

Situation Update #117- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 04 – 10 July 2022 (EPI Week 27)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 10 July 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 11 July 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.7% (967,687) of cases have recovered, 0.03% (678) are active cases and 1.2% (11,952) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 97.6% (662) cases are in home isolation; 2.4% (16) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 7 patients require ICU admission and one require ventilator support.
- None of the districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (516) reported this week, 55.6% (287) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district 11.2% (58). Majority of the new cases 68.2% (352) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.
- **COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 11 July 2022)**

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 10 July 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 980,317

Antigen RDT: 140,639

Cumulative deaths: 11,952

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,772,952

Antigen RDT: 1,241,235

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

58,792,794 (11%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

790,625 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

552,993,566 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,349,952 (100%)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,390,032	First dose	10,335,236	Single dose	3,459,974	First dose	1,333,661	First dose	3,199,377
Second dose	4,649,914	Second dose	9,205,437			Second dose	275,270	Second dose	2,810,328

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, 78.1% (765,181/980,317) 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 (428,793/980,317), and 81.2% of the provincial total (428,793/528,081).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 27 ranged from 4.3% (Bagmati province) to 21.3% (Lumbini province), with a national positivity rate at 4.7%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 93% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=516) in Epi week 27 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 89% 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.

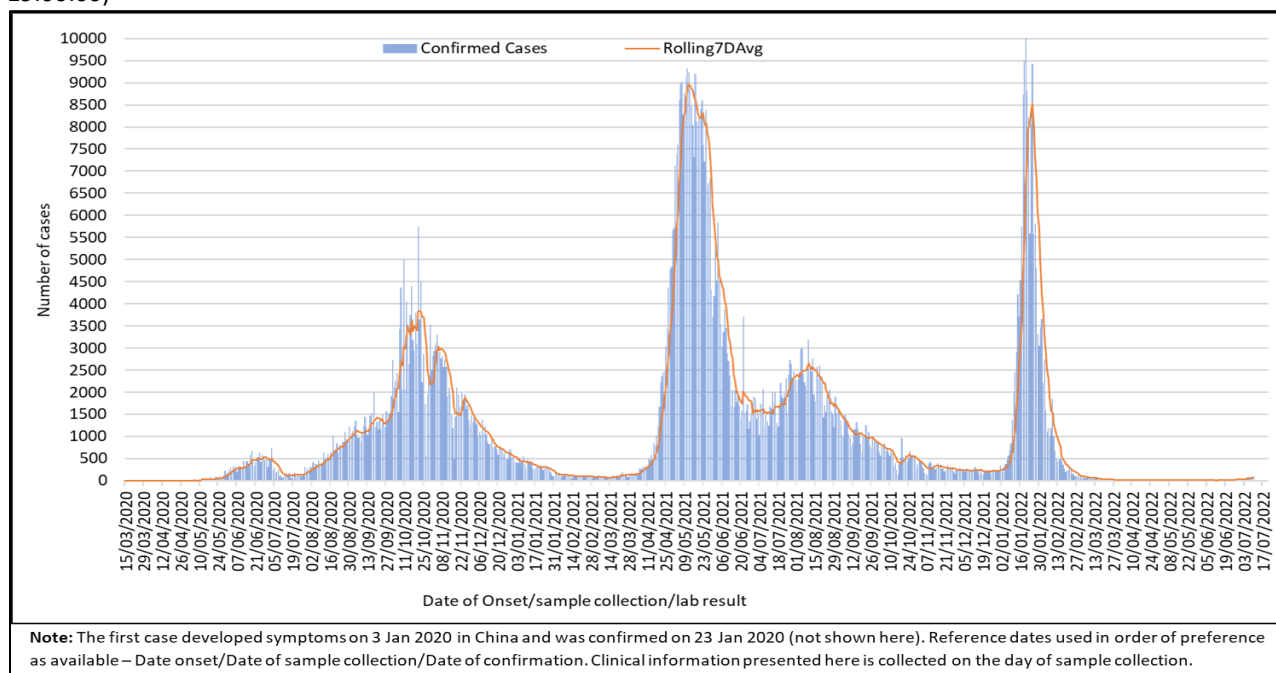
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 10 diagnostic Influenza sample on Epi-week 27 (4-10 July 2022). One sample tested positive for Influenza A. Subtyping of Influenza A is yet to be done. Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 27, 47 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza. None of the samples tested positive for Influenza A and B.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) at Province 1, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 60 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 27. One sample tested positive for Influenza A and 2 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. A total of 267 samples were tested by PPHLs till 10 July 2022.
- From 3 January 2022 until 10 July 2022:
 - A total of 29 samples tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B Positive, 11 Influenza A/H3, 14 Influenza A (H1N1pdm09) and 2 Influenza A tested positive (subtyping to be done) from 3,196 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 Negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 210 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 922 Influenza negative samples tested (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/>

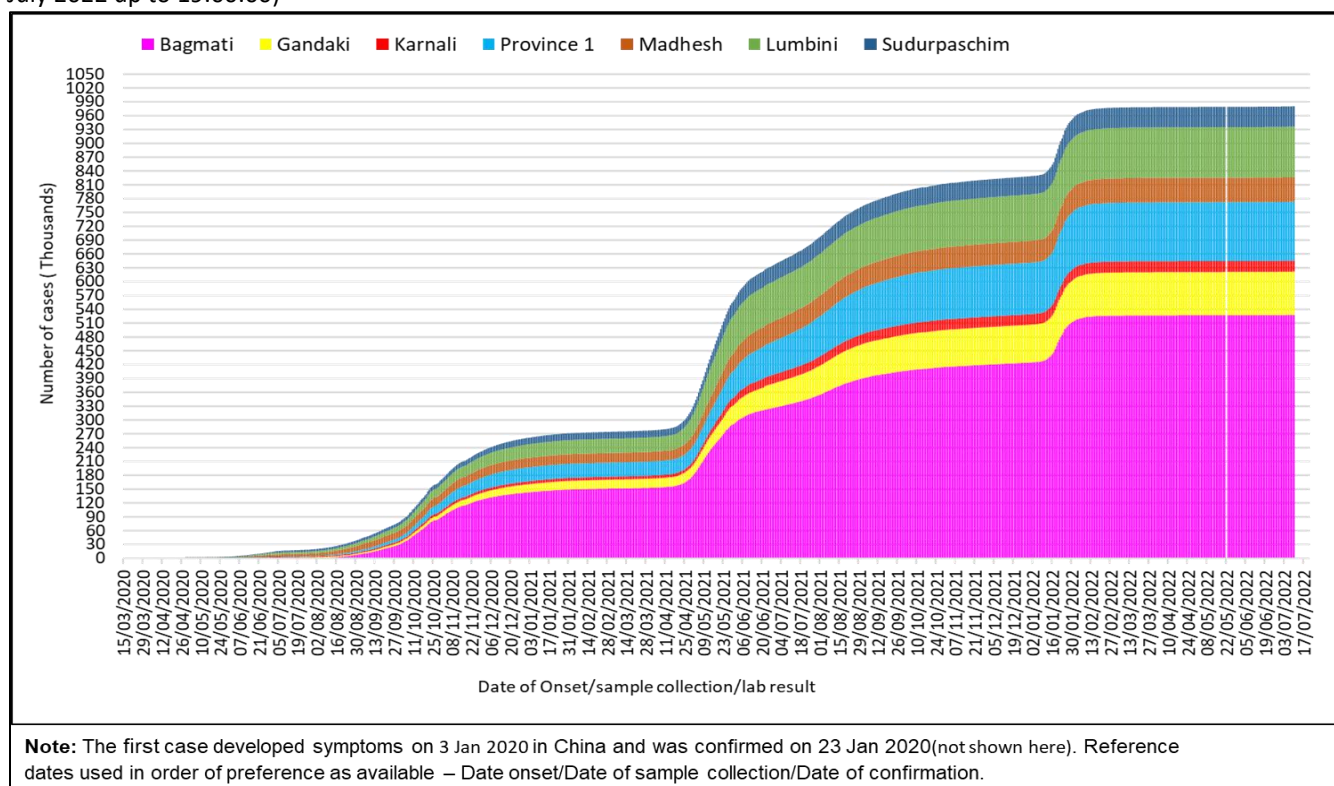
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 980,317) (Data reported on 10 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)



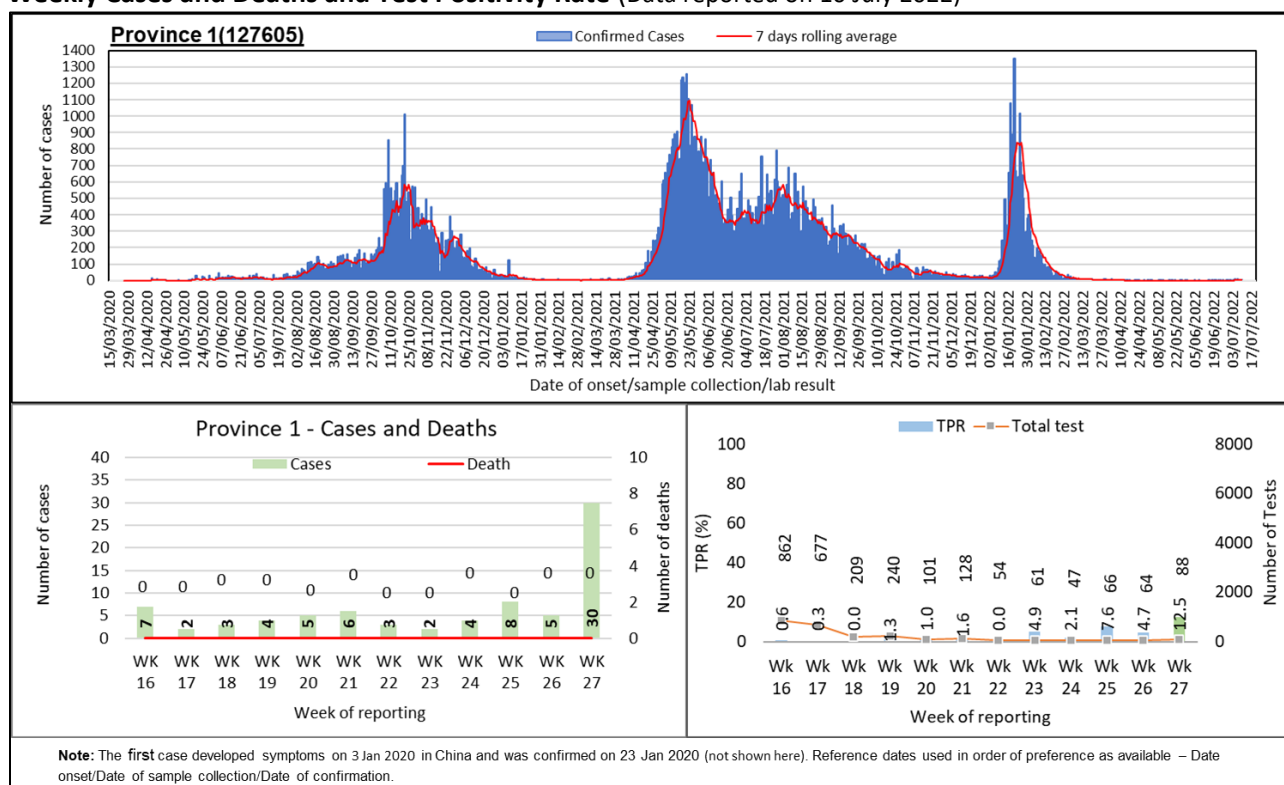
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end of January 2022. Since the middle of May 2022, cases have been steadily rising following an increasing trend.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N= 980,317) (Data reported on 10 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)



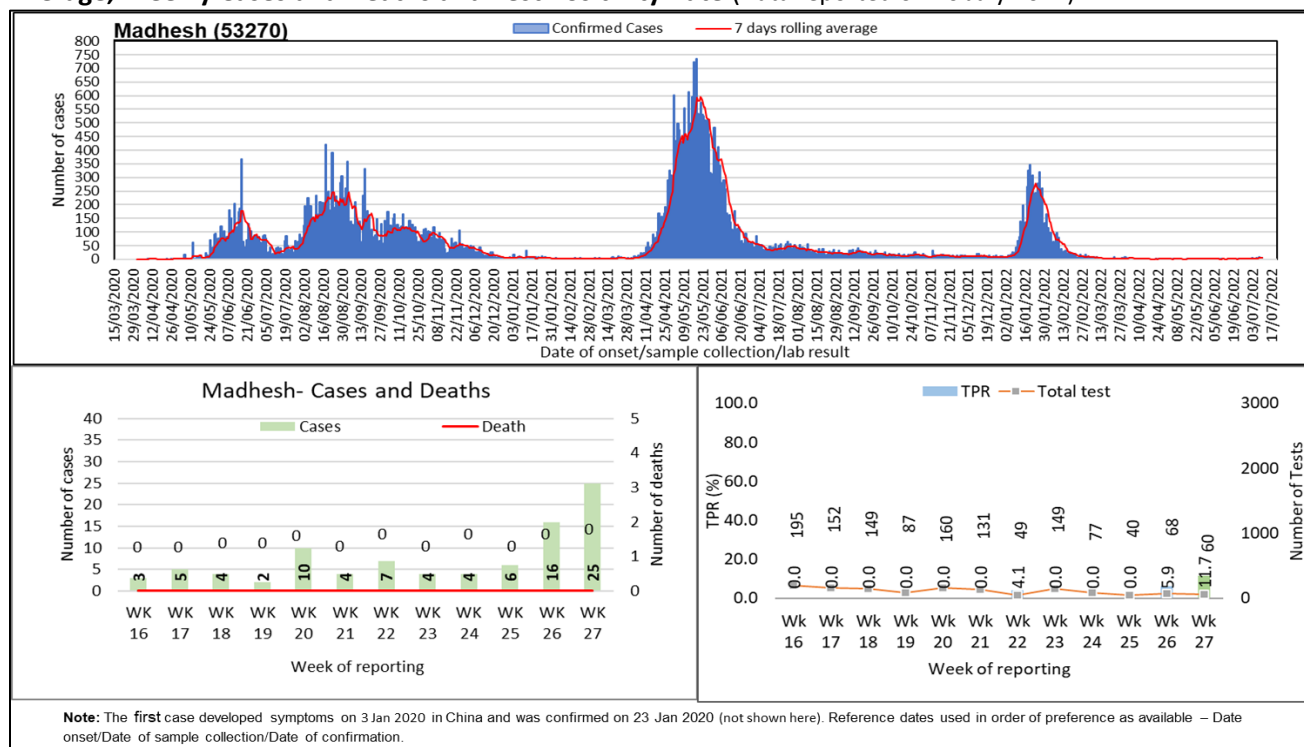
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 10 July 2022)



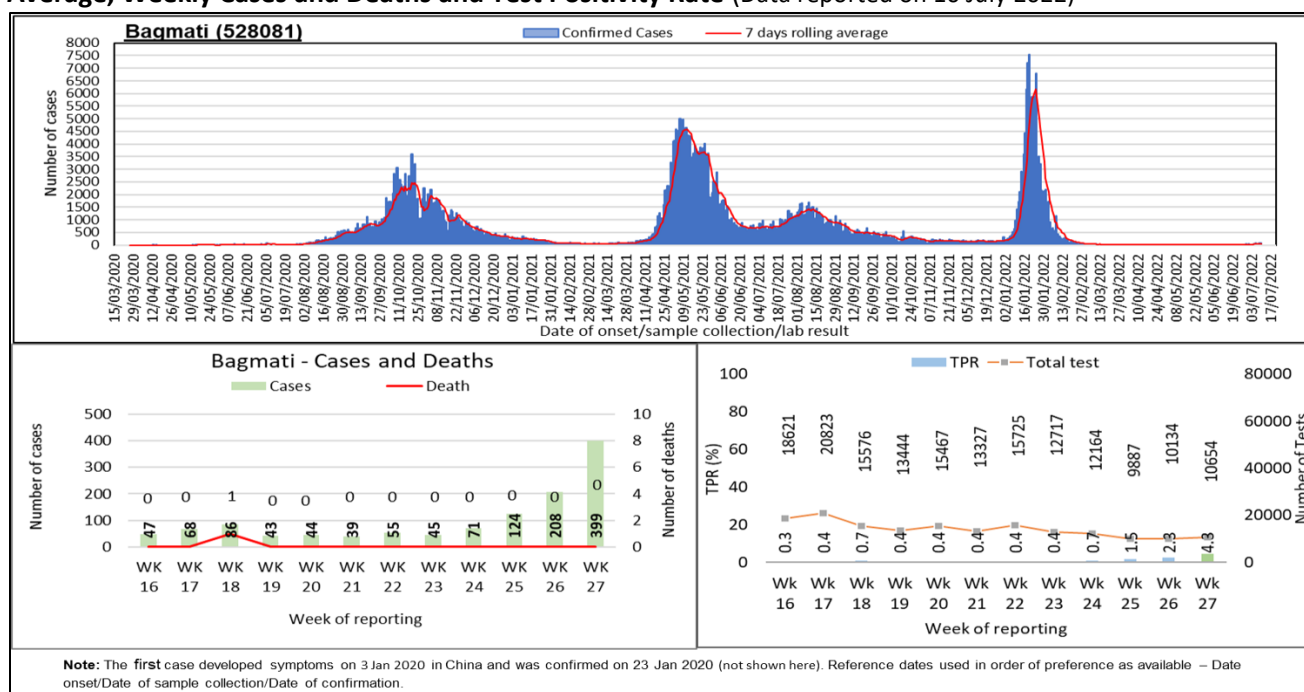
There were 30 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have increased by 500% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 12.5% in the past week. A total of 88 tests were performed in the past week, 38% 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 10 July 2022)



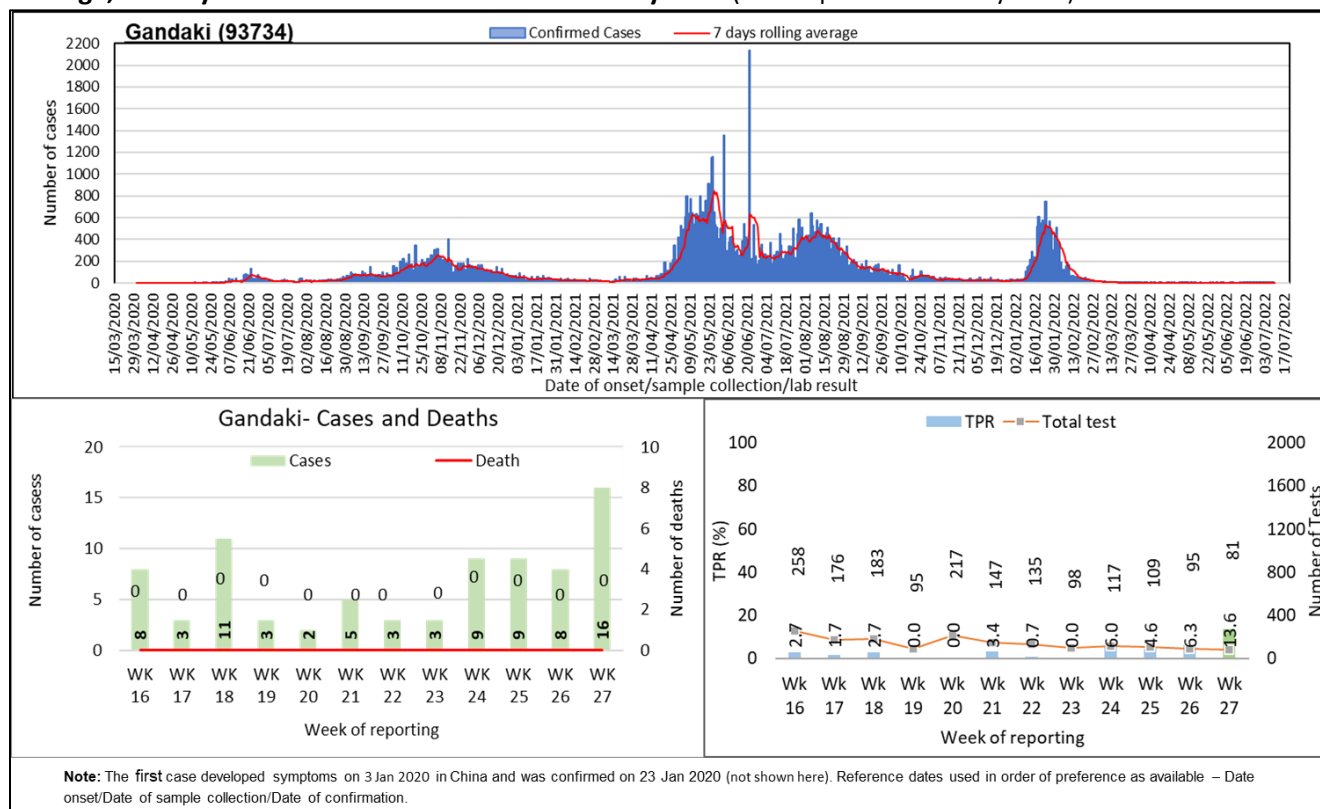
There were 25 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh Province. Cases have increased by 56% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh increased to 11.7% in the past week. A total of 60 tests were performed in the past week, 12% 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 10 July 2022)



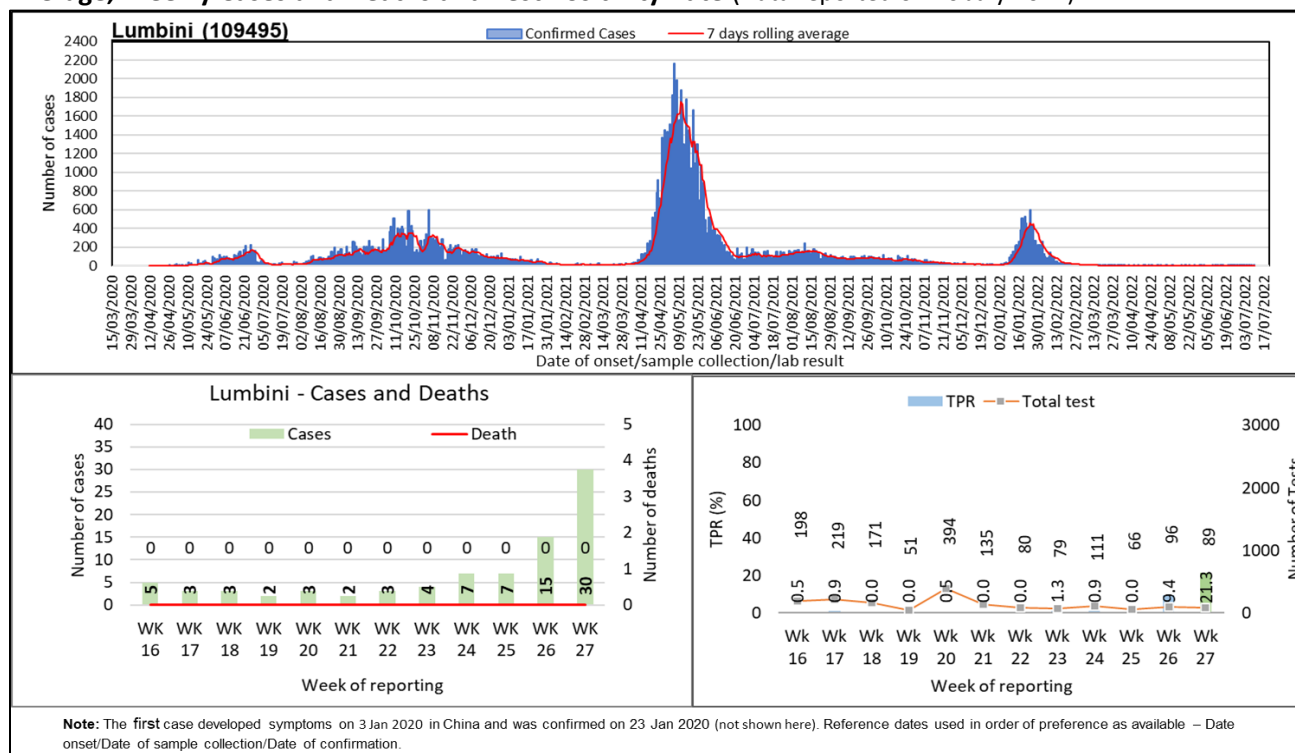
In Bagmati, 399 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 92% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 4.3% in the past week. A total of 10,654 tests were performed in the past week, 5% 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 10 July 2022)



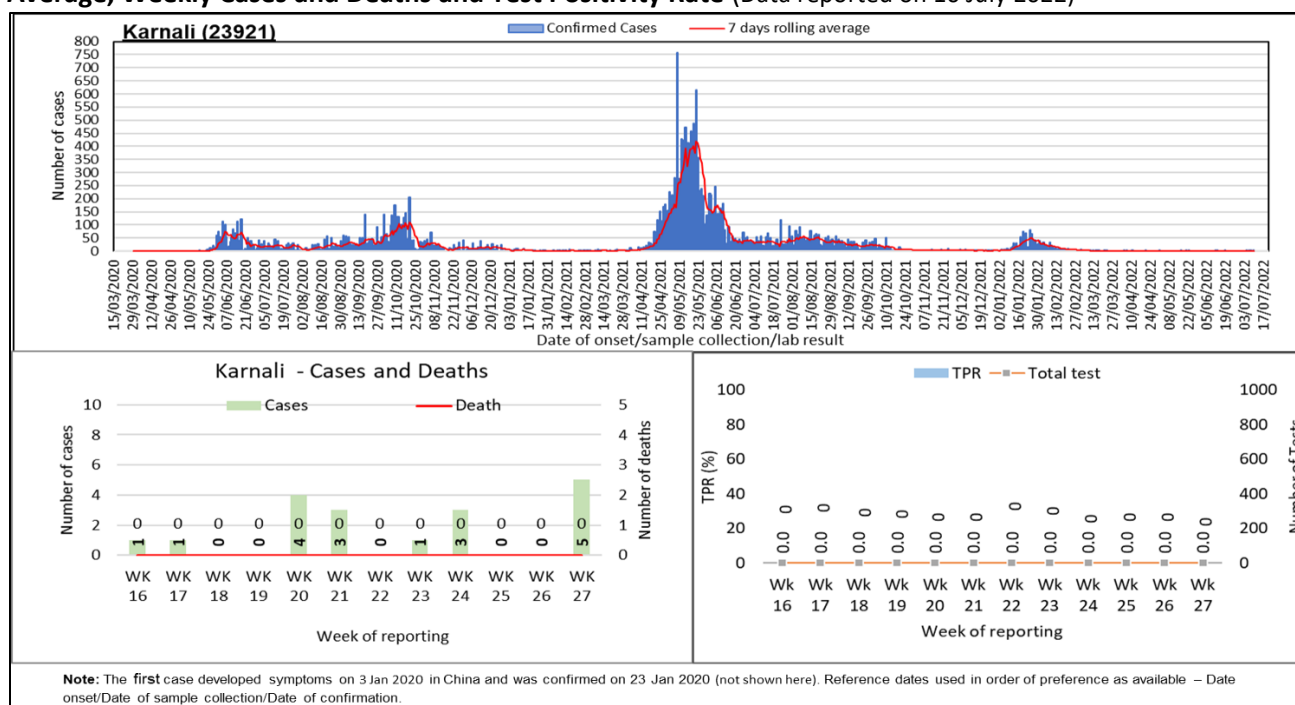
In Gandaki, 16 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 100% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 13.6% in the past week. A total of 81 tests were performed in the past week, 15% 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 10 July 2022)



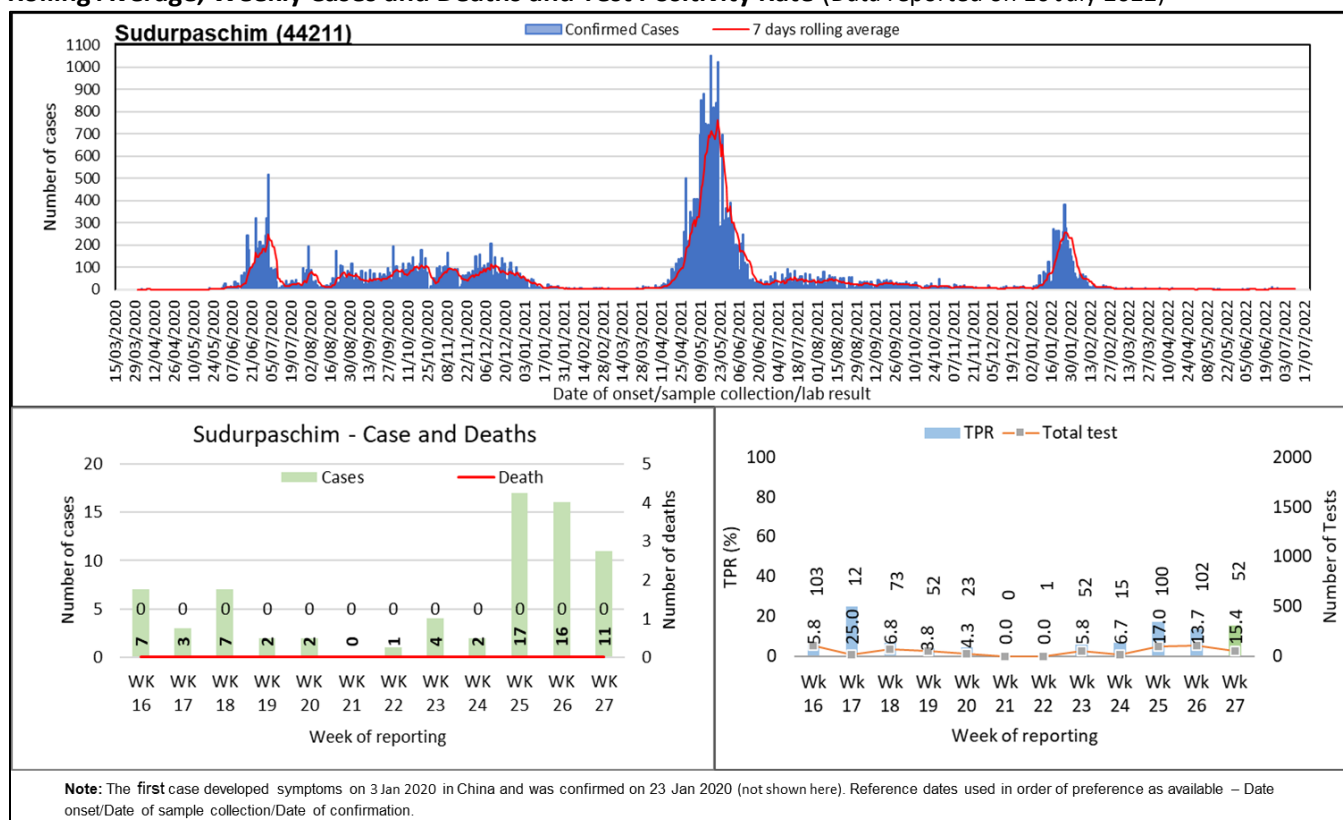
Lumbini reported 30 new cases in the past week. Cases have increased by 100% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 21.3% in the past week. A total of 89 tests were performed in the past week, 7% less 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 10 July 2022)



In Karnali, 5 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week from no case in 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 10 July 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 11 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 31% 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 increased to 15.4% in the past week. A total of 52 tests were performed reported in the past week, 49% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 10 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)

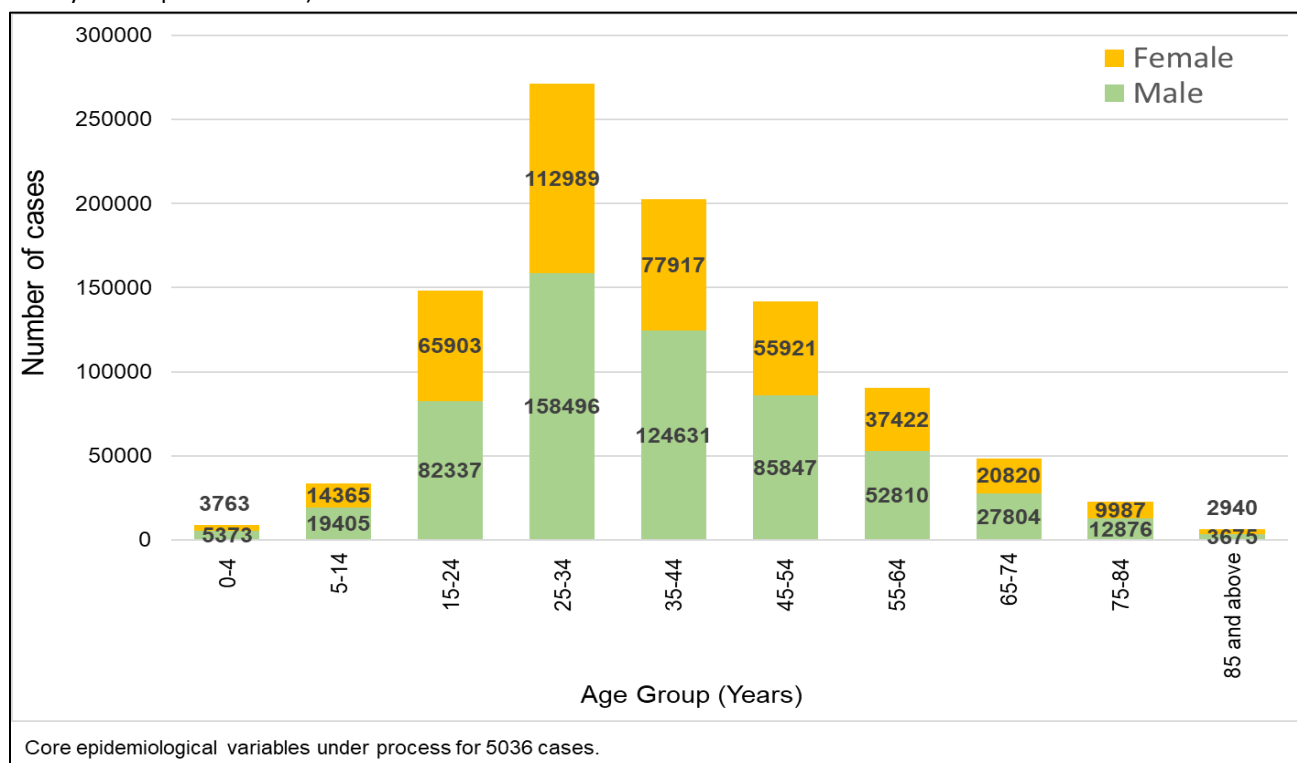
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	127605	29613	157218	14.3	1715	Community transmission	2	35	37	4.4	0
Madhesh	53270	1156	54426	4.9	783	Community transmission	2	41	43	5.1	0
Bagmati	528081	29978	558059	50.7	5164	Community transmission	28	607	635	74.8	0
Gandaki	93734	22875	116609	10.6	1419	Community transmission	2	24	26	3.1	0
Lumbini	109495	25583	135078	12.3	1864	Community transmission	29	45	74	8.7	0
Karnali	23921	5903	29824	2.7	491	Community transmission	1	5	6	0.7	0
Sudurpashchim	44211	5426	49637	4.5	516	Community transmission	1	27	28	3.3	0
National Total	980317	120534*	1100851	100	11952	Community transmission	65	784	849	100	0

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 19 June 2022, **140639 but IMU reported **120534***

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= 975,281) (Data reported on 10 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= 980,317) (Data reported on 10 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	9136	16	23	13	0.43
5-14	33770	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	148240	91	96	69	0.13
25-34	271485	386	264	149	0.24
35-44	202548	875	450	279	0.65
45-54	141768	1385	644	565	1.43
55-64	90232	1682	796	769	2.75
65-74	48624	1631	885	940	5.17
75-84	22863	1221	654	762	8.2
85+	6615	519	288	274	12.2
Unknown	5036	19	7	11	0.52
National	980317	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 12.2%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- 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

- 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 3 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: Om Hospital, Kathmandu. The designated laboratory sent 10 positive and 10 negative samples to NPHL to undergo the validation process. The result showed 100% concordant. WHO supported in the validation, report preparation, and dissemination of the result to the designated laboratory.
 - Conducting genome sequencing of 12 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples and uploading the genome sequencing data in GISAID platform.
 - Online reporting of results of 7th round of Proficiency panel testing (PT) of COVID-19 laboratories. The results from 25 laboratories have been received and analyzed.

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training²
- WHO Nepal attended Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting for the preparation of Standard Operating Procedures for National Simulation Laboratory at Bir Hospital on 7 July 2022. The program was chaired by Dr. Prajwal Shrestha, Deputy Director, Bir Hospital followed by discussion on the first draft of the SoP and sharing of the feedbacks to be incorporated into the final draft.
- WHO Nepal attended a 'Preparation and planning meeting for Disability inclusion Audit at Bheri Hospital, Nepalgunj, Lumbini Province and Seti Provincial Hospital, Dhangadi, Sudurpashchim Province' at Bir Hospital on 8 July 2022 chaired by Dr. Prajwal Shrestha, Deputy Director, Bir hospital and in presence of Dr. Rabindra Baskota, Chief, Leprosy Control and Disability Management Section, representatives from National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) and Technical Experts. The

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.

outcome of the meeting was finalization of the itinerary for disability inclusion Audit at Bheri Hospital, Nepalgunj and Seti Provincial Hospital, Dhangadi. WHO will be providing the financial and technical support on disability inclusion audit at Bheri and Seti Hospital to begin from 14 to 16 July 2022 at Bheri Hospital and 17 to 19 July 2022, followed by nonstructural modification in the hospital based on the findings of the audit.

- WHO attended a two-day workshop to finalize the draft of Infection Prevention and Control guideline, organized by Nursing and Social Security Division, in which clinical experts from various hospitals, health professional societies, councils, representatives from concerned program division, consultants participated. The program was conducted on 3-4 July 2022. Upon completion of the final draft, there is a plan to share the guideline during the steering committee meeting and then, submit to Ministry of Health and Population for final approval.
- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support to conduct the 1st batch of a five-day program, 'Training of Trainers (ToT) on Basic Emergency Medical Technicians' (BEMT) - Methodology of Clinical Training Skills' held from 6 - 10 July 2022. The program was organized by National Health Training Center (NHTC). A total of 16 participants from various hospitals within Kathmandu have been trained till date who will be conducting similar trainings at other provinces.



Training of Trainers on 'Basic Emergency Medical Technicians (BEMT). Photo Credit: WHO Nepal

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Episode 74 of *Science in 5 (Mental Health and COVID-19)* was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
- Nepali: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#); YouTube [link](#)
- Maithili: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#) ; YouTube [link](#)
- With Nepal achieving the target of vaccinating 70% of its total population against COVID-19 on 4 July 2022, a congratulatory message from WHO Representative to Nepal was shared on Facebook (English (link [here](#)); Nepali (link [here](#))) and Twitter (English (link [here](#)); Nepali (link [here](#))).

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.

- A video featuring testimonials from children from Sindhuli and Kavre districts who were recently vaccinated was published on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - The importance of following COVID-19 preventive measures,
 - Noncommunicable Diseases and COVID-19.
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*,
 - *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring* , and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- WHO communication team has been providing continuous support to the Health Coordination Division, for the weekly National briefing. The MoHP briefing on 6 July 2022 included key messages about: concern about increasing COVID-19 cases along with the diagnosis of Omicron sub-variant BA.1, BA.2 and BA.5 upon the gene sequencing performed on 32 samples at National Public Health Laboratory. Given the nature of high transmissibility of these sub-variants of Omicron, the key messages to public was to strictly adhere to the public health and social measures. Similarly, the briefing included the updates of COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination coverage, and message on the process for obtaining the QR code certification of being vaccinated against COVID-19. Dr Chuman Lal Das, director of Epidemiology and Disease Control Division of Department of Health Services appeared as the guest to speak on the status of cholera cases in the Kathmandu valley.
- Provided support for the "Orientation of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Program" organized by Epidemiology and disease control division (EDCD) at Surkhet in coordination with MoHP and WCO Nepal. The orientation program was organized from 4 to 6 July 2022 with health officers from the Palika level, District Health Office, Animal Health Office, and other government officials of Surkhet district, Karnali Province. WHO Communication team member supported in conducting sessions on RCCE:
 - Emergency Risk Communication and IHR
 - Public Communication for health emergencies
 - Special Tips and Tricks on RCCE
 - Coordinate with EDCD and MoHP officials in developing the case scenario and facilitation of the Group Work and presentation from the participants

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.

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.

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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