

Status, Trends and Recommendations

# Covid-19: Stakeholders Update – Week 39

A nine pager

## Global epidemiological situation

Globally, the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to decline (Figure 1). Over 3.3 million new cases and over 55 000 new deaths were reported during the week of 20 – 26 September 2021, decreases of 10% as compared to the previous week for both cases and deaths (Table 1). The largest decrease in new weekly cases was reported from the Eastern Mediterranean Region (17%), followed by the Western Pacific Region (15%), the Region of the Americas (14%), the African Region (12%) and the South-East Asia Region (10%); while weekly cases in the European Region were similar to the previous week. The cumulative number of confirmed cases reported globally is now over 231 million and the cumulative number of deaths is more than 4.7 million.

The number of new weekly deaths reported showed a large (>15%) decline for all regions except for the European Region, which reported a similar number of weekly deaths compared to previous week, and the African Region which reported a slight increase (5%). The largest decline in weekly deaths was reported from the Western Pacific Region, with a 24% decline as compared to the previous week.

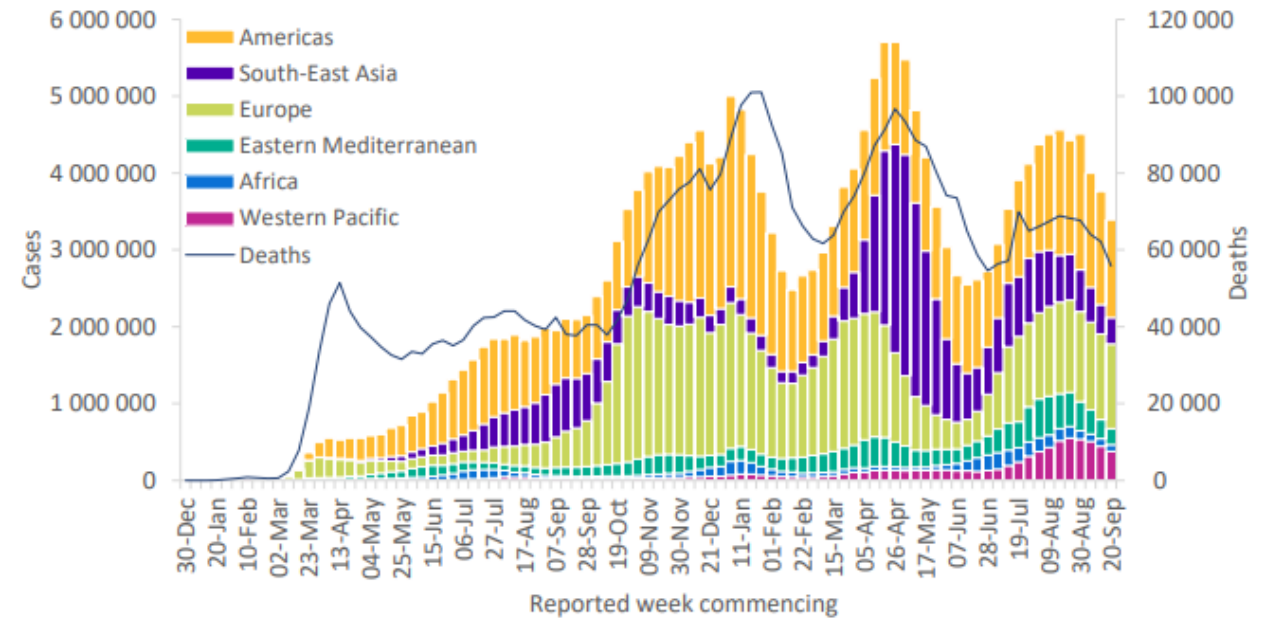
**Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 26 September 2021\*\***

WHO Region	New cases in last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in last 7 days *	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last 7 days (%)	Change in new deaths in last 7 days *	Cumulative deaths (%)
Americas	1 273 971 (38%)	-14%	89 236 517 (39%)	23 890 (43%)	-10%	2 196 144 (46%)
Europe	1 097 735 (32%)	-1%	69 411 718 (30%)	14 638 (26%)	-1%	1 326 559 (28%)
South-East Asia	344 305 (10%)	-10%	42 843 227 (19%)	5 249 (9%)	-20%	673 717 (14%)
Eastern Mediterranean	209 329 (6%)	-17%	15 659 306 (7%)	4 284 (8%)	-16%	286 995 (6%)
Western Pacific	378 919 (11%)	-15%	8 266 265 (4%)	5 233 (9%)	-24%	112 945 (2%)
Africa	87 135 (3%)	-12%	5 998 863 (3%)	2 536 (5%)	5%	144 957 (3%)
<b>Global</b>	<b>3 391 394 (100%)</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>231 416 660 (100%)</b>	<b>55 830 (100%)</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>4 741 330 (100%)</b>

\*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior

\*\*See Annex 2: Data, table and figure notes

**Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 26 September 2021\*\***

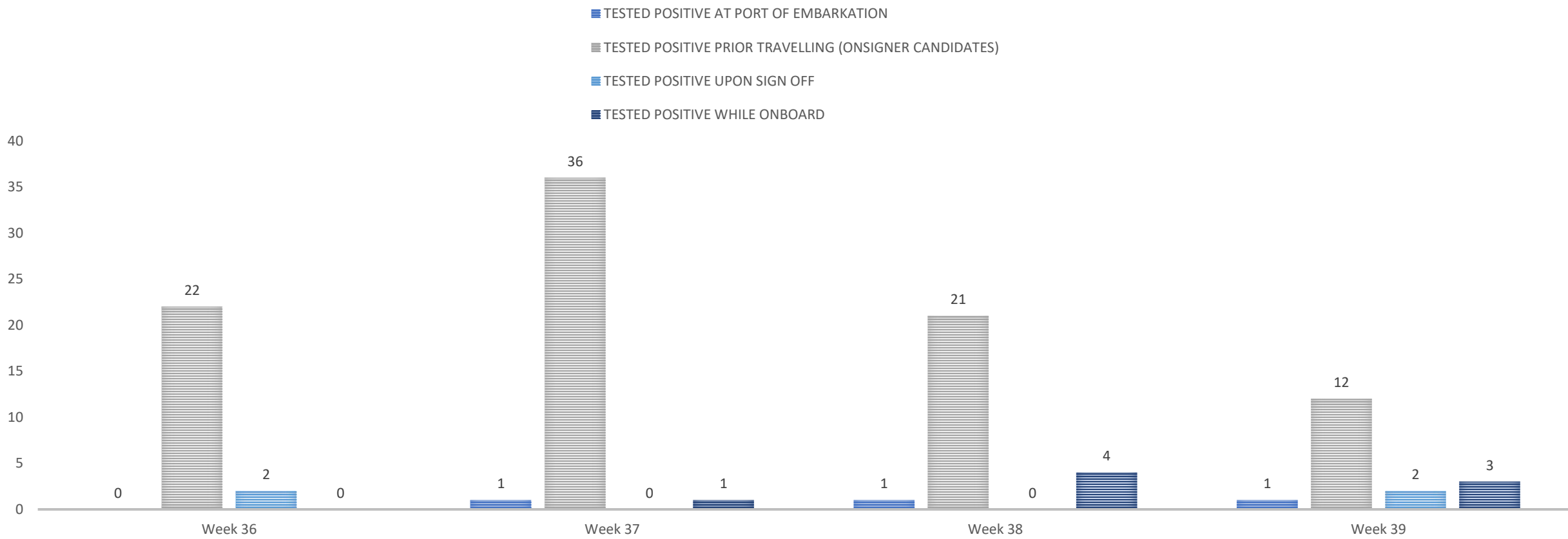


The regions reporting the highest weekly case and death incidence rates per 100 000 population remain the same as in the previous weeks: the Region of the Americas (124.6 new cases per 100 000 population; 2.3 deaths per 100 000 population) and the European Region (117.6 new cases per 100 000 population; 1.6 deaths per 100 000 population).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (765 827 new cases; 31% decrease), Brazil (247 397 new cases; 135% increase due to changes in reporting), the United Kingdom (230 494 new cases; 14% increase), India (204 582 new cases; similar to previous week), and Turkey (192 778 new cases; similar to previous week), while the highest numbers of new deaths were from the United States of America (14 842 new deaths, a 17% decrease), the Russian Federation (5469 new deaths, similar to the previous week), Mexico (3689 new deaths, a 13% increase), Brazil (3727 new deaths, a 10% increase), and the Islamic Republic of Iran (2967 new deaths, a 23% decrease) respectively.

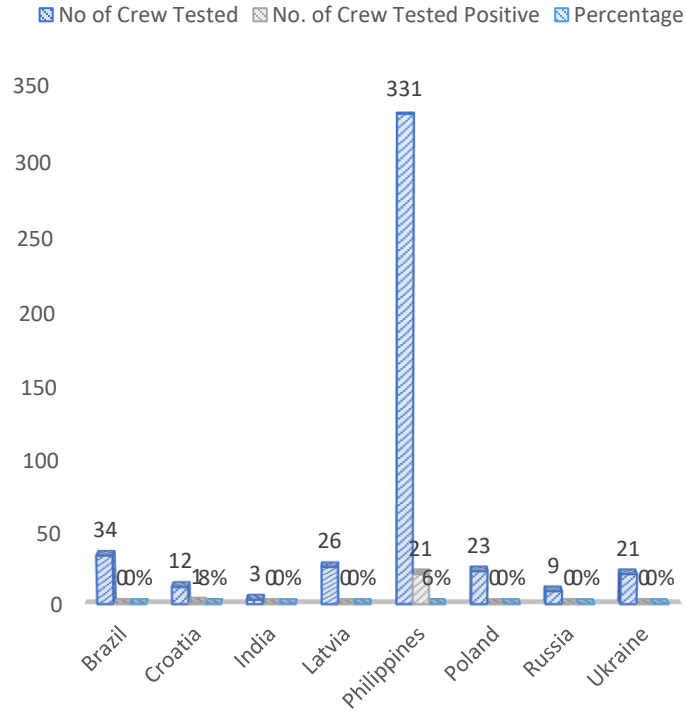
Globally, cases of the Alpha variant have been reported in 193 countries, territories or areas (hereafter countries; no new country added since last two weeks), while 142 countries (no new country since last week) have reported cases of the Beta variant; and 96 countries (no new countries since last week) have reported cases of the Gamma variant. The Delta variant has been reported in 187 countries (two new countries since last week), across all six WHO regions as of 28 September.

### OSM MANNING - WHEN TESTED POSITIVE PER WEEK

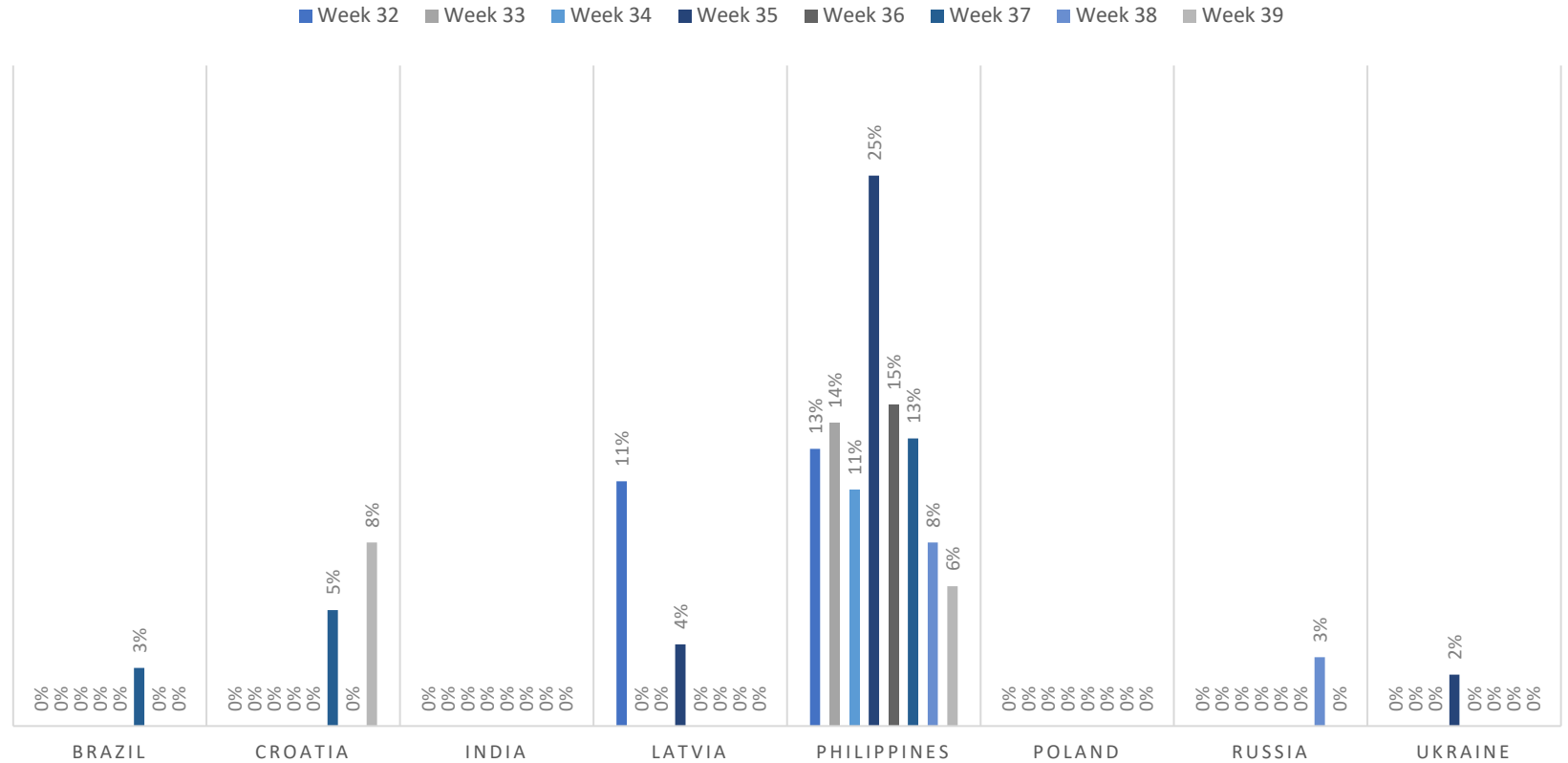


Comment: In week 39 we have a decrease of total figures compared to the week before. Of the 18 cases seen during this week 13 have occurred prior boarding (the ones before climbing up the gangway or even before travelling) what regarding virus avoidance onboard has been the goal. 3 persons were tested positive while onboard and 2 were tested positive upon sign off. For the ones tested positive onboard (3 persons) it is too early to evaluate reasons properly due to incomplete background.

## PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY



## PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY PER WEEK

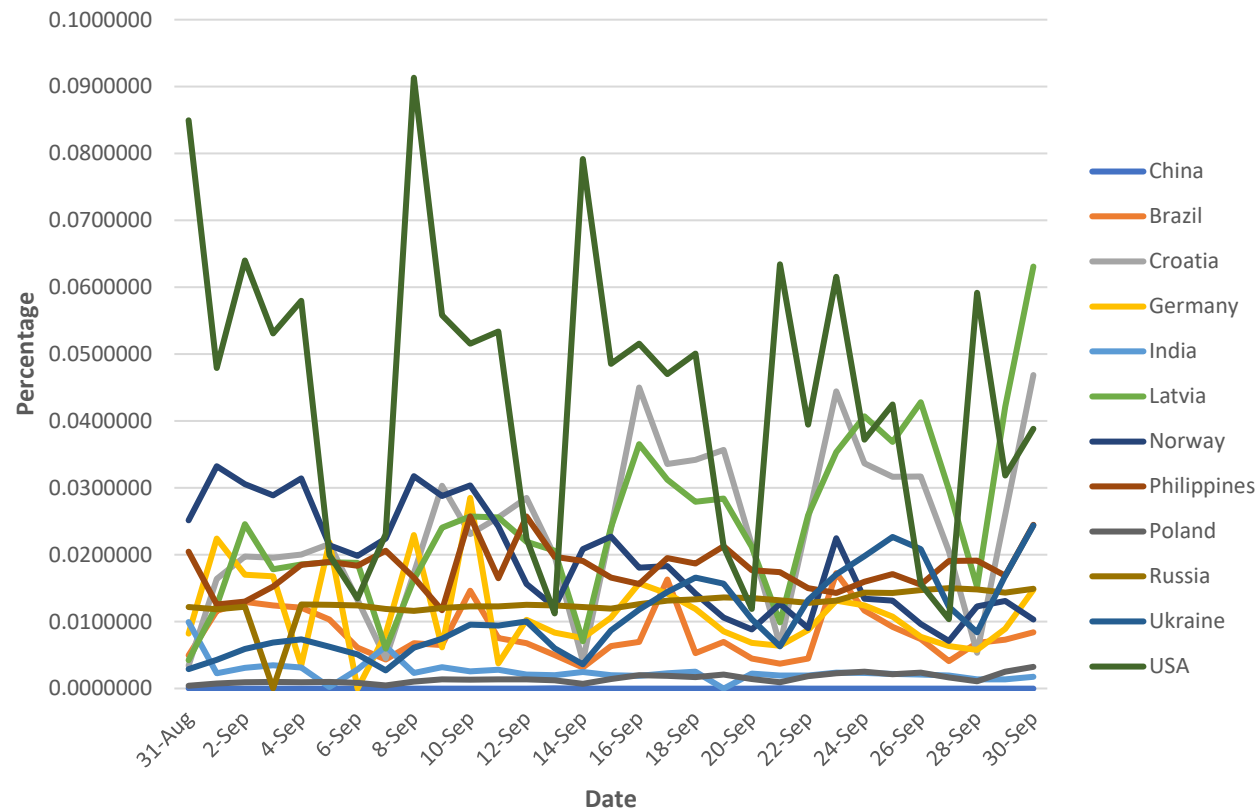


### Positivity Rate:

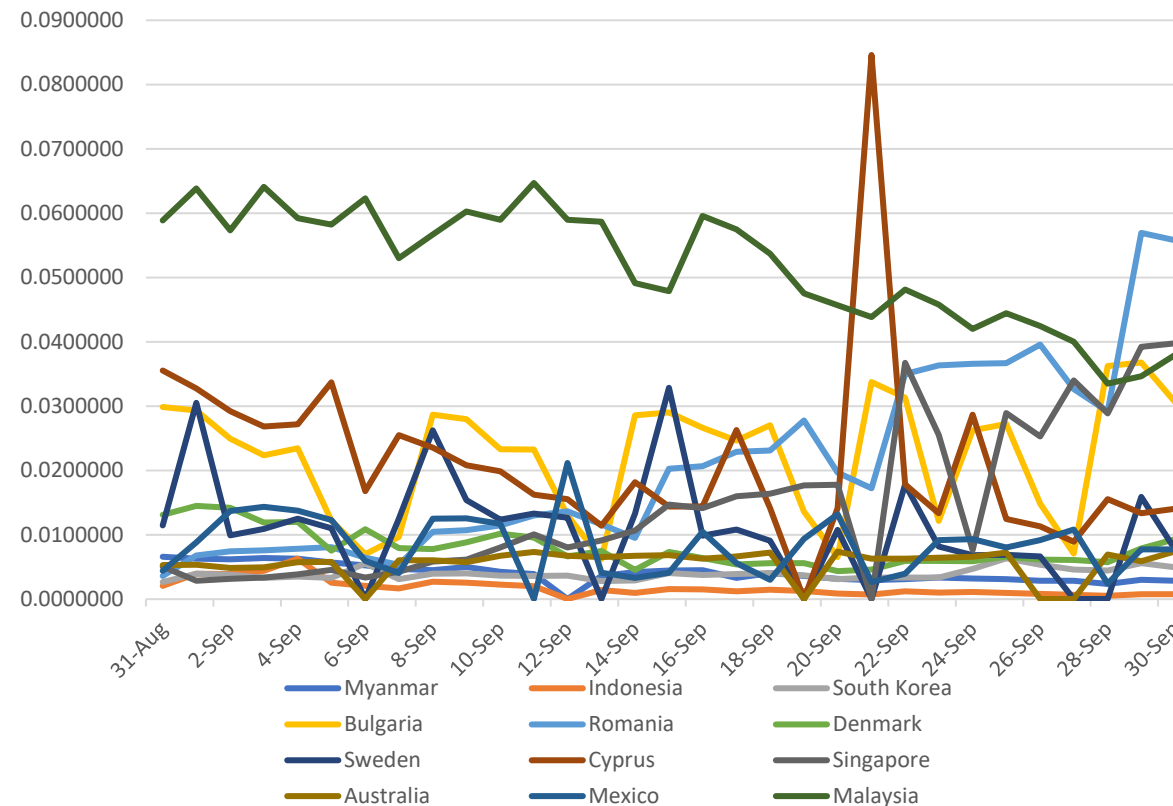
For the respective week we have calculated the whole number of tested OSM seafarers and compared it with the number of positive results. If there was a multiple testing of a person, it was counted as one with respective outcome. We have pictured it by showing the different local percentages. E.g. Croatia had 1 positive case out of 12 tested which equals to 8%.

## Covid-19: Newinfection ratio

Newinfections in% of inhabitants



Newinfections in % of inhabitants

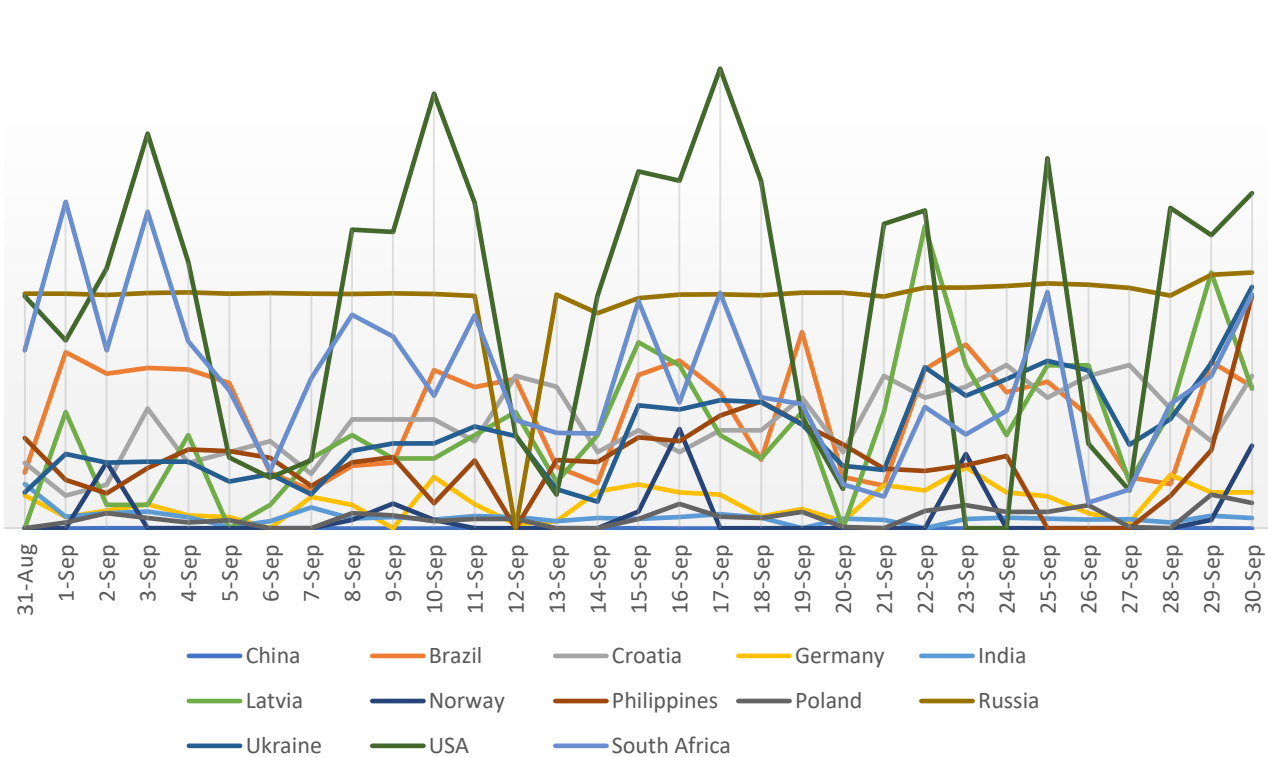


Looking at the home countries of our seafarers we want to give an overview about trends and threats. In order to have a comparable base the number of daily newinfections has been put in relation to the number of inhabitants – resulting in a percentage figure. It has to be considered that infection figures are also increasing in case a country decides to go for a higher testing frequency due to the extremely high dark figure of infections without symptoms. We see in the graphs that following trend: USA and Malaysia are showing a decrease of infection figures while we have increasing figures at Romania, Latvia and Croatia – these countries are suffering increasingly from newinfections.

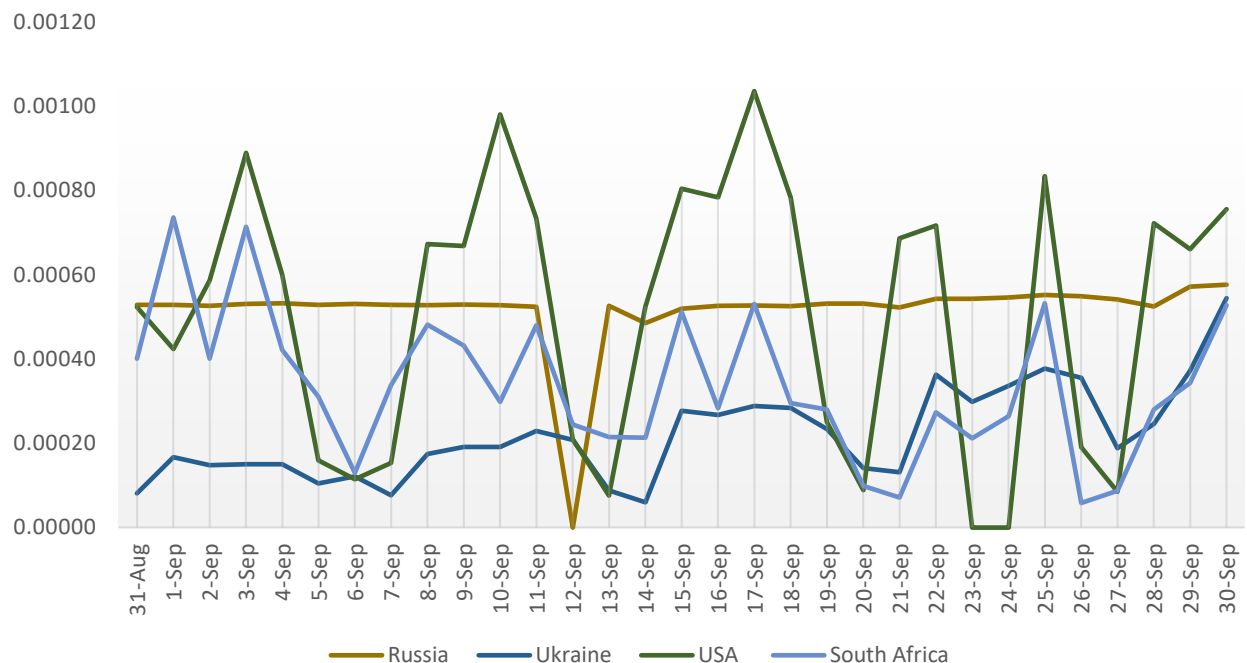
Sources: [Wikipedia](#) [The New York Times](#) [JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data](#) [Europäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](#)

## Covid-19: Fatality ratio I

Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - overview



Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - focus



We are observing that the level of new infections is not any longer a suitable “fever thermometer” for the situation of this pandemic – at least not as the only one. This particularly is the case in countries with a high percentage of vaccinated inhabitants. In most of these countries people have been vaccinated already who are the most vulnerable, like the ones having health issues or elderly people. In turn if infections are occurring then it will more affect people who – in average- are younger and/or less sick. Accordingly infections there (only in the mentioned countries of high vaccination ratios!) are leading less likely to hospitalization or even fatalities. Consequently if an increasing number of fatalities has to be noted then most likely

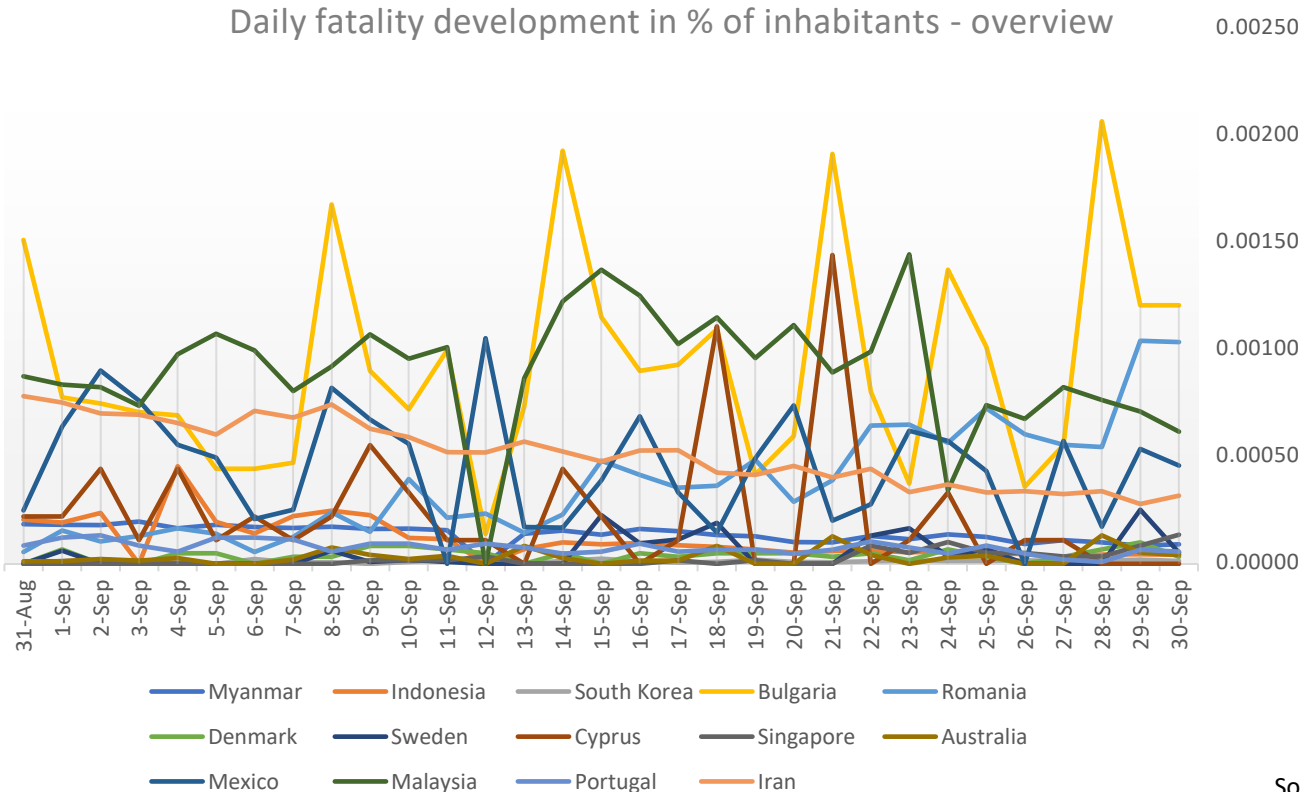
Sources: [Wikipedia](#), [The New York Times](#), [JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data](#), [Europäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](#)

## Covid-19: Fatality ratio II

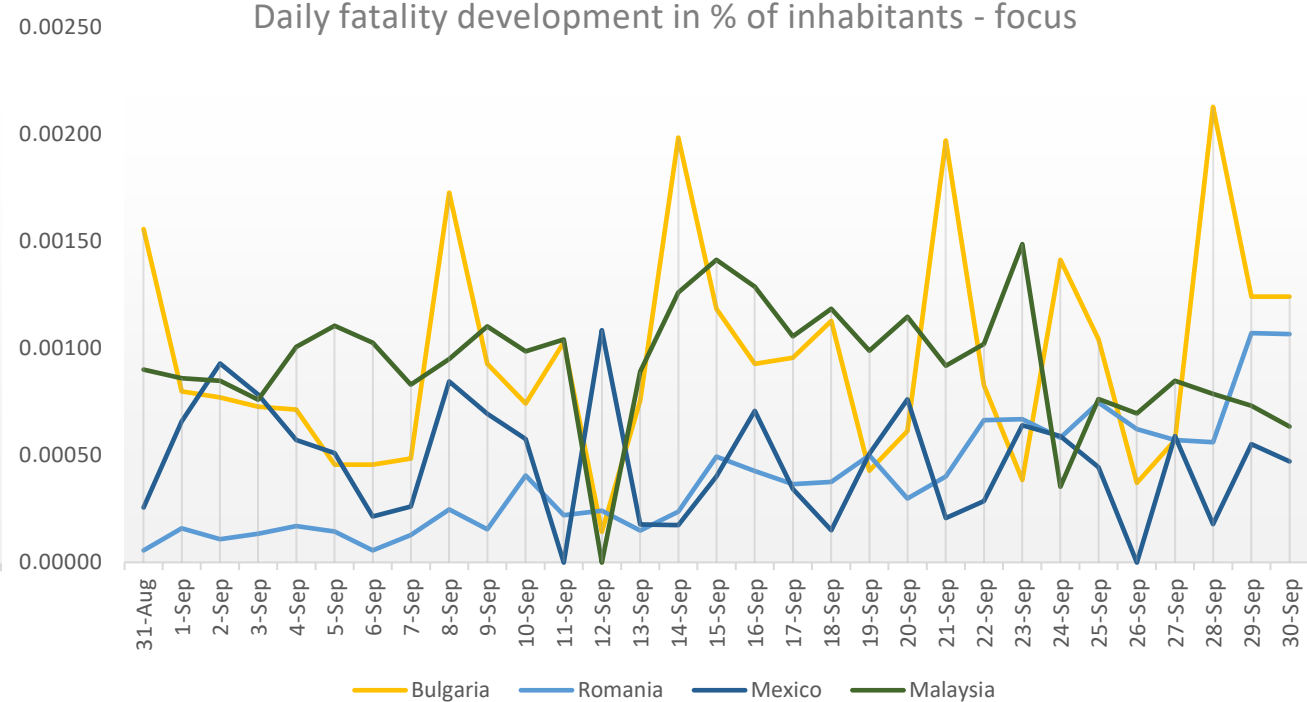
this needs to be seen as a sign that -beside the most obvious reason that not vaccinated people are affected- the vaccination level is not sufficient any more due to expiry of immunization triggers or/and (much more important!) the influence of new virus strains.

Hence presently it looks like the sickness is affecting less elderly and “vulnerable” people but is turning towards the not vaccinated ones and is more and more finding its victims in this circle. This change is not visible while looking at the numbers of new infections only. The threat of Covid-19 then is recognizable only in numbers of hospitalization and fatalities. The worldwide rate of hospitalization is not available but the one of fatalities is. Hence for time being we will picture new infections and fatalities – both calculated in percentage of inhabitants in order to have a comparable base even between countries of completely different population size.

Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - overview



Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - focus



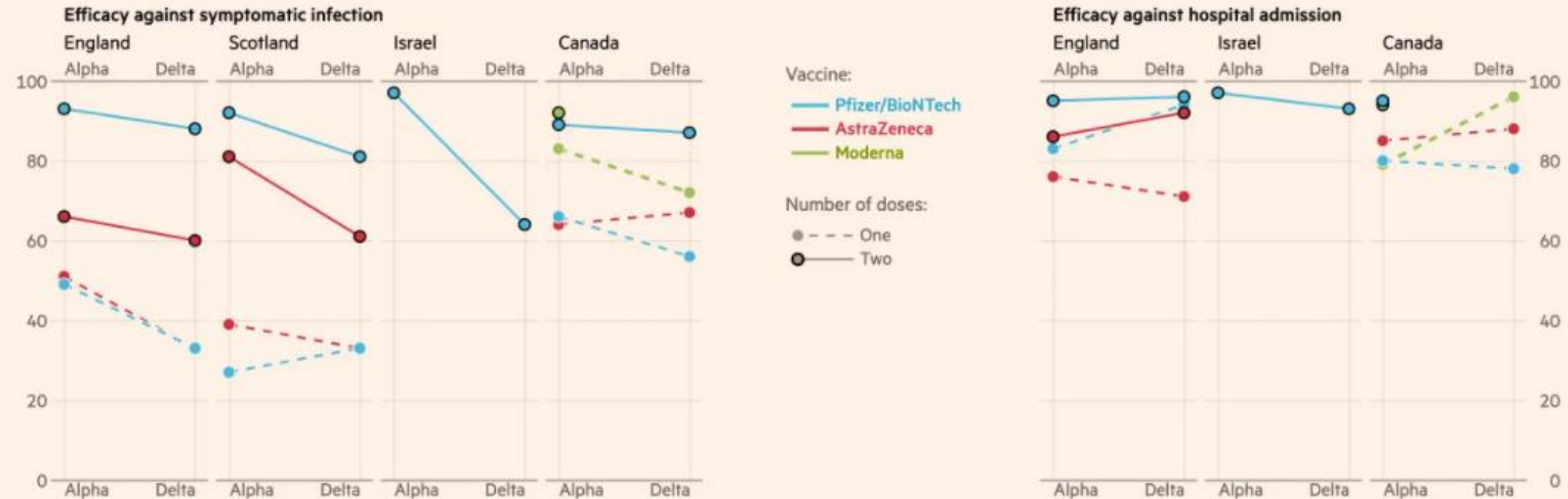
Sources: [Wikipedia](#) [The New York Times](#) [JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data](#) [Europäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](#)



## Covid-19: Alpha and Delta variants & vaccines

### How vaccine efficacy compares against the Alpha and Delta variants

Vaccine efficacy against infection and hospitalisation for each variant, by vaccine manufacturer, number of doses and country of study



Source: FT research  
© FT

### Summary

While for the newer variant Delta all 3 vaccines Pfizer, Astra and Moderna are less efficient against symptomatic infection (=risk of catching the sickness) it protects from severe developments (like hospitalization and/or even fatalities) either not significant less efficient or in some cases even significant better.

*Some protection is better than none. #trustthescience #vaccinessavelives*



## Covid-19: How to protect crew member and vessel

### Recommendations

In case of steep Covid-19 indicator increases or high levels of infections in specific home countries of on-signing seafarers and at same time knowing that PCR testing in many cases cannot find the virus we strongly recommend following procedure to be kept at least:

1. Self isolation of the seafarer at home for 10 days
2. Transfer of the seafarer by usage of a single passenger car
3. Company facilitated quarantine location realized in a hotel with complete separation of the person including meals served at the room
4. Quarantine for a timespan between 8 days and 14 days
5. First PCR testing at beginning of the quarantine and second PCR testing at 8<sup>th</sup> day of quarantine
6. Transfer and leaving of quarantine earliest when result of second PCR test is received and negative
7. PCR test at country of boarding the vessel
8. Strict usage of covid-19 PPE for transfers, flights and for any other occasion potentially contact can occur with third parties