

Situation Update #32 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Wednesday 25 November 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hotspots of cases are continuing in the Kathmandu Metropolitan Area, with additional cases found throughout wards and palikas of Kathmandu valley which accounted for about 43% of cases this week.
- There are about 5 districts with more than 500 active cases- Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kaski and Rupandehi.
- Presently 11,341 (63.5%) active cases are in home isolation.
- Among critical case patients nationally, 393 patients are in intensive care (ICU) with 57 on ventilator support. On an average, about 16 deaths per day were recorded last week.
- With the addition of a new testing site this week, the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) has approved the establishment of 77 RT-PCR testing facilities. Among these facilities, approximately 40% are from the private sector. On average 10,000 tests are conducted nationally every day.

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 25 November 2020, T07:00:00 hours (Week no. 48), a total 2,24,077 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the country through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing. All 7 provinces and 77 districts have reported one or more cases since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in Nepal.
- In the last 14 days(as of 25 November, 2020), 24,318 cases were reported which constitutes 10.9% of total confirmed cases. Out of 77 districts, only two districts, Manang (Gandaki Province) and Mugu (Karnali Province) did not report any cases in the last 14 days.
- All 7 provinces in the country presently have transmission through clustering of cases.
- After a dip in cases during the festive season between week 44 (25-31 October) and week 47 (15-21 November), a rise in new cases has been observed over the past week.
- A total of 77.4% (1,73,357/2,24,077) of cases were reported from three provinces, namely- Province 1, Bagmati Province and Lumbini Province. The Kathmandu valley area (Kathmandu,

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 25 November 2020, 07:00:00 hours)

2,24,077 confirmed cases

1361 deaths

16,81,299 RT-PCR tests (As of 24 November 2020)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 10am CEST 25 November 2020)

1,03,67,553 confirmed cases

1,58,566 deaths

GLOBAL

(Data as of 10am CEST 25 November 2020)

Bhaktapur, Lalitpur) in Bagmati Province has substantially high case load with 46.7% of the national total (1,04,679/2,24,077), and 85.1% of the provincial total (1,04,679/1,22,939).

- Overall, the gender distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 65.8% (1,47,524/2,24,077) of the confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 82.6% (1,21,811/1,47,524) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).
- However, this skewness is changing in some of the provinces, especially in Bagmati Province where a relatively high proportion of females are infected (39.1% of total cases in the province).
- As of **25 November 2020, 07:00:00 hours**, a total 1361 deaths have been reported. Out of 1361 deaths, 945 (69.4%) were males and 416 (30.6%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 895 persons (65.8%) had at least one known co-morbidity. All deaths occurred in the country between weeks 20 and 48. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1 per cent. It progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 3.7% to 8.5%.
- No samples were received by **National Influenza Surveillance Center in National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL)** for Influenza testing in EPID-week 47 (16 - 22 Nov 2020). From January until 22 Nov 2020, a total of 807 samples have been tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Only 20 samples have so far tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (all positive cases are included in COVID-19 database) till date. ILI/SARI data and Influenza laboratory results are regularly updated in WHO FLUID and FLUNET.

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 22 November 2020 from #Global Weekly Epidemiological Update15) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)

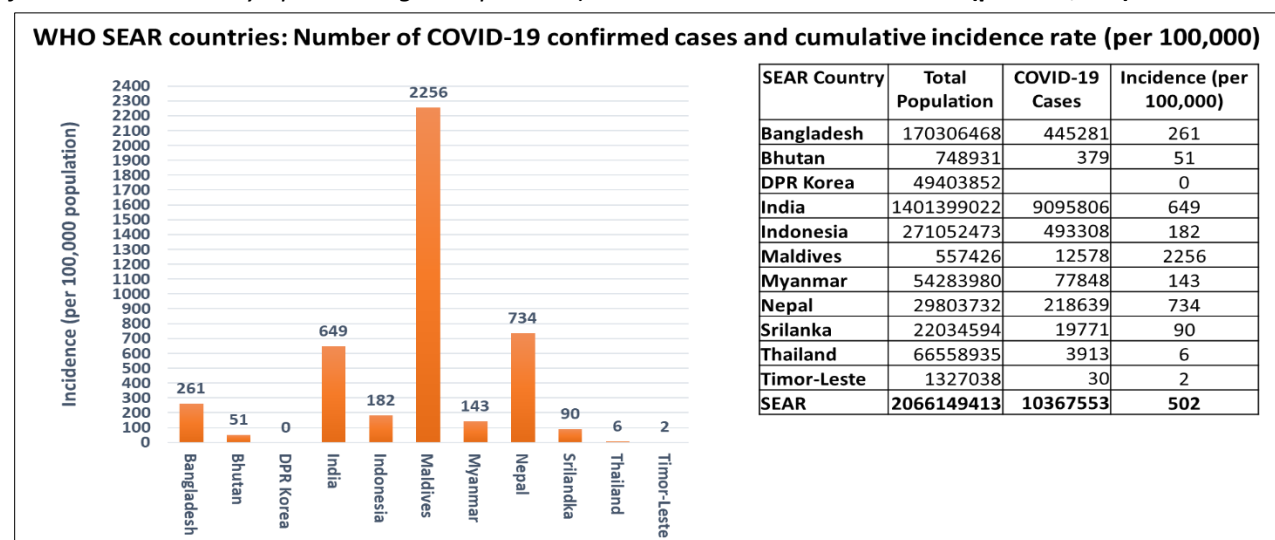


Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 224077) (Data updated on 25 November 2020 T07:00:00)

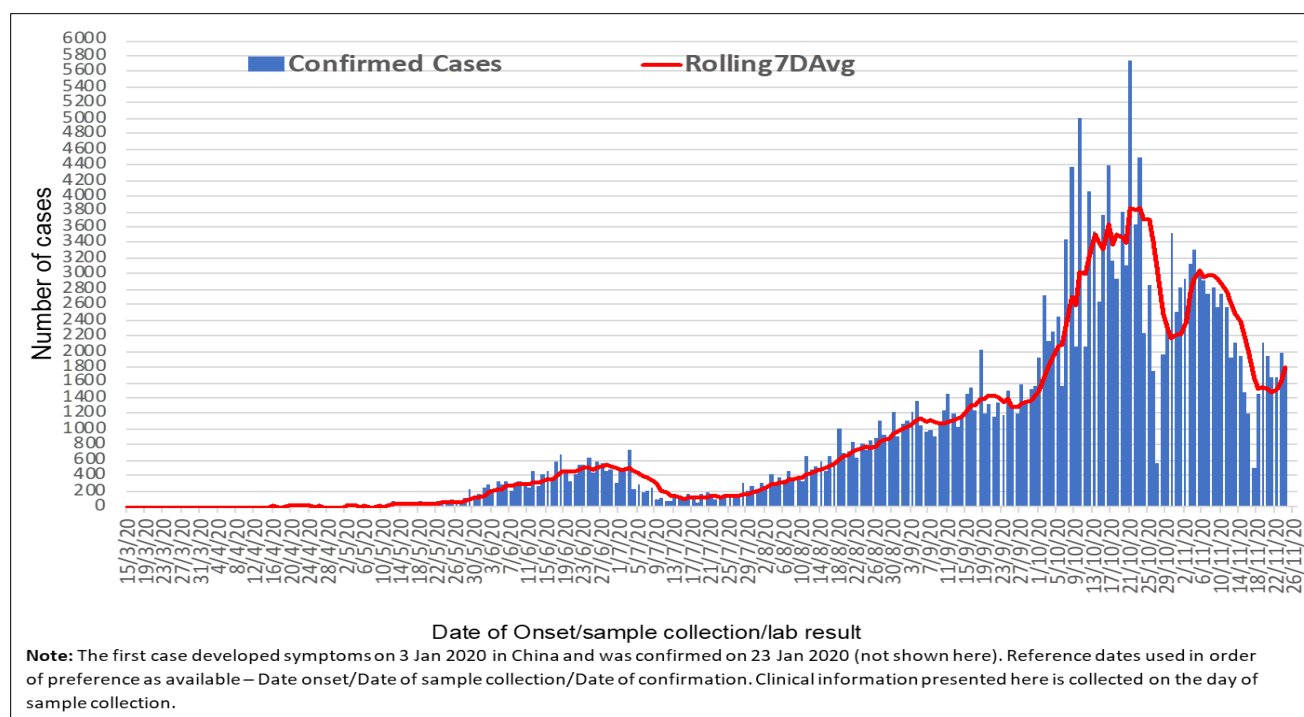
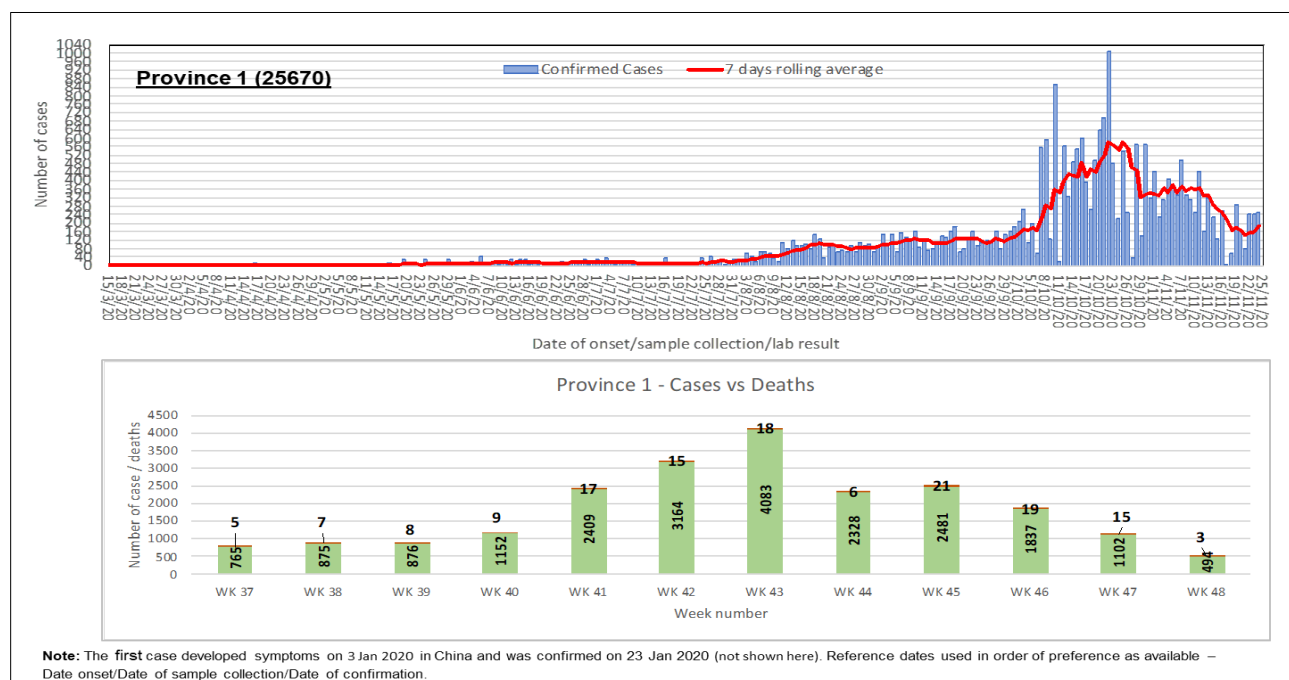
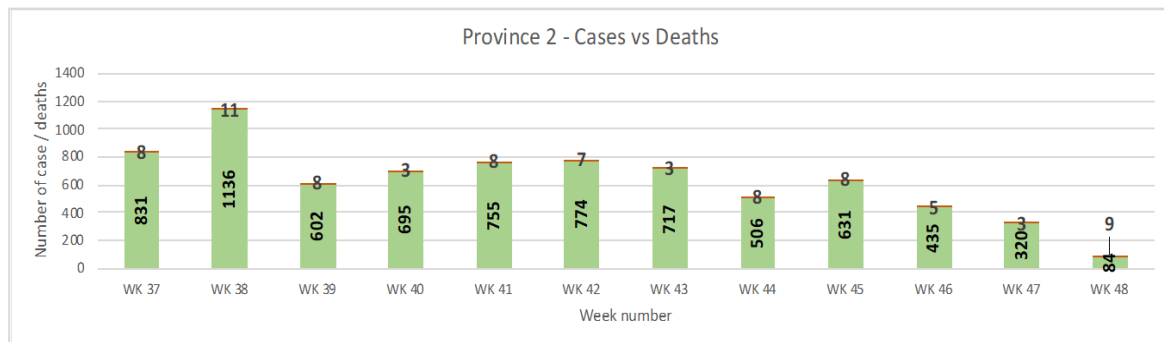
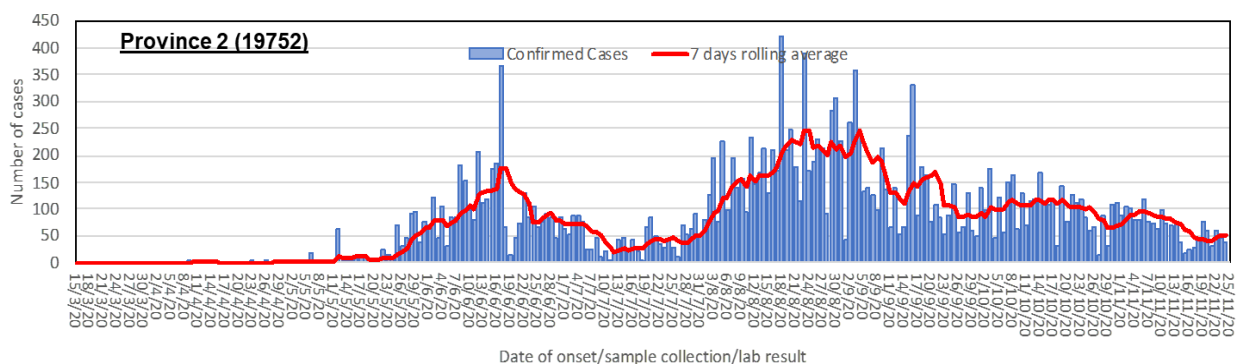


Figure 2B: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases and a 7-day rolling average of cases by date of onset/sample/confirmation by Provinces (N = 224077) (Data updated on 25 November 2020 T07:00:00)

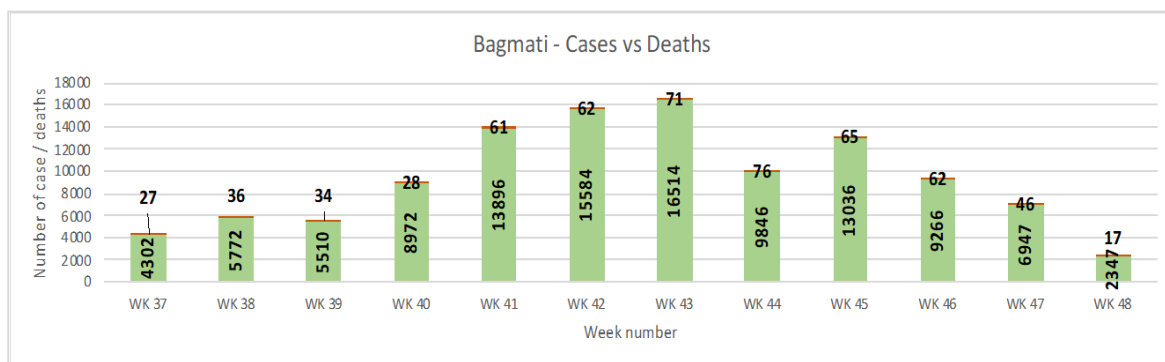
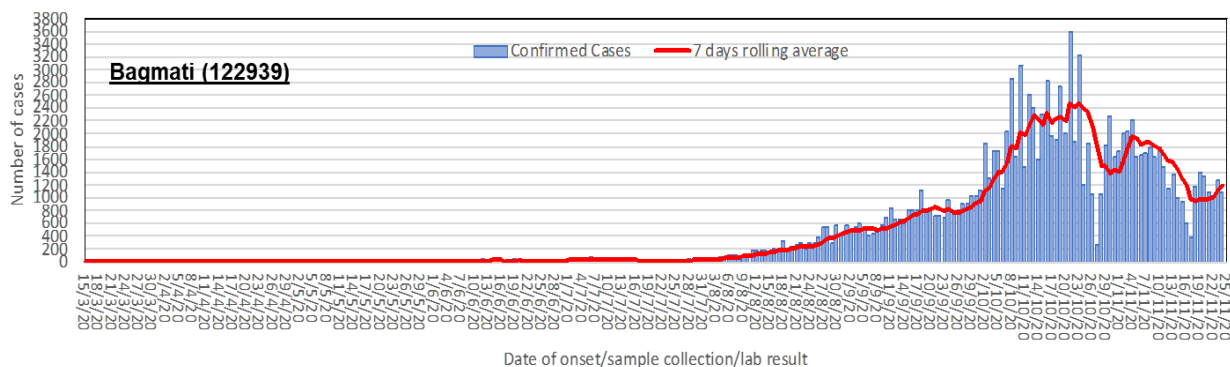
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2 B):

- Y-axis scale varies between Provinces.

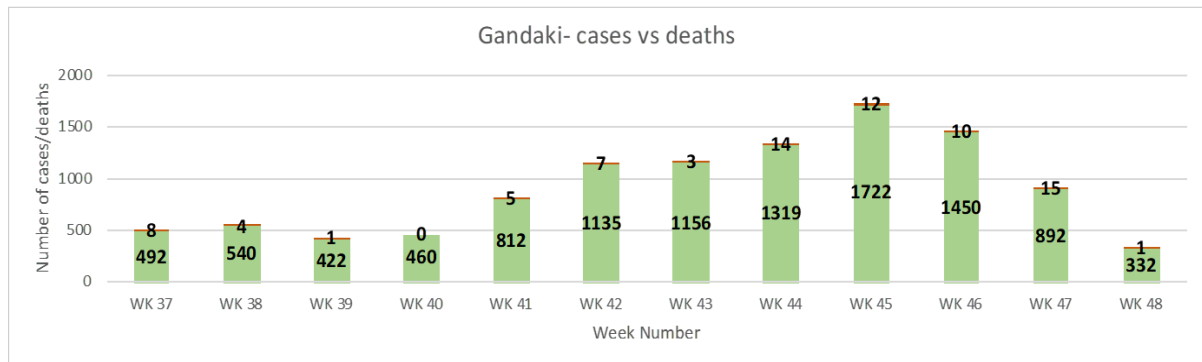
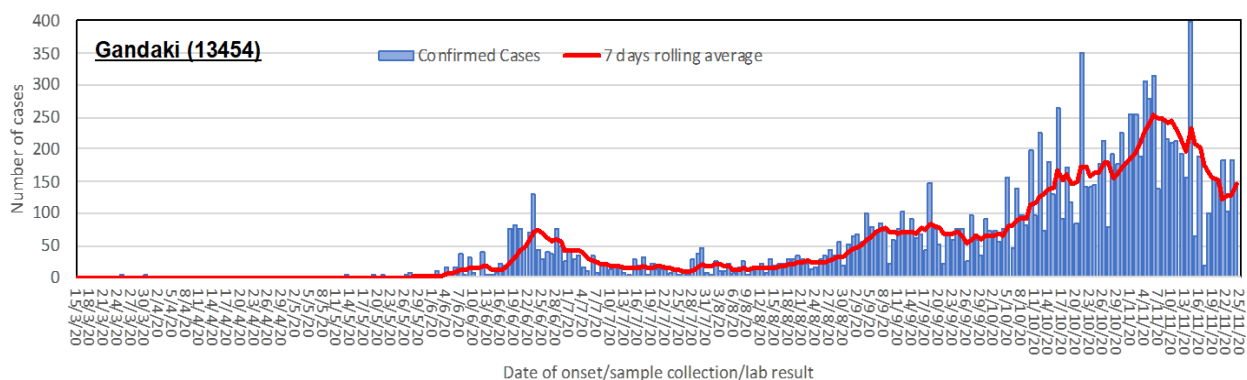




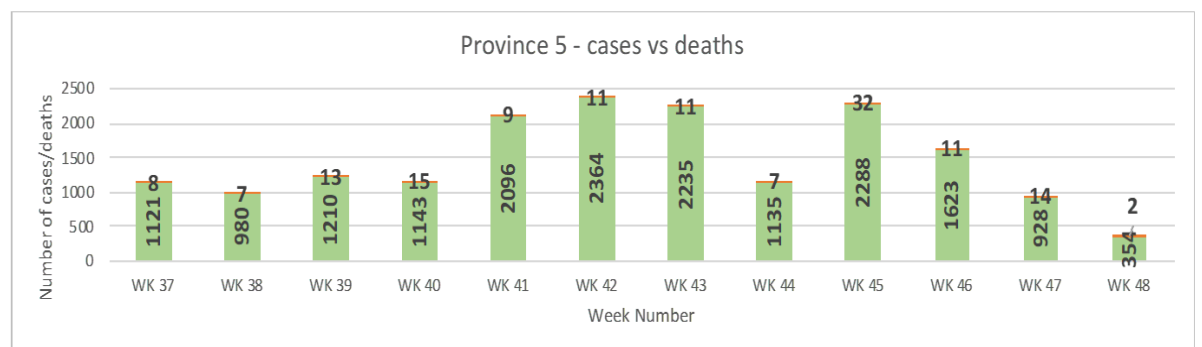
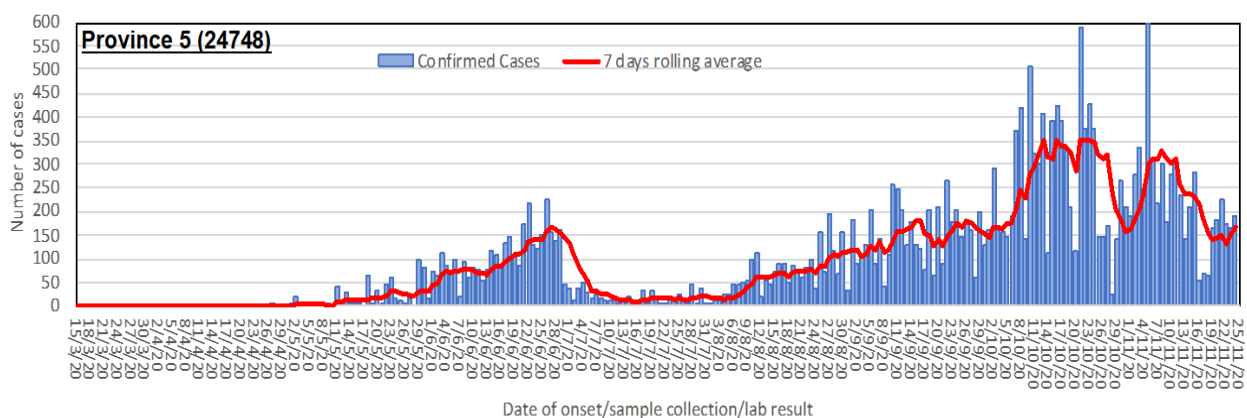
Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020(not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.



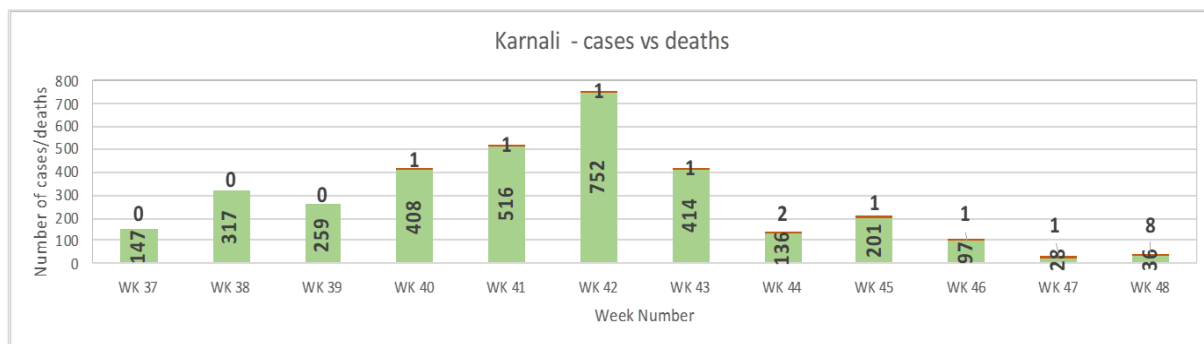
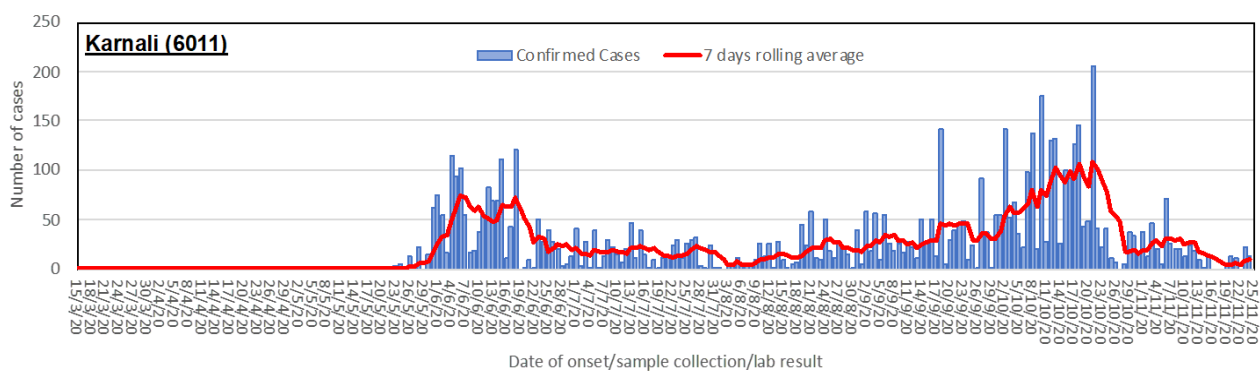
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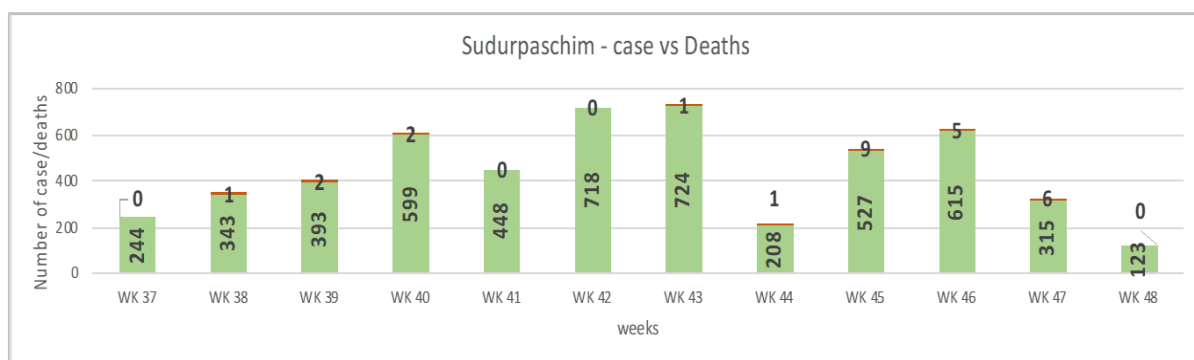
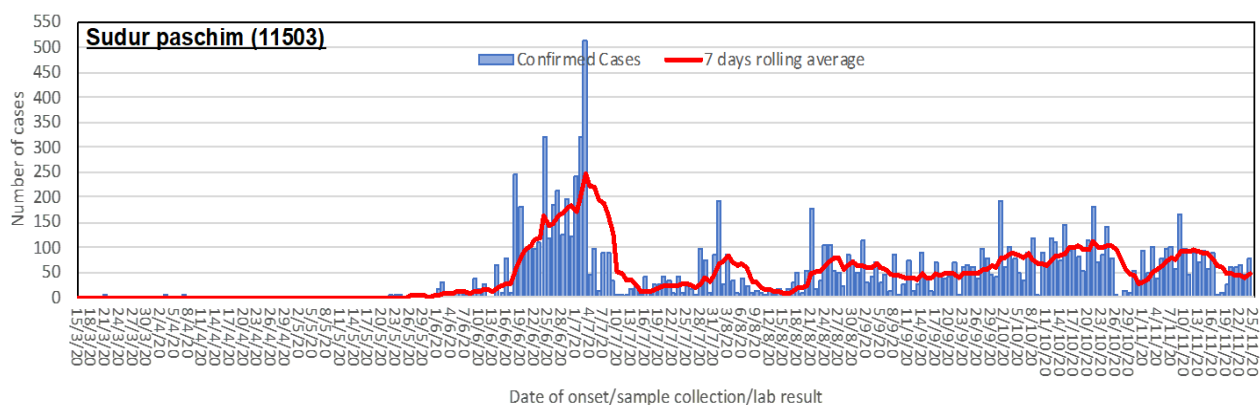
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Figure 2C: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 224077) (Data updated on 25 November 2020 T07:00:00)

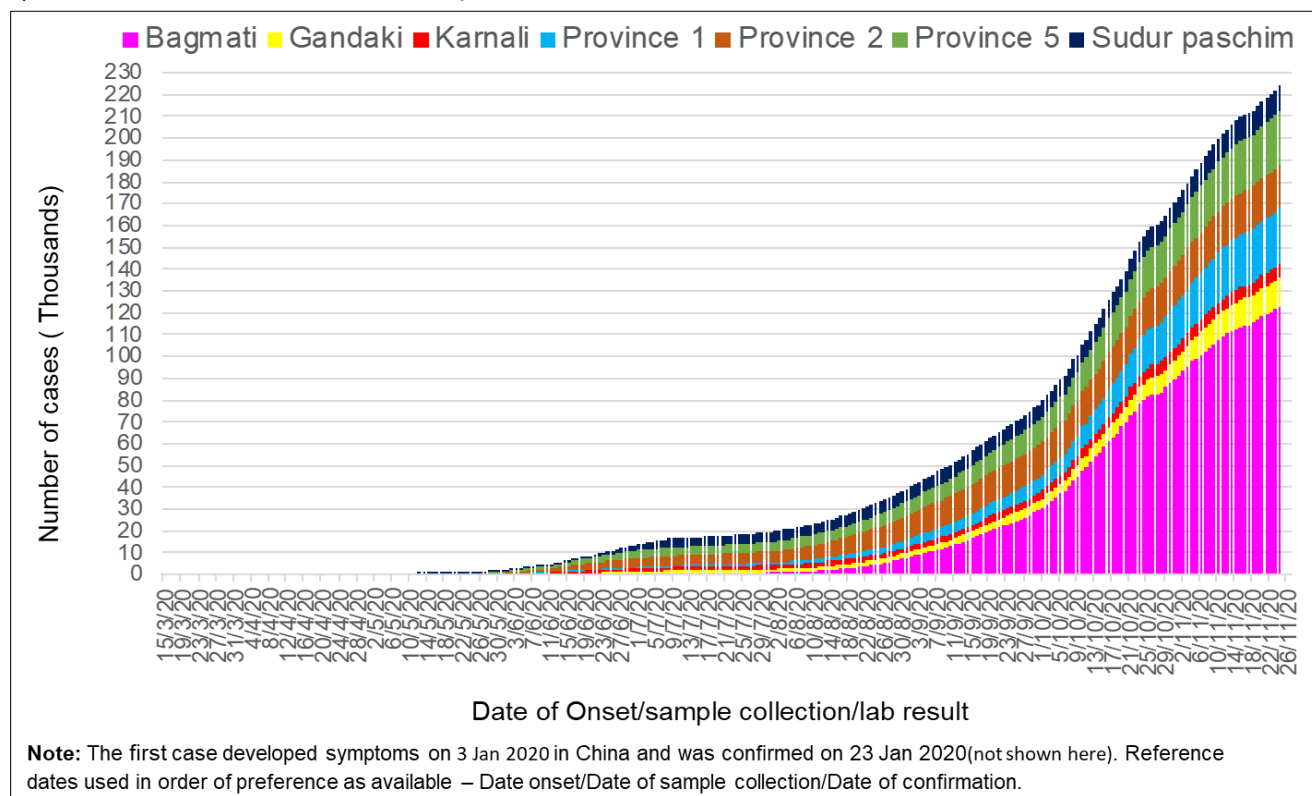


Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 224077) (Data updated on 25 November 2020 T07:00:00)

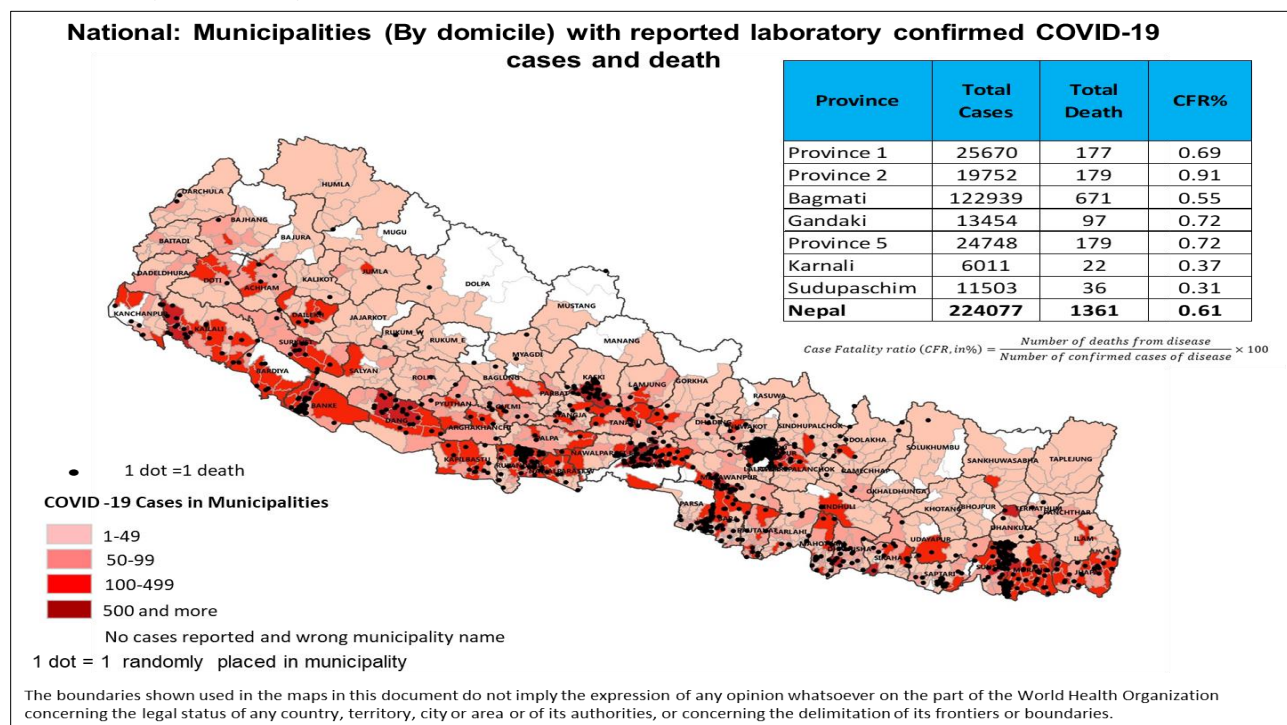


Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.
(N = 224077) (Data updated on 25 November 2020 T07:00:00)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of the total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification as per MoHP*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days	Total deaths in last 14 days
Province 1	25670	11.5	177	Cluster of cases	2871	26
Province 2	19752	8.8	179	Cluster of cases	678	15
Bagmati	122939	54.9	671	Cluster of cases	15152	106
Gandaki	13454	6.0	97	Cluster of cases	2249	24
Province 5	24748	11.0	179	Cluster of cases	2450	22
Karnali	6011	2.7	22	Cluster of cases	128	10
Sudurpaschhim	11503	5.1	36	Cluster of cases	790	10
National Total	224077	100	1361	Cluster of cases	24318	213

- Date of last case is the date of onset or date of sample collection or date of lab report based on information available.

*Revised [WHO transmission classification](#)

Category name	Definition : Countries/territories/areas with:
No (active) cases	No new cases detected for at least 28 days (two times the maximum incubation period), in the presence of a robust (where COVID-19 surveillance is not robust, a lack of identified cases should not be interpreted as an absence of transmission) surveillance system. This implies a near-zero risk of infection for the general population.
Imported / Sporadic cases	Cases detected in the past 14 days are all imported, sporadic (e.g. laboratory acquired or zoonotic) or are all linked to imported/sporadic cases, and there are no clear signals of further locally acquired transmission. This implies minimal risk of infection for the general population.
Clusters of cases	Cases detected in the past 14 days are predominantly limited to well- defined clusters that are not directly linked to imported cases, but which are all linked by time, geographic location and common exposures. It is assumed that there are a number of unidentified cases in the area. This implies a low risk of infection to others in the wider community if exposure to these clusters is avoided.
Community transmission – level 1 (CT1)	Low incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases detected in the past 14 days, with many of the cases not linked to specific clusters; transmission may be focused in certain population sub-groups. Low risk of infection for the general population.
Community transmission – level 2 (CT2)	Moderate incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases detected in the past 14 days; transmission less focused in certain population sub- groups. Moderate risk of infection for the general population.
Community transmission – level 3 (CT3)	High incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases in the past 14 days; transmission widespread and not focused in population sub-groups. High risk of infection for the general population.
Community transmission – level 4 (CT4)	Very high incidence of locally acquired, widely dispersed cases in the past 14 days. Very high risk of infection for the general population.

Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 222249) (Data updated on 25 November 2020 T07:00:00)

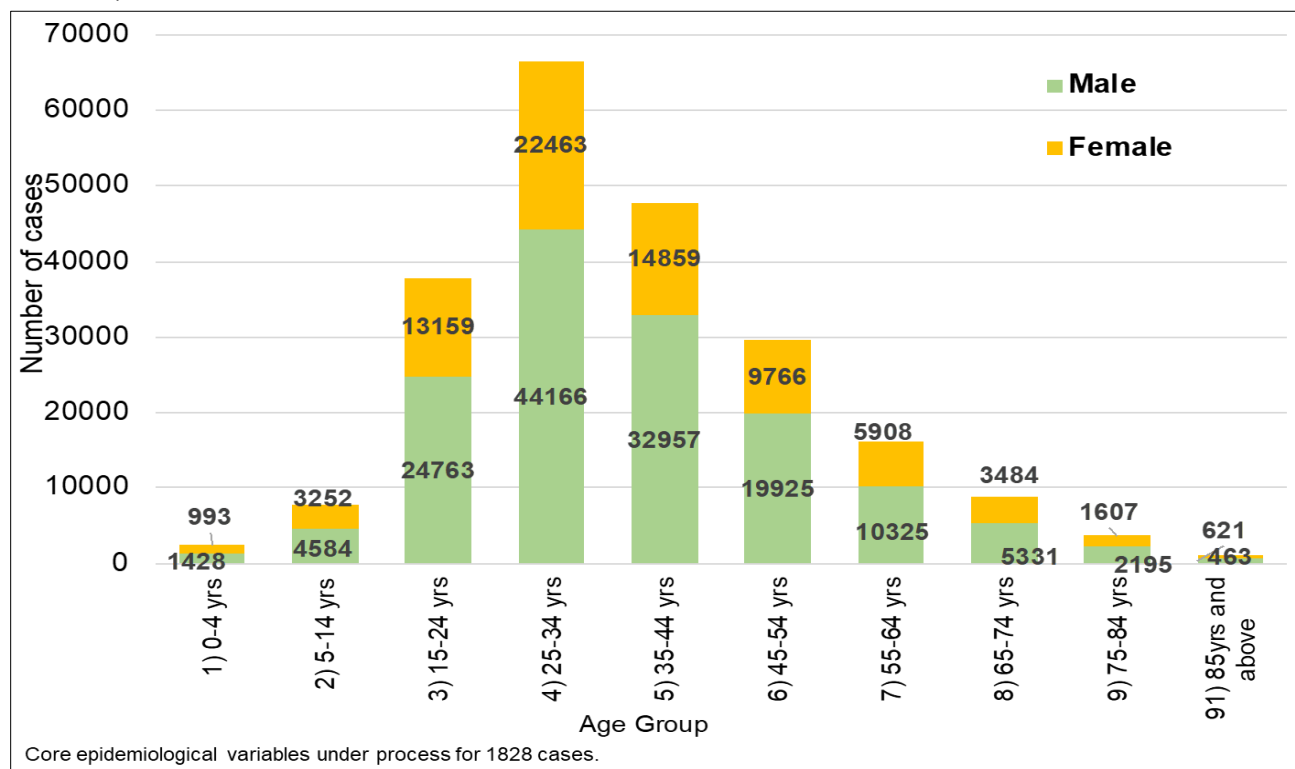


Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 224077) (Data updated on 25 November 2020 T07:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	2421	2	4	2	0.25
5-14 yrs	7836	3	2	5	0.06
15-24 yrs	37922	17	22	26	0.1
25-34 yrs	66629	47	24	36	0.11
35-44 yrs	47816	83	42	61	0.26
45-54 yrs	29691	140	50	110	0.64
55-64 yrs	16233	194	74	184	1.65
65-74 yrs	8815	230	98	240	3.72
75-84 yrs	3802	158	77	170	6.18
85+ yrs	1084	69	23	60	8.49
Unknown	1828	2	0	1	0.11
National	224077	945	416	895	0.61

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

COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

What are the Government of Nepal (GoN) & the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) doing?

- The following guidelines have been issued from the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and published in the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) website:
 - [Home Isolation Kit guidelines](#). This guideline was prepared to support patients in home isolation in ensuring monitoring of their vitals and to seek immediate care when needed to reduce severity of the illness. The guideline has been shared with partners to enable their support in procurement and distribution of the home isolation kits.
 - [Tole Facilitators Team Guidelines](#). This guideline was prepared to activate community level groups (at tole – sub division of the municipal ward) to monitor and support cases in home isolation and contacts in home / community quarantine. It has been shared with Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) for wider circulation to all local governments.
- MoHP is developing an active surveillance strategy to identify cases in hotspot areas to break the chain of transmission. The objective in development of the strategy is for utilization of the antigen based RDTs with a clear methodology to yield quality results in terms of capturing a significant number of positive cases.
- A total of **16,81,299** RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by 77 designated COVID-19 labs throughout the nation (as of 24th Nov 2020). The latest addition to the designated COVID-19 labs this week is Kantipur Dental College Teaching Hospital and Research Center, Kathmandu.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

- WHO Nepal has provided technical assistance through the support of WHO consultants for the following:
 - validation of a newly established designated COVID-19 laboratory. **Bhaktapur Hospital** and **Kantipur Dental Hospital** underwent validation this week and passed the validation process. The laboratory shared their 10 positive and 10 negative samples which were validated at NPHL. A WHO consultant supported in the validation, report preparation and dissemination
 - preparation of Proficiency Test (PT) panels for distribution of the panels to all designated COVID-19 labs for participation in re-testing strategy of the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP).
- WHO Nepal has been supporting the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in the monitoring and supervision of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through NQAP. A total of 15 designated COVID-19 labs participated in the NQAP this week of which 14 laboratories scored 100% while one scored less than 90%.
- Technical support to NPHL included drafting a protocol for an isothermal COVID-19 detection kit and validation of Antigen Kits.

- WHO Nepal participated in a meeting to discuss the project “Preventing Occupational Related Exposure to COVID-19 and Other Occupational Health Hazards” and ways forward with Curative Service Division (CSD). A request for assistance has been shared by WHO Nepal to the Director General (DG) in the form of a written request to the Curative Services Division to undertake the project.
- The WHO Country Office for Nepal is providing technical support to the National Health Training Center (NHTC) for a 3 days training program on “Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) & Essential Critical Care Management”. The training is ongoing at Birgunj, Province 2 from 24-26 November 2020. There were total of 30 participants on day 1 for IPC in which various cadre of health care workers including doctors, nurses, and auxiliary health care workers participated.



Day 1: Training on Infection Prevention and Control & Essential Critical Care Management held on 24 November at Birgunj, Province 2 (Photo Credits: WHO Nepal/ S.Adhikari)

- An agreement has been made with HEOC for a joint visit to all COVID-19 designated health care facilities to review oxygen status in health facilities across the country. This joint visit will begin with COVID-19 designated hospitals within the Kathmandu valley.
- At the request of the Director General, WHO Nepal is assisting the Nursing and Social Security Division (NSSD) with the development of a comprehensive multisector Infection Prevention & Control guidance document.
- WHO Nepal will begin establishing Points of Entry (PoE) at four India-Nepal Border sites along Province 1 and Province 2. In Province 1, the Rani border will be strengthened while in Province 2 Siraha, Gaur and Birgunj PoEs will be strengthened in coordination with EDCC team through establishing temporary structures. The joint visit by WHO-Nepal and EDCC to these sites has been planned for next week.
- The proposal for strengthening the airport screening desk at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) is being reviewed internally by the WHO team for initiation.
- WHO Media monitoring output shared every day with **MoHP spokesperson, HEOC officials, as well as EDPs and other partners**

- WHO Nepal in close coordination with MoHP is supporting Pan Nepal Parliamentarians orientation on COVID-19 throughout all provinces. To date, the program has been conducted in Province 2, Bagmati, Lumbini, Gandaki, Karnali and Sudurpachim provinces.
 - On 21 November, the program was conducted at Kathmandu for Province 3 where there was also engagement of the following high level officials: Honorable Health Minister, Mr Bhanubhakta Dhakal, WHO Nepal Representative Dr Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav and Chief, Health Coordination Division, MoHP Prof Dr Jageshwar Gautam. At the programme, there was a 50% participation from the Parliamentarians.



Left: WHO Representative to Nepal, Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav giving his opening remarks during the Pan Nepal Parliamentarian Orientation on RCCE and COVID-19 at Kathmandu, Bagmati Province (21 November 2020). Right: Dr Binod Gupta from WHO Nepal delivering his presentation on Science behind COVID-19. (Photo Credits: WHO Nepal/ A.Maharjan)

- Similarly, on 23 November, the program was conducted in Lumbini Province with engagement of Provincial Health Directorate, Dr Binod Kumar Giri. About 127 Video Message clips on COVID-19 by multiple representations (Health Director, Province Speaker) were recorded at Bagmati and Lumbini Provinces during the event.



Left: Deputy Speaker of Lumbini Province Honorable Krishni Tharu giving her opening remarks during the Pan Nepal Parliamentarian Orientation on RCCE and COVID-19 at Butwal, Lumbini Province (23 November 2020). Right: Dr Binod Gupta from WHO Nepal delivering his presentation on Science behind COVID-19. (Photo Credits: WHO Nepal/ A.Maharjan)

- The Bagmati edition of *Pan-Nepal Briefings of Parliamentarians on Risk Communication and Community Engagement in the context of COVID-19* was covered by more than 20 news publications.
- The following documents were translated (from 18-24 November):

SN	NAME	TYPE
1	Antigen-detection in the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection using rapid immunoassays	Guideline
2	Technical specifications of personal protective equipment for COVID-19	Summary
3	Guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccine	Summary
4	SARS-COV-2 Seroprevalence Literature Update	Document
5	Weekly Evidence Brief November 20	Document
6	Maintaining surveillance of influenza and monitoring SARS-CoV-2, adapting Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) and sentinel systems during the COVID-19 pandemic	Summary
7	Therapeutics and COVID-19 Living Guideline	Summary

- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published:
 - Episode 10 (Maithili); November 23: [Link](#)
 - Episode 11 (Maithili); November 19: [Link](#)
 - Episode 11 (Nepali); November 18: [Link](#)
- SEARO media statement for *World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020* was translated and disseminated to members of the Nepali press.
- Dr. Jos Vandelaer's (former WHO Representative to Nepal) interview entitled *The cost of the vaccine is still to be worked out. But the idea is to have a mechanism based on solidarity and not on market forces* has been published on Business 360 Magazine [here](#). The interview was recorded on September 29.
- WHO Nepal has provided logistic and operational support for the Pan-Nepal Parliamentarians Orientation on RCCE and COVID-19 at Bagmati Province and Lumbini Province. Similar support is being undertaken for the Pan Nepal Parliamentarians orientation on RCCE, which is set to be held on 29 November 2020 at Province 1.
- International Labour Organization (ILO) office space is now the site of WHO's Communications and Partner Coordination teams' offices.
- WHO Headquarters has allocated 1,386,000 pcs of 3-ply masks. These donations were received in coordination from WHO SEARO. WHO Nepal is expected to receive these masks by February 2021.

What are the health cluster partners doing?

- Weekly Health Cluster Coordination meeting (every Thursday) for health sector response is ongoing at the Federal level for coordinated COVID-19 response support to MOHP. Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing the Provincial level Health Cluster Coordination meeting fortnightly.
- Health Sector Partners donated seven ventilators; 100,000 pairs of Gloves; 20,000 pairs of Surgical Gloves; 50,000 Syringes (5 ml); 1200 health kits to Health Office Kathmandu; 12 sets of health kits to child correction home. In Doti, health sector partners donated 150 Oxygen Concentrators; 100 Pulse Oximeters; 50,000 Ag-RDT kits; 20 BiPap machine; 1,000 fingertip oxygen monitors; and 50 high-flow nasal oxygen delivery devices to Ministry of Health and Population to support ongoing COVID-19 response.
- Health partners, including Reproductive Health (RH) sub-cluster, Mental health sub-cluster are supporting the continuation of COVID and non-COVID response throughout the country to ensure continuity of services in the COVID-19 context.
- Health partners have provided support in mobile-based training of health workers and female community health volunteers (FCHVs), which has been completed on the first week of November. During this time, 2,239 health workers and 6,834 Female Community Health Volunteers participated. UNICEF supported Case Investigation and Contact Identification (CICI) & Contact Tracing and Contact Follow-up (CTCF) in Chandragiri Municipality, the implementation of which has been handed over to the municipality.

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 regarding coronavirus disease 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](#)
- Global coronavirus disease situation dashboard can be found [here](#)
- Visit the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

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