

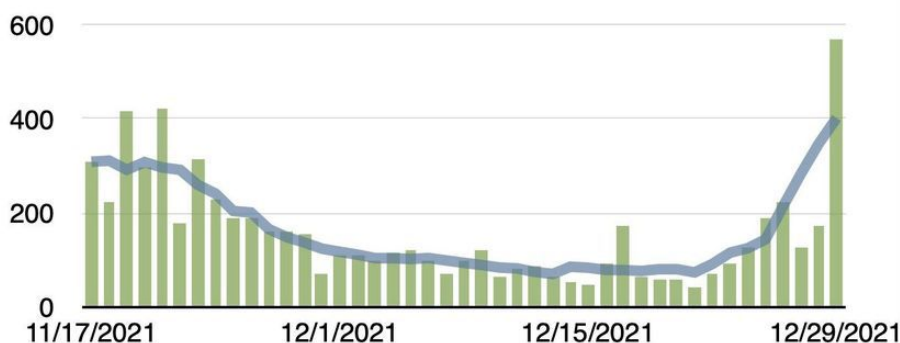
NCR NOW AT MODERATE RISK

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NCR Reproduction Number Increased to 1.47

On December 29, 2021, the DOH reported 572 new Covid-19 cases in the NCR, 229% higher than the reported number from the previous day. The 7-day average in new daily Covid-19 cases in the NCR increased to 215 (as of December 23 to 29) from 79 (December 16 to 22), see figure on the right. The incidence increased to 1.52, considered low, from 0.56. The 7-day positivity rate increased to 3.86%, also considered low, from 0.69% during the previous week. The average number of RT-PCR tests conducted was 14,119, lower than 17,595 tests during the previous week. The reproduction number spiked to 1.47, considered critical, from 0.51. Hospital utilization increased slightly from 18% to 19%, but it remained at very low level. The number of hospital beds occupied increased by 8% compared to the previous week, while the number of ICUs occupied increased by 12% during the same time frame. Overall, the NCR, which was at very low risk from December 16 to 22, is now at moderate risk (from December 23 to 29), using indicators based on covidactnow.org. See the table above. Note that this does not reflect the alert level rating used by the DOH and IATF.

NCR Daily New Cases with 7-day Moving Average



NCR Key Indicators	12/16 - 22	12/23 - 29
7-Day Average New Cases	79	215
Daily Testing (RT-PCR)	17,595	14,119
Incidence (ADAR)	0.56	1.52
Positivity Rate	0.69%	3.86%
Infection Rate	0.51	1.47
Healthcare Utilization	18%	19%
Overall Risk Level	VERY LOW	MODERATE

LEGEND
CRITICAL
HIGH
MODERATE
LOW
VERY LOW

Data was obtained from DOH DataDrop. Indicators are based on covidactnow.org. Overall risk level is based on a combination of Incidence (or ADAR), Infection, Healthcare Utilization and Testing Positivity Rate. **Disclaimer:** the findings and position presented in this report are those of the authors' and do not reflect the official position of the affiliated institutions of the authors, nor does it reflect the position of official government bodies such as the Department of Health, IATF, and local government units. **The risk levels described in this report are not reflective of the alert levels prescribed by the DOH and the IATF.**

Summary and Recommendations:

There is an increase in the risk level classification of the National Capital Region (NCR), from very low risk (from December 16 to 22) to moderate risk (from December 23 to 29) based on:

- A. Increased number of reported new Covid-19 case, from a 7-day average of 79 to a 7-day average of 215, with a corresponding increase in incidence or ADAR (average daily attack rate) from 0.56 per day per 100,000 to 1.52 per day per 100,000;
- B. Increased test positivity rate, from 0.69% to 3.86%;
- C. Increased reproduction number, from 0.51 to 1.47.

This is not surprising because of the increased number of holiday gatherings during the week of the holiday. At this time, it is still uncertain if there will be a continued increase in the number of new Covid-19 cases, or if this number will drop back down once the holidays are over.

We need to prevent this increase in new cases in the NCR from becoming a surge of infections.

To this end, we exhort our citizens to continue to strictly adhere to minimum health protocols and to get vaccinated if they have not been vaccinated, and to reduce nonessential travel and attendance of large social gatherings to prevent exposure to the virus. In addition, we exhort our citizens to self-isolate and avoid going out if they are feeling symptoms of colds such as cough, fever, sore throat, etc.

We also recommend:

1. The expansion and improvement of testing and contact tracing at the Local Government Unit (LGU) level to deal with the potential rise in cases .
2. That LGUs must strictly monitor and enforce compliance with minimum public health standards. LGUs should also monitor and prevent mass gatherings from being organized in communities at this time.
3. For LGUs to reactivate isolation facilities, that were temporarily shut down, to prevent the spread of the virus.
4. That the national government and the LGUs should accelerate vaccinations and booster programs especially in areas outside the NCR.
5. The LGUs must implement strict local border controls, particularly for travelers coming from moderate to high risk areas. It must increase restrictions for children 12 years old and below, unvaccinated individuals, and persons who are at high risk for severe illness.
6. For the private sector to do its part in monitoring and enforcing minimum public health standards in their establishments.
7. For the national government to consider at the appropriate time the evaluation of our current alert levels.