

Situation Update #128 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 19 - 25 September 2022 (EPI Week 38)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 25 September 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 26 September 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.7% (986,335) of cases have recovered, 0.1% (1,223) are active cases and 1.2% (12,017) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 95.9% (1,174) cases are in home isolation; 4% (49) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation of which 22.4% (11) patients require ICU admission with no patients requiring ventilator support.
- Only Kathmandu district reported more than 200 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (334) reported this week, 46.7% (156) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district 6.3% (21). Majority of the new cases 54.5% (182) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 25 September 2022)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,558,241	First dose	10,371,447	Single dose	3,520,179	First dose	4,474,928	First dose	3,223,661
Second dose	4,807,241	Second dose	9,241,937			Second dose	2,173,580	Second dose	2,822,293

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, (781,536/999,575) 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 (440,970/999,575), and 81.4% of the provincial total (440,970/541,678).
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 38 ranged from 2.9% (Bagmati province) to 12.8% (Gandaki province), with a national positivity rate at 3.2%. Karnali province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 33% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=334) in Epi week 38 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 1 death in Epi week 38, 50% less compared to that in the previous week.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 25 September 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 999,575

Antigen RDT: 151,969

Cumulative deaths: 12,017

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,931,557

Antigen RDT: 1,411,893

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,252,396 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

797,289 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

612,234,191 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,515,947 (100%)

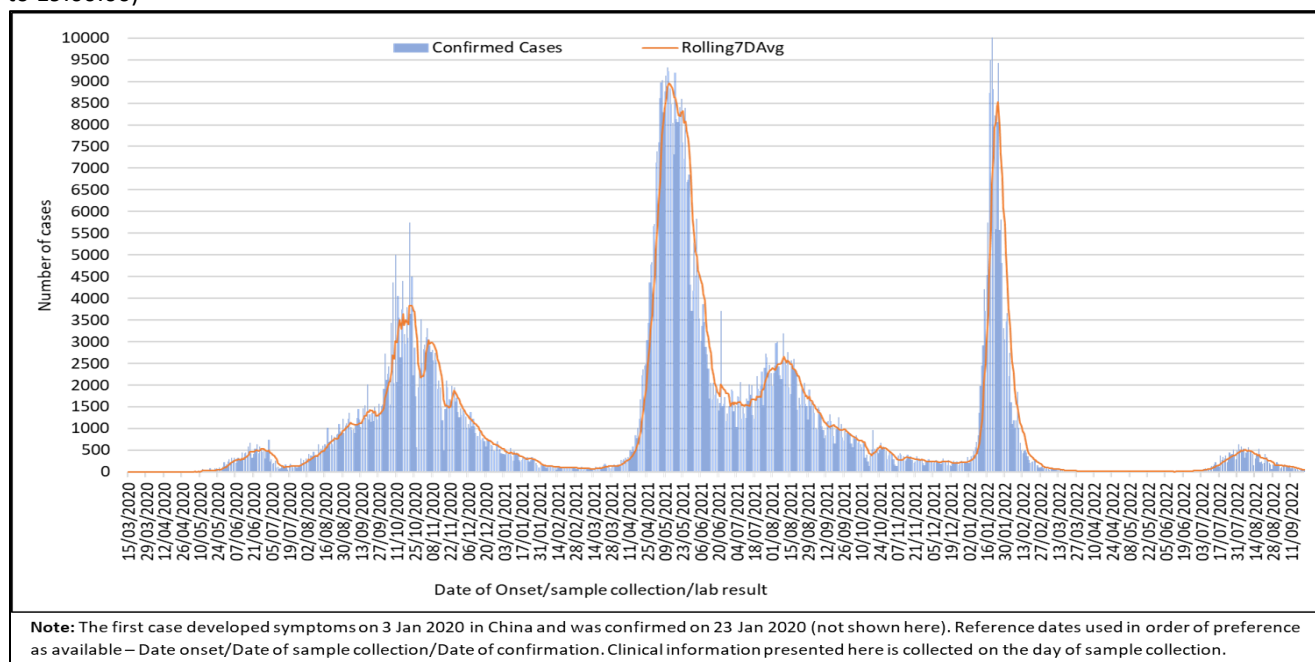
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 6 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 38 (19 - 25 Sep 2022).
 - None of the samples tested positive for both Influenza and SARS-CoV-2.
 - One sample tested positive for Influenza A(H1N1pdm09).
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 38 (19 -25 Sep 2022), 72 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
 - All samples tested negative for Influenza A and B.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHLs) from Province 1, Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 71 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 38.
 - Two samples tested positive for Influenza A and 1 sample tested for positive for SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 1124 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 25 September 2022.
- From 3 January 2022 until 25 September 2022:
 - A total of 344 samples have been tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B, 142 Influenza A/H3, 187 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), and 13 Influenza A (subtyping to be done) from 5,420 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 293 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1,901 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/>

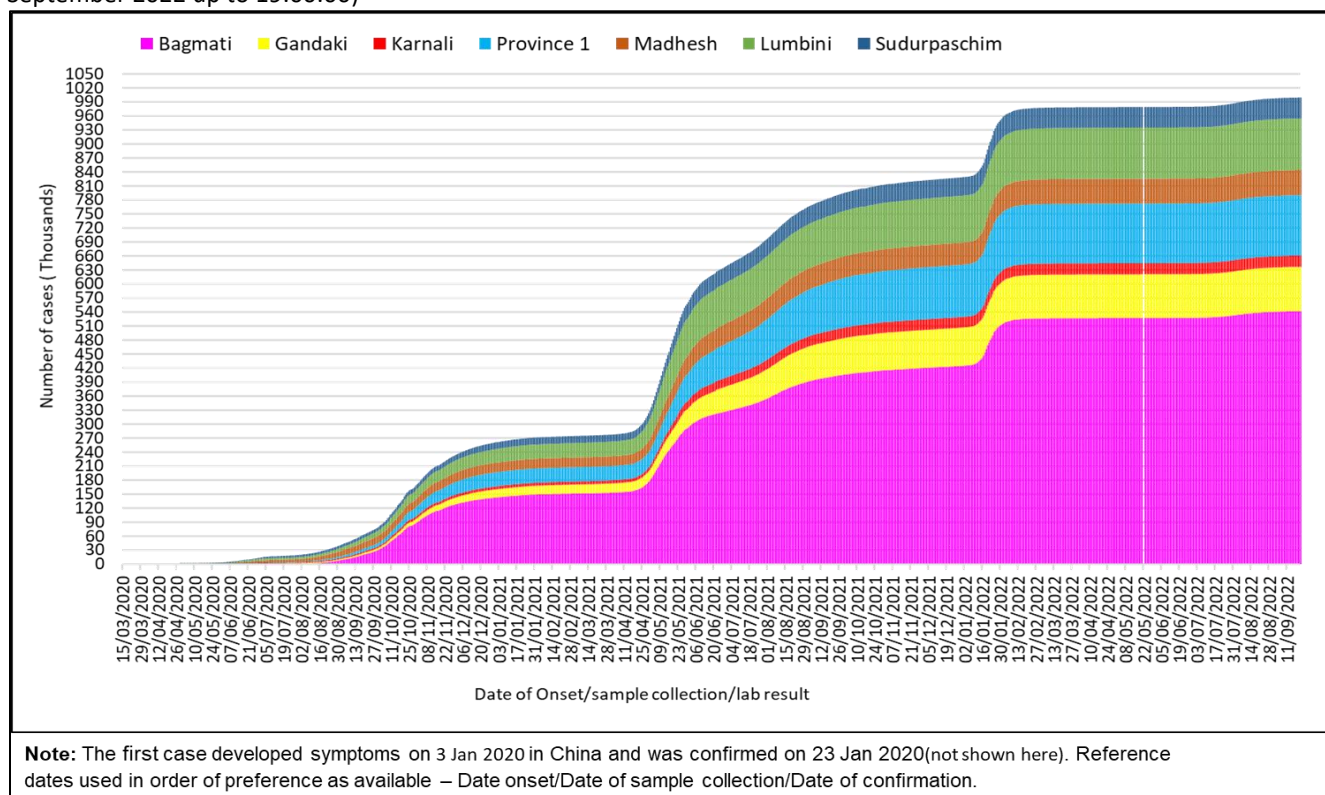
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 999,575)(Data reported on 25 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



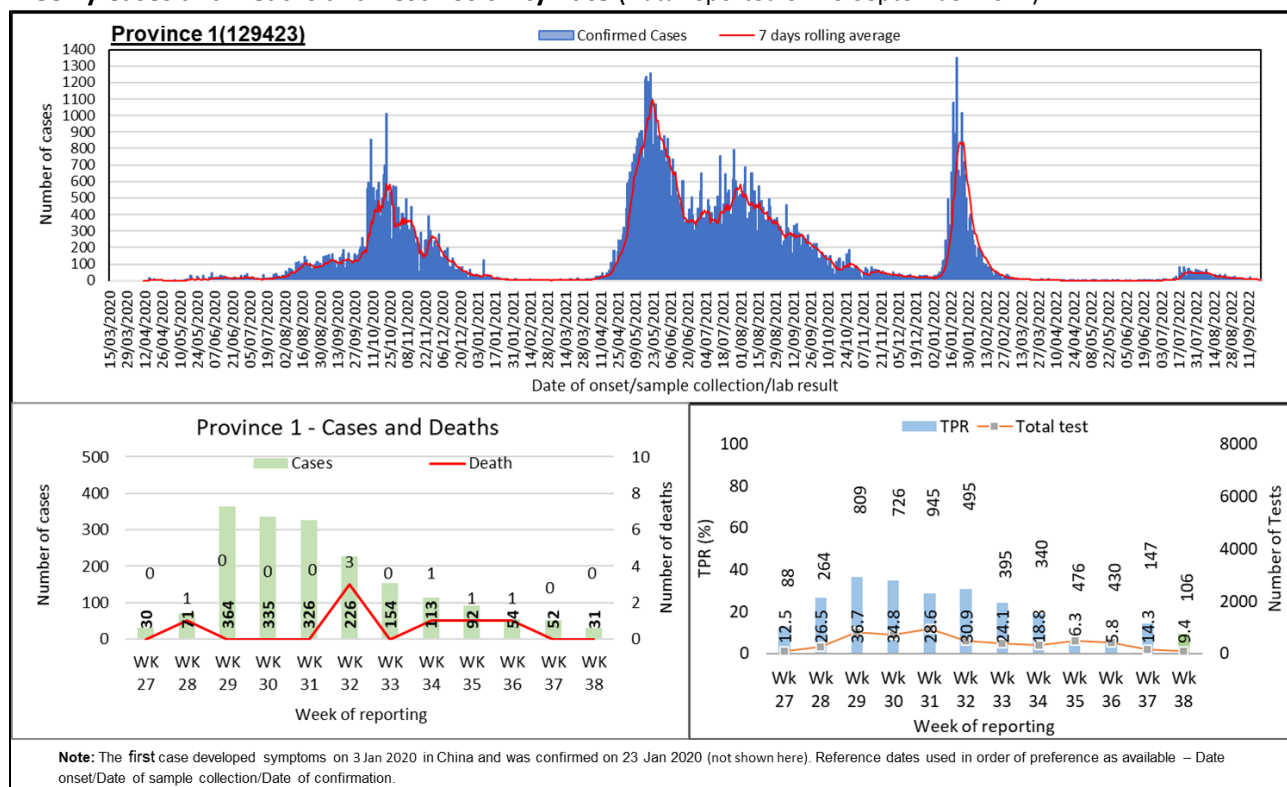
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 999,575)(Data reported on 25 September 2022 up to 19:00:00)



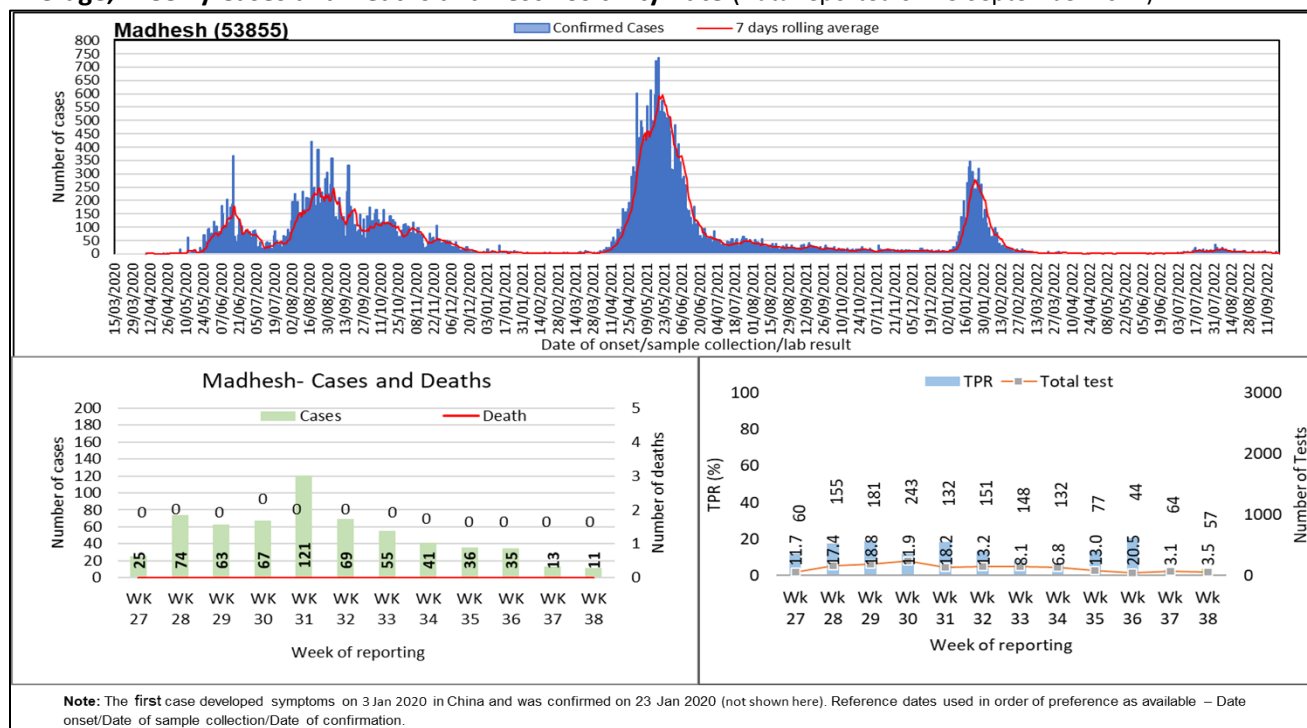
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 25 September 2022)



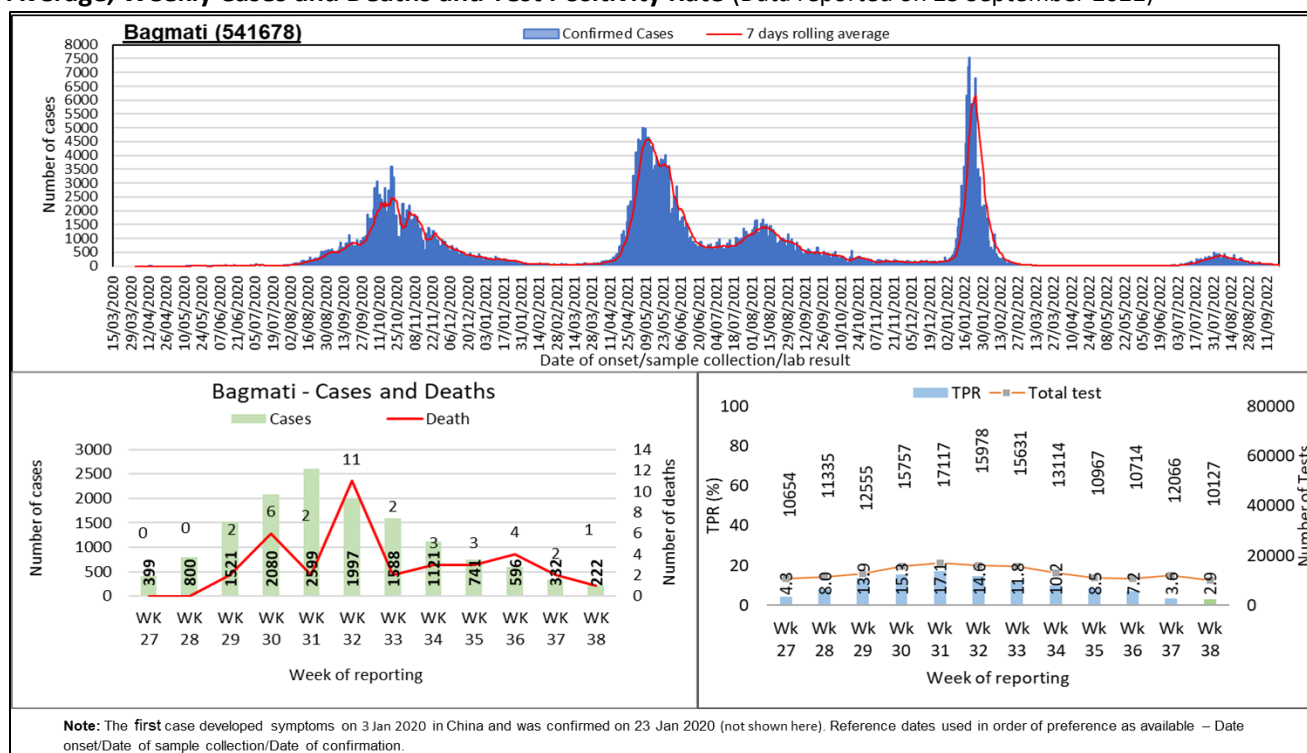
There were 31 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 40% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 9.4% in the past week. A total of 106 tests were performed in the past week, 28% 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 25 September 2022)



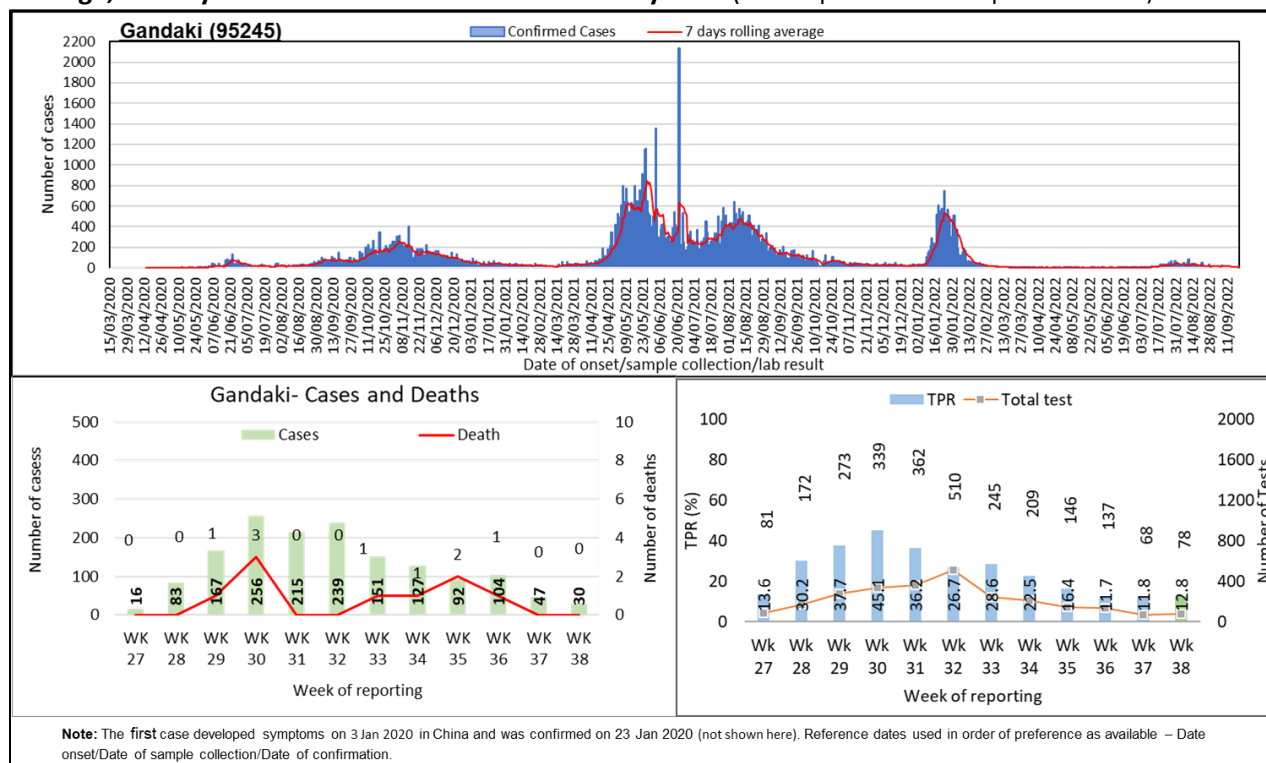
There were 11 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have decreased by 15% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh increased to 3.5% in the past week. A total of 57 tests were performed in the past week, 11% 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 25 September 2022)



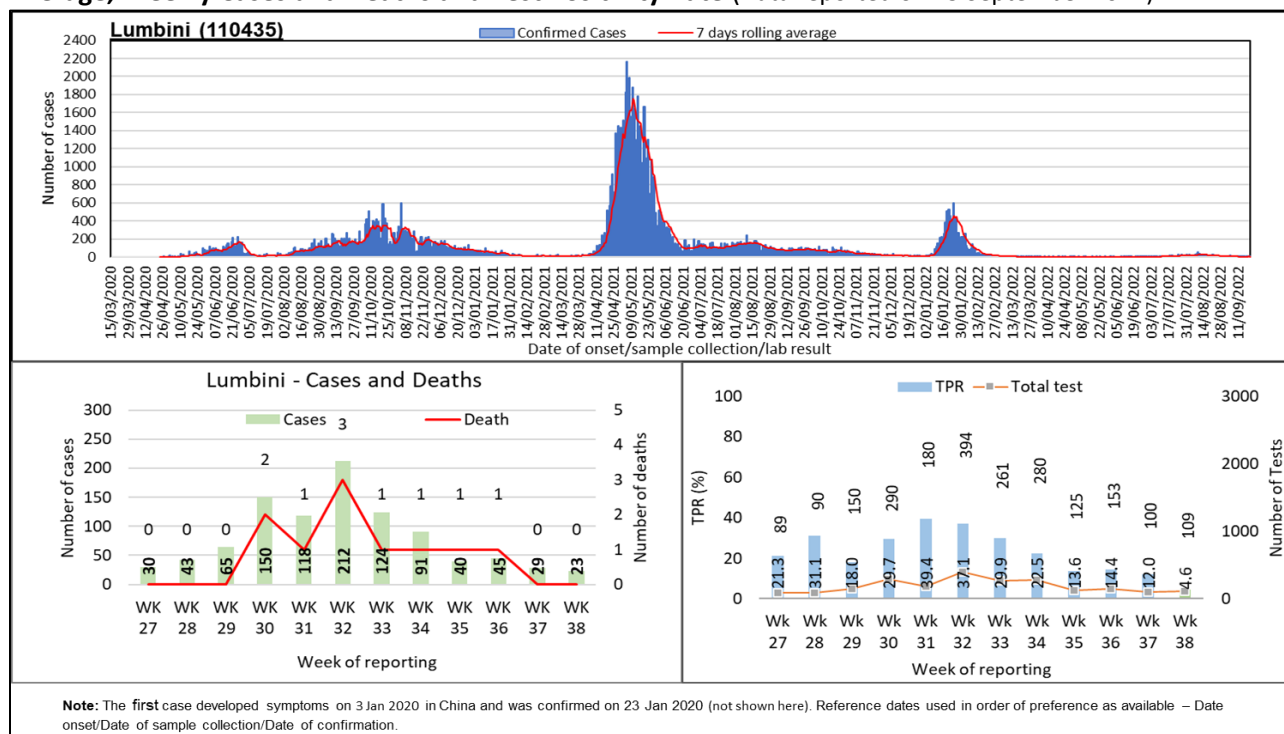
In Bagmati, 222 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 33% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 50% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 2.9% in the past week. A total of 10,127 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 25 September 2022)



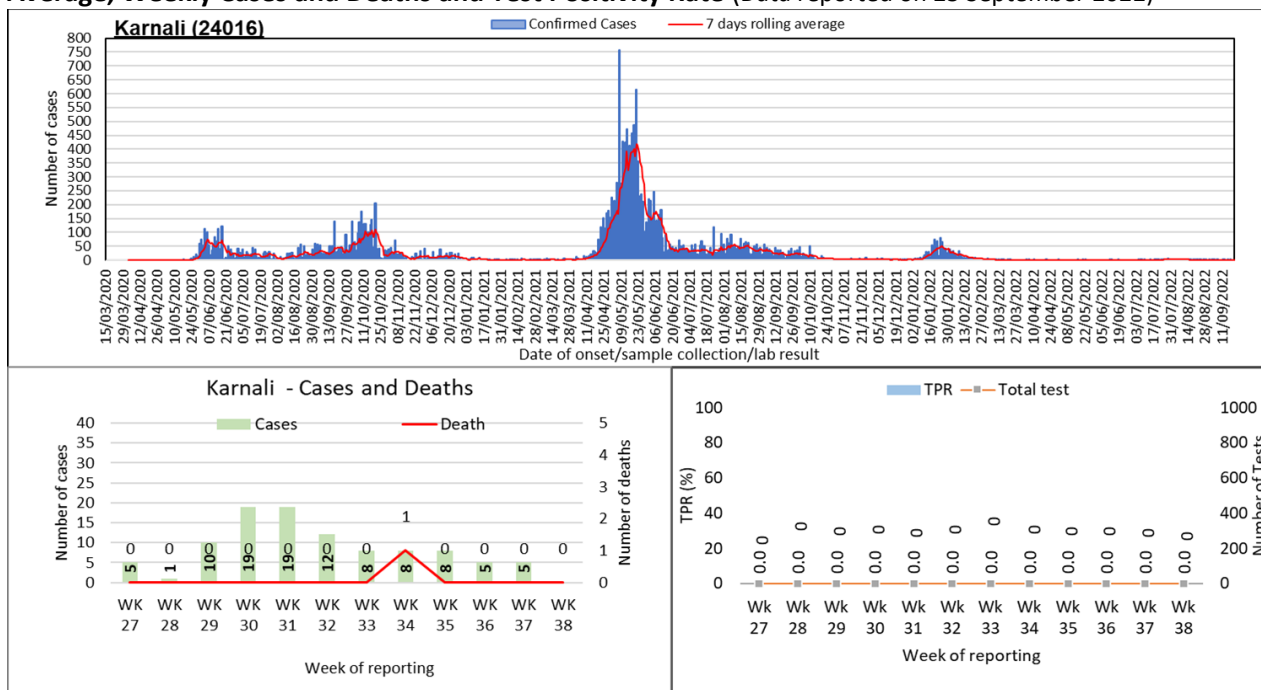
In Gandaki, 30 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 36% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 12.8% in the past week. A total of 78 tests were performed in the past week, 15% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3A5: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lumbini Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 25 September 2022)



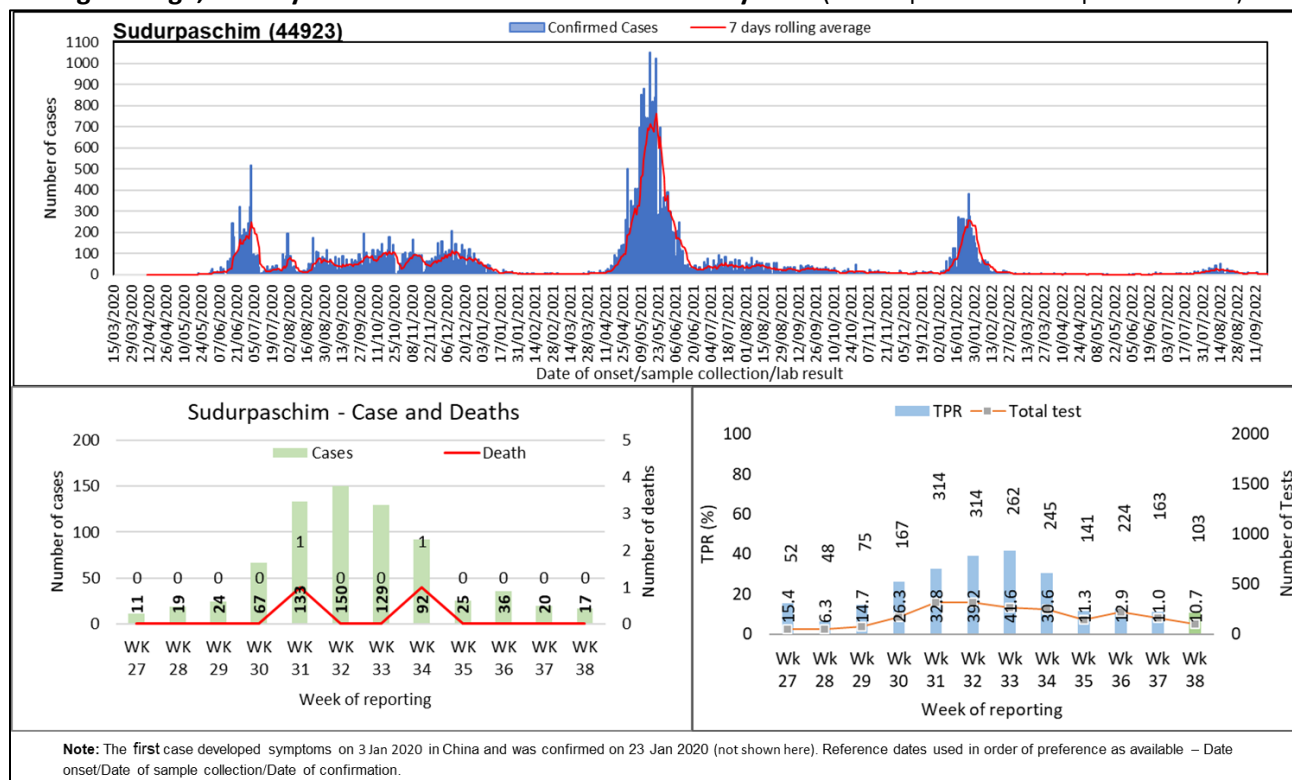
Lumbini reported 23 new cases in the past week. Cases have decreased by 21% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 4.6% in the past week. A total of 109 tests were performed in the past week, 9% 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 25 September 2022)



In Karnali, no new case was reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 100% 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 25 September 2022)



In Sudurpaschim, 17 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 15% 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 10.7% in the past week. A total of 103 tests were performed reported in the past week, 37% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 25 September 2022 up to 19:00:00))

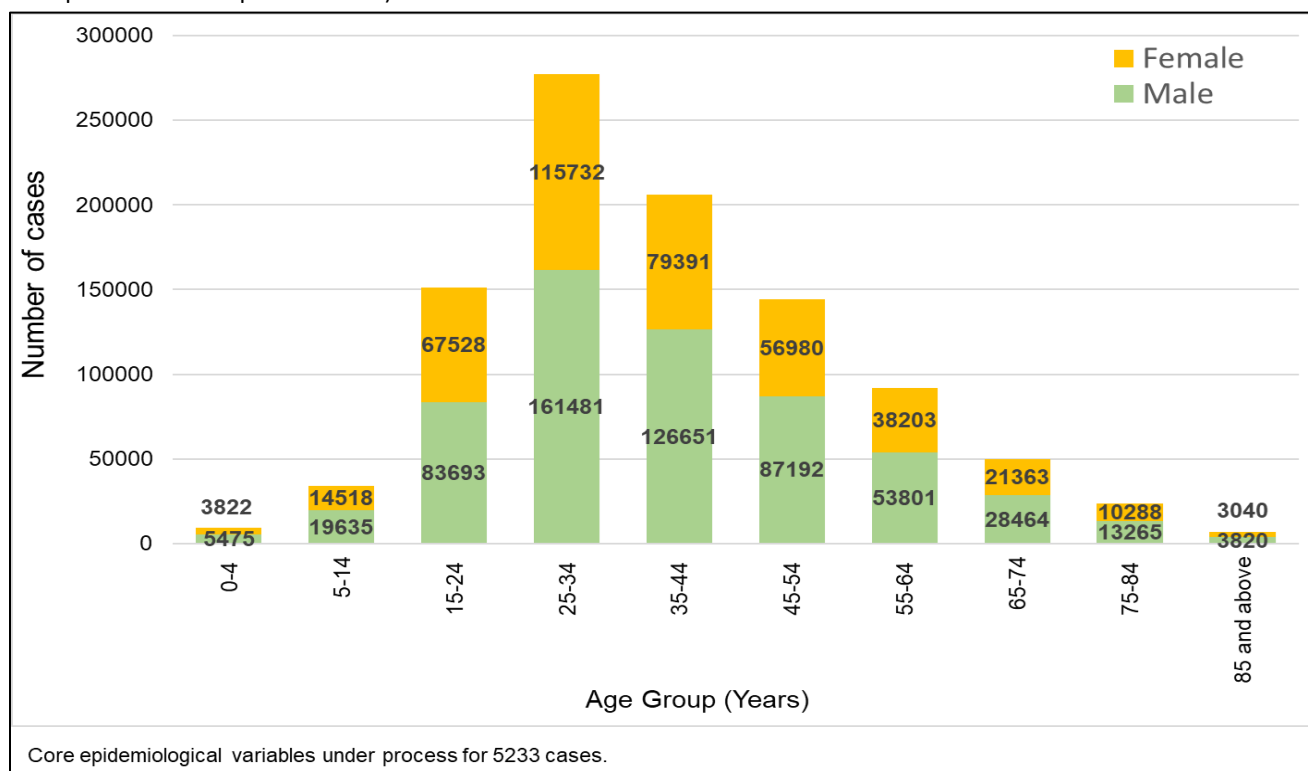
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129423	30322	159745	14.1	1722	Community transmission	7	83	90	7.6	0
Madhesh	53855	1178	55033	4.9	783	Community transmission	1	24	25	2.1	0
Bagmati	541678	32674	574352	50.9	5200	Community transmission	218	554	772	65.3	3
Gandaki	95245	24638	119883	10.6	1428	Community transmission	35	77	112	9.5	0
Lumbini	110435	28106	138541	12.3	1874	Community transmission	56	52	108	9.1	0
Karnali	24016	6324	30340	2.7	492	Community transmission	13	5	18	1.5	0
Sudurpashchim	44923	6139	51062	4.5	518	Community transmission	20	37	57	4.8	0
National Total	999575	129381*	1128956	100	12017	Community transmission	350	832	1182	100	3

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 18 September 2022, **151969 but IMU reported **129381***

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= 994,342)(Data reported on 25 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= 999,575)(Data reported on 25 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	9297	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34153	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151221	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277213	387	265	151	0.24
35-44	206042	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144172	1396	645	574	1.42
55-64	92004	1690	803	782	2.71
65-74	49827	1640	893	957	5.08
75-84	23553	1227	658	771	8
85+	6860	524	289	279	11.85
Unknown	5233	19	7	11	0.5
National	999575	7879	4138	3899	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 12,017 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,879 (65.6%) were male and 4,138 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,899 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 was 100% concordant and 1 laboratory was 90%.
 - Genome sequencing of 48 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples.
 - Simulation exercise on disaster management organized by HEOC, MoHP on 22-24 September 2022.

Technical Expertise and Training

- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support in conducting the following programs:
 - 5 Day Training on Basic Emergency Care (BEC) organized by Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) at Nepalgunj from 19-23 September 2022. There were 26 participants from GETI Site (Bheri Hospital, Karnali Provincial Hospital (Birendranagar - Surkhet), and Seti provincial Hospital) which included medical officer, nursing incharge, paramedics and nurses.
 - 5-Day Training on Basic Emergency Care (BEC) organized by Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) at Chitwan from 19-23 September 2022. There were 30 participants from GETI Site (Koshi Hospital, Narayani Hospital, Bharatpur Hospital and Pokhara Academy of Health Sciences) which included medical officer, nursing incharge, paramedics and nurses.



Group picture after the completion of 'Training program on Basic Emergency Care (BEC)' organized by Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) at (Up) Nepalgunj and (Below) Chitwan from 19-23 September 2022., Photo Credit: WHO Nepal

- WHO team attended an orientation program on 'Post COVID-19 Conditions/PCC Management Protocol for medical officers, MD/GP & Rehabilitation Professionals of Nepal' endorsed by the Curative Service Division, DoHS, MoHP Nepal and project model supported by the European Union. The medical officers, MD/GP working at the District, Provincial and Federal Levels and Rehabilitation staff from 18 COVID-19 Unified Hospitals were oriented on the protocol

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 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.

- 5 days IV batch of Training of Trainers on Emergency Care Toolkit and Basic Emergency Care conducted parallel at Nepalgunj and Chitwan from 19 – 23 September 2022. This program was jointly organized by National Health Training Center and WHO Nepal.
- Training program on Simulation Exercise Package Preparation. This training was conducted from 19 – 23 September 2022. This program was organized by Ministry of Health and Population and supported by WHO Nepal.



Simulation Exercise for managing earthquake at Dharath Rangasala on final day 23rd September 2022.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/P.Dahal

- 2nd NMA National Health Summit 2022 on 20 -21 September 2022. 2nd NMA National Health Summit 2022 was organized by Nepal Medical Association.

Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal keynote speech at 2nd NMA National Health Summit 2022 on 20th September 2022.

Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/C.Sherpa



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Episode 77 of *Science in 5* (*Hepatitis outbreak in children*) was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
 - Nepali: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#); YouTube [link](#)
 - Maithili: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#) ; YouTube [link](#)

- WHO is supporting NHEICC to run a month-long radio campaign on dengue with the objective to increase awareness at community level. As part of the campaign PSAs are being broadcasted across 77 districts in national and regional languages. The campaign began on 21 September 2022.
- Support was also provided to produce several videos related to dengue including one about importance of 'Search and Destroy' intervention for dengue prevention and control and a video message featuring the Director General of Department of Health Services. These have been disseminated via the social media platforms of MoHP, NHEICC and WHO Nepal.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - i. Dengue and COVID-19,
 - ii. Smoking and COVID-19,
 - iii. Equitable and resilient health systems and COVID-19,
 - iv. Harmful use of alcohol and COVID-19,
 - v. The importance of following COVID-19 preventive measures.
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - vi. *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*,
 - vii. *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring*, and
 - viii. *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- WHO and MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- WHO Nepal continues to provide the technical support Health Coordination Division, Ministry of Health and Population, specifically to the spokesperson and joint spokesperson for the weekly National briefing. The key contents included in the briefing on 21 September 2022 are: COVID-19 updates, importance of public health and social measures and vaccine, QR code certification, update on current outbreak of dengue in Nepal, message on sign and symptoms of dengue and on the personal protection tips and prevention of mosquito bite, mosquito breeding control, and interventions of MoHP in response to dengue outbreak.
- Participated in the SIMEX event and provided documentation support.

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.

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.

- Coordinated and supported Ministry of Health and Population and Respond Global Team for conducting Simulation Exercise from 21-23 September 2022. Officials from MoHP, DoHS, Hub and satellite hospitals, Armed Police force and ambulance network participated in the program. Prior to the simulation exercise, a preparatory meeting was held on 19 September 2022 and an orientation program to the facilitators was held on 20 September 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](#)

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