

# Situation Update #67- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 20 - 26 July 2021

**HIGHLIGHTS** \*Data as of HEOC of MoHP Situation Report, 26 July 2021

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 94.5% (645,301) of cases have recovered and 4% (27,908) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 89.9% (25,093) cases are in home isolation; 10% (2,815) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2.4% (669) patients among the active cases, require ICU admission, 24.8% (166) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Eleven districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (14196) reported this week, 24.9% (3533) are from Kathmandu district. Most of the new cases about 35.3% (5018) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 26 July 2021)

COVISHIELD Vaccine	SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)	Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
First dose : 1,828,484	First dose : 1576670	Single Dose : 265686
Second dose : 460308	Second dose : 697422	

### NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 27 July 2021, 07:00:00 hours (week no. 30), a total of 682,947 (19.2%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,551,323 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 55,971 (18.9%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 294,761 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 29) ranged from 6.6% (Province 2) to 37.8% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 23.6%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 60% (411,754/682,947) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (323,188/411,754) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

#### NEPAL

(Data as of 27 July 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

**682,947 (RT-PCR) and  
55,971 (Antigen RDT)  
confirmed cases**

**9,738 deaths  
3,551,323 RT-PCR tests and  
294,761 Antigen RDT**

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 25 July 2021)

**37,536,524 confirmed cases  
548,276 deaths**

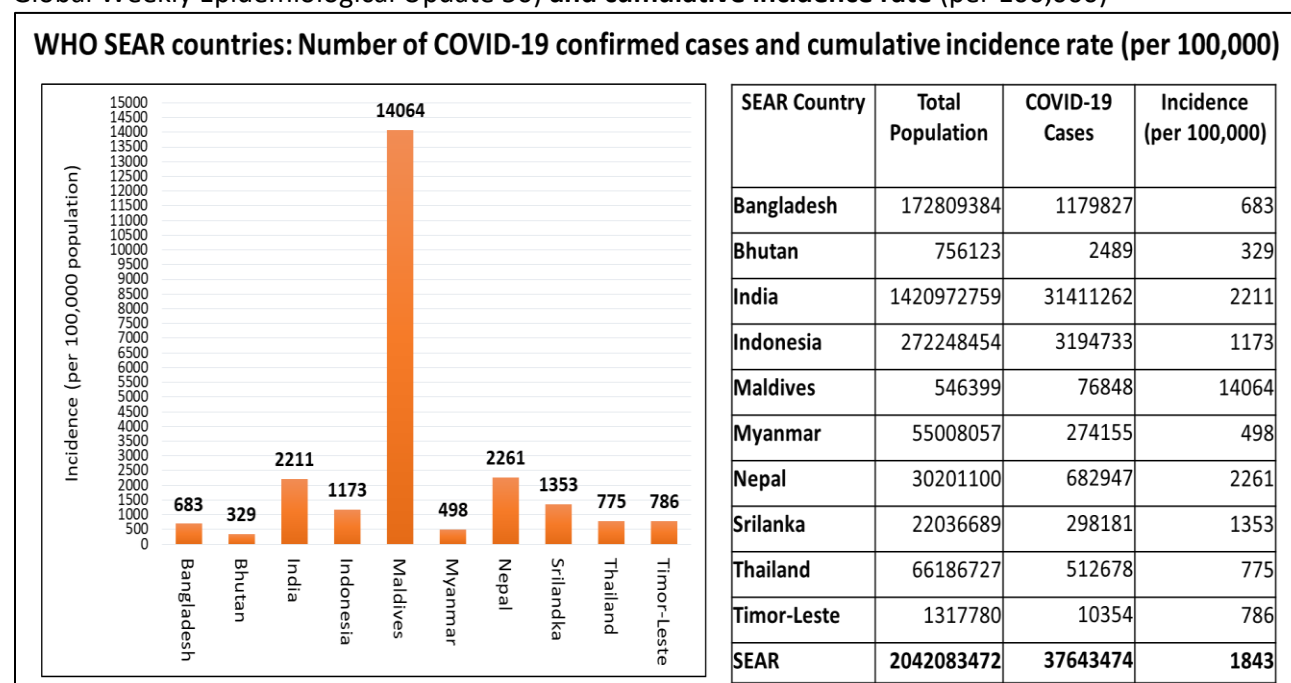
#### GLOBAL

(Data as of 25 July 2021)

**193,657,725 confirmed cases  
4,154,660 deaths**

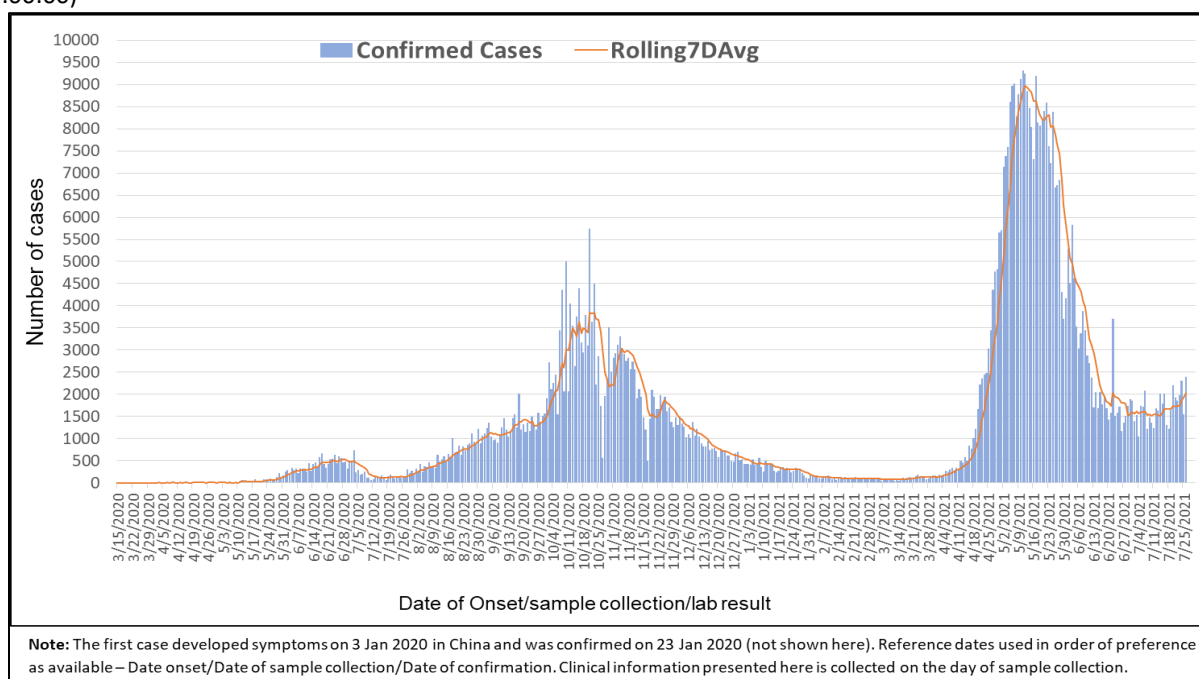
- NPHL reported 25 diagnostic and surveillance samples on EPID-week (19 - 25 July 2021). 9 Samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3 and 1 sample tested positive for Influenza B Positive. However, none of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPID-week 29 (19 - 25 July 2021), 115 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week of which 6 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3 and 2 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
- From 4 January to 25 July 2021:
  - A total of 111 samples out of 2742 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases) tested positive for Influenza (105 Influenza A/H3 Positive, 4 Influenza B Victoria Positive, 1 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B Victoria, 1 Influenza B Un-subtyped).
  - Similarly, 273 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1137 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples). <sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (Data as of 25 July 2021; Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 50) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)**



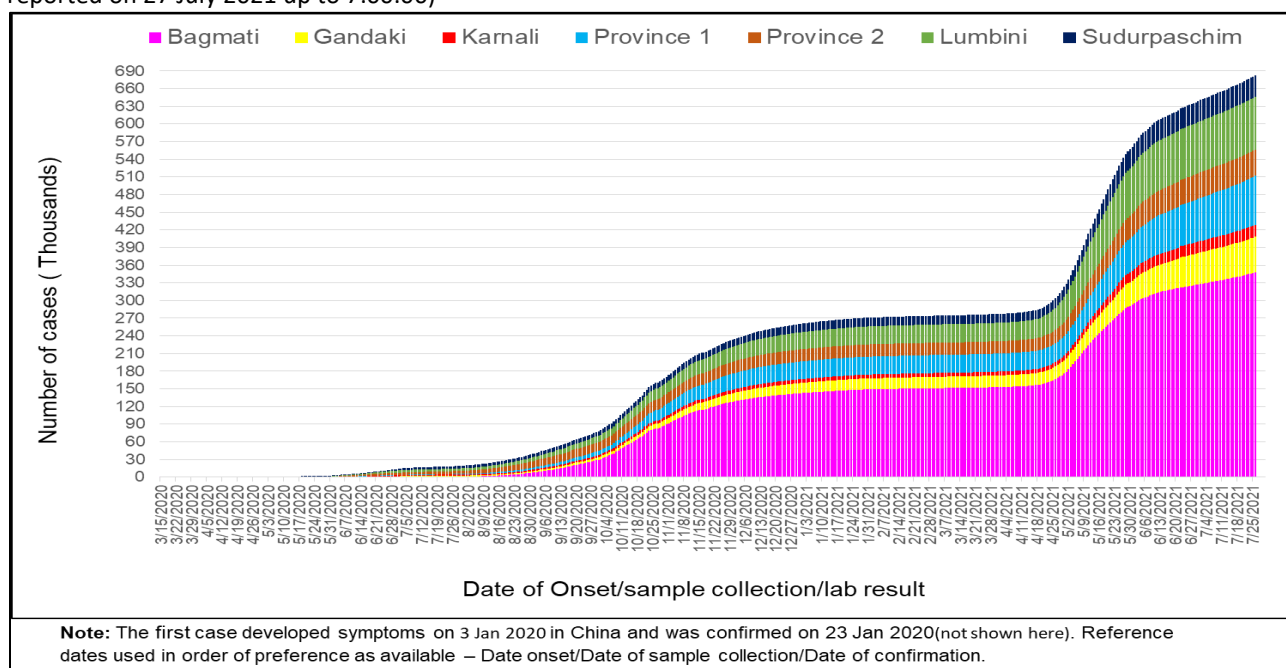
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

**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 = 682947) (Data reported on 27 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 26 July 2021 was 12240 which is 39% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.*

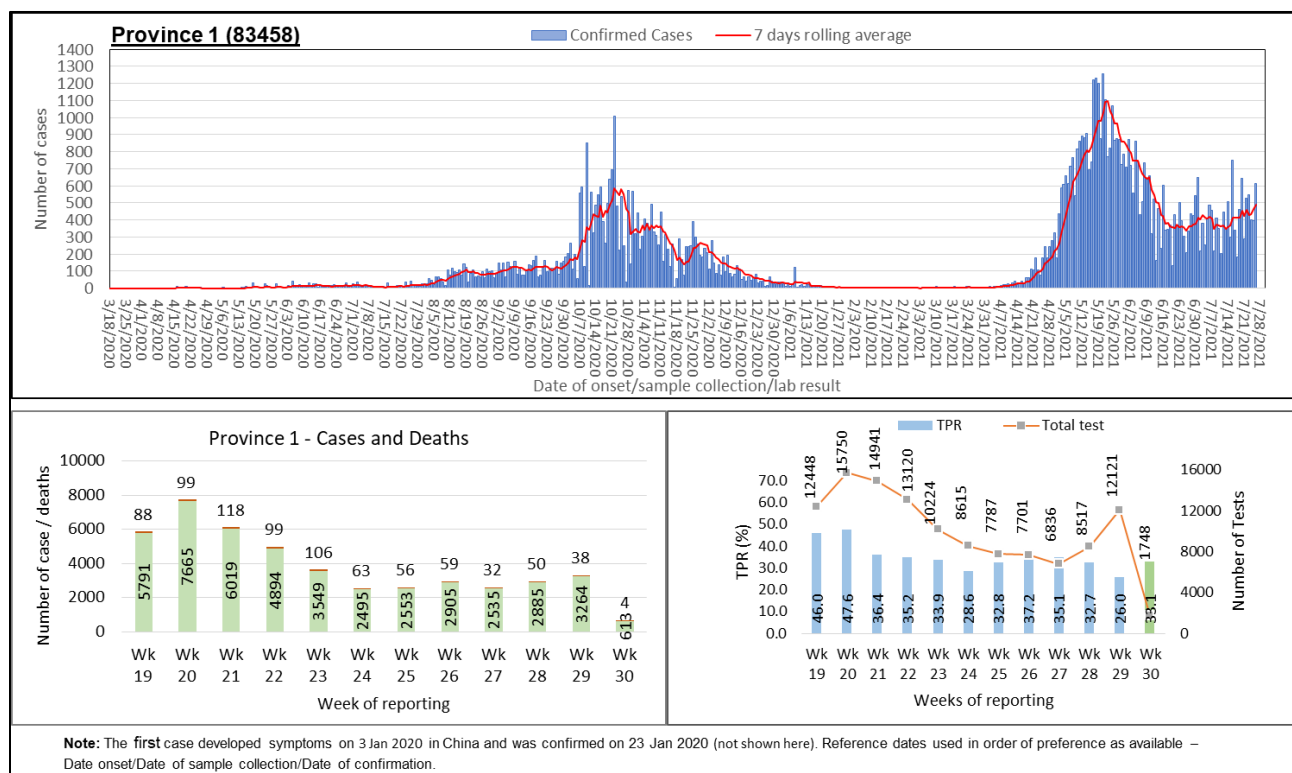
**Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 682947) (Data reported on 27 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



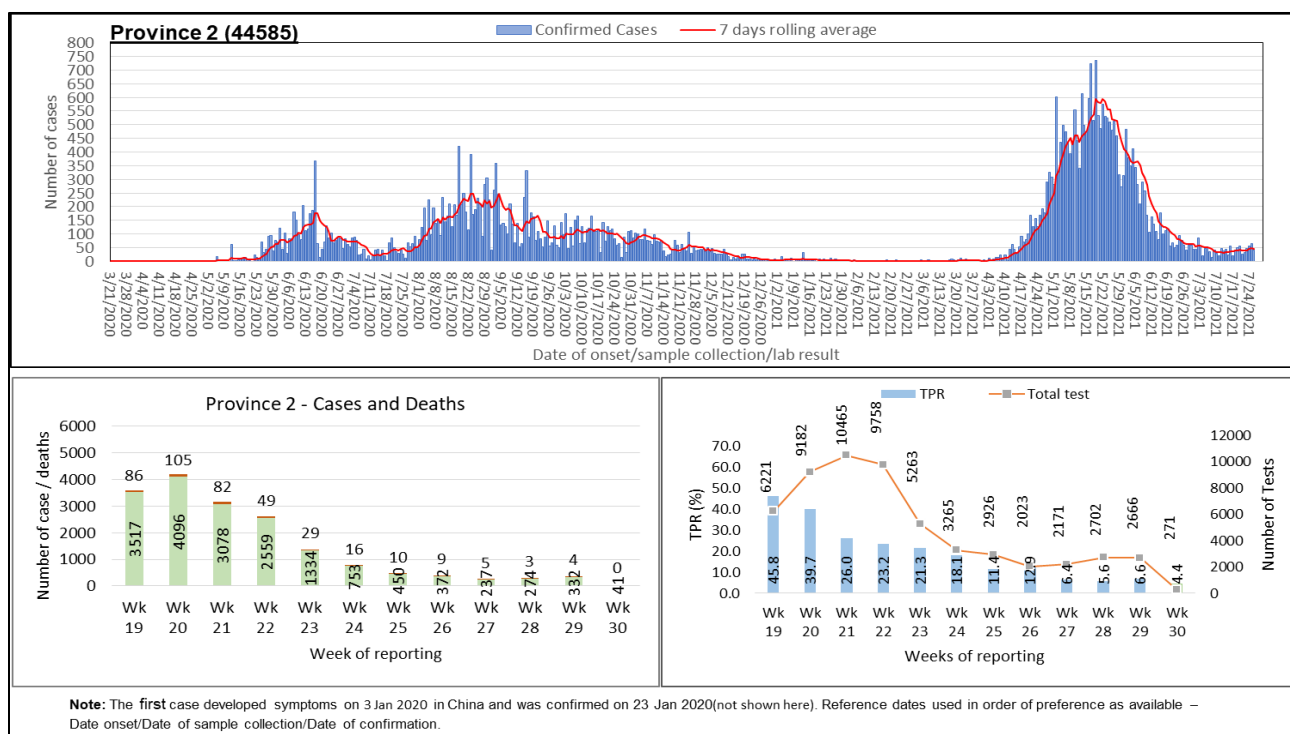
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

**Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 682947)** (Data reported on 27 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)

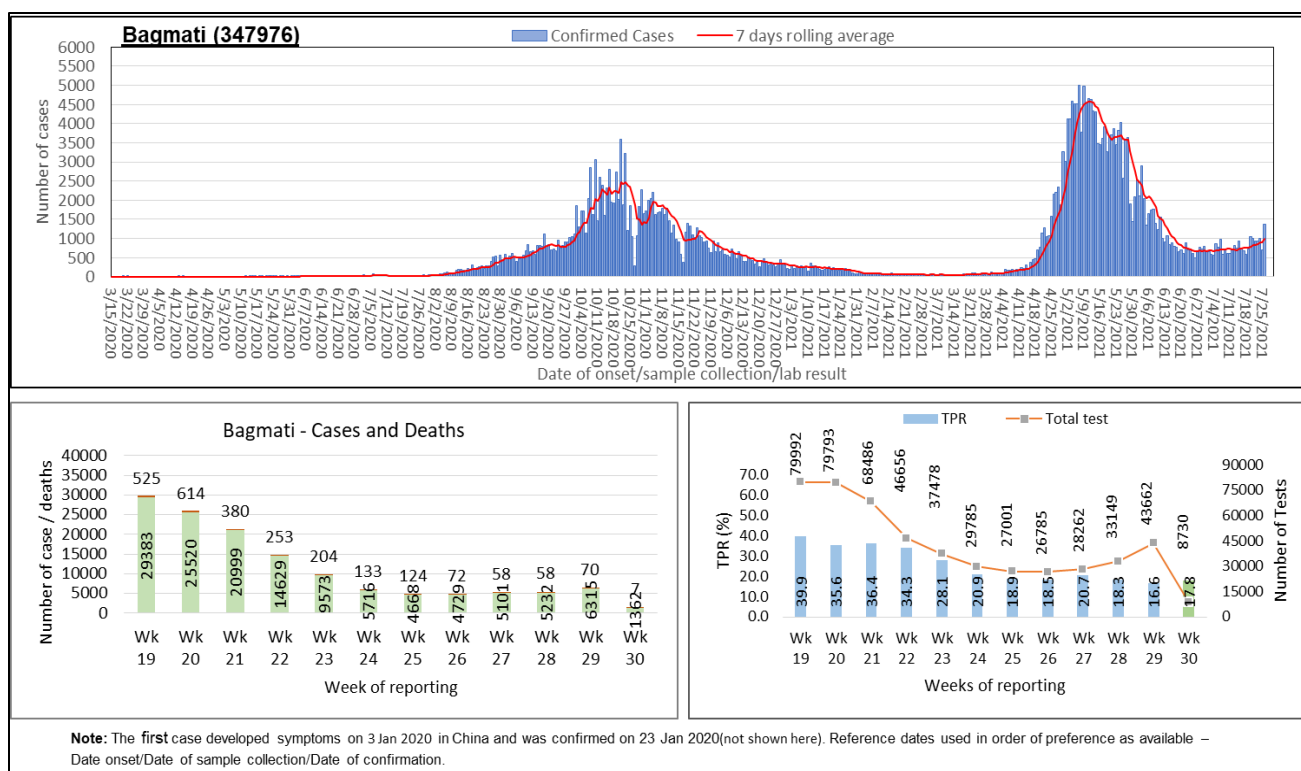
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



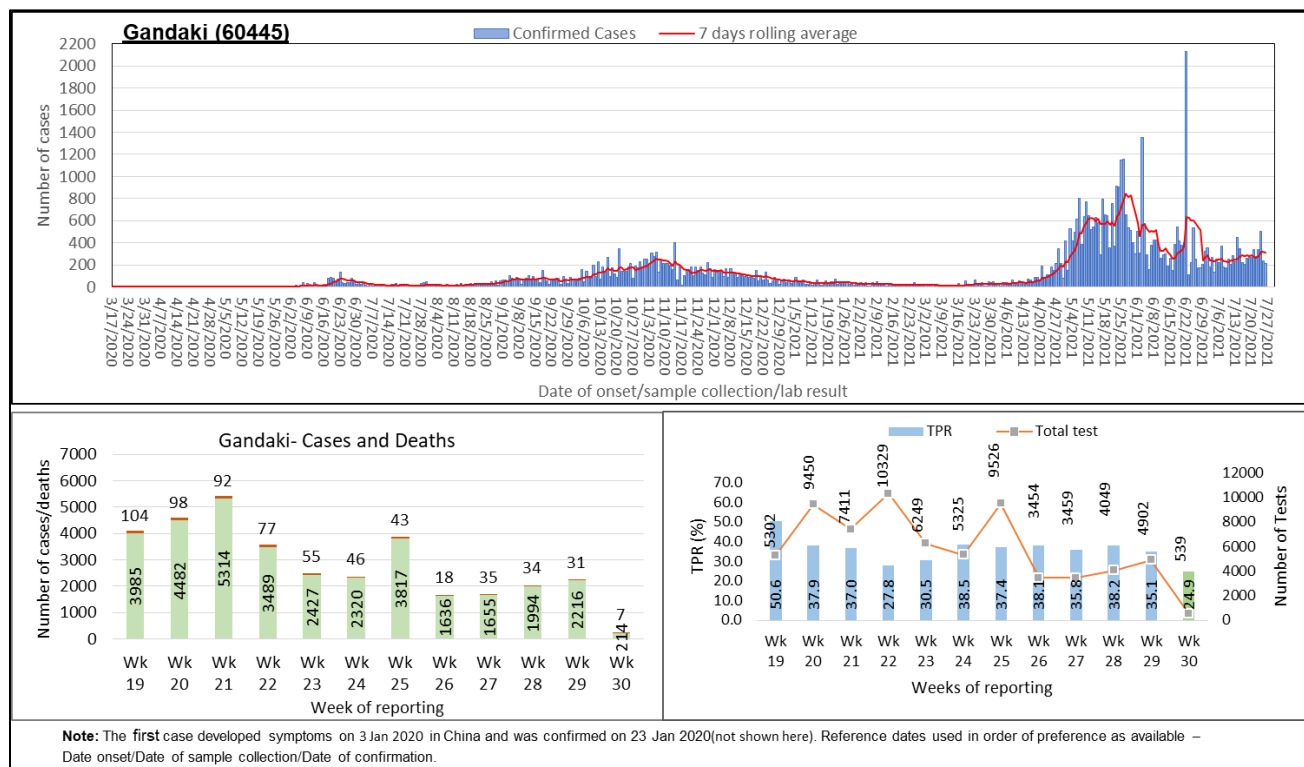
There were 3264 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 38 deaths reported in the past week, 24% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 26.0% in the past week. A total of 12121 tests were performed in the past week, 42% more than that of the previous week.



There were 332 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. The cases have increased by 21% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 33% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 increased to 6.6% in the past week. A total of 2666 tests were performed in the past week, 1% less than that of the previous week.

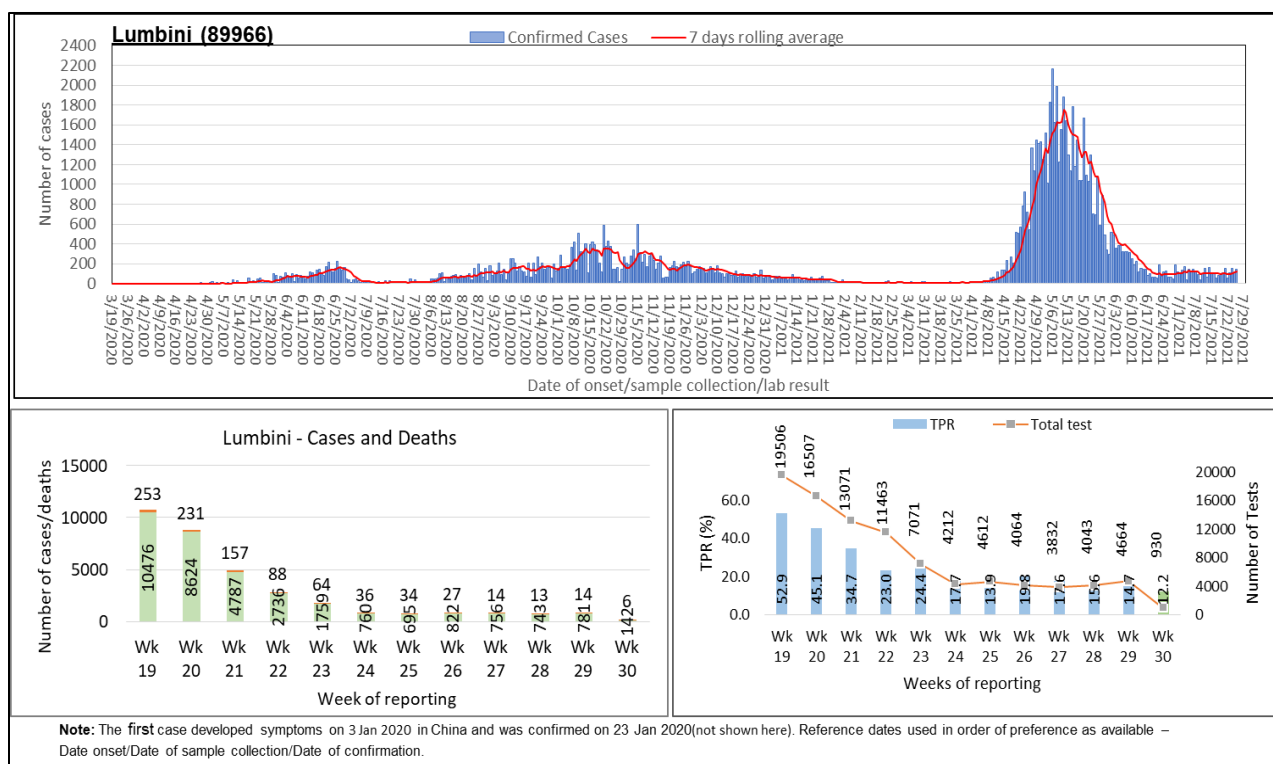


In Bagmati, 6315 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 21% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 70 deaths reported in the past week, 21% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 16.6% in the past week. A total of 43662 tests were performed in the past week, 32% more than that of the previous week.

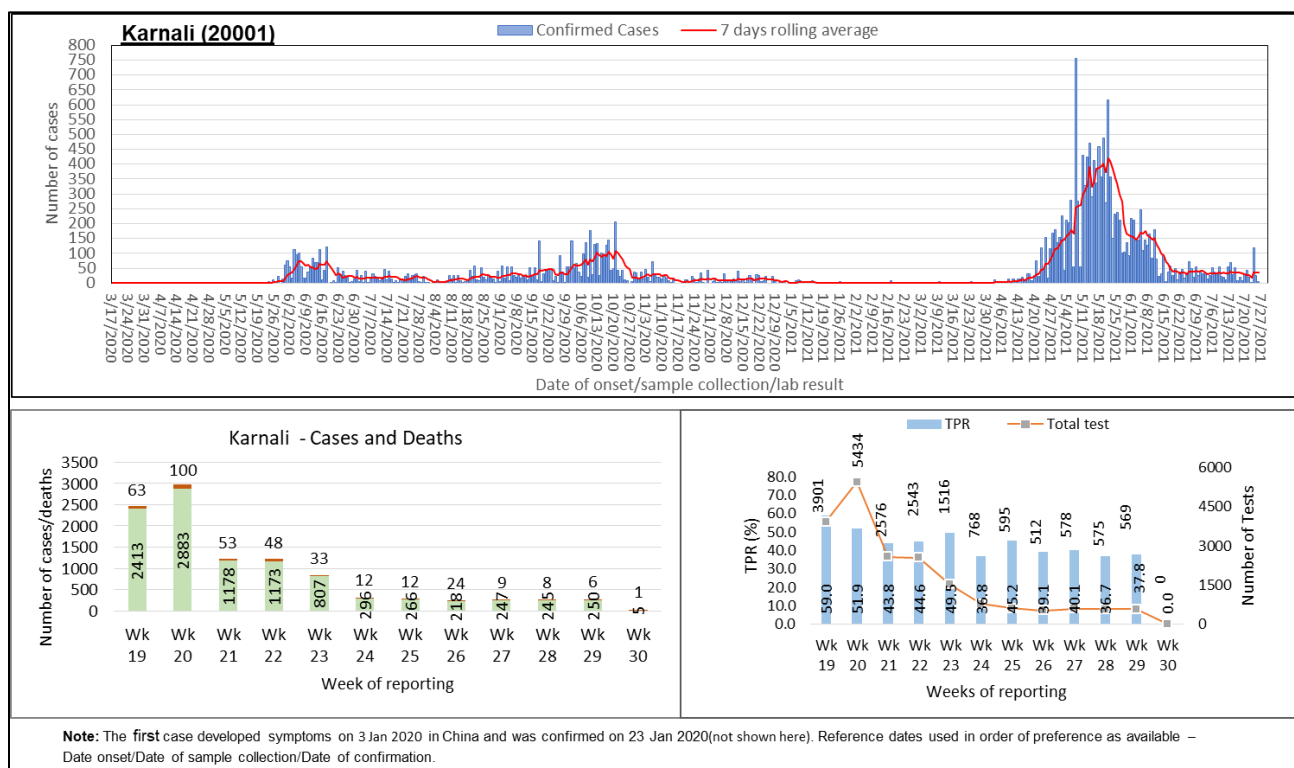


In Gandaki, 2216 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 11% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 31 deaths reported in the past week, 9% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 35.1% in the past week. A total of 4902 tests were performed in the past week, 21% more than that of the previous week.

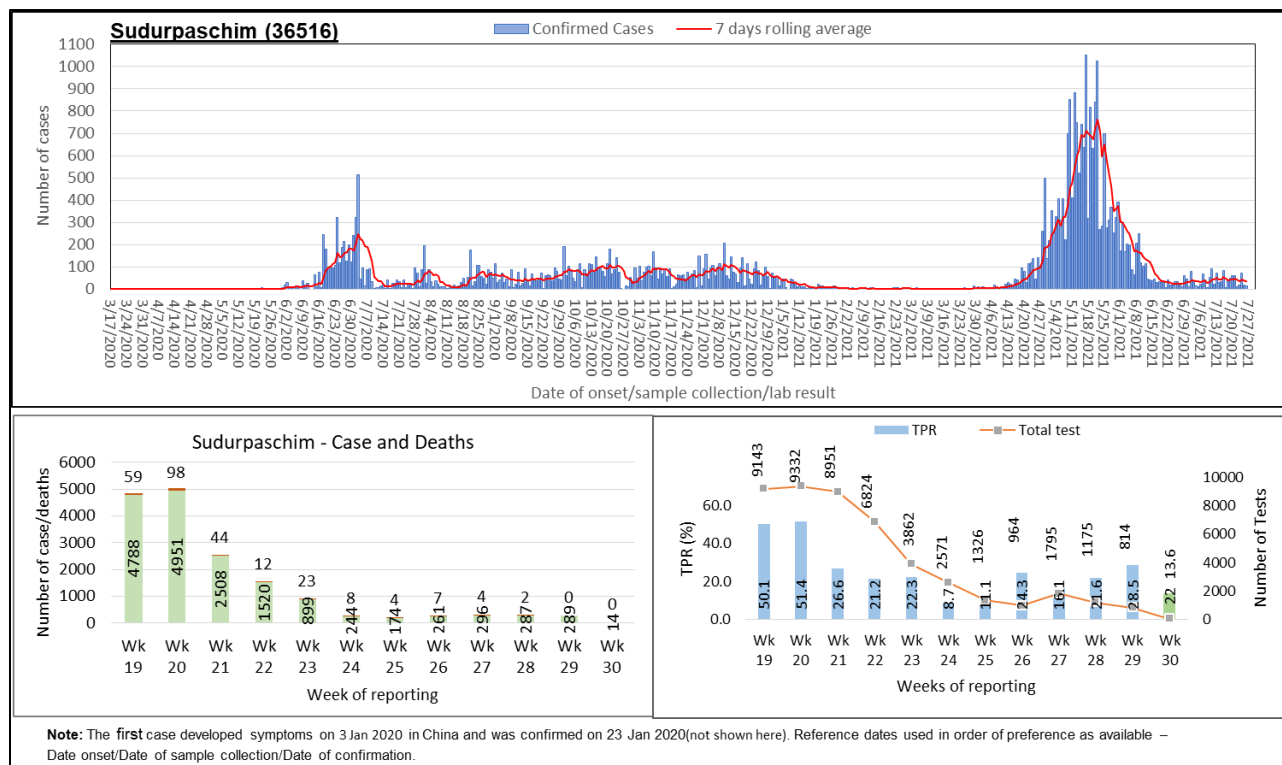




Lumbini reported 781 new cases in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are considerably increasing. The cases have increased by 5% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 14 deaths reported in the past week, 8% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 14.7% in the past week. A total of 4664 tests were performed in the past week, 15% more than that of the previous week.



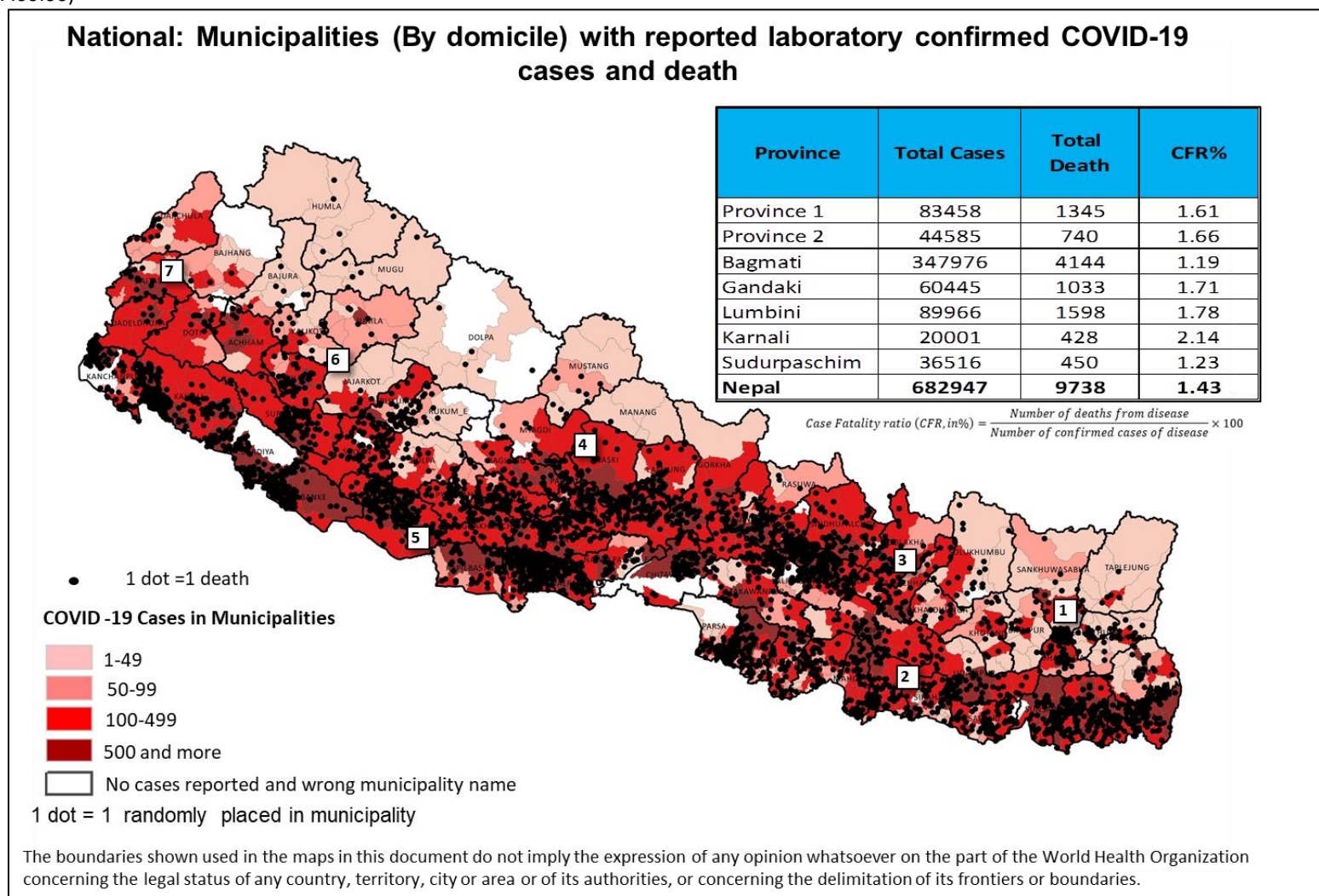
In Karnali, 250 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 6 deaths reported in the past week, 25% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 37.8% in the past week. A total of 569 tests were performed in the past week, 1% less than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 289 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 1% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, 100% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim increased to 28.5% in the past week. A total of 814 tests were performed in the past week, 31% less than that in the previous week.



**Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 682947)** (Data reported on 27 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 2.14% and Lumbini Province with 1.78%.*

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.** (Data reported on 27 July 2021 up to 07:00:00)

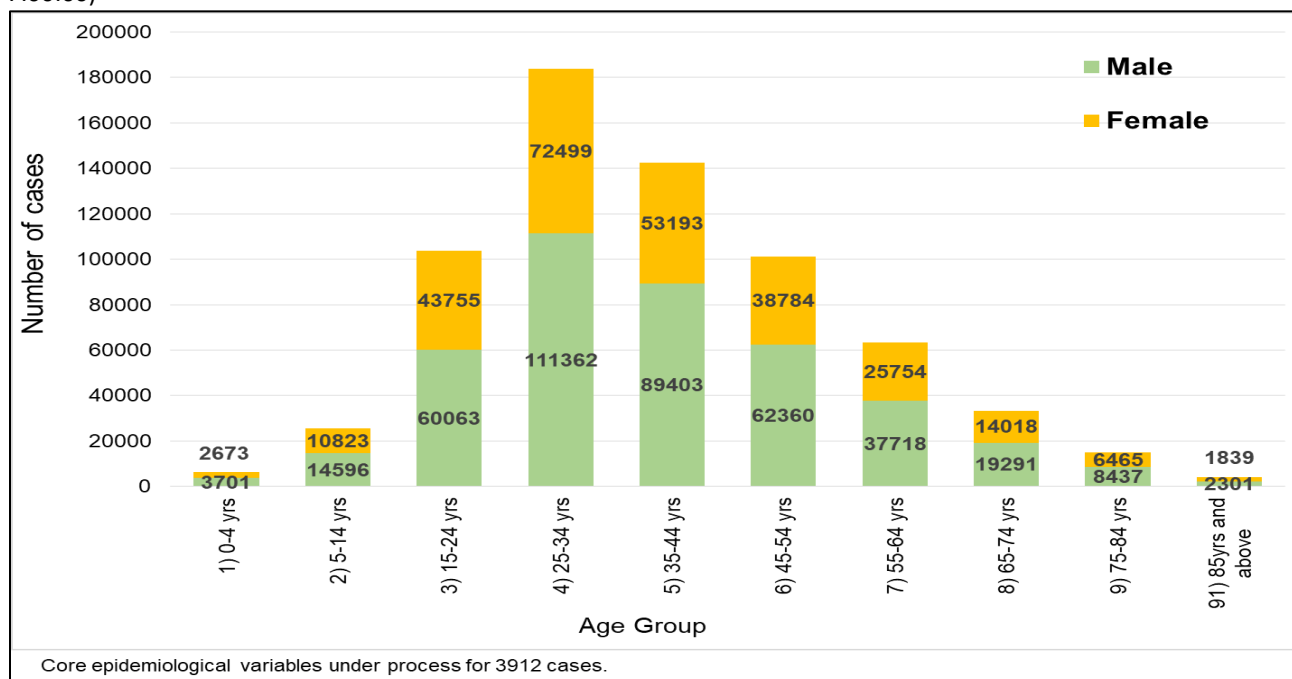
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	83458	14536	97994	13.4	1345	Community transmission	4673	6762	11435	29.0	90
Province 2	44585	431	45016	6.2	740	Community transmission	20	647	667	1.7	7
Bagmati	347976	12101	360077	49.3	4144	Community transmission	2944	12909	15853	40.2	129
Gandaki	60445	8539	68984	9.5	1033	Community transmission	2253	4424	6677	16.9	63
Lumbini	89966	7503	97469	13.4	1598	Community transmission	1543	1666	3209	8.1	33
Karnali	20001	2017	22018	3.0	428	Community transmission	347	500	847	2.1	14
Sudurpashchim	36516	1770	38286	5.2	450	Community transmission	146	590	736	1.9	2
<b>National Total</b>	<b>682947</b>	<b>46897*</b>	<b>729844</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9738</b>	<b>Community transmission</b>	<b>11926</b>	<b>27498</b>	<b>39424</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>338</b>

*\*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 26 July 55971; but IMU reported 46897*

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 = 679035)** (Data reported on 27 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 = 682947)** (Data reported on 27 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	6374	13	16	10	0.45
5-14 yrs	25419	12	7	9	0.07
15-24 yrs	103818	72	75	51	0.14
25-34 yrs	183861	323	210	102	0.29
35-44 yrs	142596	754	351	215	0.77
45-54 yrs	101144	1180	528	426	1.69
55-64 yrs	63472	1428	637	597	3.25
65-74 yrs	33309	1350	689	732	6.12
75-84 yrs	14902	943	510	553	9.75
85+ yrs	4140	399	218	192	14.9
Unknown	3912	17	6	10	0.59
<b>National</b>	<b>682947</b>	<b>6491</b>	<b>3247</b>	<b>2897</b>	<b>1.43</b>

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$
 COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

*A total of 9,738 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 6,491 (66.7%) were males and 3,247 (33.3%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 2,897 persons (29.7%) 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 6.1% to 14.9%.*

## **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

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

- Hon'ble Minister Mr Umesh Shrestha has been appointed as a newly elected Health Minister for Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). The Honorable Minister joined the office at MoHP on 25 July 2021.
- The second round of nationwide Sero-Prevalence of SARS COV-2 study which started from 5 July 2021 is ongoing across all seven provinces. MoHP officials along with the WHO team are monitoring the survey.
- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign
  - 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.
  - COVID-19 vaccination campaign for the first dose of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell) started for ≥55 years and above age group conducted from 13 July 2021. Campaign has been conducted currently in three Provinces (Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini) and will be expanded in other Provinces soon.
  - As of 26 July 2021, 1576670 people were vaccinated with 1st dose and 697422 people were vaccinated with 2nd dose of VeroCell Vaccine across the country.
  - Similarly, COVID-19 vaccination campaign for Janssen vaccine (single dose vaccine), Johnson & Johnson started from 19 July 2021. As of 26 July, total of 265686 people vaccinated.

### **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 17 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week and their results are pending.
  - Dissemination of result of EQAP panel to 37 designated COVID-19 laboratories. The result of 34 laboratories were 100% and the remaining 3 laboratories were ≤ 80%.
  - Monitoring of sample collection, sample tracking, sample processing for ELISA test and, Internal Quality Control (IQC) panel preparation for second round of SARS-CoV-

2 sero surveillance. As of 26 July, 7304 samples out of 13,700 samples for sero surveillance, was received at NPHL.

### **Point of Entry**

- Prohibitory Order imposed in Kathmandu Valley since 29 April 2021 has been further extended by a week from 26 July 2021 until 4 August 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.

### **Technical Planning and Operations**

- WHO Nepal colleagues attended a meeting with Curative Service Division (CSD) along with IMCCR (Improvement of Maternal and Child Care in Remote Areas) on 26 July 2021 to discuss and improve on the existing Telemedicine guideline. A decision was made to finalize the guidelines in a broader consultative meeting with engagement of expert officials from MoHP.

### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- 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.
- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published (20 - 26 July 2021):

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
45	Delta variant   कोभिड-१९ को डेल्टा स्वरूप	Maithili	<a href="#">Link</a>
46	Diabetes & COVID-19   मधुमेह र कोभिड-१९	Nepali	<a href="#">Link</a>
46	Diabetes & COVID-19   मधुमेह आ कोभिड-१९	Maithili	<a href="#">Link</a>

- Images of the Nepali people getting vaccinated, with messages of the advantages of receiving the vaccines, were shared via the following links:
  - Series I: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  - Series II: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
- A video of the overview of the program - *Critical Care Training for Health Care Workers: COVID-19 Program* - and its impact were shared via the following links:
  - Overview of the program: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
  - Impact of the program: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
- Images related to the ongoing nationwide sero prevalence survey, at Siddharthnagar Municipality in Bhairahawa in Lumbini Province, were shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The images showcased the joint team of WHO and MoHP officials



continuing to monitor the survey which started earlier this month. Findings from the study will help determine the extent of population who have been infected with COVID-19 in the country.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 24 session was "Mindfulness in HealthCare: Why here? Why now?"
- A series of infographics on COVID-19 vaccines, which debunked ongoing rumors and highlighted their efficacy, were shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- 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*.

### Field Operations and Logistics

- WHO Nepal facilitated in receiving following WHO consignment and supported in stockpiling the received consignments at WHO Nepal Warehouse:
  - Dexamethasone 4mg/ml- 1ml injection - total quantity 250,000 pcs. Support for the handover process of this consignment to the MoHP by WHO is underway.
  - 500,000 gloves. Support for the handover process of this consignment to MoHP by WHO is underway.
  - Duty exemption and receiving of four consignments of 2,000 sets of Oxygen Concentrator and its accessories.
- WHO Nepal is also currently supporting the central team's travel and logistic arrangement for their provincial visits to monitor ongoing 2<sup>nd</sup> sero prevalence study in the country.

### What are the health clusters partners doing?

- National Public Health Laboratory identified the following needs to improve the laboratory testing in Nepal.

Item	Specifications	Quantity needed	Any geographic specification for utilization of these	What would suffer in the Covid 19 response of NPHL if this need is not met?
1 PCR Machine Calibration Kit	I. Qiagene Rotor Gene Q Biosystem 7500/ Quantstudio 5 IV. D-lab	II. Applied III. CFX-96 Biorad Total: 55	Government labs through out country	Calibrated PCR machine is crucial to give quality result
2 Biosafety cabinet Calibration	I. ESCO -16 II. Microfit-8 IV. Biobase-10 Others (Microtech/thermofisher/Accumax/IMSET/Indostat/ Dalton Classii Japan/Neura/Microfit safezone/Lab-care/Scientific Vision/ BP Labsol India/Universal Bio M V tech) -12	52	Government labs through out country	Calibrated biosafety cabinet ensures safety of organism, personnel and environment.
3 Ultra low deep freezer	Minus 80 degree celsius	30	Government labs through out country	Because of lack of -80-degree freezer, covid 19 samples are stored appropriately
4 Establish Biorepository unit at NPHL	Preparation of room	1	NPHL	Establishment of biorepository unit will stream line long term
	short term consultant	1		long term storage of covid 19 samples received at NPHL and
	Software	1		other laboratories



*WHO IMS Coordination pillar circulated a template to each division, centre at the Department of Health Services to identify the needs.*

- Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Level Health Cluster Coordination meeting as and when require basis.
- 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; MOHP/Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) especially with Provincial Health Directorate Offices, District Public/Health Offices, and municipalities. COVID-19 response support provided by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.
- WHO and UNICEF are providing support for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with External Development Partners (EDPs) which includes but is not limited to:
  - 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 seroprevalence survey is ongoing throughout the country with technical and financial support from WHO.
- Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) Technical Working Group meeting was convened on 23 July 2021 where with WHO facilitation the World Bank, and Asian Development Bank were also invited into the meeting. World Bank representatives expressed their interest to support HCWM in the country. They also requested the Management Division to review the resource mapping for the implementation of 3 years approved workplan, the World Bank representatives expressed their readiness to support any gap identified. The Bank could also support capacity building on HCWM if there is resource constrain.

## 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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