

Situation Update #68- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 27 July – 2 August 2021

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

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 94.1% (658,122) of cases have recovered and 4.5% (31,629) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 89.8% (28,405) cases are in home isolation; 10.1% (3,224) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2.1% (690) of active cases require ICU admission, 25.2% (175) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Fourteen districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (16702) reported this week, 23.1% (3854) are from Kathmandu district. Most of the new cases about 34.2% (5708) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 2 August 2021)

COVISHIELD Vaccine

First dose : 1,828,484
Second dose : 460308

SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)

First dose : 2334767
Second dose : 728150

Johnson and Johnson Vaccine

Single Dose : 707,075

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 3 August 2021, 07:00:00 hours (week no. 31), a total of 699,649(19.3%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,622,480 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 62,783 (19.2%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 325,799 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 30) ranged from 7.6% (Province 2) to 37.9% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 24.1%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 60% (420,680/699,649) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (329,907/420,680) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 3 August 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

**699649 (RT-PCR) and
62783 (Antigen RDT)
confirmed cases**

**9,898 deaths
3,622,480 RT-PCR tests and
325,799 Antigen RDT**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 3 August 2021)

**38,378,277 confirmed cases
570,286 deaths**

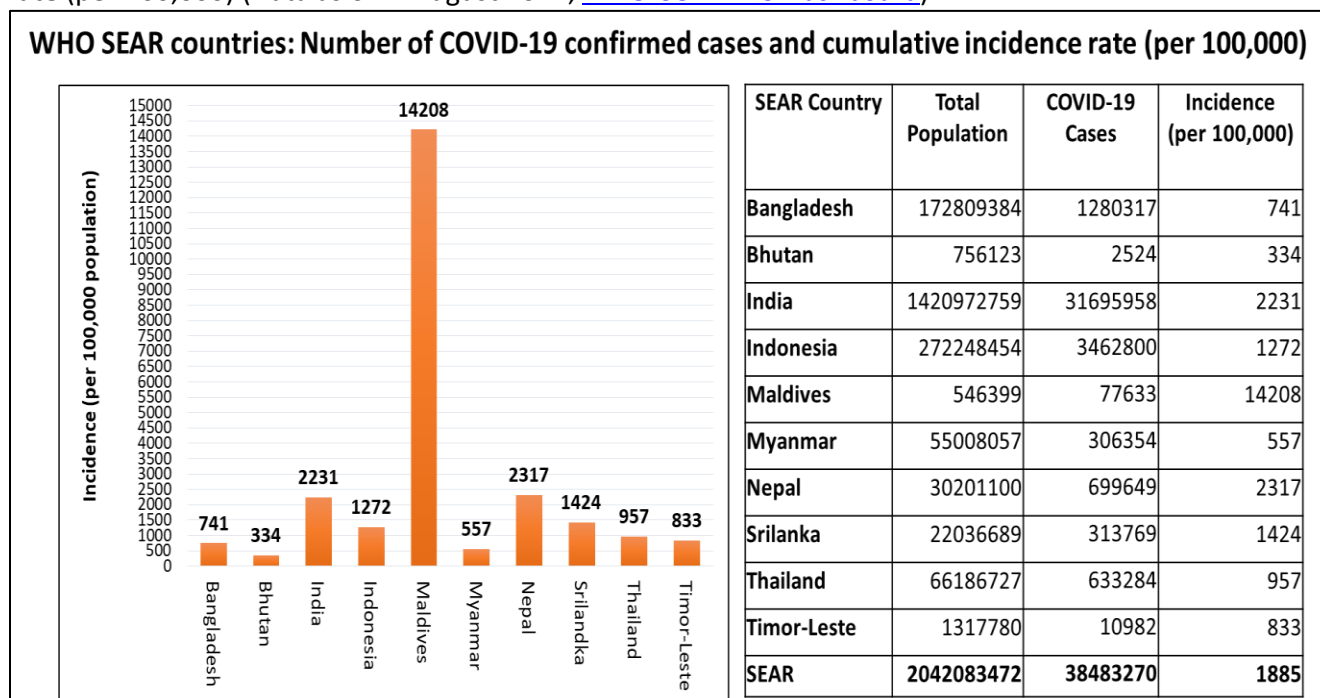
GLOBAL

(Data as of 3 August 2021)

**197,788,117 confirmed cases
4,219,578 deaths**

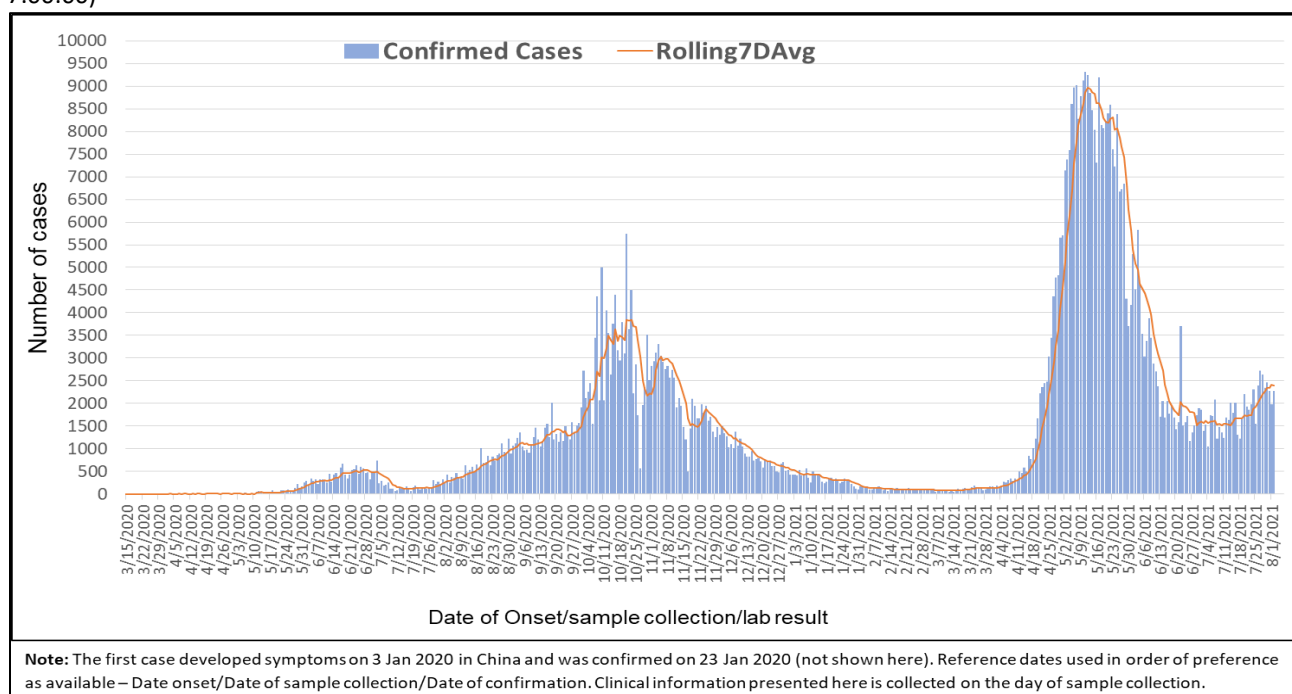
- NPHL reported 54 diagnostic and surveillance samples [(8 tested at National Influenza Centre (NIC) and 46 tested at Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit Nepal (WARUN)] on EPID-week 30 (26 July-1 August 2021).
 - 24 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, 1 sample tested positive for Influenza B Positive.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on the samples tested at NIC (this is exclusive of SARS-CoV-2 reporting of the Influenza samples from WARUN)
 - Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 Samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPID-week 30 (26 July-1 August 2021), 185 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week. 16 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3.
- From 4 January to 1 August 2021:
 - A total of 159 samples have tested positive for Influenza (150 Influenza A/H3 positive, 4 Influenza B Victoria positive, 1 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B Victoria, 4 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 3016 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 1146 samples (sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples). All the positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.¹

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000) (Data as of 2 August 2021; [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#))



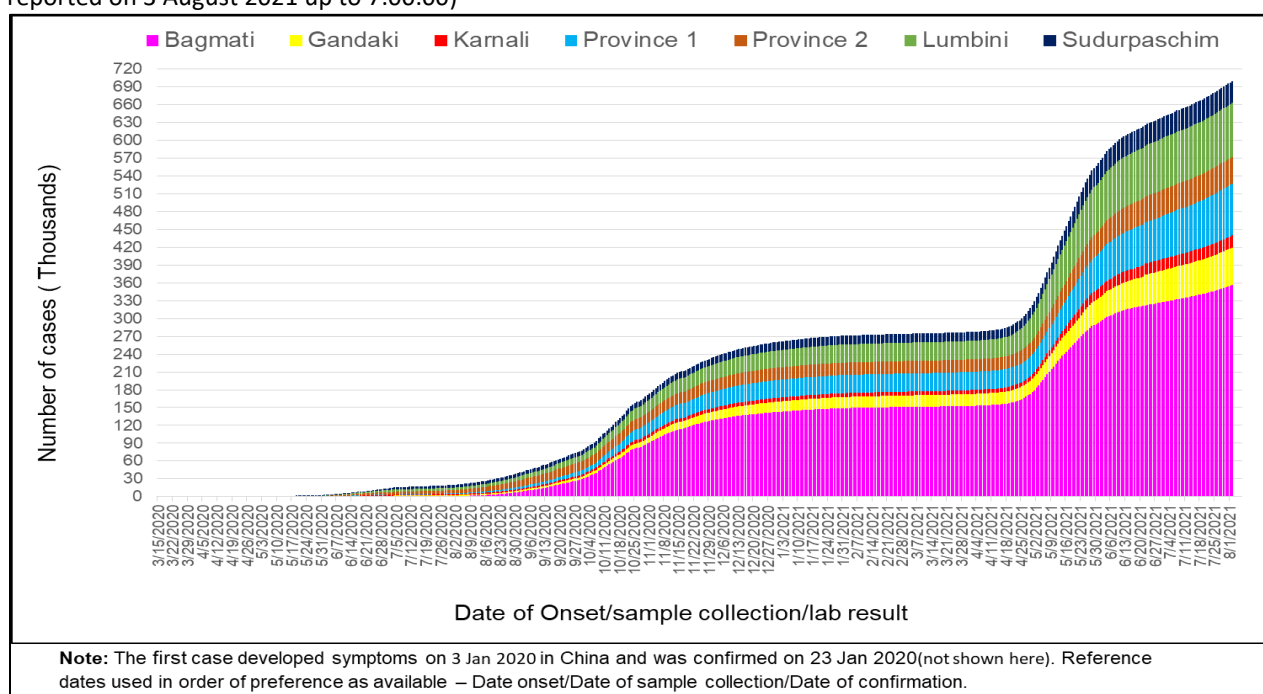
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 699649) (Data reported on 3 August 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 2 August 2021 was 13811 which is 31% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

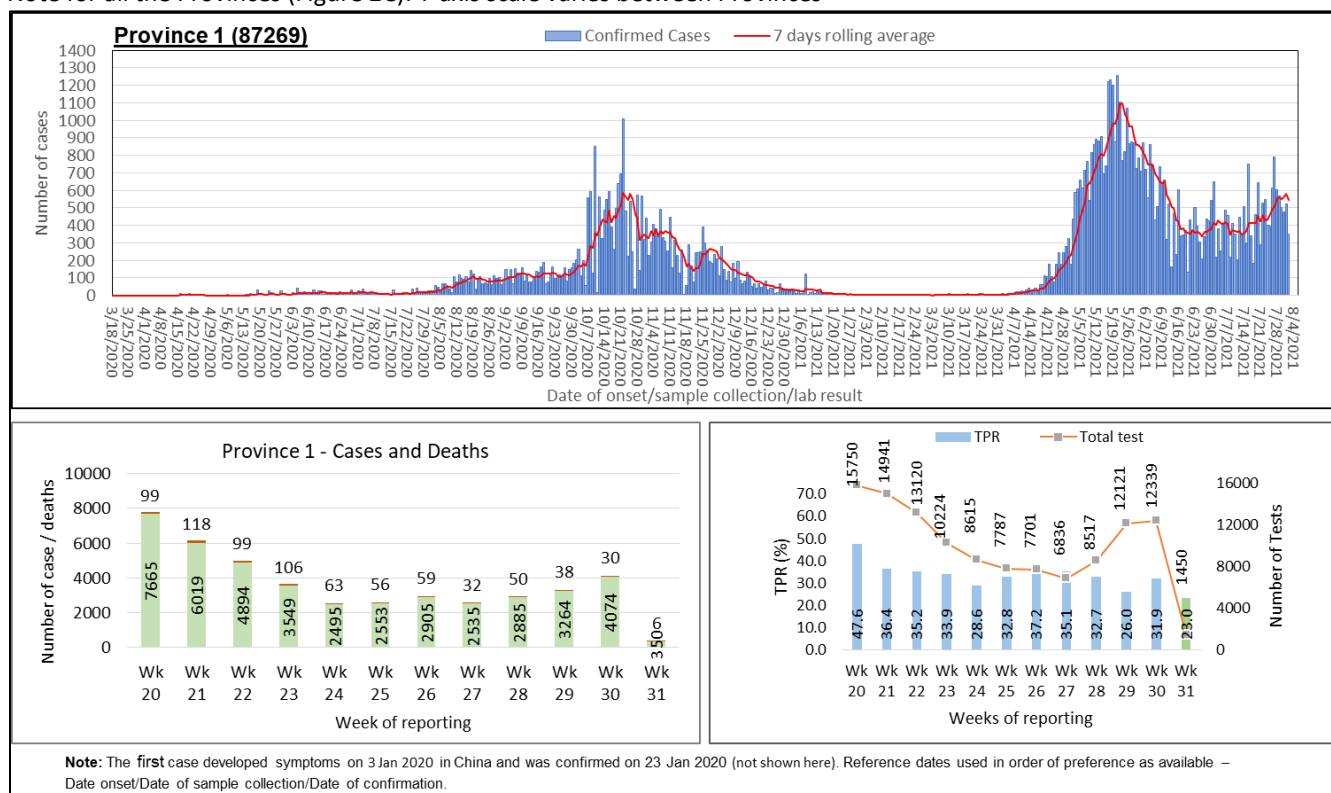
Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 699649) (Data reported on 3 August 2021 up to 7:00:00)



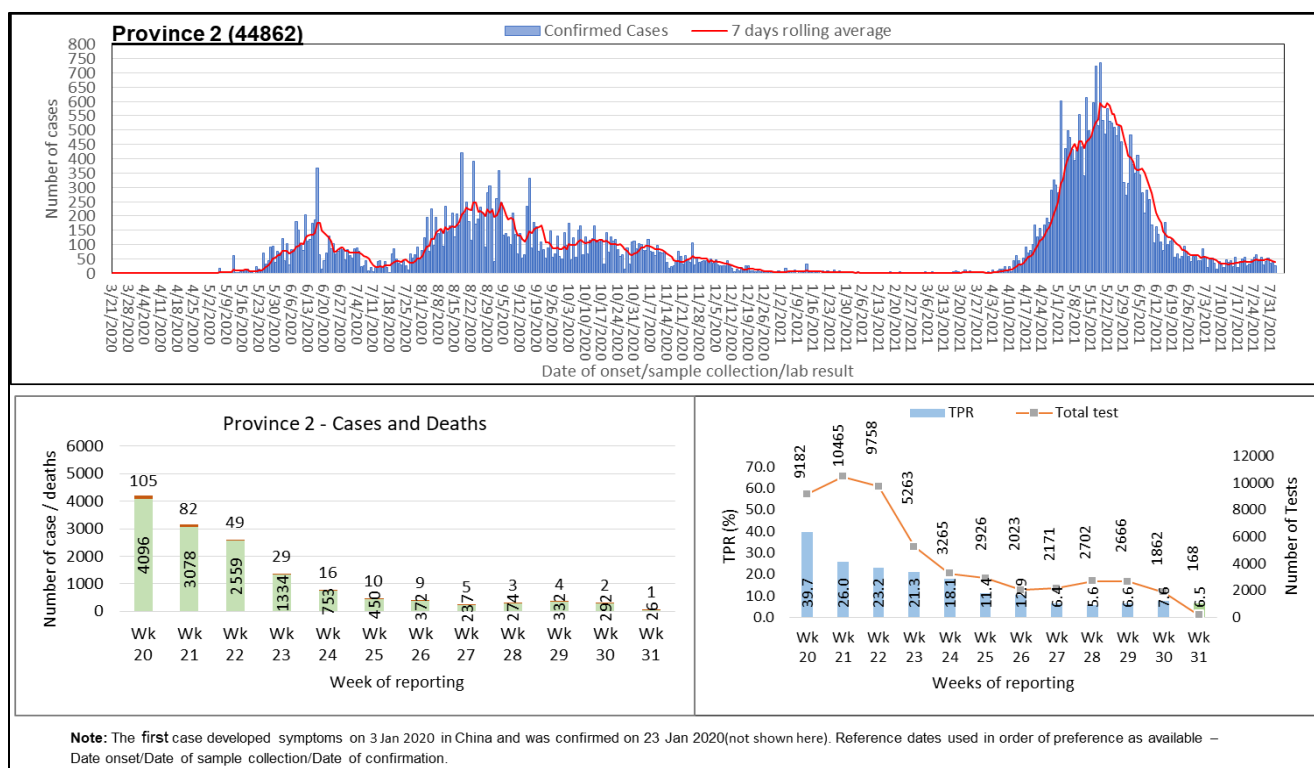
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 699649) (Data reported on 3 August 2021 up to 7:00:00)

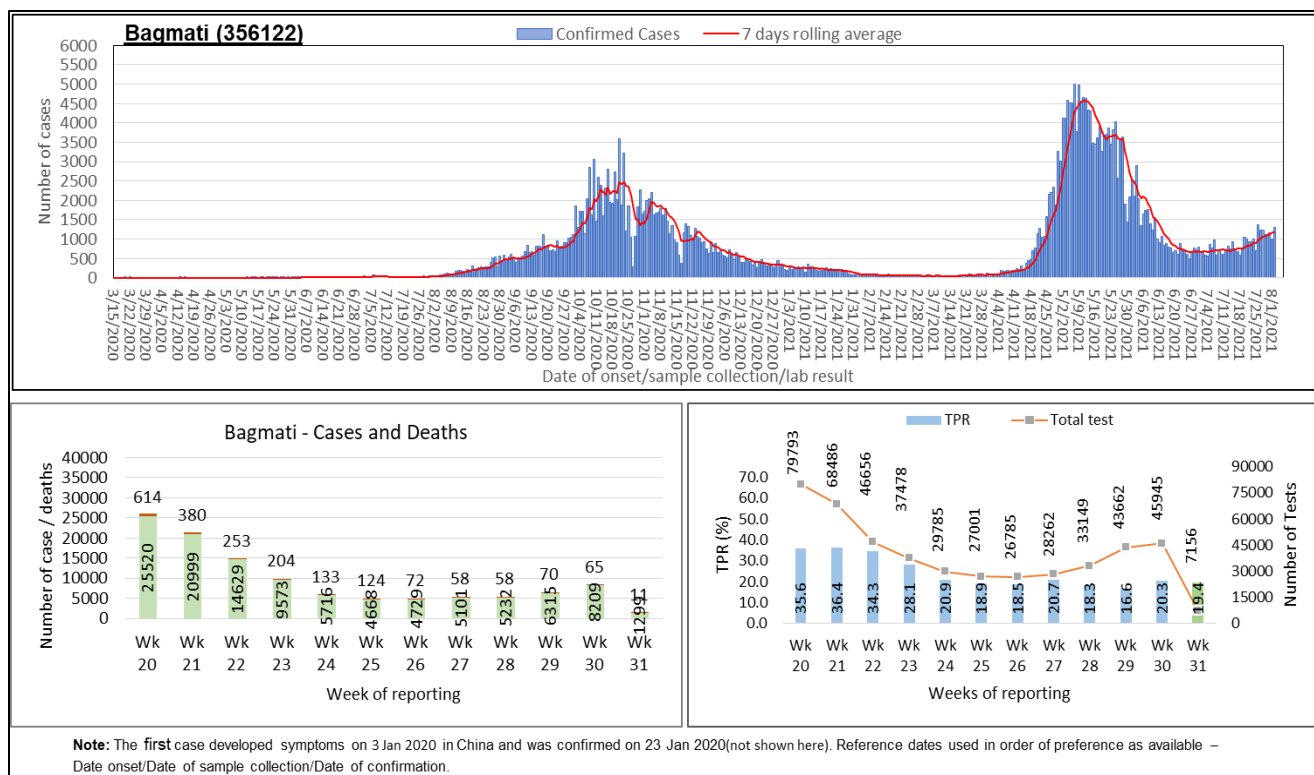
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



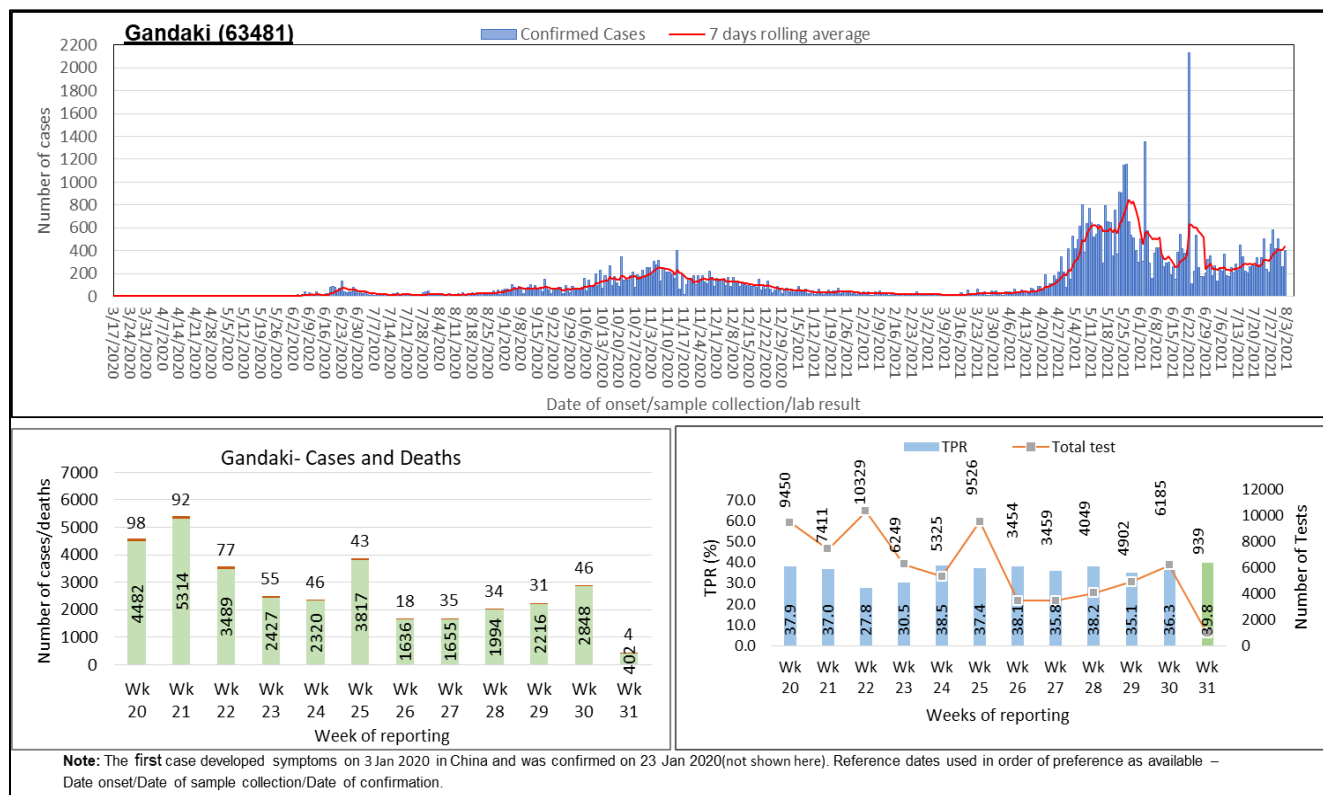
There were 4074 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 25% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 30 deaths reported in the past week, 21% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 31.9% in the past week. A total of 12339 tests were performed in the past week, 2% more than that of the previous week.



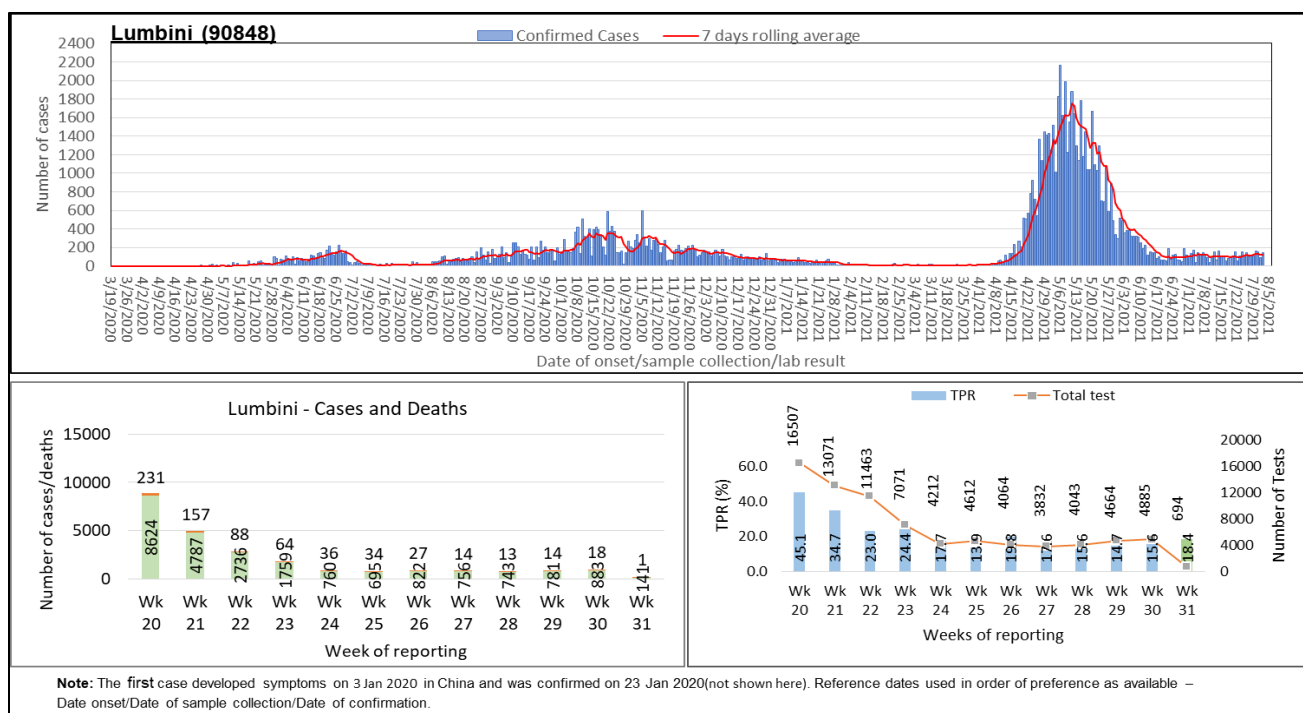
There were 292 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 12% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 50% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 increased to 7.6% in the past week. A total of 1862 tests were performed in the past week, 30% less than that of the previous week.



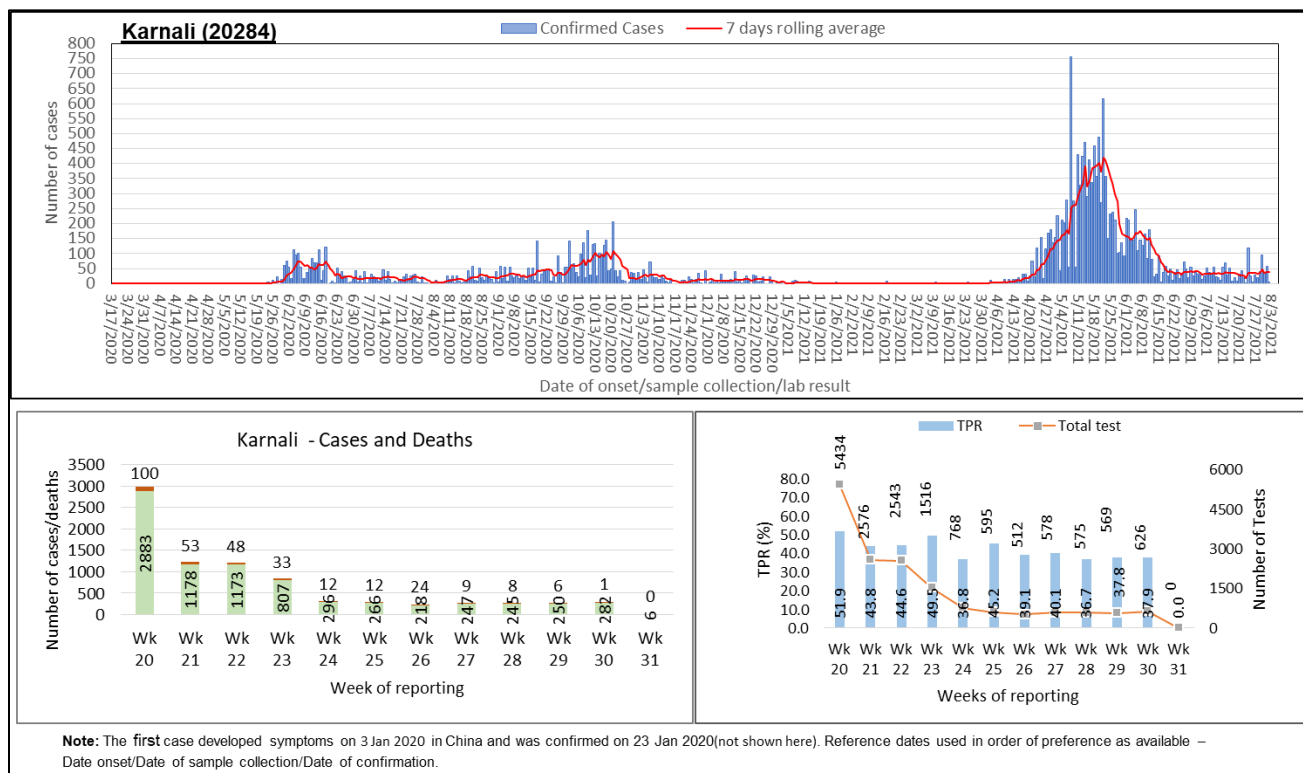
In Bagmati, 8209 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 30% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 65 deaths reported in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 20.3% in the past week. A total of 45945 tests were performed in the past week, 5% more than that of the previous week.



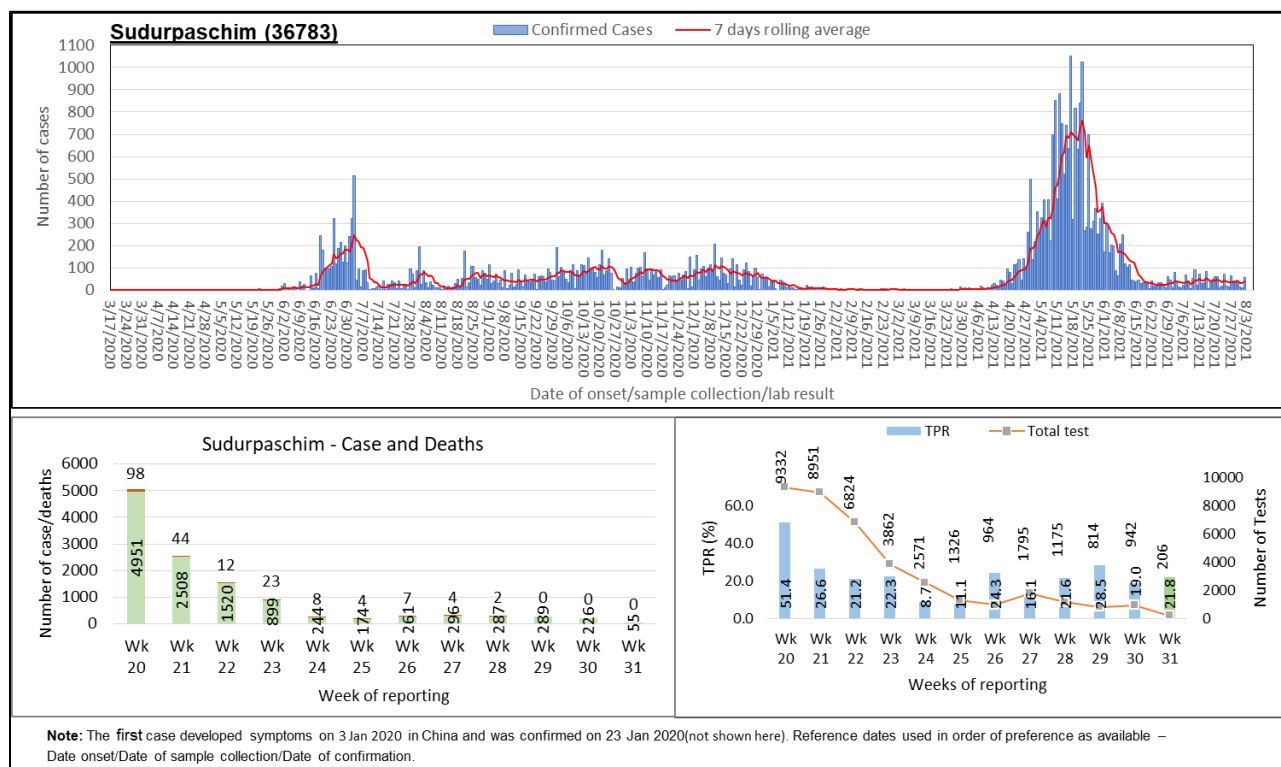
In Gandaki, 2848 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 29% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 46 deaths reported in the past week, 48% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 36.3% in the past week. A total of 6185 tests were performed in the past week, 26% more than that of the previous week.



Lumbini reported 883 new cases in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are considerably increasing. The cases have increased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 18 deaths reported in the past week, 29% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 15.6% in the past week. A total of 4885 tests were performed in the past week, 5% more than that of the previous week.

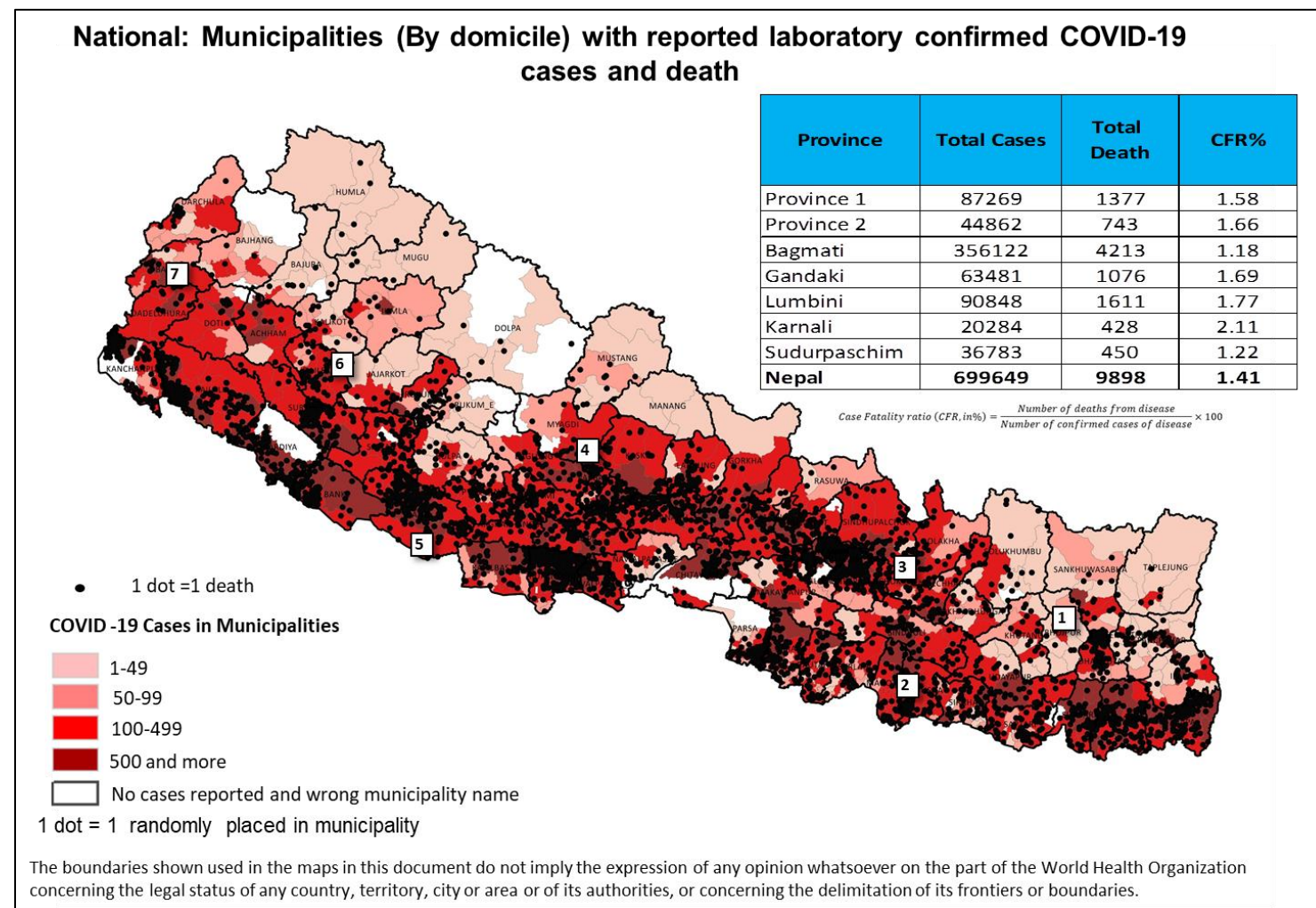


In Karnali, 282 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 1 death reported in the past week, 83% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 37.9% in the past week. A total of 626 tests were performed in the past week, 10% more than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 226 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 22% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 19.0% in the past week. A total of 942 tests were performed in the past week, 16% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 699649) (Data reported on 3 August 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 1.41%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2.11% and Lumbini Province with 1.77%.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 3 August 2021 up to 07:00:00)

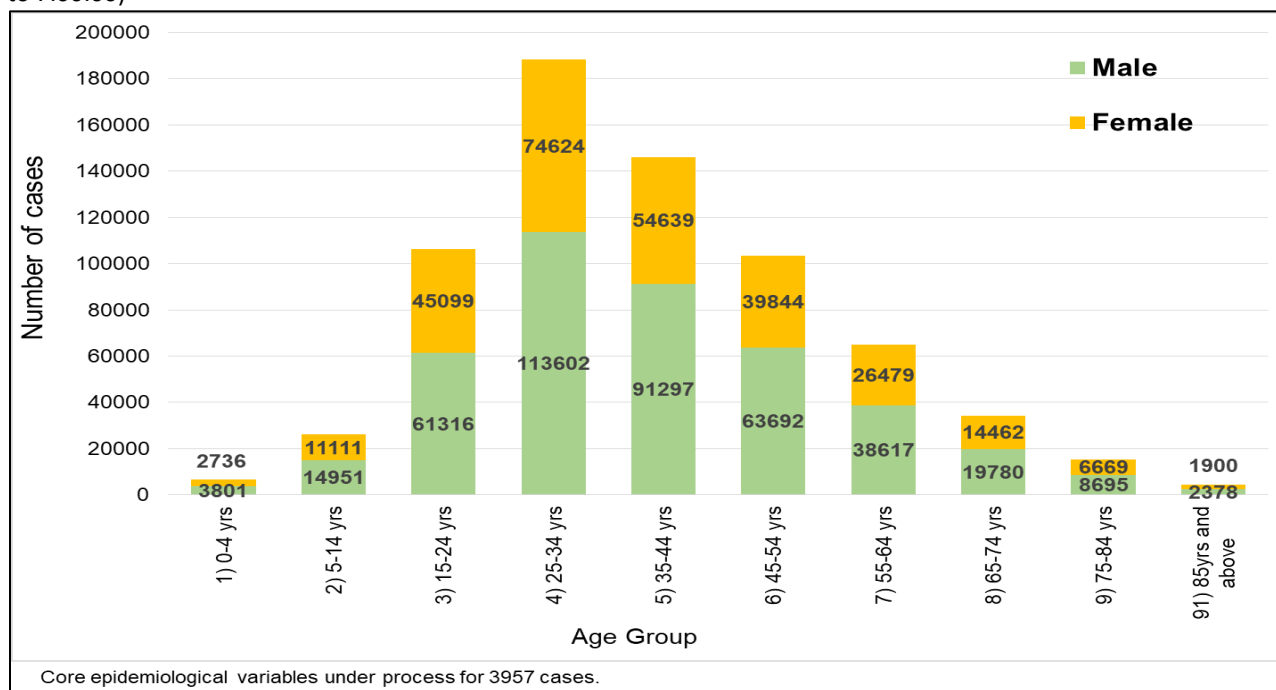
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	87269	16682	103951	13.8	1377	Community transmission	4667	7688	12355	27.4	69
Province 2	44862	437	45299	6.0	743	Community transmission	20	650	670	1.5	7
Bagmati	356122	13564	369686	49.1	4213	Community transmission	2956	15823	18779	41.7	132
Gandaki	63481	9993	73474	9.8	1076	Community transmission	2503	5466	7969	17.7	74
Lumbini	90848	8593	99441	13.2	1611	Community transmission	1781	1805	3586	8.0	30
Karnali	20284	2345	22629	3.0	428	Community transmission	456	538	994	2.2	4
Sudurpashchim	36783	1874	38657	5.1	450	Community transmission	153	570	723	1.6	0
National Total	699649	53488*	753137	100	9898	Community transmission	12536	32540	45076	100	316

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 2 August 62783; but IMU reported 53488*

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 = 695692) (Data reported on 3 August 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 = 699649) (Data reported on 3 August 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	6537	14	17	11	0.47
5-14 yrs	26062	12	7	9	0.07
15-24 yrs	106415	72	77	51	0.14
25-34 yrs	188226	326	213	105	0.29
35-44 yrs	145936	761	361	221	0.77
45-54 yrs	103536	1194	537	432	1.67
55-64 yrs	65096	1446	648	611	3.22
65-74 yrs	34242	1378	699	751	6.07
75-84 yrs	15364	968	519	569	9.68
85+ yrs	4278	404	222	195	14.63
Unknown	3957	17	6	10	0.58
National	699649	6592	3306	2965	1.41

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

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

A total of 9,898 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 6,592 (66.6%) were males and 3,306 (33.4%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 2,965 persons (30.0%) 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 14.6%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- MoHP has endorsed an interim guidelines for the use and operation of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson's) COVID-19 Vaccine (Ad26.COV2-S) [recombinant] – 2078 on 28 July 2021. Link [Here](#)
- Dr Roshan Pokharel, former chief specialist of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has taken overall responsibility as Health Secretary for MoHP from 1 August 2021 as Mr Laxman Aryal, former Health Secretary of MoHP got transferred to Prime Minister's Office as per the cabinet decision on 31 July 2021).
- Hon'ble State Minister for MoHP delivered the policy commitment for management of COVID-19 pandemic and issued a 23 point commitment and action plan to advance health and control COVID-19 during the press conference held at MoHP on 2 August 2021. Link [Here](#)
- Government of Nepal is receiving medical equipment, supplies and health commodities from many countries and donor agencies. Within the reporting time frame, the following have provided logistics support:
 - UNICEF Nepal, with funding support from Asian Development Bank has handed over decontamination equipment (15 autoclaves and 13 hospital-grade laundry machines)
- 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. Sero-prevalence survey is expected to be completed within this month of August 2021.
- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign
 - 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. As of 2 August 2021, 2334767 people were vaccinated with 1st dose and 728150 people were vaccinated with 2nd dose of VeroCell Vaccine across the country.
Target groups for the SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell), Inactivated, Sinopharm campaign are as follows:
 - All citizens aged 55 years and above, who are remaining to receive 1st dose vaccine
 - University, school professors, teachers and staff
 - Public transport drivers and conductors

- Remaining persons involved in essential services as specified by the Government of Nepal
- Nepali citizens going to countries with mandatory vaccine requirement
- Similarly, COVID-19 vaccination campaign for Janssen vaccine (single dose vaccine), Johnson & Johnson started from 19 July 2021. As of 2 August, total of 707,075 people were vaccinated with J & J vaccine.

Target groups for the Janssen Ad26.COVS.2 (COVID-19) vaccine (Johnson & Johnson) campaign are as follows:

- 50-54 years age citizens who have not received the first dose COVID-19 vaccine
- Citizens with full or maximum disability (category A and B)
- Refugees currently staying in Nepal
- Health care workers and cleaners working in health facilities (those who have missed vaccination in previous phases)
- Nepali citizens going to countries with mandatory vaccine requirement of Janssen vaccine



Left: WHO Field Medical Office Dr. Mona Pradhan monitoring swab collection for sero prevalence survey at Siddharthanagar Municipality Rupandehi district. Left Below: WHO Multimedia content producer Ms Asha Thapa interviewing a local Dipa Shrestha from Siddharthanagar Municipality Rupandehi about the experience of giving swab samples for sero prevalence survey. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal/ 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 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 $\leq 80\%$.
- 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 05 August 2021 until 11 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 7 more days to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

Technical Planning and Operations

- WHO Nepal colleagues participated in a preparatory meeting for "National Infection, Prevention & Control (IPC) Guideline Development" on 2 August 2021. This meeting was attended by health officials from NSSD (Nursing and Social Security Division), National Health Training Center (NHTC), Management division, Curative Service Division (CSD), Trauma Center and other stakeholders: Grande International hospital & Critical care nursing association of Nepal.

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.
- The news of the arrival of two thousand oxygen concentrators from the WHO to be handed over to the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) for distribution in Nepal in support of enhancing oxygen capacity, care, and support, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - I. Daily *Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*,
 - II. Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
 - III. The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:

Situation Update #68 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 WHO Country Office for Nepal
 Sunday 8 August 2021

- I. *World Hepatitis Day* and COVID-19,
- II. *World Breastfeeding Week* and COVID-19,
- III. Smoking and COVID-19,
- IV. COVID-19 vaccines.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- 63rd Health Cluster Coordination meeting was conducted on 29 July 2021, where more than 65 health cluster partners actively participated in the meeting. The following action points were decided in the meeting:
 - Conducting a meeting between interested partners and EDCC to discuss volunteer mobilization strategies with regards to scale up of Antigen Testing at the municipality level in Nepal
 - Conducting a meeting to share findings from the field with IMU leads and interested partners if requested
 - Detailed discussion on critical care preparedness, public private partnership and case coordination pathways in the next meeting
 - Sharing the guideline on oxygen concentrators bank and the Rapid assessment of RMNCAH service readiness and functionality with all the partners
- 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 (EDCC), 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 sero prevalence survey is ongoing throughout the country with technical and financial support from WHO Nepal.

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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