



# *AFEW International's* COVID-19 situation report in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership

Prepared for the COVID-19 Solidarity Programme



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## Introduction

In the framework of the EU COVID-19 Solidarity Programme for Eastern Partnership, AFEW International, People in Need (PIN) and Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) joined forces to propose a set of interventions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute towards longer-term socio-economic resilience of vulnerable groups.

One of the activities in this project is the collection of information on the epidemiology of COVID-19, the measures taken by local governments to contain the epidemic and information on access to health services. This report doesn't give conclusions or recommendations for the next steps; the report functions as an information resource as support for the development of (new) interventions.

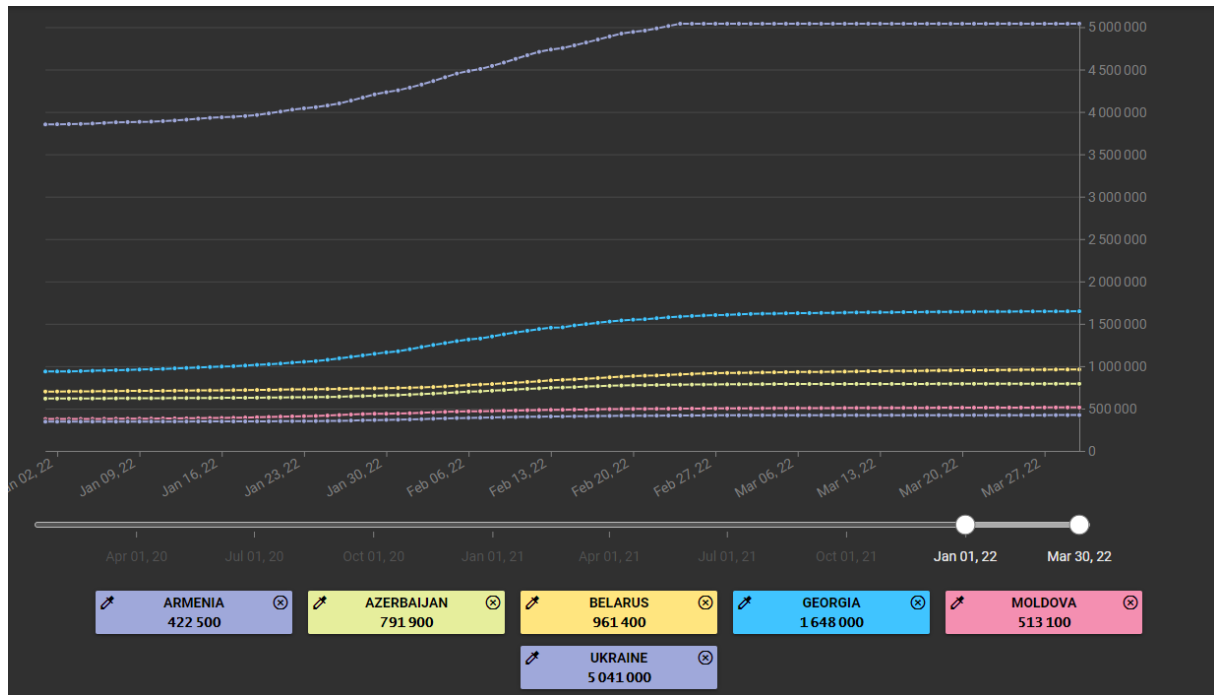
This report gives an overview of the period 1 January – 31 March 2022, the sixth quarter of the implementation period of the project. Such a report will be produced for every quarter of the project duration.

For this report the following sources are used:

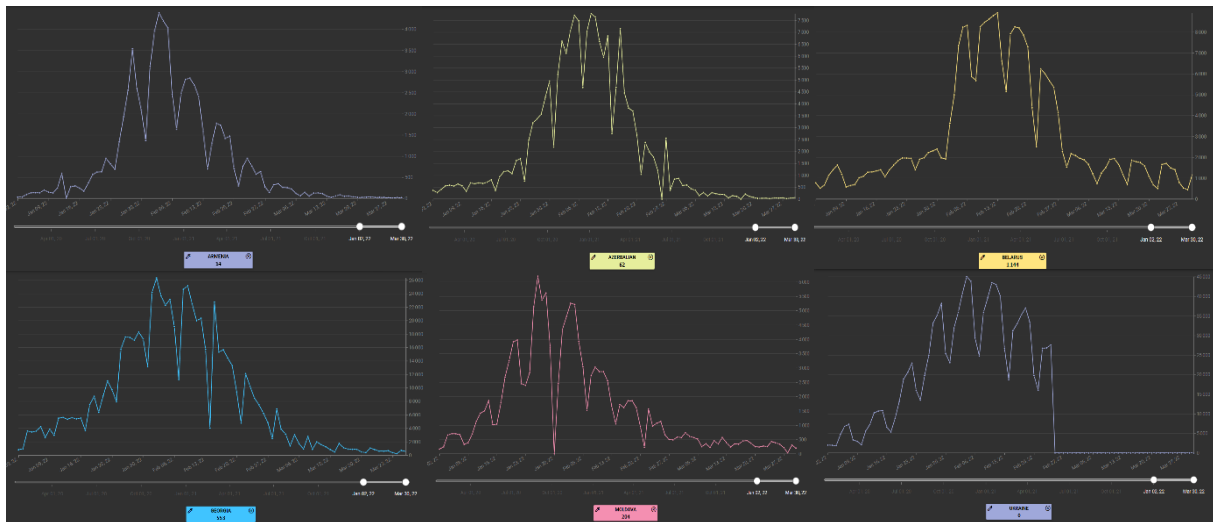
- WHO Health System Response Monitor (HSRM);
- Government sources on the coronavirus situation in the countries;
- Reports on the COVID-19 situation prepared by the UNICEF, UN, OECD, International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR);
- Global news agencies;
- Local independent media.

## Regional overview

Confirmed daily COVID-19 cases in 2022, between January 1 and March 30 in the 6 countries of the Eastern Partnership

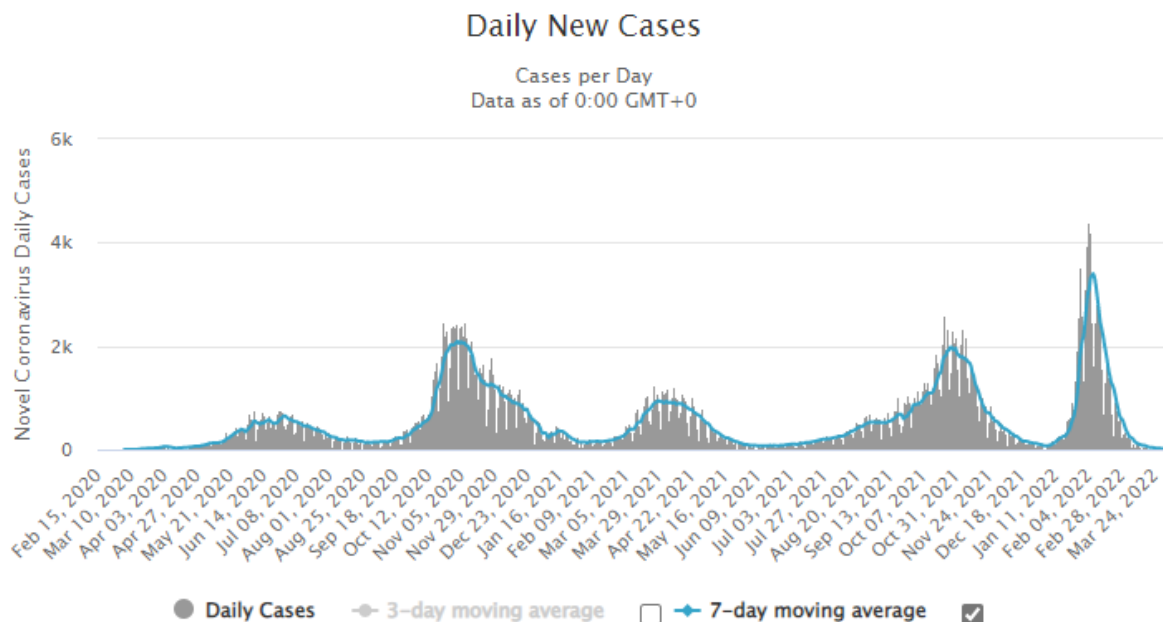


Source: Sciences Po Media lab Coronavirus Country Comparator





## Situation report Armenia



**Image:** Worldometer

### *Cases of COVID-19*

- COVID-19 infections are [decreasing](#) in Armenia, with 16 new infections reported on average each day. That's 1% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on February 7.
- There have been 422,519 infections and 8,613 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

### *Measures to contain the epidemic*

- Armenia extends existing [COVID-19 measures](#) until June 20, 2022.
- [Domestic measures](#): new restrictions require a valid self-funded PCR test of maximum 72 hours or a vaccination through the [Armed](#) mobile application in order to enter public spaces. Employees follow similar requirements and can opt to present a negative test result every 14 days. Some categories of persons are exempt, including persons under the age of 18, pregnant women, and recovered. Face masks are mandatory in public spaces, including public transport. Businesses are permitted to reopen provided they maintain strict hygiene and social distancing requirements.
- [International travel restrictions](#): international flights are allowed and land borders are open; but international arrivals must show either a negative PCR test result that is at most 72 hours old, or proof a full COVID-19 vaccination. Travelers without the required documentation must perform a paid PCR test on arrival and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.

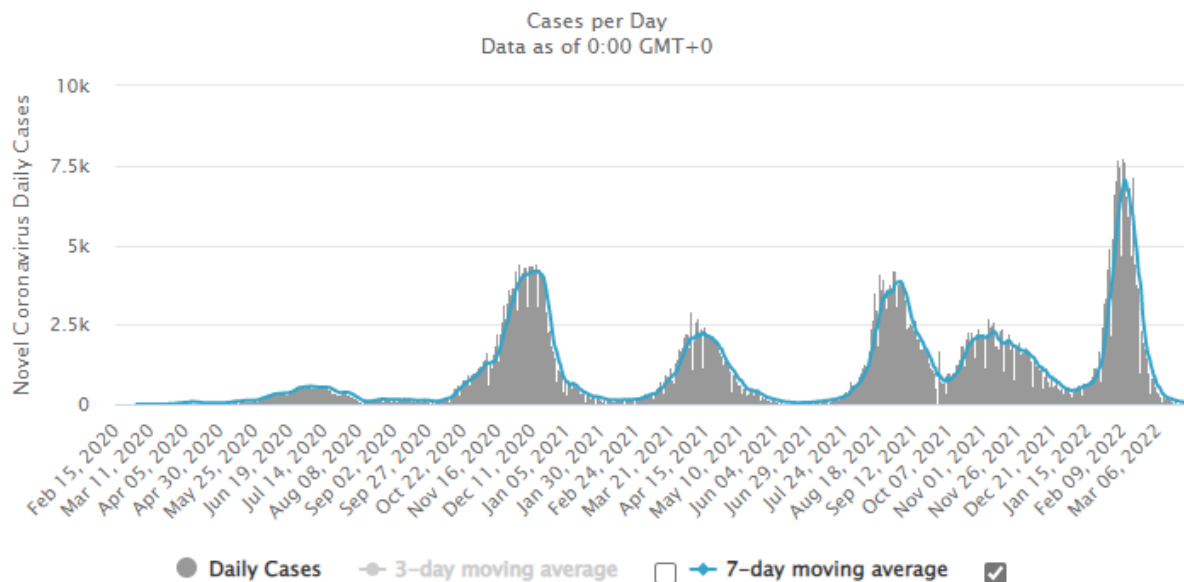
### *Vaccine*

- Armenia has administered at least 2,088,962 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 35.3% of the country's population..



## Situation report Azerbaijan

### Daily New Cases



**Image:** Worldometer

#### Cases of COVID-19

— COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Azerbaijan, with 46 new infections reported on average each day. That's 1% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on February 10.

— There have been 791,932 infections and 9,692 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

#### Measures to contain the epidemic

— The special quarantine regime will [remain](#) in effect until May 1, 2022. Local restrictions for nonessential businesses and services can be imposed on short notice. There are COVID passports in place, which are required for entry to various indoor public spaces. Face masks are required in indoor spaces as well, including public transport.

— Travelers from [certain countries](#) over 18 years old are allowed to travel to Azerbaijan by air or land, provided that they hold a COVID passport demonstrating complete vaccination and a negative PCR test result, which must be at most 72 hours old. For passengers below 18 years old, a vaccination document is not required.

— Among the initiatives by Azerbaijan to respond to the coronavirus crisis, robust [strategies](#) were adopted to minimize its impact on society, including social protection of women and children, displaced persons, older population, people with disabilities and migrants.

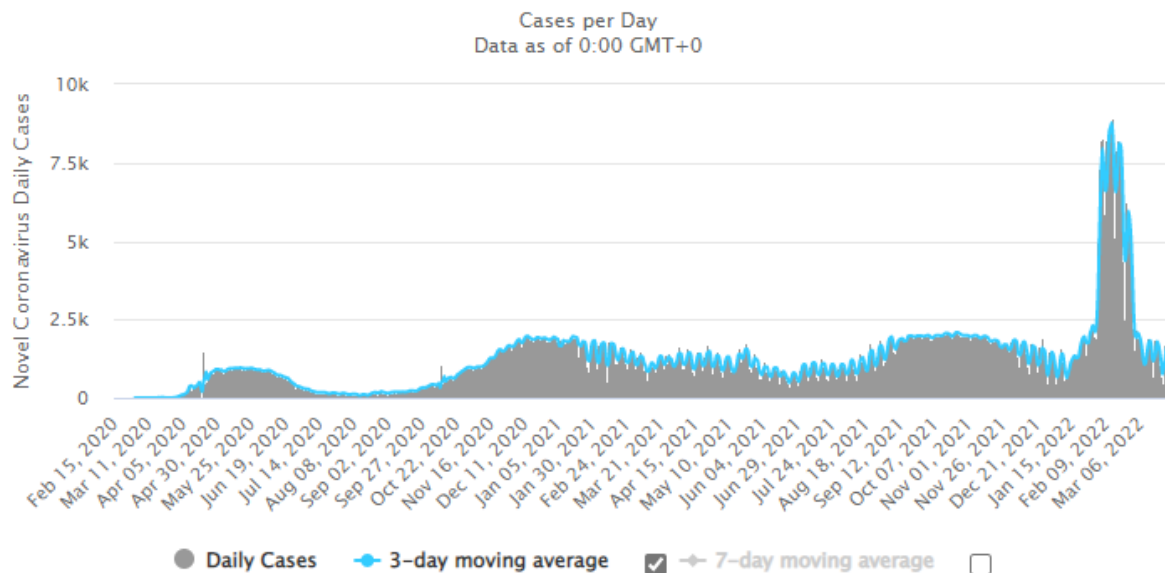
#### Vaccine

— Azerbaijan has administered at least 13,441,710 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 67.1% of the country's population.



## Situation report Belarus

### Daily New Cases



**Image:** Worldometer

#### *Cases of COVID-19*

- COVID-19 [infections](#) are decreasing in Belarus, with 1,015 new infections reported on average each day. That's 13% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on February 14.
- There have been 962,707 infections and 6,819 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

#### *Measures to contain the epidemic*

- COVID-19-related [restrictions](#) in Belarus remain generally unchanged as of 19 January 2022. Schools and workplaces have no lockdown measures or recommendations. People are also not encouraged to stay at home or isolate. The borders remain closed for international travellers from most regions.
- The Friedrich Ebert Foundation and SATIO [report](#) multiple repercussions of the pandemic on social and economic processes in Belarus, highlighting the ineffective measures taken by the government.

#### *Vaccine*

- Belarus has administered at least 11,634,483 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 61.4% of the country's population.



## Situation report Georgia

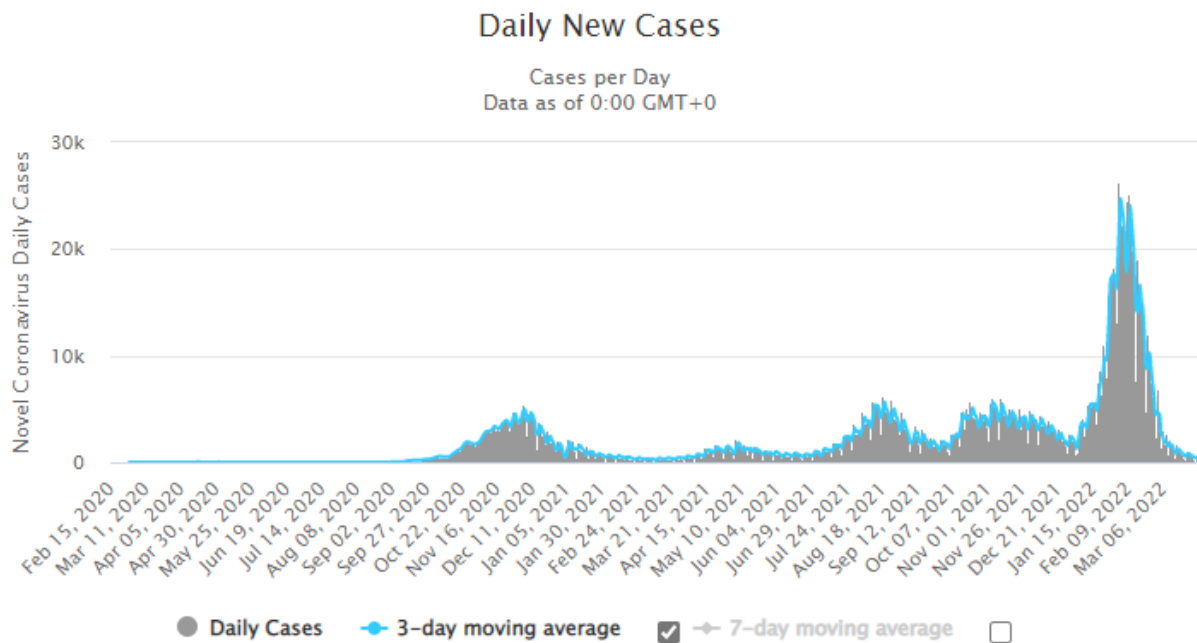


Image: Worldometer

### Cases of COVID-19

- COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Georgia, with 505 new infections reported on average each day. That's 2% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on February 6.
- There have been 1,648,246 infections and 16,745 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

### Measures to contain the epidemic

- As of February 1, 2022, Green Passports are no longer mandatory when entering public spaces. Any foreign traveller may enter Georgia through air, land or sea from March 1, 2022 if fully vaccinated. From March 28, practically all [restrictions](#), except for the uniform wearing of facemasks indoors and in public transport, have been removed: restrictions on the number of guests for social gatherings are lifted, COVID hotels are voided, and remotely working staff return to their workplaces.
- A complete [report](#) on government measures implemented in Georgia against COVID elaborates on the four stages from preventing to slowing, managing, and adapting to the coronavirus.
- Georgia's government has published many [resources](#) with recommendations and guidelines on personal hygiene, self-isolation, pregnancy and breastfeeding, risk groups, media, catering and traveling.

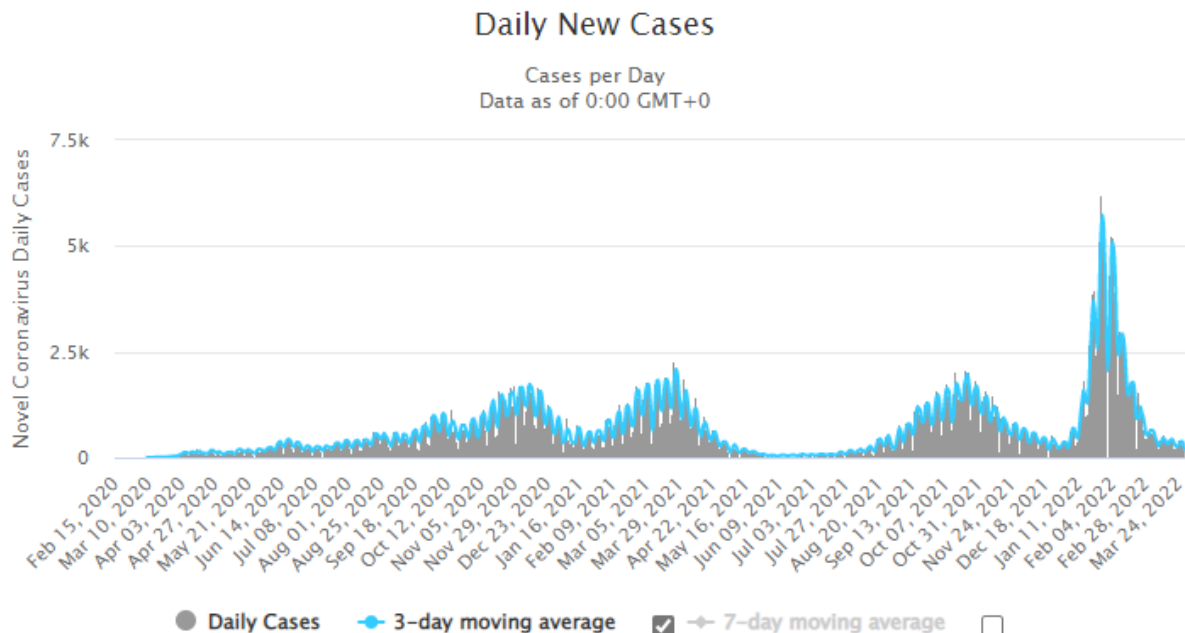
### Vaccine

- Georgia has administered at least 2,859,230 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 38.4% of the country's population..





## Situation report Republic of Moldova



**Image:** Worldometer

### *Cases of COVID-19*

— Moldova is reporting 212 new [infections](#) on average each day, 5% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on January 31.

— There have been 513,146 infections and 11,428 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

### *Measures to contain the epidemic*

— On 16 March 2022, Moldovan authorities [removed](#) most of the COVID-19 related bans. All public spaces, including markets, restaurants, bars, theatres, cinemas are operating as usual, without any limit on the numbers of guests. You should still wear a mask in all closed places, such as public transportation and supermarkets. No COVID-19 certificate is required in public spaces. Schooling is in-person.

— Due to war in neighbouring Ukraine, Moldova has announced a state of emergency, and its airspace is restricted. From 21 March there will be a limited re-opening of Moldovan airspace for flights into and out of Romania from Chisinau International Airport.

### *Vaccine*

— Moldova has administered at least 2,125,247 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that's enough to have vaccinated about 40% of the country's population.



## Situation report Ukraine

### Daily New Cases

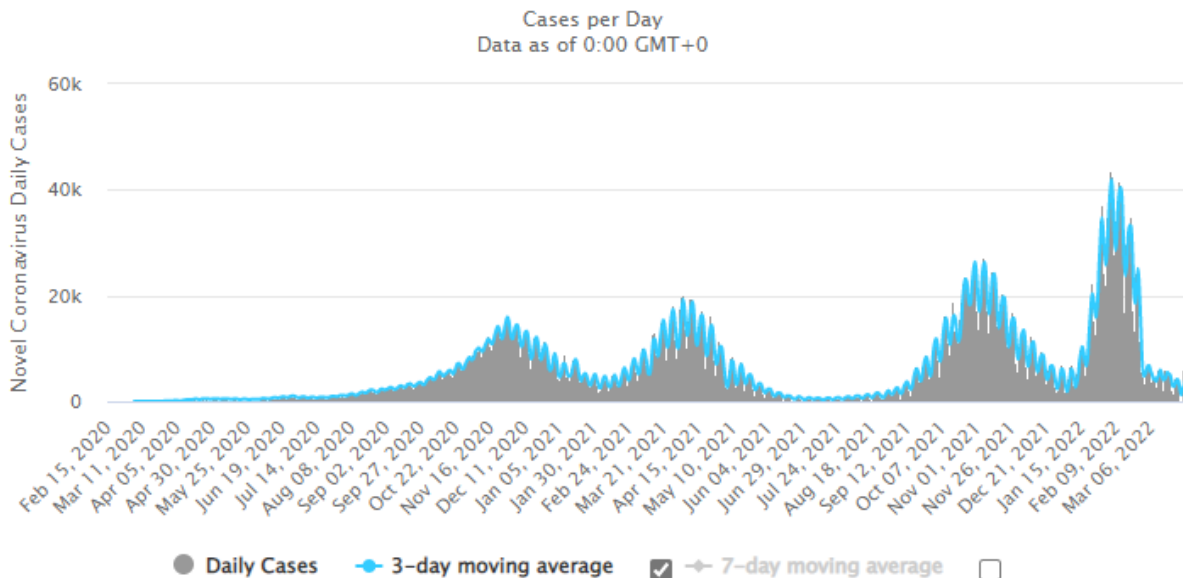


Image: Worldometer

#### COVID-19 cases

— COVID-19 [infections](#) are decreasing in Ukraine, with 2,687 new infections reported on average each day. That's 7% of the peak — the highest daily average reported on February 10. However, low rates of testing since the start of the war mean that there is likely to be significant [undetected](#) transmission and low vaccination coverage.

— There have been 4,964,242 infections and 107,918 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.

#### Measures to contain the epidemic

On March 26, Ukraine has [abandoned](#) its quarantine zone system. During the state of war, employees are not obligated to vaccinate. Healthcare authorities are preparing for a COVID cases spike, though it is difficult to obtain real data.

#### Effects of the war on the COVID-19 epidemic

— “Infectious diseases ruthlessly exploit the conditions created by [war](#),” said Dr. Bruce Aylward, a senior advisor at the WHO. At least 3 major oxygen plants are now closed in Ukraine due to the war, and low oxygen supplies put many people at risk of severe disease. Ukraine has an estimated 1,700 COVID patients in hospital who will probably need oxygen treatment, and there are reports of some hospitals already running out of oxygen.

— Mass displacement of people in Ukraine is likely to increase COVID transmissions. [Refugees](#) are particularly vulnerable to severe disease and death in the conditions created by war. Before the war,

only 35% of the Ukrainian population had been [vaccinated](#). As millions of refugees are entering Europe, they have better access to vaccination services, but at the same time, fall under the risk of undetected COVID transmissions. At the Polish border, refugees are allowed to enter without coronavirus vaccine certificates, negative PCR tests, or masks. The war has undoubtedly [overpowered](#) the COVID pandemic, but it remains [“an infectious disease’s best friend”](#).

— Before the war, Ukrainians had been relatively disciplined about wearing masks inside shops and restaurants and on public transport, but most people seem to have abandoned any protocol. As refugees have crammed on to trains and into station waiting halls, social distancing became impossible and there is barely a mask to be seen amid the crowds. Now, [“our enemy is much more frightening.”](#)

### *Vaccine*

Ukraine has administered at least 31,683,310 doses of COVID [vaccines](#) so far. Assuming every person needs 2 doses, that’s enough to have vaccinated about 35.7% of the country’s population.. However, low rates of testing since the start of the war mean that there is likely to be low vaccination [coverage](#).