

COVID-19 Situation Report

June 11, 2021

Overview

As of June 8, 2021, COVID cases in Palestine reached 339.385, with 228,313 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and 111,072 in Gaza. There have been 3,777 coronavirus-related deaths. The Palestinian Ministry of Health reports that the number of those who received the vaccine is 330,154, including 225,906 who are fully vaccinated.

As of June 1, Jordan reported 736,534 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 9,462 related deaths, and a total 1,825,950 vaccine doses administered.⁴ For the same period, Lebanon experienced 540,388 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 7,729 deaths, as reported to WHO. As of May 25, 2021, there were a total of 677,844 vaccine doses administered in Lebanon.

Palestine

Please see our <u>June 7, 2021</u> report on the overall situation in Palestine for more context about what is happening in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Gaza

Gaza has been grappling with a surge in COVID-19 cases, along with shortages of medicines and intensive care capacity. The 11 days of Israeli bombings in May came on top of the pandemic and a 15-year economic blockade.

Bombs did damage to the Rimal Clinic in central Gaza City, a hub in the Palestinian health system. The clinic administers hundreds of vaccinations, prescriptions, and screenings every day. It also houses the only laboratory in Gaza that can process coronavirus tests. The lab had to suspend their vaccination and testing work for three consecutive days because of the bombardment. The May attack also affected 24 other medical facilities that belong to the Ministry of Health as well as non-governmental and international organizations.⁵

¹ WHO COVID-19 in the occupied Palestinian territory

² Reuters COVID-19 Tracker- Daily Infections Rate

³ Palestinian territories COVID-19 data

⁴ Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center

⁵ Gaza Ministry of Health press conference

Residents aged 40 and over are now eligible to get vaccinated. The number of vaccines delivered to Gaza, as of May 31, is 120,400 doses.

The West Bank

There was a second wave of COVID-19 infections in the West Bank in early 2021. The B.1.1.7 variant is responsible for most of the new cases in Palestine. After cases spiked sharply in March, the situation improved in the West Bank when April saw a significant decline in active cases. The World Health Organization reports that as of June 8, there are 451 active COVID-19 cases in the West Bank. As of June 10, the Palestinian Ministry of Health is reporting that 16 COVID patients are currently in intensive care units, including three patients on artificial respirators, in the West Bank.

The Dura government hospital wing that was designated to deal with COVID-19 announced at the beginning of June that it had zero COVID patients. Most people, however, are still wearing masks since the majority of Palesstinians aren't yet vaccinated.

The system of Palestinian laborers traveling regularly between the West Bank and Israel led to a major spread of the virus. Israel, in response, has fully vaccinated some 110,000 West Bankers who go to work on a daily basis in Israel or in settlements.⁹

Through COVAX, Palestinian Authorities have obtained limited supplies of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines. An estimated 217,441 Palestinian residents of the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem) have been fully or partially vaccinated as of May 6, or close to 9% of the population (of these, 147,170 have received both doses).

Jordan

COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Jordan. As of June 11, there are a total of 742,178 known cases and 9,570 deaths reported in the country. 10

Jordan's vaccination program has administered at least 1,904,235 doses of COVID-19 vaccines.¹¹ The program has been proceeding at a rate of about 42,352 doses per day.

The Jordanian National Center for Security and Crisis Management published recommendations for incentive measures for those working in public and private sectors to receive the coronavirus vaccine which would allow those vaccinated against the coronavirus to enter all public facilities, major parks, theaters, cinemas and attend sporting events, while those without this vaccine will be prevented from entering state institutions, public facilities, commercial centers and all service sectors until August 1, 2021. 12

⁶ UN OCHA, "COVID-19 Emergency Situation Report 30 | April 2021," May 6, 2021.

⁷ WHO, "Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the occupied Palestinian territory," updated June 8, 2021.

⁸ Palestinian Ministry of Health, Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Palestine, June 10 update.

⁹ Covid-19: Palestinians lag behind in vaccine efforts as infections rise

¹⁰ WHO Coronavirus Dashboard for Jordan

¹¹ Reuters Vaccination Tracker

¹² UPDATED: Crisis Cell issues recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination incentive measures

A study by Ipsos, a global market research and public opinion specialist, showed that the rate of vaccine acceptance has increased significantly by all groups in the country over the past three months. Three out of four Jordanians are open to the idea of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.¹³

Lebanon

Lebanon's total daily infections has decreased noticeably and health experts link this to a degree of herd immunity coupled with vaccination campaigns. Immunity has reduced the severity of the epidemic and allowed the easing of general quarantine measures in the country. There are 234 new infections reported on average each day which constitutes 5% of the peak (the highest daily average was reported on January 15). There have been 542,169 confirmed infections and 7,785 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began. According to the Reuters Vaccination Tracker, of those eligible to receive the vaccine, 9.2% got at least one dose and 4.6% have been fully vaccinated. Public and international organizations in Lebanon are raising people's awareness about the importance of getting the vaccine.

Anera's Response

As an immediate response to the attacks on Gaza, two Anera trucks brought in three shipments of medical aid, which included vital PPE like face shields and surgical gloves. These were the first medical aid shipments coordinated with UN agencies and international nonprofits to come into the territory after the bombing campaign ended on May 21. Anera currently has 11 shipments of medical donations in progress. The shipments include acute and emergency medicines, PPE (gowns, KN95 masks, face shields and gloves), and medications to manage chronic conditions like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure.

Since April, <u>Anera has been supporting the national vaccine campaign against the coronavirus in Lebanon</u>. We're spreading awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated, helping people to register, securing medical equipment for health facilities, and providing 40,000 doses of vaccine for 20,000 Palestinian refugees.

¹³ Higher percentage of Jordanians display willingness to receive COVID-19 vaccine: Ipsos

¹⁴ Report: What is the truth about the coronavirus epidemic in Lebanon?

¹⁵ Lebanese Ministry of Health Coronavirus Statistics

¹⁶ WHO Coronavirus Dashboard for Lebanon

¹⁷ Reuters Vaccine Tracker