

Situation Update #116 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 27 June – 03 July 2022 (EPI Week 26)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 03 July 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 04 July 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.7% (979,801) of cases have recovered, 0.03% (333) are active cases and 1.2% (11,952) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 98.8% (329) cases are in home isolation; 1.2% (4) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation which require ICU admission of which while one require ventilator support.
- None of the districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (268) reported this week, 60.1% (161) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district 12.7% (34). Majority of the new cases 74.6% (200) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.
- **COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 3 July 2022)**

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 03 July 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 979,801

Antigen RDT: 140,513

Cumulative deaths: 11,952

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,761,928

Antigen RDT: 1,232,084

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

58,628,247 (11%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

790,178 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

546,363,985 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,336,802 (100%)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,383,322	First dose	10,334,950	Single dose	3,457,154	First dose	1,131,278	First dose	3,195,720
Second dose	4,637,822	Second dose	9,204,138			Second dose	274,706	Second dose	2,806,010

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, 78.0% (764,722/979,801) of RT-PCR confirmed cases were reported from three provinces, namely- Province 1, Bagmati Province and Lumbini Province. The Kathmandu valley area (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur) in Bagmati Province has substantially high case load with 43.7% of national total (428,241/979,533), and 81.2% of the provincial total (428,441/979,801).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 26 ranged from 2.3% (Bagmati province) to 13.7% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 2.5%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 57% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=268) in Epi week 26 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 85% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 26 same as that in the previous week.

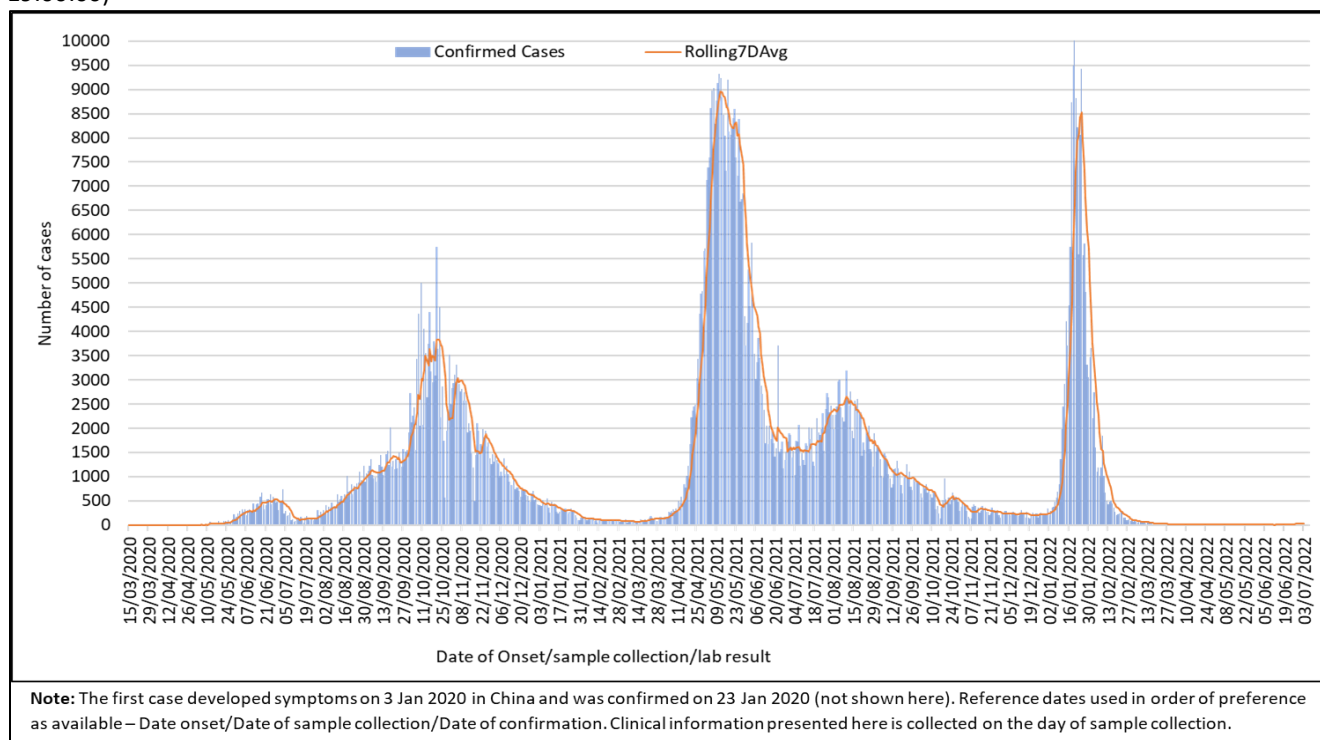
National Influenza Surveillance

- The WHO laboratory capacity pillar provided technical support to NPHL and visited Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) in Madhesh province for the 'Implementation meeting of Integrated Influenza SARS CoV-2 Sentinel Surveillance in Nepal' on 30 June-1 July 2022. The Health Secretary, Ministry of Health, Population and Family Welfare chaired the meeting and representatives from Provincial Health Directorate, PPHL-Madhesh Province, Janakpur Provincial Hospital attended the meeting.
- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 4 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 26 (27 June -3 July 2022).
 - All samples tested negative for both Influenza and SARS-CoV-2.
 - Out of the total negative SARS-CoV-2 samples tested at NPHL on Epi-26, 26 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza. None of the samples tested positive for Influenza A and B.
- PPHL at Province 1, Madhesh Province, Gandaki Province, Lumbini Province and Karnali Province reported testing of 39 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-26. All samples tested negative for both Influenza and SARS-CoV-2. One sample tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. A total of 204 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 3 July 2022.
- WARUN reported testing of 19 Influenza samples on Epi week 26. Two samples tested positive for Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) and 1 sample for Influenza A/H3.
- From 3 January 2022 until 3 July 2022:
 - A total of 20 samples tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B Positive, 7 Influenza A/H3 and 11 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) from 3,050 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 208 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 886 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/>

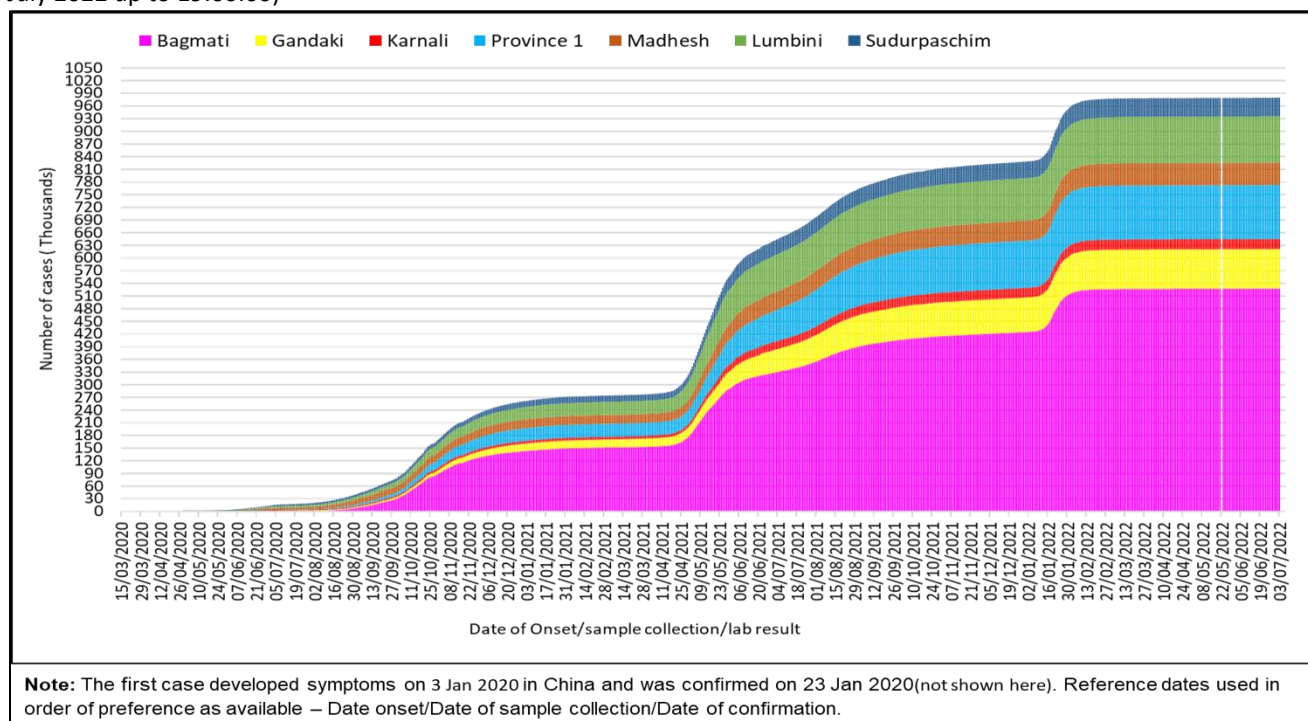
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 979,801) (Data reported on 03 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)



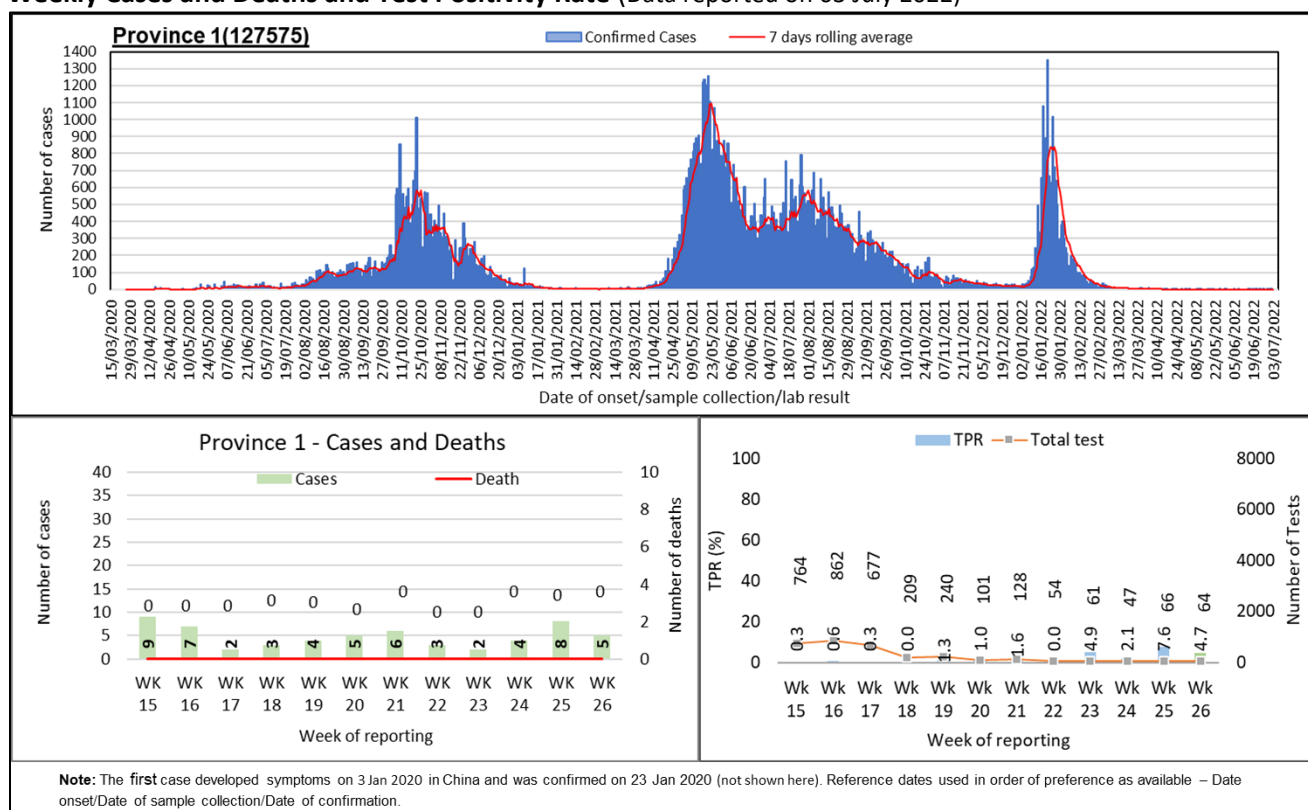
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end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

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N= 979,801) (Data reported on 03 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)



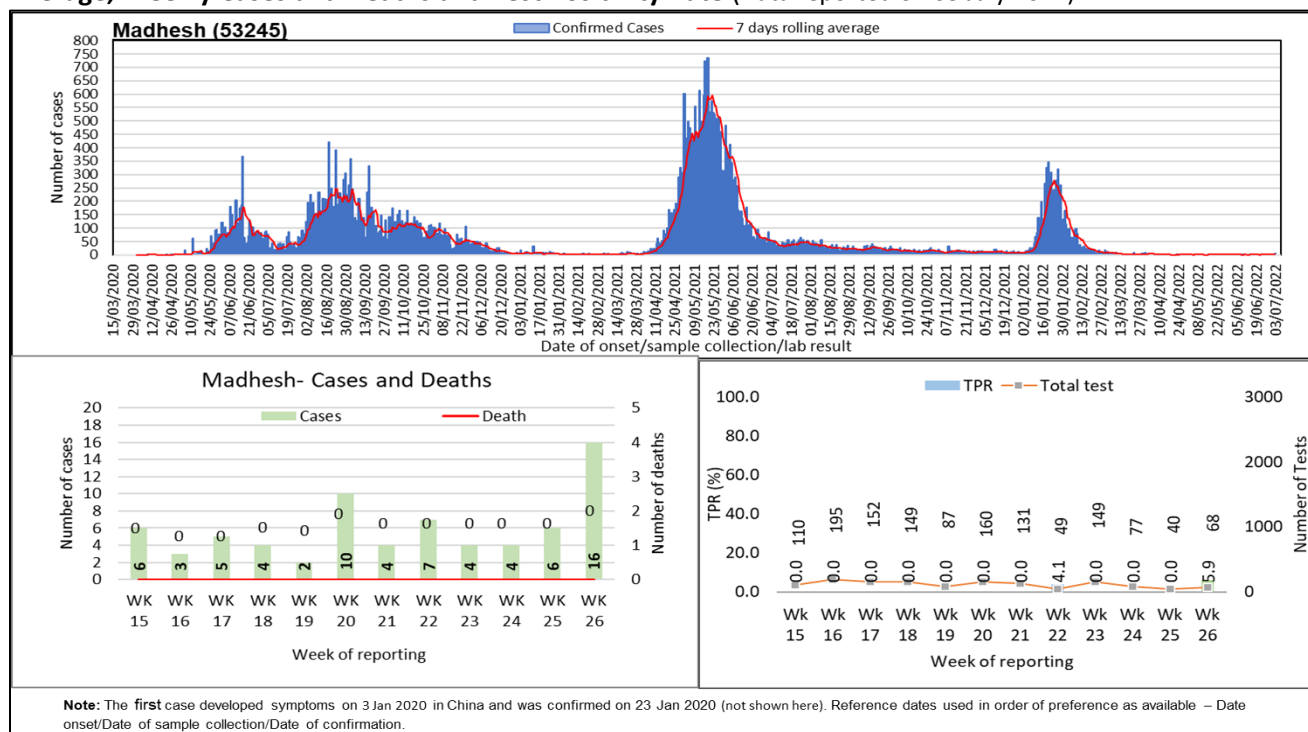
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 03 July 2022)



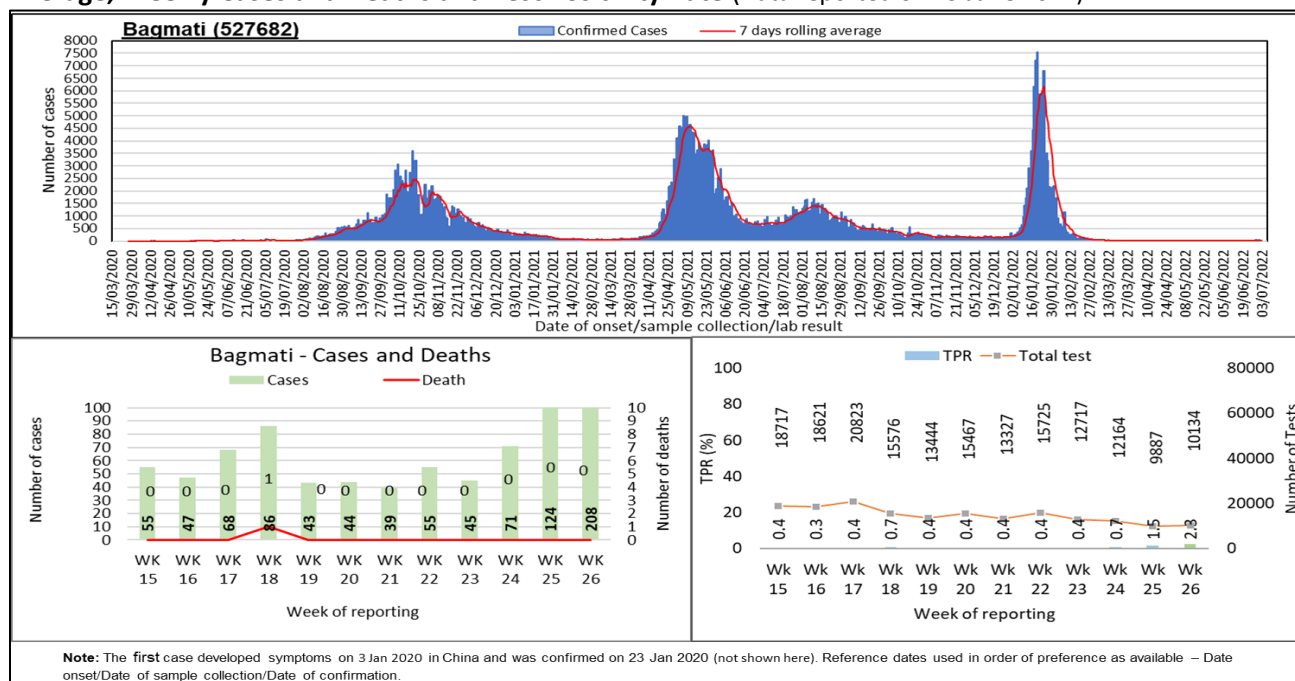
There were 5 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 38% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 4.7% in the past week. A total of 64 tests were performed in the past week, 3% less 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 03 July 2022)



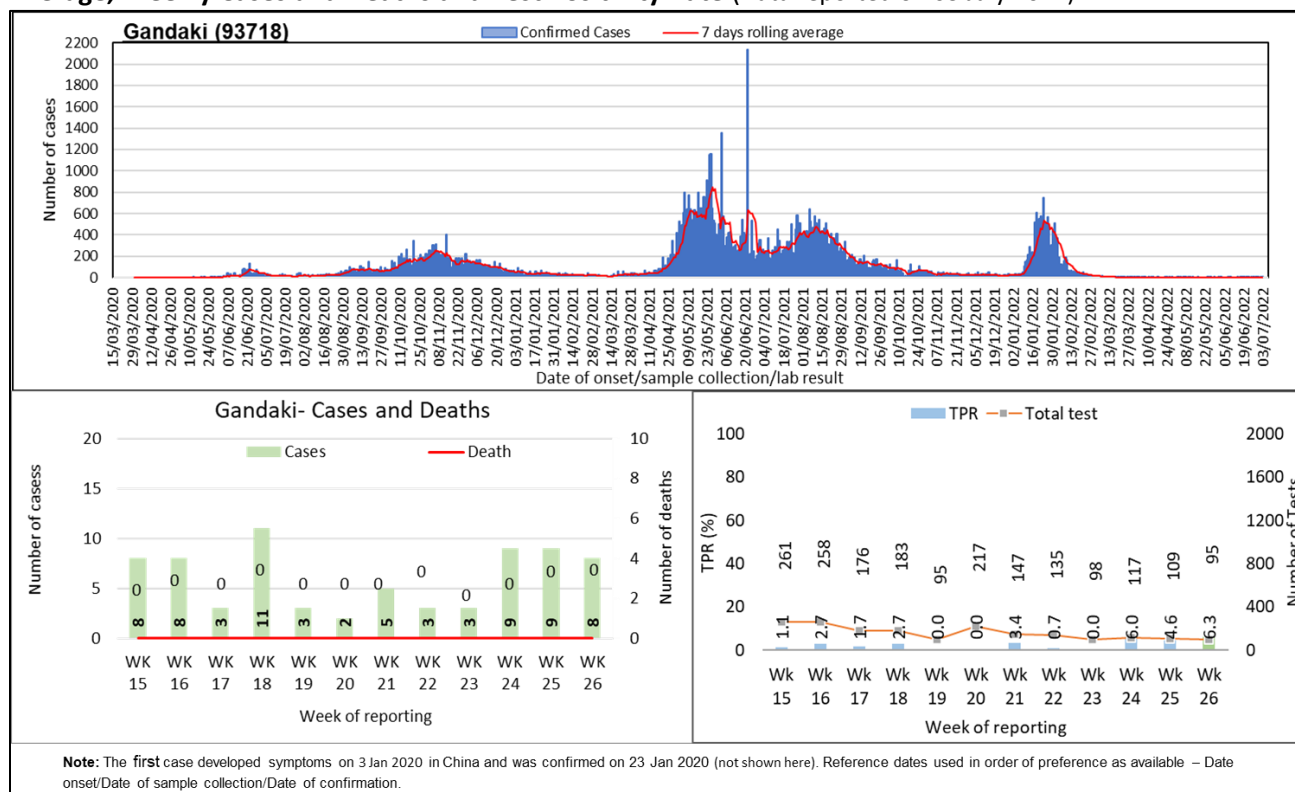
There were 16 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. However, cases have increased by 167% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh increased to 5.9% in the past week. A total of 68 tests were performed in the past week, 70% more 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 19 June 2022)



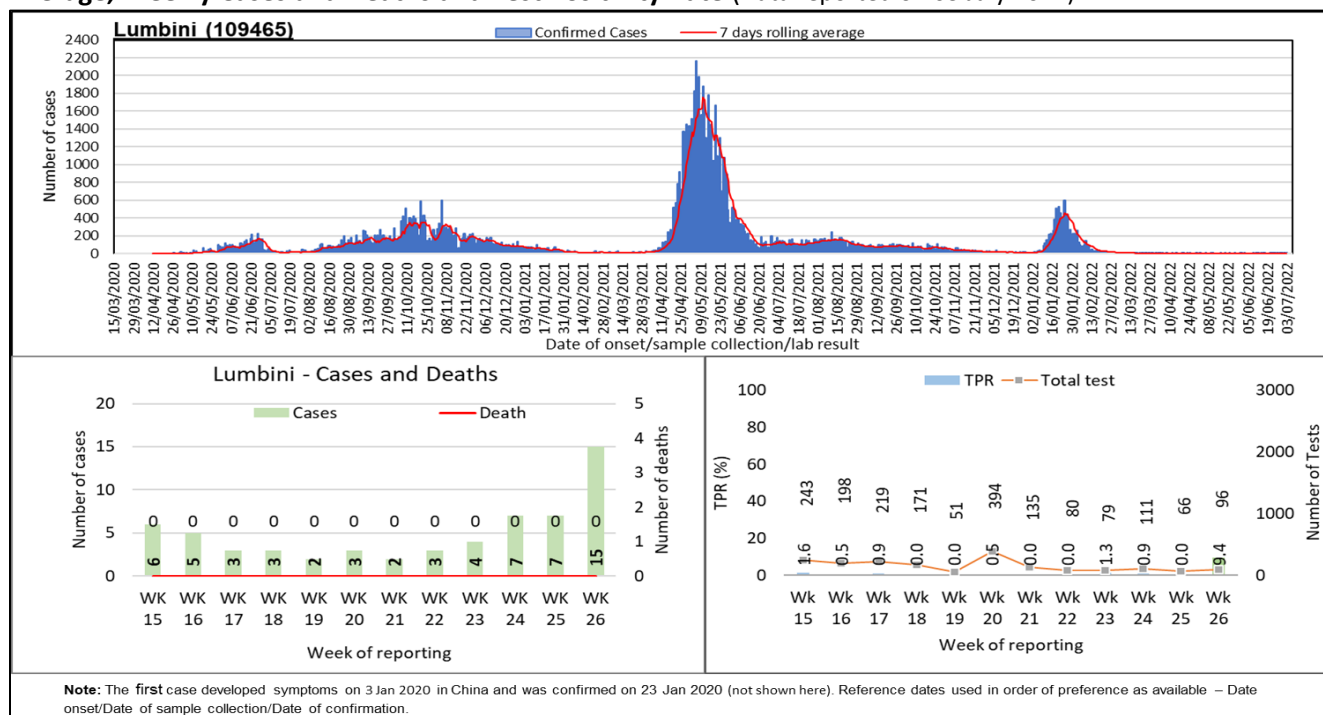
In Bagmati, 208 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. However, cases have increased by 68% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, compared to 1 death in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 2.3% in the past week. A total of 10,134 tests were performed in the past week, 2% more 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 03 July 2022)



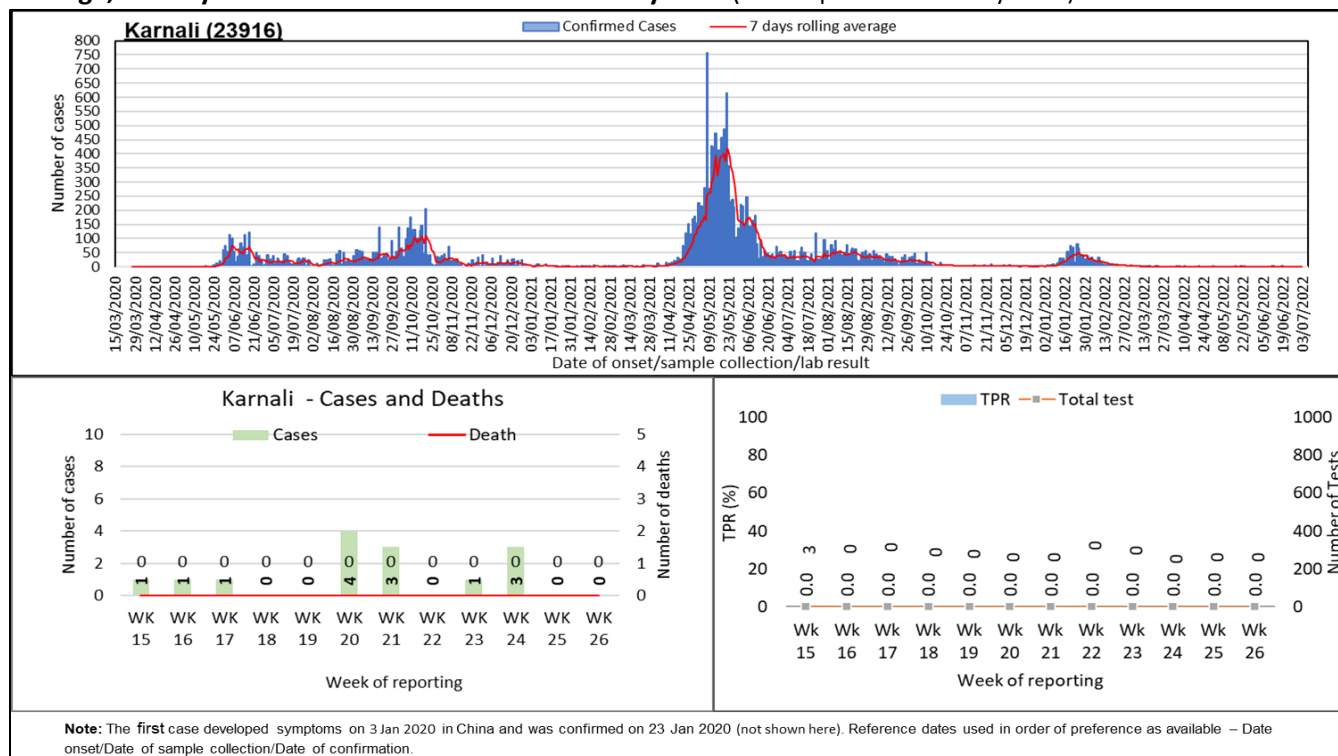
In Gandaki, 8 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 11% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 6.3% in the past week. A total of 95 tests were performed in the past week, 13% 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 03 July 2022)



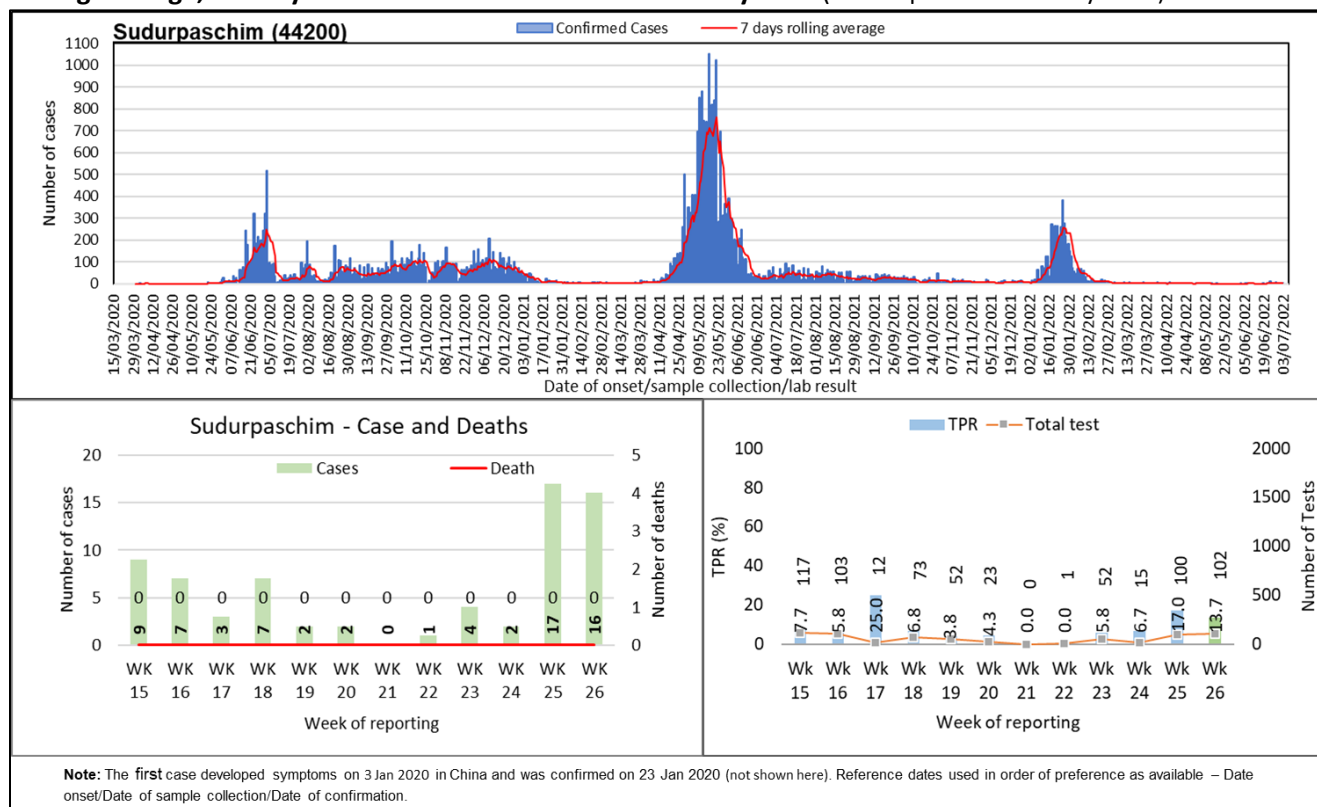
Lumbini reported 15 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. However, cases have increased by 114% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 9.4% in the past week. A total of 96 tests were performed in the past week, 45% 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 03 July 2022)



In Karnali, no new case was reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have remained stable 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 remained stable at 0.0% in the past week with no test performed reported in the past week.

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 03 July 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 16 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 6% 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 Sudurpaschim decreased to 13.7% in the past week. A total of 102 tests were performed reported in the past week, 2% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 03 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)

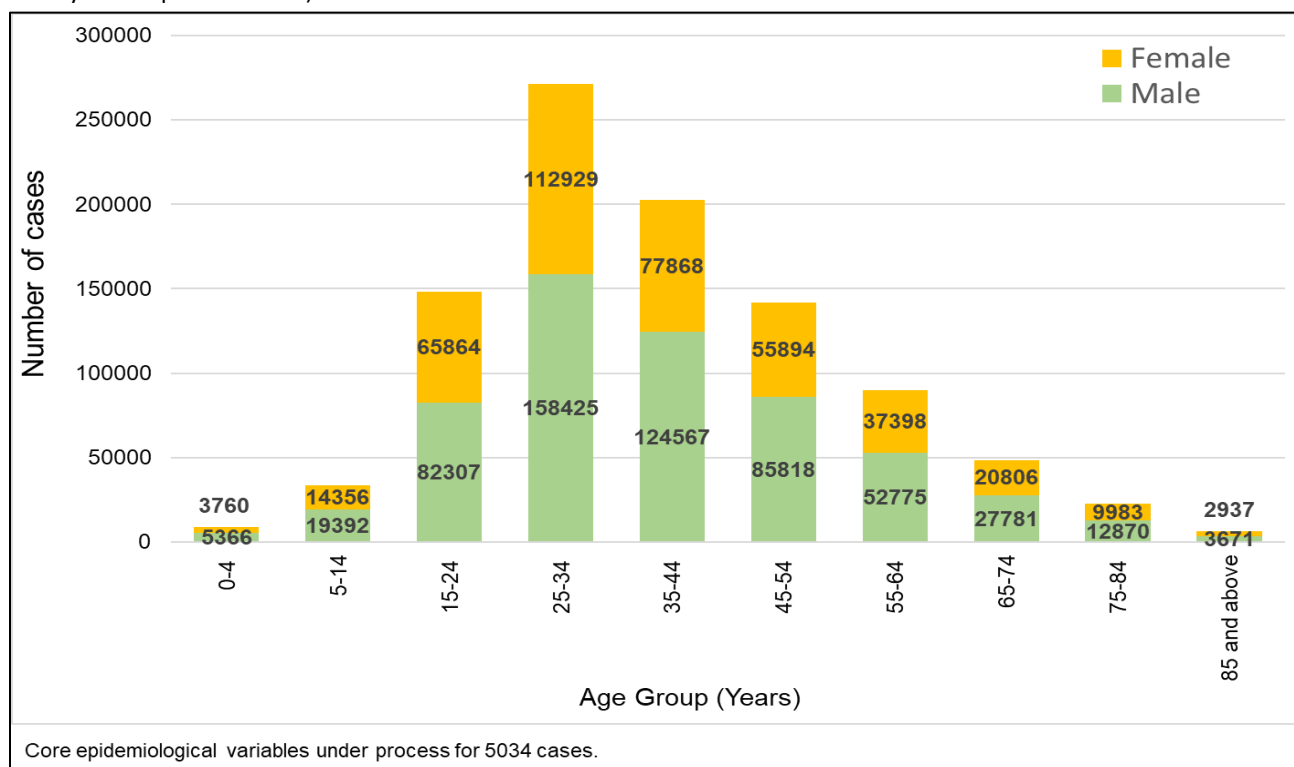
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	127575	29611	157186	14.3	1715	Community transmission	0	13	13	2.8	0
Madhesh	53245	1156	54401	4.9	783	Community transmission	2	22	24	5.1	0
Bagmati	527682	29954	557636	50.7	5164	Community transmission	10	332	342	72.8	0
Gandaki	93718	22875	116593	10.6	1419	Community transmission	3	17	20	4.3	0
Lumbini	109465	25563	135028	12.3	1864	Community transmission	15	22	37	7.9	0
Karnali	23916	5902	29818	2.7	491	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
Sudurpashchim	44200	5426	49626	4.5	516	Community transmission	1	33	34	7.2	0
National Total	979801	120487*	1100288	100	11952	Community transmission	31	439	470	100	0

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 19 June 2022, **140513 but IMU reported **120487***

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= 974,767) (Data reported on 03 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)



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= 979,801) (Data reported on 03 July 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	9126	16	23	13	0.43
5-14	33748	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	148171	91	96	69	0.13
25-34	271354	386	264	149	0.24
35-44	202435	875	450	279	0.65
45-54	141712	1385	644	565	1.43
55-64	90173	1682	796	769	2.75
65-74	48587	1631	885	940	5.18
75-84	22853	1221	654	762	8.2
85+	6608	519	288	274	12.21
Unknown	5034	19	7	11	0.52
National	979801	7838	4114	3841	1.22

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

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

A total of 11,952 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,838 (65.6%) were male and 4,114 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,841 persons (32.1%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 12.22%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- The newly appointed Hon'ble Minister of Health and Population- Mr Bhavani Prasad Khapung and Hon'ble State Minister for Health and Population- Mr Hira KC officially joined the MoHP office from 27 June 2022.
- Government of Nepal has started COVID-19 vaccination (Pfizer) for the 5 to 11 years population in 2 phases from 23 June 2022.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

Laboratory Diagnosis

- A total of 5,761,928 RT-PCR tests were performed nationwide by 106 designated COVID-19 laboratories functional across the nation (as of 3 July 2022).
- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in following activities:
 - 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.
 - Validation of newly established designated COVID-19 laboratories: Hope International Hospital, Kathmandu. The designated laboratory sent 10 positive samples and 10 negative samples to NPHL to undergo the validation process. The result of the laboratory was 100% concordant. WHO supported in the validation, report preparation, and dissemination of the result to the designated laboratory.
 - Conducting genome sequencing of 32 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples.
 - Preparing SoP for Varicella Zoster Virus RT-PCR Testing.
 - Sample preparation for 7th round of Proficiency panel testing (PT) of COVID-19 laboratories. The PT panels have been dispatched to 46 designated laboratories within the Kathmandu Valley.

Epidemiology and Health Information

- Upon the request of Information Management Unit (IMU)/ Integrated Health Information Management Section (IHIMS) of MoHP, WHO Nepal provided support in assessment of 21 vaccine centers of 7 piloting sites across the 7 provinces for COVID-19 vaccine digitization activity. This assessment was conducted by WHE field team stationed at Provincial Health Emergency Operation Centers (PHEOC) with the support of WHE central team from 27 June to 1 July 2022. The findings of the assessment will be shared and discussed in Review Meeting on Piloting of COVID-19 Vaccination Digitization which is planned for 3rd week of July 2022.



*Assessment of vaccine centers conducted at Gandaki Province for piloting of COVID-19 vaccine digitization activity
Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/R.Lalchan*

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training²

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.
- WHO Nepal has provided support in land preparation required for the installation of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections Treatment Facility at Armed Police Force (APF) Hospital at Balambu, Kathmandu district.

² The routine works of the technical expertise and training team 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.

³ 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.



(Left) Traditional rituals before initiating (right) land preparation for installation of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections Treatment Facility at APF Hospital, Balambu, Kathmandu. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/B.Shrestha

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The news of the campaign continuation of COVID-19 vaccines for children (above 5 years - below 12 years) was shared via Facebook and Twitter with various IEC materials.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - AEFI for vaccinating children (above 5 years – below 12 years),
 - Post COVID-19 condition and long COVID-19,
 - Importance of following all public health measures,
 - Noncommunicable diseases and COVID-19.
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*, and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- WHO and MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.
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- Supported to facilitate "Orientation on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Program" organized at Dhangadi, Sudurpashchim Province by Epidemiology and disease control division (EDCD) in coordination with MoHP and WCO Nepal. The orientation program was organized from 2 July 2022 with the RCCE focal points of Sudurpashchim province including participants from all the nine districts of the Sudurpashchim province, officials from the Provincial Health Directorate, Chief of Health Office-Kailali districts, official from Seti Provincial Hospital. WHO Communication team member supported to conduct RCCE session on:
 - Emergency Risk Communication and IHR
 - Public Communication for health emergencies
 - Special Tips and Tricks on RCCE
- Regular support to Health Coordination Division for the weekly national media briefing. The MoHP briefing on 29 June 2022 included key messages about: increasing trend of COVID-19 cases in Nepal

and vaccination update, significance of adhering to public health and social measures, call for action to support pediatric vaccination against COVID-19 among the children of age of 5 to 11 years, message on the prevention of Cholera and diarrheal diseases and message on the process and contact points for obtaining the QR code certification of being vaccinated against COVID-19.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation⁴
- 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 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](#)

⁴ The routine works include coordinating with all the divisions, units, centers of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and Department of Health Services (DoHS), and the health partners for effective conduction of Health Cluster Coordination meeting. Furthermore, the works included the documentation and distribution of meeting minutes, health partner's support updates in the 3Ws (Who, What, Where) and thematic mapping, updates of WHO's support in the UNRCO 3W sheet, participate in multi-sectoral and emergency and disaster preparedness and response platforms and activities and the humanitarian country team operational meetings. Moreover, necessary support for effective coordination of Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) with different stakeholders is provided.

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