

Situation Update #144 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 9 -15 January 2023 (Epi Week 2)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 15 January 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 16 January 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (989,008) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (23) are active cases and 1.2% (12,020) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (29) reported this week, 58.6% (17) are from Kathmandu district. Majority of the new cases 72.4% (21) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 17 January 2022)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,569,444	4,829,949
Vero Cell	10,389,443	9,259,657
Janssen	3,538,433	
Pfizer	4,955,043	3,702,185
Moderna	3,226,116	2,828,894

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 15 January 2023)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,051

Antigen RDT: 152,217

Cumulative deaths: 12,020

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,997,309

Antigen RDT: 1,487,956

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,748,827 (9%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

803,489 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

662,397,498 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,704,460 (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% (782,798/1,001,051) 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 the national total (441,699/1,001,051), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,699/542,777).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 02 ranged from 0.0% (Madhesh, Gandaki, and Lumbini Provinces) to 1.7% (Province 1), with a national positivity rate at 0.7%. Karnali and Sudurpaschim Province did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 45% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=29) in Epi week 02 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 93% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini province.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 02, 100% decrease compared to that in the previous week.

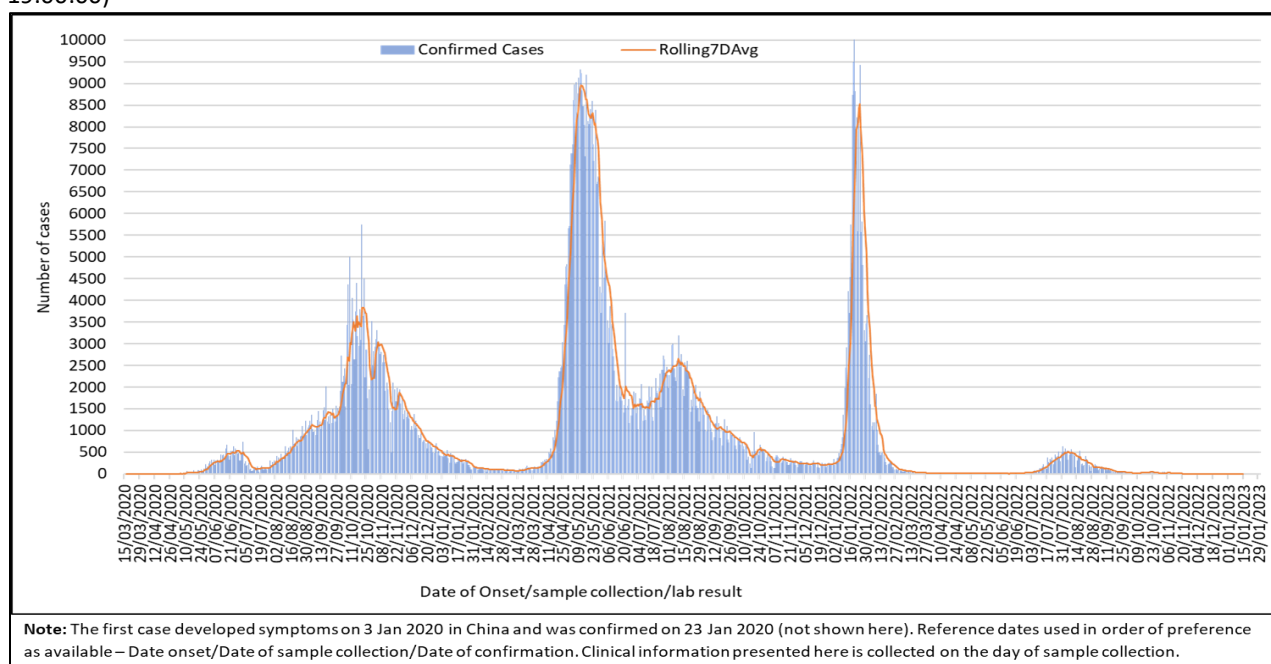
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 13 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 2. Three samples tested Influenza A positive. None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- NIC-NPHL received 18 samples from its sentinel sites i.e., Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (9 samples) and Kanti Children's Hospital (9 samples) for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 testing.
 - Four samples tested Influenza A positive.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories in Province 1, Bagmati, Madhesh, Gandaki and Karnali Provinces reported testing of 56 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 2.
 - Four samples tested Influenza A positive and 1 sample tested SARS-CoV-2 positive.
 - A total of 137 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 15 January 2023.
- From 2 January 2023 until 15 January 2023:
 - A total of 36 samples have tested positive for Influenza (3 Influenza B, 11 Influenza A/H3, 8 Influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 14 Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) from 271 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 2 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 218 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/>

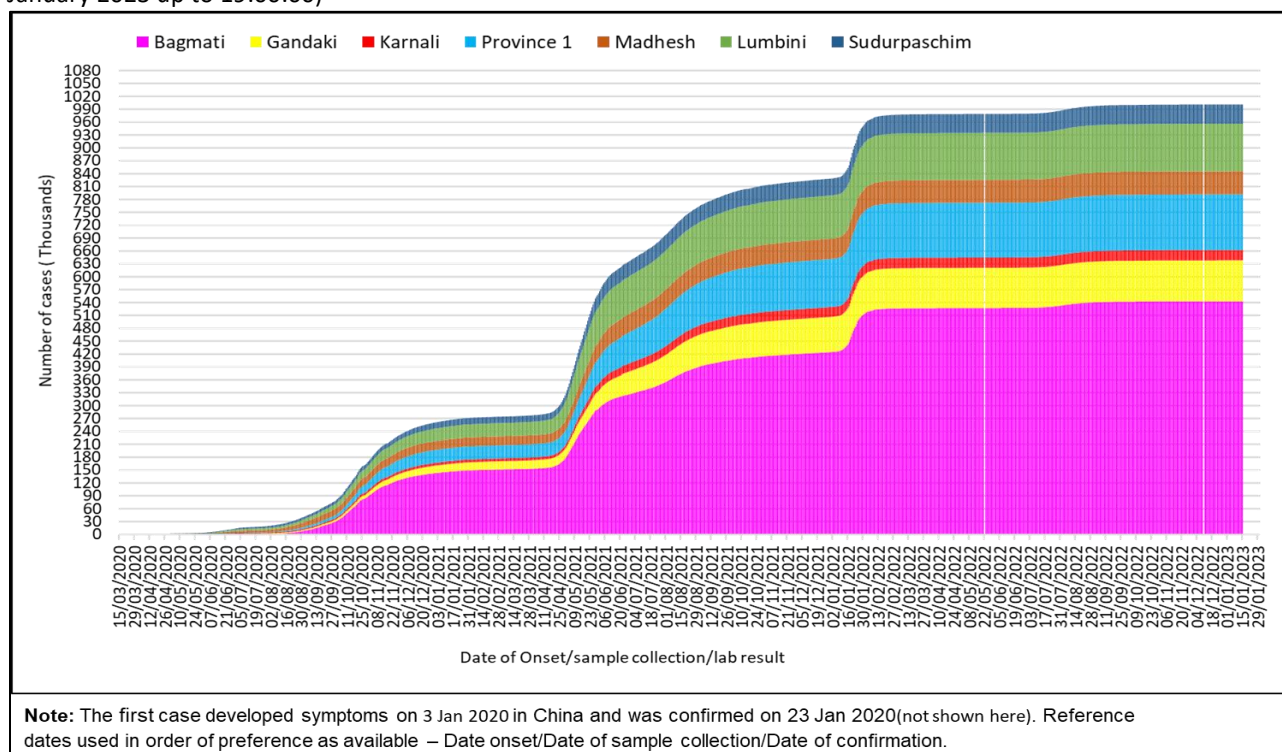
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 1001051)(Data reported on 15 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)



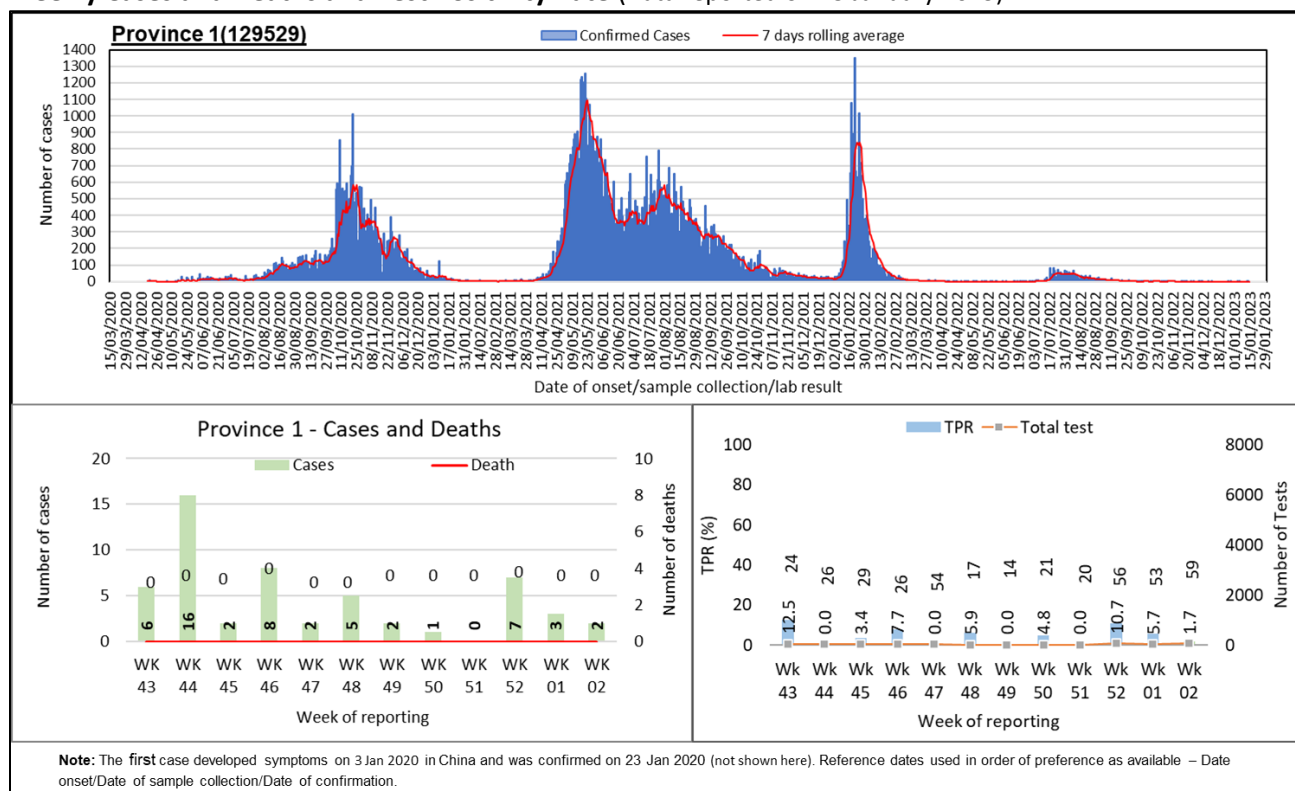
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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 (N= 1001051)(Data reported on 15 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)



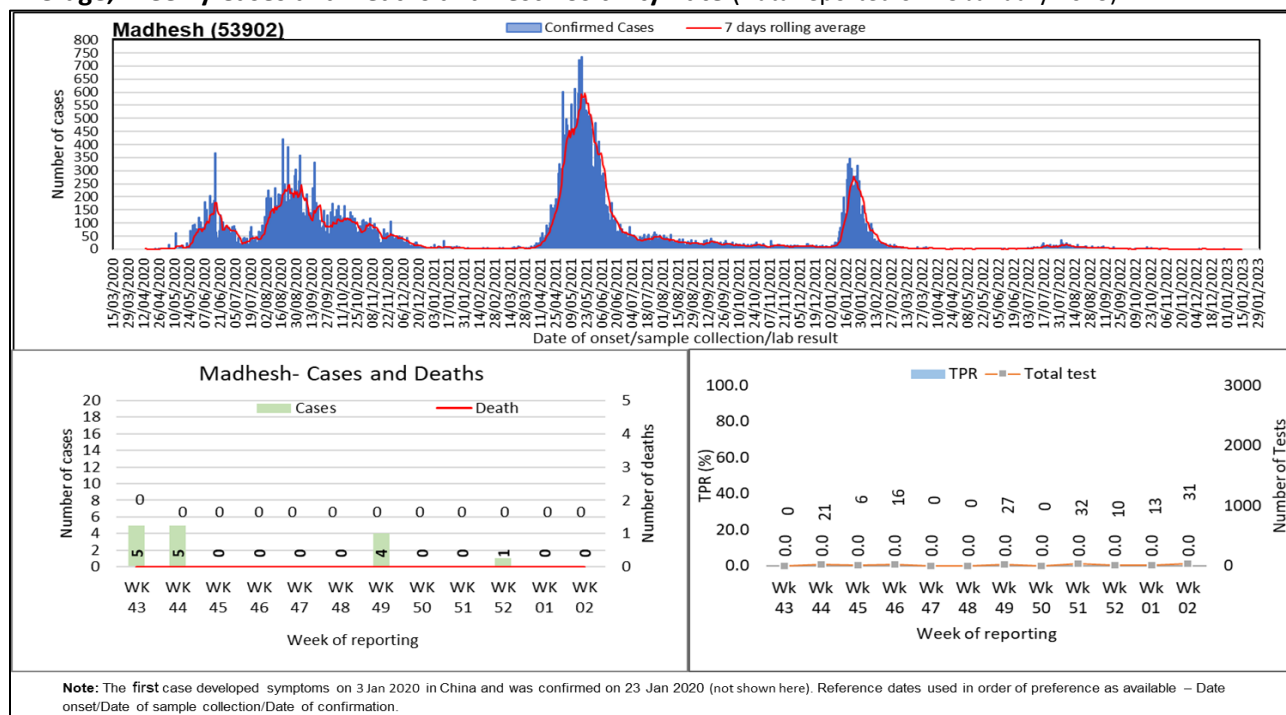
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 15 January 2023)



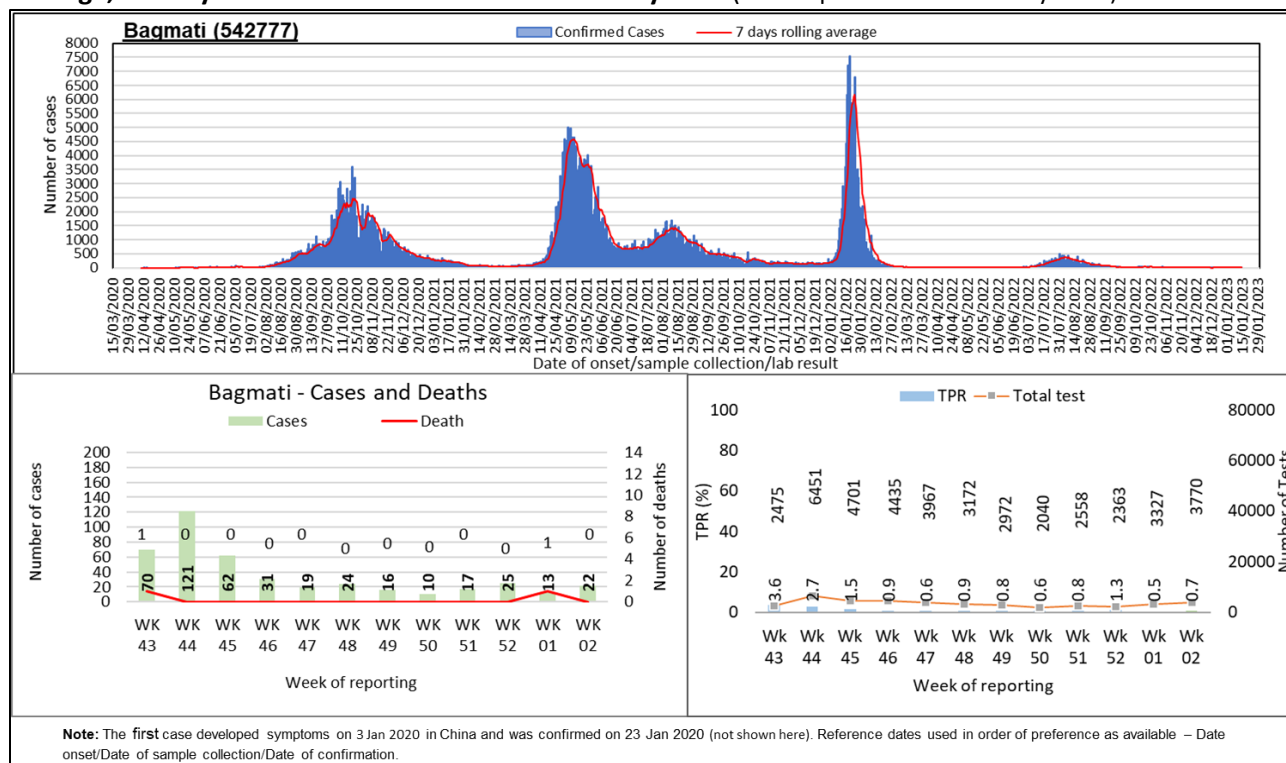
There were 2 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 33% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 1.7% in the past week. A total of 59 tests were performed in the past week, 11% 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 15 January 2023)



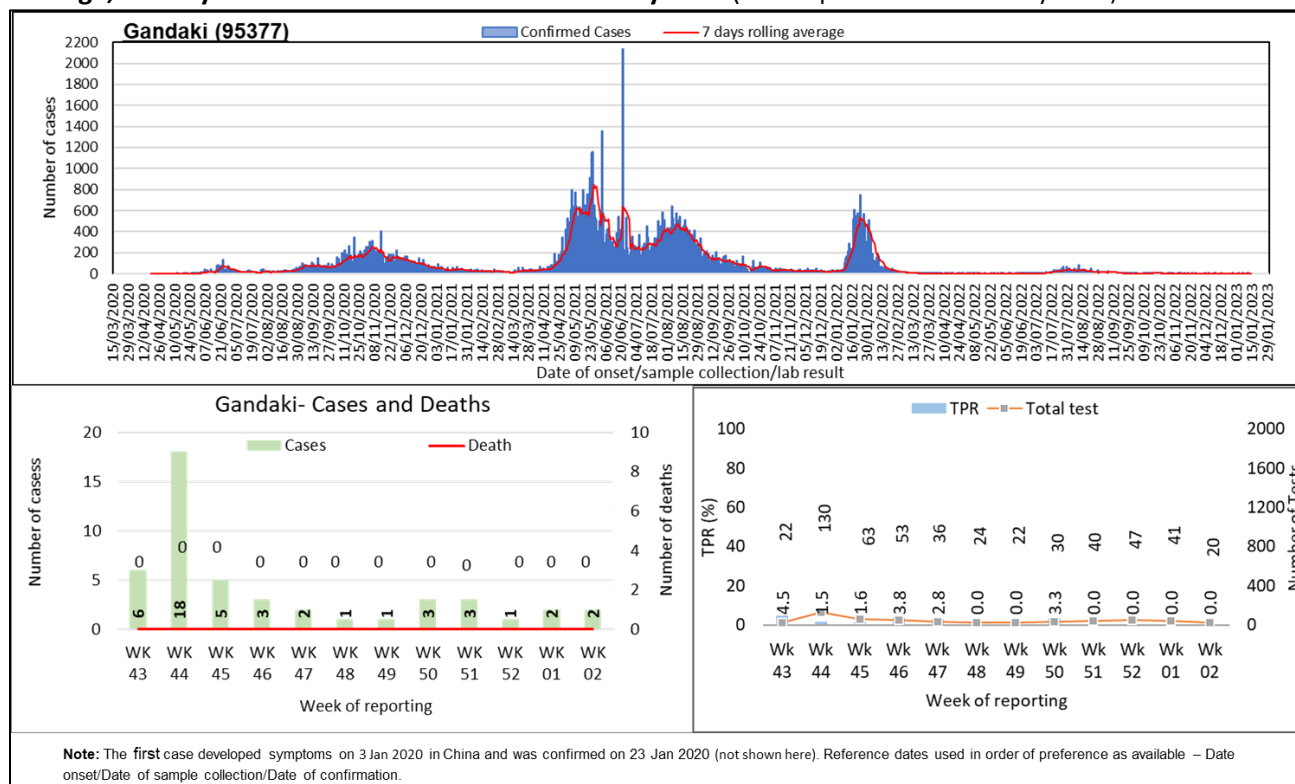
There was no new case reported in the past week in Madhesh Province, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 31 tests were performed in the past week, 138% 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 15 January 2023)



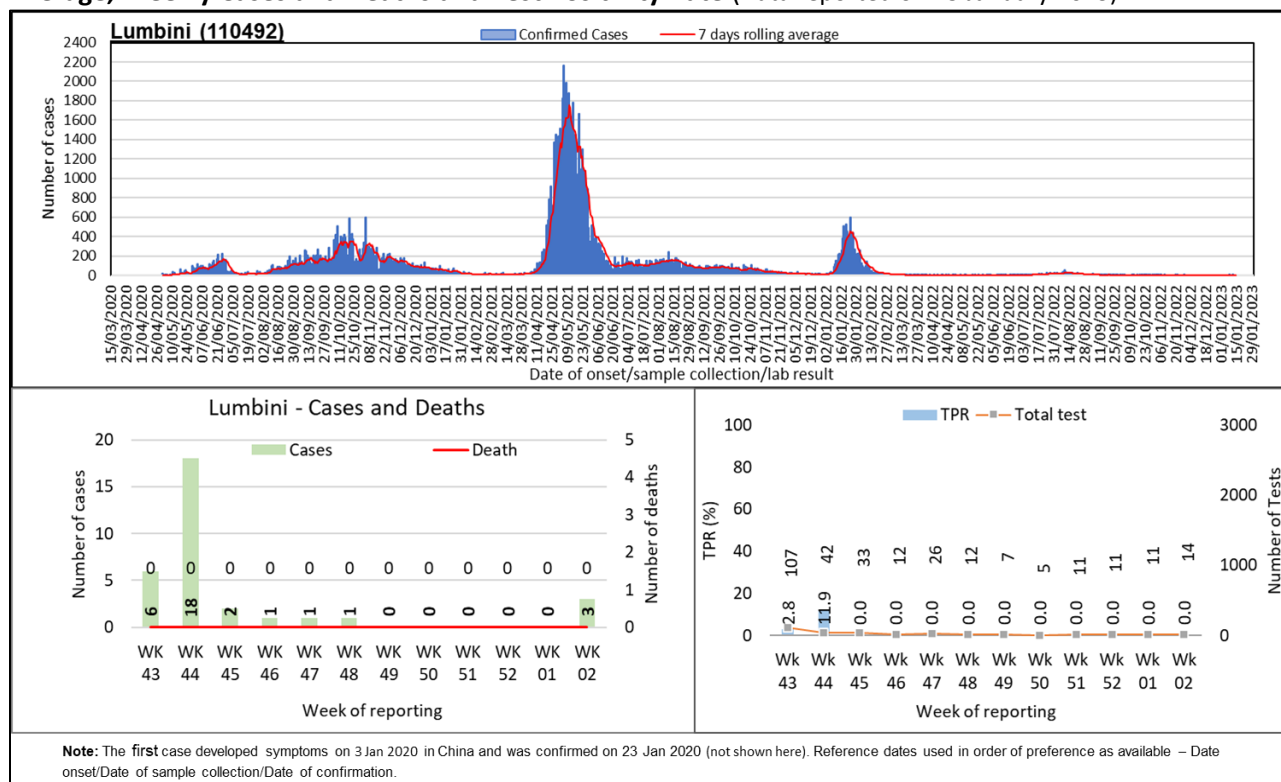
In Bagmati Province, 22 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 69% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% decrease compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province increased to 0.7% in the past week. A total of 3770 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 15 January 2023)



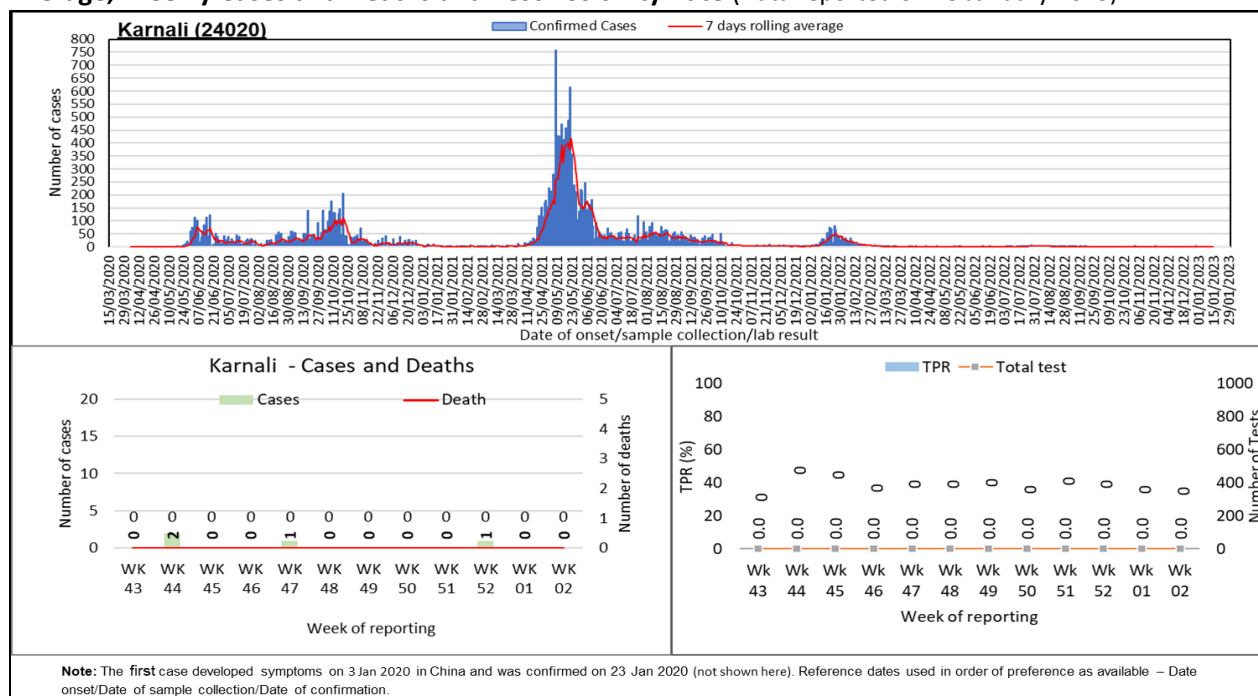
In Gandaki Province, 2 new cases were reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 20 tests were performed in the past week, 51% 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 15 January 2023)



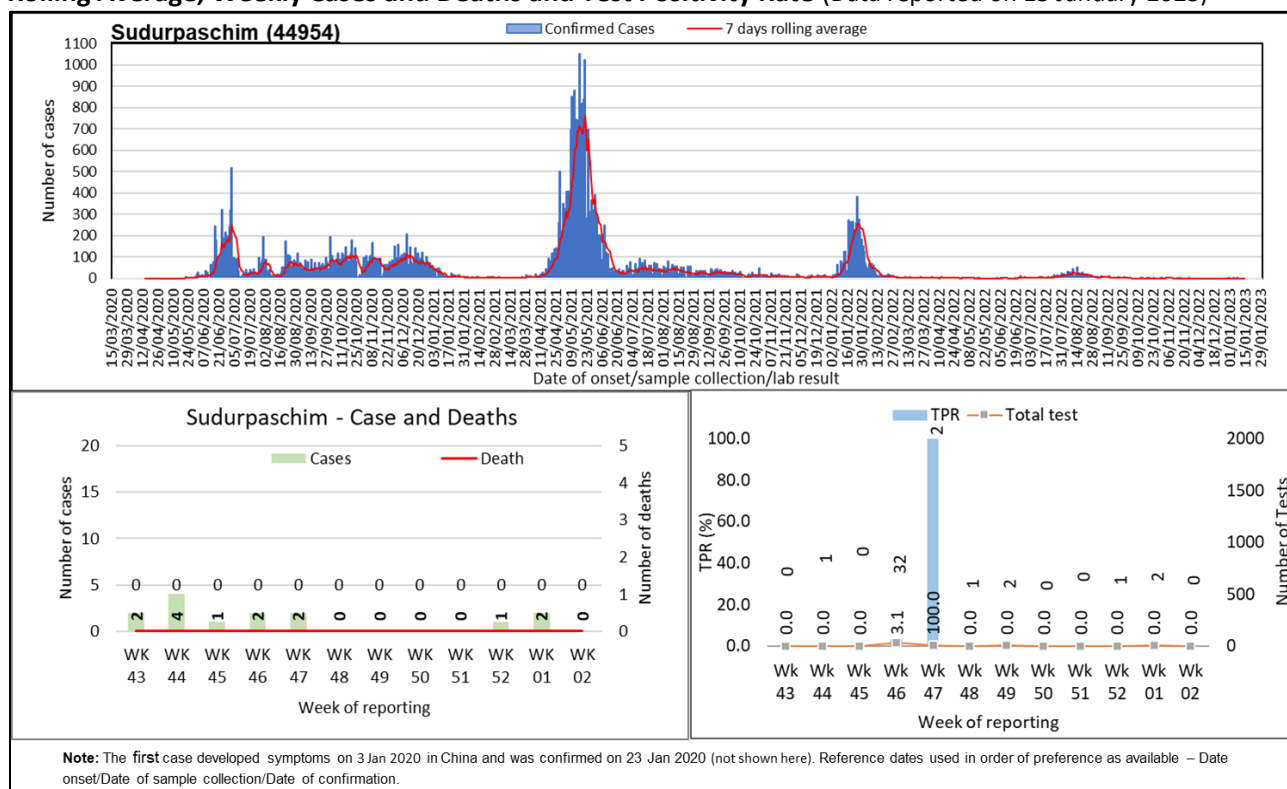
Lumbini Province reported 3 new cases in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 14 tests were performed in the past week, 27% 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 15 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 Sudurpaschim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 15 January 2023)



In Sudurpaschim 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.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces (Data reported on 15 January 2023 up to 19:00:00)

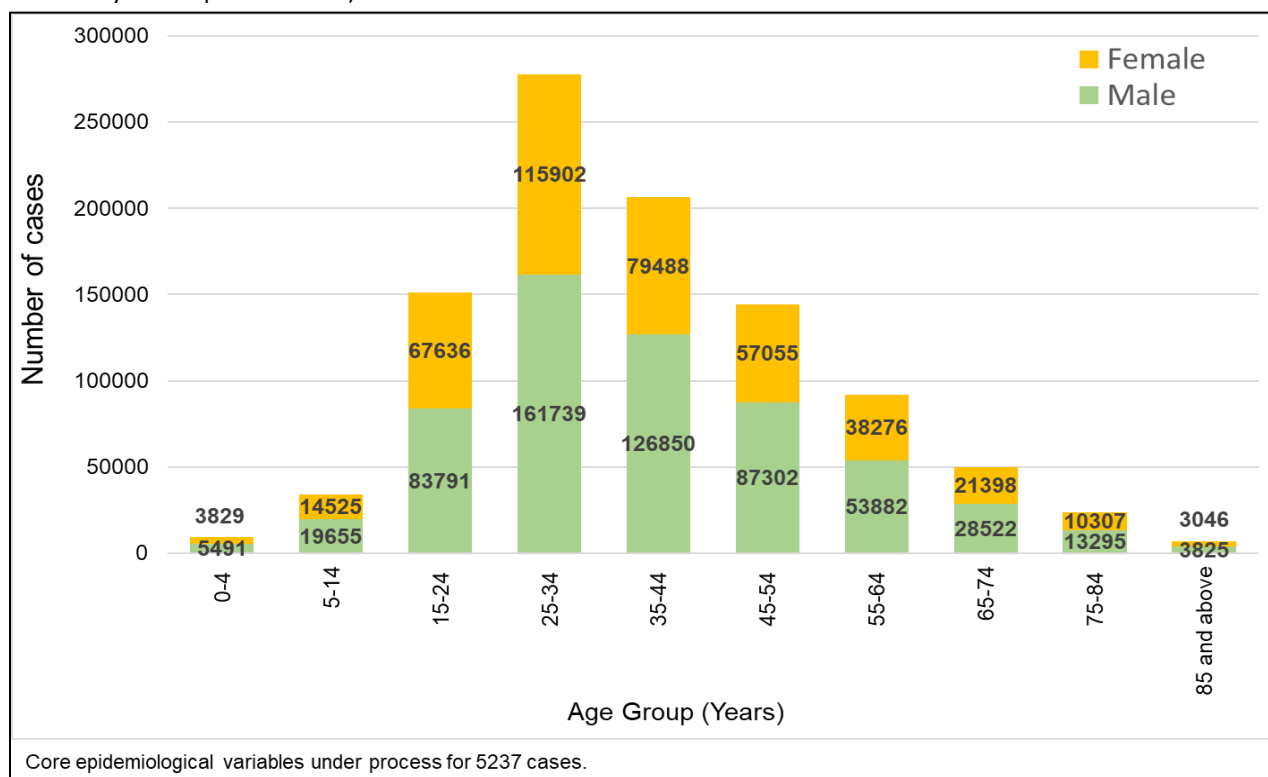
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129529	30322	159851	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	5	5	10.0	0
Madhesh	53902	1178	55080	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
Bagmati	542777	32766	575543	50.9	5203	Community transmission	1	35	36	72.0	1
Gandaki	95377	24669	120046	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	4	4	8.0	0
Lumbini	110492	28140	138632	12.3	1874	Community transmission	0	3	3	6.0	0
Karnali	24020	6325	30345	2.7	492	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
Sudurpashchim	44954	6142	51096	4.5	518	Community transmission	0	2	2	4.0	0
National Total	1001051	129542*	1130593	100	12020	Community transmission	1	49	50	100	1

**Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 15 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= 995814)(Data reported on 15 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= 1001051)(Data reported on 15 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	151427	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277641	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206338	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144357	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92158	1691	803	783	2.71
65-74	49920	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	1001051	7881	4139	3902	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 12,020 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:
 - Uploading result of genome sequencing of 32 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples in GISAID platform.
 - Uploading online submission of the result of National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP).

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 new episode of *Paanch Maa Bigyaan*, on living with COVID-19, 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](#)), Twitter (link [here](#)), and Instagram (link [here](#)).
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
 - I. Omicron XBB.1.5 variant,
 - II. Updated COVID-19 guidelines,
 - III. How to stay safe from flu during the winter,
 - IV. Physical activity and COVID-19,
 - V. Importance of vaccines,

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.

VI. Preventive measures against COVID-19

- 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](#)).
- Episode 86 of *Science in 5 (Microbes are becoming resistant to antibiotics)* was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
 - I. Nepali: Facebook [link](#); Twitter [link](#); YouTube [link](#); OneDrive [link](#)
 - II. Maithili: Facebook [link](#); YouTube [link](#); OneDrive [link](#)
- Support provided to the Joint Spokesperson for the weekly MoHP briefing that is broadcasted live every Wednesday at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television. The key messages highlighted in the briefing held on 11 January 2023 were: COVID-19 updates, importance of vaccination, detailed information on the process of obtaining QR code certification, information about reported measles outbreak in Banke district and government response and call for action to report the suspected cases and vaccinate children from the affected area. The briefing is also shared via MoHP and WHO Facebook pages.
- Attended the meeting called by National Health Education, Information and Communication Center (NHEICC). The key agenda for the meeting was to map the status of Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) working group and to review the work accomplished in past, during the COVID-19 response. The meeting concluded that NHEICC will chair the RCCE working group and call for regular meetings with support from WHO and UNICEF. This initiative will support on strengthening RCCE mechanism of the country via active engagement and support from partner agencies.

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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