

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022 WILL THE PANDEMIC END?

“NORMAL LIFE” is when infection prevention standards are permanently incorporated into our basic standards for safe and healthy communities, workplaces and schools, aligned to the Philippine Development Plan



SAFETY LIVING WITH COVID-19

• Philippines

Dr Agnes B. Segarra shares the Philippines' perspective on how to live with COVID-19 safety. She emphasized that the Philippines has published the COVID-19 situation daily on the website at 4 PM. There were 4 criteria to consider for safe reopening as follow;
1) Transmission, 2) Health system capacity in place, 3) Minimizing the risk at high transmission setting and 4) Stakeholder analysis.

There were 5 alert levels categorized by indoor and outdoor proportion for transmission control. There is alert level 1 (no restriction) in most areas in the philippines. The Philippines has applied the PDITR across all settings. PDITR stands for Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat and Reintegrate (minimum public health standard). Vaccine minimized the risk for vulnerable people, start vaccination in 5 - 11 years old.

Source: DOH- Philippines



• Thailand

Dr Chawetsan Namwat share how to live with COVID-19 safety. Thailand was in the rising cases of COVID-19 cases compared to other countries. The rising from the Omicron variant infection has low death cases compared to the Delta variant. The proportion of Omicron variant infection reached almost 100 percent. The Omicron variant infection is mainly found in the younger level (3-17 years old) than the Alpha and Delta variant. The case fatality in Omicron was also low (0.2%). The benchmark was 0.1% refer to flu to land into the endemic situation. Personal hygiene and environmental sanitation should keep at a high level. Thailand was in the transition period.

SURVEY RESULT

Top areas that need to be strengthened



Related to field epidemiology capacities

- Training and retention of field (to cope with surge demand)
- Plan and operation to increase staffs (number and capacities)
- Risk communication and risk assessment
- Big data management and analytical skill

Miscellaneous

- Disease control strategy/ policy recommendation formulation
- Investment and competencies critical to detecting and managing disease outbreaks
- Collaboration with higher institutions for training of epi team
- Public-private partnerships
- Ensure coverage of screening for potential exposed population when the infection source is not clear

