

Status, Trends and Recommendations

Covid-19: Stakeholders Update – Week 41

A nine pager

Global epidemiological situation

Globally, the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths have continued to decline since late August (Figure 1). Over 2.8 million new cases and over 46 000 new deaths were reported during the week of 4 to 10 October 2021, representing decreases of 7% and 10% respectively, as compared to the previous week (Table 1). Apart from the European Region, which reported a 7% increase in the number of new weekly cases as compared to the previous week, all the other regions reported declines in new weekly cases. The largest decrease in new weekly cases was reported from the African Region (32%), followed by the Western Pacific Region (26%). The cumulative number of confirmed cases reported globally is now over 237 million and the cumulative number of deaths is over 4.8 million.

The number of new weekly deaths reported showed a large (>10%) decline for all regions except for the European Region, which reported an 11% increase as compared to the previous week. The largest decline in weekly deaths was reported from the Western Pacific and the African Regions, with both showing declines of 34% as compared to the previous week.

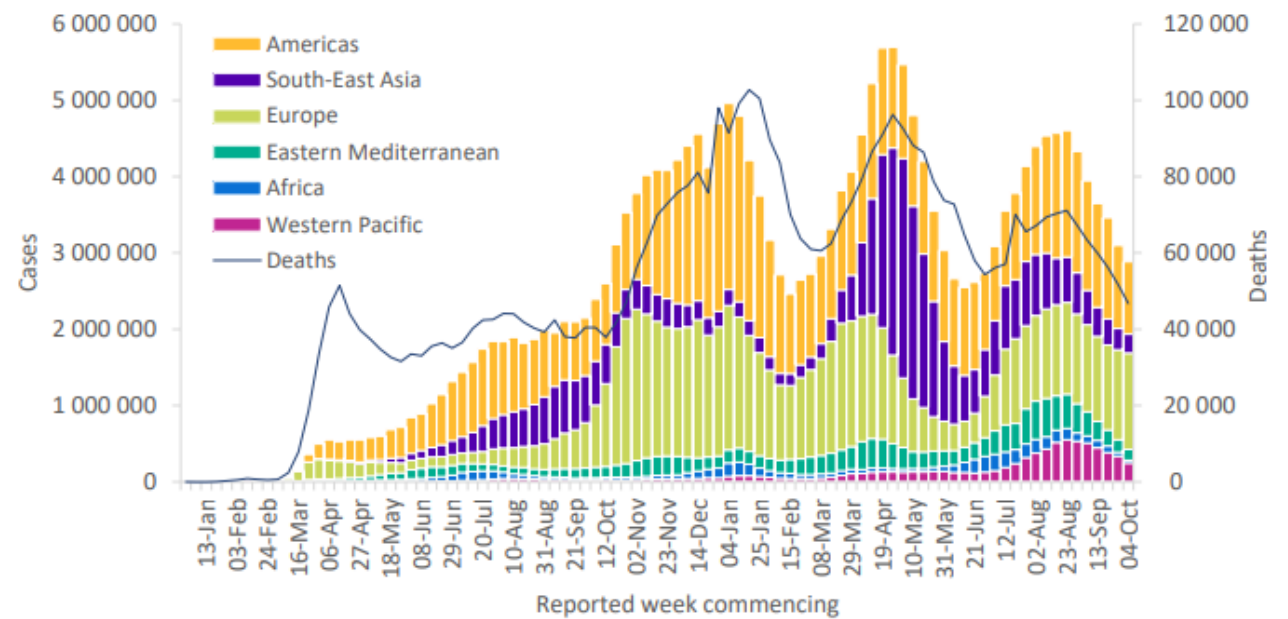
Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 10 October 2021**

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	949 371 (33%)	-13%	91 325 885 (38%)	18 565 (40%)	-14%	2 241 923 (46%)
Europe	1 260 455 (44%)	7%	71 863 813 (30%)	17 198 (37%)	11%	1 360 102 (28%)
South-East Asia	247 814 (9%)	-11%	43 369 716 (18%)	3 636 (8%)	-16%	681 671 (14%)
Eastern Mediterranean	144 710 (5%)	-13%	15 970 239 (7%)	3 002 (6%)	-16%	293 568 (6%)
Western Pacific	249 098 (9%)	-26%	8 858 812 (4%)	3 141 (7%)	-34%	120 846 (2%)
Africa	33 563 (1%)	-32%	6 081 759 (3%)	1 247 (3%)	-34%	148 101 (3%)
Global	2 885 011 (100%)	-7%	237 470 988 (100%)	46 789 (100%)	-10%	4 846 224 (100%)

*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 10 October 2021**

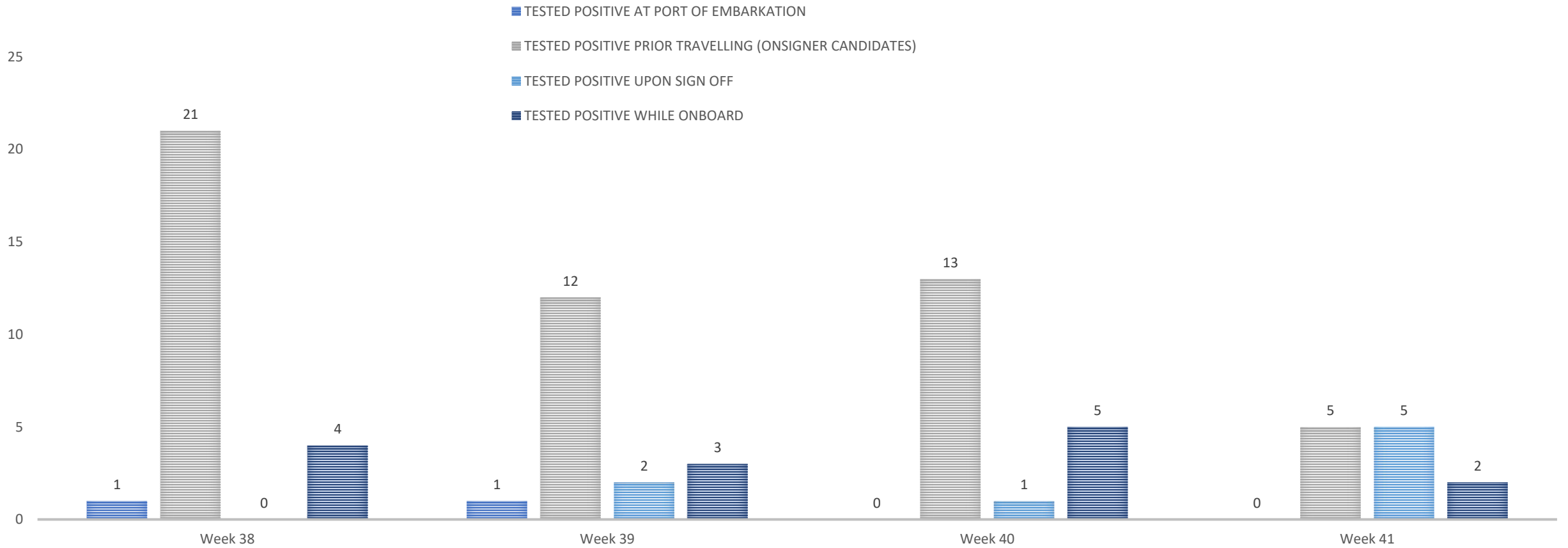


The regions reporting the highest weekly case incidence rates per 100 000 population were the European Region (135.1 new cases per 100 000 population) and the Region of the Americas (92.8 new cases per 100 000 population), and the same two regions reported the highest weekly incidence in deaths, with both reporting 1.8 per 100 000 population.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (653 837 new cases; 12% decrease), the United Kingdom (249 699 new cases; similar to the number reported in the previous week), Turkey (205 266 new cases; similar to the number reported in the previous week), the Russian Federation (188 829 new cases; 14% increase), and India (139 572 new cases; 13% decrease).

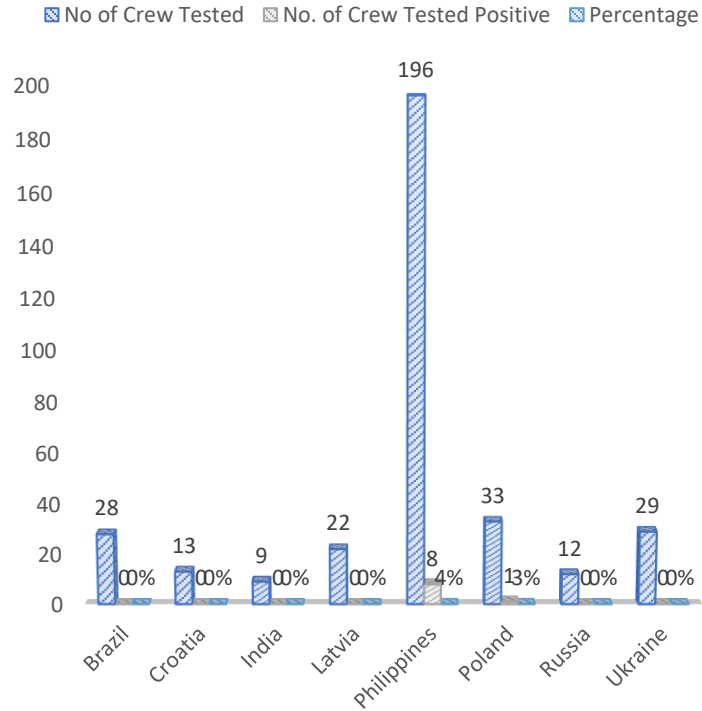
Globally, no new countries, territories or areas (hereafter countries) reported cases with VOCs in the past week. As of 12 October, cases of Alpha variant have been reported from 195 countries, Beta variant from 145 countries, Gamma variant from 99 countries, and Delta variant from 191 countries across all six WHO regions.

OSM MANNING - WHEN TESTED POSITIVE PER WEEK

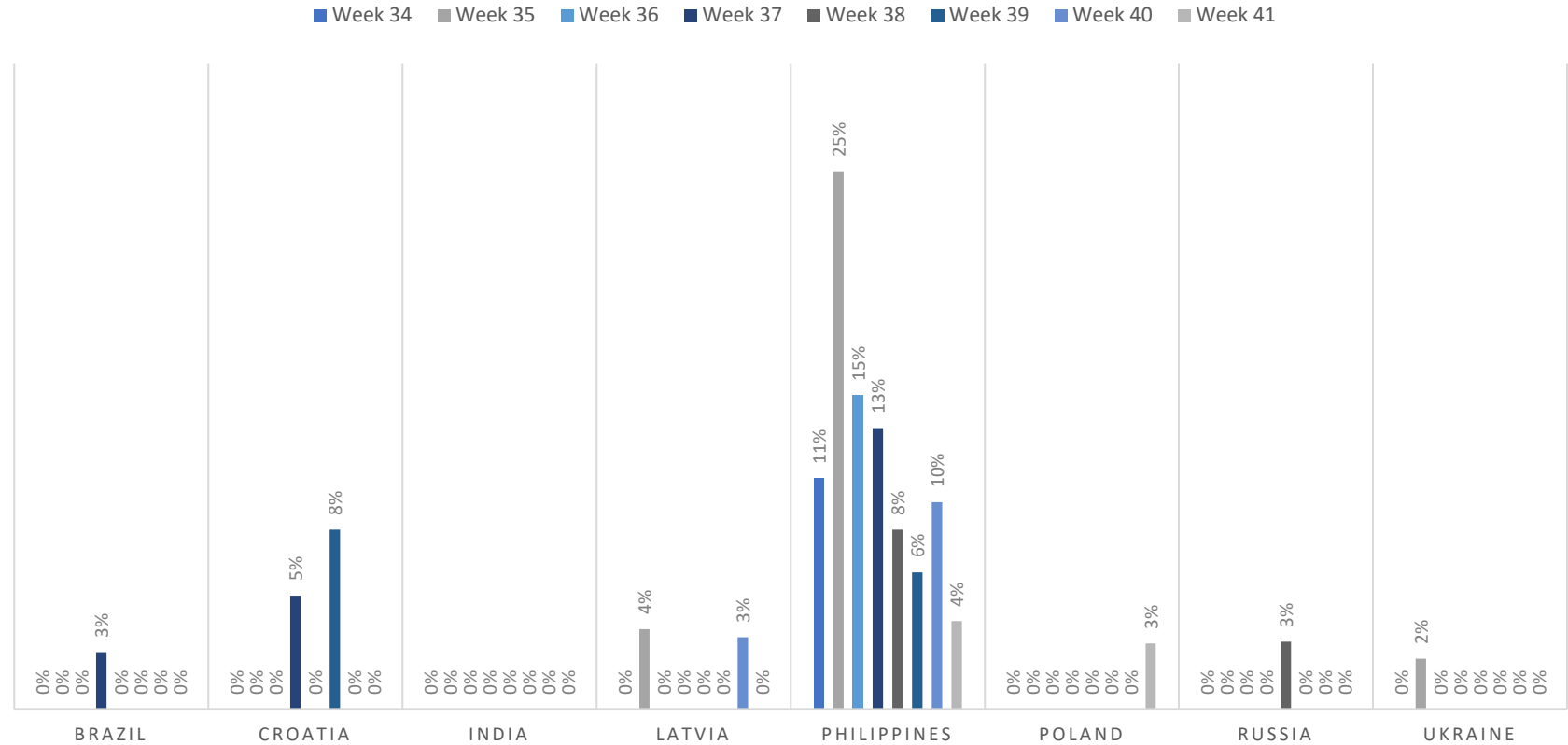


Comment: In week 41 we have a decrease of total figures compared to the week before. Of the 12 cases seen during this week 5 have occurred prior boarding (the ones before climbing up the gangway or even before travelling) what regarding virus avoidance onboard has been the goal. 2 persons were tested positive while onboard and 5 were tested positive upon sign off. For the ones tested positive onboard (2 persons) this week and 3 of the 5 positively tested Offsigners - these cases occurred where OSM provides the manning only (no DOC holder) hence for these seafarers OSM has no influence on procedures and instructions onboard. Anyway OSM is getting in contact with owners for rendering support also for these colleagues. For the other 2 positively tested Offsigners there are strong indications that the virus was caught during travelling back home. It again underlines the importance of applying all required safety precautions during travelling as detailed in the OSM Covid-19 procedures for travelling.

PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY



PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY PER WEEK

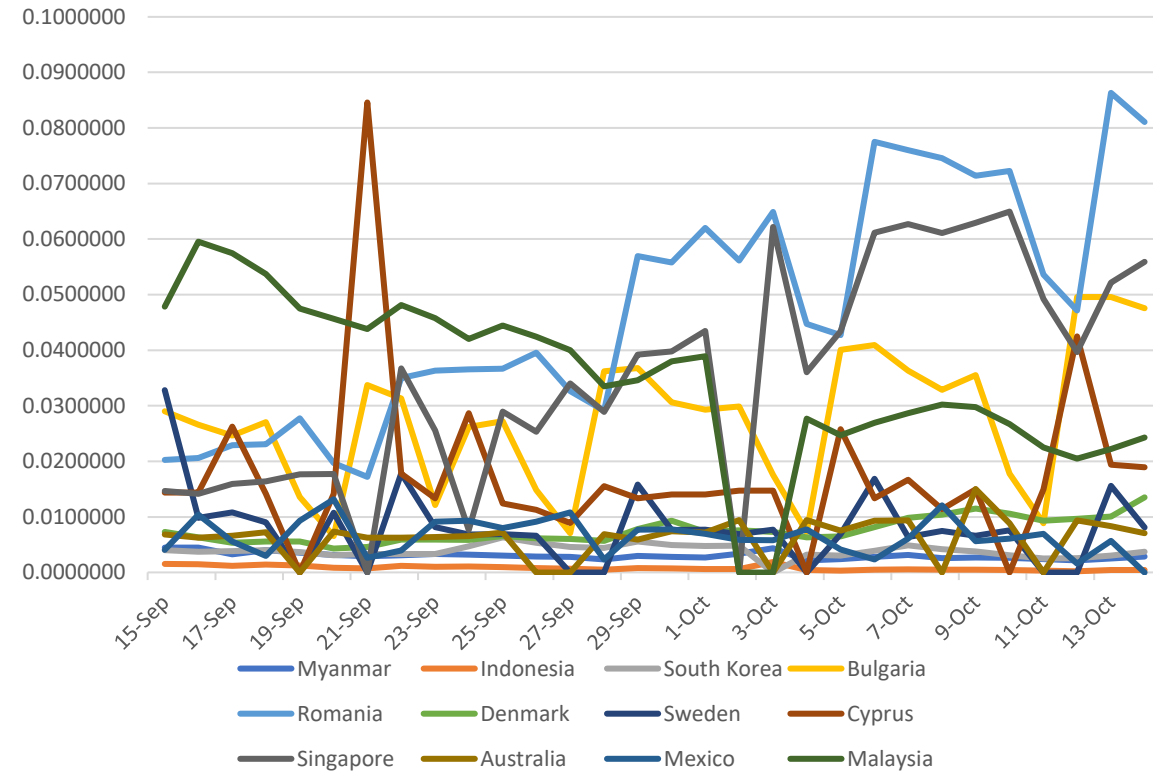
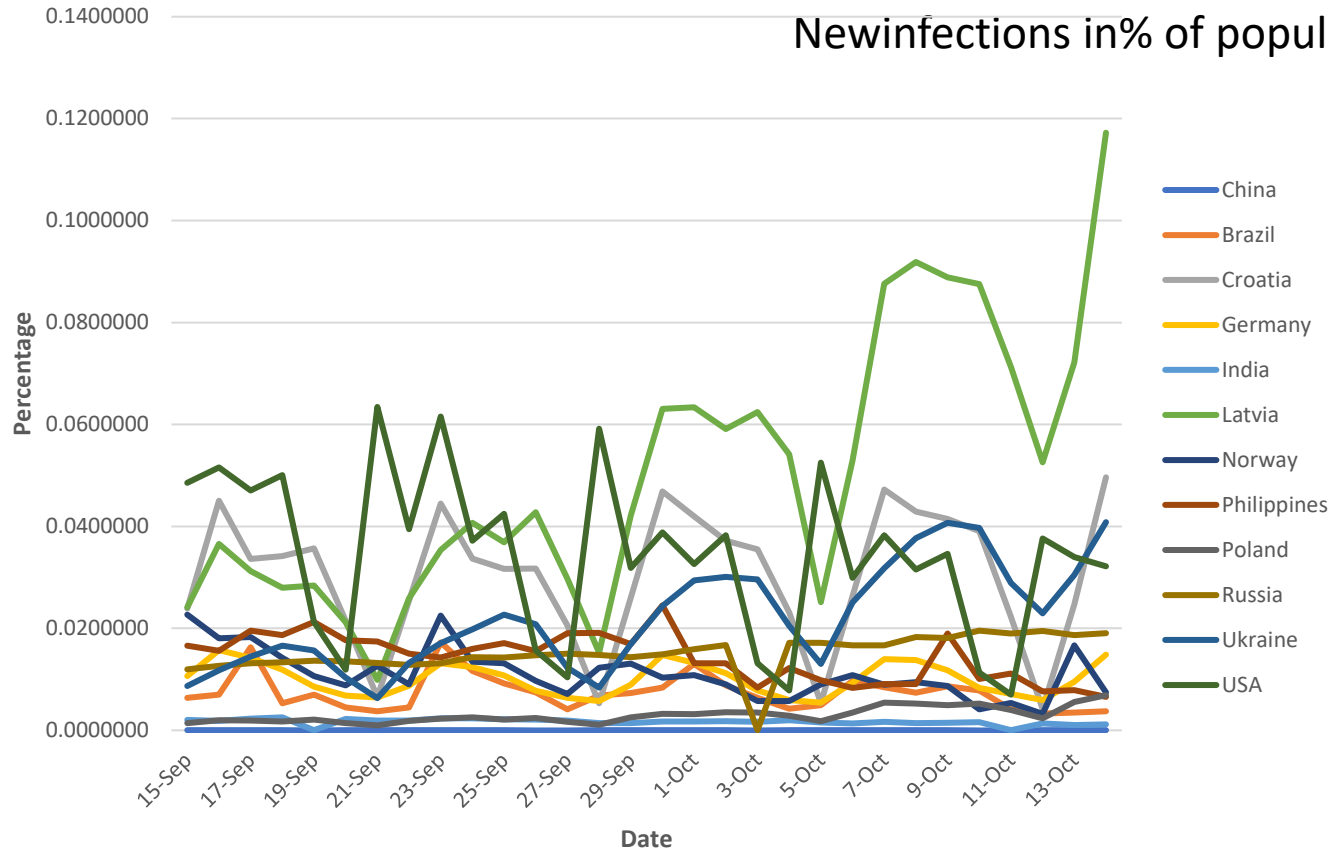


Positivity Rate:

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. Poland had 1 positive case out of 33 tested which equals to 3%. Positivity rate is significantly reduced compared to previous weeks.

Covid-19: Newinfection ratio

Newinfections in% of population

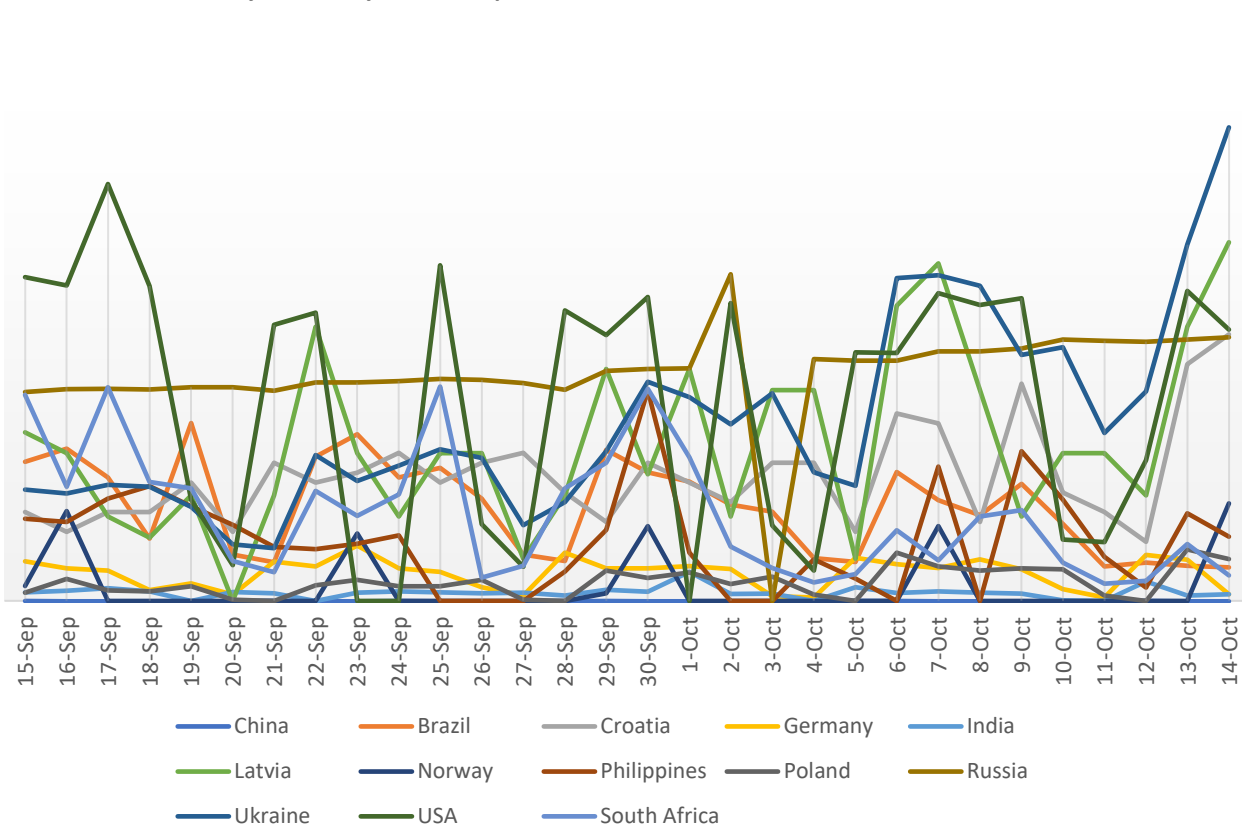


Looking at the home countries of our seafarers we want to give an overview about trends and threats. In order to have a comparable base the number of daily newinfections has been put in relation to the number of inhabitants – resulting in a percentage figure. It has to be considered that infection figures 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 the following trend: Latvia and Croatia are showing an increase of infection figures but we have also increasing figures at Romania, Bulgaria and Singapore.

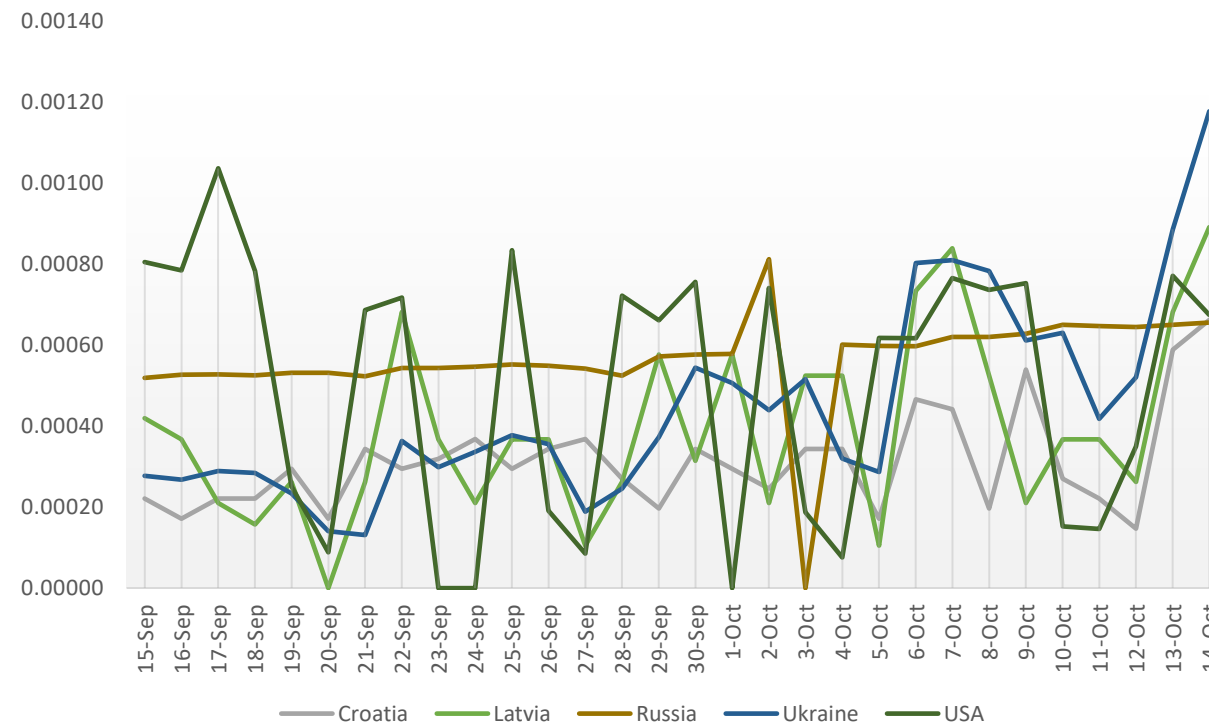
Sources: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19) [The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/29/health/covid-19.html) [JHU CSSE COVID-19](https://www.jhu.edu/2020/09/29/covid19-cases/) [Europäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/prevention-and-control-of-diseases)

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

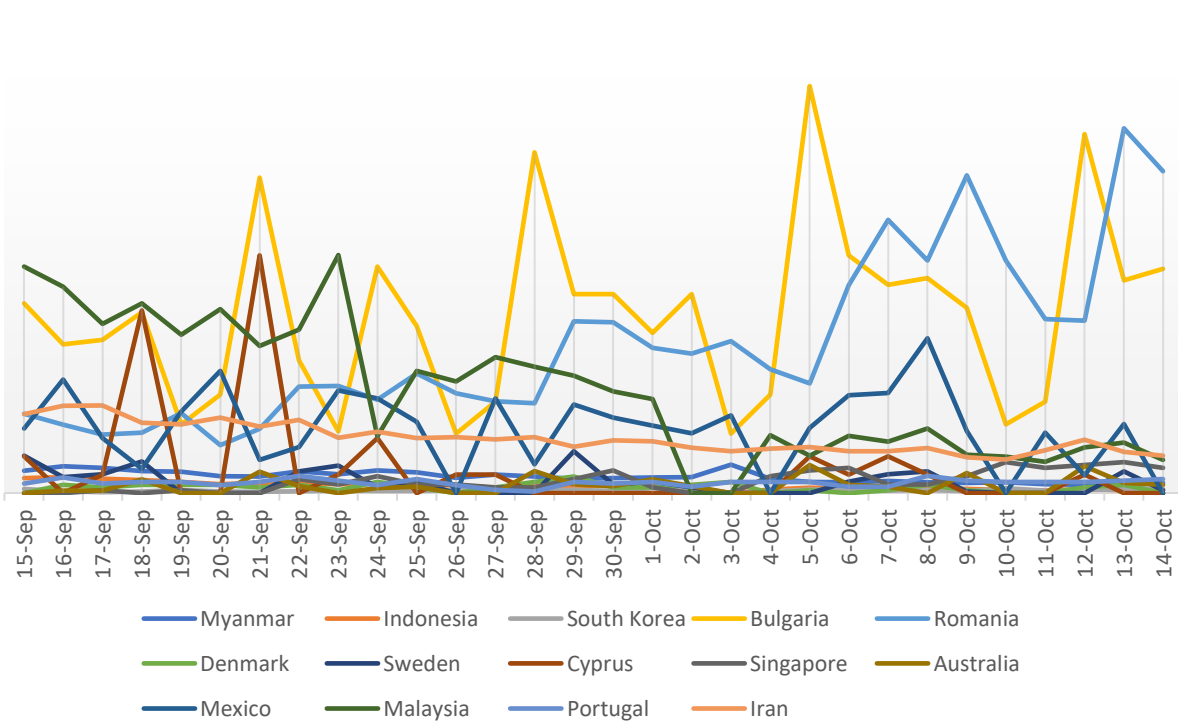
Sources: [Wikipedia](#)[The New York Times](#)[JHU CSSE COVID-19](#)[DataEuropäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](#)

Covid-19: Fatality ratio II

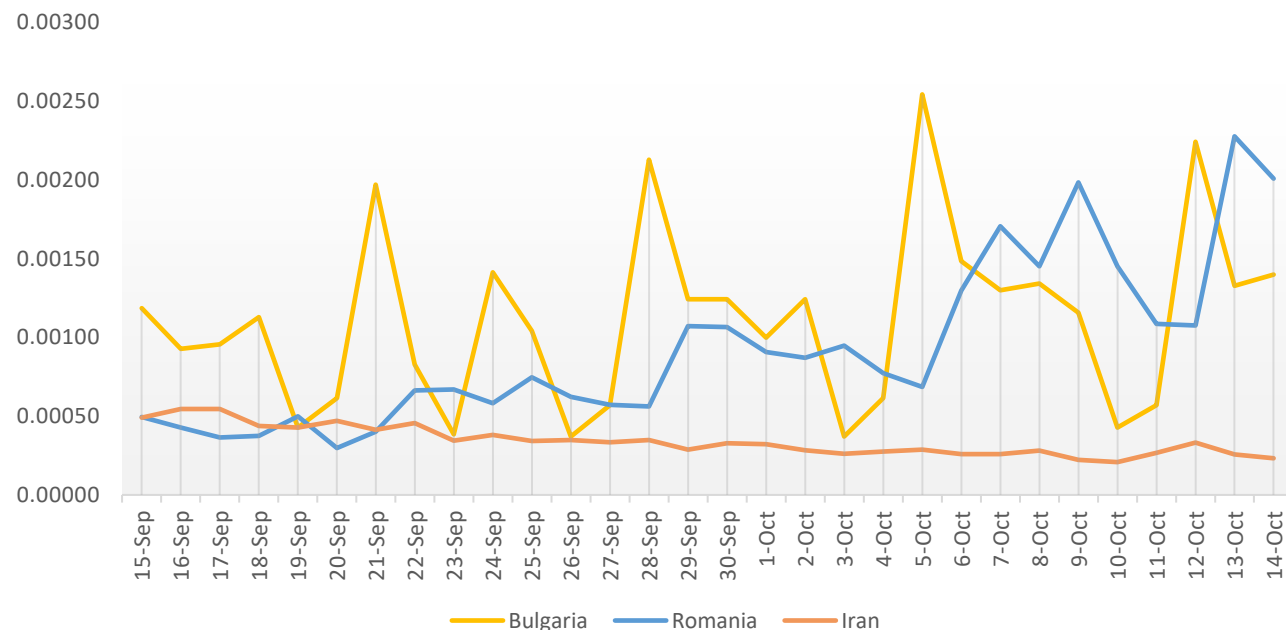
this needs to be seen as a sign that -beside the most obvious reason that not vaccinated people are affected- the vaccination level is not sufficient any more due to expiry of immunization triggers or/and (much more important!) the influence of new virus strains.

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](#)

11 Reasons for seafarers to go for vaccination against Covid 19!

- ✓ **1. Travelling:** Increasingly we see that completed vaccinations are requested to enter some countries easing then the access across borders
- ✓ **2. Protection I:** Despite of the new virus strains and their structures the vaccination (of any kind and brand) is minimizing the risk for severe developments including hospitalization and fatalities
- ✓ **3. Protection II:** After vaccination the risk is substantially reduced for long distance travelers (as seafarers are) to get a severe sickness or even to be hospitalized in a country with a very unknown and may be very limited health system
- ✓ **4. Protection III:** With the vaccination and its avoidance of severe developments the risk is substantially minimized to suffer later on from Long Covid which potentially can make the full recovery period much longer and potentially much harder to cope even with the easiest tasks of daily life.
- ✓ **5. Spreading:** In case being vaccinated and despite of that getting the virus will cause in the very most cases that you are having either light symptoms or even none. In that case there is a substantially lower risk that you will spread the virus.
- ✓ **6. Variants:** Variants develop when there is a huge base of infected individuals out there. The more individuals are protected the less the variants can develop.
- ✓ **7. Owners` requirements:** We increasingly see that owners are requesting to man their vessels with fully vaccinated crew only. In turn future crew changes may focus only on fully vaccinated crew members.
- ✓ **8. Restrictions:** Increasingly in many countries fully vaccinated persons are facing much less restrictions. It is likely that these changes will come in force in even more countries in future.
- ✓ **9. Peace of mind:** Once present in an unknown community – in case being vaccinated - you can feel much safer because you can assume that at least you won't face a severe development even in case you got infected.
- ✓ **10. Employment readiness:** Once being fully vaccinated (including the connected immunity development phase) you would be in the position without any notice to join any vessel where the vaccination is the final condition to be employed.
- ✓ **11. Job continuity:** It is expected that in near future e.g. a crew member who is fully vaccinated will have substantially less burden with self isolation and quarantine prior joining any vessel. The latter one might even have a direct impact to seafarer`s uninterrupted income then.

Covid-19: How to protect crew member and vessel – new

Recommendations

In case of significant Covid-19 activity 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:

	Not or only incompletely vaccinated	Fully vaccinated (with 2 weeks after 2nd dose of Covid vaccine - if J&J/Sputnik Light then 2 respectively 4 weeks after one jab) and joining a vessel with fully vaccinated 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 5 days and 7 days
5. First PCR testing at beginning of the quarantine	Day 1 of quarantine	Day 1 of quarantine
6. Second PCR testing earliest at	8th day of quarantine	5th day of quarantine
7. Transfer and leaving of quarantine earliest when result of second PCR test is received and negative	Fully applicable	Fully applicable
8. PCR test at country of boarding the vessel	Fully applicable	Fully applicable
9. Strict usage of covid-19 PPE for transfers, flights and for any other occasion potentially contact can occur with third parties	Fully applicable	Fully applicable