Situation Update #121 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 01 – 07 August 2022 (EPI Week 31)

HIGHLIGHTS
(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 07 August 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 08 August 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.2% (972,497) of cases have recovered, 0.6% (5,659) are active cases and 1.2% (11,971) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 97.3% (5,507) cases are in home isolation; 2.7% (152) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 29.6% (45) patients require ICU admission and 3 patients require ventilator support.
- Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (3,531) reported this week, 53.2% (1,879) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district 11.2% (395). Majority of the new cases 54.7% (1,932) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 07 August 2022)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>AstraZeneca</th>
<th>Vero Cell</th>
<th>Janssen</th>
<th>Pfizer</th>
<th>Moderna</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First dose</td>
<td>5,468,721</td>
<td>10,347,827</td>
<td>3,477,094</td>
<td>2,563,922</td>
<td>3,218,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second dose</td>
<td>4,763,617</td>
<td>9,222,258</td>
<td>342,935</td>
<td>2,820,590</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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% (773,653/990,127) 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 44.0% of national total (435,261/990,127), and 81.3% of the provincial total (435,261/535,081).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 31 ranged from 17.1% (Bagmati province) to 39.4% (Lumbini province), with a national positivity rate at 18.5%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
• Nepal reported a 19% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=3531) in Epi week 31 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 86% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.

• Nepal reported 4 deaths in Epi week 31, 64% less compared to that in the previous week.

**National Influenza Surveillance**

• WHO Nepal facilitated National Influenza Center (NIC)-Nepal in conducting monthly virtual meeting with PPHLs on 5 August 2022 to update on the progress of Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 surveillance activities at province level and orient the Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 surveillance focal persons of PPHLs on data reporting in Kobo tool. NIC-NPHL team, Focal persons from Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHLs) and WHO-Lab team participated in the meeting.

• NIC-NPHL reported 13 Diagnostic Influenza sample on EPID-week 31 (1-7 August 2022). Two samples were tested Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) positive.

• Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested Negative at NPHL on EPID-week 31 (1-7th August, 2022), 53 SARS-CoV-2 Negative samples were tested for Influenza.
  ○ One sample was tested Influenza A Positive, the subtyping is yet to be done.

• Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) at Province 1, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali reported testing of 75 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 31.
  ○ Six samples tested positive for Influenza A and 8 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
  ○ A total of 581 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 7 August 2022.

• From 3 January 2022 until 31 July 2022:
  ○ A total of 133 samples tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B, 63 Influenza A/H3, 61 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) and 7 Influenza A (subtyping to be done) from 4,027 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  ○ Similarly, 269 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1,372 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/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/)

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¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database
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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= 990,127) (Data reported on 07 August 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= 990,127) (Data reported on 07 August 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.
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 07 August 2022)

There were 326 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 3% 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 28.6% in the past week. A total of 945 tests were performed in the past week, 30% more than that in the previous week.
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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 07 August 2022)

There were 121 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have increased by 81% 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 18.2% in the past week. A total of 132 tests were performed in the past week, 46% 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 07 August 2022)
In Bagmati, 2599 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 25% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 67% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 17.1% in the past week. A total of 17,117 tests were performed in the past week, 9% 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 07 August 2022)

In Gandaki, 215 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 16% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was death reported in the past week, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 36.2% in the past week. A total of 362 tests were performed in the past week, 7% 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 07 August 2022)

Lumbini reported 118 new cases in the past week. Cases have decreased by 21% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 50% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 39.4% in the past week. A total of 180 tests were performed in the past week, 38% less than 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 07 August 2022)
In Karnali, 19 new cases were reported in the past week. 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 Sudurpaschim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 07 August 2022)

In Sudurpaschim, 133 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 99% 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 Sudurpaschim increased to 32.8% in the past week. A total of 314 tests were performed reported in the past week, 88% more than that in the previous week.
### Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 07 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Province</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests</th>
<th>Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total Confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>Total cumulative deaths</th>
<th>Transmission classification</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days RT-PCR test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>Total Deaths in last 14 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province 1</td>
<td>128701</td>
<td>29832</td>
<td>158533</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>1716</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhesh</td>
<td>53595</td>
<td>1165</td>
<td>54760</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>535081</td>
<td>30915</td>
<td>565996</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>5174</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>4679</td>
<td>5392</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>94455</td>
<td>23421</td>
<td>117876</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>1423</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbini</td>
<td>109871</td>
<td>26518</td>
<td>136389</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>1055</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>23970</td>
<td>5984</td>
<td>29954</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpashchim</td>
<td>44454</td>
<td>5523</td>
<td>49977</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Total</td>
<td>990127</td>
<td>123358*</td>
<td>1113485</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>11971</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>2352</td>
<td>6505</td>
<td>8857</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 7 August 2022, 144611 but IMU reported 123358

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.
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= 990,127) (Data reported on 07 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (Years)</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases</th>
<th>Death (male)</th>
<th>Death (female)</th>
<th>Deaths with any known comorbid condition</th>
<th>Age specific case fatality ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>9210</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
<td>33983</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>149853</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>274511</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>204303</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>142989</td>
<td>1391</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>91086</td>
<td>1684</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>2.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>49141</td>
<td>1633</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>5.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>23155</td>
<td>1223</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>8.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>6698</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>12.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>5198</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National</strong></td>
<td><strong>990127</strong></td>
<td><strong>7852</strong></td>
<td><strong>4119</strong></td>
<td><strong>3855</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 11,971 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,852 (65.6%) were male and 4,119 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,855 persons (32.2%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 12.1%.

**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 the following activities:
  - Monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of 6 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all participating laboratories showed 100% concordant.

**Technical Expertise and Training**
- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training*
- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support in conducting the following programs below:
  - A two-day program, Users’ Training on Biomedical Equipment Training was held from 2-3 August 2022 at Amda hospital (Lumbini) organized by National Health Training Center (NHTC). An eighth batch of 16 health care workers -4 doctors, 12 staff nurses participated from Lumbini Provincial Hospital, Amda Hospital, Palpa Hospital, Bhim Hospital and Prithvi Chandra Hospital. The training enabled the users to effectively operate and properly handle respiratory devices such as BiPAP/CPAP, HFNC, Oxygen Concentrator, Ventilator, and Oxygen Cylinder.

*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.
A 3-day Ambulance Driver Training held from 3-5 August 2022 organized by National Training Center, MoHP, with the support of WHO and EU ECHO fund. The training consisted briefings on proper transportation of acutely ill or injured, ambulance disinfection, case management, communication with Dispatch Center – 102, Traffic Rules, ‘Ambulance Nepal’ App, and National Ambulance Guideline 2021. The 2nd batch of 16 participants were from COVID-19 dedicated hospital located in Kathmandu valley.

- WHO Nepal also attended a finalization meeting on ‘Interim Guidance on Management and Prevention of Monkeypox 2079’ with officials from Curative Service Division (CSD) on 2 August 2022 at CSD, Teku. The discussion enabled feedback sharing by the stakeholders and supported finalization of the draft.

**Operational Support and Logistics**
- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics.
- WHO Nepal provided logistics and operational support for following program:
  - Handover of Call Center logistics supply and equipment for the call center on 03 August 2022.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**
- WHO, Country Office for Nepal and Health Journalist Forum Nepal jointly organized an interaction program with health journalists to inform them on the current COVID-19 and monkeypox situation. The technical sessions were conducted by the thematic experts of WHO Nepal and key official of Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD). Presentations on: Latest update on COVID-19 variants; COVID-19 vaccine efficacy; Current situation of COVID-19 in Nepal and measures of prevention and control; Declaration of Monkeypox as Public Health Emergency of International Concern; Global and regional overview of monkeypox; Preparedness of monkeypox in Nepal were

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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.
The technical sessions were followed by a Q&A session where participating journalists asked questions on the topics discussed which were answered by WHO experts and MoHP officials.

- **Episode 76 of Science in 5 (Monkeypox: Who is at risk?)** was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
  - I. Nepali: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#); YouTube [link](#)
  - II. Maithili: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#); YouTube [link](#)

- **Episode 35 of Science in 5 podcast** in Nepali language was released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)). The topic of the episode was which communities are most at risk of monkeypox. The news was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)).

- On the occasion of **World Breastfeeding Week**, relevant IEC materials were shared which highlighted safe measures to implement while breastfeeding.

- The following documents were uploaded on ReliefWeb (link [here](#)):
  - Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard,
  - Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring, and

- WHO and MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.

- WHO Nepal has been providing continued support to the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Health and Population for the weekly National briefing. The national briefing on 3 August 2022 focused on national update of COVID-19 cases and increasing trend, importance of PHSM and vaccines including administration of booster dose to curb the pandemic, information about the free treatment of moderate and severe C-19 cases at 17 hospitals across the country. Dr Bibek Kumar Lal, Chief, Family Welfare Division also participated as a guest speaker and highlighted the importance and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine. Similarly, the messages included in the briefing was on the prevention of water-borne and vector borne diseases, risk of monkeypox, preventive measures and Nepal's preparedness, message on the importance of breastfeeding to mark world breast feeding week and provision of free treatment for the victims of acid attack.

- WHO communication team participated in a meeting held with Spokesperson of Ministry of Health and Population, officials from National Health Education, Information and Communication Center, communication team of UNICEF Nepal and UNRC office to discuss the future of the RCCE Working Group. The main conclusion was that NHEICC will be leading the group and chair all meetings in coming days. Similarly, WHO Nepal, other UN agencies will actively support for the effective functioning of the RCCE working group.

**What are the health clusters partners doing?**

- **Continued routine work** from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation

- **UNICEF and WHO** are providing overall support for COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with health partners and donors.

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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.
• 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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