

Situation Update #127 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 12-18 September 2022 (EPI Week 37)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 18 September 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 19 September 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.6% (985,395) of cases have recovered, 0.2% (1,830) are active cases and 1.2% (12,016) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 96.5% (1,766) cases are in home isolation; 3.5% (64) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 28% (18) patients require ICU admission with no patients requiring ventilator support.
- Only Kathmandu district reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (498) reported this week, 40.8% (203) are from Kathmandu district followed by Chitwan district 8.8% (44). Majority of the new cases 51.2% (255) 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% (781,260/999,241) 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 (440,788/999,241), and 81.4% of the provincial total (440,788/541,456).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 37 ranged from 3.1% (Madhesh province) to 14.3% (Province 1), with a national positivity rate at 3.9%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 43% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=498) in Epi week 37 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 83% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.
- Nepal reported 2 deaths in Epi week 37, 71% less compared to that in the previous week.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 18 September 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 999,241

Antigen RDT: 151,790

Cumulative deaths: 12,016

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,920,977

Antigen RDT: 1,397,109

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,192,703 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

796,871 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

609,095,968 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,505,455 (100%)

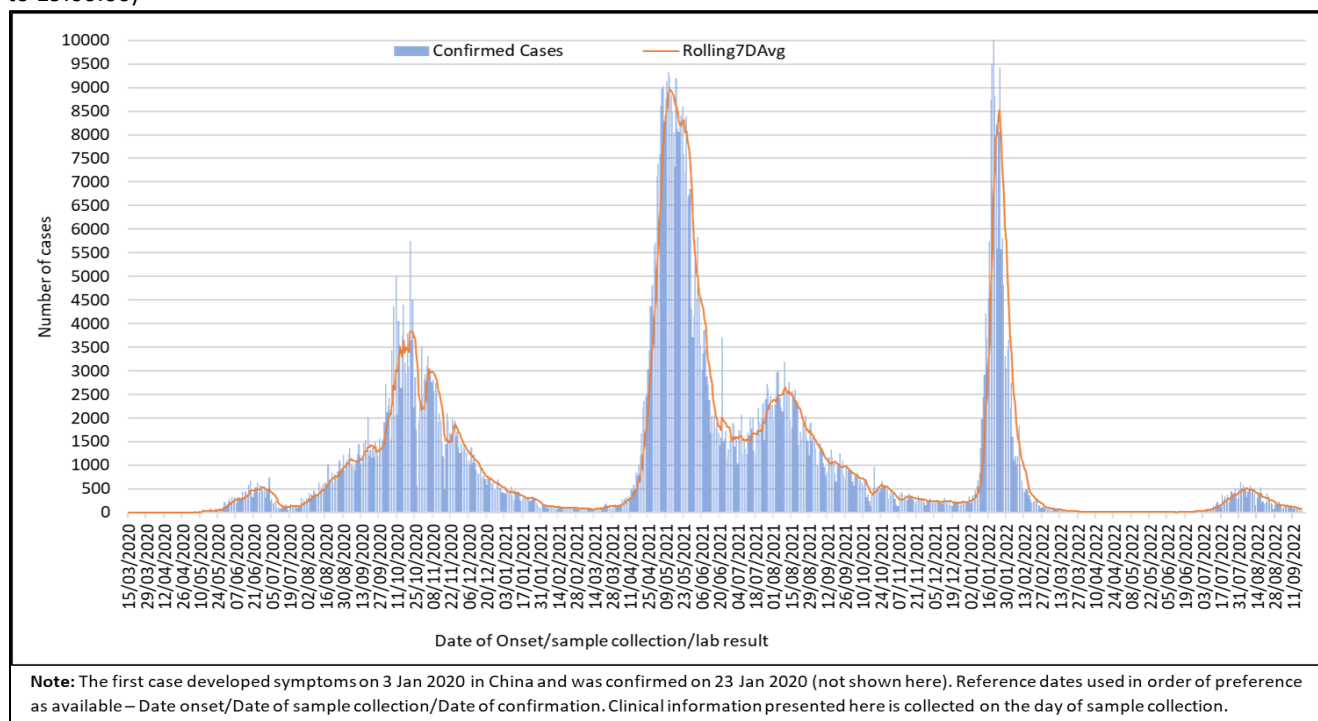
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 7 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 37 (12 - 18 Sep 2022).
 - None of the samples tested positive for both Influenza and SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 37, 70 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 Epi-week 37.
 - Four samples tested positive for Influenza A and 3 samples tested for positive for SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 1049 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 18 September 2022.
- From 3 January 2022 until 18 September 2022:
 - A total of 340 samples have tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B, 142 Influenza A/H3, 182 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), and 14 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, 292 samples have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1769 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/>

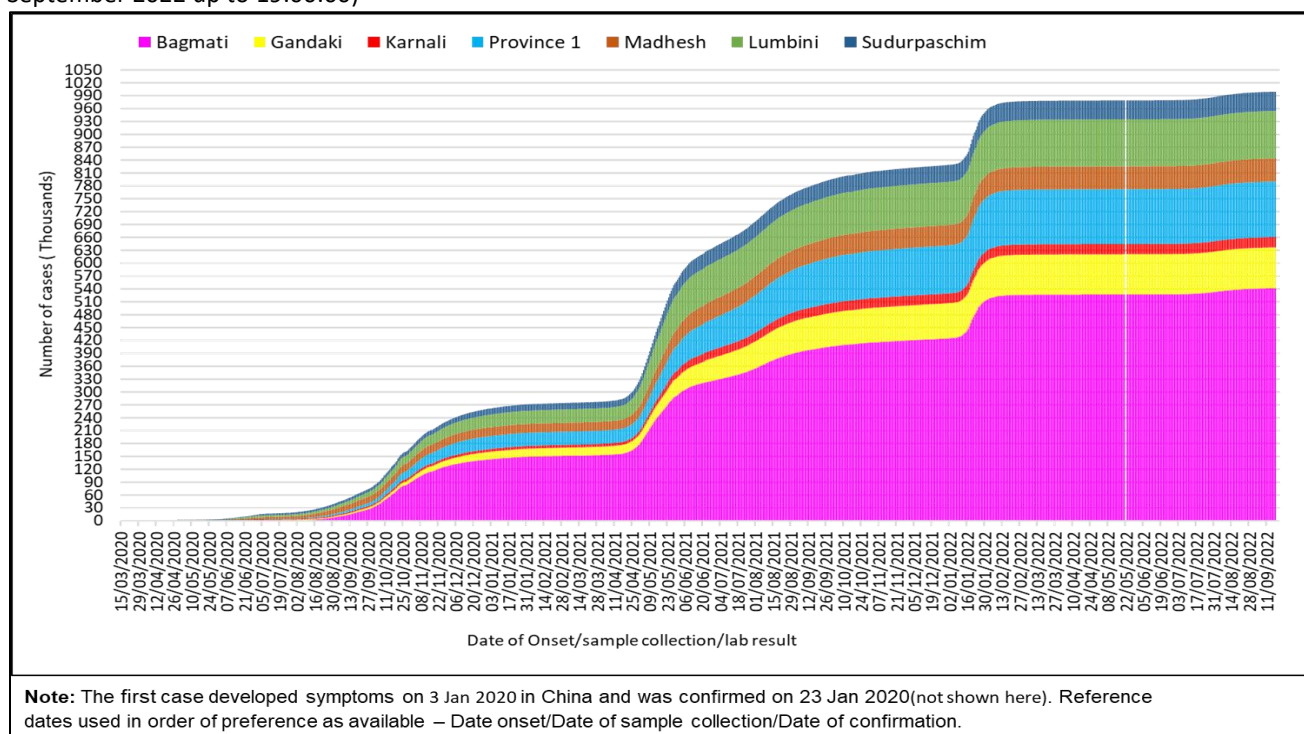
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 999,241)(Data reported on 18 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



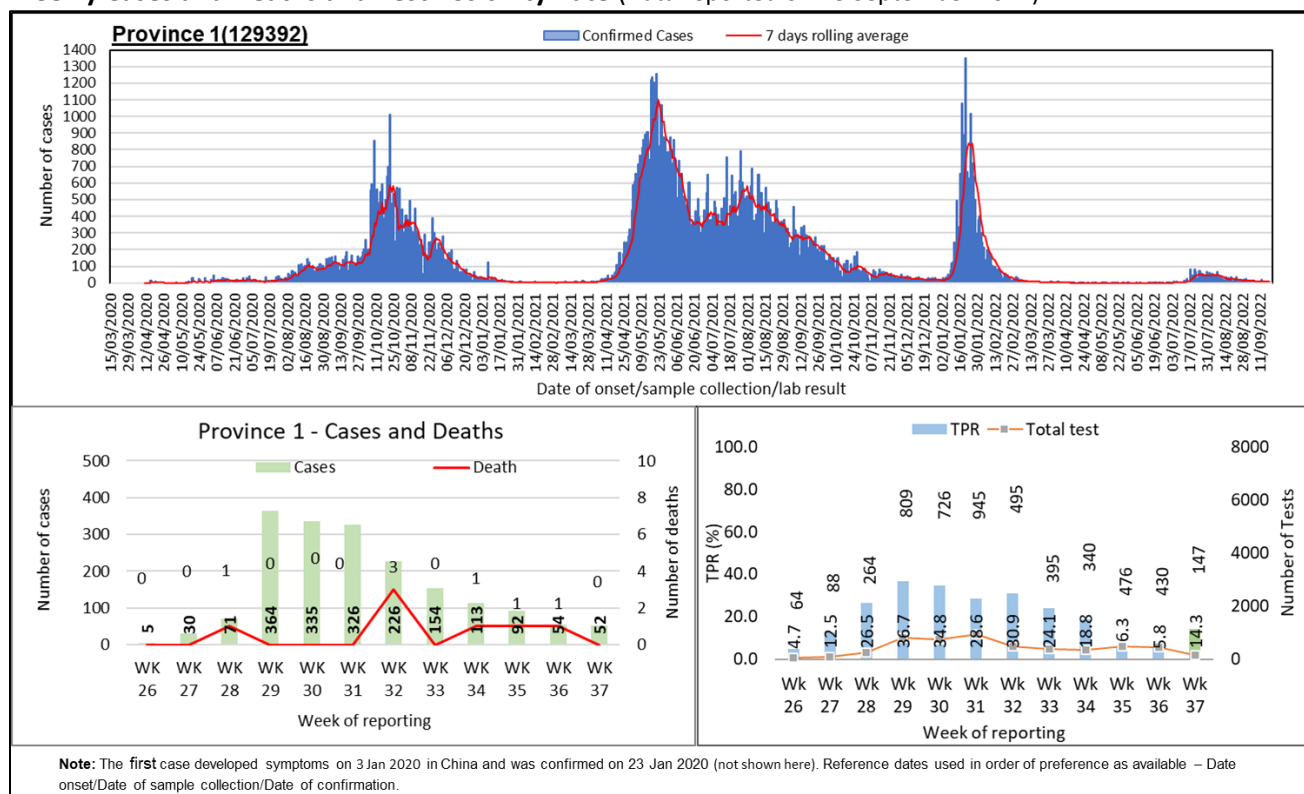
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 999,241)(Data reported on 18 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



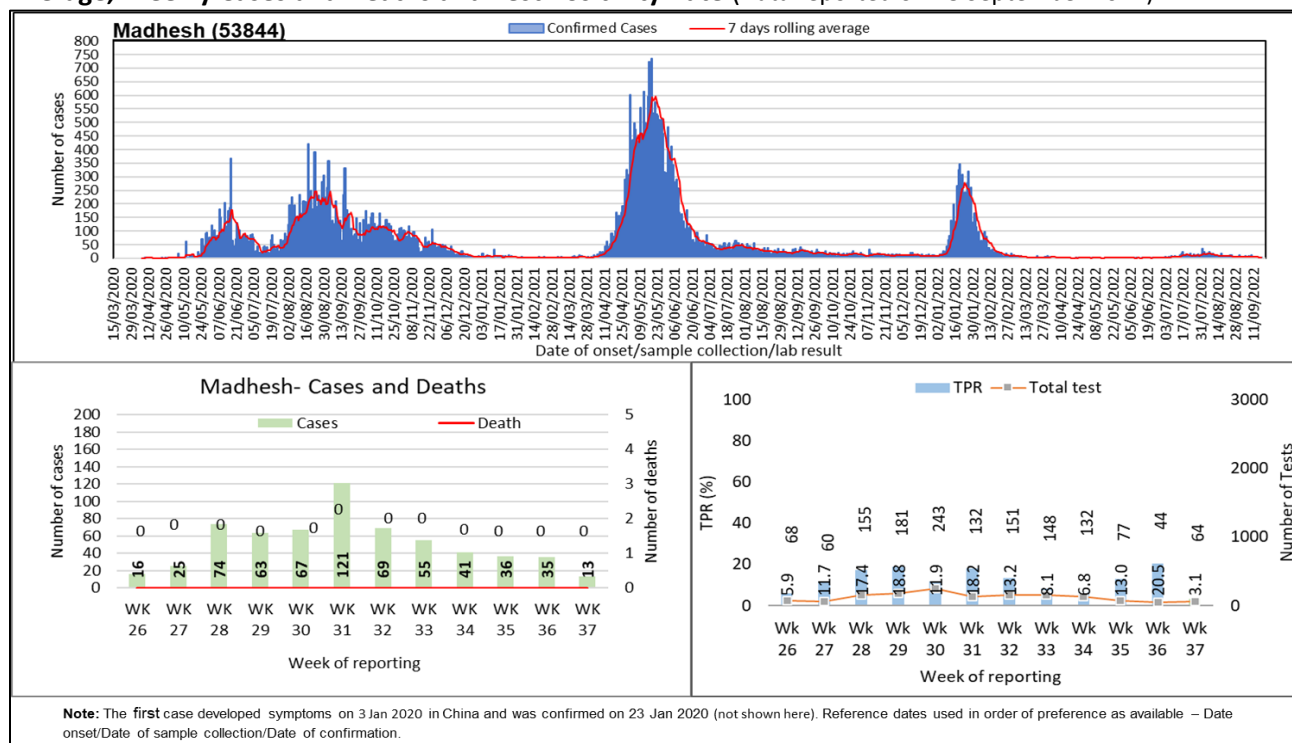
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 18 September 2022)



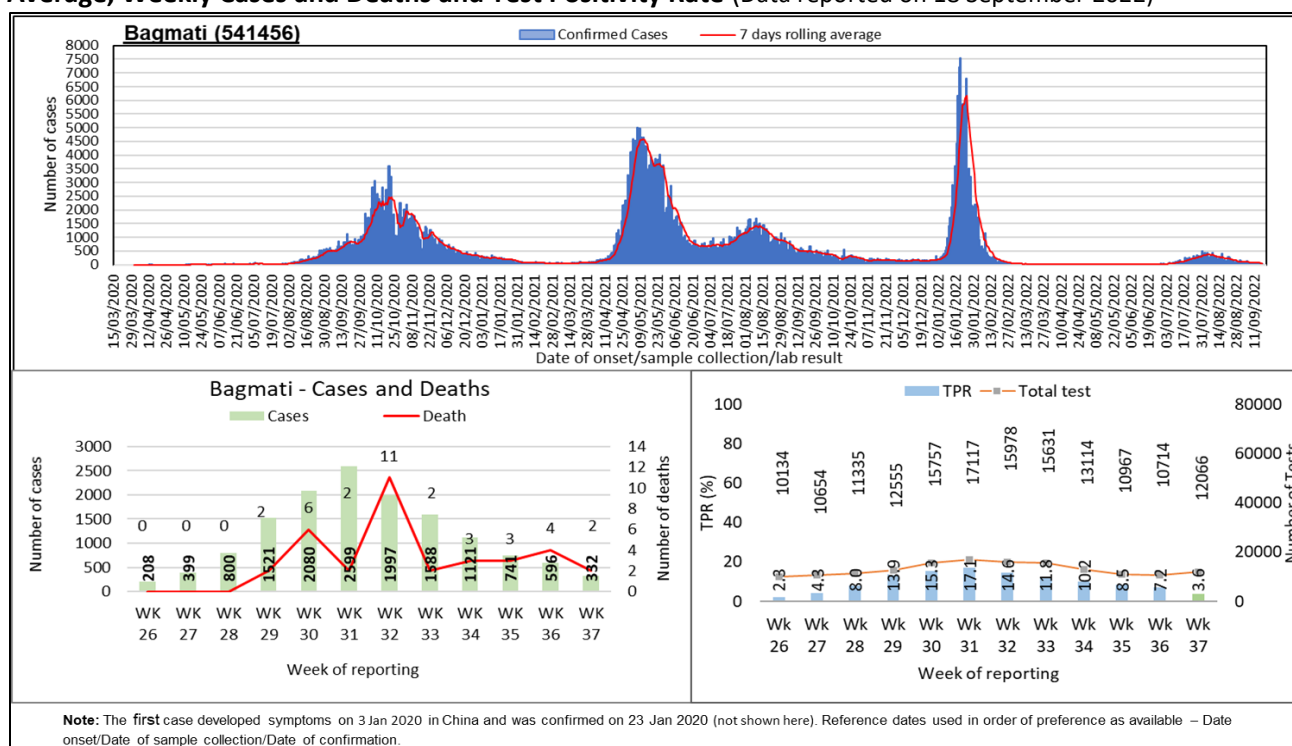
There were 52 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 4% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 14.3% in the past week. A total of 147 tests were performed in the past week, 66% 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 18 September 2022)



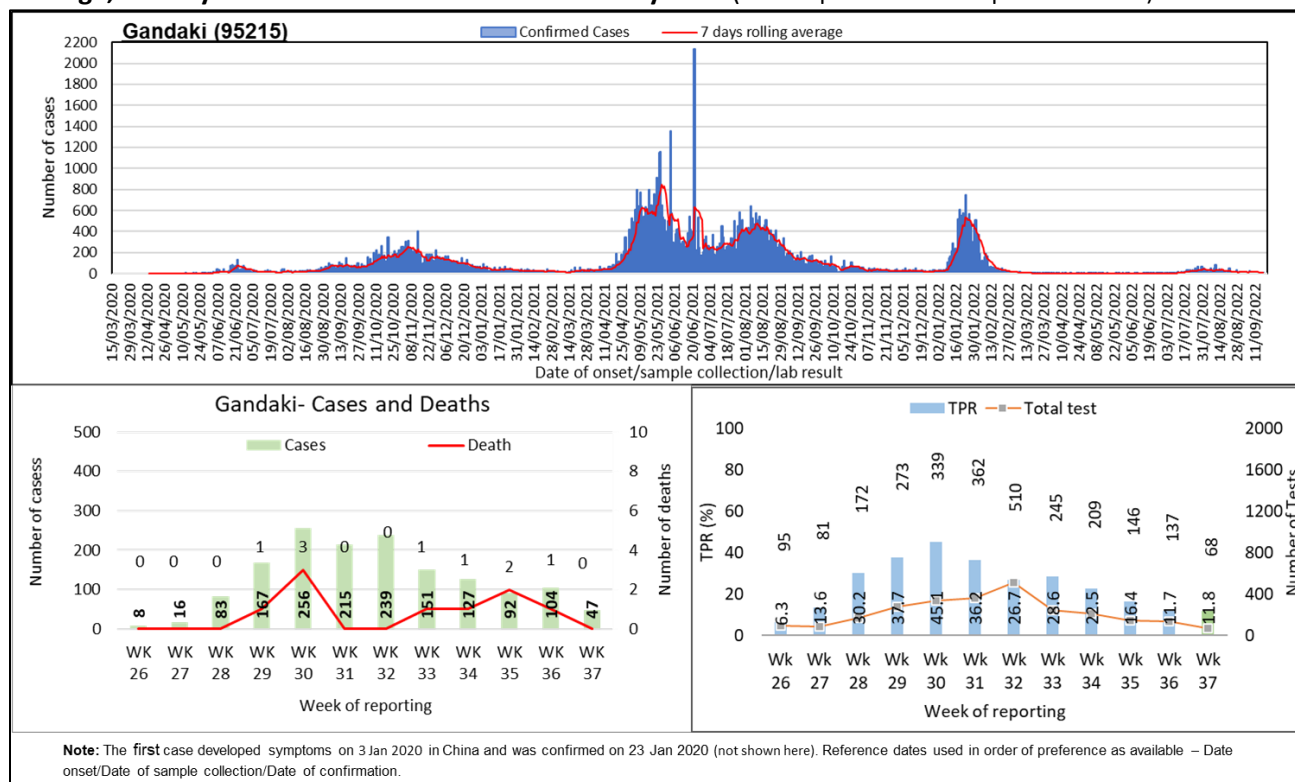
There were 13 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have decreased by 63% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh decreased to 3.1% in the past week. A total of 64 tests were performed in the past week, 45% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A3: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bagmati Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 18 September 2022)



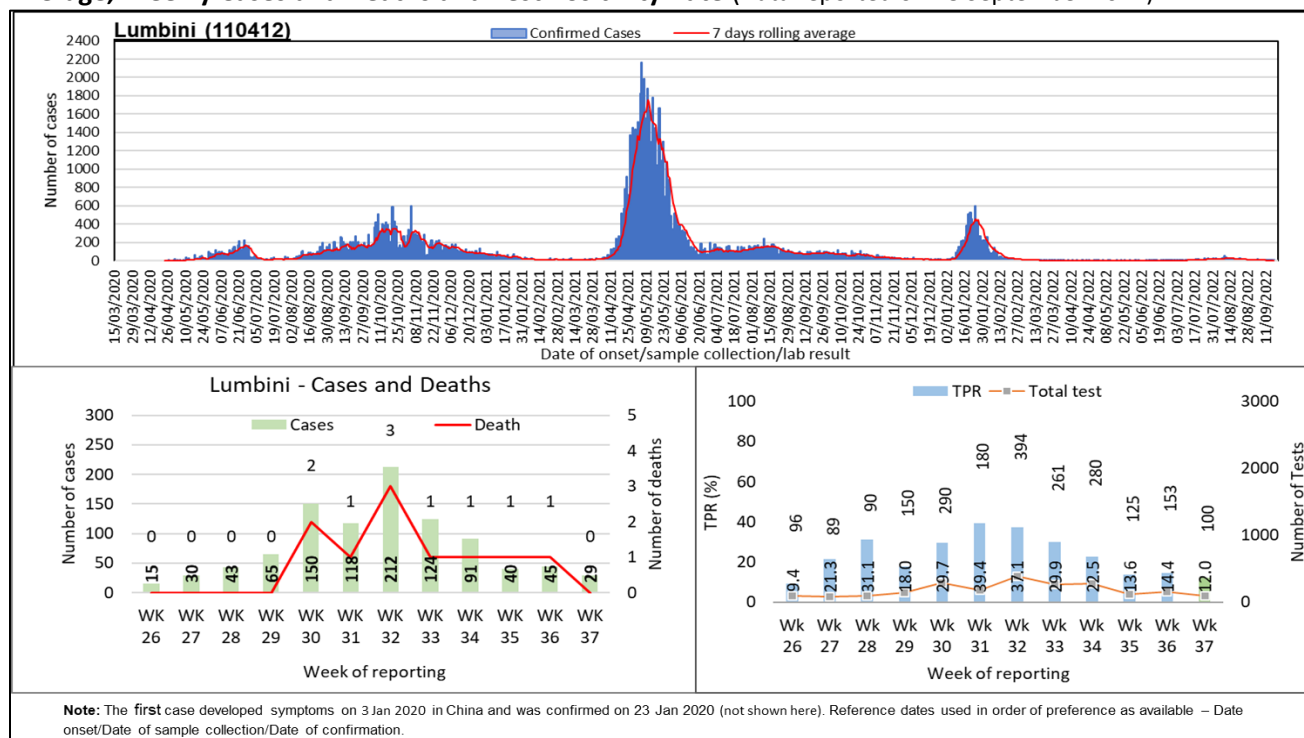
In Bagmati, 332 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 44% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 50% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 3.6% in the past week. A total of 12,066 tests were performed in the past week, 13% 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 18 September 2022)



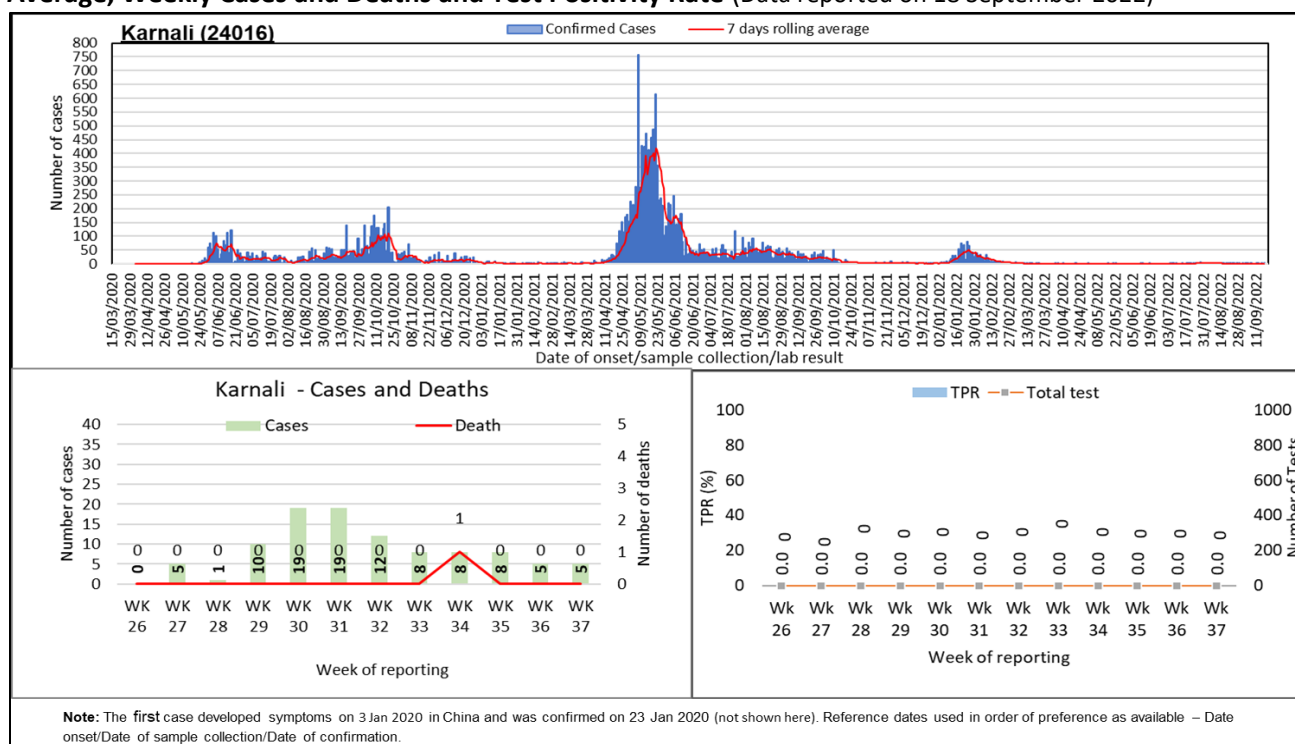
In Gandaki, 47 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 55% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 11.8% in the past week. A total of 68 tests were performed in the past week, 50% 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 18 September 2022)



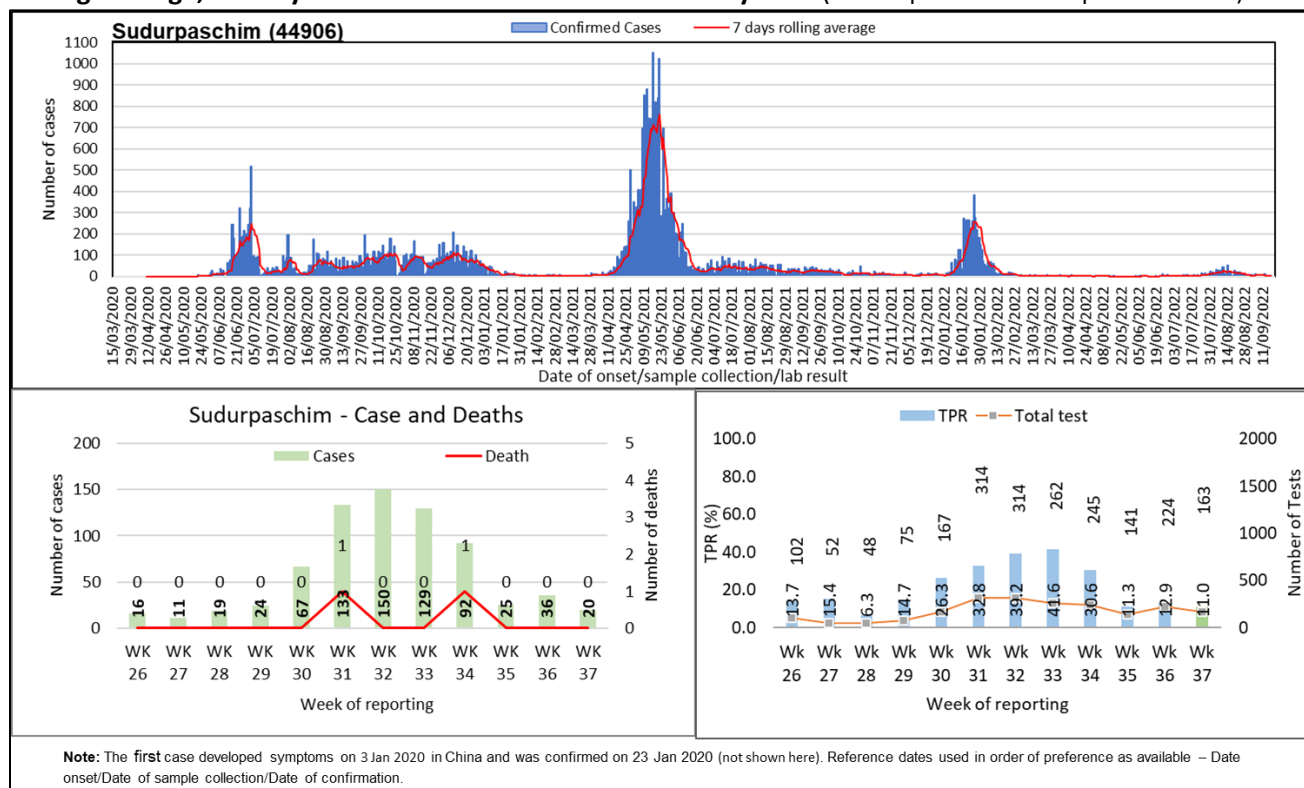
Lumbini reported 29 new cases in the past week. Cases have decreased by 36% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 12.0% in the past week. A total of 100 tests were performed in the past week, 35% 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 18 September 2022)



In Karnali, 5 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have remained the same 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 18 September 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 20 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased 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 decreased to 11.0% in the past week. A total of 163 tests were performed reported in the past week, 27% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 18 September 2022 up to 19:00:00))

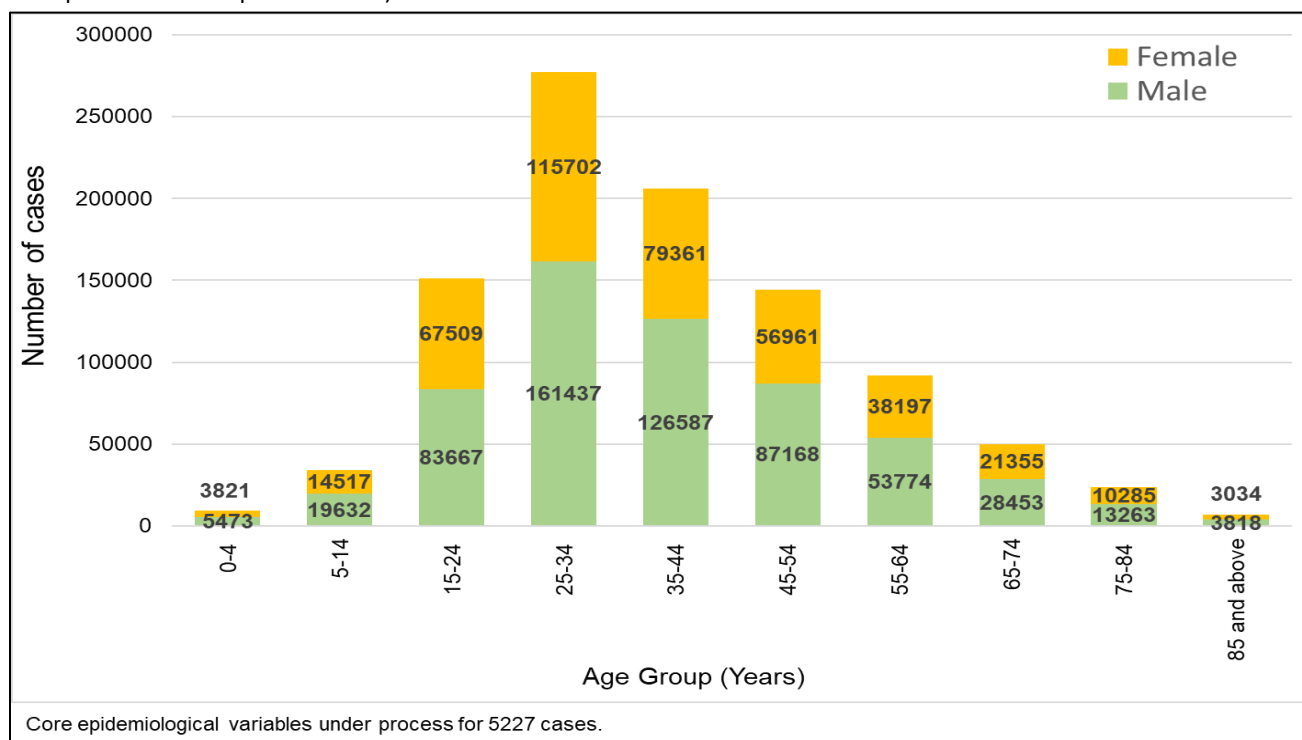
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129392	30320	159712	14.2	1722	Community transmission	20	106	126	6.2	1
Madhesh	53844	1177	55021	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	48	48	2.3	0
Bagmati	541456	32608	574064	50.9	5199	Community transmission	335	928	1263	61.8	6
Gandaki	95215	24631	119846	10.6	1428	Community transmission	87	151	238	11.6	1
Lumbini	110412	28091	138503	12.3	1874	Community transmission	153	74	227	11.1	1
Karnali	24016	6324	30340	2.7	492	Community transmission	28	10	38	1.9	0
Sudurpashchim	44906	6131	51037	4.5	518	Community transmission	49	56	105	5.1	0
National Total	999241	129282*	1128523	100	12016	Community transmission	672	1373	2045	100	9

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 18 September 2022, **151790 but IMU reported **129282***

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= 994,014)(Data reported on 18 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= 999,241)(Data reported on 18 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	9294	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34149	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151176	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277139	387	265	151	0.24
35-44	205948	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144129	1396	645	574	1.42
55-64	91971	1689	803	781	2.71
65-74	49808	1640	893	957	5.09
75-84	23548	1227	658	771	8
85+	6852	524	289	279	11.87
Unknown	5227	19	7	11	0.5
National	999241	7878	4138	3898	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 12,016 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,878 (65.6%) were male and 4,138 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,898 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 5 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of 4 participating laboratories showed 100% concordant while 1 laboratory showed 90% concordant.
 - Performing genome sequencing of 12 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples.

Technical Expertise and Training

- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support in conducting the following programs:
 - 'Engagement with Provincial Hon. Speaker, Hon. Deputy speaker and secretaries of all provincial assemblies' on 12 & 13 September 2022 at Kathmandu district.

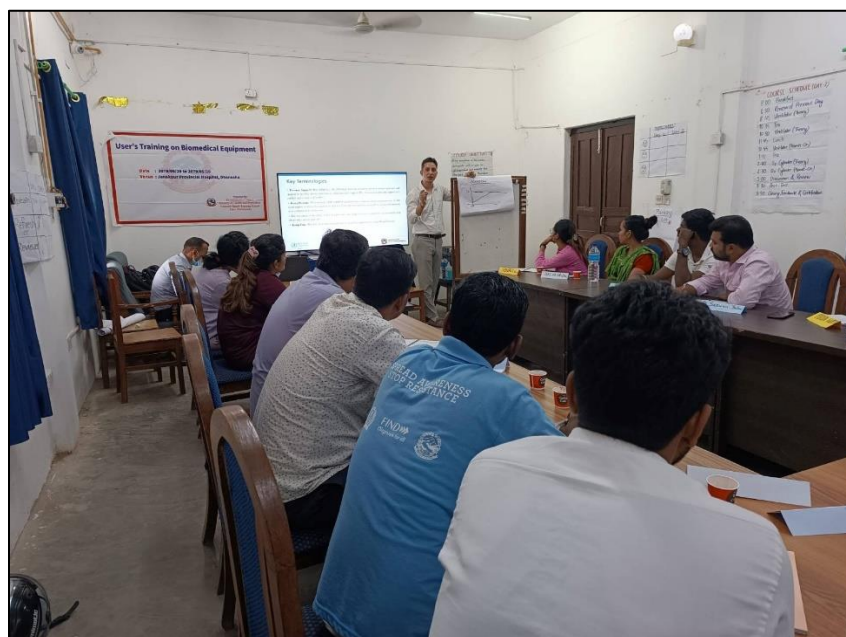


All the stakeholders in one floor attending meeting on 'Engagement with Provincial Hon. Speaker, Hon. Deputy speaker and secretaries of all provincial assemblies' at Gokarna Forest Resort.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Adhikari



- 8th batch of a two-day program entitled 'Users' Training on Biomedical Equipment Training' held from 14-15 September 2022 at Janakpur Provincial Hospital, Dhanusha District organized by National Health Training Center (NHTC). A total number of 17 participants which included doctors, staff nurses, nursing officers, Senior Auxiliary Health Workers (SAHW) and AHWs from Hub and Satellite hospital from Madhesh Province participated in the program. This training enabled the users to effectively operate and properly handle respiratory devices such as BiPAP/CPAP, HFNC, Oxygen Concentrator, Ventilator, and Oxygen Cylinder.



Participants during the technical & opening session of the "Users training on biomedical equipment"

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/J.Mohammad

- An Orientation program entitled 'Post COVID-19 Conditions (PCC) Management protocol' under the leadership of the Curative Service Division (CSD) at Kathmandu was held on 12-13 September 2022 and 14-15 September 2022 respectively. The participants included consultants and medical officers working in Provinces 1, Madesh Province and Bagmati Province.

An orientation program on 'Post-COVID-19 Conditions (PCC) protocol' organized by Organized by Curative Service Division (CSD) at Hotel Yak and Yeti on 12-13 Sept 2022 and 14-15 Sept 2022.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Adhikari



Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics².
- WHO Nepal facilitated in arrangement of accommodation and conference package for the following programs:
 - 2 days Interaction program with Provincial Assembly member on their roles on public health issues from 12 & 13 September 2022 in Bagmati province. This interaction program was organized by National Assembly, Ministry of Health and Population and supported by WHO Nepal.



Group photo session during the Interaction program with Provincial Assembly member on their roles on public health issues.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Adhikari

- An Orientation Program on Post COVID-19 Conditions Management Protocol held on 16 September 2022. This program is currently running in 5 batches covering all the participants (physiotherapist, speech language therapist and clinical psychologists) from federal hospitals of the 7 Provinces. The training will continue till 23 September 2022. This is jointly organized by MOHP, Department of Health Services Curative Service Division Kathmandu and WHO Nepal and funded by the European Union.

II Batch training for Bagmati and federal hospitals on 14 – 15 September 2022.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/P.Tamang



² 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.

- Five days of 3rd batch of Training of Trainers on Emergency Care Toolkit and Basic Emergency Care conducted parallel at Nepalgunj and Chitwan from 12 – 16 September 2022. This training was jointly organized by NHTC and WHO Nepal.
- Four days Training on Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) at Bagmati Province from 14-17 September 2022. This training was organized by NHTC, MoHP and supported by WHO Nepal.



*During the HOPE session.
Photo Credit: WHO
Nepal/B.Bhattarai*

- Three days program “One Health and ZIDAR Workshop” from 14 – 16 September 2022 in Bagmati province. This workshop was organized by EDCD and supported by WHO Nepal.

*Group photo session during
the “One Health and ZIDAR
Workshop”*

*Photo Credit: WHO
Nepal/K.Nepal*



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- WHO Nepal supported the Ministry of Health and Population to organize an *Interaction Program on the Role of Provincial Assembly on Public Health* with participation of hon'ble speakers, deputy speakers, and secretaries of all seven Provincial Assemblies along with Rt. Hon'ble Chairperson of the National Assembly. At the two-day program held on 12-13 September in Kathmandu, presentations were delivered on following topics Current dengue situation,
 - Handbook prepared by the WHO and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),
 - Multi-sectoral involvement of preparedness and response to disease outbreaks, such as cholera and scrub typhus,

- Challenges in responding to outbreaks and pandemic,
- Lessons learnt during COVID-19,
- Contemporary issues on laboratory sectors,
- Global and regional overview of COVID-19, monkeypox, and Pathogen X,
- Mental Health,
- Healthy City.
- A commitment letter from the parliamentarians to address noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health was also signed. News about the event was shared via Twitter (link [here](#)).
- A video message from WHO Representative to Nepal calling for multisectoral collaboration and coordination to strengthen response to ongoing dengue outbreak was published on WHO Nepal's social media. Link [here](#).
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Dengue and COVID-19,
 - Harmful use of alcohol and COVID-19,
 - 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.
- Supported the MoHP to record video messages of the Honorable Health Minister, Secretary and Director of EDCD on current dengue outbreak.
- Regular support provided to MoHP for its weekly media briefing.

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.
- COVID-19 consultation is being provided continuously by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.
- Supported WHO Communications pillar in preparation for "Engagement with the Provincial Hon. Speaker, Hon. Deputy Speaker and Secretaries of All Provincial Assemblies" held on 12 and 13 September 2022.

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](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

WHO Representative

Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav
WHO Representative to the
Government of Nepal
Email: pandavr@who.int

WHO Incident Manager/ Health Cluster

Co-lead

Dr. Allison Gocotano
Team Leader - WHO Health
Emergencies Program (WHE)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gocotanoa@who.int

Communication/Media Focal Point

Ms. Tsering Dolkar Gurung
Media, Communication and Public
Information Officer
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gurungt@who.int