

Situation Update #65- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 6 - 12 July 2021

HIGHLIGHTS *Data as of HEOC of MoHP Situation Report, 12 July 2021

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 94.5% (621027) of cases have recovered and 4% (26,712) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 89.6% (23,947) cases are in home isolation; 10.3% (2,765) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2% (549) patients require ICU admission, 29.7% (163) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Nine districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (10772) reported this week, 20% (2158) are from Kathmandu district. Most of the new cases about 28.7% (3087) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (Source: IHIMS/IMU as of 11 July 2021):

COVISHIELD Vaccine		SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)	
First dose	: 1,828,484	First dose	: 458,072 (08 June 2021)
Second dose	: 454,870	Second dose	: 317,278 (06 July 2021 onward and ongoing)

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 13 July 2021, up to 7:00:00 hours (week no. 28), a total of 657,139 (19.1%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,423,164 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 44,319 (18.5%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 238,672 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- As of 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in past week (week 27) ranged from 6.4% (Province 2) to 40.1% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 24.5%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 61% (397,843/657,139) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 79% (312,596/397,843) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 13 July 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

**657,139 (RT-PCR) and
44,319 (Antigen RDT)
confirmed cases**

**9,400 deaths
3,423,164 RT-PCR tests and
2,38,672 Antigen RDT**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 11 July 2021)

**35,931,354 confirmed cases
510,539 deaths**

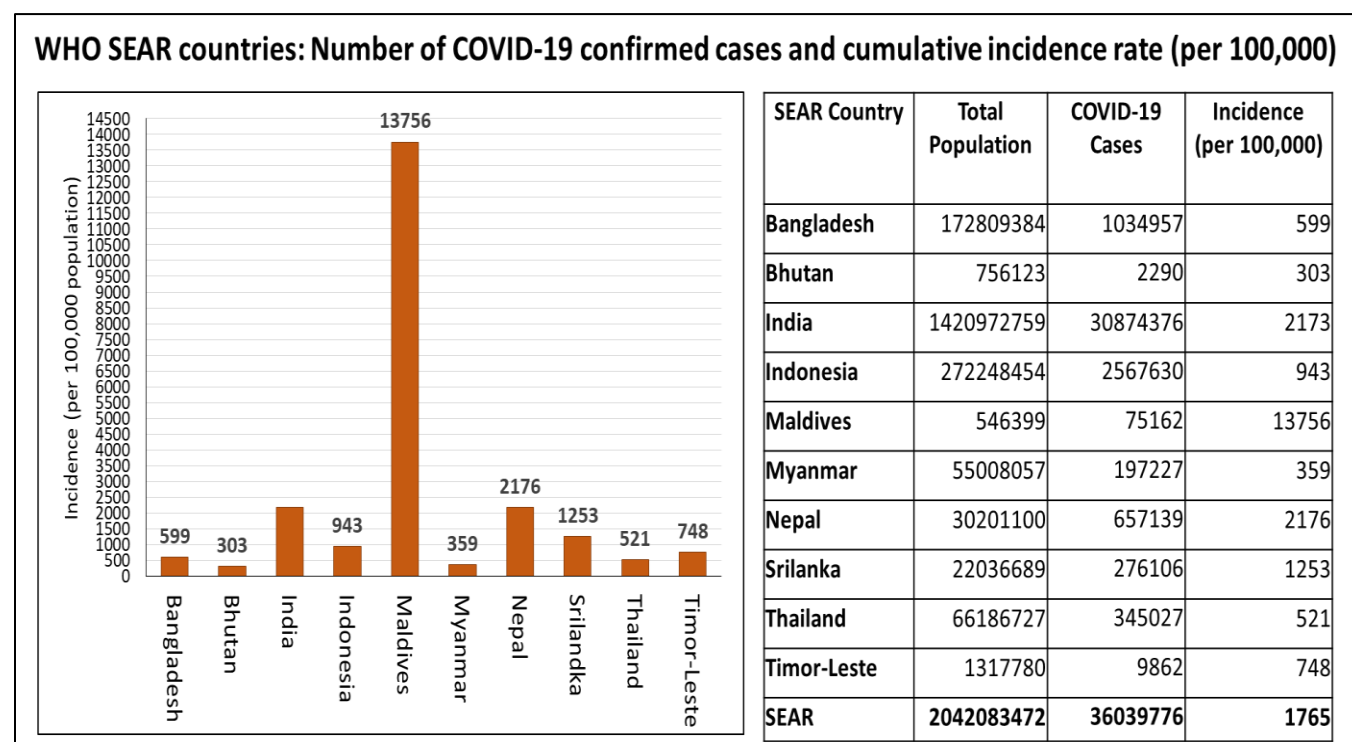
GLOBAL

(Data as of 11 July 2021)

**186,240,393 confirmed cases
4,027,861 deaths**

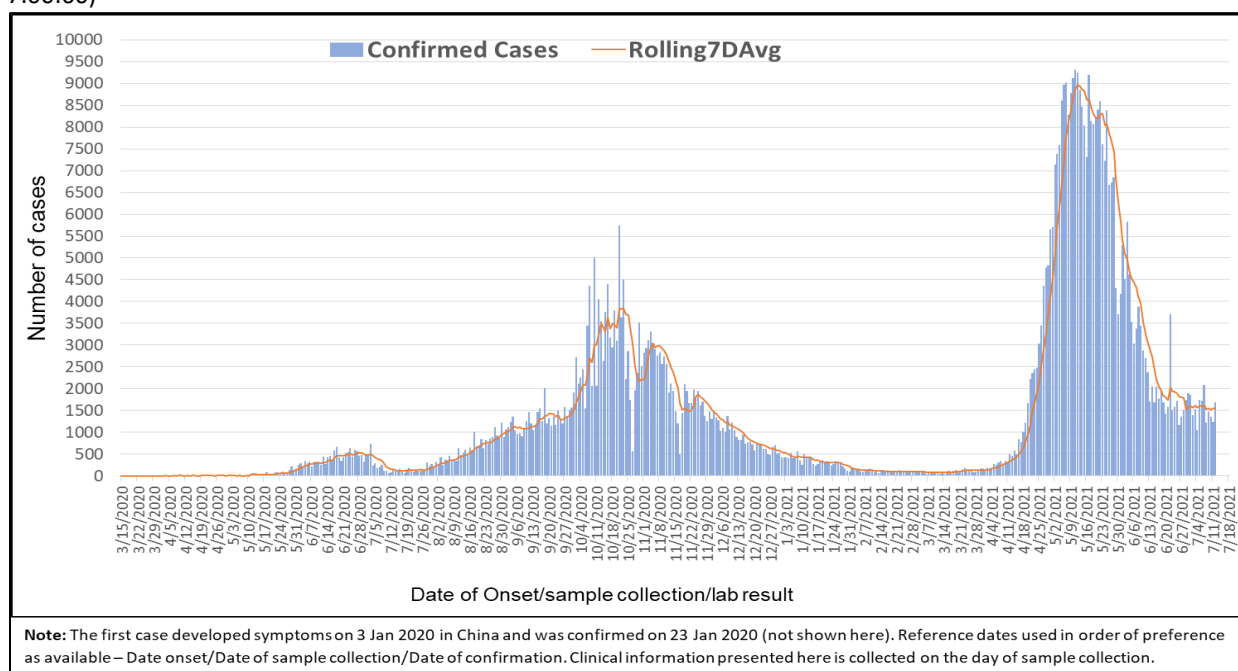
- National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) received and was reported of 23 Influenza diagnostic and surveillance samples on EPID-week 27 (5 - 11 July 2021). Only five samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3 and none of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPID-week 27 (5 -11 July 2021, 151 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples have been tested for Influenza for the same week. None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
- From 4 January until 11 July 2021:
 - A total of 59 samples have tested positive for Influenza (All were Influenza A/H3) from 2329 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 273 samples have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1124 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).¹

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (Data as of 11 July 2021; Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 48) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)



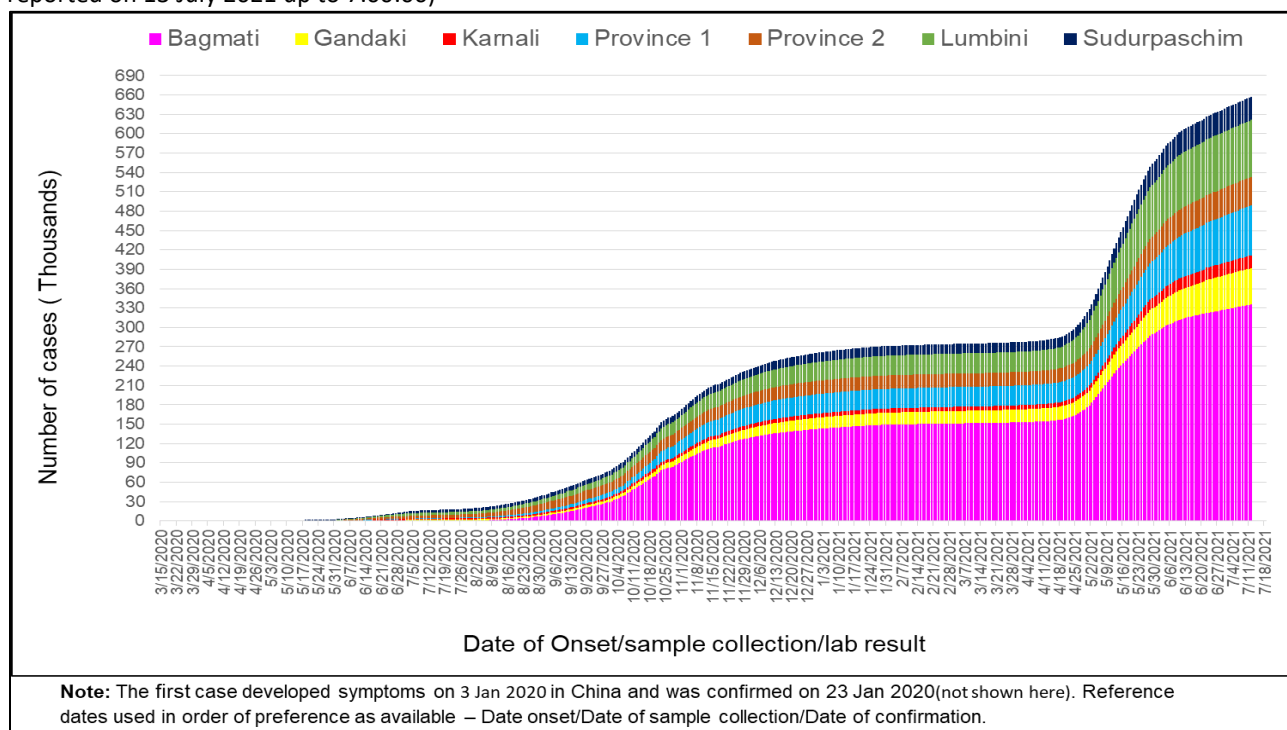
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 657139) (Data reported on 13 July 2021 up 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 12 July 2021 was 7689 which is 62% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

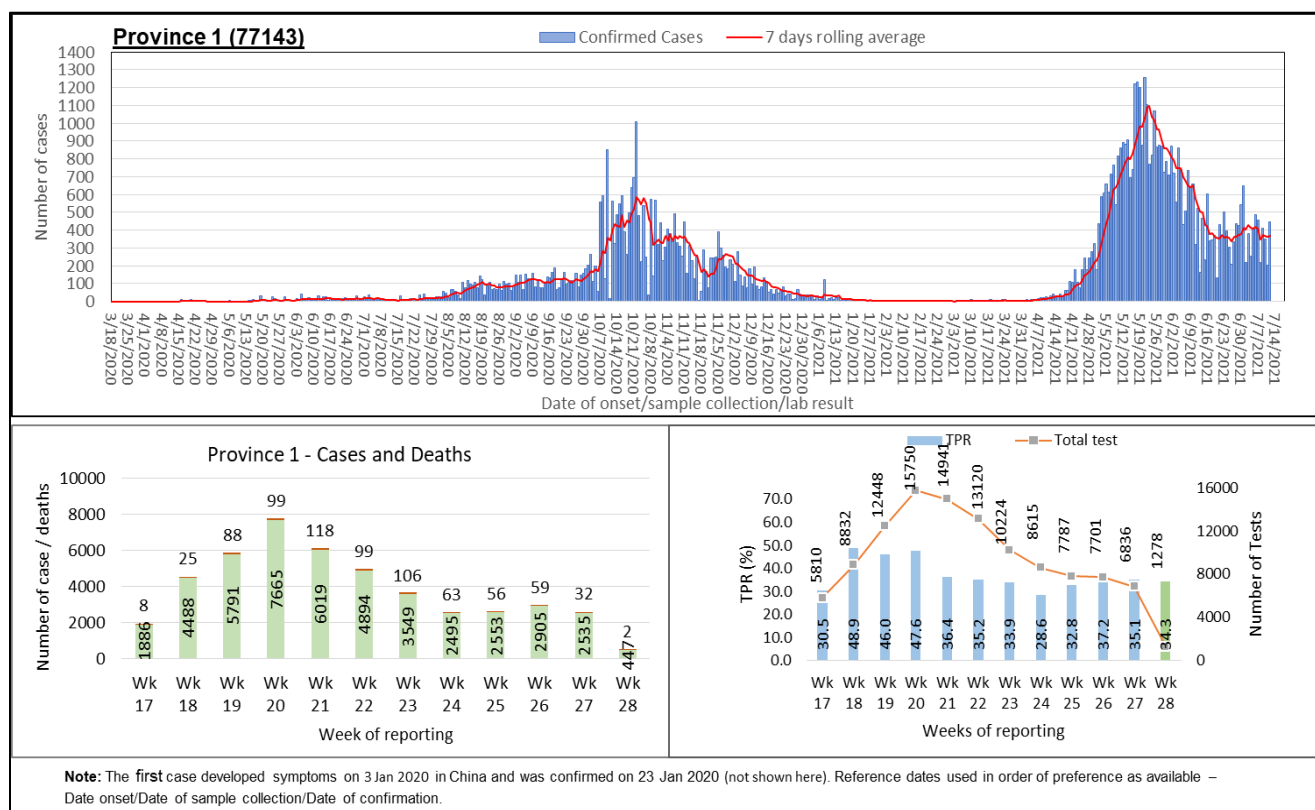
Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 657139) (Data reported on 13 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)



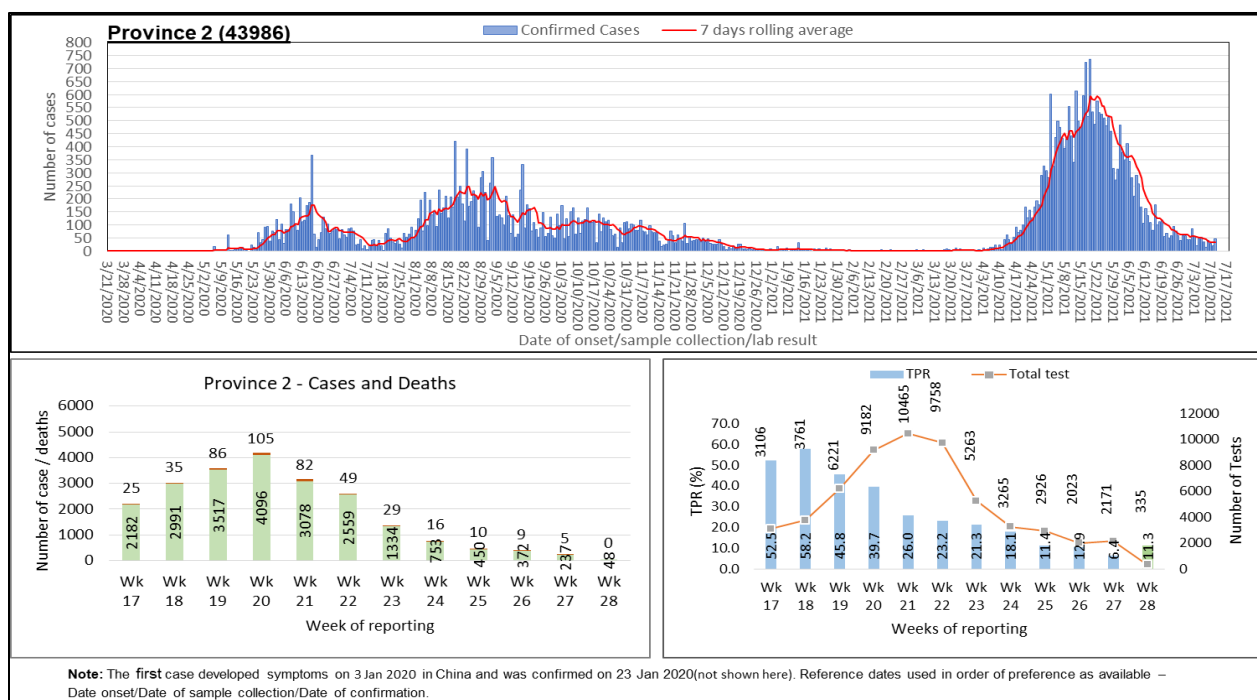
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 657139) (Data reported on 13 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)

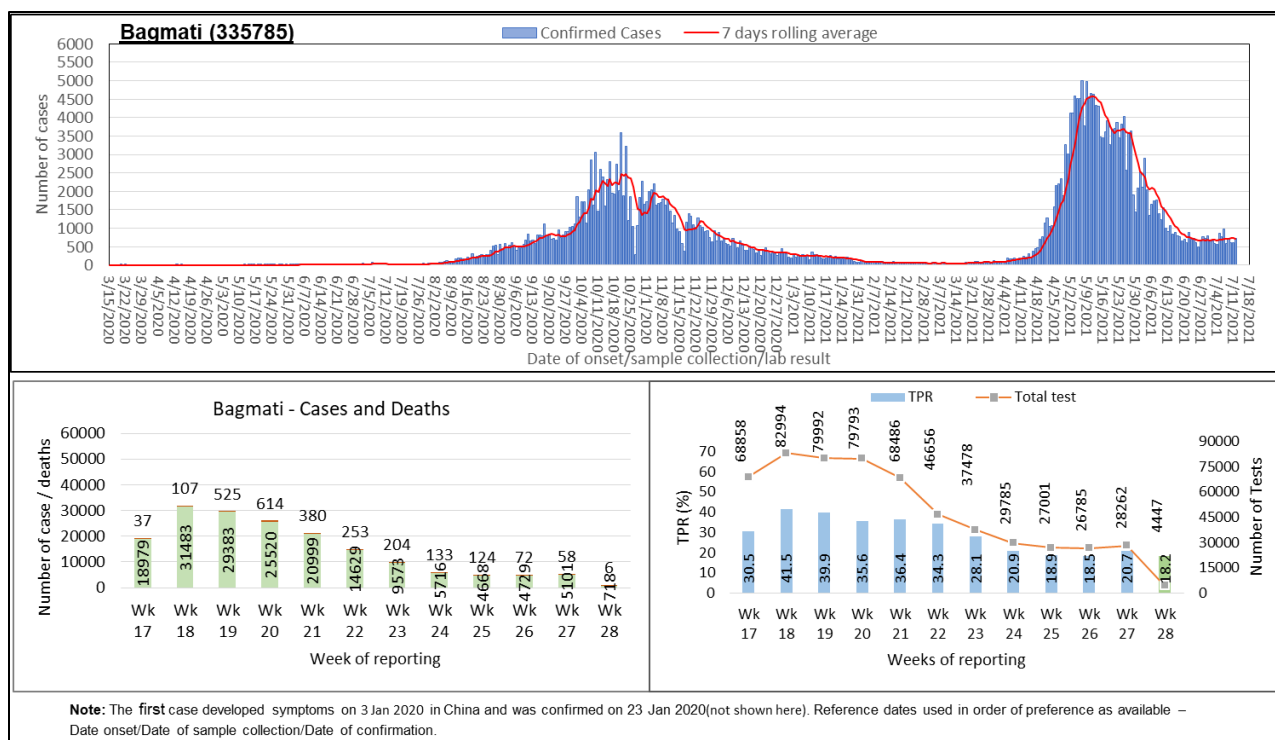
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



There were 2535 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 32 deaths reported in the past week, 46% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 35.1% in the past week. A total of 6836 tests were performed in the past week, 11% less than that of the previous week.

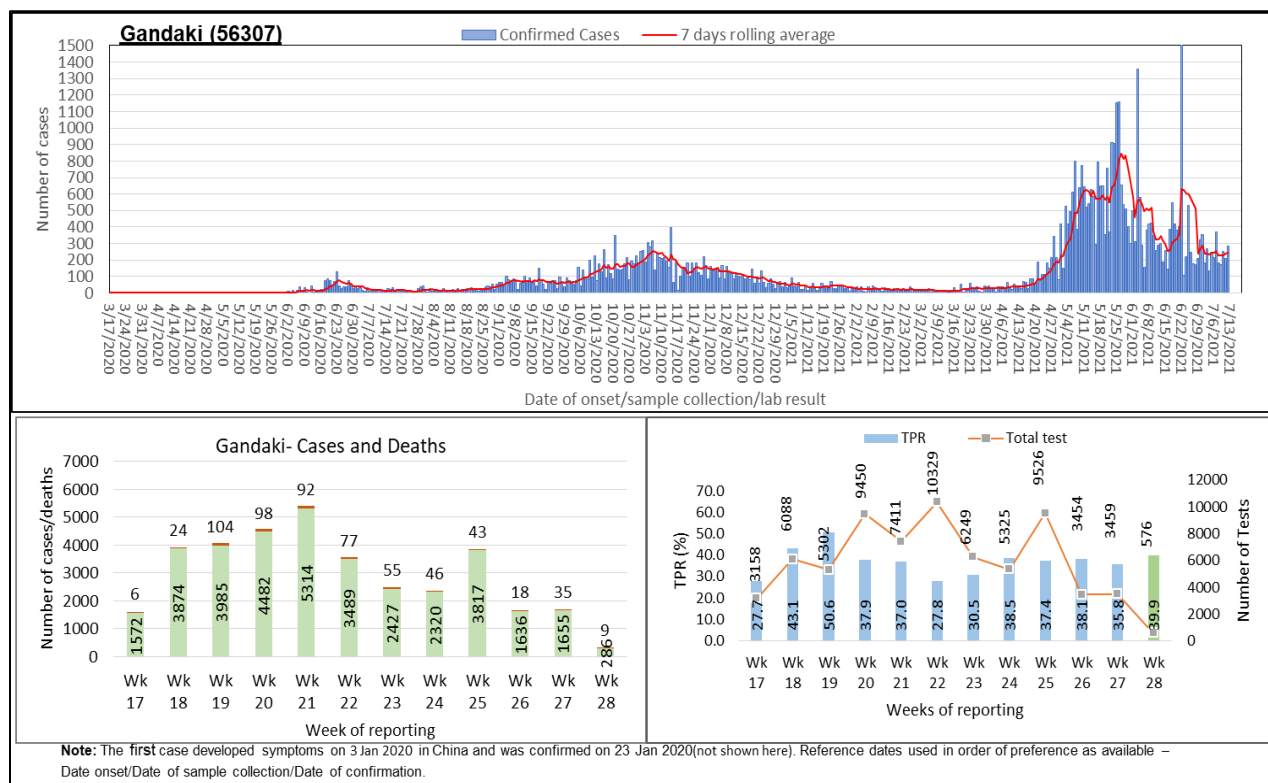


There were 237 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 36% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 5 deaths reported in the past week, 44% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 6.4% in the past week. A total of 2171 tests were performed in the past week, 7% more than that of the previous week.

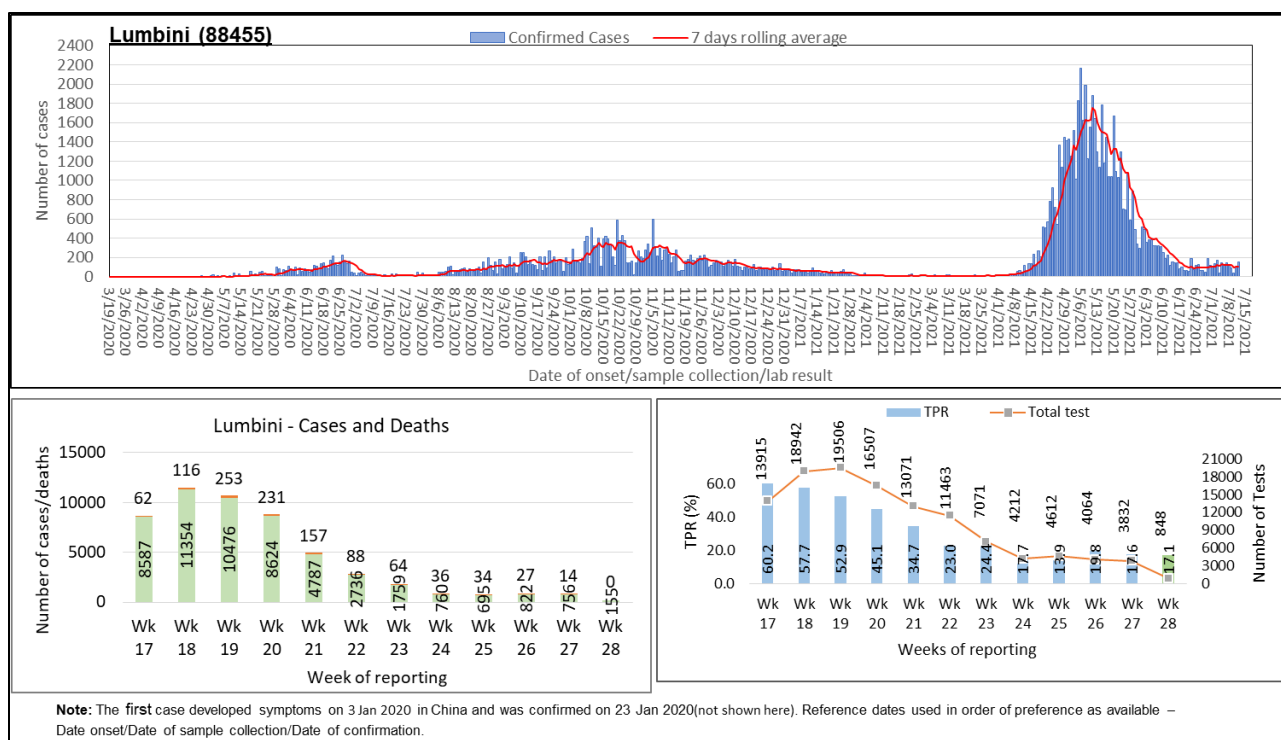


In Bagmati, 5101 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases had increased by 8% in the past week compared to

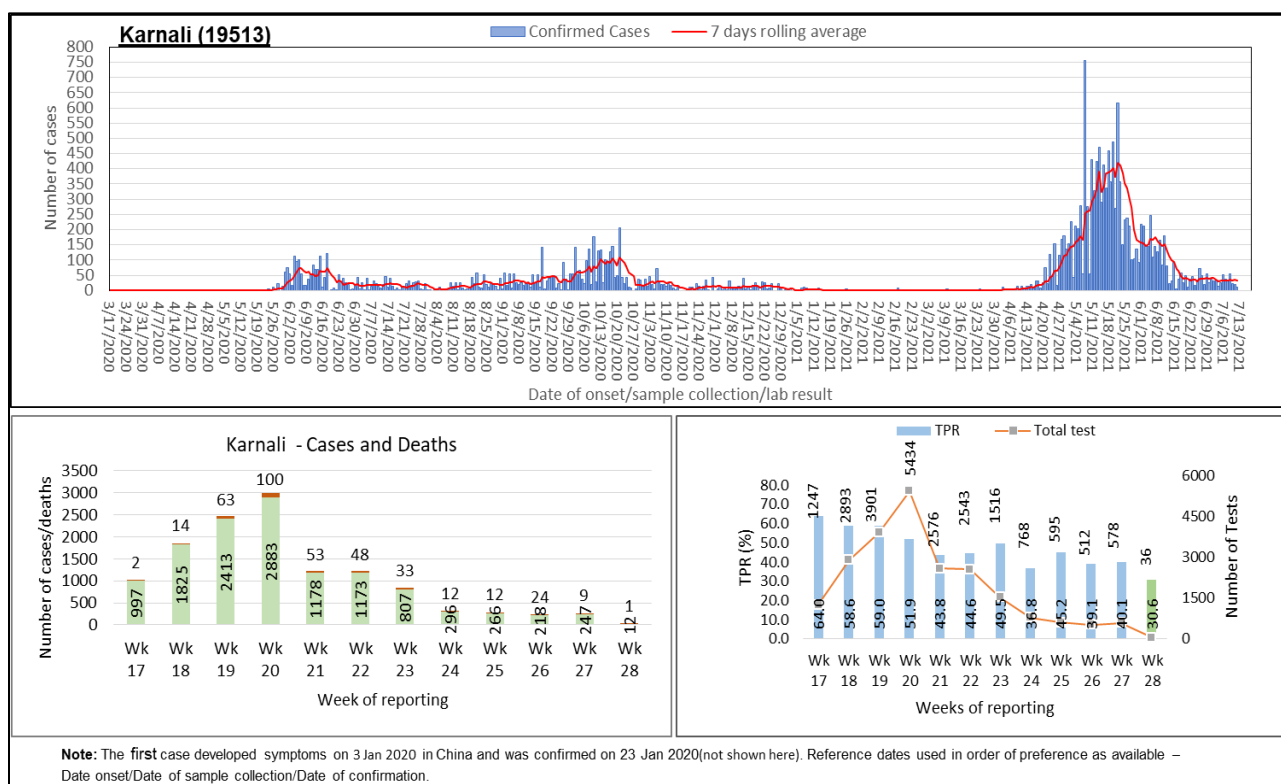
the previous week. There were 58 deaths reported in the past week, 19% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 20.7% in the past week. A total of 28262 tests were performed in the past week, 6% more than that of the previous week.



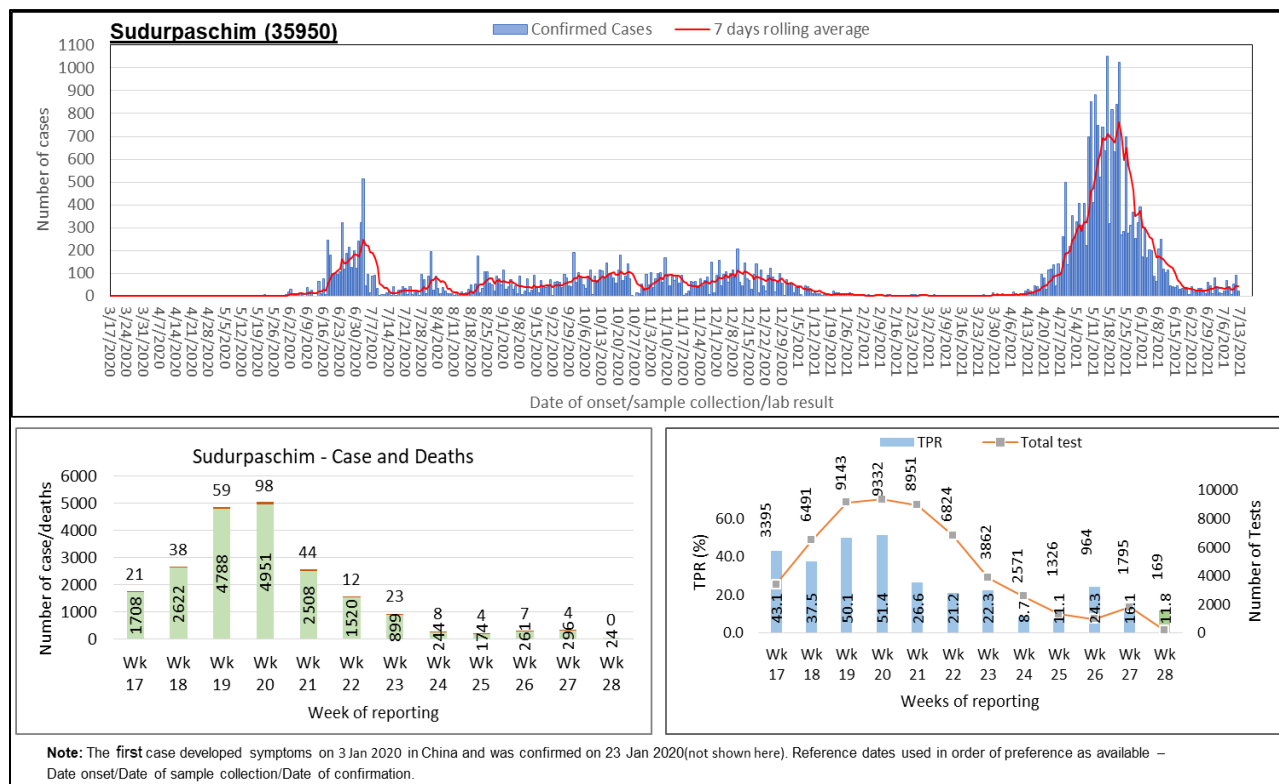
In Gandaki, 1655 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases had upswing by 1% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 35 deaths reported in the past week, 94% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 35.8% in the past week. A total of 3459 tests were performed in the past week, similar to that of the previous week.



Lumbini reported 756 new cases in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are considerably increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 8% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 14 deaths reported in the past week, 48% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 17.6% in the past week. A total of 3832 tests were performed in the past week, 6% less than that of the previous week.

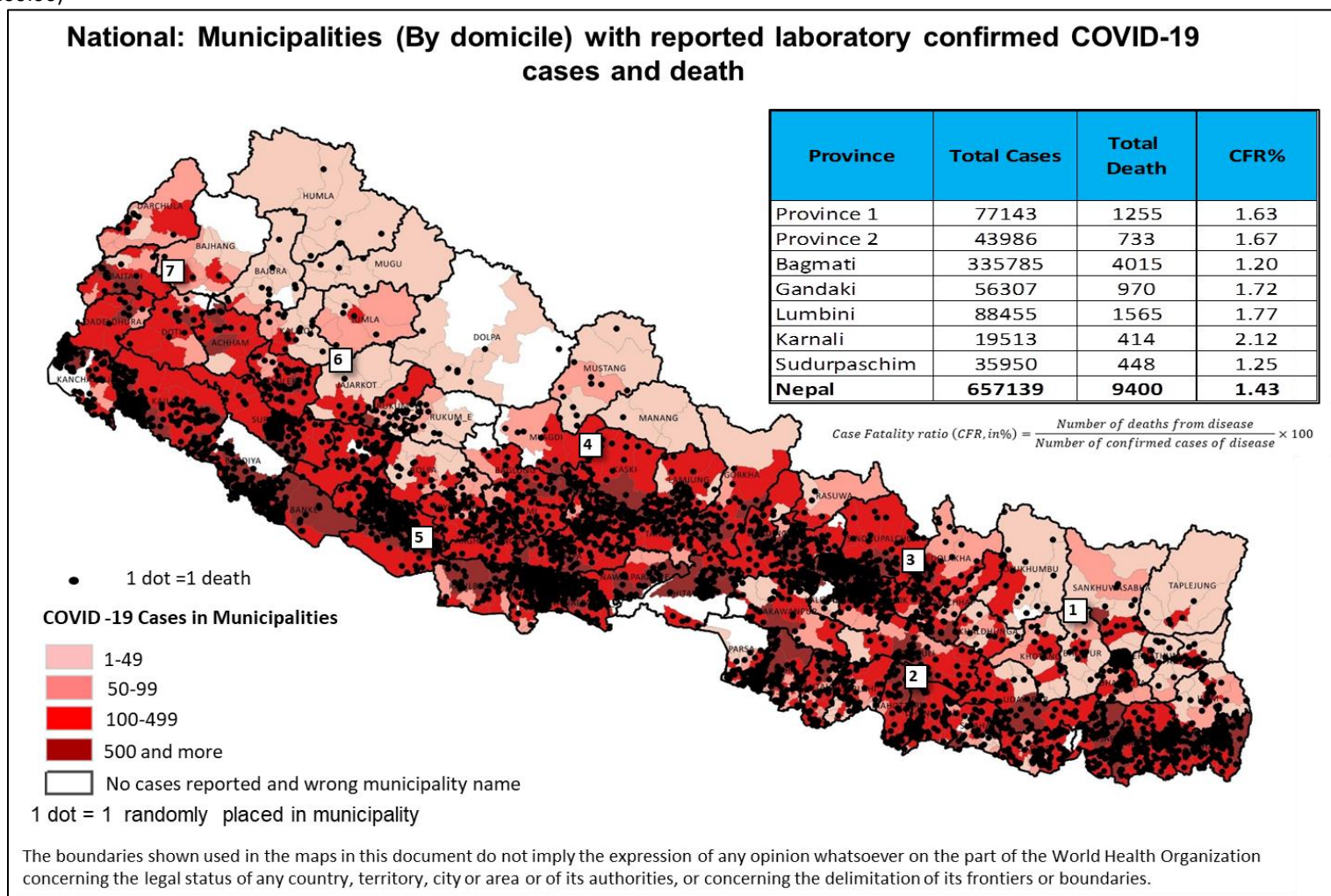


In Karnali, 247 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases had upswing by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 9 deaths reported in the past week, 63% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 40.1% in the past week. A total of 578 tests were performed in the past week, 13% more than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 296 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are increasing significantly. However, the cases had upswing by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 43% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 16.1% in the past week. A total of 1795 tests were performed in the past week, 86% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 657139) (Data reported on 13 July 2021 up 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 1.43%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2.12% and Lumbini Province with 1.77%.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 13 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)

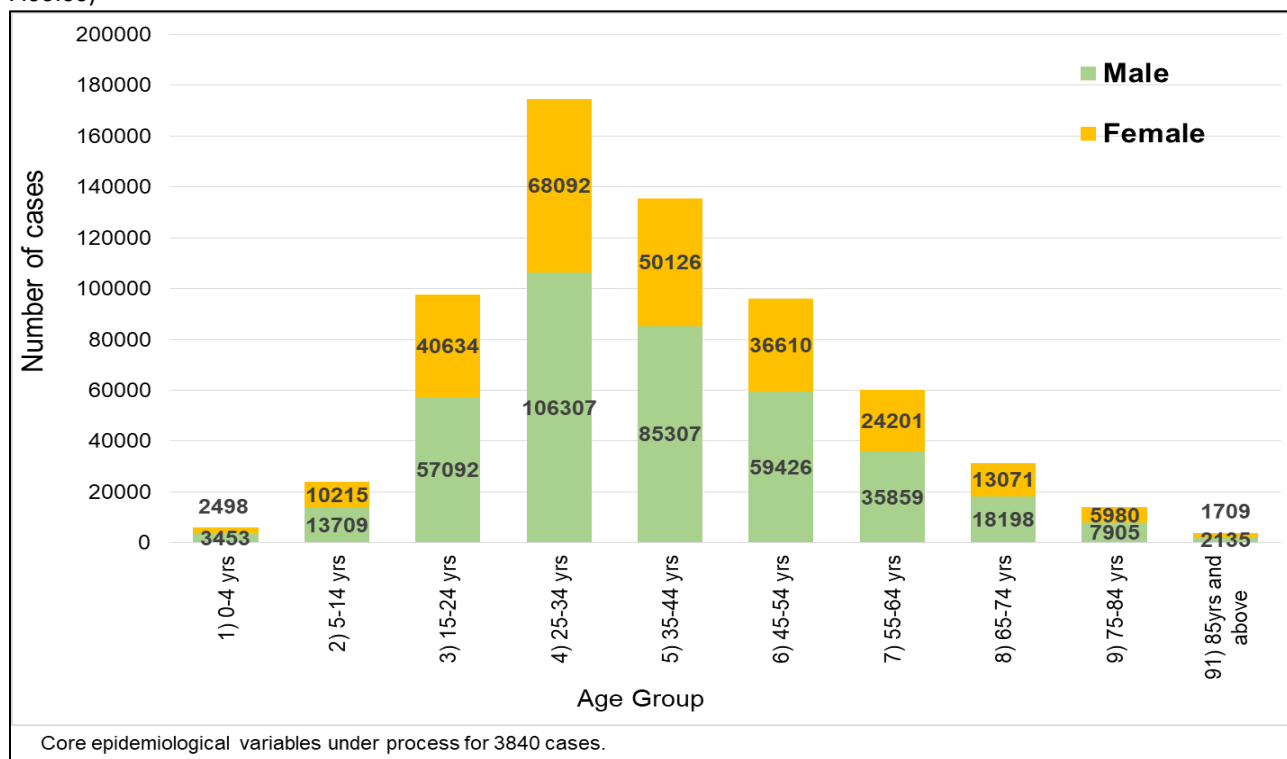
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	77143	10056	87199	12.6	1255	Community transmission	3706	5887	9593	28.1	80
Province 2	43986	413	44399	6.4	733	Community transmission	48	657	705	2.1	12
Bagmati	335785	9280	345065	49.8	4015	Community transmission	2850	10548	13398	39.2	125
Gandaki	56307	6344	62651	9.0	970	Community transmission	1887	3577	5464	16.0	56
Lumbini	88455	6035	94490	13.6	1565	Community transmission	1630	1733	3363	9.8	33
Karnali	19513	1711	21224	3.1	414	Community transmission	342	477	819	2.4	32
Sudurpashchim	35950	1625	37575	5.4	448	Community transmission	272	581	853	2.5	11
National Total	657139	35464	692603	100	9400	Community transmission	10735	23460	34195	100	349

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 12 July 44319; but IMU reported 35464*

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 = 653278) (Data reported on 13 July 2021 up 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 = 657139) (Data reported on 13 July 2021 up 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	6095	13	16	10	0.48
5-14 yrs	24389	12	7	9	0.08
15-24 yrs	99284	68	71	45	0.14
25-34 yrs	177175	314	196	98	0.29
35-44 yrs	137622	737	337	208	0.78
45-54 yrs	97597	1143	503	408	1.69
55-64 yrs	61088	1389	609	572	3.27
65-74 yrs	31893	1315	656	703	6.18
75-84 yrs	14195	916	490	534	9.9
85+ yrs	3940	377	209	183	14.87
Unknown	3861	16	6	10	0.57
National	657139	6300	3100	2780	1.43

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 9,400 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 6,300 (67.0%) were males and 3,100 (33.0%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 2,780 persons (29.4%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, it 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?

- MoHP organized joint field visits to all seven provinces to assess the COVID-19 response and need at each three levels (Provincial, District and Local levels). The findings and recommendations from these visits will be used for the development of next Rapid Action Plan for COVID-19. The official visits were made in between 6 – 14 July 2021, led by Directors of MoHP and comprised of one senior official from the MoHP with one/two members from the external development partners.
- The second round of nationwide Sero-Prevalence of SARS COV-2 study which started from 5 July 2021 is ongoing across all seven provinces. The MoHP officials along with the WHO team are monitoring the survey.
- Government of Nepal received vaccine support from the following countries within the reporting time frame:
 - 800,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (VeroCell) received from the People's Republic of China on 9 July 2021. This is the first installment as per the procurement agreement made between the two governments.
 - 1,534,850 doses of Janssen/ Johnson and Johnsons COVID-19 vaccine from the federal government of the United States through COVAX facility on 12 July 2021.
- COVID-19 vaccination campaign for 'second dose of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (VeroCell)' began 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 06 July 2021. As of 11 July 2021, 317278 out of 458,072 people were vaccinated with VeroCell vaccine.



A 62-year-old female resident of Dhanusha getting her second dose of VeroCell vaccine during the Vero Cell COVID-19 vaccination campaign across the country on 7 July 2021 at Dhanusha District Health Office. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal/ Mr. A Maharjan

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 7 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all the participating laboratories were satisfactory $\geq 90\%$.
 - Sample selection of SARS-CoV-2 and RNA extraction for sending the samples for genome sequencing to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), New Delhi
 - Revision of Protocol for ELISA (WANTAI SARS-CoV-2 Ab ELISA Kit).
- In regard to second round Sero Surveillance Survey conducted throughout the country, WHO Nepal has been providing support in following manner:
 - Monitoring of blood sample collection conducted for second round sero-surveillance at different sites of Province 3.
 - Preparation of checklist for sample collection, storage and transport for sero-survey.
 - Conducting orientation program to the newly recruited 6 staff for second round of sero-survey of SARS-CoV-2. The WHO Laboratory Pillar Lead briefly provided the overview of the second round of sero-survey. The WHO Laboratory team provided orientation to the new staff regarding the sample collection, storage and processing at NPHL.
 - Sample tracking of sero-survey.
 - Orientation of protocol for ELISA to the newly recruited staff for sample processing for ELISA. As of 12 July, NPHL has received 1327 samples out of 13,700 samples for sero-survey.



Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal, visiting a lab at Health Directorate province 2. Prior to the lab visit, he had a brief discussion with the officials at Health Directorate on the health-related challenges and opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic in province 2. Picture Credit - WHO Nepal/Mr. A Maharjan

Technical Planning and Operations

- A meeting was held at MoHP in presence of Hon' Secretary of MoHP with health officials from MoHP, Curative Service Division, Management Division & National Health Training Centre, Family Welfare Division, Nepal Pediatric Society, Pediatric Nurses Association of Nepal, HECAF 360, WHO and UNICEF on 7 July 2021. The meeting was held to discuss and finalize the pediatric care training plan and trainings to health care workers for Pediatric Case management.
- The 6th weekly virtual sub-cluster meeting on disability was held on 9 July 2021. The meeting was attended by officials from National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN), WHO Nepal, Federation of Nepali Journalists and Provincial Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC) from Provinces -1, Bagmati, Gandaki, Lumbini and Sudurpashchim. The outcome of the meeting were as follows:
 - Advocacy of messages on preventive measures for COVID-19 among disabled population in close coordination with district health officials and district office of journalist.
 - Agreements by the PHEOCs in creating disable friendly COVID-19 health facilities.
- A meeting with Director General and the Director of National Health Training Center (NHTC) of Department of Health Services (DoHS), bio medical engineers and WHO Nepal was held on 9 July 2021. The meeting led to development of an outline of TOR with objectives to the newly formed biomedical engineering technical committee.
- A meeting was organized by Curative Service Division to share the telemedicine updates and to discuss on the way forward on 11 July 2021. The meeting was attended by health officials from CSD, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH), Management Division, Improvement of Maternal and Child Care in Remote Areas (IMCCR) Project and WHO-Nepal. Updates from the meeting is as follows:
 - Establishment of telemedicine center at all 7 Provinces.
 - Development of software completed and to be discussed and shared in upcoming meeting – 18 July 2021
 - The various modalities of delivering the services,
 - Specialist dedicating certain hours at telemedicine centre and
 - A paramedic mediating this process & taking the tablet to relevant specialist for providing the service was discussed.
- 'Webinar on COVID-19 for intern doctors & medical, dental and nursing students' was conducted on 12 July 2021 with attendance of 170 participants. Various topics on COVID-19 ; epidemiology, clinical features, triage, clinical management of COVID-19 cases, IPC, mucormycosis and risk communication etc were covered in the webinar.

Point of Entry

- Prohibitory Order imposed in Kathmandu Valley since 29 April 2021 has been further extended by a week from 16 July 2021 until 25 July 2021 by the District Administration

Offices of Kathmandu district (Link [Here](#)), Lalitpur district (Link [Here](#)) and Bhaktapur district (Link [Here](#)). Compared to previous orders, DAOs have decided to lift all the restrictive measures against public and private transportation and allow more operation hours for shops while extending the ongoing lockdown for ten more days to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published (6 – 12 July 2021):

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
44	Delta variant and vaccines कोभिड-१९ के डेल्टा संस्करण आ खोप	Maithili	Link
44	Delta variant and vaccines कोभिड-१९ डेल्टा स्वरूप र खोपहरू	Nepali	Link

- The news of second round of nationwide sero-Prevalence of SARS COV-2 was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The survey, being conducted across all seven provinces, will help determine the extent of COVID-19 exposure in the community along with estimating the proportion of asymptomatic or subclinical infections. The WHO teams along with the MoHP officials are monitoring the survey. Prior to the start of the survey, a three-day orientation program was conducted in Kathmandu by WHO and MOHP officials for enumerators.
- The announcement of 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccines donated by the United States Government through COVAX was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- The announcement of *Programme on COVID-19 for Intern Doctors & Medical, Dental, and Nursing Students*, organized by Ministry of Health and Population and WHO, Country Office for Nepal, was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The session was also shared live on Facebook.
- The 2nd session of a 4-part wellness series for health care workers in Nepal - *Health Care Wellness Series* - was published on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The event was organized by Nepal Medical Association (NMA) in partnership with ECHO India and WHO Nepal in collaboration with Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS), CAS International Education Fund (CASIEF), University of Toronto, McMaster University, and University of Saskatchewan. The theme for July 10 session was "The Power of Resilience."
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - Daily *Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*,
 - Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Preventive measures for COVID-19, even after the ease of lockdowns,
 - Preventive measures for COVID-19 at the workplace,
 - Preventive measures for COVID-19 during floods and landslides,

- IV. Importance of testing for COVID-19,
 - V. Proper way of wearing a mask,
 - VI. Important points to note while going for a vaccination,
 - VII. Important notices on national COVID-19 immunization,
 - VIII. Nutrition and child health during COVID-19, and
 - IX. Food safety during COVID-19.
- WHO Nepal's support to the NHEICC continued this week by providing risk communication expertise through staff embedded at the NHEICC and also through support in production of audio content for dissemination via Radio 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 (All members of the Health Cluster are advocating through multiple channels that are available to them for the swift supply of vaccines to Nepal) and
 - Continuation of Technical Assistance.
- Second round of sero prevalence survey is ongoing throughout the country with technical and financial support from WHO.

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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