Deaths in a world where the coronavirus is endemic

A closer look at the data provides a better understanding of what's behind the recent rise in the number of Covid-19 deaths in Singapore

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Spurred by deaths in recent weeks, including the fatal outcome of a 76-year-old woman in late September and another two in early October, researchers are trying to work out what is going on.

"It is important for us to understand why the number of deaths has been rising, and whether this is a trend," said Dr Teo, who is president of the Singapore Medical Association.

"We need to understand whether we are seeing a rise in the severity of illness, or whether there are other factors at play, such as the introduction of new variants or changes in how we are reporting deaths."

The findings could help inform public health policies and guide future vaccine and treatment strategies.

"We are still learning about Covid-19 and its impact on the body," Dr Teo said. "It is important to keep an open mind and be willing to adapt our strategies as new information becomes available."

The latest data from the Ministry of Health shows that there have been 83 deaths in Singapore since the start of the pandemic, with the latest one occurring on October 11.

Of these, 66 were male and 17 were female, with the median age of the deceased being 79 years.

The country has also recorded 1,022 deaths from influenza-like illnesses, with the majority occurring in elderly residents.

In a statement, the ministry said that the number of Covid-19 deaths is "significantly lower" than the number of influenza-like illness deaths.

"We continue to monitor the situation closely and will update the public as necessary," it said.

The data also showed that the average age of those who died from Covid-19 was 82 years, compared to 68 years for those who died from influenza-like illnesses.

"This is consistent with what we have seen in previous years, where older adults are at higher risk of severe illness and death," the ministry said.

It added that the risk of death from Covid-19 has declined over time as more effective vaccines and treatments become available.

"We encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to continue following safety measures, such as wearing masks and social distancing, to protect themselves and others from the virus," the ministry said.

The latest data from the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that the global death toll from Covid-19 has increased by 30% in the past week, with more than 30,000 deaths reported worldwide.

"We are seeing a worrying trend of rising Covid-19 deaths, particularly in elderly and vulnerable populations," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "This is a reminder of the importance of vaccination and the need for continued caution and vigilance."