

Situation Update #80- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 18 - 24 October 2021(EPI Week 42)

HIGHLIGHTS (Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 24 October 2021 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 25 October 2021)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 97.3% (787,507) of cases have recovered, 1.3% (10,201) are active cases and 11,348 (1.4%) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 92.4% (9,423) cases are in home isolation; 7.6% (778) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2.7% (273) of active cases require ICU admission, 31.1% (85) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Three districts reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (4,019) reported this week, 31.5% (1,265) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district with 8.1% (327). Majority of the new cases about 43.2% (1,736) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 24 October 2021,14:00Hrs)

| ChAdOx1-S* | SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell) | Johnson and Johnson Vaccine |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| First dose : 2,863,335 | First dose : 5,743,653 | Single Dose : 1,538,878 |
| Second dose : 1,560,794 | Second dose : 3,504,501 | |

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 24 October 2021, 07:00:00hrs)

**809,056 (RT-PCR) and
94,015 (Antigen RDT)
confirmed cases
11,348 deaths
4,368,512 RT-PCR tests and
644,092 Antigen RDT**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 24 October 2021)

**43,782,373 confirmed cases
687,913 deaths**

GLOBAL

(Data as of 24 October 2021)
**243,248,796 confirmed cases
4,943,201 deaths**

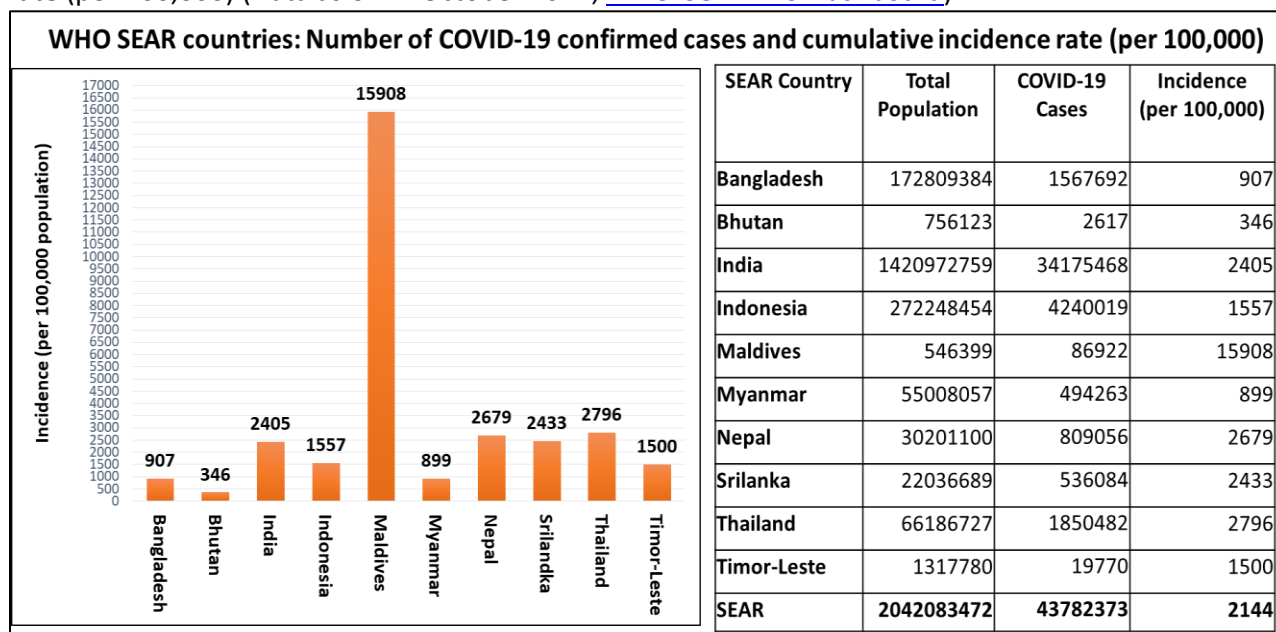
NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 24 October 2021, a total of 809,056 (18.5%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,368,512 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 94,015 (14.6%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 644,092 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 week 42 ranged from 3.0% (Province 2) to 42.4% (Karnali Province). The RT-PCR test positivity rate stands at 8.4% at the national level.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (479,898/809,056) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (373,763/479,898) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

National Influenza Surveillance

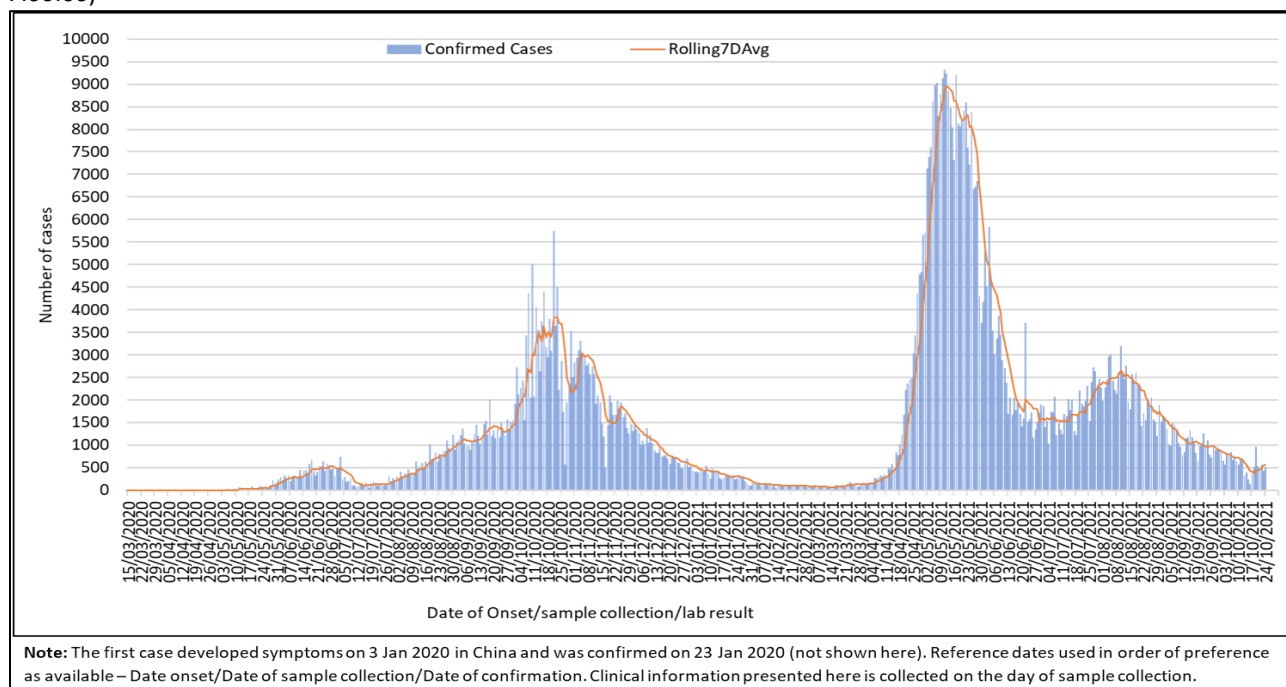
- National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) reported 11 diagnostic and surveillance samples tested at National Influenza center (NIC) on EPI-week 42 (18 -24 October 2021). This week's reporting is exclusive of reporting from WARUN (Walter Reed/ AFRIMS Research Unit- Nepal)
 - None of the sample tested positive for Influenza.
 - Only one sample tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
- Of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPI-week 42 (18- 24 October 2021), 88 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week.
 - 11 samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria and 1 sample tested positive for Influenza A/H3
- From 4 January to 24 October 2021:
 - A total of 1,036 samples tested positive for Influenza (600 Influenza A/H3, 198 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 5,505 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 284 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1,340 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 24 October 2021; [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#))



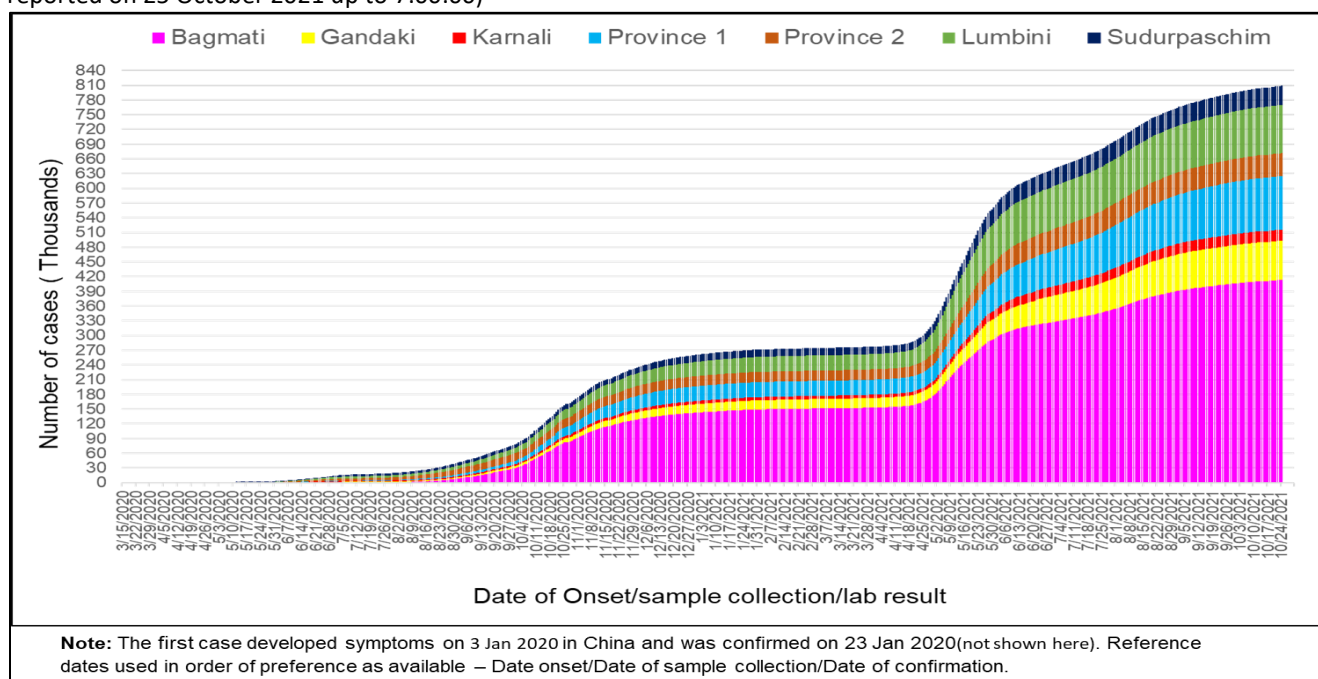
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 809056)(Data reported on 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



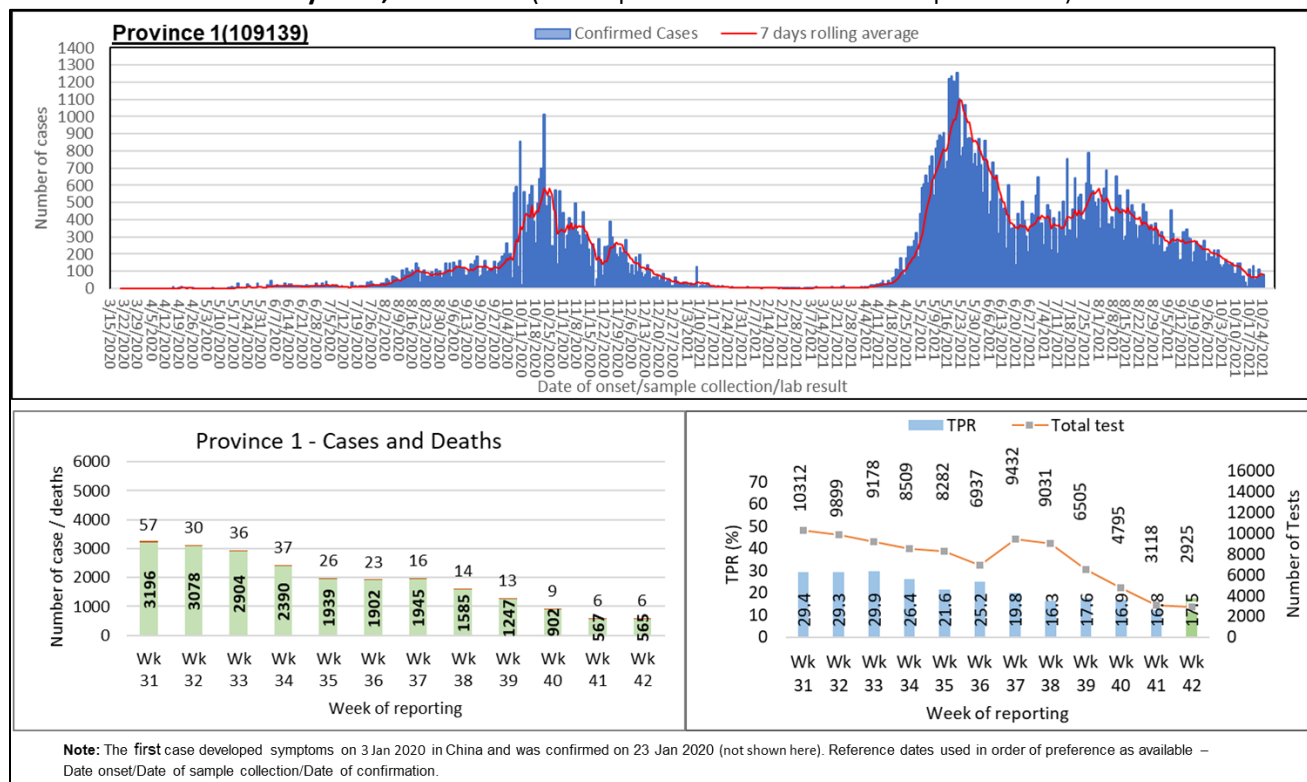
At a national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 24 October 2021 was 6061 which is 70% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 809056)(Data reported on 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



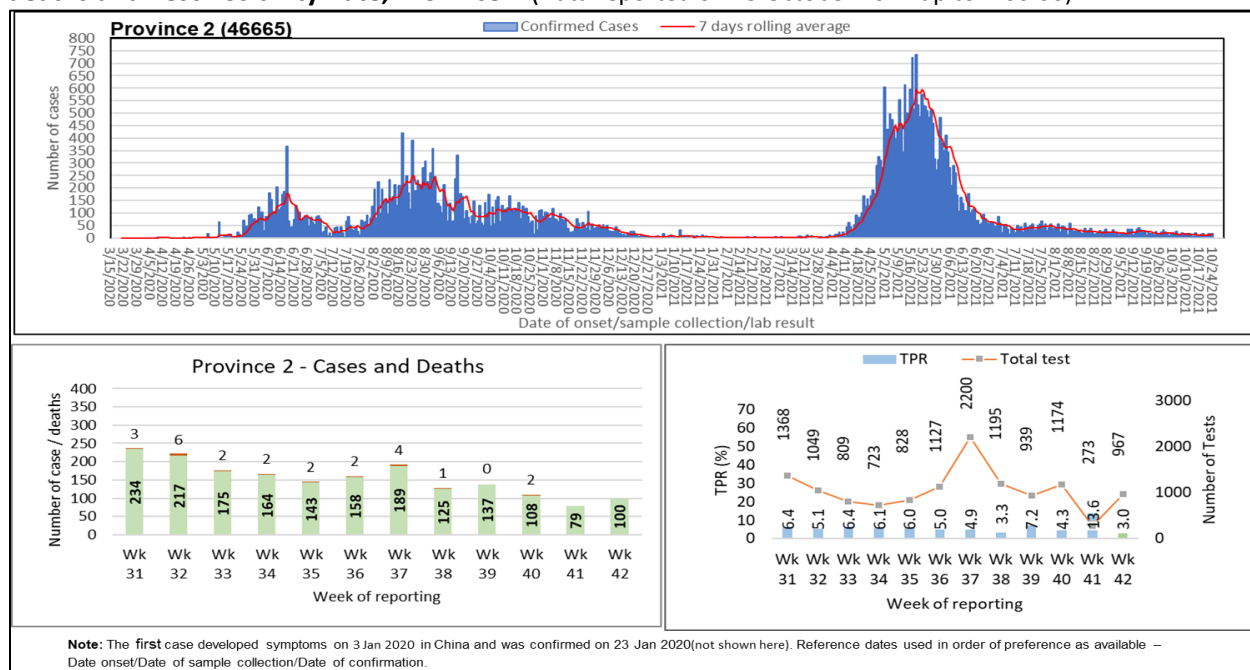
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



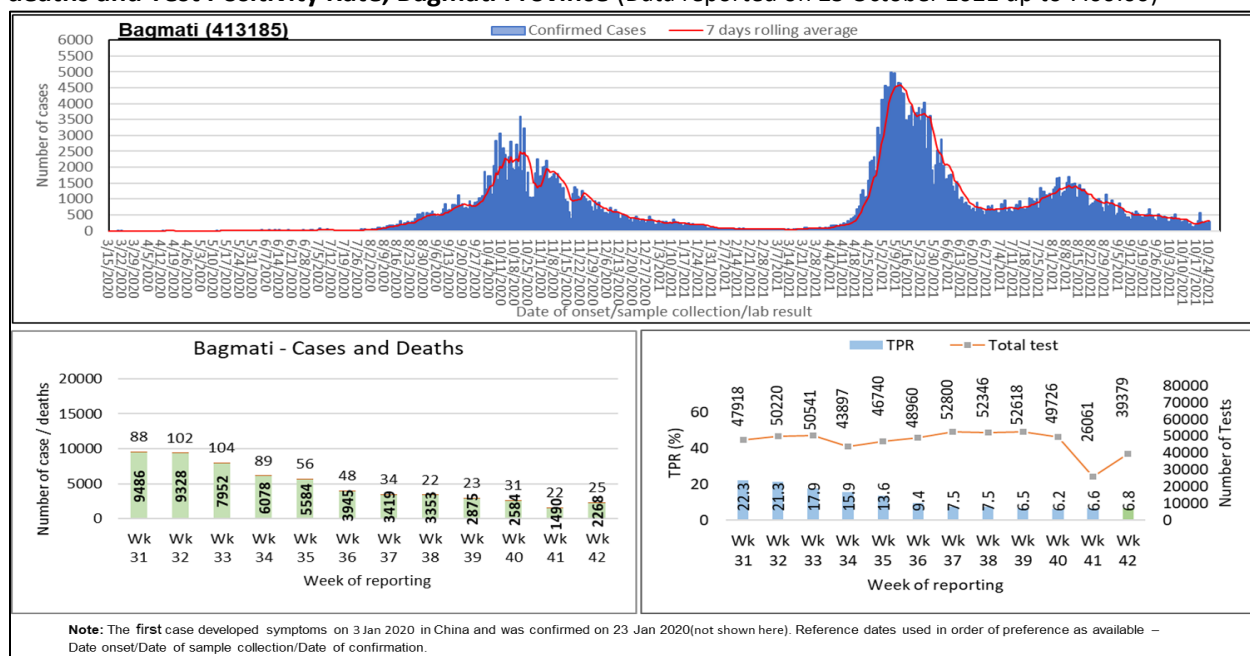
There were 565 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases have been continuously declining. The cases have remained stable in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 6 deaths reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 17.5% in the past week. A total of 2925 tests were performed in the past week, 6% 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 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



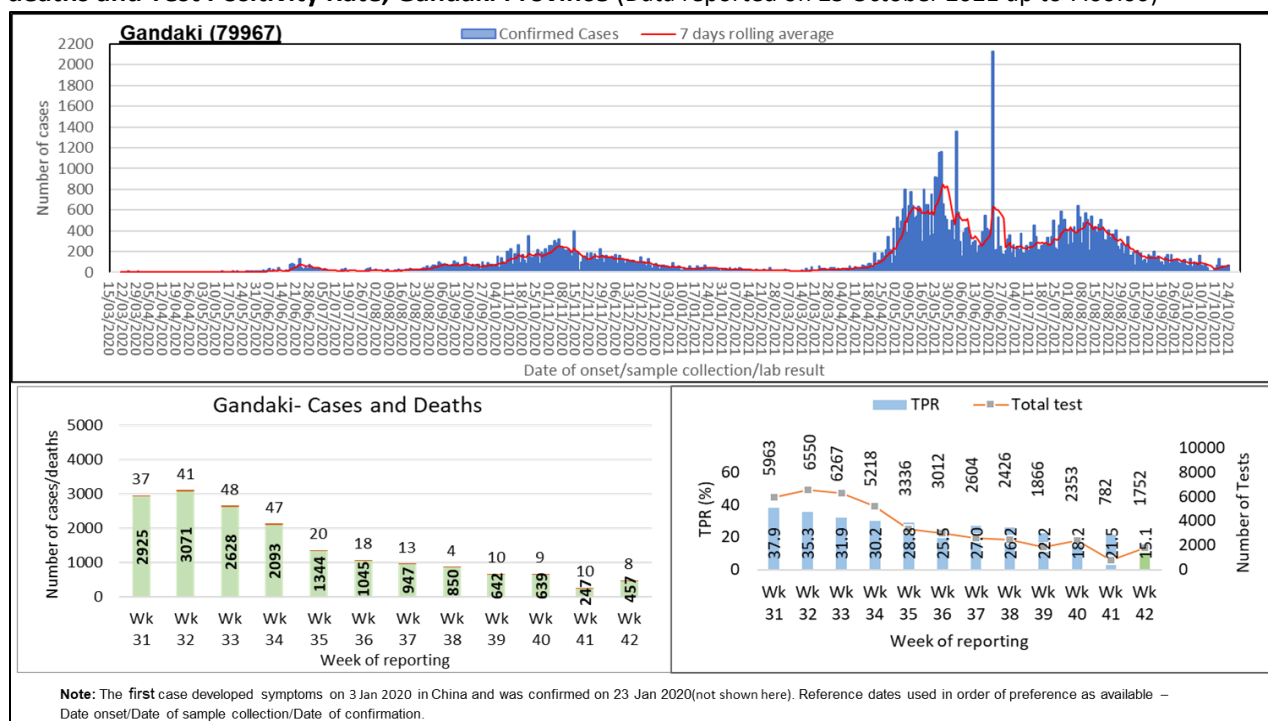
There were 100 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 27% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 3.0% in the past week. A total of 967 tests were performed in the past week, 254% 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 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



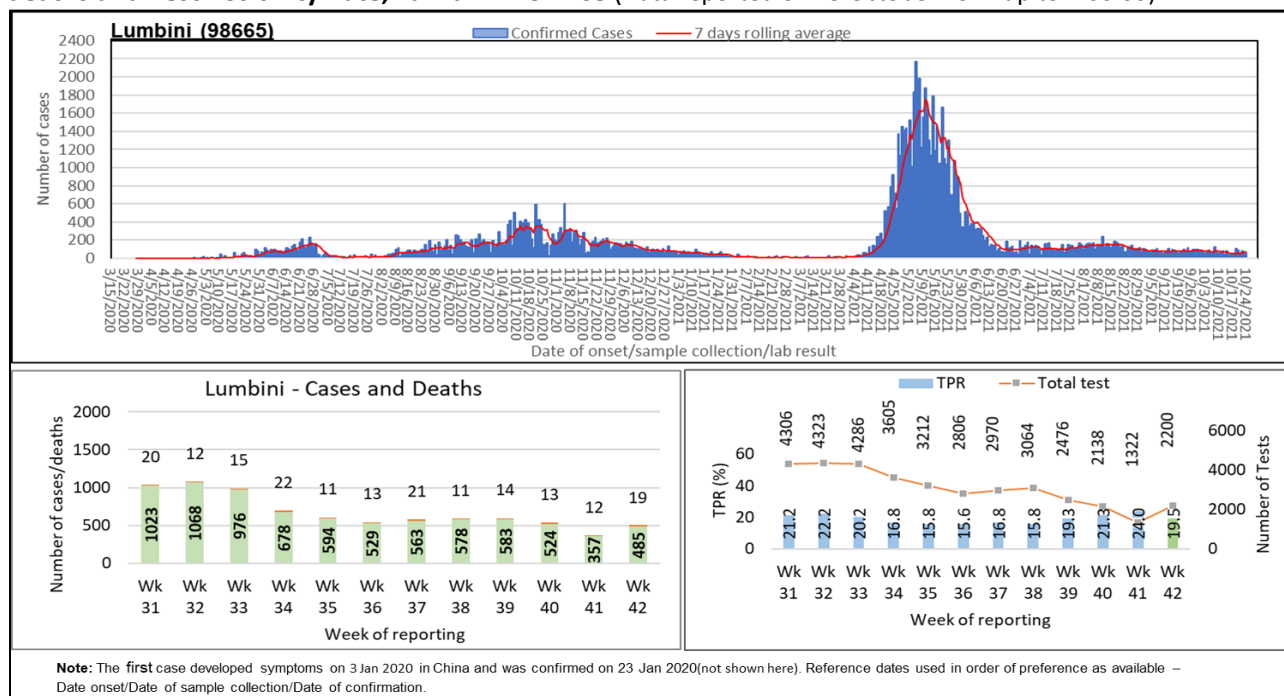
In Bagmati, 2268 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 52% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 25 deaths reported in the past week, 14% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 6.8% in the past week. A total of 39,379 tests were performed in the past week, 51% more 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 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



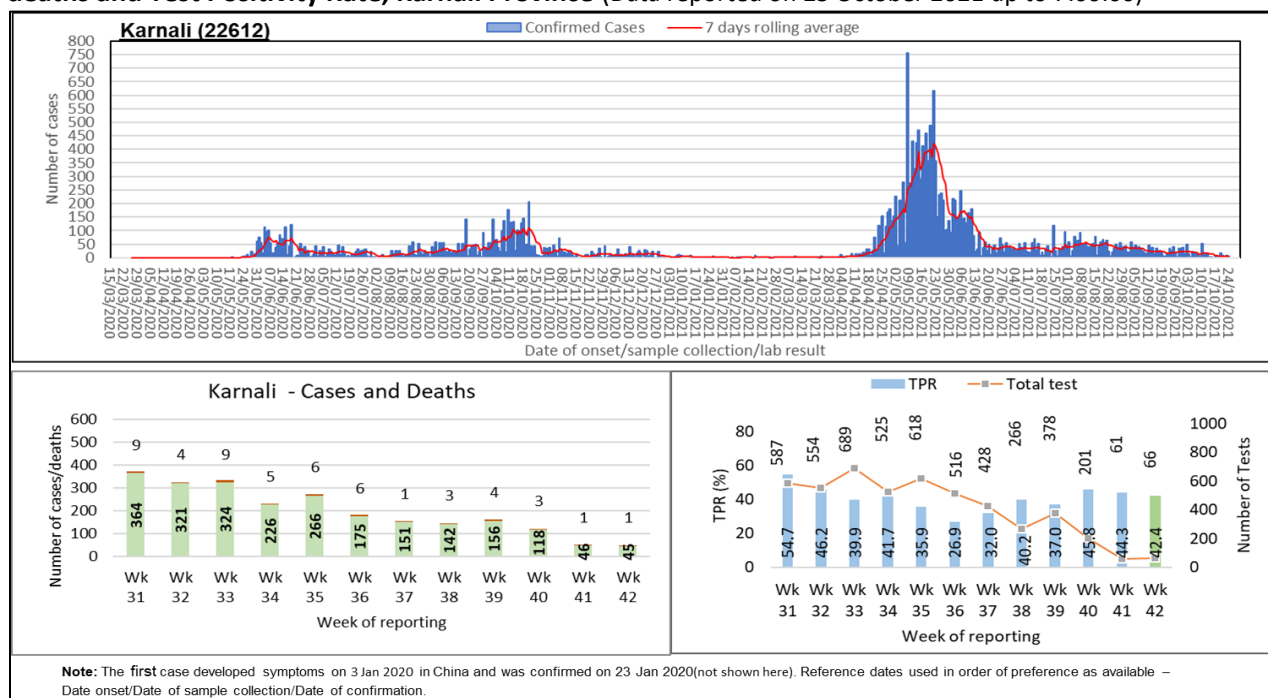
In Gandaki, 457 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 21, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 85% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 8 deaths reported in the past week, 20% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 15.1% in the past week. A total of 1752 tests were performed in the past week, 124% 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 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



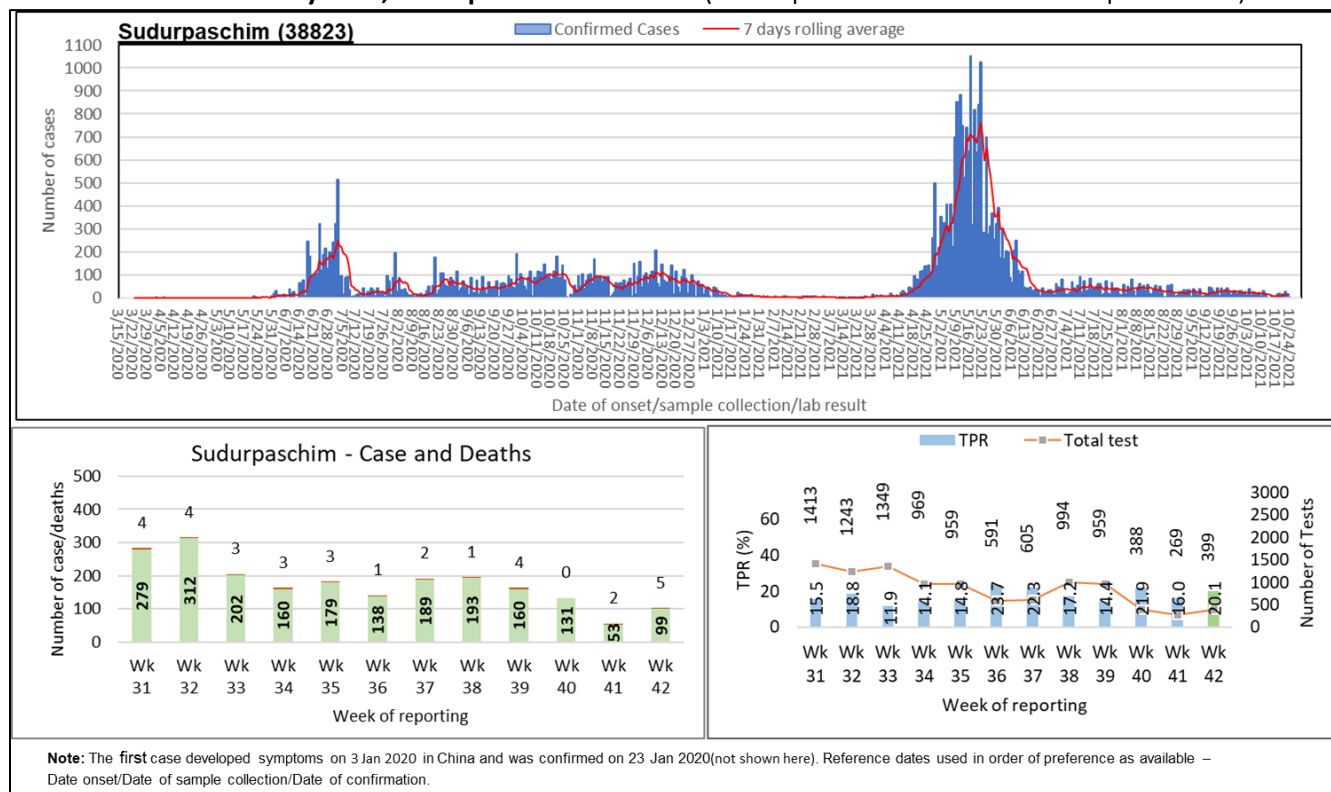
Lumbini reported 485 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 36% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 19 deaths reported in the past week, 58% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 19.5% in the past week. A total of 2200 tests were performed in the past week, 66% more 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 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



In Karnali, 45 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 42.4% in the past week. A total of 66 tests were performed in the past week, 8% more 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 25 October 2021 up to 7:00:00)



In Sudurpashchim, 99 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 87% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 5 deaths reported in the past week, 150% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim increased to 20.1% in the past week. A total of 399 tests were performed in the past week, 48% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 25 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 | 109139 | 25492 | 134631 | 15.1 | 1644 | Community transmission | 128 | 1220 | 1348 | 16.4 | 12 |
| Province 2 | 46665 | 492 | 47157 | 5.3 | 766 | Community transmission | 5 | 195 | 200 | 2.4 | 0 |
| Bagmati | 413185 | 19792 | 432977 | 48.5 | 4846 | Community transmission | 138 | 4045 | 4183 | 50.7 | 47 |
| Gandaki | 79967 | 16624 | 96591 | 10.8 | 1337 | Community transmission | 118 | 773 | 891 | 10.8 | 18 |
| Lumbini | 98665 | 15118 | 113783 | 12.8 | 1793 | Community transmission | 364 | 890 | 1254 | 15.2 | 31 |
| Karnali | 22612 | 3145 | 25757 | 2.9 | 480 | Community transmission | 17 | 143 | 160 | 1.9 | 2 |
| Sudurpashchim | 38823 | 2420 | 41243 | 4.6 | 482 | Community transmission | 50 | 157 | 207 | 2.5 | 7 |
| National Total | 809056 | 83083* | 892139 | 100 | 11348 | Community transmission | 820 | 7423 | 8243 | 100 | 117 |

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 24 October 94015 ; but IMU reported 83083*

Notes:

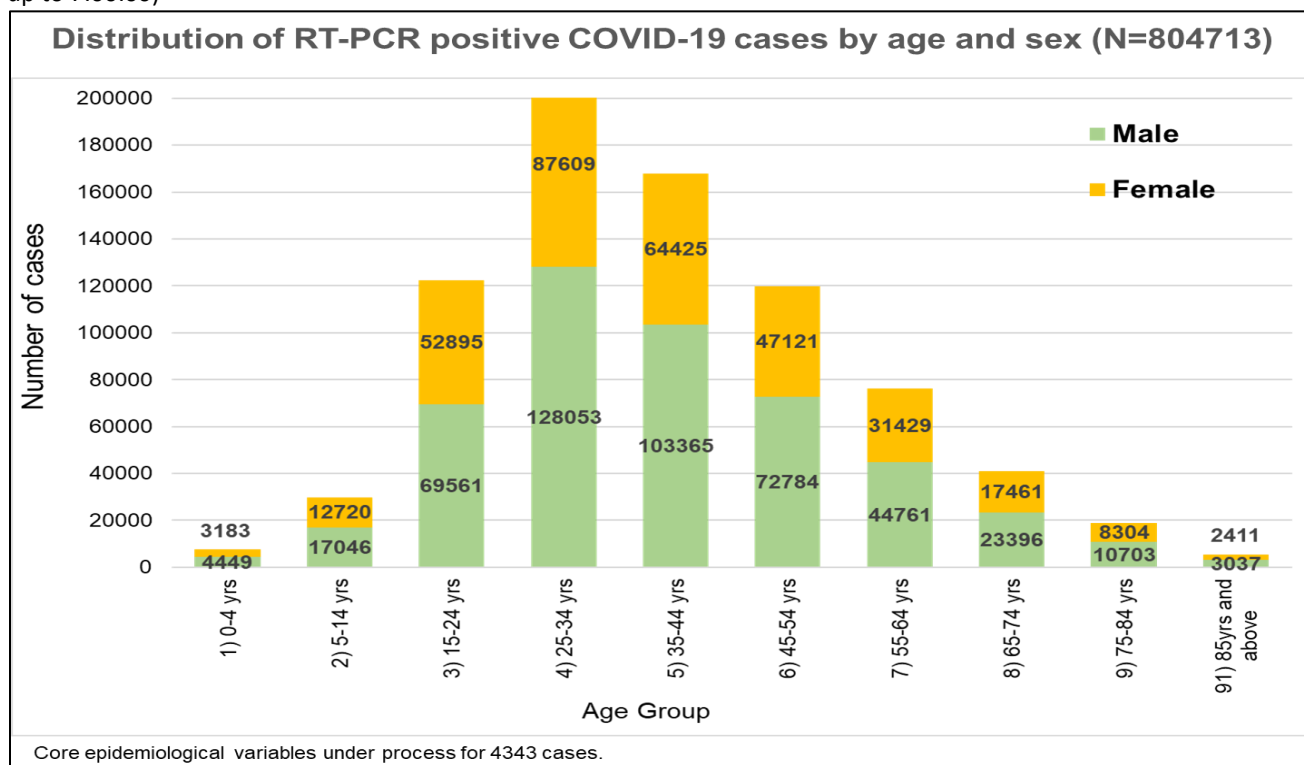
1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT-PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city's name 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 #80 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Sunday 31 October 2021

Figure 3: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 804713)(Data reported on 25 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 = 809056)(Data reported on 25 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 | 7632 | 16 | 20 | 13 | 0.47 |
| 5-14 yrs | 29766 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 0.07 |
| 15-24 yrs | 122456 | 87 | 84 | 61 | 0.14 |
| 25-34 yrs | 215662 | 365 | 252 | 136 | 0.29 |
| 35-44 yrs | 167790 | 850 | 432 | 282 | 0.76 |
| 45-54 yrs | 119905 | 1337 | 616 | 522 | 1.63 |
| 55-64 yrs | 76190 | 1614 | 754 | 717 | 3.11 |
| 65-74 yrs | 40857 | 1561 | 828 | 874 | 5.85 |
| 75-84 yrs | 19007 | 1139 | 607 | 672 | 9.19 |
| 85+ yrs | 5448 | 474 | 267 | 238 | 13.6 |
| Unknown | 4343 | 18 | 7 | 10 | 0.58 |
| National | 809056 | 7474 | 3874 | 3535 | 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 11,348 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,474 (65.9%) were males and 3,874 (34.1%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,535 persons (31.2%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, it progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 5.9% to 13.6%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- Dr Dipendra Raman Singh, former chief specialist of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has taken overall responsibility as Director General of Department of Health Services (DoHS), MoHP from 24 October 2021. Link [Here](#)
- 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 the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan.
 - Till now, Nepal has received 18,959,330 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources.
 - Nepal achieved a milestone of 15 million COVID-19 vaccines being administered throughout the country to the targeted population on 22 October 2021.
 - A total of 15,268,771 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
 - As of 25 October 2021, 09:30AM, among the total population aged 18 years and above: 43.3% (8,621,449) have received the first dose while 33.4% (6,647,322) have received the full dose.

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 10 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in NQAP this week. The result of all participating laboratories was ≥90% concordant.

Technical Planning and Operations

- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support to the National Health Training Center (NHTC) for capacity building training of service providers (doctors and nurses). This training program is being organized in coordination with Nepal Pediatric Society (NEPAS) for the provincial-level Pediatric Essential Critical Care Training (PECCT) service providers. The training was conducted at Madesh Institute of Health Sciences, Janakpur district, Province 2 from 22 – 25 October 2021. There were 16 participants and 8 trainers in the training.



Pediatric Essential Critical Care Training (PECCT) at Province 2, (Left) Breakout session-Advance Airway, (Right) Breakout session- Donning and Doffing. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S. Thapaliya

- Planning Meeting on 'Model One Stop Approach to Post COVID and other Rehabilitation Conditions with team of Dhulikhel hospital (DH) was held on 19 October 2021. The meeting was attended by team from WHO Nepal team and Dhulikhel hospital where there were discussions on equipment needs and start date for data collection of post COVID-19 conditions
- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support to MoHP for conducting a 3-day meeting of COVID-19 Expert Group Committee to review updates of protocols/guidelines related to COVID-19 response. This workshop was held from 21 – 23 October 2021 and attended by senior officials from MoHP, Curative Service Division (CSD), National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), WHO Nepal, Medical Institutions (Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Kathmandu Medical College and Teaching Hospital), Herd International and Star hospital. Major decisions made during the meetings were:
 - To limit the guidelines into three categories: 1) Clinical management, 2) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Administrative, 3) Surveillance and Research
 - Removal of some guidelines and suggestion for some guidelines to be revised / updated.
- WHO Nepal participated in a workshop organized by Curative Service Division (CSD) on 24 October 2021 titled "Software finalization workshop for Telemedicine". The meeting was attended by health officials from CSD, WHO Nepal, Birendra Police Hospital, Improvement of Maternal and Child Care in Remote areas (IMCCR) and DPR Solution (Software development company). The software is planned to be piloted at Sudurpashchim Province, and training will also be conducted to the selected health workers and doctors involved in the telemedicine program.



*Software finalization workshop.
Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/T. Bhatta*

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- WHO Nepal's support to the National Health Education Information and Communication Center (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 |
|----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 55 | Keeping Schools Safe | Nepali | OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link |
| 55 | Keeping Schools Safe | Maithili | OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link |

- The news of 15 million COVID-19 vaccines being administered in Nepal was shared via Facebook (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)).
- Episode 4 of *Science in 5* podcast in Nepali language was released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)). The topic of the episode was safety measures to keep in mind while re-opening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The news was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The teaser was also shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)).
- A video on the news of the handover of 2000 oxygen concentrator sets to Nepal by WHO, which have now been distributed to hospitals across the country, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- A video on the news of the handover of 250,000 ampoules of dexamethasone to the Ministry of Health and Population, which have now been distributed to hospitals across the country, was shared via Twitter (link [here](#)).

- Tweets from the meeting of Member countries, experts, and partners to review learnings from the ongoing COVID-19 response to strengthen health systems resilience in WHO South-East Asia Region were shared (link [here](#)).
- 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 against COVID-19 in schools,
 - Importance of public health and social measures against COVID-19,
 - Importance of verifying news from social media, and
 - Vaccine equity.

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-19 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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