

# Situation Update #150 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 20 - 26 February 2023 (Epi Week 8)

### HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 26 February 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 27 February 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (989113) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (7) are active cases and 1.19% (12,020) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (7) reported this week, 28.6% (2) are from Kathmandu district. Majority of the new cases 42.9% (3) 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% (782,872/1,001,140) 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 (441,744/1,001,140), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,744/542,826).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 8 ranged from 0.0% (Province 1, Madhesh, and Lumbini Provinces) to 18.2% (Gandaki Province) with a national positivity rate at 0.2%. Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 61% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=7) in Epi Week 8 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 71% of the cases have been reported from Province 1, Lumbini and Bagmati province.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi Week 8, same as in the previous week.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 26 February 2023)

#### NEPAL

##### Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,140

Antigen RDT: 152,233

##### Cumulative deaths: 12,020

##### Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 6,012,582

Antigen RDT: 1,513,884

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

##### Cumulative cases (%)

60,766,335 (8%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

803,843 (12%)

#### GLOBAL

##### Cumulative cases (%)

758,226,495 (100%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

6,858,399 (100%)

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

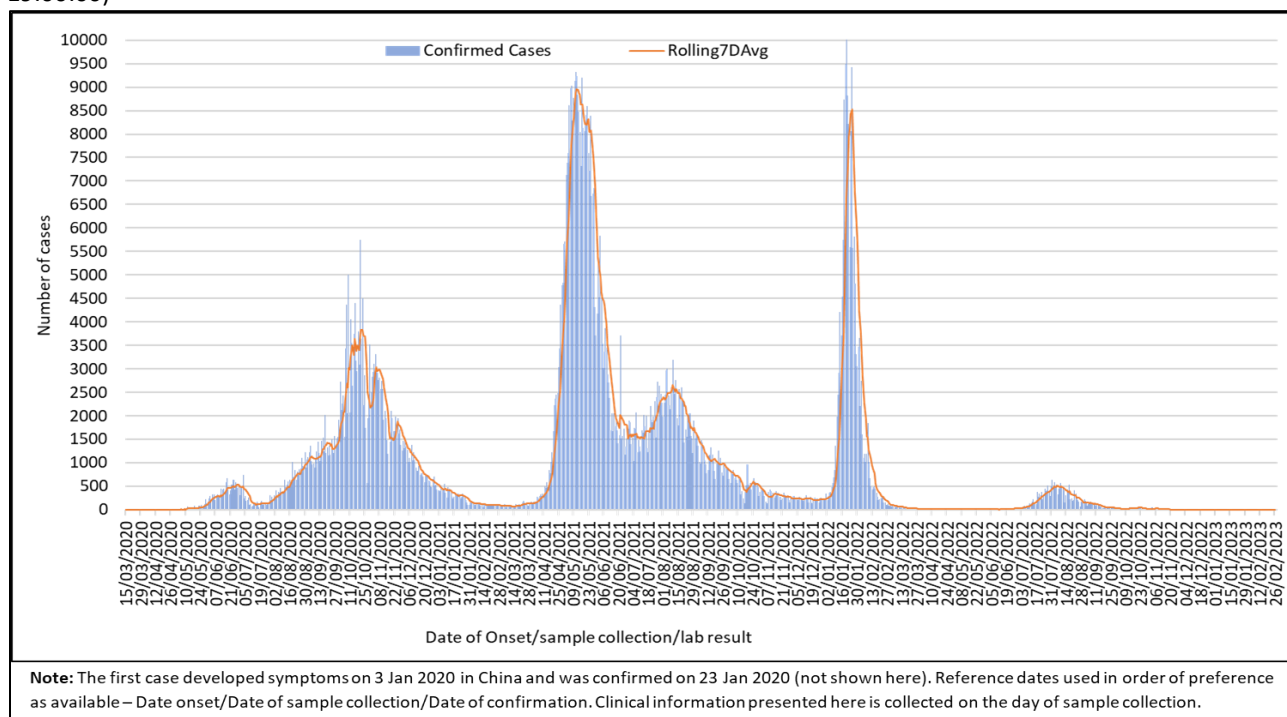
- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 33 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi Week 8 (20-26 Feb 2023).
  - Five samples tested Influenza A/H3 positive, 2 Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) and 3 samples tested Influenza B positive.
  - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- NIC-NPHL received 21 samples from its sentinel sites on Epi Week 8.
  - Four samples tested positive for Influenza A (to be subtyped) and 1 sample tested positive for Influenza B.
  - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing of 97 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi Week 8.
  - Eight samples tested Influenza A positive (to be subtyped).
  - A total of 810 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 26 February 2023.
- From 2 January 2023 until 26 February 2023:
  - A total of 249 samples tested positive for Influenza (24 Influenza B, 188 Influenza A/H3, 23 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and 14 Influenza A (to be subtyped)) from 1520 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 1120 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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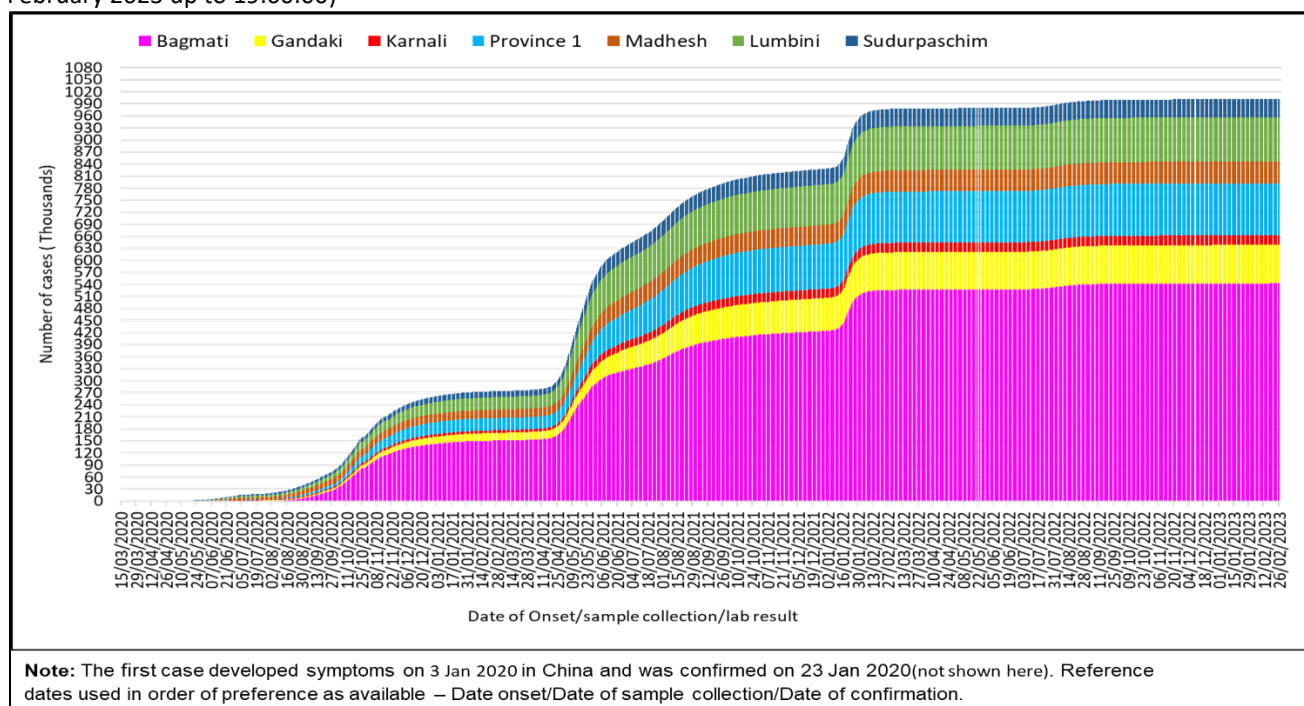
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

**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= 1001140)(Data reported on 26 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



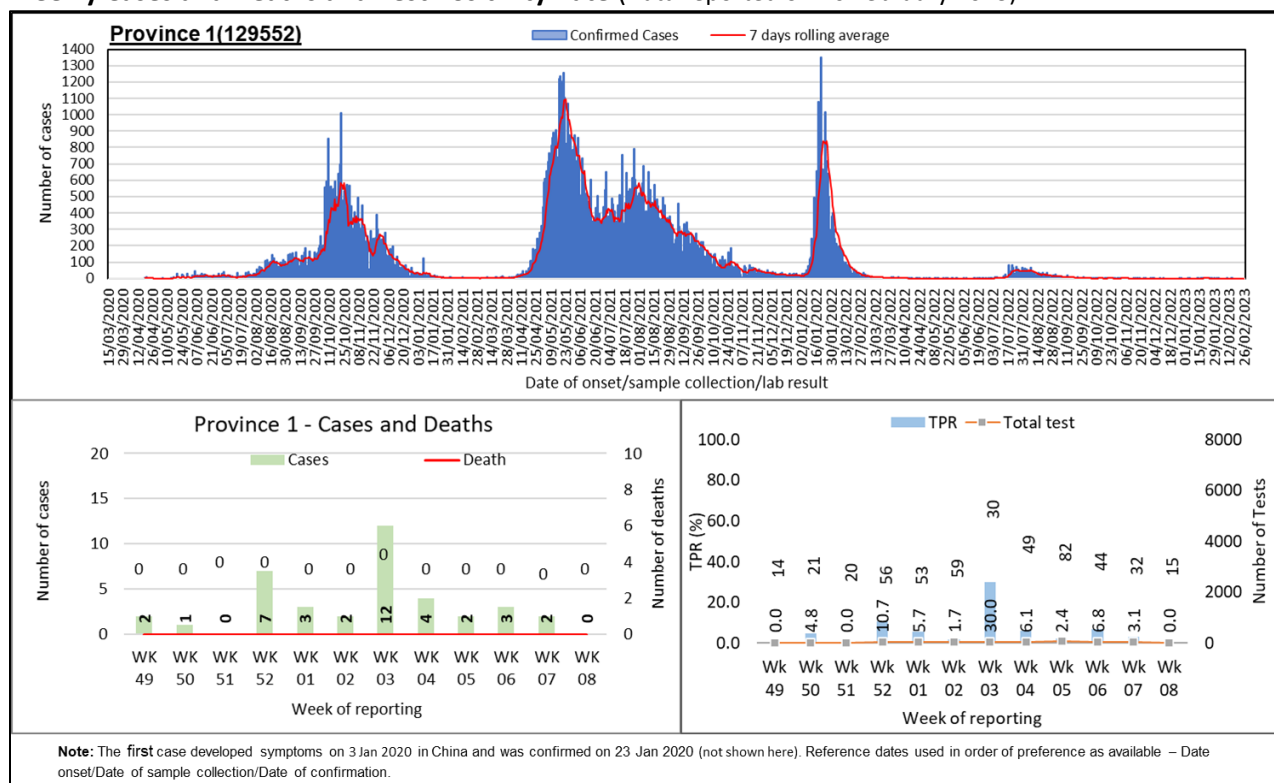
*At the national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from mid- March 2021. Since mid- December 2021, a third wave of cases surged exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end of January 2022. 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= 1001140)(Data reported on 26 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



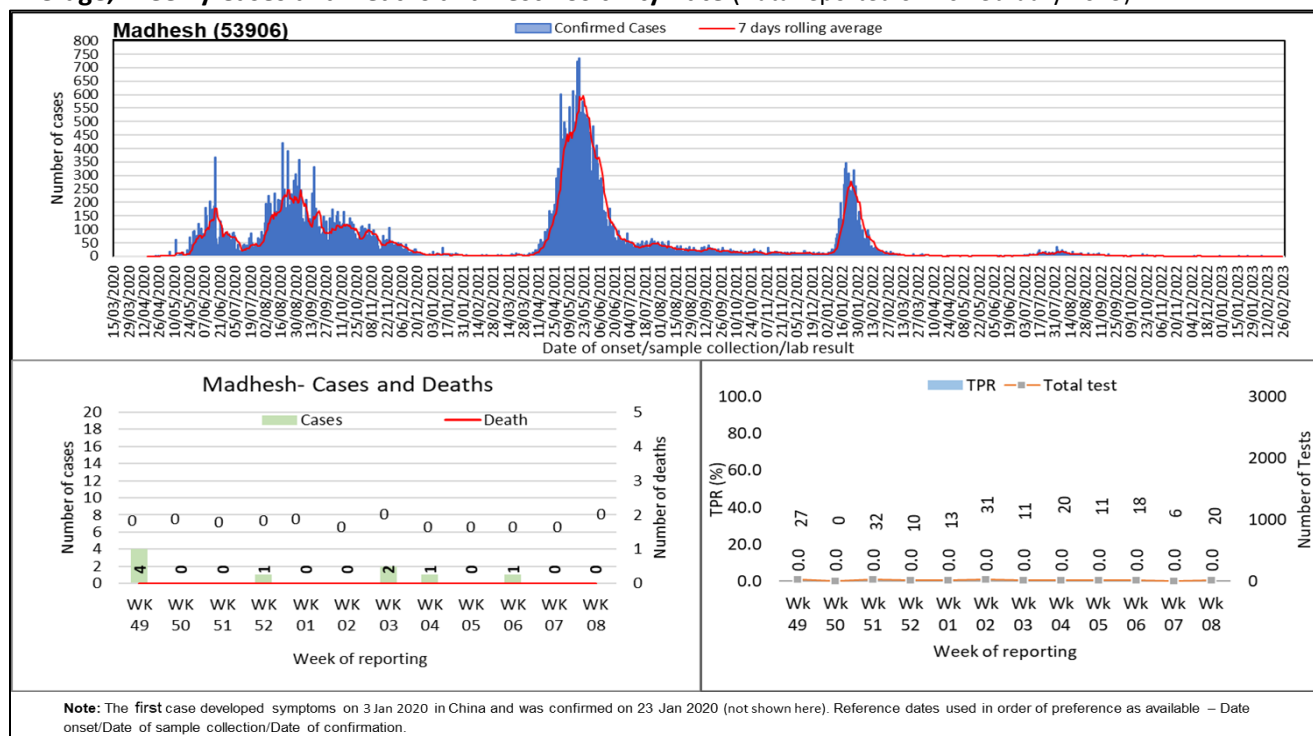
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

**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 26 February 2023)**



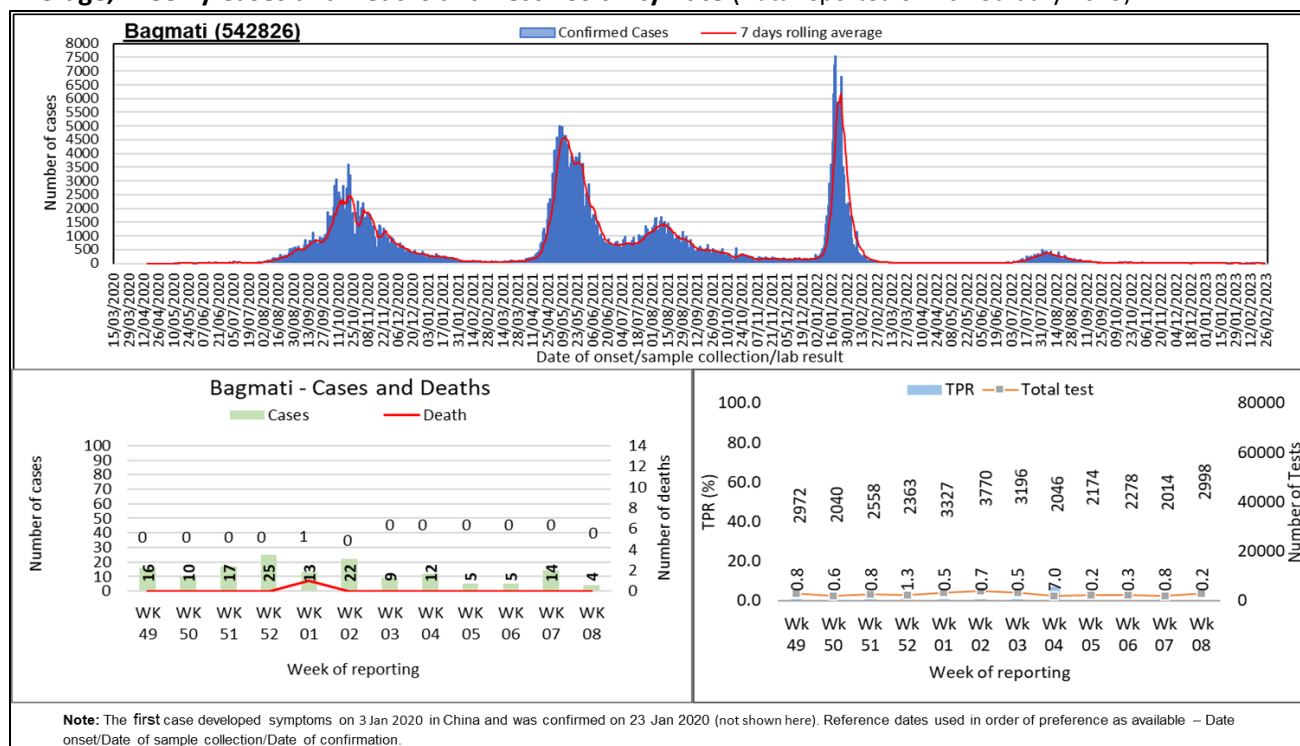
There was no new case reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have decreased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 0.0% in the past week. A total of 15 tests were performed in the past week, 53% 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 26 February 2023)**



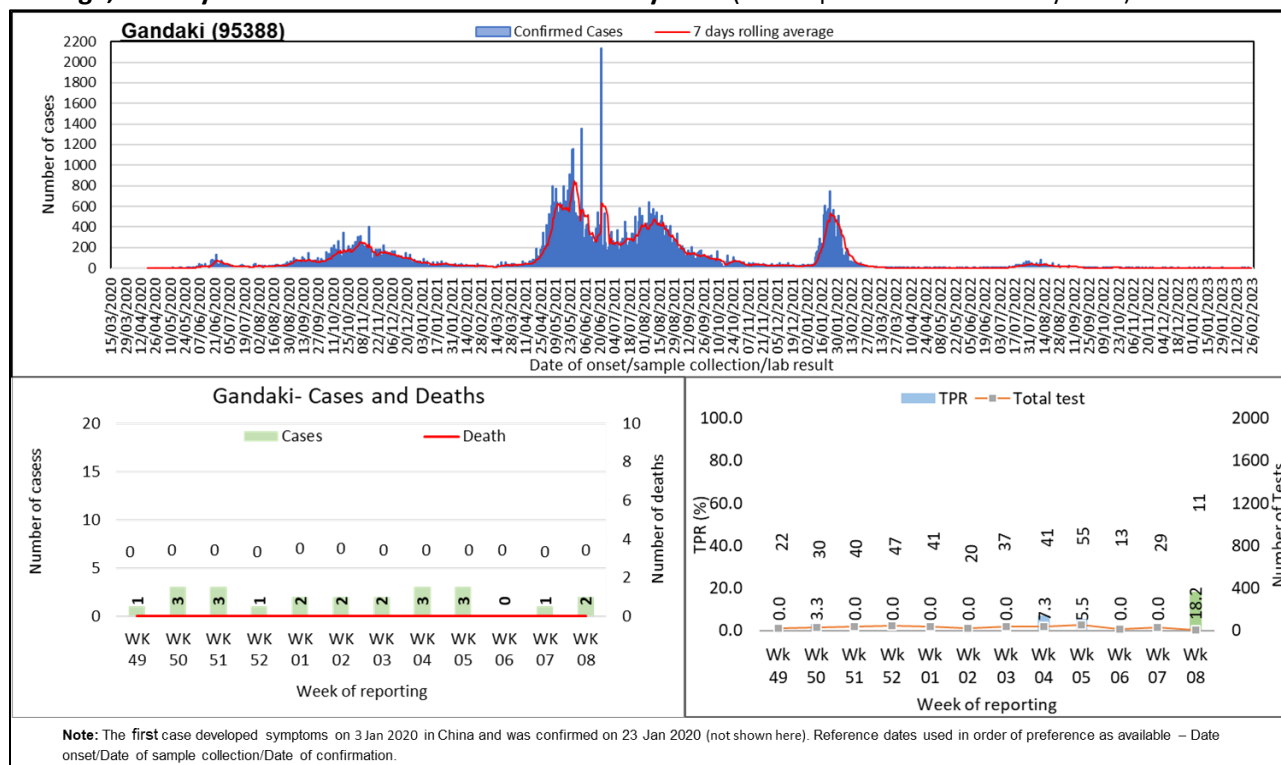
There was no new case reported in the past week in Madhesh Province, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, the same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 20 tests were performed in the past week, 233% 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 26 February 2023)**



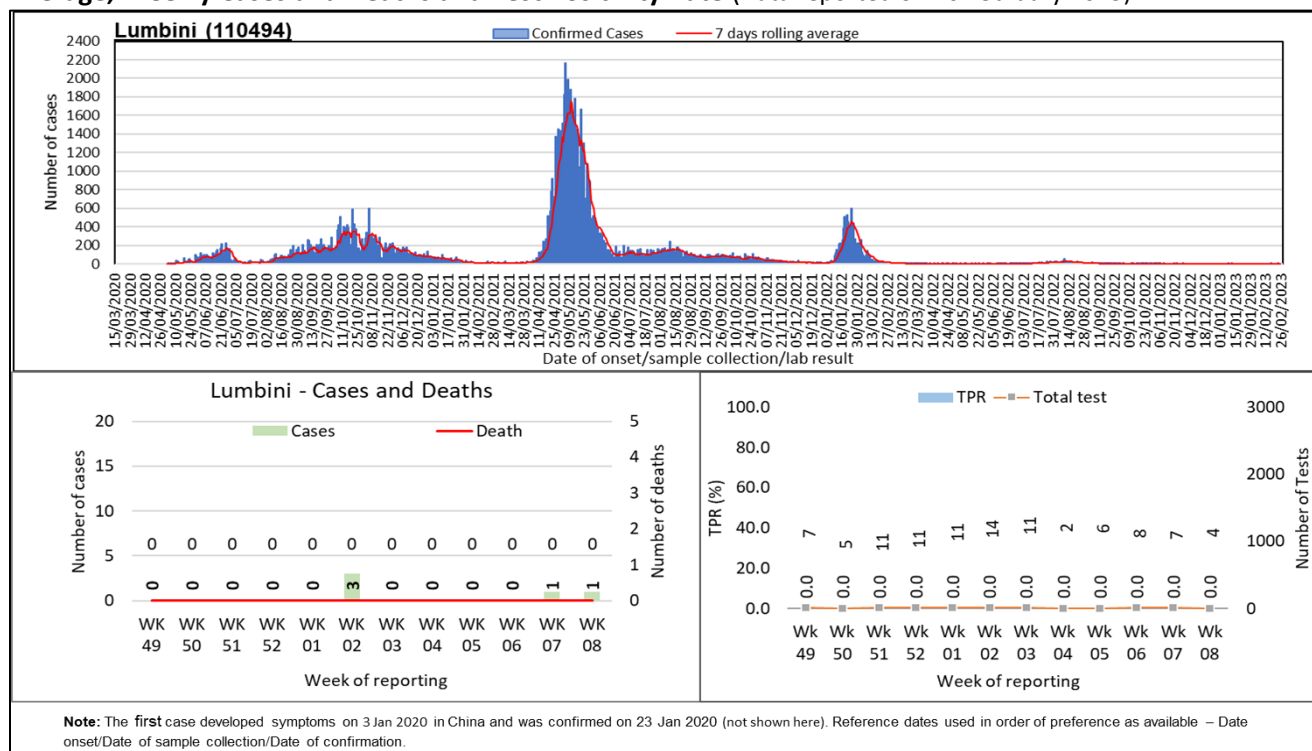
In Bagmati Province, 4 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 71% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province decreased to 0.2% in the past week. A total of 2998 tests were performed in the past week, 49% 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 26 February 2023)**



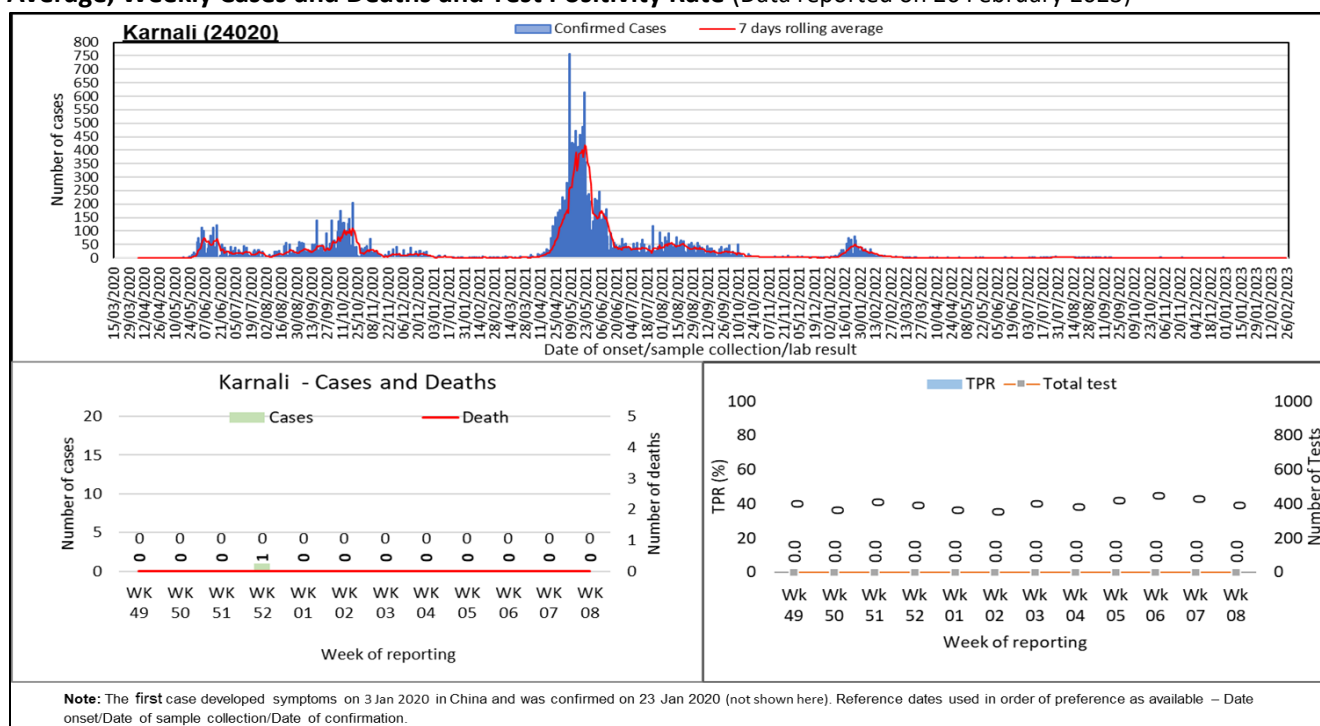
In Gandaki Province, 2 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province increased to 18.2% in the past week. A total of 11 tests were performed in the past week, 62% 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 26 February 2023)**



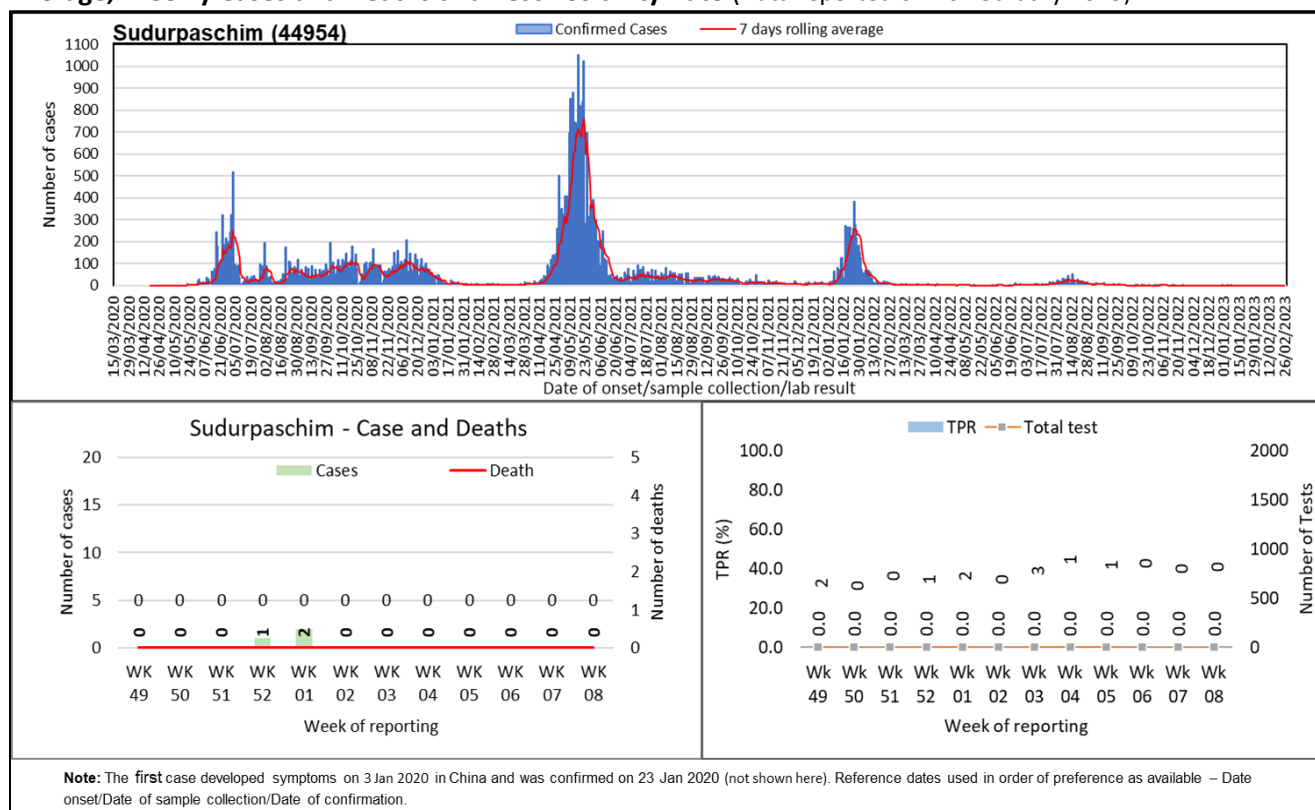
Lumbini Province reported 1 new case in the past week. Cases have remained stable in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 4 tests were performed in the past week, 43% 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 26 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 26 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. 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 26 February 2023 up to 19:00:00)

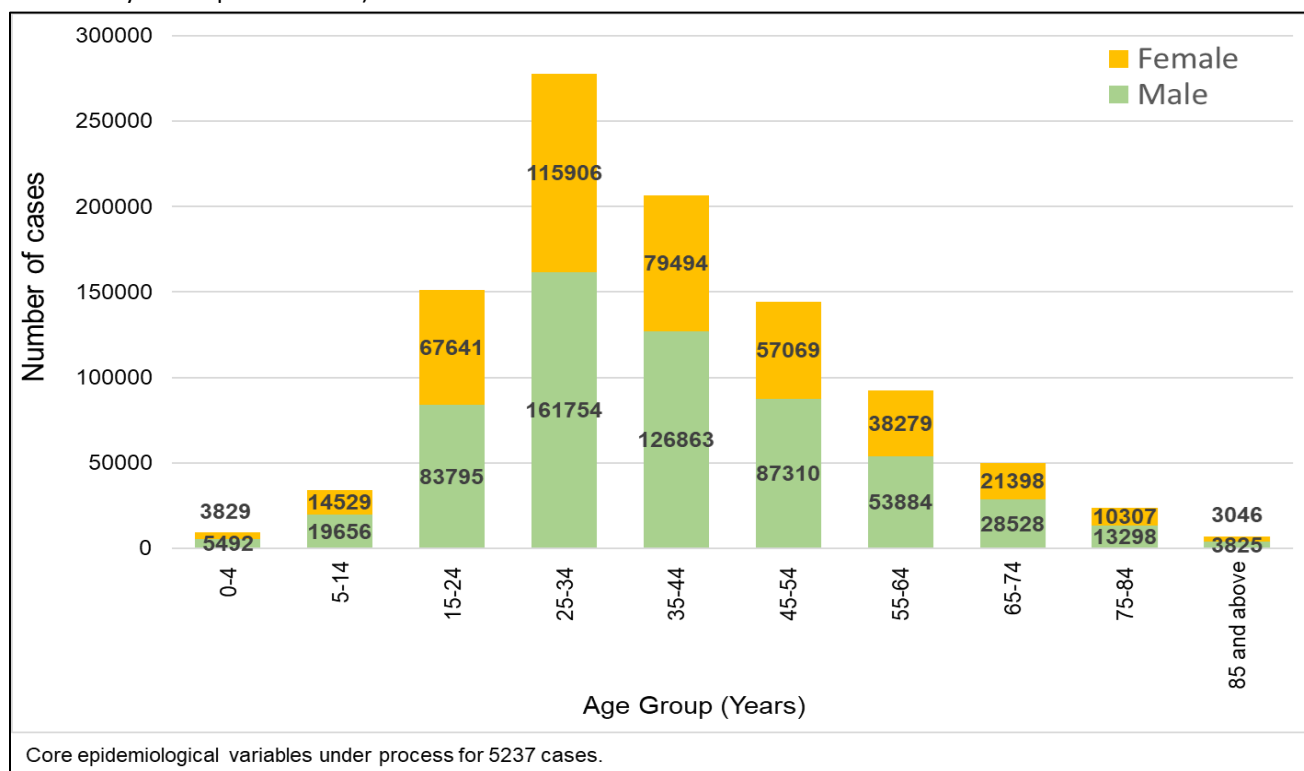
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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
<b>Province 1</b>	129552	30322	159874	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	2		2	7.1	0
<b>Madhesh</b>	53906	1178	55084	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	0		0	0.0	0
<b>Bagmati</b>	542826	32780	575606	50.9	5203	Community transmission	3	18		21	75.0	0
<b>Gandaki</b>	95388	24670	120058	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	3		3	10.7	0
<b>Lumbini</b>	110494	28141	138635	12.3	1874	Community transmission	0	2		2	7.1	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>1001140</b>	<b>129558*</b>	<b>1130698</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12020</b>	Community transmission	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 26 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= 995903)**(Data reported on 26 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= 1001140)**(Data reported on 26 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	34185	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151436	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277660	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206357	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144379	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92163	1691	803	783	2.71
65-74	49926	1640	893	957	5.07
75-84	23605	1228	659	773	7.99
85+	6871	524	289	279	11.83
Unknown	5237	19	7	11	0.5
<b>National</b>	<b>1001140</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***

- WHO Nepal has been providing support to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in continued routine work along with following activities:
  - Preparation and dissemination of result of 8<sup>th</sup> Round of Proficiency Testing-Panel to the designated COVID-19 laboratories.

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

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training.<sup>2</sup>
- WHO Nepal provided technical and operational support to the following program:
  - Handover of the Emergency Care Tools (ECT), a part of Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative (GETI). The tool was handed over by Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari, Chief, HEOC/MoHP to Dr. Ravi Raj Singh, Medical Superintendent of Koshi Hospital (Province 1) on 27 Feb 2023. National Trainers of Basic Emergency Care (BEC) facilitated the two-day ECT implementation program entitled 'Conducting Improvement plan of Emergency Unit with integration of Emergency Care Tool (ECT) and HEAT Assessment in GETI sites' from 26-27 Feb 2023. The objectives of this program were to review the Hospital Emergency Assessment Tool (HEAT), observe current practices in the emergency departments and provide recommendations to hospital administrators and clinicians.

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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.



*Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari (Chief of HEOC) addressing the handover program on Emergency Care Tool (ECT) a part of Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative (GETI) at Province 1. Photo credit: WHO Nepal*



*Handover ceremony of ECT, a part of GETI to the Medical Superintendent of Koshi Hospital in Province1. Photo credit: WHO Nepal*

### **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

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

- Episode 89 of *Science in 5 (Respiratory disease in children)* was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links:
- Nepali: Facebook [link](#); Twitter [link](#); YouTube [link](#); OneDrive [link](#)
- 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](#)).
- Support provided to the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) for the weekly media briefing. The briefing on February 26, 2023 included key messages on: COVID-19, significance of public health and social measures, importance of COVID-19 booster dose, call for action to public for vaccinating children with vaccines provided under national immunization program, message on the mass drug administration against Lymphatic Filariasis campaign being conducted in highly endemic 15 districts in Nepal and message about the 25<sup>th</sup> National Health Service Day that is commemorated on (English date?) on the occasion of enactment of the Health Service Act 2053. The weekly media briefing is streamed every Sunday at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television and shared on MoHP's official Facebook page.

## **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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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.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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