

Status, Trends and Recommendations

# Covid-19: Stakeholders Update – Week 50

A nine pager

## Global epidemiological situation

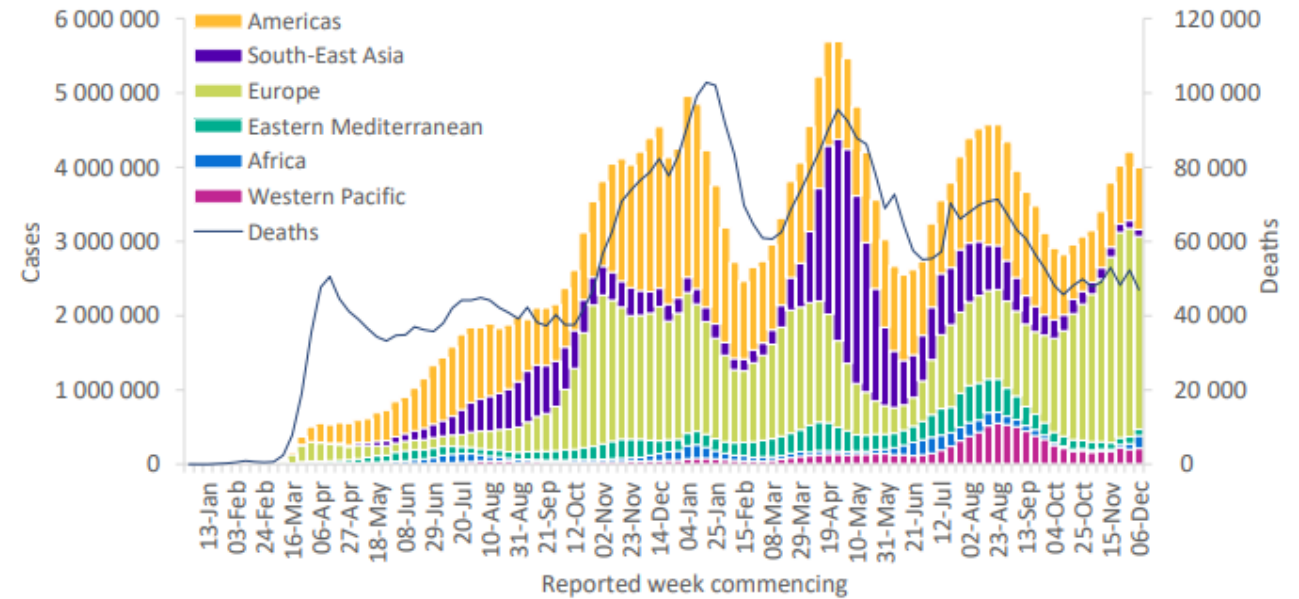
Globally, the weekly incidence of both cases and deaths declined during the past week (6-12 December 2021), with decreases of 5% and 10% respectively, as compared to the previous week. Nonetheless, this still corresponded to over 4 million new confirmed cases and just under 47 000 new deaths. As of 12 December, nearly 269 million confirmed cases and nearly 5.3 million deaths have been reported globally.

The African Region reported the largest increase in new cases last week (111%) followed by and the Western Pacific Region which reported an increase of 7%. The Region of the Americas and South-East Asia Region both reported decreases of 10% and the European Region reported a 7% decrease.

**Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, as of 12 December 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 (%)
Europe	2 593 221 (65%)	-7%	91 631 852 (34%)	28 362 (60%)	-3%	1 598 688 (30%)
Americas	837 345 (21%)	-10%	98 521 311 (37%)	10 562 (22%)	-14%	2 371 246 (45%)
Western Pacific	213 915 (5%)	7%	10 584 344 (4%)	3 335 (7%)	4%	147 539 (3%)
Africa	167 682 (4%)	111%	6 522 517 (2%)	491 (1%)	-1%	153 766 (3%)
South-East Asia	98 021 (2%)	-10%	44 737 006 (17%)	2 643 (6%)	-50%	714 303 (13%)
Eastern Mediterranean	90 633 (2%)	-4%	16 936 781 (6%)	1 568 (3%)	-3%	312 295 (6%)
<b>Global</b>	<b>4 000 817 (100%)</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>268 934 575 (100%)</b>	<b>46 961 (100%)</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>5 297 850 (100%)</b>

**Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 12 December 2021\*\***

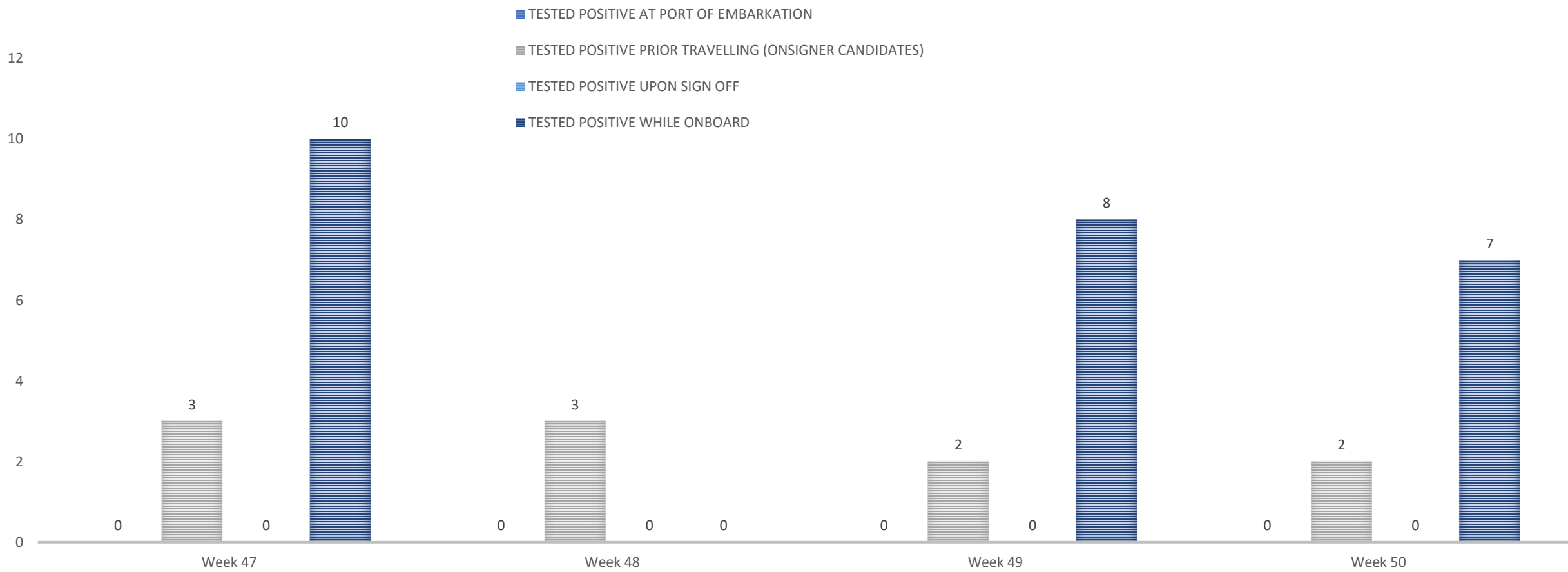


The number of new weekly cases reported by the Eastern Mediterranean Region was similar to the numbers reported in the previous week. New weekly deaths decreased by 50% in the South-East Asia Region (due to an artificial increase in deaths from batch reporting in the previous week) and 14% in the Region of the Americas, while the number of weekly deaths in all other regions remained similar to those reported in the previous week.

The regions reporting the highest weekly case incidence per 100 000 population continue to be the European Region (277.9 new cases per 100 000 population) and the Region of the Americas (81.9 new cases per 100 000 population). Both regions also reported the highest weekly incidence in deaths of 3.0 and 1.0 per 100 000 population, respectively while <1 new death per 100 000 was reported in all other regions.

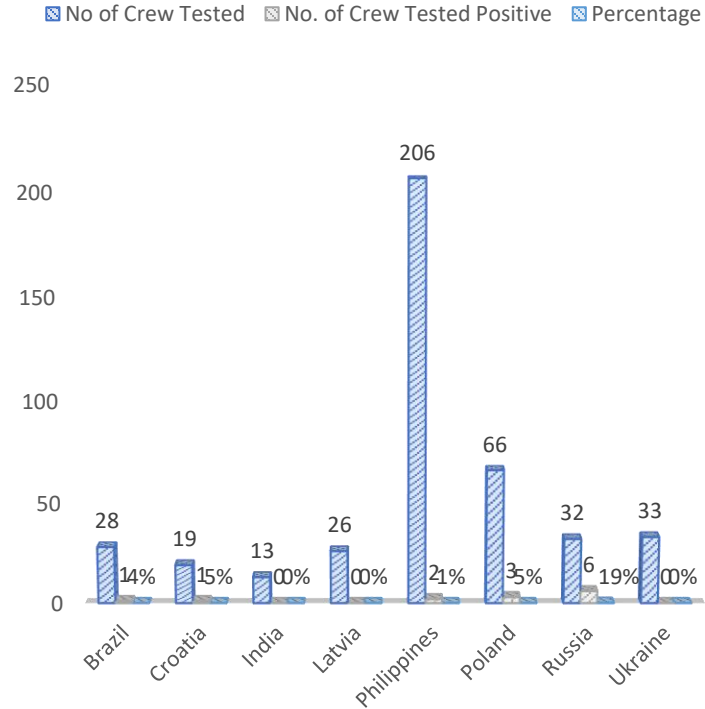
The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the United States of America (674 019 new cases; 9% decrease), Germany (351 738 new cases; 11% decrease), the United Kingdom (350 340 new cases; 13% increase), France (335 972 new cases; 19% increase), and the Russian Federation (215 283 new cases; 7% decrease).

### OSM MANNING - WHEN TESTED POSITIVE PER WEEK

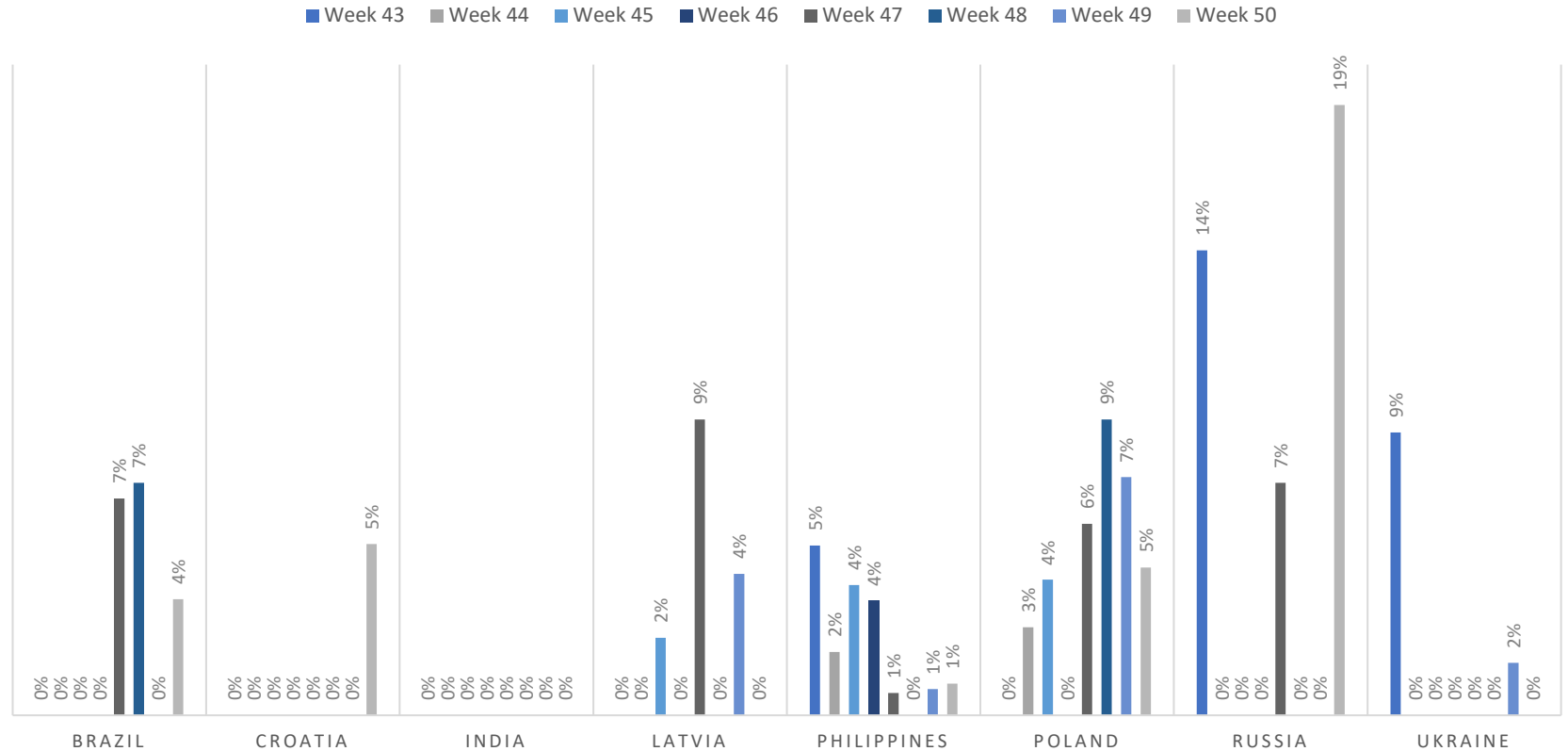


Comment: In week 50 we have a slight decrease of total figures compared to the week before. Of the 9 cases seen during this week 2 have occurred prior boarding (the ones before climbing up the gangway or even before travelling) what regarding virus avoidance onboard has been the goal. Then there were 7 cases tested positive while onboard. Of these 7 cases 1 case was connected to the outbreak which occurred at one vessel last week. Then there was another outbreak with 6 positive cases which occurred after vessel has been at shipyard. It is an early stage of tracing but it looks like virus was brought onboard during shipyard work and then spread accordingly amongst crew. Mask wearing of visitors is of particular importance – see also page 8.

## PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY



## PCR-TEST POSITIVITY RATE BY NATIONALITY PER WEEK

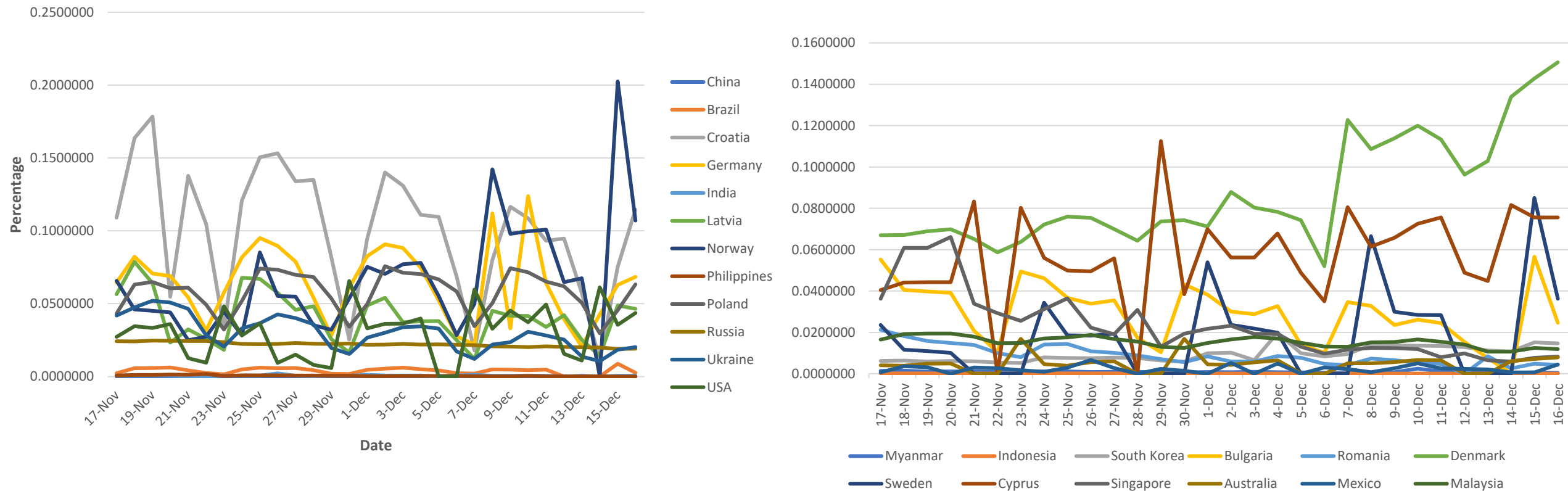


### Positivity Rate:

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 19 tested which equals to 5%.

## Covid-19: Newinfection ratio

Newinfections in % of population

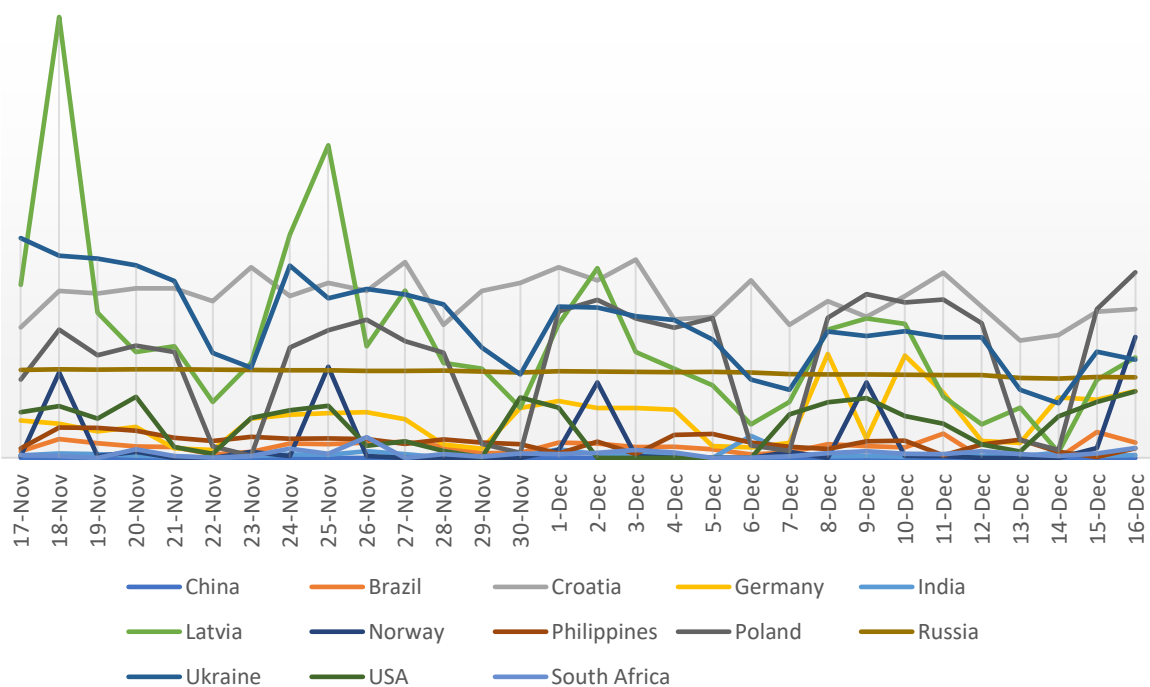


Looking at the home countries of our seafarers we want to give an overview about trends and threats. In order to have a comparable base the number of daily newinfections has been put in relation to the number of inhabitants – resulting in a percentage figure. It has to be considered that infection figures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

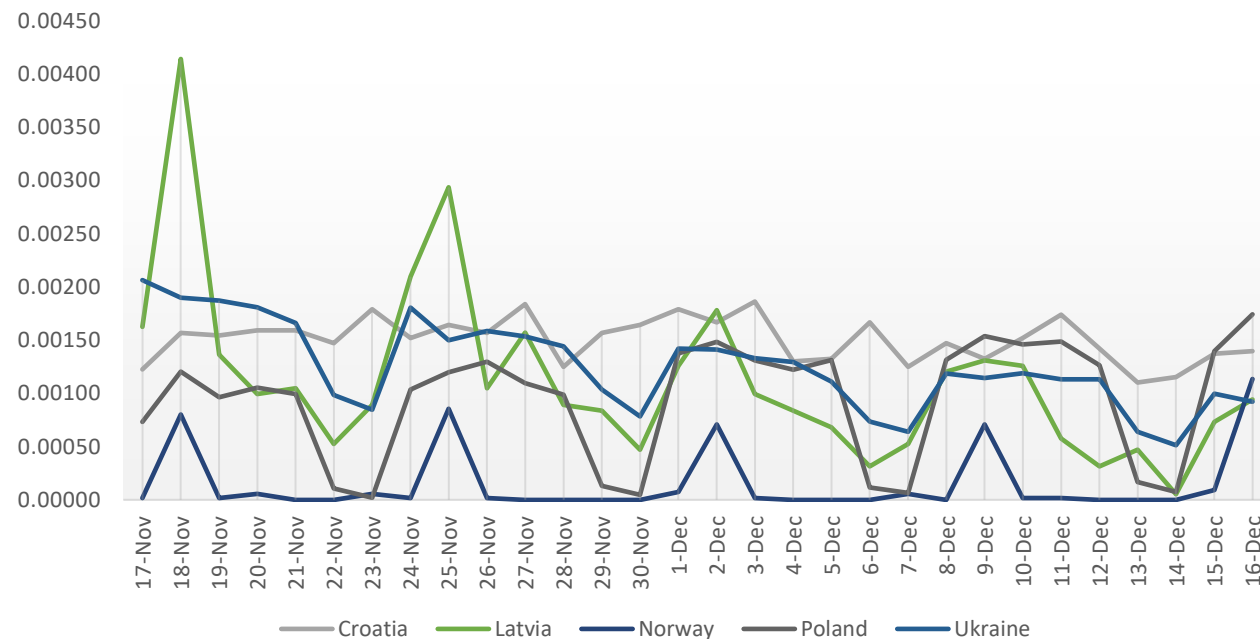
Sources: [Wikipedia](#) [The New York Times](#) [JHU CSSE COVID-19 Data](#) [Europäisches Zentrum für die Prävention und die Kontrolle von Krankheiten](#)

## Covid-19: Fatality ratio I

Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - overview



Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - focus



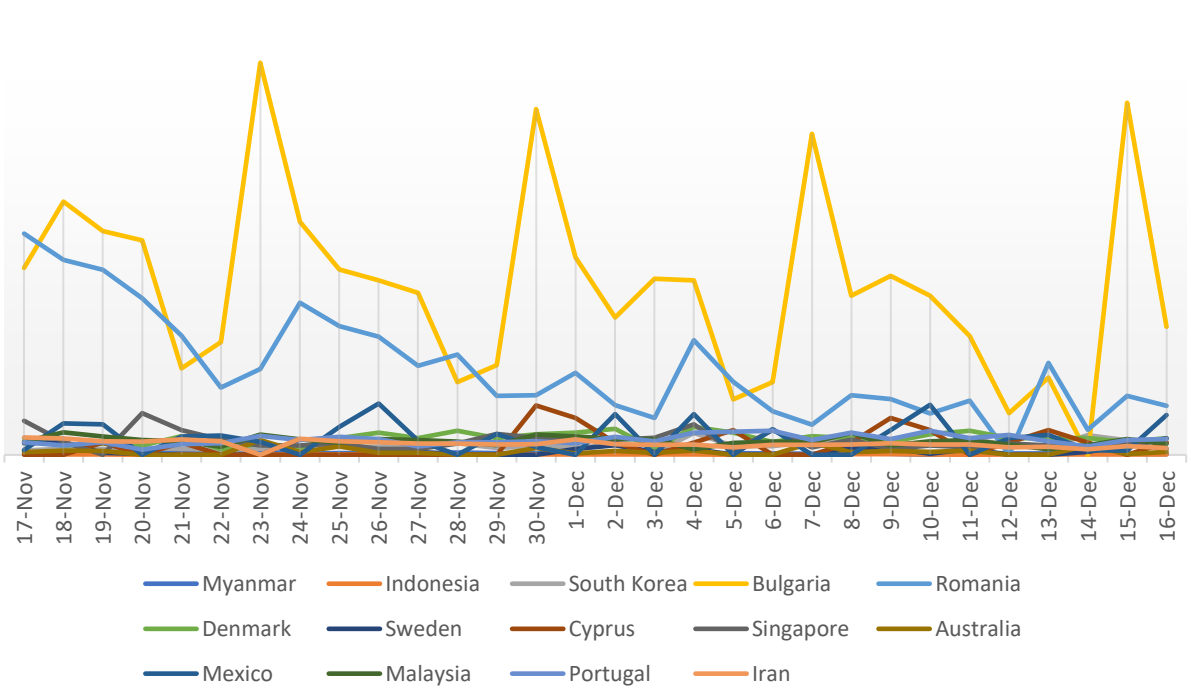
We are observing that the level of new infections is not any longer a suitable “fever thermometer” for the situation of this pandemic – at least not as the only one. This particularly is the case in countries with a high percentage of vaccinated inhabitants. In most of these countries people have been 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](#)

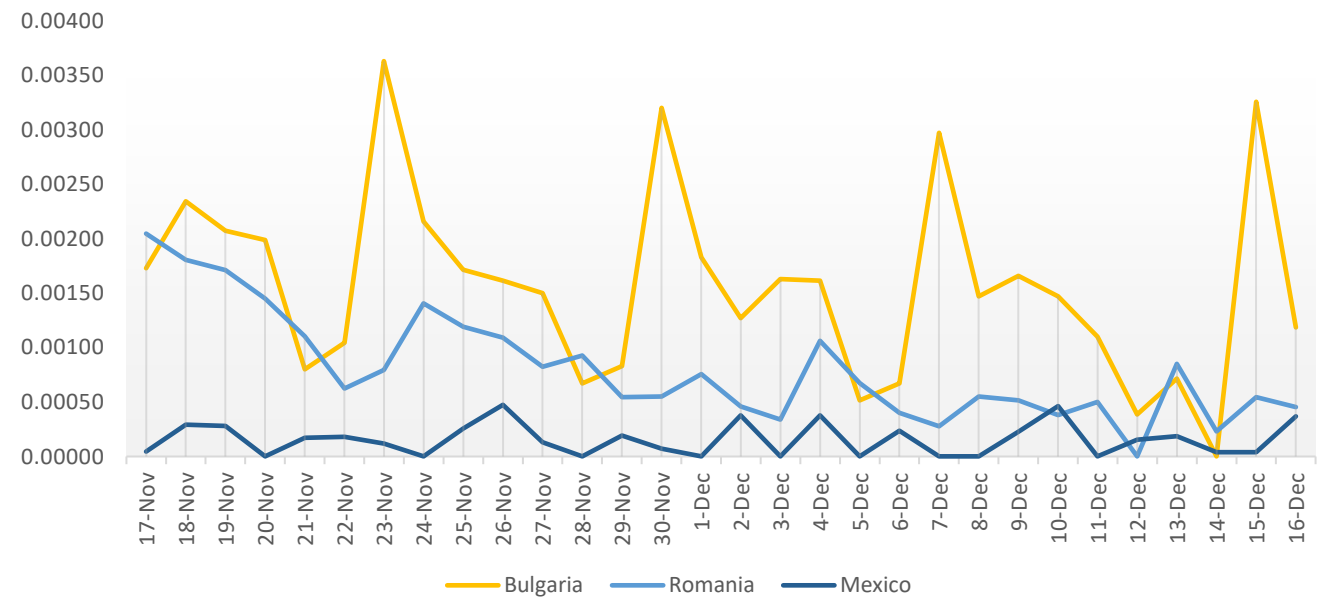
## Covid-19: Fatality ratio II

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

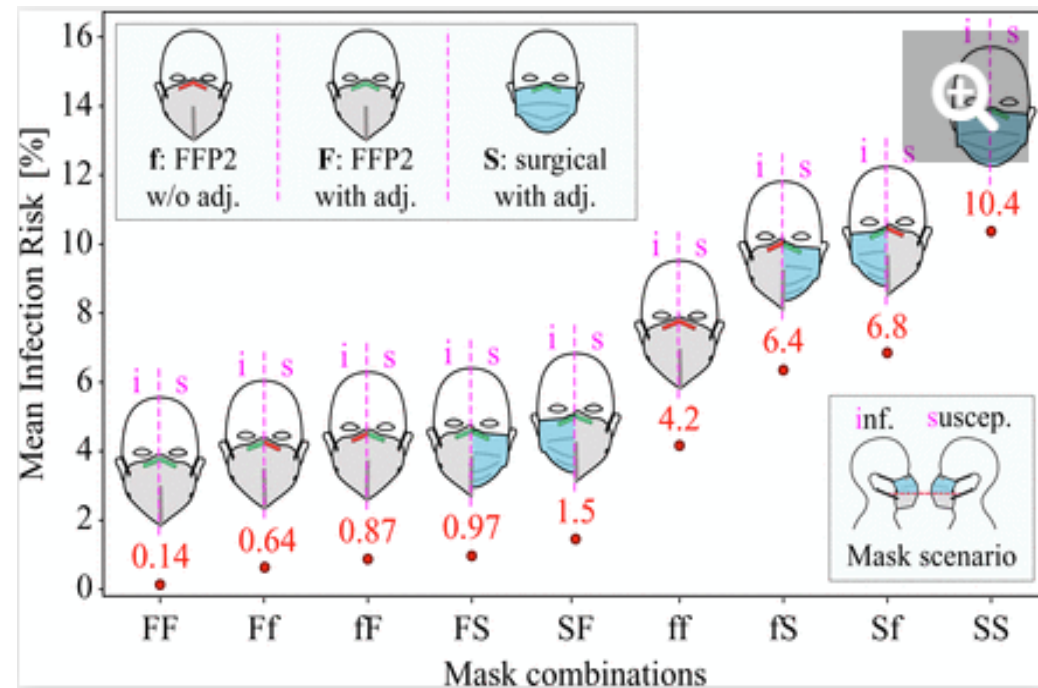
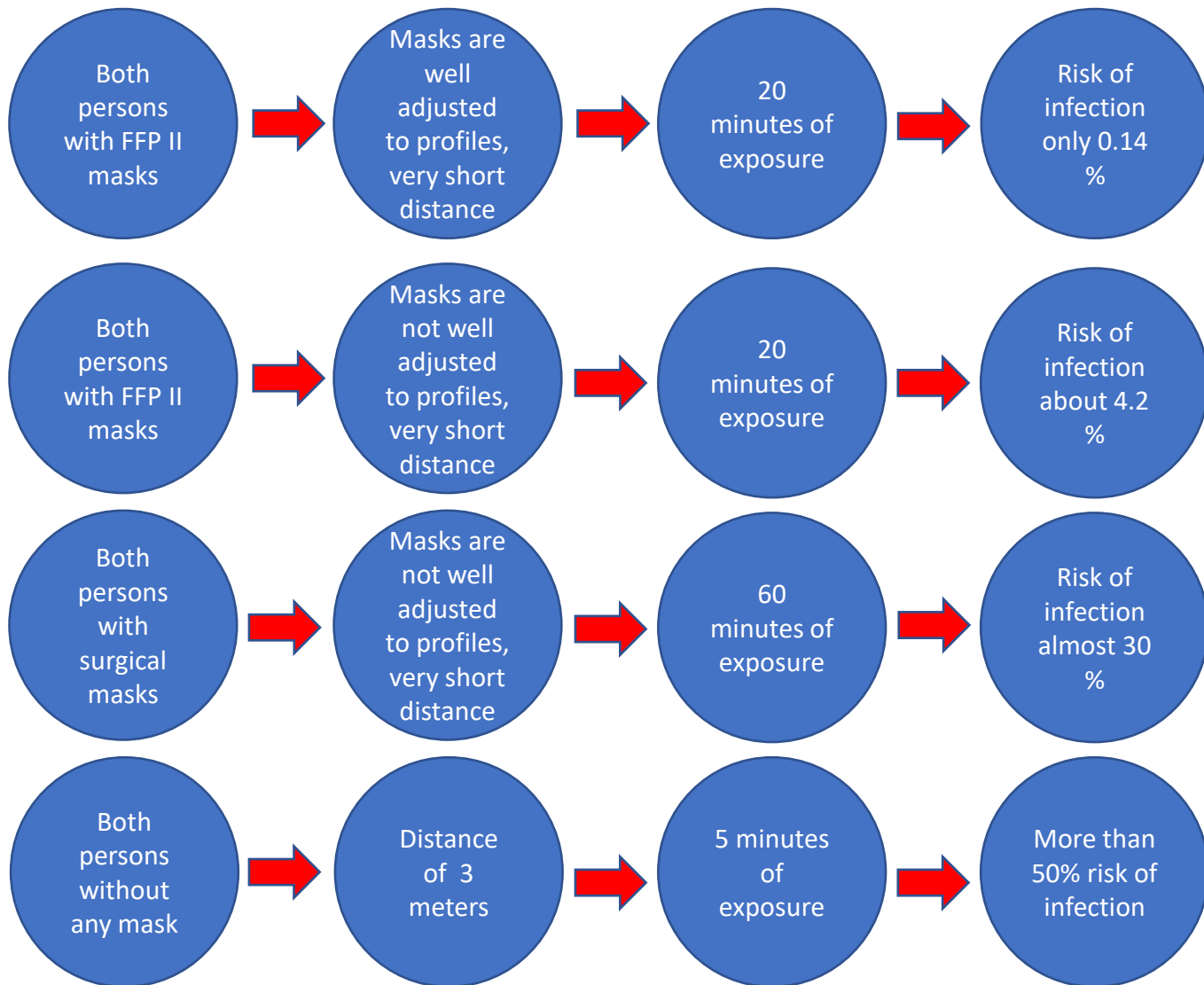


Daily fatality development in % of inhabitants - focus



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

## Covid-19: Research – one person infected and one more unvaccinated without infection – risk of transmission



<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/49/e2110117118>

**Summary: Masks – particularly FFP II masks – are giving a much better protection than even thought before – particularly if used by both “sender” and “receiver” and if adjusted properly**

**Conclusion: If situations with visitors onboard are dealt with properly – the infection risk can be reduced to a far extend. But it needs to be actively dealt with!**



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

### 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
<b>7. Transfer and leaving of quarantine earliest when result of second PCR test is received and negative</b>	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