000 received their second vaccination dose.
- 41% of vaccinated people were patients with chronic disease and 21% were healthcare workers.
- Figure 12 presents the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinated people by age group.

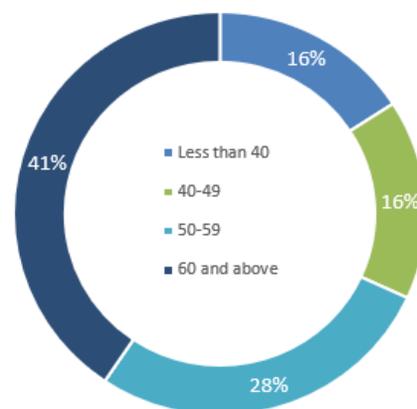


Figure 12: Distribution of COVID-19 vaccinated people by age group

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase in the number of newly reported cases and COVID-19 tests conducted between the two reporting periods. Higher increase in newly reported cases among females than among males. Further monitoring is required to understand the root causes.
- Close monitoring of COVID-19 transmission is essential during the coming period. Further support is needed for health care system in Gaza to overcome the effects of the escalation.
- Decrease in positivity rates.
- Increase in occupancy rates due to a decrease in the number of allocated beds for COVID-19 patients as most of regular health care services are resumed at the European Gaza Hospital. Close monitoring is recommended during the coming weeks.
- New COVID-19 vaccine doses reached Gaza Strip. MOH started vaccination campaigns for government workers at Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and police officers. Further Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) efforts are needed to increase community awareness on the urgency to get vaccinated including for those previously infected by COVID-19 in view of the unknown duration of immunity and the risk of re-infection.