

# Situation Update #147 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

**Reporting Date: 30 January – 5 February 2023 (Epi Week 5)**

### HIGHLIGHTS

*(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 5 February 2023 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 6 February 2023)*

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.79% (989,078) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (08) are active cases and 1.2% (12,020) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (10) reported this week, 30% (1) are from Kathmandu district and Kaski district. Majority of the new cases 50% (05) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

### COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 07 February 2023)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,578,214	4,829,949
Vero Cell	10,389,824	9,259,889
Janssen	3,543,606	
Pfizer	4,971,225	3,757,465
Moderna	3,226,116	2,828,894

### 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% (782,842/1,001,106) 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 (441,724/1,001,106), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,724/542,803).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 05 ranged from 0.0% (Madhesh, Lumbini and Sudurpashchim Provinces) to 5.5% (Gandaki Province) with a national positivity rate at 0.4%. Karnali did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 50% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=10) in Epi week 05 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 70% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Bagmati, and Lumbini Province.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 05, same as in the previous week.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

*(Data as of 5 February 2023)*

#### NEPAL

##### Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,106

Antigen RDT: 152,230

##### Cumulative deaths: 12,020

##### Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 6,005,085

Antigen RDT: 1,498,909

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

##### Cumulative cases (%)

60,758,033 (8%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

803,710 (12%)

#### GLOBAL

##### Cumulative cases (%)

754,630,871 (100%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

6,829,007 (100%)

### ***National Influenza Surveillance***

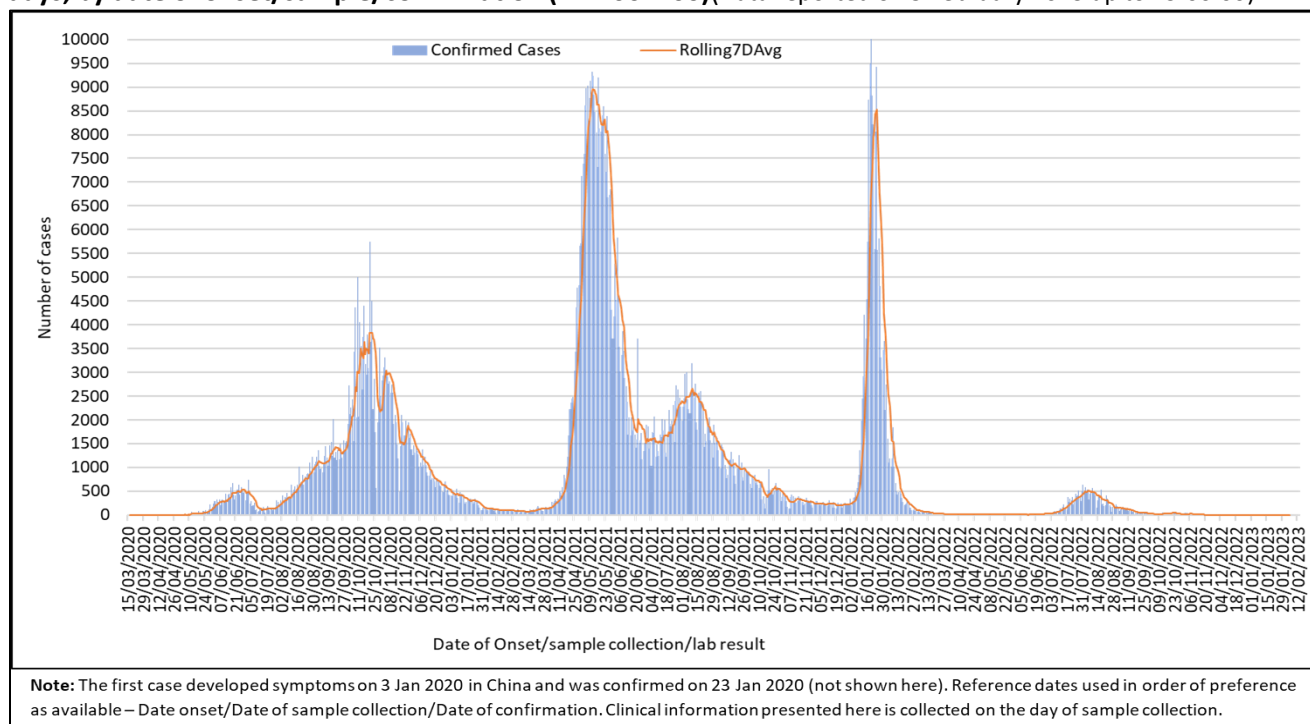
- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 14 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 5 (30 Jan-5 Feb 2023).
  - One sample tested Influenza A/H3 positive, and 3 samples tested Influenza A (to be subtyped).
  - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- NIC-NPHL received 17 samples from its sentinel sites i.e., Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (12 samples), TUTH (4 sample) and Kanti Children's Hospital (1 sample) for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 testing.
  - One sample tested Influenza A/H3 positive, and 7 samples tested Influenza A positive (to be subtyped).
  - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing of 111 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 5 (30 Jan-5 Feb 2023).
  - Two samples tested Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) and 1 sample tested SARS-CoV-2 positive.
  - A total of 498 samples were tested by PPHLs till 5 February 2023.
- Walter Reed AFRIMS Research Unit Nepal (WARUN) reported the testing of Influenza samples from Epi Week 1-5.
  - A total of 116 samples tested till Epi Week-5.
  - 34 samples tested Influenza A/H3 positive, 9 samples tested Influenza A(H1N1pdm09) positive and 1 sample tested Influenza B Positive.
- From 2 January 2023 until 5 February 2023:
  - A total of 131 samples have tested positive for Influenza (7 Influenza B, 93 Influenza A/H3, 19 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and 12 Influenza A (to be subtyped) from 921 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
- Similarly, 4 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 789 Influenza samples (sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).<sup>1</sup>

**WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000). Link Here- <https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/>**

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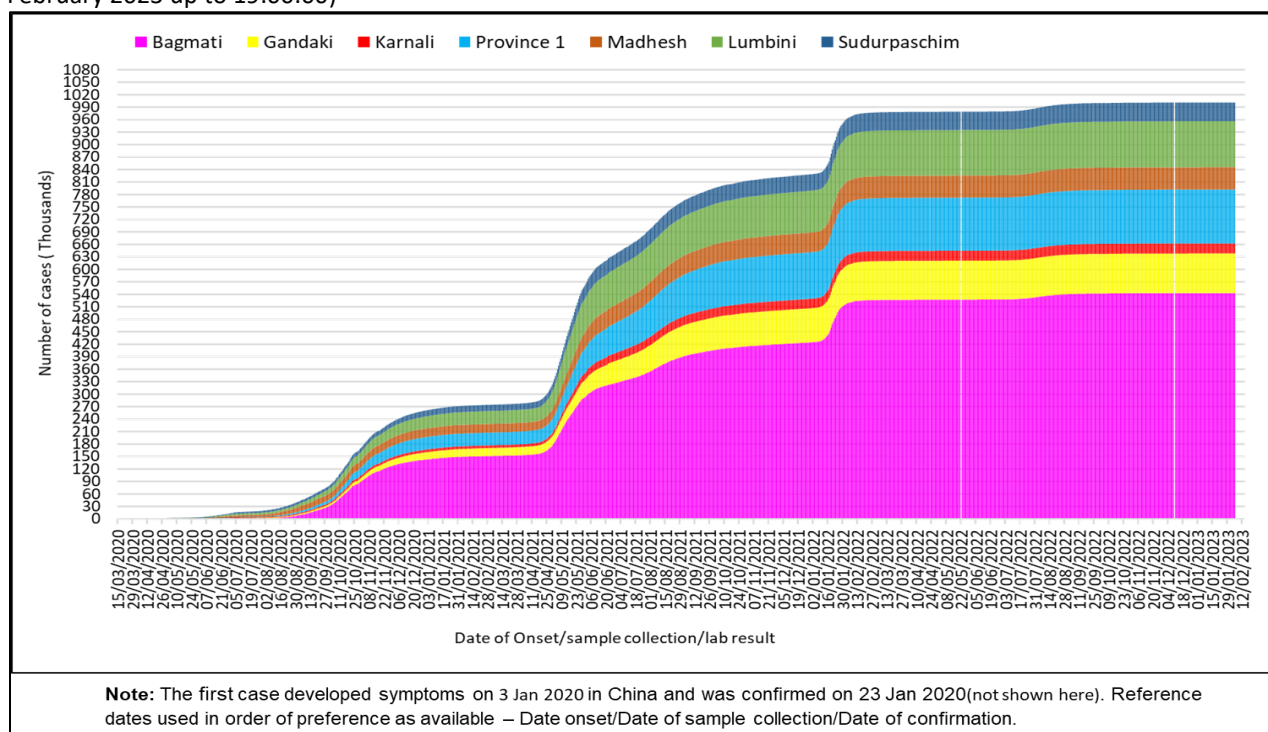
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

**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= 1001106)(Data reported on 5 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



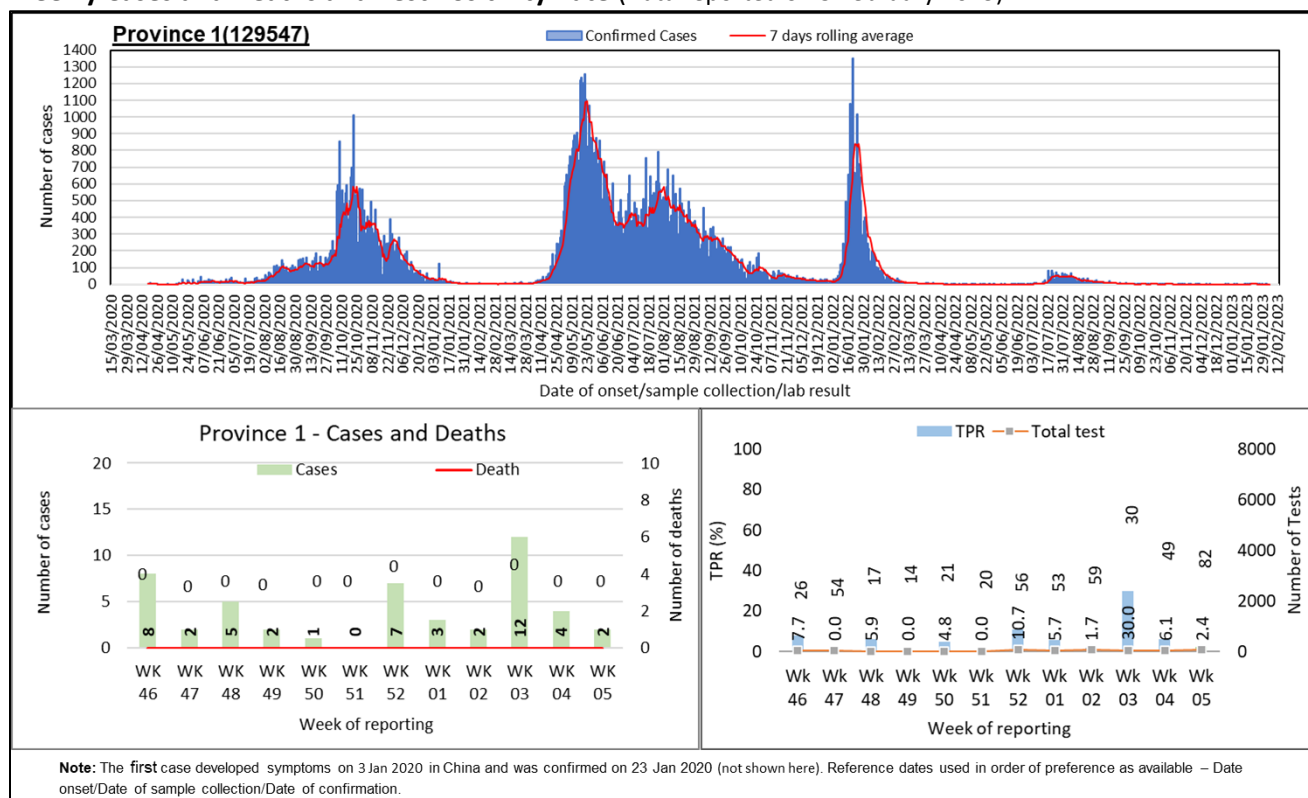
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 1001106)(Data reported on 5 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



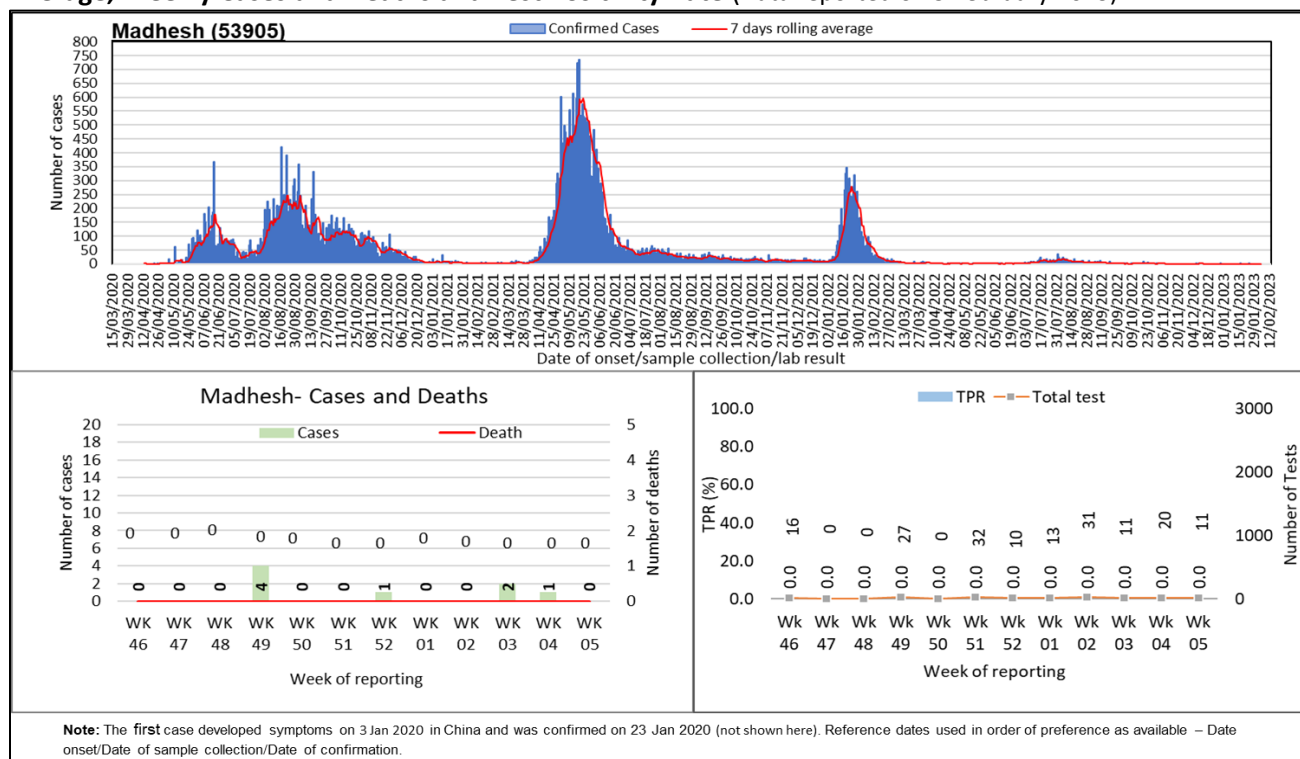
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

**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 5 February 2023)**



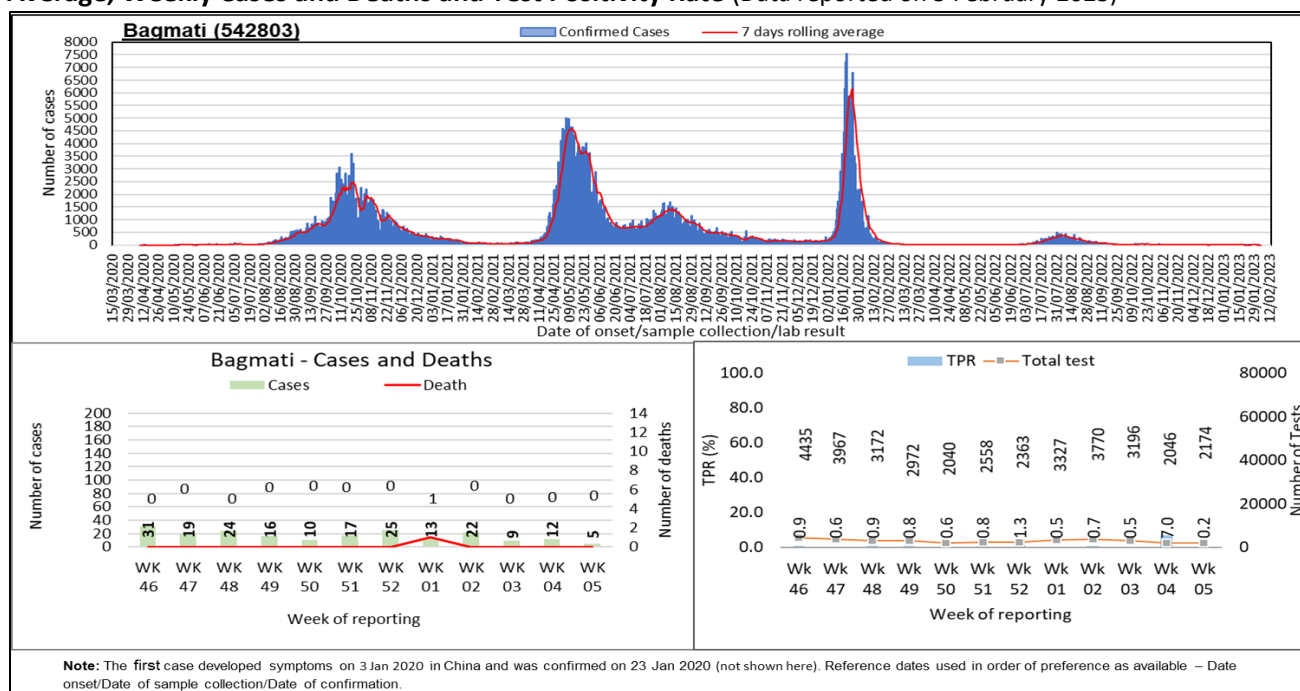
There were 2 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 50% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 2.4% in the past week. A total of 82 tests were performed in the past week, 67% 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 5 February 2023)**



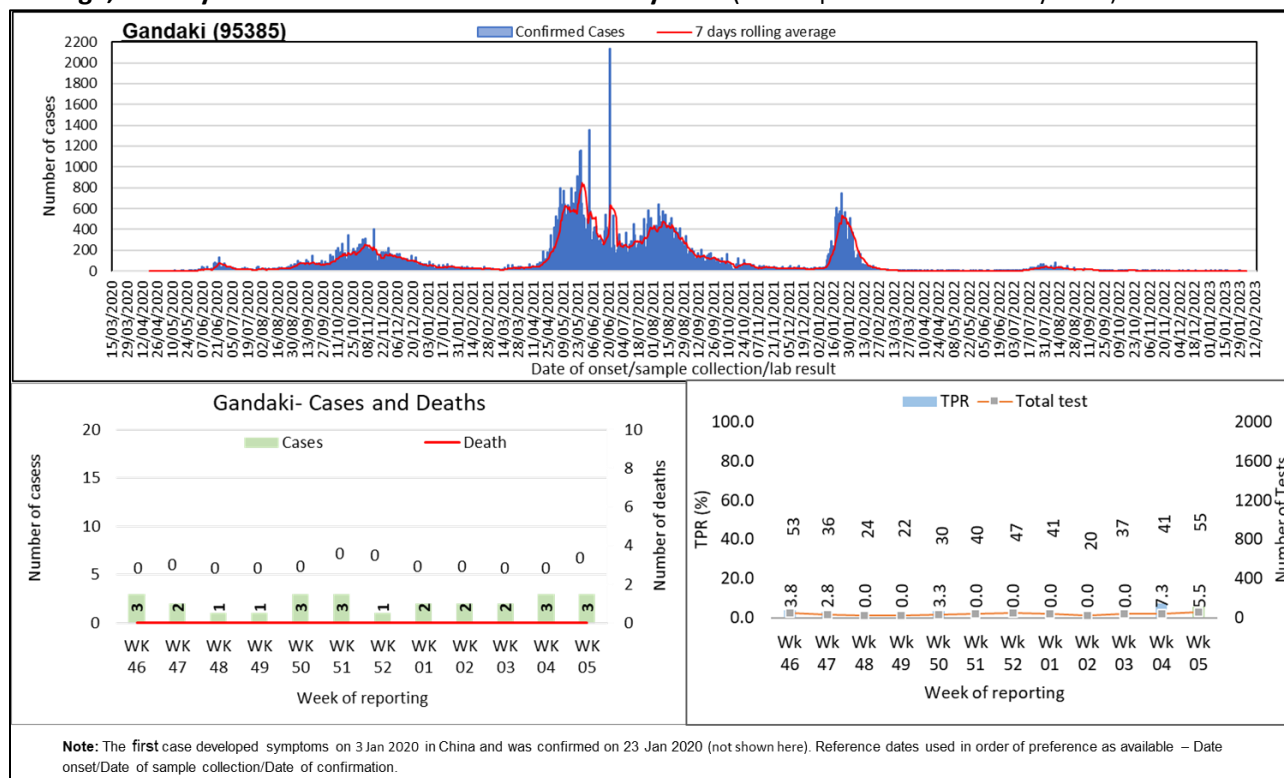
There was no new case reported in the past week in Madhesh Province. Cases have decreased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 11 tests were performed in the past week, 45% 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 5 February 2023)**



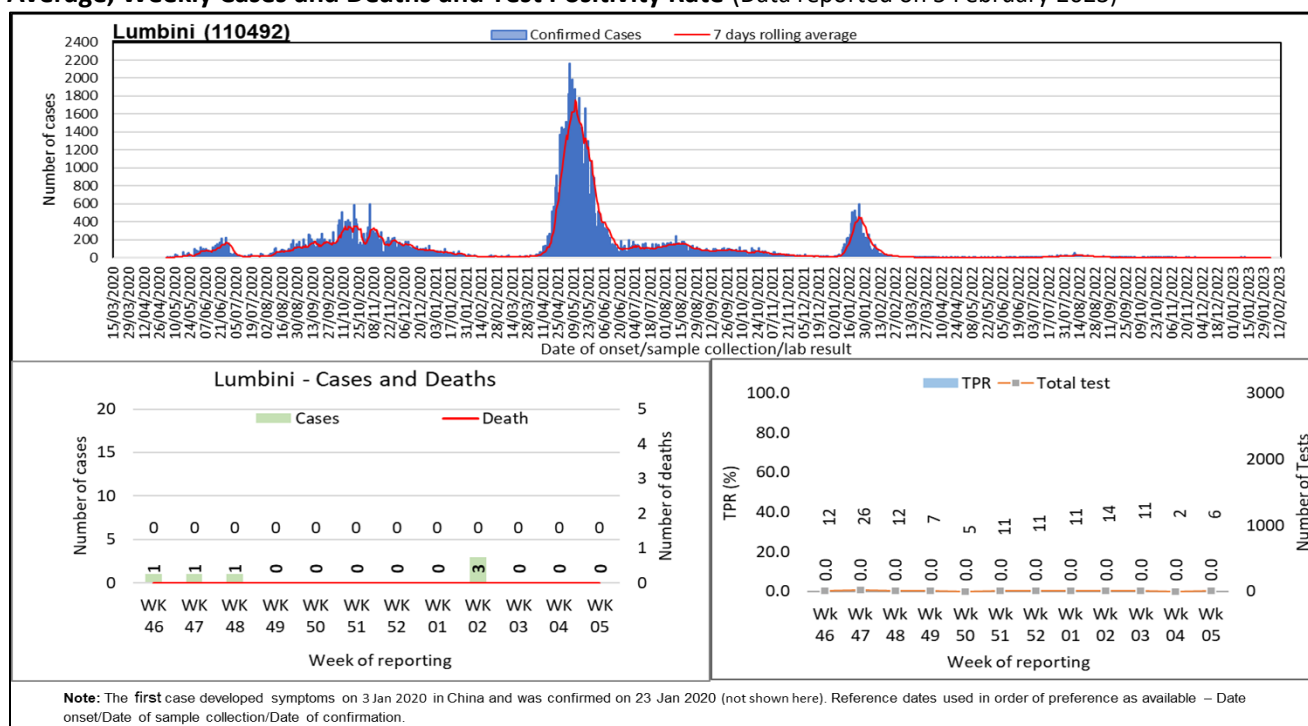
In Bagmati Province, 5 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 58% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province decreased to 0.2% in the past week. A total of 2174 tests were performed in the past week, 6% 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 5 February 2023)**



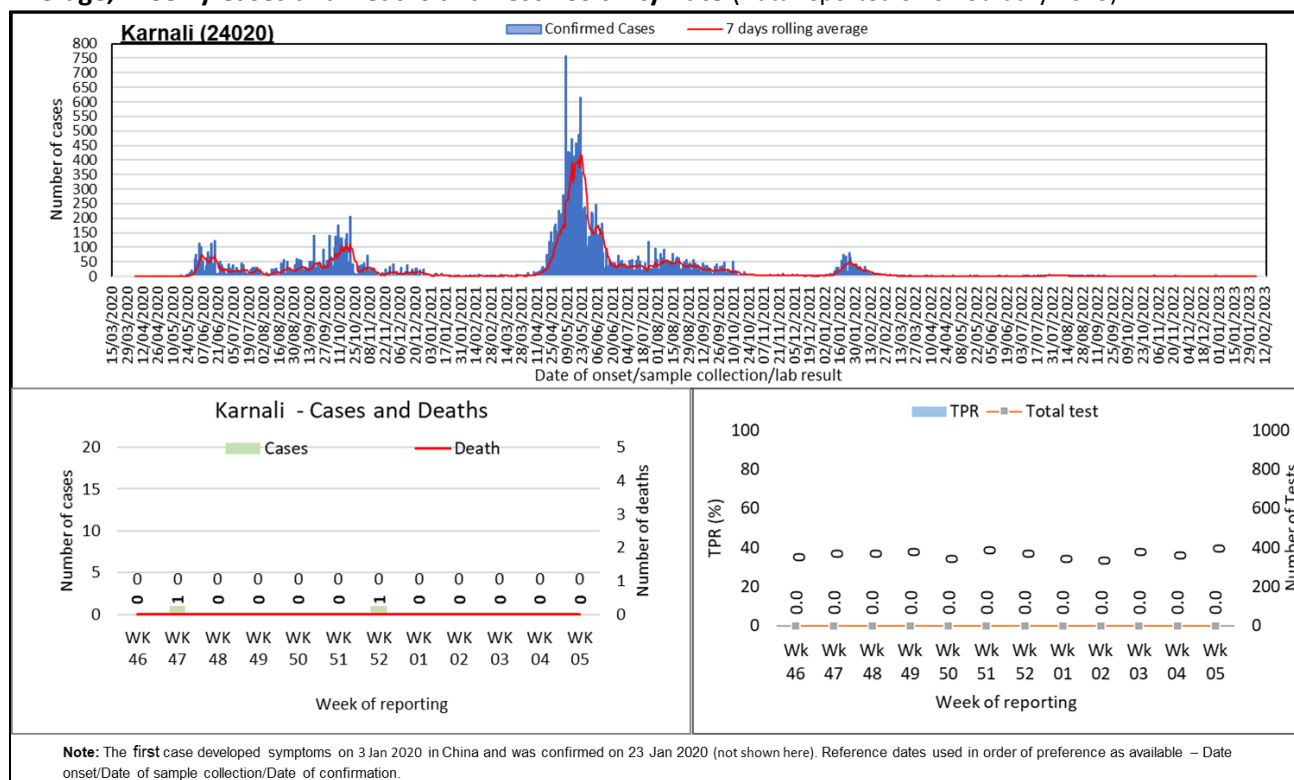
In Gandaki Province, 3 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have remained stable in the past week, compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province decreased to 5.5% in the past week. A total of 55 tests were performed in the past week, 34% 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 5 February 2023)**



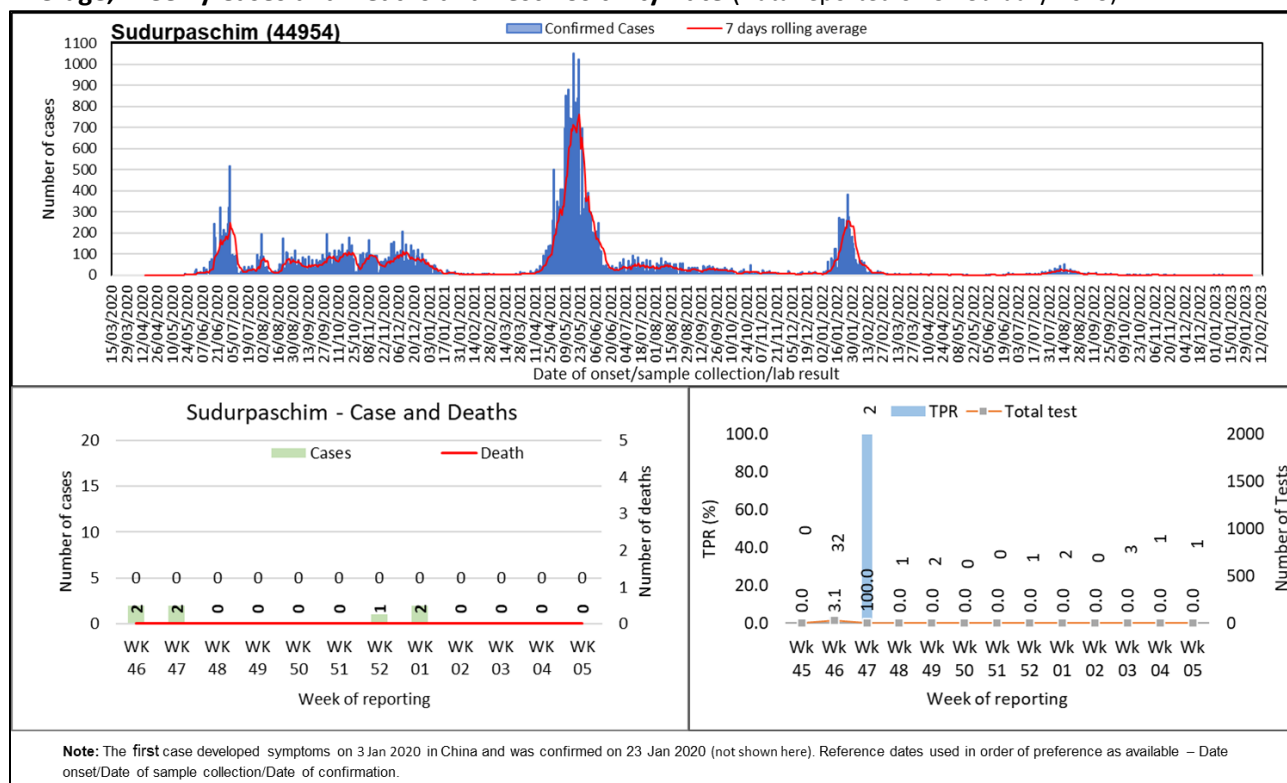
Lumbini Province reported no new case in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 6 tests were performed in the past week, 200% more 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 5 February 2023)**



In Karnali Province, no new case was 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. 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 5 February 2023)**



In Sudurpaschim Province, no new case was 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 Sudurpaschim Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. Only 1 test was performed in the past week, same as in the previous week.

**Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by Provinces** (Data reported on 5 February 23 up to 19:00:00)

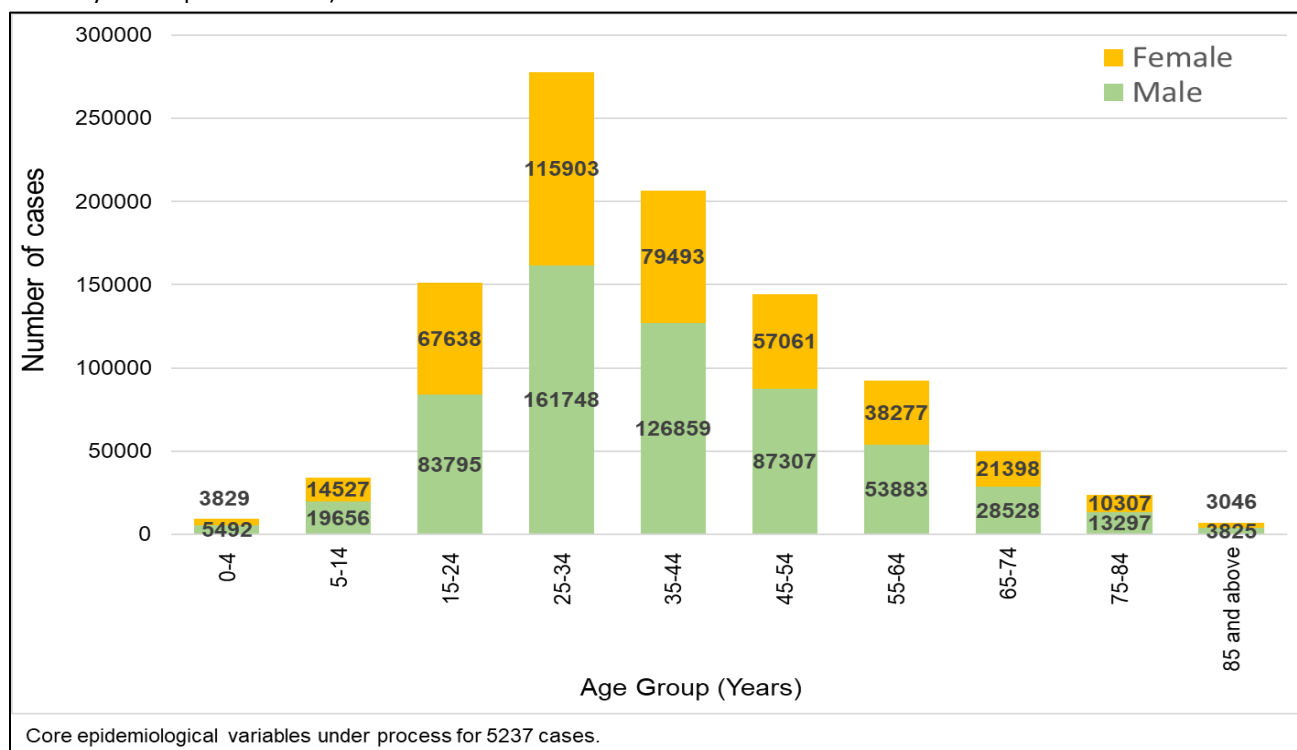
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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
<b>Province 1</b>	129547	30322	159869	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	6	6	14.6	0
<b>Madhesh</b>	53905	1178	55083	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	1	1	2.4	0
<b>Bagmati</b>	542803	32777	575580	50.9	5203	Community transmission	10	17	27	65.9	0
<b>Gandaki</b>	95385	24670	120055	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	6	6	14.6	0
<b>Lumbini</b>	110492	28141	138633	12.3	1874	Community transmission	1	0	1	2.4	0
<b>Karnali</b>	24020	6325	30345	2.7	492	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
<b>Sudurpashchim</b>	44954	6142	51096	4.5	518	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>1001106</b>	<b>129555*</b>	<b>1130661</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12020</b>	Community transmission	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 5 February 152230, IMU reported 129555*

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= 995869)**(Data reported on 5 February 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= 1001106)**(Data reported on 5 February 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	9321	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34183	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151433	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277651	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206352	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144368	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92160	1691	803	783	2.71
65-74	49926	1640	893	957	5.07
75-84	23604	1228	659	773	7.99
85+	6871	524	289	279	11.83
Unknown	5237	19	7	11	0.5
<b>National</b>	<b>1001106</b>	<b>7881</b>	<b>4139</b>	<b>3902</b>	<b>1.20</b>

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$

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**

- Continued technical support in routine work to National Public Health Laboratory and Provincial Public Health laboratories (PPHLs) from team of Laboratory Pillar

#### **Technical Expertise and Training**

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training.<sup>2</sup>
- WHO supported the assessment of Emergency Care Toolkits (ECT) and Hospital Emergency Care Tools (HEAT) under the leadership of the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) team, MoHP on 1-2 February 2023 at Bharatpur, Chitwan district. Expert Committee members from HEOC, MoHP, included Dr. Achyut Karki (Bir Hospital), Dr. Ramesh Maharjan, Institute of Medicine (IOM) and Dr. Ashish Thapa, Armed Police Force (APF) Hospital. The outcome of the meeting showed satisfactory implementation of the tools and area of improvement on triage and medical recording at emergency unit.



*Discussion meeting during the ECT and HEAT assessment in Bharatpur hospital; Photo credit: WHO Nepal*

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<sup>2</sup> 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.



*International Expert, National Expert with Head of Department (HoD) at Emergency-Bharatpur Hospital observing ECT Tools; Photo credit: WHO Nepal*

### **Operational Support and Logistics**

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics.<sup>3</sup>

### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
  - I. Statement on the fourteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,
  - II. Importance of vaccines,
  - III. Important of following recommended COVID-19 preventive measures,
  - IV. 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](#)).
- Regular support was provided to the Spokesperson of Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) for the weekly media briefing. The briefing held on 5 February 2023 included COVID-19 updates, message on importance of public health and social measure and COVID-19 booster dose, update on the measles outbreak in western Nepal, MoHP intervention in response to the outbreak and message to the public for the prevention of measles, important messages related to Iodine as February is marked as Iodine month and about the hotline 1166 for suicide prevention and psychosocial counselling. Moreover, Director of Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital was invited as a guest to speak about cancer, its prevalence in Nepal, diagnosis and treatment, associated risk factors and preventive measures. The briefing is live streamed every Sunday at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television, and via the MoHP and WHO Nepal's official Facebook pages.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

## What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation<sup>4</sup>
- 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.

## 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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<sup>4</sup> 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.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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