

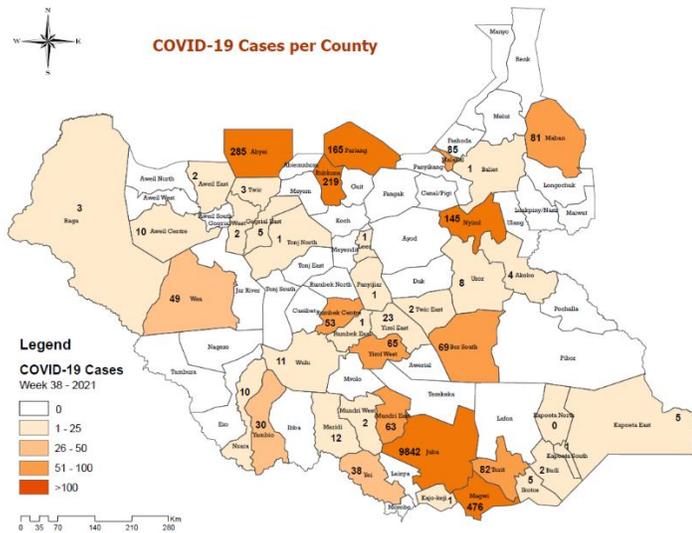


Epi week: 38

Date: 20-26 September

Highlights (as of Week 38)

- **11948** confirmed cases with 128 deaths, 11422 recoveries, and 398 active cases
- **1.07%** case fatality rate (CFR)
- **285** healthcare workers confirmed as cases
- **134** new confirmed cases during the week with pre-travel screening (**68%**) and alerts (**22%**) accounting for majority of the cases
- **419** imported cases (**1** new) mostly from South Sudanese returnees (**247**), Uganda (**53**), and Kenya (**19**)
- **4** admitted to the Infectious Disease Unit (IDU) in Juba during the week, two discharged
- Seven-day moving averages for case count and yield were **13** cases and **2.7%** at the end of Week 38 compared to **15** and **2.9%** at the end of Week 37 respectively



Summary Statistics

	Cases		Deaths		Cases in IDU		Samples tested		Fully vaccinated
	11948		128		4		230007		30475
	New cases	134	New deaths	8	Discharged	2	Crude positivity	5.2%	

Epicurve

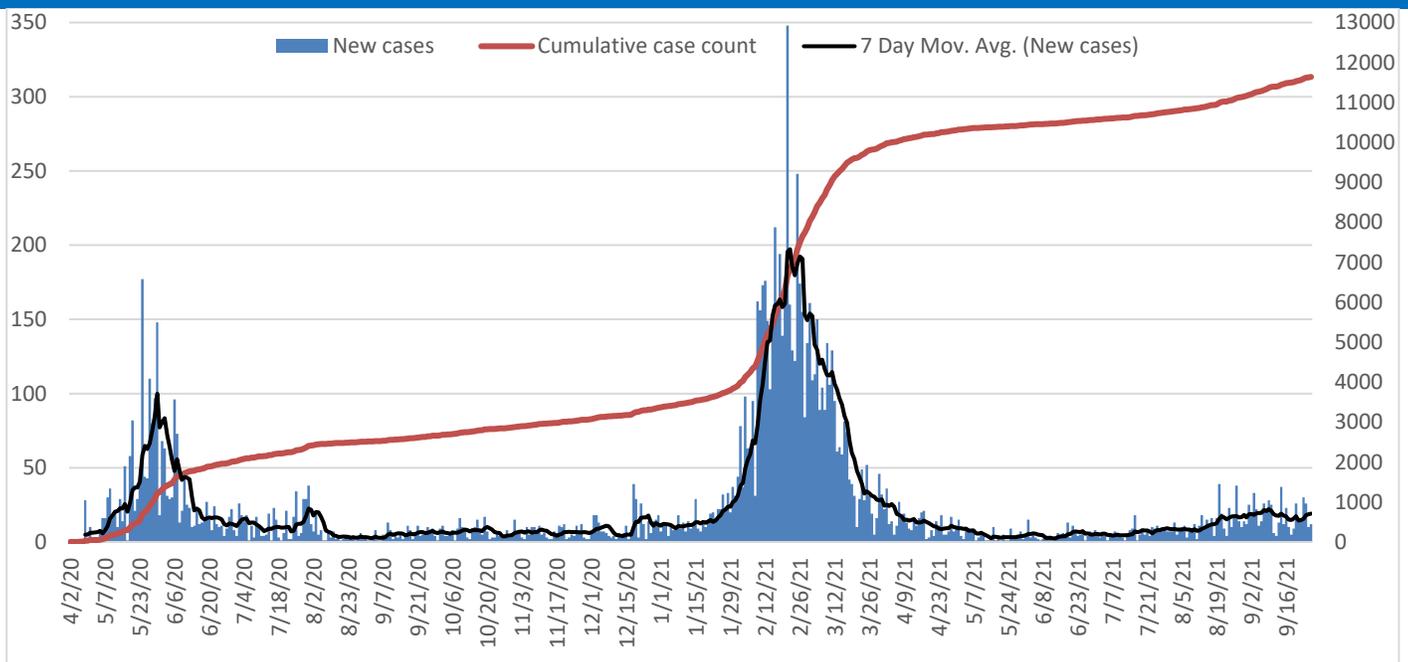


Figure 2. Epidemiological curve of reported cases through Week 38



Epidemiology and Surveillance

Cases

- 134 cases confirmed in Week 38, a 22.9% increase in reported cases compared to Week 37
- Majority of the new cases came from traveler screening (68%) and alerts (22%), and from Central Equatoria (60%), Western Equatoria (26%), and Lakes (5%)
- One new imported case in Week 38 (case was identified from the Nimule point of entry)
- One new confirmed case among healthcare workers
- Case tally for Week 38 represents 1.1% of the cumulative case tally
- 3.6% 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
- 1.2% decrease in 7-day moving average for new cases in the last seven days.
- 35 (43.8%) of the 80 counties in the country have a confirmed case, with no county with a first confirmed case this week
- Cumulatively, the age distribution of cases reported is skewed towards people under 50 years old, with most cases occurring in the 20-49 age group among males.
- 56% of cases are South Sudanese, and 23% 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%)
- 83% of cases detected in Juba compared to 17% outside of Juba
- Cumulatively, 63% of cases came from pre-travel screening, 10% contact tracing, 9% alerts, 7% each sentinel surveillance and point of entry screening (4% have unknown source)

Deaths

- Seven reported deaths in Week 38 (backlogged data from Western Equatoria)
- 1.07% 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

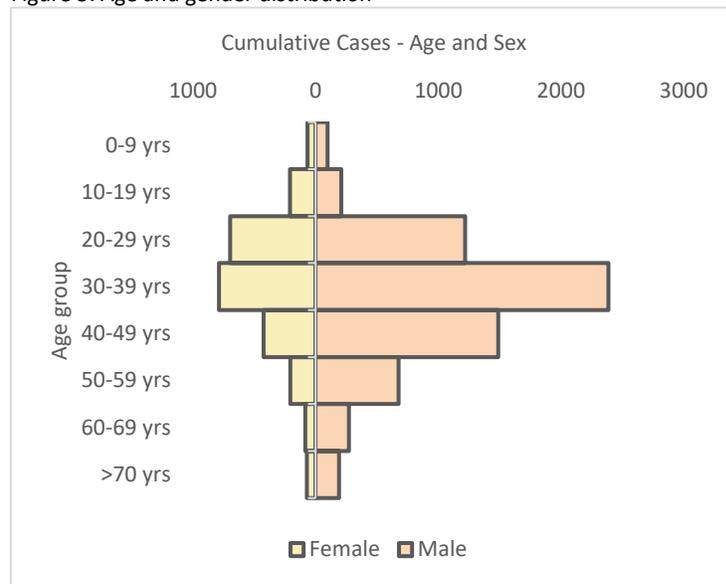
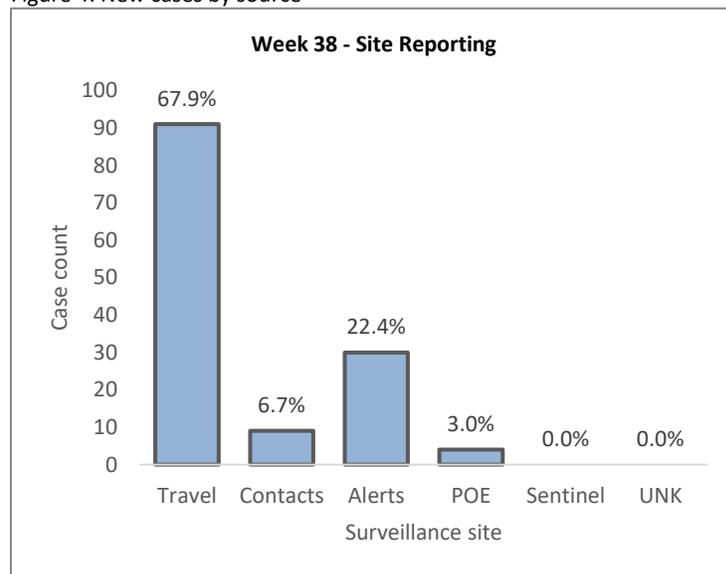


Figure 4: New cases by source





Laboratory

- Average positivity yields increased for five consecutive epi weeks, reaching 3.3% in Week 35 before falling to 2.8% in Weeks 37 and 38
- Highest yields were reported in 7 GXP sites (Maridi, Torit, Nzara, Lui, Makpandu, Mapourdit, and Pamir)
- Positivity yields by testing site were as follows in Week 38: Crawford (0.0%), Med Blue (0.3%), NPHL (4.6%), Nimule (1.4%), Queens Medical Complex (3.9%), Nojum (2.2%), Biolab (4.8%), PIC Diagnostic Center (1.1%), Life Link (0.0%) Check Up (0.0%), Maridi (75%), Gordhim (0.0%), Torit (33.3%), Kapoeta (0.0%), UN Clinic (13.6%), Nzara (14.3%), Lui (50%), Agok (2.7%), Makpandu (16.7%), Pariang (0.0%), Lankien (0.0%), Bor (0.0%), Mapourdit (46.2%), Rumbek (0.0%), and Pamir (16%)
- Positivity yield from GXP sites is 12.6% compared to 4.6% at the NPHL, 1.4% in Nimule, and 1.9% in the private laboratories

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

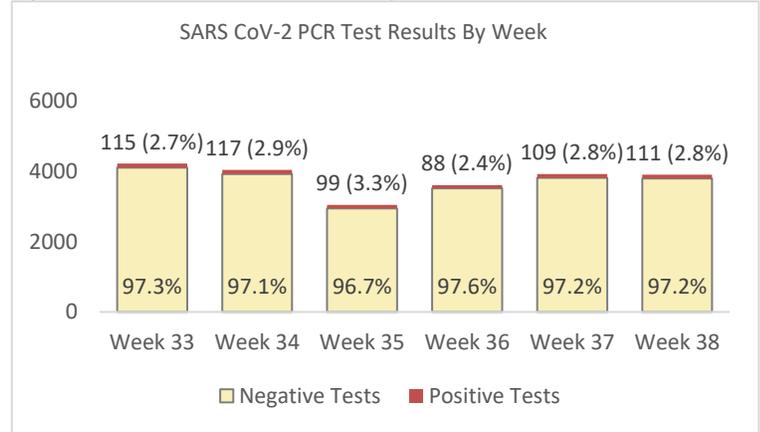


Figure 6: SARS CoV-2 PCR test results and positivity by site (PCR)

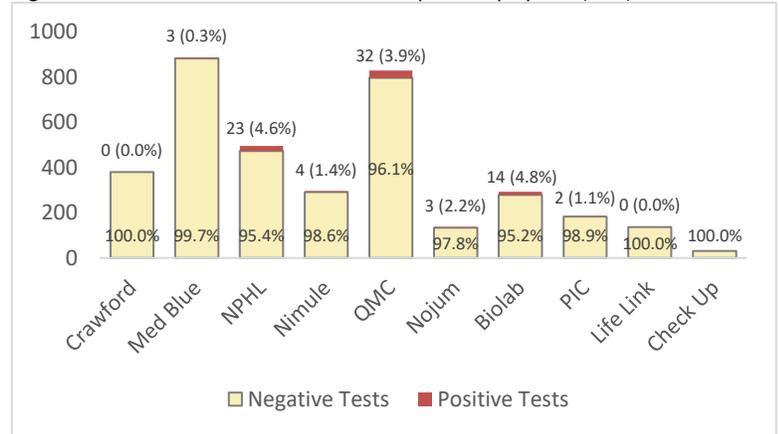
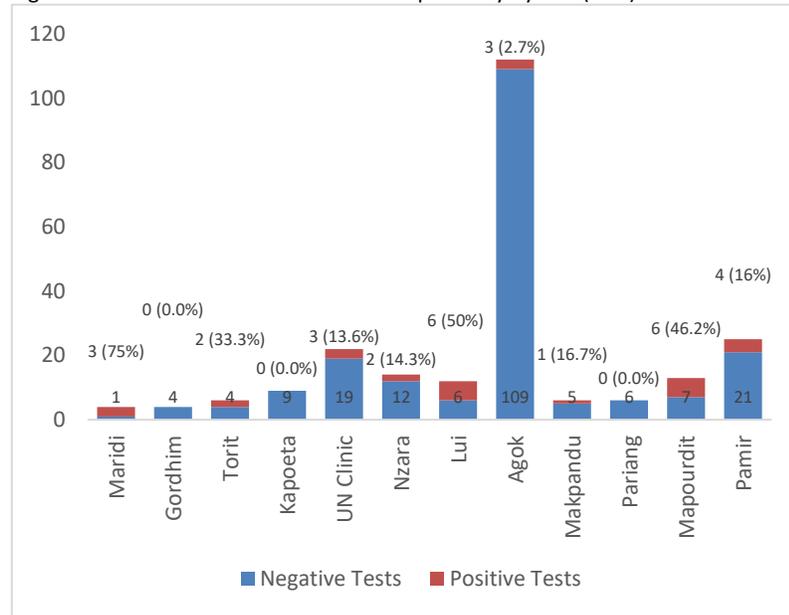


Figure 7: SARS CoV-2 PCR test results and positivity by Site (GXP)





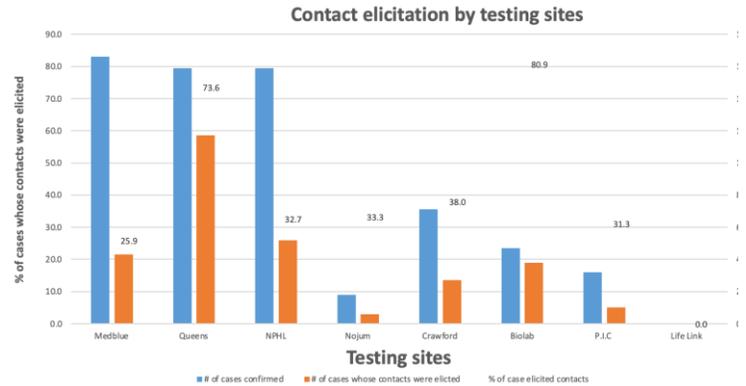
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Contact Tracing

- Nine (6.7%) of the 134 cases this week came from contact tracing
- All 81 cases confirmed in Juba County this week were distributed to ICAP for contact listing and tracing
- 68 (84%) of the 81 cases were eligible for contact listing (i.e., had valid phone numbers), 33 (48.5%) provided 130 contacts, providing a case to contact ratio of 1:3.9
- 434 contacts were under active follow-up during the week while 51 contacts completed their follow-up period this week
- None of the 434 contacts followed up this week reported any COVID-19 related symptoms
- Samples were collected from 39 contacts this week, 9 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



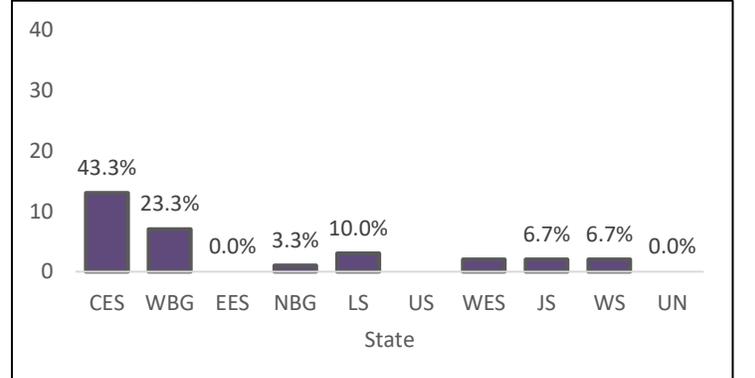
Hotline/Alerts

- 30 potential COVID-19 alerts through hotline in Week 38
 - 42.3% decrease from alerts reported in Week 37
- All 30 alerts were verified and interviewed by the rapid response team (RRT), 13 (43%) provided samples
- 13 (43.3%) of the potential alerts came from Central Equatoria followed by Western Bahr el Ghazal (23.3%), Lakes (10%), Jonglei, Western Equatoria, and Warrap (6.7%), and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (3.3%)
- Eastern Equatoria, Unity, Upper Nile did not report any alerts this week
- 30 alerts tested positive for COVID-19 this week
- Cumulatively, 3207 alerts have been reported, 3079 (96.0%) were verified, and 2996 (96.3%) 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 38



Figure 10: Alerts by state - Week 38





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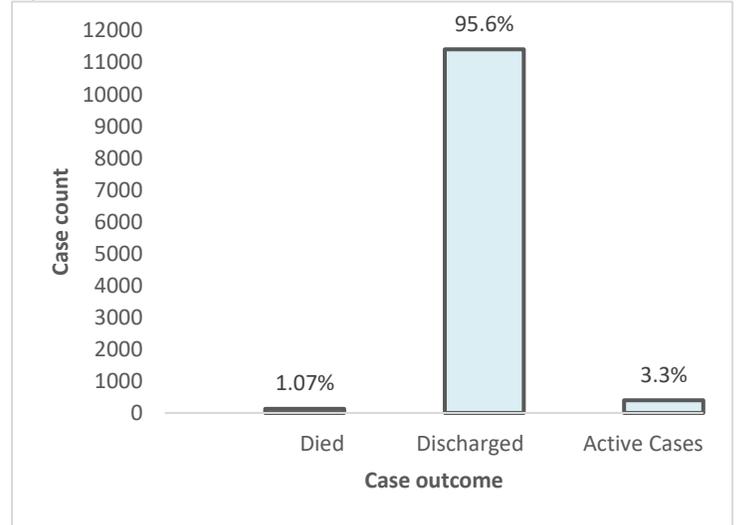
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Case Management

- 38.7% of cases managed at home, with 0.2% at health facilities
- 61.0% of cases are missing case management type at first contact although almost all of these were likely managed at home
- 11422 (95.6%) of cases were discharged as of Week 38, with 398 cases (3.3%) under active follow-up
- 128 cases have died, a CFR of 1.07%

Case management at first detection	#	% of total cases
Home management	4581	38.7%
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	7225	61.0%

Figure 11: Cumulative cases - case outcome



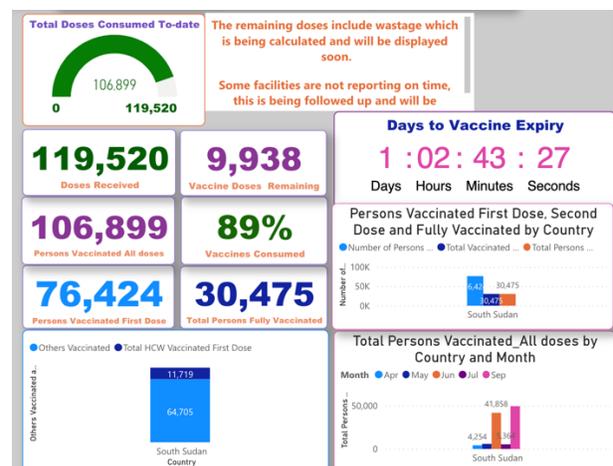
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)/Point of Entry (POE)

- 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 1426 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
- 3360 (2533 males; 827 females) were screened in Week 38
- Most of the travelers screened were truck drivers (1458), returnees (1311), and other nationals other than truck drivers (591)
- 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

- 59520 doses of AstraZeneca from France received on 31 August 2021
- 152950 doses of J&J from USA received on 14 September 2021
- 106899 people vaccinated as of 29 Sept 2021
 - 76424 vaccinated first dose
 - 30475 fully vaccinated
- 11719 healthcare workers vaccinated
- 9938 doses of AstraZeneca remaining
 - 89 % vaccine consumption
- Gender disparity in vaccine uptake where only 26.4% female received the vaccine
- 274 cumulative adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reported

Figure 12: Vaccination dashboard – South Sudan





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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