

Status, Trends and Recommendations

Covid-19: Stakeholders Update – Week 07/2022

A nine pager

Global epidemiological situation

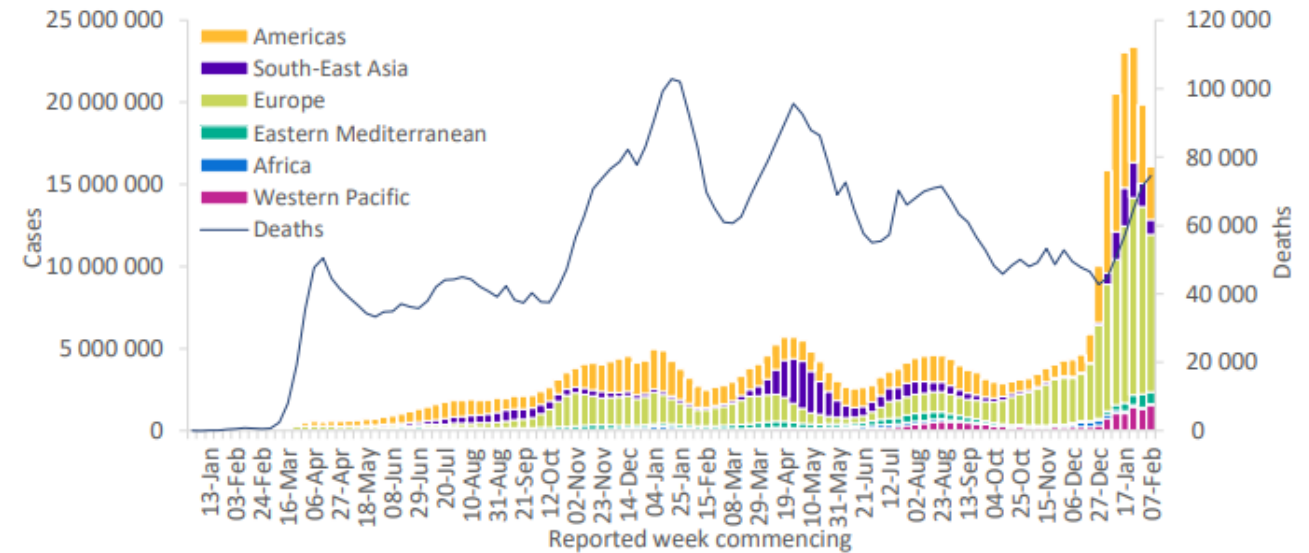
Globally, during the week of 7 to 13 February 2022, the number of new COVID-19 cases decreased by 19% as compared to the number reported during the previous week, while the number of new deaths remained similar to that of the previous week (Figure 1). Across the six WHO regions, just over 16 million new cases and just under 75 000 new deaths were reported (Table 1). As of 13 February 2022, over 409 million confirmed cases and over 5.8 million deaths have been reported globally.

At the regional level, the Western Pacific Region reported an increase of 19% in the number of new weekly cases while all other regions reported decreases: the South-East Asia Region (37% decrease), the Region of the Americas (32% decrease), the African Region (30% decrease), the European Region (16% decrease) and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (12% decrease).

Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 13 February 2022**

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 (%)
Europe	9 595 045 (60%)	-16%	164 431 350 (40%)	24 817 (33%)	1%	1 815 834 (31%)
Americas	3 236 405 (20%)	-32%	142 966 356 (35%)	33 722 (45%)	5%	2 570 792 (44%)
Western Pacific	1 569 099 (10%)	19%	18 859 407 (5%)	3 087 (4%)	27%	172 864 (3%)
South-East Asia	915 448 (6%)	-37%	54 278 257 (13%)	7 983 (11%)	-9%	752 524 (13%)
Eastern Mediterranean	712 632 (4%)	-12%	20 349 089 (5%)	3 286 (4%)	38%	326 795 (6%)
Africa	69 013 (0%)	-30%	8 226 172 (2%)	1 599 (2%)	14%	167 003 (3%)
Global	16 097 642 (100%)	-19%	409 111 395 (100%)	74 494 (100%)	4%	5 805 825 (100%)

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 13 February 2022**

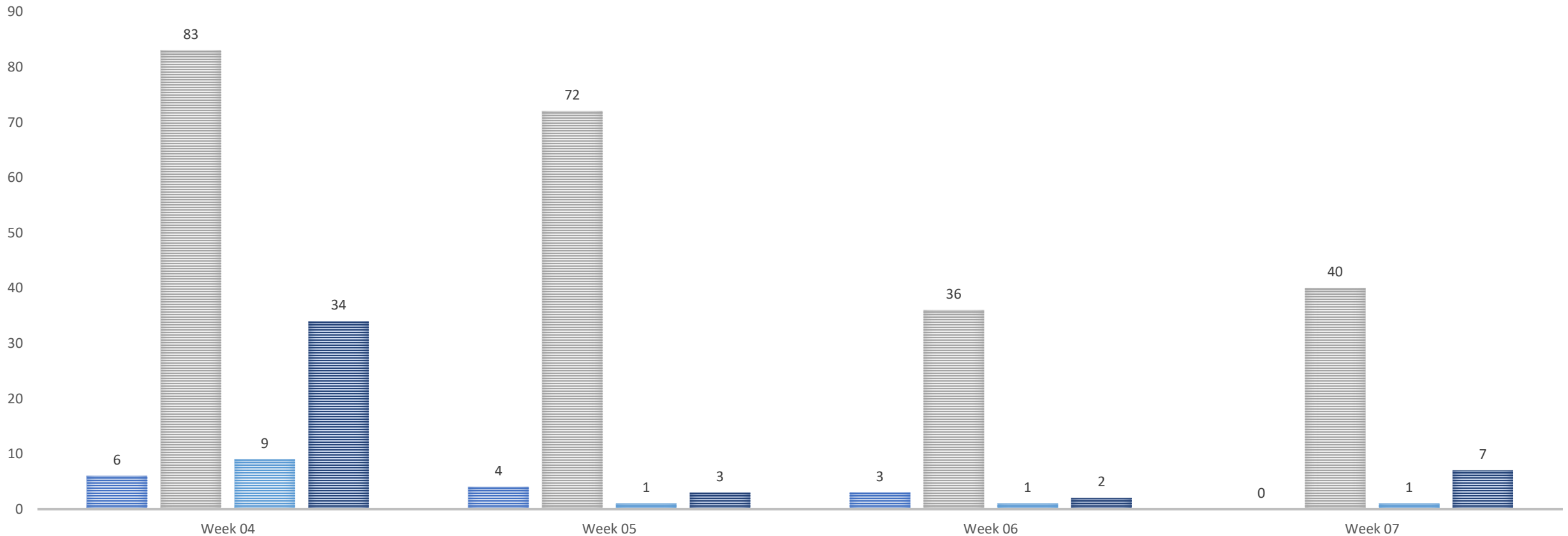


The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (38%), the Western Pacific Region (27%), the African Region (14%) and the Region of the Americas (5%), while it remained similar to that of the previous week in the European Region and decreased in the South-East Asia Region (9%).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (1 323 391 new cases; a 23% increase), Germany (1 322 071 new cases; similar to the previous week's figures), the United States of America (1 237 530 new cases; a 43% decrease), Brazil (1 009 678 new cases; a 19% decrease), and France (979 228 new cases; a 43% decrease). The highest number of new deaths were reported from the United States of America (17 225 new deaths; similar to the previous week's figures), India (6686 new deaths; a 15% decrease), Brazil (6658 new deaths; a 44% increase), the Russian Federation (4834 new deaths; similar to the previous week's figures) and Mexico (2530 new deaths; a 7% increase).

OSM MANNING - WHEN TESTED POSITIVE PER WEEK

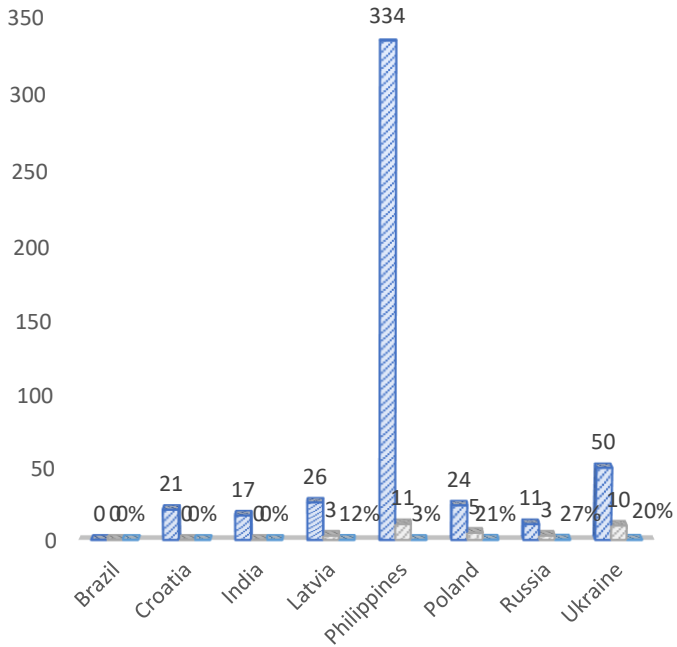
■ TESTED POSITIVE AT PORT OF EMBARKATION ■ TESTED POSITIVE PRIOR TRAVELLING (ONSIGNER CANDIDATES) ■ TESTED POSITIVE UPON SIGN OFF ■ TESTED POSITIVE WHILE ONBOARD



Comment: In week 7 we have now an increase of total figures compared to the week before. From 42 cases last week we are now up to 48 seen during this week. Of these 48 cases 40 have occurred prior boarding (the ones before climbing up the gangway or even before travelling) what regarding virus avoidance onboard has been the goal. Then there was 1 case tested positive upon sign off. 7 persons were tested positive while being onboard however these cases and also the “upon sign off” cases are in meantime impossible to trace. Generally the extremely high transmissibility of Omicron makes it even more necessary to keep protection measures and particularly proper (!) mask wearing during travelling.

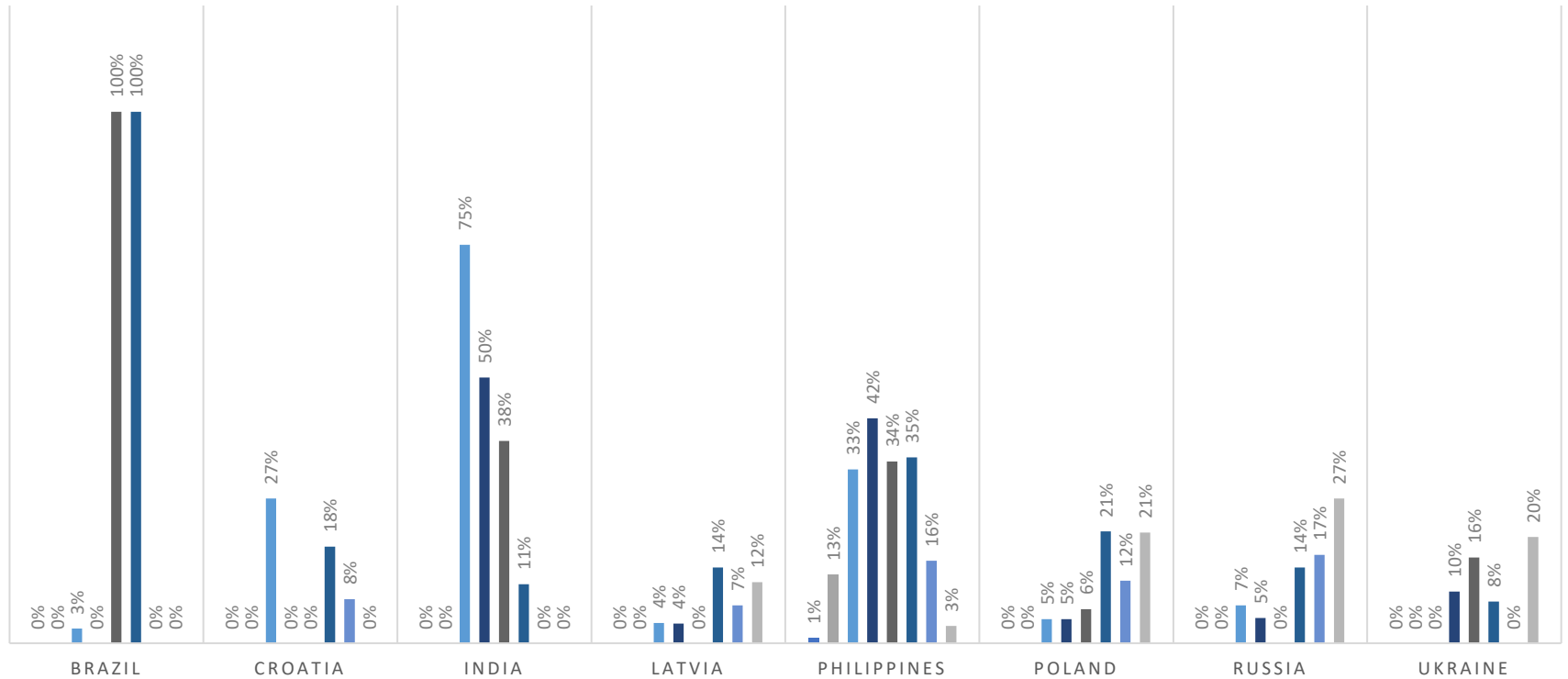
PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY

No of Crew Tested
 No. of Crew Tested Positive
 Percentage



PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY PER WEEK

■ Week 52
 ■ Week 01
 ■ Week 02
 ■ Week 03
 ■ Week 04
 ■ Week 05
 ■ Week 06
 ■ Week 07

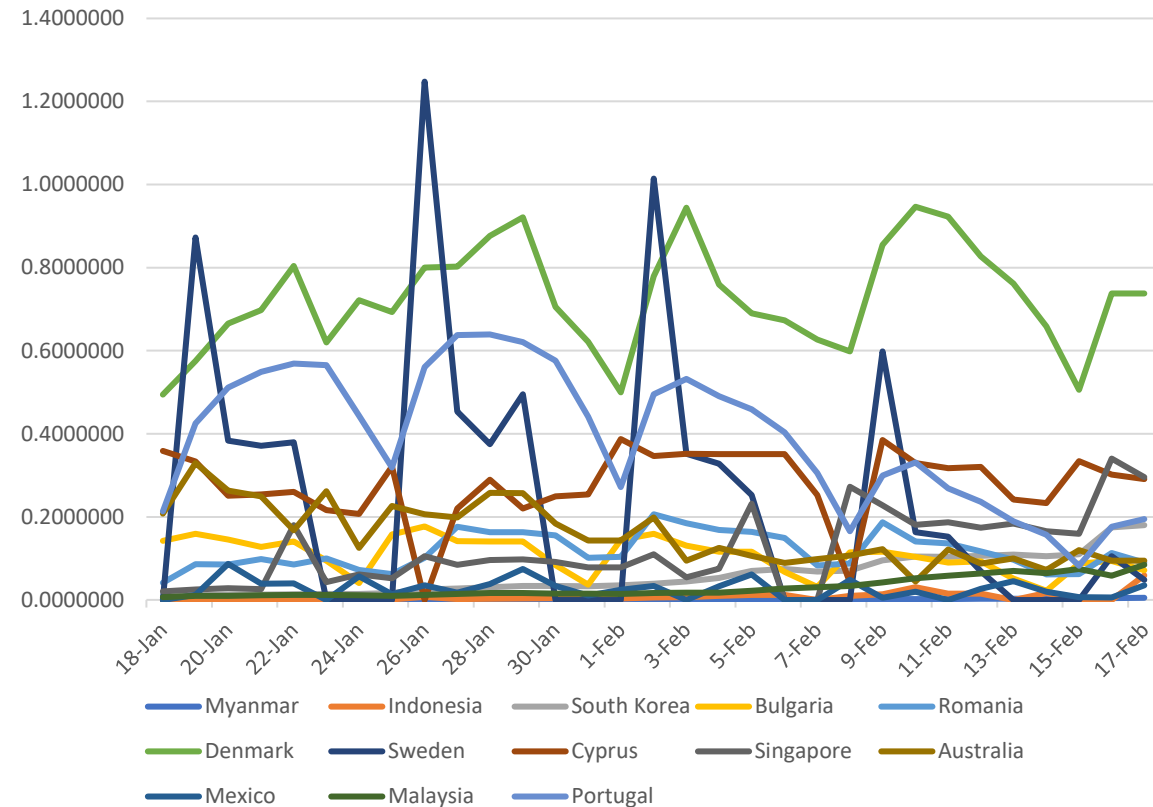
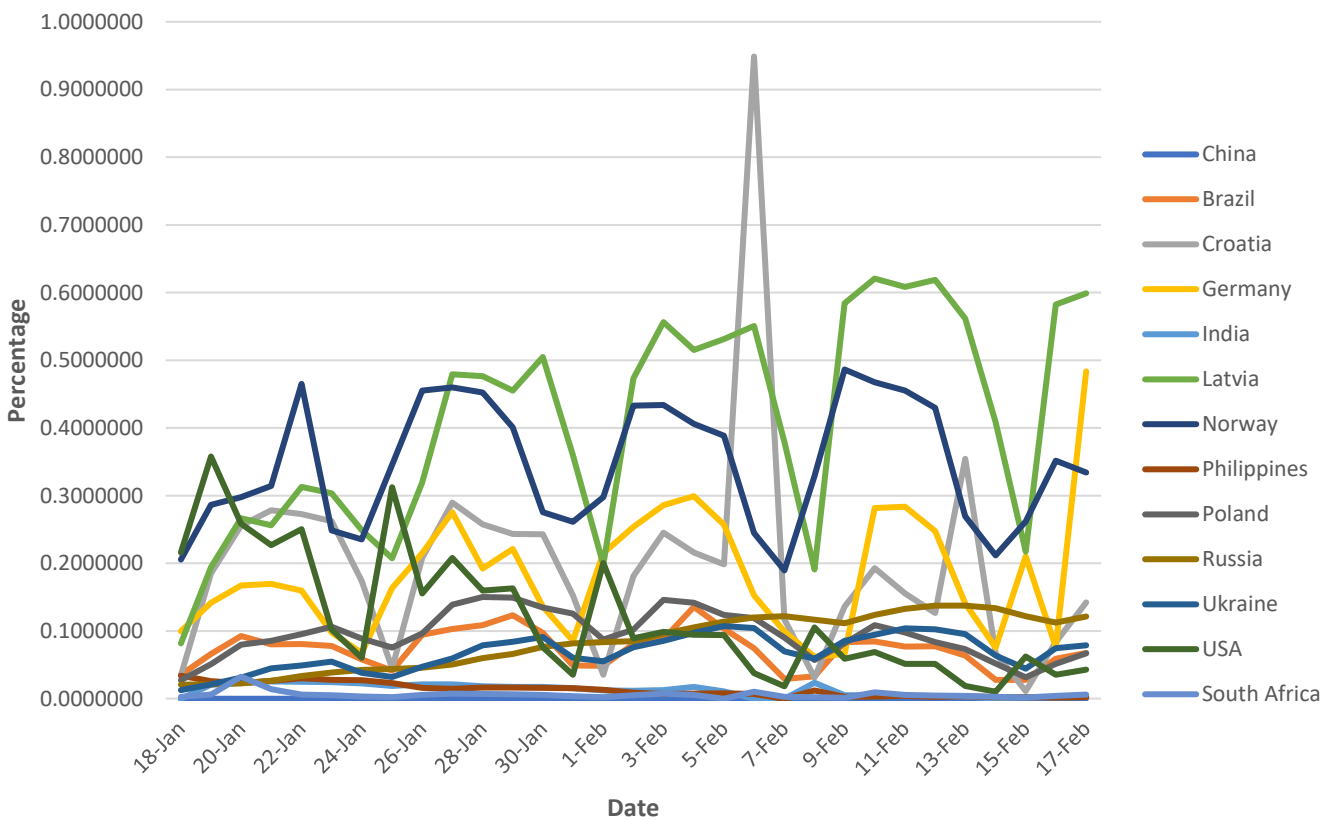


Positivity Rate:

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. Latvia had 3 positive cases out of 26 tested which equals to 12%.

Covid-19: Newinfection ratio

Newinfections in % of population

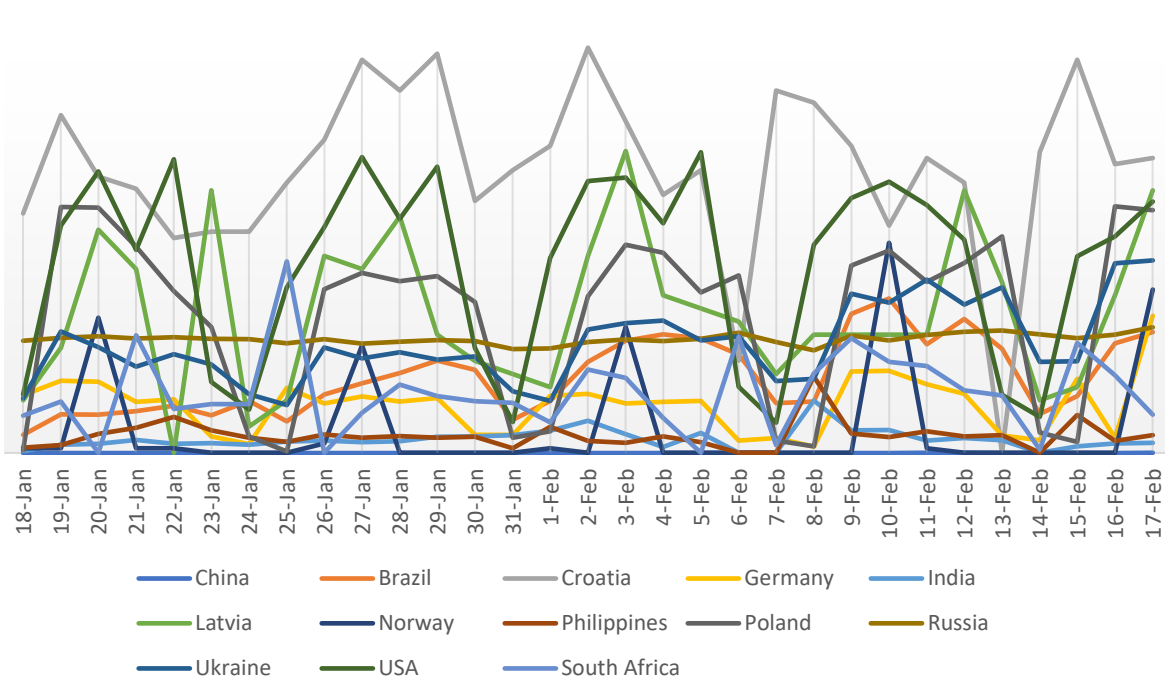


Looking at the home countries of our seafarers we want to give an overview about trends and threats. In order to have a comparable base the number of daily new infections has been put in relation to the number of inhabitants – resulting in a percentage figure. It has to be considered that infection figures 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 the following trend: Particularly Latvia, Norway and Germany are showing high infection figures but we have now also extremely high figures at Denmark and Singapore as well as Cyprus.

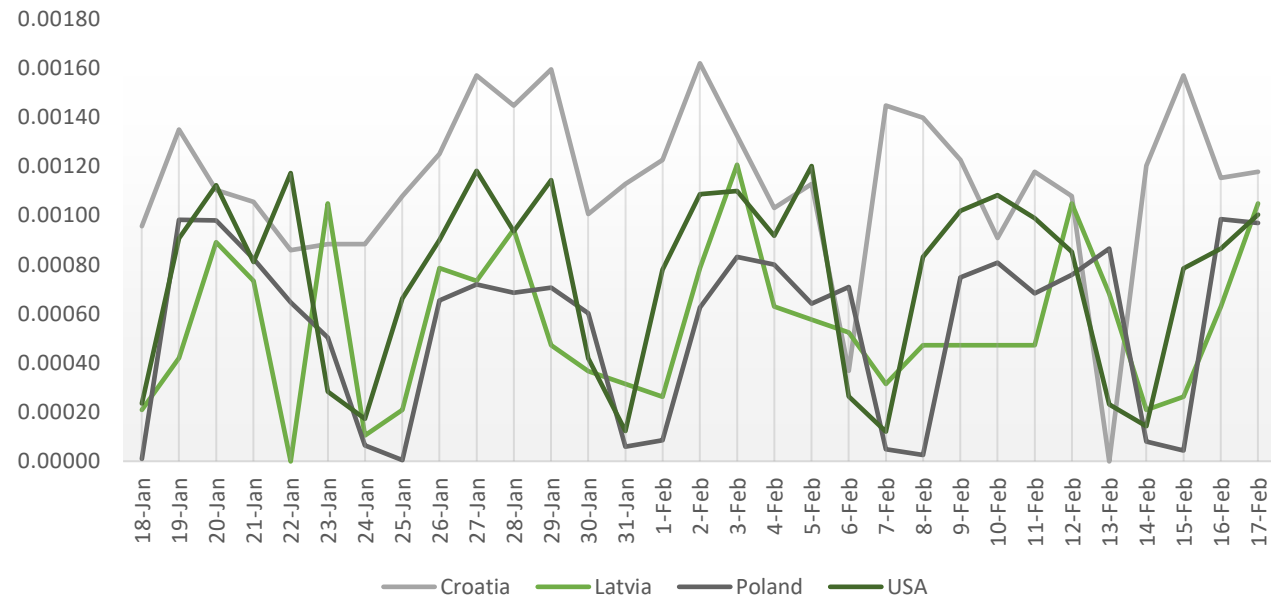
Sources: [Wikipedia](#) [The New York Times](#) [JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data](#) [Europäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](#)

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](#) [DataEuropäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](#)

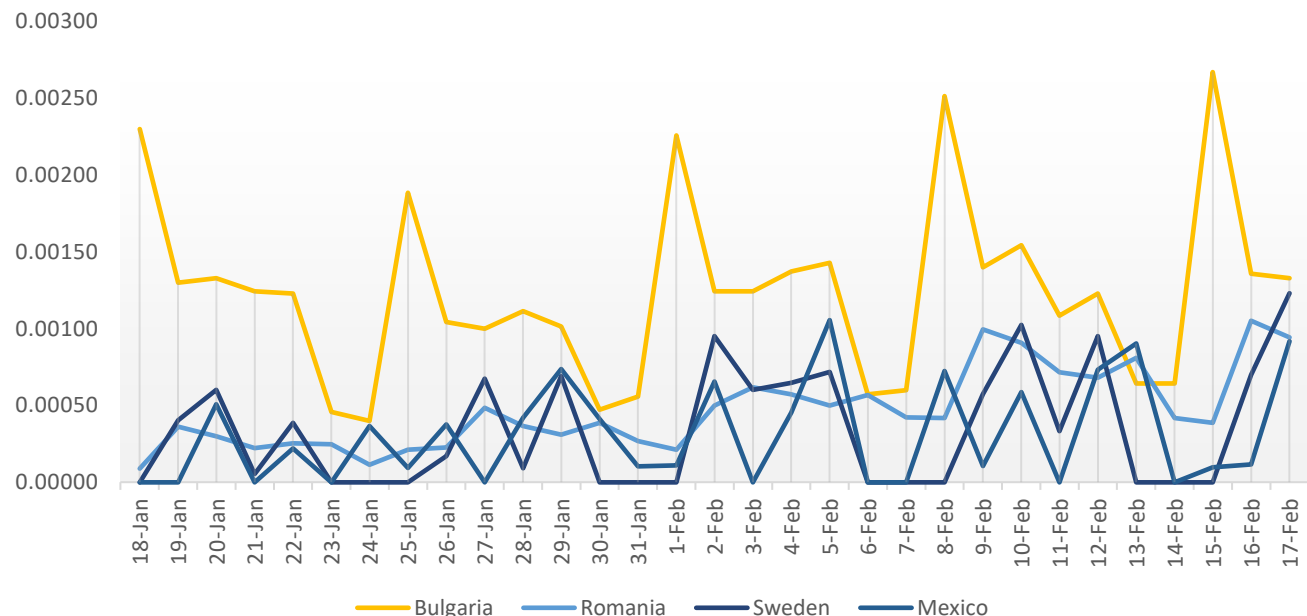
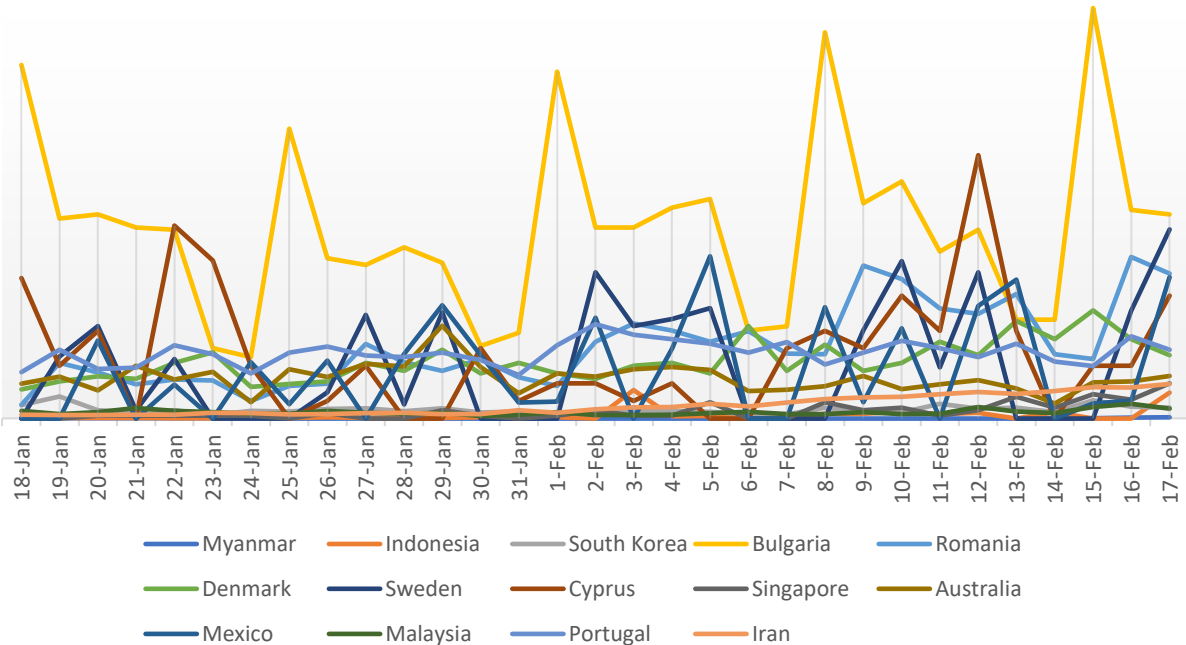
Covid-19: Fatality ratio II

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

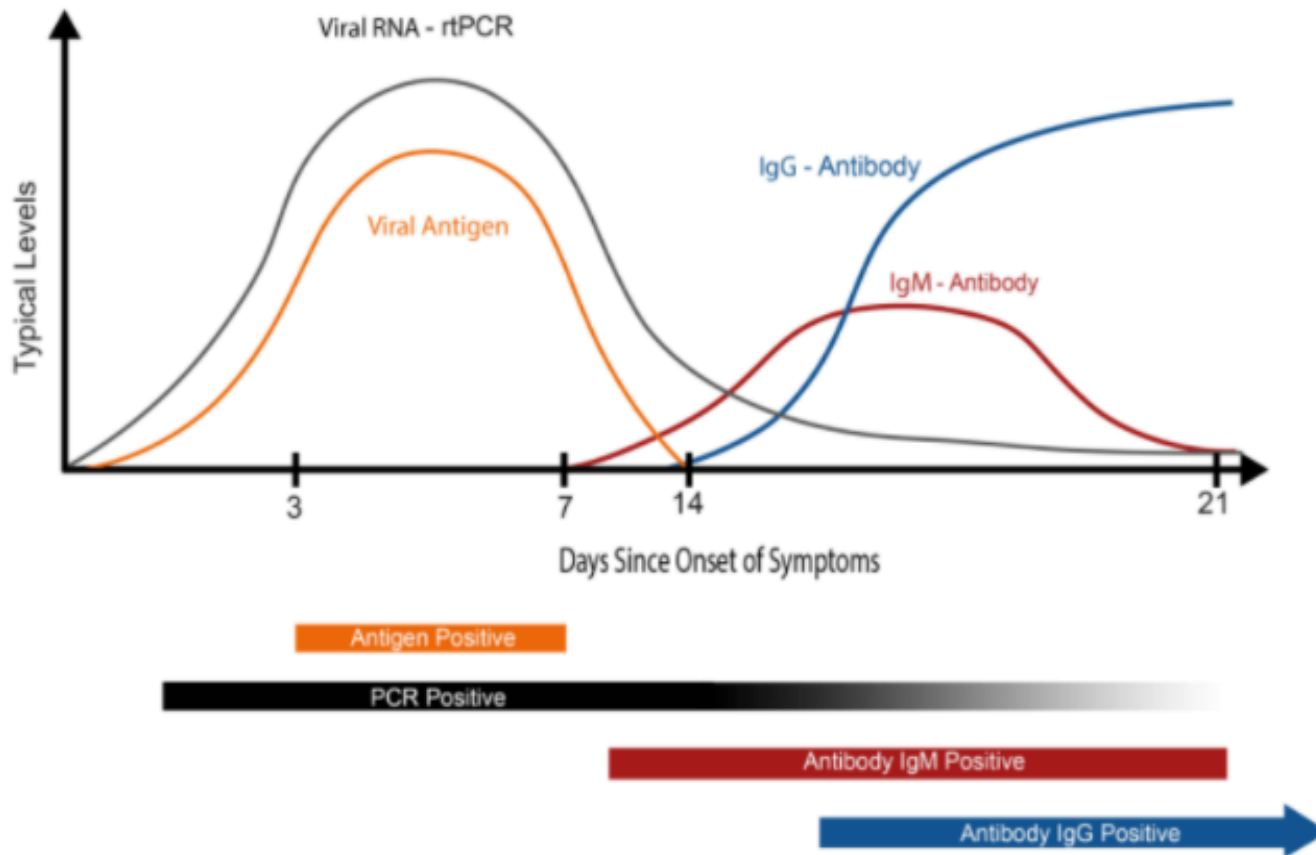
Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - focus



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

COVID-19: Testing in the time of OMICRON Variant

Changes in the recommended timing of testing based on the observed behavior of Omicron:



Timeline of Viremia, Antigenemia and Immune Response during COVID-19 Infection with Omicron variant:

- **Start of transmission:** 2 days before onset of symptoms **OR** date of positive result
- **Viral RNA peak:** 3-5 days after symptom onset (shorter incubation period)
- **No longer considered infectious:** 10 days after symptom onset (mild & asymptomatic cases)
- **Negative swab after infection:** in most cases, SARS-CoV-2 cannot be cultured (found!) any more after 8-12 days

Recommendations:

- COVID Testing can be done earlier now: At day 3-5
- Antibody testing is not reliable for screening
- Onboard, best to do 10 days quarantine still - if with positive result and/or symptoms.
- As a precaution measure, mask wearing on board for 5 days if new on signers attended. Heightened infection control protocol for 5 days after joining

Covid-19: How to protect crew member and vessel

Recommendations

In case of significant Covid-19 activity –particularly with Omicron- in specific home countries of on- signing seafarers while at same time knowing that PCR testing in many cases (and rapid testing even less) cannot find the virus we strongly recommend presently to suspend crew changes from India and Philippines for now. If this suspension is not possible we recommend following procedure to be kept at least:

	Not or only incompletely vaccinated	Fully vaccinated and/or even boosted crew and joining a vessel with preferably fully vaccinated and/or even boosted crew
1. Self isolation of the seafarer at home for 10 days	Fully applicable	None
2. Transfer of the seafarer by usage of a single passenger car	Fully applicable	None
3. Company facilitated quarantine location realized in a hotel with complete separation of the person including meals served at the room	Fully applicable	Fully applicable
4. Quarantine for a timespan	Between 8 days and 14 days	Between 3 days and 5 days
5. First PCR testing at beginning of the quarantine	Day 1 of quarantine	Not necessarily
6. "Quarantine Completion-PCR" testing earliest at	8th day of quarantine	3rd to 5th day of quarantine
7. Transfer and leaving of quarantine earliest when result of last PCR test is received and negative	Fully applicable	Fully applicable
8. Strict quarantine for 3 days at port of embarkation	Fully applicable	Fully applicable
9. PCR test at port of embarkation - boarding the vessel	Fully applicable	Fully applicable
10. Strict usage of covid-19 PPE for transfers, flights and for any other occasion contact potentially can occur with third parties	Fully applicable	Fully applicable

Due to extremely high risk of „meeting“ Omicron here is the present version of standing recommendations. Particularly the 3 days of quarantine at port of embarkation are highly recommended – catching the travel „souvenirs“ before it is too late! Too late is it once we have it onboard.....