

# Situation Update #149 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 13-19 February 2023 (Epi Week 7)

### HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 19 February 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 20 February 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (989098) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (15) are active cases and 1.19% (12,020) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (18) reported this week, 50% (9) are from Kathmandu district and 22.2% (4) are from Lalitpur district. Majority of the new cases 72.2% (13) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

### COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 14 February 2023)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,578,854	4,829,949
Vero Cell	10,389,824	9,259,909
Janssen	3,543,606	
Pfizer	4,979,758	3,770,518
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% (782,867/1,001,133) 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 (441,741/1,001,133), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,741/542,822).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 07 ranged from 0.0% (Madhesh, Gandaki and Lumbini Provinces) to 3.1% (Province 1) with a national positivity rate at 0.9%. Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 100% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=18) in Epi week 07 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 94% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Lumbini and Bagmati province.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 07, same as in the previous week.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 19 February 2023)

#### NEPAL

##### Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,133

Antigen RDT: 152,233

##### Cumulative deaths: 12,020

##### Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 6,009,534

Antigen RDT: 1,509,098

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

##### Cumulative cases (%)

60,763,529 (8%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

803,802 (12%)

#### GLOBAL

##### Cumulative cases (%)

757,090,780 (100%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

6,849,531 (100%)

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

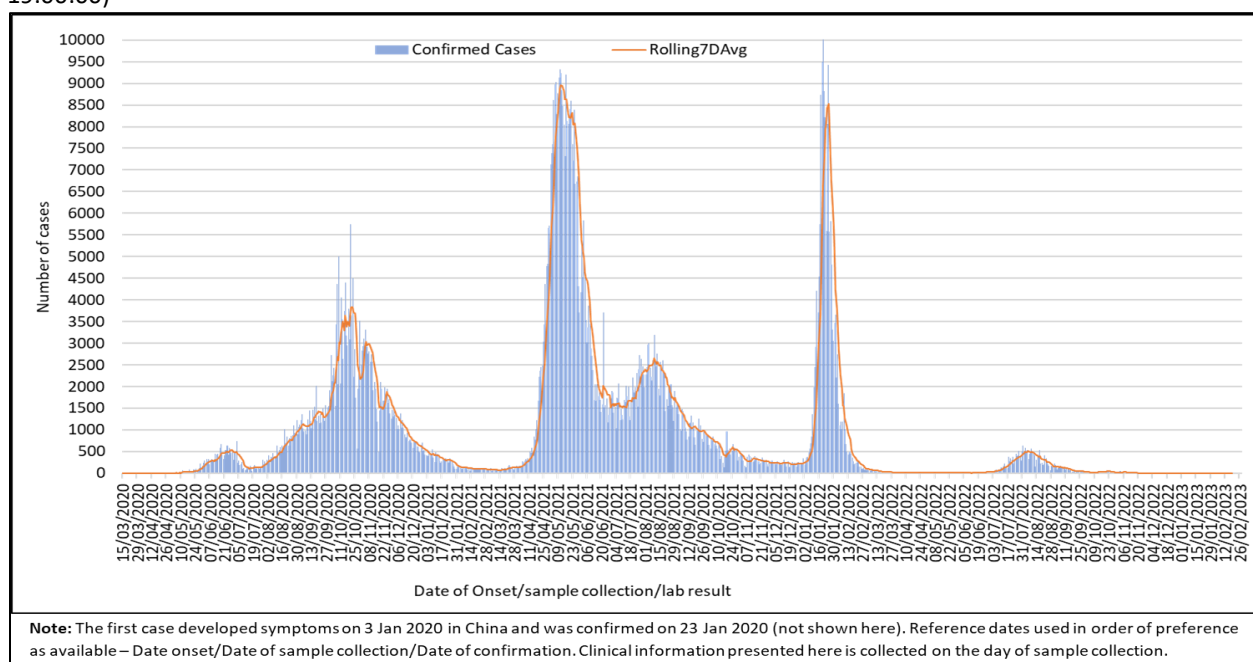
- WHO Nepal provided technical support to NPHL in conducting training on Cell culture techniques on 14-17 February 2023. A total of 10 microbiologists from NPHL and Central Veterinary Laboratory participated in the training.
- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 19 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 7.
  - Two samples tested Influenza A/H3 positive, 1 sample tested Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 positive, 1 Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) and 2 samples tested Influenza B positive.
  - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- NIC-NPHL received 7 samples from its sentinel sites i.e., Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (3 samples), TUTH (4 samples).
  - Two 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 75 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 7 (13-19 Feb,2023).
  - Seven samples tested Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) and 2 samples tested Influenza B positive.
  - A total of 697 samples were tested by PPHLs till 19 February 2023.
- From 2 January 2023 until 19 February 2023:
  - A total of 220 samples tested positive for Influenza (18 Influenza B, 164 Influenza A/H3, 22 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and 16 Influenza A (to be subtyped)) from 1326 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  - Similarly, 6 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1077 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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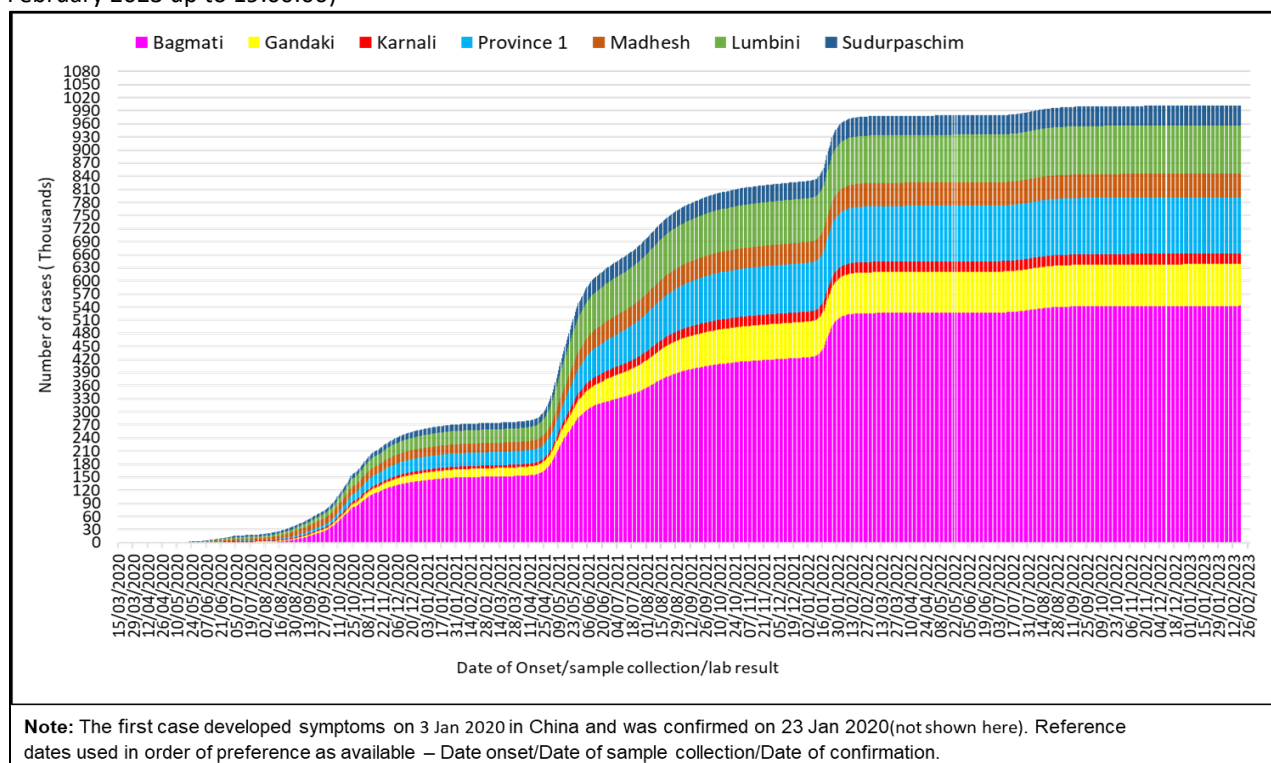
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

**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= 1001133)(Data reported on 19 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



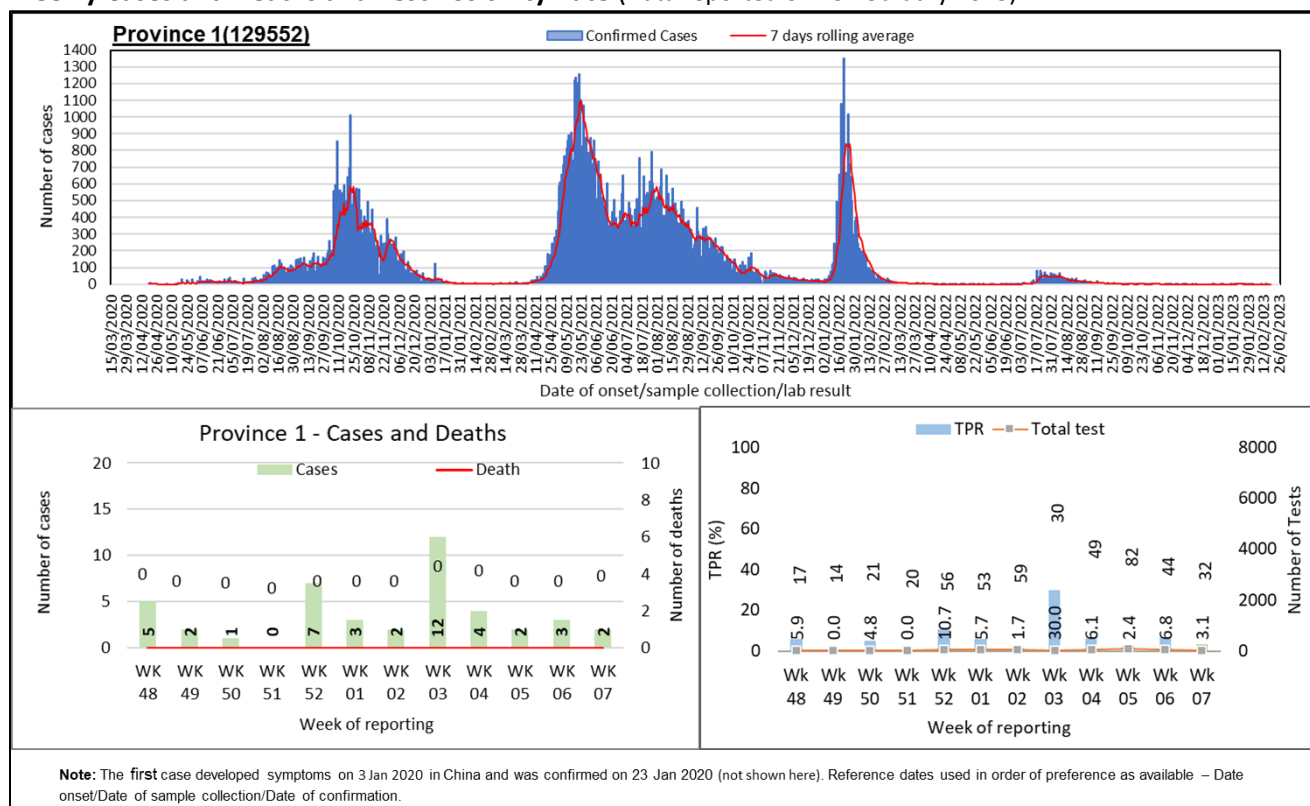
*At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 1001133)(Data reported on 19 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



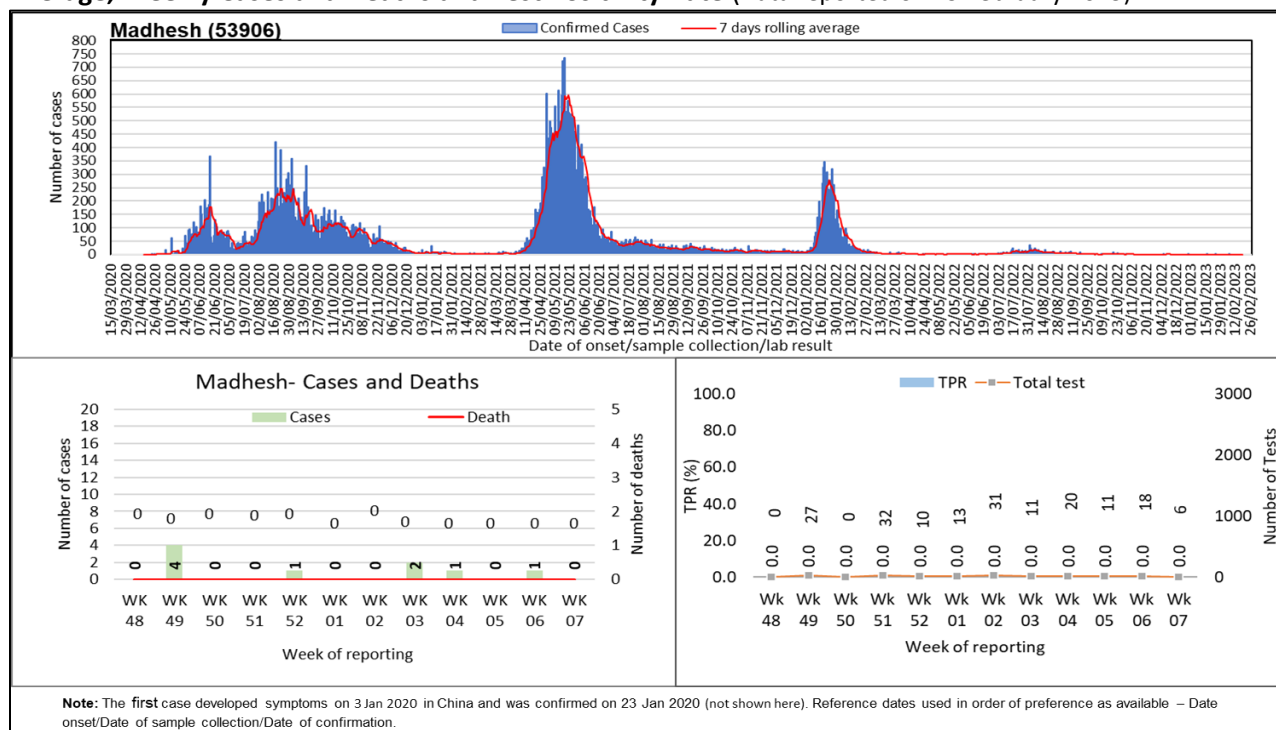
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

**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 19 February 2023)**



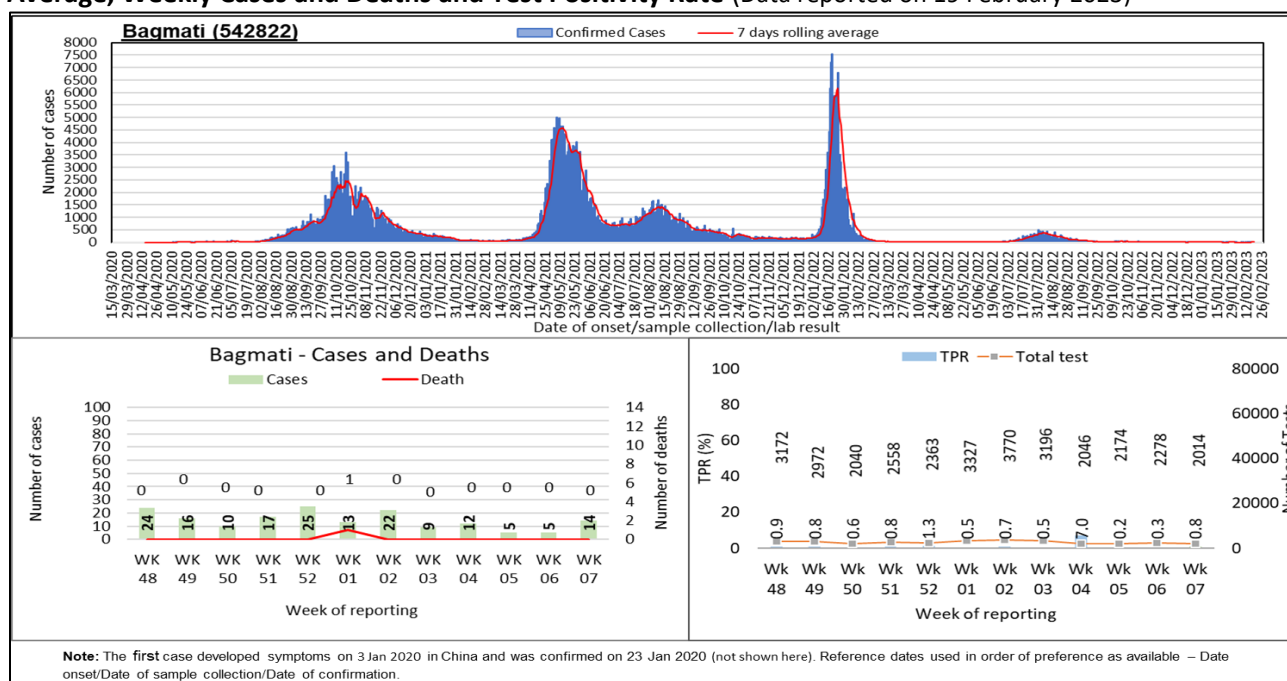
There were 2 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 33% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, the same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 3.1% in the past week. A total of 32 tests were performed in the past week, 27% 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 19 February 2023)**



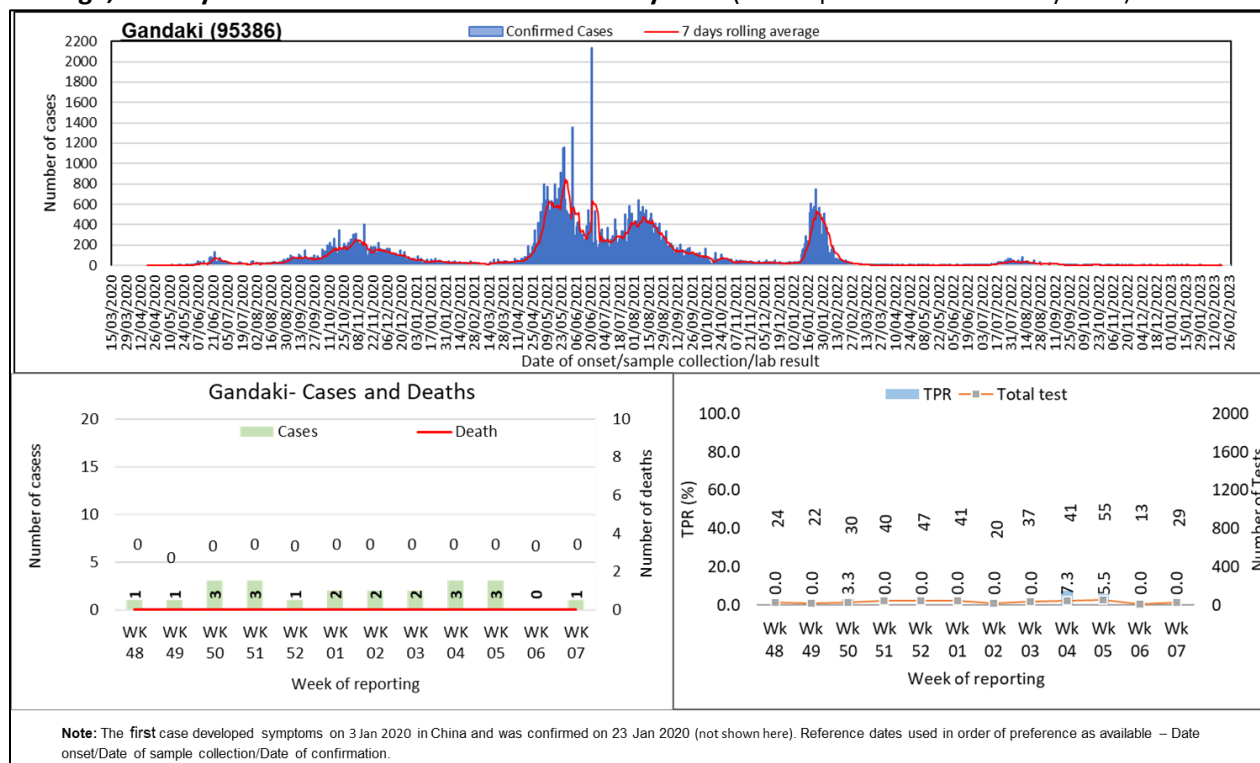
There was no new case reported in the past week in Madhesh Province. Cases have decreased by 100% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, the same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 6 tests were performed in the past week, 67% 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 19 February 2023)**



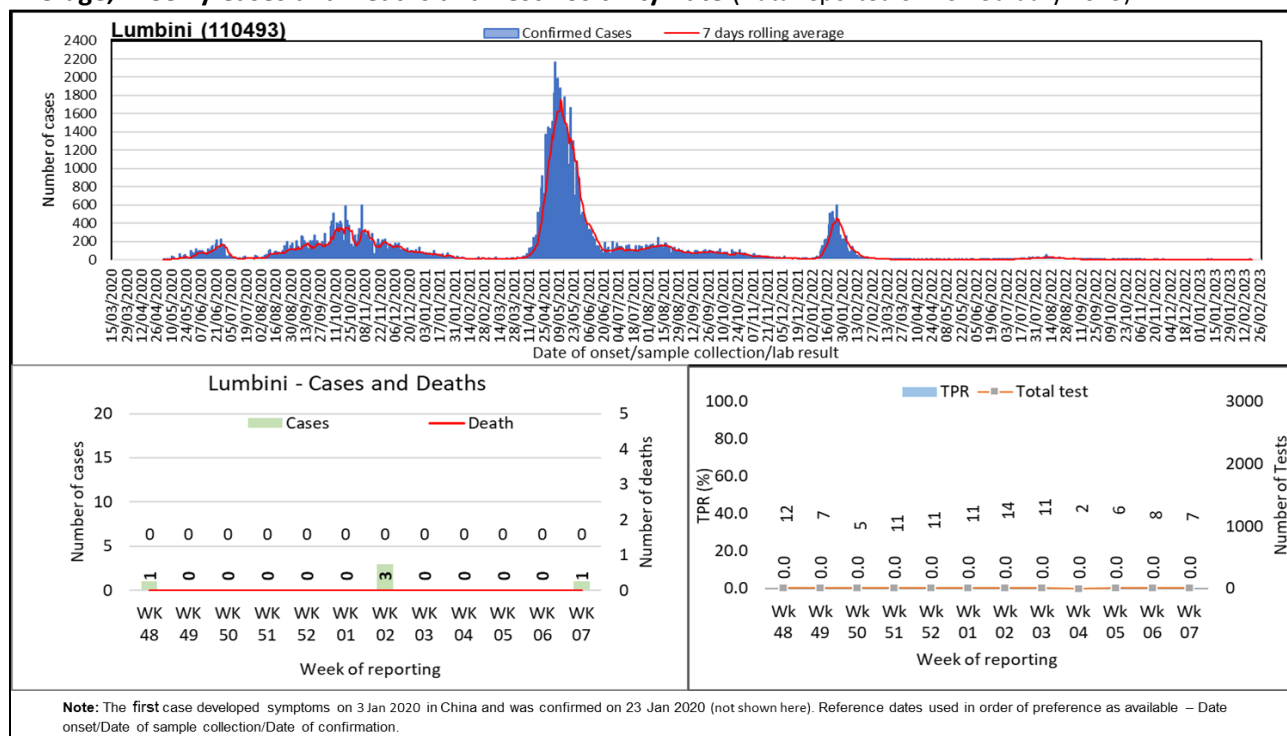
In Bagmati Province, 14 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 180% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province increased to 0.8% in the past week. A total of 2014 tests were performed in the past week, 12% 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 19 February 2023)**



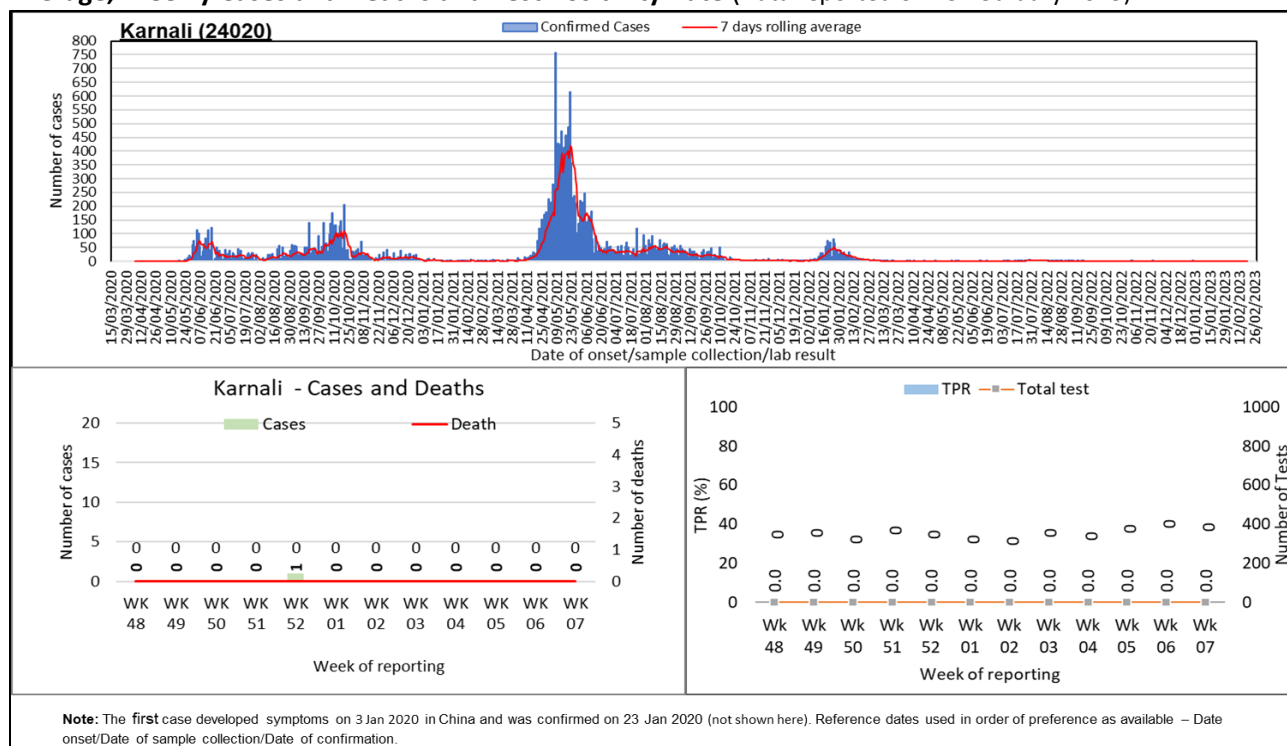
In Gandaki Province, 1 new case was reported in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, the same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 29 tests were performed in the past week, 123% 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 19 February 2023)**



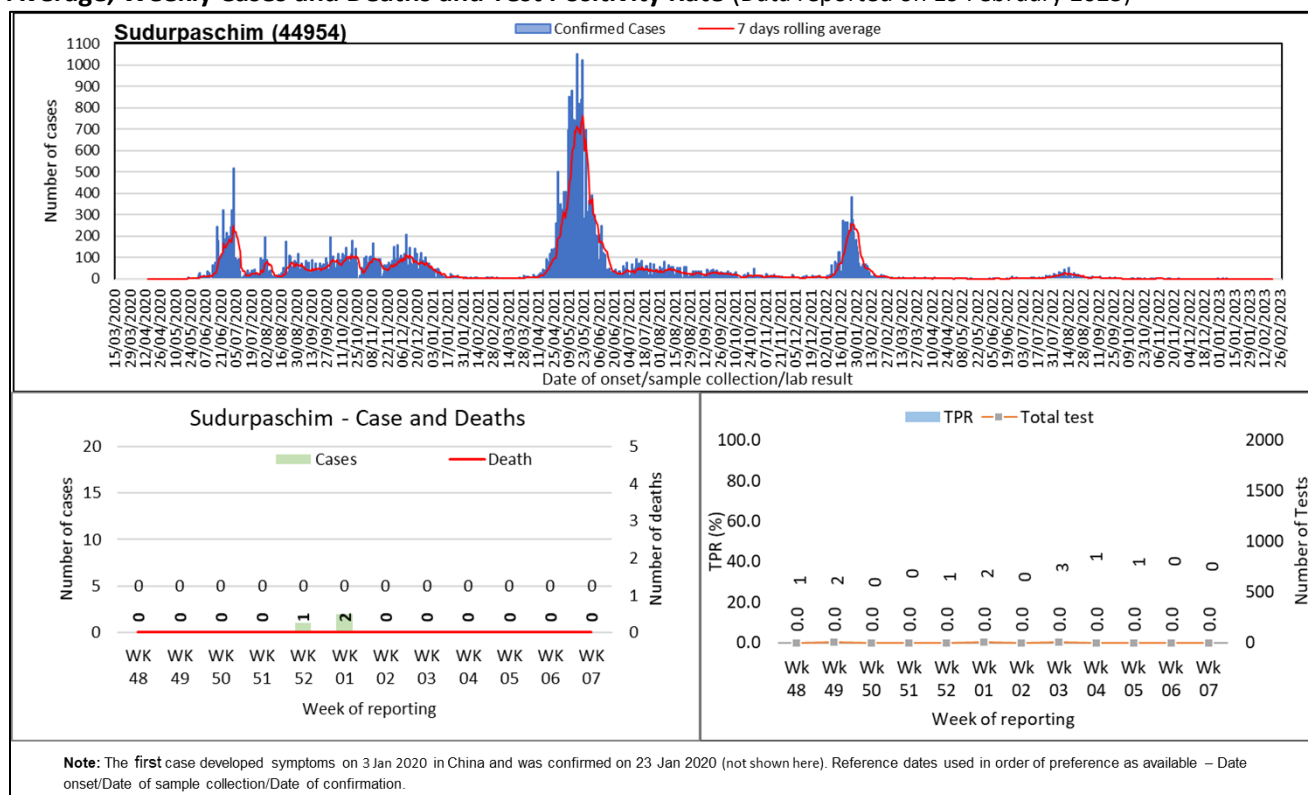
Lumbini Province reported 1 new case in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, the same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 7 tests were performed in the past week, 13% less 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 19 February 2023)**



In Karnali Province, no new case was reported in the past week, the same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, the 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 19 February 2023)**



In Sudurpaschim Province, no new case was reported in the past week, the same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, the 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 19 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)

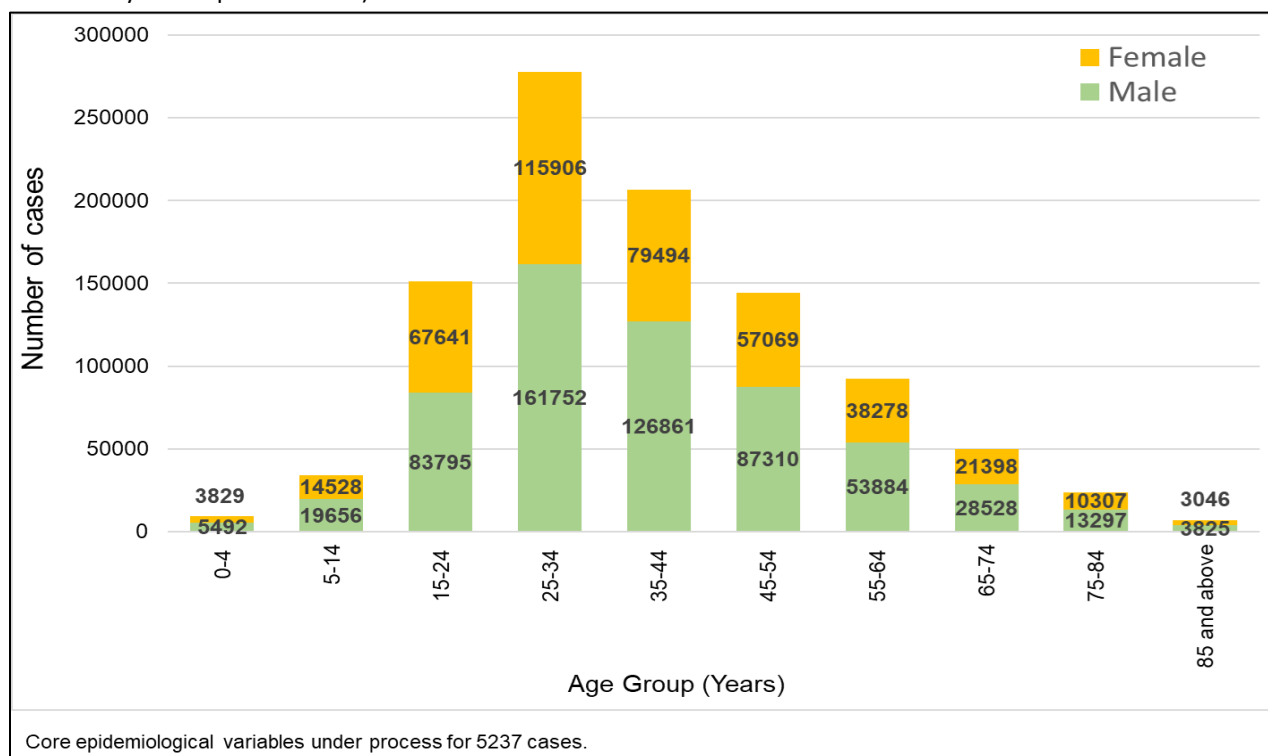
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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
Province 1	129552	30322	159874	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	5	5	16.7	0
Madhesh	53906	1178	55084	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	1	1	3.3	0
Bagmati	542822	32780	575602	50.9	5203	Community transmission	3	19	22	73.3	0
Gandaki	95386	24670	120056	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	1	1	3.3	0
Lumbini	110493	28141	138634	12.3	1874	Community transmission	0	1	1	3.3	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	0	0	0.0	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>1001133</b>	<b>129558*</b>	<b>1130691</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12020</b>	Community transmission	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 19 February 152233, IMU reported 129558.*

Notes:

1. The source for the 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 entries and manual errors such as city names in place of districts, district names 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= 1001133)**(Data reported on 19 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= 1001133)**(Data reported on 19 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	34184	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151436	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277658	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206355	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144379	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92162	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>1001133</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?**

- His Excellency Dr. Thomas Prinz, Germany Ambassador to Nepal, provided Pfizer-BioNTech's bivalent vaccine through the UN-backed COVAX facility to Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) Mr. Padam Giri, in a handover ceremony at MoHP. The handover was attended by Health Secretary, Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Chief -Policy, Planning and Monitoring Division Dr. Krishna Poudel, UNICEF Representative to Nepal, Elke Wisch, WHO Representative to Nepal, Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav.
- Out of 1.5 million vaccines; 3,45,000 vaccines have been provided and the remaining vaccines will be dispatched within a week.

### **What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?**

#### ***Laboratory Diagnosis***

- WHO Nepal has been providing support to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in continued routine work along with support in following activities:
  - Uploading result of 25 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples in GISAID platform.
  - Standardization of Leptospirosis and Yersinia PCR kit.

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

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training.<sup>2</sup>
- WHO Nepal handed over the refurbished auditorium of the National Simulation Lab on 14 February 2023, which is well equipped with a projector, screen, speakers, tables, and chairs to COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital, Bir hospital in presence of Hon'ble Secretary Ms. Devi Kumari Guragain. This auditorium, adjacent to the National Simulation Lab, is expected to aid skill-based trainings by providing easier access to mannequins and training materials. In the previous year, skill lab equipment were handed over to COVID-19 Unified Hospital, Bir Hospital which laid the foundation for the establishment of the "National Simulation Lab". The aim of the skill lab is to support the capacity building of healthcare workers required to provide quality health services.

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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.



*(Left) WR providing his remarks and (Right) Opening session during the handover ceremony. Photo credit: WHO Nepal/S. Khadka*

- WHO Nepal provided technical and operational support for following programs:
  - With the collaboration of Geo-Hazards International and the Geo Hazard Society and the Ministry of Health and Population - Nepal, WHO Nepal organized a virtual tabletop exercise on hospital fire safety at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences on 14 February 2023. The two hours session, which was virtually conducted, aimed at testing the Hospital Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan from the perspective of fire safety. Key members of the hospital disaster committees were in attendance. It was a meaningful discussion that led to a crucial realization and enforced the commitment to fire safety at the hospital.
  - The Emergency Care Tools (ECT), a part of Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative (GETI), were handed over by Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari, Chief, HEOC/MoHP to Dr. Hemraj Pandey, Medical Superintendent, Seti Provincial Hospital (Sudurpashchim Province) on 16 Feb 2023. National Trainers of Basic Emergency Care (BEC) facilitated the two-day ECT implementation activity from 16-17 Feb 2023.



*(Left) Hospital Emergency Assessment Tool (HEAT) was facilitated by Melissa Beth Bingham (Technical Officer, WHO). (Right) handover ceremony, Photo credit: WHO Nepal/B. Bist*

### **Operational Support and Logistics**

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

<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

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

- The news of the handover of 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccines from the Government of Germany to the Government of Nepal was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)). These vaccines, which were donated through COVAX, will help accelerate the coverage of booster doses across the country. COVAX, which is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, WHO, and UNICEF, has been supporting the COVID-19 vaccination program of Nepal since the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, with first COVAX supported vaccines delivered to the country in March 2021. Nepal has one of the highest full dose coverage of COVID-19 vaccination in the WHO South-East Asia region.
- The news of the handover of the refurbished auditorium hall of the National Simulation Lab inside COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital Bir Hospital) to the MoHP, in the presence of Hon'ble Secretary of MoHP, Ms Dev Kumari Guragain; Dr Yadu Chandra Ghimire, Director of National Health Training Center, MoHP; and Prof Dr Bhupendra Kumar Basnet, Director of Bir Hospital, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)), Instagram (link [here](#)), and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- The news of the training session on cell culture techniques, being conducted by the National Influenza Center (NIC) at the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), MoHP, with support from WHO, Country Office for Nepal, was shared by Facebook (link [here](#)) and Instagram (link [here](#)). A total of ten trainees from NPHL and the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) participated in the hands-on training with theoretical and practical sessions from 14 to 17 February 2023. This training on cell culture techniques is critical for NIC to resume the virus isolation facility, and enables Nepal to contribute in the 'candidate virus selection for influenza vaccines' as part of the global pandemic influenza preparedness and response.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
  - Importance of vaccines,
  - Important of following recommended COVID-19 preventive measures,
  - 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](#)).
- WHO press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- Regular support was provided to the Spokesperson of Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) for the weekly media briefing. In the briefing on 19 February 2023 the key messages included are: COVID-19, significance of public health and social measures & COVID-19 booster dose, update on the measles outbreak in western Nepal & MoHP intervention in response to the outbreak, importance of iodized salt intake and message on childhood cancer, symptoms and treatment. There is a change in the position of the Chief of Health Coordination Division of the MoHP, who will also be the spokesperson. In the meantime, joint-spokesperson in conducting the weekly media briefing that is live streamed every Sunday at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television and shared in the MoHP's official Facebook page.

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health emergency operation centers, including fleet and travel management and the procurement of required logistics and supplies.

## 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

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