# Perspective from Georgia: COVID-19 and Health Equity

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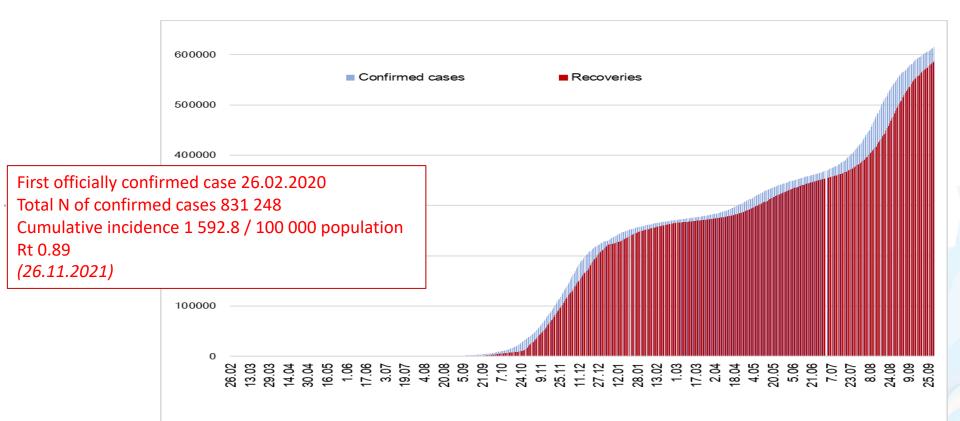
## **Brief of Georgia**





## **COVID-19 Pandemic in Georgia**

#### Dynamics of new **Cases** and recoveries

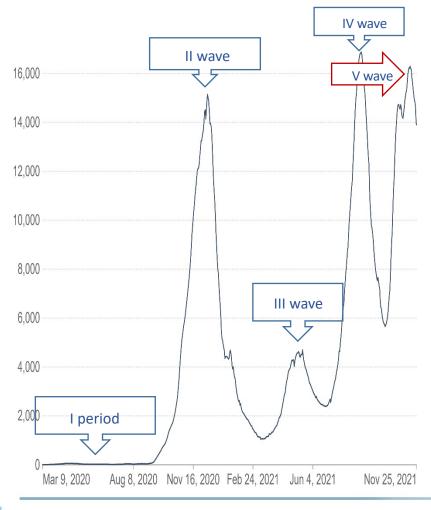




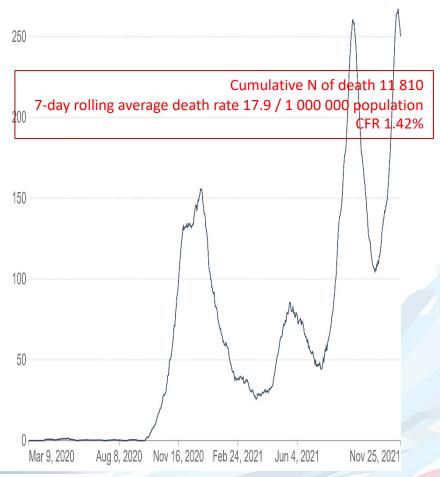


## **COVID-19 Pandemic in Georgia**

#### Biweekly confirmed new cases



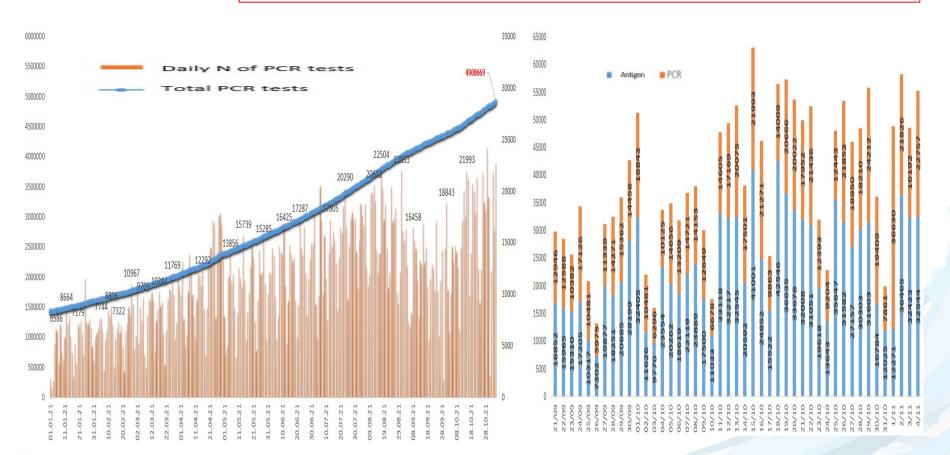
#### **Biweekly COVID-associated death**





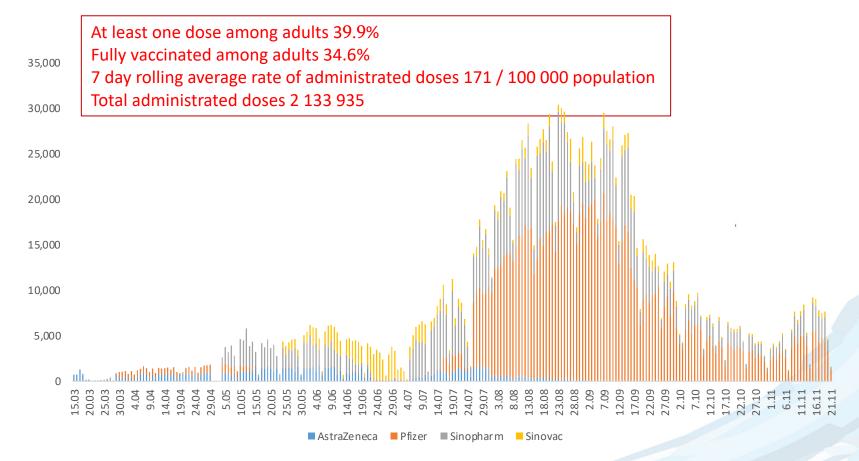
## **COVID-19 Testing in Georgia**

Total N of tests 11 563 457 (PCR + Antigen) 7-day rolling average testing rate 1 205 / 100 000 population 7-day testing positivity rate 9.19%





## **COVID-19 vaccination in Georgia**





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### Main principals of the COVID-19 response







#### Role of the NCDC in the COVID-19 response

National Center for Disease Control and Public Health is a member of Inter-agency Coordination Counsel

Activities:

- Publishing the daily statistics on COVID-19 epidemiological and vaccination data
- Data-rich analysis and quarterly revisions of "COVID-19 in Georgia"
- Control of epidemiological variables (daily and cumulative incidence, case-related mortality rate, reproduction index, test positivity rate, testing rate, number of recovered, excess mortality, vaccination rate), sequencing of viral genome







#### Role of the NCDC in the COVID-19 response

- Enhanced capacity of real-time surveillance, to ensure coverage of all confirmed cases
- Established COVID-19 laboratory management system and registering the testing results in the electronic portal *LabCov Registry*
- Regularly provided countrywide sero-prevalence study for estimation the scale of infection
- Updated electronic immunization module and countrywide COVID-19 vaccination electronic queue management system
- Workforce development and capacity building with the special emphasis on remote human resources
- Improved inter-sectoral collaboration (e.g. training, supervision and support to municipalities public health networks, newly recruited employees of regional public health services, private laboratories, school and village doctors, vaccination spot personnel)









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## **Eligible groups for COVID-testing**

# Countrywide access to COVID-testing (free of charge for special groups)

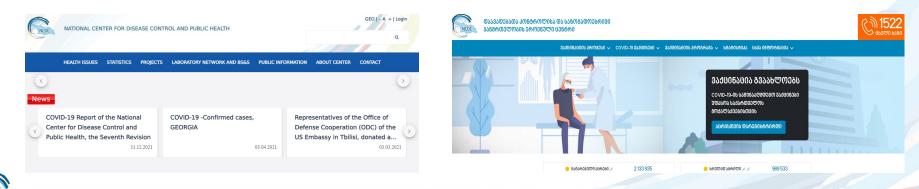
- Persons under the standard case definition
- Contacts of confirmed cases
- Patients and medical personnel of respective medical facilities
- Any patient with the dialyses necessity, diagnosed pneumonia or fever and persons who have been diagnosed with early-stage tuberculosis
- Emergency medical personnel and disaster brigade staff
- Enrolled or prospective beneficiaries and staff of shelters for the elderly and disabled
- Personnel and beneficiaries of quarantine spaces
- Customs officers and border police
- Personnel of inpatient hospital reception, intensive care units
- Center's epidemiologists and staff of COVID-19 PCR Laboratory
- Schools and kinder-garden personnel
- Commercial sector and strategic facilities staff under the special schedule





#### Role of the NCDC in the COVID-19 response

- Continuous risk communication and awareness raising among various communities
- Countrywide COVID-19 vaccination campaign, included targeted communication to special groups (e.g. ethnic minorities, elder, youth) with application of various media channels, on State and minorities languages as well
- Strengthened the hot-line service
- Specially designed web–pages for COVID-tracing and COVIDvaccination





### **Access to COVID-vaccination**









- Free of charge
- Access to any preferable COVID-vaccine
- Universal access for all age groups above 12 and for booster doses with the special schedule
- Countrywide AEFI monitoring
- Translated informational and educational materials into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages
- Regular invitation through various media channels to vaccination
- Mass vaccination sites
- Vaccination buses for remote areas
- Mobile groups for people with disabilities
- Countrywide vaccination marathon with engagement of local governments
- Unified access to the "Green Pass" application and paper based
- Special transportation during lockdown to have access to vaccination sites
- Benefits for retired residents as a vulnerable groups
- Additional reimbursement for medical personal who invites vulnerable groups for vaccination















### No one is safe until everyone is safe!

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