

Situation Update #101 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 14 - 20 March 2022 (EPI Week 11)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 20 March 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 21 March 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.4% (962,582) of cases have recovered, 0.3% (3,241) are active cases and 1.2% (11,950) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 98.2% (3,183) cases are in home isolation; 1.8% (58) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 0.8% (27) of active cases require ICU admission, 18.5% (5) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- None of the districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (218) reported this week, 38.5% (84) are from Kathmandu district followed by Kaski district 7.8% (17). Majority of the new cases 41.7% (91) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 20 March 2022)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 20 March 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 978,155

Antigen RDT: 140,079

Cumulative deaths: 11,950

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,505,846

Antigen RDT: 1,111,325

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

56,739,711 (12%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

771,822 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

468,506,677 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,075,410 (100%)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,074,705	First dose	10,232,439	Single dose	3,198,071	First dose	324,485	First dose	3,066,484
Second dose	3,997,478	Second dose	9,002,870			Second dose	235,155	Second dose	2,285,548

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 20 March 2022, a total of 978,155 COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 5,505,846 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 140,079 cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 1,111,325 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 11 ranged from 0.8% (Bagmati province) to 7.0% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 1.0%. Karnali province did not report any PCR test conducted in the past week.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (575,126/978,155) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (450,379/575,126) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).
- A total of 22,100 RT-PCR tests were performed in week 11, 41% less than that in week 10 (37,671). A total of 16,642 Antigen tests were performed in week 11, 6% less than that in week 10 (17,771). A

total of 38,742 tests (PCR plus AgRDT) were performed in week 11, 30% less than that in week 10 (55,442).

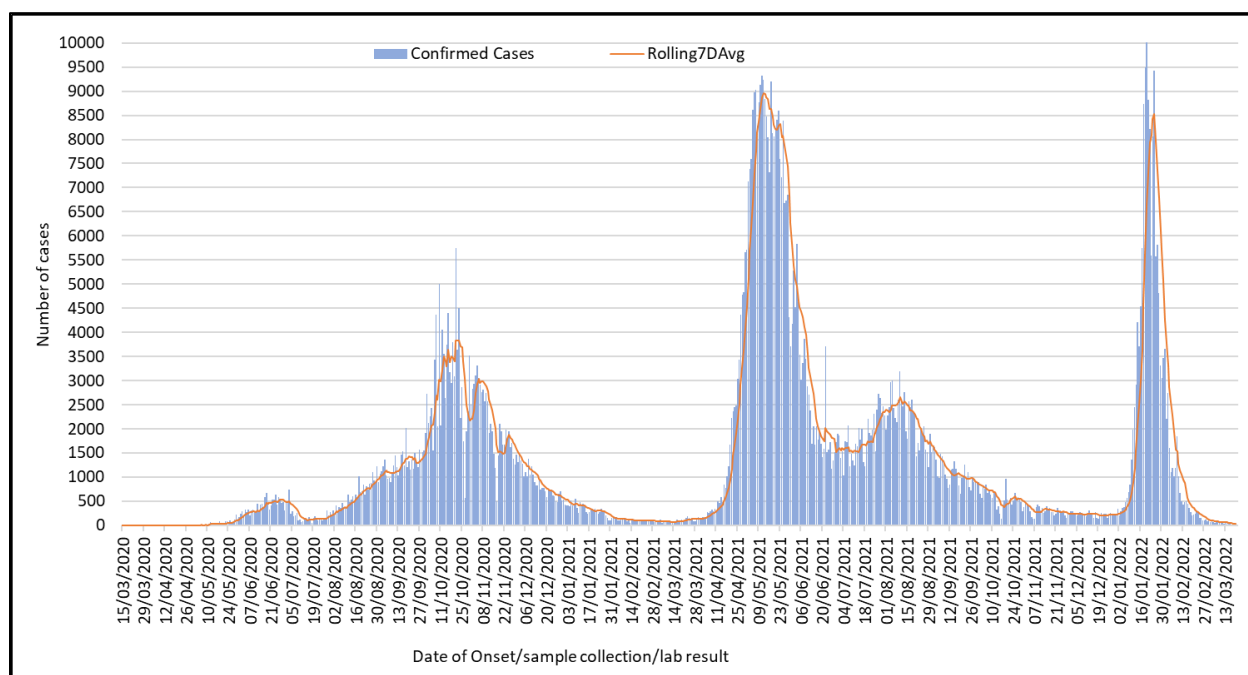
National Influenza Surveillance

- NIC-NPHL reported 11 Diagnostic and Surveillance Influenza samples (3 samples tested at NPHL and 8 samples tested at Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal) on EPID-week 11 (14th -20th March 2022). None of the samples tested positive for Influenza. Three samples that tested Negative for Influenza at NPHL were tested for SARS-CoV-2. None of those samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested Negative at NPHL on EPID-week 11 (14th-20th March 2022), 93 SARS-CoV-2 samples have been tested for Influenza. None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
- From January 3rd, 2022 until March 20th, 2022:
 - A total of 4 samples have been tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B Positive and 2 Influenza A/H3) from 1436 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 203 samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 394 influenza negative samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples)¹.

WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000). Link Here- <https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/>

¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

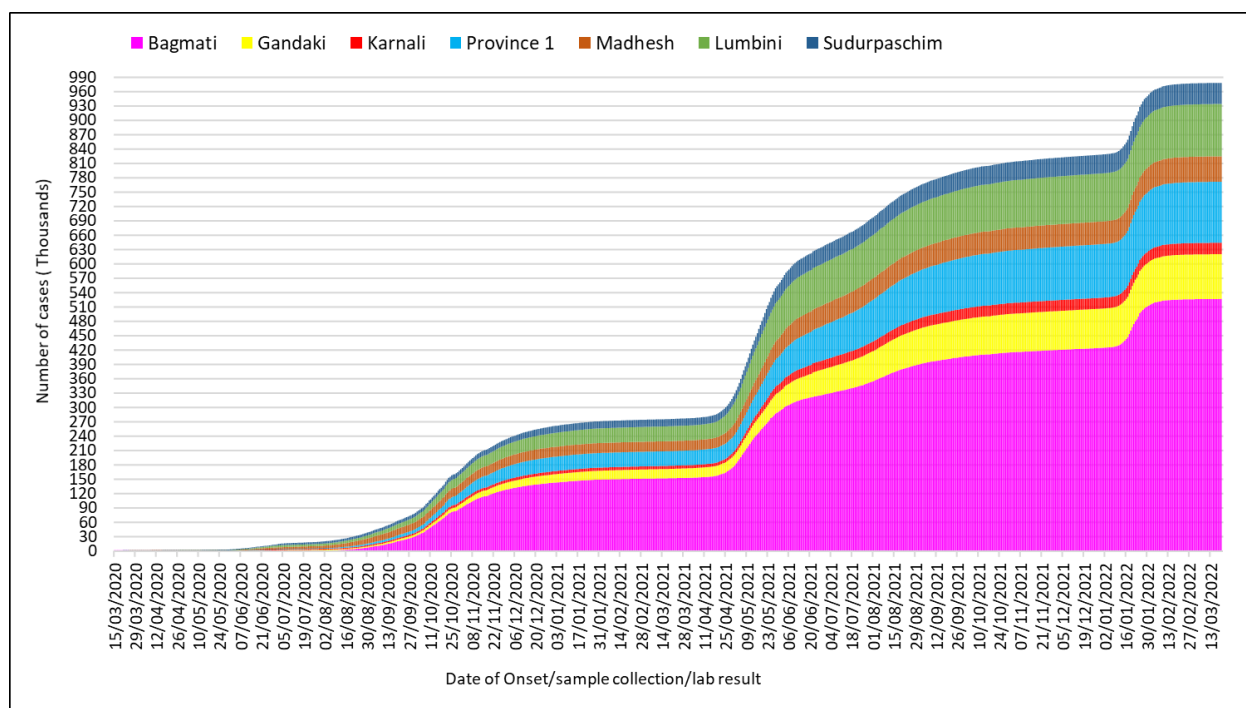
Figure 1: RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N=978,155) (Data reported on 20 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation. Clinical information **presented here is collected on the day of sample collection.**

At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end of January 2022, however the trend has been decreasing since then.

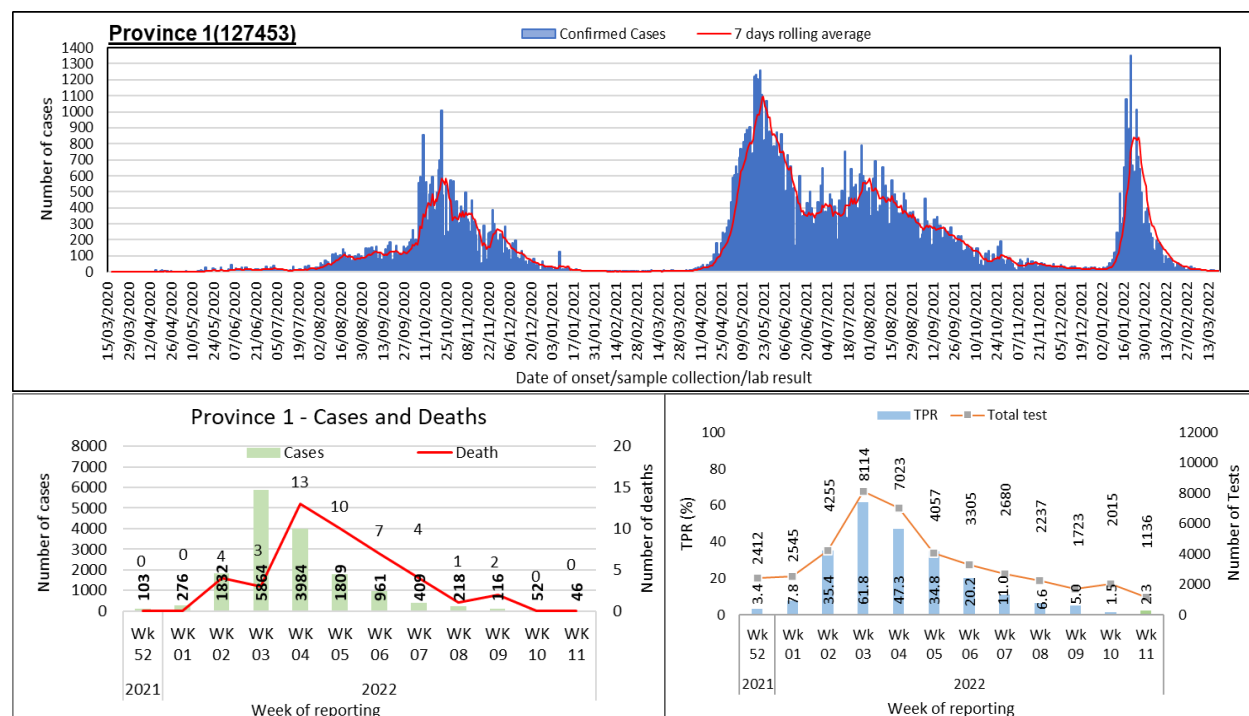
Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases by province (N=978,155) (Data reported on 20 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here).
Reference dates used in order of preference as available - Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case was confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

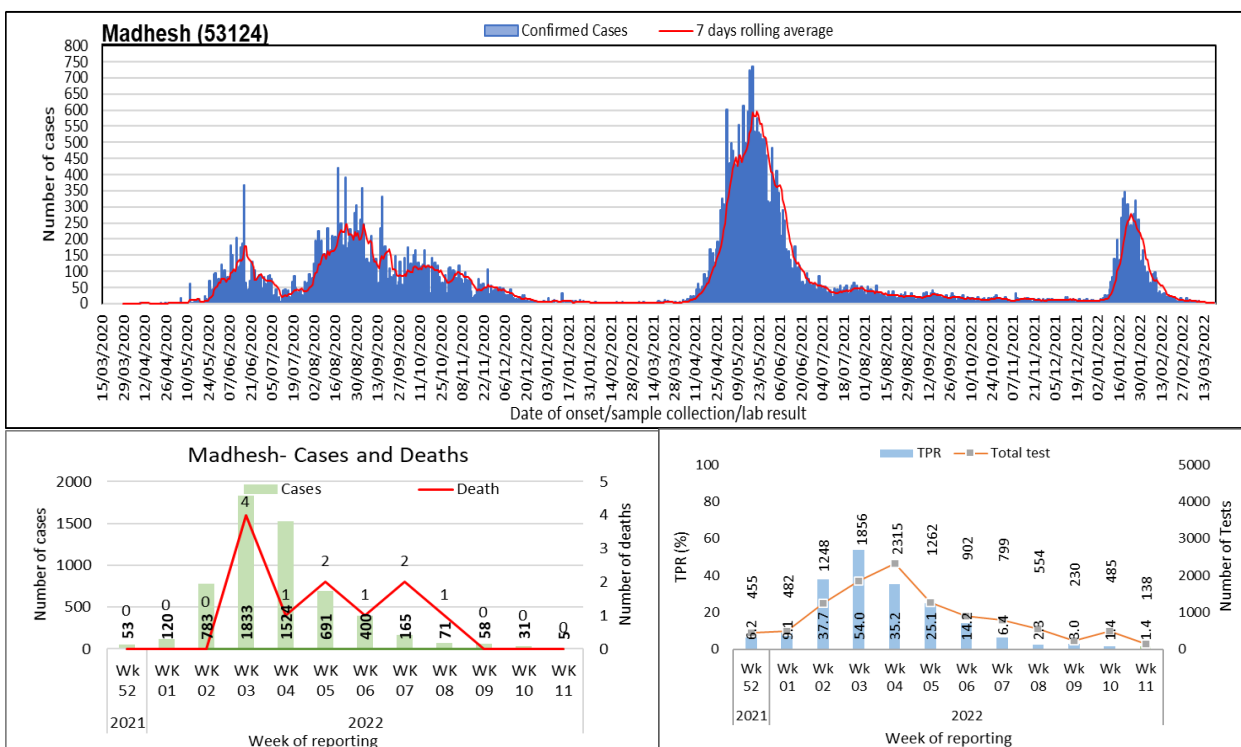
Figure 3A1: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Province 1: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 20 March 2022)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

There were 46 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 12% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 2.3% in the past week. A total of 1136 tests were performed in the past week, 44% more than that in the previous week.

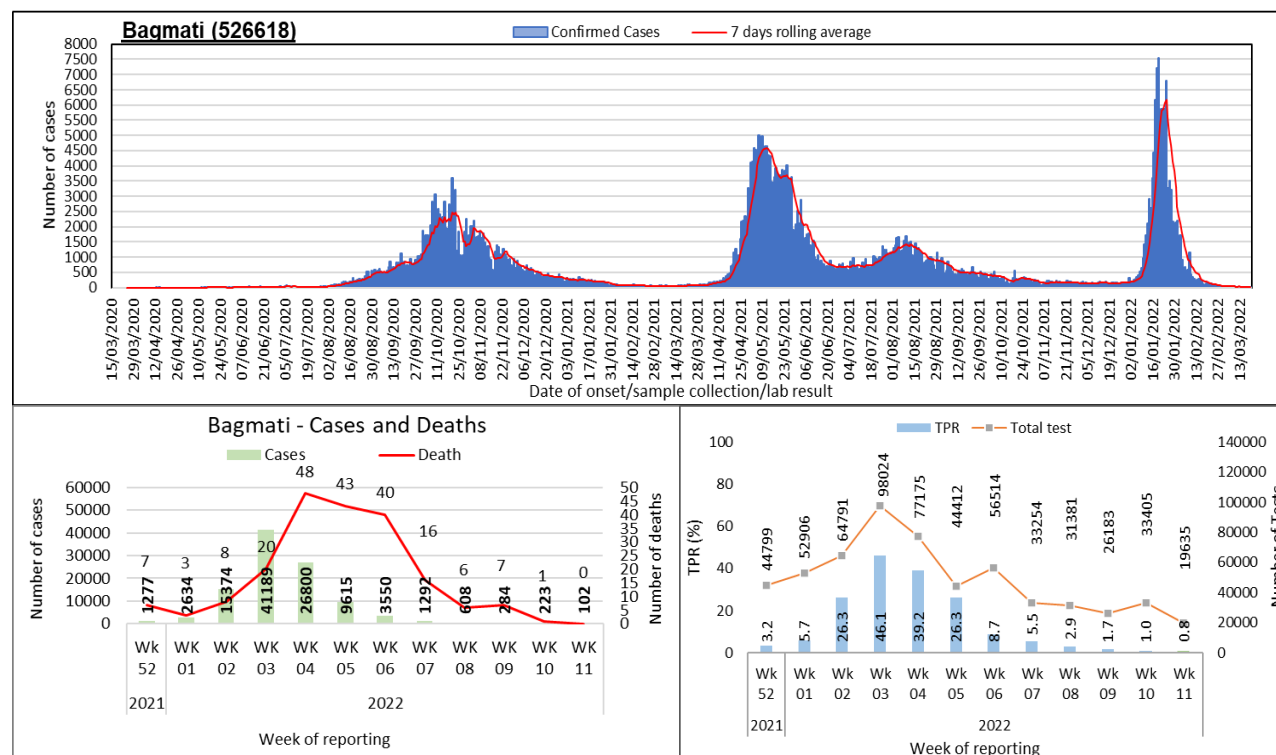
Figure 3A2: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Madhesh Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 20 March 2022)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here).
Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

There were 5 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 84% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh Province decreased to 1.4% in the past week. A total of 138 tests were performed in the past week, 72% less than that in the previous week.

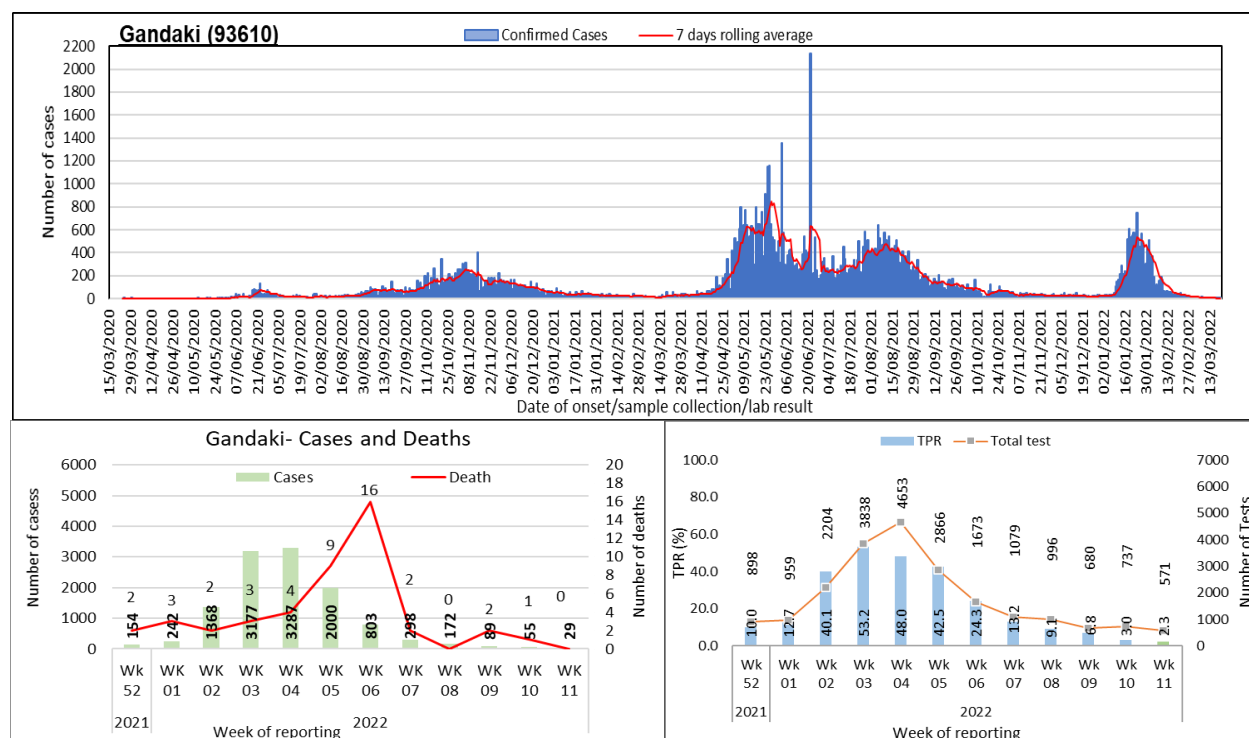
Figure 3A3: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bagmati Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 20 March 2022)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here).
Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

In Bagmati, 102 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 54% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 0.8% in the past week. A total of 19,635 tests were performed in the past week, 41% less than that in the previous week.

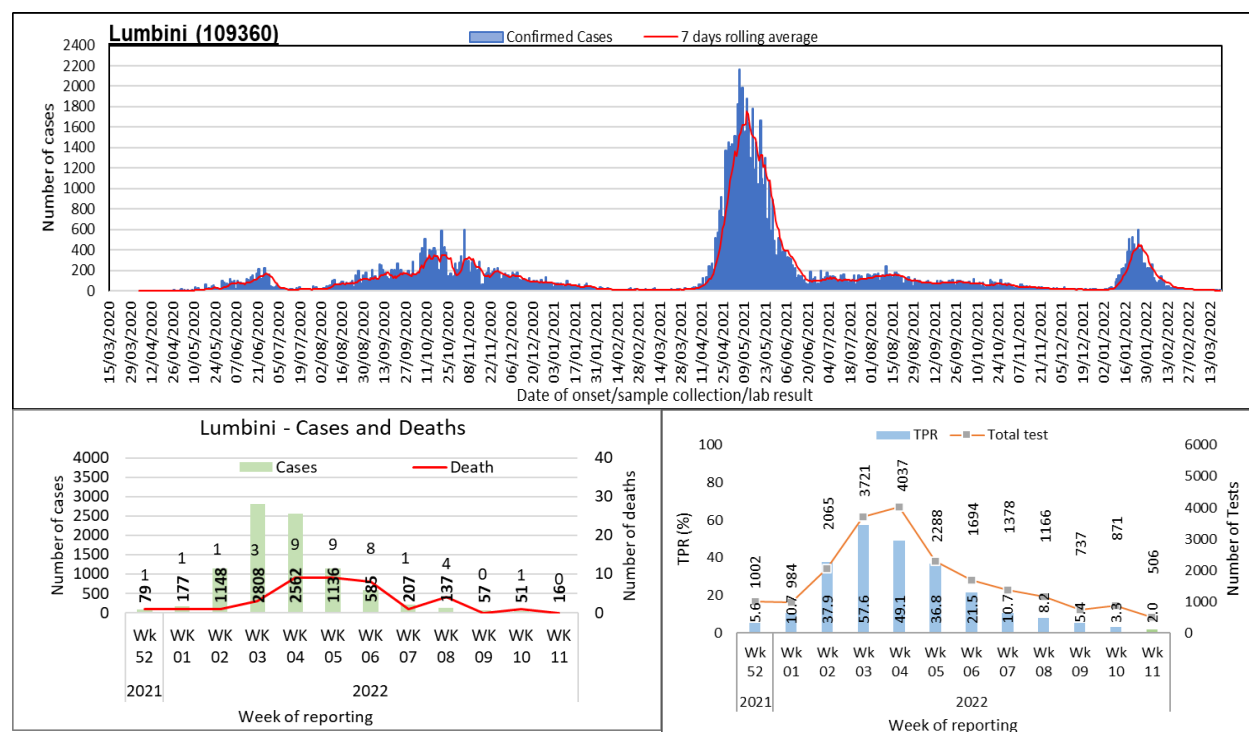
Figure 3A4: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gandaki Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 20 March 2022)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here).
Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

In Gandaki, 29 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 47% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 2.3% in the past week. A total of 571 tests were performed in the past week, 23% less than that in the previous week.

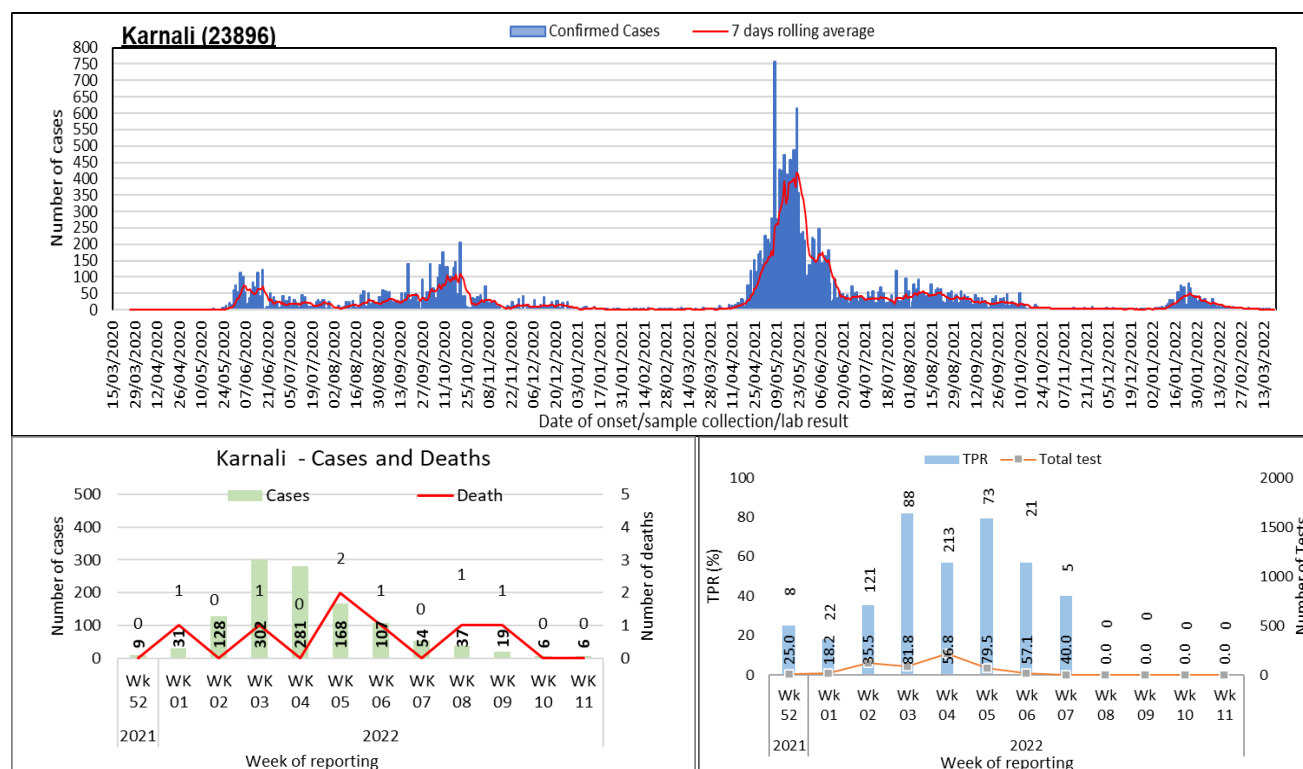
Figure 3A5: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lumbini Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 20 March 2022)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here).
Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

Lumbini reported 16 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 69% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 2.0% in the past week. A total of 506 tests were performed in the past week, 42% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A6: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Karnali Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 20 March 2022)

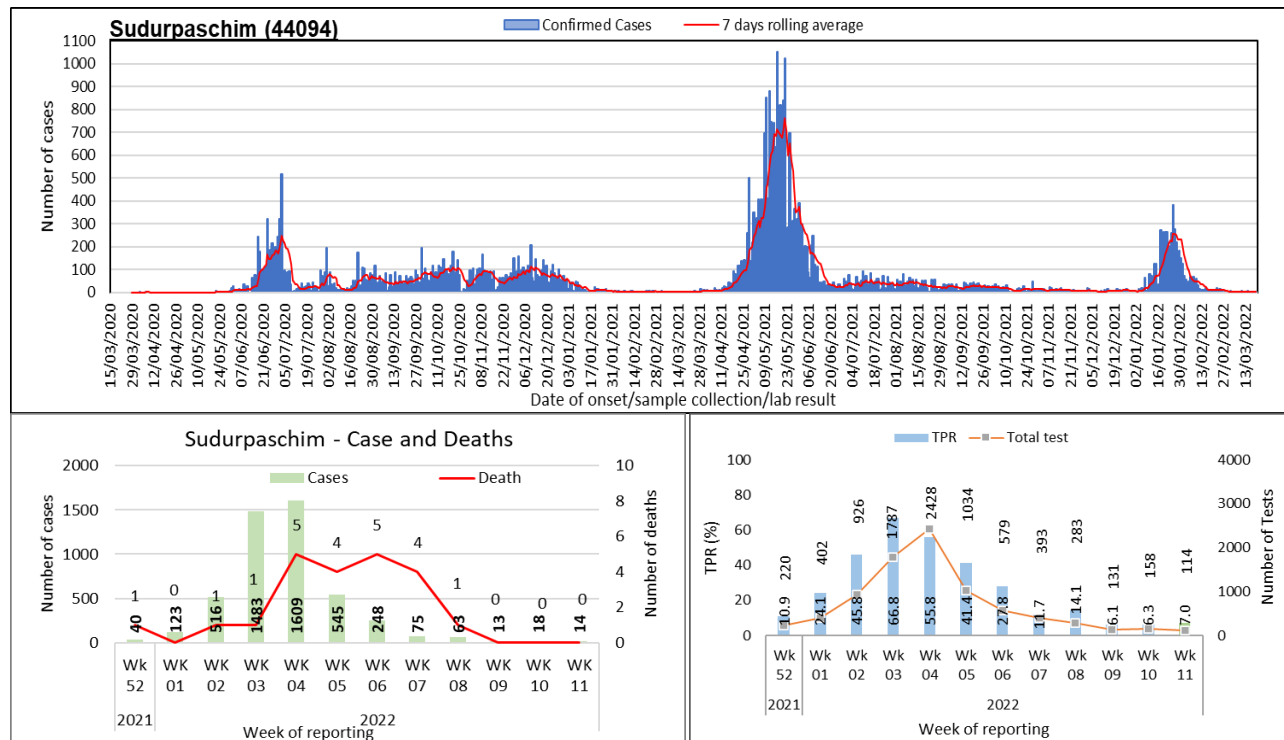


Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

In Karnali, 6 new cases² were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have remained the same in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali remain 0.0% in the past week with no test performed reported in the past week.

² The positive cases were reported either through self-testing or were conducted at other provinces

Figure 3A7: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Sudurpashchim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 20 March 2022)



Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

In Sudurpashchim, 14 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 22% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim increased to 7.0% in the past week. A total of 114 tests were performed in the past week, 28% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 20 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)

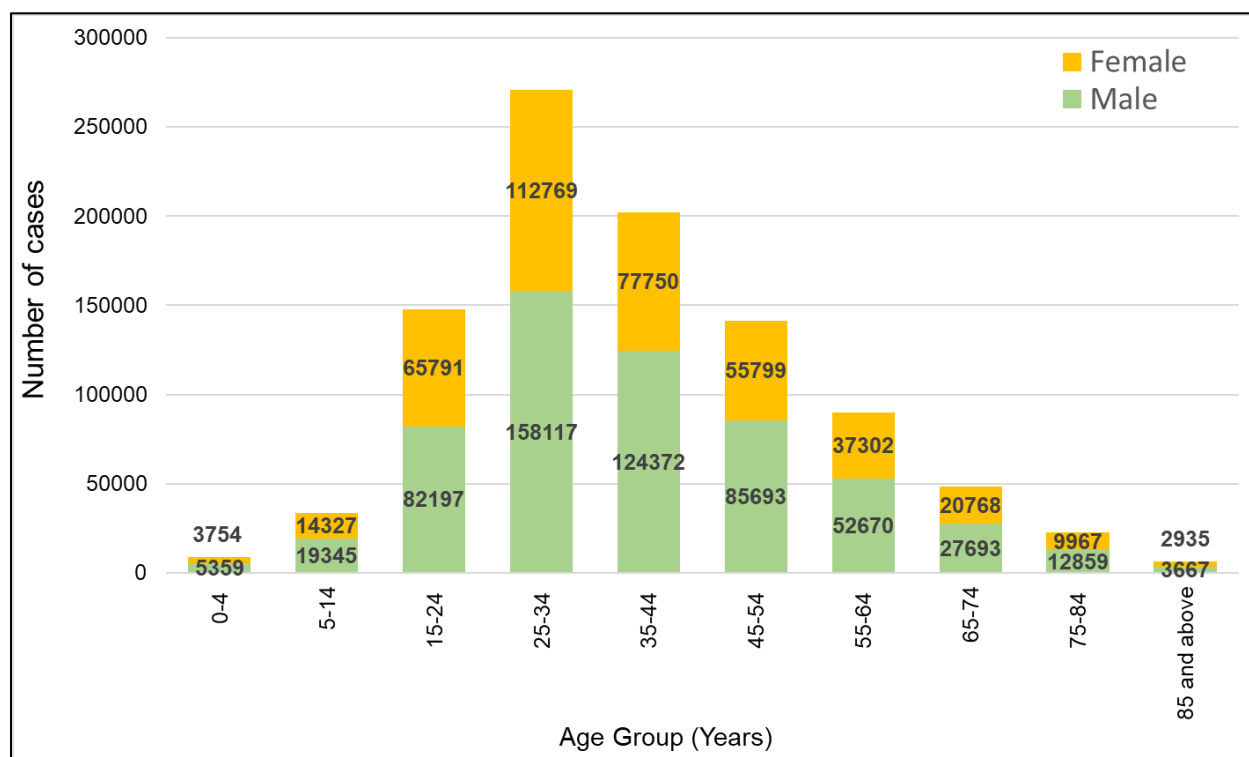
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days RT-PCR test	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days	% of total confirmed cumulative cases in last 14 days	Total Deaths in last 14 days
Province 1	127453	29604	157057	14.3	1714	Community transmission	12	98	110	9.5	0
Madhesh	53124	1150	54274	4.9	783	Community transmission	2	36	38	3.3	0
Bagmati	526618	29927	556545	50.7	5163	Community transmission	109	325	434	37.6	1
Gandaki	93610	22851	116461	10.6	1419	Community transmission	21	84	105	9.1	1
Lumbini	109360	25504	134864	12.3	1864	Community transmission	98	67	165	14.3	1
Karnali	23896	5869	29765	2.7	491	Community transmission	241	12	253	21.9	0
Sudurpashchim	44094	5422	49516	4.5	516	Community transmission	16	32	48	4.2	0
National Total	978155	120327*	1098482	100	11950	Community transmission	499	654	1153	100	3

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 20 March 2022, **140079 but IMU reported **120327***

Notes:

1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT- PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep; and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as cities name in place of districts, district name in place of province etc.
3. Whereas the test positivity rate is calculated based on the test positivity reported in Sitrep for RT-PCR which may or may not be scrutinized or cleaned the same way and mark the cases on location of the laboratories rather than their place of residence.

Figure 4: Distribution of RT-PCR positive COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N=973,134) (Data reported on 20 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)



Note: Core epidemiological variables under process for 5021 cases.

Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males. The incidence of cases is higher in the economically productive age group (15-54 years) for both males and females.

Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths in RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N=978,155) (Data reported on 20 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)

Age Group (Years)	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4	9113	16	23	13	0.43
5-14	33672	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	147988	91	96	69	0.13
25-34	270886	386	264	149	0.24
35-44	202122	875	450	279	0.66
45-54	141492	1385	643	564	1.43
55-64	89972	1682	796	769	2.75
65-74	48461	1631	884	940	5.19
75-84	22826	1221	654	762	8.21
85+	6602	519	288	274	12.22
Unknown	5021	19	7	11	0.52
National	978155	7838	4112	3840	1.22

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$

Note: COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

A total of 11,950 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,838 (65.6%) were male and 4,112 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,840 persons (32.1%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, it progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 5.2% to 12.2%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

What are the Government of Nepal (GoN) & the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) doing?

- COVID-19 vaccination campaign is going simultaneously in all provinces of the country

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

Laboratory Diagnosis

- A total of 55,05,846 RT-PCR tests were performed nationwide by 105 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation (as of 20th March 2022).
- Supported the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of 5 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all participating laboratories was 100% concordant.
- Technical support provided to NPHL in sample preparation for sixth round of SARS-CoV-2 real-time PCR assay proficiency testing of designated COVID-19 laboratories.
- Technical support provided to NPHL in planning of the upcoming meeting on “Coordination and Review on Public Health Laboratory Programs” to be held on 21st and 22nd March, 2022.
- Facilitated NPHL in coordinating with designated COVID-19 laboratories and collecting the poster templates for the upcoming conference program on "COVID-19 Laboratory Experience Sharing".

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training³

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics⁴



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Regular support to Health Coordination Division, Ministry of Health, and Population (MoHP) for National Briefing on COVID-19. This week's briefing discussed the Ministry issued circular on testing of passengers entering Nepal. In coordinating with WHO NTV's Pradesh Sawal team, the initiative of

³ The routine works of the technical expertise and training team are included technical support to the Ministry of Health and Population and its department for developing different guidelines/manuals, conducting health programs and conducting capacity building activities. In order to perform these activities, the team coordinates and discuss with relevant government authorities and partners for effective planning and conducting the various activities.

⁴ The routine works of the operation support and logistics team included technical support to the Management Division of the Department of Health Services for the forecasting, quantification, procurement, and distribution plan of COVID-19 commodities. The other routine activities included daily operational support to the WHO country office and seven provincial health emergency operation centers, including fleet and travel management and the procurement of required logistics and supplies.

Dang district on COVID-19 vaccination was covered in the briefing. Dang district has achieved more than 96% coverage of COVID-19 vaccination to the target population of 18 years and above and is planning to declare the fully vaccinated district soon.

- Ministry of Health and Population is conducting an Intra Action Review on the national response to COVID-19 with a focus on key thematic areas crucial to tackling the pandemic meeting on 29 and 30 March 2022. In this regard, NHEICC is leading on Risk Communication and Community Engagement Pillar and will organize a partners meeting which is being supported by WHO.
- Episode 68 of *Science in 5 (Update on Long COVID)* was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
 - i. Maithili: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive  [link](#); YouTube [link](#)
 - ii. Nepali: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive  [link](#); YouTube [link](#)
- Episode 25 of *Science in 5* podcast in Nepali language was released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)). The topic of the episode was how our body develops immunity after being infected with a new virus, such as SARS-CoV-2. The news was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)). The teaser was also shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)).
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)): *Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*, *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*, and The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - i. Safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - ii. COVID-19 variants,
 - iii. Ending violence against women and COVID-19,
 - iv. Harmful use of alcohol and tobacco and COVID-19,
 - v. Importance of a healthy lifestyle and COVID-19,
 - vi. Reducing risk for noncommunicable diseases and COVID-19,
 - vii. Safe celebrations of festivals during COVID-19.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- UNICEF and WHO are providing overall support for COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with health partners and donors.
- All members of the Health Cluster are advocating swift supply of COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal through available channels.
- All members of the Health Cluster are supporting the COVID-19 vaccination campaign of Nepal.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID-19 responses to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.

WHO's STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE- [link here](#) RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [EPI-WIN](#): tailored information for individuals, organizations and communities

USEFUL LINKS

- MoHP COVID-19 official portal is available [here](#).
- Nepal COVID-19 regular updates and resources are available [here](#)
- For COVID-19 updates from the WHO South-East Asia Region Office, please visit [here](#).
- For information about coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic from WHO, please visit [here](#)
- Please visit this [site](#) for all technical guidance from WHO.
- Online courses on COVID-19 from WHO can be found [here](#)
- WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard can be found [here](#)
- Visit the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

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