

Situation Update #123 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 15 - 21 August 2022 (EPI Week 33)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 21 August 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 22 August 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.4% (978,901) of cases have recovered, 0.4% (4,348) are active cases and 1.2% (11,992) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 95.6% (4,155) cases are in home isolation; 4.4% (193) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 26.4% (51) patients require ICU admission and 5 patients require ventilator support.
- Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (2,209) reported this week, 50.2% (1,108) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district 9.9% (219). Majority of the new cases 65.7% (1,451) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 21 August 2022)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,472,791	First dose	10,349,330	Single dose	3,483,644	First dose	2,875,763 ¹	First dose	3,220,103
Second dose	4,774,613	Second dose	9,226,993			Second dose	927,613	Second dose	2,817,776*

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, 78.2% (777,954/995,241) 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 44.1% of national total (438,552/995,241), and 81.4% of the provincial total (438,552/538,666).

¹ *Minor data discrepancy observed as a result of continuous updating and reviewing of the databases.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 21 August 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 995,241

Antigen RDT: 149,041

Cumulative deaths: 11,992

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,870,415

Antigen RDT: 1,335,411

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

59,846,866 (10%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

794,597 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

593,236,266 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,448,504 (100%)

- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 33 ranged from 8.1% (Madhesh province) to 41.6% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 13.0%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 24% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=2209) in Epi week 33 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 4 deaths in Epi week 33, 76% less compared to that in the previous week.

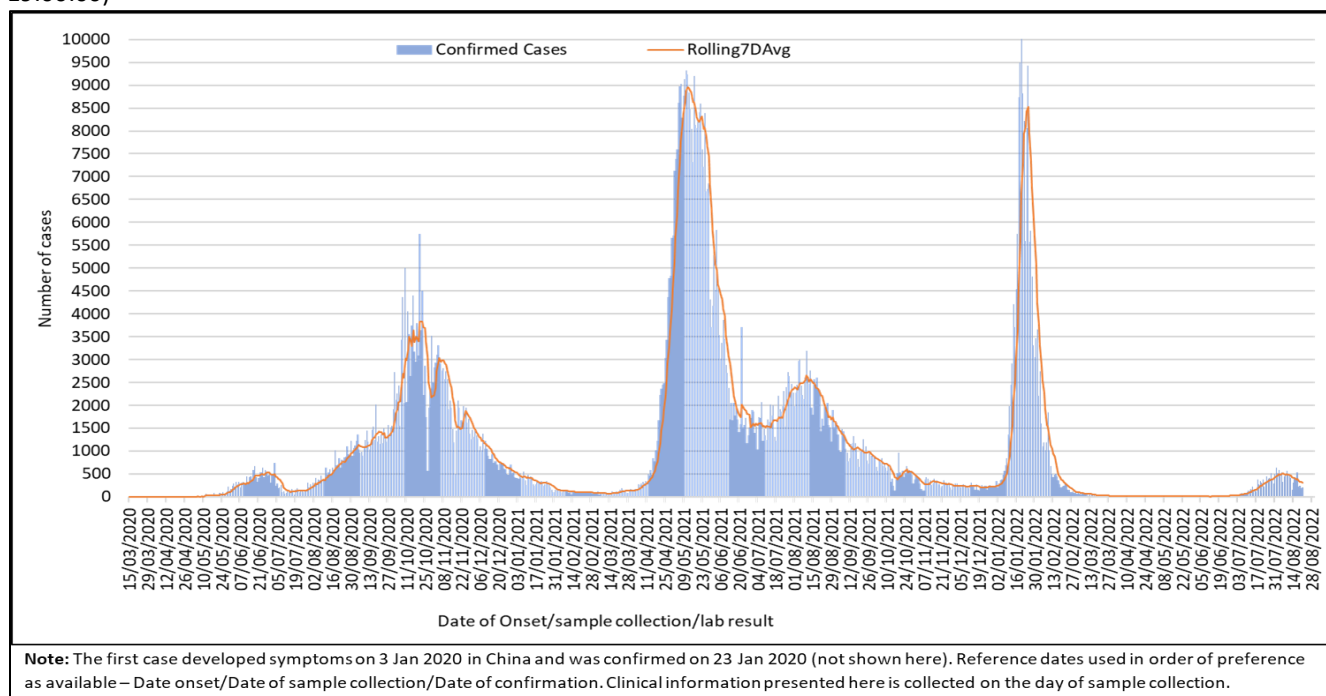
National Influenza Surveillance

- WHO Nepal facilitated National Influenza Center (NIC) NPHL in shipping 13 Influenza positive samples on 16 August 2022 to WHO Collaborating Centre in Japan, to contribute to the Southern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccine Composition Consultation which is scheduled for September 2022.
- NIC-NPHL reported 11 diagnostic Influenza sample on Epi-week 33 (15-21 August 2022).
 - None of the samples tested positive for both Influenza A and B.
 - Two samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHLs) from Province 1, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 95 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 33.
 - One sample tested positive for Influenza A and 10 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 751 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 21 August 2022.
- From 3 January 2022 until 21 August 2022:
 - A total of 200 samples tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B, 88 Influenza A/H3 , 106 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) and 4 Influenza A (subtyping to be done) from 4,407 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 Negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 284 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1,527 Influenza negative samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).²

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

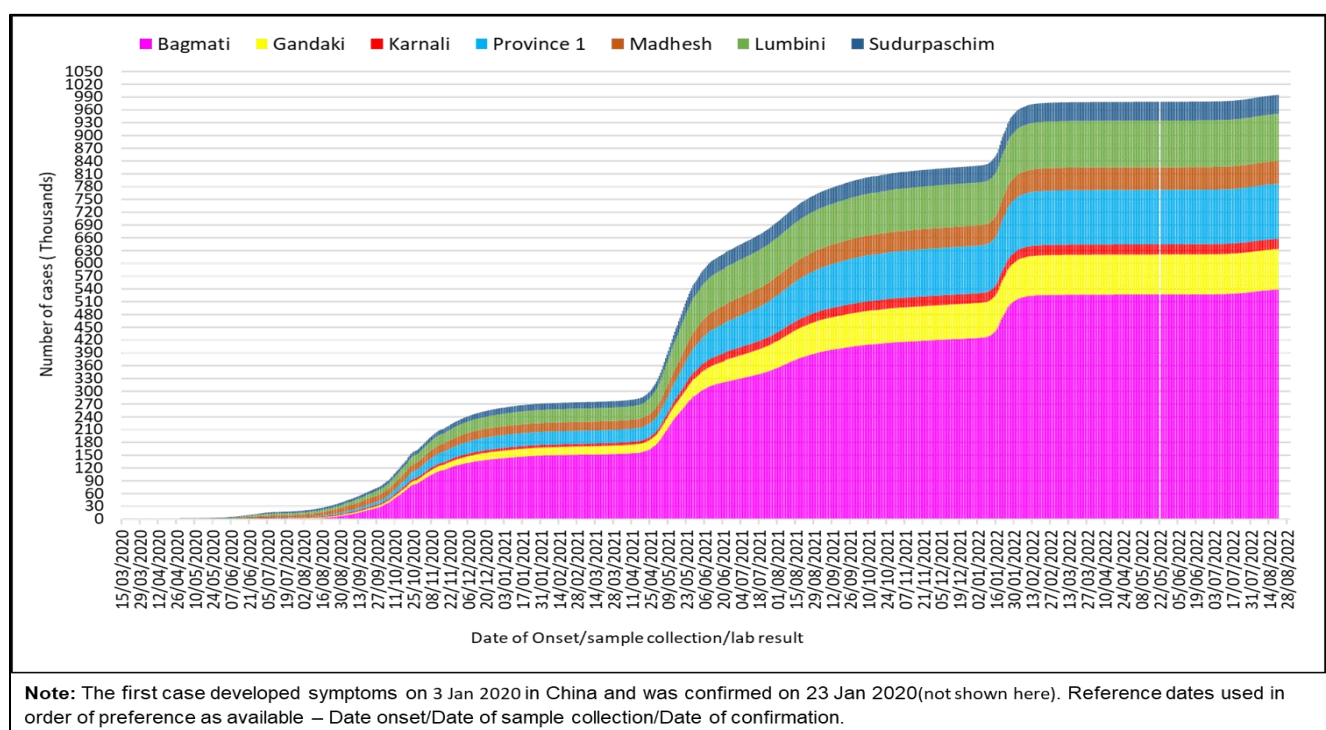
² These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 995,241)(Data reported on 21 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)



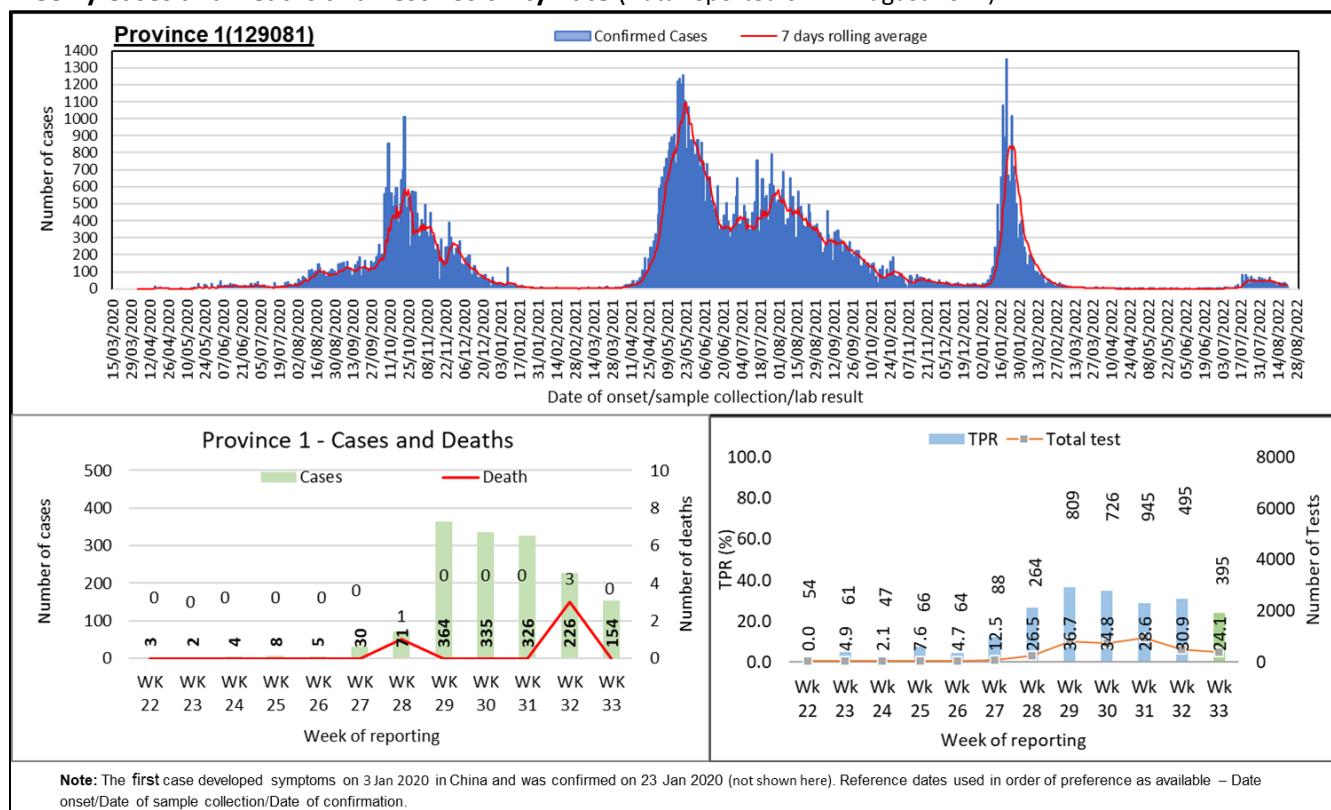
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 995,241)(Data reported on 21 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)



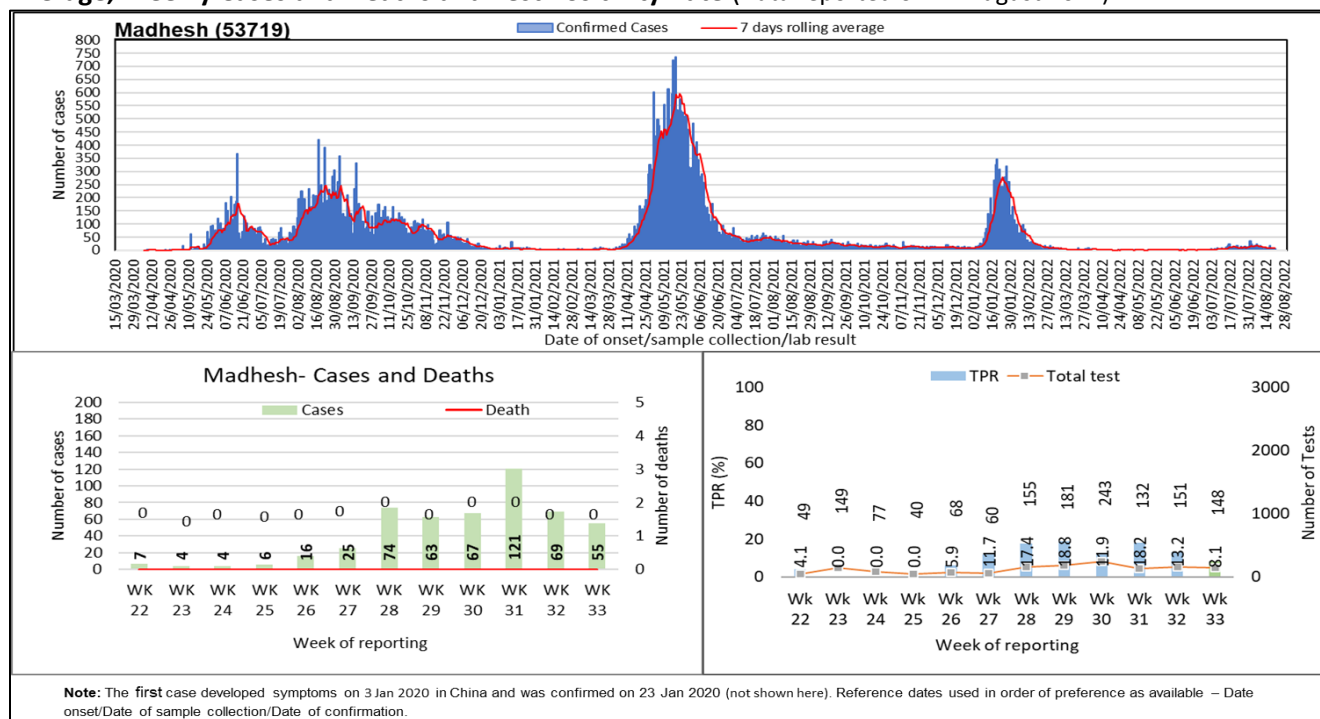
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 21 August 2022)



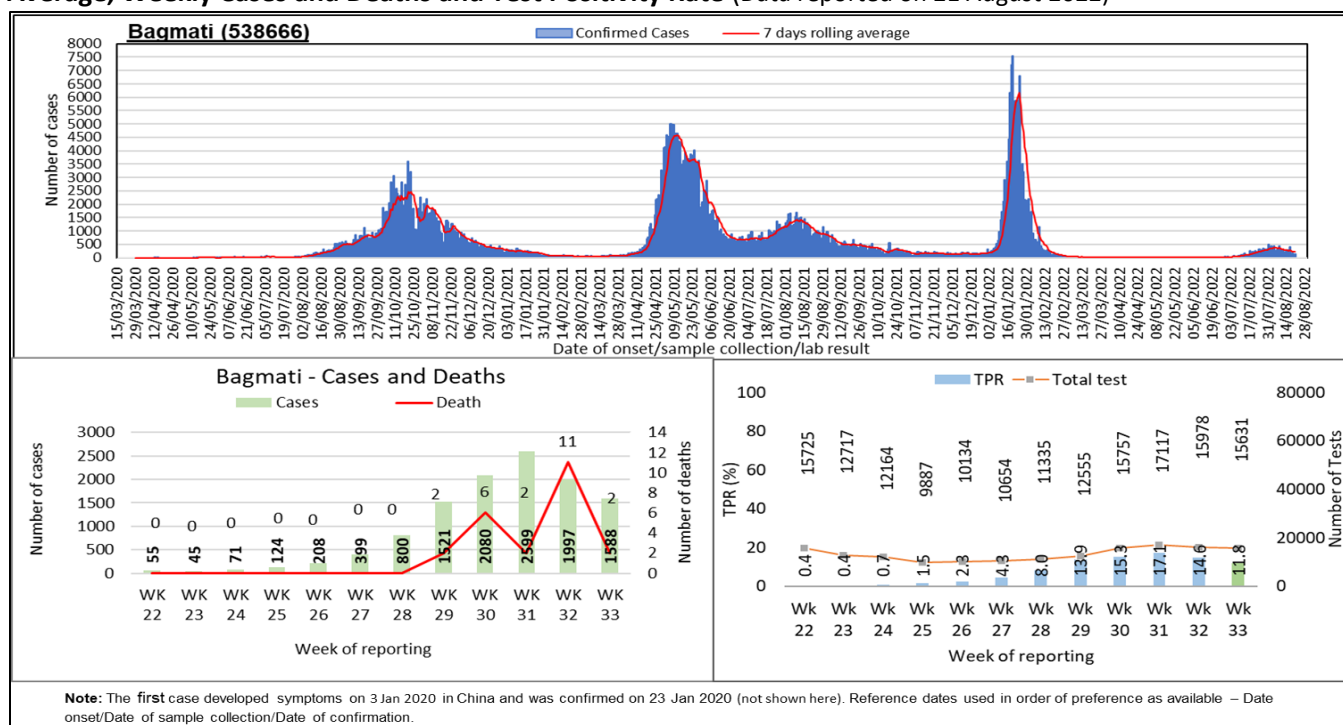
There were 154 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 32% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 24.1% in the past week. A total of 395 tests were performed in the past week, 20% 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 21 August 2022)



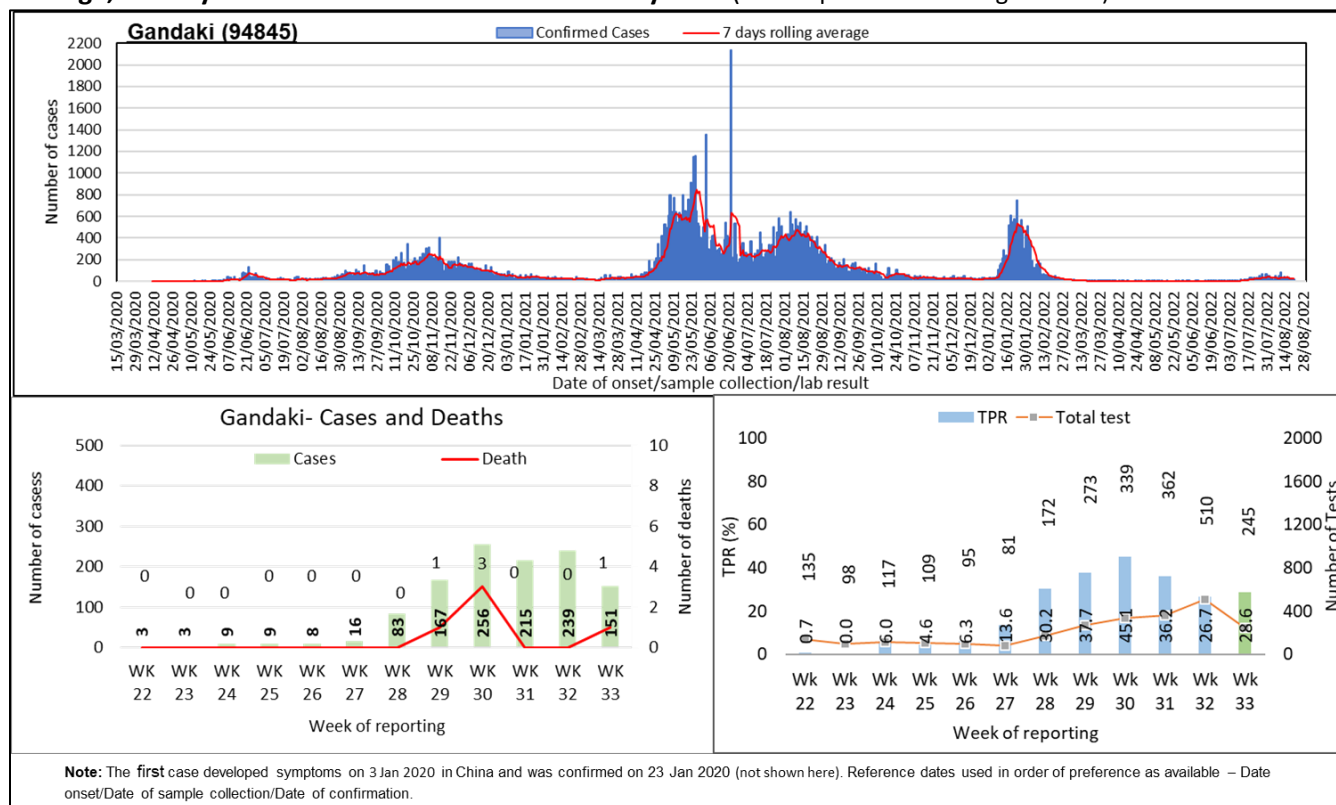
There were 55 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have decreased by 20% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh decreased to 8.1% in the past week. A total of 148 tests were performed in the past week, 2% 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 21 August 2022)



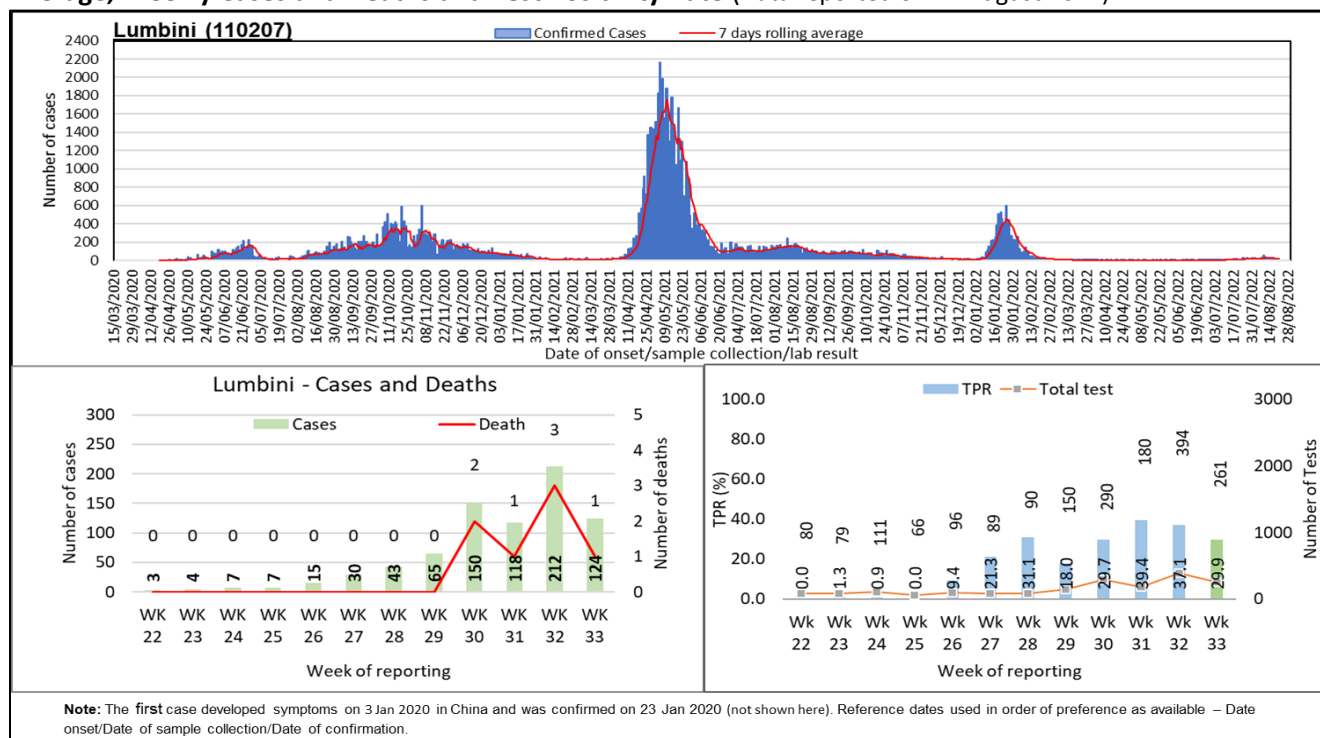
In Bagmati, 1588 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 20% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 82% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 11.8% in the past week. A total of 15,631 tests were performed in the past week, 2% less than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A4: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gandaki Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 21 August 2022)



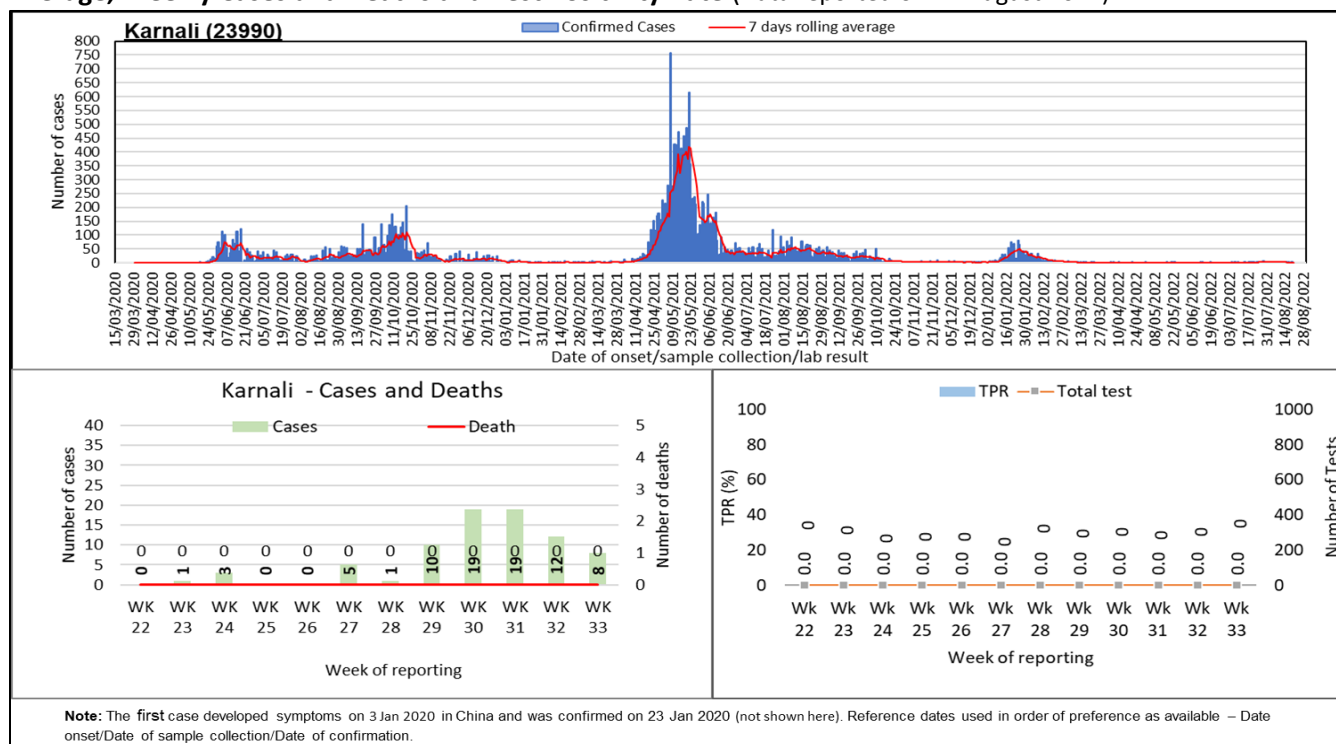
In Gandaki, 151 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 37% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, compared to none in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 28.6% in the past week. A total of 245 tests were performed in the past week, 52% 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 21 August 2022)



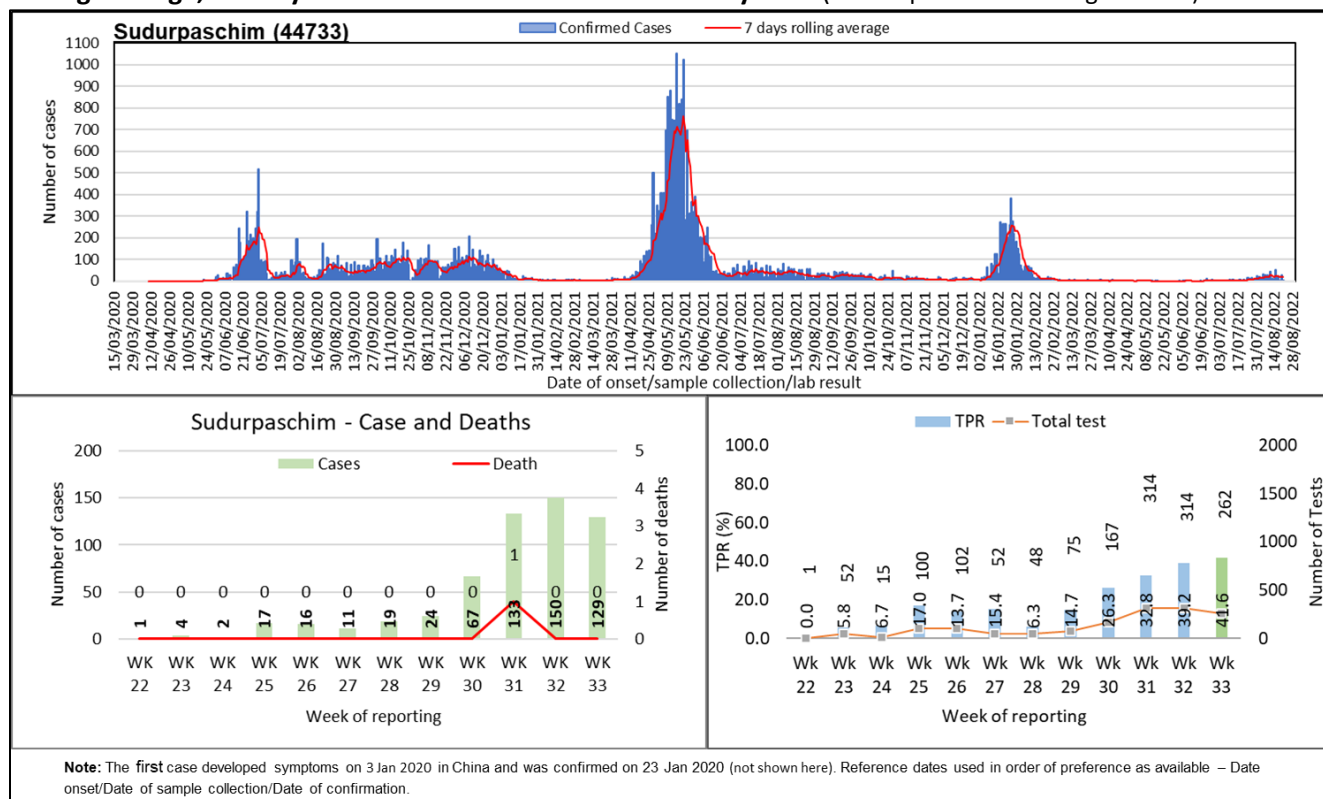
Lumbini reported 124 new cases in the past week. Cases have decreased by 42% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 67% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 29.9% in the past week. A total of 261 tests were performed in the past week, 34% 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 21 August 2022)



In Karnali, 8 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 33% 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 21 August 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 129 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 14% 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 41.6% in the past week. A total of 262 tests were performed reported in the past week, 17% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 21 August 2022 up to 19:00:00)

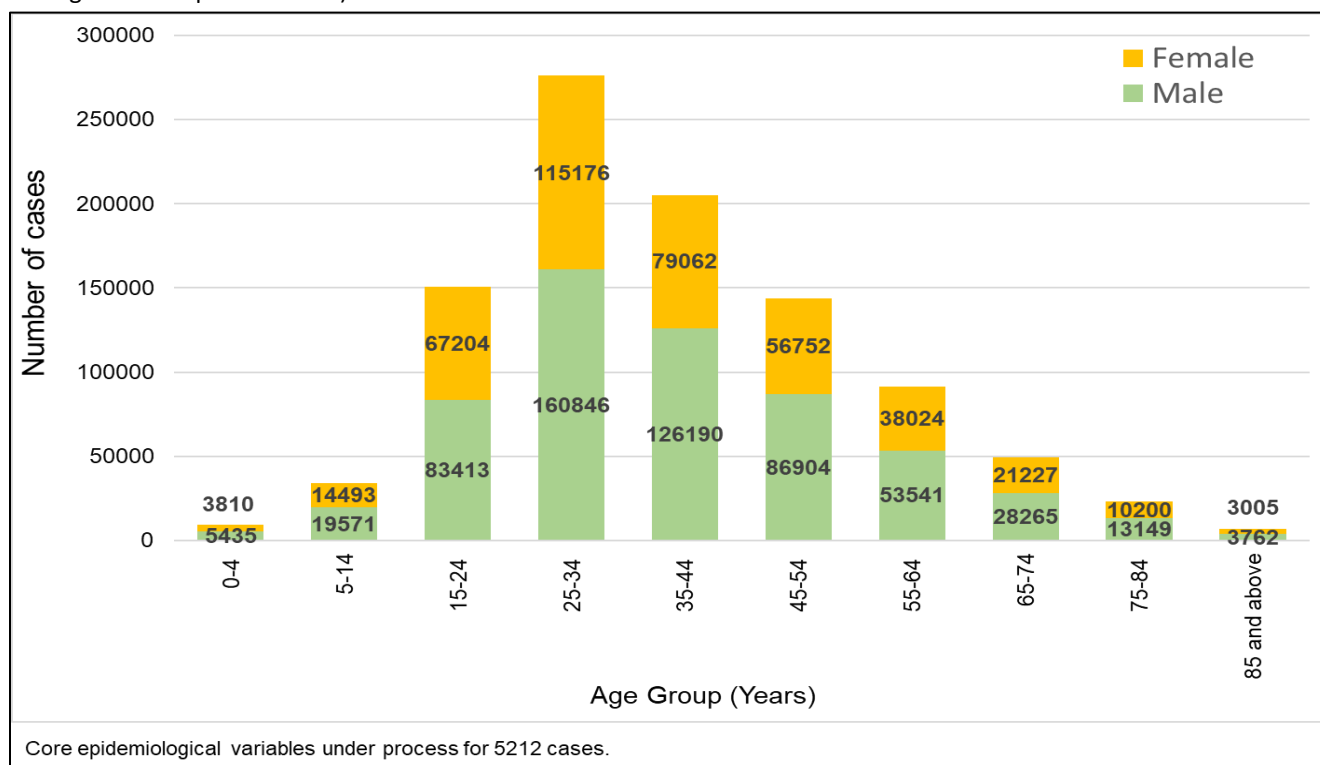
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129081	30169	159250	14.2	1719	Community transmission	337	380	717	8.2	3
Madhesh	53719	1174	54893	4.9	783	Community transmission	9	124	133	1.5	0
Bagmati	538666	31735	570401	50.8	5187	Community transmission	820	3585	4405	50.4	13
Gandaki	94845	24248	119093	10.6	1424	Community transmission	827	390	1217	13.9	1
Lumbini	110207	27583	137790	12.3	1871	Community transmission	1065	336	1401	16.0	4
Karnali	23990	6210	30200	2.7	491	Community transmission	226	20	246	2.8	0
Sudurpashchim	44733	5858	50591	4.5	517	Community transmission	335	279	614	7.0	0
National Total	995241	126977*	1122218	100	11992	Community transmission	3619	5114	8733	100	21

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 21 August 2022, **149041 but IMU reported **126977***

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= 990,029)Data reported on 21 August 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= 995,241)(Data reported on 21 August 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	9245	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34064	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	150617	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	276022	387	265	151	0.24
35-44	205252	875	451	280	0.65
45-54	143656	1393	644	571	1.42
55-64	91565	1685	801	775	2.72
65-74	49492	1636	892	952	5.11
75-84	23349	1224	656	766	8.05
85+	6767	522	288	276	11.97
Unknown	5212	19	7	11	0.5
National	995241	7862	4130	3875	1.20

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 11,992 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,862 (65.6%) were male and 4,130 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,875 persons (32.3%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 12.0%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- Nepal reached the landmark of administering more than 50 million COVID-19 vaccine doses on 13 August 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 6 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all participating laboratories was 100% concordant.
 - Uploading the result of genome sequencing of 47 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples in GISAID platform.
 - Conducting training on 'Bioinformatics analysis and scientific interpretation of SARS-CoV-2 genomic data' for the members of the National Pathogens Genetic sequencing consortium on 16-18 August 2022. The technical session was conducted by the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Delhi, India. A total of 17 participants attended the training.

Epidemiology and Health Information

- Epi and HI pillar supported MoHP in conducting a four-day workshop to train a group of master trainers to conduct future RRT training in the country with the guidance of WHO-HQ under the Rapid Response Team-Training Implementation Package (RRT-TIP)

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training³
- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support in conducting the following programs below:
 - A 10-day Training of Trainers on Emergency Care Toolkit (ECT) and Basic Emergency Care (BEC) in Nepal. Training was focused on five areas including Tool 1: Basic Emergency Care Course (BEC); Tool 2: Interagency Integrated Triage Tool (IITT); Tool 3: Resuscitation Area Designation; Tool 4: Emergency Care Checklists and Tool 5: Standardized Clinical Forms. The training organized by MoHP was conducted in Kathmandu from 15 to 26 August 2022.

³ 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 were from Provincial and Kathmandu-based hub hospitals and included nursing in-charge, emergency department in-charge, field medical officers, and WHO staff.

- A 3-day Ambulance Driver Training (4th batch) held from 21-23 August 2022 organized by National Training Center, MoHP, with the support of WHO and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (EU ECHO). 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. Participants were ambulance drivers from the private and public hospitals of Province one and Madhesh Province.



Patients practicing handwashing practices and learning its importance during the Ambulance drivers training session. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal

- A two-day 'Users Training on Biomedical Equipment' was held from 17 - 18 July 2022 organized by National Health Training Center (NHTC). The 10th batch of 18 health care workers - 6 medical officers and 12 nurses from Trishuli, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Dhadhing Hospital participated in the program. The training build capacities of the users to effectively operate and properly handle respiratory devices such as BiPAP/CPAP, HFNC, Oxygen Concentrator, Ventilator, and Oxygen Cylinder.



Resource person from NHTC (National Health Training Center) delivering Opening remarks at Bio-Medical Equipment's training. Photo Credit: NHTC

- WHO Nepal also attended a meeting on 'Paxlovid: clinical use' organized by Curative Service Division (CSD) where WHO conducted presentation on 'Paxlovid- combinations of antivirals for management

of mild to moderate COVID-19' at Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD). Directors from EDCD, CSD and experts from different COVID-19 designated hospitals along with a representative from UNICEF were present at the meeting. The meeting concluded with a note that while need for Paxlovid could arise, there would be challenges in its distribution.

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics⁴.
- WHO Nepal provided logistics and operational support for following program:
 - 'Training of Trainers on Emergency Care Toolkit and Basic Emergency Care' starting from 15 - 25 August at Kathmandu. This program was jointly organized by National Health Training Center and WHO Nepal.
 - 'Rapid Response Team Training of Trainers' starting from 16 - 19 August at Kathmandu. This program was jointly organized by Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, Rapid Response Team Training and WHO Nepal.



Participants during the demonstration drill at Rapid Response Team Training of Trainers on 18 August 2022 at Kathmandu. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/C.Sherpa

- Handover of Ambulance Equipment to Health Emergency and Disaster Management Unit, Health Emergency Operation Center, MoHP on 16 August 2022.

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



(Middle Left) Dr. Allison Gocotano, Team Leader (WHO Health Emergencies) during the Handover Ceremony of Ambulance Equipment on 16th August 2022. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/A.Maharjan

- ECHO monitoring visit meeting at UN House on 16 August 2022.



ECHO Meeting at UN House on 16 August 2022. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/A.Maharjan

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The news of the handover of 8 million syringes to Department of Health Services, MoHP to support the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#))

[here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)). The supplies will now be distributed to health centers across Nepal and aid in faster deployment of vaccines.

- With the launch of the second phase of COVID-19 vaccination for children, WCO Nepal shared photo stories with testimonials from schoolteachers, administration and health workers on the importance of COVID-19 vaccines for children on its social media.
- On the occasion of *World Humanitarian Day*, relevant IEC materials were shared thanking healthcare workers serving the vulnerable population and supporting Nepal to reach WHO's target of vaccinating 70% of its eligible population against COVID-19.
- A web story - *Creating a cohort of BEMT Trainers to strengthen pre-hospital care in Nepal* – was published on the website of WHO, Country Office for Nepal (link [here](#)). The program held in two batches trained a total of 32 healthcare workers and doctors representing COVID-19 treating hospitals and health workers with prior experience in providing pre-hospital and emergency care. These certified trainers will now go on to provide BEMT training to other health workers at the provincial level.
- The news of training on bioinformatics analysis and scientific interpretation of SARS-CoV-2 genomic data held was shared on the website for WHO, Country Office for Nepal. The 3-day training, was organized by National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), under MoHP, for the members of National Pathogen Genetic Sequencing Consortium and NPHL. Facilitators from the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (New Delhi, India) trained the members on use of tools and databases for genomic surveillance of other pathogens as well, including the Influenza virus, antimicrobial resistant bacteria, and other emerging pathogens.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - National COVID-19 vaccination campaign for children (above 5 years and below 12 years),
 - Receiving national COVID-19 vaccination QR code,
 - The importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - The importance of following COVID-19 preventive measures.
- 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 and MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- Continuous support for Health Coordination Division for the weekly National briefing . The briefing on 17 August 2022 included information about current situation of COVID-19 in Nepal. Similarly, as the monsoon is still active in Nepal, the risk of water borne diseases and vector borne diseases persist. Key messages related to how to protect oneself from WBDs and VBDs along with Nepal's preparedness for monkeypox was included in the briefing.
- Meeting with NHEICC officials to discuss about developing IEC material on Rabies disease. In the meeting, there was a discussion among officials from NHEICC, WHO and UNICEF on mapping out RCCE activities for next three months.

WHO Nepal's Paanch Ma Bigyan continues to be broadcast via local radio stations twice a week.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation⁵
- 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 Nepal handed over 8 million syringes to the Ministry of Health and Population to support the ongoing national COVID-19 vaccination campaign on 18 August 2022.
- Ambulances, responding to COVID-19, of eight hub hospitals selected by Ministry of Health and Population were equipped with a set of equipment which included torch light, tongue depressor, wheelchair, ECG monitor etc, according to the provisions of the National Ambulance Guideline 2078 with support of WHO and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) on 16 August 2022.

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](#)

⁵ 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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