

Situation Update #63- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 22 – 28 June 2021

HIGHLIGHTS *Data as of HEOC of MoHP Situation Report, 28 June 2021

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 92.6% (588,187) of cases have recovered and 5.9% (37,950) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 92.4% (35,075) cases are in home isolation; 7.5% (2,875) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.7% (657) patients require ICU admission, 29.3% (237) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Twenty three districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (12,548) reported this week, 16.1% (2,026) are from Kathmandu district and 14.3% (1,794) from Baglung district. Most of the new cases about 23.3% (2,922) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (Source: IHIMS as of 29 June 2021):

COVISHIELD Vaccine	SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)
First dose : 1,828,484	First dose : 759,389
Second dose : 456,270	Second dose : 295,840

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 29 June 2021, 07:00:00 hours (week no. 26), a total of 635,188 COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,329,687 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by 96 designated functional COVID-19 laboratories of which 58 are public laboratories. A total of 33,033 cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 179,941 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- All 7 provinces in the country are now experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in the past week (week 25) ranged from 11.1% (Sudurpashchim Province) to 45.2% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 24.4%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 61% (385,678/635,188) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 79% (303,464/385,678) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 29 June 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

**635,188 (RT-PCR) &
33,033 (Antigen RDT kit)
confirmed cases
9,051 deaths
33,29,687 RT-PCR tests**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 27 June 2021)

**34,606,211 confirmed cases
484,397 deaths**

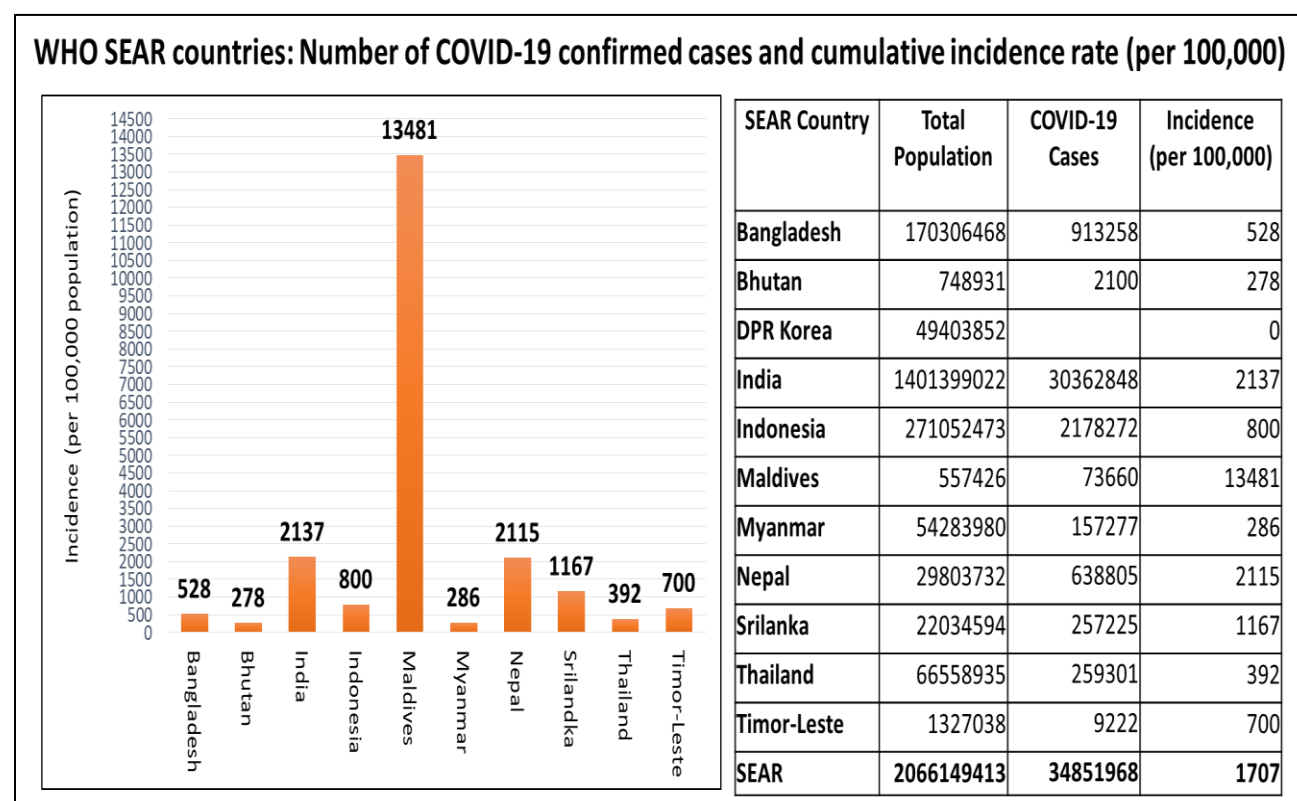
GLOBAL

(Data as of 27 June 2021)

**180,492,131 confirmed cases
3,916,771 deaths**

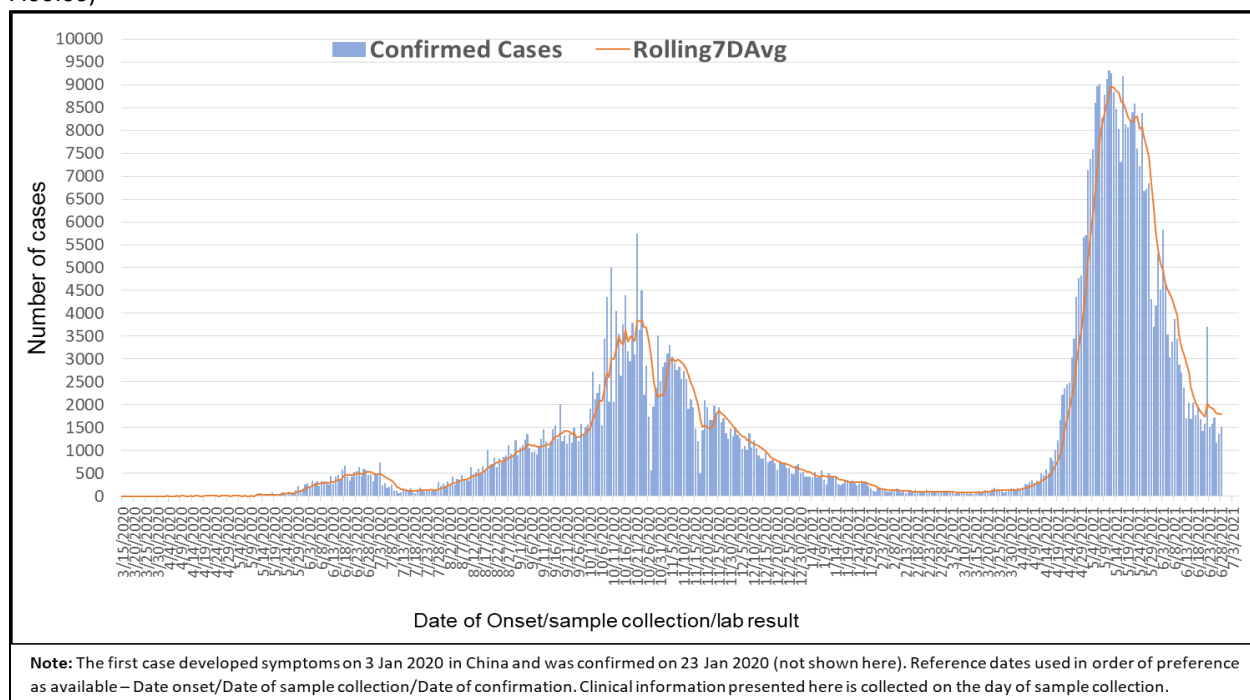
- National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) did not receive nor was reported on any diagnostic or surveillance influenza samples on EPID-week 25 (21 - 27 June 2021).
- 150 SARS-Cov-2 negative samples have been tested for Influenza on EPID-week 25 (21 -27 June 2021). None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
- From 4 January until 27 June 2021, a total of 51 samples have tested positive for influenza (all were influenza A/H3) from 1950 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases). Similarly, 272 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1117 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).¹

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 27 June 2021; Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 46) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)



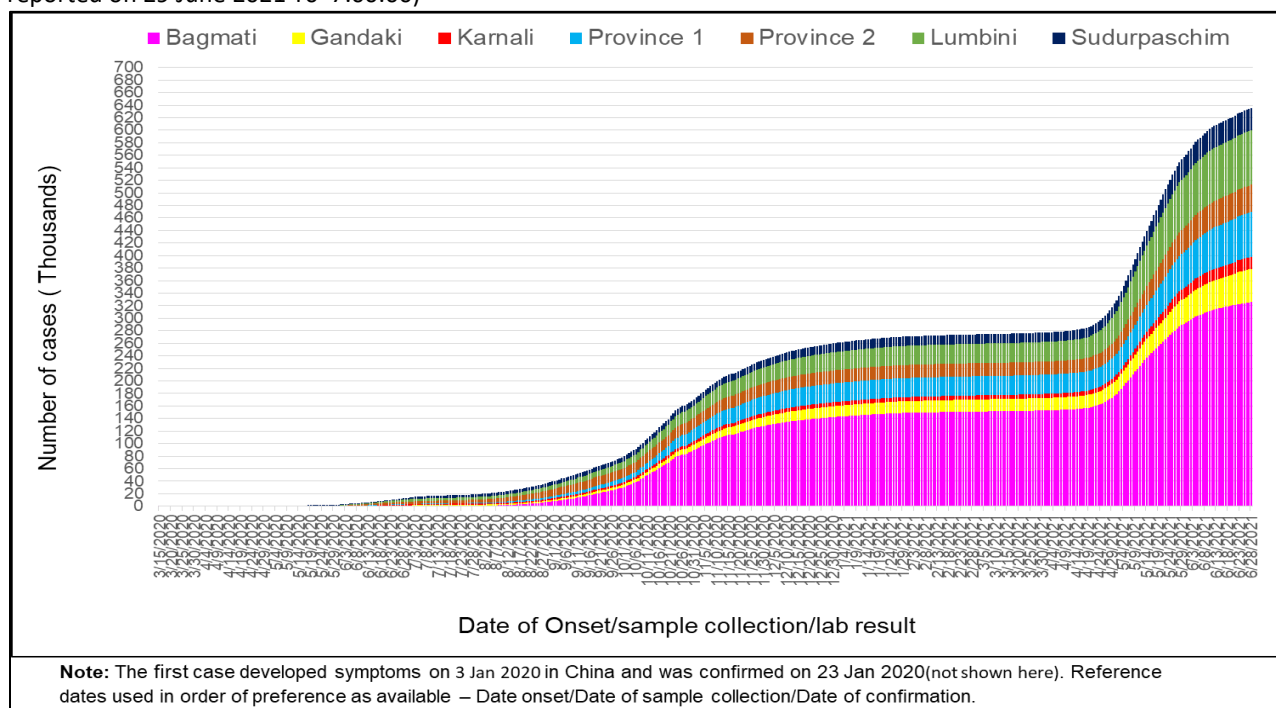
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 635188)(Data reported on 29 June 2021 TO 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 28 June 2021 was 6648 which is 67% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

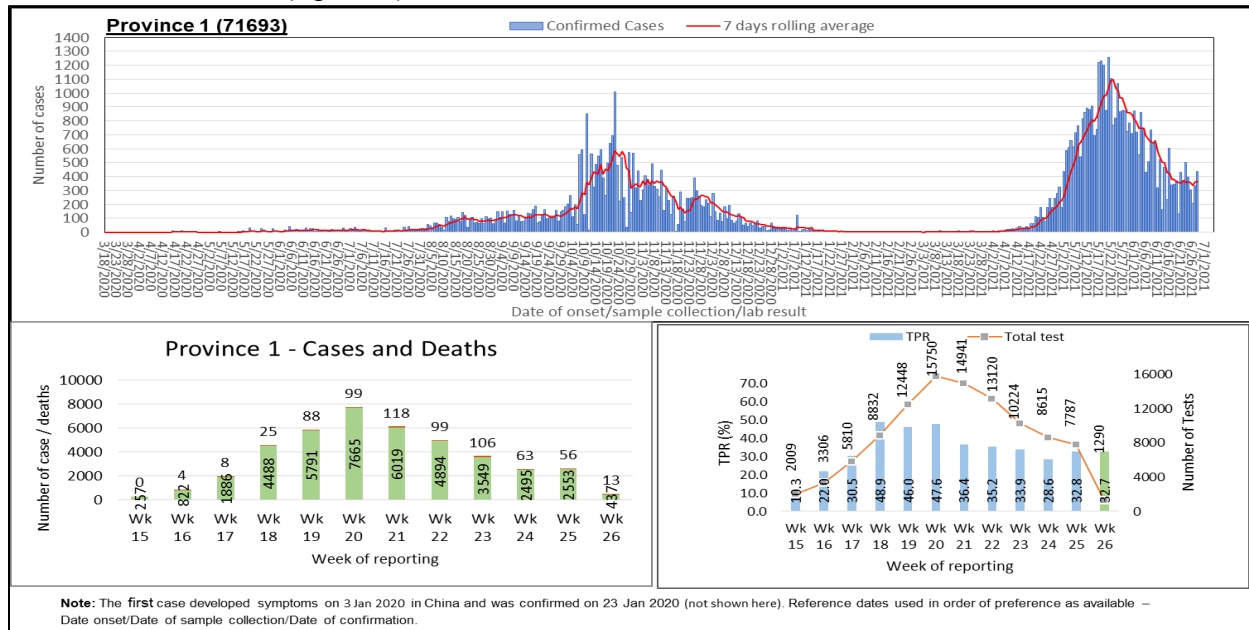
Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 635188)(Data reported on 29 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)



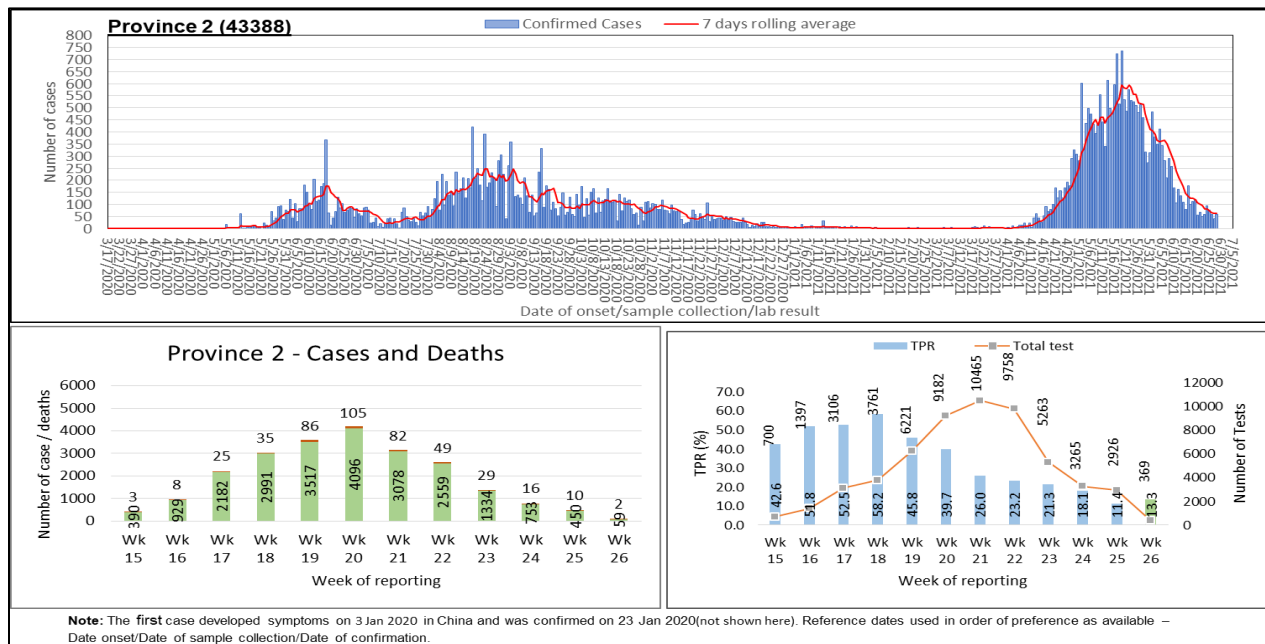
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case which was confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 635188)(Data reported on 29 June 2021 T0 7:00:00)

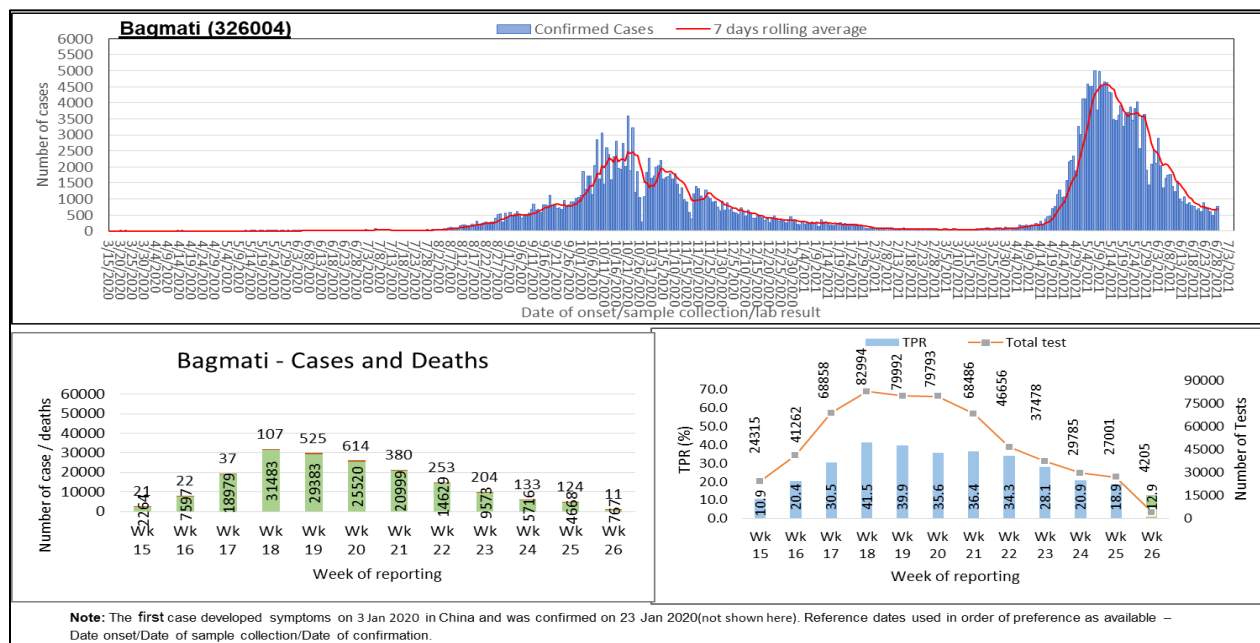
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



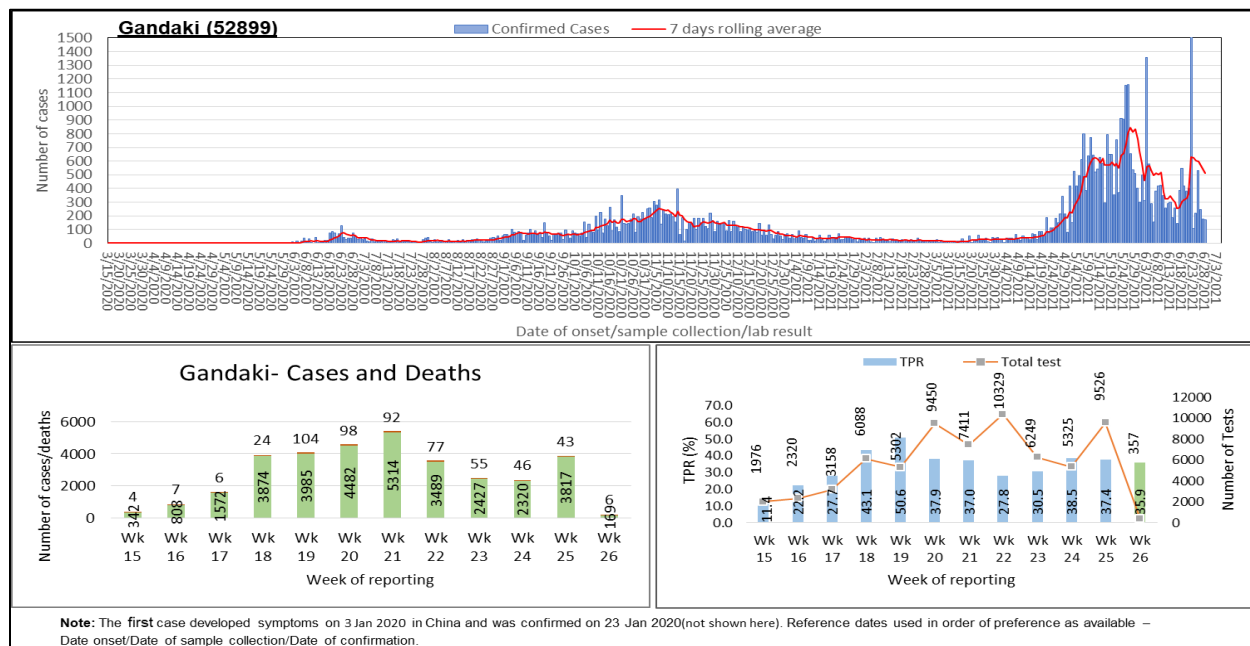
There were 2553 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases had increased by 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 56 deaths reported in the past week, 11% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 32.8% in the past week. A total of 7787 tests were performed in the past week, 10% less than that of the previous week.



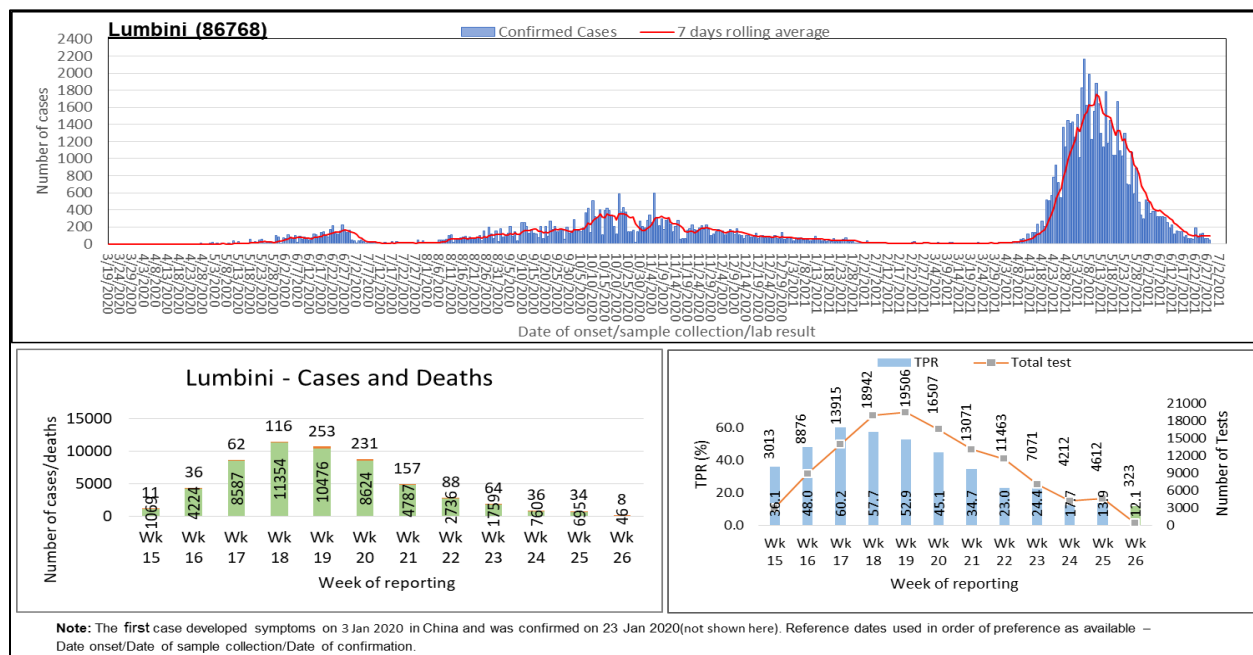
There were 450 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 40% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 10 deaths reported in the past week, 38% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 11.4% in the past week. A total of 2926 tests were performed in the past week, 10% less than that of the previous week.



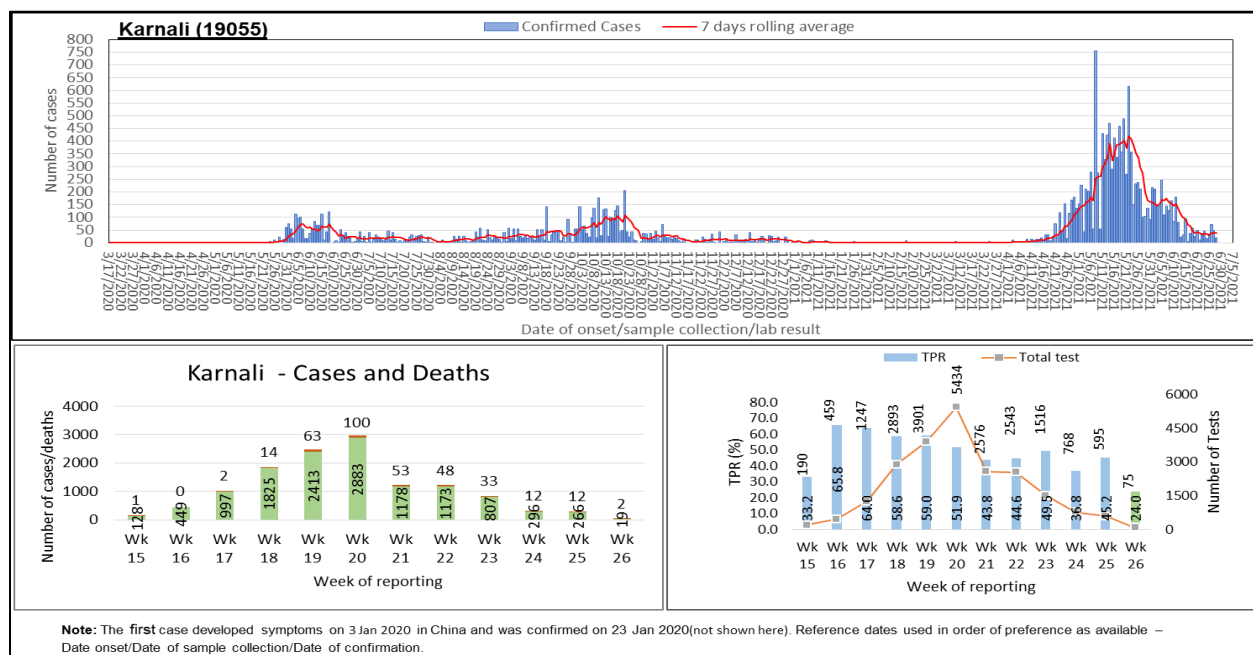
In Bagmati, 4668 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 18% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 124 deaths reported in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 18.9% in the past week. A total of 27001 tests were performed in the past week, 9% less than that of the previous week.



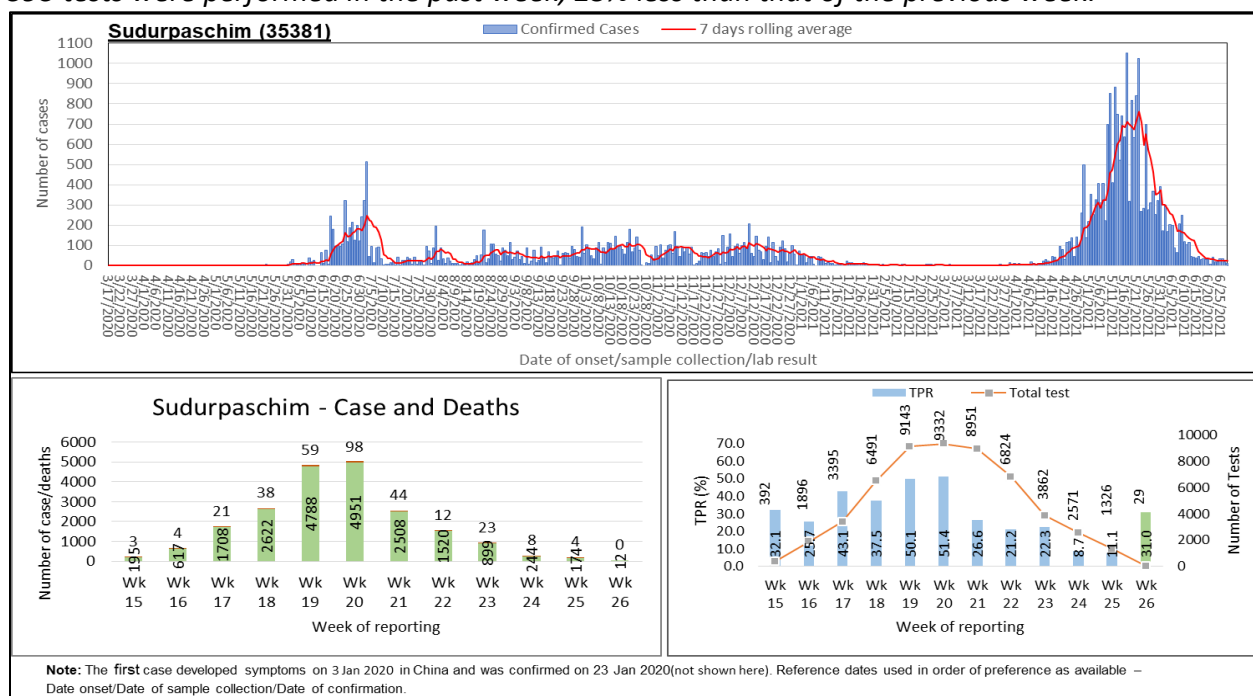
In Gandaki, 3817 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 65% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 43 deaths reported in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 37.4% in the past week. A total of 9526 tests were performed in the past week, 79% more than that of the previous week.



Lumbini reported 695 new cases in the past week. Since Week 12, new cases are considerably increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 9% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 34 deaths reported in the past week, 6% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 13.9% in the past week. A total of 4612 tests were performed in the past week, 9% more than that of the previous week.

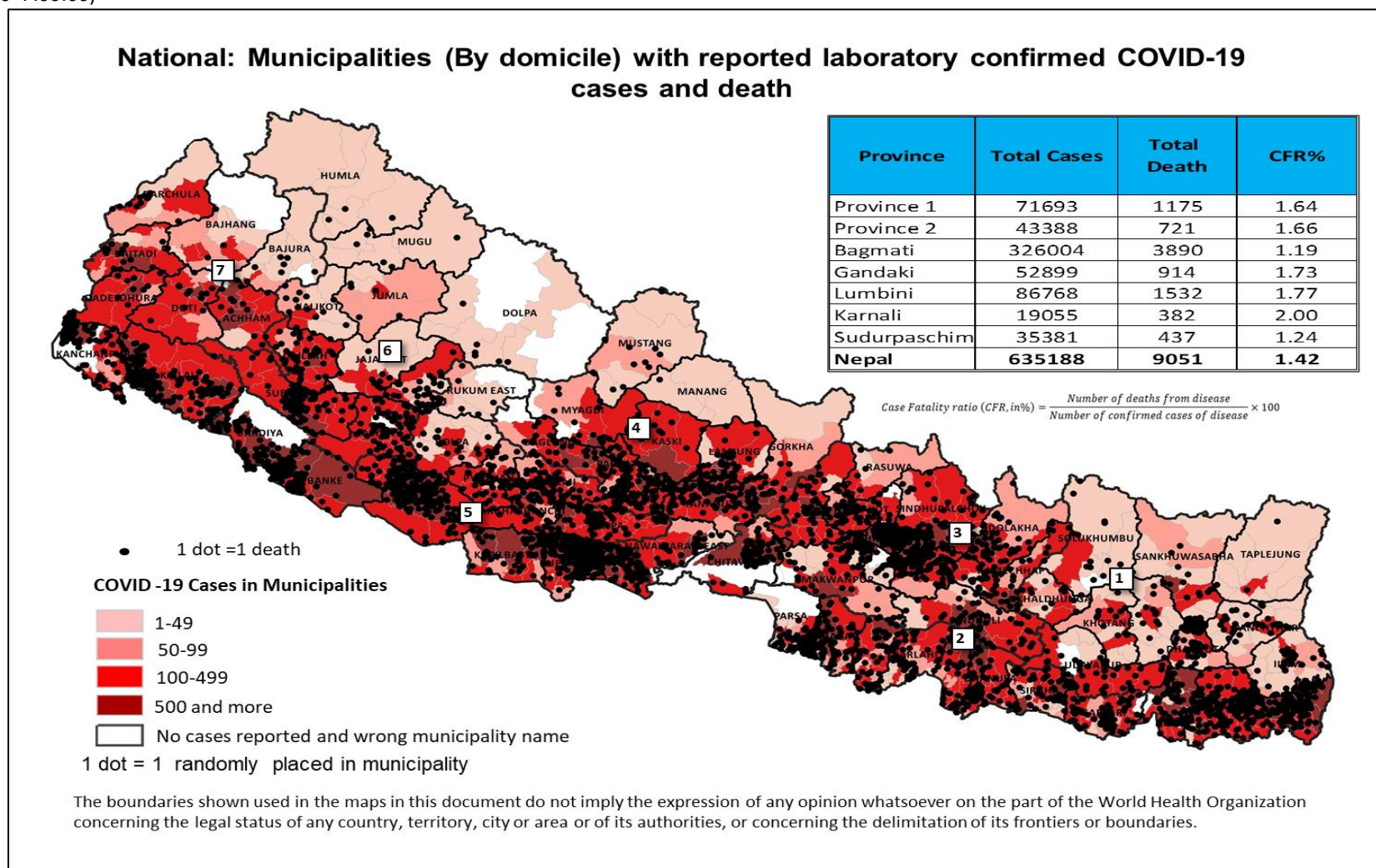


In Karnali, 266 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 10% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 12 deaths reported in the past week, same as that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 45.2% in the past week. A total of 595 tests were performed in the past week, 23% less than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 244 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are increasing significantly. However, the cases have decreased by 73% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 8 deaths reported in the past week, 65% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 8.7% in the past week. A total of 2571 tests were performed in the past week, 33% less than that in the previous week.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 635188)(Data reported on 29 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 (CFR) of Nepal is 1.42%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2% and Gandaki Province with 1.77%.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 29 June 2021 TO 7:00:00)

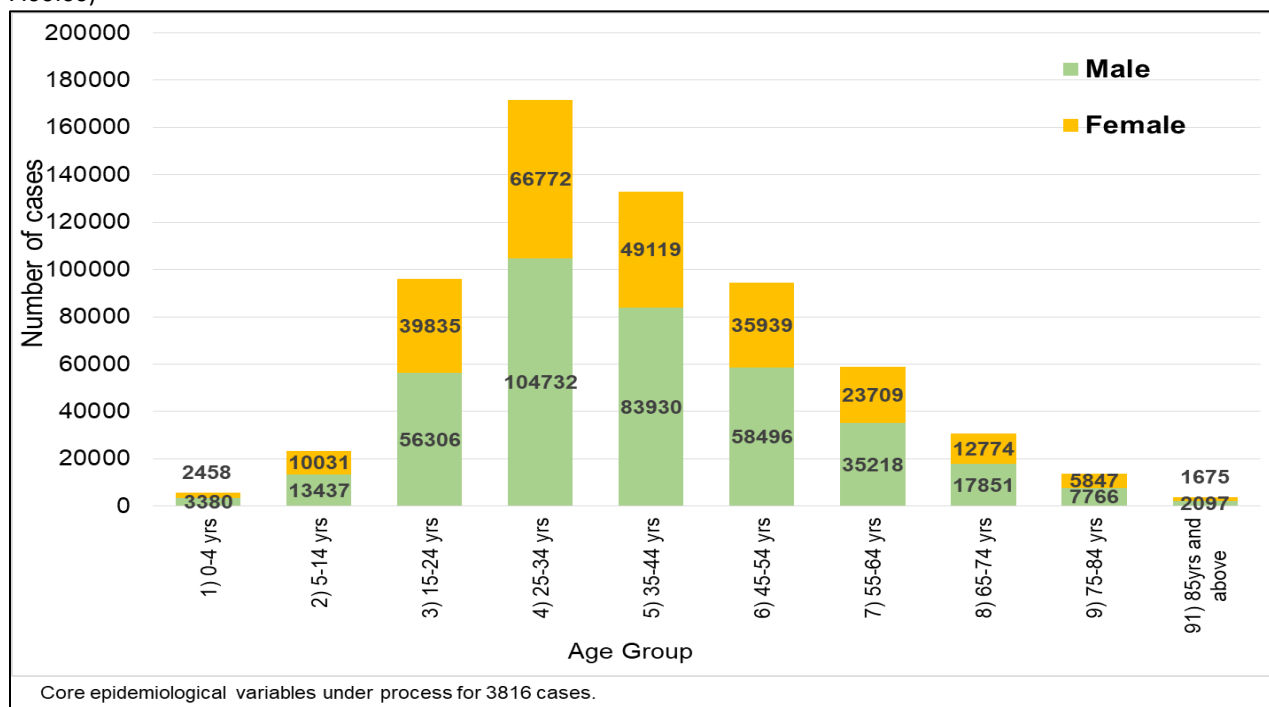
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	71693	6378	78071	11.8	1175	Community transmission	3628	5485	9113	24.0	120
Province 2	43388	364	43752	6.6	721	Community transmission	90	1262	1352	3.6	26
Bagmati	326004	6372	332376	50.4	3890	Community transmission	2738	11151	13889	36.6	250
Gandaki	52899	4458	57357	8.7	914	Community transmission	2135	6306	8441	22.3	84
Lumbini	86768	4374	91142	13.8	1532	Community transmission	1838	1501	3339	8.8	73
Karnali	19055	1357	20412	3.1	382	Community transmission	518	581	1099	2.9	23
Sudurpashchim	35381	1348	36729	5.6	437	Community transmission	270	430	700	1.8	10
National Total	635188	24651*	659839	100	9051	Community transmission	11217	26716	37933	100	586

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 21 June 27308; but IMU reported 19145*

Notes:

1. The source for 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 entry and manual errors such as a city's name in place of districts, district name 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 stay.

Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 631372)(Data reported on 29 June 2021 T0 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 = 635188)(Data reported on 29 June 2021 T0 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	5838	12	16	10	0.48
5-14 yrs	23468	11	7	8	0.08
15-24 yrs	96141	66	67	41	0.14
25-34 yrs	171504	304	185	92	0.29
35-44 yrs	133049	720	328	198	0.79
45-54 yrs	94435	1111	483	390	1.69
55-64 yrs	58927	1340	577	547	3.25
65-74 yrs	30625	1262	632	681	6.18
75-84 yrs	13613	881	468	511	9.91
85+ yrs	3772	361	199	175	14.85
Unknown	3816	15	6	10	0.55
National	635188	6083	2968	2663	1.42

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

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

A total of 9,051 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 6,083 (67.2%) were males and 2,968 (32.8%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 2,663 persons (29.4%) 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 6.2% to 14.9%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- Former Minister of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), Mr Krishna Gopal Shrestha has been newly appointed as the Health Minister for Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). The Honorable Minister joined the office at MoHP on 24 June 2021.
- A meeting was held at MoHP on 28 June 2021 where a decision was made to mobilize 1077 public health inspectors at local level (municipalities) across the country to strengthen the COVID-19 response for implementation and reinforcement of the public health interventions with regular monitoring of the public health measures. A guideline (Link [Here](#)) on mobilization of Public Health Inspectors at local level was also endorsed during the meeting.
- COVID-19 vaccination campaign for first dose of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (VeroCell) started throughout the country for 60 – 64 year old population in Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts) and 62-64 years age group in the remaining 74 districts from 08 June 2021. As of 29 June 2021, 458072 out of 662367 people were vaccinated with first dose of VeroCell vaccine.
- Government of Nepal is receiving medical equipment, supplies and health commodities from the various countries and donor agencies. Within the reporting time frame, the following countries and donor agencies have provided logistics support:
 - Association of International NGOs (AIN) in Nepal
 - Unilever Nepal Limited
 - Government of Italy through the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

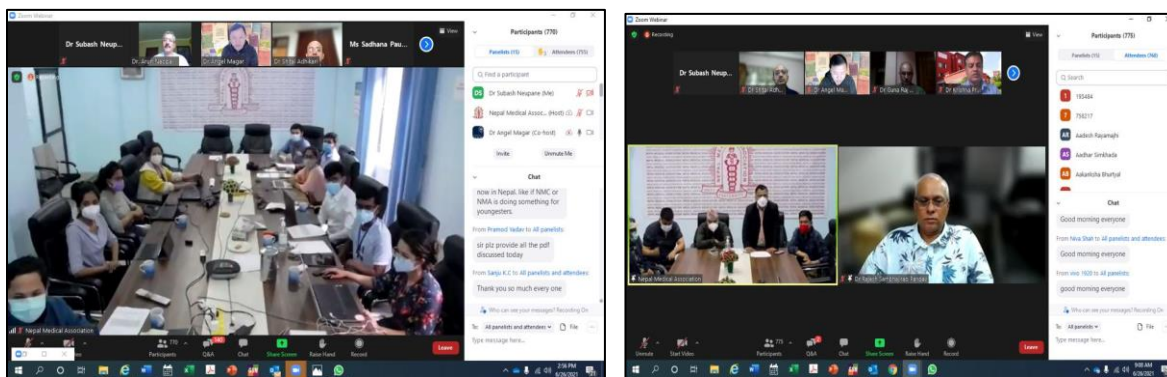
Laboratory Capacity

- WHO Nepal has 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 . Out of 12 participating laboratories, the result of 9 laboratories was satisfactory ≥90% and the remaining 3 laboratories were unsatisfactory <90%.
 - Validation of COVID-19 Antigen rapid Testing kit (Colloidal Gold): Zhongshan Bio-Tech Co. Ltd. The result was found to be 30% sensitivity and 100% specificity.
 - Shipment of samples for 4th Round of Proficiency Panel Testing of SARS-CoV-2 by PCR to 7 designated COVID-19 labs outside the valley.

- Shipment of External Quality Assurance Program (EQAP) panels received from the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programs to designated COVID-19 labs for their participation. Out of 75 panels received, 33 panels have been dispatched already. This week, 4 panels were distributed to 4 COVID-19 labs outside the Kathmandu valley. The remaining panels are yet to be sent.
- WHO Nepal has also provided technical support to NPHL in facilitating a National Influenza Surveillance Network (NISN) meeting on “Expanding Integrated influenza and SARS-COV-2 surveillance plan at sub-national level”. The meeting was conducted using a virtual platform with the objective of restructuring the existing NISN network in the country. The meeting was chaired by the NPHL director, who presented the proposed plan. The representatives from Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) and WARUN participated in the session, along with NPHL and WHO staffs.

Technical Planning and Operations

- Meeting was held on 23 June 2021 with officials from Curative Service Division, Nepal Paediatric Society (NEPAS), UNICEF and WHO Nepal for development of ‘Paediatric COVID-19 treatment guideline’. Awaiting finalization and endorsement of the guidelines.
- Webinar on COVID-19 was organized by Nepal Medical Association (NMA) in collaboration with MoHP and supported by WHO Nepal for Intern doctors, medical and dental students on 26 June 2021. Various COVID-19 related topics: Clinical case management of COVID-19 cases, mental health, emerging conditions like mucormycosis and post COVID syndrome were also shared during the webinar among 1000 participants.



Webinar on COVID-19 for medical and dental students, a joint training program organized by MoHP, NMA and WHO Nepal. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal/ S. Adhikari

- Orientation on Post COVID and IMU Nepal app to 13 Liaison officers supported by WHO Nepal currently working in 13 hospitals under the ‘COVID-19 UNIFIED CENTRAL HOSPITAL’ was held at WHO Country Office Nepal on 28 June 2021.

Point of Entry

- Prohibitory Order imposed in Kathmandu Valley since 29 April 2021 has been further extended by a week from 29 June 2021 until 05 July 2021 by the District Administration
- Situation Update #63 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 WHO Country Office for Nepal
 Friday 2 July 2021

Offices of Kathmandu district, Lalitpur district and Bhaktapur district (Link [Here](#)). While most restrictions remain unchanged since first issued on April 26, the most current modifications dated June 28, 2021 include:

- Public vehicles with 25 or more seats will be allowed to operate on an odd-even basis from 6 AM to 7 PM in Kathmandu valley from 29 June.
- Likewise, groceries, fruit and vegetable shops, departmental stores, stationery/sports shops will open every day till 6 PM.
- Construction materials, Jewelry, utensils, electronics, household appliances, shopping malls, automobiles shops etc. will open from 11 AM to 6 PM.
- Online order/delivery/restaurant take away service will be allowed till 7 PM.
- Vehicle Movement to and from Kathmandu Valley
 - All vehicles are prohibited to enter Kathmandu valley except transport vehicles carrying essential supplies, ambulances carrying patients and patient's caretaker (2 person only), and the vehicles used by health workers, Veterinary personnel, and security forces.
 - Vehicle for emergency purpose to travel outside Kathmandu Valley to attend funeral, death rituals, and patients must submit an application to DAO with recommendation from local levels. Such Inter-district movements will be facilitated by the DAO.
- Following decisions were made on 21 June 2021 by the Government of Nepal (Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal):
 - All Airlines Operating Domestic Flights (Link [Here](#)):
 - Domestic flights to resume services from 01 July 2021. The flights would be operated with 50 per cent of the total number of usual flights only until further notice.
 - International Schedule Flights (Link [Here](#))
 - International flights to open limited number of scheduled flights to China, Qatar, Turkey, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan for designated airline of respective countries by compliance of specified health safety protocols effective from 1 July 2021.
 - There shall be only two flights a week (one flight each by Nepal Airlines and Air India) under the Air Travel Bubble Arrangement between Nepal and India.
 - All other International schedule flights to remain suspended until further notice.
 - Government of Nepal (Council of Ministers) has made a decision regarding new standards of passengers' arrival (Nepali and Foreign nationals) to Nepal on 21 June 2021. It states the following:
 - Requirement of a medical certificate with a negative RT –PCR or equivalent testing (Gene- X pert/ True NAAT) report with photo identification &

Barcode/ QR code (as per the availability, Nepali diplomatic mission at country of departure may prescribe otherwise) issued by the registered COVID-19 labs of respective countries within 72 hours from the swab collection time to the departure time of the flight with exemption of a test report for their minors below the age of five years;

- Must possess the printed barcode obtained after filling up ARMS (Abroad Returnee Management System) forms available at website of CCMC, Nepal (ccmc.gov.np)
- Other points are related to compulsory need to follow enlisted health and quarantine protocols (Link [Here](#)).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Science in 5 videos were translated, dubbed, and published (22- 28 June 2021):

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
43	Pregnancy & COVID-19 गर्भावस्था र कोभिड-१९	Nepali	Link
43	Pregnancy & COVID-19 गर्भावस्था आ कोभिड- १९	Maithili	Link

The latest episodes were also shared with WHO HQ and WHO Country Office India to be disseminated via their respective channels.

- The appeal made by the WHO Representative to Nepal, Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, calling on countries with reserves of vaccines to share them with Nepal, was re-shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- The press release on incorrect claims on 'mix and match' regimen for COVID-19 vaccines, issued by WHO Nepal, was published on the WHO Nepal website (link [here](#)), Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link here ([Nepali](#))), and Facebook (link [here](#)).
- The English version of the op-ed, written by the World Health Organization Regional Director for South-East Asia, Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, titled - *Renew and ramp up action to address non-communicable diseases* - has been published in Republica (link [here](#)). The op-ed states that the prioritization of action against non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is important in view of the deaths and diseases they cause, and highlights that NCDs are risk factor for severe COVID-19.
- The announcement of the program on COVID-19 for intern doctors, and medical and dental students, was shared on WCO Nepal Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The event was organized by Nepal Medical Association, in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Population, and supported by WHO Country Office Nepal.
- The announcement of the next session in the *Dissemination of Best Practices on Management of COVID-19* was published on Facebook (link [here](#)). Experts elaborated on COVID-19 in pregnancy, COVID-19 vaccination, and post COVID-19 sequelae and management.

- The news of the formation of the Control Room at the COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital, ready for operation with support from WHO, Country Office for Nepal, was shared on Twitter (link [here](#)) in the Nepali language. As the central command center, the office is expected to ease coordination and communication among COVID-19 hospitals, strengthening COVID-19 response in the country.
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - Daily *Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*, and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO Country Office Nepal, social media:
 - I. Preventive measures for COVID-19, even after the ease of lockdowns,
 - II. Helpline numbers for COVID-19,
 - III. Important points for persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic,
 - IV. Importance of COVID-19 vaccinations,
 - V. Post COVID-19 symptoms,
 - VI. Information on second dose of vaccination for those who received the first dose and for those who were diagnosed with COVID-19,
 - VII. How to talk about COVID-19 vaccine,
 - VIII. Importance of immunization during COVID-19,
 - IX. The relationship between mental health and COVID-19,
 - X. The similarities and differences of dengue and COVID-19 symptoms.

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](#)

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