

# Situation Update #78- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 04 - 10 October 2021 (EPI Week 40)

**HIGHLIGHTS** (Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 10 October 2021 and same data published in EDCCD Report as of 11 October 2021)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 96.7% (775,943) of cases have recovered and 1.9% (15,024) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 92.2% (13,859) cases are in home isolation; 7.7% (1,165) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2.1% (322) of active cases require ICU admission, 35.1% (113) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Seven districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (5,006) reported this week, 31.8% (1594) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district which is 7.9% (395). Majority of the new cases about 43.8% (2,194) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 10 October 2021, 14:00Hrs)

ChAdOx1-S*	SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)	Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
First dose : 2,816,716	First dose : 5,385,786	Single Dose : 1,536,397
Second dose : 1,550,033	Second dose : 3,364,214	

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

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

#### NEPAL

(Data as of 11 October 2021, 07:00:00hrs)

**802,198 (RT-PCR) and  
92,994 (Antigen RDT)  
confirmed cases  
11,231 deaths  
4,288,938 RT-PCR tests and  
614,962 Antigen RDT**

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 10 October 2021)

**43,369,716 confirmed cases  
681,671 deaths**

#### GLOBAL

(Data as of 10 October 2021)

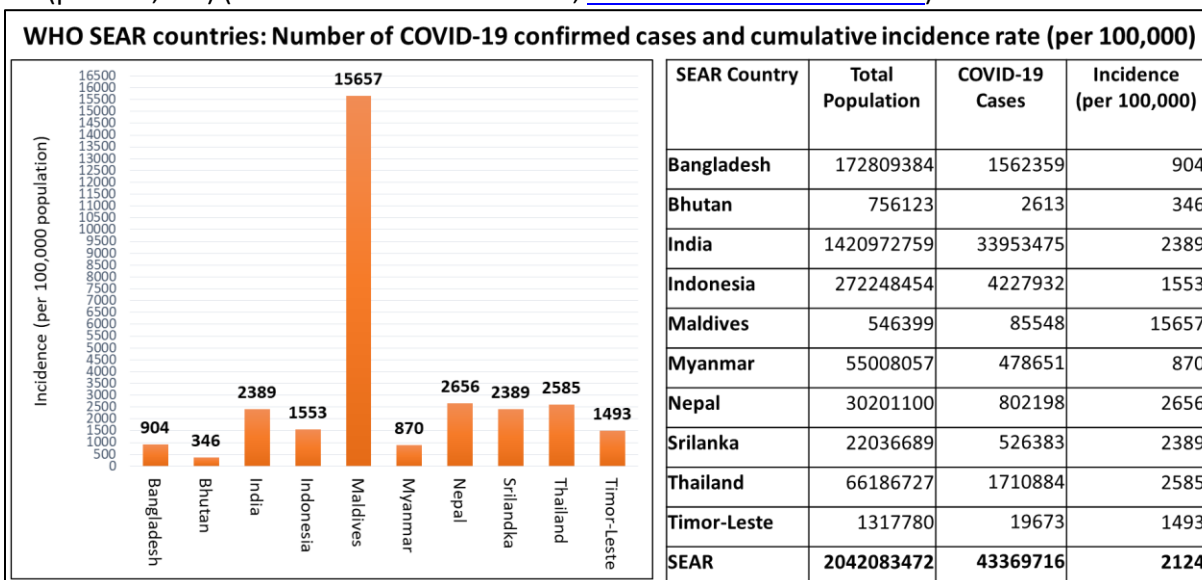
**237,470,988 confirmed cases  
4,846,224 deaths**

### NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 11 October 2021, 07:00:00 hours, a total of 802,198 (18.7%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,288,938 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 92,994 (15.1%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 614,962 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 for EPI Week 40 ranged from 4.3% (Province 2) to 45.8% (Karnali Province). The RT-PCR test positivity rate declined to 8.2% at national level.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (476,099/802,198) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (371,098/476,099) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

- National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) reported 67 diagnostic and surveillance samples [(23 samples tested at National Influenza center (NIC) and 44 samples tested at WARUN (Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal)] on EPID-week 40 (4 -10 October 2021).
  - One sample tested positive for Influenza A/H3, and 7 sample tested positive for Influenza B Victoria and 19 samples tested positive for Influenza B (Sub-Typing yet to be done). 2 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on the samples tested at NIC.<sup>1</sup>
  - Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPID-week 40 (4-10 October 2021), 80 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week.
  - 13 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria and 1 sample tested positive for Influenza A/H3.
- From 4 January until 10 October 2021:
  - A total of 1022 samples tested positive for Influenza (599 Influenza A/H3, 185 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 Co-Infection of COVID-19 and Influenza B Victoria, 2 Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 229 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 5316 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  - Similarly, 283 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1326 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).<sup>2</sup>

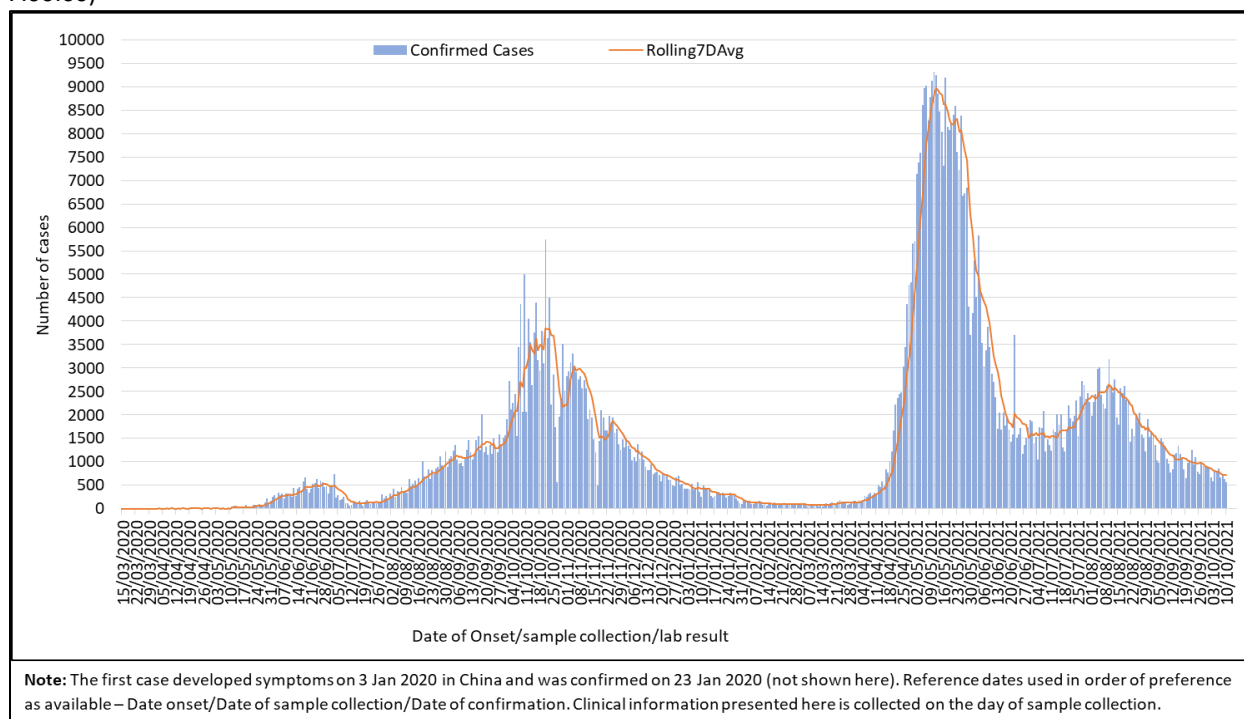
**Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000) (Data as of 03 October 2021; [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#))**



<sup>1</sup> This is this is exclusive of SARS-CoV-2 reporting of the Influenza samples from WARUN

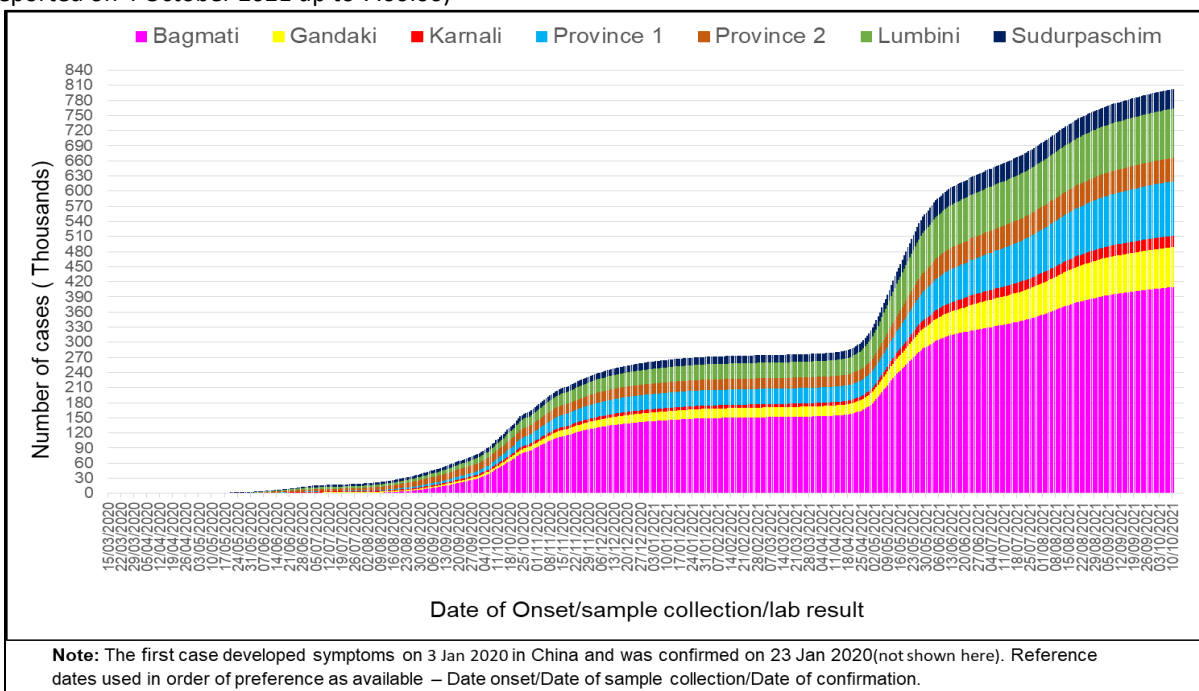
<sup>2</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

**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 = 802198)(Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



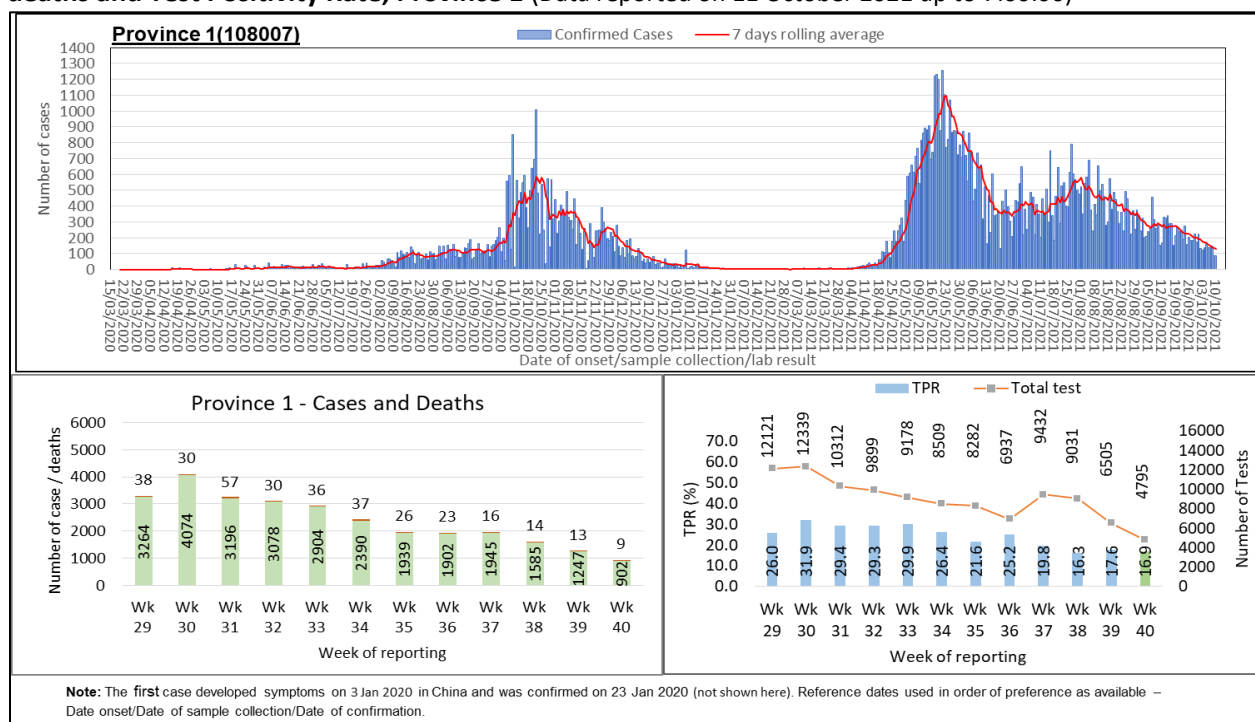
*At a national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 10 October 2021 was 9237 which is 54% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.*

**Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 797192)(Data reported on 4 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



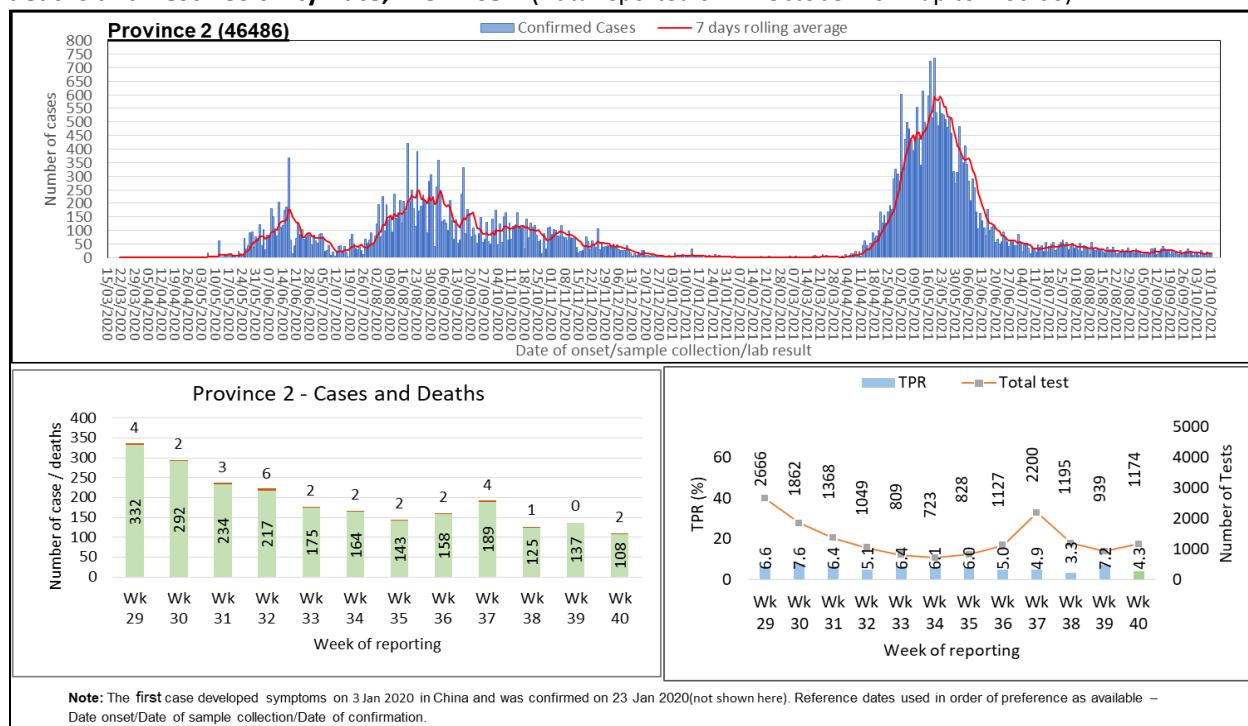
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

**Figure 2C1: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Province 1 (Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



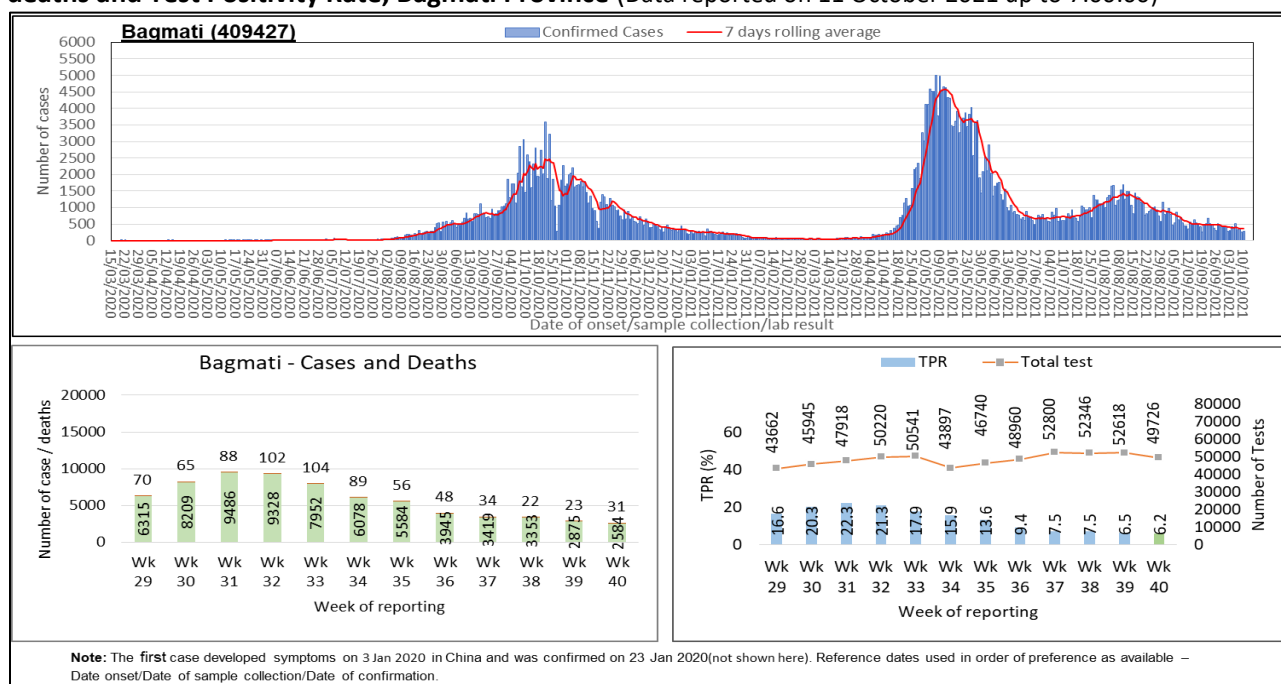
There were 902 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 28% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 9 deaths reported in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 16.9% in the past week. A total of 4795 tests were performed in the past week, 26% less than that of the previous week.

**Figure 2C2: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Province 2 (Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



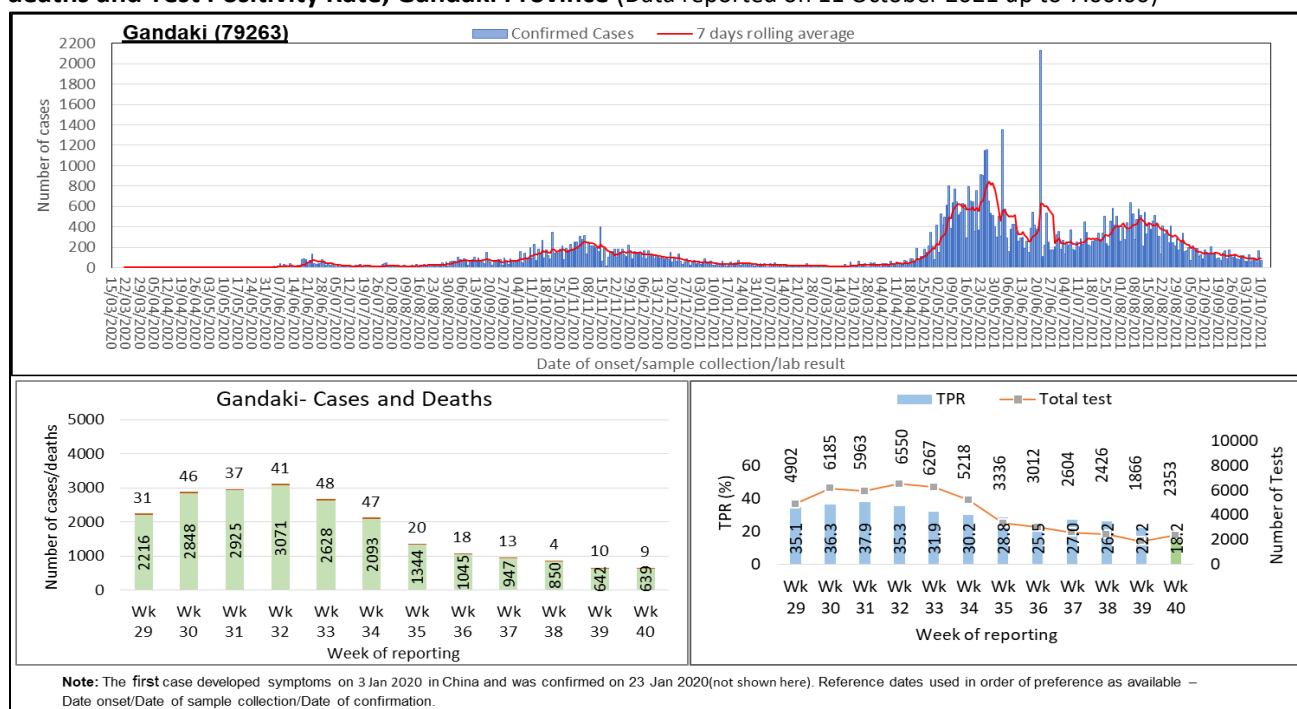
*There were 108 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 21% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, an increase from no deaths in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 4.3% in the past week. A total of 1174 tests were performed in the past week, 25% more than that of the previous week.*

**Figure 2C3: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Bagmati Province (Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



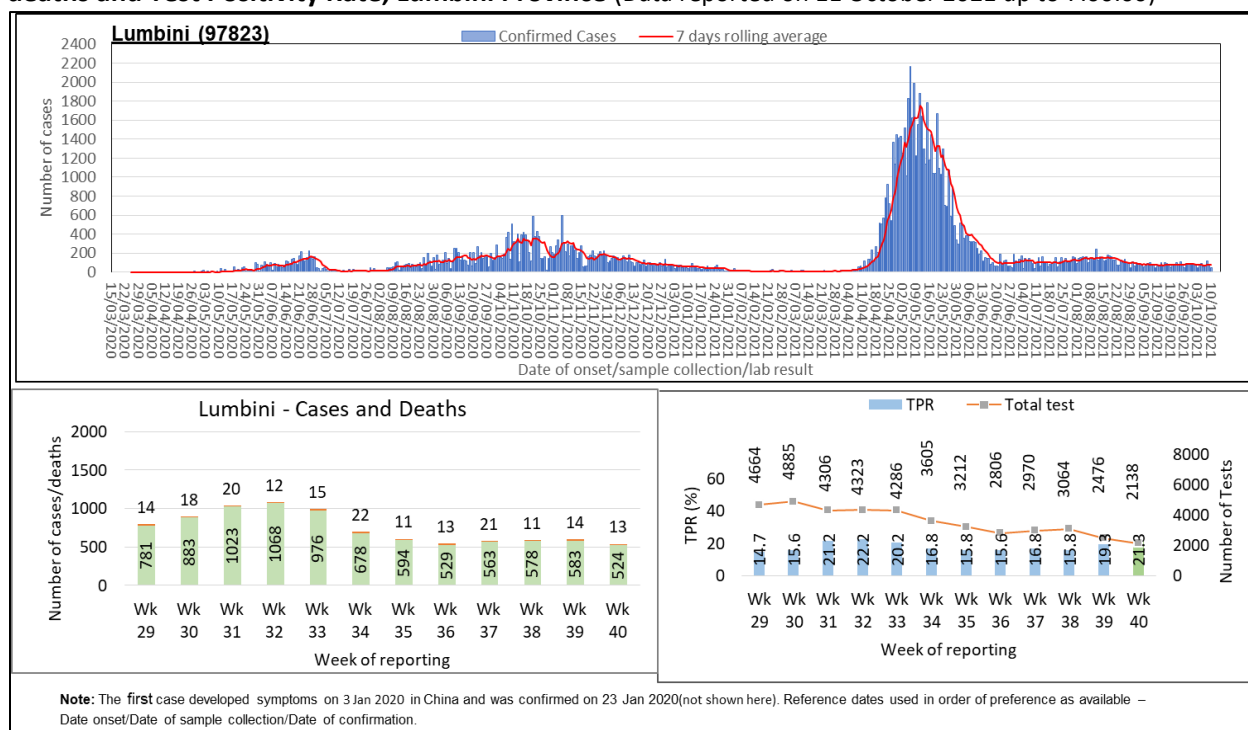
*In Bagmati, 2584 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 10% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 31 deaths reported in the past week, 35% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 6.2% in the past week. A total of 49,726 tests were performed in the past week, 5% less than that of the previous week.*

**Figure 2C4: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Gandaki Province (Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



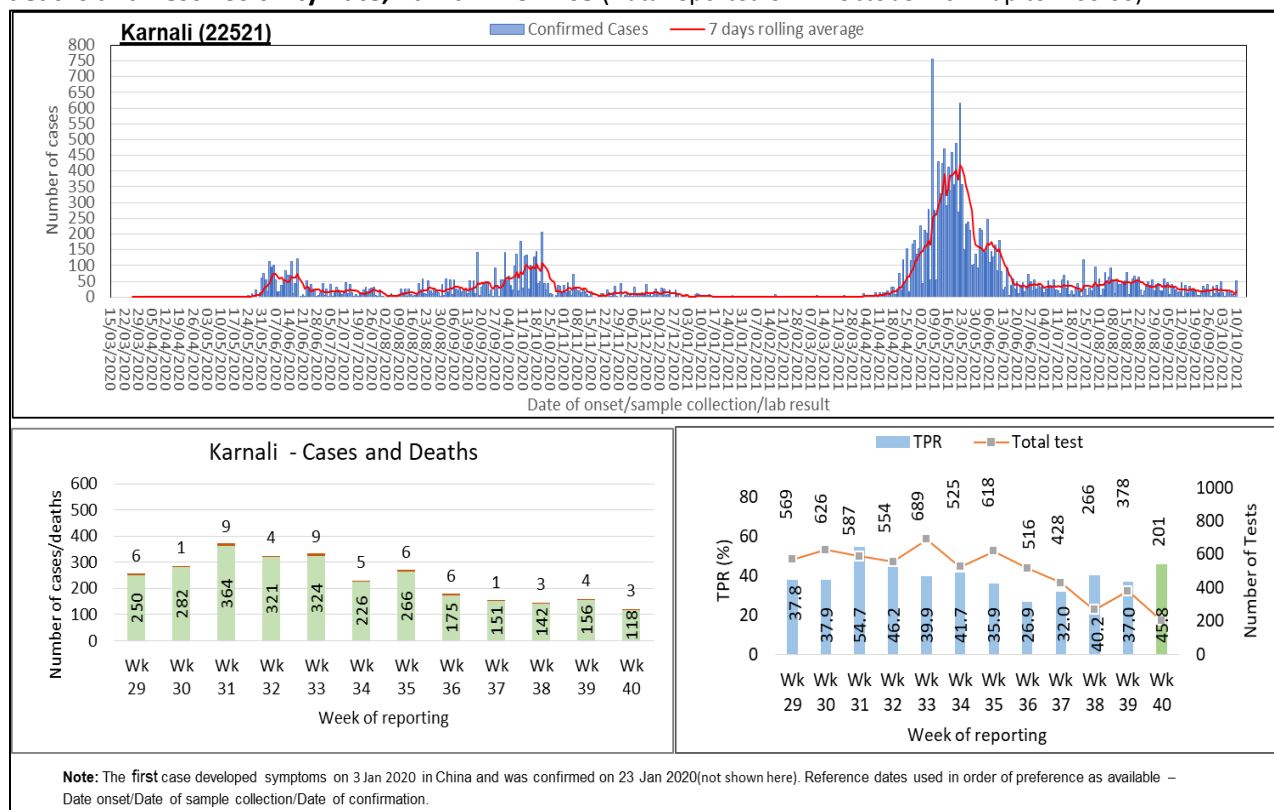
In Gandaki, 639 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 21, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have remained relatively stable in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 9 deaths reported in the past week, 10% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 18.2% in the past week. A total of 2353 tests were performed in the past week, 26% more than that of the previous week.

**Figure 2C5: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Lumbini Province (Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



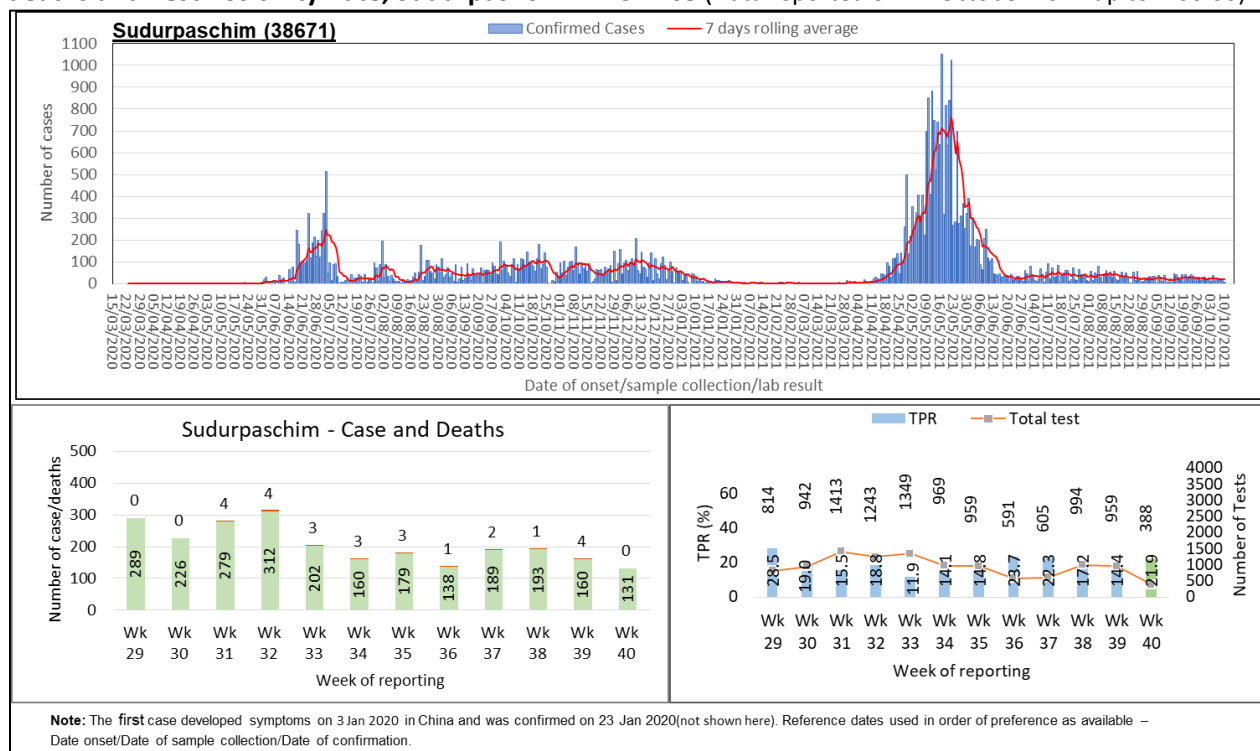
Lumbini reported 524 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 10% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 13 deaths reported in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 21.3% in the past week. A total of 2138 tests were performed in the past week, 14% less than that of the previous week.

**Figure 2C6: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Karnali Province (Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



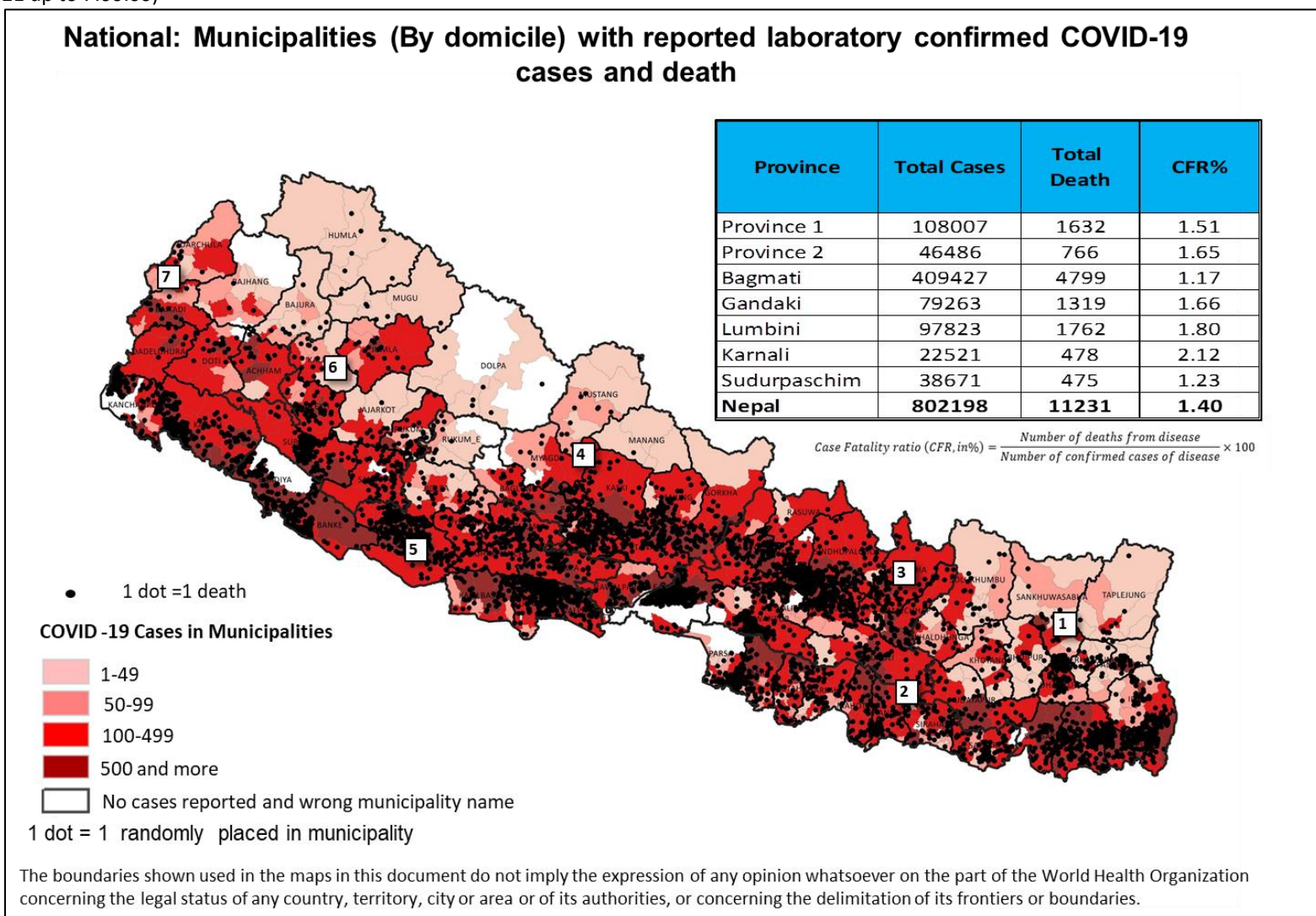
*In Karnali, 118 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 24% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 25% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali increased to 45.8% in the past week. A total of 201 tests were performed in the past week, 47% less than that of the previous week.*

**Figure 2C7: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate, Sudurpashchim Province (Data reported on 11 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)**



*In Sudurpashchim, 131 new cases were reported in the past week. 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 no deaths reported in the past week, 100% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim increased to 21.9% in the past week. A total of 388 tests were performed in the past week, 60% less than that in the previous week.*

**Figure 3: National: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 802198)**(Data reported on 11 October 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 1.4%. However, it is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2.1% and Lumbini Province with 1.8%.*

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.** (Data reported on 11 October 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	108007	25377	133384	15.1	1632	Community transmission	528	2352	2880	20.8	22
Province 2	46486	487	46973	5.3	766	Community transmission	8	261	269	1.9	2
Bagmati	409427	19658	429085	48.5	4799	Community transmission	447	5776	6223	45.0	54
Gandaki	79263	16514	95777	10.8	1319	Community transmission	360	1383	1743	12.6	19
Lumbini	97823	14767	112590	12.7	1762	Community transmission	781	1159	1940	14.0	27
Karnali	22521	3129	25650	2.9	478	Community transmission	95	291	386	2.8	7
Sudurpashchim	38671	2372	41043	4.6	475	Community transmission	68	314	382	2.8	4
<b>National Total</b>	<b>802198</b>	<b>82304*</b>	<b>884502</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11231</b>	<b>Community transmission</b>	<b>2287</b>	<b>11536</b>	<b>13823</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>135</b>

*\*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 10 October 92994 ; but IMU reported 82304*

Notes:

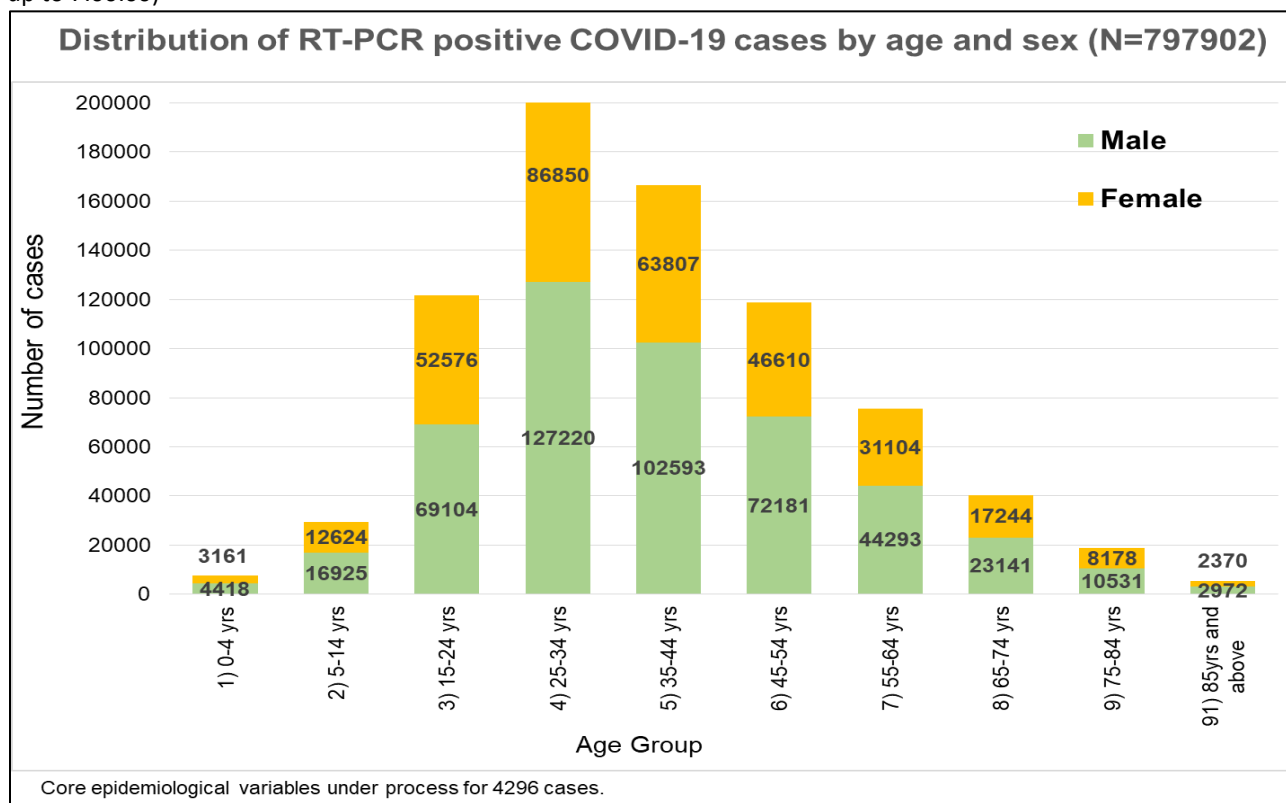
1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT- PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city's 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.

Situation Update #78 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Sunday 17 October 2021

**Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 797902)**(Data reported on 11 October 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 = 802198)**(Data reported on 11 October 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	7579	16	20	13	0.47
5-14 yrs	29549	13	7	10	0.07
15-24 yrs	121680	87	84	61	0.14
25-34 yrs	214070	361	251	131	0.29
35-44 yrs	166400	839	427	274	0.76
45-54 yrs	118791	1325	610	517	1.63
55-64 yrs	75397	1599	747	708	3.11
65-74 yrs	40385	1544	820	860	5.85
75-84 yrs	18709	1125	601	661	9.23
85+ yrs	5342	468	262	233	13.67
Unknown	4296	18	7	10	0.58
<b>National</b>	<b>802198</b>	<b>7395</b>	<b>3836</b>	<b>3478</b>	<b>1.40</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 11,231 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,395 (65.8%) were males and 3,836 (34.2%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,478 persons (31.0%) 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 5.9% to 13.7%.*

## **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

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

- Rt Hon'ble Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Government of Nepal expanded his Cabinet and made few changes to the Council of Ministers on 8 October 2021. Hon'ble Mr. Birodh Khatiwada was appointed the Minister for Health and Population and Hon'ble Mr. Bhawani Prasad Khapung was appointed the State Minister for Health and Population.
- 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.
  - Nepal received 1 million doses of Covishield vaccine from Serum Institute of Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. India on 9 October 2021.
  - A total of 14,780,678 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
  - As of 11 October 2021 09:00AM, among the total population aged 18 years and above: 39% (8,317,902) have received the first dose while 32.4% (6,462,776) 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:
  - The Government of Japan has handed over six ambulances to the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population. These ambulances will be operated from the Nepal Ambulance Service (102) dispatch center.
  - The Embassy of Thailand has handed over essential medicines and health supplies to the Ministry of Health and Population for use during health emergencies and disasters.

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

#### ***Laboratory Diagnosis***

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to National Public Health Laboratories (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 8 designated

COVID-19 laboratories participated in NQAP this week. The result of all the participating laboratories was  $\geq 90\%$  satisfactory.

- Coordinating with designated COVID-19 laboratories for sending the COVID-19 positive samples for gene sequencing.
- Validation of Promotor Nucleic Acid Isolation kit. The result was 100% sensitivity and 100% specificity.

### **Technical Planning and Operations**

- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support for capacity building training of service providers (doctors and nurses) from Province 1 on critical management of pediatric cases. The Pediatric Essential Critical Care Training (PECCT) was organized by Nobel Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Morang District from 3 to 6 October 2021 through National Health Training Center (NHTC) in coordination with Nepal Pediatric Society (NEPAS). There were 16 participants with 8 trainers in the training.



*(Left) Participants during the practical skill breakout session for demonstration of the CPAP and other oxygen delivery devices and (Right) breakout session for demonstration of Advance airway during the Pediatric Essential Critical Care Training (PECCT) at Biratnagar., Photo Courtesy: WHO Nepal/S. Thapaliya*

- WHO team attended a meeting with staff from Dhulikhel Hospital to discuss on “One Stop Approach to post-COVID and other Rehab Conditions” on 7 October 2021. The timeline for the development of the training package and the questionnaire developed for the post-COVID study were also discussed. The study is planned to begin after Dashain holidays.
- WHO participated in a meeting organized by the Curative Service Division (CSD) on 10 October 2021 for discussion on the preparation of guidelines for post-COVID conditions and data collection with validated WHO case reporting form. The participants included medical superintendents and directors of 21 hospitals (7 Provincial Hospitals and 14 COVID-19 designated hospitals) under COVID-19 Unified Central hospital along with staff from WHO and CSD. The meeting was concluded with a decision to identify two healthcare workers from each hospital for data collection and orientation to be provided on post COVID-19 condition following the Dashain holidays.

- WHO supported NHTC to conduct two batches of 2- day pilot training on "Aim of developing the confidence and capacity of health workers in the use and management of biomedical equipment" at Bhaktapur Hospital, Bhaktapur district from 30 September to 1 October 2021 and at Civil Hospital, Kathmandu district from 4 to 5 October 2021. A total of 35 participants (medical officers and the staff nurses) from Bagmati Province were trained at these programs. NHTC and WHO Nepal are now planning to roll out similar training in the remaining 6 provinces.



*Left to Right: Training on developing the confidence and capacity of health workers in the use and management of biomedical equipment at Bhaktapur & Civil Hospital, Photo Courtesy: WHO Nepal/B. Gurung*

### **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.
- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published:

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
53	Booster Shots for COVID-19	Nepali	OneDrive (downloadable <a href="#">link</a> ); Facebook <a href="#">link</a> ; YouTube <a href="#">link</a>
54	Mixed and fractional vaccine doses	Nepali	OneDrive(downloadable <a href="#">link</a> ); Facebook <a href="#">link</a> ; YouTube <a href="#">link</a>

- Science in 5 podcast series released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)) with details below:

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
2	Safety measures while opening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic	Nepali	Facebook (link <a href="#">here</a> ) and Twitter (link <a href="#">here</a> ) The teaser was also shared via Facebook (link <a href="#">here</a> ) and Twitter (link <a href="#">here</a> (English); link <a href="#">here</a> (Nepali)).

- The news of a four-day training to enhance the capacity of healthcare worker, in the use and management of biomedical equipment, was shared on Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)). The training, organized by National Health Training Center (NHTC), Ministry of Health and Population, with support from WHO, Country Office for Nepal, at Bhaktapur Hospital and Civil Hospital, focused on the handling of equipment such as CPAP, BiPAP Machine, ventilator, oxygen concentrator, and oxygen cylinders. NHTC

and WHO, Country Office for Nepal, are now planning to roll out similar training in the provinces.

- The news of a one-day orientation program on gender-based violence, and sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse, which was organized for 46 call center operators working at Epidemiology and Control Division (EDCD), Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) was shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link [here](#)). The operators pick up calls from 1115 and address public queries and concerns from all over Nepal, especially related to COVID-19; and also make outgoing calls to all COVID-19 positive cases for case management. The session, organized by EDCD, MoHP, with support from WHO, Country Office for Nepal, provided orientation to the call operators on gender-based violence and sexual harassment and exploitation. Process and mechanism for case reporting, recording, and referral were also discussed, alongside overall error management of both incoming and outgoing calls.
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
  - Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring,
  - Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
  - The latest Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update.
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
  - Importance of public health and social measures during festivals,
  - Importance of public health and social measures against COVID-19,
  - Mental health and COVID-19, and
  - Smoking and COVID-19.

### ***Field Operations and Logistics Support***

- WHO Operations Support and Logistics Pillar provided support to following activities:
  - Transferred and installed tent base (24sqm) Health Desk at the Point of Entry, Bhattamod, Mahottari District on 8 October 2021.
  - Received and offloaded containers of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Treatment Facility at the Armed Police Force (APF) Hospital, Balambu, Kathmandu between 9 - 10 October 2021.

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

- Provincial Ministries for health and Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Health Cluster Coordination meeting for COVID-19 response, as and when required.
- 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.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID responses to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.
- Health Cluster Secretariat has been supporting health cluster lead in 3W mapping of partners' support and is being disseminated through the Health Emergency Operation Center's website ( <https://heoc.mohp.gov.np/update-on-novel-corona-virus-covid-19/> ).
- COVID-19 consultation is being provided continuously by specialist teams through tele-medicine services.

#### **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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