

Situation Update #154 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 20 - 26 March 2023 (Epi Week 12)

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.8% (989,161) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (42) are active cases and 1.19% (12,020) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (41) reported this week, 56.1% (23) are from Kathmandu district. Majority of the new cases 63.4% (26) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur) in Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 21 March 2023)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,586,184	4,837,198
Vero Cell	10,397,940	9,267,475
Janssen	3,545,848	
Pfizer	5,005,052	3,821,920
Moderna	3,228,669	2,830,970

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% (782,947/1,001,223) of RT-PCR confirmed cases were reported from three provinces, namely - Koshi, Bagmati and Lumbini Provinces. The Kathmandu Valley area (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur) in Bagmati Province has substantially high case load with 44.1% of the national total (441,804/1,001,223), and 81.4% of the provincial total (441,804/542,887).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi week 12 ranged from 0.0% (Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki and Lumbini Provinces) to 1.9% (Bagmati Province) with a national positivity rate at 1.8%. Karnali and Sudurpaschim Provinces did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported 128% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=41) in Epi week 12 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 85% of the cases have been reported from Koshi, Lumbini and Bagmati Provinces.
- Nepal did not report any death in Epi week 12, same as in the previous week.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 26 March 2023)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,001,223

Antigen RDT: 152,233

Cumulative deaths: 12,020

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 6,018,500

Antigen RDT: 1,535,906

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

60,794,014 (8%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

804,018 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

761,321,408 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,886,489 (100%)

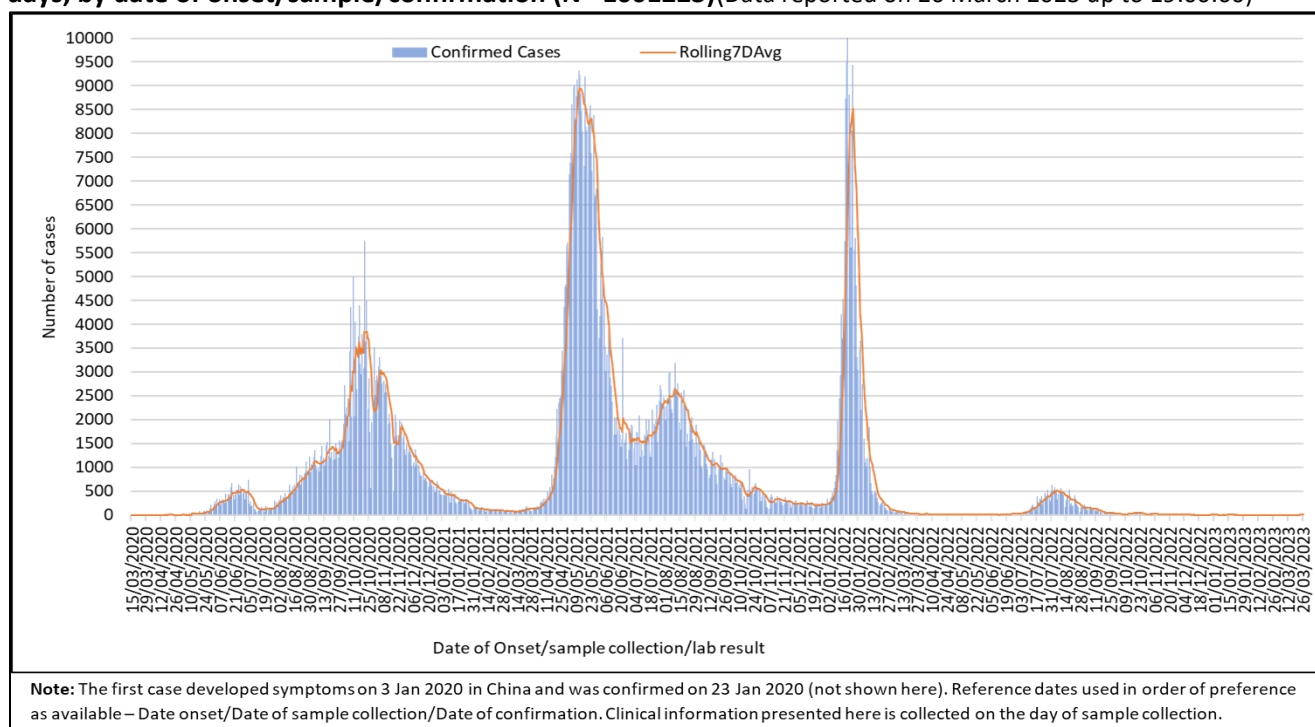
National Influenza Surveillance

- WHO Nepal facilitated National Influenza Center (NIC)-NPHL during participation in workshop on “Development of Zoonotic Influenza Risk Distribution Assessment and Ranking (ZIDAR) model to strengthen the preparedness and response to public health emergencies” which was organized by EDCC on 23-24 March 2023 with the support of WHO Nepal. Representatives from One Health sector participated in the workshop.
- NIC-NPHL reported 19 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi week 12.
 - Two samples tested Influenza A/H3N2 positive, and 2 samples tested Influenza B Victoria positive.
 - One sample tested SARS-CoV-2 positive.
- NIC-NPHL received 5 Influenza samples from sentinel hospitals on Epi week 12.
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza A and B and SARS-CoV-2.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing of 88 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi week 12.
 - Two samples tested Influenza A positive (to be subtyped).
 - None of the samples tested SARS-CoV-2 positive.
 - A total of 1188 samples have been tested by PPHLs from 2 Jan – 24 Mar 2023.
- From 2 January 2023 until 24 March 2023:
 - A total of 318 samples tested positive for Influenza (39 Influenza B, 245 Influenza A/H3N2, 28 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and 6 Influenza A (to be subtyped)) from 2185 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel SARI and ILI samples)
 - Similarly, 13 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from dual testing of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 among 2017 samples received from sentinel sites and non-sentinel SARI and ILI 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/>

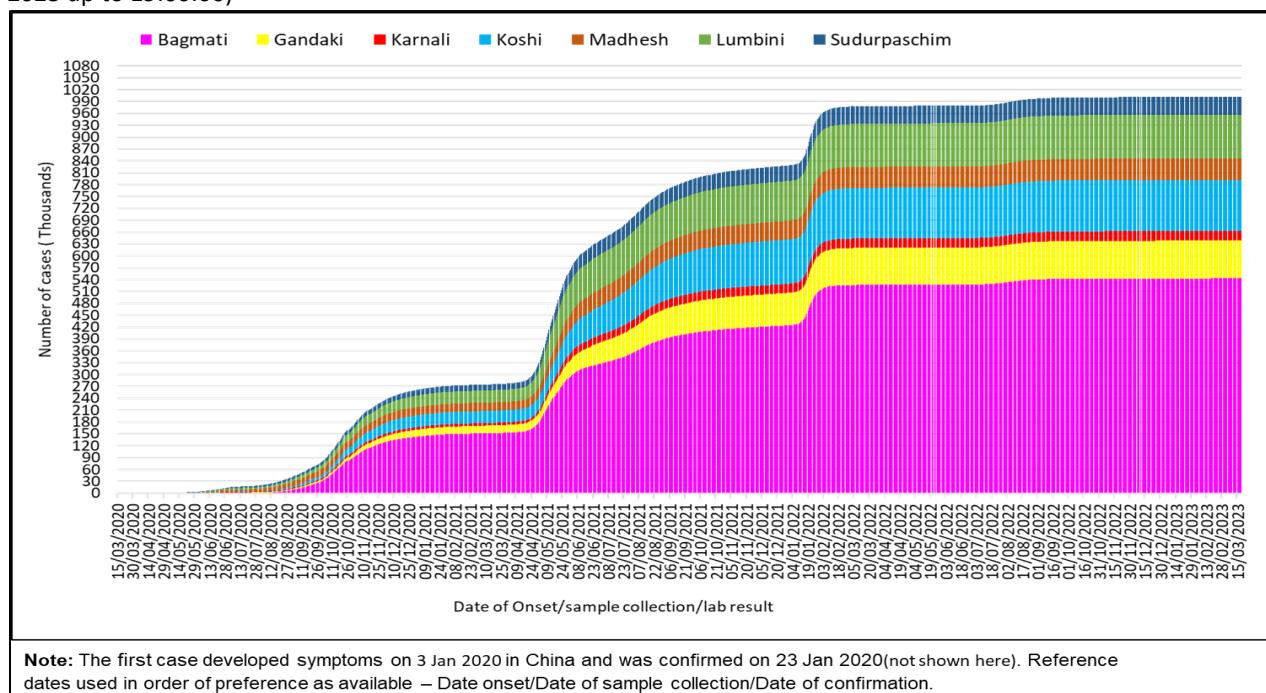
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 1001223)(Data reported on 26 March 2023 up to 19:00:00)



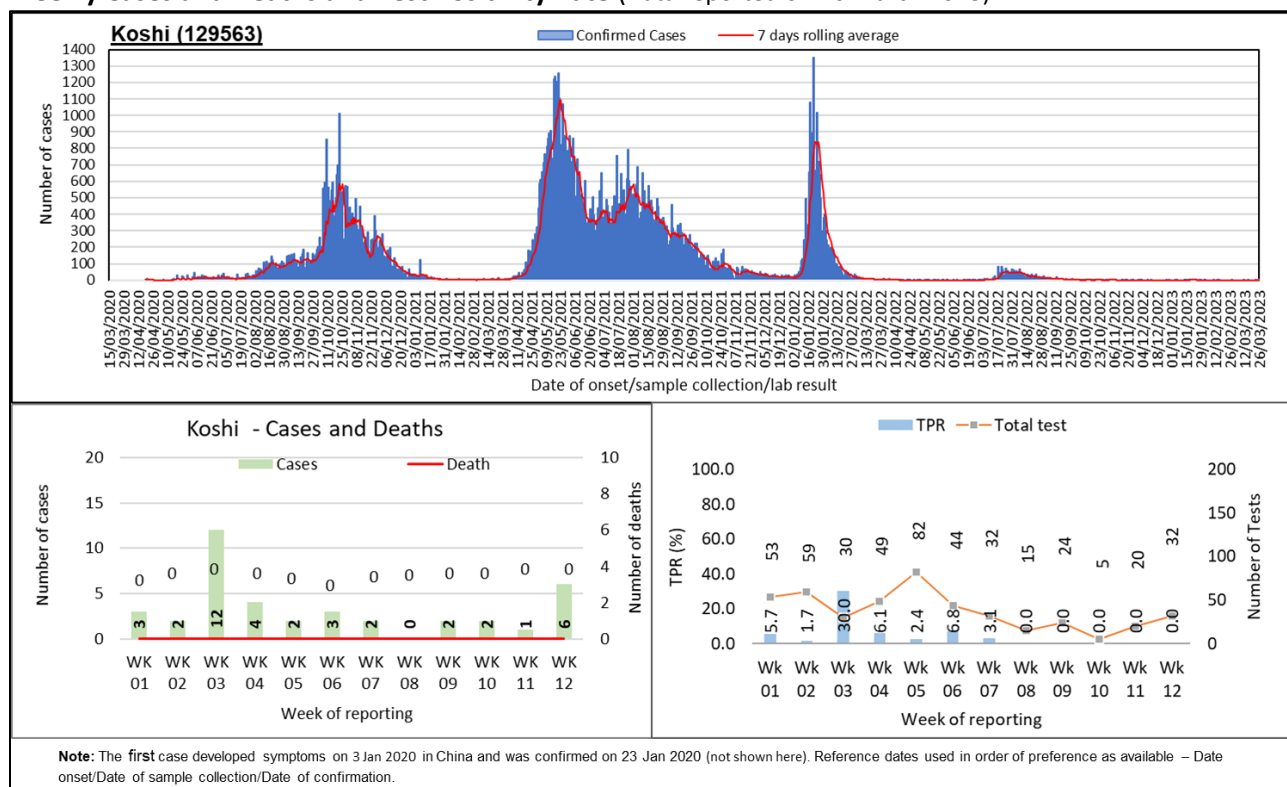
At the national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since mid- December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end of January 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= 1001223)(Data reported on 26 March 2023 up to 19:00:00)



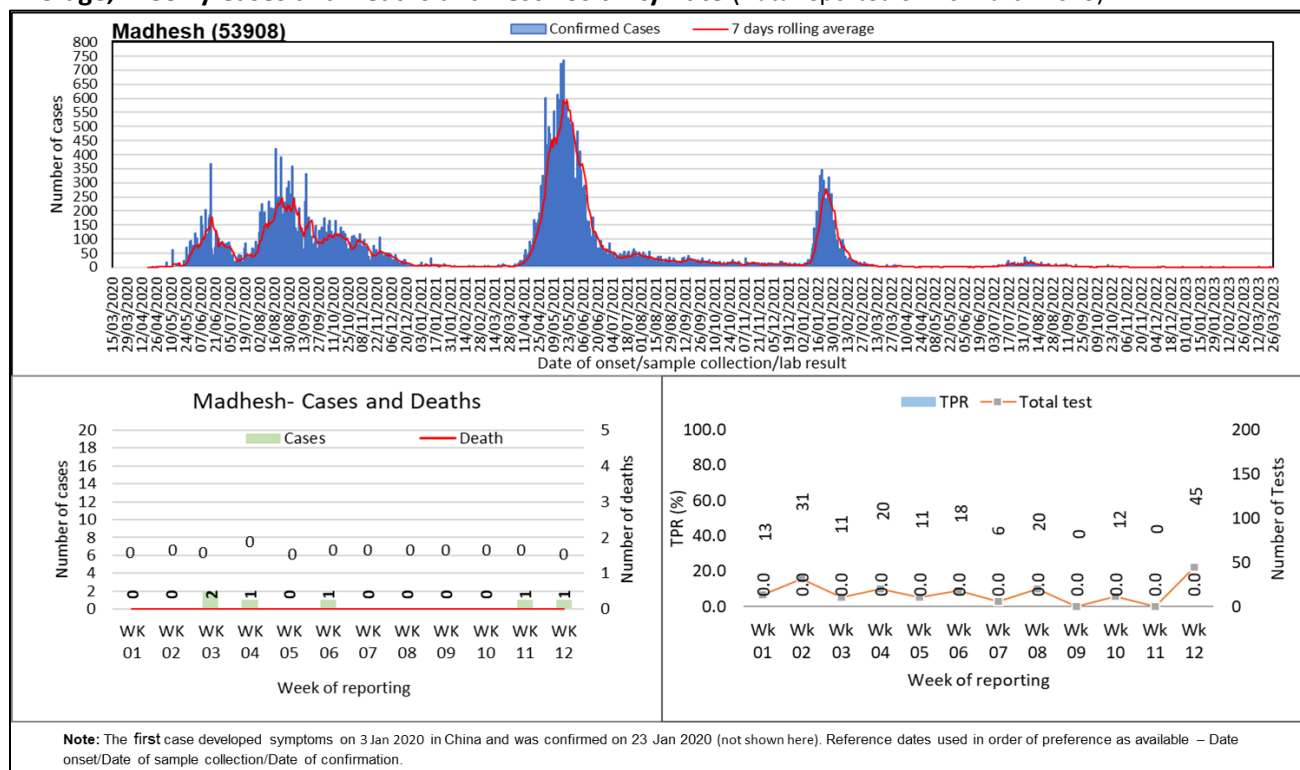
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Koshi Province and Lumbini Province.

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 March 2023)



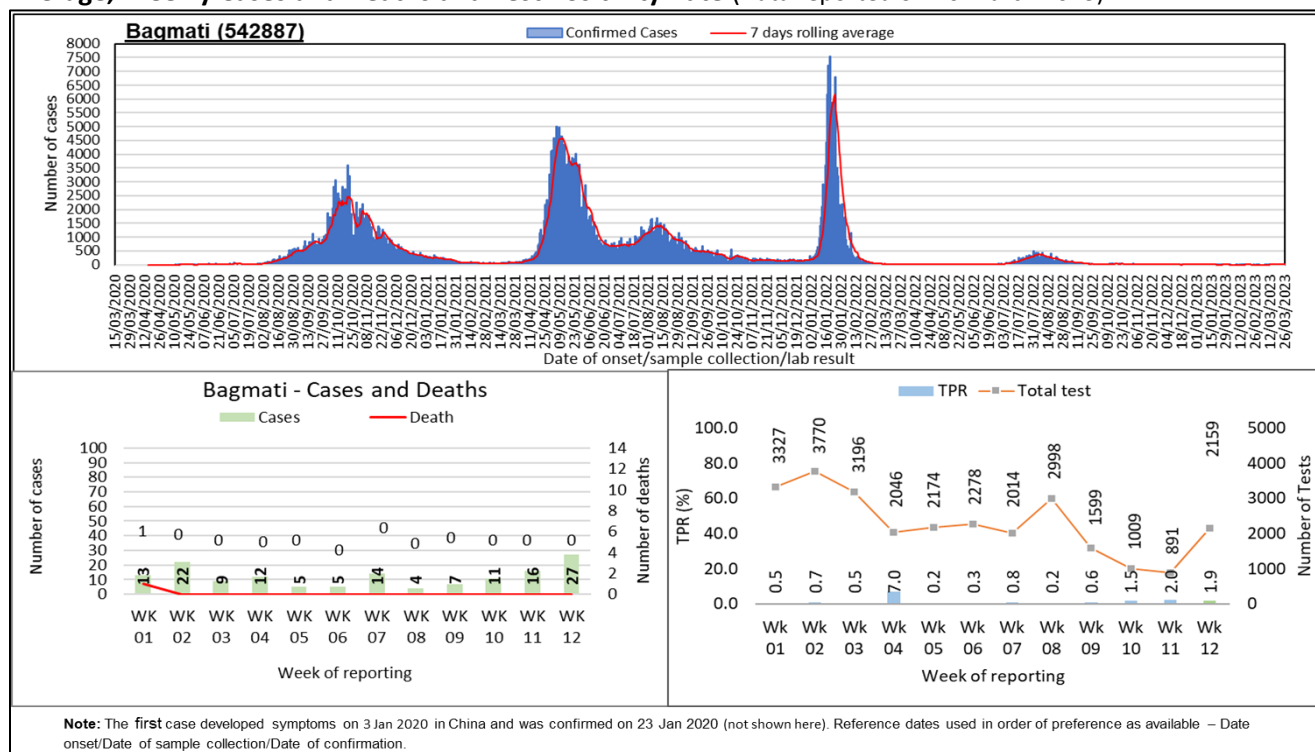
There were 6 new cases reported in the past week in Koshi province. Cases have increased by 500% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Koshi province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 32 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 26 March 2023)



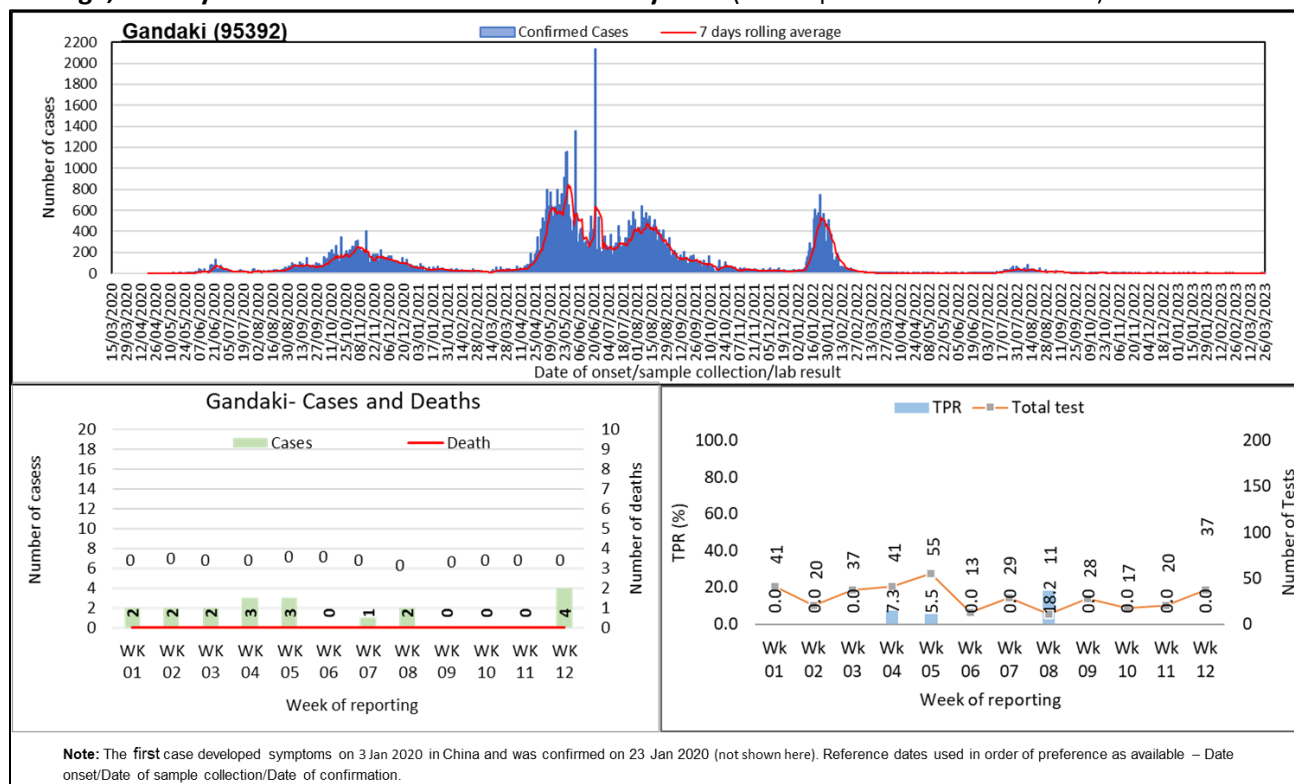
There was 1 new case reported in the past week in Madhesh province, same as in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh province was 0.0% in the past week. A total of 45 tests were performed in the past week, compared to none 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 March 2023)



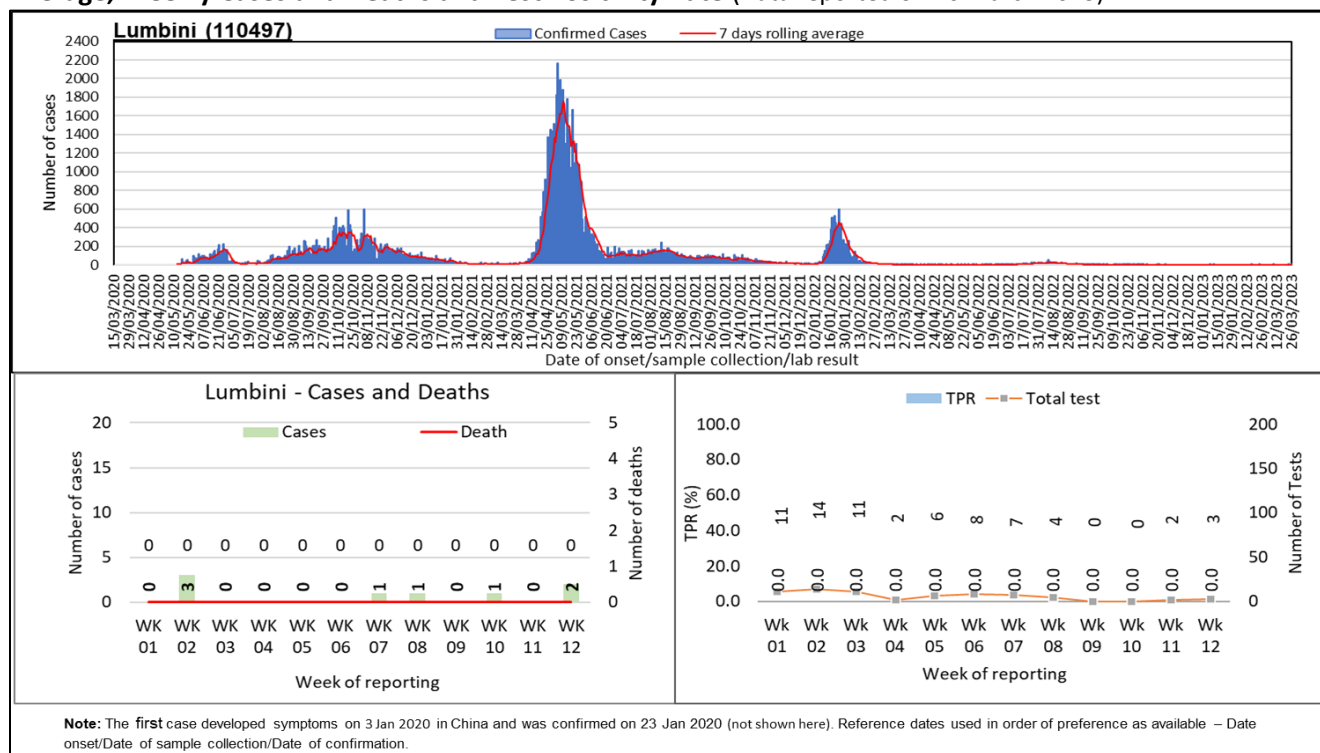
In Bagmati Province, 27 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 69% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province decreased to 1.9% in the past week. A total of 2159 tests were performed in the past week, 142% 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 March 2023)



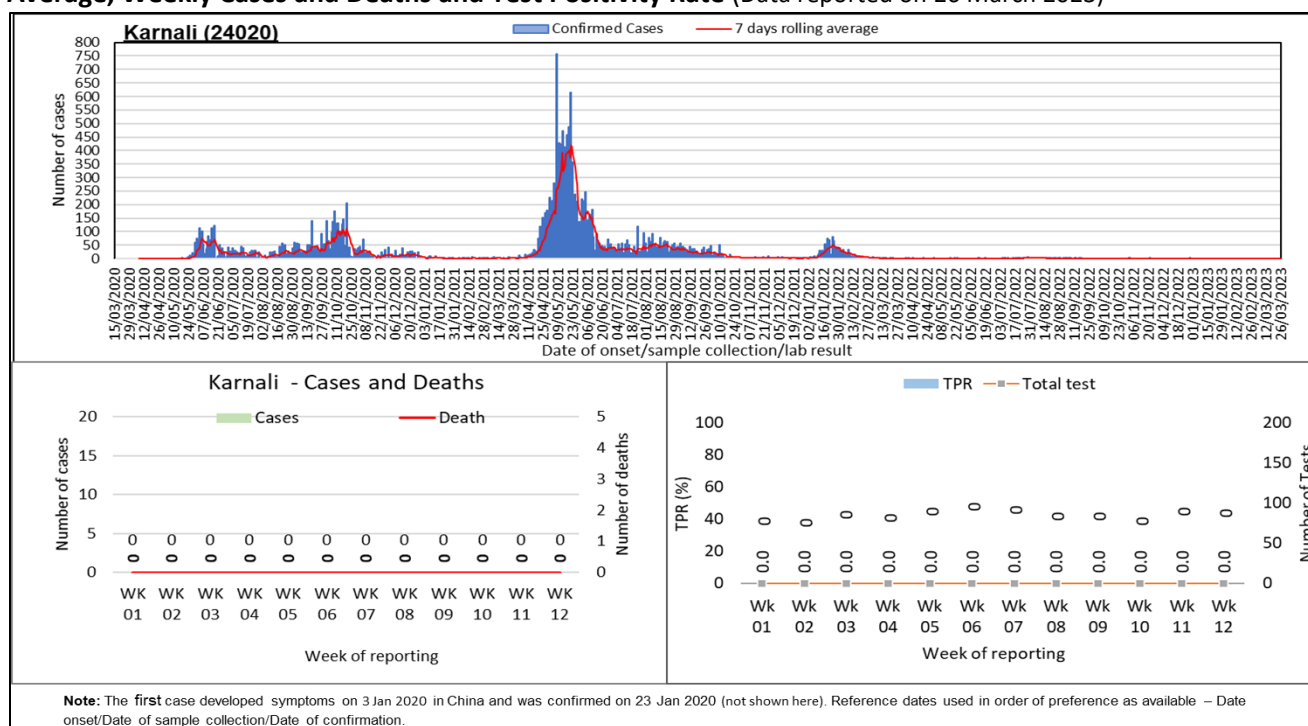
In Gandaki Province, 4 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 37 tests were performed in the past week, 85% 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 26 March 2023)



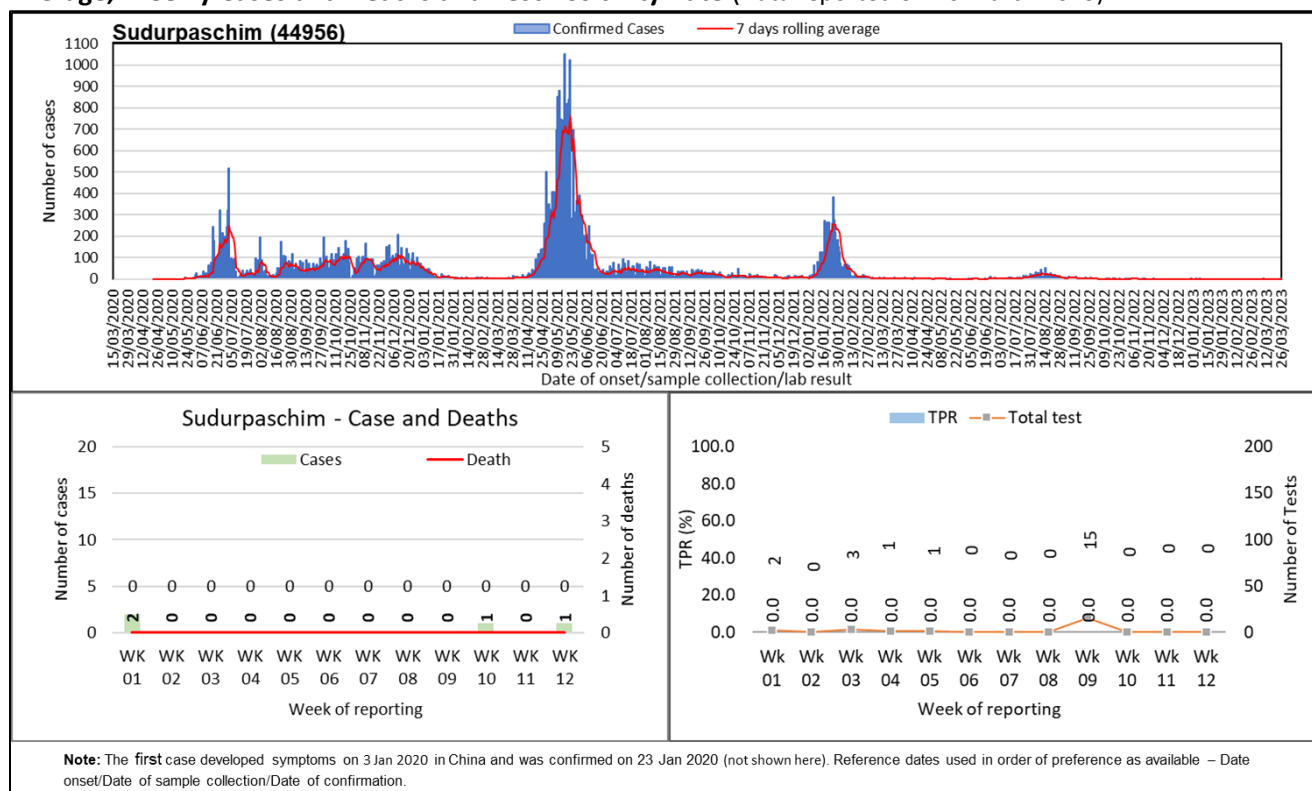
Lumbini Province reported 2 new cases in the past week. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province retained at 0.0% in the past week. A total of 3 tests were performed in the past week, 50% more compared to 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 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 26 March 2023)



In Sudurpaschim 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, 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 March 2023 up to 19:00:00)

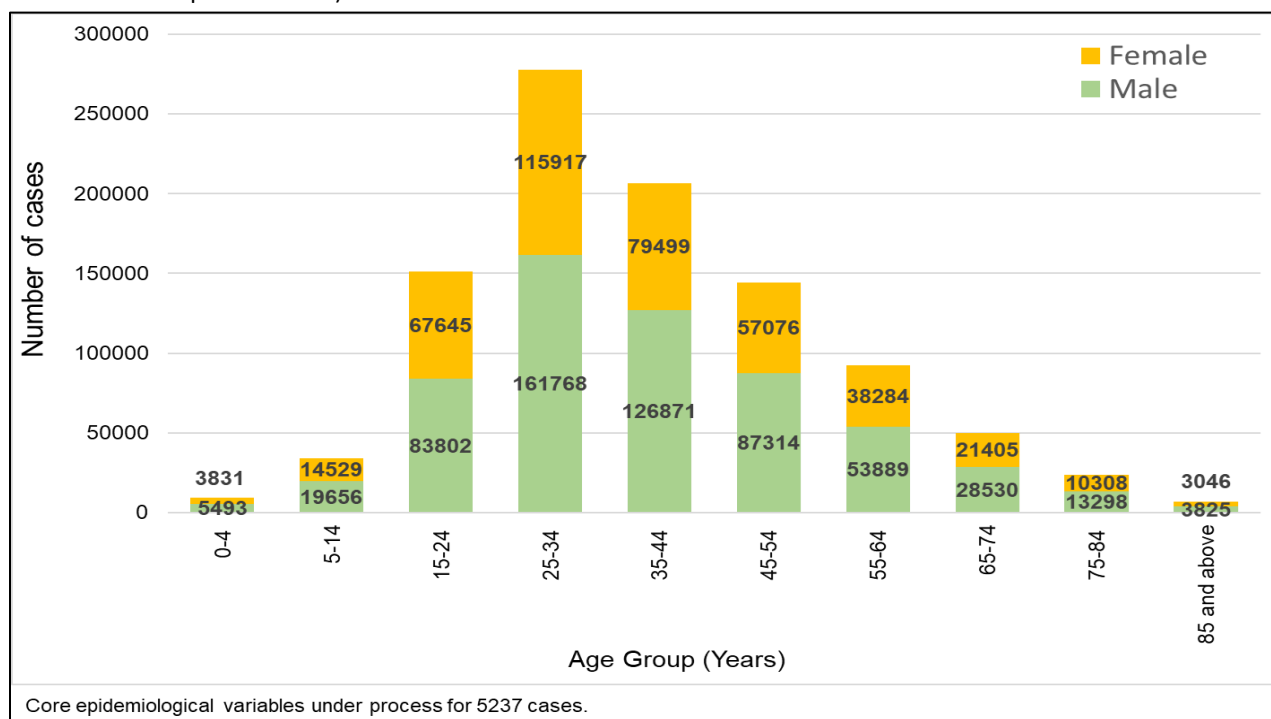
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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
Province 1	129563	30322	159885	14.1	1722	Community transmission	0	7	7	11.9	0
Madhesh	53908	1178	55086	4.9	783	Community transmission	0	2	2	3.4	0
Bagmati	542887	32780	575667	50.9	5203	Community transmission	0	43	43	72.9	0
Gandaki	95392	24670	120062	10.6	1428	Community transmission	0	4	4	6.8	0
Lumbini	110497	28141	138638	12.3	1874	Community transmission	0	2	2	3.4	0
Karnali	24020	6325	30345	2.7	492	Community transmission	0	0	0	0.0	0
Sudurpashchim	44956	6142	51098	4.5	518	Community transmission	0	1	1	1.7	0
National Total	1001223	129558*	1130781	100	12020	Community transmission	0	59	59	100	0

**Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 26 March 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= 995986)(Data reported on 26 March 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= 1001223)(Data reported on 26 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	9324	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34185	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151447	92	96	70	0.12
25-34	277685	387	265	151	0.23
35-44	206370	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144390	1396	645	574	1.41
55-64	92173	1691	803	783	2.71
65-74	49935	1640	893	957	5.07
75-84	23606	1228	659	773	7.99
85+	6871	524	289	279	11.83
Unknown	5237	19	7	11	0.5
National	1001223	7881	4139	3902	1.20

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.
- WHO Nepal also provided technical and financial support to NPHL in conducting the 'Biosafety and Risk Assessment Refresher and Practical Training of Trainers (ToT)' in collaboration with WHO SEARO and experts from Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) from 20-24 March 2023.

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training.²

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics.³

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- On the occasion of *World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2023*, a video message by WHO Representative to Nepal was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)), Instagram (link [here](#)), and YouTube (link [here](#)). The video highlighted the progress made to lessen the TB burden, and risks put by the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflicts, and socioeconomic crises.
- A video on the Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) Treatment Facility was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and YouTube (link [here](#)). Located at the Armed Police Force Hospital, the facility is the first of its kind in the WHO South-East Asia Region, built to respond to mild, moderate, severe, and critical cases of infectious respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. The facility, spread across 7, 600 sq. meters, was handed over to the MoHP by WHO, Country Office for Nepal, and World Food Programme Nepal.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:

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.

- I. Physical activity and COVID-19,
 - II. Harmful use of alcohol and COVID-19,
 - III. Smoking and COVID-19
 - IV. 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](#)).

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation⁴
- 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](#)

⁴ 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.

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