

Situation Update #143 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 2 - 8 January 2023 (Epi Week 1)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 8 January 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 9 January 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (988,981) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (21) are active cases and 1.2% (12,020) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (20) reported this week, 60% (12) are from Kathmandu district. Majority of the new cases 65% (13) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 3 January 2022)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,569,444	4,828,719
Vero Cell	10,389,422	9,259,568
Janssen	3,538,145	
Pfizer	4,907,973	3,673,797
Moderna	3,226,116	2,828,894

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 8 January 2023)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,022

Antigen RDT: 152,217

Cumulative deaths: 12,020

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,993,423

Antigen RDT: 1,483,250

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,743,975 (9%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

803,368 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

659,466,141 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,688,140 (100%)

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% (782,771/1,001,022) 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 (441,678/1,001,022), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,678/542,755).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 01 ranged from 0.0% (Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini and Sudurpashchim Provinces) to 5.7% (Province 1), with a national positivity rate at 0.6%. Karnali Province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 44% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=20) in Epi week 01 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 80% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini Provinces.
- Nepal reported 1 death in Epi week 01, an increase compared to none in the previous week.

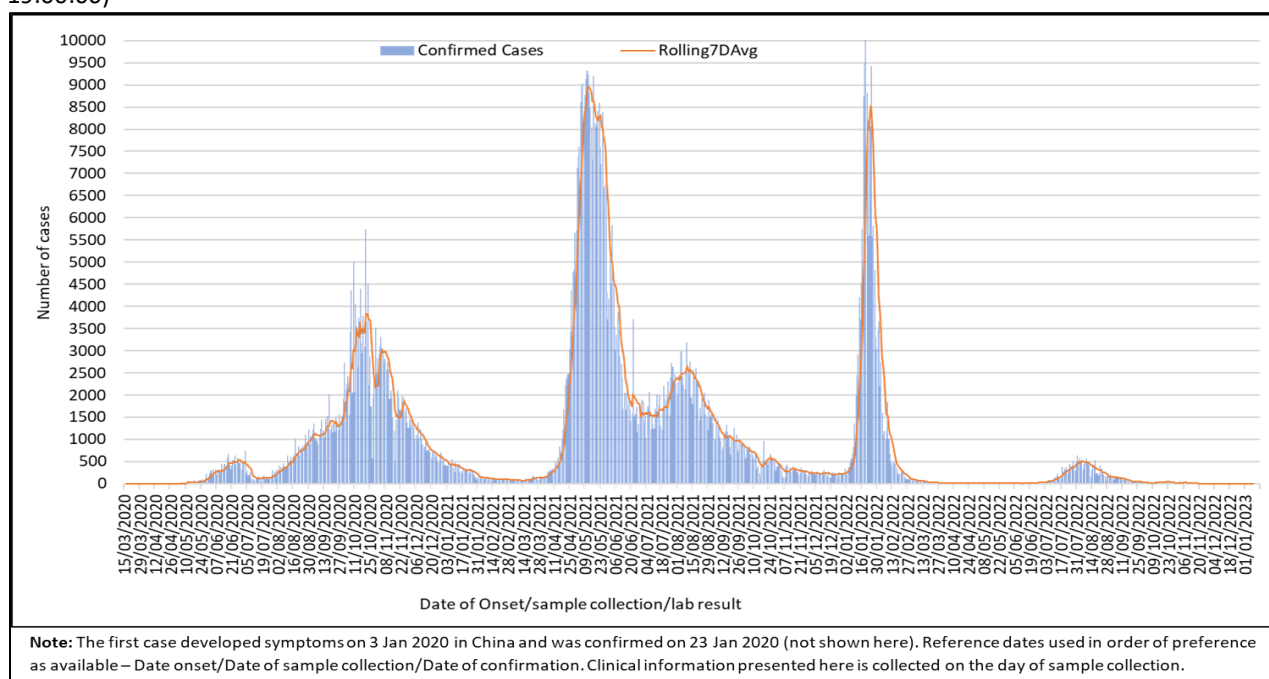
National Influenza Surveillance

- WHO Nepal facilitated National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL in conducting a virtual meeting with the newly recruited laboratory staff of PPHL-Sudurpashchim Province for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance program held on 4 January 2023 to orient the staff on the objectives of the program, sample selection and testing criteria, SOPs of Multiplex-RT PCR test, and data management mechanism.
- NIC-NPHL reported 14 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 1.
 - One sample tested Influenza A/H3 positive, and 2 samples tested Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) positive.
 - One sample tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- NIC-NPHL received 21 samples from its sentinel sites i.e., Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (12 samples) and Kanti Children's Hospital (6 samples) and TUTH (3 samples) for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 testing.
 - Three samples tested Influenza A/H3 positive, and 1 sample tested Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) positive.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 1, 14 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
 - Two samples tested Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) positive, 2 samples tested Influenza A/H3 positive and 2 samples tested Influenza B positive.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL) from Bagmati, Madhesh, Gandaki, Karnali and Sudurpashchim Provinces reported testing of 66 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 1.
 - Three samples tested Influenza A positive and 1 sample tested Influenza B positive.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
 - A total of 66 samples were tested by PPHLs till 8 January 2023.
- From 2 January 2022 until 8 January 2023:
 - A total of 17 samples tested positive for Influenza (3 Influenza B, 6 Influenza A/H3, 5 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 3 Influenza A Positive (to be subtyped) from 115 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 Negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 1 sample tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 96 Influenza 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/>

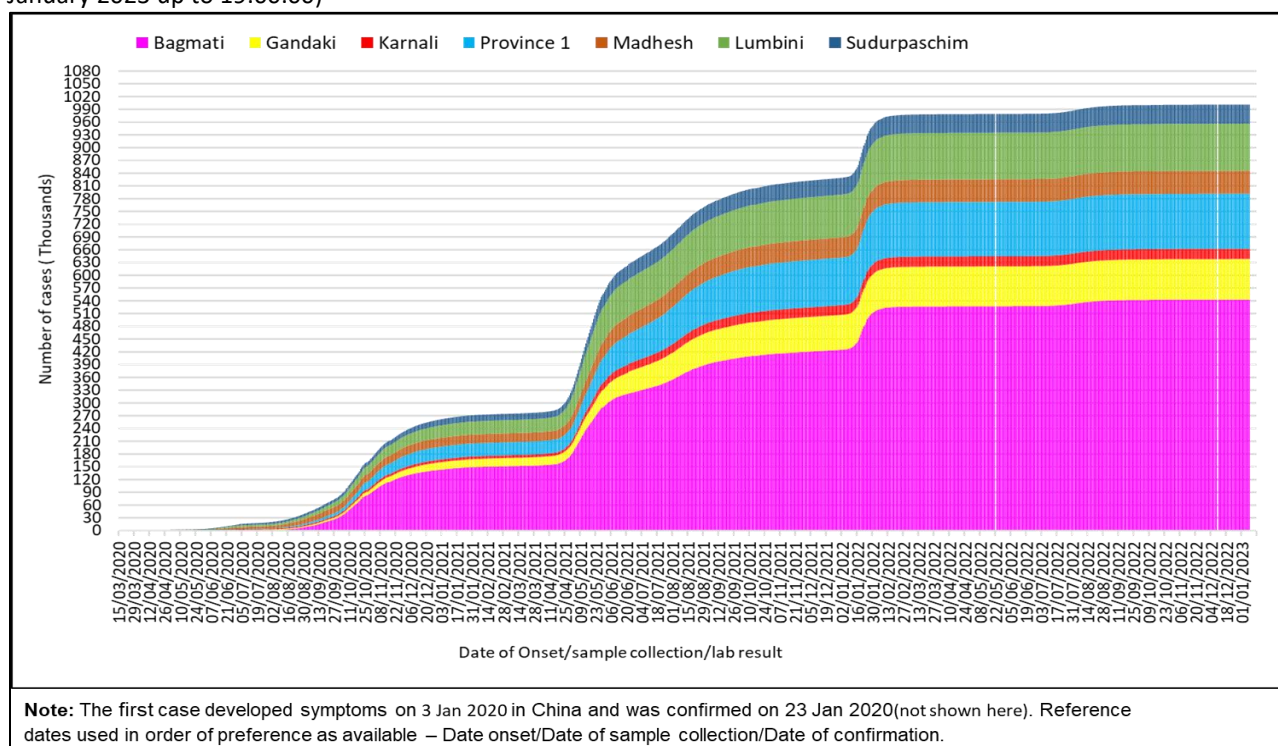
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 1001022)(Data reported on 8 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)



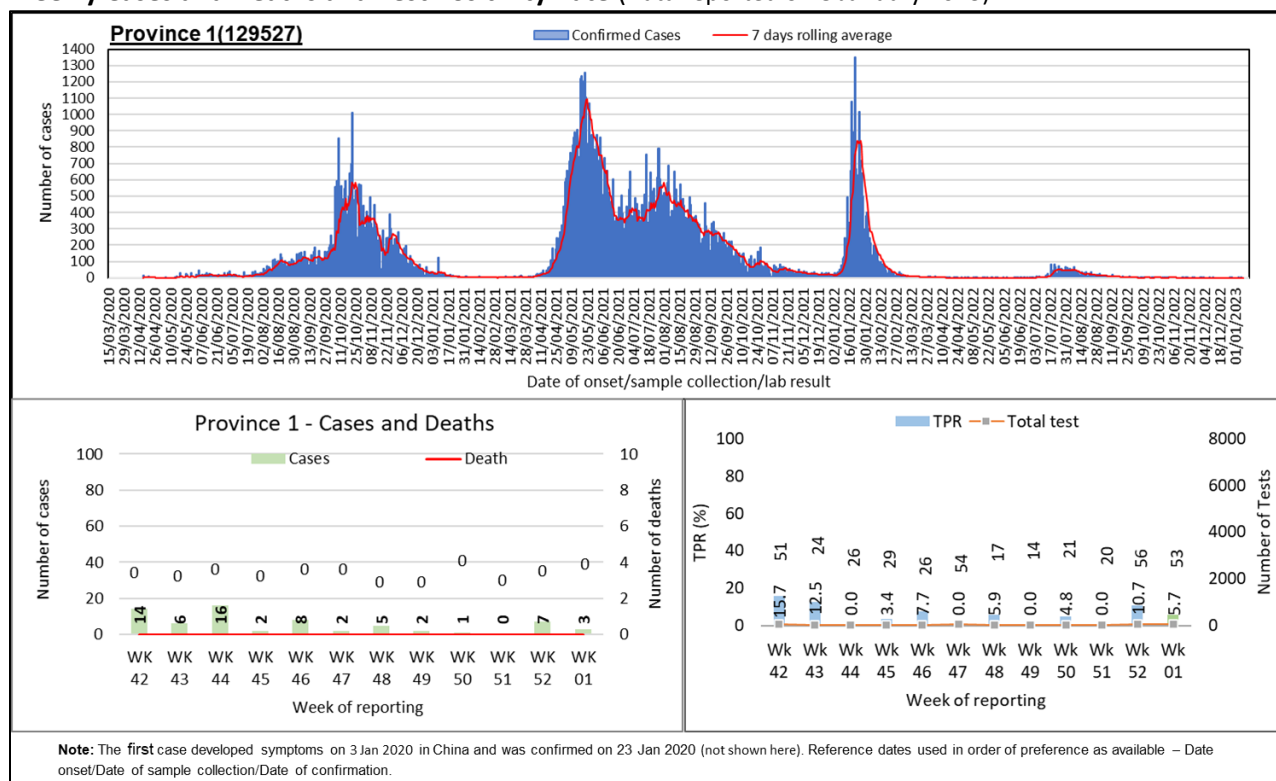
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 1001022)(Data reported on 8 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)



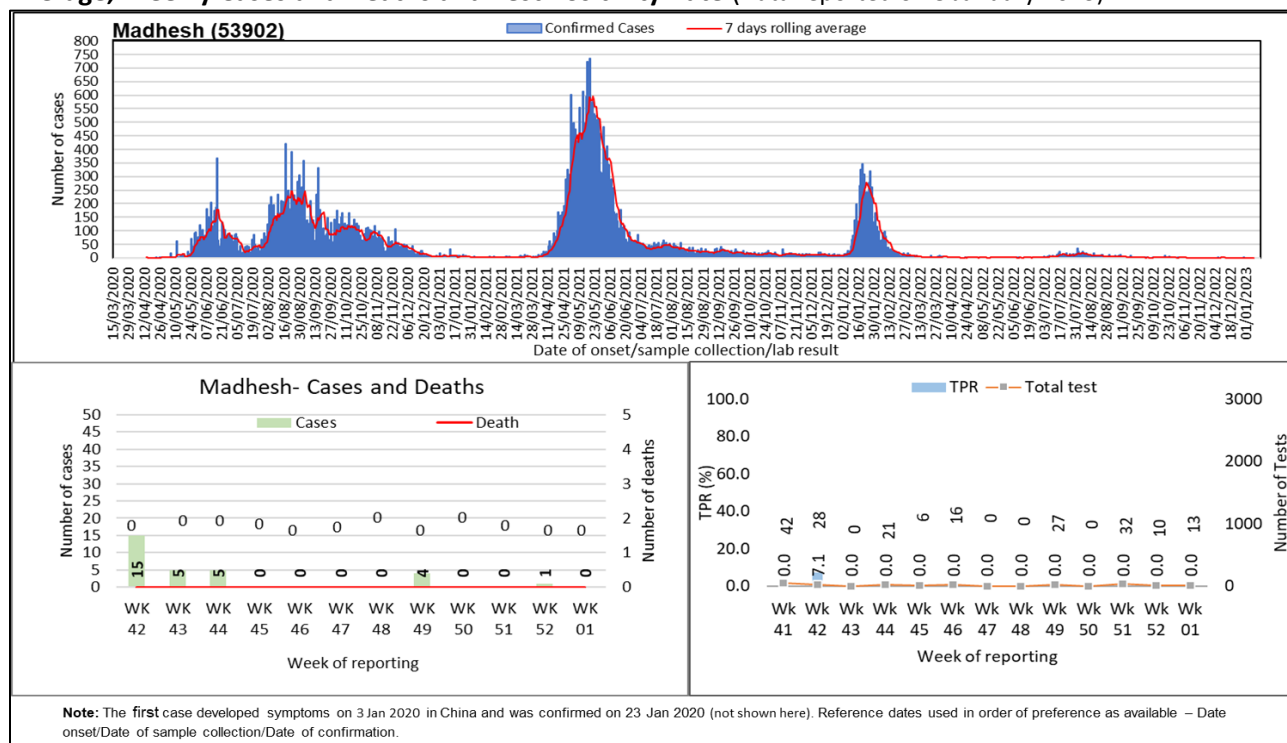
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 8 January 2023)



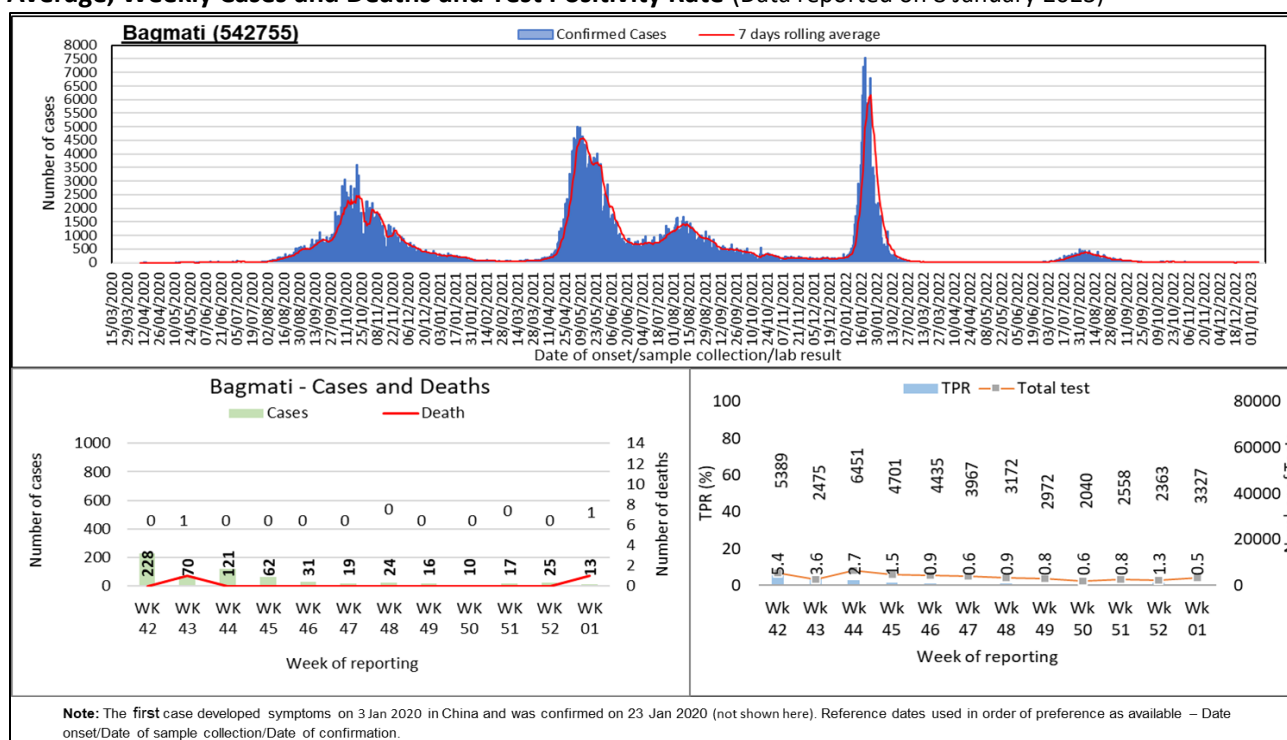
There were 3 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 57% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 5.7% in the past week. A total of 53 tests were performed in the past week, 5% 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 8 January 2023)



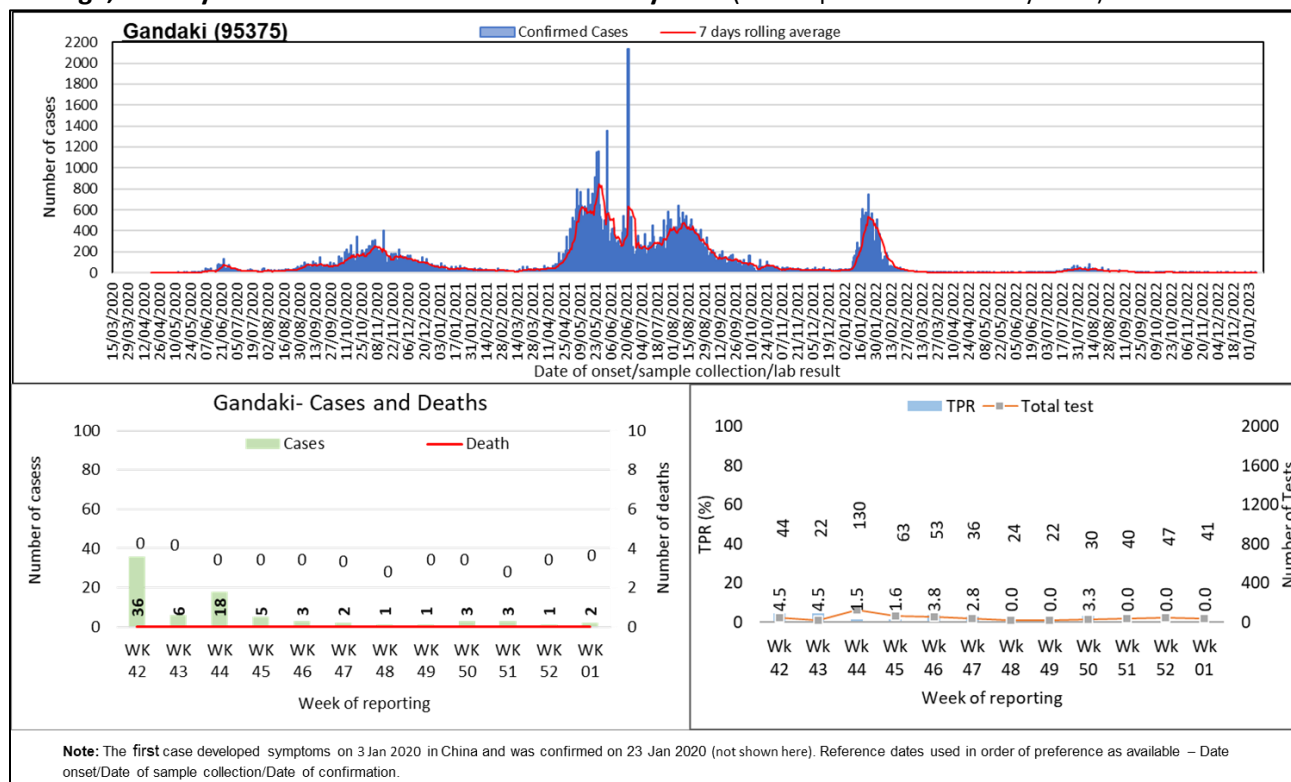
There was no new case reported in the past week in Madhesh Province. Cases have decreased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 13 tests were performed in the past week, 30% 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 8 January 2023)



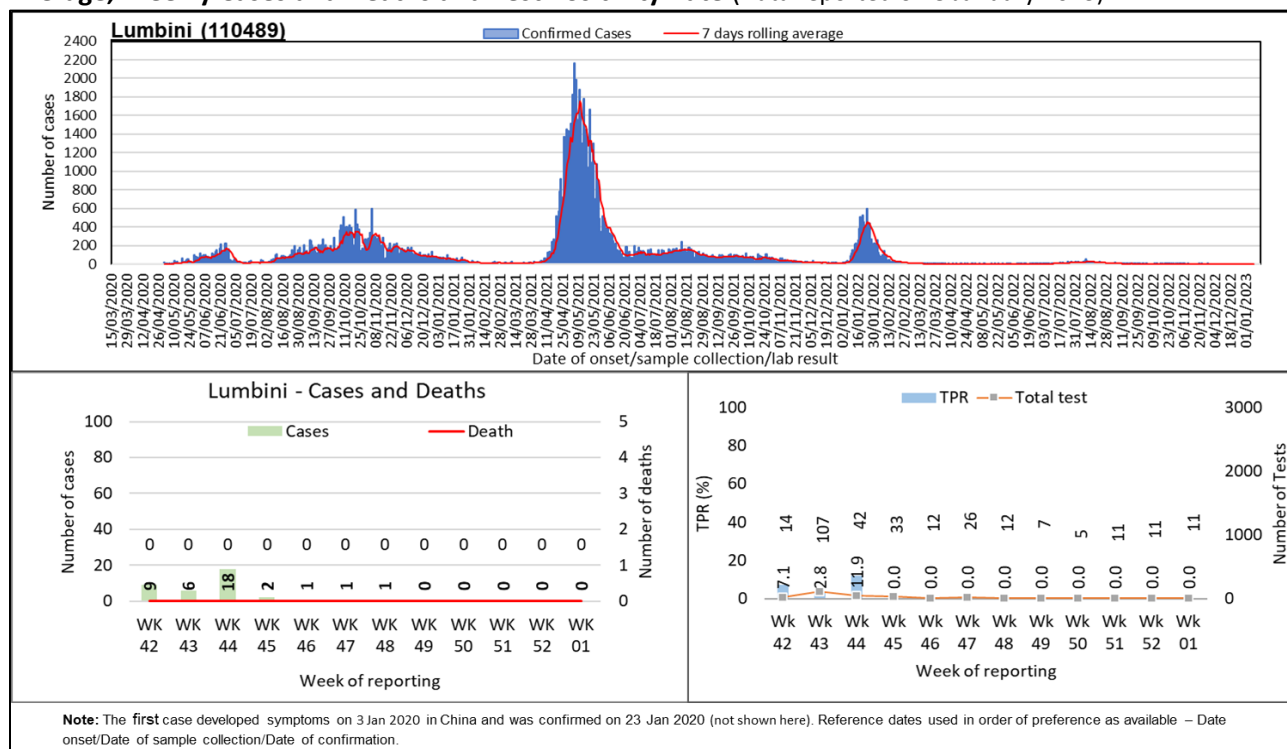
In Bagmati Province, 13 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 48% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, an increase compared to none in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province decreased to 0.5% in the past week. A total of 3327 tests were performed in the past week, 41% 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 8 January 2023)



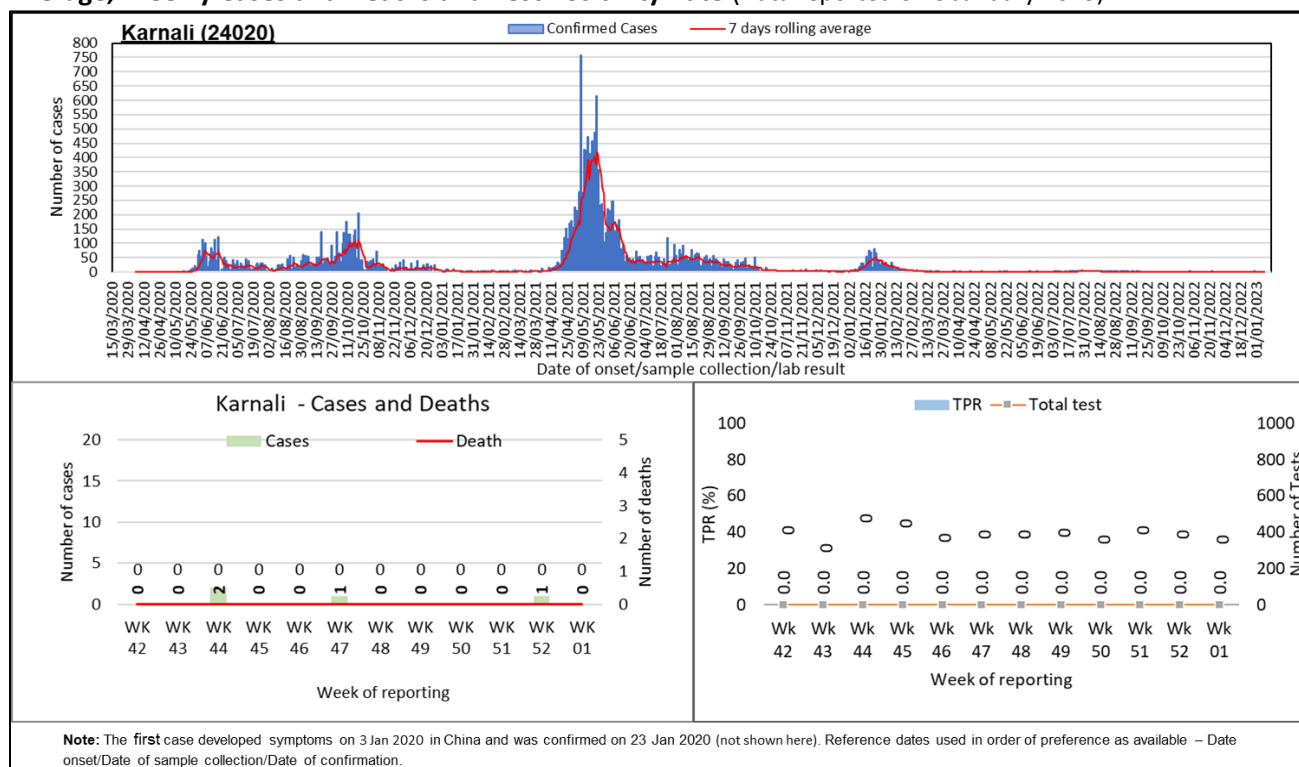
In Gandaki Province, 2 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 41 tests were performed in the past week, 13% 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 8 January 2023)



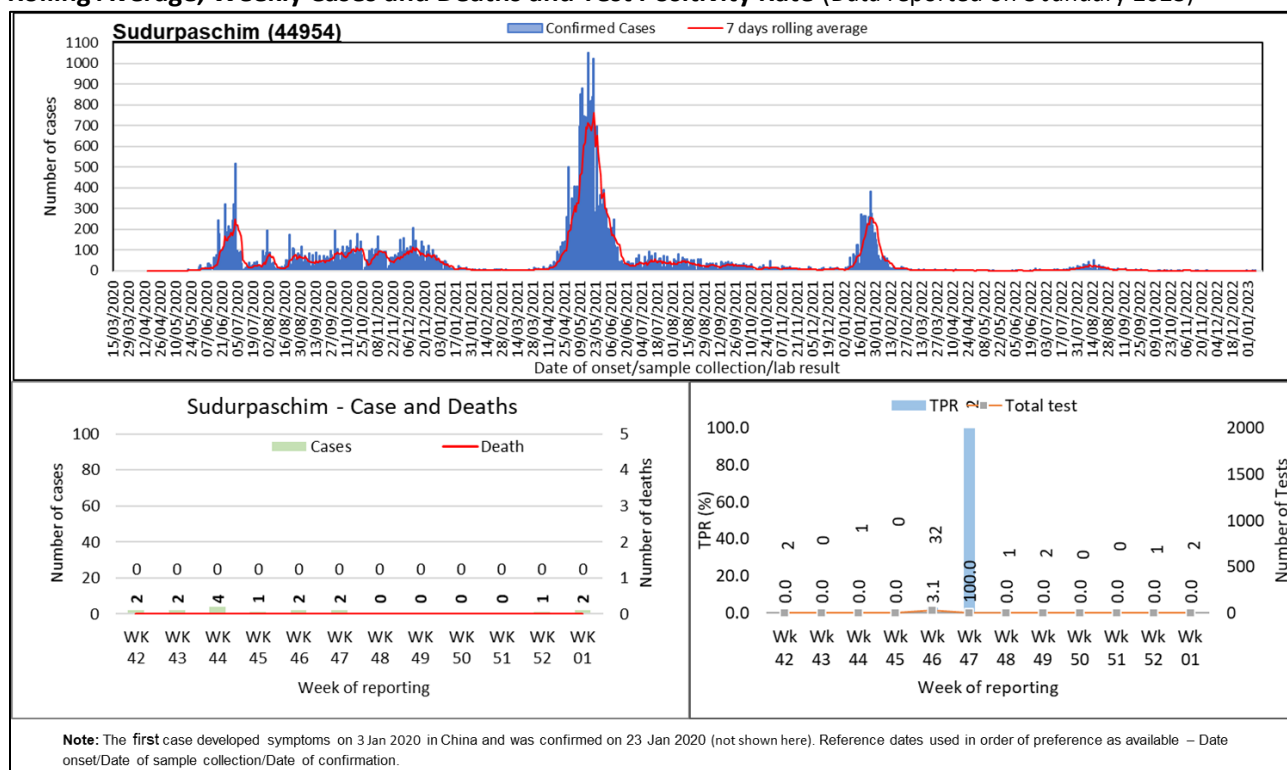
Lumbini Province reported no new case in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 11 tests were performed in the past week, same as 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 8 January 2023)



In Karnali Province, no new case was reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 100% 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. 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 8 January 2023)



In Sudurpashchim Province, 2 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 100% 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 Sudurpashchim Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 2 tests were performed in the past week compared to that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 8 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)

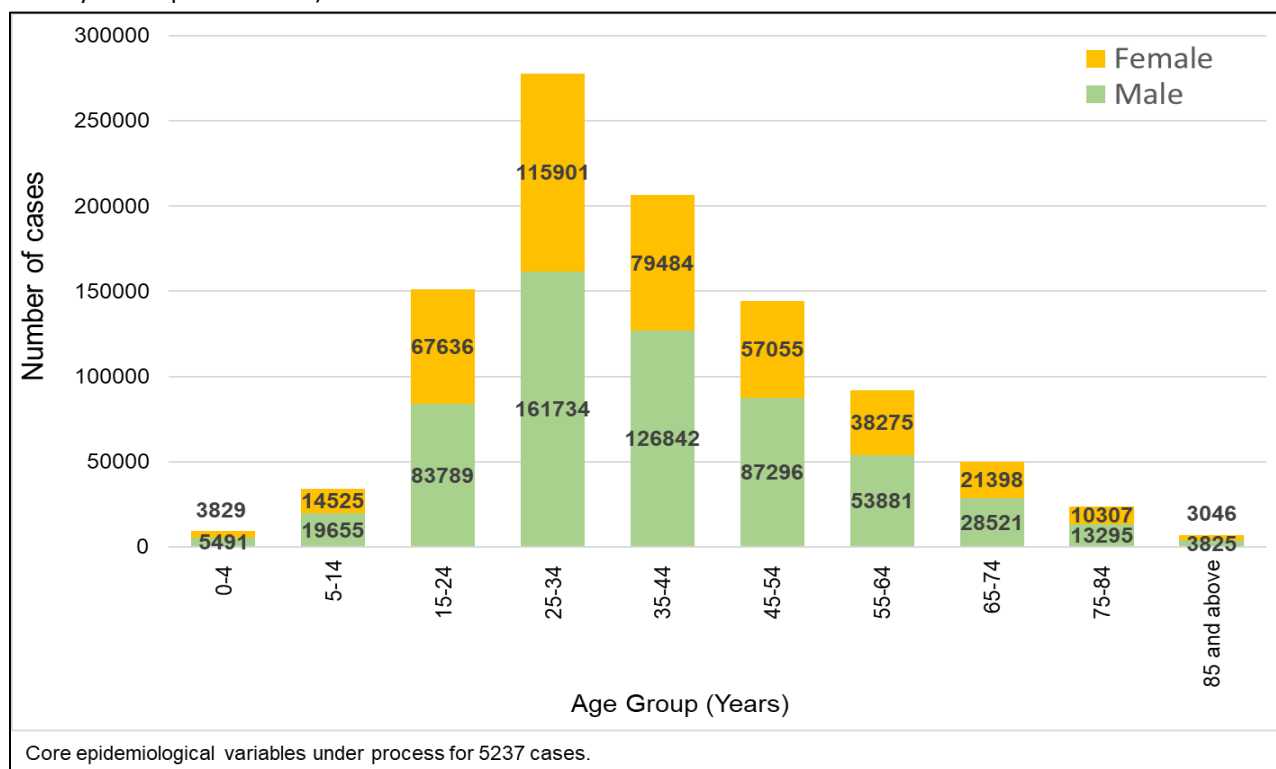
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129527	30322	159849	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	10	10	17.5	0
Madhesh	53902	1178	55080	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	1	1	1.8	0
Bagmati	542755	32766	575521	50.9	5203	Community transmission	1	38	39	68.4	1
Gandaki	95375	24669	120044	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	3	3	5.3	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	44954	6142	51096	4.5	518	Community transmission	0	3	3	5.3	0
National Total	1001022	129542*	1130564	100	12020	Community transmission	1	56	57	100	1

**Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 8 January 152217, IMU reported 129542*

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= 995785)(Data reported on 8 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= 1001022)(Data reported on 8 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	151425	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277635	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206326	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144351	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92156	1691	803	783	2.71
65-74	49919	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	1001022	7881	4139	3902	1.20

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 12,020 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,881 (65.6%) were male and 4,139 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,902 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, the 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:
 - Genome sequencing of 32 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples.
 - Preparation of Proficiency panel essay for 8th Round of Proficiency panel testing and shipment of the samples to designated COVID-19 laboratories.
 - Preparation and shipment of Proficiency panel essay for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex RT-PCR test to Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHL)
 - Standardization of Rhino Virus primer and probe for PCR testing.

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training²

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The update on the first Annual Meeting of Integrated Influenza SARS-COV-2 Sentinel Surveillance was shared on WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website. The National Public Health Laboratory, the National Influenza Centre (NIC), with support from WHO, Country Office for Nepal, organized the meeting of the National Influenza Surveillance Network (NISN) for the integrated Influenza and SARS-COV-2 surveillance in Nepal. At the event the first NISN newsletter was also disseminated.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared on social media:

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.

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.

- I. Importance of vaccinations, including flu vaccines and routine immunization for measles,
- II. Preventive measures for COVID-19.
- The *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and website (link [here](#)).
- The *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and website (link [here](#)).
- The *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)).
- Episode 85 of *Science in 5 (Oral Health)* was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
 - I. Nepali: Facebook [link](#); Twitter [link](#); YouTube [link](#); Instagram [link](#); OneDrive [link](#);
 - II. Maithili: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#); YouTube [link](#)
- The new episode of *Paanch Maa Bigyaan*, on protecting children from measles, was shared via SoundCloud (link [here](#)), Facebook (link [here](#)), Twitter (link [here](#)), and Instagram (link [here](#)). A promotion poster was also shared via Facebook (link [here](#)), Twitter (link [here](#)), and Instagram (link [here](#)).
- Facilitation and support provided to the Spokesperson of MoHP for the weekly NTV briefing. The key messages highlighted in the briefing of 4 January 2023 were: COVID-19 updates, risk of Omicron Variant BF.7, government intervention at point of entries, air pollution and prevention initiatives from individual level, QR code certification of being vaccinated against C-19, promotion of hotline 1166 for suicide prevention and psychosocial counselling. The briefing is broadcasted Live on every Wednesday at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television, which is also shared on MoHP and WHO Facebook page.
- Liaison and support in drafting content about measles and Rota Virus. Recently there has been (lab confirmed) measles outbreak in Banke district of Lumbini Province in which more than 60 children are diagnosed with Polio virus infection and one death was recorded.

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