

Situation Update #83- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 8 - 14 November 2021 (EPI Week 45)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 14 November 2021 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 15 November 2021)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 97.7% (798,274) of cases have recovered, 0.9% (7,215) are active cases and 1.4% (11,477) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 92.8% (6,699) cases are in home isolation; 7.1% (516) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 3.1% (222) of active cases require ICU admission, 30.2% (67) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- One district (Lalitpur) reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (2,408) reported this week, 32.4% (780) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district with 9.6% (230). Majority of the new cases about 44.8% (1078) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 14 October 2021, 14:00Hrs)

ChAdOx1-S*	Vero Cell	Johnson and Johnson Vaccine
First dose : 2,953,621	First dose : 5,874,807	Single Dose : 1,543,497
Second dose : 1,721,273	Second dose : 4,288,790	

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

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 14 November 2021)

NEPAL

**816,966 (RT-PCR) and
95,087 (Antigen RDT)
confirmed cases
11,477 deaths
4,506,521 RT-PCR tests and
694,874 Antigen RDT**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

**44,273,117 confirmed cases
699,920 deaths**

GLOBAL

**252,826,597 confirmed cases
5,092,761 deaths**

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 14 November 2021, a total of 816,966 (18.1%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,506,521 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 95,087 (13.7%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 694,874 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- There is an observed decrease in the number of tests conducted during Epi weeks 41 and 44 which coincides with local public holidays of Dashain and Tihar, respectively. Interpretation of epidemiological trend is to be done with caution until the number of tests conducted revert to pre-holiday volume.
- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.

- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 45 ranged from 3.2% (Bagmati Province) to 24.0% (Karnali Province), with a national positivity rate at 4.4%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (484,278/816,966) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (376,859/484,278) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

National Influenza Surveillance

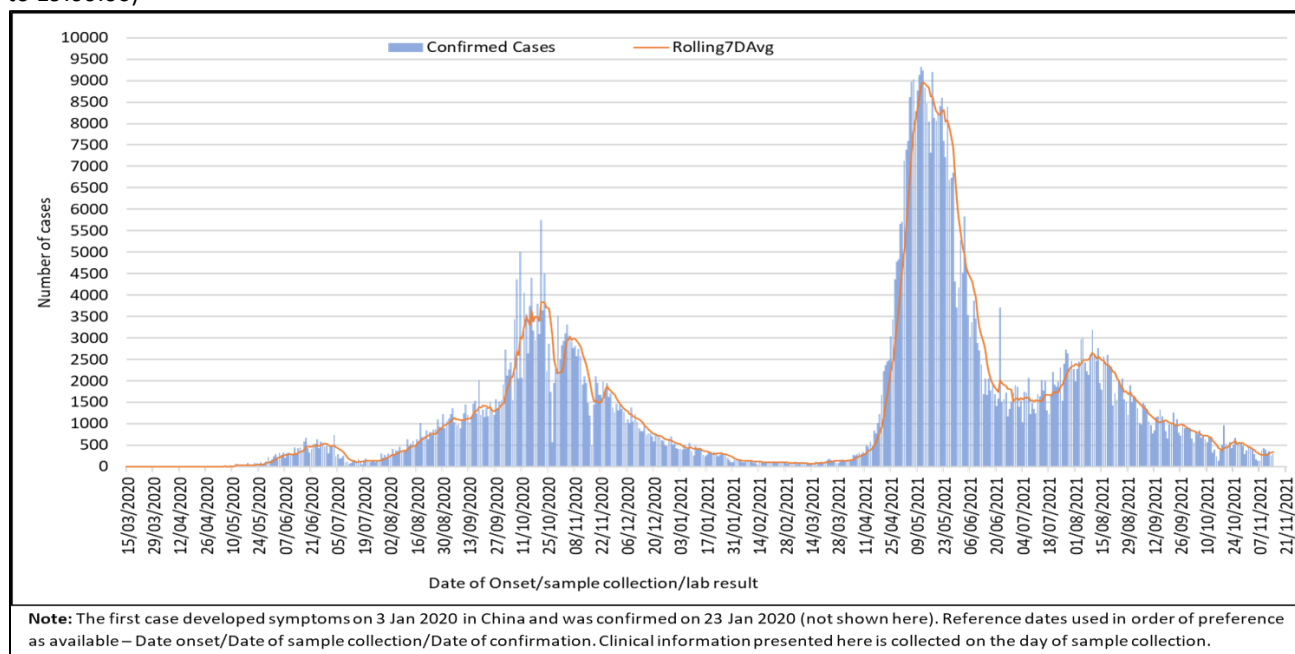
- NPHL reported 24 diagnostic and surveillance samples [7 samples tested at National Influenza center (NIC) and 17 samples tested at WARUN (Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal)] on Epi-week 45 (8-14 November 2021).
 - Four samples tested positive for Influenza B.
 - Three samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 45, 86 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples have been tested for Influenza for the same week.
 - Two samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
- From 4 January until 14 November 2021:
 - A total of 1092 samples have been tested positive for Influenza [603 Influenza A/H3, 223 Influenza B Victoria, 5 Co-Infection of Influenza A/H3 and Influenza B Victoria, 2 Co-Infection of SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza B Victoria, 2 Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, and 257 Influenza B (to be subtyped)] from 5935 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 416 samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1823 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).¹

**Please note that these reports are inclusive of SARS-CoV-2 results from WARUN, hence the sudden increase in cumulative numbers.*

WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000). Link Here- <https://covid19.who.int/>

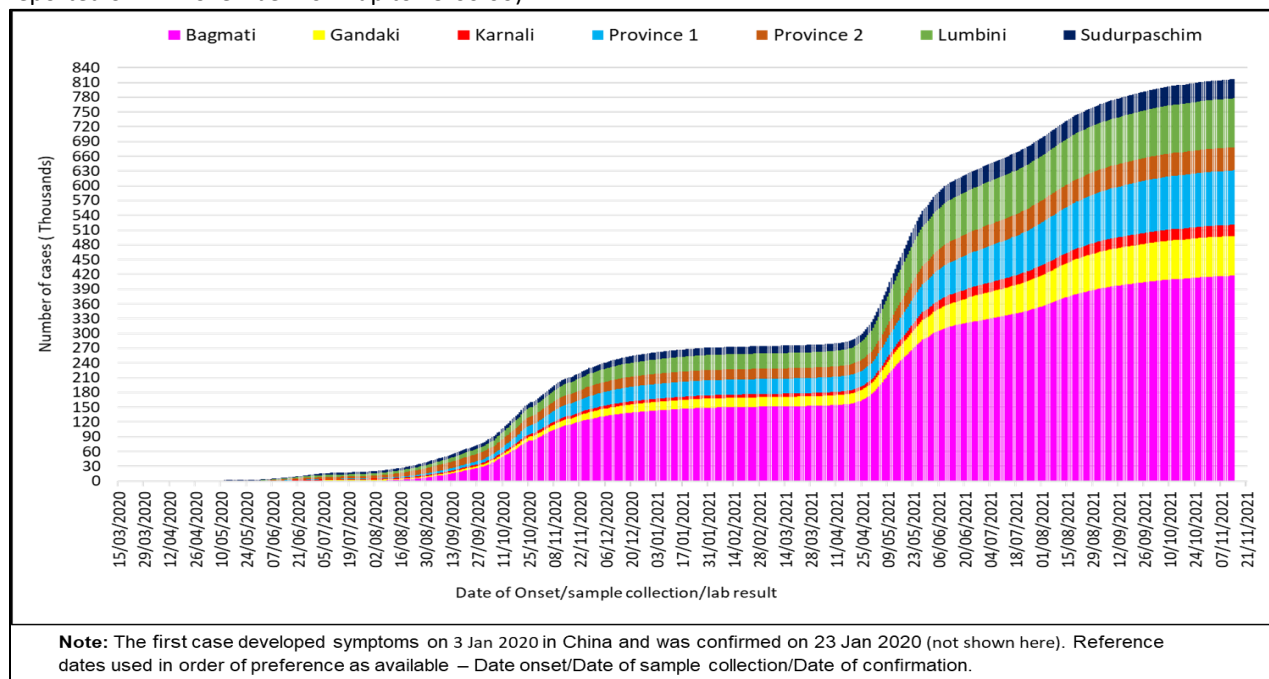
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

Figure 1: RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 816966)(Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



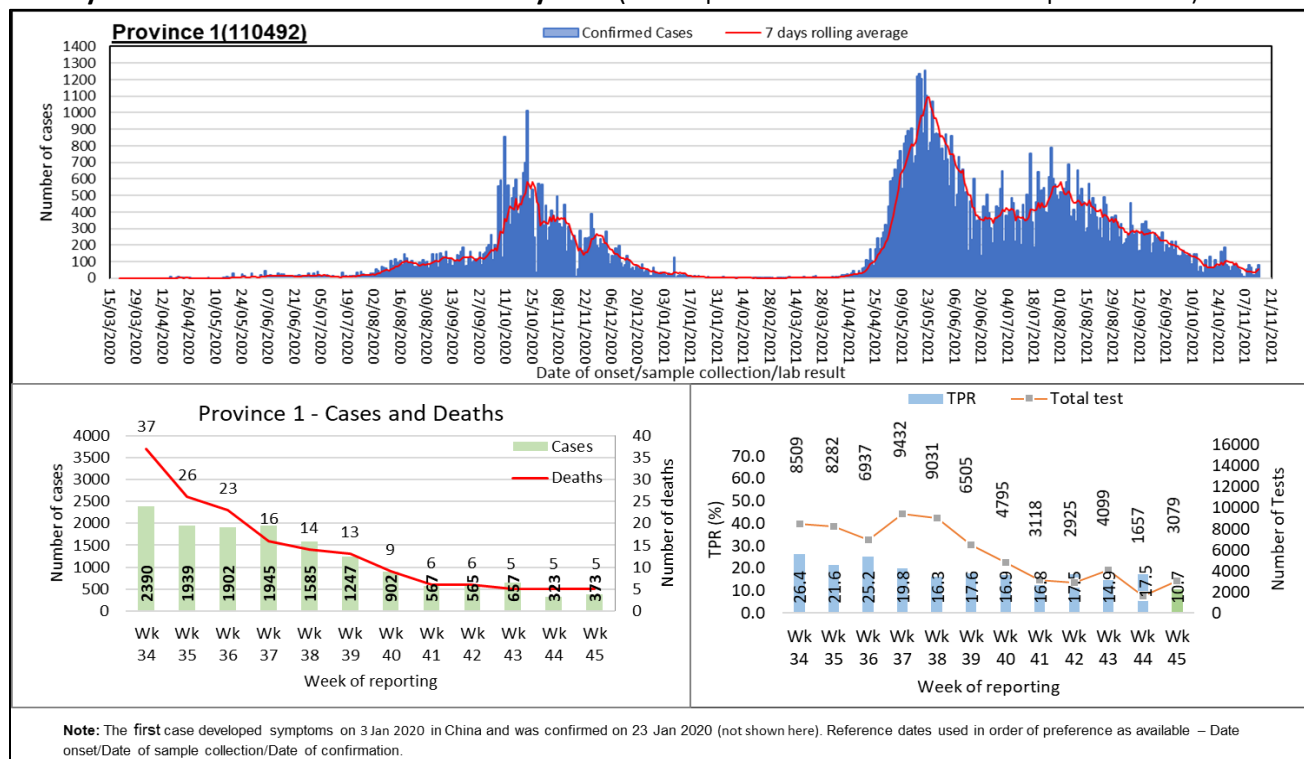
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. The total RT-PCR tests done in Nepal on 14 November 2021 was 8008 which is 60% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases by province (N = 816966)(Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



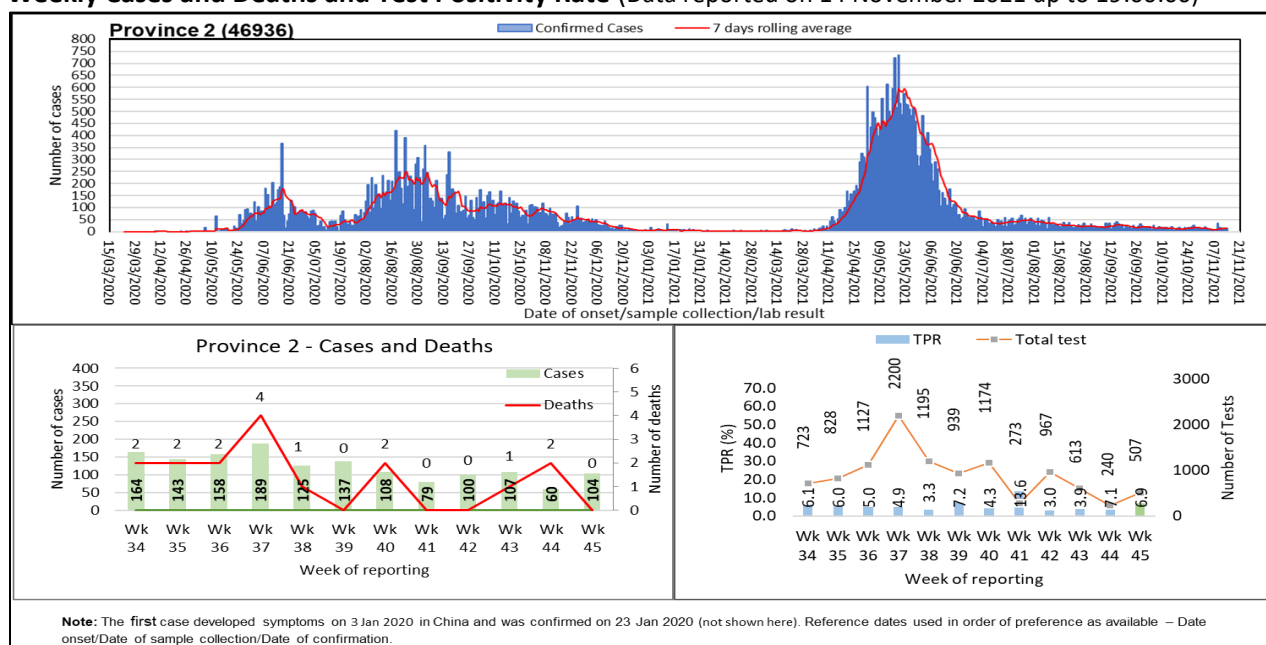
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

Figure 3A1: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Province 1: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



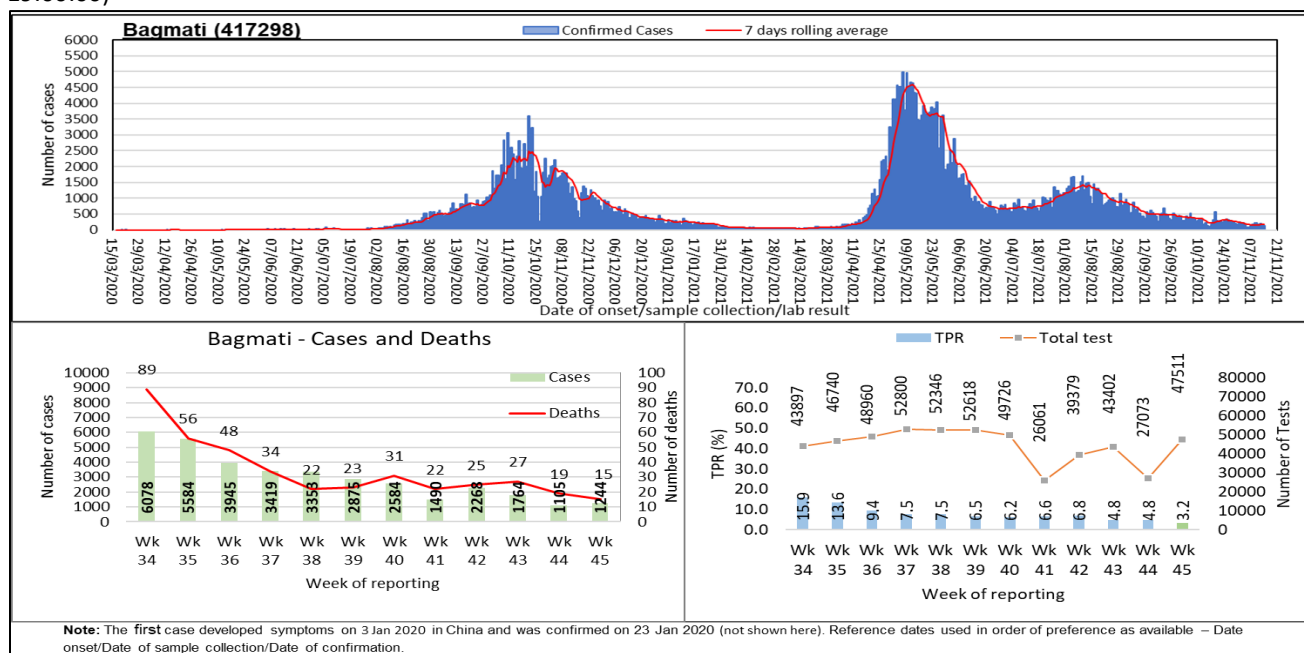
There were 373 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 15% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 5 deaths reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 10.7% in the past week. A total of 3079 tests were performed in the past week, 86% more than that of the previous week.

Figure 3A2: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Province 2: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



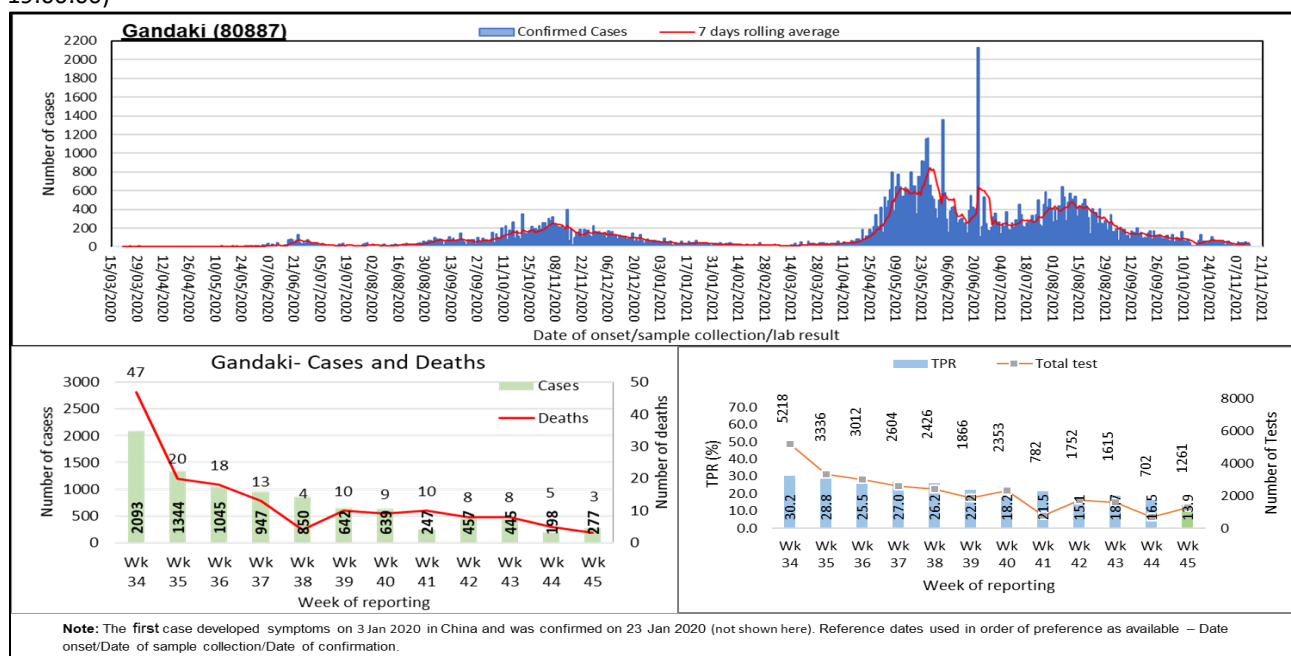
There were 104 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 73% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 6.9% in the past week. A total of 507 tests were performed in the past week, 111% more than that of the previous week.

Figure 3A3: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bagmati Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



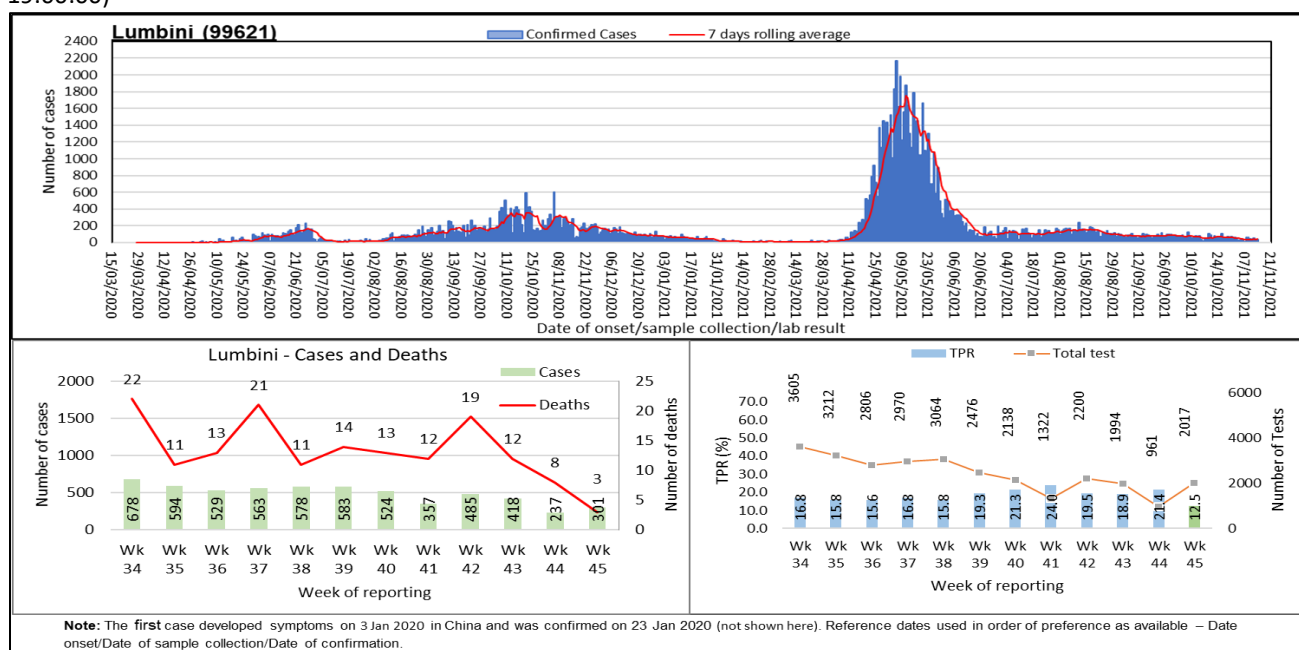
In Bagmati, 1244 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 15 deaths reported in the past week, 21% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 3.2% in the past week. A total of 47,511 tests were performed in the past week, 75% more than that of the previous week.

Figure 3A4: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gandaki Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



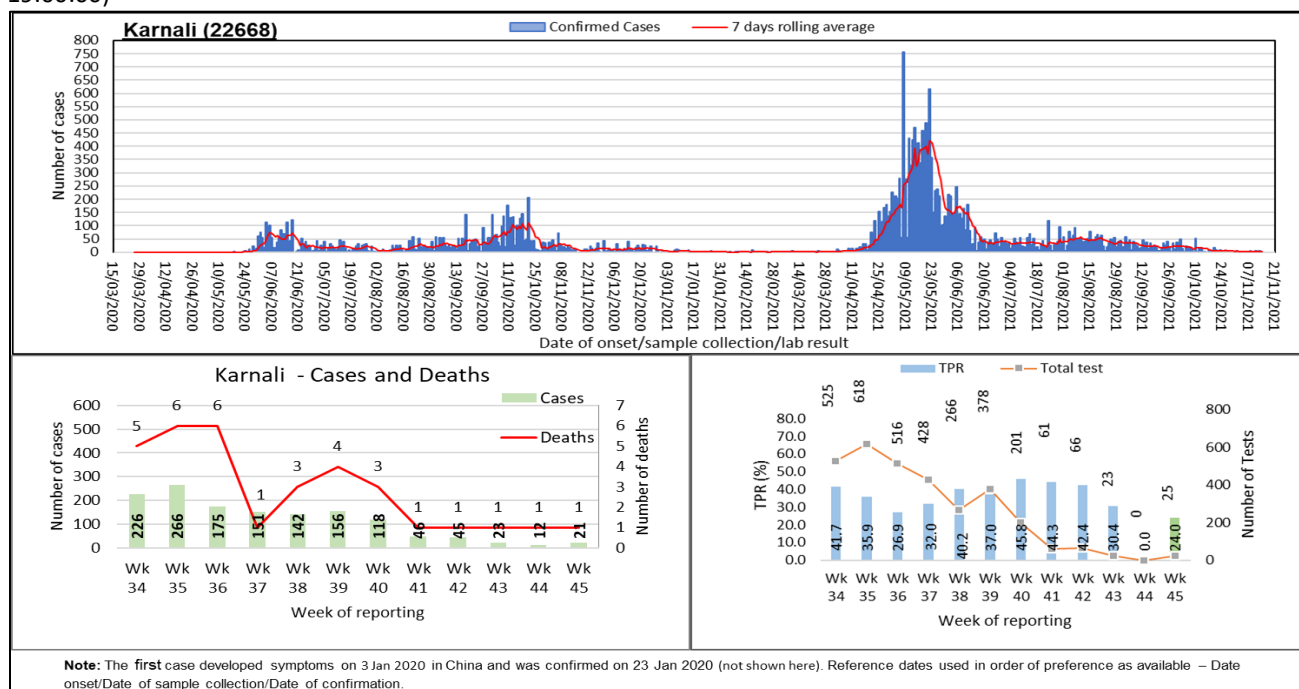
In Gandaki, 277 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 21, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 40% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 40% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 13.9% in the past week. A total of 1261 tests were performed in the past week, 80% more than that of the previous week.

Figure 3A5: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lumbini Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



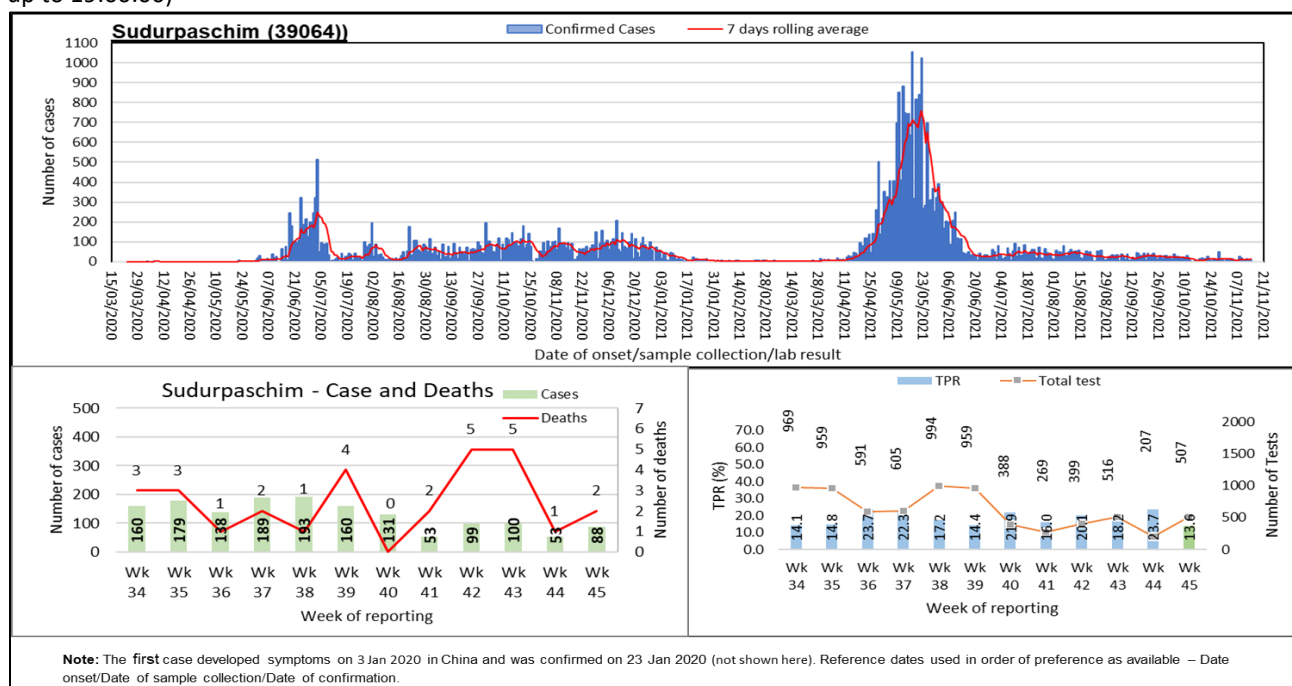
Lumbini reported 301 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 27% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 63% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 12.5% in the past week. A total of 2017 tests were performed in the past week, 110% more than that of the previous week.

Figure 3A6: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Karnali Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



In Karnali, 21 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 75% 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 increased to 24.0% in the past week. A total of 25 tests were performed in the past week, increase from no tests in the previous week.

Figure 3A7: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Sudurpashchim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



In Sudurpashchim, 88 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 66% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 12.1% in the past week. A total of 507 tests were performed in the past week, 145% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)

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	110492	25687	136179	15.1	1659	Community transmission	100	765	865	16.4	10
Province 2	46936	495	47431	5.3	769	Community transmission	2	171	173	3.3	2
Bagmati	417298	19968	437266	48.5	4907	Community transmission	91	2514	2605	49.3	34
Gandaki	80887	16756	97643	10.8	1353	Community transmission	59	534	593	11.2	8
Lumbini	99621	15659	115280	12.8	1816	Community transmission	234	607	841	15.9	11
Karnali	22668	3178	25846	2.9	483	Community transmission	9	36	45	0.9	2
Sudurpashchim	39064	2459	41523	4.6	490	Community transmission	20	145	165	3.1	3
National Total	816966	84202*	901168	100	11477	Community transmission	515	4772	5287	100	70

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 14 November 95087 ; but IMU reported 84202*

Notes:

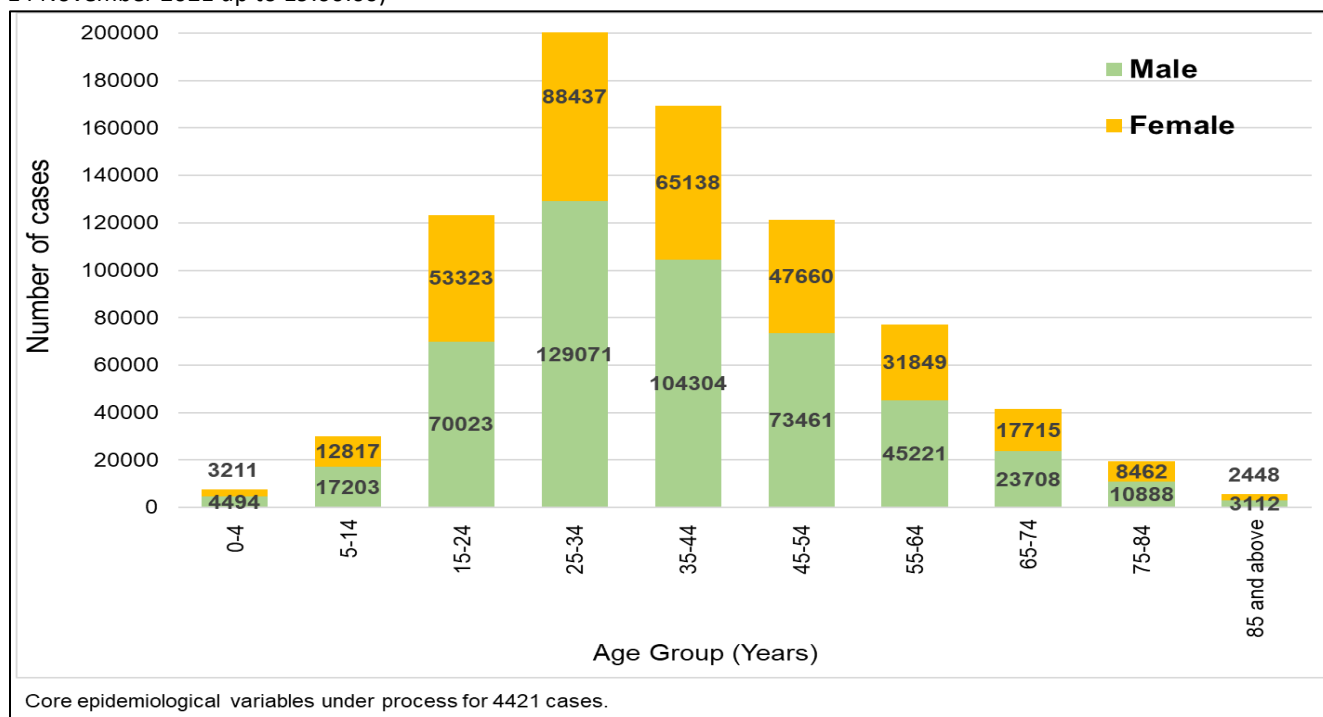
1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT- PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city's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

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Figure 4: Distribution of RT-PCR positive COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 812545)(Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)



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 RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases (N = 816966)(Data reported on 14 November 2021 up to 19:00:00)

Age Group (Years)	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4	7705	16	21	13	0.48
5-14	30020	13	7	10	0.07
15-24	123346	87	86	61	0.14
25-34	217508	367	257	135	0.29
35-44	169442	858	438	262	0.76
45-54	121121	1346	623	521	1.63
55-64	77070	1624	765	710	3.1
65-74	41423	1575	841	871	5.83
75-84	19350	1156	619	683	9.17
85+	5560	483	269	235	13.53
Unknown	4421	19	7	11	0.59
National	816966	7544	3933	3512	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 11,477 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,544 (65.7%) were males and 3,933 (34.3%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,512 persons (30.6%) 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 5.8% to 13.5%.

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 Covishield/AstraZeneca, Sinopharm and 1st dose of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine (from 24 hospitals) to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan.
 - Nepal reached the landmark of administering 15 million COVID-19 doses on 22 October 2021.
 - Nepal received 1,058,892 doses of Vero Cell vaccine from the Government of China on 10 November 2021.
 - As of 14 November 2021, Nepal has received 23,331,822 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources
 - A total of 16,457,688 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
 - Among the total population aged 18 years and above: 44.6% (8,877,555) have received the first dose while 38.0% (7,580,133) have received the full dose as of 14 November 2021.
 - Family Welfare Division has circulated vaccine specific interim guidance to all provincial, district and local levels for COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- 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:
 - H.E Swiss Ambassador to Nepal handed over 144,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Ministry of Health and Population donated by the Government of Switzerland to Government of Nepal through the COVAX Facility on 10 November 2021.
 - Ministry of Health and Population has also received 348,000 doses of Astrazeneca vaccine under COVAX facility- a partnership between CEPI, GAVI, UNICEF and WHO on 10 November 2021.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

Laboratory Diagnosis

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to National Public Health Laboratory (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. Out of 15 participating laboratories, the result of 14 laboratories was 100% concordant and 1 laboratory was <90% concordant.

- Shipment of samples for fifth round of SARS-CoV-2 real-time PCR assay proficiency panel to 96 designated COVID-19 laboratories.

Technical Planning and Operations

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical and financial support to the National Health Training Center (NHTC) for capacity building training of service providers (doctors and nurses) in all the provinces. This training program is being organized in coordination with Nepal Pediatric Society (NEPAS) for the provincial-level Pediatric Essential Critical Care Training PECCCT service providers. The training is being conducted at Pokhara Academy of Health Sciences, Kaski district, Gandaki Province from 14 to 17 November 2021. There are 16 participants and 8 trainers in the training. So, far this training has already been conducted in three provinces (Province 1, Province 2 and Lumbini Province) with 48 trained health workers.



Pediatric Essential Critical Care Training (PECCCT) at Gandaki Province, (Left) Breakout session-Advance Airway, (Right) Breakout session- Fluid and Electrolyte Management. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S.Thapaliya

- WHO Nepal attended a meeting on 'Management of Post COVID-19 Conditions: Trans-disciplinary Training of Tertiary Level Health Care Staff of Dhulikhel Hospital' at Dhulikhel, Kavre District, Bagmati Province. There were 19 participants which included physiotherapist, nursing staff, medical doctors during the meeting held on 12 November 2021. The trans-disciplinary training package was reviewed, and feedback given to the experts. The next meeting has been planned for 19 November 2021.



Management of Post COVID-19 Conditions: Trans-disciplinary Training of Tertiary Level Health Care Staff of Dhulikhel Hospital, Dhulikhel. Photo Courtesy: WHO Nepal/I. Joshi

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
58	Tuberculosis and COVID-19	Nepali	OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link
59	Flu and COVID-19	Maithili	OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link
59	Flu and COVID-19	Nepali	OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link

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

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
7	Tobacco and COVID-19	Nepali	The news was shared via Facebook (link here) and Twitter (link here (English); link here (Nepali)). The teaser was also shared via Facebook (link here) and Twitter (link here (English); link here (Nepali)).

- Infographics pack on public health and safety measures against COVID-19 during reopening of schools was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- Important information on the introduction of the Pfizer vaccines in Nepal were shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- The news of the handover of over 348,000 doses of Astrazeneca vaccines to the Government of Nepal via the COVAX Facility (a partnership between CEPI, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF, and WHO), amidst a programme held at the Ministry of Health and Population, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).

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- 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*.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Public health and social measures against COVID-19,
 - Importance of public health and social measures against COVID-19 after vaccinations,
 - Importance of routine immunization during COVID-19,
 - Harmful use of tobacco and COVID-19,
 - 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 responses to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.
- WHO Nepal has been supporting health cluster lead in 3W mapping of health partners' support and is disseminated from 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**

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- [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](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

WHO Representative

Dr Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav
WHO Representative to the
Government of Nepal
Email: pandavr@who.int

Health Cluster Co-lead

Dr Sunoor Verma
Pillar Lead – Partner Coordination
WHO Country Office for Nepal
COVID-19 Response IMS
Email: sverma@who.int

WHO Incident Manager

Dr Allison Gocotano
Team Leader - WHO Health
Emergencies Program (WHE)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gocotanoa@who.int

Communication/Media Focal Point

Ms Tsering Dolkar Gurung
Media, Communication and Public
Information Officer
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gurungt@who.int