

Situation Update #86- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 29 November – 5 December 2021
(EPI Week 48)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 05 December 2021 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 06 December 2021)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 97.8% (804544) of cases have recovered, 0.8% (6,507) are active cases and 1.4% (11541) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 94.7% (6,163) cases are in home isolation; 5.3% (344) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.6% (107) of active cases require ICU admission, 26.2% (28) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Two districts (Kathmandu and Lalitpur) reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (1,714) reported this week, 33.5% (575) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district with 14.2% (244). Majority of the new cases about 51.3% (879) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.

- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status *(as of 06 December 2021, 09:20Hrs)*

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer	
First dose	: 3,437,036	First dose	: 6,940,787	Single Dose	: 1,573,091	First dose	: 53,836
Second dose	: 2,082,780	Second dose	: 5,069,914				

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- A total of 4,662,680 RT-PCR tests were performed nationwide by 103 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation (as of 5 December 2021). Of the total functional laboratories, 59 are public laboratories while 44 are private laboratories.
- As of 5 December 2021, a total of 822,592 (17.6%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,662,680 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 95,592 (12.9%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 742,204 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 05 December 2021)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 822,592

Antigen RDT : 95,592

Cumulative deaths: 11,541

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 4,662,680

Antigen RDT: 95,592

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

44,638,985 (17%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

711,660 (14%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

264,815,815 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

5,249,793 (100%)

- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 48 ranged from 2.0% (Province 2) to 10.2% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 3.3%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (487,560/822,592) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (379,156/487,560) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

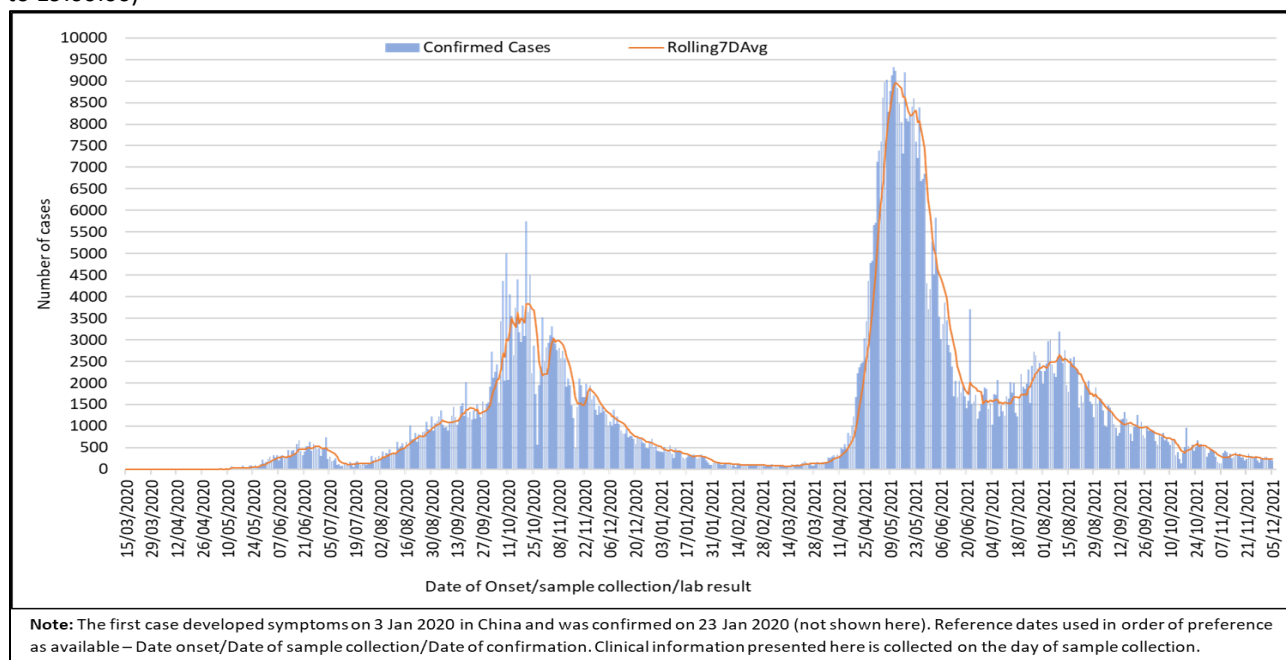
National Influenza Surveillance

- National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) reported 5 diagnostic and surveillance samples tested at National Influenza center (NIC) on Epi - week 48.
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPID-week 48, 75 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples have been tested for Influenza for the same week.
 - 1 sample tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
- From 4 January until 5 December 2021:
 - A total of 1119 samples tested positive for Influenza (603 Influenza A/H3, 236 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 SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza B Victoria, 2 Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 270 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 6314 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 614 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 2148 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).¹

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

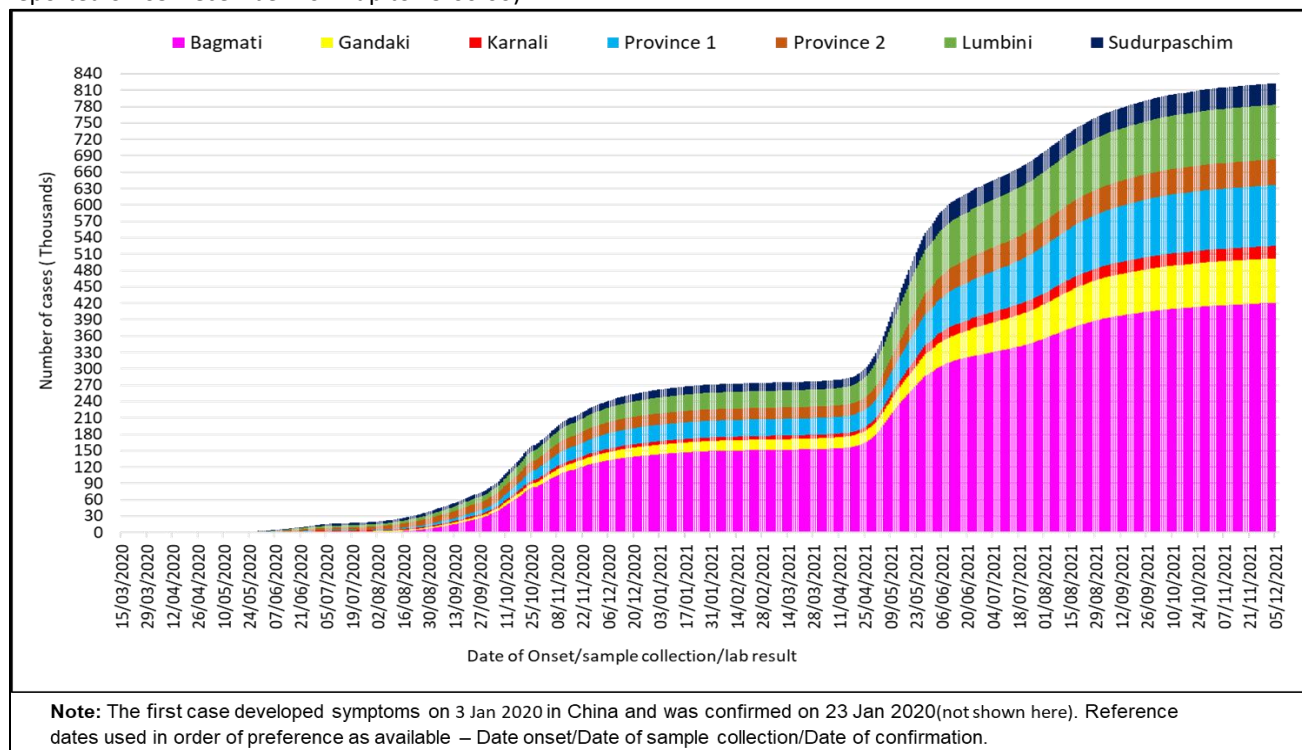
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 822592)(Data reported on 05 December 2021 up to 19:00:00)



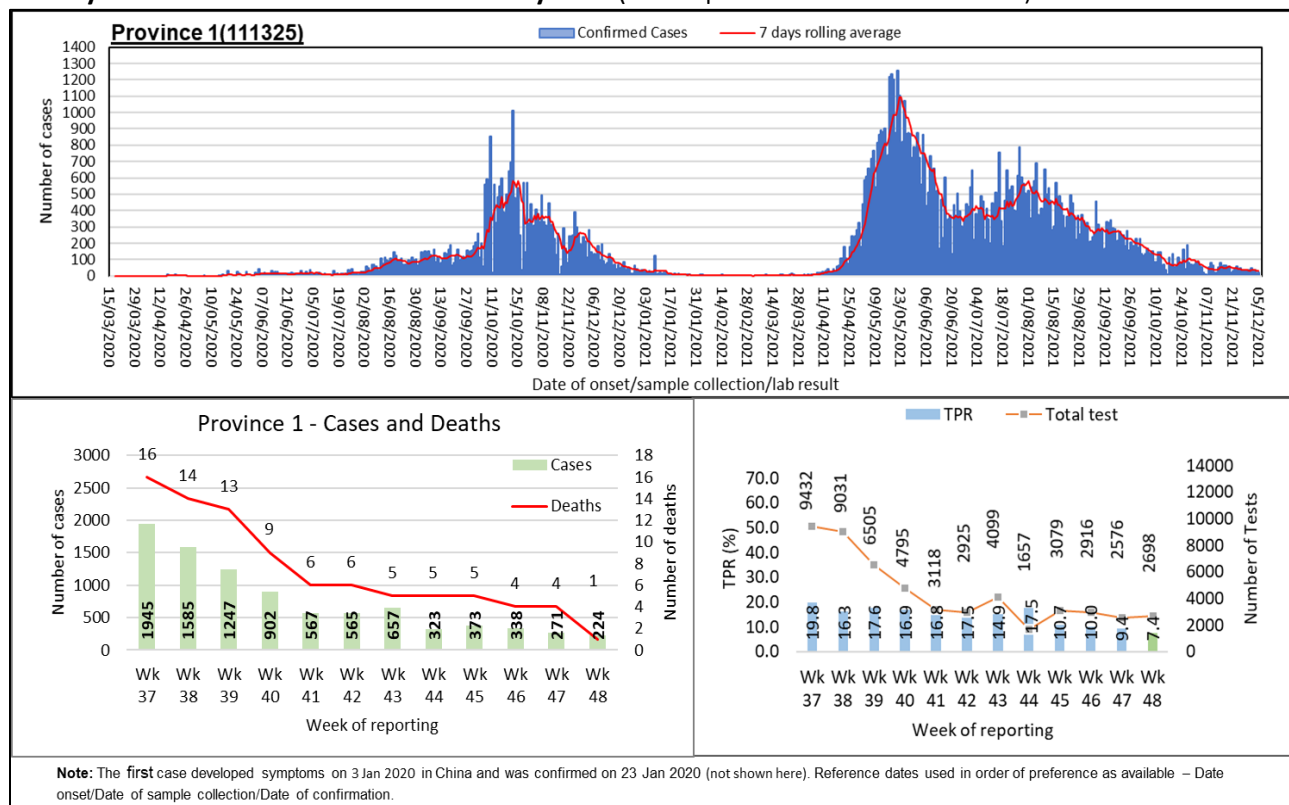
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. The total RT-PCR tests done in Nepal on 5 December 2021 was 7995 which is 60% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases by province (N = 822592)(Data reported on 05 December 2021 up to 19:00:00)



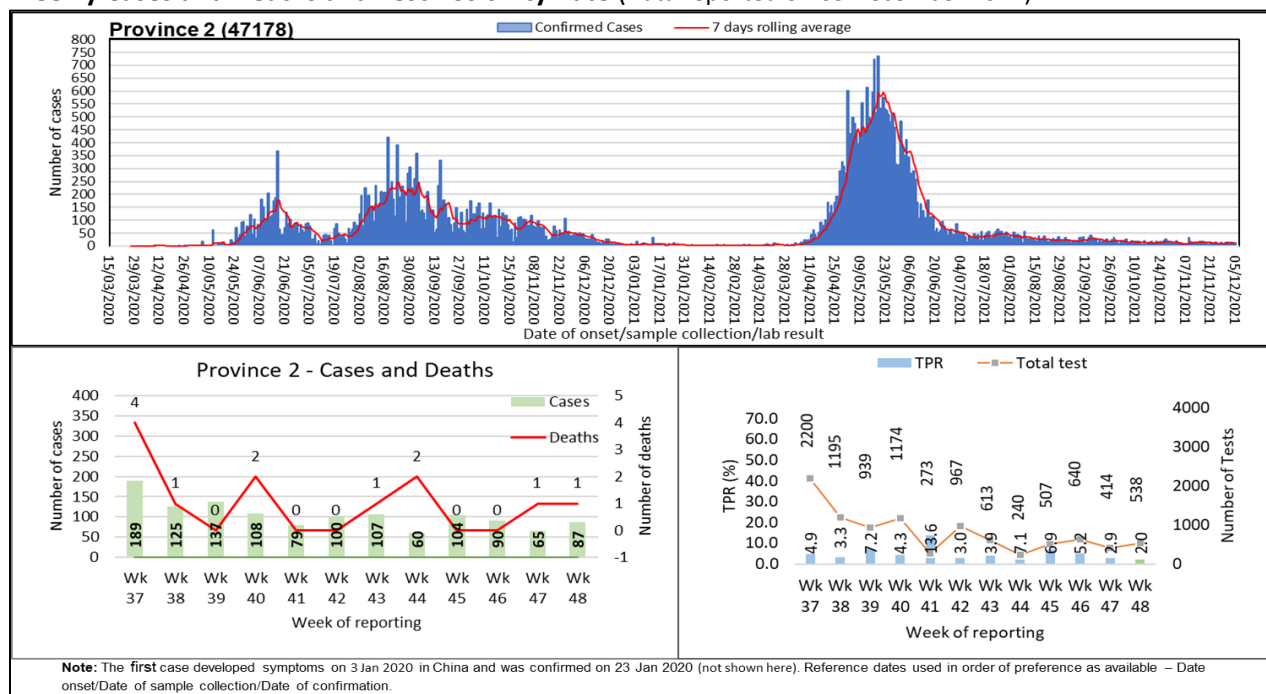
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 05 December 2021)



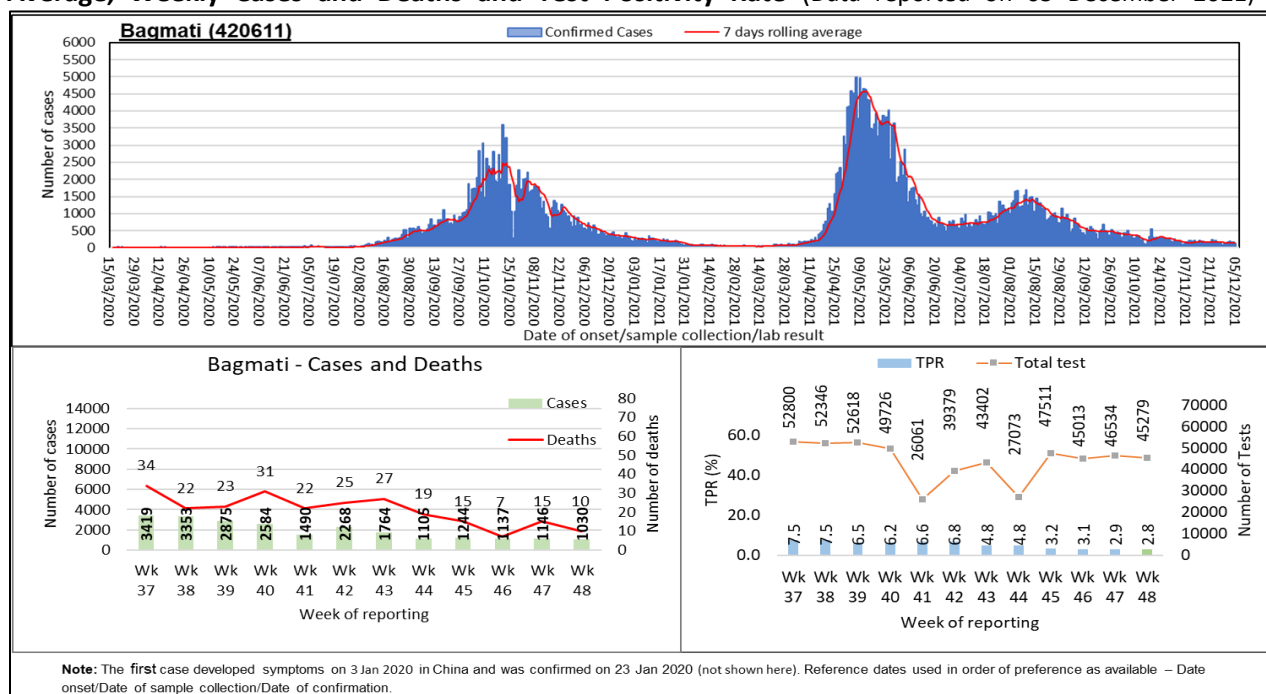
There were 224 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 17% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 75% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 7.4% in the past week. A total of 2698 tests were performed in the past week, 5% 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 05 December 2021)



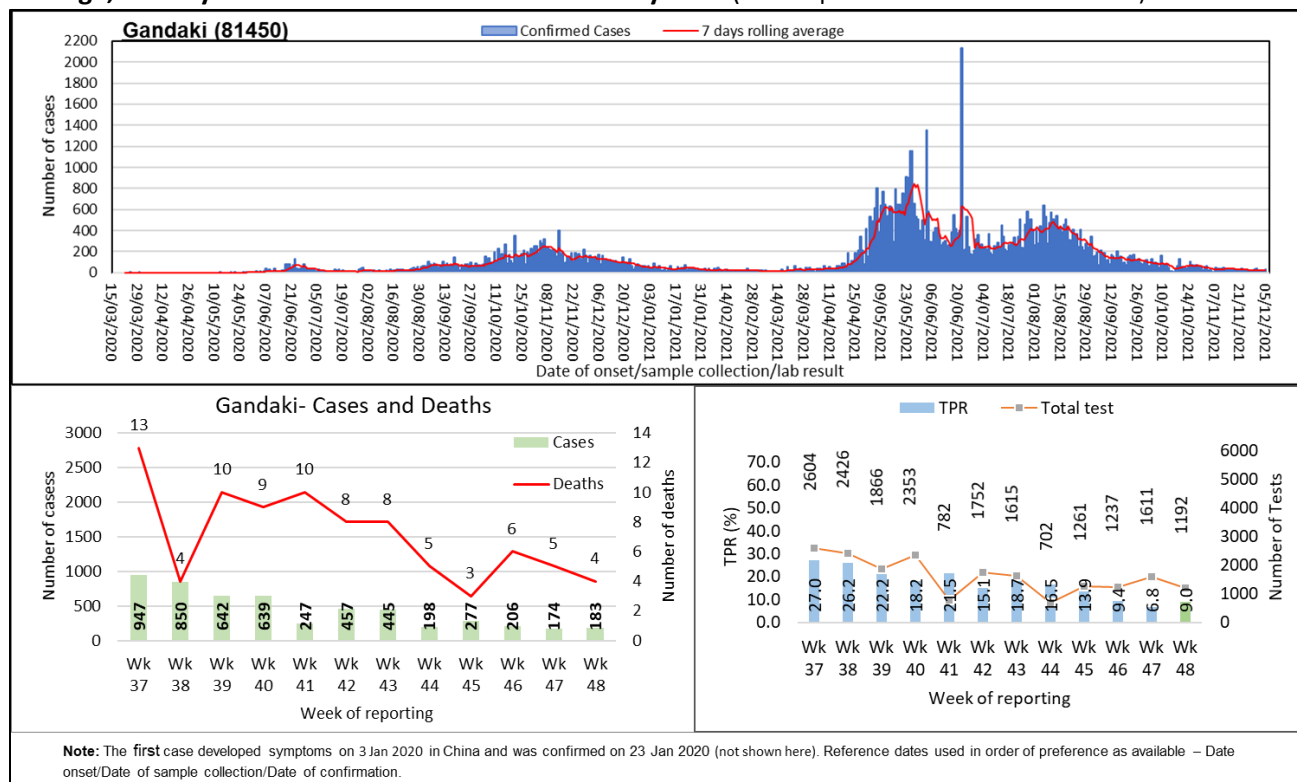
There were 87 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 34% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 2.0% in the past week. A total of 538 tests were performed in the past week, 30% 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 05 December 2021)



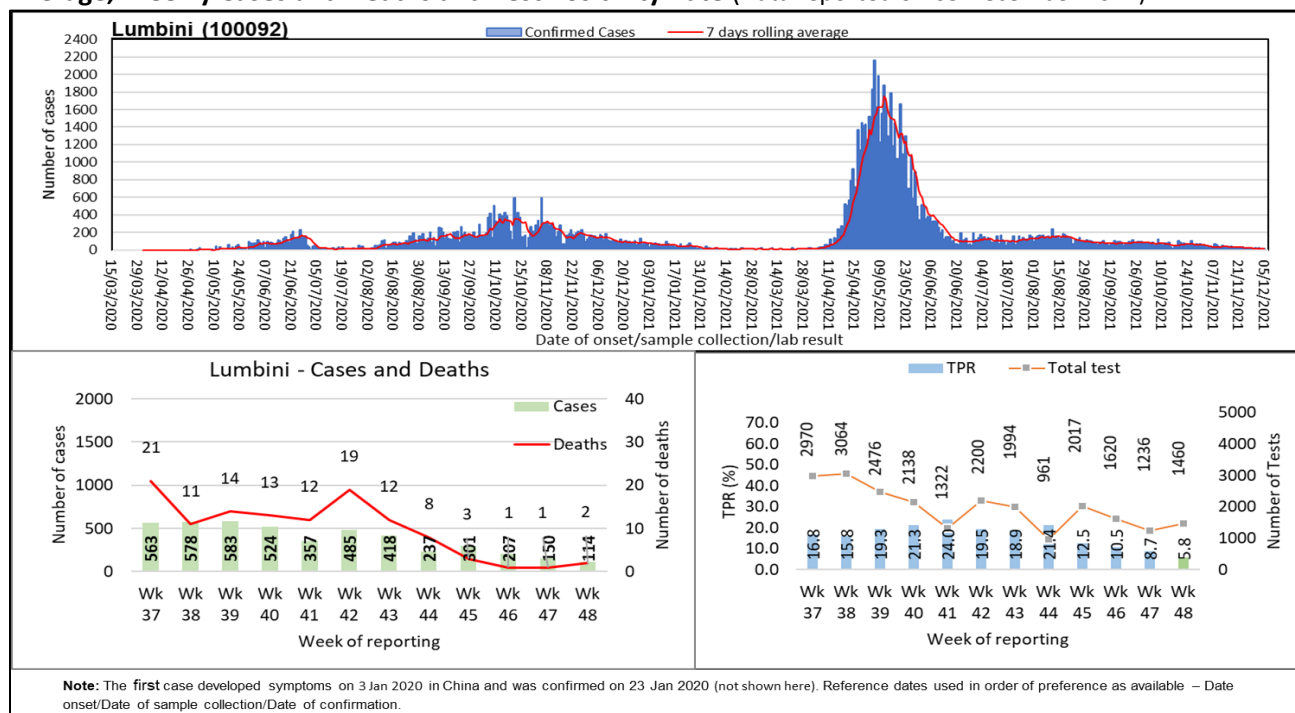
In Bagmati, 1030 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 10% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 10 deaths reported in the past week, 33% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 2.8% in the past week. A total of 45,279 tests were performed in the past week, 3% less 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 05 December 2021)



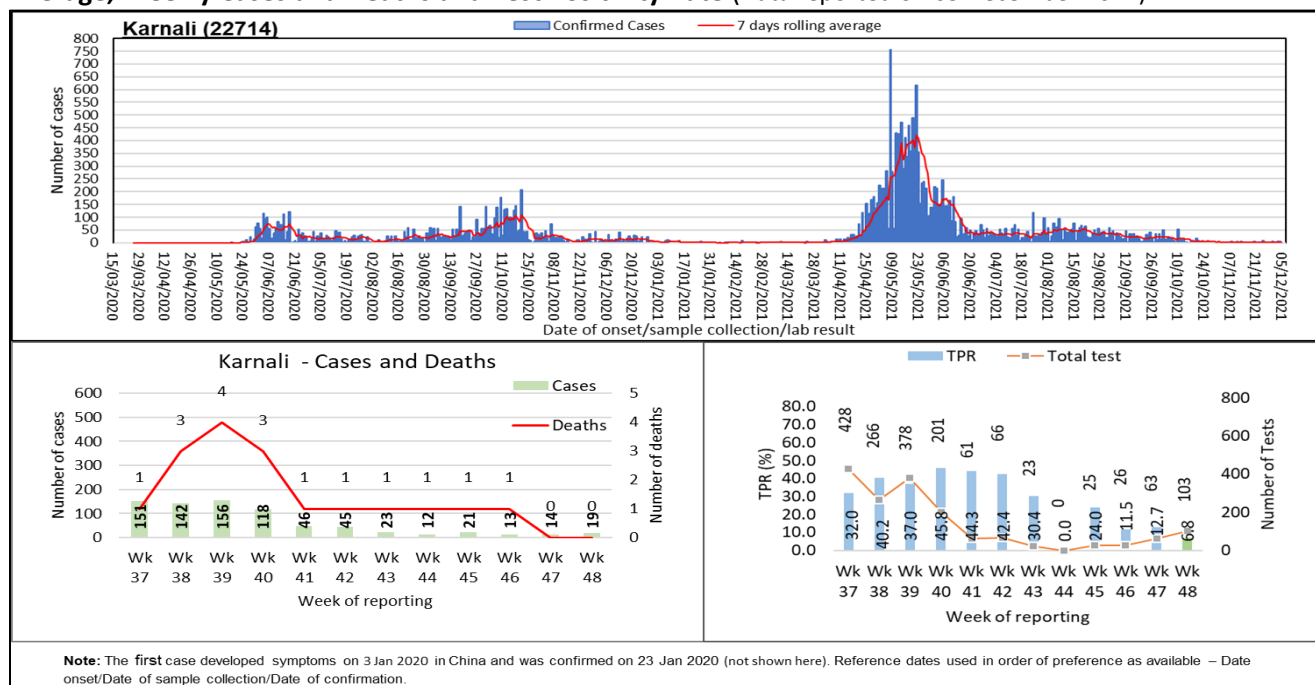
In Gandaki, 183 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 21, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 5% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 20% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 9.0% in the past week. A total of 1192 tests were performed in the past week, 26% less 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 05 December 2021)



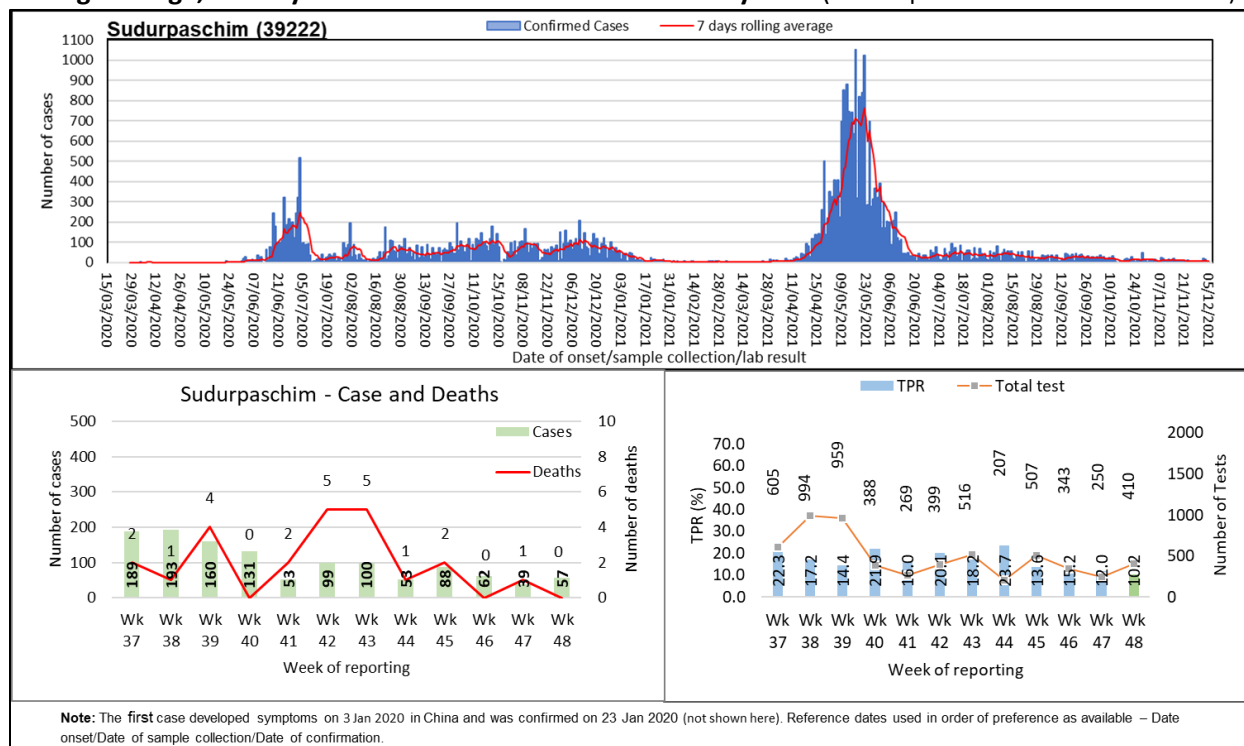
Lumbini reported 114 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 24% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 5.8% in the past week. A total of 1460 tests were performed in the past week, 18% 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 05 December 2021)



In Karnali, 19 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 36% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 6.8% in the past week. A total of 103 tests were performed in the past week, 63% more than that of 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 05 December 2021)



In Sudurpashchim, 57 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 46% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 10.2% in the past week. A total of 410 tests were performed in the past week, 64% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 05 December 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	111325	25781	137106	15.1	1668	Community transmission	39	528	567	14.0	5
Province 2	47178	497	47675	5.3	771	Community transmission	2	165	167	4.1	2
Bagmati	420611	20049	440660	48.6	4939	Community transmission	45	2318	2363	58.4	25
Gandaki	81450	16813	98263	10.8	1368	Community transmission	31	378	409	10.1	9
Lumbini	100092	15828	115920	12.8	1820	Community transmission	93	283	376	9.3	3
Karnali	22714	3203	25917	2.9	484	Community transmission	18	35	53	1.3	0
Sudurpashchim	39222	2483	41705	4.6	491	Community transmission	13	98	111	2.7	1
National Total	822592	84654*	907246	100	11541	Community transmission	241	3805	4046	100	45

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 05 December 95592; but IMU reported 84654*

Notes:

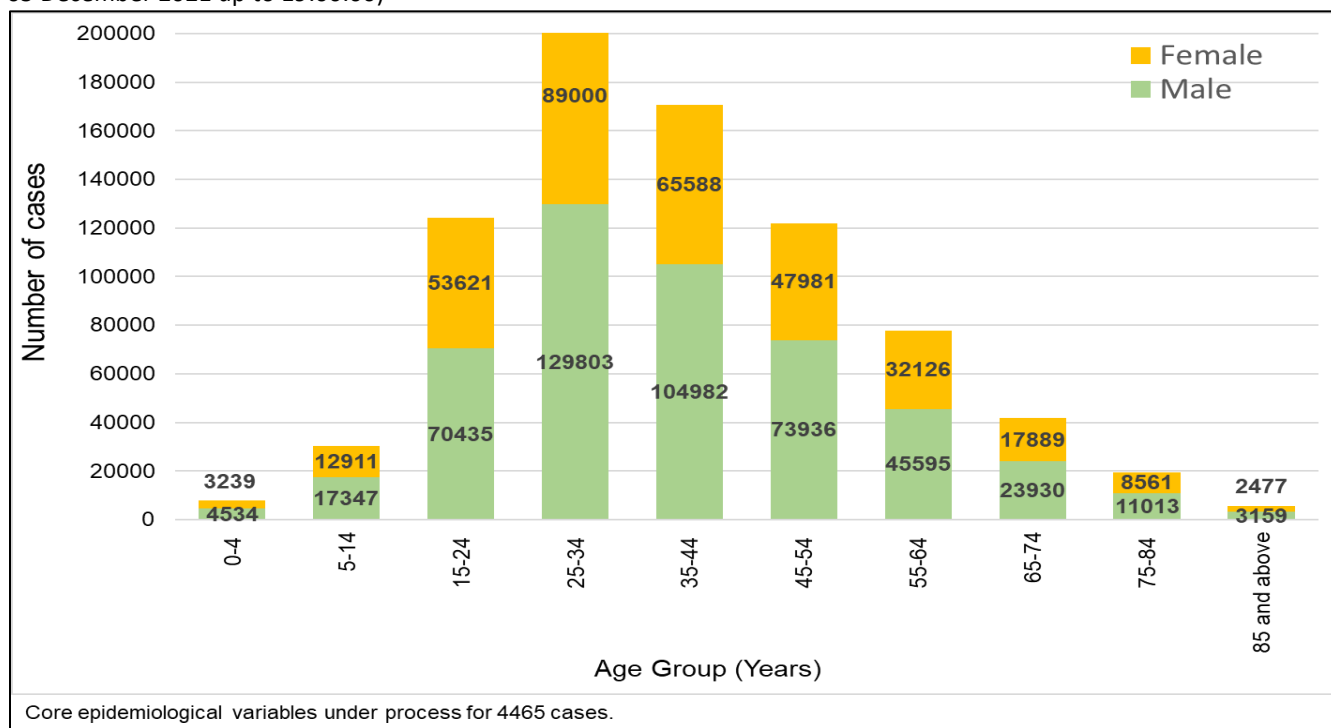
1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT- PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city's name in place of district's, district's 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 = 818127) (Data reported on 05 December 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 = 822592)(Data reported on 05 December 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	7773	16	21	13	0.48
5-14	30258	13	7	10	0.07
15-24	124056	88	89	62	0.14
25-34	218803	368	259	135	0.29
35-44	170570	861	440	264	0.76
45-54	121917	1351	624	524	1.62
55-64	77721	1632	769	714	3.09
65-74	41819	1579	847	875	5.8
75-84	19574	1165	626	693	9.15
85+	5636	489	271	239	13.48
Unknown	4465	19	7	11	0.58
National	822592	7581	3960	3540	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 11,541 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,581 (65.7%) were males and 3,960 (34.3%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,540 persons (30.7%) 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?

- A press release was circulated by MoHP regarding awareness on SARS-CoV 2 Variant Omicron (B.1.1.529) spreading rapidly in South Africa and some Asian Countries on 1 December 2021 (Link [Here](#)).
 - First confirmed cases of SARS-CoV 2 Variant Omicron (B.1.1.529) was detected on 05 December 2021 in the country. Following which, MoHP announcement was made on 06 December 2021 (Link [Here](#)).
 - Likewise, WHO Representative to Nepal Dr. Rajesh Pandav's also shared Statement on Omicron confirmation in the country on 6 December 2021 (Link [Here](#)).
- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) conducted an orientation program on National Ambulance Guideline 2078 (Link [Here](#)) in Kathmandu Valley on 29 November 2021.
- MoHP has relocated the National Tele-consultation center (1133) from HEOC, MoHP to COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital, Bir Hospital, Kathmandu district on 2 December 2021.
- 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.
 - Till now, Nepal has received 27,356,530 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources.
 - Nepal received 188,400 doses of Moderna vaccine from COVAX facility on 03 December 2021.
 - As of 05 December 2021, a total of 19,157,444 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
 - Among the total target population (19,922,164) aged 18 years and above: 52% (10,431,659) have received the first dose (excluding J&J vaccine) while 44% (8,725,785) have received the second dose as of 05 December 2021. 60% of the targeted population have received at least first dose including J&J vaccine.
 - Family Welfare Division has circulated vaccine specific interim guidance to all provincial, district and local levels for COVID- 19 vaccination campaign.

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 10 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of 7 participating laboratories was $\geq 90\%$ concordant and that of 3 laboratories was $< 90\%$ concordant.
 - Validation of two newly established designated COVID-19 laboratories:
 1. Nagarik Community Teaching Hospital Limited, Bhaktapur district and
 2. Nepal Lab House, Kathmandu district.The designated laboratories sent 10 positive samples and 10 negative samples to NPHL to undergo the validation process. The result of both the laboratories showed 100% concordance. WHO Nepal supported in the validation, report preparation, and dissemination of the result to the respective laboratories.
 - Result compilation of the fifth round proficiency panel testing of 67 designated COVID-19 laboratories.
- WHO Nepal also provided technical and financial support to NPHL in conducting training on 'National Integrated Influenza-SARS CoV-2 Sentinel Surveillance in Nepal' held in Kathmandu from 28-30 November. . A total of 25 participants (lab technician/ lab technologists/ data persons) attended the training program representing provincial public health laboratories and sentinel sites of National Influenza Surveillance Network (NISN).

Technical Planning and Operations

- WHO Nepal attended a meeting with the Curative Service Division (CSD) on 05 December 2021 to finalize the date for the orientation program on Telemedicine to be organized in Karnali Province. Due to closure of the Surkhet Airport of Karnali Province, the program has been moved to Nepalgunj, Banke District of Lumbini Province. The date for the orientation program has been scheduled for 12-13 December 2021 with attendees from Karnali Province.
- WHO Nepal also attended a meeting organized by CSD on 05 December 2021 to discuss on 'Post COVID Conditions Guideline Development: Consultation with Rehabilitation Experts'. Along with officials from CSD and WHO, experts from National Trauma Centre, Dhulikhel Hospital, Spinal Injury and Rehabilitation Centre were present in person, whereas 3 rehabilitation experts from provincial level attended the meeting virtually and gave their feedback. The purpose of the meeting was to develop and integrate rehabilitation components in the Post COVID Condition (PCC) guidelines. The meeting concluded with the plan to submit the draft rehabilitation components for the guidelines by 10 December 2021.

- WHO Nepal also attended a meeting to mark 'Celebration of 30th International Day of Persons with Disability 2021' on 3 December 2021 at the National Health Training Center (NHTC). The meeting was also attended by health officials from NHTC, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), Nursing and Social Security Division (NSSD) and Leprosy Control and Disability Management Section (LCDMS). There was interaction with stakeholders and media person during the meeting and sharing of the achievements of persons with disabilities through the joint WHO- National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) 'Yes We Can Project'.

Point of Entry

- A meeting of the council of ministers (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) has decided to ban entry of passengers arriving and transiting from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Malawi and Hong Kong following the spread of the new variant of the COVID-19 virus (Omicron). This notice regarding travel restriction came into effect on 2 December 2021 (link [Here](#)).
- Following the detection of Omicron variant in the country, all the health desks at the ground crossings across the country were alerted to coordinate with respective Provincial Public Health Laboratories and Provincial HEOC to transport the collected COVID-19 Antigen Test positive samples of the travellers to NPHL. The decision was made under the leadership of EDCD and came into effect on 29 November 2021. The collected samples are to be sent to NPHL for gene sequencing to identify the new COVID-19 variant (Omicron).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- WHO provided a general briefing on Omicron variant to the UN townhall and a technical briefing to the UN, International Development Partners Group, and Humanitarian Country Team on 01 December 2021.
- WHO Nepal's support to the National Health Education Information Communication Center (NHEICC) continued this week by providing risk communication expertise through staff embedded at the NHEICC.
- WHO Nepal continues to support EDCD Call Center in tracking the rumours, misinformation and addressing the concerns.
 - Total received calls this week- 1300 of which (1133) 87.2% answered.
 - Average number of calls per day: 186
 - Total Interactive Voice Record (IVR) count is 551
 - Most of incoming calls were from Bagmati province (51.9%), followed by Sudurpashchim Province (6.2%), Lumbini Province (3.6%), province 1 (3.4%), Gandaki Province (2.8%), province 2 (1.6%), Karnali Province (1.2%) and unknown Provinces (29.2%)
 - % of callers on different category included Vaccination (35%), information on COVID-19 (30.7%), current status of COVID-19 (13.4%), lockdown, quarantine & isolation

(3.2%), testing process (4.4%), information about health care services (1.7%), reporting of suspected case (2.9%), food & safety (0.5%), hospital & treatment (0.2%), other issues related to COVID-19 (5.6%) and other non COVID-19 related issues (2.1%).

- Concerns have been received regarding the new COVID-19 variant (Omicron) and COVID-19 vaccination for which updated timely responses have been provided by the EDCC call center agents.
- Science in 5 podcast series released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)) with details below:

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
10	Differences between the symptoms of common cold 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))

- Information on the new variant of concern – Omicron – was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). An infographic on WHO's advice on travel-related risk mitigation measures was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)).
- Message from Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director (RD), WHO South-East Asia, on confirmation of Omicron cases in the Region, was translated in Nepali and shared with members of the Nepali press. The press release (*WHO South-East Asia Region confirms first few cases of Omicron, countries urged to step up COVID-19 response measures*) was also shared. RD's tweets were also re-tweeted.
- The month-long #ProtectHealthWorkers campaign, with the key message to respect health and care workers and applaud their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, was launched via Facebook and Twitter. The campaign poster was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) (English); link [here](#) (Nepali)), and the campaign video was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)). The campaign also compliments WHO's year-long *International Year of Health Workers* campaign.
- The news of the launch of the first teleconsultation center at Bir Hospital was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The centre, funded by EU Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid - ECHO, will enhance the capacity at the COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital. The public can call 1133, a toll-free number, and receive medical advice from licensed doctors for ailments other than COVID-19 as well. The free health consultations will support the hospital to provide timely, accessible, affordable, and equitable diagnosis, which will be beneficial for people living in remote areas. WHO, Country Office for Nepal, has been technically supporting the centre, financially supporting the infrastructure, and training human resource to run the center.
- On the occasion of *World AIDS Day*, a statement by WHO Representative to Nepal was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) which highlighted the challenges presented by the COVID-19

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pandemic for people living with HIV and presented a call to end inequalities in regards to related services and COVID-19 vaccinations. Infographics, related to similar messages, were also shared via Facebook and Twitter.

- Social media posts highlighting the relationship between COVID-19 pandemic and gender-based violence (on the occasion of *16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence*) was shared via Facebook and Twitter.
- The following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 1. Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring,
 2. Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
 3. 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:
 1. Public health and social measures against COVID-19,
 2. *World Health Assembly* and COVID-19,
 3. HIV and COVID-19,
 4. Pregnancy and COVID-19,
 5. Importance of public health and social measures against COVID-19 after vaccinations,
 6. Information on the Omicron variant,
 7. *International day of Persons with Disabilities* and COVID-19,
 8. Harmful use of tobacco products and alcohol and COVID-19,
 9. Safety of COVID-19 vaccinations, and
 10. Importance of COVID-19 vaccinations.

Field Operations and Logistics Support

- WHO Operations Support and Logistics Pillar provided support in the following activities:
 - Installation of furniture and Internet facility for the new working station for WHO Health Emergencies surge staff at EDCCD, Department of Health Services (DoHS) on 30 November 2021.
 - Handover and inauguration of the National Tele-consultation Center at COVID-19 UNIFIED Central Hospital (Bir Hospital), Kathmandu district on 02 December 2021.



Glimpses from the launch of the National Teleconsultation Centre at COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal; Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- The 68th Health Cluster Coordination (HCC) meeting was organized virtually on 2 December 2021 by Ministry of Health and Population at the federal level. A total of 56 Health Cluster partners participated in the meeting and the following action points were decided:
 - All health partners to regularly update 3W Google sheet shared by Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC)
 - Health Cluster Secretariat to provide support specifications excel templates for COVID-19 lab testing to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) and Family Welfare Division (FWD)
 - NPHL and FWD to provide specification of requested support to Health Cluster Secretariat for further dissemination to health partners



68th Virtual Health Cluster Meeting held on 2 December 2021 at MoHP with 56 health cluster partners. Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/T. Bhatta

- Provincial Ministries and Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Health Cluster Coordination meeting for COVID-19 response, as and when required.
- UNICEF and WHO are providing overall support for COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with partners and donors.
- All members of the Health Cluster are advocating swift supply of COVID-19 vaccines to Nepal from various countries and donor agencies, for wider distribution of vaccines within the country through available channels.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID-19 response to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.
- WHO has been supporting Health Cluster lead in 3W mapping of health partners' support which is disseminated from 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](#)

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- WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard can be found [here](#)
- Visit the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

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