



Epidemiology and Surveillance

Cases

- 710 cases confirmed in Week 50, a 776.5% increase in reported cases compared to Week 49, a second consecutive week of recorded increase in the weekly case tally
- Majority of new cases came from traveler screening (96.2%) and alerts (3.8%), and from Central Equatoria (96.1%), and Ruweng Administrative Area (3.0%)
- No new imported cases reported this week
- No new confirmed cases among healthcare workers this week
- Case tally for Week 50 represents 5.2% of cumulative case tally
- 9.2% 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 increasing (steeply). More cases were identified in Juba than in the non-Juba sites (especially the GXP sites) this week. This is due to increased pre-travel testing during the holidays
- 550.0% increase in 7-day moving average for new cases in the last seven days, with a 945.4% increase 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
- 54.0% of cases are South Sudanese, 20.8% are foreigners, and 25.2% 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 (100%) the last batch of samples sequenced
- 80.0% of cases detected in Juba compared to 20.0% outside of Juba
- Cumulatively, 62.4% of cases came from pre-travel screening, 12.5% alerts/suspected cases, 9.1% contact tracing, 6.7% point of entry screening, and 6.3% sentinel surveillance (3.1% have unknow source)

Deaths

- No new reported deaths in Week 50 (last new death was reported on 20 October 2021)
- 0.98% 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

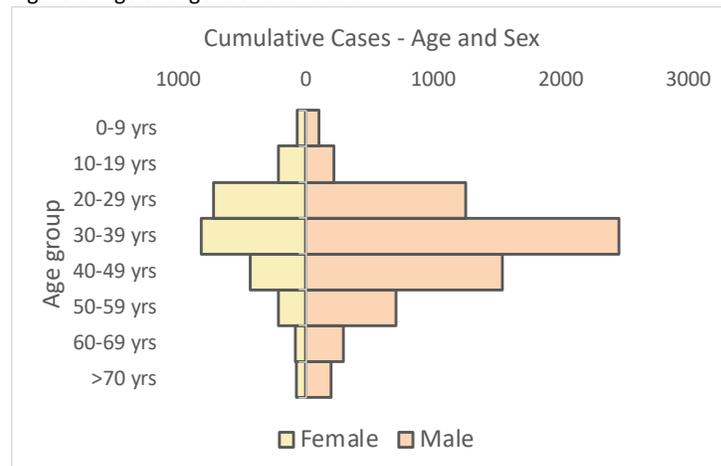
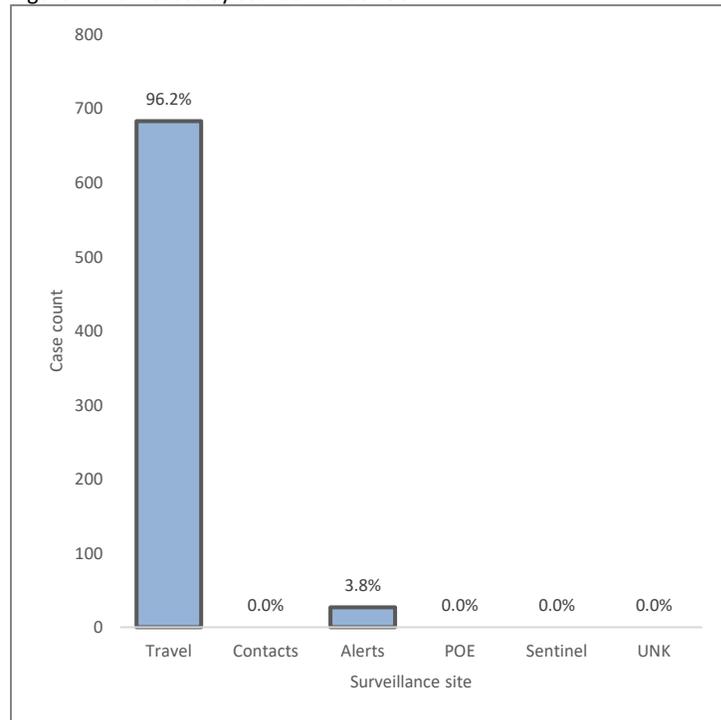


Figure 4: New cases by source – Week 50





Laboratory

- Average positivity yield is 8.6% this week compared to 1.6% in Week 49 (a steep increase in positivity rate in the last 7 days)
- Highest yields reported in 6 GXP sites (Magwi PHCC, Maridi Hosp, Pariang Hosp, Aweil Hosp, Lankien Hosp, and Pamir PHCC)
- Positivity yields by testing site were as follows in Week 50: Crawford (18.0%), Med Blue (0.3%), NPHL (11.8%), Nimule (0.0%), Queens Medical Complex (15.4%), Nojum (11.2%), Biolab (16.0%), PIC Diagnostic Center (5.5%), Life Link (1.9%), Check Up (0.5%), Rumbek (0.0%), Makpandu (0.0%), Hakima Yacoub (0.0%), Magwi (50.0%), Ikwotos (0.0%), Maridi (25.0%), Juba International Airport (1.5%), Gordhim (0.0%), Nzara (0.0%), Torit (0.0%), Agok (0.0%), Yei (0.0%), Pariang (33.3%), Aweil (60.0%), Lankien (40.0%), Kapoeta (0.0%), Catherine Medical Center (0.0%), and Pamir (57.6%)
- Positivity yield from GXP sites is 16.8% compared to 11.8% at the NPHL, 0.0% in Nimule, and 8.2% in the private laboratories

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

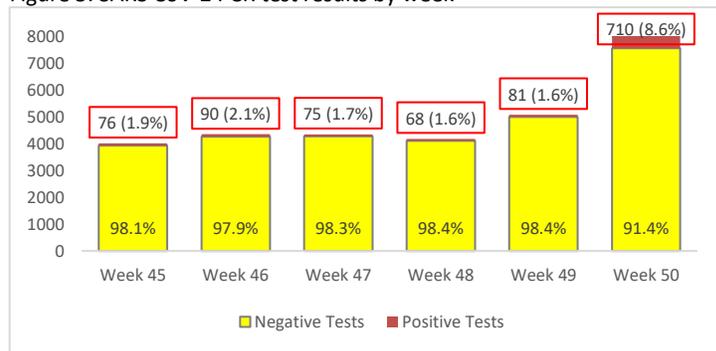


Figure 6: SARS CoV-2 PCR test results and positivity by site (Juba & Nimule)

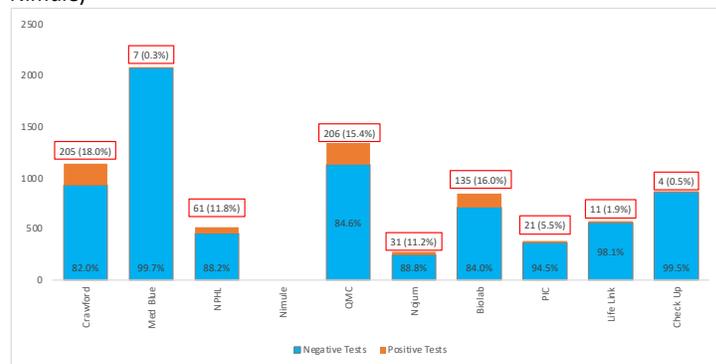
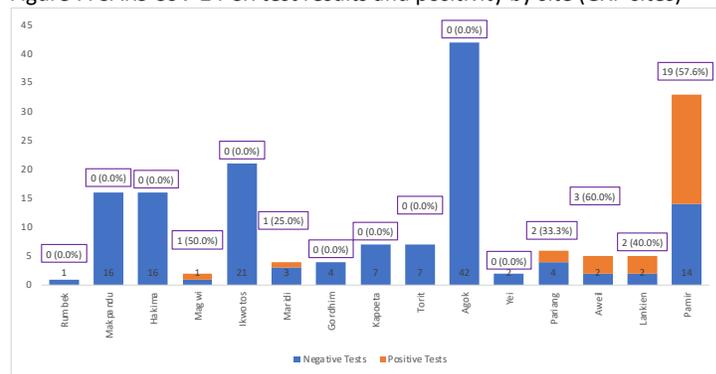


Figure 7: SARS CoV-2 PCR test results and positivity by site (GXP sites)

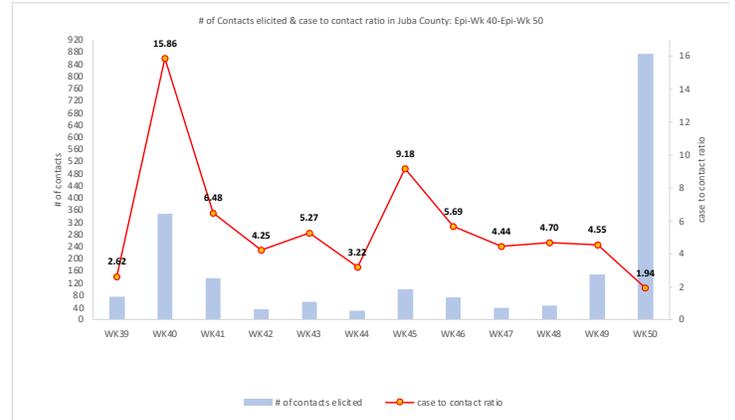




Contact Tracing

- None of the 710 cases recorded this week came from contact tracing
- All 682 of the cases confirmed in Juba County this week were distributed to ICAP for contact listing and tracing
- 522 (76.5%) of the 682 cases were eligible for contact listing (i.e., had valid phone numbers), 452 (86.6%) of whom provided 875 contacts, providing a case to contact ratio of 1:1.9
- 1446 contacts were under active follow-up during the week while 35 contacts completed their follow-up period this week
- Samples were collected from 139 contacts in Juba this week, none 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: Contacts elicited and case to contact ratio in Juba County: Week 40 -Week 50



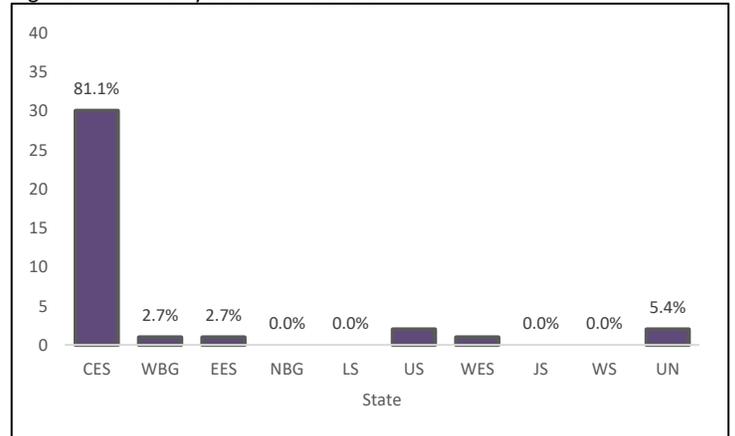
Hotline/Alerts

- 37 potential COVID-19 alerts through hotline in Week 50, a 146.7% increase from alerts reported in Week 49. The increase in alerts mirrors the step increase in new cases in Week 50
- All 37 alerts (100.0%) were verified and interviewed by the rapid response team (RRT), and all (100%) provided samples
- 30 (81.1%) of the potential alerts came from Central Equatoria followed by Unity and Upper Nile (5.4%), and Western Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, and Western Equatoria (2.7%)
- Four states (i.e., Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, Jonglei, and Warrap) did not report any alerts this week
- 27 alerts and suspected cases tested positive for COVID-19 this week
- Cumulatively, 3,381 alerts have been reported, 3,250 (96.1%) were verified, and 3,167 (97.4%) sampled
- Alerts account for 1.1% of total samples tested in the country
- Alerts outside of Central Equatoria are limited

Figure 9: Alert hotline cascade — Week 50



Figure 10: Alerts by state — Week 50



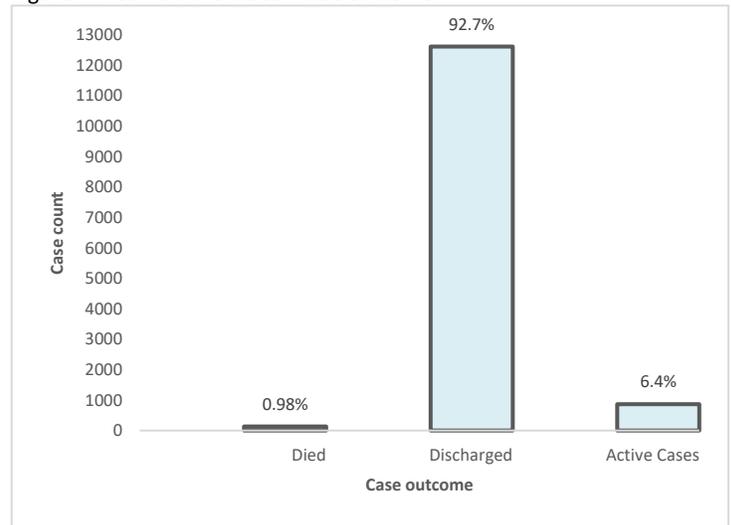


Case Management

- 33.9% of cases managed at home, with 0.1% at health facilities
- 65.8% of cases are missing case management type at first contact although almost all of these were likely managed at home
- 12,614 (92.7%) of cases were discharged as of Week 50, with 867 cases (6.4%) under active follow-up
- 133 cases died, a CFR of 0.98%

Case management at first detection	#	% of total cases
Home management	4,581	33.9%
Hospital	20	0.1%
Isolation center	4	<0.1%
UN health facility	2	<0.1%
UN home management	3	<0.1%
Died	10	0.1%
Unknown	8,891	65.8%

Figure 11: Cumulative cases - case outcome



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

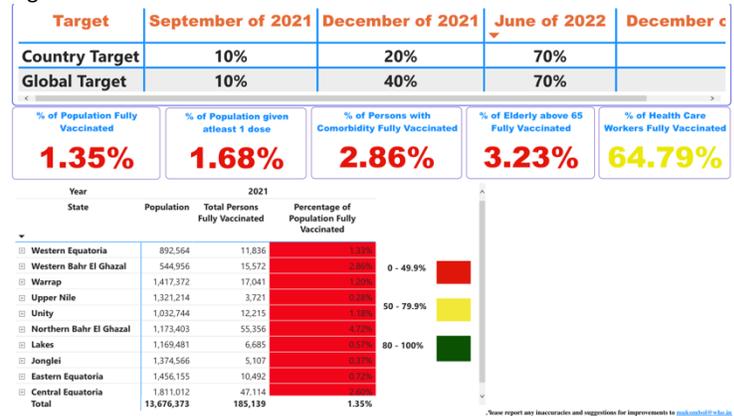
- The following achievements were registered during Week 50 under the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) pillar:
 - Community-based contact tracers supported by ICAP, provided information about COVID-19 to 1,356 persons
- Main challenges for the RCCE pillar include:
 - Community non-compliance 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
- 3,908 (2,735 males; 1,173 females) were screened this week
- Most of the travelers screened were truck drivers (1,634), returnees (1,742), and other nationals other than truck drivers (532)
- 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

- 836,470 vaccine doses received to-date. The latest batch of 336,000 J&J vaccines was received on 21 December 2021
- Vaccination is currently ongoing for the AstraZeneca and J&J vaccines in 70 counties and 307 health facilities
- Planned scale-up of vaccination to all 80 counties by end of December 2021
- 274,105 doses administered as of 22 December 2021
 - 187,524 fully vaccinated (42,645 with two AZ doses, 144,879 with single dose of J&J)
- 17,669 healthcare workers fully vaccinated
- Gender disparity in vaccine uptake where only 39.3% female received the vaccine, but this has improved in Phase 3
- 779 cumulative adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reported
 - 548 minor AEFI
 - 231 severe AEFI

Figure 12: Vaccination dashboard – South Sudan





Epi week: 50

Date: 13 — 19 Dec 2021

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