

Situation Update #125 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 29 August – 04 September 2022 (EPI Week 35)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 04 September 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 05 September 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.5% (983,333) of cases have recovered, 0.3% (2,528) are active cases and 1.2% (12,007) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 94.3% (2,385) cases are in home isolation; 5.6% (143) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 26.6% (38) patients require ICU admission and 4 patients require ventilator support.
- Only Kathmandu district reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (1,034) reported this week, 43.1% (446) are from Kathmandu district followed by Chitwan district 10% (103). Majority of the new cases 55.3% (572) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 04 September 2022)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,491,005	First dose	10,354,817	Single dose	3,487,287	First dose	3,299,480	First dose	3,221,783
Second dose	4,784,829	Second dose	9,232,443			Second dose	1,247,653	Second dose	2,819,497

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% (780,152/997,868) 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 (440,142/997,868), and 81.4% of the provincial total (440,142/540,528).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 35 ranged from 6.3% (Province 1) to 16.4% (Gandaki province), with a national positivity rate at 8.7%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 04 September 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 997,868

Antigen RDT: 150,907

Cumulative deaths: 12,007

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,896,667

Antigen RDT: 1,365,334

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,053,325 (10%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

795,991 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

600,381,224 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,461,816 (100%)

- Nepal reported a 35% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=1034) in Epi week 35 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 7 deaths in Epi week 35, 13% less compared to that in the previous week.

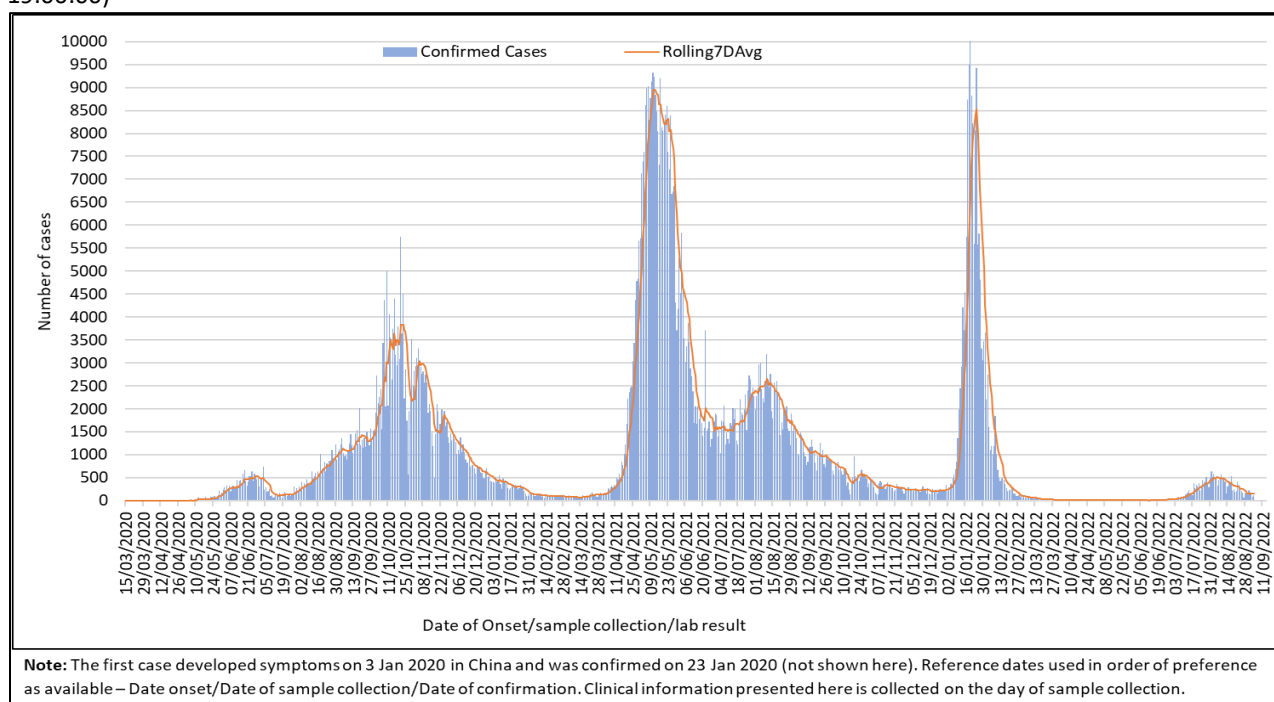
National Influenza Surveillance

- WHO Nepal provided financial and technical support to Nepal Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL, in conducting a meeting at Hotel Greenwich on 5 September 2022 to orient the sentinel sites of the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) for the implementation of the Integrated Influenza -SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance program. The representatives from sentinel sites of NPHL i.e., Bir Hospital, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), Kanti Children's Hospital, Mechi Hospital, Bheri Hospital, and Bharatpur Hospital attended the meeting along with the NPHL team, representative from Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) and WHO-CO-Laboratory Pillar Team.
- NIC-NPHL reported 8 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 35 (29 Aug- 4 Sep 2022).
 - One sample tested Influenza A positive of which subtyping is yet to be done.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 35, 60 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
 - One sample tested positive for Influenza A of which subtyping is yet to be done.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHLs) from Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 74 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 35.
 - Five samples tested positive for Influenza A and 2 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 800 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 4 September 2022.
- Walter Reed AFRIMS Research Unit Nepal (WARUN) reported testing a total of 181 samples in Epi weeks 32, 33, and 34. 61 samples tested positive for Influenza A (H1N1pdm09) and 43 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3 respectively.
- From 3 January 2022 until 4 September 2022:
 - A total of 283 samples tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B, 116 Influenza A/H3, 151 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), and 14 Influenza A (subtyping to be done) from 4,860 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 Negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 287 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1,641 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/>

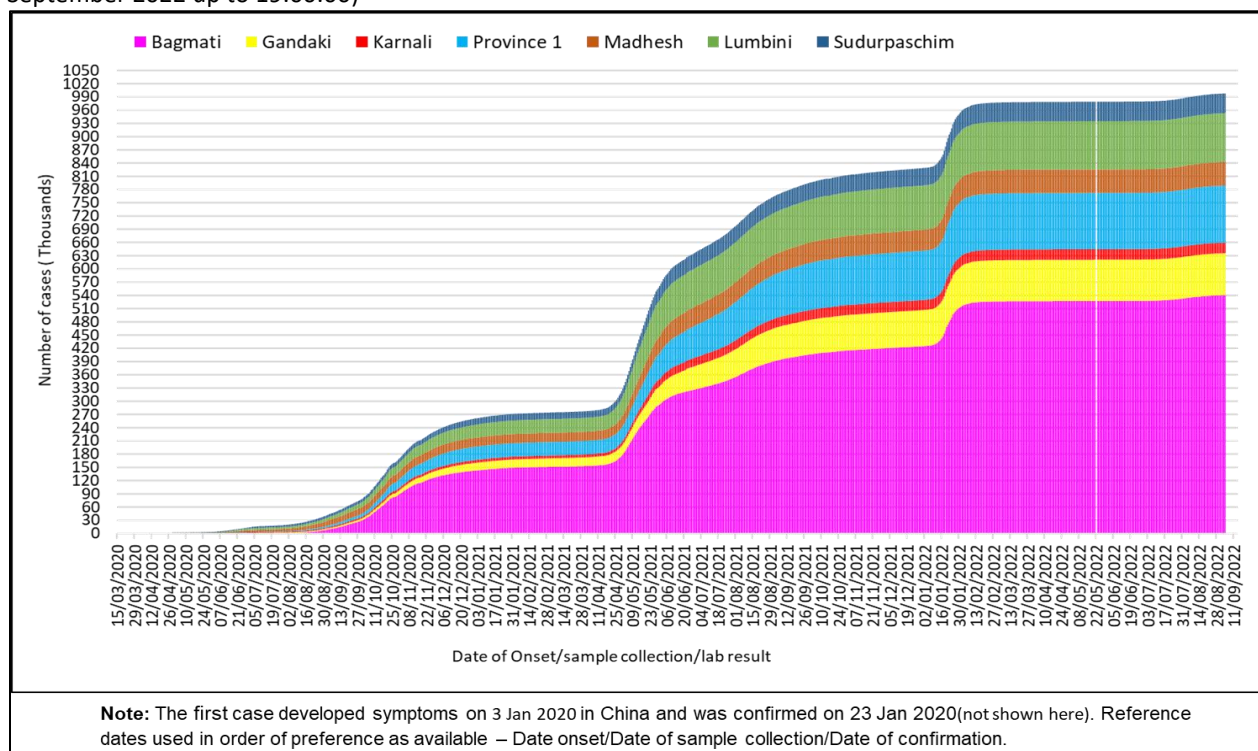
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 997,868)(Data reported on 4 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



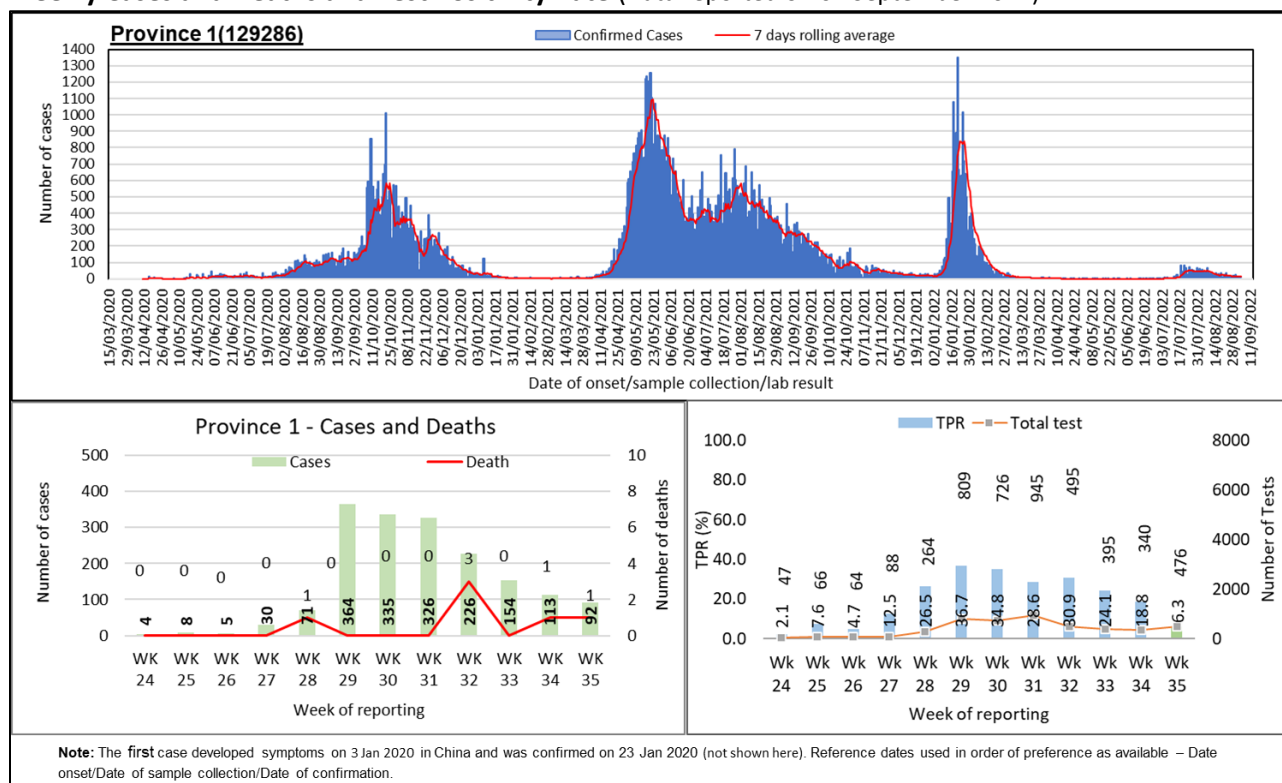
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end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

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N= 997,868)(Data reported on 4 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



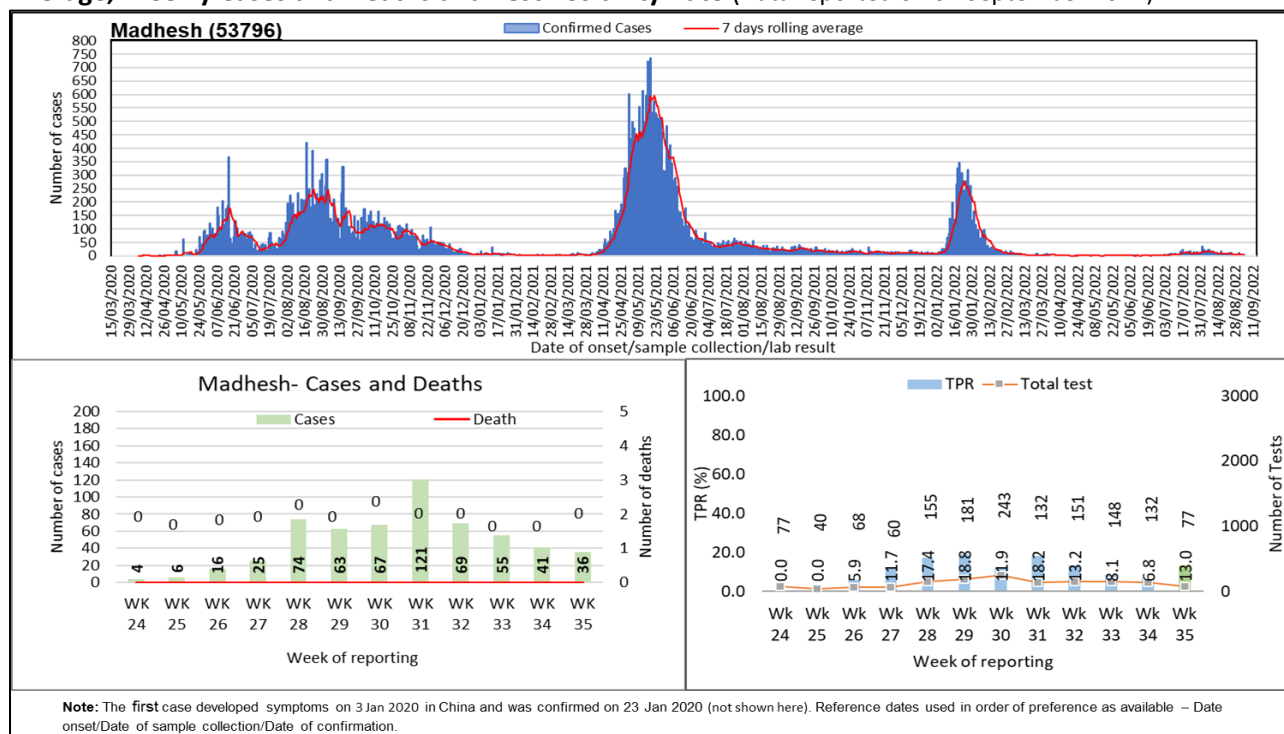
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 04 September 2022)



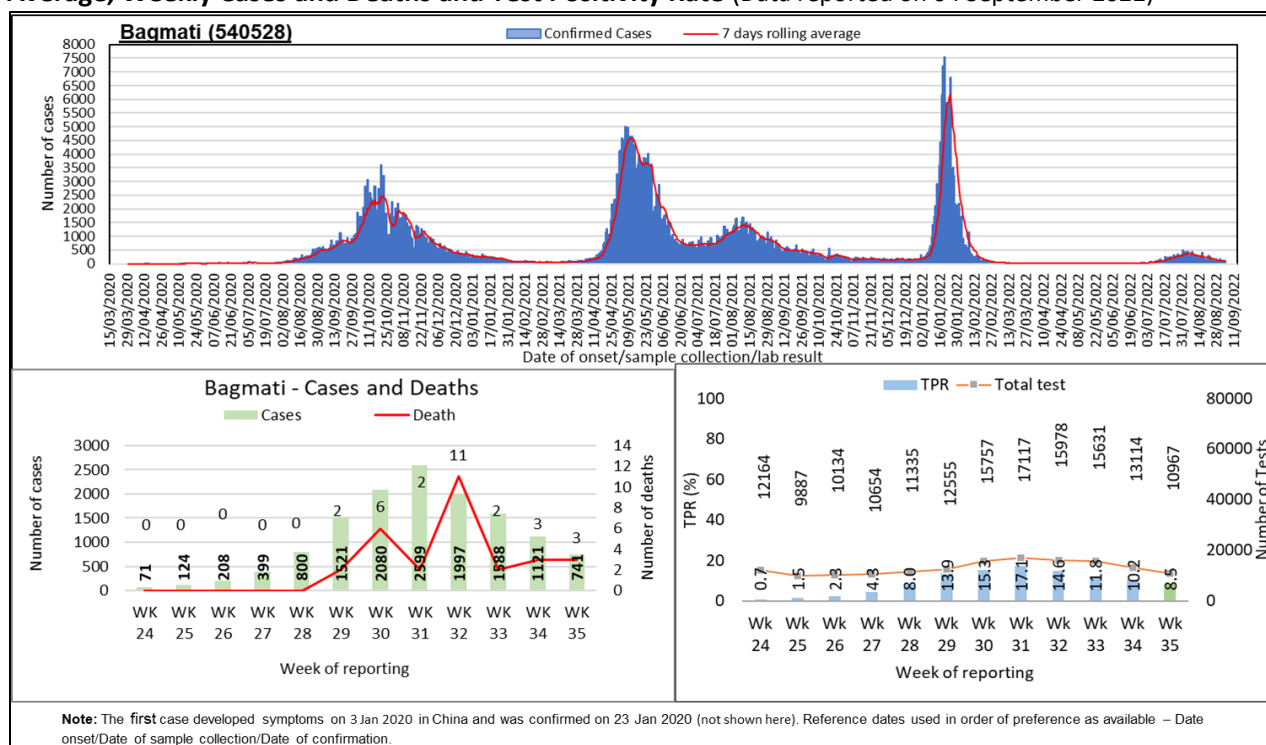
There were 92 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 19% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 6.3% in the past week. A total of 476 tests were performed in the past week, 40% 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 04 September 2022)



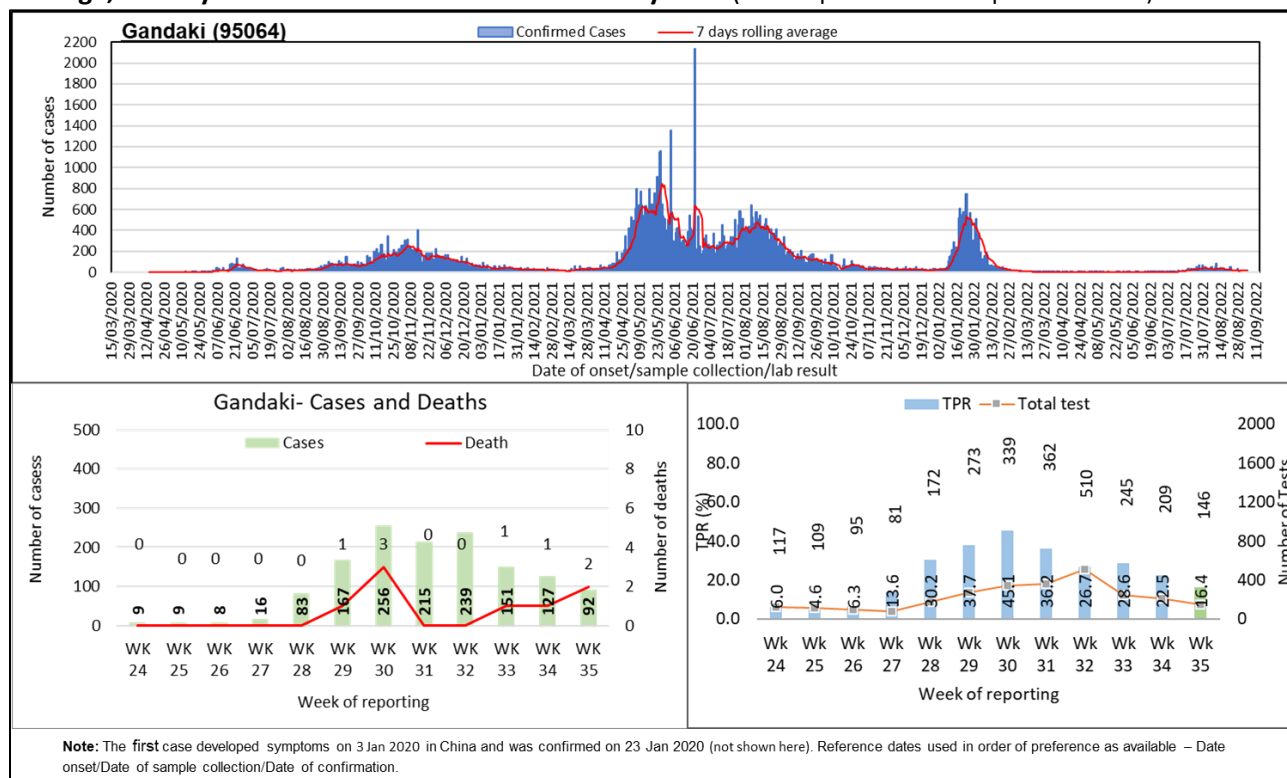
There were 36 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have decreased by 12% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh increased to 13.0% in the past week. A total of 77 tests were performed in the past week, 42% 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 04 September 2022)



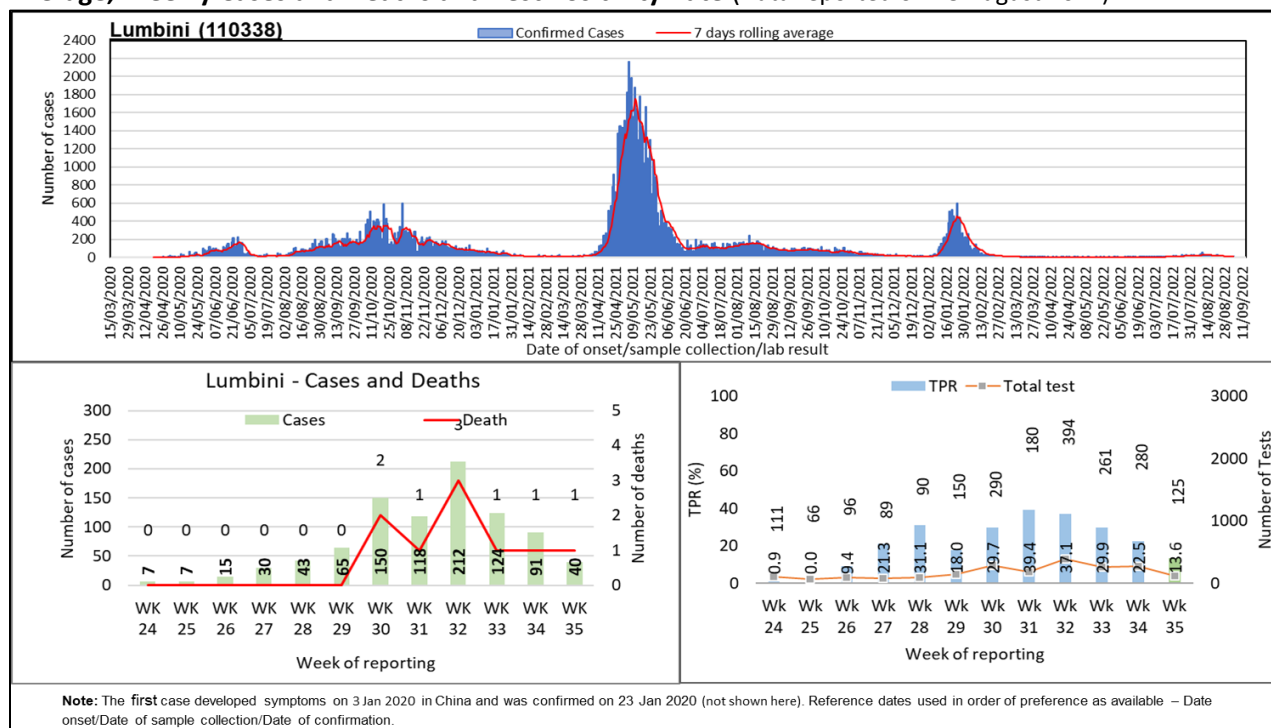
In Bagmati, 741 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 34% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 8.5% in the past week. A total of 10,967 tests were performed in the past week, 16% 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 04 September 2022)



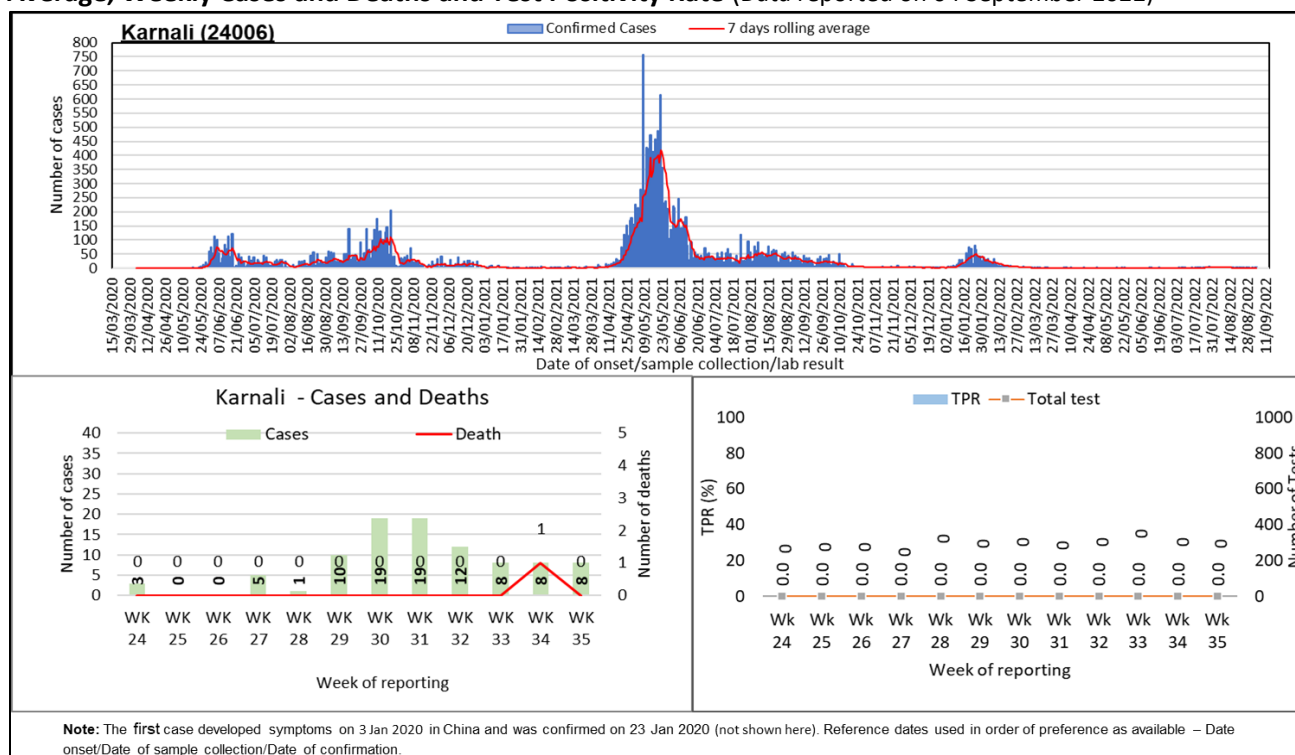
In Gandaki, 92 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 28% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 16.4% in the past week. A total of 146 tests were performed in the past week, 30% 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 28 August 2022)



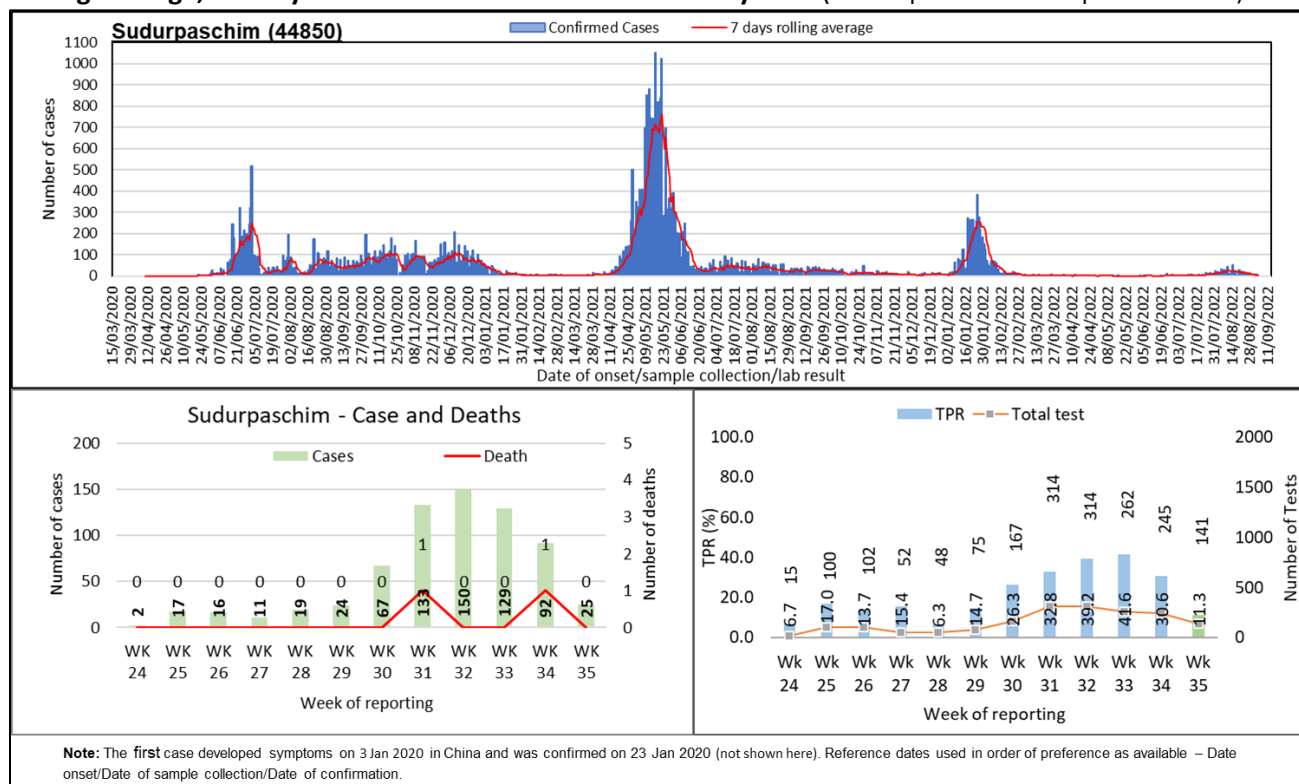
Lumbini reported 40 new cases in the past week. Cases have decreased by 56% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 13.6% in the past week. A total of 125 tests were performed in the past week, 55% 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 04 September 2022)



In Karnali, 8 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, 100% less compared to 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 04 September 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 25 new cases 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, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim decreased to 11.3% in the past week. A total of 141 tests were performed reported in the past week, 42% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 04 September 2022 up to 19:00:00))

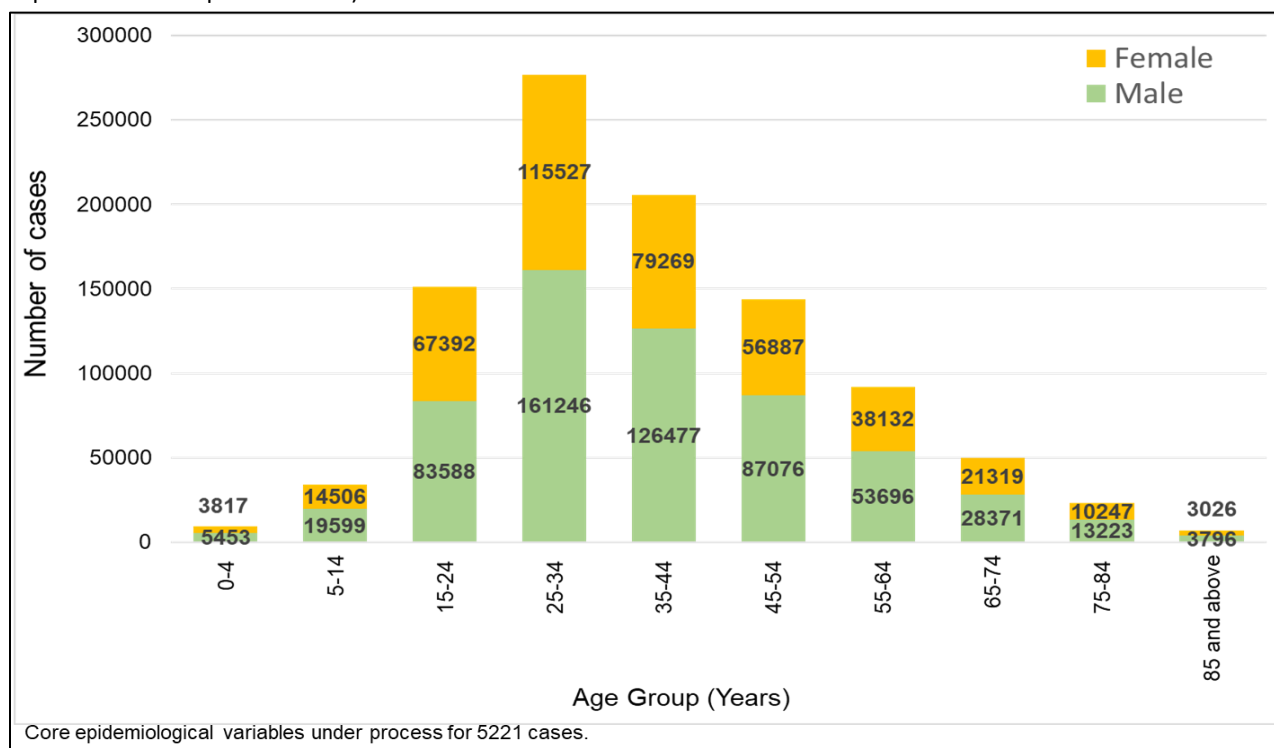
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129286	30300	159586	14.2	1721	Community transmission	131	205	336	7.9	2
Madhesh	53796	1177	54973	4.9	783	Community transmission	3	77	80	1.9	0
Bagmati	540528	32273	572801	50.8	5193	Community transmission	538	1862	2400	56.3	6
Gandaki	95064	24544	119608	10.6	1427	Community transmission	296	219	515	12.1	3
Lumbini	110338	27938	138276	12.3	1873	Community transmission	355	131	486	11.4	2
Karnali	24006	6296	30302	2.7	492	Community transmission	86	16	102	2.4	1
Sudurpashchim	44850	6082	50932	4.5	518	Community transmission	224	117	341	8.0	1
National Total	997868	128610*	1126478	100	12007	Community transmission	1633	2627	4260	100	15

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 04 September 2022, **150907 but IMU reported **128610***

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= 992,647)(Data reported on 4 September 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= 997,868)(Data reported on 4 September 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	9270	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34105	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	150980	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	276773	387	265	151	0.24
35-44	205746	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	143963	1396	644	573	1.42
55-64	91828	1688	802	779	2.71
65-74	49690	1638	893	955	5.09
75-84	23470	1225	657	768	8.02
85+	6822	523	289	278	11.9
Unknown	5221	19	7	11	0.5
National	997868	7872	4135	3889	1.20

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

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

A total of 12,007 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,872 (65.6%) were male and 4,135 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,889 persons (32.4%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 11.9%.

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 8 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of 6 participating laboratories was 100% concordant and 2 laboratories were 90%.
 - Receiving 97 External quality assurance panels (EQAP) for the WHO Global round of Laboratory Proficiency Testing for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 by PCR organized by the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPAQAP).
 - Shipment of EQAP panels sent by RCPAQAP to the designated COVID-19 laboratories.
 - Uploading the result of genome sequencing in the GISAID platform.

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 below:
 - Nursing and Social Security Division (NSSD) led 3 months 'Infection Prevention and Control Training (blended modality) clinical practice (selected participants must complete online theory module within 6 weeks with 85% score in post-test then will be eligible for clinical practice)' in coordination with National Health Training Center from 28 Aug 2022 onwards. There are 20 Participants, which includes nurses from various hospitals of Kathmandu valley and other provinces (Province 1, Madhesh, Lumbini & Karnali). This training aims to develop one IPC nurse in the health facility as recommended by WHO on IPC Core Components in collaboration with NHTC.

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.

Opening Ceremony for IPC training using blended modality addressed by various stakeholders at National Health Training Centre, Nepal (NHTC) on 28 Aug 2022). Photo Credit: WHO Nepal



- WHO Nepal also attended a virtual meeting on Post Covid Condition (PCC) for medical officers on 31 August 2022 organized by Curative Service Division (CSD). The meeting concluded with an objective to orient medical officers in collecting more cases and management, to be conducted in 4 batches.

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.
- WHO Nepal provided logistics and operational support for following program:
 - Arrangement of accommodation and conference package for 5 days training on 'II batch of Training of Trainers on Emergency Care Toolkit and Basic Emergency Care' conducted parallelly at Nepalgunj and Chitwan from 04 – 08 September 2022. This program was jointly organized by National Health Training Center and WHO Nepal.



Opening remarks by Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari, Chief of National Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) during the day 1 of II batch of Training of Trainers on Emergency Care Toolkit and Basic Emergency Care on 04 September 2022 at Bharatpur, Chitwan.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/C.Sherpa

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

- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Dengue and COVID-19,
 - Omicron subvariant,
 - Air pollution and COVID-19,
 - 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.
- Support to Health Coordination Division, for the weekly National briefing. The MoHP briefing on 31 August 2022 was focused on the key messages about risk of COVID-19 cases in Nepal, significance of adhering to public health and social measures, importance of COVID-19 vaccine and booster dose, date and districts conducting the second phase of National vaccination campaign against COVID-19 for 5 to 11 years, call for action to support the vaccination campaign, message on the prevention of Cholera and diarrheal diseases and message on the process and contact points for obtaining the QR code certification of being vaccinated against COVID-19. Similarly, as more than 72 districts have reported at least or more cases of Dengue in Nepal, the history of Dengue cases in Nepal along with the current situation update was included. The key message emphasized during the national briefing was on protection measures from mosquito bite and prevention and control of mosquito breeding to contain the Dengue outbreak in Nepal.
- Coordination among NHEICC, WHO thematic experts to develop the IEC material on Japanese Encephalitis. As some cases of Japanese Encephalitis are reported from few districts, these messages were swiftly developed and disseminated in local level with the initiatives of health offices at respective districts.

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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