



Epidemiology and Surveillance

Cases

- 93 cases confirmed in Week 39, a 30.6% decrease in reported cases compared to Week 38
- Majority of new cases from traveller screening (54.8%) and alerts (36.6%), and from Central Equatoria (55.9%), Western Equatoria (17.2%), and Eastern Equatoria (10.8%)
- Eight (8) new imported cases in Week 39 (identified from Nimule point of entry)
- One (1) new confirmed case among healthcare workers
- Case tally for Week 39 represents 0.8% of cumulative case tally
- 2.5% crude positivity for samples tested during the week (highest yields came from GeneXpert (GXP) sites)
- Trends for moving averages for yield, case count, and proportional daily case change are stabilizing/flattening
- 7.0% decrease in 7-day moving average for new cases in the last seven days (17.4% decrease in the last 14 days)
- 35 (43.8%) of 80 counties in the country have a confirmed case, with no county with a first confirmed case this week
- Cumulatively, age distribution of cases reported is skewed towards people under 50 years old, with most cases occurring among males in the 20-49 age group.
- 55.4% of cases are South Sudanese, and 23.5% are of unknown nationality
- So far three variants of concern (Alpha [B.1.1.7], Beta [B.1.351], and Delta [B.1.617.2]) have been identified in the country, with the Delta variant predominating (93%)
- 82.4% of cases detected in Juba compared to 17.6% outside of Juba
- Cumulatively, 62.7% of cases came from pre-travel screening, 10.3% contact tracing, 8.9% alerts, 7% each sentinel surveillance and point of entry screening (3.6% have unknown source)

Deaths

- Two reported deaths in Week 39 (backlogged data from Western Equatoria)
- 1.08% CFR
- Need for more active mortality surveillance → response to community death alerts and swabbing of suspect deaths during daily visits to mortuaries

Figure 3: Age and gender distribution

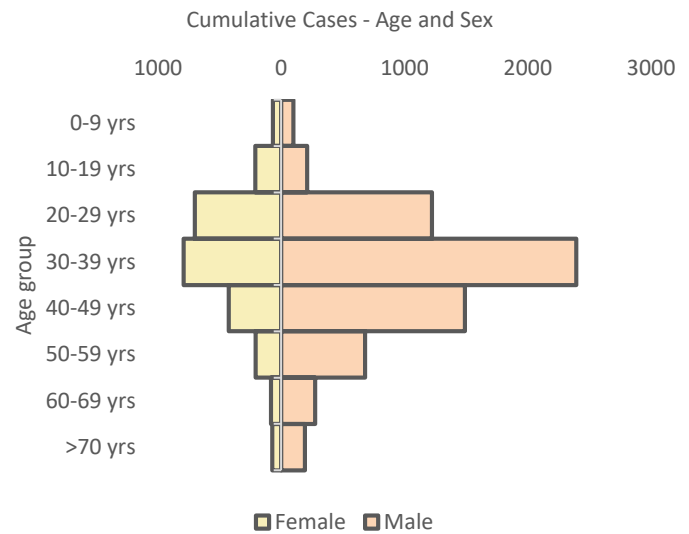
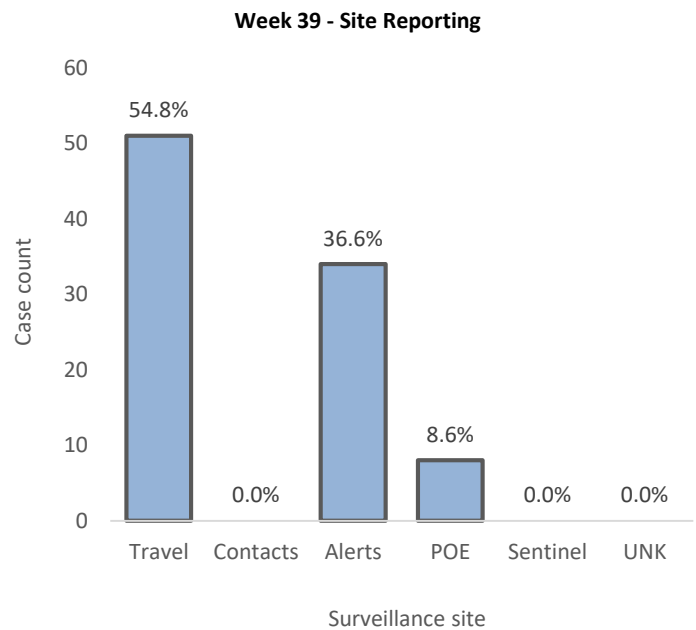


Figure 4: New cases by source – Week 39





Laboratory

- Average positivity yields increased for five consecutive epi weeks, reaching 3.3% in Week 35 before falling to 2.5% in Week 39
- Highest yields reported in 8 GXP sites (Nyirol, Kapoeta, Nzara, Lui, Makpandu, Mapourdit, Pamir, and Rumbek)
- Positivity yields by testing site in Week 39: Crawford (0.3%), Med Blue (0.1%), NPHL (5.3%), Nimule (2.1%), Queens Medical Complex (3.7%), Nojum (1.6%), Biolab (1.1%), PIC Diagnostic Center (0.6%), Life Link (0.0%), Check Up (0.0%), Maridi (8.3%), Gordhim (0.0%), Nyirol (33.3%), Kapoeta (25.0%), UN Clinic (11.1%), Nzara (50.0%), Lui (26.7%), Agok (5.5%), Makpandu (20.0%), Pariang (0.0%), Lankien (0.0%), Wau (0.0%), Mapourdit (14.3%), Rumbek (33.3%), and Pamir (12.8%)
- Positivity yield from GXP sites 10.9% compared to 5.3% at the NPHL, 2.1% in Nimule, and 1.1% in the private laboratories

Figure 5: SARS CoV-2 PCR test results by week

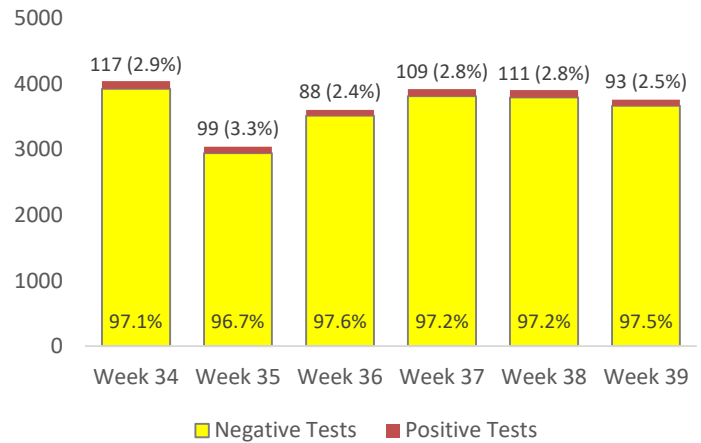


Figure 6: SARS CoV-2 PCR test results and positivity by site (PCR)

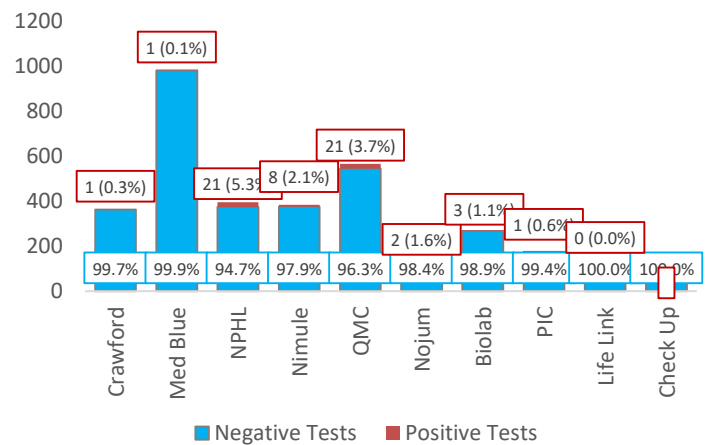
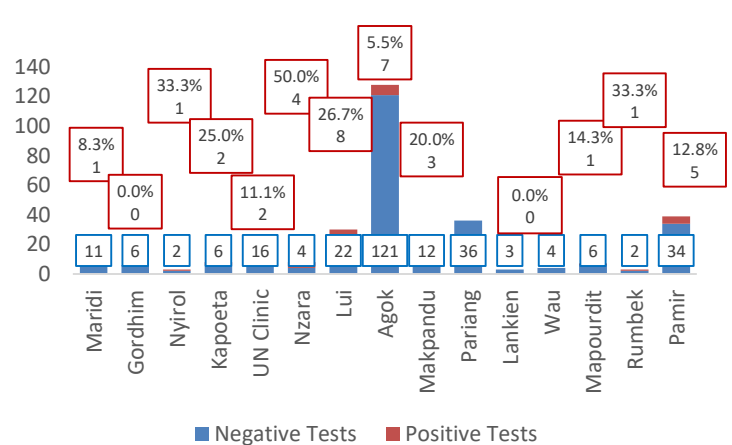


Figure 7: SARS CoV-2 PCR test results and positivity by Site (GXP)

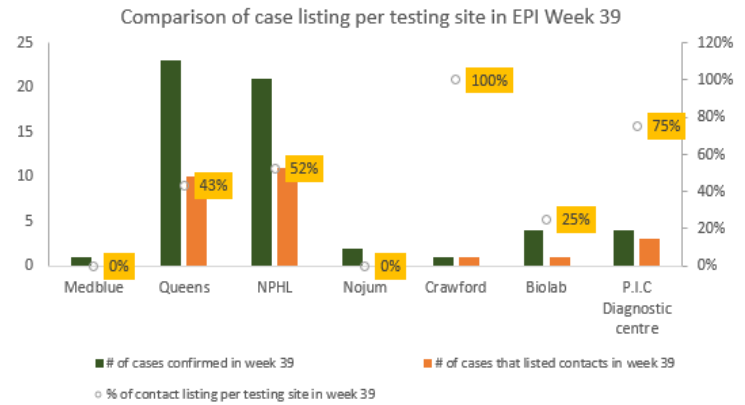




Contact Tracing

- None of the 93 cases this week came from contact tracing
- All 58 cases confirmed in Juba County this week were distributed to ICAP for contact listing and tracing
- 46 (79.3%) of 58 cases eligible for contact listing (i.e., had valid phone numbers), 26 (56.5%) provided 63 contacts, providing a case to contact ratio of 1:2.4
- 362 contacts under active follow-up during the week while 188 contacts completed their follow-up period this week
- None of the 362 contacts followed up this week reported any COVID-19 related symptoms
- Samples were collected from 68 contacts this week, two of whom tested positive for COVID-19
- Main barriers to enrol contacts continue to be:
 - Unwillingness of cases to list contacts
 - Incorrect contact addresses
 - Contacts not answering their phones

Figure 8: Contact elicitation by testing site



Hotline/Alerts

- 29 potential COVID-19 alerts through hotline in Week 39 → 3.3% decrease from alerts reported in Week 38
- All 29 alerts were verified and interviewed by the rapid response team (RRT), 14 (48%) provided samples
- 14 (48.3%) of the potential alerts came from Central Equatoria followed by Western Bahr el Ghazal (17.2%), Western Equatoria (13.8%), Upper Nile (6.9%), and Warrap, Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (3.4%)
- Unity and Lakes did not report any alerts this week
- 34 alerts and suspected cases tested positive for COVID-19 this week
- Cumulatively, 3,231 alerts have been reported, 3,100 (95.9%) were verified, and 3,017 (97.3%) sampled
- Alerts account for 1.3% of total samples tested in the country
- Alerts outside of Central Equatoria are limited

Figure 9: Alert hotline cascade - Week 39

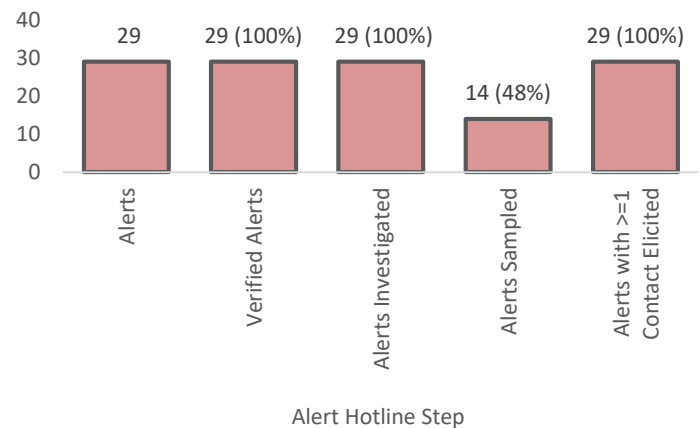
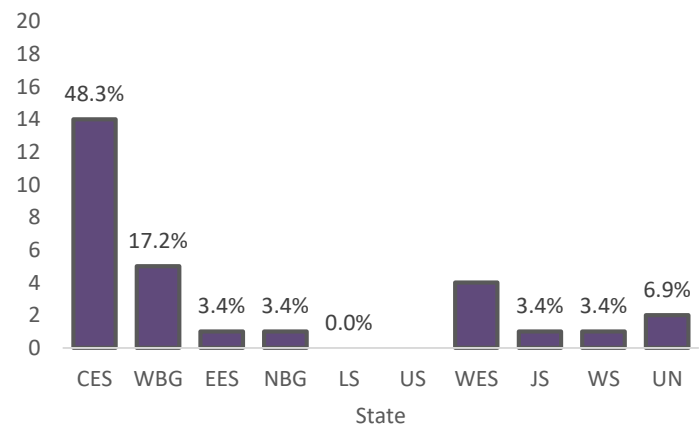


Figure 10: Alerts by state - Week 39



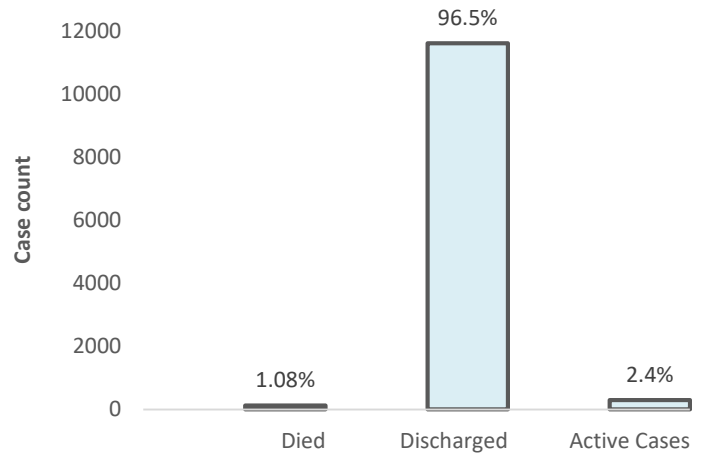


Case Management

- 38.4% of cases managed at home, with 0.2% at health facilities
- 61.3% of cases are missing case management type at first contact although almost all of these were likely managed at home
- 11,617 (96.5%) of cases were discharged as of Week 39, with 294 cases (2.4%) under active follow-up
- 130 cases died, a CFR of 1.08%

Case management at first detection	#	% of total cases
Home management	4,581	38.4%
Hospital	20	0.2%
Isolation center	4	<0.1%
UN health facility	2	<0.1%
UN home management	3	<0.1%
Died	10	0.1%
Unknown	7,318	61.3%

Figure 11: Cumulative cases - case outcome



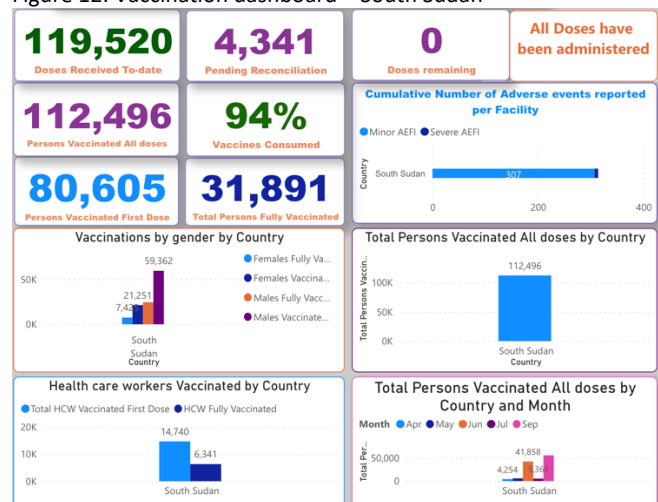
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)/Point of Entry (POE)

- The following achievements were registered during Week 38 under the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) pillar:
 - Community-based contact tracers supported by ICAP, provided information about COVID-19 to 1,643 persons
- Main challenges for the RCCE pillar include:
 - Community non-compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures
 - Stigmatization of COVID-19 prevents people from reporting suspected cases to the hotline
- POE data are for the Nimule land crossing which only screens arriving travelers
- 3,340 (2,480 males; 860 females) were screened in Week 39
- Most of the travelers screened were truck drivers (1,445), returnees (1,437), and other nationals other than truck drivers (458)
- Returnees do not undergo quarantine and are not required to present a negative PCR test COVID-19 certificate
- Other nationals and truck drivers are required to present valid negative PCR test COVID-19 certificate to enter South Sudan

COVID-19 Vaccination

- Vaccination for the 59,520 doses of AstraZeneca received from France concluded on September 30
- National TOT training on the J&J vaccines was completed in Week 39 with vaccination expected to start in Week 41 targeting all 80 counties in the country
- 112,496 people vaccinated as of 5 October 2021
 - 80,605 vaccinated first dose
 - 3,1891 fully vaccinated
- 14,740 healthcare workers vaccinated
- Gender disparity in vaccine uptake where only 26.4% female received the vaccine
- 314 cumulative adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reported
 - 307 minor AEFI
 - 7 severe AEFI

Figure 12: Vaccination dashboard – South Sudan





Epi week: 39

Date: 27 September-03 October

For more information, please contact the South Sudan Public Health Emergency Operation Centre[PHEOC]

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For additional information follow these links:

http://moh.gov.ss/daily_updates.php

<http://moh.gov.ss/covid-19.php>

Note: COVID-19 testing in South Sudan is free of charge for alerts, contacts of cases, and suspected cases