

# Situation Update #72- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 24 - 30 August 2021

**HIGHLIGHTS** \*Data as of HEOC of MoHP Situation Report, 30 August 2021

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 93.9% (714,520) of cases have recovered and 4.7% (35,874) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 92.9% (33,333) cases are in home isolation; 7.1% (2,541) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.5% (568) of active cases require ICU admission, 28.1% (160) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Twenty districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (12,143) reported this week, 28.0% (3,395) are from Kathmandu district followed by Kaski district 9.3% (1,133). Most of the new cases about 39.7% (4,815) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 23 August 2021)

ChAdOx1-S*	SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)	Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
First dose : 2,064,288	First dose : 3,253,195	Single Dose : 1,350,965
Second dose : 1,099,453	Second dose : 1,945,984	

\* COVISHIELD (manufactured by Serum Institute of India), Japanese-made COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine, Swedish AstraZeneca vaccine

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

#### NEPAL

(Data as of 31 August 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

**761,124 (RT-PCR) and**

**83,364 (Antigen RDT)**

**confirmed cases**

**10,730 deaths**

**3,906,029 RT-PCR tests and**

**465,840 Antigen RDT**

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 29 August 2021)

**41,119,317 confirmed cases**

**641,874 deaths**

#### GLOBAL

(Data as of 22 August 2021)

**215,714,824 confirmed cases**

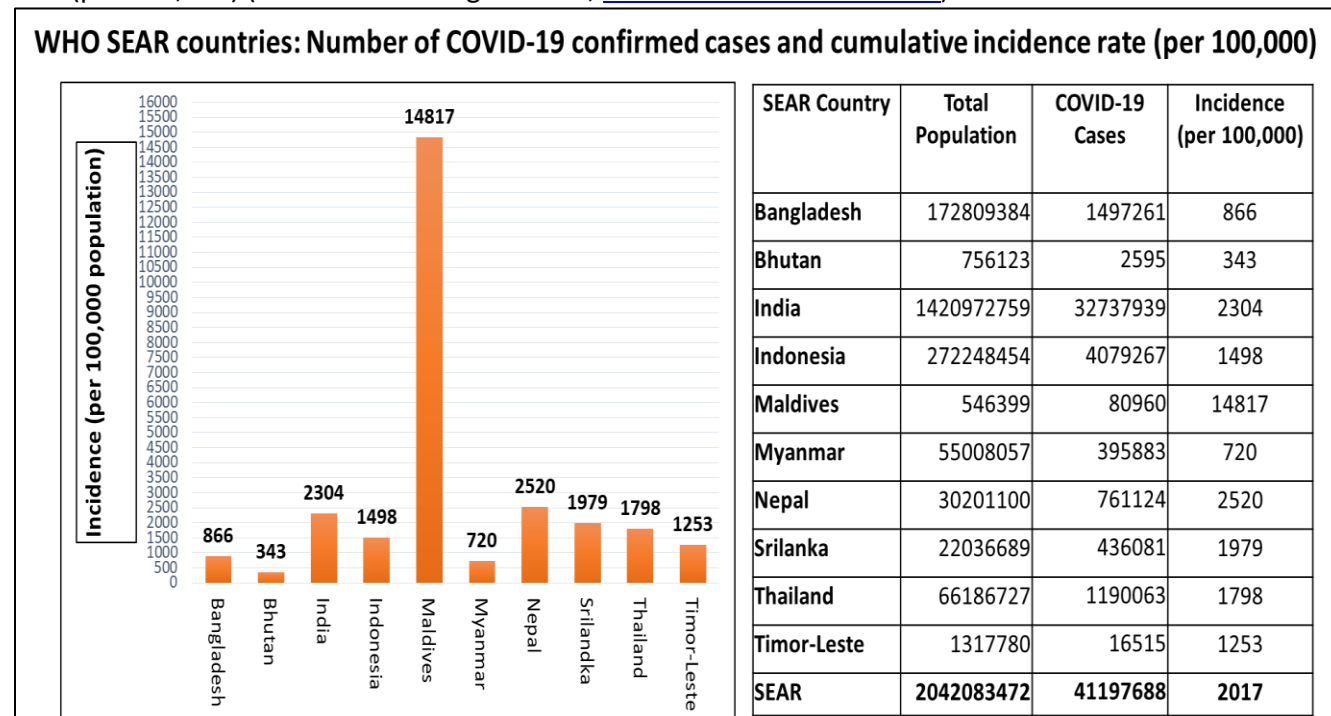
**4,490,753 deaths**

### NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 31 August 2021, 07:00:00 hours (week 35), a total of 761,124 (19.4%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,906,029 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 83,364 (17.8%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 465,840 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 34) ranged from 6.1% (Province 2) to 41.7% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 21.6%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 60% (453,984/761,124) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (354,668/453,984) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

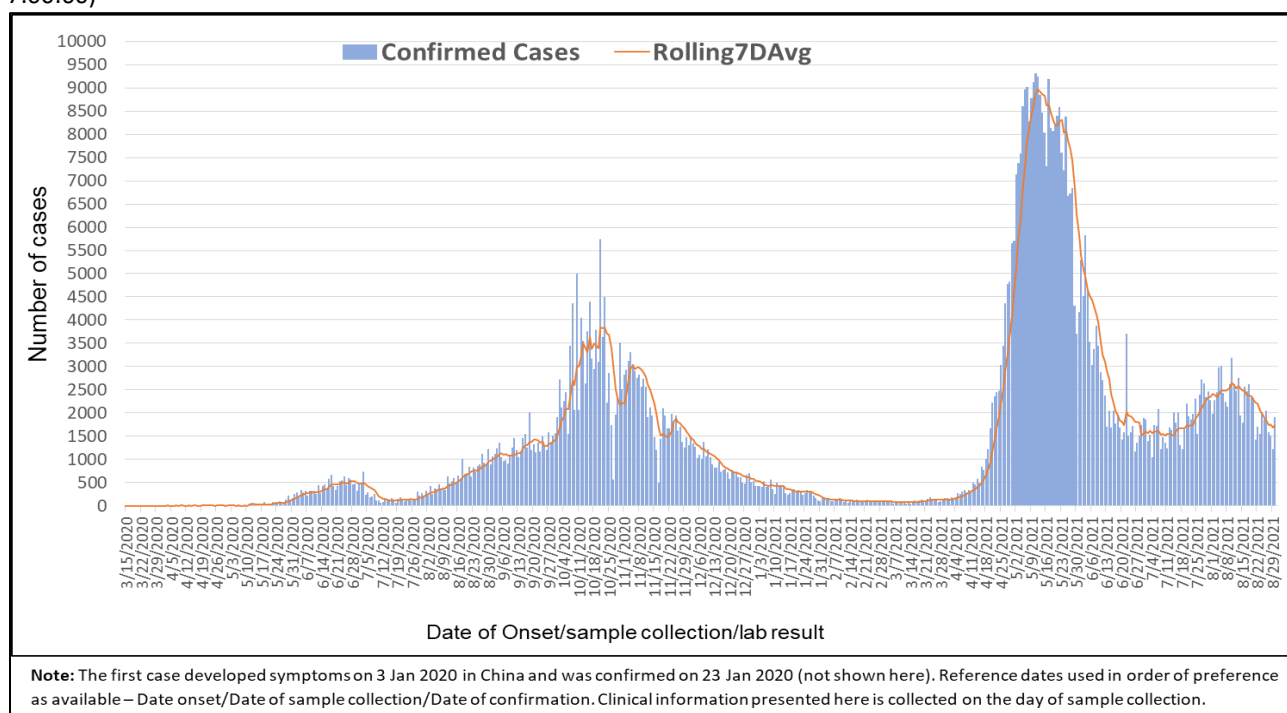
- NPHL reported of 22 diagnostic and surveillance samples [16 samples tested at National Influenza center (NIC) and 6 samples tested at WARUN (Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal)] on EPID-week 34 (23 -29 August 2021).
  - 9 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, and 2 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
  - 3 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 33 (23 - 29 August 2021), 93 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week. 9 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, and 7 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
- From 4 January until 29 August 2021:
  - A total of 598 samples tested positive for Influenza (508 Influenza A/H3 , 61 Influenza B Victoria, 1 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B Victoria, 2 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B , 1 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09, 25 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 4049 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  - Similarly, 276 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1183 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000) (Data as of 30 August 2021; [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#))**



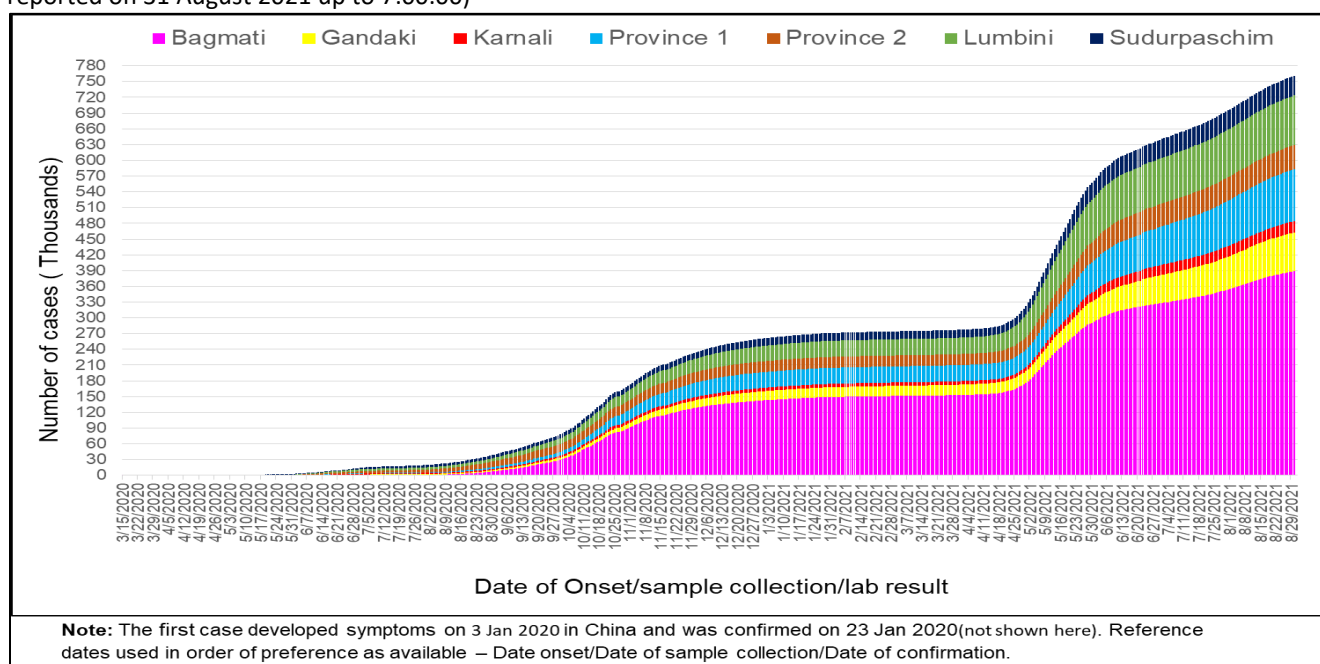
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

**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 = 761124)** (Data reported on 31 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 30 August 2021 was 11892 which is 40% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.*

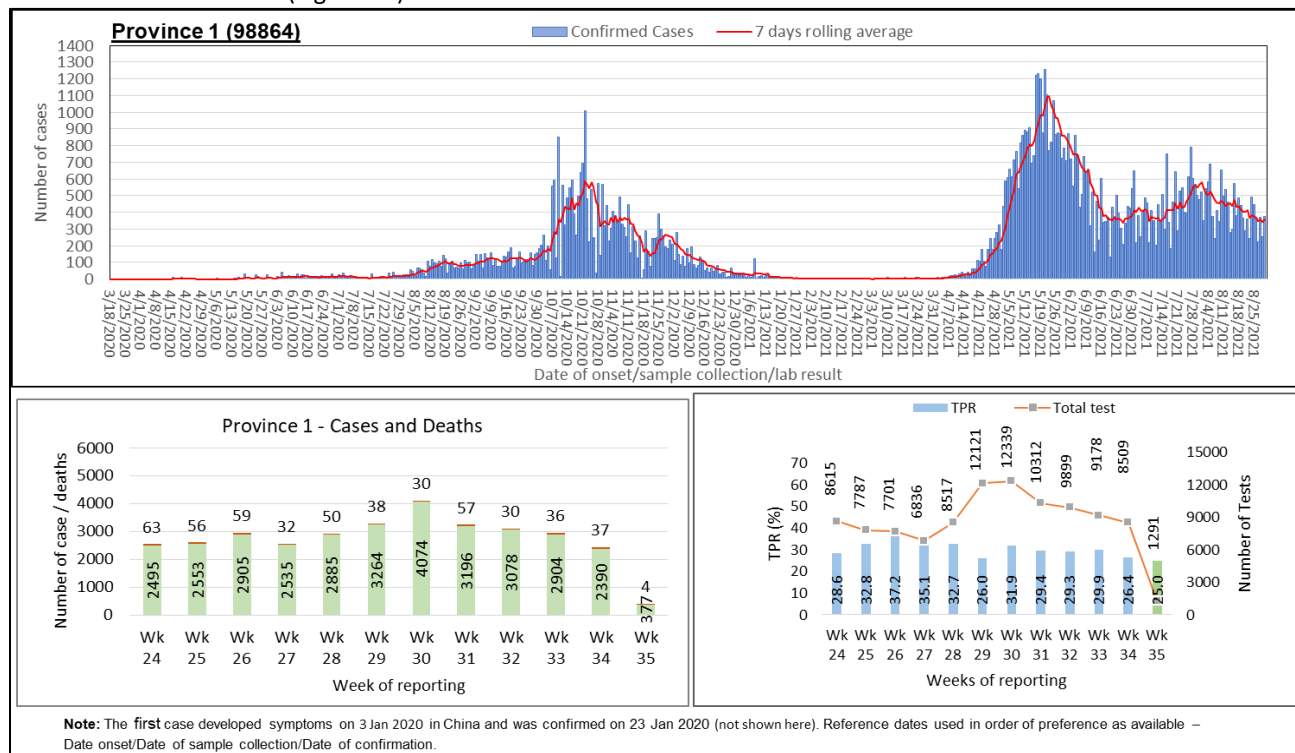
**Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 761124)** (Data reported on 31 August 2021 up to 7:00:00)



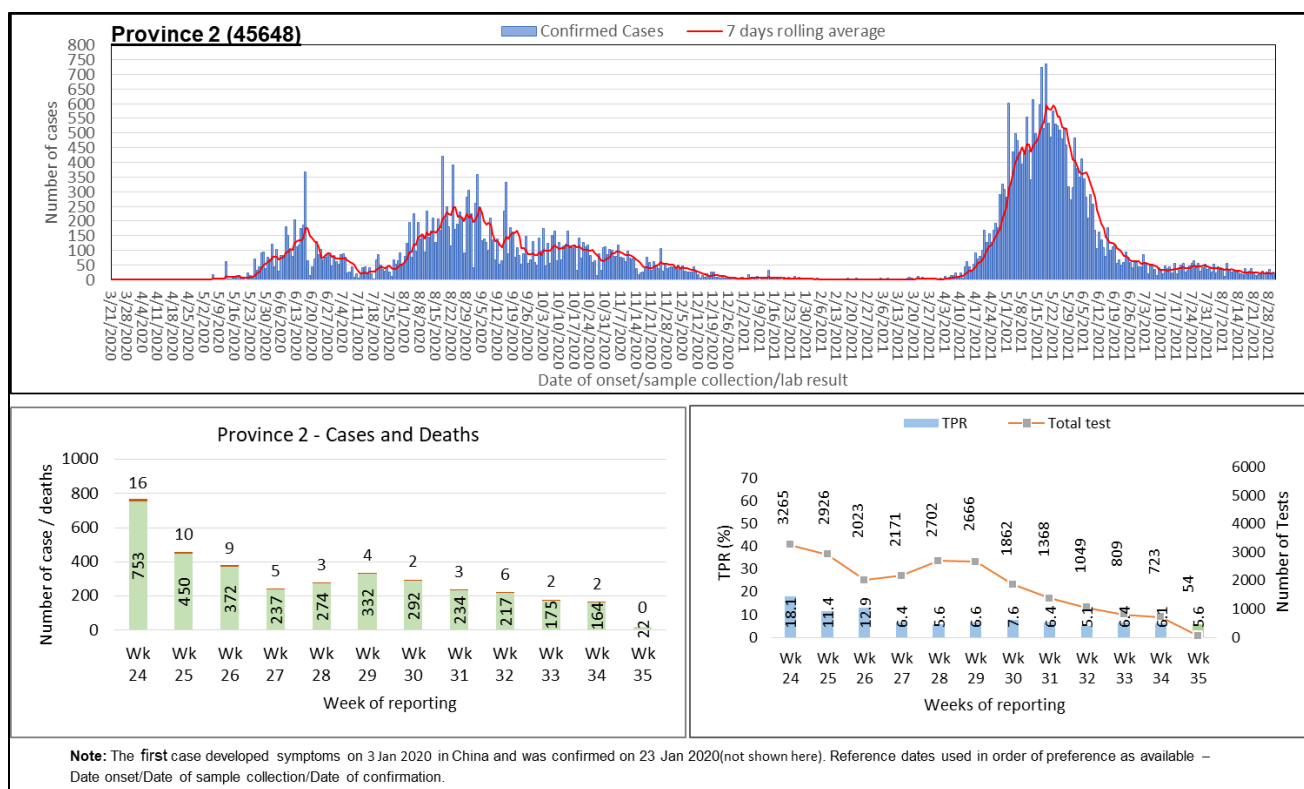
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

**Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 761124)** (Data reported on 31 August 2021 up to 7:00:00)

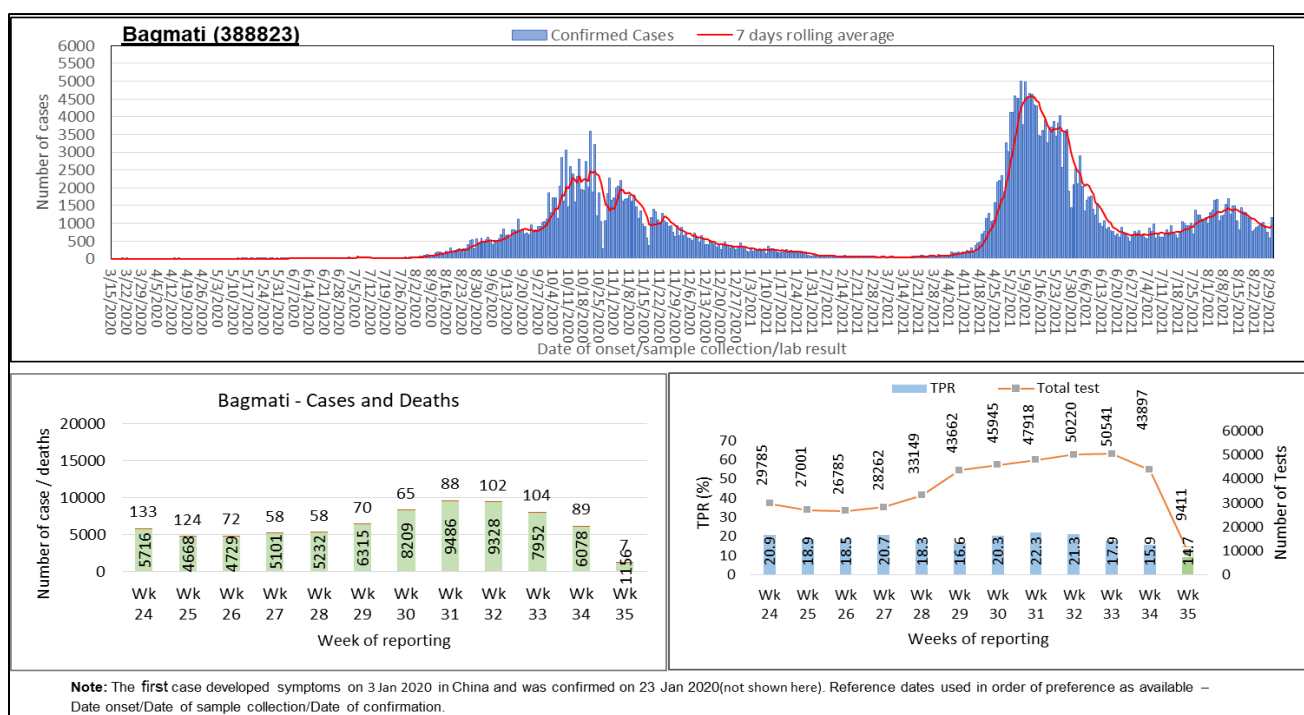
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



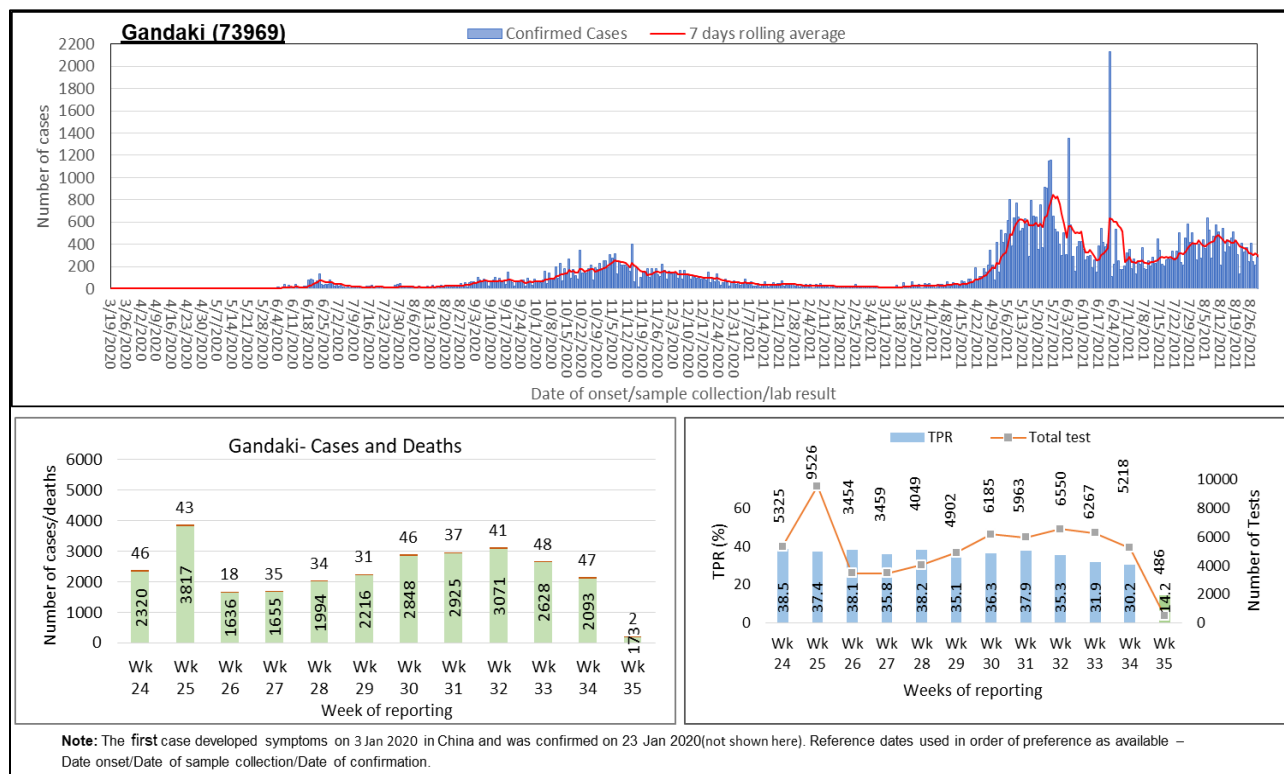
There were 2390 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 18% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 37 deaths reported in the past week, 3% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 26.4% in the past week. A total of 8509 tests were performed in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week.



There were 164 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 6% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 6.1% in the past week. A total of 723 tests were performed in the past week, 11% less than that of the previous week.

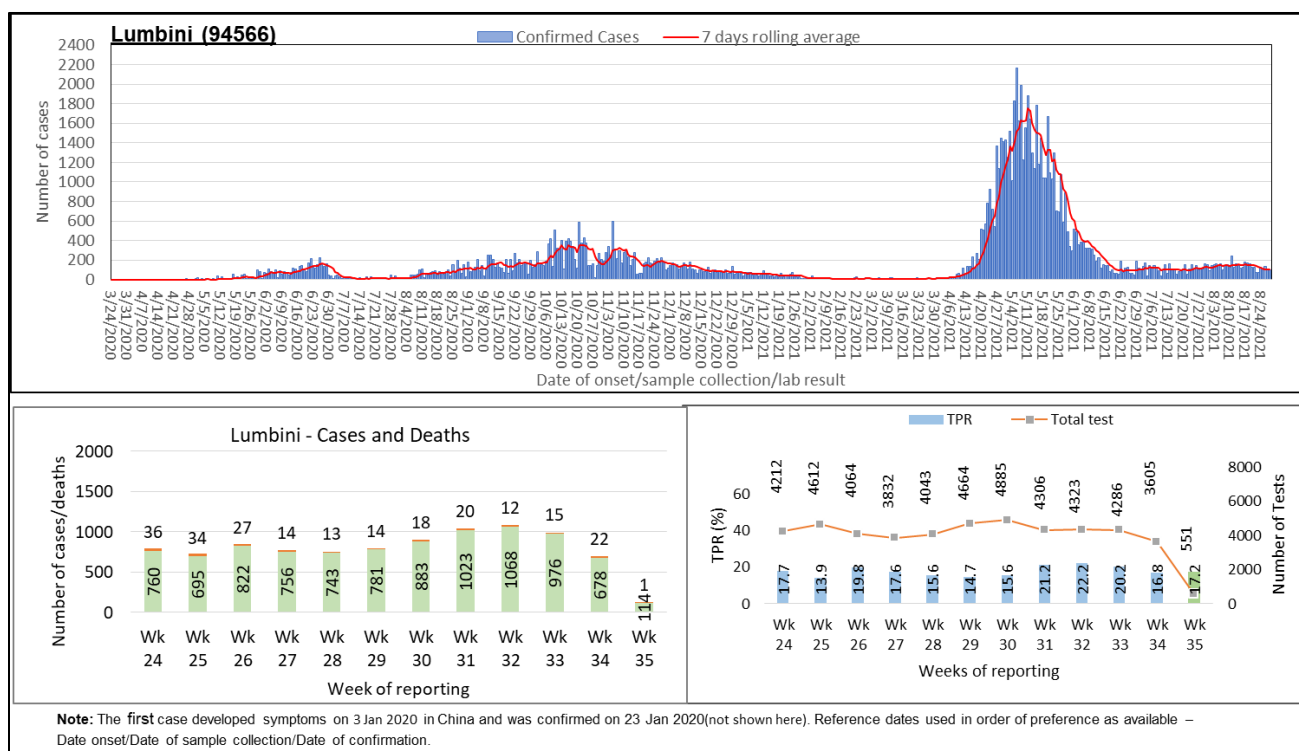


In Bagmati, 6078 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 24% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 89 deaths reported in the past week, 14% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 15.9% in the past week. A total of 43897 tests were performed in the past week, 13% less than that of the previous week.

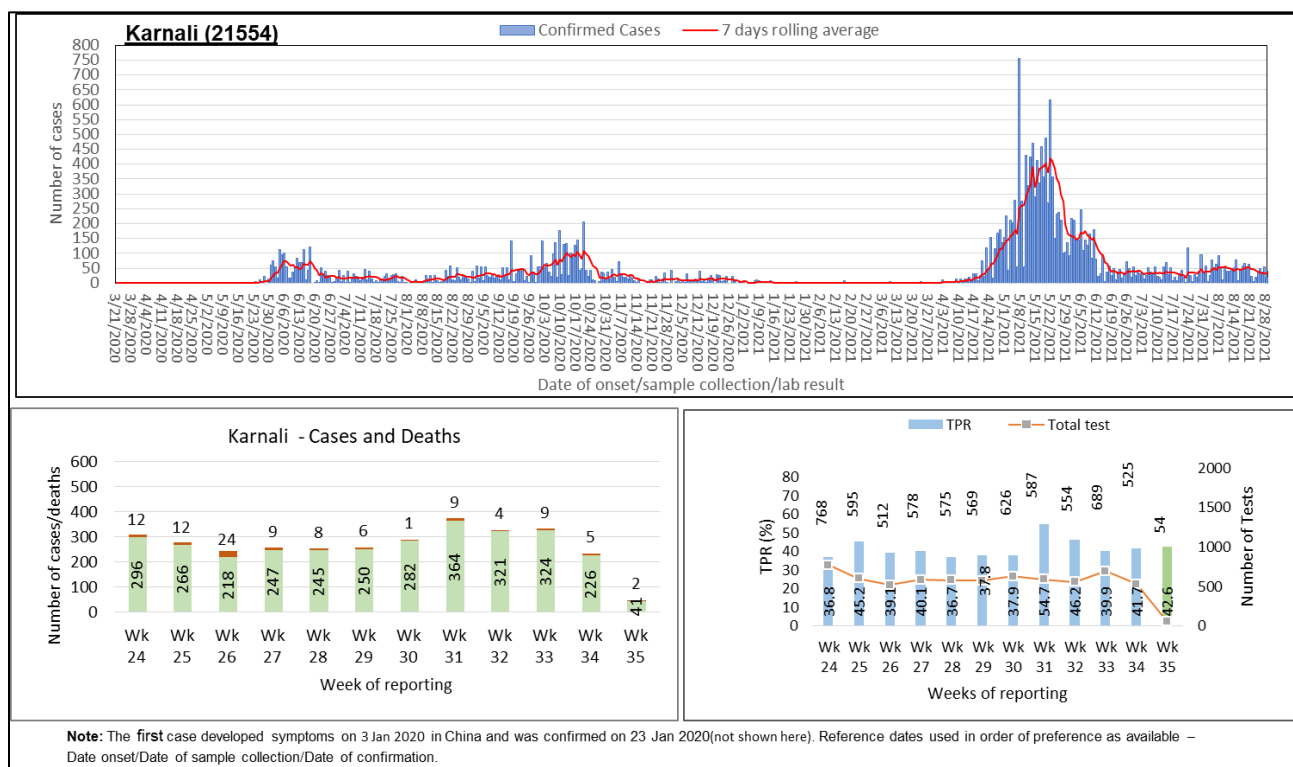


In Gandaki, 2093 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 21, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 20% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 47 deaths reported in the past week, 2% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 30.2% in the past week. A total of 5218 tests were performed in the past week, 17% less than that of the previous week.

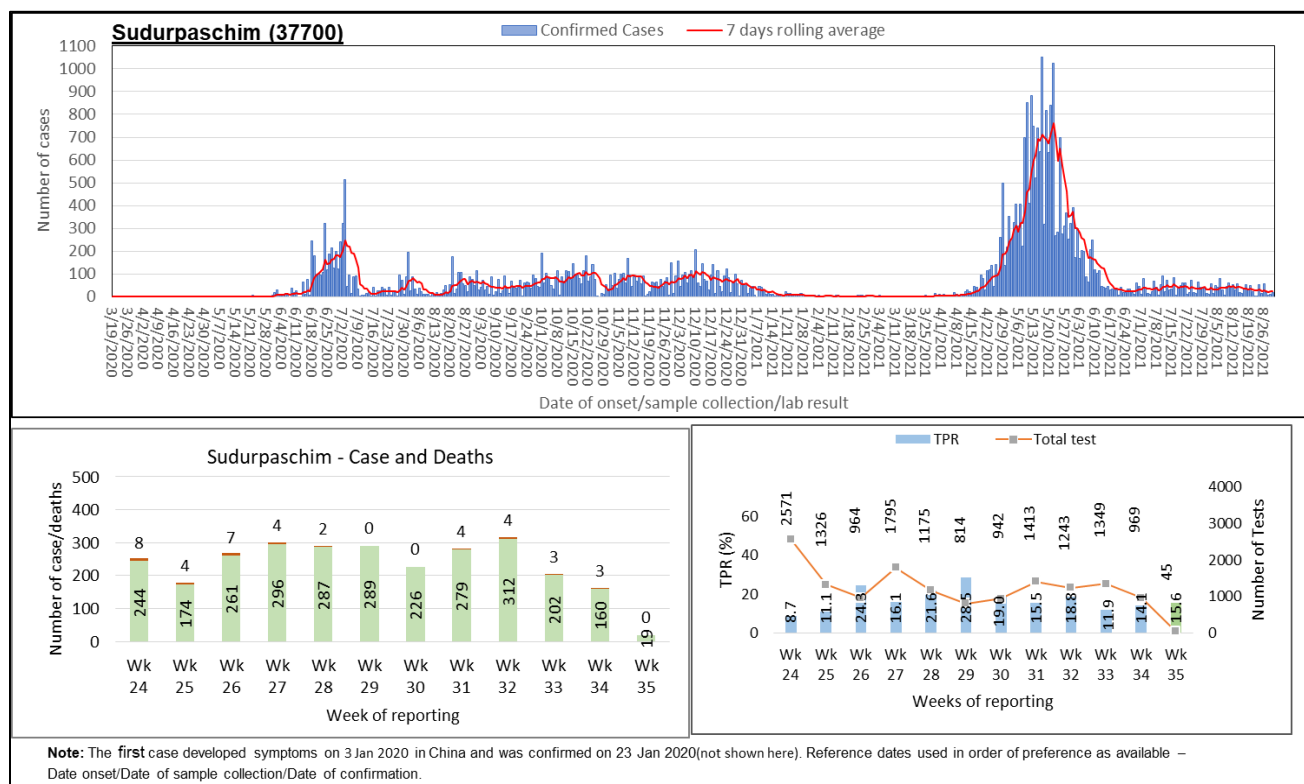




Lumbini reported 678 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 31% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 22 deaths reported in the past week, 47% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 16.8% in the past week. A total of 3605 tests were performed in the past week, 16% less than that of the previous week.



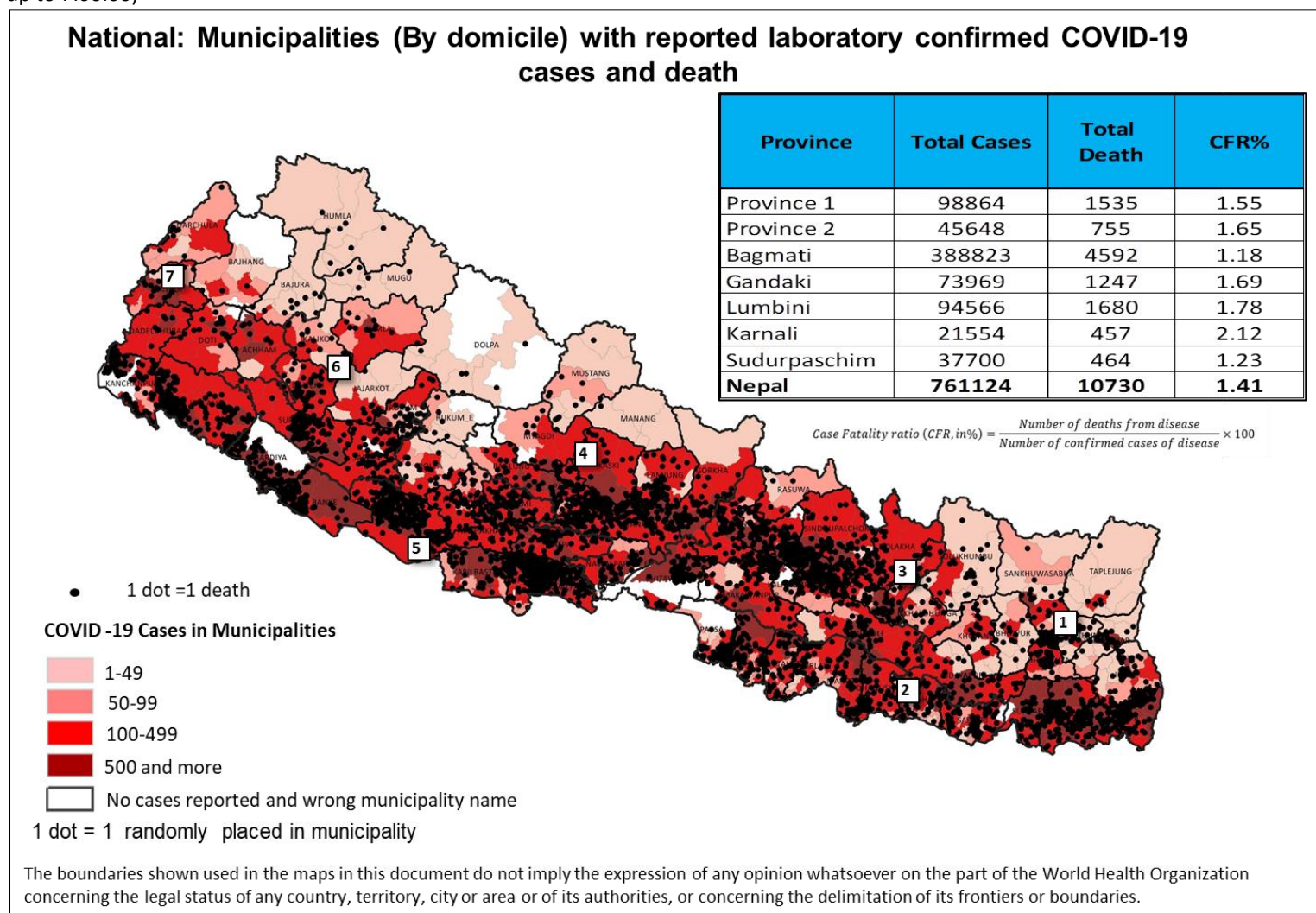
*In Karnali, 226 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 30% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 5 deaths reported in the past week, 44% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 41.7% in the past week. A total of 525 tests were performed in the past week, 24% less than that of the previous week.*



*In Sudurpashchim, 160 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 21% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim increased to 14.1% in the past week. A total of 969 tests were performed in the past week, 28% less than that in the previous week.*



**Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 761124)** (Data reported on 31 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 2.12% and Lumbini Province with 1.78%.*

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.** (Data reported on 31 August 2021 up to 07:00:00)

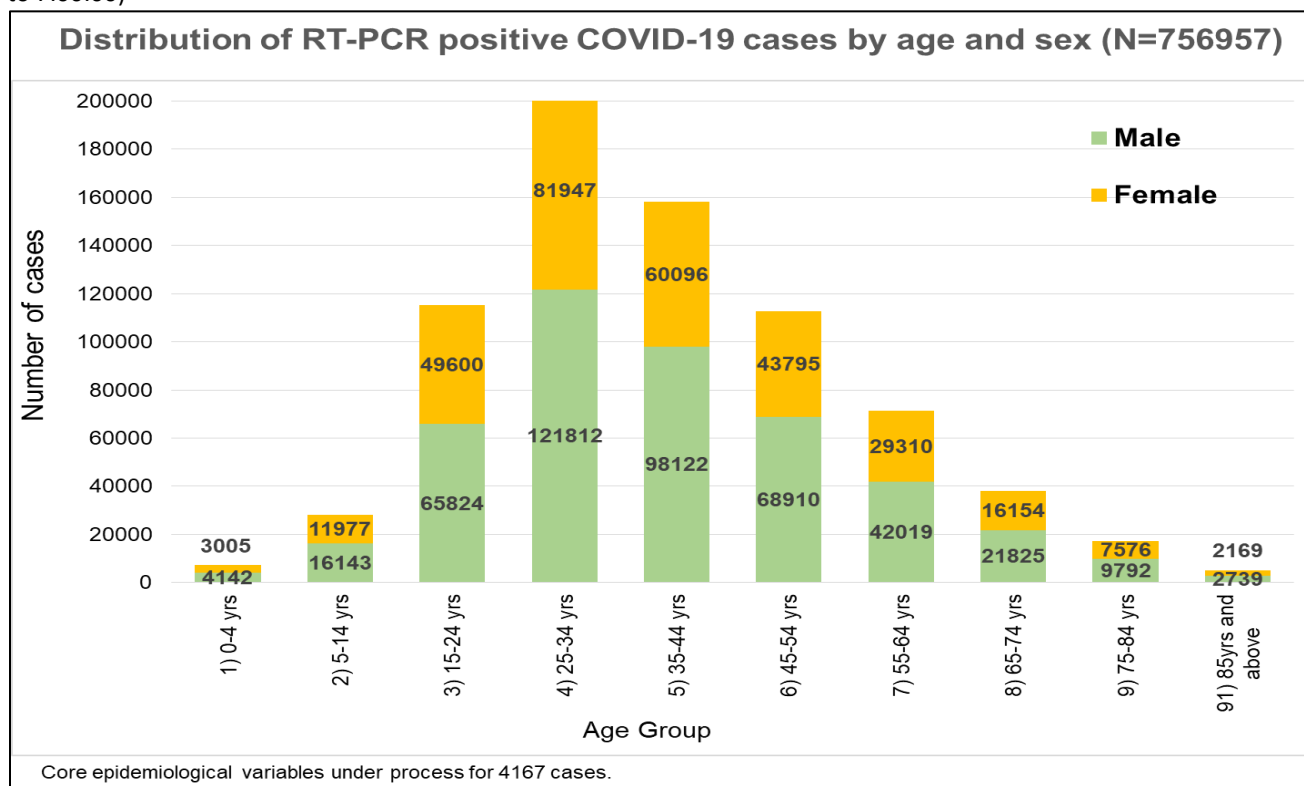
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	98864	23048	121912	14.6	1535	Community transmission	2250	5671	7921	22.1	67
Province 2	45648	462	46110	5.5	755	Community transmission	13	361	374	1.0	2
Bagmati	388823	18066	406889	48.8	4592	Community transmission	1643	15186	16829	46.9	189
Gandaki	73969	14834	88803	10.6	1247	Community transmission	1622	4894	6516	18.2	87
Lumbini	94566	11976	106542	12.8	1680	Community transmission	1092	1768	2860	8.0	36
Karnali	21554	2823	24377	2.9	457	Community transmission	264	591	855	2.4	16
Sudurpashchim	37700	2086	39786	4.8	464	Community transmission	114	381	495	1.4	6
<b>National Total</b>	<b>761124</b>	<b>73295*</b>	<b>834419</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10730</b>	<b>Community transmission</b>	<b>6998</b>	<b>28852</b>	<b>35850</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>403</b>

*\*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 30 August 83364; but IMU reported 73295*

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 = 756957)** (Data reported on 31 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 = 761124)** (Data reported on 31 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	7147	14	19	11	0.46
5-14 yrs	28120	13	7	10	0.07
15-24 yrs	115424	82	82	60	0.14
25-34 yrs	203759	349	234	121	0.29
35-44 yrs	158218	808	396	244	0.76
45-54 yrs	112705	1283	582	485	1.65
55-64 yrs	71329	1551	708	664	3.17
65-74 yrs	37979	1479	782	818	5.95
75-84 yrs	17368	1054	573	619	9.37
85+ yrs	4908	439	252	213	14.08
Unknown	4167	17	6	10	0.55
<b>National</b>	<b>761124</b>	<b>7089</b>	<b>3641</b>	<b>3255</b>	<b>1.41</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 10,730 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,089 (66.1%) were males and 3,641 (33.9%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,255 persons (30.3%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, the CFR progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 6.0% to 14.1%.*

## **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

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

- Preliminary findings from a nationwide sero-prevalence was presented to the high-level committee members on 29 August 2021. The summary of the findings was also released by the ministry in its official press release ([Link Here](#)).
  - The findings from 13,161 samples collected by random sampling showed that 68.6 % samples showed antibody of the SARS-Cov-2 virus.
  - The study also showed that 90% people who have received full vaccination (2 dose in case of Verocell/Astrazeneca/Covishield or 1 dose of J&J) have antibody in their blood samples which was 80% among the people who received only 1st dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update
  - Nepal is currently administering three types of COVID-19 vaccines: ChAdOx1-S [COVISHIELD (manufactured by Serum Institute of India)/Japanese-made COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine/ Swedish AstraZeneca vaccine], Vero Cell and Johnson & Johnson).
  - COVID-19 vaccination campaign is going simultaneously in all provinces for the first and second doses of AstraZeneca, Sinopharm and Janssen vaccines to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan.
  - Nepal has also started second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine campaign from 9 August targeting previously vaccinated ≥ 65 years age and other groups who had received Covishield vaccine as the first dose.
  - As of 30 August 2021, a total of 9,799,013 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
  - Around 17.58% of the total population have received the first dose while, 14.68% have received full dose as of 30 August 2021.
- 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:
  - The Government of India handed over the Oxygen Plant installed at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan to the Government of Nepal, MoHP.

### **What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?**

#### **Laboratory Capacity**

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to NPHL in the following activities:

- Result analysis, report preparation and dissemination of results of 4th round of Proficiency panel testing of 36 designated COVID-19 laboratories. The result of 11 laboratories was 100% concordance, 24 laboratories was 80% concordance and one was <80% concordance.
- Result analysis, report preparation and dissemination of results of WHO Global round of proficiency testing for subnational laboratories to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2 by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of 31 designated COVID-19 laboratories. The result of 23 laboratories was 100% concordance, 6 laboratories 80% concordance and 2 laboratories 60% concordance.
- Validation of Fortitude kit 3.0 RUO COVID-19 RT-PCR test kit. The result is awaited.

### ***Point of Entry***

- Prohibitory Order imposed in Kathmandu Valley since 29 April 2021 has been further extended by two week from 2 September 2021 until 16 September 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 two more weeks to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Technical Planning and Operations***

- A meeting on “Dhulikhel Rehabilitation and Post COVID Project” with proposal development was held on 23 August 2021. Finalization of concept note and budget allocation was discussed during the meeting with engagement of officials from WHO and Dhulikhel hospital.
- Second round review of Post COVID-19 conditions Survey among UN Personnel and Dependents was held on 25 August 2021. Health officials from WHO and IOM participated in the meeting.
- On 26 August 2021, WHO Nepal attended a virtual program organized by Curative Service Division, where the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) on telemedicine was shared. There were a total of 15 participants who were representatives from CSD, WHO, focal persons of telemedicine centres and Provincial Directors from the different provinces. There were total 15 participants from different provinces and from CSD.

### ***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 dispatch of critical medical supplies and equipment worth 1.8 million USD to the Ministry of Health and Population (including 2,000 oxygen concentrators), which

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were then handed over to hospitals to various Provinces of Nepal, was shared via Twitter ([link 1](#), [link 2](#), and [link 3](#)).

- 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:
  - I. New Variants and COVID-19 vaccinations,
  - II. Breastfeeding and COVID-19,
  - III. OpenWHO courses,
  - IV. Safety of COVID-19 vaccinations,
  - V. Social isolation during COVID-19 in elderly population,
  - VI. Public health and social measures to implement during COVID-19.

### **What are the health clusters partners doing?**

- 65<sup>th</sup> Health Cluster coordination meeting was organized at Federal Level by MOHP. There were 49 Health Cluster partners who participated the meeting and the following action points were decided upon:
  - EDCCD Requested support from partners for capacity building of the staff at health desks and to make risk communication approaches more engageable.
  - NHTC Requested support from partners for the development and strengthening of Essential Critical Care Training (ECCT) in all provinces.
  - Organizing a focused meeting to provide a breakdown of the broad areas and line items where NHTC requires support from partners.
  - Requested support in reporting of COVID-19 cases in the IMU application; monsoon preparedness and response
  - Discussion between partners and Management Division on the maintenance of ventilators at the provincial levels to avoid duplications and better mobilize resources required for it.
  - Share the National Suicide Hotline number for wider dissemination.
- 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 (EDCCD), 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.

- UNICEF and WHO are providing support for COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with External Development Partners (EDPs), this includes: Micro planning including financing for the procurement of vaccination; Training/orientations – to health personnel at various level, local governments; Logistics – vehicle, cold chain boxes, delivery of vaccines, transportation of beneficiaries to the vaccination site; Information Technology – registration, information communication, data management; Risk communication and community engagement – production and dissemination of messages, public awareness campaign; and continuation of Technical Assistance. All members of the Health Cluster are advocating through multiple channels that are available to them for the swift supply of vaccines to 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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