

Situation Update #89 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 20 - 26 December 2021 (EPI Week 51)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 26 December 2021 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 27 December 2021)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98% (810,780) of cases have recovered, 0.6% (4,906) are active cases and 1.4% (11,585) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 95.3% (4,677) cases are in home isolation; 4.7% (229) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.5% (75) of active cases require ICU admission, 32% (24) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Two districts (Kathmandu and Lalitpur) reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (1,535) reported this week, 39.5% (607) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district with 15% (230). Majority of the new cases about 59.3% (910) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 27 December 2021, 09:20Hrs)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	: 3,998,476	First dose	: 8,697,216	Single Dose	: 1,670,801	First dose	: 54,467	First dose	: 823,633
Second dose	: 2,437,953	Second dose	: 6,018,352			Second dose	: 39,398		

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 26 December 2021)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 827,271

Antigen RDT: 96,131

Cumulative deaths: 11,585

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 4,820,530

Antigen RDT: 803,782

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

44,899,674 (16%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

719,486 (13%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

278,714,484 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

5,393,950 (100%)

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 26 December 2021, a total of 827,271 (17.2%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,820,530 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 96,131 (11.9%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 803,782 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi Week 51 ranged from 2.7% (Bagmati province) to 9.6% (Gandaki province), with a national positivity rate at 3.0%. PCR tests were not reported for Karnali province for Epi Week 51.

- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (490,189/827,271) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (381,054/490,189) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

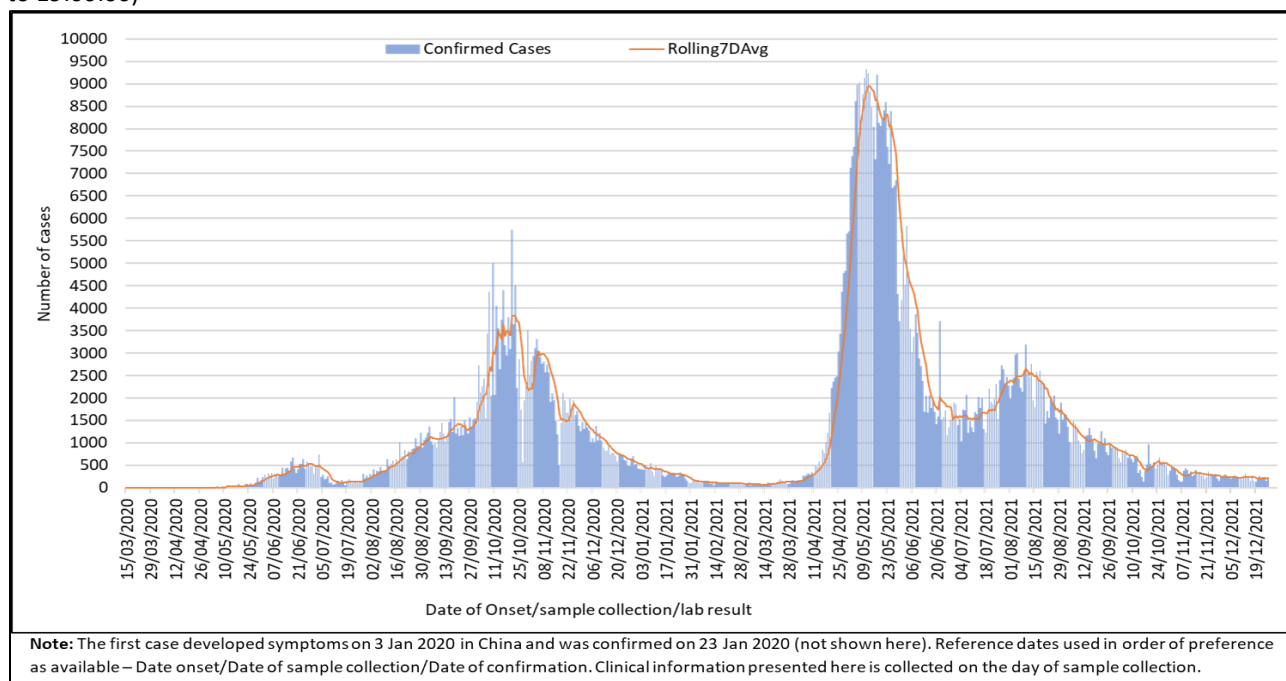
National Influenza Surveillance

- NPHL reported 18 diagnostic and surveillance samples with 1 sample tested at National Influenza center (NIC) and 17 samples tested at WARUN (Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal) on Epi - week 51 (20 - 26 December 2021).
 - 1 sample tested positive for Influenza B.
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 51, 71 SARS-CoV-2 Negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week.
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza
- From 4 January until 26 December 2021:
 - A total of 1138 samples have tested positive for Influenza (609 Influenza A/H3 , 239 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, 281 Influenza B Un-subtyped) from 6650 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 636 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 2259 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/>

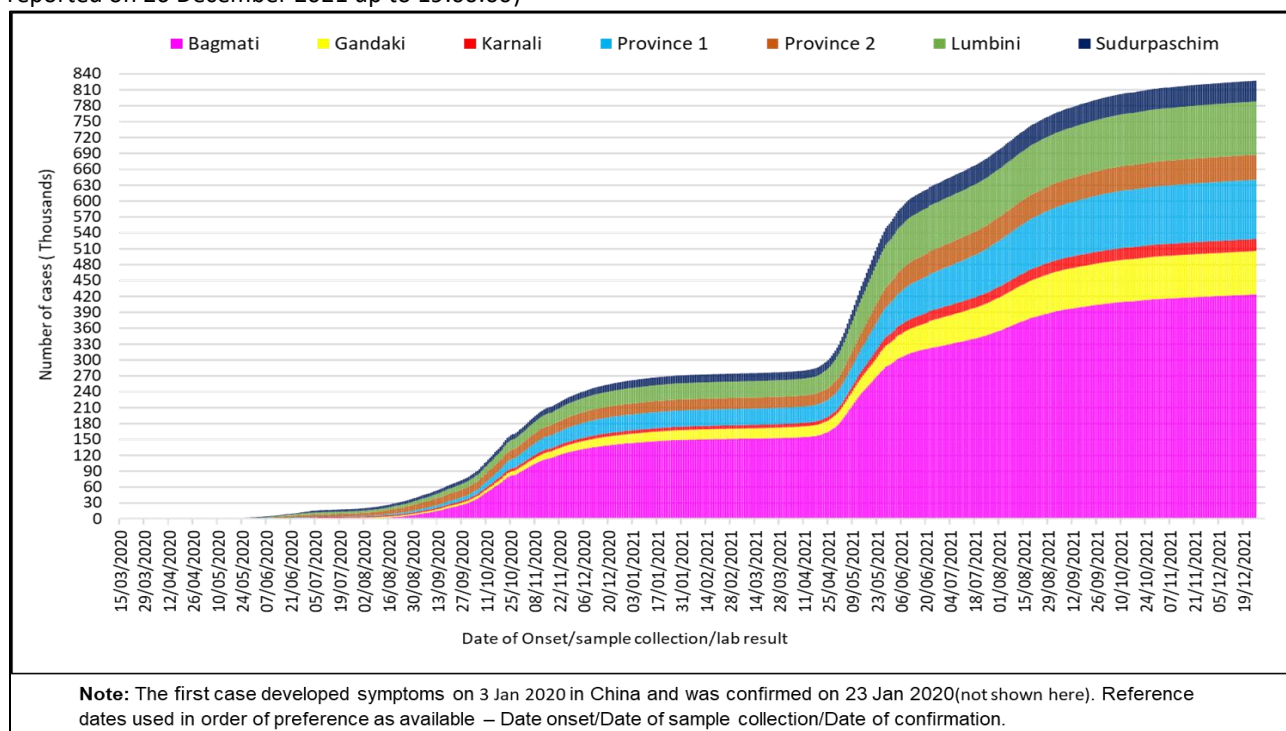
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 827271)(Data reported on 26 December 2021 up to 19:00:00)



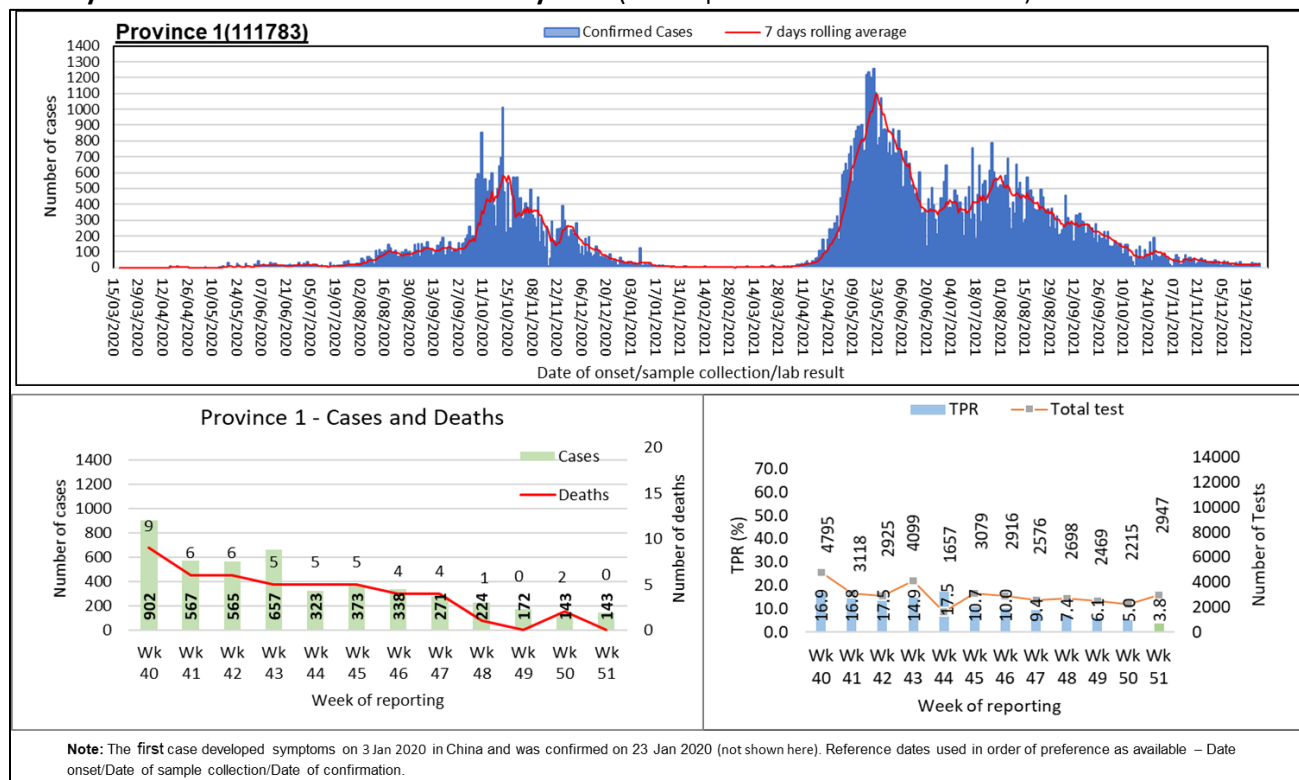
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. The total RT-PCR tests done in Nepal on 26 December 2021 was 7,180 which is 64% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases by province (N = 827271)(Data reported on 26 December 2021 up to 19:00:00)



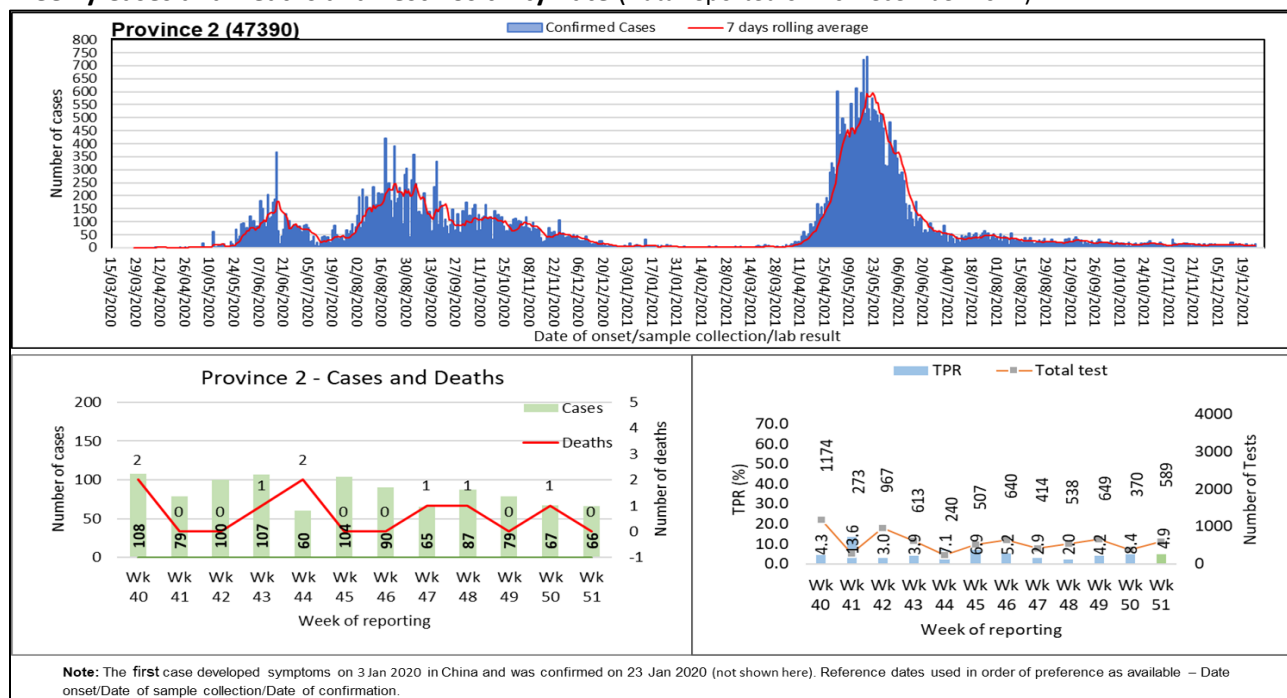
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 19 December 2021)



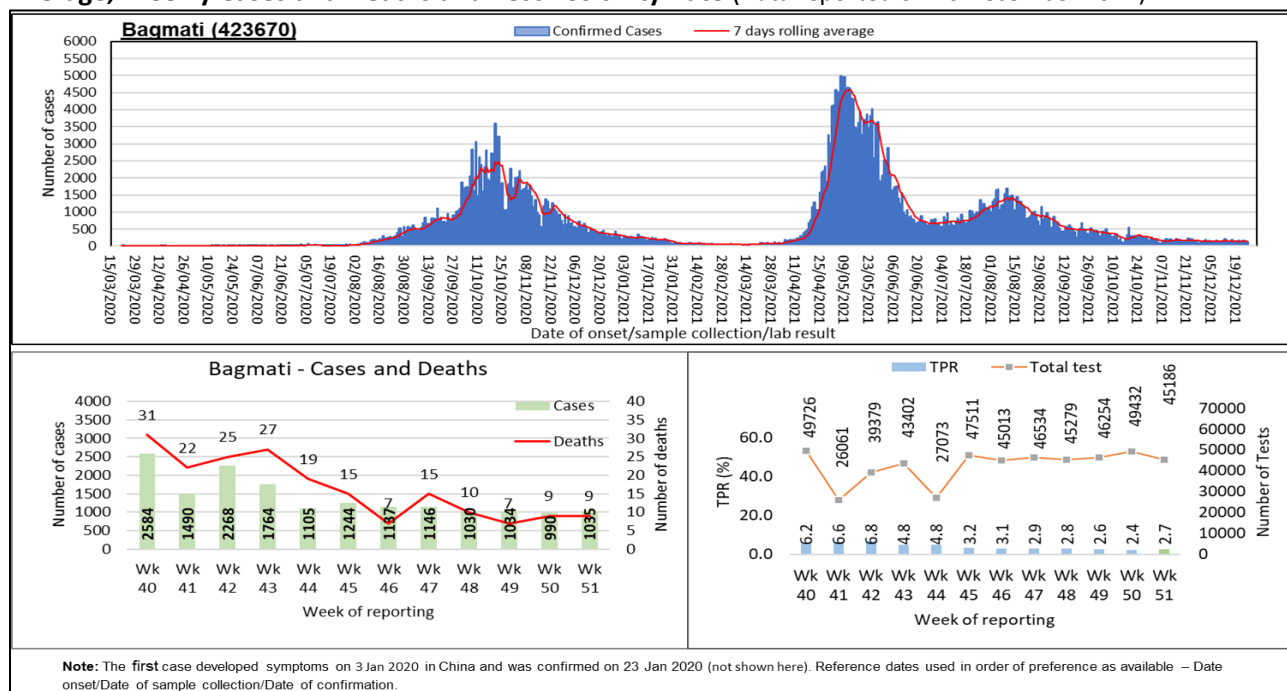
There were 143 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have remained stable in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 3.8% in the past week. A total of 2947 tests were performed in the past week, 33% 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 26 December 2021)



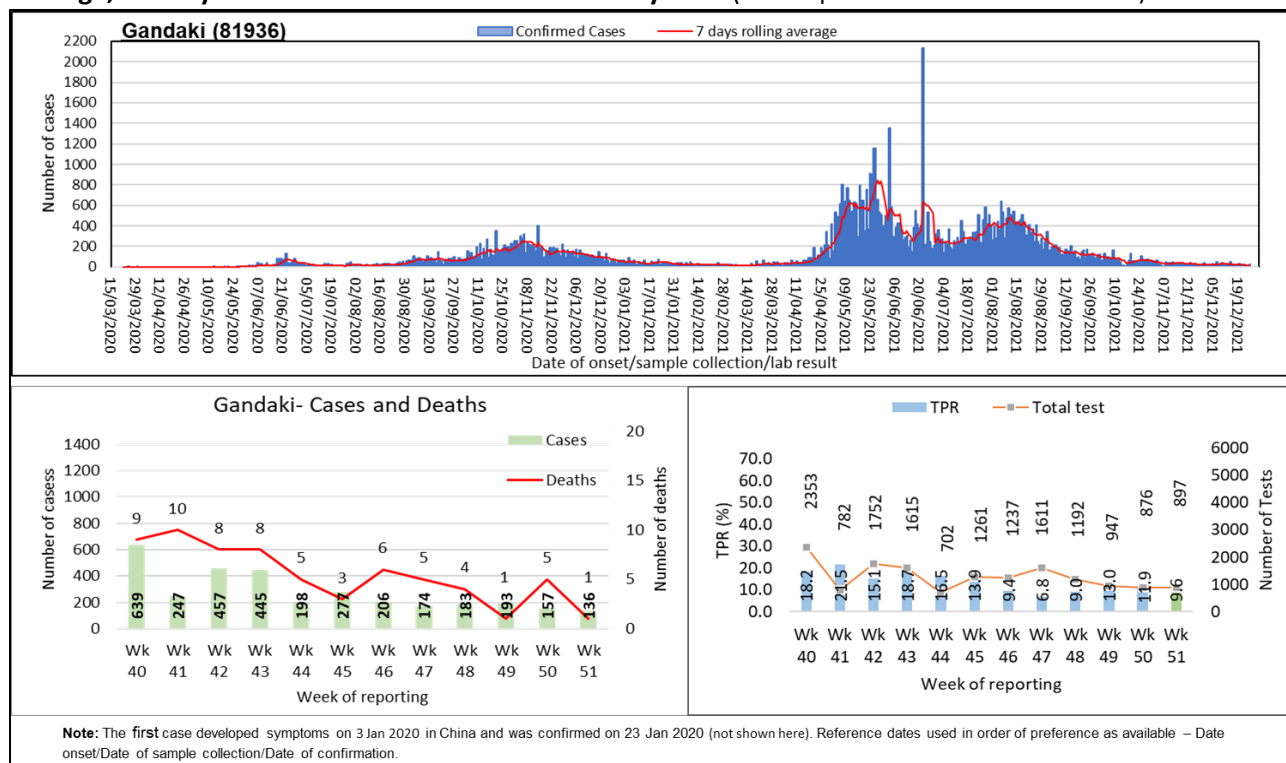
There were 66 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 1% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 4.9% in the past week. A total of 589 tests were performed in the past week, 59% 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 26 December 2021)



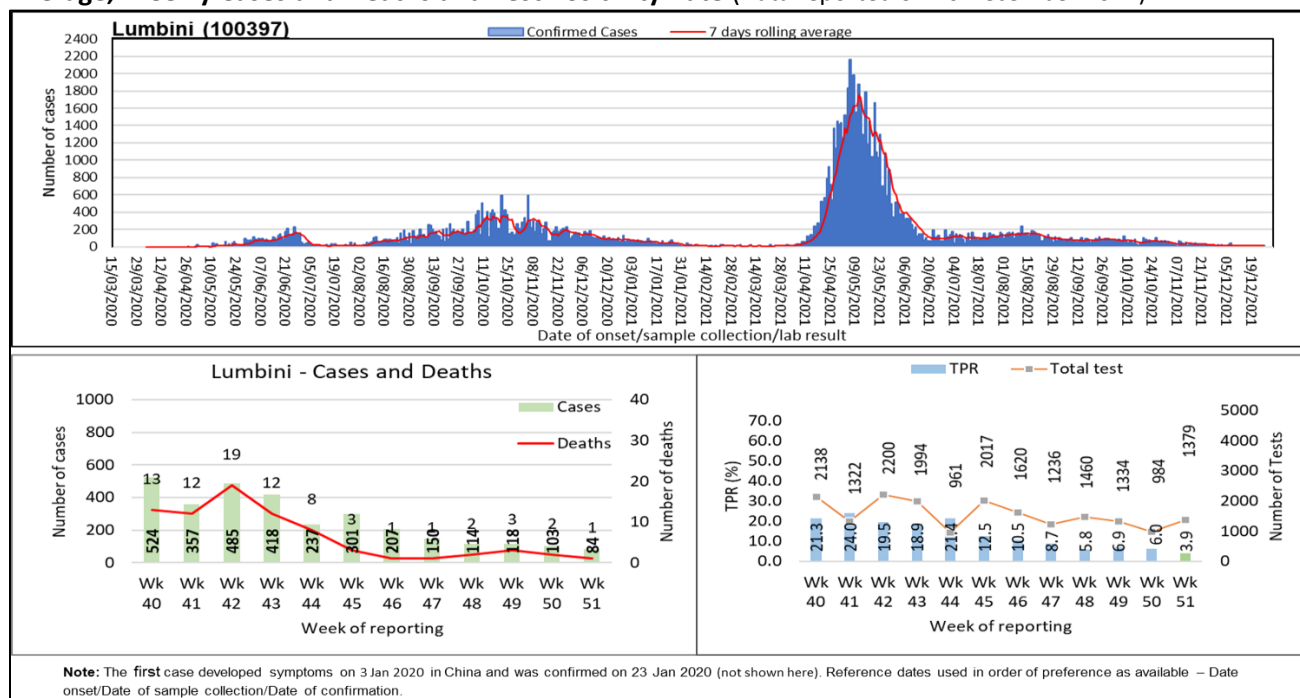
In Bagmati, 1035 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 5% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 9 deaths reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 2.7% in the past week. A total of 45,186 tests were performed in the past week, 9% 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 26 December 2021)



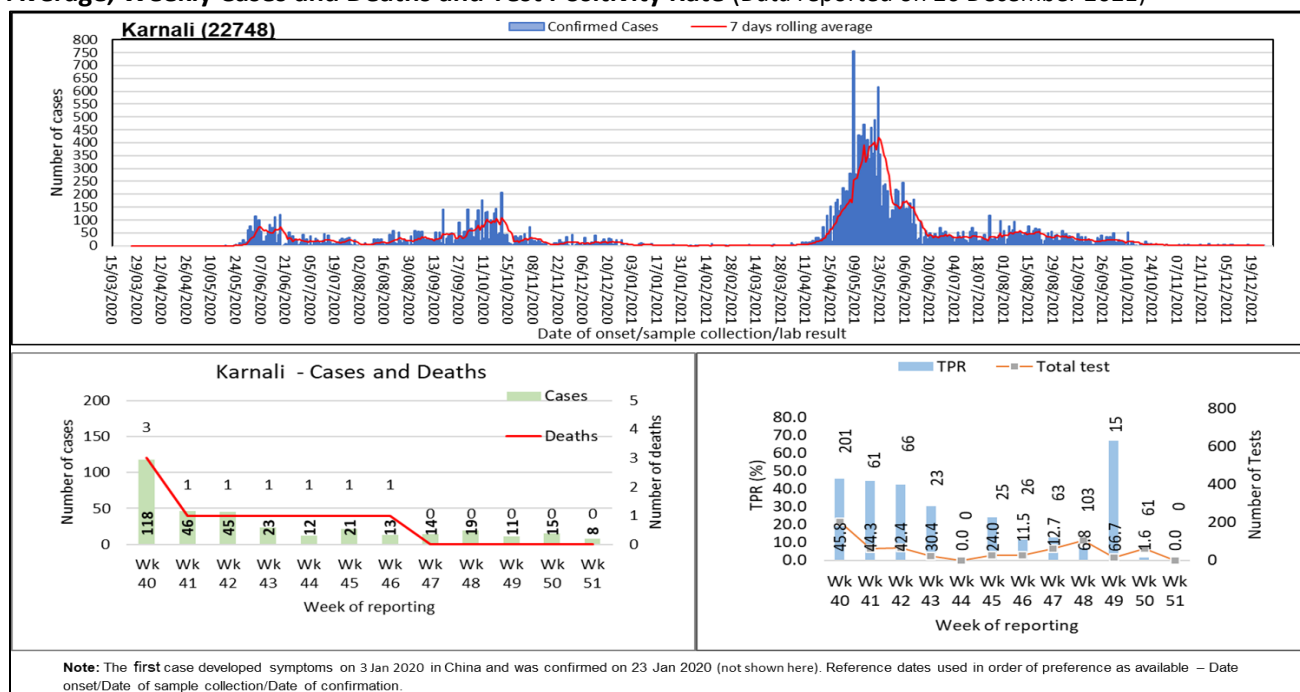
In Gandaki, 136 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 21, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 13% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 80% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 9.6% in the past week. A total of 897 tests were performed in the past week, 2% 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 26 December 2021)



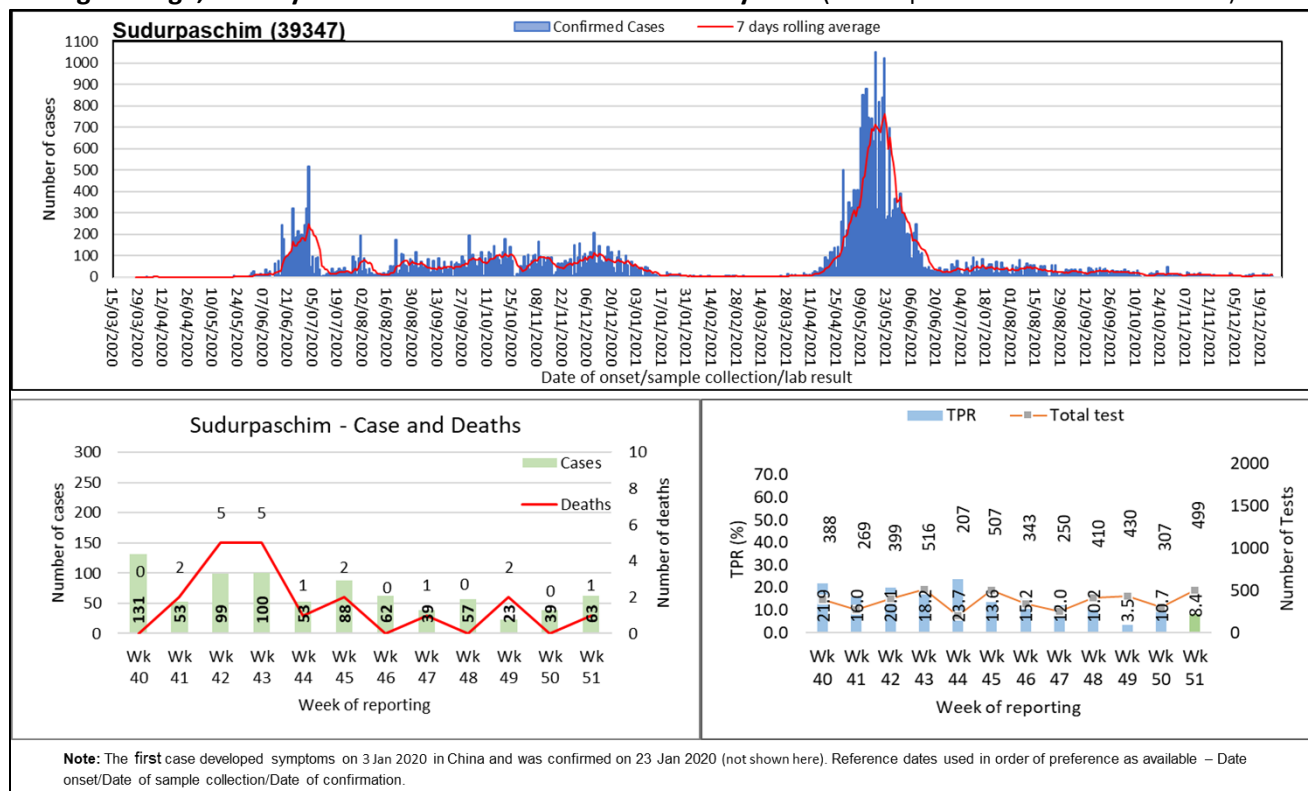
Lumbini reported 84 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 18% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 50% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 3.9% in the past week. A total of 1379 tests were performed in the past week, 40% 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 26 December 2021)



In Karnali, 8 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. The cases have decreased by 47% 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 was 0% in the past week since no tests performed were reported in the past 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 26 December 2021)



In Sudurpashchim, 63 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 62% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, an increase from no death in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpashchim decreased to 8.4% in the past week. A total of 499 tests were performed in the past week, 63% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 26 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	111783	25814	137597	15.1	1670	Community transmission	11	286	297	8.9	2
Province 2	47390	500	47890	5.2	772	Community transmission	2	133	135	4.0	1
Bagmati	423670	20179	443849	48.6	4964	Community transmission	80	2025	2105	63.1	18
Gandaki	81936	16941	98877	10.8	1375	Community transmission	100	293	393	11.8	6
Lumbini	100397	15912	116309	12.7	1826	Community transmission	37	187	224	6.7	3
Karnali	22748	3238	25986	2.8	484	Community transmission	25	23	48	1.4	0
Sudurpashchim	39347	2536	41883	4.6	494	Community transmission	31	102	133	4.0	1
National Total	827271	85120*	912391	100	11585	Community transmission	286	3049	3335	100	31

**Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 26 December 96131; but IMU reported 85120*

Notes:

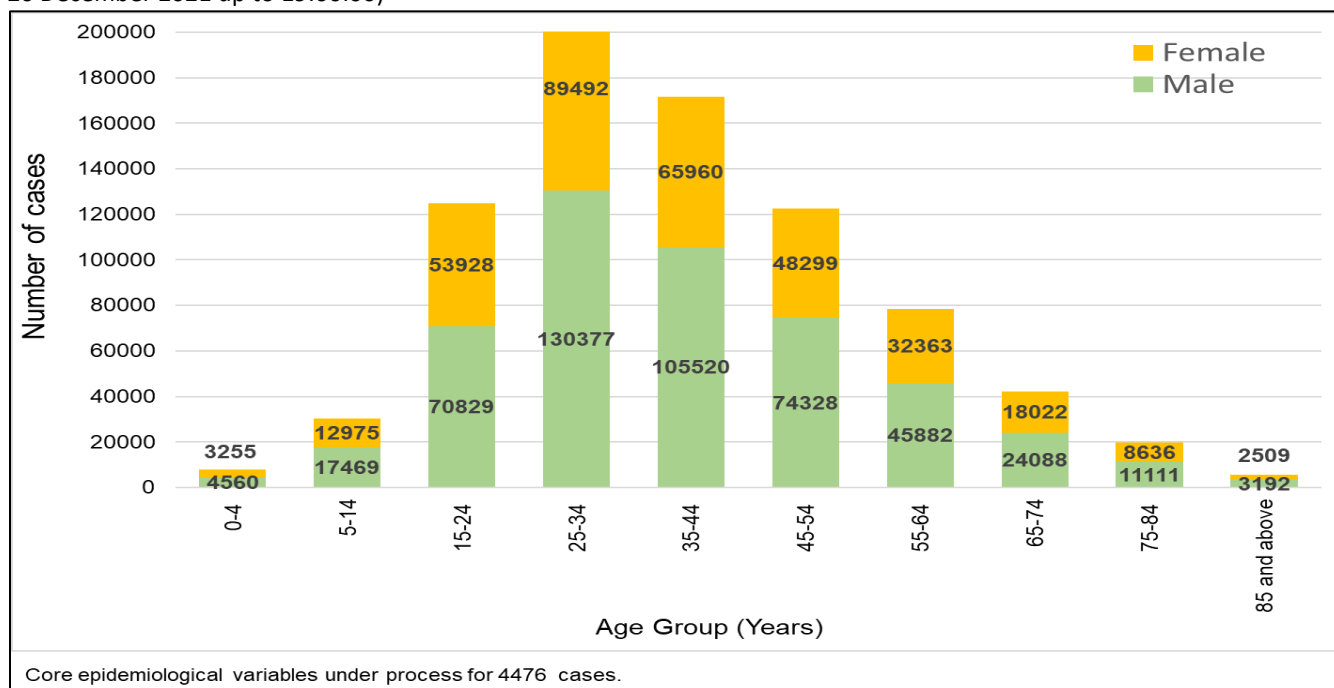
1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT- PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city's 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 = 822795)(Data reported on 26 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 = 827271)(Data reported on 26 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	7815	16	21	13	0.47
5-14	30444	13	7	10	0.07
15-24	124757	88	89	62	0.14
25-34	219869	368	259	135	0.29
35-44	171480	864	441	267	0.76
45-54	122627	1353	626	525	1.61
55-64	78245	1638	774	716	3.08
65-74	42110	1582	851	881	5.78
75-84	19747	1171	631	699	9.13
85+	5701	494	273	242	13.45
Unknown	4476	19	7	11	0.58
National	827271	7606	3979	3561	1.40

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 11,585 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,606 (65.7%) were males and 3,979 (34.3%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,561 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?

- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update (Link [Here](#))
 - COVID-19 vaccination campaign is going simultaneously in all provinces for the first and second doses of COVISHIELD/AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, 2nd dose of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine (from 24 hospitals) and 1st dose of Moderna (57 districts) to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan.
 - Nepal reached the landmark of administering more than 20 million COVID-19 vaccine doses on 10 December 2021.
 - Till now, Nepal has received 39,203,927 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources.
 - Nepal received 664,560 doses of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine from COVAX dose sharing US Grant on 24 December 2021.
 - As of today, a total of 23,740,296 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
 - Among the total target population (19,922,164) aged 18 years and above: 68% have received the first dose (excluding J&J vaccine) while 51% have received the second dose as of 26 December 2021. 77% of the target 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.
- 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:
 - One Heart Worldwide Nepal has provided ultra-low temperature freezers, COVID-19 response materials and essential medicines worth Nepali Rupees 16,500,000 to the Ministry of Health and Population on 25 December 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 17 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of 8 participating laboratories was 100% concordant, 2 laboratories was 90% concordant and the result of remaining 7 laboratories is pending.
- Training on “Gene Sequencing” at NPHL from 21 - 24 December 2021. There were 18 participants representing Central Department of Biotechnology, TU, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, National Academy of Medical Sciences, Kathmandu University Teaching Hospital, NPHL and WARUN. The training covered all the three generation of sequencing (iseq, miseq and Minlon sequencing technology).

Technical Planning and Operations

- Pocket book for Infection Prevention Control (IPC) measure for COVID-19 in health care setting second edition was endorsed on 23 December 2021 from Department of Health Services (DoHS). WHO Nepal has been providing continued support to DoHS for the revision and finalization of this pocket book on IPC measure.
- WHO Nepal had a meeting with technical working group of Post COVID conditions to finalize the draft on 26 December 2021. Final draft has been submitted to Curative Service Division (CSD).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- National Health Education Information Communication Center (NHEICC), Ministry of Health and Population-Nepal with technical support from WHO had organized two interaction programs with Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Ward chairperson, Health Coordinators and Administrative Officer, in two districts of Lumbini Province: namely Rupandehi district and Banke district.
 - The officials from two municipalities; Butwal Sub-metropolitan city and Tilottama municipality participated in the program at Rupandehi organized on 20 December 2021.
 - Similarly, officials from Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city and Kohalpur Municipality attended the program organized at Banke District on 22 December 2021.
 - The interaction program was focused mainly on the importance of Case Investigation and Contact Tracing, Communication on COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination updates and Risk/Crisis Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
 - The participants of the program acknowledged the significance of the interaction program that is expected to support the capacity of local level in COVID-19 vaccine coverage, enhance the compliance of public to the PHSM, timely response to rumors and misinformation, increase COVID-19 testing, case management and commitment for well-functioning of CICT and RCCE mechanism at local level.

- Senior Health Education Administrator of NHEICC, Surveillance Medical Officers from WHO IPD, Health Emergency Intervention Officer of Epidemiology and Health Information Pillar of WHE-WHO Nepal conducted the key sessions of the program as resource persons.



(Left) Dr. Binod Kumar Giri, Provincial health Director of Lumbini Province, responding to queries of participants during the Pan-Palika Interaction program with elected and appointed officials in Lumbini province. (Right) Ms. Sanju Kumari Chaudhary, Deputy Mayor, Kohalpur Municipality stating the significance of Pan-Palika interaction programs with elected officials in strengthening COVID-19 response and the role of local government during COVID-19 response. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan



(Left) Ms. Uma Thapa Magar, Deputy Mayor of Nepalgunj delivering Public Service Announcement (PSA) message about things to do during vaccination. Around 30 PSA are recorded with locally elected officials advocating about the significance of CICT, RCCE, COVID-19 vaccine and PHSM measures during the Pan-Palika interaction program.



(Left) Dr. Bhakta Bahadur KC, (Senior Public Health Education Administrator, NHEICC) presenting on Risk Communication and Community Engagement Directive in response to COVID-19 pandemic and beyond during the Pan-Palika interaction program in Lumbini Province.

Picture Credit- WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan

- WHO Nepal continues to support EDCD Call Center in debunking rumours, misinformation and addressing public concerns about COVID-19.
 - Total incoming calls- 2367 of which (2227) 94.1% answered.

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- Among the total, 95% effectively answered and recorded in software.
- Most of the incoming calls are from Bagmati Province (39.2%) and followed by Sudurpashchim Province (6%), Province 1 (2.7%), Lumbini Province (2.6%), Karnali Province (1.9%), Gandaki Province (1.9%), Province 2 (0.8%), and province not mentioned (44.8%)
- Number of callers on different category are Vaccination (35.9%), general information on COVID-19 (30.2%), current status of COVID 19 (13.4%), lockdown, quarantine & isolation (0.7%), testing process (4.1%), information about doctor, hospital, treatment & medicine (0.9%), Reporting suspected case (3%), Food & other precaution (0.3%), others COVID-19 related (8.4%) and other non-COVID-19 related (2.7%)
- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published:

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
63	Omicron Variant	Nepali	OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link
63	Omicron Variant	Maithili	OneDrive (downloadable link); Facebook link ; YouTube link

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

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
13	Breakthrough infections even after receiving recommended doses of vaccines	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))

- Further assets, on 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 shared via the following links:
 1. Experience of a lab focal personnel: [Link](#)
 2. Key message VI: [Link](#)
 3. Key message VII: [Link](#)
 4. Key message VIII: [Link](#)
 5. Key messages IX: [Link](#)

- 6. Call for videos from healthcare workers on their experiences on the COVID-19 response: Facebook [link](#) (English); [link](#) (Nepali) | Twitter [link](#)
- The following success stories were shared:
 1. Nepal's First Teleconsultation Centre to Bridge Barriers in Treatment: [Link](#)
 2. Mandatory Reporting to Save Lives of Mothers during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond: [Link](#)
 3. Ensuring Continued Access to TB, HIV, and NTDs Treatment Services during COVID-19 Pandemic: [Link](#)
 4. Strengthening Pre-hospital Care through Training of Basic Emergency Medical Technicians: [Link](#)
- 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. Spread of COVID-19,
 2. Omicron,
 3. Importance of public health and social measures against COVID-19 after vaccinations,
 4. Vaccine boosters,
 5. Post COVID-19 conditions,
 6. Mental health,
 7. Physical exercise,
 8. Celebrating festivals and COVID-19,
 9. Public health and social measures against COVID-19,
 10. Safety of COVID-19 vaccinations,
 11. Importance of COVID-19 vaccinations.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- 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 through available channels.
- All members of the Health Cluster are supporting the COVID-19 vaccination campaign of Nepal.
- Health partners are continuing their technical, operational, and logistics support for COVID-19 responses to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.



One Heart Worldwide Nepal has provided ultra-low temperature freezers, COVID-19 response materials and essential medicines worth NRs. 16,500,000 to the Ministry of Health and Population.

*Photo source: MoHP SitRep#685
(25 December 2021)*

- WHO has been supporting health cluster lead in 3W (Who, What, Where) 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

- [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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