

NOTICES

pore reveals three big concerns as Omicron variant impacts hospitals

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As the Omicron wave hits Singapore, three areas are of concern – the country's ICU capacity, hospitalisation rates and the impact of the variant on the country's manpower resources. AFP

As Singapore tackles the Omicron wave, three areas loom large in the Health Ministry's assessment of the situation, said health minister Ong Ye Kung.

The areas are the country's intensive care unit (ICU) capacity, hospitalisation rates and the impact of the highly infectious variant on the country's manpower resources.

Last weekend, ICU numbers fell slightly from 13 to nine patients, the minister said. Although a couple of Omicron patients required intensive care, none needed to be intubated.

"So we keep our fingers crossed that the ICU situation will remain stable," said Ong, who was speaking at the opening of the new Outram Community Hospital on January 24.

On hospitalisation, Ong reiterated that about 1.3 per cent of Omicron cases are hospitalised, with 0.3 per cent requiring oxygen supplementation.

Those who requiring additional oxygen generally do not need it for long, with the maximum so far being five days.

"The numbers have been creeping up – both the absolute numbers as well as the percentages," Ong said. "Every 0.1 per cent occupies a lot more beds, as we all know."

Lastly, there is the potential impact on manpower.

The authorities have previously warned that many people coming down with the variant at the same time could lead to service disruptions “from time to time”, as people call in sick.

Ong said he is most worried about this, noting that Singapore has changed its protocols so people can now come out of isolation after seven days, rather than 10 days – or even earlier if their conditions allow for it.

“It is not so much that the beds are filling up so fast, but the fact that our manpower is isolated, because of infection or as close contacts,” he added.

He also thanked healthcare workers for their hard work over the past two years, adding: “We have another challenge ahead of us because of the Omicron wave.

“It is a different wave but notwithstanding that, we know that as the wave peaks – and in the coming weeks it will – it will assert pressure again on our healthcare system.”

Meanwhile, Singapore reported 3,002 new confirmed cases of Covid-19 on January 24, bringing the total tally to 316,774.

Of the new cases, 1,365 cases were detected through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and 1,637 through antigen rapid test (ART), according to statistics released by the Ministry of Health.

Among the PCR cases, 994 were local transmissions and 371 were imported cases. Among the ART cases with mild symptoms and assessed to be of low risk, there were 1,630 local transmissions and seven imported cases, respectively.

A total of 478 cases are currently warded in hospitals, with 11 cases in intensive care units.

THE STRAITS TIMES/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

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The Kingdom's first Ford assembly plant was inaugurated on June 16 in Pursat province amid rising demand for brand-new vehicles among Cambodians. The facility is seen as a game changer for the domestic automobile industry, which could bring a wave of investors seeking to cash



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Siem Reap's \$18M zoo said to educate public, help wildlife

Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium Co Ltd has invested \$18 million in a zoo in Siem Reap province, which will be opened in October to educate and promote animal conservation as well as attract national and international tourists. Currently, the Angkor Wildlife and Aquarium is building the



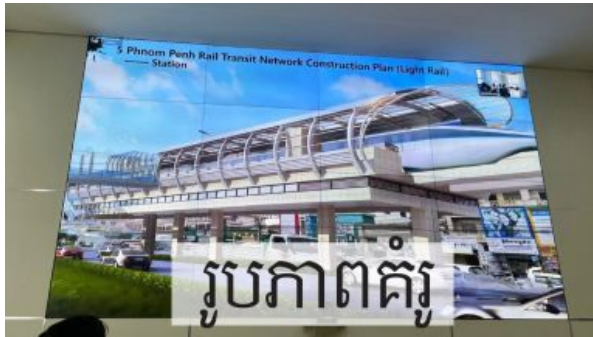
Volunteer scheme to foster 'virtuous' humanitarian spirit

A senior education official said volunteer work contributes to solidarity and promotes a virtuous humanitarian spirit among the youth and communities. Serei Chumneas, undersecretary of state at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, made the comment during the opening of a training programme called “



\$50B infrastructure plan en route

The government’s upcoming \$50 billion,10-year infrastructure master plan will provide tremendous investment opportunities for domestic and foreign entities, transport experts and economists say. Minister of Public Works and Transport Sun Chanthol revealed the plan to Japanese ambassador to Cambodia Masahiro Mikami on June 15. At



Chinese firms unveil preliminary results on metro, monorail for capital

Minister of Public Works and Transport Sun Chanthol and representatives from China Road and Bridge Corp (CRBC) and its parent company, the state-owned China Communications Construction Co Ltd (CCCC), met on June 24 for talks on results of the firms’ preliminary study on a potential metro



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