

Red Cross warns Indonesia faces coronavirus catastrophe

June 29 2021, by Edna Tarigan



A medical worker collects a nasal swab sample during a mass screening for coronavirus at North Sumatra University Hospital in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, Monday, June 28, 2021. The world's fourth most populous country has seen COVID-19 infections surge in recent weeks, putting pressure on hospitals and has added urgency to the government's plan to inoculate 1 million people each day by next month. Credit: AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara

Indonesia needs to urgently increase medical care, testing and vaccinations as the number of new infections in the country has rapidly increased and left it "on the edge of a COVID-19 catastrophe," the Red Cross said Tuesday.

The group said its coronavirus [hospital](#) in Bogor, outside of Jakarta, was "overflowing" and emergency tents had been set up to be able to house more patients. It was a similar scene at other hospitals near the capital, including in at the Bekasi city hospital that had 90% of its beds filled.

"We are seeing record number of infections, but every statistic is a person who is suffering, grieving or struggling to support the people they love," Sudirman Said, secretary general of Indonesian Red Cross, said in a statement. "Our medical teams are providing lifesaving care, with hospitals full to the brim and oxygen supplies critically low."

The surge in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, is being blamed in part on the delta variant of the virus, which was first spotted in India and is thought to be more contagious. Indonesia reported more than 20,600 new cases on Monday and more than 400 deaths.

Indonesia has seen more than 2.1 million cases since the pandemic began and more than 57,500 deaths, both the most in Southeast Asia.

Less than 5% of adults in the nation of 270 million people have been fully vaccinated. The Red Cross called for global action so countries like Indonesia can get the vaccines they need.



A bed it rolled out from an emergency tent erected to accommodate a surge of COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia, Monday, June 28, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim



A medical worker treat patients inside an emergency tent accommodating a surge of COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia, Monday, June 28, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim



Patients sit inside an emergency tent erected to accommodate a surge of COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Bekasi, West Java , Indonesia, Monday, June 28, 2021.Credit: AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim



A patient its assisted to an emergency tent erected to accommodate a surge of COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia, Monday, June 28, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim

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