

Situation Update #76- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 20 - 26 September 2021

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

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 96.2% (761,154) of cases have recovered and 2.2% (19,142) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 93% (17,813) cases are in home isolation; 6.9% (1,329) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.9% (368) of active cases require ICU admission, 32.6% (120) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Nine districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (6,826) reported this week, 27.0% (1,845) are from Kathmandu district followed by Jhapa district which is 8.9% (608). Most of the new cases about 39.8% (2,720) 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 : 2,679,002	First dose : 3,930,231	Single Dose : 1,447,892
Second dose : 1,501,359	Second dose : 3,087,150	

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 27 September 2021, 07:00:00hrs)

**791,392 (RT-PCR) and
90,547 (Antigen RDT)
confirmed cases
11,096 deaths
4,162,422 RT-PCR tests and
564,998 Antigen RDT**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 26 September 2021)

**42,843,227 confirmed cases
673,717 deaths**

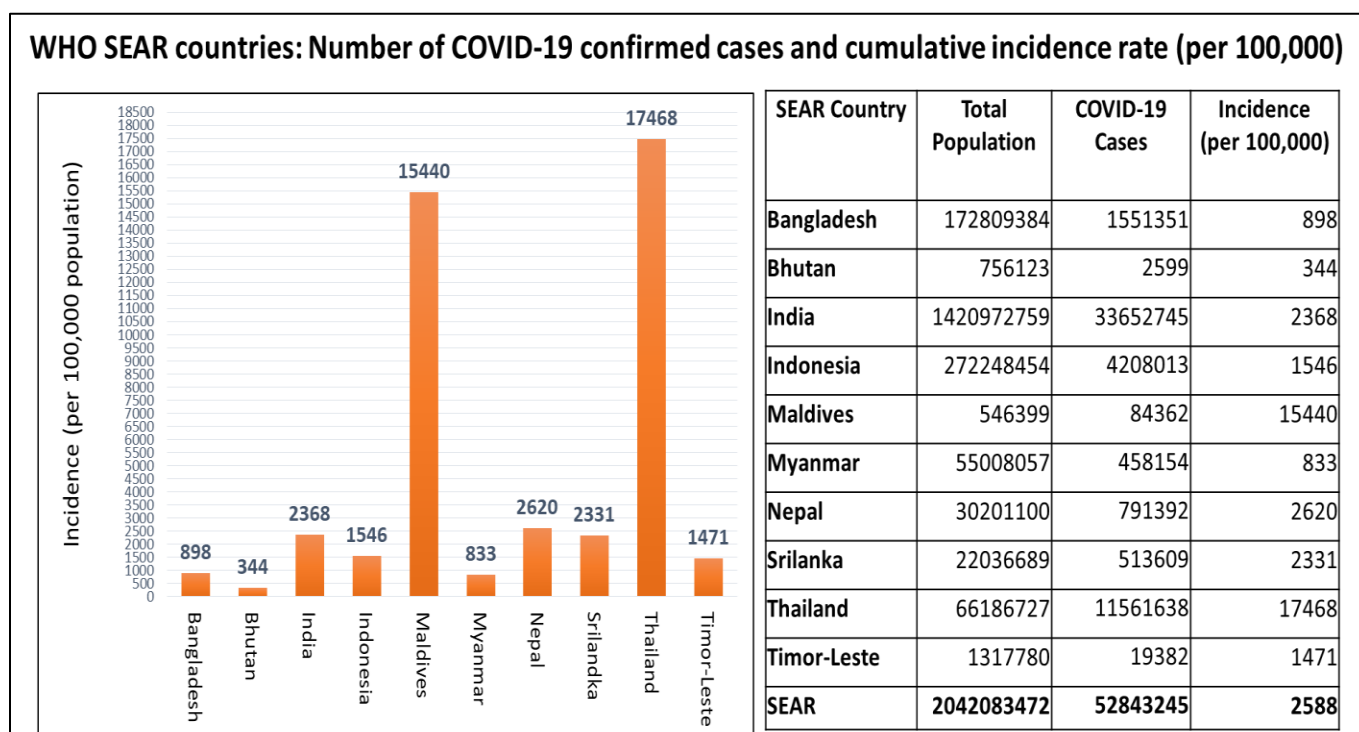
**GLOBAL
(Data as of 26 September 2021)
231,416,660 confirmed cases
4,741,330 deaths**

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 27 September 2021, 07:00:00 hours, a total of 791,392 (19%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,162,422 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 90,547 (16%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 564,998 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 38) ranged from 3.3% (Province 2) to 40.2% (Karnali Province), with national positivity rate averaging 18.1%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (470,160/791,392) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (366,667/470,160) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

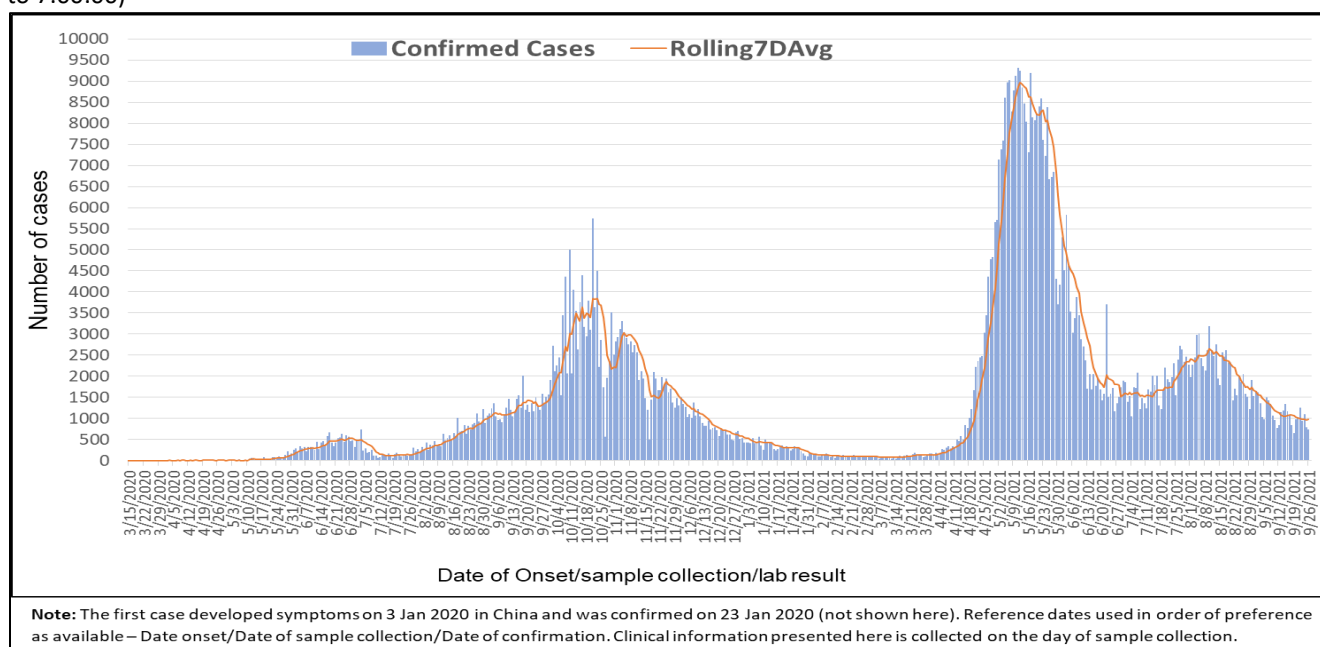
- NPHL reported 46 diagnostic and surveillance samples [(15 samples tested at National Influenza center and 31 samples tested at WARUN (Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal)] on EPID-week 38 (20-26 September 2021).
 - Three samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, and 17 samples tested positive for Influenza B (Sub-Typing yet to be done).
 - One sample 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)
- From 4 January- 26 September, 2021:
 - A total of 863 samples tested positive for Influenza (594 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, 143 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 4809 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 278 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1270 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 26 September 2021; [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#))



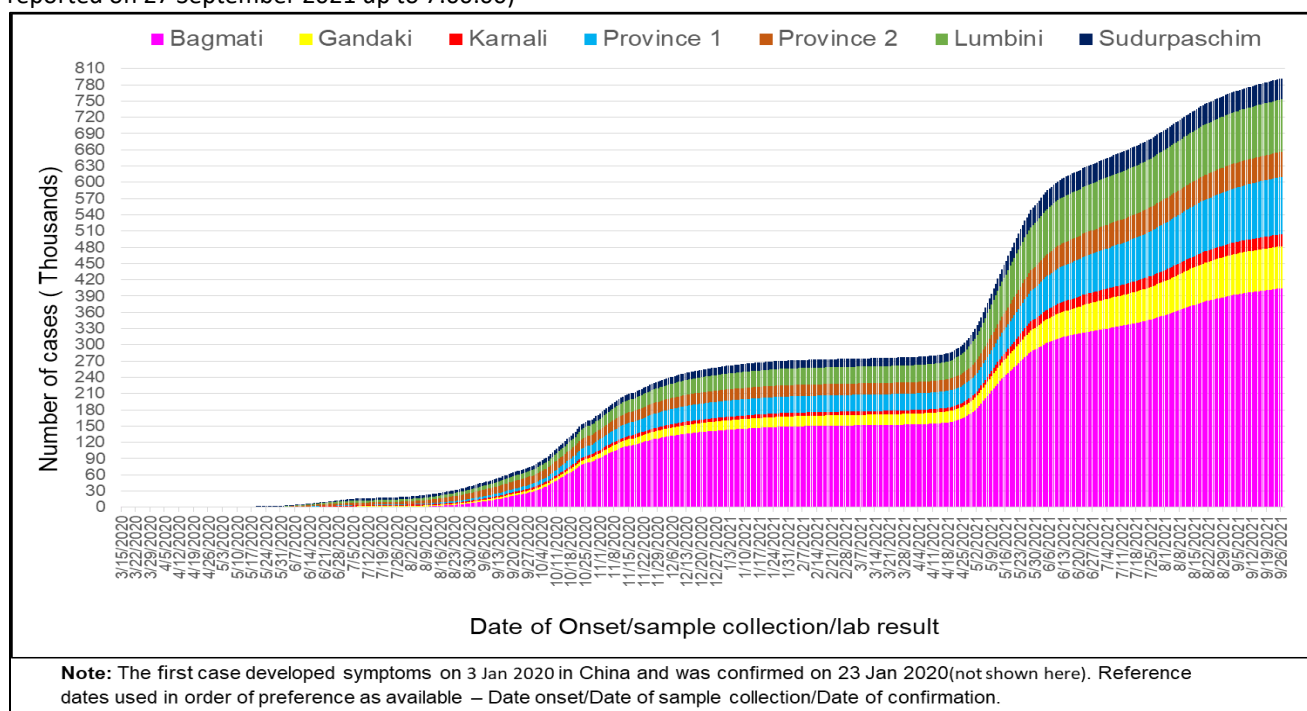
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 791392)(Data reported on 27 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 26 September 2021 was 8589 which is 57% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

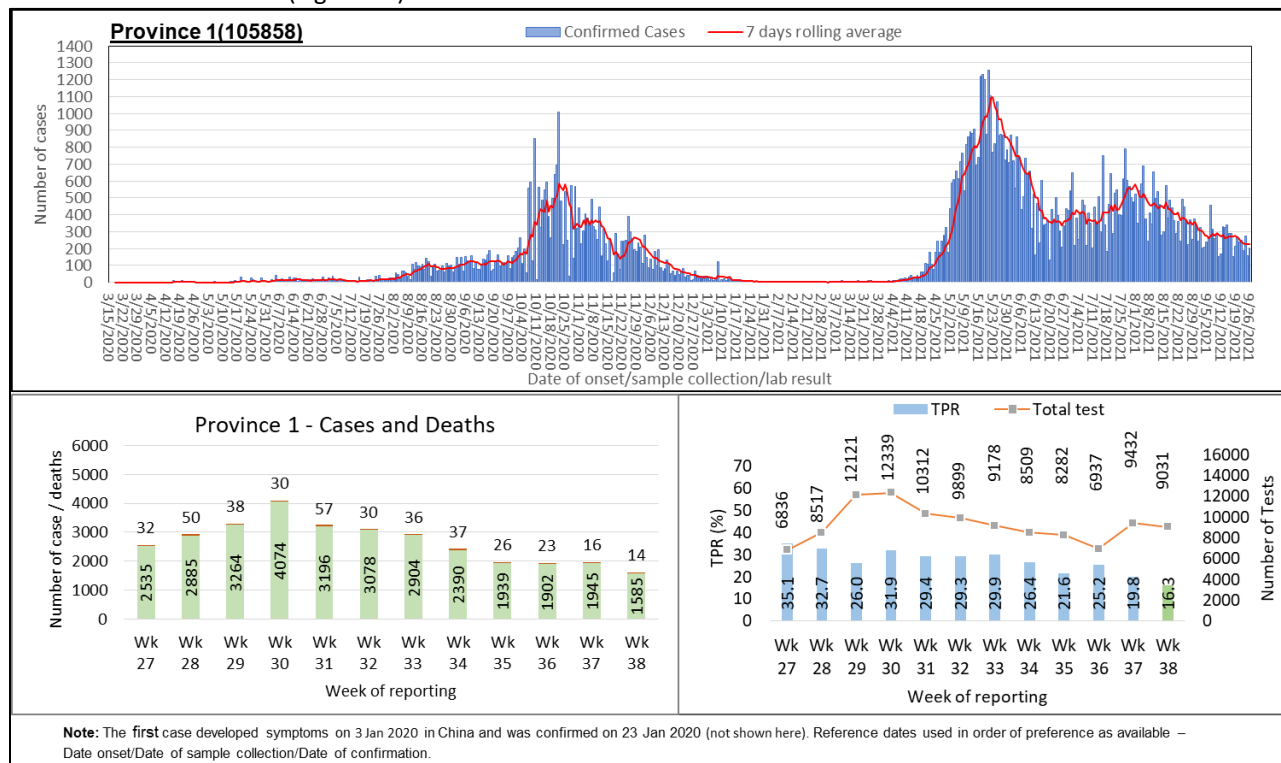
Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 791392)(Data reported on 27 September 2021 up to 7:00:00)



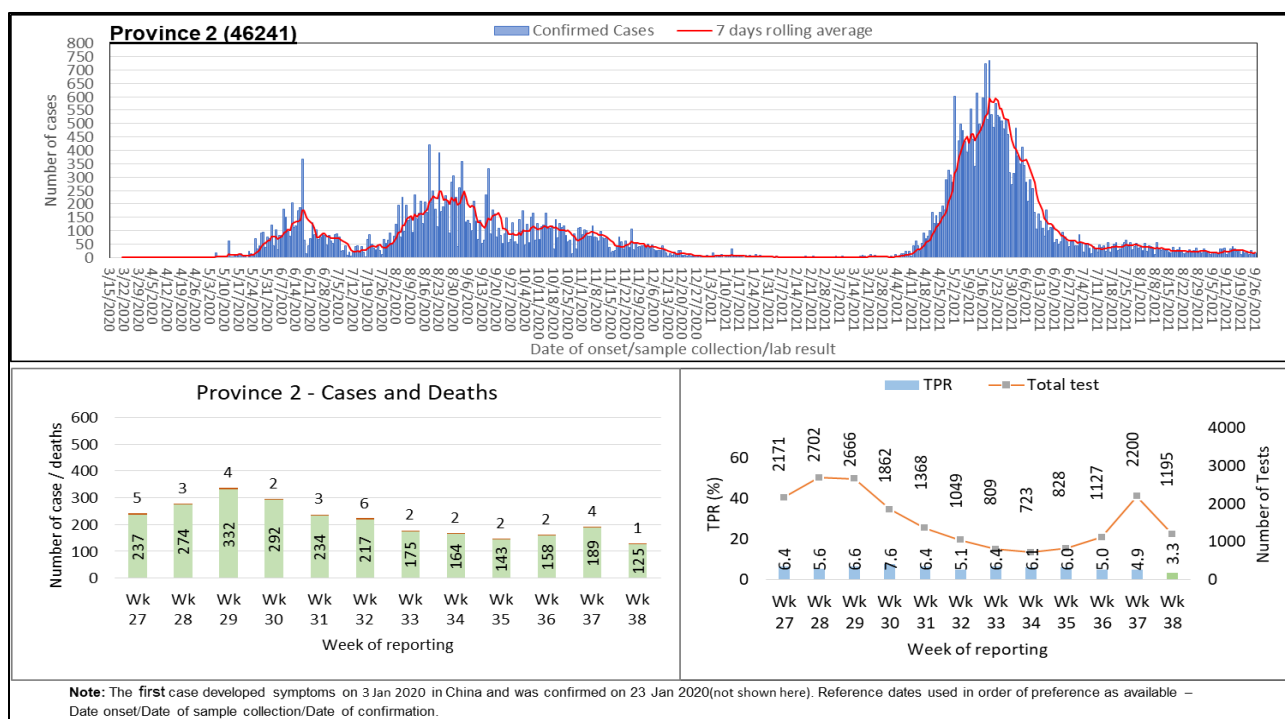
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 791392)(Data reported on 27 September 2021 up to 7:00:00)

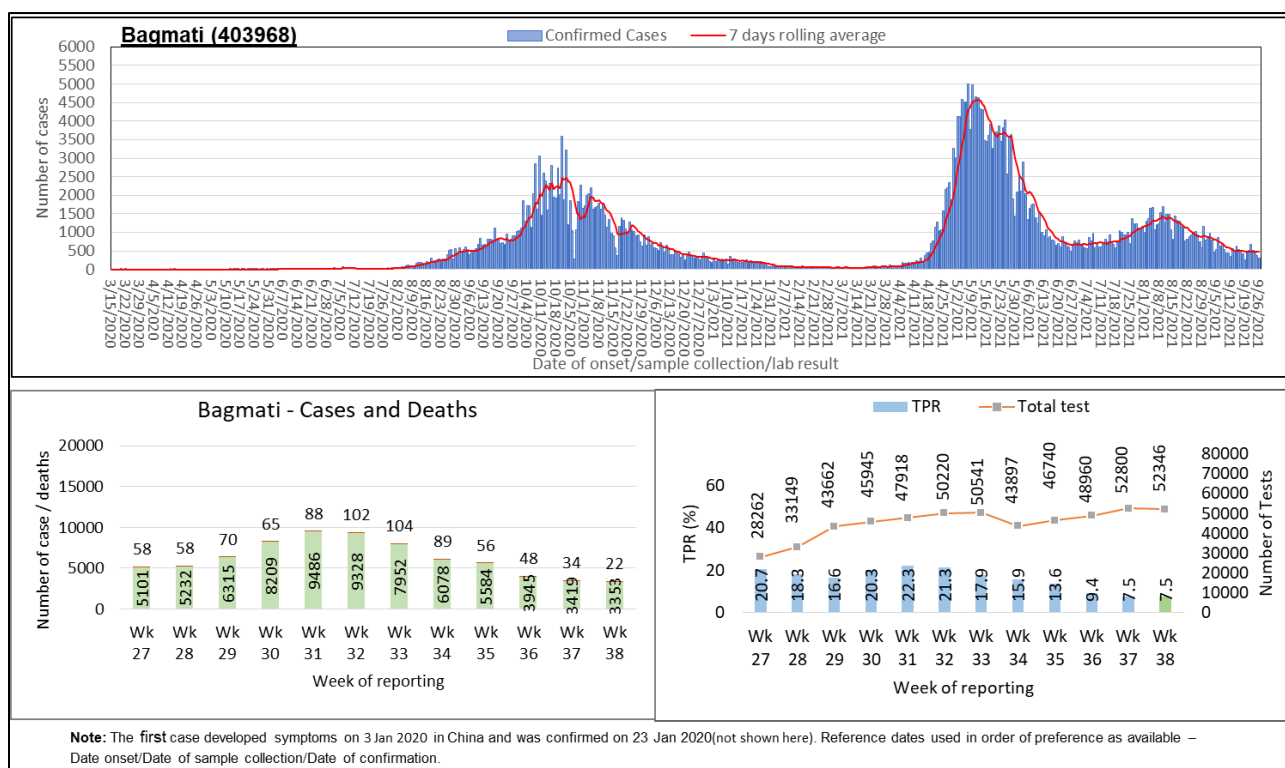
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



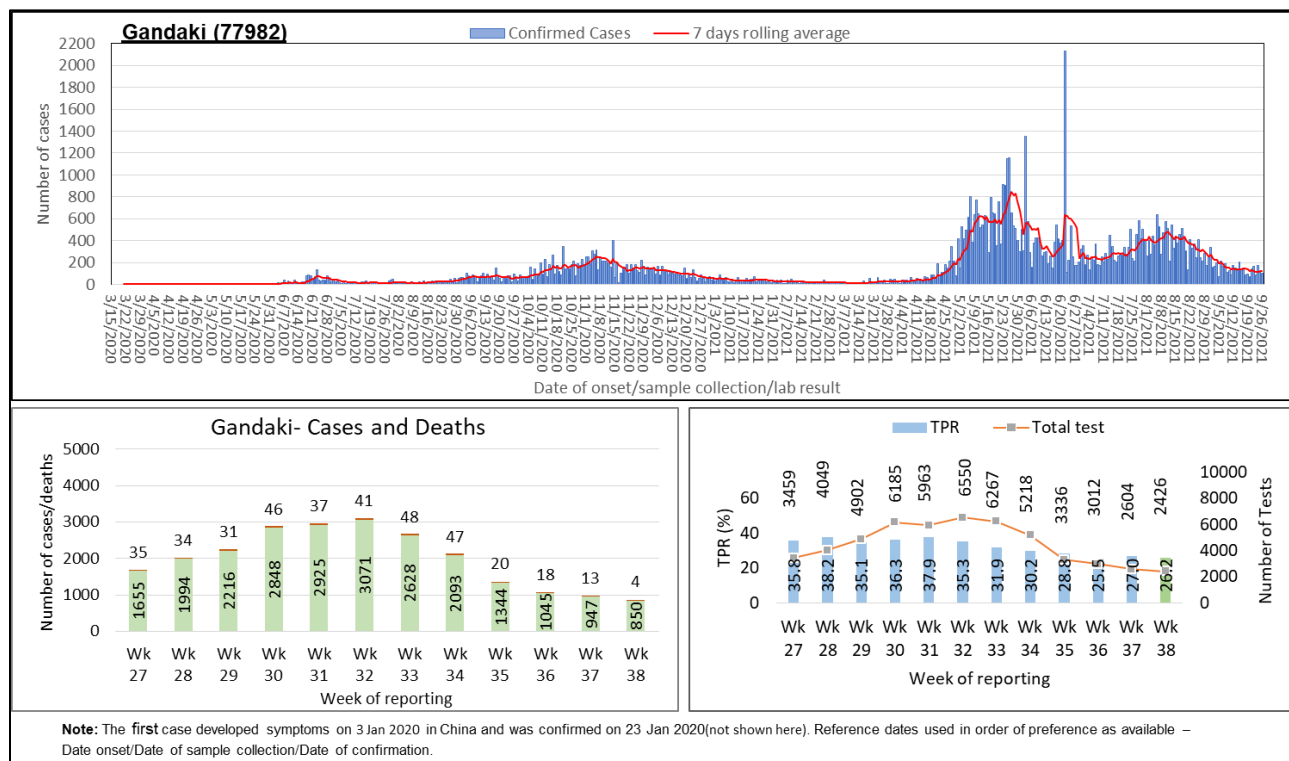
There were 1585 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 19% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 14 deaths reported in the past week, 13% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 16.3% in the past week. A total of 9031 tests were performed in the past week, 4% less than that of the previous week.



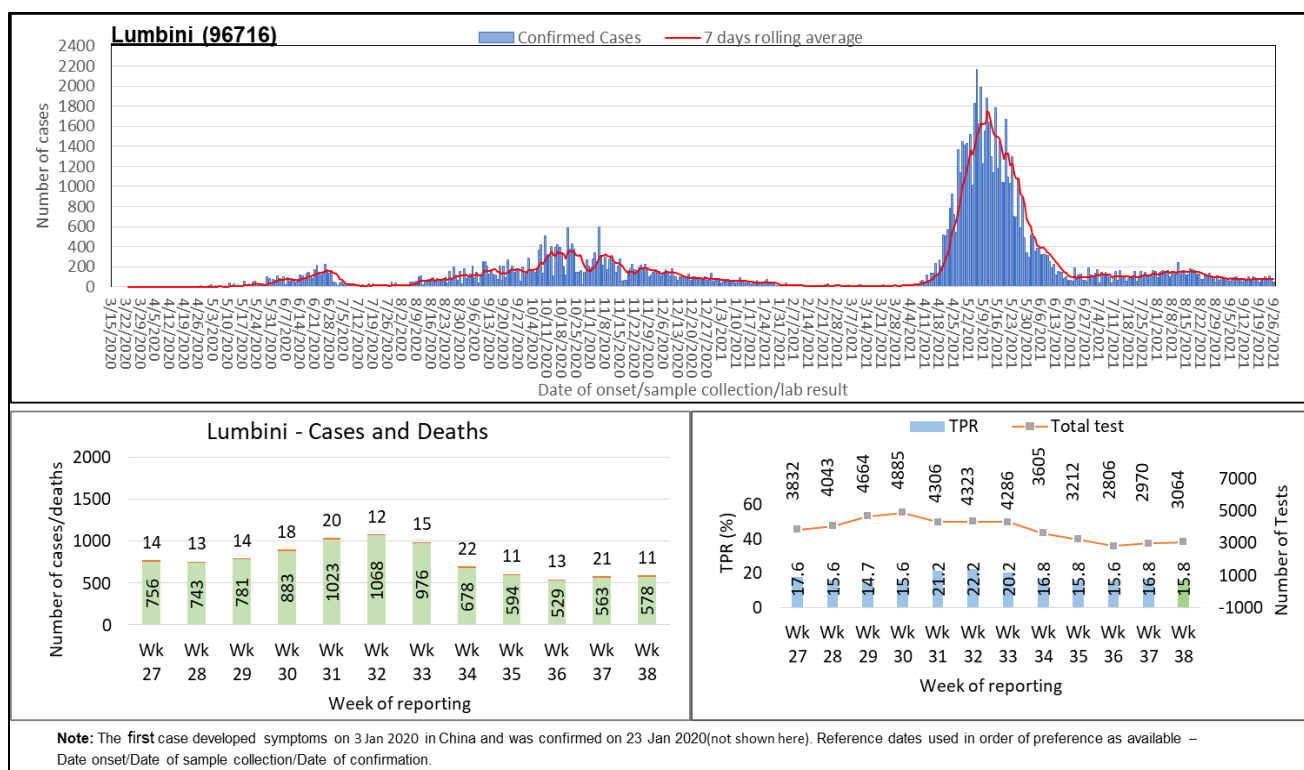
There were 125 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 34% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 75% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 3.3% in the past week. A total of 1195 tests were performed in the past week, 46% less than that of the previous week.



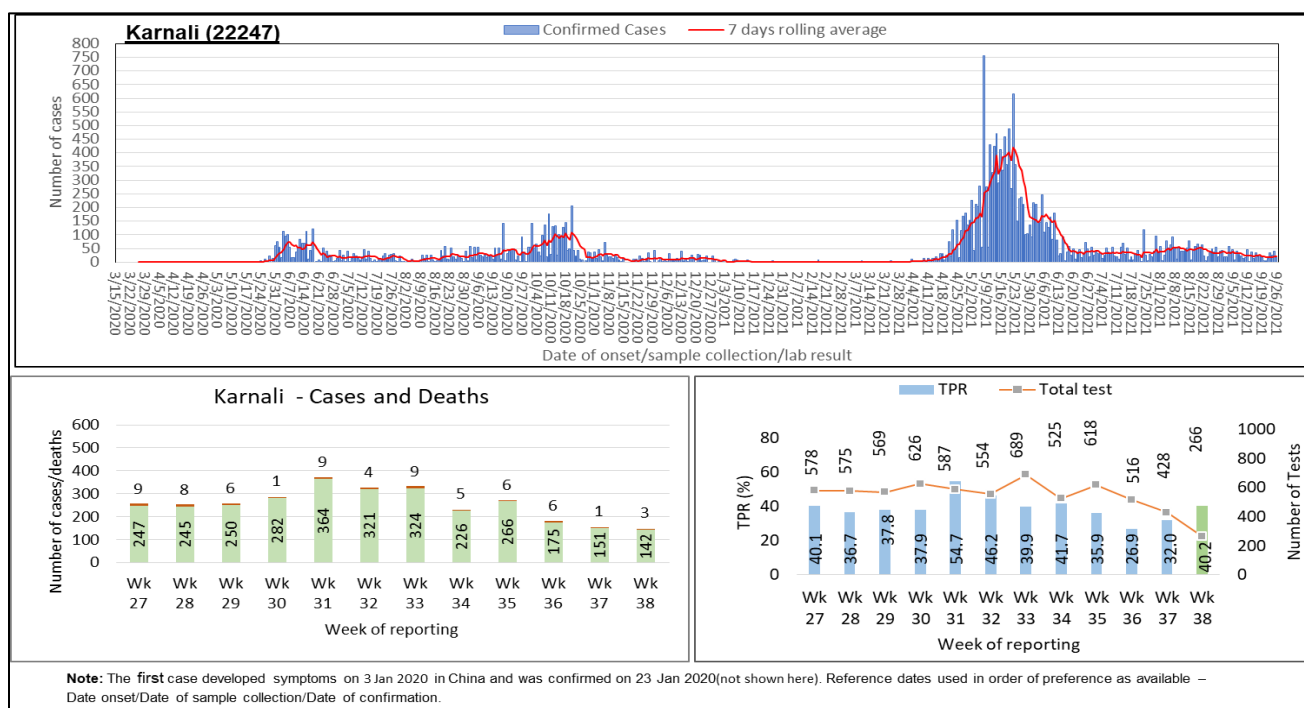
In Bagmati, 3353 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 22 deaths reported in the past week, 35% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati remained at 7.5% in the past week. A total of 52,346 tests were performed in the past week, 1% less than that of the previous week.



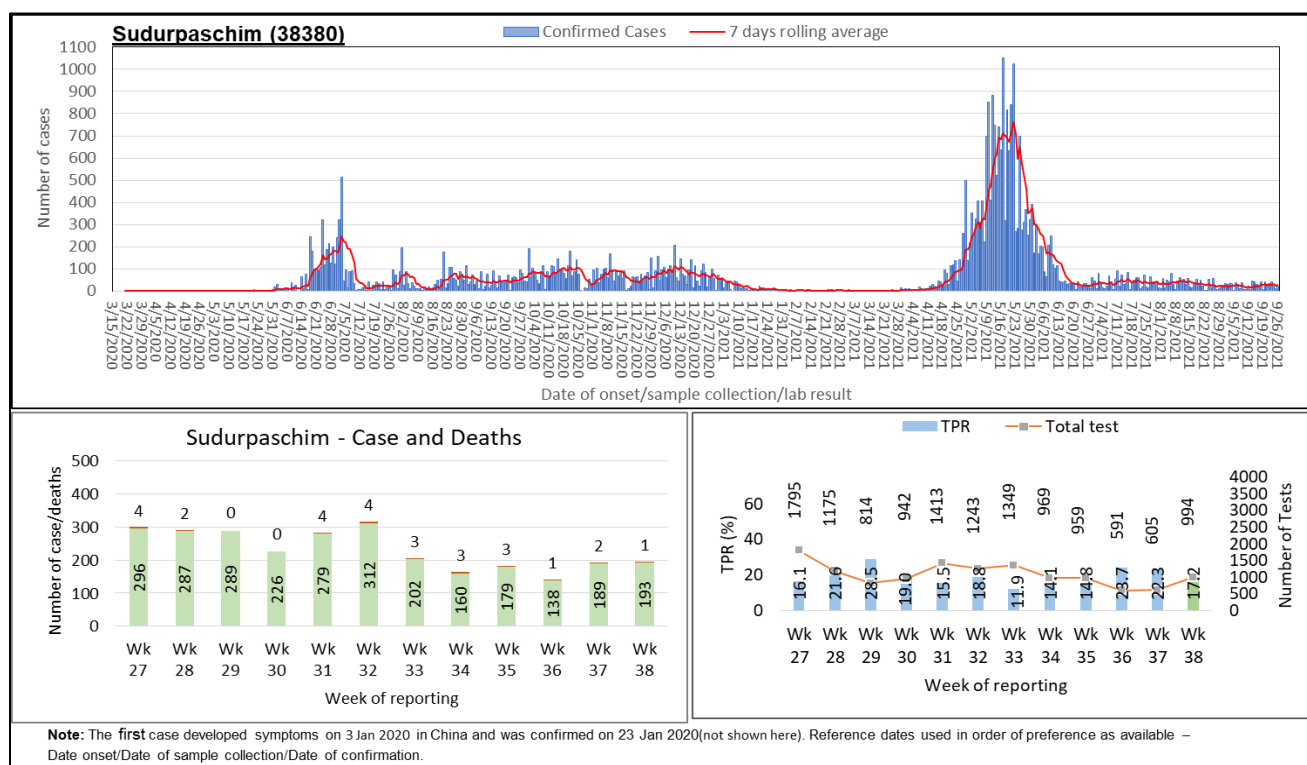
In Gandaki, 850 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 21, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 10% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 69% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 26.2% in the past week. A total of 2426 tests were performed in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week.



Lumbini reported 578 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 3% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 11 deaths reported in the past week, 48% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 15.8% in the past week. A total of 3064 tests were performed in the past week, 3% more than that of the previous week.

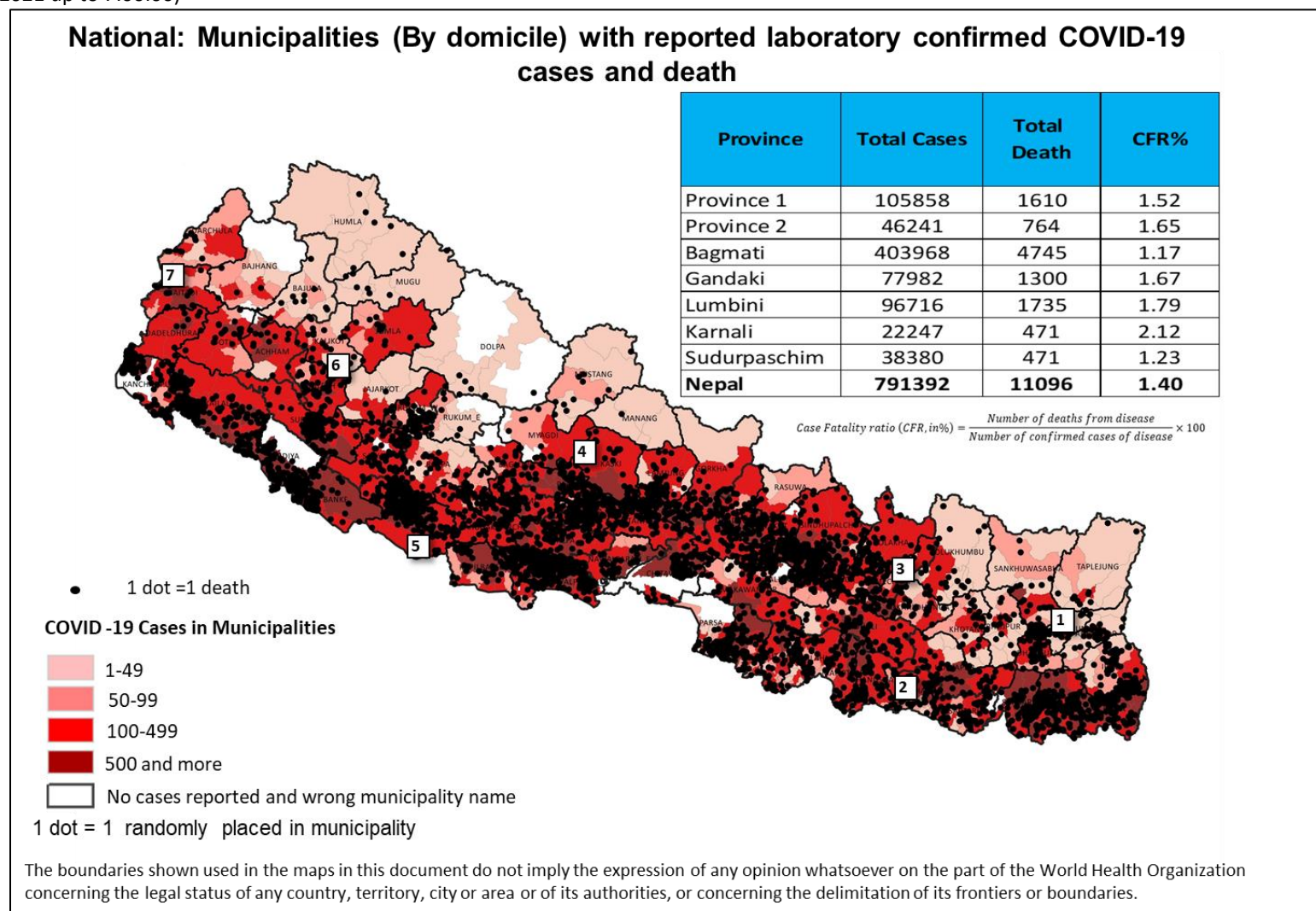


In Karnali, 142 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 6% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 200% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 40.2% in the past week. A total of 266 tests were performed in the past week, 38% less than that of the previous week.



In Sudurpashchim, 193 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 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 50% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 17.2% in the past week. A total of 944 tests were performed in the past week, 64% more than that in the previous week.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 791392)(Data reported on 27 September 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 rate of Nepal is 1.40%. 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 27 September 2021 up to 07:00:00)

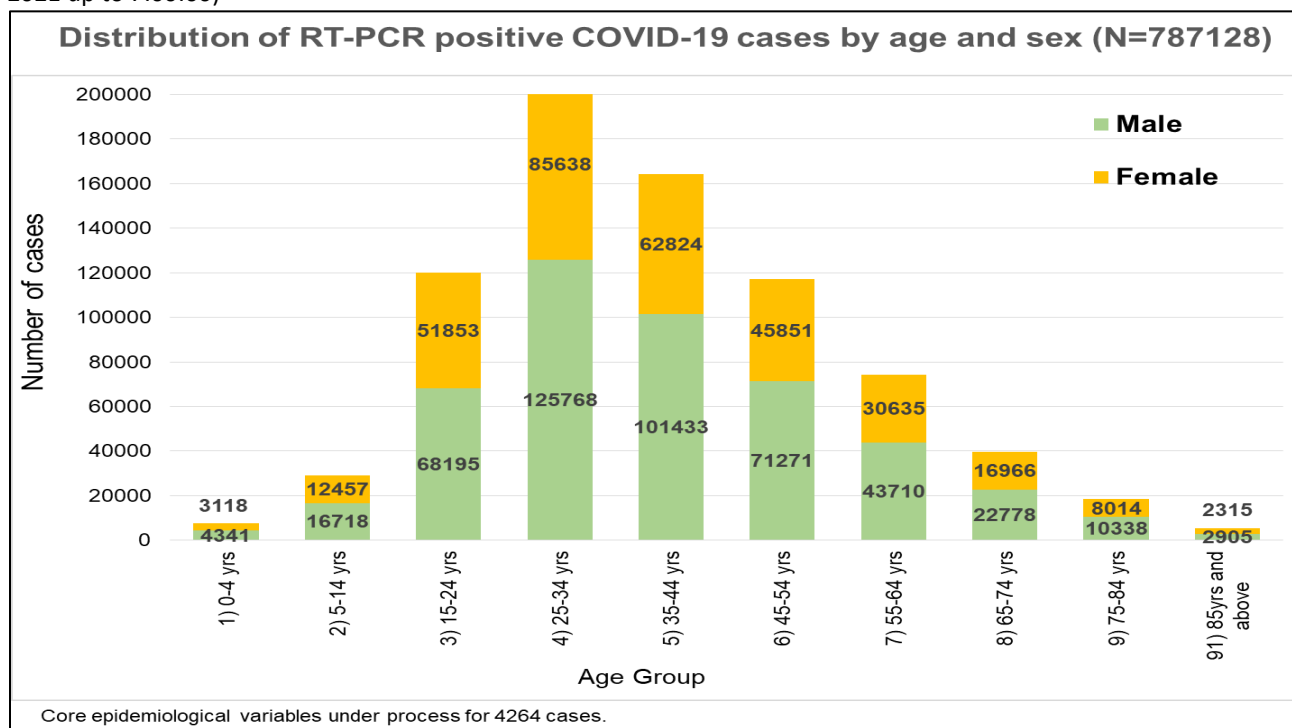
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	105858	24849	130707	15.0	1610	Community transmission	936	3698	4634	24.8	30
Province 2	46241	479	46720	5.4	764	Community transmission	7	325	332	1.8	5
Bagmati	403968	19211	423179	48.6	4745	Community transmission	525	7134	7659	41.0	56
Gandaki	77982	16154	94136	10.8	1300	Community transmission	588	1967	2555	13.7	17
Lumbini	96716	13986	110702	12.7	1735	Community transmission	1335	1204	2539	13.6	32
Karnali	22247	3034	25281	2.9	471	Community transmission	107	338	445	2.4	4
Sudurpashchim	38380	2304	40684	4.7	471	Community transmission	133	401	534	2.9	3
National Total	791392	80017*	871409	100	11096	Community transmission	3631	15067	18698	100	147

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 26 September 90547; but IMU reported 80017*

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 based on location of the laboratories rather than place of residence.

Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 787128)(Data reported on 27 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 = 791392)(Data reported on 27 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	7459	15	20	12	0.47
5-14 yrs	29175	13	7	10	0.07
15-24 yrs	120048	87	83	61	0.14
25-34 yrs	211406	359	247	130	0.29
35-44 yrs	164257	830	419	266	0.76
45-54 yrs	117122	1313	606	511	1.64
55-64 yrs	74345	1586	740	698	3.13
65-74 yrs	39744	1520	811	845	5.87
75-84 yrs	18352	1103	596	646	9.26
85+ yrs	5220	455	261	226	13.72
Unknown	4264	18	7	10	0.59
National	791392	7299	3797	3415	1.40

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

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

A total of 11,096 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,299 (65.8%) were males and 3,797 (34.2%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,415 persons (30.8%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality rate (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, it progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 5.9% to 13.7%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- 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.
 - Nepal has received 17,758,710 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources as of 26 September 2021. Recently, Nepal received 1 lakh doses of Vero Cell (Sinopharm vaccine) from Nepal Red Cross Society.
 - A total of 12,958,508 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
 - As of 21 September 2021 10:00AM, among the total population aged 18 years and above: 34% (6793456) have received the first dose while 31% (6165052) have received the full dose.
- 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:
 - NSET Nepal handed Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) with Information and Communication equipment essential during health emergencies and disasters response.

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 15 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in NQAP this week with 100% concordant result.
 - Standardization of gene sequencing at NPHL.

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.

- The OpenWHO course on Clinical management of patients with COVID-19: Investigations and care for mild, moderate and severe disease was translated in Nepali and uploaded on the platform (link [here](#)).
- The web story “Healthcare workers trained on essential critical care of pediatric population” was published on the WHO Nepal website (link [here](#)).
- The teasers for the launch of the Science in 5 podcast in Nepali language was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)).
- 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](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)). A glimpse of the conference was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The conference raised 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.
- A message by WHO Representative to Nepal at the 1st Nepal Medical Association (NMA) National Health Summit 2021, highlighting the importance of public health and safety measures even after COVID-19 vaccinations, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)).
- 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 public health and social measures in schools,
 - III. Tuberculosis and COVID-19,
 - IV. Obesity and COVID-19,
 - V. Solidarity towards health workers,
 - VI. Geriatrics, Healthy Ageing, and COVID-19,
 - VII. Dengue and COVID-19,
 - VIII. Air Pollution and COVID-19,
 - IX. Importance of immunization during COVID-19,
 - X. COVID-19 re-infection,
 - XI. World Contraception Day,
 - XII. The role of Ivermectin in COVID-19 treatment, and
 - XIII. National COVID-19 vaccination plans.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Ministry of Health and Population and Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Health Cluster Coordination meeting for COVID-19 response and other meetings with relevant stakeholders for non-COVID responses as and when required.
- COVID-19 consultation is being provided continuously by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID and non-COVID 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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