

# Situation Update #151 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 27 February – 5 March 2023 (Epi Week 9)

### HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 5 March 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 6 March 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (989123) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (6) are active cases and 1.19% (12,020) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (9) reported this week, 77.8% (7) are from Kathmandu district. Majority of the new cases 77.8% (7) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), Bagmati Province.

### COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 28 February 2023)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,584,353	4,831,260
Vero Cell	10,389,847	9,266,491
Janssen	3,545,788	
Pfizer	4,991,865	3,791,458
Moderna	3,228,416	2,830,642

### 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% (782,881/1,001,149) 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 (441,751/1,001,149), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,751/542,833).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi week 9 ranged from 0.0% (Province 1, Gandaki and Sudurpaschim Provinces) to 0.6% (Bagmati Province) with a national positivity rate at 0.5%. Madhesh, Lumbini and Karnali Provinces did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 29% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=9) in Epi week 9 compared to that in the previous week. All cases reported last week have been from Province 1 and Bagmati Province.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 9, same as in the previous week.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 5 March 2023)

#### NEPAL

##### Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,149

Antigen RDT: 152,233

##### Cumulative deaths: 12,020

##### Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 6,014,248

Antigen RDT: 1,518,681

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

##### Cumulative cases (%)

60,769,937 (8%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

803,878 (8%)

#### GLOBAL

##### Cumulative cases (%)

759,269,904 (100%)

##### Cumulative deaths (%)

6,865,624 (100%)

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

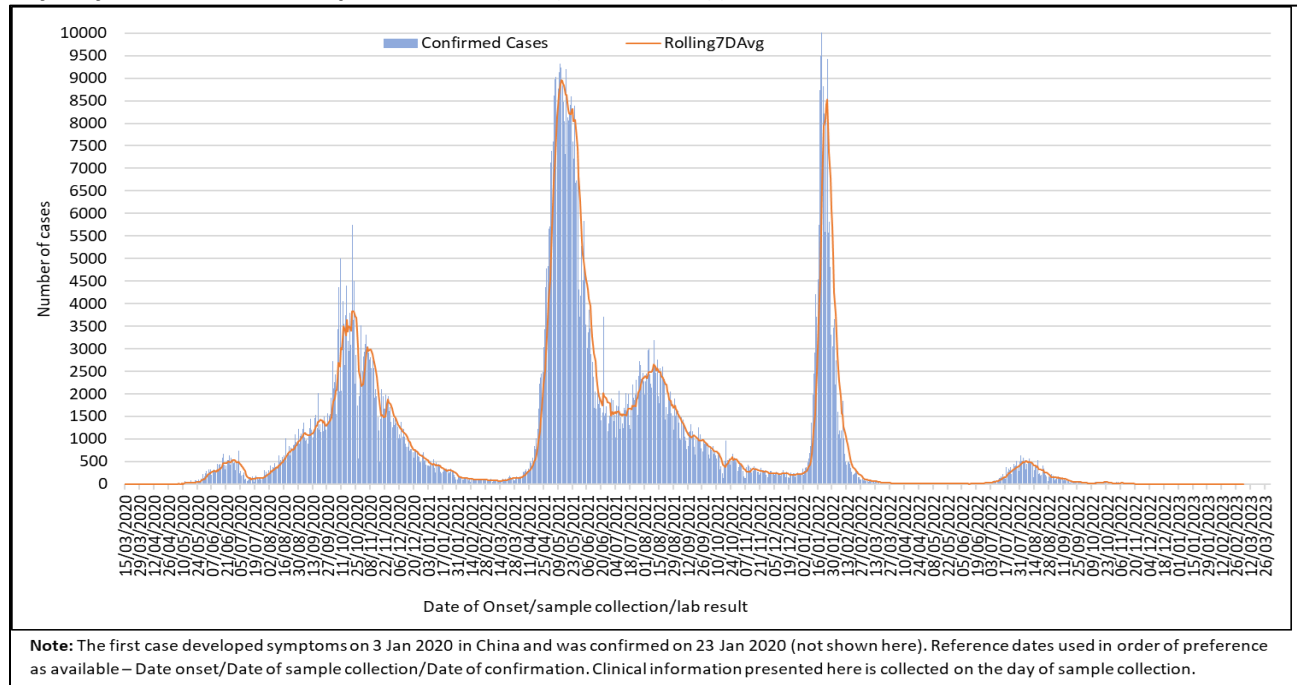
- National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL reported 8 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi week 9.
  - Two samples tested positive for Influenza A (to be subtyped).
  - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing of 80 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi week 9.
  - Four samples tested Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) and one sample tested positive for Influenza B.
  - A total of 890 samples have been tested by PPHLs till 5 March 2023.
- From 2 January 2023 until 5 March 2023:
  - A total of 265 samples tested positive for Influenza (27 Influenza B, 207 Influenza A/H3, 23 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and 8 Influenza A (to be subtyped) from 1576 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  - Similarly, 8 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1377 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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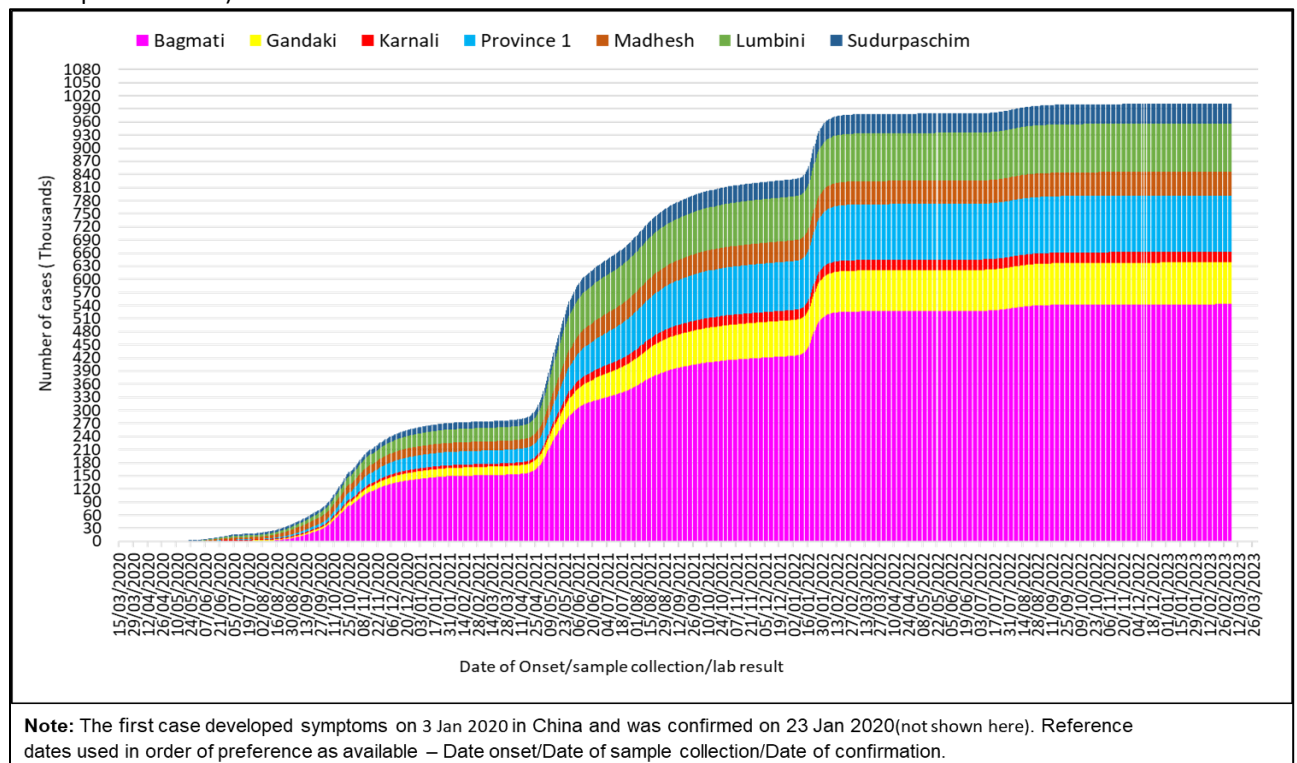
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

**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= 1001149)(Data reported on 6 March 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



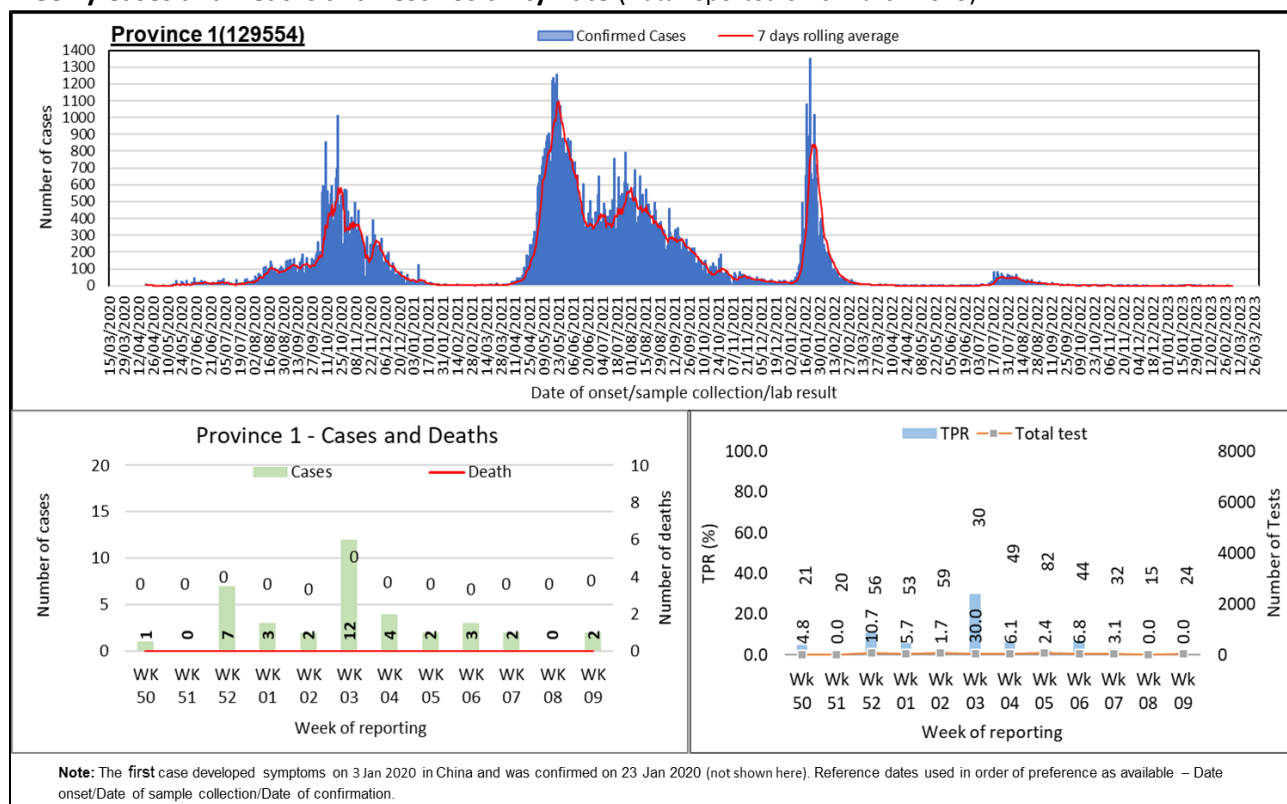
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end 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= 1001149)(Data reported on 6 March 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



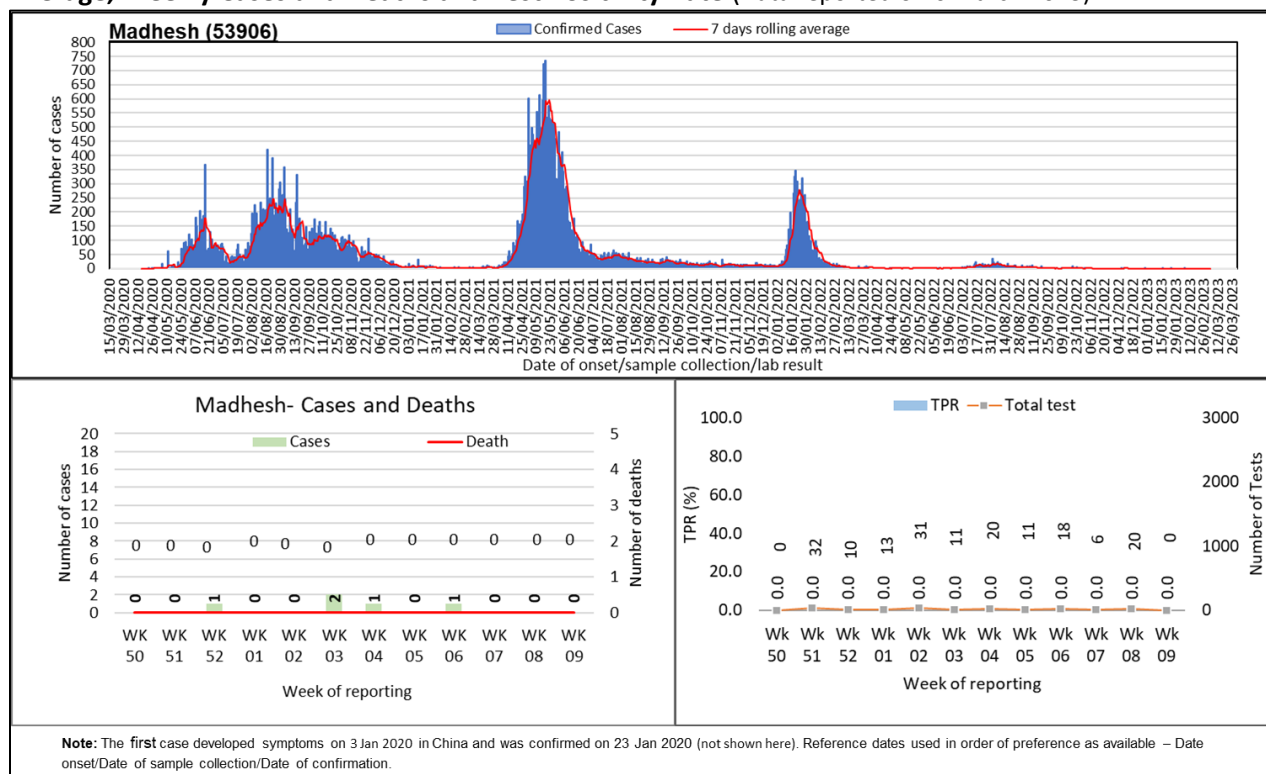
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

**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 6 March 2023)**



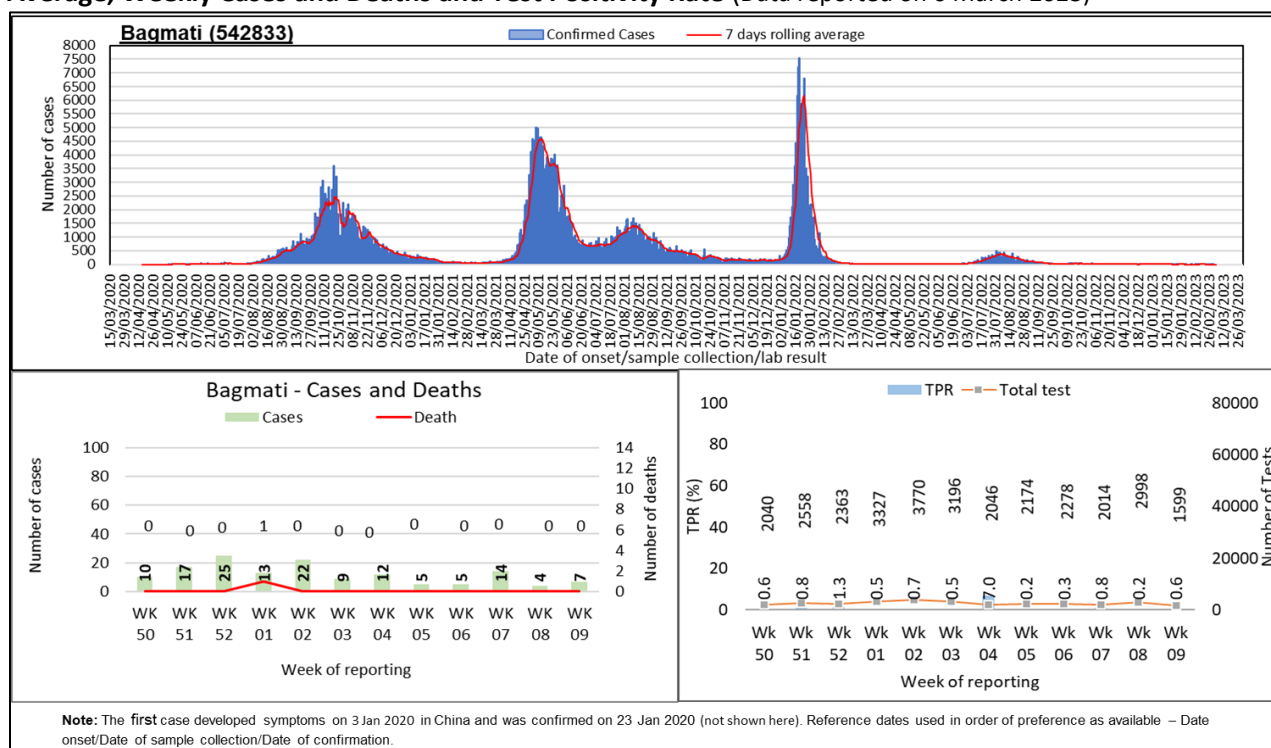
There were 2 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 24 tests were performed in the past week, 60% 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 6 March 2023)**



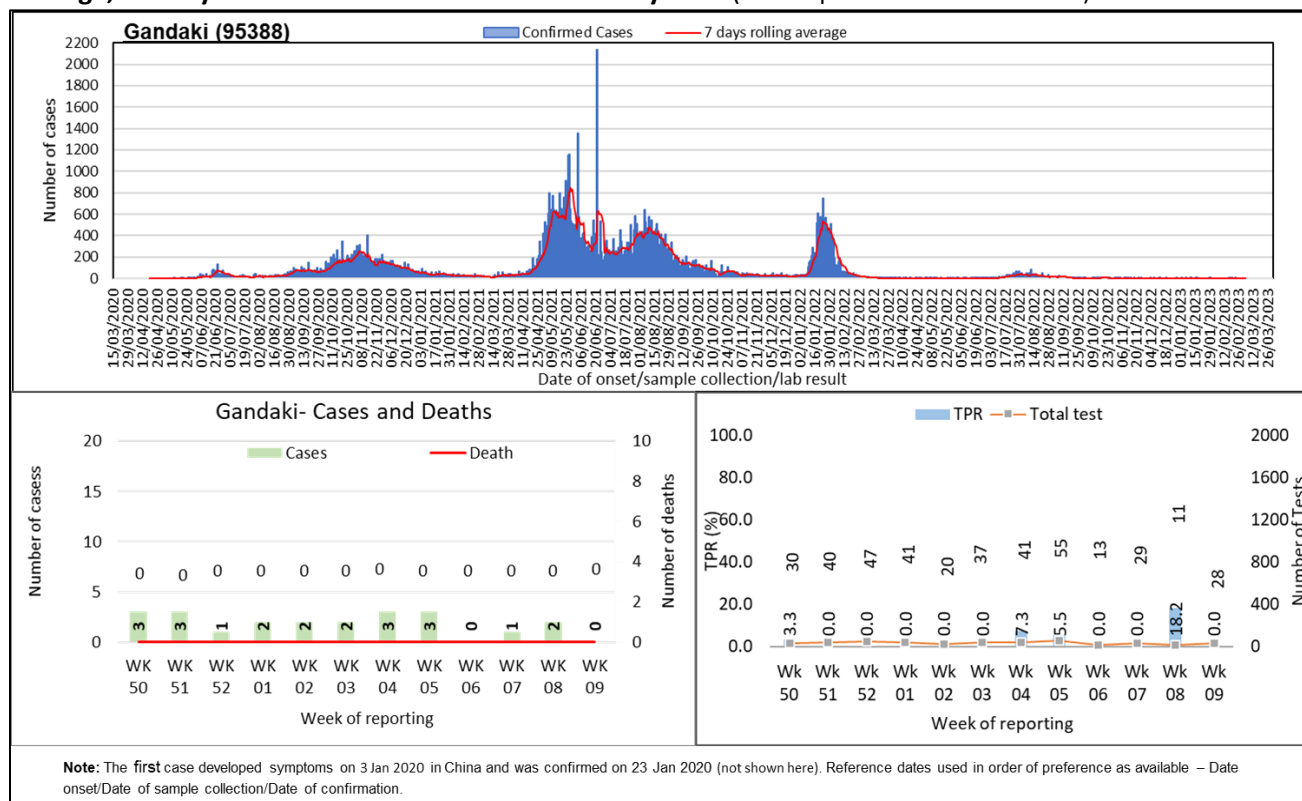
There was no new case reported in the past week in Madhesh province, which was same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no test performed reported in the past week.

**Figure 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 6 March 2023)**



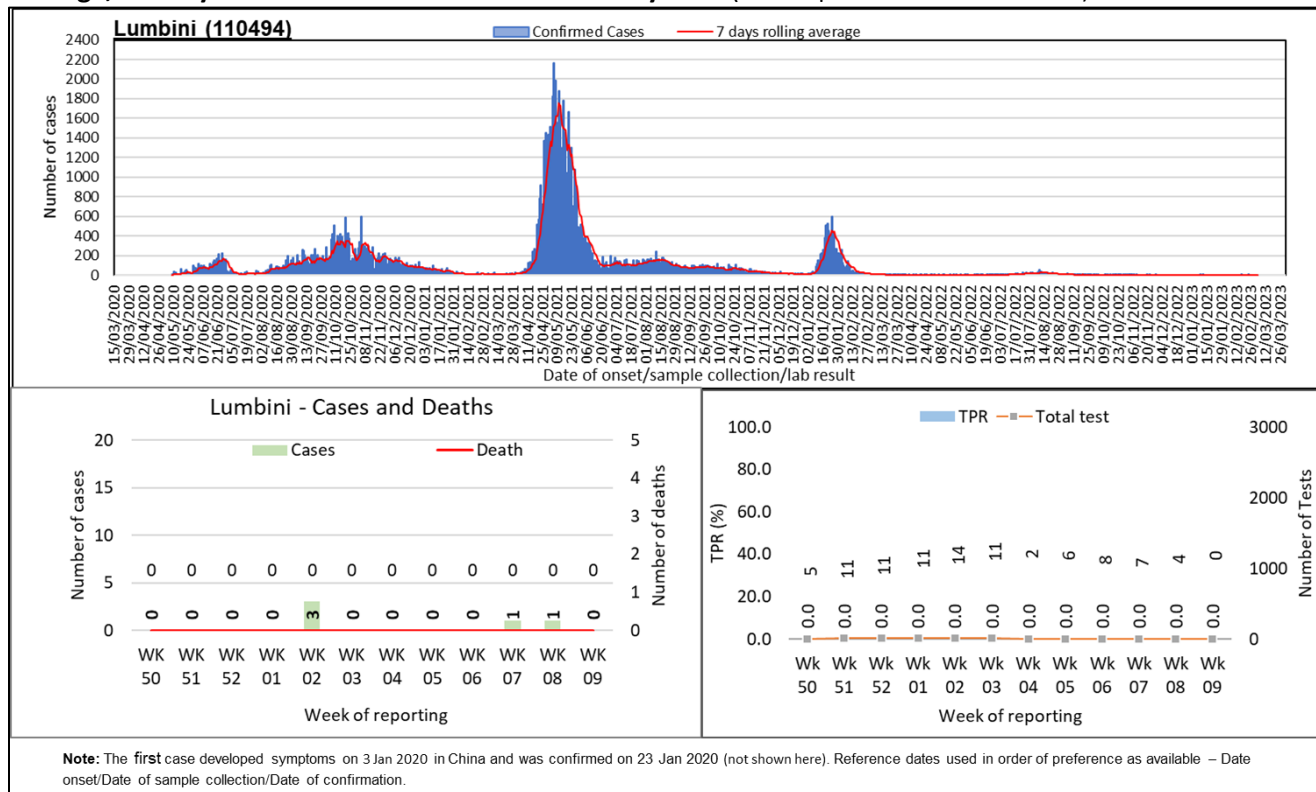
In Bagmati Province, 7 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 75% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province increased to 0.6% in the past week. A total of 1599 tests were performed in the past week, 47% 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 6 March 2023)**



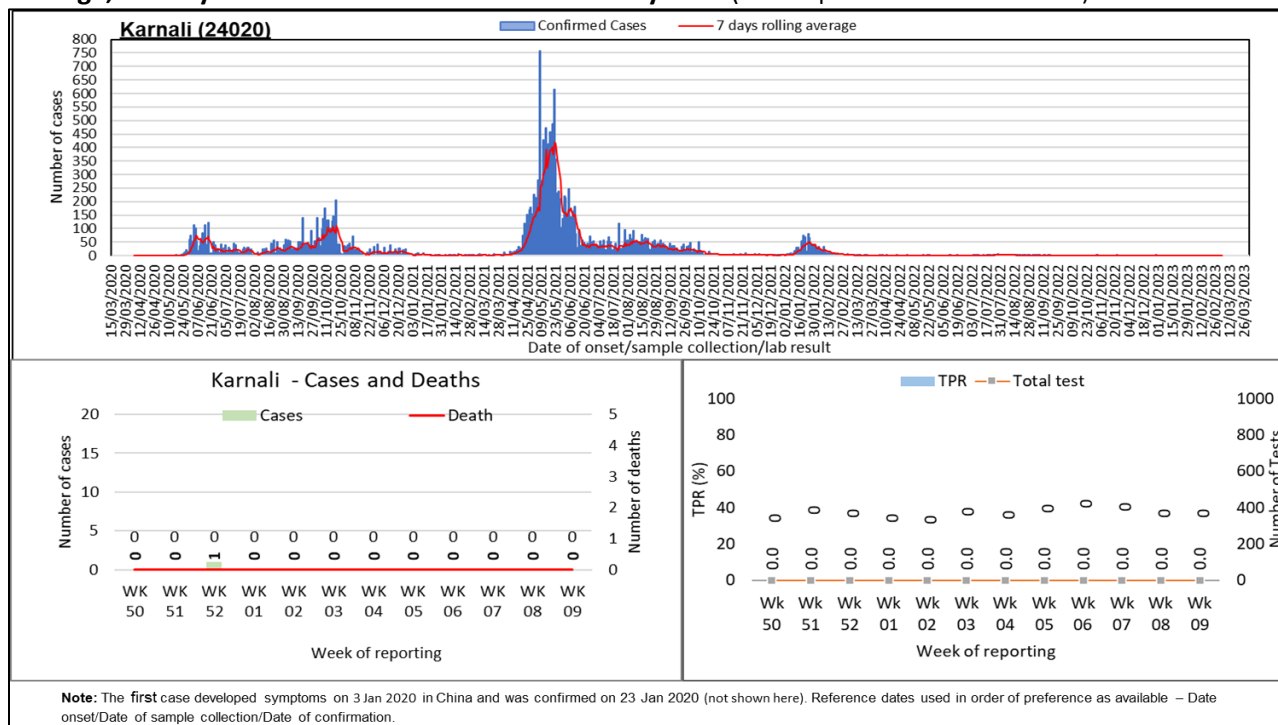
In Gandaki Province, no new case was reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province decreased to 0.0% in the past week. A total of 28 tests were performed in the past week, 155% 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 6 March 2023)**



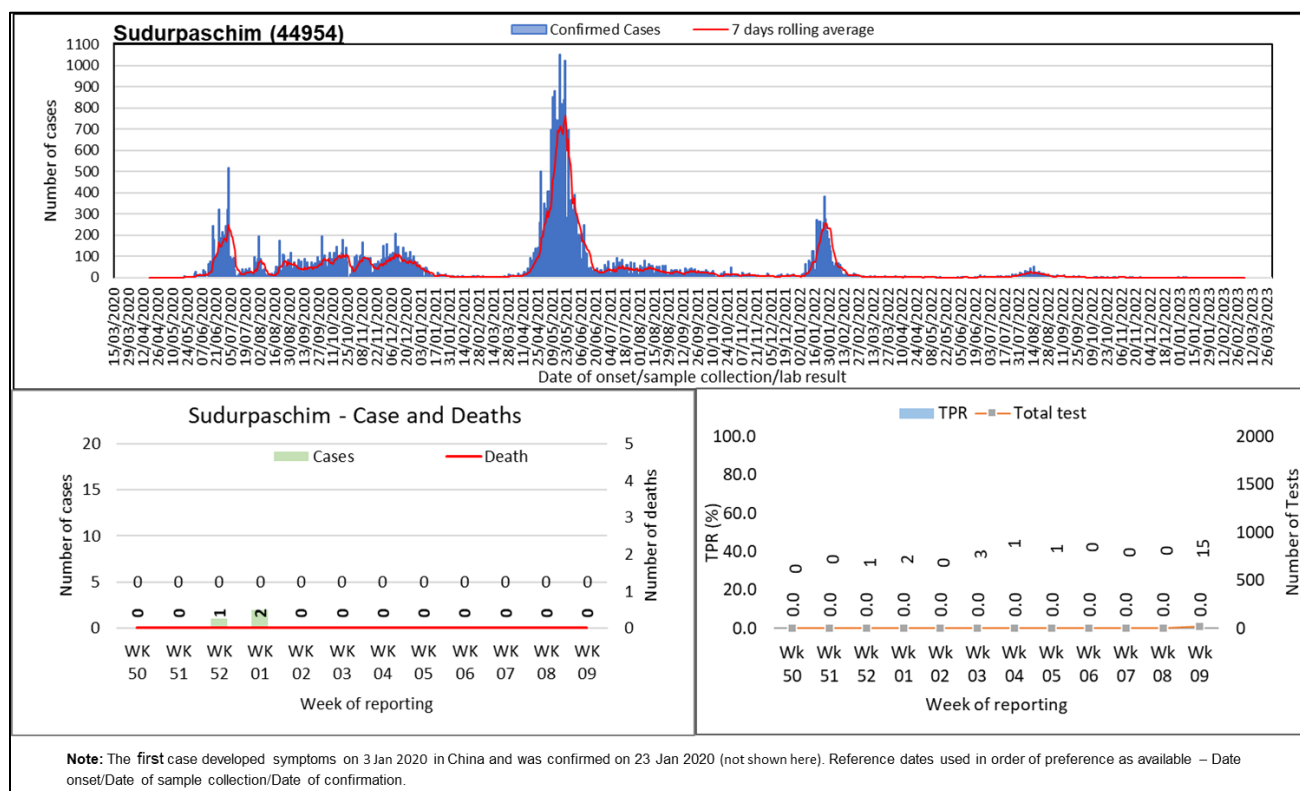
Lumbini Province reported no new case in the past week. Cases have decreased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no test performed reported in the past week.

**Figure 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 6 March 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 6 March 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 was 0.0% in the past week. A total of 15 tests were performed in the past week, compared to none in the previous week.

**Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by Provinces** (Data reported on 6 March 2023 up to 19:00:00)

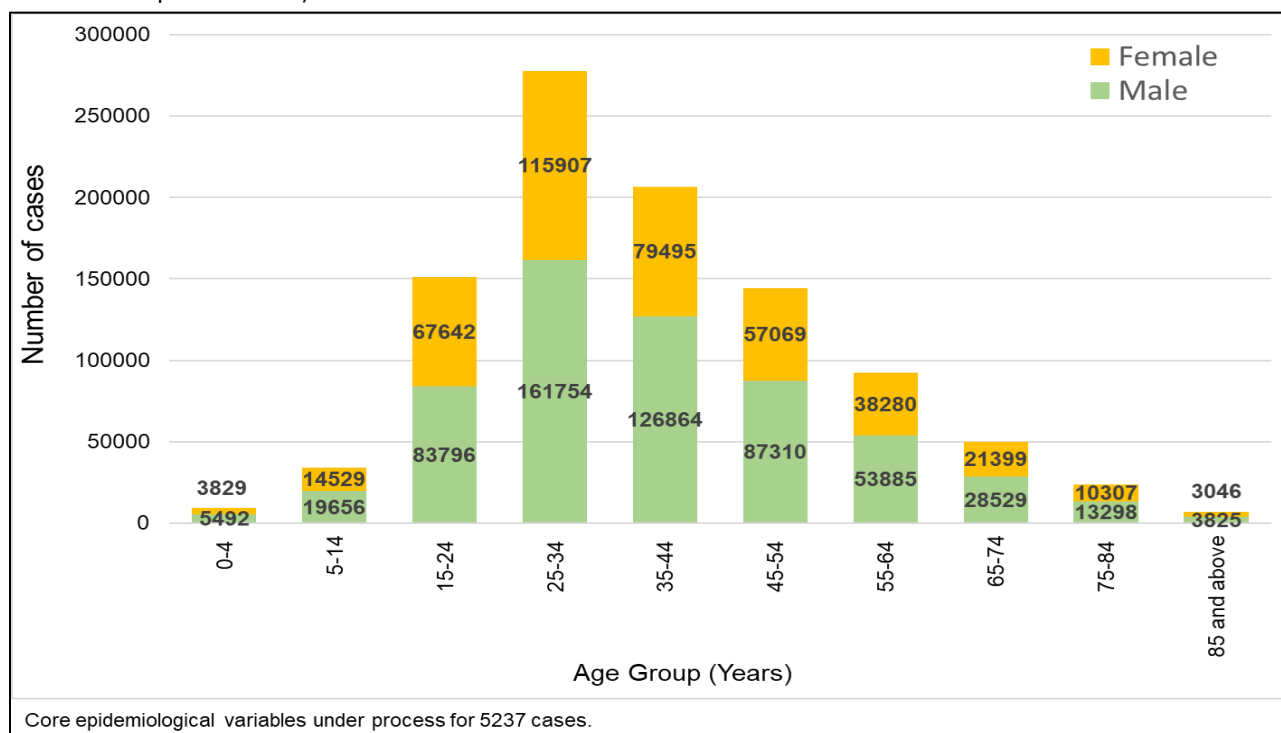
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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
<b>Province 1</b>	129554	30322	159876	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	2	2	12.5	0
<b>Madhesh</b>	53906	1178	55084	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
<b>Bagmati</b>	542833	32780	575613	50.9	5203	Community transmission	0	11	11	68.8	0
<b>Gandaki</b>	95388	24670	120058	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	2	2	12.5	0
<b>Lumbini</b>	110494	28141	138635	12.3	1874	Community transmission	0	1	1	6.3	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>1001149</b>	<b>129558*</b>	<b>1130707</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12020</b>	Community transmission	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 5 March y **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= 995912)**(Data reported on 6 March 2023 up to 19:00:00)



Among RT-PCR positives since 15 March 2021, 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= 1001149)**(Data reported on 6 March 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	151438	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277661	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206359	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144379	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92165	1691	803	783	2.71
65-74	49928	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>1001149</b>	<b>7881</b>	<b>4139</b>	<b>3902</b>	<b>1.20</b>

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 the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in continued routine work along with the following activity:
  - Preparing Standard Operating Procedure for Leptospirosis, Yersinia and Rhinovirus RT-PCR testing.

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

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training.<sup>2</sup>

#### ***Operational Support and Logistics***

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

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

- Episode 93 of *Science in 5 (Hearing Loss)* was published via the following links: Facebook [link](#); Instagram [link](#)
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
  - i. Eyesight care
  - ii. Influenza vaccine
  - iii. Cervical Cancer
  - iv. Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign against lymphatic Filariasis
  - v. Bird flu
  - vi. Ear Health

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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.

<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.

- 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 March 5, 2023, included updates on COVID-19 and measles outbreak, call to action for vaccination of children under the national immunization program, information on Mass Drug administration against Lymphatic Filariasis, and messages about the International Hearing Day and International Women's Day. The weekly media briefing that was broadcasted every Sunday at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television will now be held once in two weeks on Wednesday at 4:15 PM. The national health briefing is also shared on MoHP's official Facebook page.

### **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](#)

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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.

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:gurungt@who.int)