

Situation Update #118 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 11 - 17 July 2022 (EPI Week 28)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 11 July 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 17 July 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.6% (968,016) of cases have recovered, 0.2% (1439) are active cases and 1.2% (11,953) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 95.2% (1,370) cases are in home isolation; 4.8% (69) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 18 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 (1091) reported this week, 56.1% (612) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district 8.2% (90). Majority of the new cases 66.9% (730) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.
- **COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 17 July 2022)**

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 17 July 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 981,408

Antigen RDT: 140,928

Cumulative deaths: 11,953

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,785,016

Antigen RDT: 1,252,185

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

58,967,419 (11%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

791,164 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

559,880,323 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,363,296 (100%)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,406,787	First dose	10,338,953	Single dose	3,465,443	First dose	1,570,467	First dose	3,202,555
Second dose	4,683,435	Second dose	9,209,544			Second dose	276,177	Second dose	2,812,477

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% (766,095/981,408) 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 43.8% of national total (429,523/981,408), and 81.2% of the provincial total (429,523/528,881).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 28 ranged from 6.3% (Sudurpashchim province) to 31.1% (Lumbini province), with a national positivity rate at 9.0%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 111% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=1091) in Epi week 28 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 84% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.
- Nepal reported 1 death in Epi week 28 compared to none in the previous week.

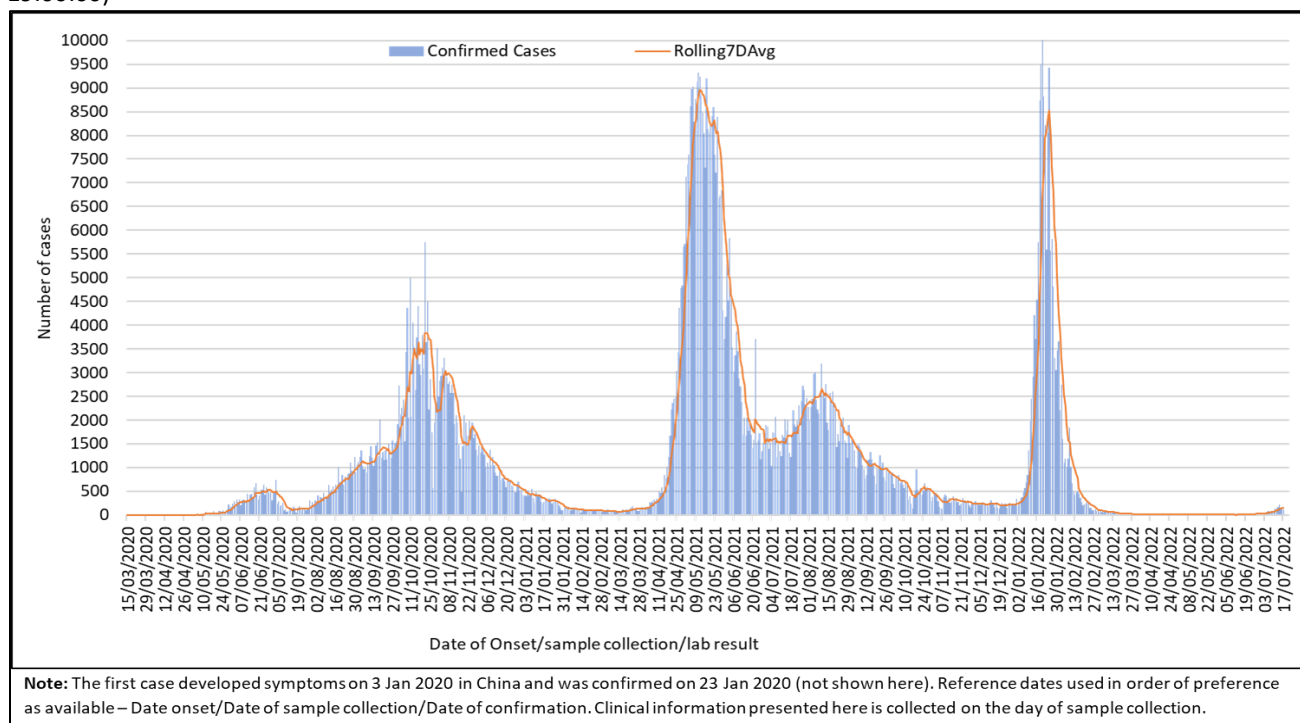
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 11 diagnostic Influenza sample on Epi -week 28 (11-17 July 2022) of which two samples tested positive for Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and 1 sample tested Positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 28, 65 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza. Among those samples tested for Influenza, 5 samples tested positive for Influenza A; however, the subtyping is yet to be done.
- 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 28. One sample tested positive for Influenza B and 1 sample tested positive for Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and 3 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. A total of 342 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 17 July 2022.
- Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit Nepal (WARUN) reported the results of 75 samples tested for Influenza on the Epi week 27 and 28. Twenty-one samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3 and 6 samples tested positive for Influenza A(H1N1pdm09).
- From 3 January 2022 until 17 July 2022:
 - A total of 67 samples have been tested positive for Influenza (3 Influenza B Positive, 32 Influenza A/H3, 25 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) and 7 Influenza A Positive (subtyping to be done) from 3,430 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 Negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 214 samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1008 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/>

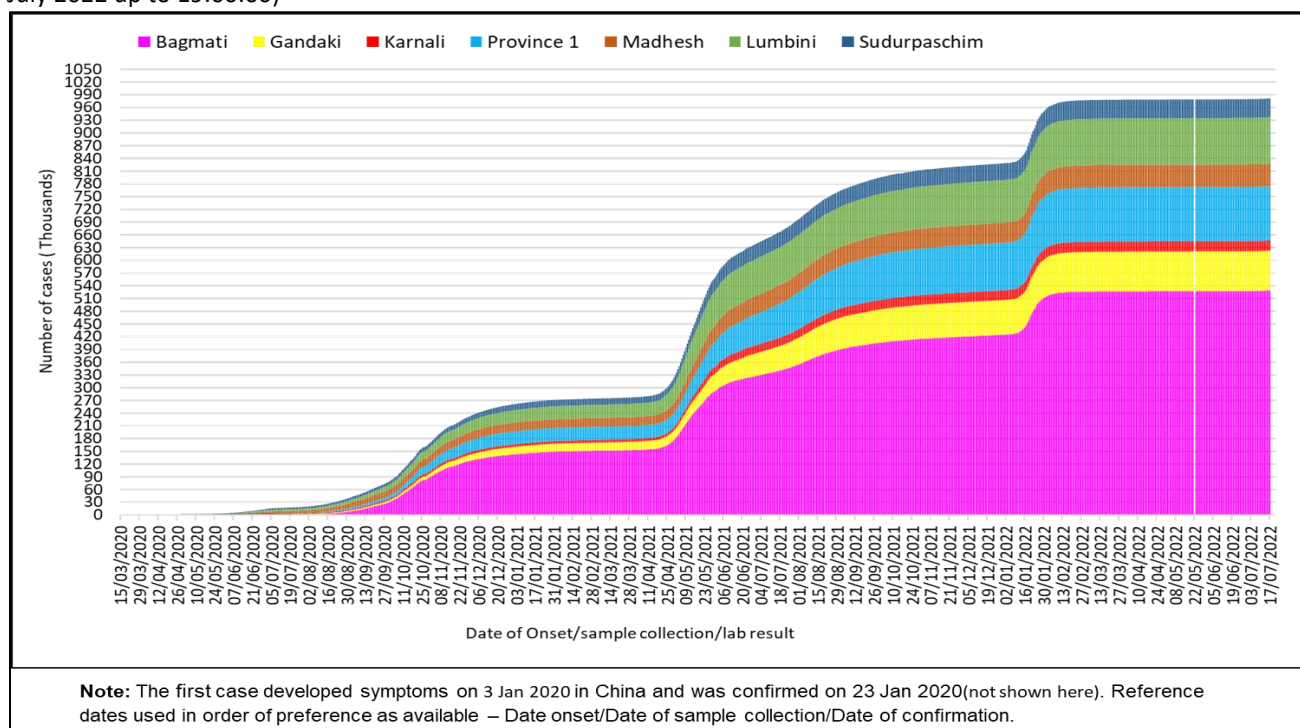
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 981,408) (Data reported on 17 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)



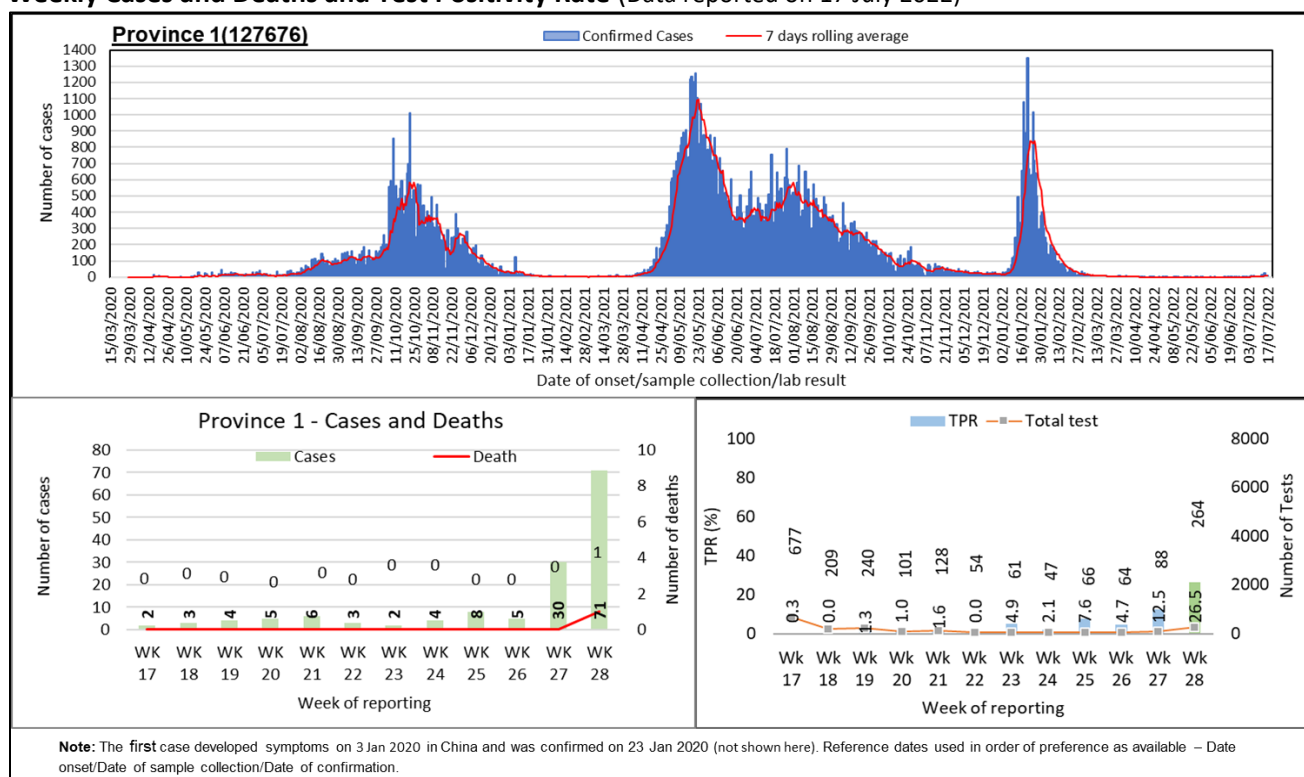
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 981,408) (Data reported on 17 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)



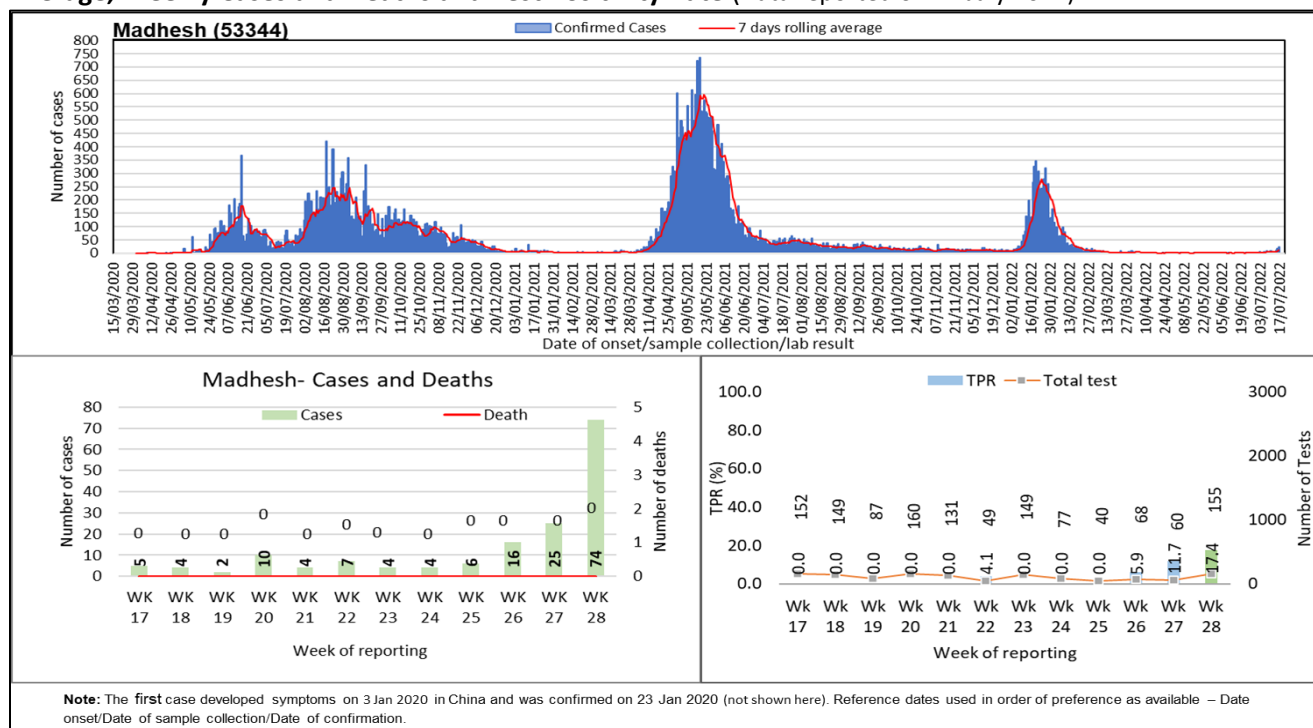
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 17 July 2022)



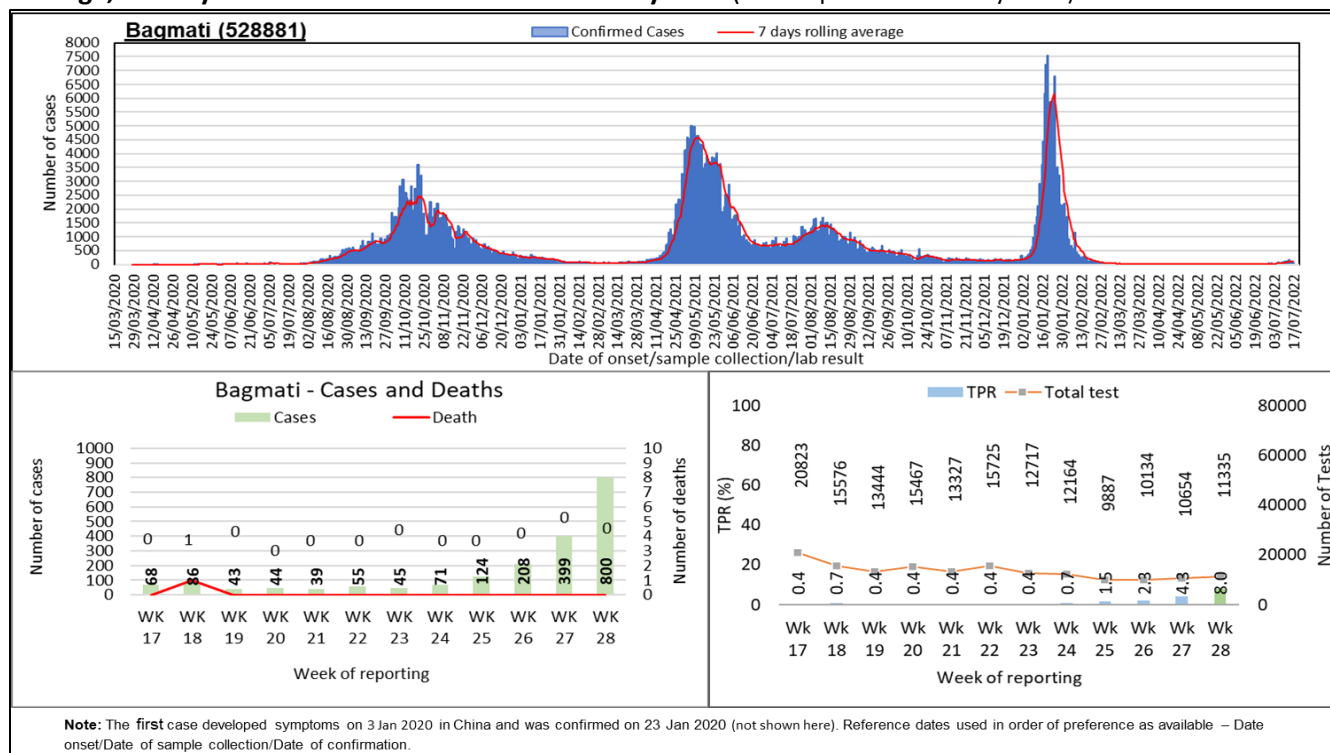
There were 71 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have increased by 137% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, compared to none in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 26.5% in the past week. A total of 264 tests were performed in the past week, 200% 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 17 July 2022)



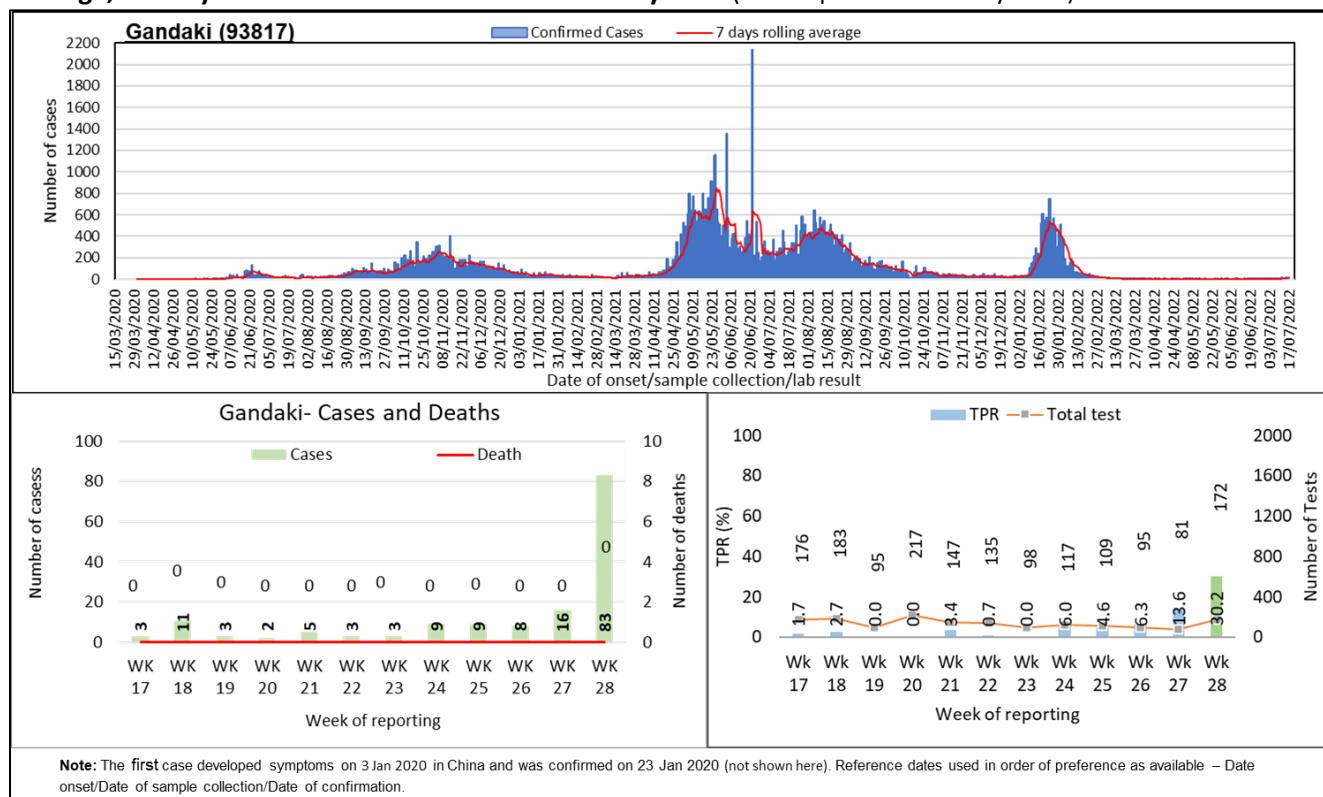
There were 74 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have increased by 196% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh increased to 17.4% in the past week. A total of 155 tests were performed in the past week, 158% 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 17 July 2022)



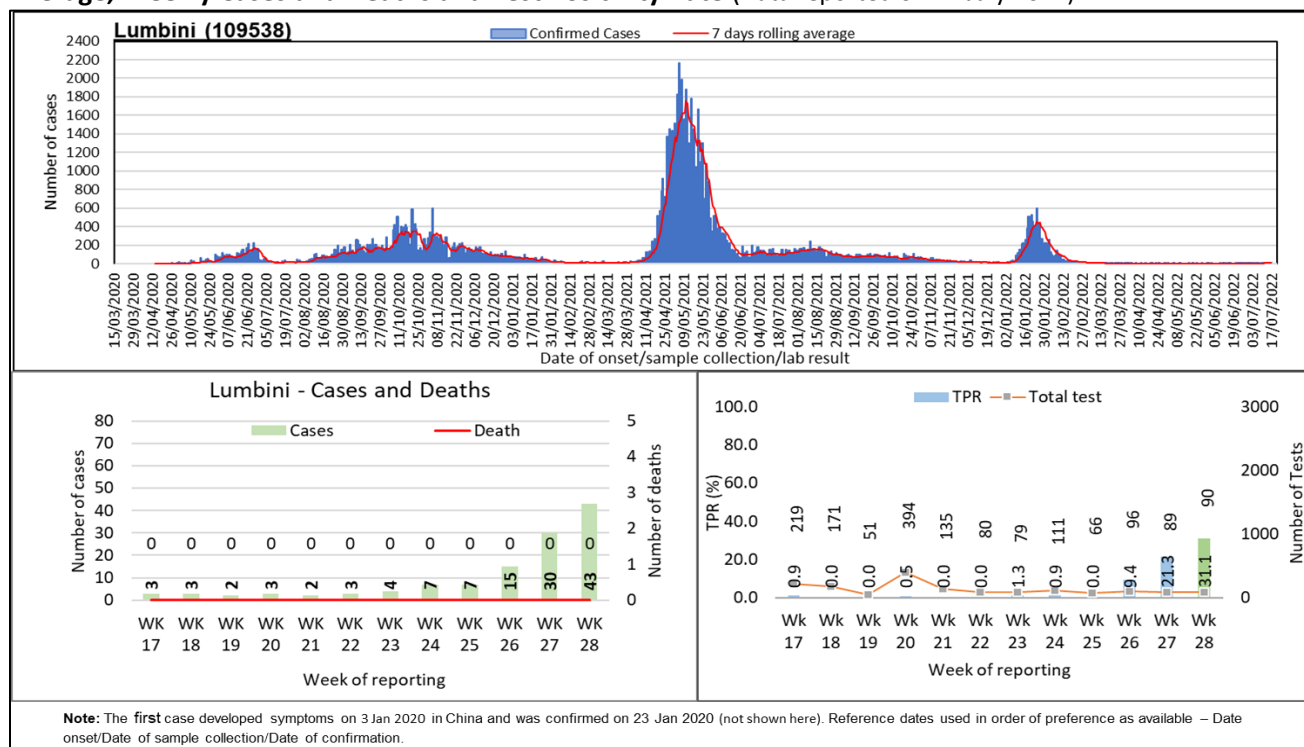
In Bagmati, 800 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 101% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 8.0% in the past week. A total of 11,335 tests were performed in the past week, 6% 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 17 July 2022)



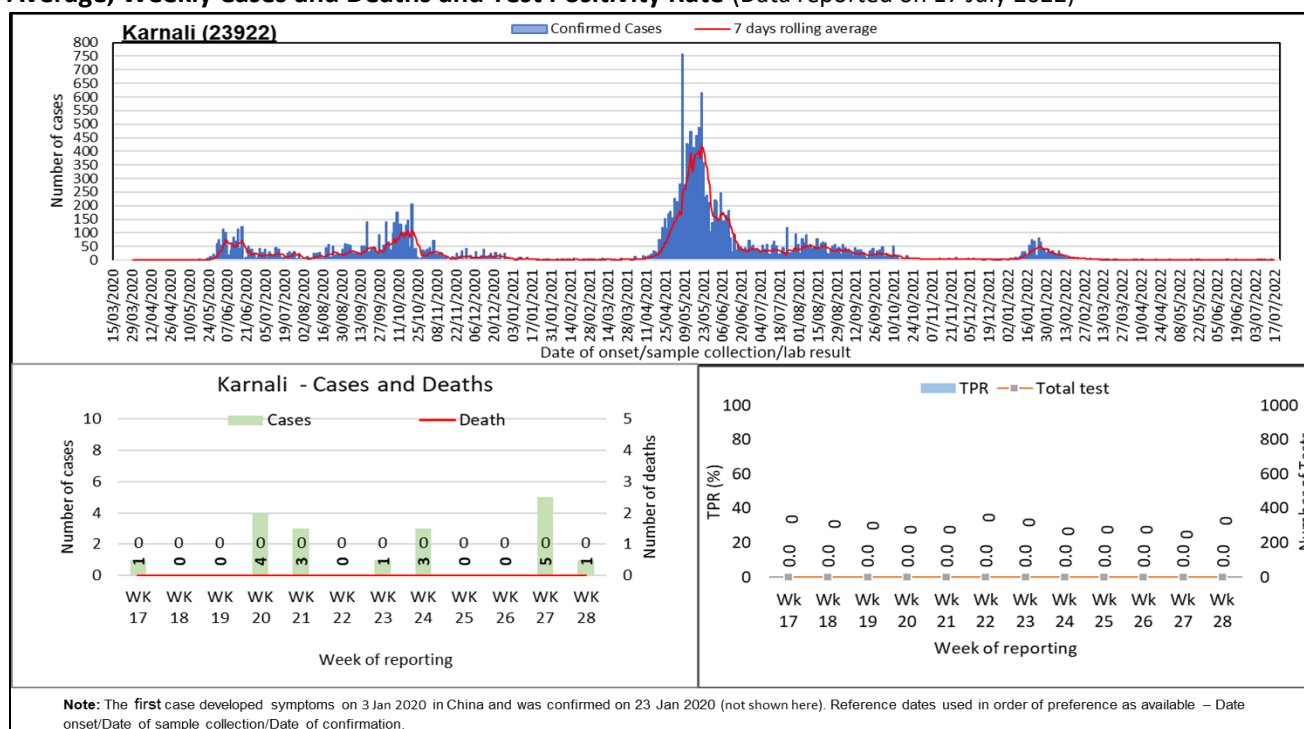
In Gandaki, 83 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 419% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 30.2% in the past week. A total of 172 tests were performed in the past week, 112% more 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 17 July 2022)



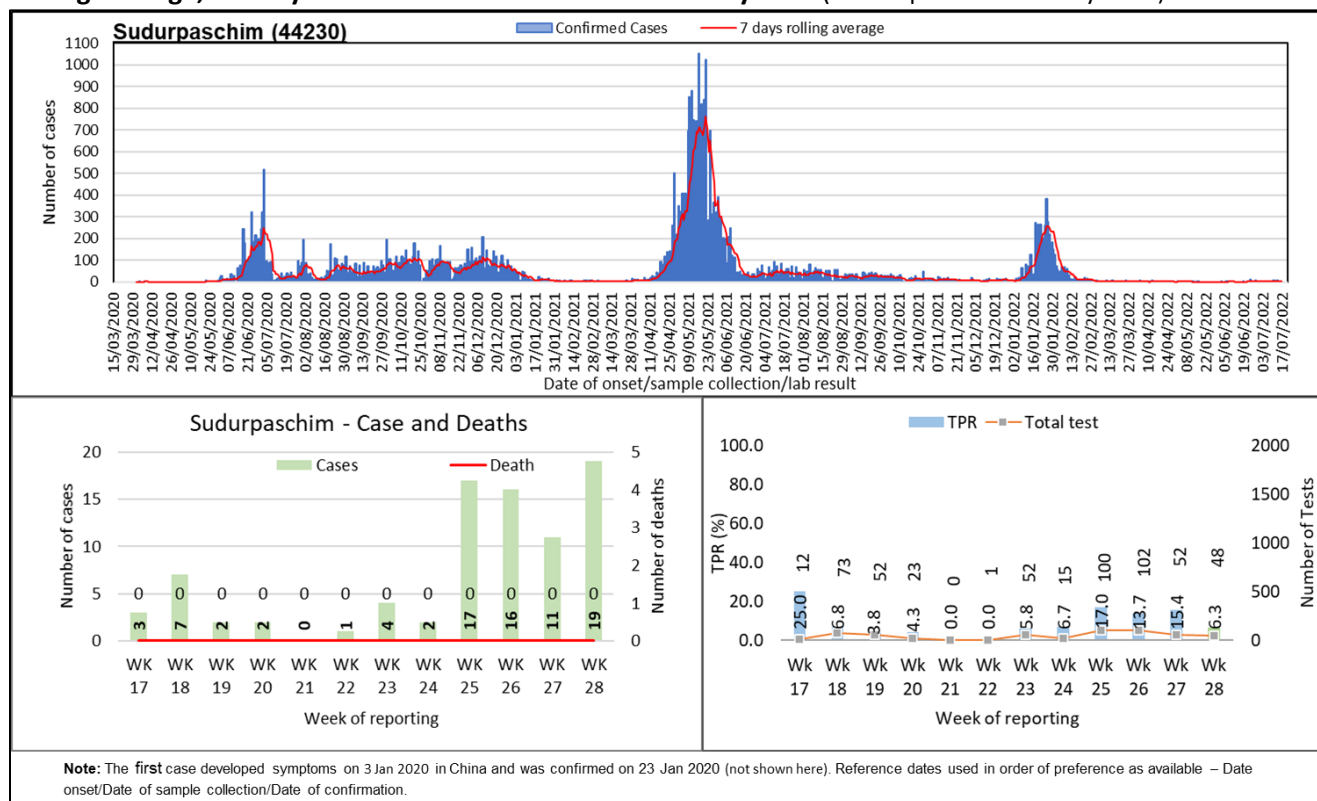
Lumbini reported 43 new cases in the past week. Cases have increased by 43% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 31.1% in the past week. A total of 90 tests were performed in the past week, 1% 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 17 July 2022)



In Karnali, 1 new case were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 73% 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 17 July 2022)



In Sudurpashchim, 19 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 73% 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 decreased to 6.3% in the past week. A total of 48 tests were performed reported in the past week, 8% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 17 July 2022 up to 19:00:00)

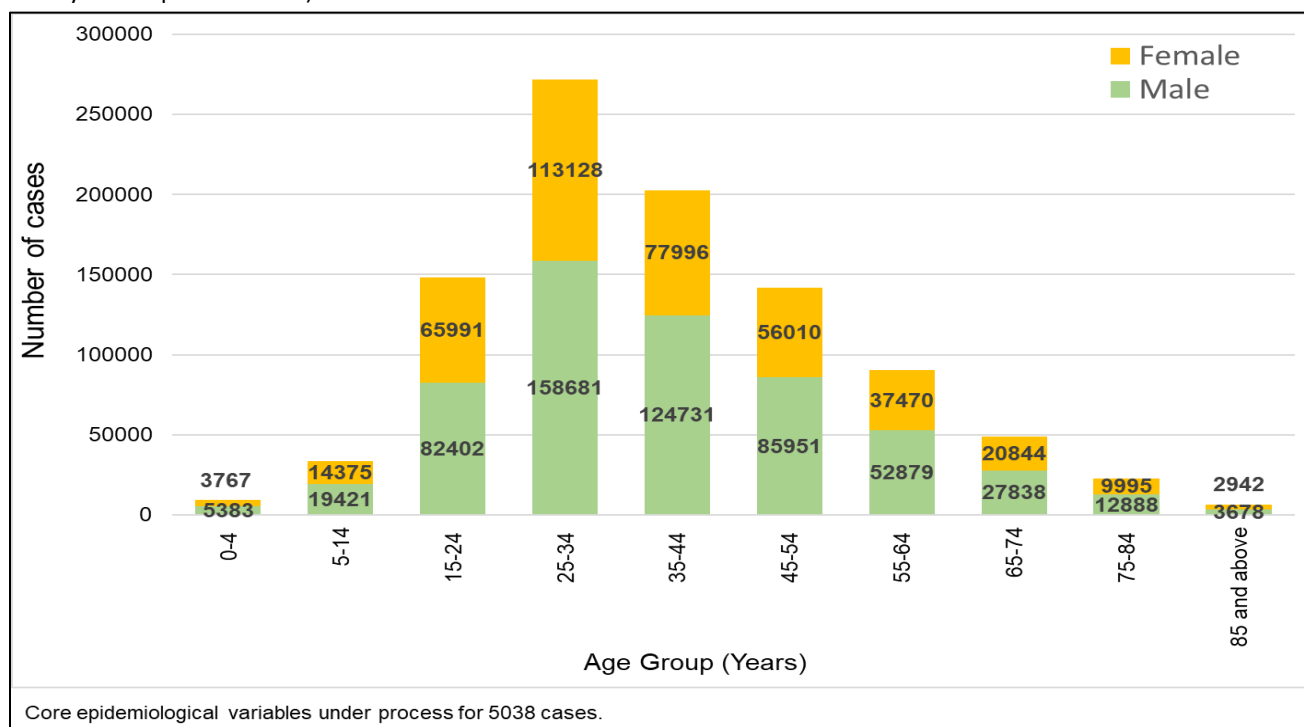
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	127676	29616	157292	14.3	1716	Community transmission	5	101	106	5.9	1
Madhesh	53344	1159	54503	4.9	783	Community transmission	3	99	102	5.7	0
Bagmati	528881	30069	558950	50.7	5164	Community transmission	115	1199	1314	73.0	0
Gandaki	93817	22885	116702	10.6	1419	Community transmission	10	99	109	6.1	0
Lumbini	109538	25622	135160	12.3	1864	Community transmission	59	73	132	7.3	0
Karnali	23922	5903	29825	2.7	491	Community transmission	1	6	7	0.4	0
Sudurpashchim	44230	5426	49656	4.5	516	Community transmission	0	30	30	1.7	0
National Total	981408	120680*	1102088	100	11953	Community transmission	193	1607	1800	100	1

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 19 June 2022, **140928 but IMU reported **120680***

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= 976,370) (Data reported on 17 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= 981,408) (Data reported on 17 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	6463	8	15	8	0.36
5-14	24611	9	3	5	0.05
15-24	103838	63	66	37	0.12
25-34	191851	303	220	101	0.27
35-44	144223	714	383	192	0.76
45-54	104123	1092	529	382	1.56
55-64	68814	1270	641	472	2.78
65-74	36715	1087	643	525	4.71
75-84	17364	822	462	425	7.39
85+	5136	365	222	161	11.43
Unknown	3039	16	6	8	0.72
National	706177	5749	3190	2316	1.27

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

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

Since 15 March 2021, a total of 8,939 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 5,749 (64.3%) were male and 3,190 (35.7%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 2,316 persons (25.9%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.05% to 11.44%.

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 4 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all participating laboratories was 100% concordant.
 - Dispatching the samples for 7th round of Proficiency panel testing (PT) to the designated 30 COVID-19 laboratories outside the Kathmandu valley.
 - Receiving and analyzing the result of 7th round of Proficiency panel testing (PT) of 36 laboratories from Bagmati Province. The result of 35 laboratories showed 100% concordant while, 1 laboratory showed 80% concordant.

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training²
- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support in conducting the following programs organized by National Health Training Center (NHTC):
 - A three-day program on IPC Training to health care workers held from 13 - 15 July 2022. A total number of 5 trainers & 17 participants from different provinces; and government hospitals from Kathmandu valley were present in the training.

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.



Participants during the IPC training session. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S. Paudel

- A six-day program on Primary Emergency Care (PEC) training held at Dhulikhel Hospital, Kavre district of Bagmati Province from 13 - 18 July 2022. This program conducted with participation of 16 health care workers which included doctor, nurses from various health care facilities from Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpashchim Provinces. There are eight trainers from Dhulikhel hospital and Patan Academy of Health Sciences.



The opening ceremony of PEC training chaired by NHTC director Dr. Yadu Chandra Ghimire. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Thapaliya



Breakout sessions during the Primary Emergency Care training (Left) learning chest drain mechanism and (Right) trainer explaining Airway and Breathing system in Primary Trauma Care. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Thapaliya

- A two-day program, Users' Training on Biomedical Equipment Training held from 12 - 13 July 2022. A total number of 16 health workers - two medical officers, 13 senior staff Nurses, and one paramedic from Nepal APF Hospital participated in the program. This training enabled the users to effectively operate and handle the respiratory devices such as BiPAP/CPAP, HFNC, Oxygen Concentrator, Ventilator, and Oxygen Cylinder.



(Left) ongoing Users' Training on Biomedical Equipment Training and (Right) hands-on session during the training. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Rana

Operational Support and Logistics

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

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.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Episode 33 of *Science in 5* podcast in Nepali language was released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)). The episode focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected mental health and how to take care of our mental health. 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)).
- A congratulatory quote card by the Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region, on the region administering 3 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- Testimonials of children (aged above 5 and under 12 years old), from Sindhuli and Kavre, after receiving their COVID-19 vaccines were shared via Twitter (link [here](#)). The testimonials highlighted the importance of COVID-19 vaccines and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - I. The importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - II. Post COVID-19 conditions,
 - III. The importance of following COVID-19 preventive measures,
 - IV. 12th meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee on COVID-19.
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - I. *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*,
 - II. *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring*, and
 - III. The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*. WHO and MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- Support to the Health Coordination Division, Ministry of Health and Population for the weekly National briefing. The key messages included in the national briefing on 13 July 2022 are: significance of PHSM in the context: increase in the COVID-19 cases and diagnosis of Omicron sub-variant BA.1, BA.2 and BA.5 in Nepal and the nature of high transmissibility of these sub-variants of Omicron. Daily updates on COVID-19 cases, vaccination coverage, COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, process for obtaining the QR code certification of being vaccinated against COVID-19, monsoon preparedness, prevention and control of water borne diseases and vector borne diseases, Cholera, Dengue, Snake bite and wild mushroom poisoning were also discussed during the briefing. Dr Sangeeta Mishra, who has recently been promoted from Chief of Health Coordination Division/Spokesperson (Level 11) to Chief Specialist of MoHP (Level 12) delivered her remarks during the briefing and expressed her gratitude to all the stakeholders for their coordination and support.

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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