

Situation Update #42- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 26 January – 01 February 2021

HIGHLIGHTS*

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 98.3% of cases have recovered; 0.9% (2489) of cases are active; and 66.2% of active cases (1647) are in home isolation.
- Of the total COVID-19 deaths, 97% of the deaths occurred in hospital. The most common co-morbidity identified in fatal cases was hypertension (39.9%).
- There are four districts with no active cases, and one district with more than 200 active cases. Kathmandu district alone has more than 500 active cases as of 1 February 2021. New cases have been reported from 23 districts.
- Out of the total active cases, 842 (33.8%) patients were admitted to hospital/institutional isolation centers of which 128 (5.1%) patients are in intensive care (ICU) with 22 patients requiring ventilator support.

**Data as of COVID-19 Update, MoHP, 1 February 2021*

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 2 February 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

271,117 confirmed cases

2,029 deaths

2,075,152 RT-PCR tests

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 31 January 2021, 10am CET)

12,856,723 confirmed cases

197,707 deaths

GLOBAL

(Data as of 31 January 2021, 10am CET)

102,139,771 confirmed cases

2,211,762 deaths

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 26 January 2021, T07:00:00 hours (Week no. 5), a total 271,117 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the country through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 20,75,152 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by 82 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation of which 47 are public laboratories.
- All 7 provinces in the country are now experiencing transmission via clusters of cases.
- Province-wise test positivity rate in the past week (Week 4) ranged from 1% (Karnali Province) to 14.3% (Gandaki Province), with national positivity rate averaging 5.4%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 65% (176,192/271,117) of the confirmed cases.
- A total of 42 samples were received for Influenza testing at National Influenza Center, National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) on EPID-week 4 (25- 30 January, 2021) of which none of the samples tested positive for Influenza. From 4-31 January, 2021, a total of 189 samples have been tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Two samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (all these positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database).

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 31 January 2021 from #Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 25) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)

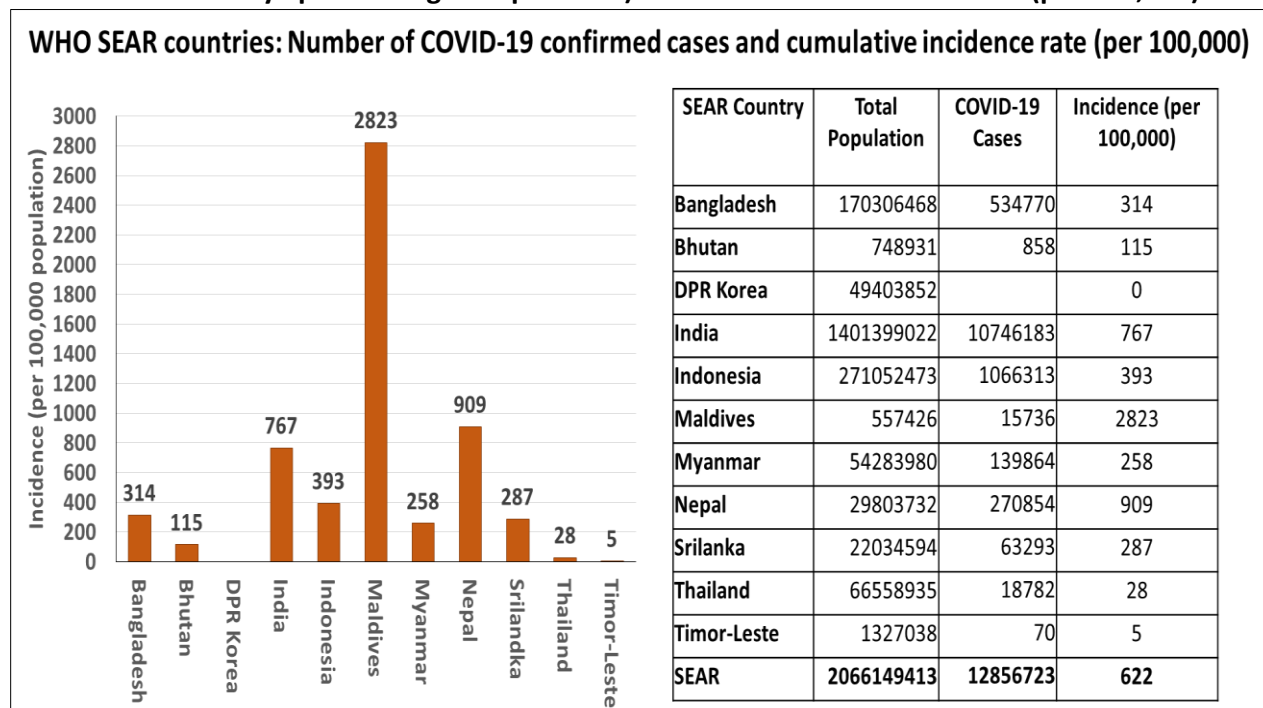
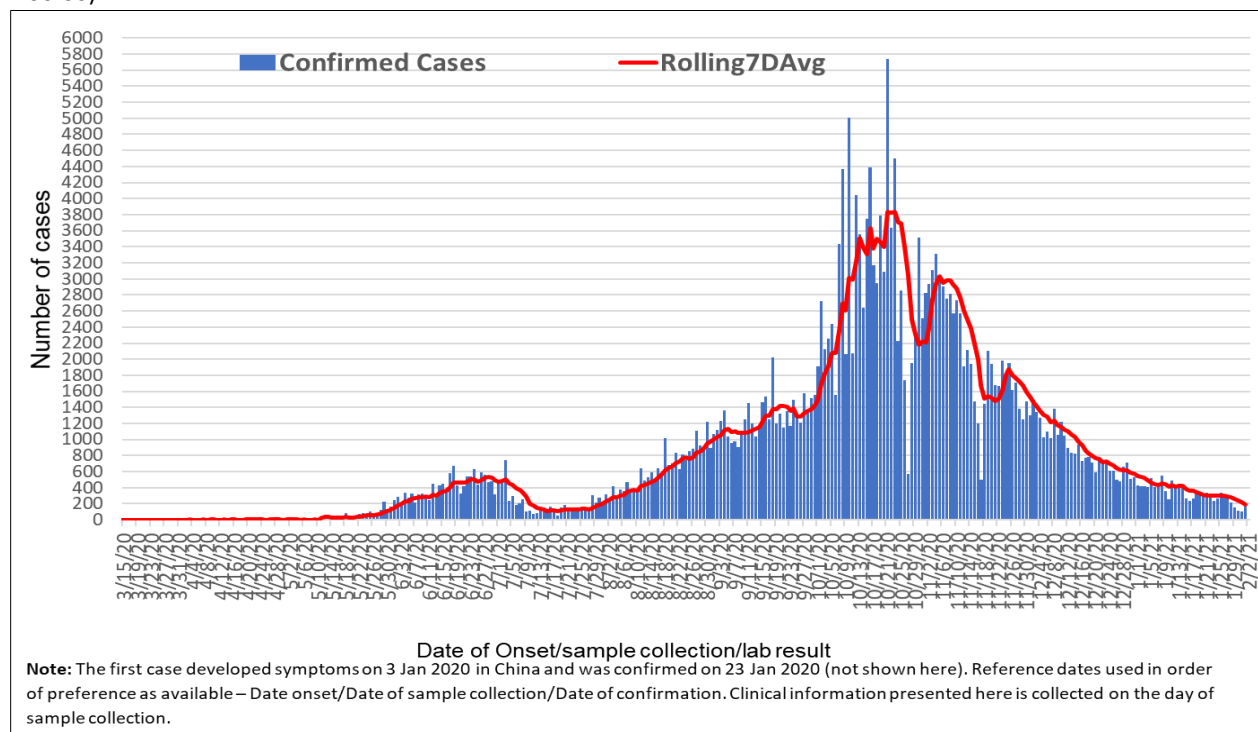


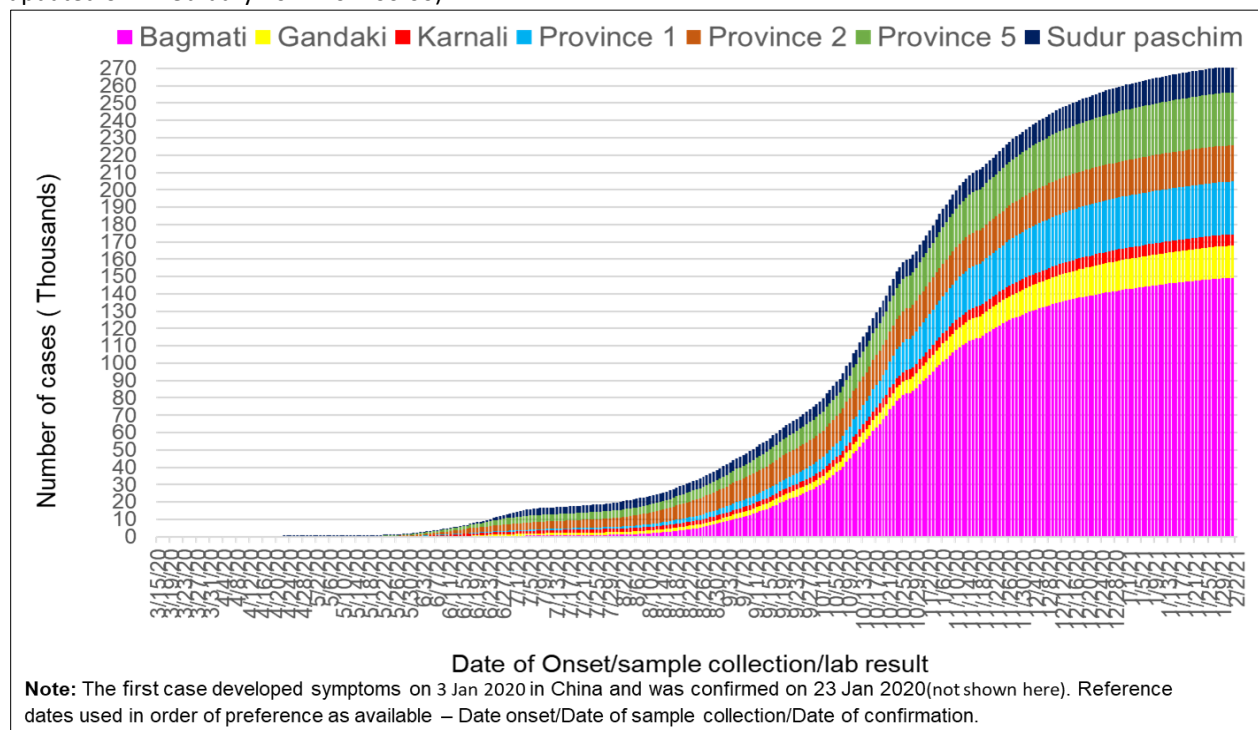
Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N=271117) (Data updated on 2 February 2021 TO 7:00:00)



Nationally, the second surge began in mid-July of 2020, which peaked by the end of October and is currently showing an apparent downward trend, influenced partly by the significant decrease

in the number of tests being done. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 1 February 2021 was 4145 which is about one fourth of the number tested during the peak in the end of October 2020.

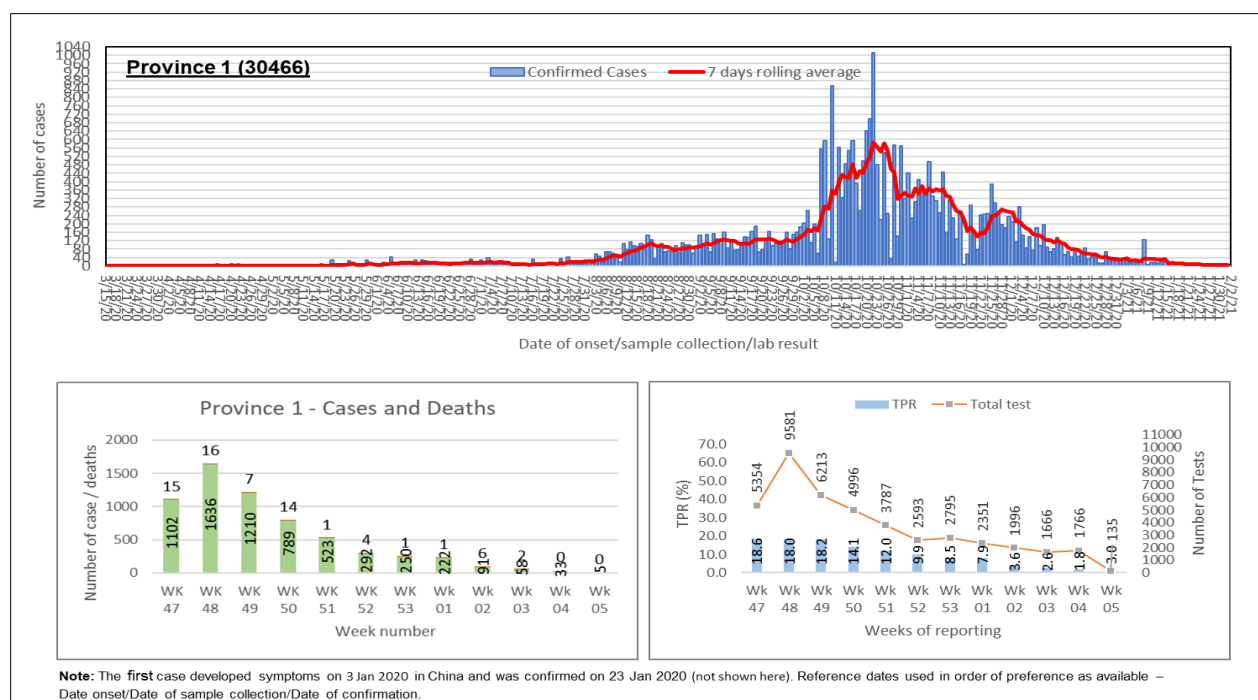
Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N=271117) (Data updated on 2 February 2021 TO 7:00:00)



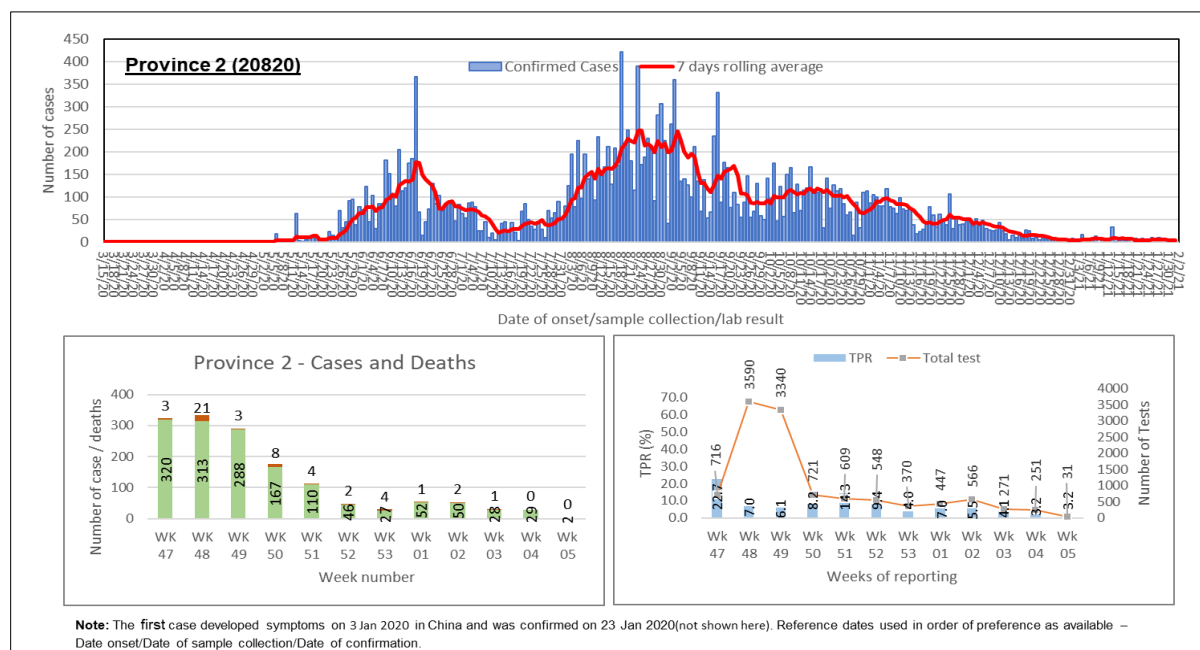
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N=271117) (Data updated on 2 February 2021 TO 7:00:00)

Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces

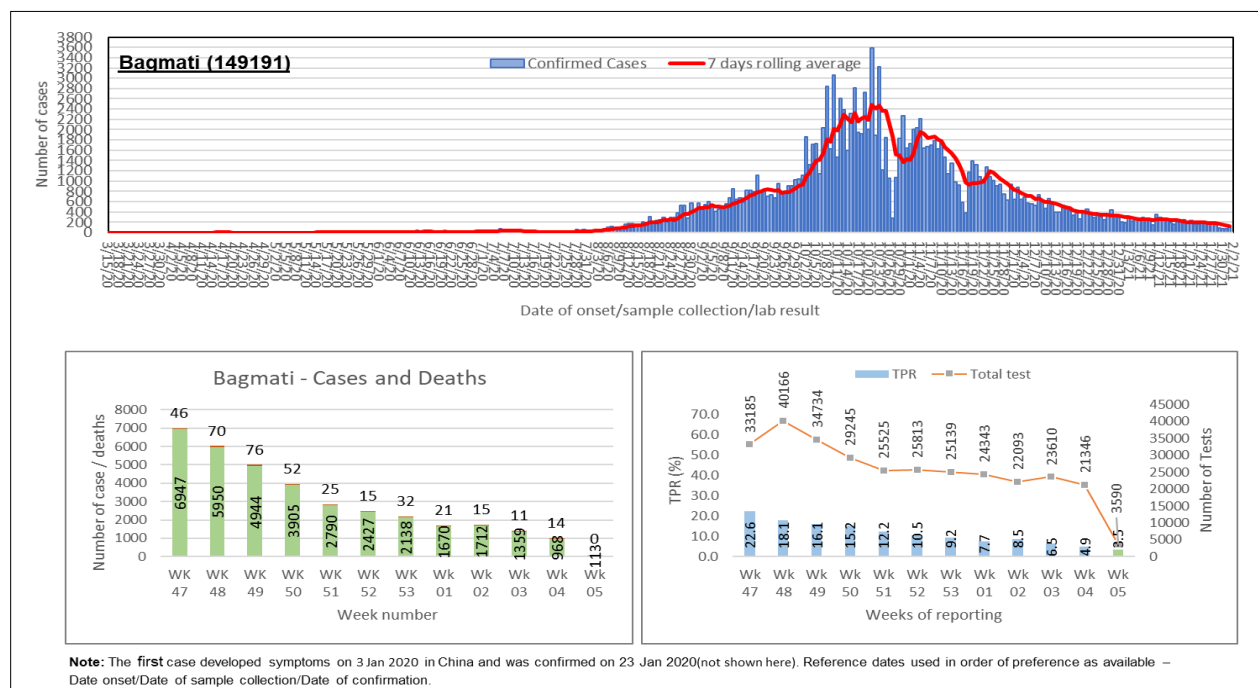


There were 33 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in October, weekly new cases have continued to decrease and fell by 43% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, compared to 2 deaths in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 has continued a decreasing trend to a low of 1.8% in the past week. A total of 1766 tests were performed in the past week, a 6% increase from that of the previous week.

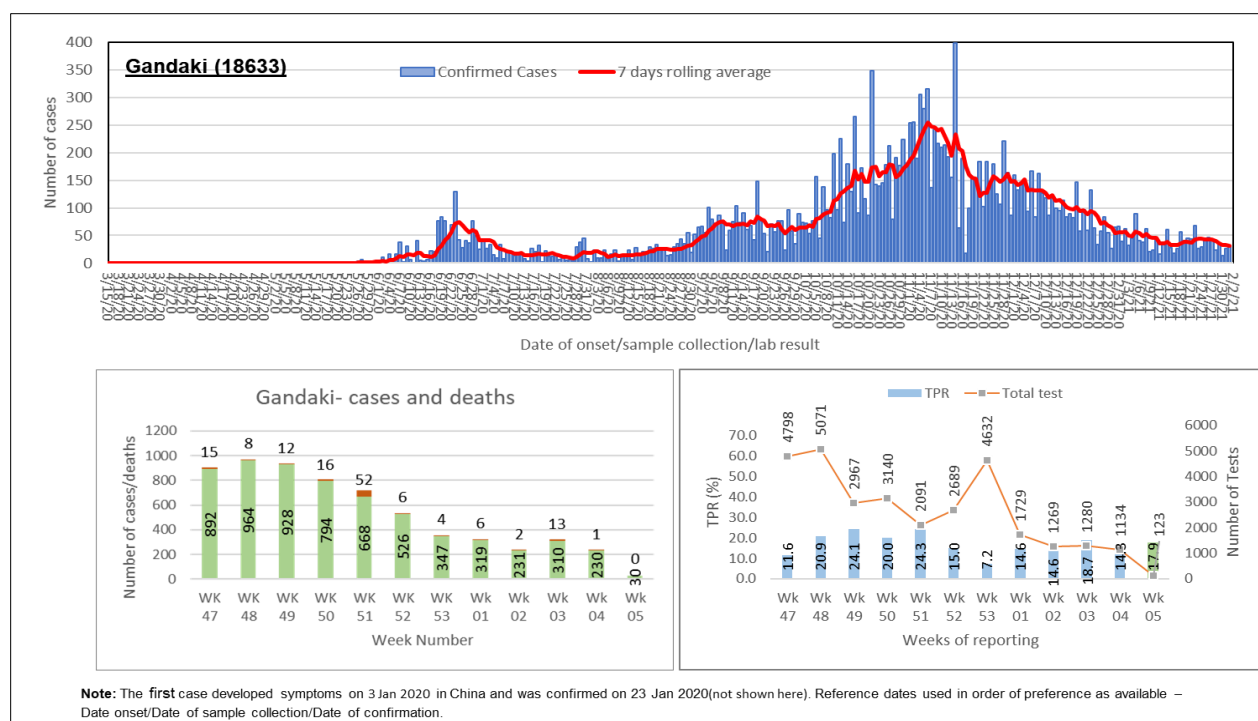


There were 29 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Weekly new cases are continuously decreasing but increased by 4% in the past week compared to the previous week.

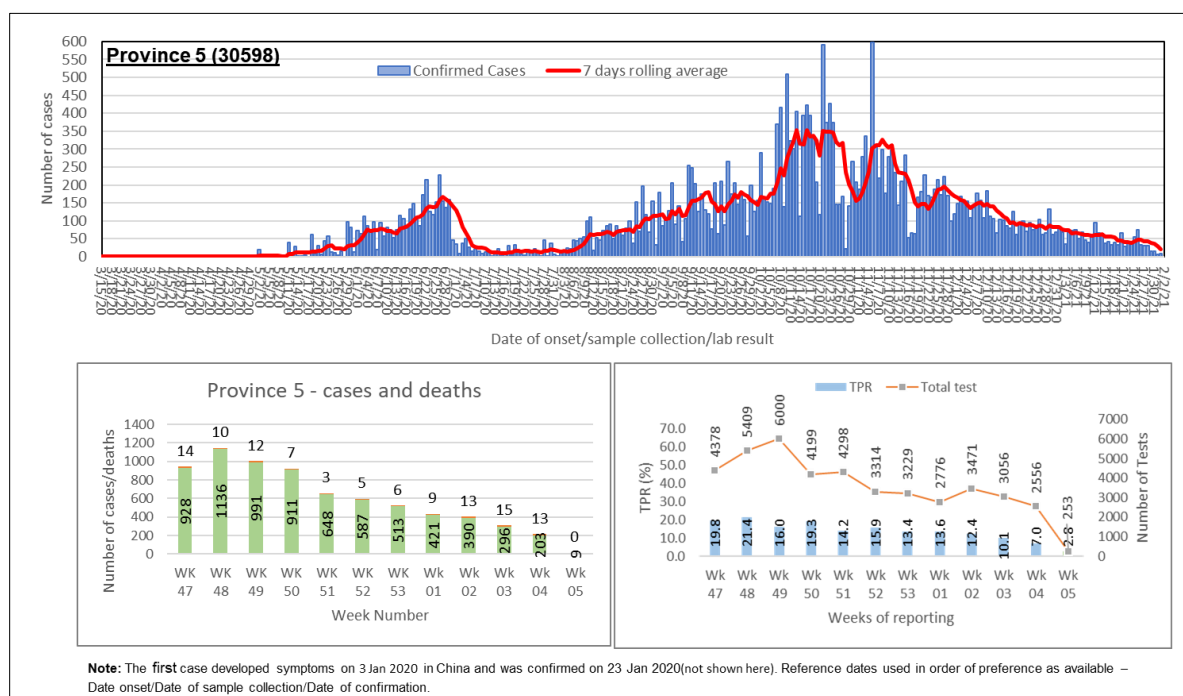
There were no deaths reported in the past week, compared to 1 death in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 has continued to decrease to a low of 3.2% in the past week. A total of 251 tests were performed in the past week, a 7% decrease from that of the previous week.



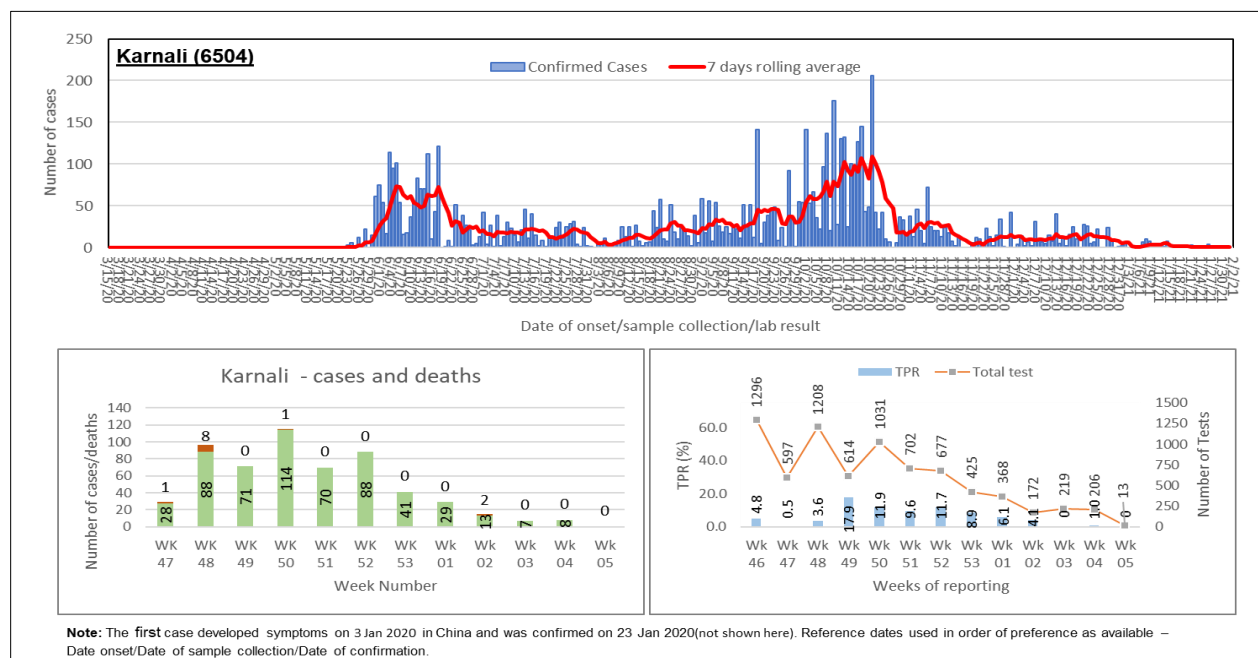
In Bagmati, 968 new cases were reported in the past week. Weekly new cases are steadily decreasing and fell by 29% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 14 deaths reported in the past week, 27% more compared to the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati has shown a decreasing trend to a low of 4.9% in the past week. A total of 21,346 tests were performed in the past week, a 10% decrease from that of the previous week.



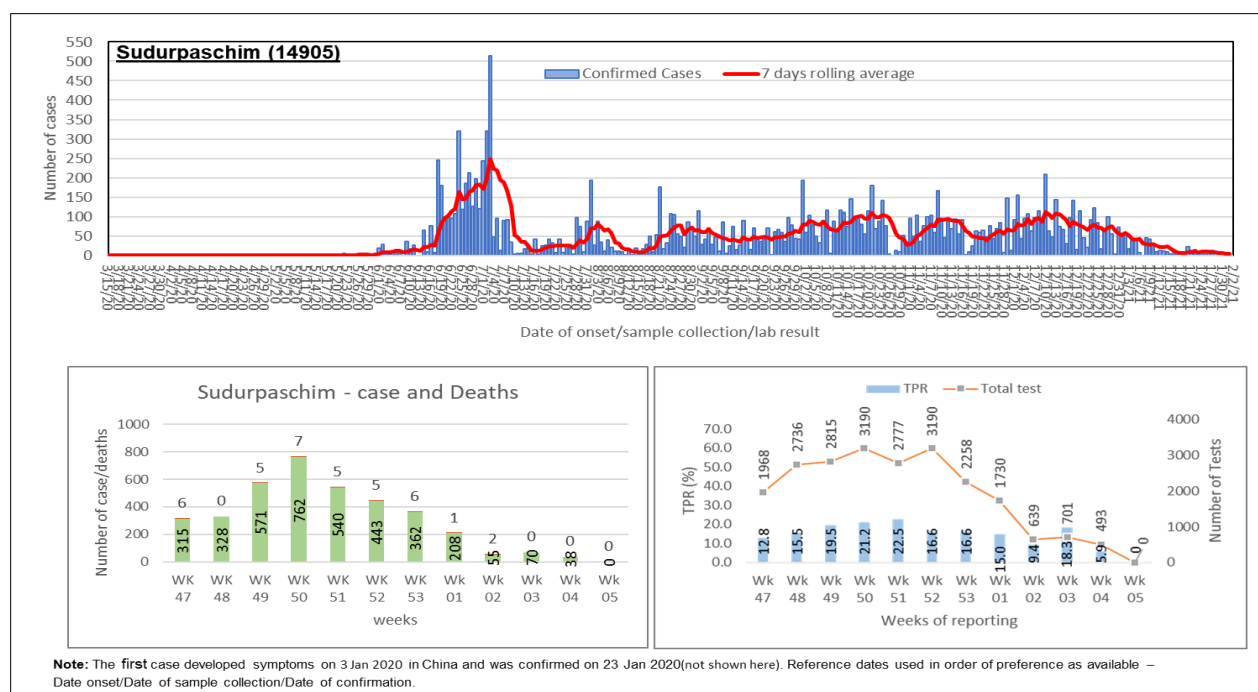
Gandaki reported 230 new cases and 1 death in the past week. The number of new cases being reported has fallen considerably since a peak in Week 45 when there were 1,722 new cases. The number of new cases decreased by 26% in the past week compared to the previous week while deaths decreased by 92% than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 14.3% in the past week. A total of 1134 tests were performed in the past week, an 11% decrease from that of the previous week.



Lumbini reported 203 new cases and 13 deaths in the past week. The number of new cases being reported has fallen significantly since a peak in Week 45 when there were 2,288 new cases. The number of new cases fell by 31% in the past week compared to the previous week while deaths decreased by 13% than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini has shown a relatively decreasing trend with 7.0% in the past week. A total of 2556 tests were performed in the past week, a 16% decrease from that of the previous week.

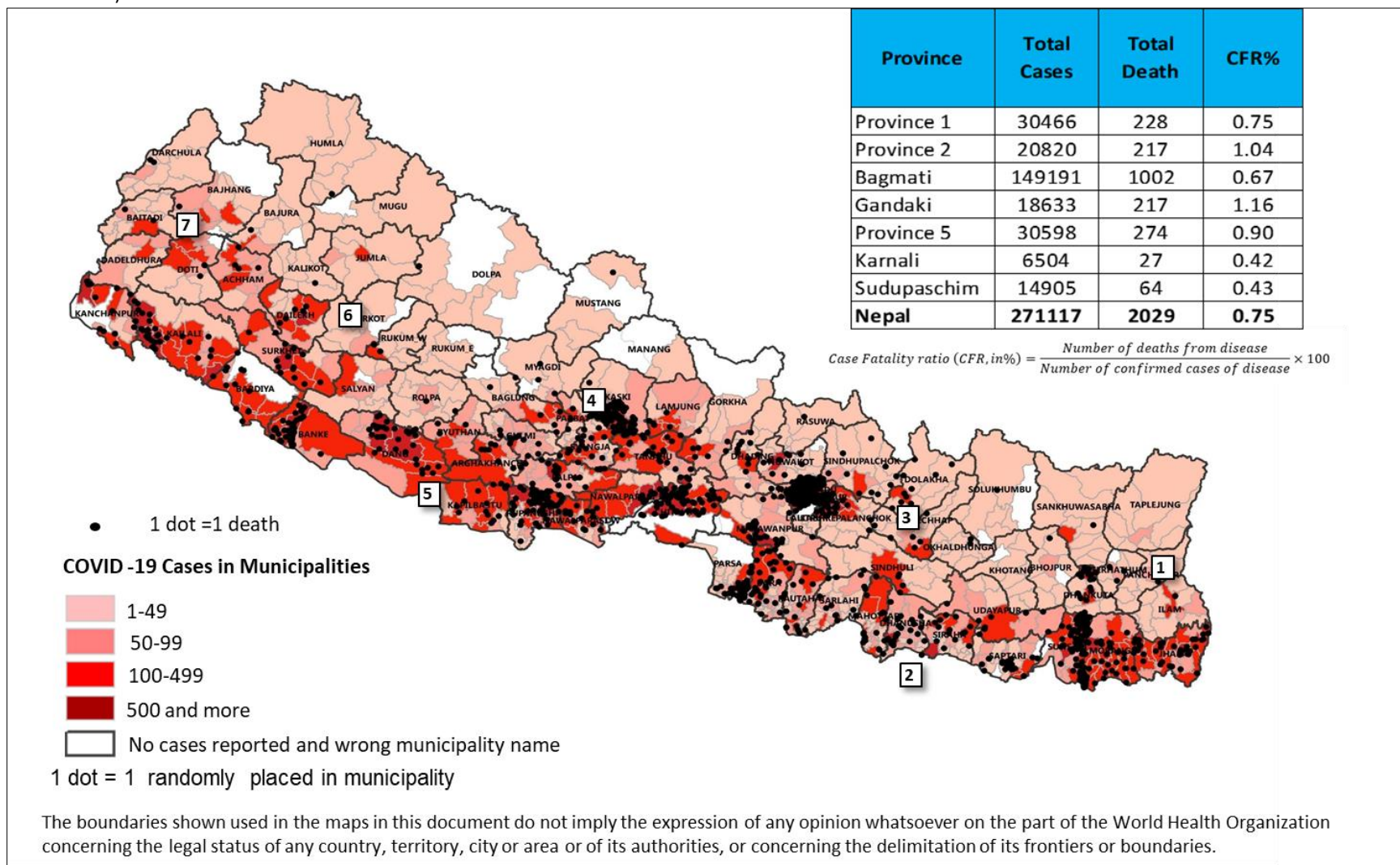


In Karnali, 8 new cases were reported in the past week. Since cases peaked in week 42, a weekly decrease in new cases has continued yet increased by 14% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, consistent with that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 1% in the past week. A total of 206 tests were performed in the past week, a 6% decrease from that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 38 new cases were reported in the past week. Weekly new cases are continuously decreasing and fell by 46% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, consistent with that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim has dropped considerably to a low of 5.9% in the past week. A total of 493 tests were performed in the past week, a 30% decrease from that of the previous week.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N=271117) (Data updated on 2 February 2021 TO 7:00:00)



Cases and deaths have been reported in high numbers from Bagmati Province, mostly from the Kathmandu valley area. The overall case fatality ratio (CFR) of Nepal is 0.75%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Province 2 with 1.04% and Gandaki Province with 1.16%.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.

(N=271117) (Data updated on 2 February 2021 TO 7:00:00)

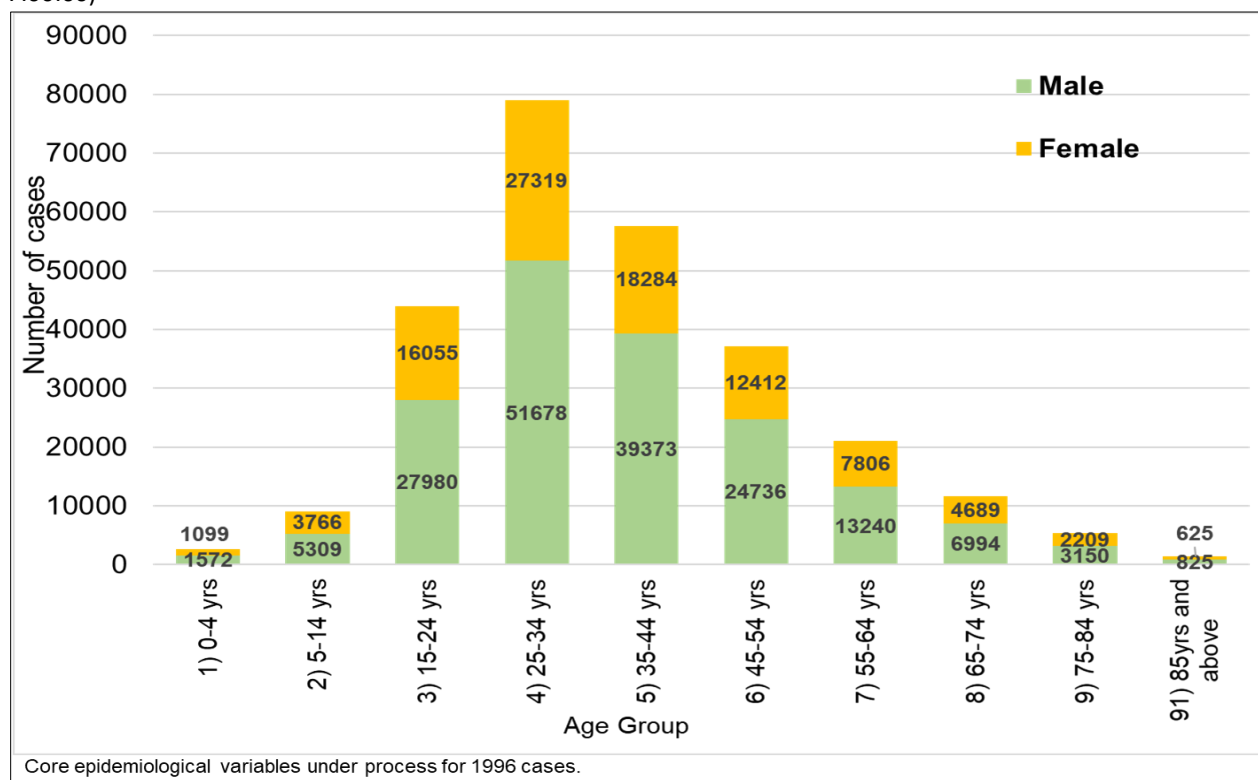
| Reporting Province | Total confirmed cumulative cases | % of the total confirmed cumulative cases | Total cumulative deaths | Transmission classification* | Total confirmed cases in last 14 days | Total deaths in last 14 days |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Province 1 | 30466 | 11.2 | 228 | Cluster of cases | 85 | 2 |
| Province 2 | 20820 | 7.7 | 217 | Cluster of cases | 54 | 1 |
| Bagmati | 149191 | 55.0 | 1002 | Cluster of cases | 2235 | 21 |
| Gandaki | 18633 | 6.9 | 217 | Cluster of cases | 513 | 12 |
| Province 5 | 30598 | 11.3 | 274 | Cluster of cases | 469 | 28 |
| Karnali | 6504 | 2.4 | 27 | Cluster of cases | 15 | 0 |
| Sudurpashchim | 14905 | 5.5 | 64 | Cluster of cases | 103 | 0 |
| National Total | 271117 | 100 | 2029 | Cluster of cases | 3474 | 64 |

- 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=269121) (Data updated on 2 February 2021 TO 7:00:00)



Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males. The incidence of cases is greater among 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 COVID-19 confirmed cases (N=271117) (Data updated on 2 February 2021 TO 7:00:00)

| Age Group | Total confirmed cases | Death (male) | Death (female) | Deaths with any known comorbid condition | Age specific case fatality ratio (%) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 0-4 yrs | 2671 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0.22 |
| 5-14 yrs | 9075 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 0.06 |
| 15-24 yrs | 44035 | 22 | 25 | 32 | 0.11 |
| 25-34 yrs | 78997 | 59 | 34 | 45 | 0.12 |
| 35-44 yrs | 57657 | 114 | 56 | 89 | 0.29 |
| 45-54 yrs | 37148 | 198 | 70 | 160 | 0.72 |
| 55-64 yrs | 21046 | 284 | 104 | 259 | 1.84 |
| 65-74 yrs | 11683 | 371 | 149 | 373 | 4.45 |
| 75-84 yrs | 5359 | 254 | 126 | 270 | 7.09 |
| 85+ yrs | 1450 | 109 | 39 | 104 | 10.21 |
| Unknown | 1996 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0.2 |
| National | 271117 | 1420 | 609 | 1342 | 0.75 |

A total of 2,029 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 1,420 (70.0%) were males and 609 (30.0%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 1,342 persons (66.1%) had at least one known comorbidity. 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 4.5% to 10.2%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- Nepal launched COVID-19 vaccination on 27 January 2021. Prime Minister Mr K P Sharma Oli launched the vaccination campaign using an online platform where provincial hospitals and central hospitals were connected. The dignitaries who attended the launching ceremony observed vaccination at the designated hospitals (11 hospitals were connected using Zoom platform). In this first phase of vaccination, more than 200 vaccination booths were mobilized across the country where the targeted population were vaccinated which included:
 - Health care workers,
 - Waste collectors,
 - Ambulance drivers,
 - Security personnel mobilized for dead body management,
 - Female community health volunteers,
 - People working at Point of Entries (PoE)
 - Elderly at home care and
 - Prisoners

As of 1 February 2021, altogether 116,920 people from targeted groups were vaccinated. It is estimated that approximately 430,000 people will be vaccinated in this first phase from 1 million vaccine provided by Government of India as a gift to Nepal.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

- In collaboration with the government of Nepal and other partners, WHO Country Office for Nepal is supporting the first phase of vaccination campaign against COVID-19 (Pictures below).



MoHP conference room was converted into the War room for the COVID-19 vaccine launch event on 27 January 2021. Photo Credit – WHO Nepal/P. Lamichhane



Left: Community Surveillance Officer (CSA) from WHO Nepal supporting COVID-19 vaccination team at prison office at Kailali district in Sudurpashchim Province. Photo Credit – WHO Nepal/S. K. Thapa; Right: Monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccination session by Surveillance Medical Officer (SMO) at Dhaulagiri Zonal Hospital, Baglung District, Gandaki Province. Photo Credit- WHO Nepal



Left: On-site orientation on vaccine registration on the IMU Nepal app at Sindhuli vaccination center, Sindhuli District, Bagmati Province. Photo Credit- WHO Nepal; Right: Monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine cold chain management in District Health Office, Pyuthan district, Lumbini Province. Photo Credit- WHO Nepal

Laboratory Capacity

- WHO Nepal has been supporting the NPHL in monitoring the quality standards of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of three designated COVID-19 labs participated in the NQAP this week. All the participating laboratories were satisfactory with results of $\geq 90\%$ concordance.
- A WHO consultant facilitated the validation of a newly established designated COVID-19 laboratory. PCR laboratory at Gaur Hospital underwent validation this week and passed the validation process. The laboratory shared their 10 positives and 10 negative samples which were validated at NPHL.
- Technical support has been provided by Country Office for Nepal in following activities:
 - 1 Copy COVID-19qPCR 4plex PCR kit validation which was found to have 100% sensitivity and specificity result.
 - GeneXpert validation at NPHL which was found to have 100% sensitivity and specificity result.
 - Screening UK variant from COVID-19 positive samples of Gandaki Province. WHO Nepal supported NPHL in the communication, shipment, and processing of the samples.
- WHO Nepal is also supporting NPHL and Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) for SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing using Sanger's method (results awaited).

Technical Expertise and Training

- WHO Nepal colleagues participated in a meeting (26 January 2021) at National Health Training Center (NHTC) with officials from NHTC, Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC), Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), Good Neighbors Nepal (GNN), Nepal Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal Red Cross Society, Dhulikhel Hospital Ambulance Medical Service and Volunteer Corps Nepal. The meeting was conducted to discuss and update on a training module for Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) system.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The following documents were translated this week:

| SN | TRANSLATION DOCUMENT | Type |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1 | COVID-19 Messages on Vaccines (Various local languages of Nepal) | Messages |
| 2 | Online Global Consultation on Contact Tracing for COVID-19 | Summary |
| 3 | COVID-19 Clinical Management Living Guidance 25 January 2021 | Summary |
| 4 | Interim recommendations for the use of Moderna mRNA-1273 vaccine against COVID-19 | Summary |
| 5 | Evidence Brief_January 29 | Evidence Brief |
| 6 | Contact tracing in the context of COVID-19, Interim Guidance | Summary |

- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published:

| Episodes | Titles | Language | Links |
|----------|--|----------|----------------------|
| 22 | COVID-19 - Children & COVID-19 बालबालिका र कोभिड-१९ | Nepali | Link |
| 22 | COVID-19 - Children & COVID-19 धियापुतासभ आ कोभिड-१९ – प्रतिलिपी | Maithali | Link |
| 23 | COVID-19 - I am vaccinated, what next? हमरा खोप लगाओल गेल अछि, अब कि ? | Maithali | Link |
| 23 | COVID-19 - I am vaccinated, what next? मैले खोप लगाएँ, अब ? | Nepali | Link |

Field Operation and Logistics

- WHO Nepal handed over 15 Emergency NCD Drug kits to the EDCCD, Department of Health Services on 1 February, 2021. Once the anticipated remaining kits are received by WHO Nepal, 3 kits each have been planned for handover to five Health Offices at Kailali, Ilam, Bardiya, Sindhupalchowk and Panchthar district, as requested by the MoHP.



Left: Handover of Emergency NCD Drug kits by WHO Representative to the Director General, Department of Health Services; Right: Handover of Emergency NCD Drug Kits by the Director General, DoHS to the Director, EDCCD. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/P. Dahal

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 COVID Hospital Coordination meeting fortnightly.
- Health partners, including Reproductive health sub-cluster and 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 Cluster Coordinators are continuing bilateral meetings with partners and thematic leads to identify critical gaps and ways-forward.
- Health Partners have supported National Health Education Information Communication Center (NHEICC) in the following activities:
 - Developed 3 TV Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on COVID-19 and broadcasted in National Television (NTV) program;
 - Aired 2 radio advert / PSA through Image FM and 5 radio jingles aired in Bardiya;
 - Translated COVID-19 message in Tharu and Maithali languages;
 - Supported in miking of the PSAs at Chaurideurali rural municipality of Kavre district, Bardiya and Siraha districts.
- There has also been support from partners with handover of medical supplies to the Management Division, Department of Health Services (DoHS):
 - Surgical mask- 17000;
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution- 250 liters;
 - Personal Protective Equipment's (PPE)-100 sets
 - Goggles- 100 sets and
 - Hand sanitizers- 100
 -

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 corona virus 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 corona virus disease situation 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

Health Cluster Co-lead

Saira Khan
Pillar Lead – Partner Coordination
WHO Country Office for Nepal
COVID-19 Response IMS
Email: khansai@who.int

WHO Incident Manager

Dr Reuben Samuel
Team Leader - WHO Health
Emergencies Program (WHE)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: samuelsr@who.int

Communication/Media Focal Point

Mr Sujan G. Amatya
Communications Officer
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: samatya@who.int