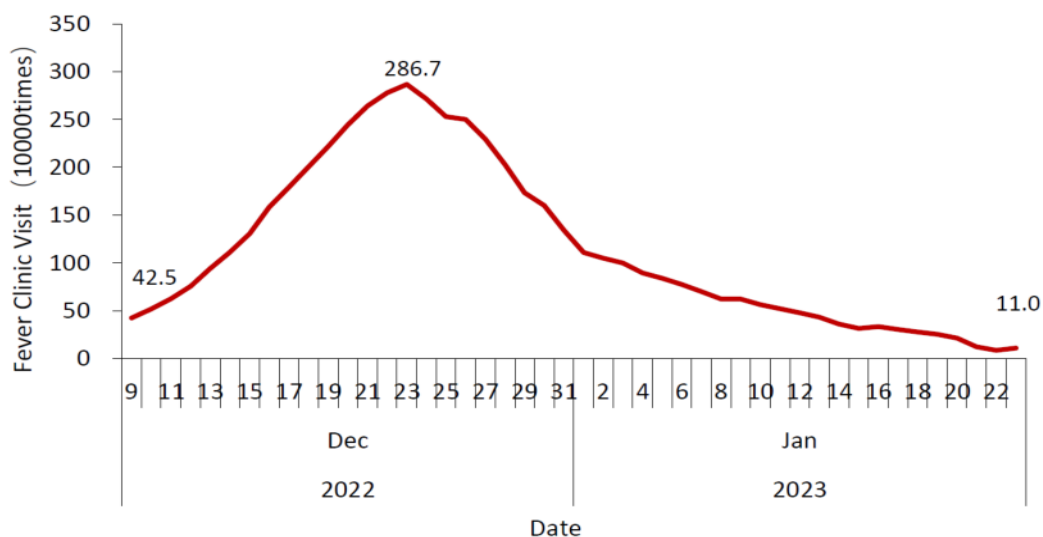


## Annex 2. Summary of the update on the COVID-19 situation released by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention on 25 January 2023

On 25 January, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued an update<sup>4</sup> on the COVID-19 situation in the country (all subsequent references to China exclude Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, and Taiwan). Below is a summary of what was reported. WHO has not yet conducted an independent analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic situation in China as we do not have access to the data underpinning this overview.

**Consultations at fever clinics:** Using proxy indicators to assess the burden of COVID-19, health authorities in China report that they have been monitoring outpatient visits to fever clinics set up in primary and secondary health care facilities across the country. Consultations in fever clinics reached a peak of 2.867 million visits on 22 December 2022, and have since been declining in both rural and urban areas to 63 000 (97.8% from the peak) on 23 January 2023 (Figure 5).

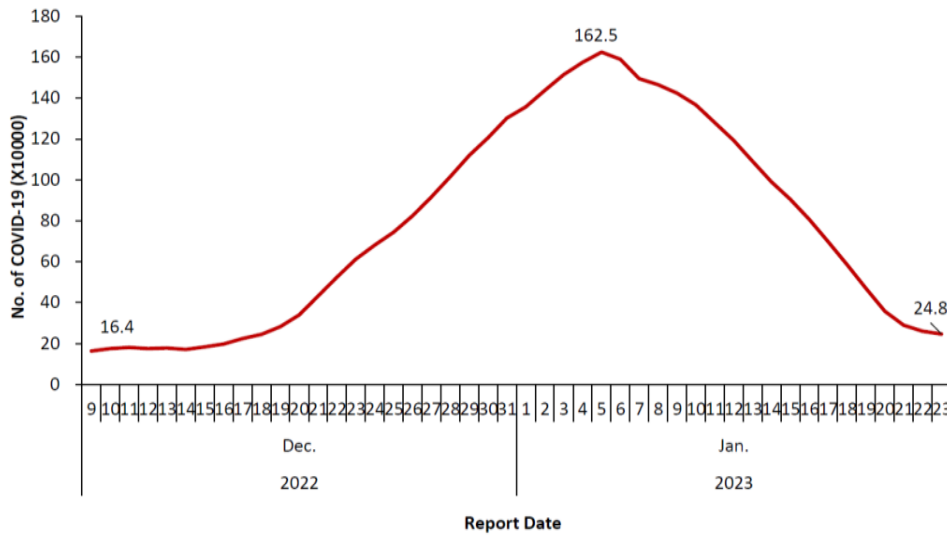
Figure 5. Trend in the number of daily fever clinic visits in China from 9 December 2022 to 23 January 2023.<sup>4</sup>



**COVID-19 hospitalizations:** According to the analysis released by China, the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations reached a nationwide peak of 1.625 million on 5 January 2023 and has been steadily declining over the last month to 248 000 (85% decrease from the peak) on 23 January (Figure 6). Furthermore, from 27 December 2022 to 3 January 2023, the number of newly hospitalized SARS-CoV-2 positive patients classified as ‘severe’ increased rapidly, and reached a peak of 128 000 on 5 January. The number of severe COVID-19 patients has decreased to 36 000 (72% decrease from the peak) on 23 January 2023.

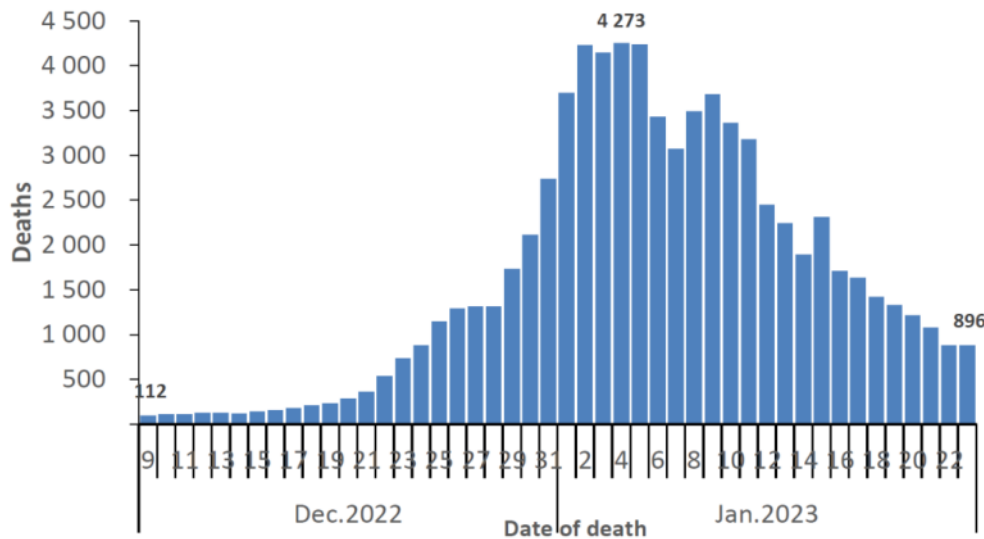
<sup>4</sup> China CDC

Figure 6. Trend in the number of daily COVID-19 hospitalizations in China from 9 December 2022 to 23 January 2023.<sup>4</sup>



**COVID-19-related deaths:** In the update, health authorities in China state that the number of new daily COVID-19-related deaths in hospitals reached a peak of 4273 on 4 January 2023, and steadily declined to 896 (79% decrease from the peak) on 23 January (Figure 7).<sup>4</sup> From 13 to 19 January, there were 12 658 new COVID-19 related deaths (681 deaths caused by respiratory failure due to COVID-19).

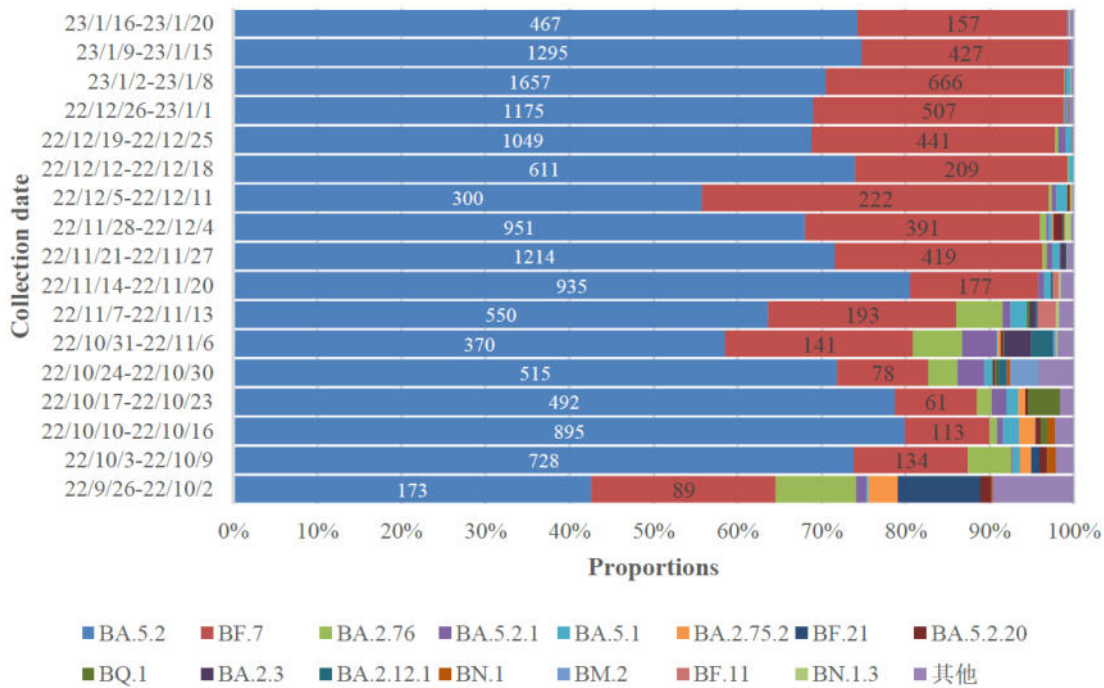
Figure 7. Trend in the daily number of COVID-19-related deaths among hospitalized cases in China from 9 December 2022 to 23 January 2023.<sup>4</sup>



**SARS-CoV-2 variants:** According to the update from Chinese authorities, from 26 September 2022 to 23 January 2023, 18 906 sequences were analyzed across the country. The prevalence of subvariants is shown in Figure 8. BA.5.2 (70.8%) and BF.7 (23.4%) were the most common circulating subvariants. Regarding regional differences, based on available data, BF.7 is the dominant in Beijing and Tianjin, and BA.5.2 is the dominant in most other provinces.

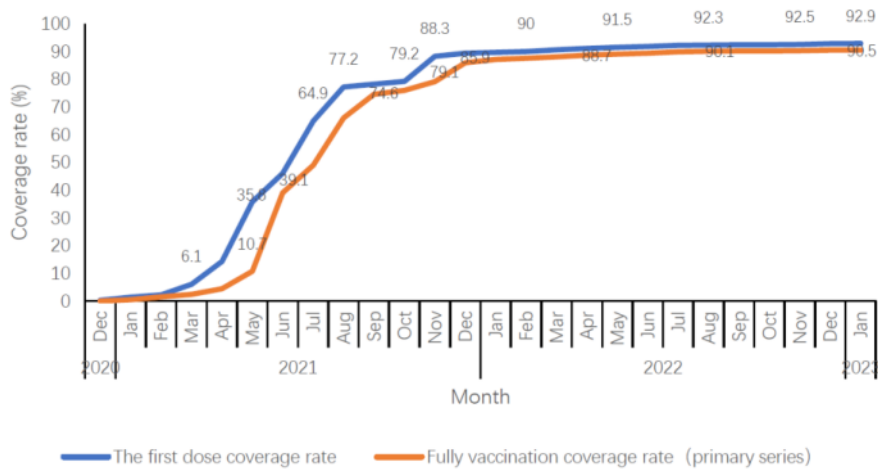
<sup>4</sup> China CDC

Figure 8. Number of COVID-19 variants from sequences in China from 26 September 2022 to 20 January 2023.<sup>4</sup>



**COVID-19 vaccination:** As of 20 January 2023, Chinese authorities report that 3.488 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered in the country. About 90.5% of the population has received the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. Additionally, among the population over 60 years, 92% of those who completed the primary vaccination series have also received a booster dose. No information is available on the percentage of the whole population over 60 who have completed the primary vaccination series or received a booster dose.

Figure 9. Monthly trend in COVID-19 vaccination coverage for the first dose and full primary vaccination series in China from December 2020 to January 2023.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> China CDC