

Dots & Plots

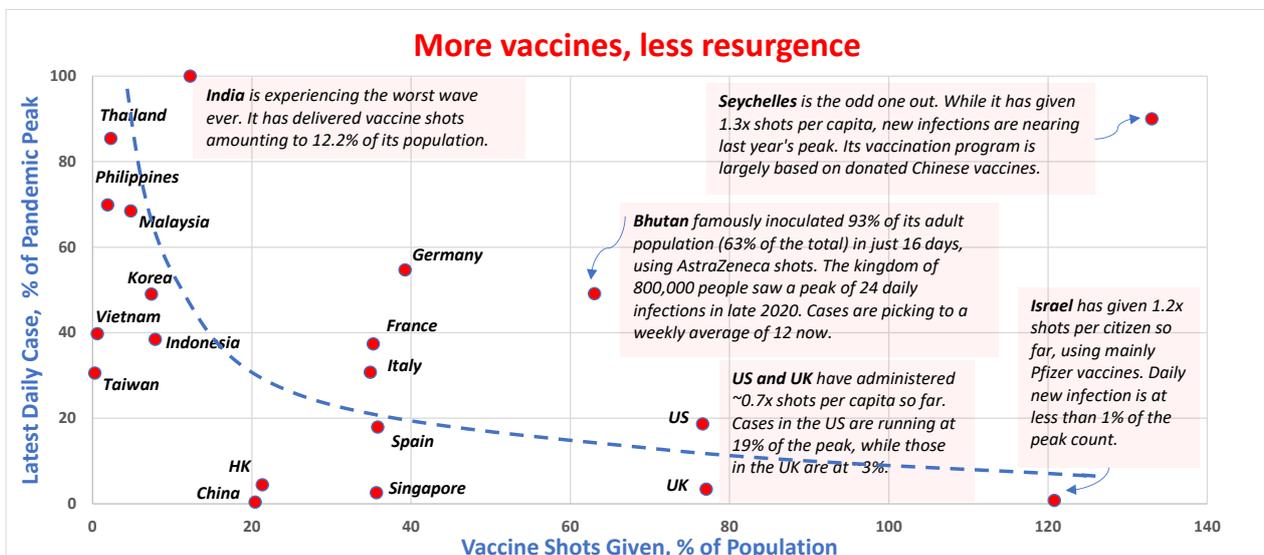
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Wellian Wiranto
 +65 6530 6818
WellianWiranto@ocbc.com

Shots vs. Shocks

Vaccinations remain key in curbing the Covid-19 resurgence

- There is a palpable surge in Covid-19 cases of late, and not just in the latest epicentre of India. Given how vaccination drive has underpinned global light-at-the-end-the-tunnel narrative in our fight, the big question is whether a country’s level of vaccinations matters in forming a barrier against the latest virus onslaught. Our quick analysis indicates that is still the case, thankfully.
- Singapore – whose vaccination rate stands at 35.7% per capita, the highest in ASEAN – has seen some uptick in cases of late, but the weekly average of daily cases remains at just 2.6% of the peak seen last year. Next in line in the region is Indonesia, which has offered 7.9 shots per person. So far, it is seeing a relatively stable rate of infections, at around 38% of the peak count.
- In comparison, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines are seeing considerable new bouts of infections now. It is perhaps not a coincidence that the vaccination rates in these ASEAN countries also happen to be low. Thailand, which saw its worst bout ever in late April before cases came down somewhat in recent days, has administered only 2.3 shots per capita.
- Elsewhere, a similar relationship applies. The UK, for instance, is seeing around 2600 cases a day, 3.4% of what it saw early this year, courtesy of its successful vaccination drive which has delivered 77.1% shots per capita so far. Meanwhile, the poster child of Israel, which has given 122% shots per capita, see about 60 daily cases now, compared to the peak of around 8000.
- Still, vaccination on its own may not be enough. Seychelles is seeing a nasty bout despite having given 130% shots per person. While it might bring questions about the efficacy of the vaccines that were used, it appears that [the lack of social-distancing precautions](#) has contributed, as well. As much as shots help to prevent the shocks of resurgence, being sensible matters too.



Source: OCBC, Bloomberg. Note: Daily cases are computed on a weekly average basis to even out variations.

Treasury Research & Strategy

Macro Research

Selena Ling

Head of Research & Strategy
LingSSSelena@ocbc.com

Tommy Xie Dongming

Head of Greater China Research
XieD@ocbc.com

Wellian Wiranto

Malaysia & Indonesia
WellianWiranto@ocbc.com

Howie Lee

Thailand & Commodities
HowieLee@ocbc.com

Carie Li

Hong Kong & Macau
carierli@ocbcwh.com

Herbert Wong

Hong Kong & Macau
herberhtwong@ocbcwh.com

FX/Rates Strategy

Frances Cheung

Rates Strategist
FrancesCheung@ocbc.com

Terence Wu

FX Strategist
TerenceWu@ocbc.com

Credit Research

Andrew Wong

Credit Research Analyst
WongVKAM@ocbc.com

Ezien Hoo

Credit Research Analyst
EzienHoo@ocbc.com

Wong Hong Wei

Credit Research Analyst
WongHongWei@ocbc.com

Seow Zhi Qi

Credit Research Analyst
ZhiQiSeow@ocbc.com

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