



INDUSTRY RECOVERY REPORT

APRIL 30, 2021



DESTINATION UPDATES



Vaccination Schedule



FREE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

at DPHSS Southern Region Community Health Center, Inalåhan

PFIZER-BIONTECH DOSE 1 (AGES 16 & 17 ONLY)
MODERNA DOSE 1 (AGES 18+)
PFIZER-BIONTECH & MODERNA (DOSE 2)

FRIDAY, APRIL 30 & SATURDAY, MAY 1 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Residents are advised to schedule an appointment online via Eventbrite. Visit tinyurl.com/path2half to schedule and to learn more about eligibility. If "Sold Out," walk-ins still accepted at 10/hr.

Immunization card is not an appointment. Please make an appointment at the link above. Those due for their 2nd dose of the vaccine may get their 2nd dose up to four (4) days early.



CATEGORY: Residents 16 years and older eligible since March 22, 2021

Minors may only receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as the Moderna and Johnson & Johnsons/Janssen (J & J/Janssen) vaccines are not recommended for individuals below the age of 18 years. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and provide government-issued identification to validate age.

Upon arrival, individuals 60 years and older will be sent to the front of the line.

WHAT TO BRING:

- IMMUNIZATION CARD (DOSE 2 PATIENTS)
- PROOF OF GUAM RESIDENCY (GUAM DRIVER'S LICENSE; GUAM ID; GREEN CARD; US, FSM, PALAU, AND RMI PASSPORT)
- APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION (DIGITAL OR HARD COPY)

PRE-SCREENING ELIGIBILITY FOR VACCINATIONS

In order to take the COVID-19 vaccine, you must meet the following pre-screening eligibility criteria:

- Must not be currently infected with COVID-19, or previously exposed within the last 14 days
- Must not have received any other vaccine, such as the flu shot, in the last 14 days

*Please note: If this is your first time receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, please make sure you have never taken other COVID-19 vaccine products.



For more information, visit dphss.guam.gov or call 311

UOG FIELDHOUSE COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC			
DATE	TIME	VACCINE	LOCATION
Thursday, April 28 - Saturday, May 1	11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Pfizer-BioNTech Dose 1 (Ages 16 & 17 only) Moderna Dose 1 (Ages 18+) Pfizer-BioNTech & Moderna (Dose 2) Johnson & Johnson/Janssen	UOG Fieldhouse, Mangilao Register at bit.ly/vaccinateguapr27-may1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If "sold out," walk-ins are accepted • Walk-ins limited to 15 per hour • Bring appointment confirmation, photo ID, and proof of Guam residency (Guam Driver's License, Guam ID, Green Card, US, FSM, Palau, or RMI Passport) • Immunization card is not an EventBrite appointment confirmation - use link above to make an appointment.
JOHN F. KENNEDY (JFK) HIGH SCHOOL COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC			
Monday, May 3	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Pfizer-BioNTech (Dose 1 & 2)	JFK High School Gym For JFK students & parents/guardians Participants must submit a consent form prior to receiving the vaccine. Printed copies are available at JFK. An online PDF form is available at https://tinyurl.com/3xvaw4b3 . Participants may schedule online appointments https://tinyurl.com/2bjt2dwc . Participants will be instructed to enter through the A-wing and directed to exit through the gymnasium after they complete their observation period. To preserve the gymnasium court, participants are asked to refrain from wearing stilettos or high heels. For information, email matfranquez@gdoe.net .
VILLAGE-BASED COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC			
Friday, April 30	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Pfizer-BioNTech Dose 1 (Ages 16 & 17 only) Moderna Dose 1 (Ages 18+)	Southern Region Community Health Center (SRCHC) Register at tinyurl.com/path2half <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If "sold out," walk-ins are accepted • Walk-ins limited to 10 per hour • Bring appointment confirmation, photo ID, and proof of Guam residency (Guam Driver's License, Guam ID, Green Card, US, FSM, Palau, or RMI Passport) • Immunization card is not an EventBrite appointment confirmation - use link above to make an appointment.
Saturday, May 1		Pfizer-BioNTech & Moderna (Dose 2)	
FOR: Residents 16 years and older. Minors must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian and provide government-issued identification to validate age. Upon arrival, individuals 60 years and older will be sent to the front of the line.			

ISLANDWIDE BEAUTIFICATION CLEANUP, April 24



[Click here to watch video](#)

Volunteers Collect 17.36 Tons of Trash During #GUAM Earth Month Islandwide Beautification Cleanup

A total of 17.36 tons (34,720 pounds) of trash was collected, as recorded by the Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSWA). The collection consisted of municipal solid waste (MSW), white goods, loose metals, tires, and other bulky waste. The top collection sites were addressed by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at an illegal dump near the Harmon sinkhole in Tamuning and the Palau Community Association of Guam (PCAG) at an illegal dump along Lada Road in Dededo. Guam EPA's efforts resulted in the collection of approximately 2.75 tons of MSW and 0.74 tons of bulky waste, including white goods, loose metals, electronic waste, construction, demolition debris, and mattresses. The PCAG efforts resulted in the collection of approximately 1.57 tons of MSW.

#GUAM EARTH MONTH

ISLANDWIDE BEAUTIFICATION CLEANUP, April 24



#GUAM EARTH MONTH

ISLANDWIDE BEAUTIFICATION CLEANUP, April 24



PREPARING OUR DESTINATION

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB, April 13
Employees volunteer their time to do their part to prepare for May 1st opening date



DUSIT THANI, April 17
Members of the Dusit Guam properties and the Watts Up conservation club teamed up in support of Earth Month with a beach clean-up across Tumon Bay



UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE, April 19
Umatac Mayor Quinata and staff cut the overgrown vegetation along the guard rails



GET YOUR BUSINESS CERTIFIED!

APPLY TODAY

[Click here to apply](#)



WHO IS CERTIFIED

[Click here for list](#)



WHAT IS GUAM SAFE CERTIFIED?

Guam Safe Certified is the official local designation, which identifies establishments that are in compliance and have care and pride in following government health and safety guidelines.

WHAT IS THE WTTC SAFE TRAVELS STAMP?

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) created the first ever global safety and hygiene stamp. This stamp enables travelers to recognize destinations around the world that have adopted standardized health and hygiene protocols.

Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) serves as the official organization to advocate for the implementation of these protocols in Guam and to issue the Guam Safe certification and Safe Travels stamp to local businesses.

BENEFITS

- Guam Safe Certified is a branding initiative that endorses your business' health and safety practices at the local level and encourages island pride!
- The Safe Travels initiative is globally recognized & instills a level of confidence in both the tourism trade and international visitors.
- Both initiatives help to rebuild trust among tourists and within the tourism sector.
- Logos can be used on websites, emails, and digital channels can generate business materials, videos, social media campaigns.
- **FREE** of charge to all eligible businesses.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP MEETING



SAVE THE DATE

Joint Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2021
10 a.m. — 12 p.m.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LmlHPm8qREGOvicJUCY2lg

The Guam Visitors Bureau will be hosting a joint membership meeting with the Guam Hotel Restaurant & Association and the Guam Chamber of Commerce. The meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

To register your attendance, please use the following link or contact taylor.pangilinan@visitguam.org

[REGISTER](#)



MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

As of April 28 and may be subject to change.



MARKETS AT-A-GLANCE



MARKETS AT-A-GLANCE



JAPAN

- Japan's government has declared a new state of emergency for Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo prefecture, which remains until May 11
- Government will receive 100 million Pfizer vaccine doses between May and June and will secure additional 50 million doses by end of September
- Japan will secure enough vaccines to inoculate all residents aged 16 and older by the end of September
- Novel coronavirus variants accounts for nearly 90% of new infection cases and the N501Y variant may become the dominant strain in May
- Flight suspension continues by the end of May or June except UA197/196; JTB and NTA extending their cancelation dates to May 31 and June 15, respectively
- Reservation rate for domestic flights is 48.3% for ANA and 50.4% for JAL, with further declines expected
- Japan Airlines announced trials of three digital health platforms, with the aim of implementing "standardized digital health checks on the international flights
- Japan Airlines decided to make Spring Airlines Japan, a Chinese-owned LCC, a consolidated subsidiary to increase inbound from China
- PR activities shown in

TAIWAN

- Taiwan reported three new COVID-19 cases, including two pilots at China Airlines (CAL)
- Taiwan's COVID-19 vaccination program will be expanded to include law enforcement personnel as well as residents and staff at long-term care facilities
- Cambodia and Mauritius removed from medium-risk countries list
- GVB attended the ANTOR GM meeting and interacted with members through visiting Taiwan Tourism Bureau (TTB) and Taiwan Visitor Association (TVA)
- GVB attended AmCham 2021 Hsieh Nien Fan and interacted with representatives (ie Taiwan Visitors Association, AIT, Hotel Royal, Intel, IBM)

SOUTH KOREA

- Daily infections in the past two weeks were at 500 to 800, as cluster infections and untraceable cases grew amid increased social activities due to the warmer weather
- 4.4% of Korea's population has been given the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine; 0.2% of Korea's population fully vaccinated
- South Korea announces quarantine lift for fully vaccinated people (who received vaccines in South Korea)
- Authorities aim to inoculate 3 million by the end of April and 12 million by the end of June, achieving herd immunity by November
- South Korea has signed a deal with Pfizer to import additional COVID-19 vaccine doses for 20 million people and another 7 million doses of AstraZeneca's vaccines, enough for 3.5 million people
- United States maintained its travel advisory for South Korea unchanged at Level 2, despite new rules
- Air seat capacity for April remains at 756 seats
- Online Tour launched a special Chuseok holiday promotion, with Guam ranking the top travel destination compared to Cebu, Danang, and Taiwan
- Yellow Balloon Tour held a Hilton Guam Resort & Spa product promotion for flexible travel between June 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

PHILIPPINES

- Over 300 community pantries have popped up across the Philippines to help the community; based on give what you can, take what you need
- Philippines may get its first delivery of US-based Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines in late April or early May
- Hospitals struggle to cope as more severe Covid-19 wave hits
- Philippine Airlines is considering the use of a digital travel pass in all its future flights to make air travel more safe and convenient
- Japanese debt watcher affirms Philippines' BBB+ rating with a stable outlook

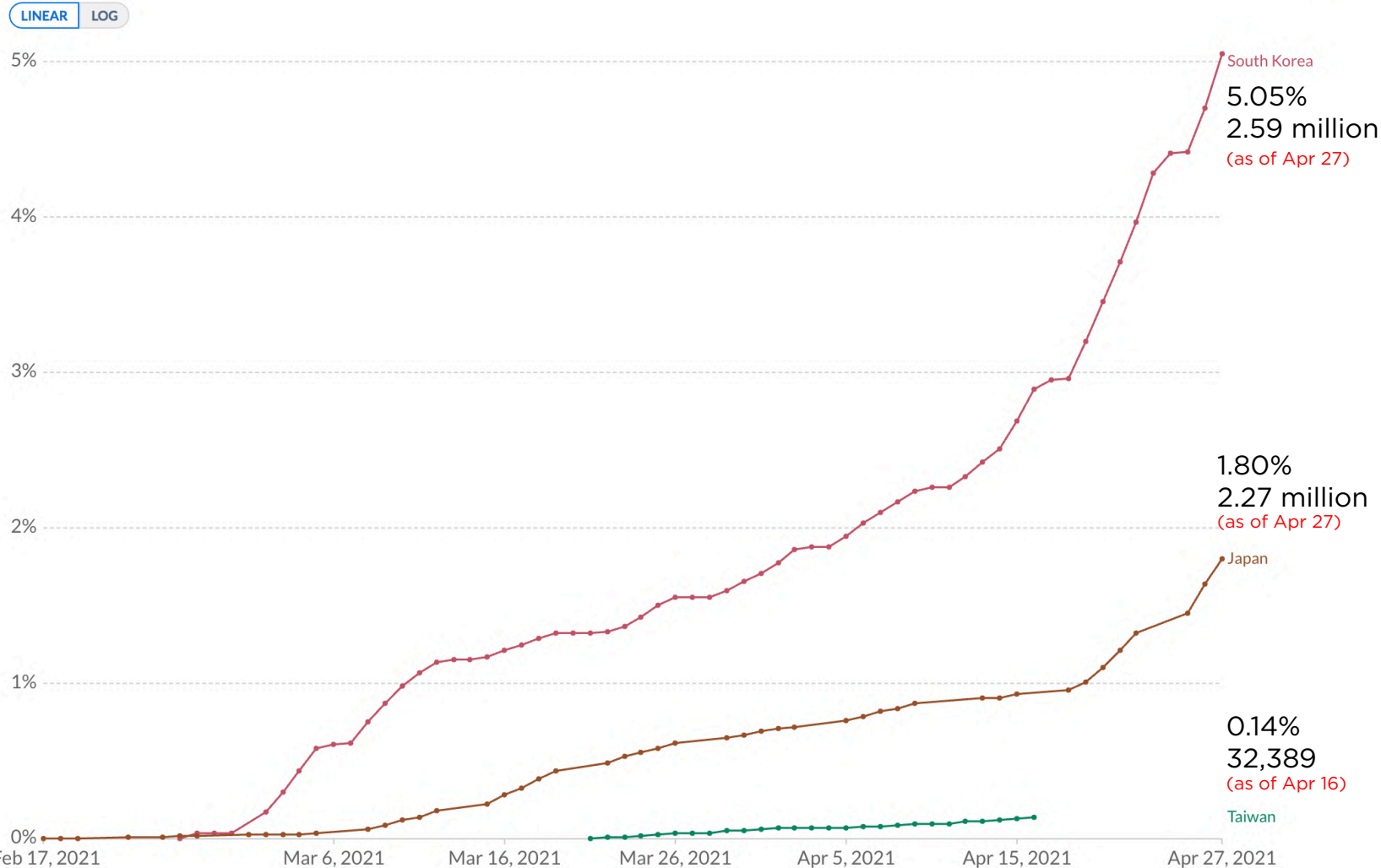
DETAILS ARE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX

MARKETS AT-A-GLANCE

Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Share of the total population that received at least one vaccine dose. This may not equal the share that are fully vaccinated if the vaccine requires two doses.

Our World in Data



GUAM COVID-19 UPDATE

JIC Release No. 650 Supplemental - Data as of April 27, 2021

COVID AREA RISK (CAR) SCORE 0.8

CASE COUNT	TOTAL	TODAY	PAST 7 DAYS
COVID-19 CASES	7,951	12	54
CONFIRMED	7,733	12	54
PROBABLE	218	0	0

TESTING	TOTAL	TODAY	7-DAY % POSITIVE
DIAGNOSTIC	153,263	577	1.5%
MOLECULAR	142,463	560	1.6%
ANTIGEN	10,800	17	0%
SEROLOGY	372	0	50%

STATUS	TOTAL	ISOLATION LOCATION	TOTAL
COVID-19 Death	136	Hospital	5
Active Isolation	76	Home	31
Not In Isolation	7,739	Isolation Facility	25
Civilian	7,518	Military	15
Military	433		

CENSUS	GMH	GRMC	USNH	TOTAL
COVID ADMISSION	5	0	0	5
IN ICU	0	0	0	0
ON VENTILATOR	0	0	0	0

Vaccine	1st Doses	2nd Doses	Fully Immunized
Pfizer-BioNTech	44,413	35,765	35,765
Moderna	25,108	17,181	17,181
Johnson & Johnson Janssen	-	-	406
TOTALS:	69,521	52,946	53,352

43%



APPENDIX

As of April 28, 2021 and
may be subject to change.



JAPAN



JAPAN COVID-19 NEWS

HIGHLIGHT NATIONWIDE

- Japan's government has declared a new state of emergency for **Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo** prefecture on April 23rd.
- The measures remains in place from April 25th to May 11th.
- Stores selling daily necessities will be allowed to remain open.
- Shopping centers and department stores with a floor space of over 1,000sqm are asked to close.
- Cinemas, theme parks and other non-essential businesses are asked to close.
- Dinning establishments that only serve alcohol and karaoke shops will be asked to close.
- Restaurants will be allowed to remain open, but are asked not to serve alcohol at any time and to close by 8PM.
- Large-scale events and sporting matches are asked to ban spectators.
- Companies are asked to make sure at least 70% of their employees work home.
- Schools will remain open, but universities are urged to switch to online classes.
- Transportation companies will be asked to suspend their services early morning and late night and to reduce services on weekend and holidays.

AREA / NEW CASES	APRIL 5 -11	APRIL 12 -18	APRIL 19 -25	CHANGES (#) VS LW	CHANGES (%) VS LW	VS WEEK OF JAN 4 - 10
TOKYO	3,276	4,105	5,090	985	24%	-59%
OSAKA	5,404	7,630	7,590	-40	-1%	106%
AICHI	987	1,385	1,768	383	28%	-24%
FUKUOKA	342	756	1,675	919	122%	-16%
OKINAWA	813	795	630	-165	-21%	39%
HOKKAIDO	553	601	889	228	48%	-14%
KANAGAWA	941	1,331	1,532	201	15.1%	-69%
SAITAMA	926	1,121	1,432	311	27.7%	-51%
CHIBA	614	862	897	35	4.1%	-65%
NATIONWIDE	21,053	27,872	33,374	5502	20%	-23%

Data source: Ministry of Health

COVID-19
4TH WAVE

VACCINATIONS
1.66 MILLION

VARIANT
CASES
+54%

152 BANNED
COUNTRIES

AIRLINES
OPERATION



SUMMARY

- Japan's government has declared its third state of emergency of the coronavirus pandemic for Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Hyogo.
- The government will secure additional 50 million doses supplied by Pfizer by the end of September.
- Novel coronavirus variants accounts for nearly 90% of new infection cases and the N501Y variant may possibly become the dominant strain in May.
- The government continues to tighten quarantine rules for citizens and foreign residents returning from countries or regions where the new Covid-19 variants have been reported.
- The flight suspension continues by the end of May or June except UA197/196.

Confirmed
COVID-19

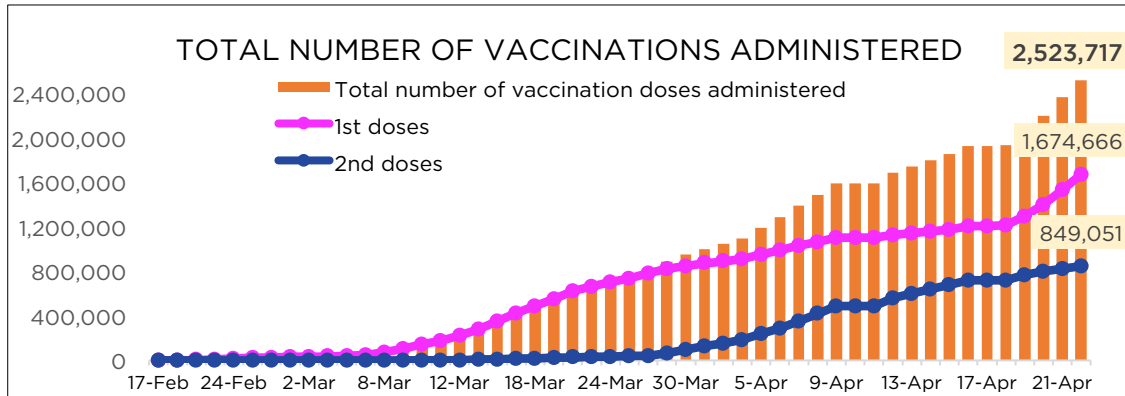
Cases:
575,563

9.3%
active
(53,439)

AS OF APR 28, 2021

JAPAN COVID-19 NEWS

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATES



As of April 22
 Total number of vaccinations: 2,523,717
 1st doses administered: 1,674,666
 Fully vaccinated people: 849,051
 Vaccine doses administered per 100 people: 2.0



VACCINE SECURING PLAN

The government has signed a contract with three vaccine makers:

- Pfizer to supply 144 million doses (for 77.2 million people)
- AstraZeneca to supply 120 million doses (for 60 million people)
- Moderna to supply 50 million doses (for 25 million people)

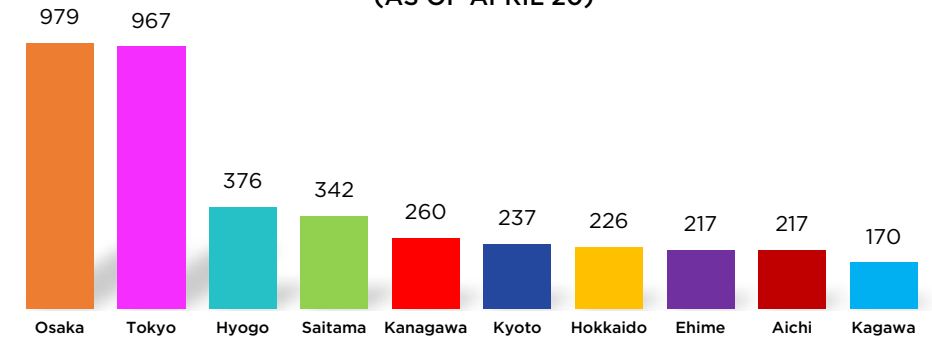
An additional 50 million doses will be supplied by Pfizer by the end of September

HIGHLIGHT

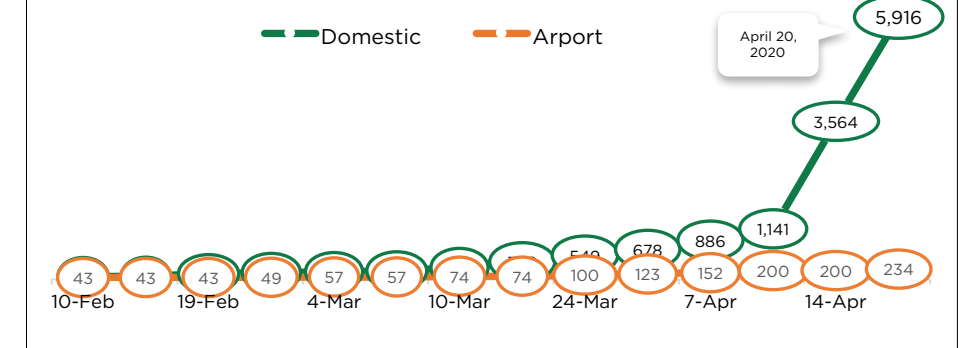
- Japan will receive 100 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine between May and June.
- Moderna vaccine is expected to be approved around May.
- Athletes competing in the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics may receive vaccines by late June.
- Vaccination for general public plans to begin in July.
- Japan will secure enough vaccines to inoculate all residents aged 16 and older by the end of September.

COVID-19 VARIANT IN JAPAN

VARIANT OF COVID-19 IN JAPAN TOP 10 (AS OF APRIL 20)



COVID-19 VARIANT CASES



- The Ministry of Health has announced that 2,352 new variant cases have been confirmed throughout Japan.
- The number of newly confirmed cases is 1.5 times higher than the previous week.
- Total number of cases has brought to nearly 6,000.
- The government estimates that it accounts for about 80% of the infected people.

JAPAN COVID-19 NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS

Japanese government has tightened quarantine measure for Japanese returners and foreign residents from countries or regions where the new Covid-19 variants have been reported.

41 countries with community transmission of COVID-19 variants:

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirate, Ukraine, Philippines, Canada (Ontario), Spain, Finland, Armenia, Cuba, Suriname, Angola, Uzbekistan, Guinea, Paraguay, Russia, Syria, Trinidad Tobago and Bolivia



Entry from MOFA level 3 countries/regions (152 countries & regions)

- Effective from January 14, 2021
- Denied to enter Japan until further notice.

Entry from MOFA level 2 countries/regions (9 countries & regions)

- Effective from January 14, 2021
- Denied to enter Japan until further notice

Business & Residence track (11 countries & regions)

- Program scheme is temporally suspended
- Effective from January 21, 2021
- Denied to enter Japan until further notice

Tighten entry restriction

- Certificate of negative test result taken 72 hours of departure.
- Another Covid-19 test upon arrival (Antigen test) and sign a pledge upon arrival.
- 14-day quarantine isolation. No use of public transportation

New requirement

- 3 Apps installation at the entry (OSSMA, Skype, COCOA)
- All incoming traveler including Japanese.
- Effective ; March 18, 2021

Arrival from countries where Covid-19 variant confirmed.

- Another test required on the 3rd day after entry.
- Armenia, Cuba, Suriname, Thailand were added to the list of countries on April 9.
- Total 41 countries.

Limit on-board pax number

- Foreign carriers:
- 60 pax: March 28 – April 30.(per flight)
- Subject to change (MLIT)

Limit on-board pax number

- Japanese carriers:
- 3,400 pax per week. (500 pax per day)
- Effective March 8.

Applicable period

- Tightening restrictions remain in place for the time being.

JAL AND ANA ANNOUNCED BOOKING STATUS FOR GOLDEN WEEK (APRIL 29 TO MAY 5)

- The reservation rate for domestic flights is 48.3% for ANA and 50.4% for JAL.
- With the declaration of a state of emergency, further declines are expected.
- There is a possibility of falling below the break-even point of 50% for the second year in a row.
- Both companies have already decided to add or subtract flights on domestic routes, including GW.



- JAL plans to reduce an additional 1,298 flights on 54 routes to and from Haneda, Itami, Naha and other airports in May.
- ANA will reduce 1,744 flights on 52 routes to and from Haneda Airport, New Chitose Airport and other airports from May 6 to 31.

Data Source: JAL & ANA Press Release

JAPAN COVID-19 NEWS



COVID-19 CERTIFICATE BY JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT

Requirements for Certificate of Testing for Entering Japan

※Only test certificates which show the results of the test using valid samples and testing methods below are valid.

Valid	Invalid
<p>Sample:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasopharyngeal /Nasopharynx (Swab/smear) Saliva sample <p>※Recommended in Japan as a sample of asymptomatic people.</p> <p>Testing Method:</p> <p>Nucleic acid amplification test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCR - Polymerase chain reaction RT-PCR - Reverse transcription PCR LAMP - Loop-mediated isothermal amplification TMA - Transcription mediated amplification TRC – Transcription-reverse transcription concerted reaction Smart Amp - Smart amplification process NEAR - Nicking endonuclease amplification reaction <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next generation sequencing Quantitative antigen test (CLEIA) <p>※Recommended in Japan as a testing method for asymptomatic people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasal (swab/smear) Oral (swab/smear) Throat (swab/smear) Mid-Turbinate Nasal (swab/smear) Nose Gargle Water Mixture of sample "A" and "B" <p>"A" and "B" show all types of sample.</p> <p><example></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasal and throat (swab/smear) Pharyngeal and nasal (swab/smear) Nasal and oropharyngeal (swab/smear) Nasopharyngeal and throat (swab/smear) <p>※Not recommended in Japan as a sample of asymptomatic people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigen test/test kit Rapid antigen test/test kit Antibody test/test kit <p>※Not recommended in Japan as a testing method for asymptomatic people.</p>

Sample collection must be done Within 72 hours before the departure time of the flight.

COVID-19 に関する検査証明 Certificate of Testing for COVID-19

交付年月日
Date of issue _____

氏名 _____ パスポート番号 _____
Name _____ Passport No. _____
国籍 _____ 生年月日 _____ 性別 _____
Nationality _____ Date of Birth _____ Sex _____

上記の者の COVID-19 に関する検査を行った結果、その結果は下記のとおりである。
よって、この証明を交付する。
This is to certify the following results which have been confirmed by testing for COVID-19 conducted with the sample taken from the above-mentioned person.

採取検体 Sample (下記いずれかをチェック /Check one of the boxes below)	検査法 Testing method for COVID-19 (下記いずれかをチェック/Check one of the boxes below)	結果 Result	①結果判明日 Test Result Date ②検体採取日時 Specimen Collection Date and Time	備考 Remarks
<input type="checkbox"/> 鼻咽頭ぬぐい液 Nasopharyngeal Swab	<input type="checkbox"/> 核酸増幅検査 (RT-PCR 法) Nucleic acid amplification test (RT-PCR)	<input type="checkbox"/> 陰性 Negative	① Date (yyyy /mm /dd) ____ / ____ / ____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 唾液 Saliva	<input type="checkbox"/> 核酸増幅検査 (LAMP 法) Nucleic acid amplification test (LAMP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 陽性 Positive →入国不可 No entry into Japan	② Date (yyyy /mm /dd) ____ / ____ / ____ Time AM/PM : ____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 核酸増幅検査 (TMA 法) Nucleic acid amplification test (TMA)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 核酸増幅検査 (TRC 法) Nucleic acid amplification test (TRC)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 核酸増幅検査 (Smart Amp 法) Nucleic acid amplification test (Smart Amp)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 核酸増幅検査 (NEAR 法) Nucleic acid amplification test (NEAR)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 次世代シーケンス法 Next generation sequence			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 抗原定量検査* Quantitative antigen test* (CLEIA)			

* 抗原定性検査ではない。
Not a qualitative antigen test.

医療機関名 Name of Medical institution _____

住所 Address of the institution _____

医師名 Signature by doctor _____

印影
An imprint of a
seal

ENTRY REFUSAL LIST (152 COUNTRIES & REGIONS)

Asia	Bangladesh, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, India, Indonesia, Kingdom of Bhutan, Malaysia, Maldives, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines
North America	Canada, United States
Latin America and the Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Republic of Paraguay, Republic of Suriname, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay
Europe	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Uzbekistan, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vatican
Middle East	Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates
Africa	Algeria, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Federal Republic of Somalia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kingdom of Lesotho, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Republic of Botswana, Republic of Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Madagascar, Republic of Malawi, Republic of Namibia, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Zambia, Republic of Zimbabwe, Republic of South Africa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, The Republic of South Sudan, The Republic of the Sudan, Union of Comoros

JAPAN COVID-19 NEWS

DIGITAL HEALTH PLATFORMS: JAPAN AIRLINES

SUMMARY

- Japan Airlines has announced trials of three digital health platforms, with the aim of implementing “standardized digital health checks on the international flights.
- JAL is working with Common Pass, Verifly and IATA Travel Pass across a variety of routes and dates.
- JAL and the Commons Project confirmed that a PCR test result on ‘CommonPass’ was perfectly accepted at Narita Airport in departure and Singapore Changi Airport in arrival, when JAL demonstrated it on JL711 on April 5 2021.

The purpose of the trials:

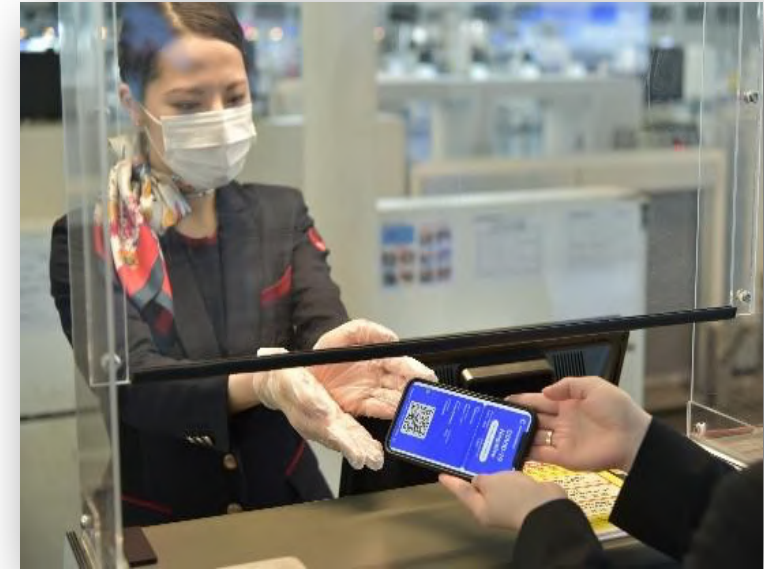
- ✓ To introduce and expand worldwide the health credential platforms, which can display information on a customer’s digital device, including Covid-19 test results issued by medical institutions and other entry requirement information.
- ✓ Achieve a contactless and seamless check-in process with health credential apps.
- ✓ Expand applicable situations, including clearing health quarantine processes with the usage of health credential platforms.
- The airline noted that Common Pass and the IATA Travel Pass “aim to become the industry standard for full implementation on a global scale.

HOW THE IATA TRAVEL PASS WORKS

- IATA Travel Pass will find accurate information on travel, testing and vaccine requirements for journeys and it will allow global registry of testing/vaccination centers – to identify testing centers and labs at departure location which meet the standards for testing and vaccination requirements of the destination.
- Digital passport app will enable passengers to create a ‘digital passport’, receive test and vaccination certificates and verify that they are sufficient for their itinerary, and share testing or vaccination certificates with airlines and authorities to facilitate travel.

HOW THE COMMONPASS WORKS

- The CommonPass framework will allow individuals to access their lab results and vaccination records, and consent to have that information used to validate their COVID status without revealing any other underlying personal health information.
- Lab results and vaccination records can be accessed through existing health data systems, national or local registries or personal digital health records.



JAPAN COVID-19 & AIRLINE NEWS

JAL & SPRING AIRLINES

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Japan Airlines has decided to make Spring Airlines Japan, a Chinese-owned LCC, a consolidated subsidiary.
- The company currently has a 5% stake in Spring Airlines Japan.
- The company plans to make an additional investment of several billion yen by end of June, raising current stake to over 51%.
- It is believed that tourism demand is expected to recover faster than business demand.
- The airline has decided that collaboration with Chinese companies is necessary to increase inbound from China.
- The details are expected to be clarified in the mid-term management plan to be announced on May 7.

OPERATION HISTORY IN JAPAN:

- Spring Airlines Japan is a subsidiary of China's largest LCC, Spring Airlines (9C).
- The airline started its service at Narita Airport on August 1, 2014.
- During this summer time in 2021, the airline will operate six routes, three domestic and three international.
- The domestic routes are Narita-Sapporo, Hiroshima, Saga, (1-2 round trips per week each).
- International routes are Narita - Harbin, Tianjin, and Nanjing. (One round trip every week or every other week)



CY21: AIR SEAT CAPACITY FORECAST

Total capacity: 231,766 seats
 Regular flight: 231,766 seats
 Charter flight: 0 seats

Forecast CY21	CY	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Regular	CY21	3,800	2,520	4,534	4,980	5,146	4,648	14,169	30,870	34,643	40,463	42,376	43,617	231,766
	CY20	68,006	63,710	51,230	1,638	1,638	1,638	1,890	3,528	3,402	3,906	4,020	3,601	208,207
Charter	CY21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CY20	19,079	18,566	9,924	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47,569
Total	CY21	3,800	2,520	4,534	4,980	5,146	4,648	14,169	30,870	34,643	40,463	42,376	43,617	231,766
	CY20	87,085	82,276	61,154	1,638	1,638	1,638	1,890	3,528	3,402	3,906	4,020	3,601	255,776
vs FY20 (Total)		-96%	-97%	-93%	204%	214%	184%	650%	775%	918%	936%	954%	1111%	-9%

JAPAN MARKET INTELLIGENCE

JAPAN TO GUAM FLIGHT OPERATION

UNITED



UA196/197: daily operation

Suspended until June 2:
 UA828/827; UA137/136;
 UA151/150; UA873/874;
 UA171/172; UA165/166

JAL JAPAN AIRLINES



NRT:
 JL941/942:
 suspended until June 30

t'way



KIX:
 TW311/312:
 suspended until June 30

JEJUair



KIX:
 7C3174/3173:
 suspended until May 31

GUAM PACKAGE SALES

HIGHLIGHT

- MOFA travel advisory & warning level for US remains unchanged as 4, the second highest level
- 14 days quarantine upon arrival in Japan remains unchanged
- 14 days quarantine for all incoming traveler into Guam
- Tighten entry restriction for entry Japan remains in place
- Tour cancellation has been extended in response to flight suspension to Guam



TOUR SELLING (DEPARTURE DATE)

	Canceled until May 31	June 1-
	Canceled until May 31	June 1-
	Canceled until May 31	June 1-
	Canceled until June 15	June 16 -
	Canceled until June 30	July 1-
	Canceled until May 31	June 1-
	Canceled until May 31	June 1-

SOUTH KOREA

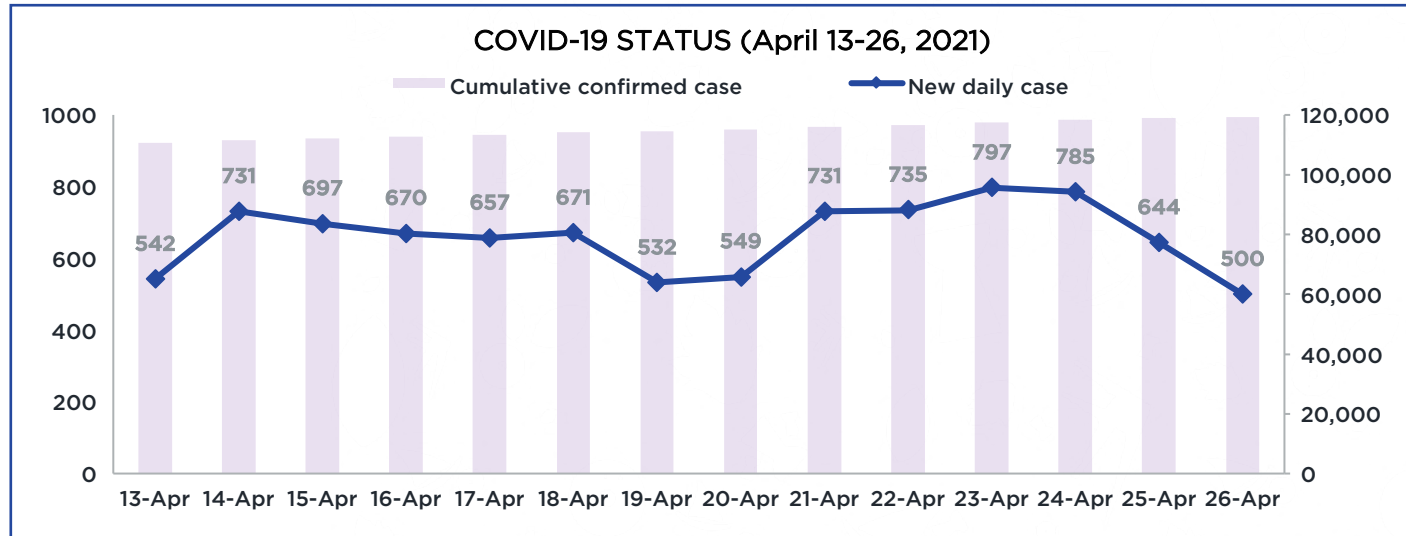


KOREA COVID-19 NEWS

HIGHLIGHT

The daily infections in the past two weeks were at 500 to 800. Last week, daily infections neared 800 as cluster infections and untraceable cases grew amid increased social activities due to the warmer weather.

However, South Korea's daily new virus cases fell to 500 on April 26.



Confirmed COVID-19

CASES:
120,673

7.1%
active
(8,604)

COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS

As of April 25th, 2,266,888 or 4.4% of Korea's population has been given the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. 104,905 or 0.2% of Korea's population is fully vaccinated. Authorities aim to inoculate 3 million by the end of April and 12 million by the end of June - achieving herd immunity by November.

By the end of May, Korea aims to inoculate 1.5 million by expanding age eligibility and partnering with private clinics.



VACCINATION STATUS FEBRUARY 26, 2021 ~ APRIL 25, 2021

1st Doses
Administered

2,266,888

Fully
Immunized

104,905

(0.2% of total population)

AS OF APR 28, 2021

SPEEDING UP HERD IMMUNITY

- South Korea will accelerate the COVID-19 vaccine rollout as the country has secured sufficient shots amid supply shortage concerns to achieve herd immunity.
- The government is considering electronic vaccination certificates, to relax measures for vaccinated people to be exempted from 14-day quarantine when they come in contact with virus patients or return from overseas travel.



01 Special Measures for Quarantine Management (April 26 ~ May 2)

- Plans to set this week as a "special quarantine management week" to focus on individual inspection and management to drastically reduce contact infections.
- In case of dense, closed workplaces, strict compliance with the quarantine regulations are required.

02 Vaccination at Fastest Speed

- The country has secured 192 million doses in total, enough to inoculate 99 million people
- Preparing for expanding vaccinations to those under age 18 and booster shots in response to virus variants.
- Planning to expand private-entrusted vaccination institutions to more than 14,000 locations by the end of May.

NEARLY 2M VACCINATED IN S. KOREA AS INOCULATION ROLLOUT SPEEDS UP

- South Korea has inoculated nearly 2 million people so far as the country ramps up its COVID-19 immunization drive by providing more shots and securing more doses.
- The authorities aim to complete inoculating 3 million people by the end of April and 12 million people by end-June, with a goal of achieving herd immunity by November.



S. KOREA SECURES ADDITIONAL VACCINES

- South Korea has signed a deal with Pfizer to import additional COVID-19 vaccine doses for 20 million people.
- South Korea is set to receive Pfizer vaccine doses for 3.5 million people by the end of June and additional vaccines for 29.5 million people are scheduled to be supplied to South Korea in phases beginning in July.



KOREA COVID-19 & AIRLINE NEWS

SOUTH KOREA ANNOUNCES QUARANTINE LIFT FOR FULLY VACCINATED PEOPLE

- The Korean government announced that starting May 5th they will **no longer require fully vaccinated people to self-quarantine for two weeks** when they enter the country (for people who received their vaccines in S. Korea).
- S. Korea is looking to rollout its vaccine later in the year.
- Instead of quarantine, they must call daily to report health condition and test twice for COVID-19 during the two week period.
- No official memorandum has been issued by the KDCA at the moment.



Self-Quarantine Exemption

- Two weeks after fully vaccinated.
- Must be inoculated with vaccine approved by S. Korea.



Excludes

- Travelers arriving from South Africa, Brazil, and India. (determined as high risk countries)



Quarantine Protocol

- Must call to report health conditions and test for COVID-19 twice during the two week period.

7 MILLION MORE ASTRAZENECA VACCINES

- South Korea will bring in another 7 million doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccines, enough for 3.5 million people, between May and June.
- AstraZeneca vaccines will make up 60% of the country's rollout by the end of June, with a goal set to vaccinate 12 million out of the country's population of 52 million.

APRIL AIRLINE SCHEDULE

INCHEON - GUAM

Airlines	Flight No.	Days	DEP Time	ARR Time	Seat Capacity
Korean Air	KE113	TBD	9:45	15:15	0
	KE111	TBD	19:35	01:00+1	0
Jeju Air	7C3100	Suspended until May	6:25	12:00	0
	7C3102	Suspended until May	10:40	16:05	0
	7C3106	Suspended until May	20:20	02:00+1	0
Jin Air	LJ641	4/6, 13, 20, 27	18:50	00:15+1	756
T'way	TW301	Suspended until Apr	18:00	23:40	0
Air Seoul	RS103	No plan yet	20:45	02:15+1	0
TOTAL					756

*LJ641 - scheduled to operate weekly flight on Apr 6, 13, 20 and 27.

BUSAN - GUAM

Airlines	Flight No.	Days	DEP Time	ARR Time	Seat Capacity
Jeju Air	7C3154	No plan yet	22:05	03:05+1	0
Jin Air	LJ647	No plan yet	8:00	13:15	0
TOTAL					0

Total Outbound Seat Capacity (April): 756 seats

*Schedules and seat capacity are subject to change (as of April 26)

KOREA MARKET INTELLIGENCE

TRAVEL TRADE UPDATE

ONLINE TOUR X JIN AIR CHUSEOK HOLIDAY PROMOTION (ONGOING)

On April 15th, Online Tour launched a special Chuseok holiday promotion. Previously reported, Guam was ranked the top travel destination compared to Cebu, Danang, and Taiwan with 34% of total sales. The promotion is ongoing and 100% refundable if the quarantine is not lifted by July 15th.



Online Tour Website Promotion

PROMOTION OVERVIEW

- **Website Promotion:** April 15 ~ ongoing
- **Channel:** Online Tour Website
- **Airline:** Jin Air
- **Destination:** Guam, Cebu, Danang, Taiwan
- **Departure:** September 17th / September 18th
- **Note:** 100% refundable if the quarantine is not lifted in both countries until July 15th

YB TOUR: HILTON GUAM TV HOME-SHOPPING

On April 24th, Yellow Balloon Tour held a Hilton Guam Resort & Spa product promotion for flexible travel between June 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022. As a result, YB Tour sold approximately 780 packages.






Hilton Guam Resort & Spa Promotion

PROMOTION OVERVIEW

- **Date:** April 24 @11:50pm
- **Channel:** Home & Shopping
- **Hotel:** Hilton Guam Resort & Spa (3N)
- **Price:** USD499~
- **Travel period:** June 1 - September 30, 2022
- **Result:** 980calls / approx. 780 sales

PR / SNS WEEKLY ACTIVITY

	18-APR-21	19-APR-21	20-APR-21	21-APR-21	22-APR-21	23-APR-21	24-APR-21
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Week 4		Instagram / Facebook Feed Daily Uploads (Scenery/Food/Culture, etc.)			IG Story Merizo Pier		
				Guam For Kids		#GUAM Earth Month Cleanup	

CHANNEL	DATE	CONTENTS	REFERENCE
SNS channels	April 19-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posted beautiful scenery photos of Guam and also posted DPHSS Guidance Memo and #Guam Earth Month event on our SNS channels. 	  

Channels: Instagram / FB Naver Blog / Kakao Press Release Website / Partner Notice



TAIWAN



TAIWAN COVID-19 NEWS

TWO MORE CHINA AIRLINES CARGO PILOTS TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Taiwan reported three new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, including two pilots at China Airlines (CAL) whose source of infection remains unclear, according to the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC).



One of the new cases is a Taiwanese man in his 50s who works as a cargo pilot at CAL, said Health and Welfare Minister at a press briefing.

Taiwan on 4/23 confirmed one domestic COVID-19 case, two and a half months after it recorded its last locally-transmitted infection of the new coronavirus, according to the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC). The case is a family member of an Indonesian pilot serving at Taiwanese carrier China Airlines (CAL), who flew a cargo flight to Australia on April 20 and upon his arrival, felt itchy in his throat. The pilot was tested positive for COVID-19 in Australia, Health Minister. Upon learning of the result, the CECC launched an investigation into his activities in Taiwan, identified 58 contacts and tested them.

TAIWAN TO EXPAND COVID-19 VACCINATION TO POLICE OFFICERS, CARE WORKERS

Taiwan's COVID-19 vaccination program will be expanded, with effect from Friday, to include law enforcement personnel as well as residents and staff at long-term care facilities, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) said Wednesday.

Specifically, eligibility will be open to roughly 50,000 police officers and military police in Taiwan, as well as the 200,000 residents and staff at long-term care facilities and workers in correctional facilities, the CECC said.

As long as an individual qualifies and holds residency in Taiwan, they will be able to get a shot, meaning that migrant workers will also be included, the CECC said.



To receive the shot, police officers and military police can book an appointment at one of 174 hospitals providing COVID-19 vaccinations, according to the CECC.

Confirmed
COVID-19

CASES:
1,116

4.8%
active
(54)

AS OF APR 28, 2021

TAIWAN COVID-19 NEWS

RESTRICTION TO CITIZENS/NON-CITIZENS ENTERING TAIWAN

Regulations of Entering Taiwan-1/4-Taiwan Nationals, Foreign Nationals (since March 1, 2021)

Traveler Type	History of Travel	Eligible to Enter Taiwan?	Requirement upon Arrival
Taiwan National	Departure from any international port	Yes	1. a COVID-19 RT-PCR negative test report issued within 3 working days of their incoming flight's scheduled departure time 2. strengthened quarantine measures ^{*note1, 2}

Traveler Type	Credential	Eligible to Enter Taiwan?	Requirement
	• ARC means R.O.C. (Taiwan) Resident Certificate		
Foreign National	Holder of ARC	Yes	1. a COVID-19 RT-PCR negative test report issued within 3 working days of their incoming flight's scheduled departure time
	Non-ARC holder	Yes	2. strengthened quarantine measures ^{*note1, 2}
	Purpose of entry to be tourism or regular social visits	No	

Note:

- Travelers are required to make an affidavit stating that the location of their intended 14-day home quarantine in Taiwan (to be conducted in a quarantine hotel or in a home with one person per residence) meets relevant regulations.
- Travelers who have traveled to the United Kingdom, the Republic of South Africa, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Federative Republic of Brazil in the past 14 days (transited in those countries included) would be required to stay at group quarantine facilities after arrival in Taiwan and to receive COVID-19 testing.
- Personnel on diplomatic/official business, migrant workers, [students](#), [international patients\(including companions\)](#) should follow instructions by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health and Welfare.
- Business travelers who meet requirements announced by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) may apply for shorten their required quarantine period—See [Regulations concerning short-term business travelers' applications for shortened quarantine periods in Taiwan](#) on CDC website for details.

Travelers should use their mobile phone to log in the Quarantine System for Entry and to fill out the health declaration form prior to their departure. (<https://hdhq.mohw.gov.tw/>) Show confirmation message to quarantine staff. The confirmation message is required for entering Taiwan.

Quarantine System for Entry

2021.2.26
National Immigration Agency
Ministry of the Interior



Short-term business travelers eligible for shortened quarantine periods in Taiwan, except for those who have obtained permission for their application, are now required to complete the 14-day home quarantine.

The latest list of the risk categories for countries/regions is as follows:

Low-risk countries/regions:

New Zealand, Macao, Palau, Fiji, Brunei, Laos, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Bhutan, Australia, Singapore, and Vietnam

Medium-risk countries/regions: Hong Kong



TAIWAN PR ACTIVITIES

ANTOR GM MEETING – April 20

- GVB Taiwan staff Ellie attended the ANTOR GM Meeting and interacted with other members through visiting Taiwan Tourism Bureau(TTB) and Taiwan Visitors Association(TVA).
- A lunch meeting was also organized for member to reconnect and strengthen bonds in between. Ellie utilized the opportunity to speak and promote Guam's vaccination and tourism reopening plan as well as pandemic prevention measures to demonstrate Guam's effort on keeping the island safe.



AMCHAM 2021 HSIEH NIEN FAN – April 21

- GVB Taiwan representative Felix attended AmCham 2021 Hsieh Nien Fan and interacted with representatives from multiple units including Taiwan Visitors Association, AIT, Hotel Royal, Intel, IBM, etc.
- Felix utilized the opportunity to interact and build relationship with Director-General Wu of MOFA and Secretary General of Legislative Yuan.



PHILIPPINES



COMMUNITY PANTRIES OFFER REPRIEVE FROM COVID-19 HARDSHIPS

The community pantry, as it is known, bore a sign: *Give what you can, take what you need*. A week after the initiative began as a humble cart with free vegetables and canned goods, over 300 similar donation-driven efforts have popped up across the Philippines. Variations such as community libraries and pantries for pets have appeared, too.

The grass-roots action underlines the economic pain Filipinos are experiencing as they battle worst coronavirus outbreaks and a lockdown. The pantries demonstrate *“bayanihan,”* the spirit of solidarity. The idea began when a small-business owner teamed up with local vegetable vendors and farmers who offered their produce to those in need. Within days, it grew into a multi-sector effort encompassing a variety of food and essential items donated by rich and poor alike.

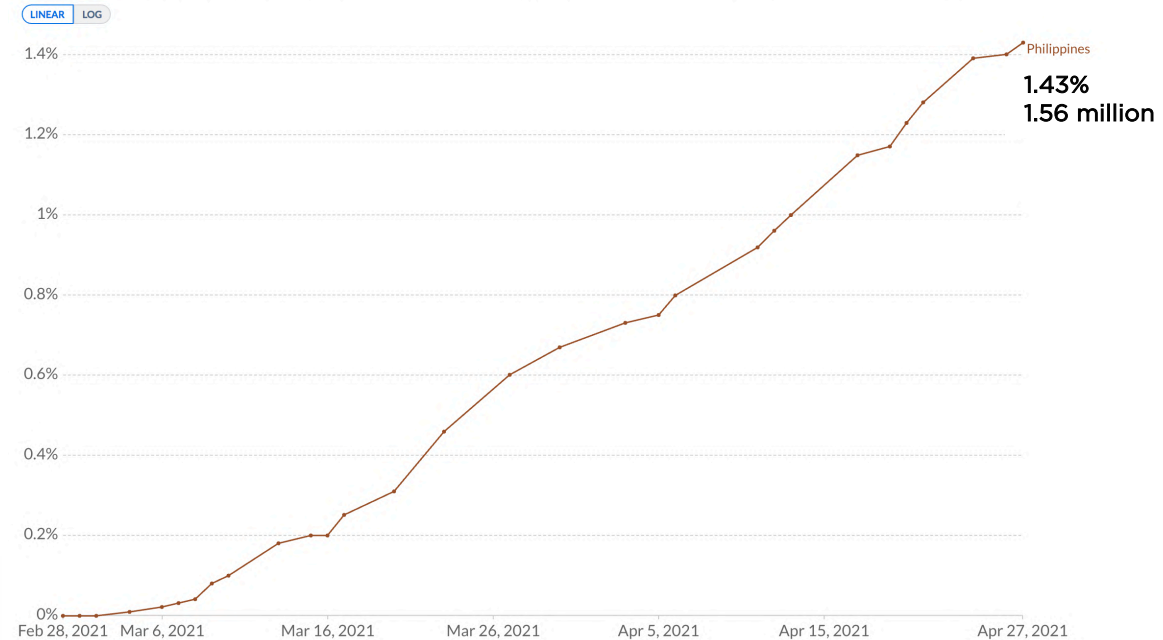
A group of Filipino geographers has created a crowdsourced map showing the locations of all the community pantries. *“Saan May Community Pantry?”* was the contribution of visual designer and urban planner Andi Tabinas and her team.

Access the online interactive map on <https://saanyan.github.io/saanmaycommunitypantry/> using computers, smartphones and mobile devices.



Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Share of the total population that received at least one vaccine dose. This may not equal the share that are fully vaccinated if the vaccine requires two doses.



#coronavirus #impact-summary



Philippines

DOT wants travel restrictions on NCR Plus region to be lifted as domestic tourism suffers.

LOCKDOWN STATUS

PARTIAL

INBOUND TRAVEL

RESTRICTED

OUTBOUND TRAVEL

OPEN

CONFIRMED

997,523

9,103 per million

7 DAY ROLLING AVE

+8,770

-14% vs prev week

DEATHS

16,783

153.2 per million

FULLY VACCINATED

230,769

0.21% of pop.

Source: Cases - John Hopkins University (2021-04-25). Vaccine - Government of the Philippines (2021-04-24). Retrieved from OurWorldInData.org

FIRST PFIZER COVID-19 SHOTS MAY ARRIVE IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY

The Philippines may get its first delivery of COVID-19 shots from US biotech US-based Pfizer/BioNTech in late April or early May. Vaccine-sharing COVAX Facility will "hopefully" deliver 195,000 Pfizer jabs to the Philippines by the "end of this month," said vaccine "czar" Carlito Galvez Jr. However, he said Pfizer and the Philippines are still finalizing their indemnity deal. After the agreement is signed, it would take "some time" before the vaccine delivery, said Galvez. "Siguro maudlot ito ng first week of May," he said. (Perhaps the delivery will be delayed until the first week of May.) The COVAX Facility committed 2.4 million Pfizer doses to the Philippines. The country is "negotiating bilaterally" for 40 million Pfizer jabs on top of this, said Galvez.



Authorities have received 3.025 million COVID-19 shots, mostly from Beijing-based Sinovac Biotech.

The government is set to receive 500,000 more Sinovac jabs on Thursday and its first 15,000 COVID-19 shots from Russia's Gamaleya Institute on Sunday, Galvez said. He said the Philippines would get additional 500,000 Sinovac shots and 480,000 Gamaleya doses on April 29, says Galvez.

HOSPITALS STRUGGLE TO COPE AS MORE SEVERE COVID-19 WAVE HITS

The Philippines has seen a second wave of infections that is stretching health care workers in the capital. "The situation is more severe now. This is version 2.0. The cases are higher, we are more exhausted," said an ambulance operator in Pasig City.



The country has averaged more than 10,400 daily COVID-19 cases since the start of April, nearly double the level in March and far above the 213 per day in April 2020 and 2,169 in the second half of last year, health ministry data showed. A two-week lockdown of the capital region, appears to have done little to ease the strain on the medical system. Intensive-care units in the Manila area are at 84% capacity, while 70% of COVID-19 ward beds and 63% of isolation beds were full as of April 19, government data showed.

Philippine Red Cross is urgently setting up field hospitals, quarantine facilities and scaling up existing testing laboratories, public information campaigns and relief activities.

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL



pcgagana@gmail.com



<http://aganapcg.dfa.gov.ph>

*Ferdinand Flores,
new Philippine
Consulate General*



PHILIPPINE AIRLINES EYES MAKING DIGITAL TRAVEL PASS A 'FIXTURE' FOR ALL FUTURE FLIGHTS

Philippine Airlines is considering the use of a digital travel pass in all its future flights to make air travel more safe and convenient. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has created a digital travel pass to set a global standardized solution for authentication of travel requirements in different countries.

"For the past several weeks, the Philippine Airlines is working with IATA in the hope of ensuring that the IATA travel pass will become a fixture in Philippine Airlines flights," PAL spokesperson Cielo Villaluna told Teleradyo.

PAL is one of 27 participating airlines from 25 countries conducting trial runs for the digital travel pass.



Ideally, the app should be able to tell passengers if RT-PCR test, antigen test or other documents are required and direct them to testing centers, she said. Passengers can upload the test results on the app. It will then inform users whether or not they have completed the requirements, she said. "This will enable the passengers to know without even leaving his or her home...This will promote convenience in travel, it will also promote contactless flights," Villaluna said.

JAPANESE DEBT WATCHER AFFIRMS PHILIPPINES' BBB+ RATING WITH STABLE OUTLOOK

Japanese debt watcher Rating and Investment Information Inc has affirmed the Philippines BBB+ rating with a "stable" outlook, signaling a vote of confidence on the country's economic recovery, the central bank said recently. "The Philippines once again earned an important vote of confidence on its ability to bounce back from the COVID-19 crisis, with R&I's affirmation of the country's BBB+ rating with a 'stable' outlook," central bank Governor Benjamin Diokno said in a statement.

A BBB+ rating is a notch away from the minimum A- rating, while a stable outlook indicates absence of factors that may cause the rating to change in the short term, the BSP said. Despite its severe economic contraction in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Philippines is expected to recover through "aggressive public investment," as well as fiscal and monetary policies that have boosted growth for some time, R&I said.

