

Situation Update #59- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 25 - 31 May 2021

HIGHLIGHTS*

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 79.7% (447,446) of cases have recovered and 18.9% (106,470) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 93.1% (99,132) of the active cases are in home isolation; 6.9% (7,338) cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1,492 (1.4%) patients require ICU admission, 424 (0.3%) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Forty eight districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (40,841) reported this week, 22.3% (9,092) of the new cases are from Kathmandu district and 30.2% (12,323) from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts).
- RT-PCR tests have been performed from 91 designated COVID-19 laboratories across the country of which 55 are public and 36 are private laboratories.
- There have been 2,113,080 people who have received the 1st dose of COVID-19 Vaccine and 714,163 people have received 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

*Data as of COVID-19 Update, MoHP, 31 May 2021

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 01 June 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

561,302 confirmed cases

7,386 deaths

3,057,424 RT-PCR tests

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 30 May 2021)

31,605,221 confirmed cases

401,754 deaths

GLOBAL

(Data as of 30 May 2021)

169,604,858 confirmed cases

3,530,837 deaths

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 1 June 2021, 07:00:00 hours (week no. 22), a total 561,302 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the country through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,057,424 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories.
- All 7 provinces in the country are now experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise test positivity rate in the past week (week 21) ranged from 26.0% (Province 2) to 43.8% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 34.4%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 61% (344,378/561,302) of the confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 79% (273,378/344,378) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).
- A total of 39 samples have been tested for influenza on EPID-week 21 (24 May - 30 May 2021). None of the samples tested positive for influenza. From 4 January until 30 May 2021, a total of 1429 samples have been tested for influenza and SARS-CoV-2 of which only 160 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2¹ till date.

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

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 30 May 2021; Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 42) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)

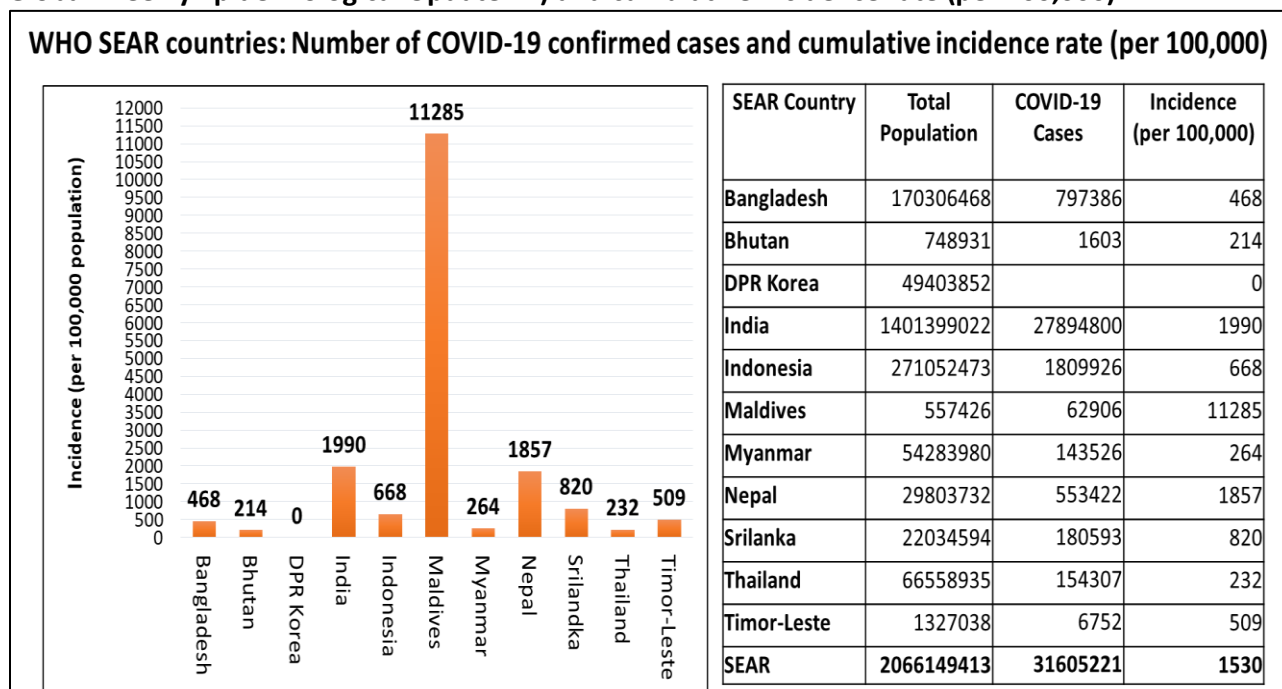
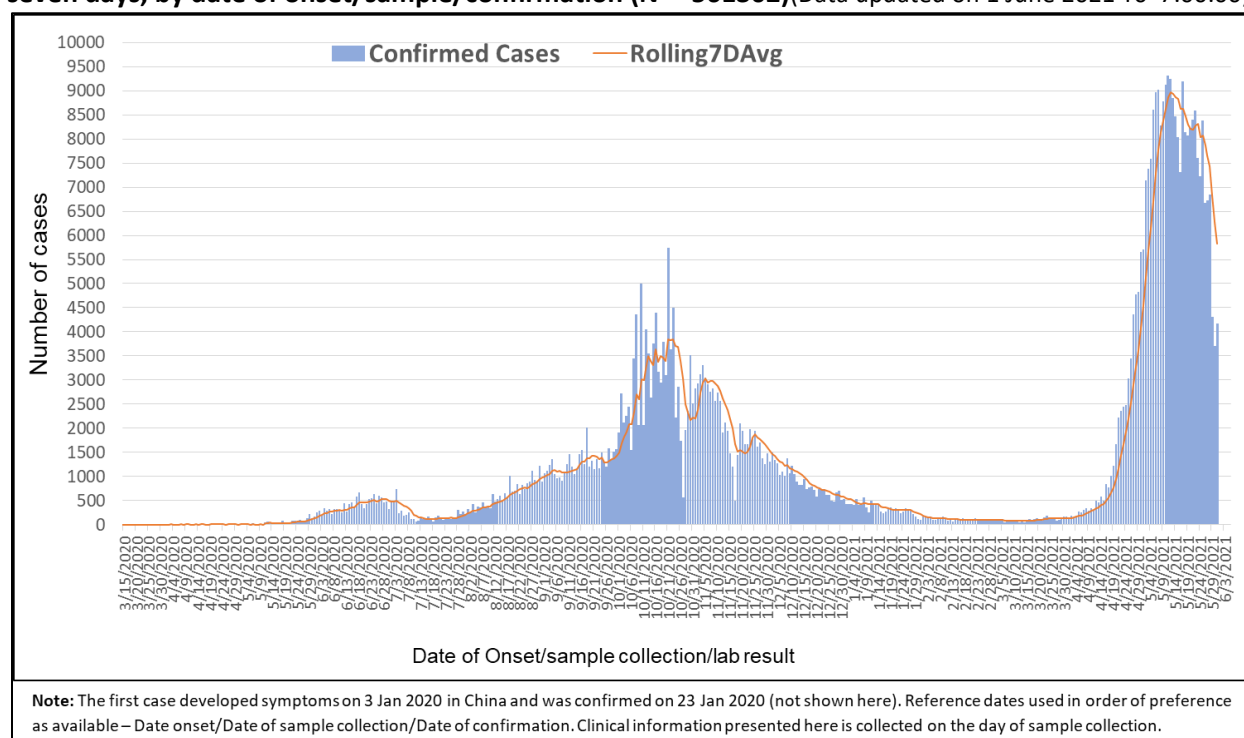
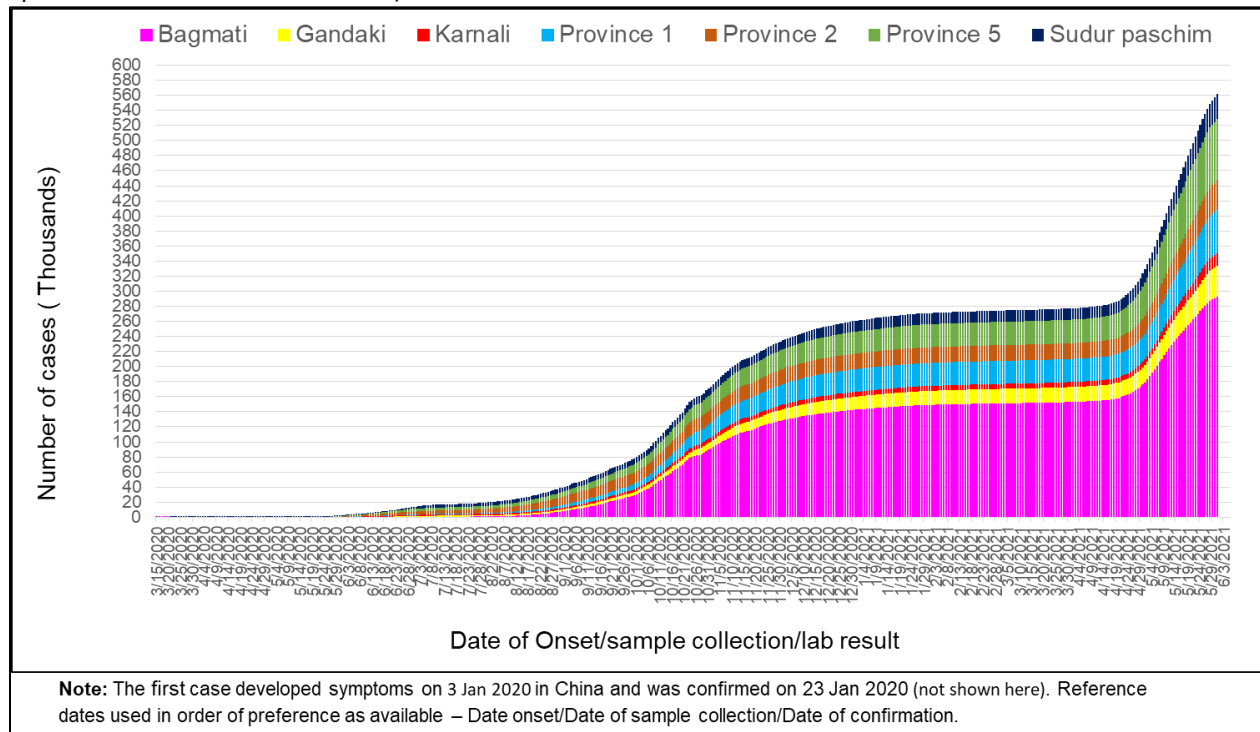


Figure 2A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 561302)(Data updated on 1 June 2021 T0 7:00:00)



At a national level, the second wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the third wave from the middle of March 2021. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 31 May 2021 was 15055 which is 25% less than the number tested during the peak in the end of October 2020.

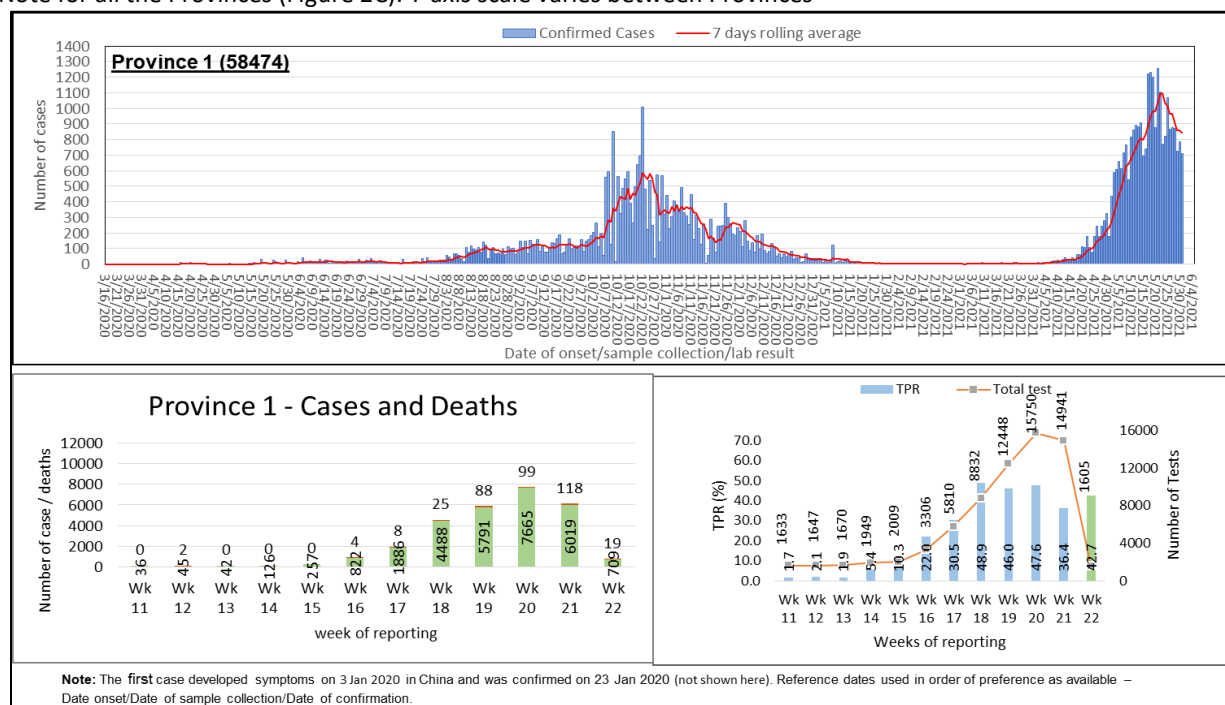
Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 561302)(Data updated on 1 June 2021 T0 7:00:00)



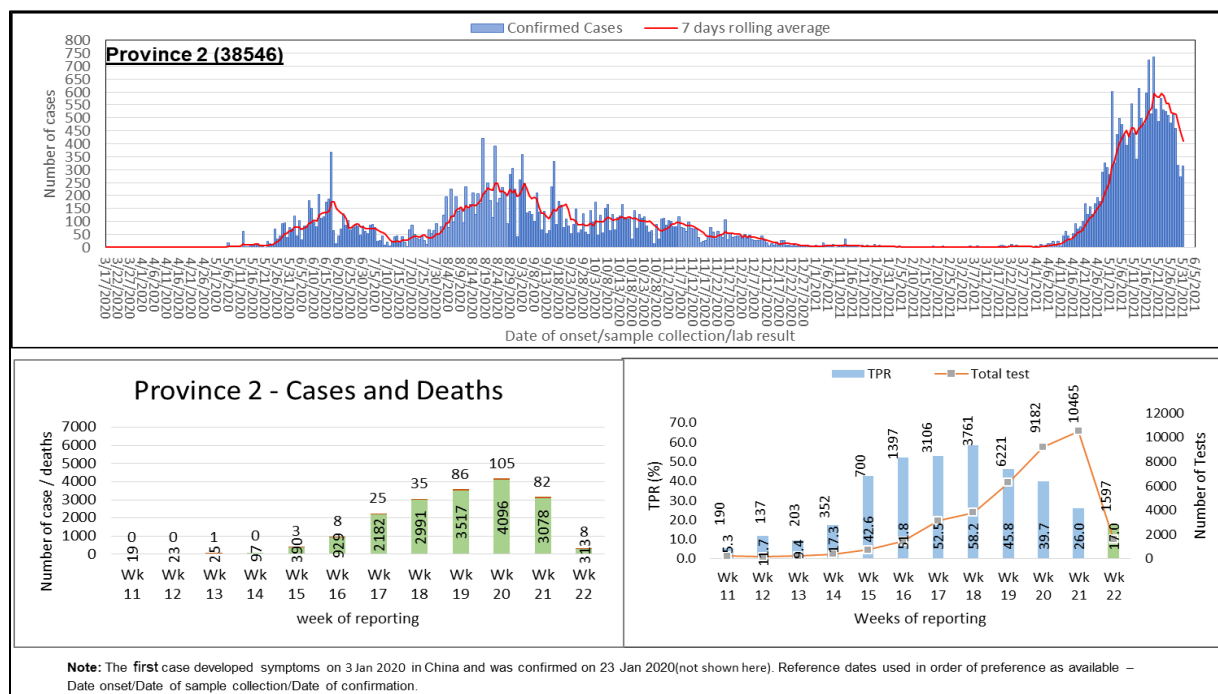
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case which was confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 561302)(Data updated on 1 June 2021 T0 7:00:00)

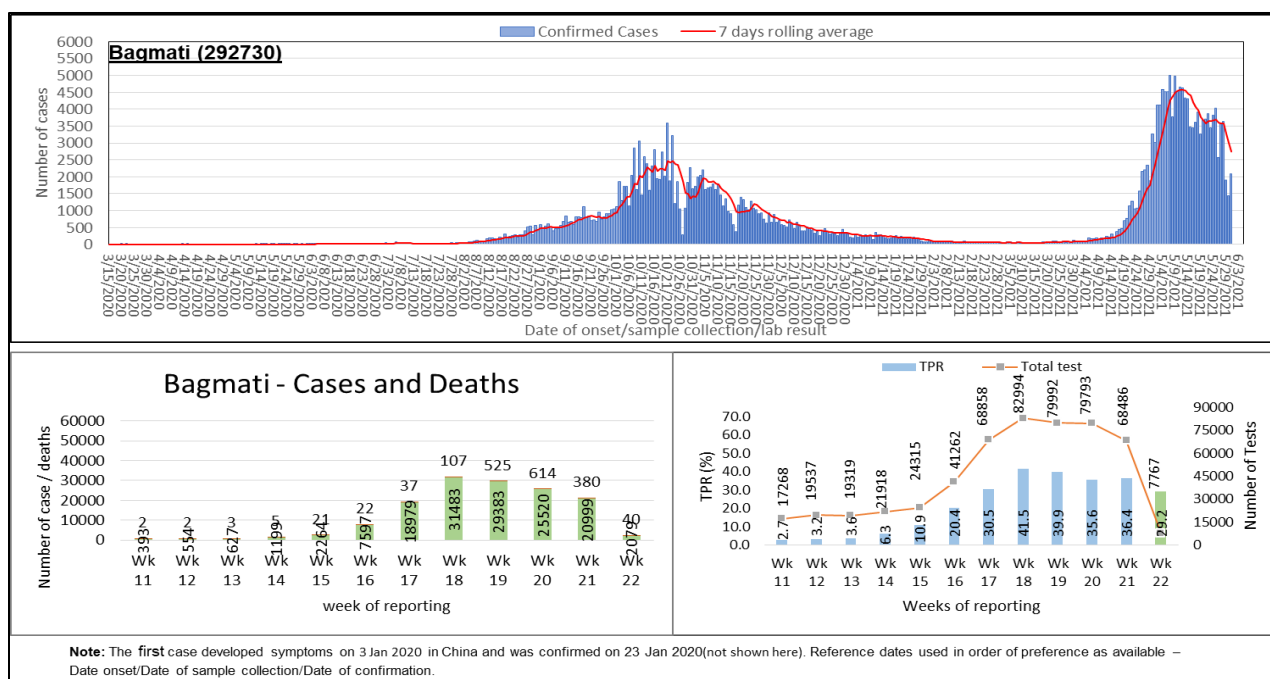
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



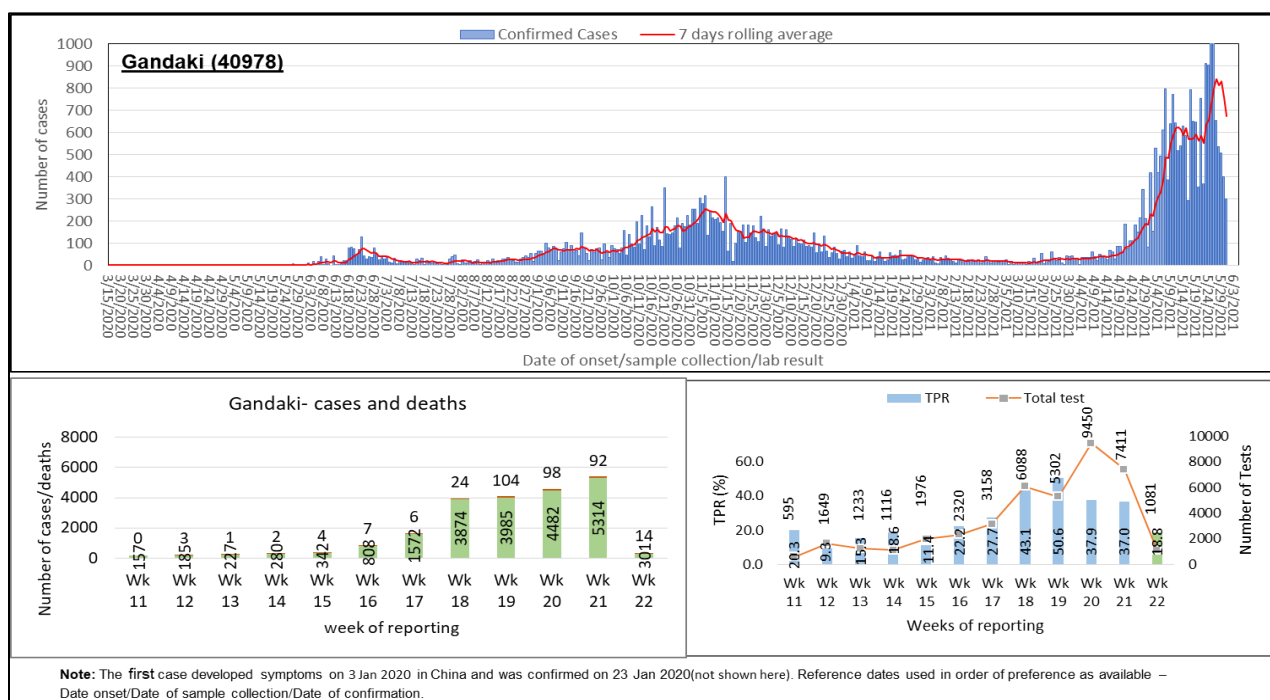
There were 6019 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 21% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 118 deaths reported in the past week, 19% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 36.4% in the past week. A total of 14941 tests were performed in the past week, 5% less than that of the previous week.



There were 3078 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 25% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 82 deaths reported in the past week, 22% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 26.0% in the past week. A total of 10465 tests were performed in the past week, 14% more than that of the previous week.

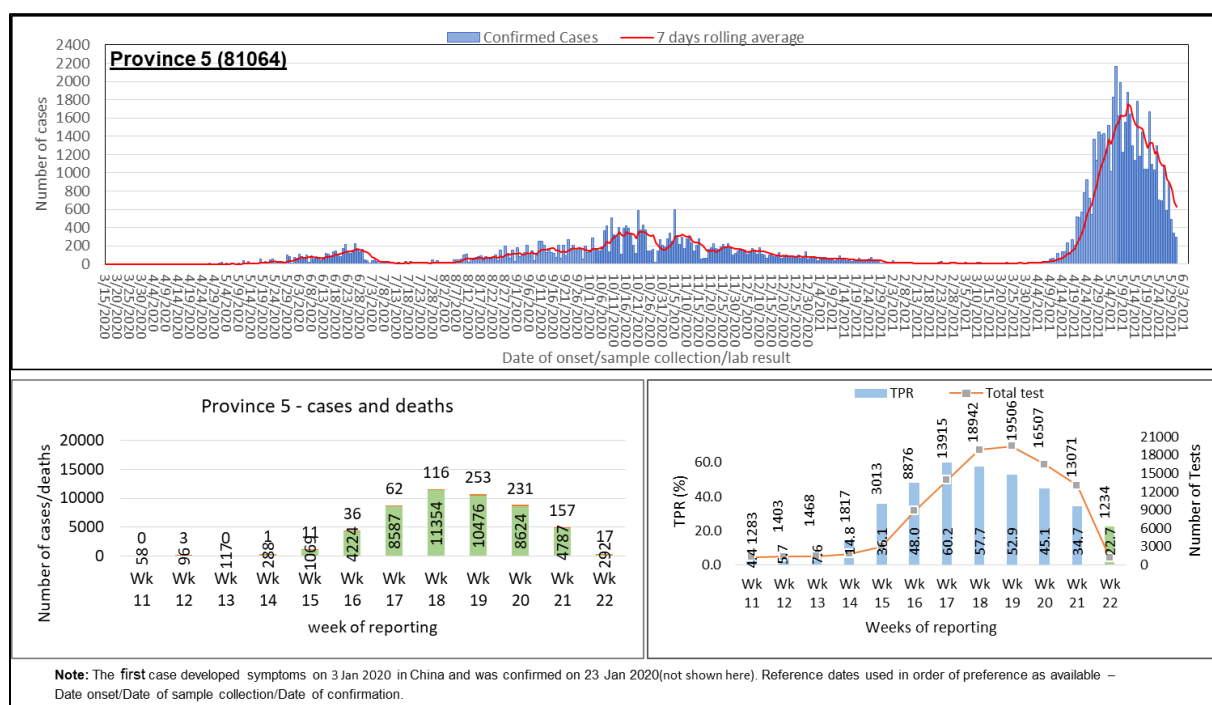


In Bagmati, 20999 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 18% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 380 deaths reported in the past week, 38% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 36.4% in the past week. A total of 68486 tests were performed in the past week, 14% less than that of the previous week.

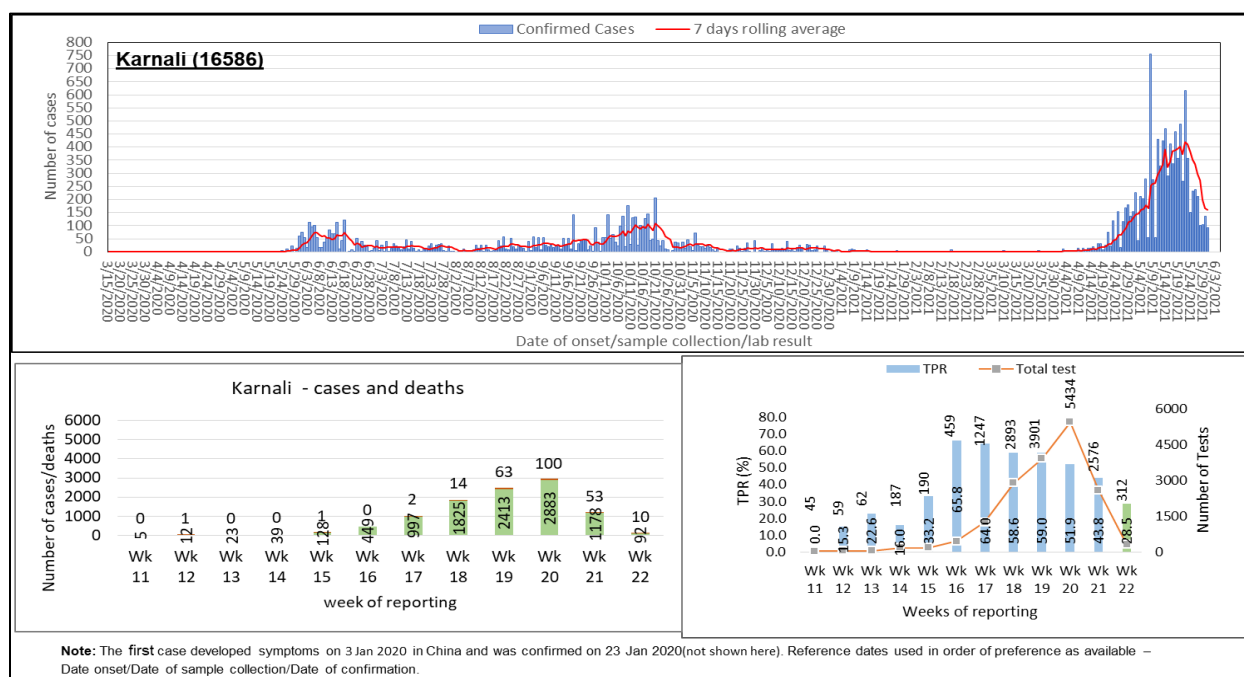


In Gandaki, 5314 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 19% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 92 deaths reported in the past week, 6% less than that of the

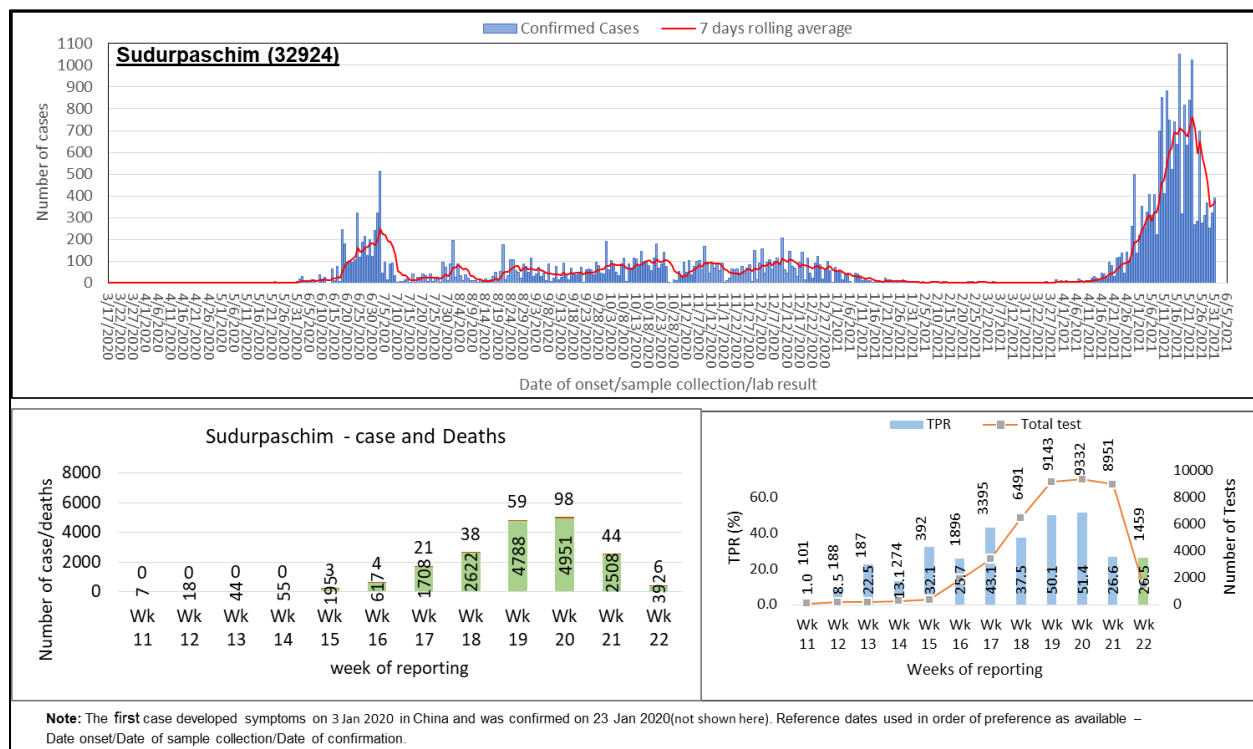
previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 37.0% in the past week. A total of 7411 tests were performed in the past week, 22% less than that of the previous week.



Lumbini reported 4787 new cases in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are increasing significantly. However, the cases have decreased by 44% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 157 deaths reported in the past week, 32% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province decreased to 34.7% in the past week. A total of 13071 tests were performed in the past week, 21% less than that of the previous week.

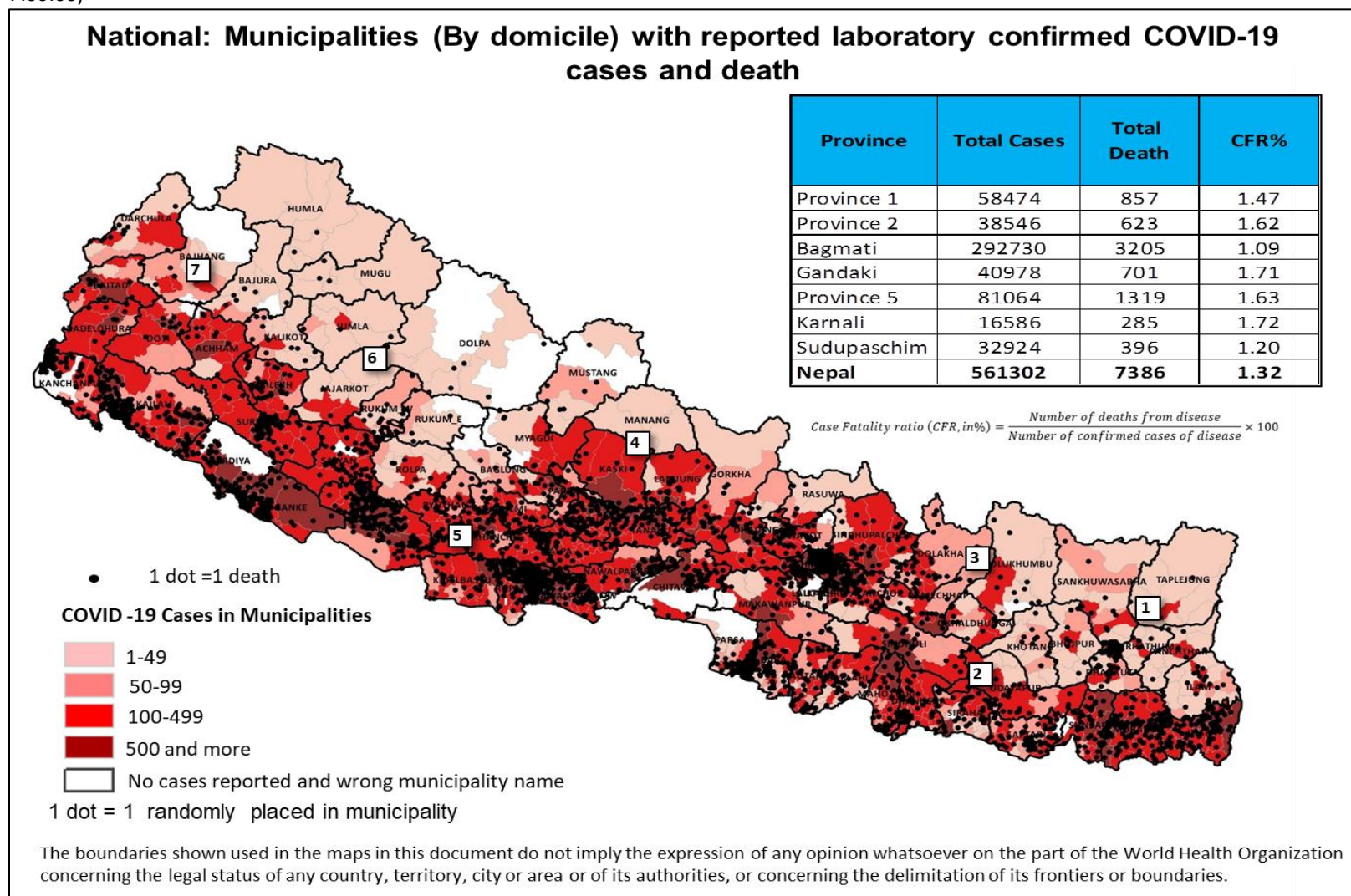


In Karnali, 1178 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 59% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 53 deaths reported in the past week, 47% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 43.8% in the past week. A total of 2576 tests were performed in the past week, 53% less than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 2508 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 49% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 44 deaths reported in the past week, 55% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 26.6% in the past week. A total of 8951 tests were performed in the past week, 4% less than that of the previous week.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 561302)(Data updated on 1 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)



Cases and deaths have been reported in high numbers from Bagmati Province, mostly from Kathmandu valley area. The overall case fatality ratio of Nepal is 1.32%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 1.72% and Gandaki Province with 1.71%.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.
(N = 561302)(Data updated on 1 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)

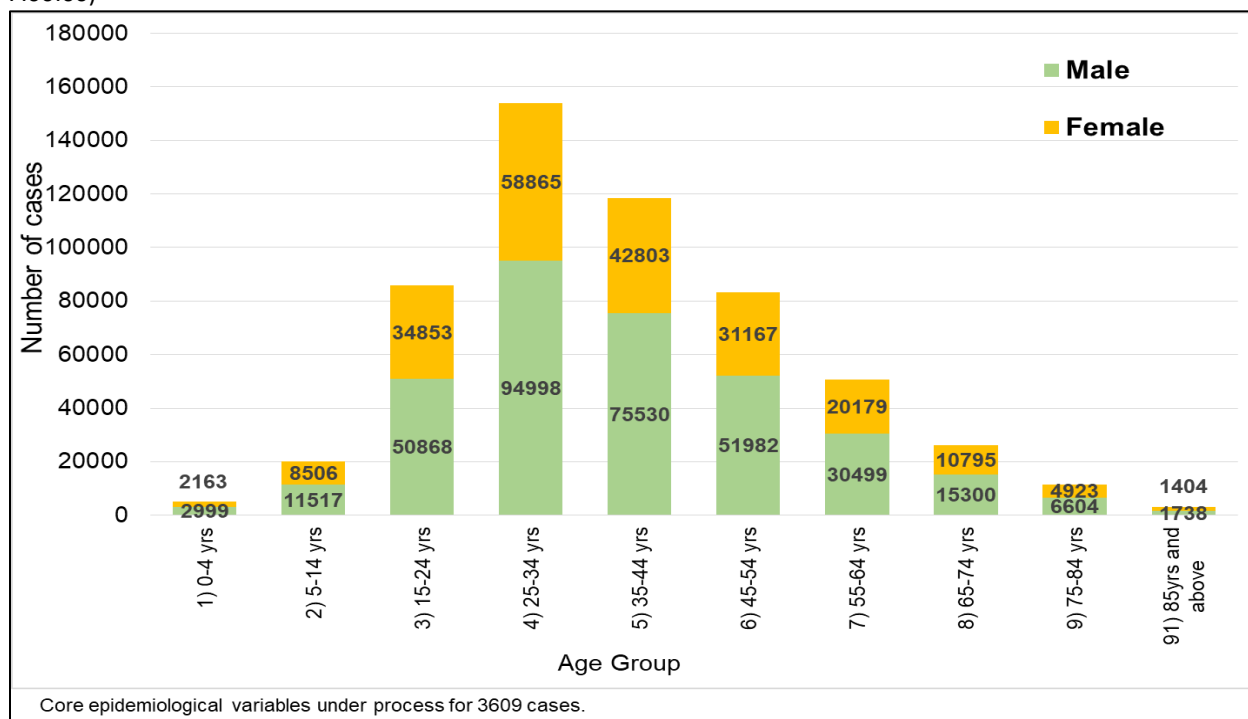
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of the total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days	Total deaths in last 14 days
Province 1	58474	10.4	857	Community transmission	14393	215
Province 2	38546	6.9	623	Community transmission	7487	177
Bagmati	292730	52.2	3205	Community transmission	48598	924
Gandaki	40978	7.3	701	Community transmission	10097	192
Province 5	81064	14.4	1319	Community transmission	13703	367
Karnali	16586	3.0	285	Community transmission	4153	153
Sudurpashchim	32924	5.9	396	Community transmission	7851	143
National Total	561302	100	7386	Community transmission	106282	2171

- 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 = 557693)(Data updated on 1 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)



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 COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 561302)(Data updated on 1 June 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	5162	10	13	7	0.45
5-14 yrs	20023	8	7	7	0.07
15-24 yrs	85721	51	57	35	0.13
25-34 yrs	153863	250	139	79	0.25
35-44 yrs	118333	607	260	172	0.73
45-54 yrs	83149	887	387	332	1.53
55-64 yrs	50678	1096	467	488	3.08
65-74 yrs	26095	1045	518	596	5.99
75-84 yrs	11527	714	393	454	9.6
85+ yrs	3142	292	170	156	14.7
Unknown	3609	12	3	8	0.42
National	561302	4972	2414	2334	1.32

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 7,386 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 4,972 (67.3%) were males and 2,414 (32.7%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 2334 persons (31.6%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, the CFR progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 6.0% to 14.7%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has dispatched antigen kits for antigen testing to all 7 Provinces across the country. These antigen test kits will be used at the local level along with Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (CICT) activities.
- As per the issuance of COVID-19 Crisis Management Ordinance, COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee (CCMC) has been activated and institutional set up has been established at the Prime Minister's office. Mr Balananda Sharma- Retired Lieutenant General of Nepali Army has been appointed as the Chief of the CCMC.
- The Government of Nepal has appointed Prof Dr Jageshwar Gautam as the Chief Administrative Officer of the COVID-19 Unified Hospital. The Unified Hospital will have command over all COVID-dedicated hospitals across the nation. Thirteen medical officers have been recruited with support from WHO to support clinical activities of Unified Hospital and other COVID-19 hospitals. They will be assisting in conducting assessments, monitoring of the hospitals and supporting in the development of the hospital plans etc.
- Following COVID-19 publications have been published by Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) on 31 May 2021:
 - Pocket book for people who are in home isolation (Nepali Language) Link [Here](#)
 - A protocol on Case Investigation and contact tracing (CICT) during COVID-19 Community level transmission (Nepali Language) Link [Here](#)
 - Treatment guideline for Mucromyositis (English Language) Link [Here](#) and Mucormycosis Surveillance reporting format (English Language) Link [Here](#)
- The 2nd dose of COVID-19 Vaccination Verocell vaccine campaign continues in selected districts of Bagmati Province - Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kavre, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa and Nuwakot. As of 31 May, 279,051 people received second dose of Verocell which is 96.4% of the targeted population.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

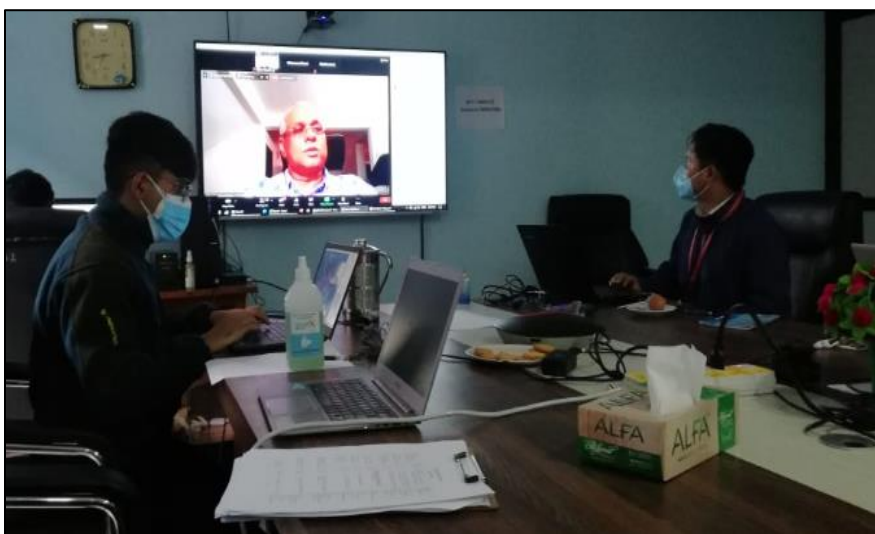
Laboratory Capacity

- WHO Nepal has also been providing technical support to NPHL in the following activities:
 - Monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP).

- A total of 12 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of the 11 participating laboratories was satisfactory $\geq 90\%$ while one laboratory was $< 90\%$.
- Providing technical support to NPHL in revision of “Protocol for Verification of newly established lab”.

Technical Planning and Operations

- WHO Nepal is supporting a 10 day virtual training ‘Critical Care Training program’ to National Health Training Center (NHTC) and Nepal Medical Association (NMA). This training was started from 27 May 2021 and will end on 5 June 2021. The 22 trainers from Nepalese Society of Critical Care Medicine (NSCCM), Critical Care Nurses Association of Nepal (CCNAN), Society of Anesthesiologists of Nepal (SAN) and Society of Internal Medicine of Nepal (SIMON) trained more than 3000 participants (registered doctors, nurses and paramedics) as of 31 May 2021. Two batches of trainings have been completed.



Opening remarks from WHO Nepal Representative- Dr Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav during the Critical Care Training program; Picture Credit- WHO Nepal/M. Karmacharya



Virtual Critical Care Training Program. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal/M. Karmacharya

- Upon request of the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP), a joint monitoring team from WHO & MoHP has been deployed to 13 Hub hospitals and its satellite hospitals for
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screening of COVID 19 cases and to support the hospitals in overall COVID-19 case management since 15 May 2021.

- WHO supported EDCD to develop a Home Isolation pocket book which was published through EDCD portal on 31 May 2021.

Point of Entry

- The District Administration Offices of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur have decided to extend the lockdown for another 10 days until 14 June 2021. Link [Here](#)
- Following decisions were made on 31 May 2021, by the Government of Nepal, Link [Here](#):
 - Open the scheduled flights to three countries via China, Qatar and Turkey with one flight per week by each single airline of each respective country by compliance of specified health safety protocols effective from 1 June 2021 to 30 June 2021.
 - There shall be only two flights a week (one flight each by Nepal Airlines and Air India) under Air Travel Bubble Arrangement between Nepal and India.
 - All other International schedule flights to remain suspended until further notice.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Science in 5 videos were translated, dubbed, and published (25- 31 May 2021):

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
38	Current Global trends कोभिड-१९ को वर्तमानका विश्वव्यापी प्रवृत्ति	Nepali	Link
38	Current Global trends कोभिड-१९ वर्तमान वैश्विक प्रवृत्तिसभ	Maithili	Link
39	Update on virus variants कोभिड-१९ भाइरसको स्वरूपसम्बन्धी नयाँ जानकारी	Nepali	Link
39	Update on virus variants कोभिड-१९ विषाणुके स्वरूपसभ पर नयाँ जानकारी	Maithili	Link

- Video statement by the Hon. Minister of Health and Population of Nepal, Mr. Hridayesh Tripathi, for the 74th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) was uploaded on Facebook (link [here](#)).
- Announcement of a new series - "NMA TeleECHO series on the Best Practices of COVID-19 Treatment" – organized by Nepal Medical Association (NMA), in partnership with ECHO India and WHO Nepal, and in collaboration with Mayo Clinic, McMaster University, Western University, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and the University of Ottawa - was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- The announcement of a critical care training for all interested doctors, nurses, and paramedics, for the management of COVID-19 was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- News and photos of WHO Nepal's support for the newly set up Unified Central Hospital for COVID-19 at Bir Hospital was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- WHO Representative to Nepal, Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, visit to Nepal Police Hospital (one of the 13 COVID-19 hub hospitals where WHO technical officers were deployed alongside senior Ministry of Health and Population officials to gather information, monitor services, and map resources) to assess the impact of the

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intervention while also making a courtesy call on its Director, Dr Asha Singh, was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).

- The published op-ed - *What It Will Take to Overcome the Pandemic* – written by the special envoys on COVID-19 for the Director-General of WHO was promoted on WHO Nepal Twitter page (link [here](#); English version).
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - Nepal provincial reports,
 - Daily *Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*, and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WCO Nepal social media:
- How do you protect yourself and your loved ones if you find out you are a confirmed contact for COVID-19: [Facebook Link](#) (Nepali)
- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, or receive a positive test result, how do you protect yourself and your loved ones?: [Facebook Link](#) (Nepali) | [Twitter Link](#) (English)

Field Operation and Logistics

- On 27 May 2021, 3 new WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) Field vehicles were deployed to the Provincial field offices at Lumbini Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpashchim Province to provide travel support for COVID-19 response to Field Medical Officers (FMOs) working under WHO Health Emergencies Unit.



WHO Nepal drivers (Left to Right- Mr Krishna Bahadur Khadka, Driver for Dhangadi, Sudurpashchim Province; Mr Chandra Kumar Tamang, Driver for Lumbini Province and Ms Laxmi Thapa – first woman driver of WHO Nepal for Karnali Province) with their vehicle before deploying to the field. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal

- Along with the deployment of the vehicles, the following supplies were also delivered via these vehicles (picture below):
 - Emergency Medical Deployment (EMDT) bags- delivered to the hub hospitals at Lumbini Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpashchim Province.

- Four bags of Isolation Kits- delivered to each duty stations at Lumbini Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpashchim Province (to be used by all the WHO staff if tested positive for COVID-19).
- Disinfectant and logistics supplies to the WHE (WHO Health Emergency) field staffs at Provincial Health Emergencies Operations Centers (PHEOCs) in Lumbini Province, Karnali Province and Sudurpashchim Province.



*WHO Health Emergencies field vehicles loaded with EMDT bags and Isolation Kits deploying to the field offices.
Picture Credit- WHO Nepal*

What are the health clusters 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 as and when on a required basis.
- MOHP re-convened the weekly coordination meeting (every Tuesday) with COVID hospitals and PHDOs from 20 April 2021.
- Health partners are providing their support to government for the continuation of COVID and non-COVID responses throughout the country. The support provided through Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) especially with Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC), Health Coordination Division (HCD), Policy, Planning & Monitoring Division (PP&MD), Epidemiology and Diseases Control Division (EDCD), National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), National Health Training Centre (NHTC), National Health Education Information Communication Centre (NHEICC), Family Welfare Division (FWD), Management Division (MD), Hub hospital networks; Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) especially with Provincial Health Directorate Offices, District Public/Health Offices, and municipalities.
- WHO and UNICEF are providing support for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with External Development Partners (EDPs) which includes:
 - Micro planning including financing for the procurement of vaccination;
 - Training/orientations – to health personnel at various levels, local governments;

- Provision of Logistics support – vehicle, cold chain boxes, delivery of vaccines, transportation of beneficiaries to the vaccination site;
- Information Technology - registration, information communication, data management, IMU app etc;
- Risk communication and community engagement – production and dissemination of messages, public awareness campaigns and
- Continuation of Technical Assistance.

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 (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](#)

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
Senior Health Emergency Officer,
WHO Health Emergencies Program
(WHE)
WHO, SEARO
Email: samuelt@who.int

Communication/Media Focal Point

Tsering Dolkar Gurung
Media, Communication and Public
Information Officer
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gurungt@who.int