# Ending the acute pandemic phase to sustained control of COVID-19 Dr. Yitades Gebre PAHO/WHO Representative Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Countries



# Overview

- What factors continue to drive SARS-Co-V-2
   Circulation and impact ?
- What is ending the acute emergency of Covid-19 mean?

 How to achieve and Sustain COVID-19 Disease Control



## Factors that continue to drive SARS-CoV-2 circulation and impact



#### **Drivers of Transmission**

- The virus continues to evolve resulting in more transmissible variants and variants with immune evasion
- Pockets of susceptible populations from lack of access to vaccines, vaccine hesitancy and/or waning immunity following infection or vaccination
- Inappropriate, inconsistent use of proven
   Public Health and Social Measures in the
   context of Increased social mobility and social
   mixing
- Misinformation, disinformation, politicization... false narratives

### **Drivers of Impact**

- Vaccination coverage particularly in vulnerable populations
- Duration of protection against severe disease/death and infection following vaccination and/or infection
- Equity, access and use of life saving tools
- Early diagnosis, entry into clinical care pathway and availability of therapeutics
- Future emergence and circulation of VOCs and their characteristics
  - Transmissibility, virulence, properties of immune escape
- Management of Post COVID-19 Condition (Long COVID)
- Capacities and agility to adjust interventions as and where needed

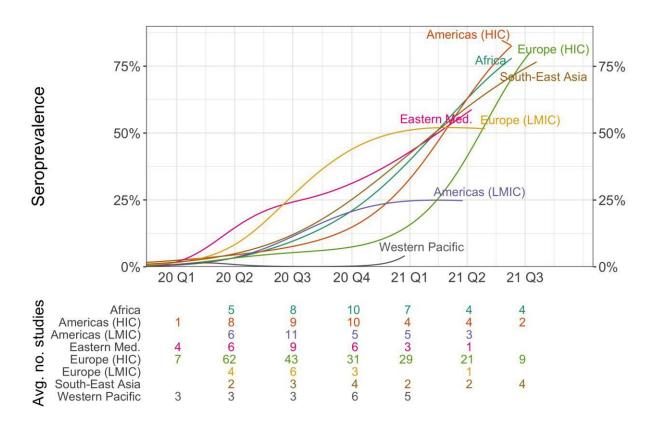


# **Population-level immunity**

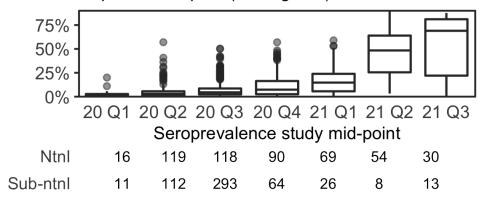
(Bergeri et al, submitted)



#### Modelled estimates of seroprevalence by WHO region, Jan 20 - Aug 21, show considerable region-to-region variation

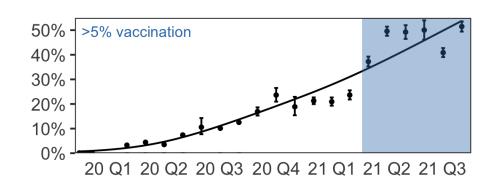


# Global Reported seroprev (unweighted)



#### Population-weighted seroprev

Time trendMean effect and 95% CI



Modelled seroprevalence ranged from 4.1% in WPRO to 82.6% in PAHO HICs Global pooled model estimate as of Aug 21 51.7%



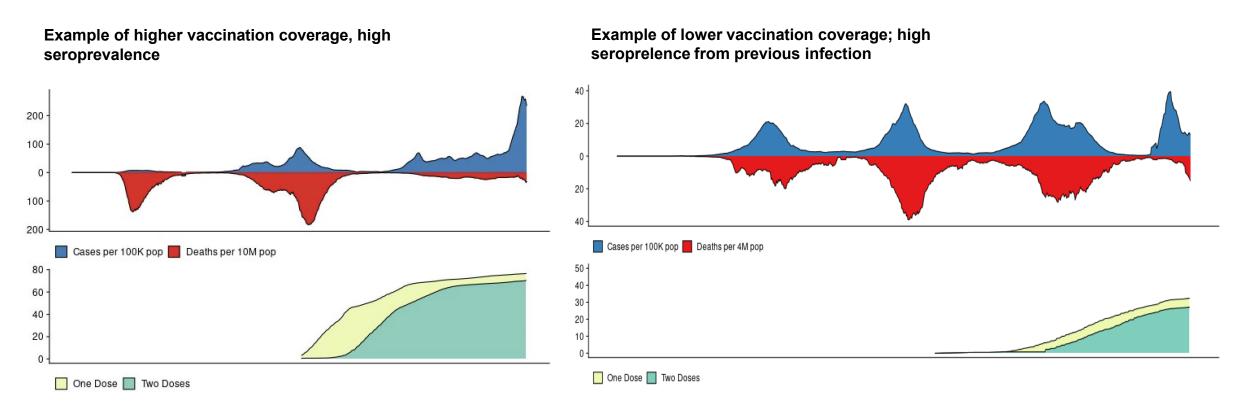




# Positive impact of vaccination on severe disease & death



Into 2022, future scenarios of COVID-19 should include: significant reductions in severe disease and death as population immunity increases around the world



- Vaccination significantly reducing morbidity and mortality
- Vaccination reduces onwards transmission but is currently insufficient to bring R<sub>t</sub> <1 in most countries</li>



# Countries face different situations, challenges and scenarios for ending the emergency phase and for achieving sustained COVID-19 control



Current and Previous Strategy

**Current Epidemiology** 

Pop. demographics and risk factors for severity

Vaccination Levels & Pop. immunity

Access to life saving tools

Capacities to implement across all pillars

Agility to adjust actions as needed

World Health Organization Public trust and societal compliance

# **Ending the public health emergency of COVID-19 in 2022**



Reduce and control incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection



Protect individuals (especially the vulnerable) from exposure and reduce risk of future variants

- Track the virus and its variants with expanded testing and sequencing
- Vaccination inc. (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> generation)
- Calibrated PHSM measures at individual and population level inc. measures to protect high risk groups or settings
- Clear supported policies that are targeted, layered and comprehensive

Optimizing
National and
International
Strategies

Health, Economy,
Politics, Risk-tolerance,
Human Rights,
Acceptance

Prevent, Diagnose and Treat Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



Reduce disease morbidity, mortality and long term consequences of infection to a minimum

- Protect those most vulnerable with full couse of effective vaccine (70% by June 2022)
- Early diagnosis and effective clinical management of symptomatic disease (especially in most at-isk groups in all countries)
- Better understanding and therapeutic options for Post COVID-19 Condition
- Protect HCWs and restore resileint health systems

#### **Priorities for Achieving and Sustaining COVID-19 Disease Control**



#### To move from pandemic response to disease control requires us to.....

**VACCINATE** 

DIAGNOSE , CARE & TREAT

CALLIBRATE PHSM WIH SCALEABILITY

TRACK & MONITOR VIRUS AND IMPACT

RESEARCH & INNOVATE

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

REBUILD RESILIENT

HEALTH SERVICES

- Reach all targeted populations with a full series of effective vaccines focusing on at risk and vulnerable groups everywhere
- Early diagnosis and effective clinical management of symptomatic disease (especially in most at-risk groups in all countries)
- Calibrated and scalable PHSM at individual and population level including measures to protect high-risk groups or settings
- Expanded and strengthened national, regional and global: surveillance, testing, sequencing and monitoring
- Sustain and Scale up research and innovation across all pillars of the response including the production of and equitable distribution of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostic
- Communicate with, **engage**, **and empower communities**, enriching the information/knowledge ecosystem.and **counter misinformation**
- Restore and strengthen public health and health systems resilience, capacities and workforce capability and protection

COORDINATE

**FINANCE/INVEST** 

SCALE UP/DELIVER

**SHARE EQUITABLY** 

**BUILD TRUST** 

COMMUNCATE &
COUNTER
MISINFORMATION



## Towards a Sustainable System for Integrated Epidemic Respiratory Disease Preparedness, Response and Control



# Preparedness & Readiness

Enhanced multidisease surveillance systems

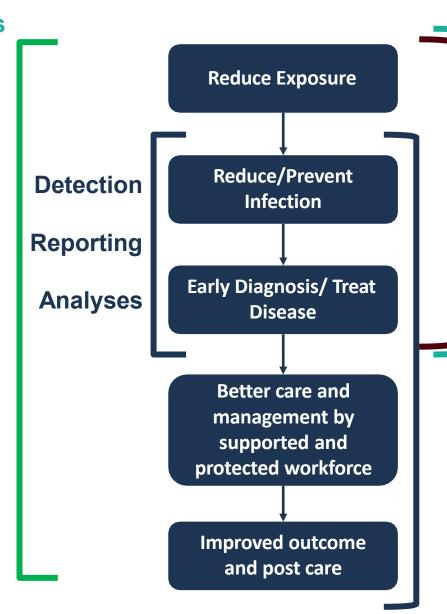
Enabled and empowered Communities

Supported & protected public health and medical work force

Resilient Health systems

Emergency medical supply systems

Research and Innovation



#### **Prevention**

#### **Multi-Disease Surveillance**

- Sentinel systems
- Multiplex Diagnostics
- Anima-Human surveillance
- Collaborative Intelligence
- Sequencing
- Predictive analytics

- Risk reduction measures at animal human interface
- Vaccination:
   common/aligned
   systems for
   development,
   composition, policy,
   production and roll out

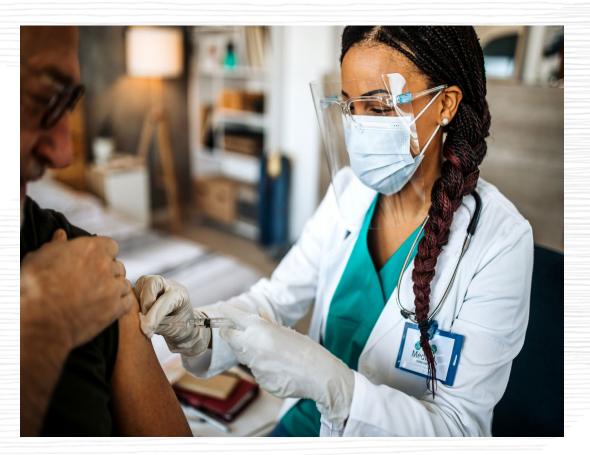
#### **Integrated Diagnostic & Care Pathways**

- Multiplex Diagnostic at point of care
- Integrated clinical care protocols
- Common procurement and supply chains
- Coordinated research and innovation

# **Capacity for and Acceptance of Population Level Intervention**

- Mass vaccination
- Public Health and Social Measures
- Case Isolation/Contact tracing and quarantine /Physical distancing, restrictions in social mixing and movement





# Thank you