

Situation Update #142 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 26 December 2022 - 1 January 2023
(Epi Week 52)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 1 January 2023 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 2 January 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (988,954) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (29) are active cases and 1.2% (12,019) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (36) reported this week, 58.3% (21) are from Kathmandu district followed by Sunsari 8.3%(3) and Lalitpur districts 5.6% (2). Majority of the new cases 63.9% (23) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 1 January 2023)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,002

Antigen RDT: 152,216

Cumulative deaths: 12,019

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,989,976

Antigen RDT: 1,478,741

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,719,269 (9%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

802,804 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

649,244,427 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,646,562 (100%)

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 30 November 2022)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,561,521	4,818,638
Vero Cell	10,383,765	9,254,837
Janssen	3,534,659	
Pfizer	4,882,044	3,645,744
Paediatric Pfizer	3,325,016	2,940,390
Moderna	3,225,928	2,828,699

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, a total of 78.2% (782,755/1,001,002) 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 (441,665/1,001,002), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,665/542,742).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 52 ranged from 0.0% (Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini and Sudurpashchim Provinces) to 10.7% (Province 1), with a national positivity rate at 1.4%. Karnali Province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.

- Nepal reported an 80% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=36) in Epi week 52 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 89% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini Provinces.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 52, same as in the previous week.

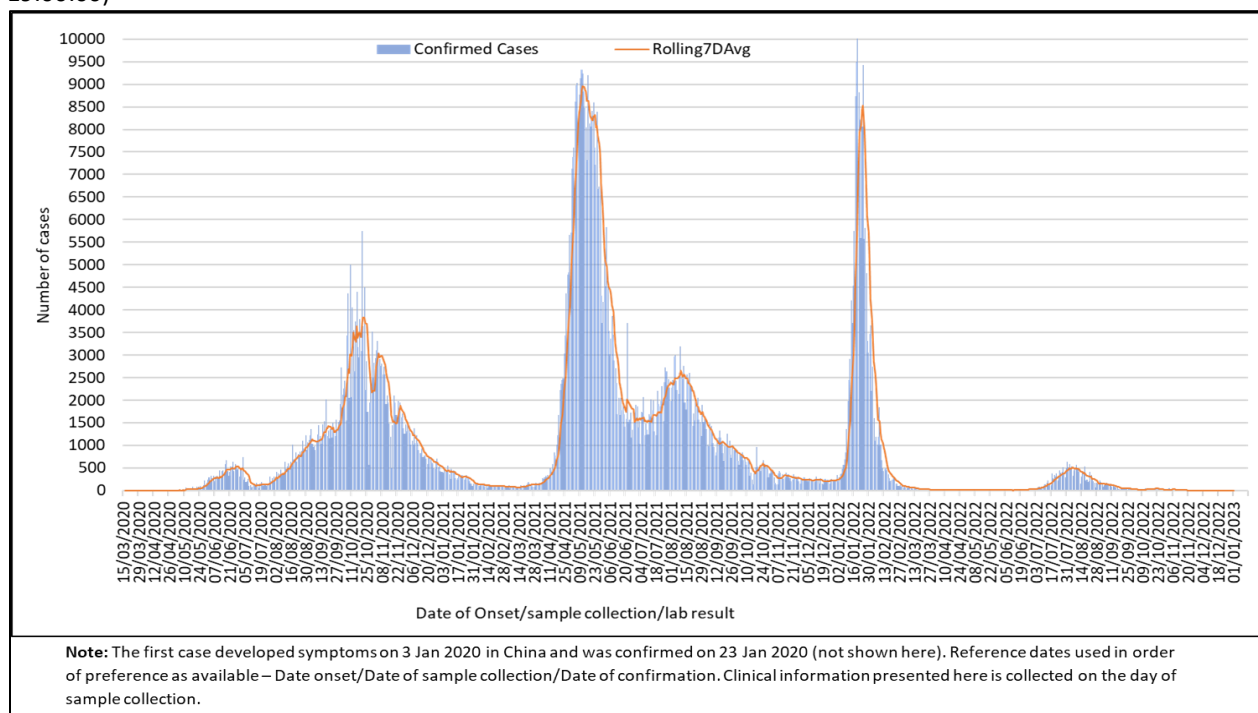
National Influenza Surveillance

- WHO Nepal facilitated National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL in conducting a virtual meeting with the newly recruited lab staff of Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) of Gandaki and Bagmati Provinces for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance program on 27 Dec 2022. Staff were oriented on the program objectives, sample selection and testing criteria, SOPs of Multiplex-RT PCR test, and data management mechanism. A total of 6 participants attended the meeting representing PPHL, NIC-NPHL and WHO.
- NIC-NPHL reported 23 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 52. One sample tested Influenza A/H3 positive.
 - Three samples tested Influenza A positive, subtyping yet to be done.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- NIC-NPHL received 19 samples from its sentinel sites i.e., Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (11 samples) and Kanti Children's Hospital (4 samples) and TUTH (4 samples) for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 testing. 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 52.
 - 14 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
 - One sample tested Influenza A positive, subtyping result awaited.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) from Madhesh, Gandaki, and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 54 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 52.
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza A and B and SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 2019 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 1 January 2023.
- From 3 January 2022 until 1 January 2023:
 - A total of 697 samples have tested positive for Influenza (5 Influenza B, 328 Influenza A/H3, 359 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 5 Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) from 7963 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 365 samples have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 3,448 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/>

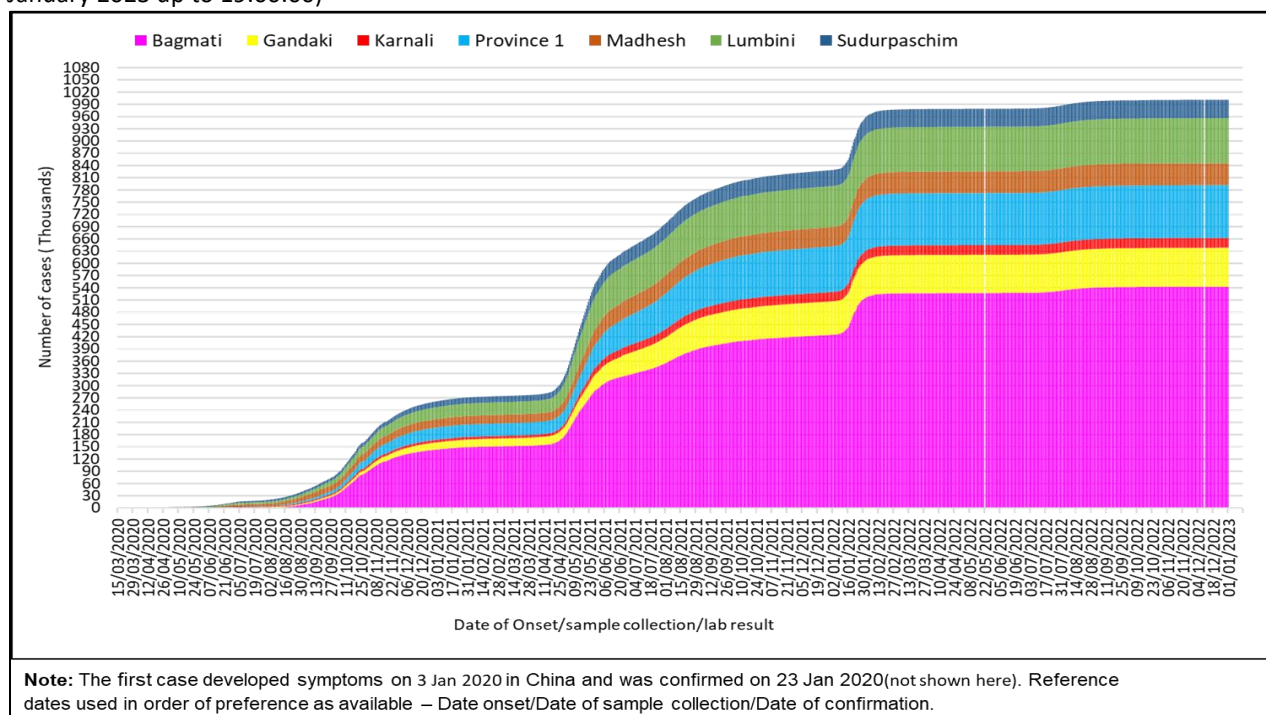
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 1001002)(Data reported on 1 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)



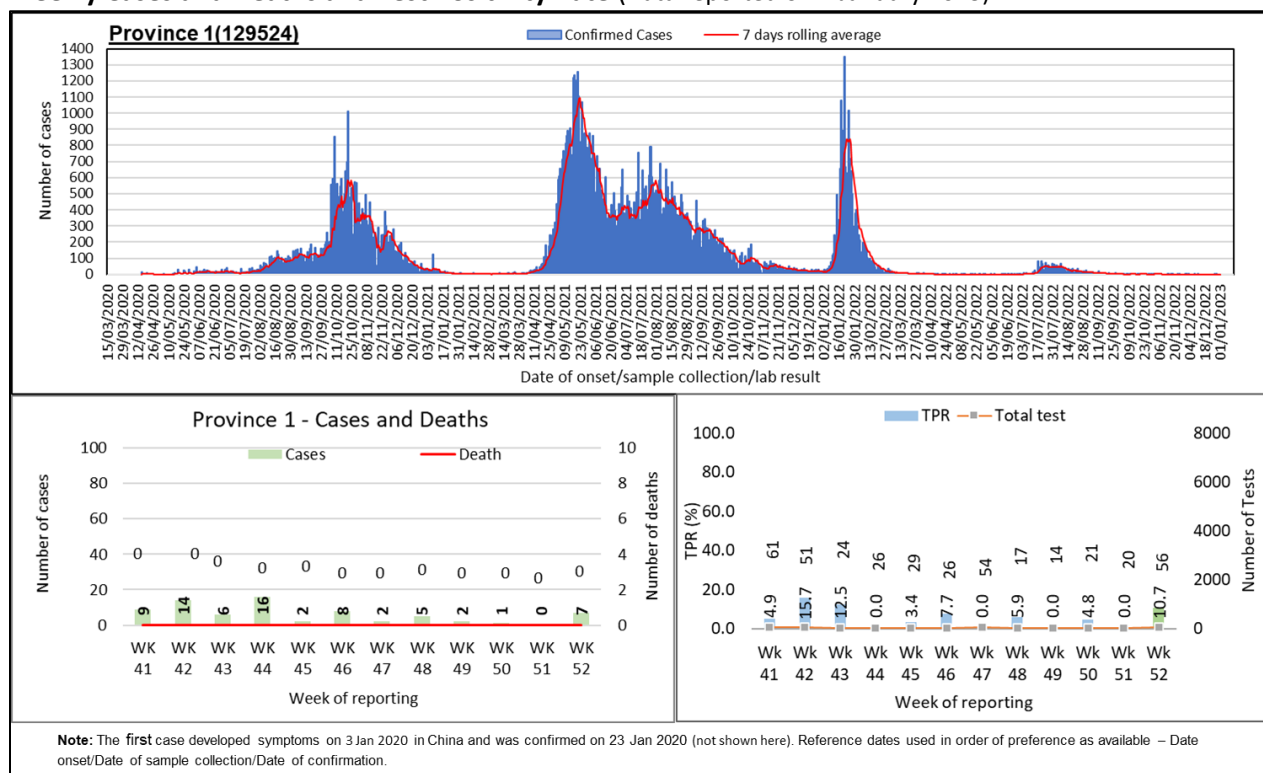
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end of January 2022. Another wave of cases steadily soared up towards the middle of May 2022 following an overall declining trend since the middle of August 2022.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N= 1001002)(Data reported on 1 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)



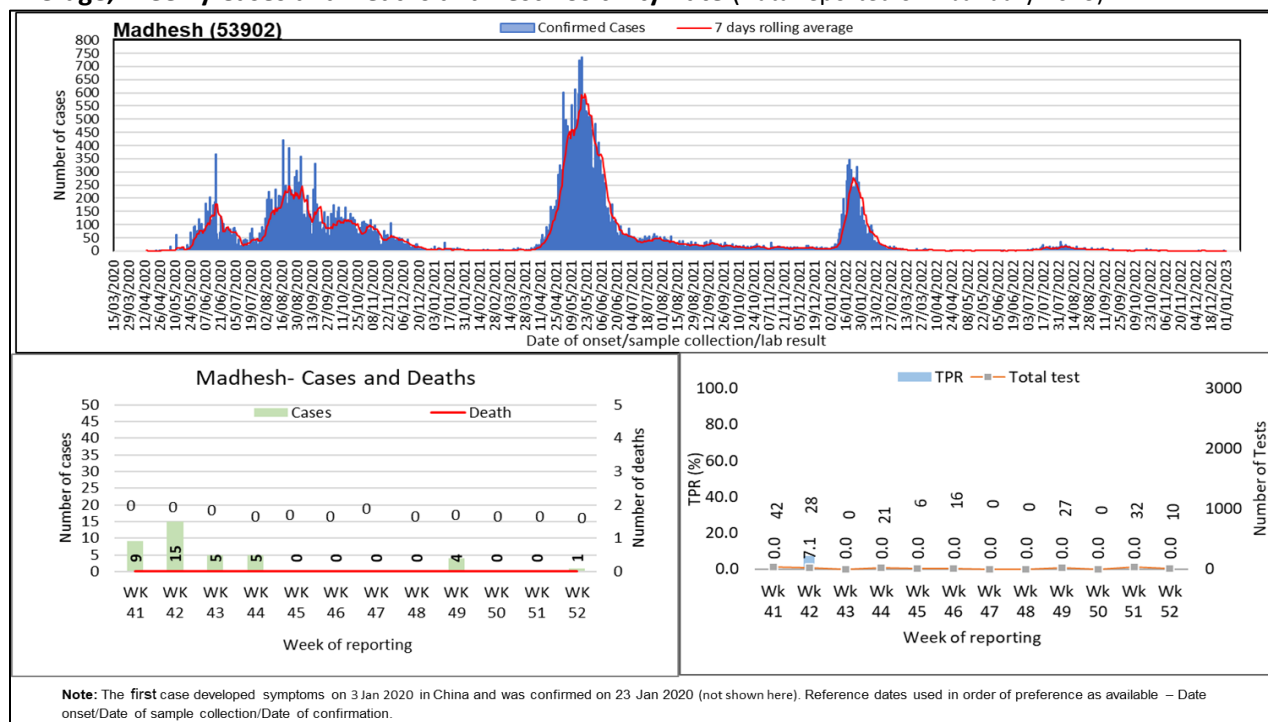
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 1 January 2023)



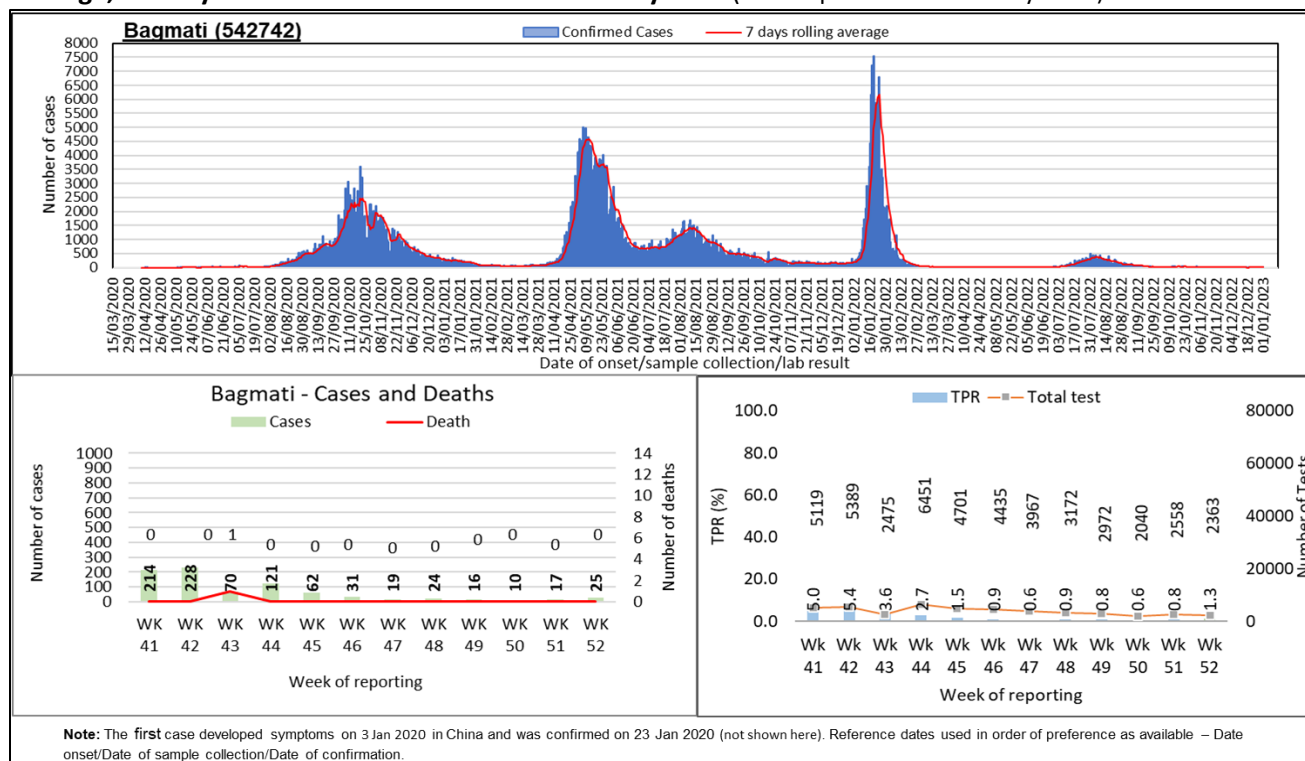
There were 7 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 10.7% in the past week. A total of 56 tests were performed in the past week, 180% 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 1 January 2023)



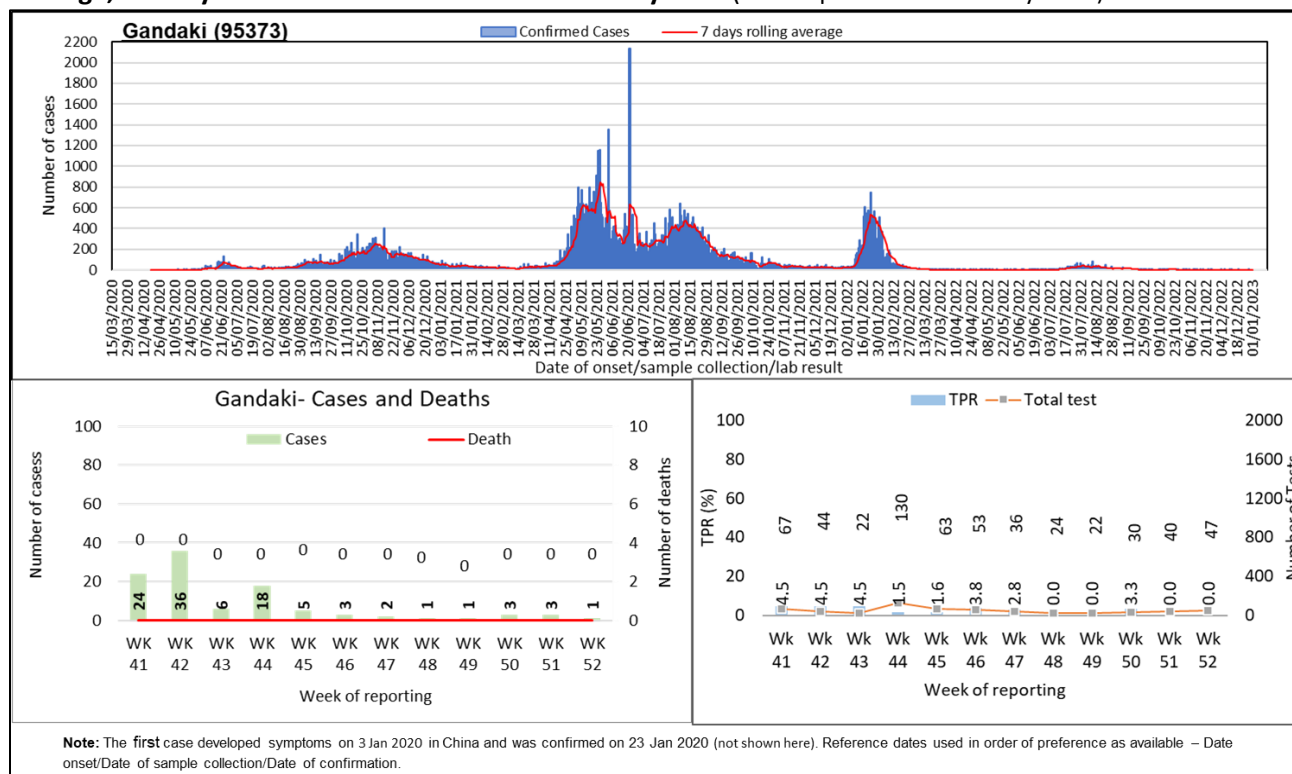
There was 1 new case reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 10 tests were performed in the past week, 69% 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 1 January 2023)



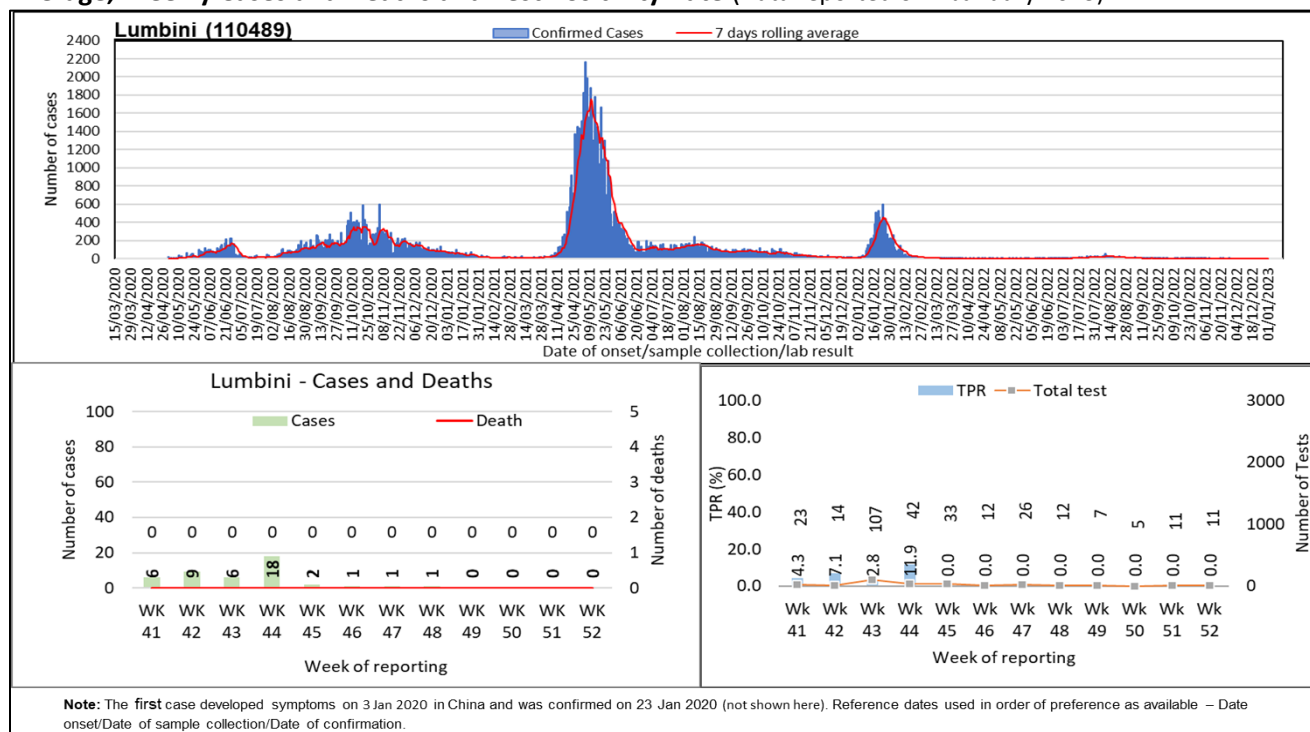
In Bagmati, 25 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 47% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 1.3% in the past week. A total of 2363 tests were performed in the past week, 8% 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 1 January 2023)



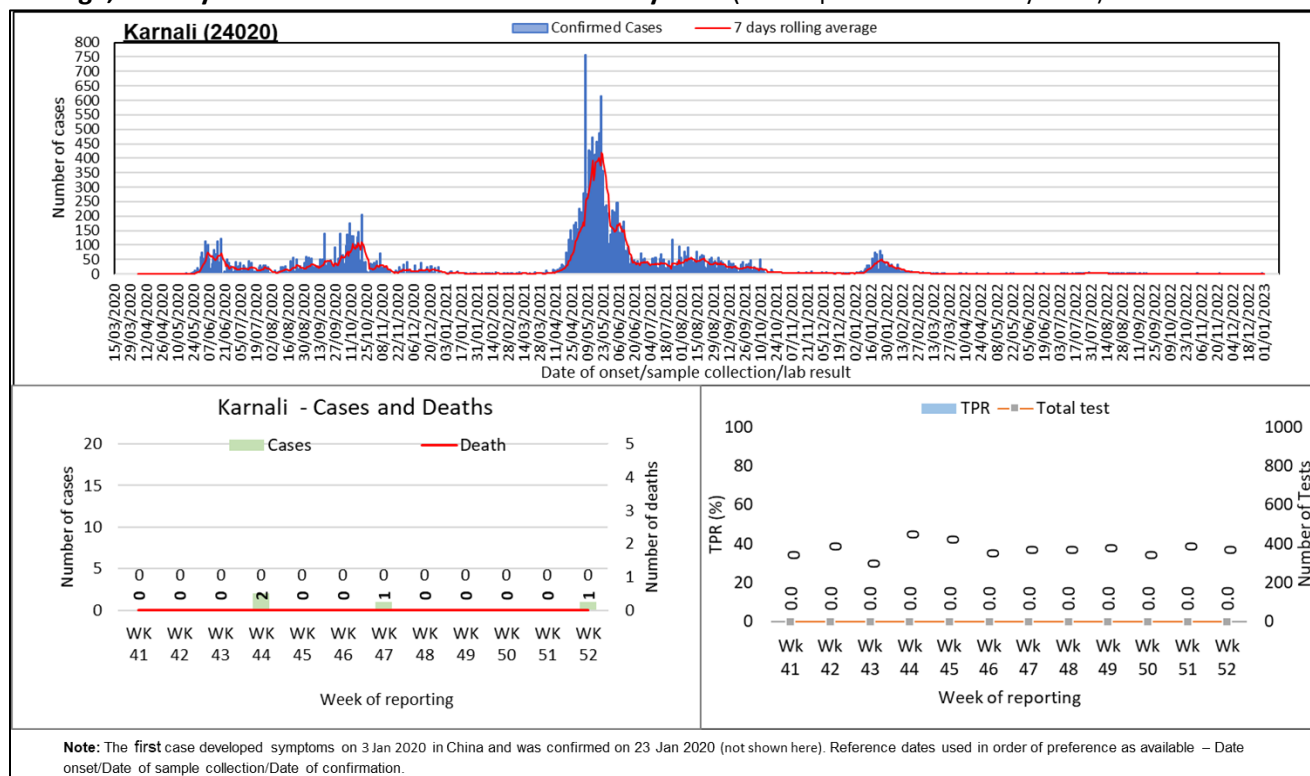
In Gandaki, 1 new case was reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 67% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 47 tests were performed in the past week, 18% 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 1 January 2023)



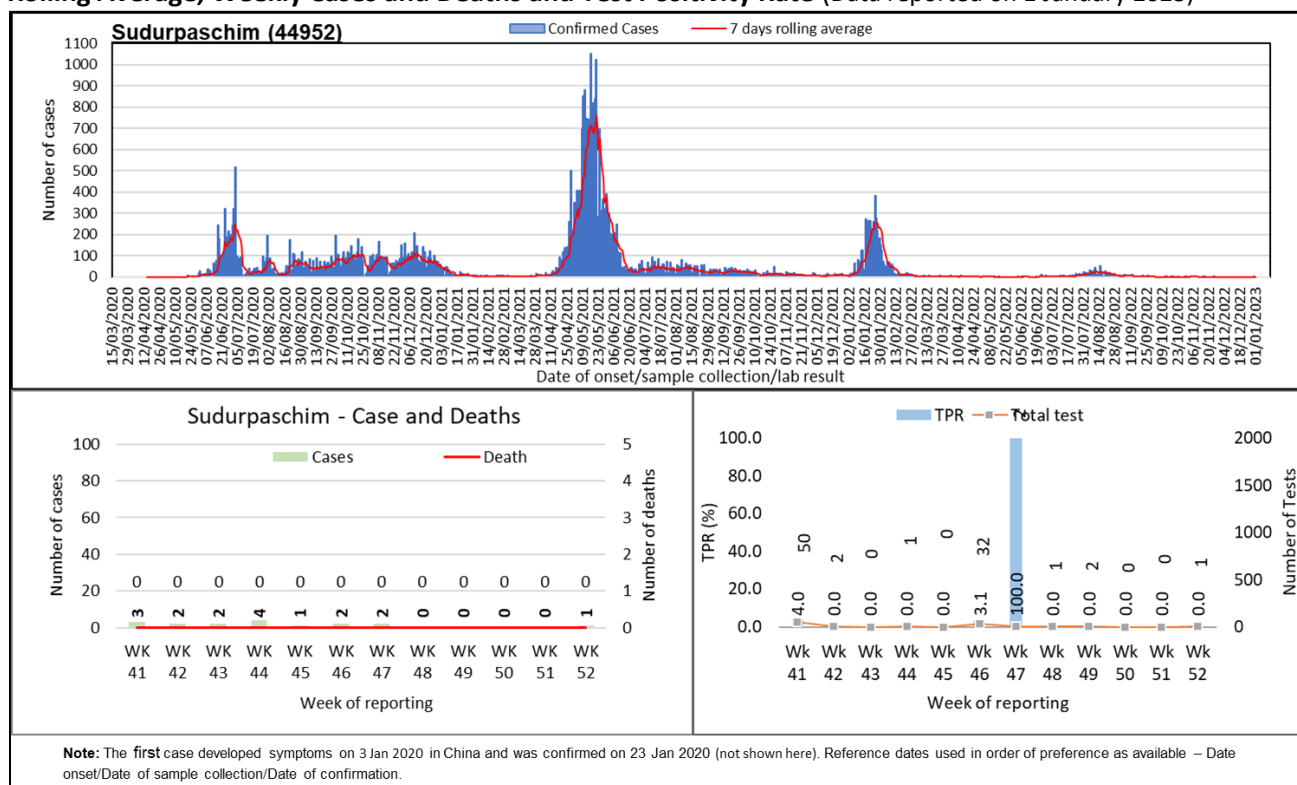
Lumbini reported no new case in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 11 tests were performed in the past week, same as that in the previous 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 1 January 2023)



In Karnali, 1 new case was reported in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was 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 1 January 2023)



In Sudurpaschim, 1 new case was reported in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim was 0.0% in the past week. Only one test was performed in the past week compared to none in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 1 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)

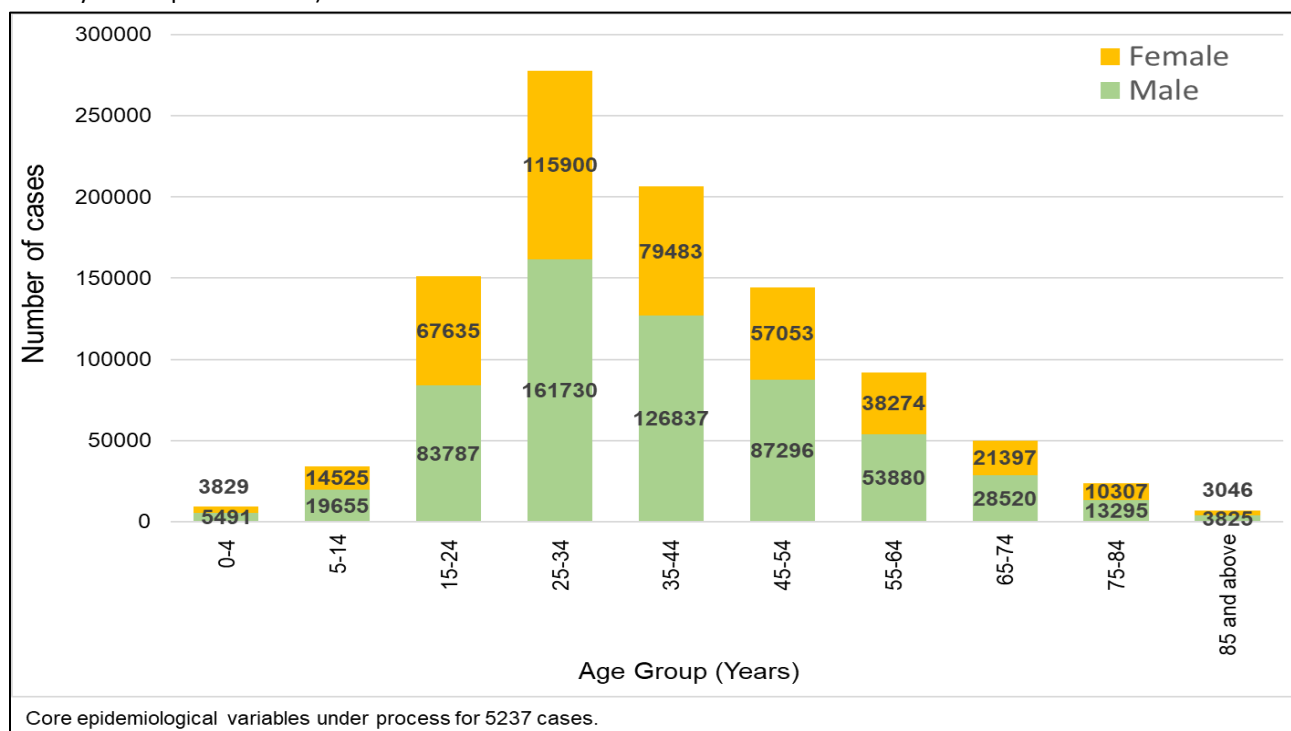
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129524	30322	159846	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	7	7	12.3	0
Madhesh	53902	1178	55080	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	1	1	1.8	0
Bagmati	542742	32765	575507	50.9	5202	Community transmission	1	42	43	75.4	0
Gandaki	95373	24669	120042	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	4	4	7.0	0
Lumbini	110489	28140	138629	12.3	1874	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
Karnali	24020	6325	30345	2.7	492	Community transmission	0	1	1	1.8	0
Sudurpashchim	44952	6142	51094	4.5	518	Community transmission	0	1	1	1.8	0
National Total	1001002	129541*	1130543	100	12019	Community transmission	1	56	57	100	0

**Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 1 January 152216, IMU reported 129541*

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= 995765)(Data reported on 1 January 2023 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= 1001002)(Data reported on 1 January 2023 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	9320	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34180	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151422	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277630	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206320	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144349	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92154	1690	803	782	2.71
65-74	49917	1640	893	957	5.07
75-84	23602	1228	659	773	8
85+	6871	524	289	279	11.83
Unknown	5237	19	7	11	0.5
National	1001002	7880	4139	3901	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 12,019 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,880 (65.6%) were male and 4,139 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,901 persons (32.5%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 11.8%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- From 3 November 2022 onwards, Government of Nepal has started administering second dose COVID-19 booster vaccination for people aged 55 and above and the vulnerable population (immune-deficiency/chronic patients, pregnant women, and health workers) group.

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 the following activities:
 - Uploading data of result of genome sequencing of 360 SARS-CoV-2 samples sent to Public Health England in 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:
- National Health Training Center conducted eight batches of IPC (Infection Prevention and Control) training for Health Care Workers (One Batch Training of Trainers and 7 batch service providers). There were 156 participants including 15 pools of trainers from 72 district level hospitals, provincial, federal level hospitals, and private hospitals of all 7 provinces in the training. Trainers were from various hospitals, professional societies, WHO, and provinces.



Group photo after completion of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training in Lumbini Province.

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. To perform these activities, the team coordinates and discuss with relevant government authorities and partners for effective planning and conducting the various activities.



(Left) Trainer facilitating the IPC session. (Right) Participants demonstrating Personal Protective equipment (PPE) Donning. Photo credit: WHO Nepal

- The Curative Service Division at the Ministry of Health and Population with support of funds from Germany organized "National Symposium on COVID-19 Case Management" on 29 - 30 December 2022. This event was participated by senior officials from Ministry of Health and Population, Department of Health Services, relevant provincial health ministries, provincial health directorates, public and private hospitals, academia, various professional societies, and relevant experts.



Participants in the 2-day "National Symposium on COVID-19 Case Management". Photo credit: WHO Nepal



Secretaries of Ministry of Health and Population providing their opening remarks during the symposium. Photo credit: WHO Nepal



Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal providing his opening remarks at the symposium. Photo credit: WHO Nepal

- Nursing and Social Security Division conducted one month skill exchange program for 16 critical care nurses from 4 hospitals (4 from each from National Academy of Medical Sciences- Bir Hospital, National Trauma Center, Grande International Hospital, Shahid Gangalal National Heart Center) from 1-31 Dec 2022.



Group photo during the closing ceremony of the skill exchange program. PC: Nursing and Social Security Division

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.
- WHO Nepal facilitated in arrangement of accommodation and conference package for the following programs:
 - National Workshop on Basic Emergency Medical Technician Training held on 27 December 2022 in Lalitpur. The event was jointly organized by National Health Training Center and WHO Nepal.



*Group photo session during the National Workshop on Basic Emergency Medical Technician Training.
Photo credit: WHO Nepal*

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.

- Two-day event on 'National Symposium on COVID-19 Case Management' in Kathmandu held on 29 - 30 December 2022
- WHO Nepal also facilitated handover of following equipment:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the Department of Health Services (DoHS) on 27 December 2022.



Group photo during handover ceremony joined by Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal and Dr. Dipendra Raman Singh, Director General of DoHS. Photo credit: WHO Nepal/S.G.Amatya

- Emergency Logistics such as Emergency Medical Deployment Team Bag to Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC), Ministry of Health and Population Nepal, on 28 December 2022.

*Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal and Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari Chief of National Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) during the handover ceremony.
Photo credit: WHO Nepal*



Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The news of the handover of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the Department of Health Services (DoHS), MoHP, by WHO, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)), Twitter (link [here](#)), and Instagram (link [here](#)). DoHS will distribute these life-saving equipment to various health facilities on need basis, which will be assessed on expected number of COVID-19 cases.
- On the occasion of *New Years*, relevant IEC materials were shared which highlighted recommended COVID-19 preventive measures during celebrations.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
 - I. International Day of Epidemic Preparedness,
 - II. How to stay safe from flu during the winter,
 - III. Safe celebrations and COVID-19,
 - IV. Physical activity and COVID-19,
 - V. Importance of vaccines.
- The *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link [here](#)).
- The *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link [here](#)).
- The *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)).
- The new episode of *Paanch Maa Bigyaan*, on antimicrobial resistance, was shared via SoundCloud (link [here](#)), Facebook (link [here](#)), Twitter (link [here](#)), and Instagram (link [here](#)). A promotional poster was also shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- Regular support was provided to MoHP for its weekly media briefing. The briefing held on 28 December 2022 covered the national update on COVID-19, the importance of PHSM, vaccine coverage, information on omicron sub-variant BF.7, and symptoms of common cold, flu, and COVID-19. Additionally, the briefing also incorporated information on protecting ourselves from cold, harmful practices of burning waste and the National Suicide Prevention Helpline Number. The briefing is live-streamed every Wednesday at 4:15 PM on Nepal Television and MoHP's Official Facebook page.

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.

- COVID-19 consultation is being provided continuously by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.
- Technical support provided for the National Workshop on Basic Emergency Medical Technician (BEMT) training held at Kathmandu on 27 December 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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