

Situation Update #75- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 14 - 20 September 2021

HIGHLIGHTS *Data as of HEOC of MoHP Situation Report, 20 September 2021

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 95.8% (752,170) of cases have recovered and 2.8% (22,323) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 93.6% (20,891) cases are in home isolation; 6.4% (1,432) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.7% (371) of active cases require ICU admission, 29.1% (108) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Ten districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (7,229) reported this week, 27.0% (1,949) are from Kathmandu district followed by Jhapa district which is 9.7% (704). Most of the new cases about 37.3% (2,699) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 20 September 2021, 10:00:00)

ChAdOx1-S*	SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)	Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
First dose : 2,607,705	First dose : 3,608,151	Single Dose : 1,410,167
Second dose : 1,466,163	Second dose : 2,712,187	

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 21 September 2021, 07:00:00hrs)

**785,541 (RT-PCR) and
89,088 (Antigen RDT)
confirmed cases
11,048 deaths
4,103,886 RT-PCR tests and
540,734 Antigen RDT**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 19 September 2021)

**42,498,922 confirmed cases
668,468 deaths**

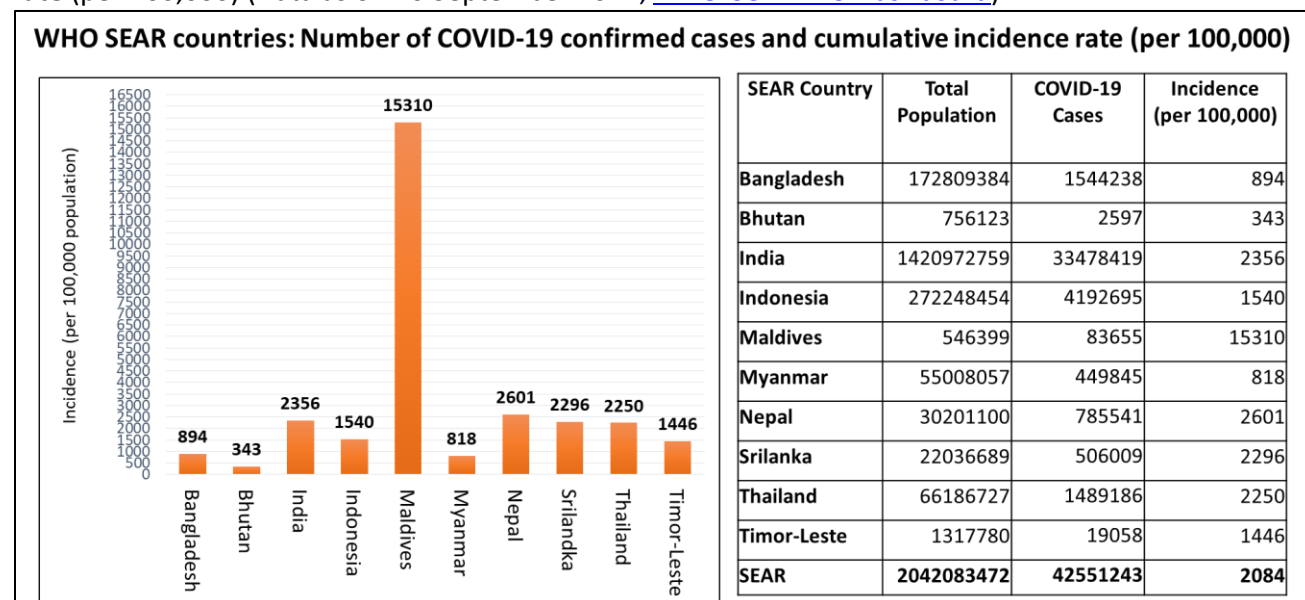
GLOBAL
(Data as of 19 September 2021)
**227,940,972 confirmed cases
4,682,899 deaths**

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 21 September 2021, 07:00:00 hours (week 37), a total of 785,541(19.1%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,103,886 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 89,088 (15.9%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 540,734 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in past week (Week 37) ranged from 4.9% (Province 2) to 32% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 10%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (467,054/785,541) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (364,349/467,054) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

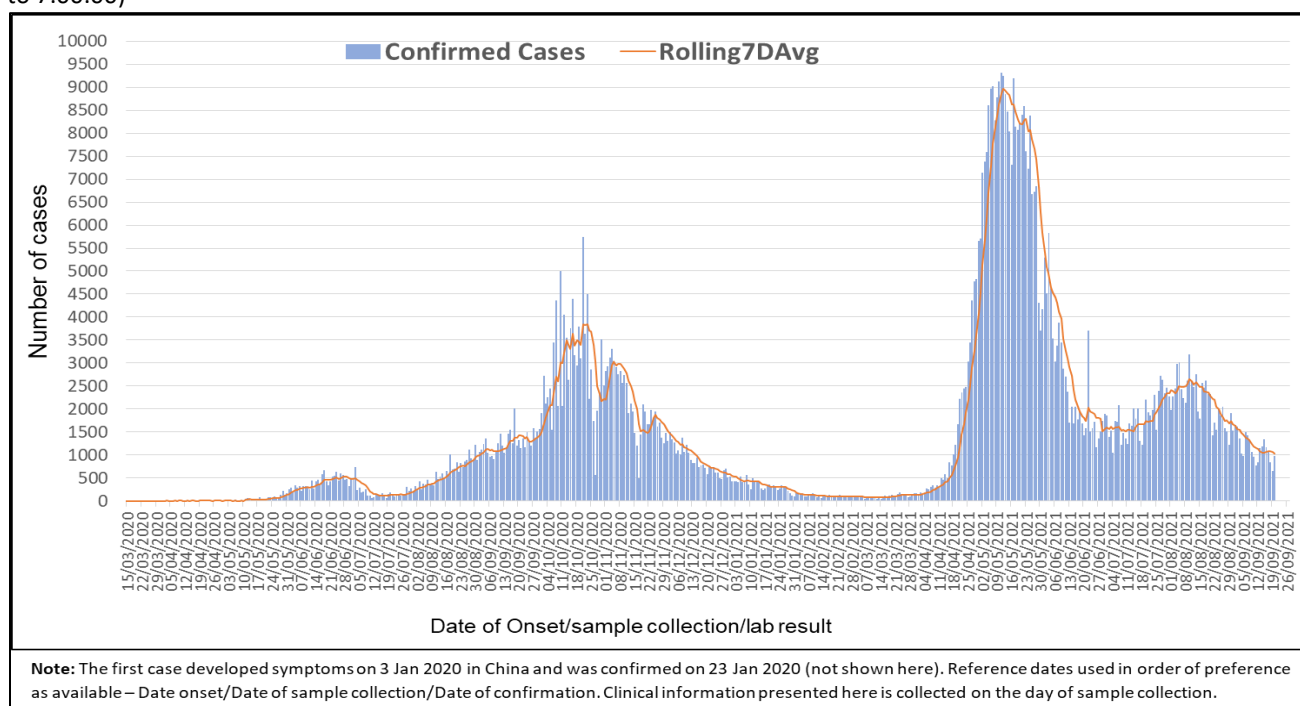
- NPHL reported of 68 diagnostic and surveillance samples [21 samples tested at National Influenza center (NIC) and 47 samples tested at WARUN (Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal)] on EPID-week 37 (13 -19 September 2021).
 - Seven samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, and 8 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria and 17 samples tested positive for Influenza B (Sub-Typing yet to be done).
 - 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 37 (13 - 19 September 2021), 89 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples have been tested for Influenza for the same week. 15 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
- From 4 January to 19 September, 2021:
 - A total of 836 samples tested positive for Influenza (591 Influenza A/H3 , 123 Influenza B Victoria, 1 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B Victoria, 4 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B , 2 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09, 115 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 4730 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 277 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1255 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).¹

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000) (Data as of 20 September 2021; [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#))



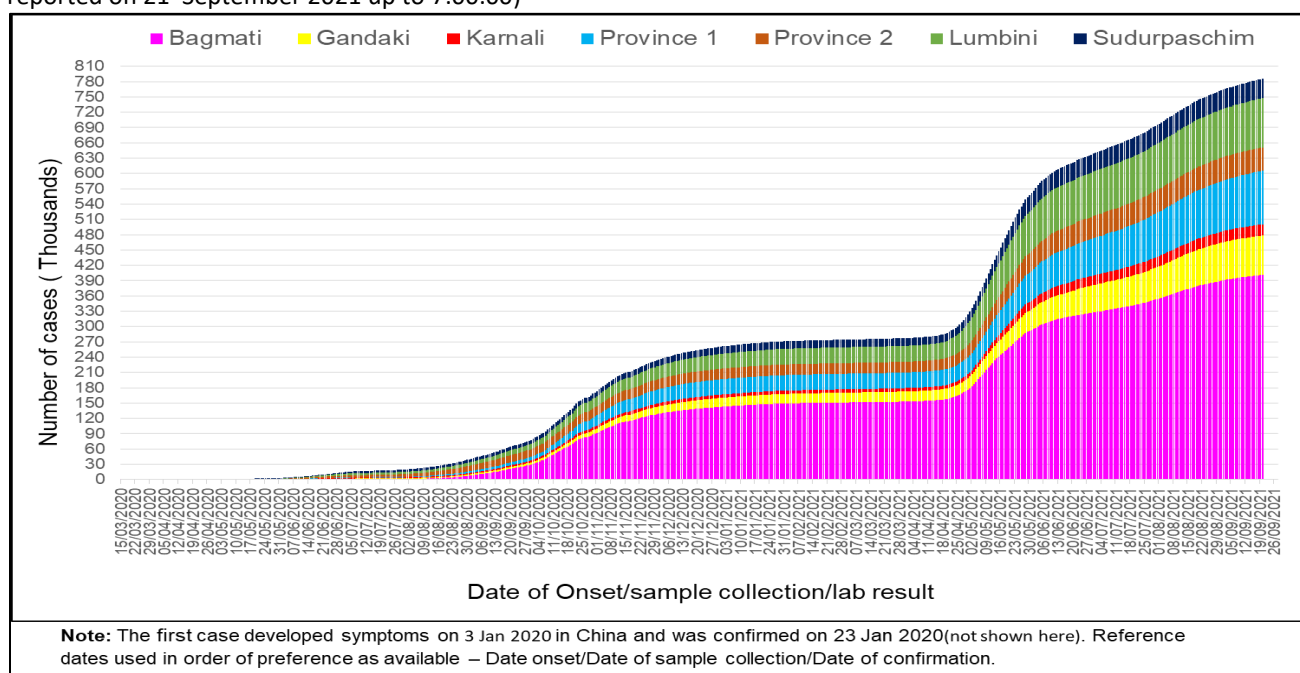
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 785541)(Data reported on 21 September 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 20 September 2021 was 10786 which is 46% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

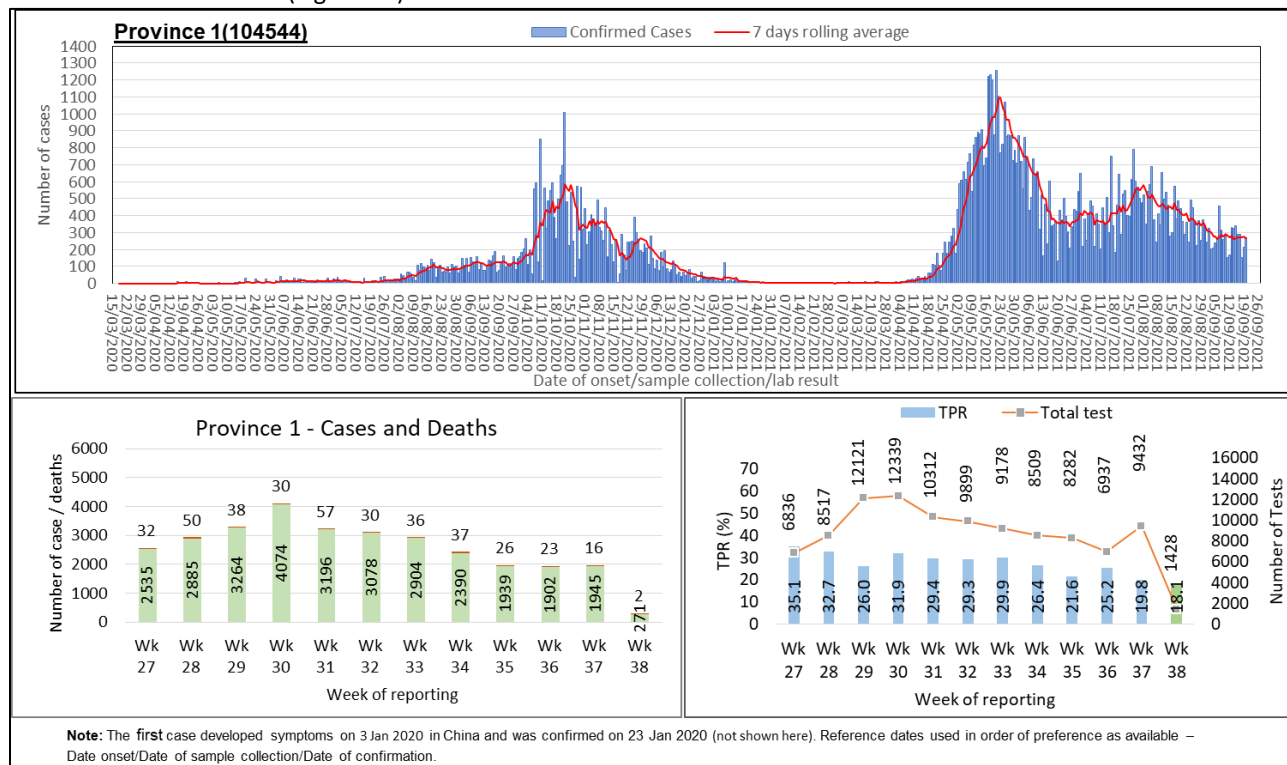
Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 785541)(Data reported on 21 September 2021 up to 7:00:00)



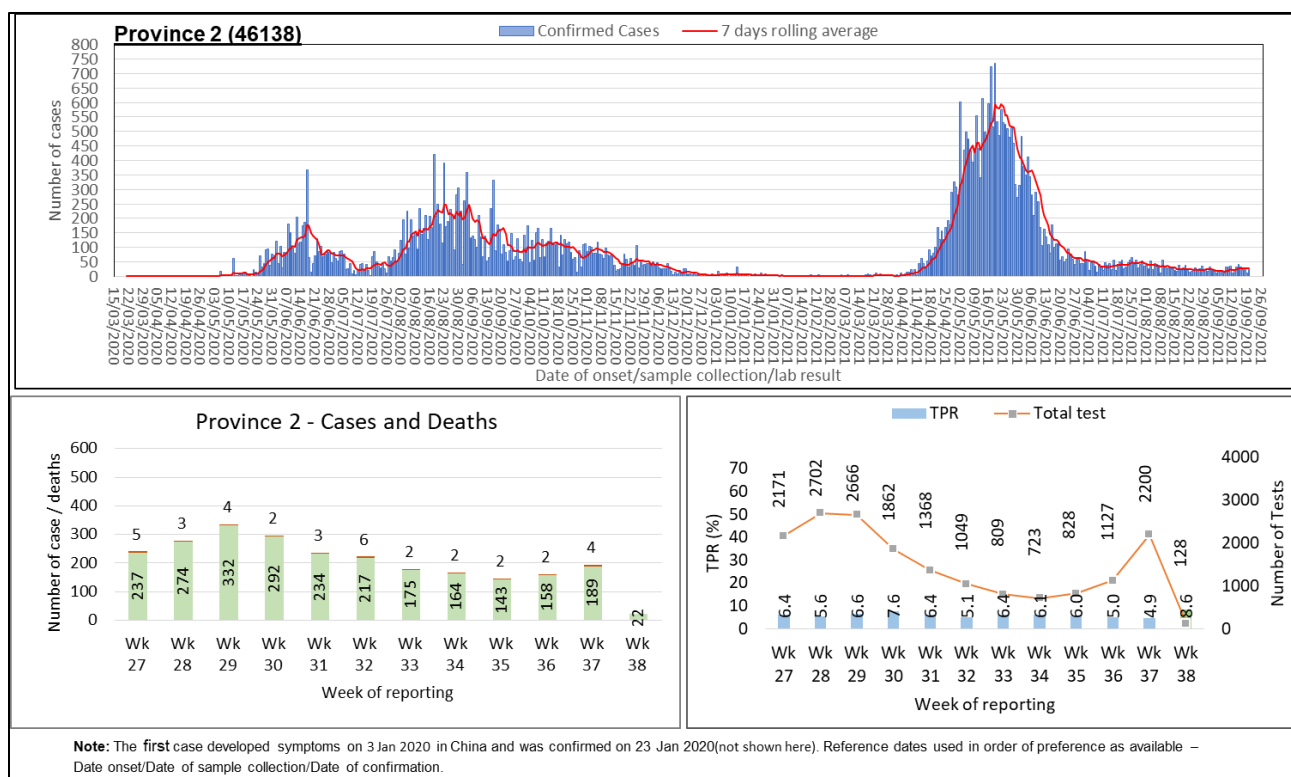
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 785541)(Data reported on 21 September 2021 up to 7:00:00)

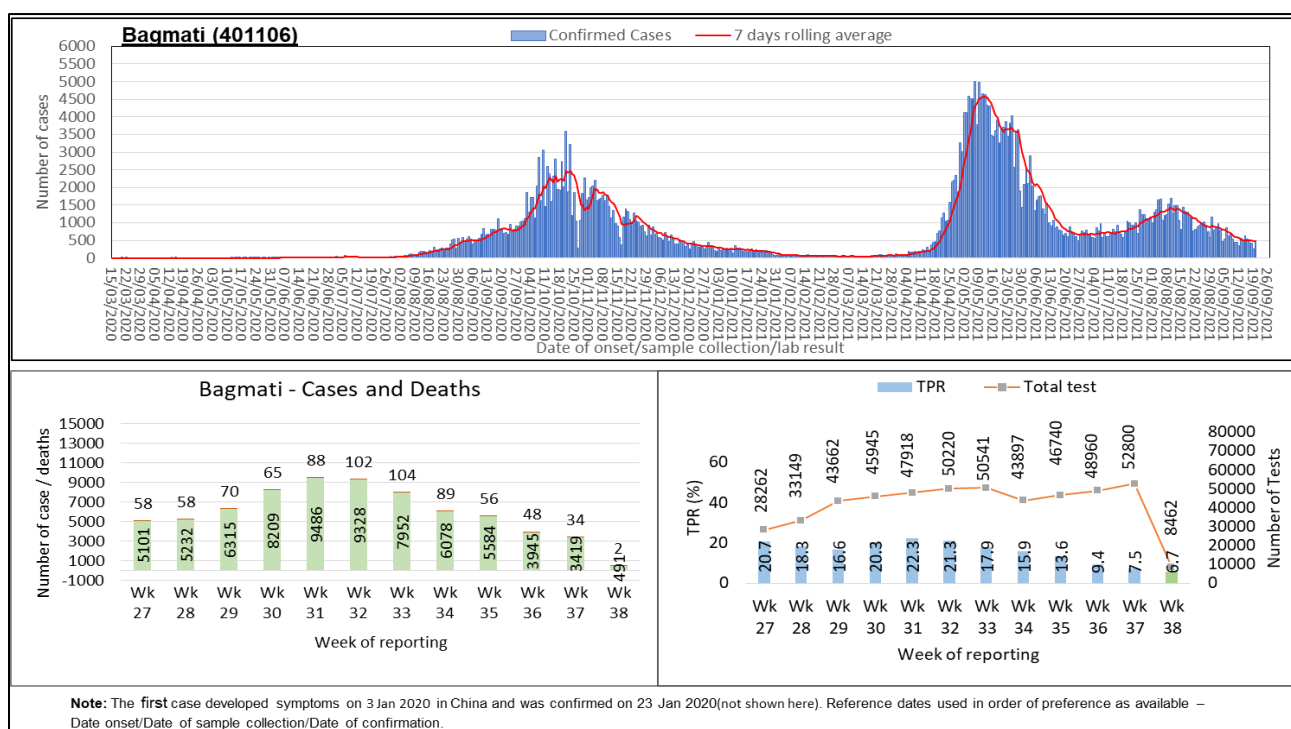
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



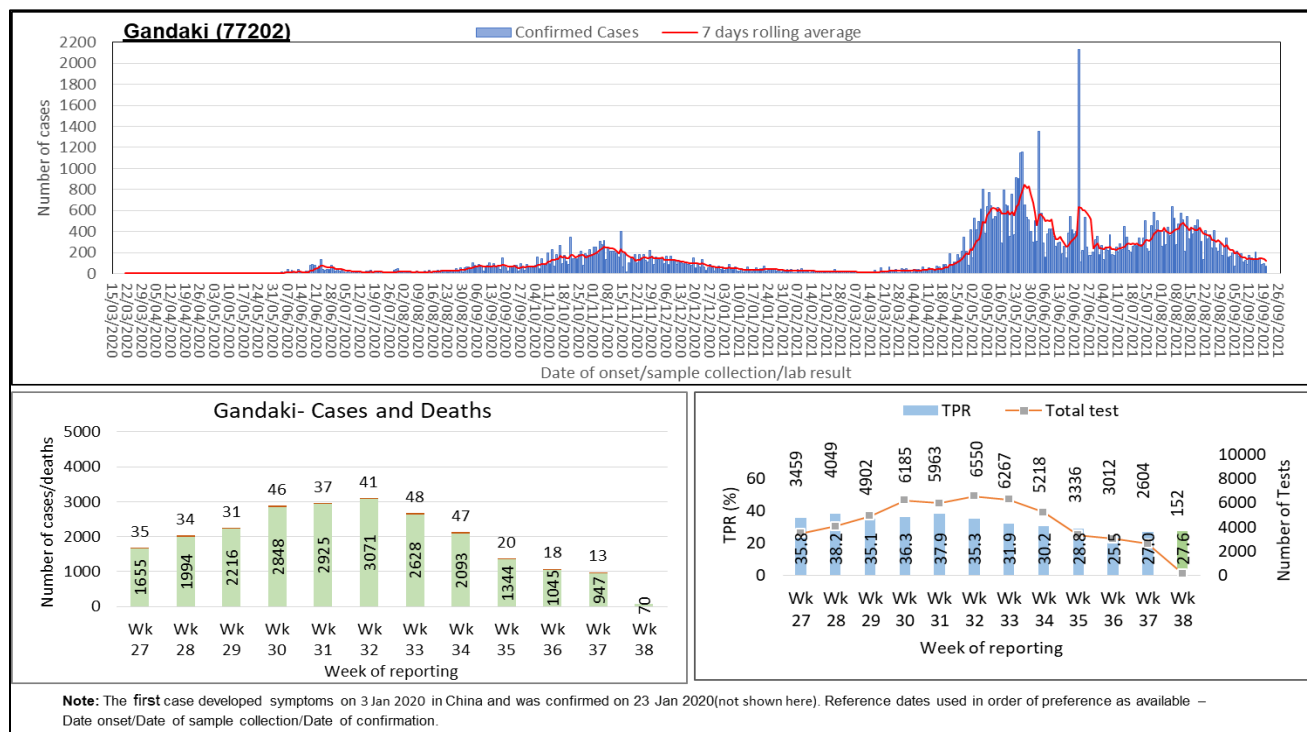
There were 1945 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 16 deaths reported in the past week, 30% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 19.8% in the past week. A total of 9432 tests were performed in the past week, 36% more than that of the previous week.



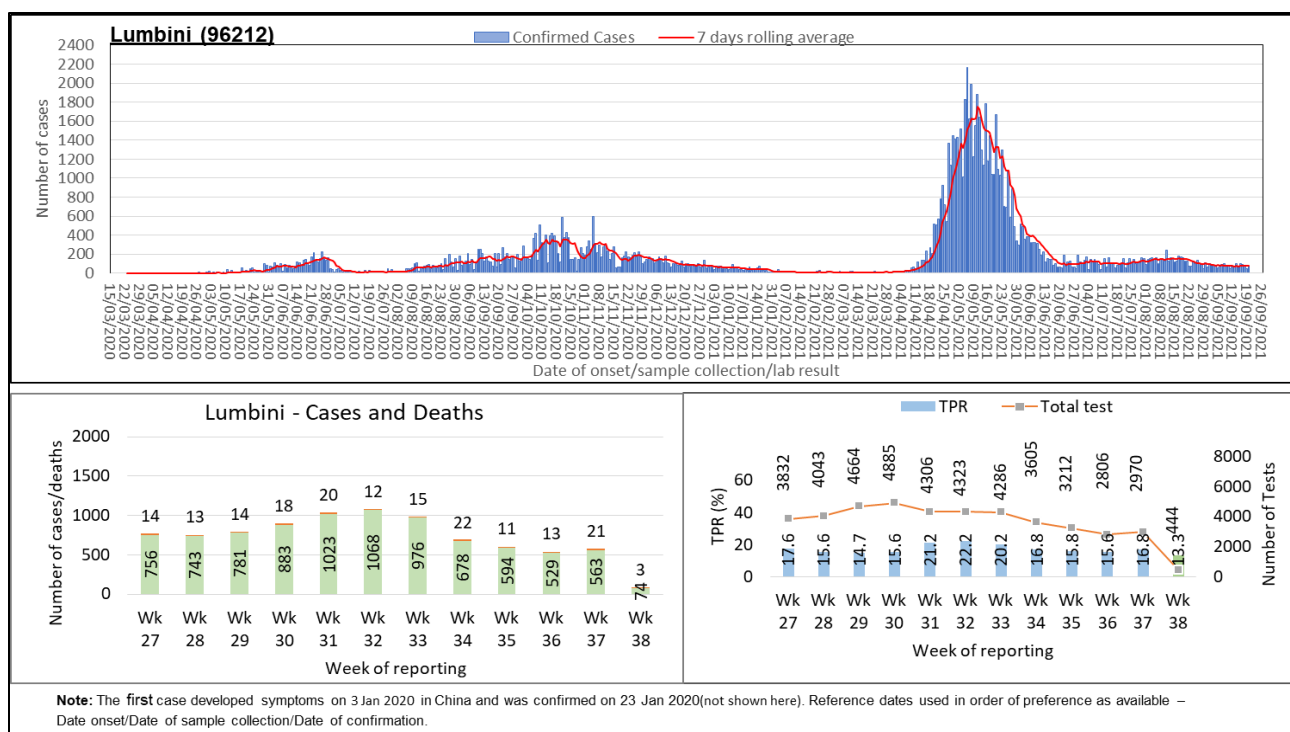
There were 189 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 20% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 4.9% in the past week. A total of 2200 tests were performed in the past week, 95% more than that of the previous week.



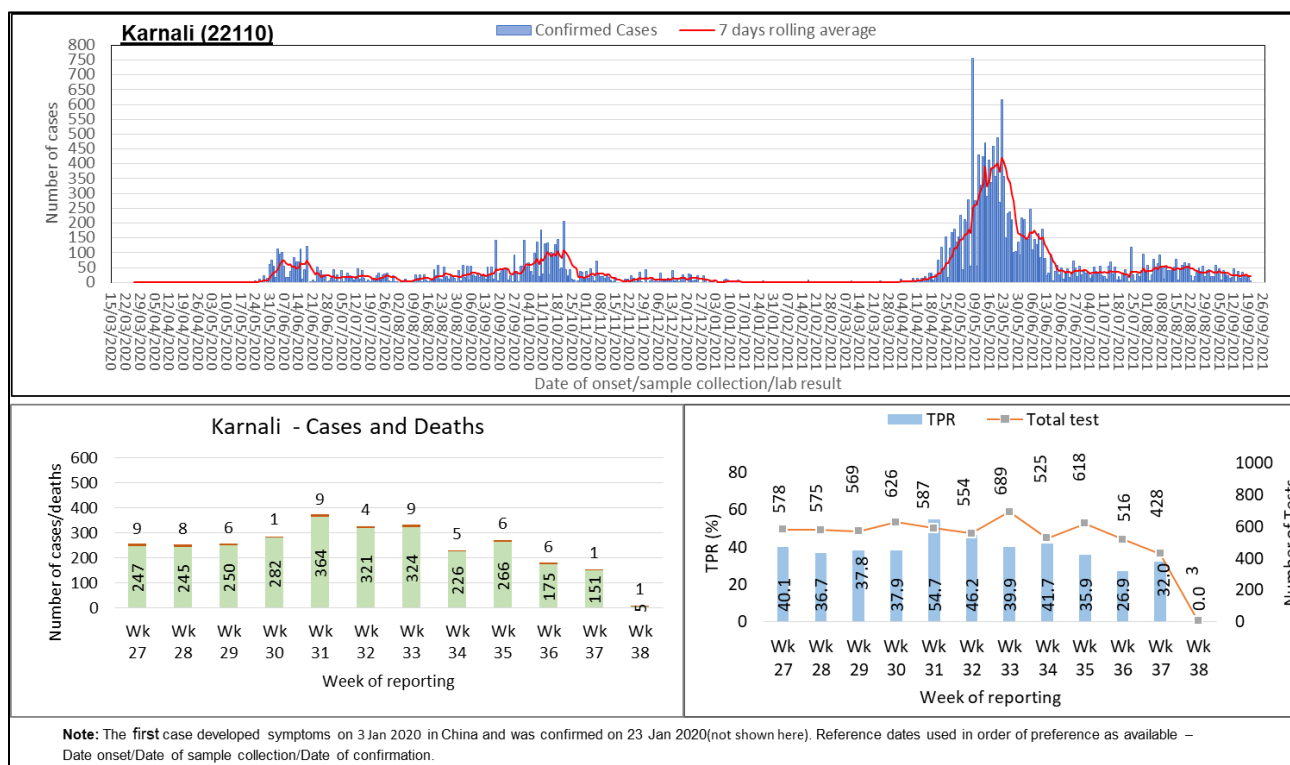
In Bagmati, 3419 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 34 deaths reported in the past week, 29% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 7.5% in the past week. A total of 52,800 tests were performed in the past week, 8% more than that of the previous week.



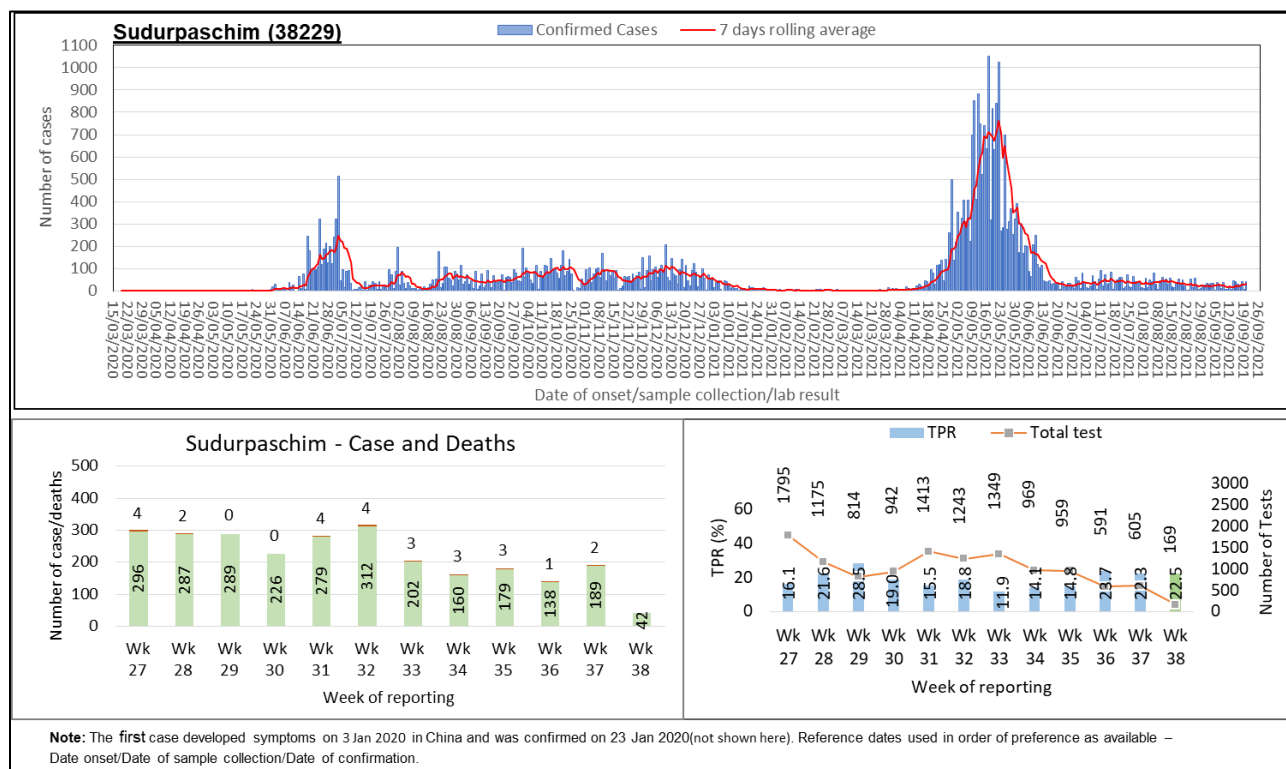
In Gandaki, 947 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 21, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 9% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 13 deaths reported in the past week, 28% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 27.0% in the past week. A total of 2604 tests were performed in the past week, 14% less than that of the previous week.



Lumbini reported 563 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 6% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 21 deaths reported in the past week, 62% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 16.8% in the past week. A total of 2970 tests were performed in the past week, 6% more than that of the previous week.

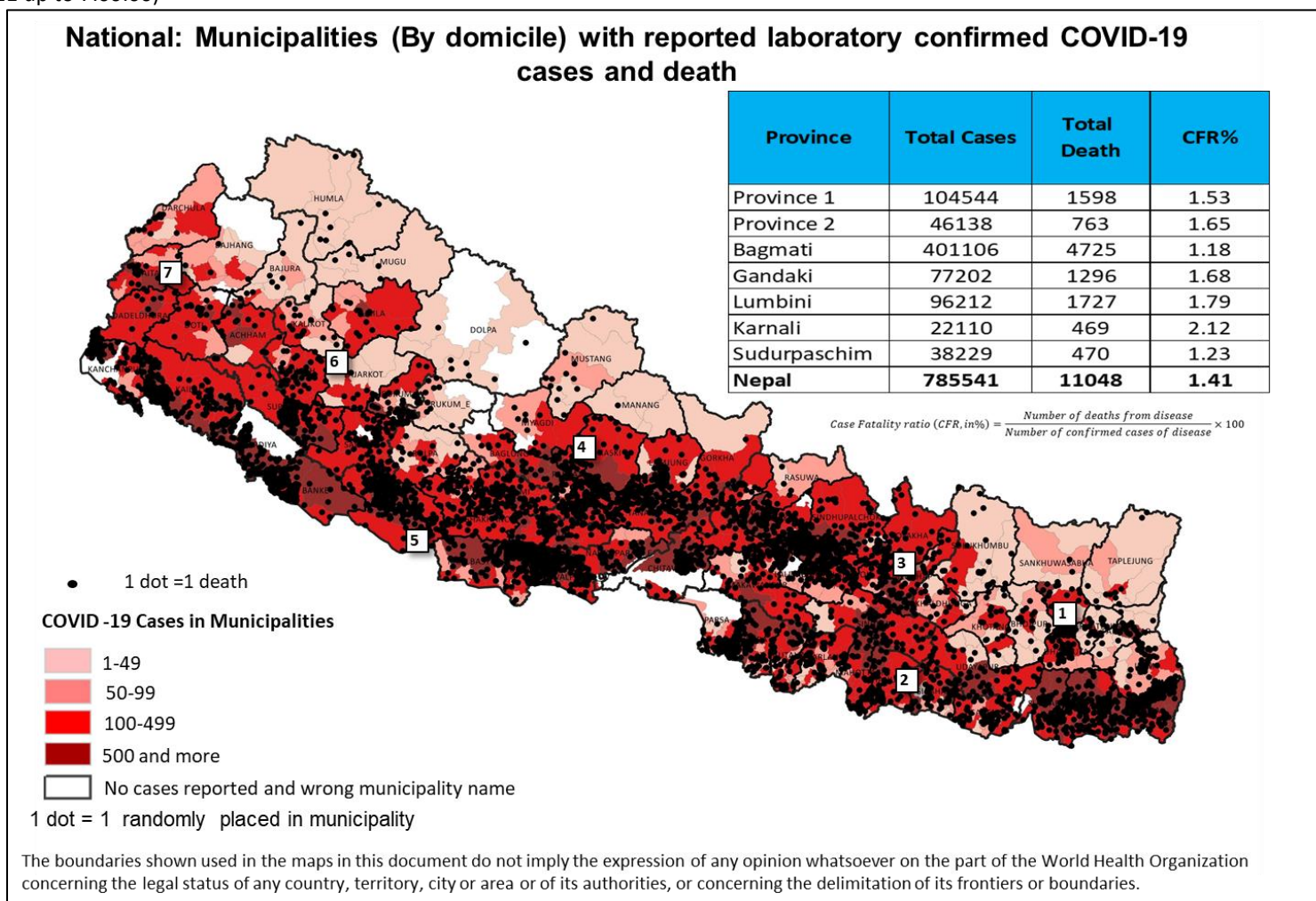


In Karnali, 151 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 14% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 83% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 32.0% in the past week. A total of 428 tests were performed in the past week, 17% less than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpaschim, 189 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 37% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim decreased to 22.3% in the past week. A total of 605 tests were performed in the past week, 2% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 785541)(Data reported on 21 September 2021 up to 7:00:00)



Cases and deaths have been reported in high numbers from Bagmati Province, mostly from Kathmandu valley area. As of 21 September ,the overall case fatality rate (CFR) of Nepal is 1.41%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2.12% and Lumbini Province with 1.79%.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 21 September 2021 up to 07:00:00)

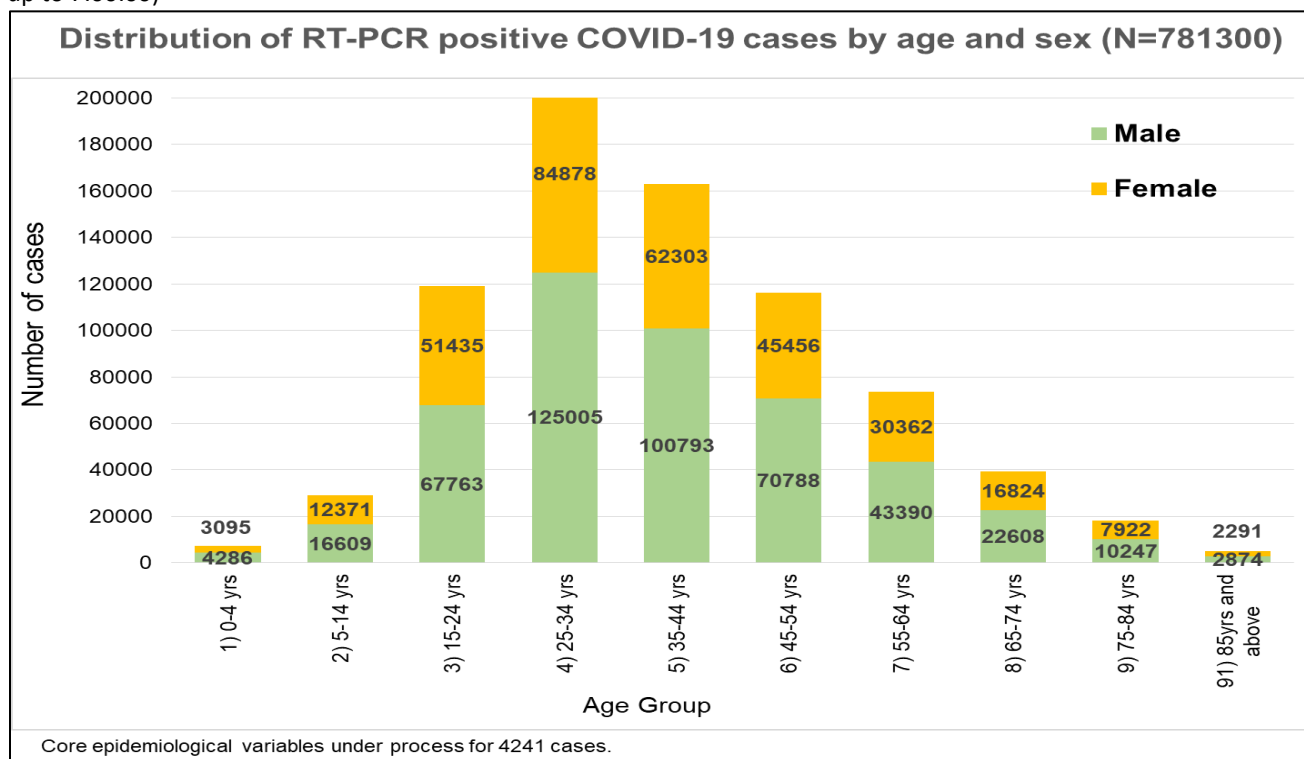
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	104544	24514	129058	14.9	1598	Community transmission	1060	3850	4910	26.5	37
Province 2	46138	476	46614	5.4	763	Community transmission	9	352	361	1.9	6
Bagmati	401106	19046	420152	48.6	4725	Community transmission	683	6991	7674	41.4	72
Gandaki	77202	15935	93137	10.8	1296	Community transmission	748	1852	2600	14.0	30
Lumbini	96212	13449	109661	12.7	1727	Community transmission	1033	1082	2115	11.4	34
Karnali	22110	2997	25107	2.9	469	Community transmission	110	322	432	2.3	8
Sudurpashchim	38229	2240	40469	4.7	470	Community transmission	132	333	465	2.5	3
National Total	785541	78657*	864198	100	11048	Community transmission	3775	14782	18557	100	190

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 20 September 89088; but IMU reported 78657*

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 =781300)(Data reported on 21 September 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 = 785541)(Data reported on 21 September 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	7381	15	20	12	0.47
5-14 yrs	28980	13	7	10	0.07
15-24 yrs	119198	85	84	61	0.14
25-34 yrs	209883	357	247	129	0.29
35-44 yrs	163096	824	416	260	0.76
45-54 yrs	116244	1307	605	508	1.64
55-64 yrs	73752	1579	736	694	3.14
65-74 yrs	39432	1515	808	841	5.89
75-84 yrs	18169	1100	592	643	9.31
85+ yrs	5165	452	261	226	13.8
Unknown	4241	18	7	10	0.59
National	785541	7265	3783	3394	1.41

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 11,048 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,265 (65.8%) were males and 3,783 (34.2%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,394 persons (30.7%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality rate (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, CFR progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 5.9% to 13.8%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- The political situation has resulted in nullification of three ordinances related to COVID-19 which was issued on 20 May 2021 (Link [here](#)). Since these ordinances were not endorsed by Parliament they were nullified, following obstruction from opposition in the parliament. Hence, the government was unable to table these ordinances and get approval within deadline (60 days after submission to Parliament). Link [Here](#)
 - I. Drug (Third Amendment) Ordinance
 - II. COVID-19 Crisis Management Ordinance
 - III. Security of the Health Workers and Health Organizations (first amendment) Ordinance

These changes will affect COVID-19 operations in which certain interventions and activities will lose legal power affecting the COVID-19 prevention and control.

- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update
 - COVID-19 vaccination campaign is going simultaneously in all provinces for the first, and second doses of AstraZeneca and Sinopharm to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan.
 - Till now, Nepal has received 17,758,710 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources. Recently, Nepal received 4.4 million doses of Sinopharm vaccine from China.
 - Nepal reached the landmark of administering 10 million COVID-19 doses on 1 September 2021.
 - A total of 11,859,615 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
 - As of 21 September 2021 10:00AM, 20.5% of total population have received first dose, 18.3% have received full dose.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

Laboratory Diagnosis

- 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 9 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in NQAP this week with 100% concordant result.
 - Validation of MiRXES Fortitude KIT 3.0 RUO COVID-19 RT PCR TEST Kit with the result of 100% sensitivity and 97% specificity.

Situation Update #75 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Sunday 26 September 2021

Technical Planning and Operations

- National Health Training Center (NHTC) conducted 10th batch of a two-day training on Essential Critical Care at National Trauma Centre on 16-17 September 2021. There were a total of 16 participants from across the 7 provinces which included medical officers, staff nurses and residents and 8 trainers for this training program. Till date 233 health care workers have been trained under this program.
- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support to NHTC for conducting a five-day training on "Training of trainers on Pediatric Essential Critical Care (PECC) Training" at Kanti Children Hospital, Kathmandu. The 3rd batch of the training session was held on 17 – 21 September 2021. There were 16 participants from all the 7 provinces which included consultant doctors, pediatricians & nurses; while 9 master trainers facilitated the training to ToT participants. After the completion of TOT, service provider training in PECC will be started at the provincial level.



(Left) Intravenous insertion training and (Right) Donning and Doffing during Training of trainers on Pediatric Essential Critical Care (PECC) at Kanti Children Hospital. Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/M. Karmacharya

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 as of 14 September 2021:

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
51	Breastfeeding & COVID-19	Nepali	OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link
51	Breastfeeding & COVID-19	Maithili	OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link

- A message from Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal, on the opening session of *Nepal Conference on Geriatrics 2021*, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#) (Nepali); link [here](#) (English)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)). An update about the conference was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).

The conference sought to raise awareness of the demographic changes among the elderly in Nepal; engage policymakers in the health, rehabilitation and social care needs of the elderly; address how the role of elders has changed within families in the context of increasing economic opportunities in cities; and identify related gaps and challenges in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The feature story *How Nepal went from having zero RT-PCR lab to over 90 in a year* was uploaded on the WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (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:
 - I. Importance of public health and social measures even after COVID-19 vaccinations,
 - II. Importance of COVID-19 vaccinations,
 - III. Breastfeeding and COVID-19,
 - IV. World Patient Safety Day,
 - V. Healthy ageing and COVID-19,
 - VI. Public health and social measures to implement during COVID-19.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- 66th Health Cluster coordination meeting was organized at Federal Level by Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP). 50 Health Cluster partners participated in the meeting.
 - Different divisions requested following support from partners :
 - Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD)
 - ✓ Support to enhance the contact tracing mechanism to trace the missing contacts and subject them to testing and development of a robust mechanism to screen the hotspots and identify more cases.
 - Family Welfare Division (FWD)
 - ✓ Rapid procurement of vaccines; quick acquisition of Auto Disposable syringes and safety boxes; demand generation activity like display of materials, booth establishment, banners, Information Education & Communication materials, etc.; vaccination waste management; mobilization of volunteers for crowd management at vaccination sites and centers; ultra-cold chain equipment for vaccine storage; development of technical document and training of health workers; onsite monitoring and proper documentation.
 - Health Management Information System (HMIS)
 - ✓ Support IMU for the full digitalization of recording and reporting of COVID-19 response data and information, up to the local levels.

- Following action points were decided upon during the meeting:
 - EDCD to organize a focused meeting with health partners to provide the in-depth details on results of seroprevalence survey and the support required from partners moving ahead.
 - FWD to provide specification of items to be supported by partners for vaccination along with the impact if the needs are not met.
 - All health partners to regularly update the 3Ws and 4Ws; share ideas, reports, documents, guidelines, etc. to the HEOCs
 - All partners to follow one door policy in their support
- Health Directorate, Gandaki Province held Health and Nutrition Cluster Meeting and decided to form a sub-task team for annual review with partners supporting the management of the review and providing technical support. A meeting with health partners, WHO and local level health units was also held which decided partners would continue their support in monitoring of COVID-19 vaccination and provide support for review meetings at local level.
- Ministry of Social Development, Karnali Province conducted 11th Health and Nutrition Cluster Meeting with decisions to form an Annual Review Meeting Technical Committee for information management and a Working Committee for SDG Action Week celebration.
- Sudurpashchim Province organized Health and Nutrition Cluster Meeting and decided to endorse Monsoon Preparedness Plan through Health Directorate and organize Annual Review Meeting in support of partners. A Reproductive Health (RH) Sub-cluster Meeting was also organized that decided partners would support in RH service tracking and constant availability of key RH commodities.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 responses to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.
- UNICEF and WHO are providing following support for COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with External Development Partners (EDPs).
 - 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
 - Technical Assistance
- All members of the Health Cluster are advocating swift supply of vaccines to Nepal through available channels.

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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