

Situation Update #126 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 05-11 September 2022 (EPI Week 36)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 11 September 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 12 September 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.6% (998,743) of cases have recovered, 0.2% (2,316) are active cases and 1.2% (12,014) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 96.5% (2,236) cases are in home isolation; 3.5% (80) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 17.5% (14) patients require ICU admission and 1 patient require ventilator support.
- Only Kathmandu district reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (875) reported this week, 36.7% (321) are from Kathmandu district followed by Chitwan district 17.9% (157). Majority of the new cases 44.7% (391) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 13 September 2022)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,506,364	First dose	10,358,258	Single dose	3,509,703	First dose	4,121,569	First dose	3,222,292
Second dose	4,789,110	Second dose	9,235,192			Second dose	1,970,408	Second dose	2,820,520

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% (780,847/998,743) 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 (440,533/998,743), and 81.4% of the provincial total (440,533/541,124).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 36 ranged from 5.8% (Province 1) to 20.5% (Madhesh province), with a national positivity rate at 7.5%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 15% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=875) in Epi week 36 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 79% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.
- Nepal reported 7 deaths in Epi week 36, same as compared to the previous week.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 11 September 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 998,743

Antigen RDT: 151,429

Cumulative deaths: 12,014

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,908,369

Antigen RDT: 1,381,376

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,125,926 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

796,444 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

605,709,697 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,493,407 (100%)

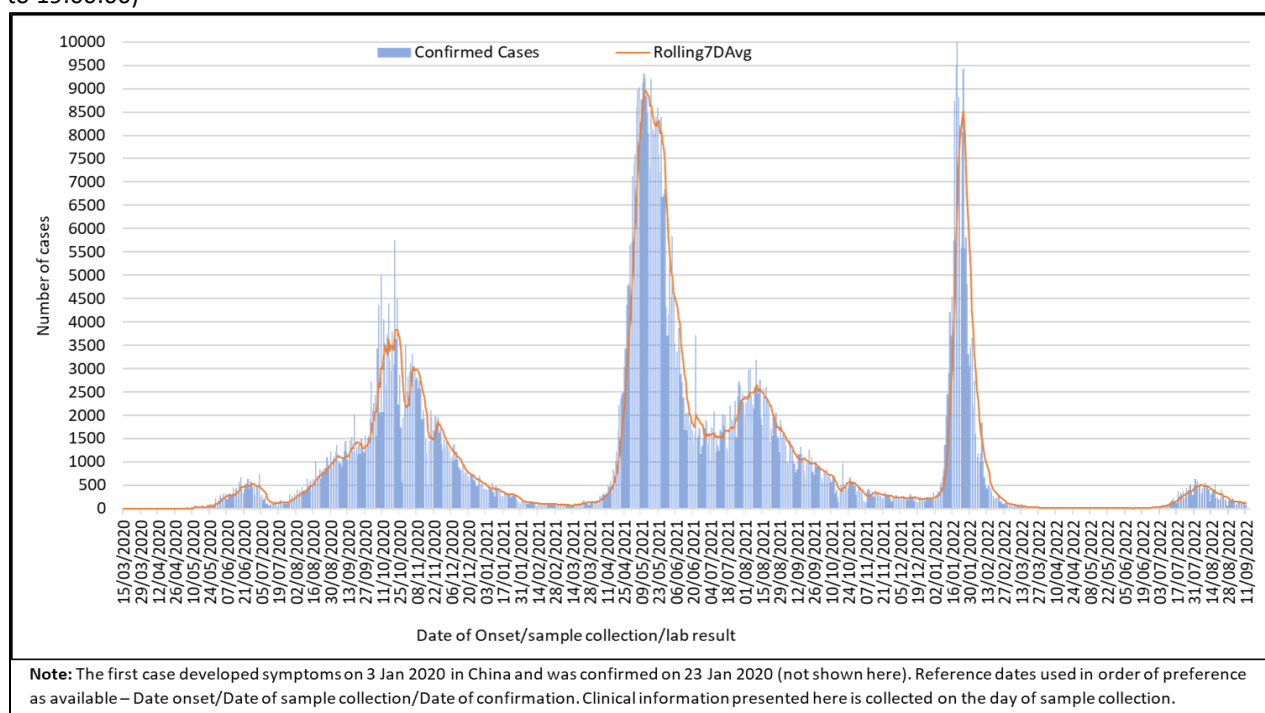
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 7 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 36 (4 -11 Sep 2022). None of the samples tested positive for both Influenza and SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total negative SARS-CoV-2 samples at NPHL on Epi-week 36, 50 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza A and B.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHLs) from Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 75 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on EPID-week 36 (4 -11 Sep 2022).
 - Two samples tested positive for Influenza A.
 - A total of 875 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 11 September 2022.
- From 3 January 2022 until 11 September 2022:
 - A total of 285 samples tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B, 116 Influenza A/H3,151 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), and 16 Influenza A (subtyping to be done) from 4,992 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 1648 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/>

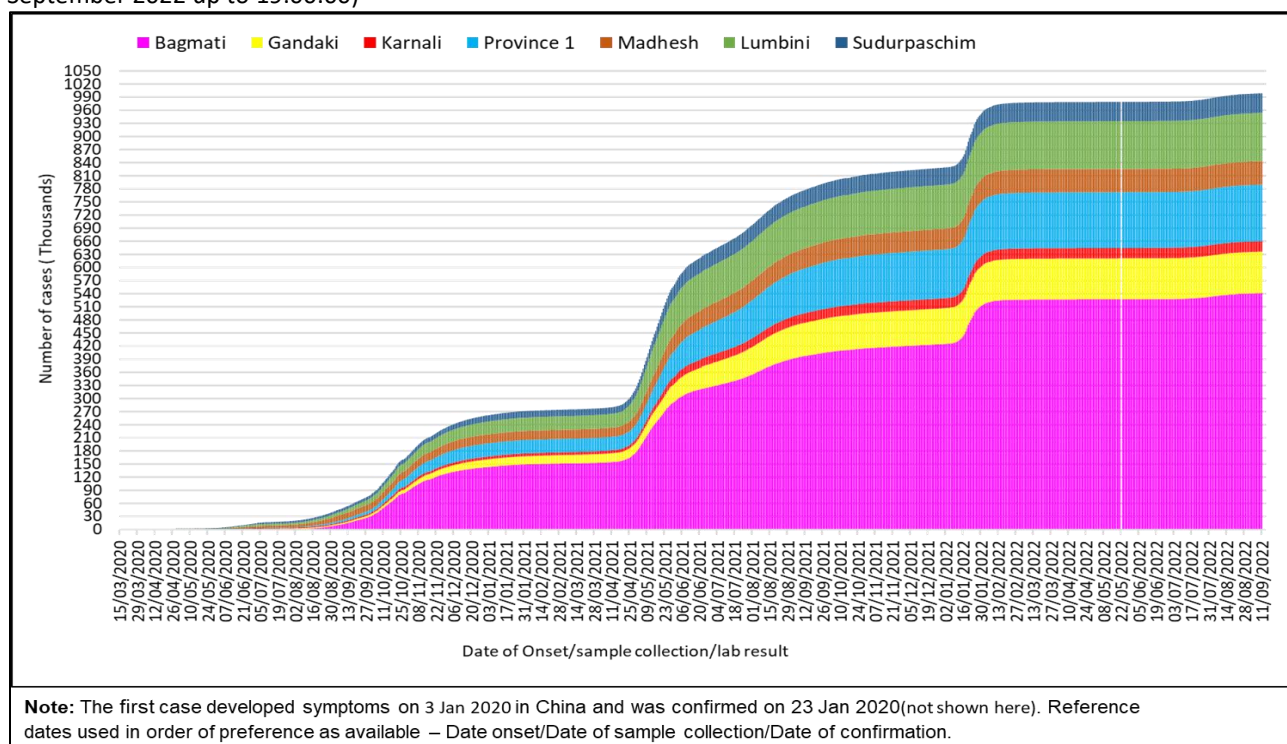
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 998,743)(Data reported on 11 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



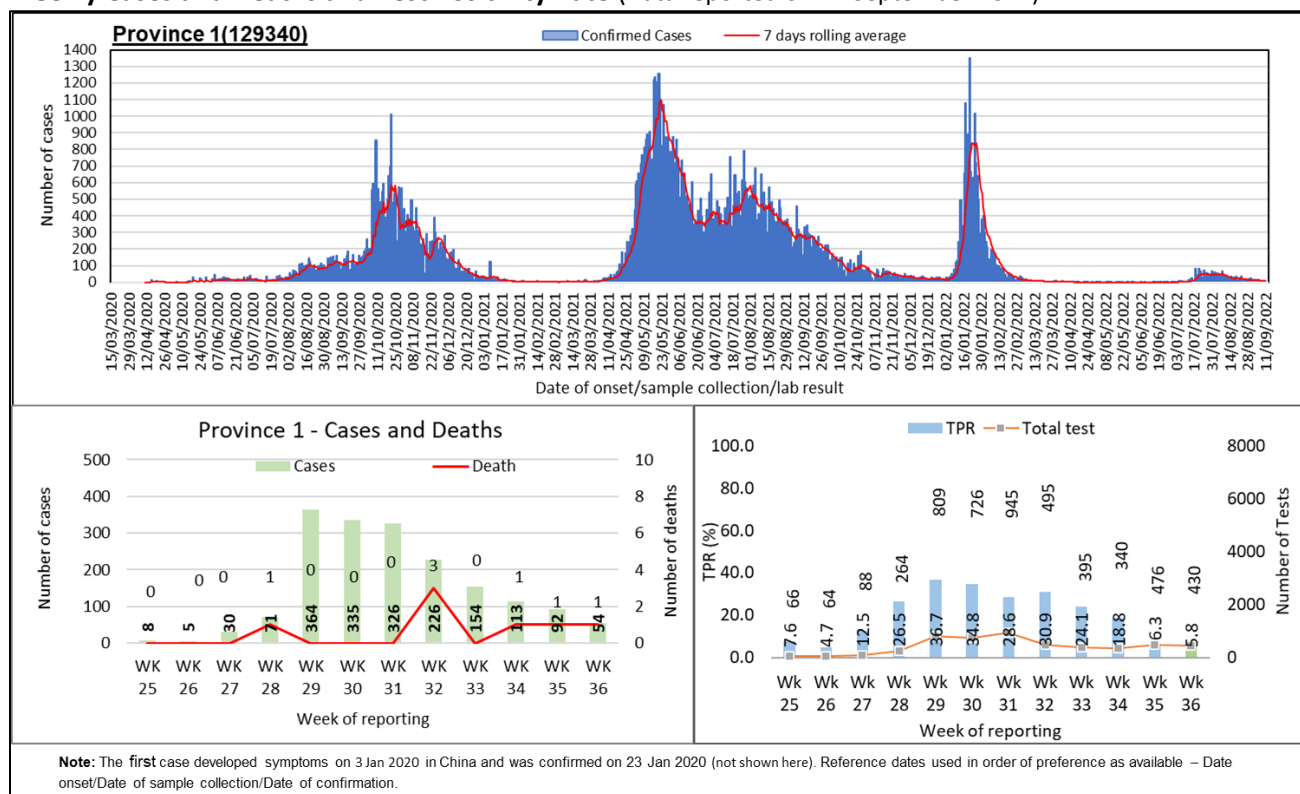
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 998,743)(Data reported on 11 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



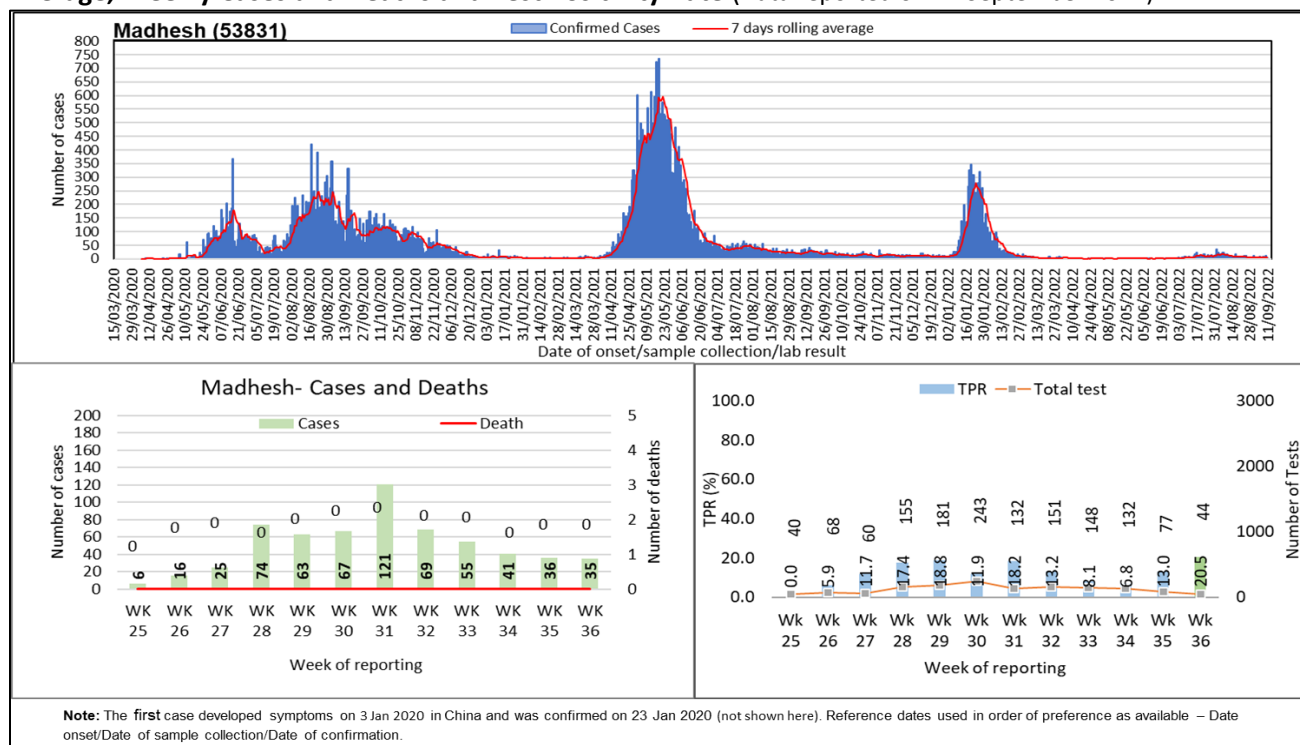
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 11 September 2022)



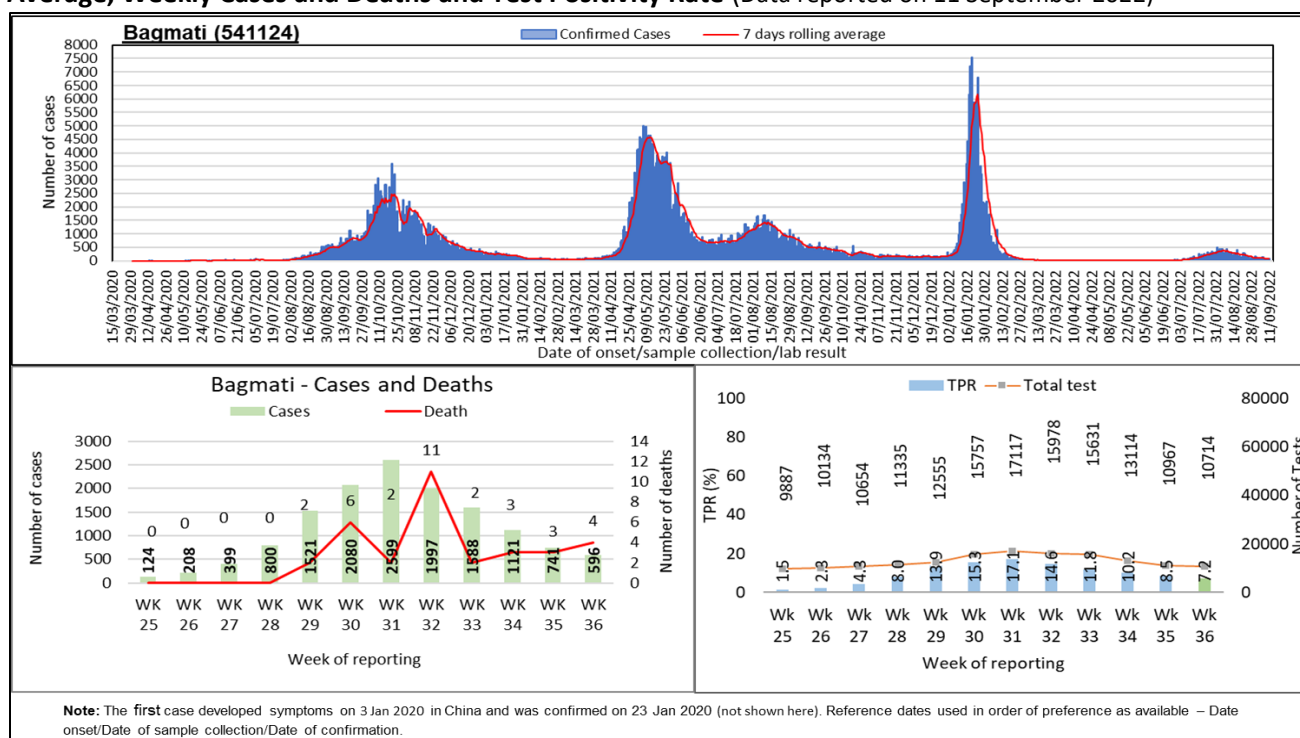
There were 54 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 41% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 5.8% in the past week. A total of 430 tests were performed in the past week, 10% 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 11 September 2022)



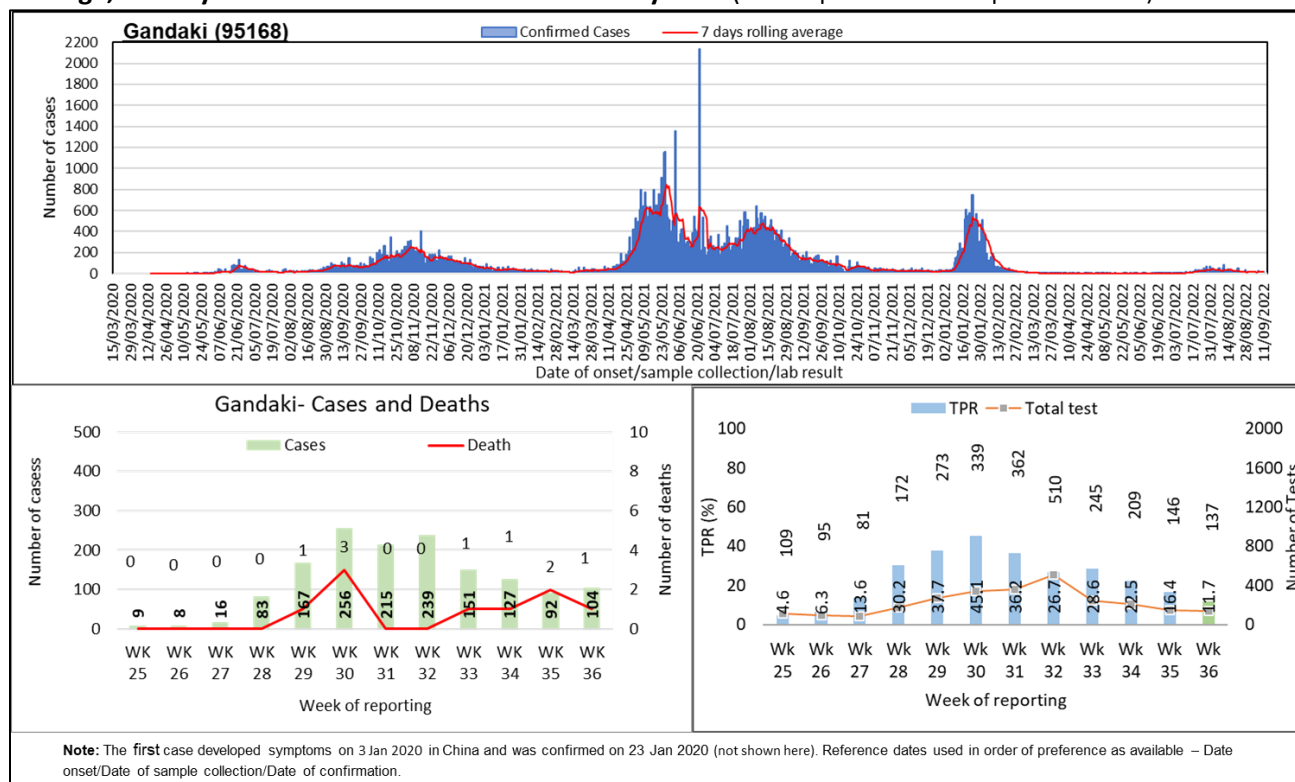
There were 35 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have decreased by 3% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh increased to 20.5% in the past week. A total of 44 tests were performed in the past week, 43% 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 11 September 2022)



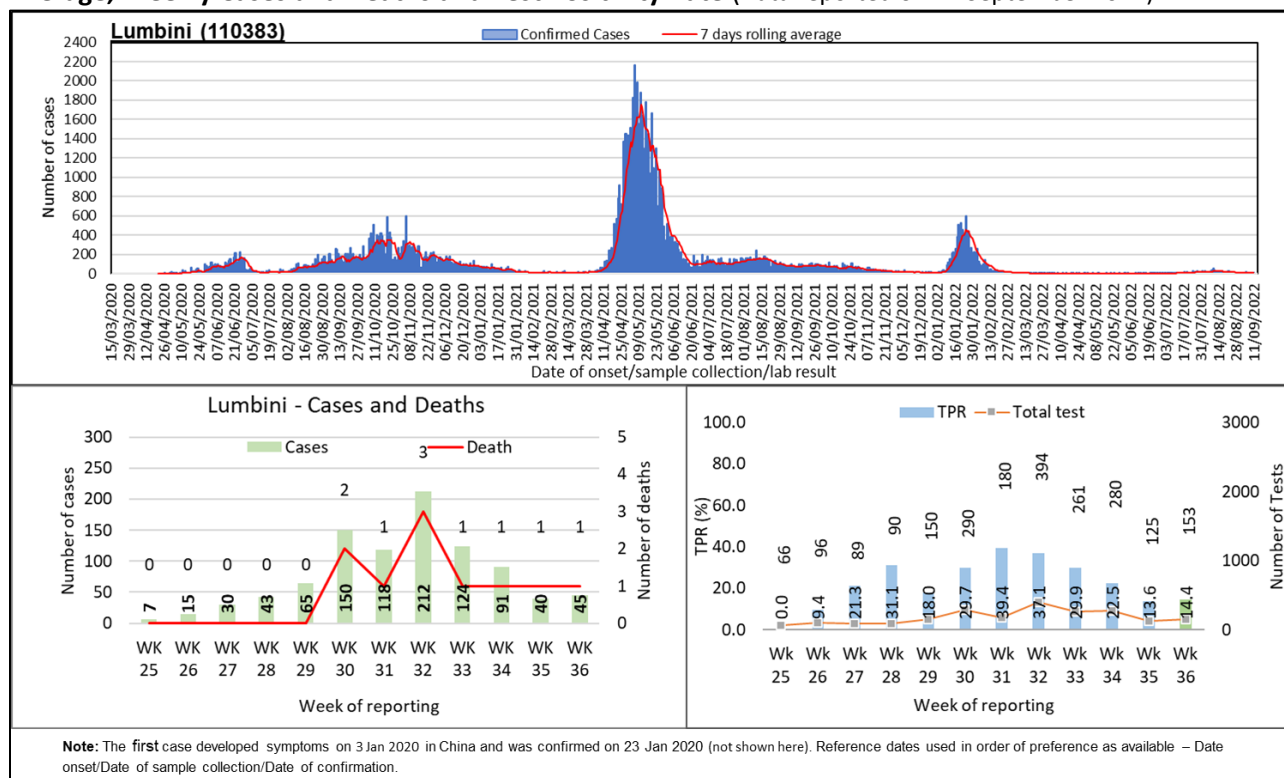
In Bagmati, 596 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 20% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 33% more compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 7.2% in the past week. A total of 10,714 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 11 September 2022)



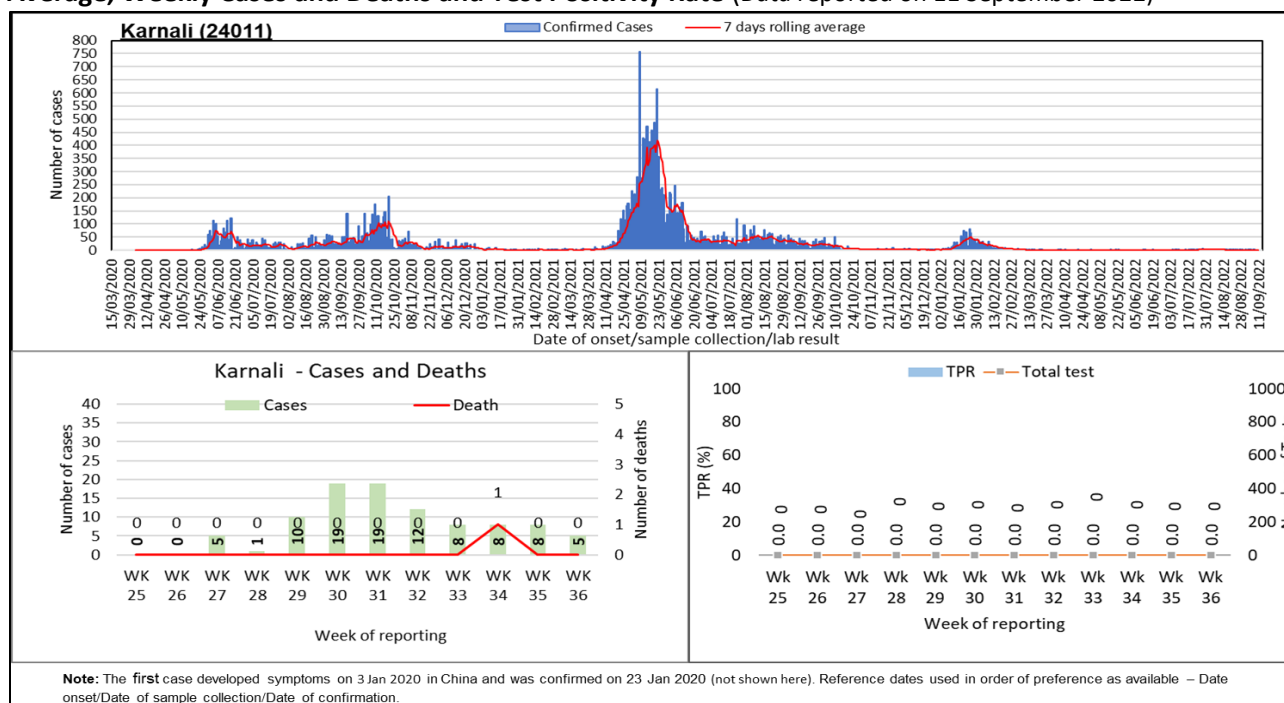
In Gandaki, 104 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 50% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 11.7% in the past week. A total of 137 tests were performed in the past week, 6% 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 11 September 2022)



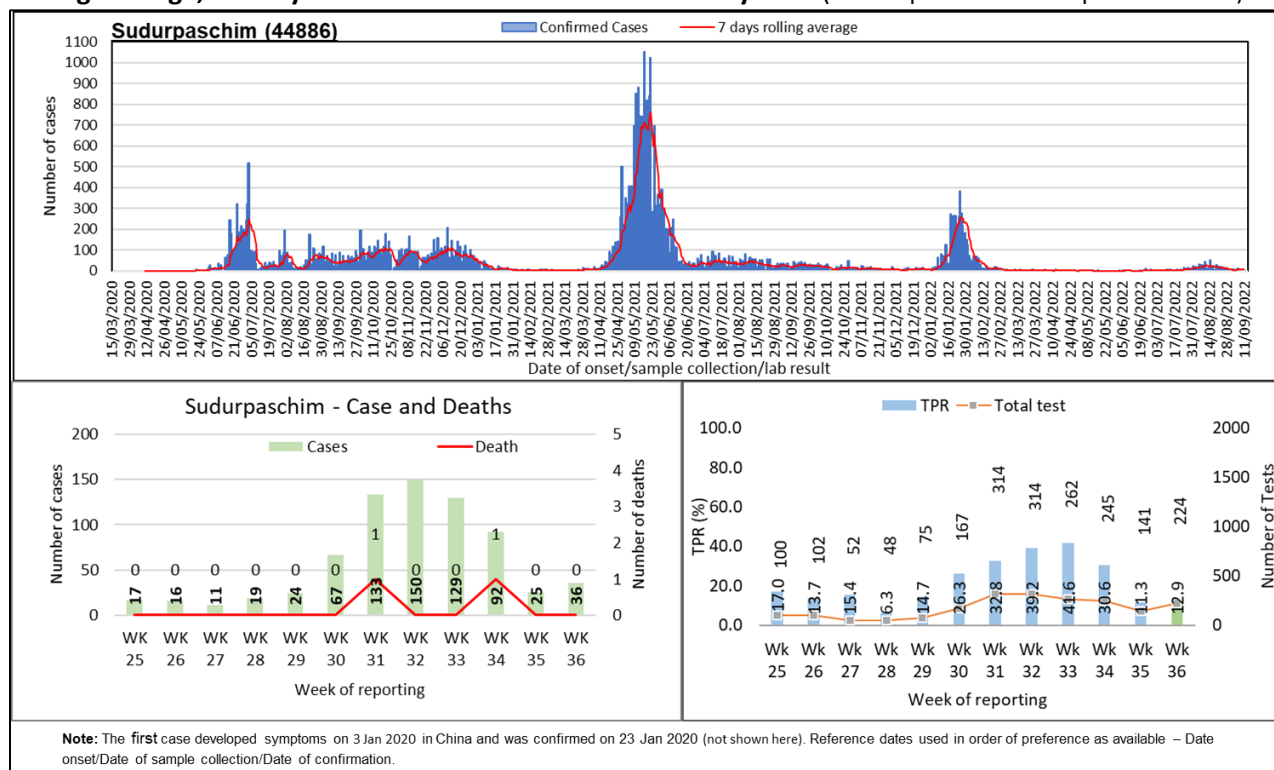
Lumbini reported 45 new cases in the past week. Cases have increased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 14.4% in the past week. A total of 153 tests were performed in the past week, 22% 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 11 September 2022)



In Karnali, 5 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 38% 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 11 September 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 36 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 44% 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 12.9% in the past week. A total of 224 tests were performed reported in the past week, 59% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 11 September 2022 up to 19:00:00))

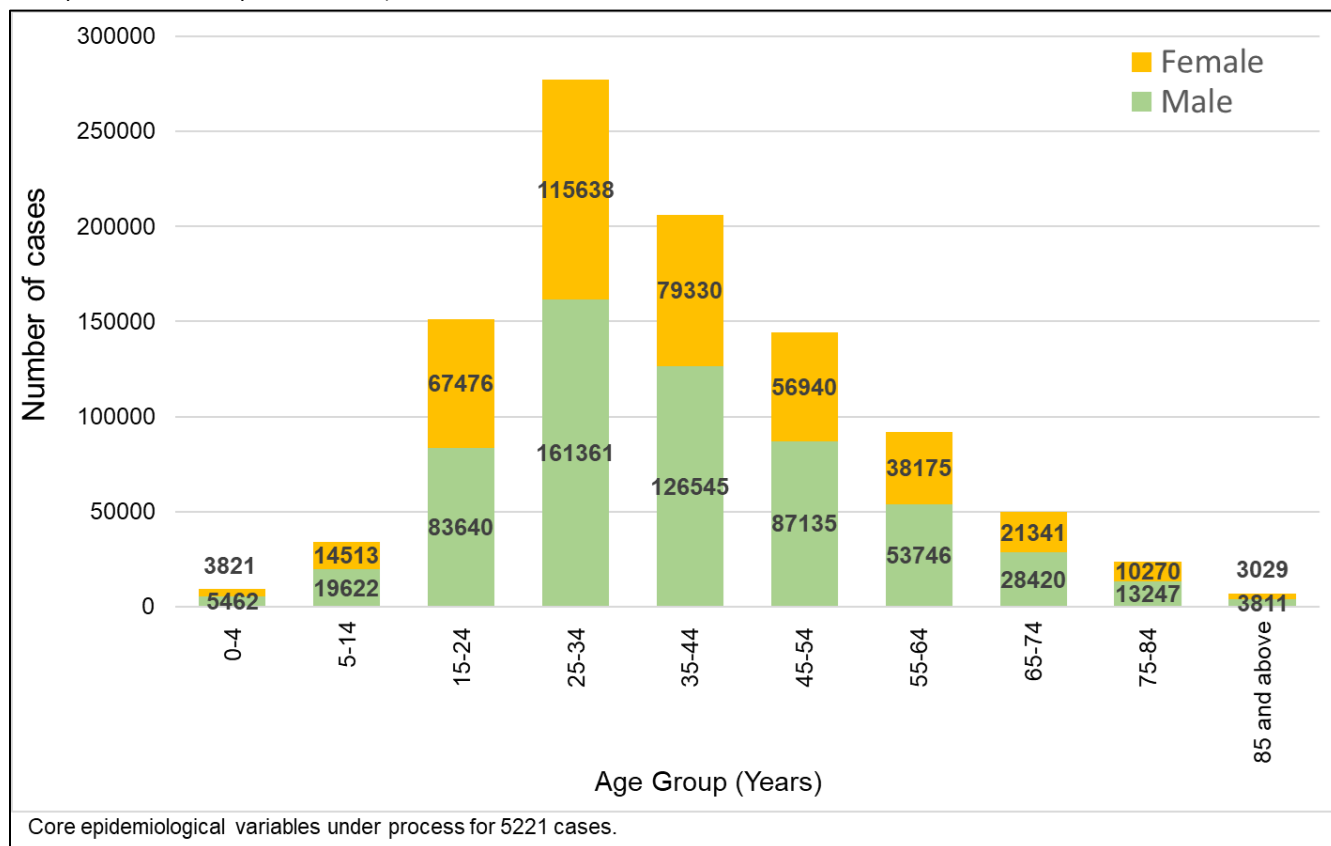
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129340	30315	159655	14.2	1722	Community transmission	30	146	176	6.4	2
Madhesh	53831	1177	55008	4.9	783	Community transmission	3	71	74	2.7	0
Bagmati	541124	32456	573580	50.9	5197	Community transmission	384	1337	1721	62.6	7
Gandaki	95168	24603	119771	10.6	1428	Community transmission	111	196	307	11.2	3
Lumbini	110383	28050	138433	12.3	1874	Community transmission	197	85	282	10.3	2
Karnali	24011	6311	30322	2.7	492	Community transmission	38	13	51	1.9	0
Sudurpashchim	44886	6119	51005	4.5	518	Community transmission	78	61	139	5.1	0
National Total	998743	129031*	1127774	100	12014	Community transmission	841	1909	2750	100	14

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 11 September 2022, **151429 but IMU reported **129031***

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= 993,522)(Data reported on 11 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= 998,743)(Data reported on 11 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	9283	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34135	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151116	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	276999	387	265	151	0.24
35-44	205875	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144075	1396	645	574	1.42
55-64	91921	1689	803	781	2.71
65-74	49761	1639	893	956	5.09
75-84	23517	1226	658	770	8.01
85+	6840	524	289	279	11.89
Unknown	5221	19	7	11	0.5
National	998743	7876	4138	3896	1.20
$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$ <p>COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.</p>					

A total of 12,014 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,876 (65.6%) were male and 4,138 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,896 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 10 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of 7 participating laboratories showed 100% concordant, while 2 laboratories showed 90%.
 - Supporting COVID-19 designated laboratories to enter the result of External Quality Assurance Program (EQAP) panel received from the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance (RCPAQAP).

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:
 - A 5-Day Training on Basic Emergency Care organized by Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in Nepalgunj from 5-9 September 2022. There were 26 participants from GETI Site (Bheri Hospital, Karnali Province Hospital, and Seti Hospital). Medical Officer, Nursing Incharge, Paramedics and Nurses participated in the training.



All the stakeholders in one frame of 'Training on Basic Emergency Care (BEC)', Photo Credit: A. Bhattarai

- Program on 'Clinical Management of Dengue' organized by EDCCD on 9 September 2022 where medical officers and consultants were oriented about clinical features, relevant investigations, and management of dengue patients.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- On *World Suicide Prevention Day*, a message by WHO Representative to Nepal, was shared, on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)), which highlighted the burden of suicide and mental health issues in the country and the need to strengthen mental health services. Relevant IEC materials on suicide prevention and responsible reporting were also shared.
- A new episode featuring an interview with Mental Health NPO- Dr Kedar Marahatta was shared via the Paanch Ma Bigyan podcast and aired via radio stations.

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.

- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Dengue and COVID-19,
 - 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
 - *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- WHO and MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- Meeting with NHEICC to discuss about communication activities in response to Dengue outbreak. WHO is supporting in the development and dissemination of audio PSA that will be broadcasted across all seven provinces via local FM radio stations in Nepali along with some other key local and regional languages.
- WHO Nepal continues its support to spokesperson of Ministry of Health and Population for the weekly National briefing. The key contents included in the briefing on 7 September 2022 are: COVID-19 national updates and importance of PHSM, significance of vaccine and vaccination coverage, message on the QR code certification and vaccination campaign for the children of 5 to 11 years, message on Dengue including, sign and symptoms, prevention of mosquito bite, mosquito control, and interventions of MoHP in response to Dengue, key message on JE and preventive measures, brief information on the 75 regional coordination meeting of WHO and participation of Nepal, and message on prevention of Cholera.
- Supported Health Coordination Division with documentation of the meeting conducted with different stakeholders in prevention and control of dengue including one chaired by Honorable Health Minister, which also included the request for communication support with WHO for the risk communication activities.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation³
- 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.

³ 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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