Situation Update #91- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 03 - 09 January 2022 (EPI Week 01)

HIGHLIGHTS
(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 09 January 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 10 January 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 97.8% (814,230) of cases have recovered, 0.8% (6,755) are active cases and 1.4% (11,604) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 90.7% (6,127) cases are in home isolation; 9.3% (628) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.1% (77) of active cases require ICU admission, 20.8% (16) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Three districts (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur) reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (3,603) reported this week, 51.7% (1,863) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district with 11.5% (413). Majority of the new cases about 67.6% (2434) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 10 January 2022, 09:20 Hrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vacci ne</th>
<th>First dose</th>
<th>Second dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covi-AstraZeneca</td>
<td>4,192,584</td>
<td>2,568,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janssen</td>
<td>9,300,990</td>
<td>6,821,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>1,801,641</td>
<td>1,801,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna</td>
<td>56,061</td>
<td>41,535</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SITUATION OVERVIEW
(Data as of 09 January 2022)

NEPAL
Cumulative confirmed cases
RT-PCR: 832,589
Antigen RDT: 97,415
Cumulative deaths: 11,604
Cumulative tests
RT-PCR: 4,928,624
Antigen RDT: 858,379

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION
Cumulative cases (%)
45,734,456 (15%)
Cumulative deaths (%)
724,249 (13%)

GLOBAL
Cumulative cases (%)
304,350,207 (100%)
Cumulative deaths (%)
5,482,865 (100%)

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 9 January 2022, a total of 832,589 (16.9%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 4,928,624 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 97,415 (1.1%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 858,379 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 1 ranged from 5.7% (Bagmati province) to 24.1% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 6.2.
• Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (493,344/832,589) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (383,541/493,344) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

National Influenza Surveillance
• NPHL reported 23 diagnostic and surveillance samples which includes 7 samples tested at National Influenza center (NIC) and 16 samples tested at Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit-Nepal (WARUN) on Epi week 1 (3-9 January 2022).
  o None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
  o None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on the samples tested at NIC.
  o Twelve samples from WARUN were tested for SARS-CoV-2, out of which 3 were tested positive.
• Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi week 1, 92 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
  o One sample tested positive for Influenza B Victoria.
• From 3 January 2022 until 9 January 2022:
  o A total of 1 sample has tested positive for Influenza (Influenza B Victoria) from 115 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  o Similarly, 3 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 19 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/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/)

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\(^1\) These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.
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 9 January 2022 was 8848 which is 56% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.
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 09 January 2022)

There were 276 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 168% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 7.8% in the past week. A total of 2545 tests were performed in the past week, 6% more than that in the previous week.
There were 120 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 126% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 increased to 9.1% in the past week. A total of 482 tests were performed in the past week, 6% more than that in the previous week.
In Bagmati, 2634 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 106% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 57% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 5.7% in the past week. A total of 52,906 tests were performed in the past week, 18% more than that in 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 09 January 2022)

In Gandaki, 242 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 57% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 50% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 12.7% in the past week. A total of 959 tests were performed in the past week, 7% more than that in the previous week.
Lumbini reported 177 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 124% 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 Lumbini increased to 10.7% in the past week. A total of 984 tests were performed in the past week, 2% less than that in the previous week.
In Karnali, 31 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 244% 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 Karnali decreased to 18.2% in the past week. A total of 22 tests were in the past week, 175% more than that in the previous week.

In Sudurpashchim, 123 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 208% 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 increased to 24.1% in the past week. A total of 402 tests were performed in the past week, 83% more than that in the previous week.
Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 09 January 2022 up to 19:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Province</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests</th>
<th>Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>Total cumulative deaths</th>
<th>Transmission classification</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days RT-PCR test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>Total Deaths in last 14 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province 1</td>
<td>112162</td>
<td>25829</td>
<td>137991</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>1670</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 2</td>
<td>47563</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>48070</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>427581</td>
<td>20305</td>
<td>447886</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>4974</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>3911</td>
<td>4037</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>82332</td>
<td>16963</td>
<td>99295</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>1380</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbini</td>
<td>100653</td>
<td>16045</td>
<td>116698</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>1828</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>22788</td>
<td>3256</td>
<td>26044</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpashchim</td>
<td>39510</td>
<td>2570</td>
<td>42080</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Total</td>
<td>832589</td>
<td>85475*</td>
<td>918064</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>11604</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>5318</td>
<td>5673</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 9 January 2022, 97415 but IMU reported 85475

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.
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 = 832589)(Data reported on 09 January 2022 up to 19:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (Years)</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases</th>
<th>Death (male)</th>
<th>Death (female)</th>
<th>Deaths with any known comorbid condition</th>
<th>Age specific case fatality ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>7857</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14</td>
<td>30635</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>125577</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>221290</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>172709</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>123333</td>
<td>1354</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>78722</td>
<td>1641</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>42346</td>
<td>1585</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>5.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>19889</td>
<td>1174</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>9.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>5747</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>13.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>4484</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>832589</td>
<td>7618</td>
<td>3986</td>
<td>3574</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 temporarily associated with death; causal association under investigation.
A total of 11,604 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,618 (65.6%) were males and 3,986 (34.4%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 3,574 persons (30.8%) 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 13.4%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
What are the Government of Nepal (GoN) & the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) doing?
• Following the upsurge of Omicron variant in the country, MoHP has instructed all hospitals to be on high alert, to be prepared with adequate oxygen and other supplies for treatment, and to keep health workers on standby considering the risk of high patient flow due to the Omicron variant.
  o Arrangements have been made to strengthen COVID-19 testing at the Point of Entries (PoEs) and manage the positive cases in isolation.
  o Apart from these, S-Gene screening facility is also operational at different places of the country:
    ▪ Bagmati Province : 1)Bir Hospital, 2)Civil Services Hospital, 3)Shree Birendra Hospital, 4) Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital,
    ▪ Province 2 : 5) Provincial Public Health Laboratory
    ▪ Karnali Province: 6) Bheri Hospital
• MoHP has also requested all concerned stakeholders (general public & local authorities) to adhere to public health standards (wearing masks properly, frequent hand washing, and maintaining a physical distance of 2 meters) as appropriate measures for prevention from this variant.
• COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update
  o Government of Nepal aims to vaccinate at least 66% of ≥18 years population by 14 January 2022 (30 Poush 2078) and 100% of ≥18 years population with full dose of COVID-19 vaccine by 13 April 2022 (30 Chaitra 2078).
  o COVID-19 vaccination campaign is going simultaneously in all provinces for the first and second doses of Covishield/AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, and 1st dose of Moderna (57 district) to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan, Addendum-1.
  o Till now, Nepal has received 39,203,927 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources.
  o As of 09 January, a total of 26,405,210 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
  o Among the total target population (19,922,164) aged 18 years and above: 68% have received the first dose (excluding J&J vaccine) while 56% have received the second dose as of 09 January 2022. 77% of the target population have received at least first
dose including J&J vaccine. In case of vaccination coverage for 12 -17 age group, 48% have received the first dose while 0.1% have received the full/second dose.

- 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:
  - International Buddhist Organization Tzu Chi Charity Foundation donated 50 ventilators and 25 nasal cannulas in addition to the support of 200 ventilators and 75 nasal cannulas facilitated through HECAF360, that were handed over to 47 government and non-government hospitals through the Department of Health Services (DoHS) on 6 January 2022.

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

- WHO Nepal continues to support MoHP in COVID-19 preparedness and response. This includes provision of technical inputs in updating the MoHP Rapid Action Plan.

**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 8 participating laboratories was 100% concordant and 2 laboratories was 90% concordant.
  - Validation of SARS-CoV-Z VoGs RT-qPCR Multiplex kit.
  - Performing sequencing of 24 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples to monitor variants circulating within the country.

**Point of Entry**

- Following the spread of the new variant of the COVID-19 virus (Omicron), Government of Nepal (Council of Ministers) continues to ban entry of passengers arriving and transiting from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, Malawi and Hong Kong. This notice regarding travel restriction came into effect on 2 December 2021 (link Here).

- In addition, due to the alarming COVID-19 pandemic situation relating to the new variant, following decisions were made by the Government of Nepal (Council of Ministers) on 23 December 2021 (Link Here), requiring all passengers travelling to Nepal to follow the enlisted health and quarantine protocols with immediate effect:
Passengers with no symptoms similar to COVID-19, who have completed 14 days of full vaccination and are with Negative PCR report obtained within last 72 hours, are permitted to enter into Nepal subject to 10 days’ home quarantine.

Nepali nationals who are not fully vaccinated or vaccinated within last 14 days are permitted to enter into Nepal subject to Antigen test at the entry point. Such passengers, if tested positive, shall be subjected to institutional isolation, while passengers with negative report are subject to 10 day’s home isolation.

If the foreign nationals holding diplomatic passport, official passport and residential visa of Nepal are not fully vaccinated within last 14 days, they are permitted to enter into Nepal subject to Antigen test at the entry point. Such passengers, if tested positive, shall be subjected to institutional isolation or home isolation under the responsibility of concerned agency/entity. Those with negative report are allowed subject to 10 days of hotel quarantine or 10 days of home quarantine under the responsibility of diplomatic mission.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- WHO Nepal continues to support EDCD Call Center in debunking rumours, misinformation and addressing public concerns about COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - Total incoming calls- 2568 of which (2276) 88.6% answered.
  - Among the total, 97.4% effectively answered and recorded in software.
  - Most of the incoming calls are from Bagmati Province (47.3%) and followed by Sudurpashchim Province (3.8%), Karnali Province (1.7%), Province 1 (1.6%), Lumbini Province (1.5%), Province 2 (1.3%), Gandaki Province (1.2%) and province not mentioned (41.7%)
  - Number of callers on different category are Vaccination (38.2%), General information on COVID-19 (22.6%), Current status of COVID-19 (11.2%), Lockdown, quarantine & isolation (1.3%), Testing process (4.8%), Information about doctor, hospital, treatment & medicine (1.4%), Reporting suspected case (7.4%), Food & other precaution (1%), others COVID-19 related (8.5%) and other non-COVID-19 related (3.4%)
- WHO Nepal’s support to the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) and National Health Education Information Communication Center (NHEICC) continued this week by providing risk communication expertise through staff embedded at the HEOC and NHEICC.
  - Support for Spokesperson and for media briefing of MoHP on the principles of RCCE:
    - WHO Nepal Health Coordination team is supporting the Health Coordination Division, specifically Spokesperson and Joint spokesperson of Ministry of Health and Population in drafting the technical content and talking points for the weekly media briefing.

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Friday 14 January 2022
The team is also providing backend IT support during the live COVID-19 National Press briefing.

Similarly, WHO is supporting in Q&A session of the briefing on drafting the question and answers for the guest speakers.

WHO is also liaising with the provinces and district stakeholders to obtain bytes and information to feed in the section “Pradesh Sawal” of the briefing program. The MoHP weekly COVID-19 press briefing is being held two days in a week, on Sunday and Wednesday at 4:15 pm from 9 January 2022, Sunday.

Meeting of provincial spokesperson and a session on Dos and Don’ts of Risk Communication

A virtual meeting was called by Spokesperson of Ministry of Health and Population with the Spokesperson and Joint spokesperson from all seven provinces of Nepal on 4 January 2022.

The primary objective of the meeting was to have an idea about the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities being carried out at the province level in terms of responding to COVID-19 and to enhance the COVID-19 vaccination drive throughout the country. Another important objective of the meeting was to share the lessons learnt and the challenges regarding risk communication, community engagement, press briefing and media engagement in the respective provinces. Feedback and suggestions were collected from each province to further discuss on how to address those issues and concerns.

WHO’s Senior Consultant, Advocacy, Strategic Partnerships & Leadership Communication expert conducted a session on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and Dos and Don’ts of Risk communication and tips for the spokesperson and joint spokespersons.
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Friday 14 January 2022

• Science in 5 podcast series released on Soundcloud (link here) with details below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Episodes</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>COVID-19 and antibiotics</td>
<td>Nepali</td>
<td>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))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• IEC materials on the preventive measures to adopt against COVID-19 and its variants were shared via the following link:
  o Video: Facebook link; Twitter link
  o Infographic: Facebook link; Twitter link

• The web story - Accessibility Audit Conducted at COVID-19 Unified Central Bir Hospital – was shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link here). WHO, Country Office for Nepal, with support from the National Federation of the Disabled-Nepal, conducted a disability access audit at the COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital (Bir Hospital) upon the hospital’s request. The audit sought to assess the gaps in access to information, facilities, and services for persons with disabilities.

• The following documents were uploaded on ReliefWeb (link here):
  o Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring,
  o Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
  o 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:

(Left) WHO Nepal officials providing backend IT support during the live COVID-19 National Press briefing.
(Right and above) WHO’s Senior Consultant, Advocacy, Strategic Partnerships & Leadership Communication expert conducting a session on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and Dos and Don’ts of Risk communication on 4 January 2022.
Picture Credit: WHO Nepal
- Preventive measures against COVID-19 and its variants;
- Omicron and its severity,
- Importance of public health and safety measures after COVID-19 vaccinations,
- Safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
- Physical activity and COVID-19,
- Diabetes and COVID-19,
- Cervical Cancer and COVID-19,
- Mental health and COVID-19,
- Smoking and COVID-19,
- Managing children’s anxiety and COVID-19,
- Proper way of wearing masks,
- Harmful use of alcohol and COVID-19.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- 70th Health Cluster Coordination (HCC) meeting was organized virtually on 06 January 2022 by MoHP at the federal level. A total of 77 Health Cluster partners participated in the meeting. The major discussions were on antigen testing kits, support required for laboratories, preparedness and response readiness to Omicron, and Case management and medical oxygen delivery system. Following support were requested from the partners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point of Entries (PoEs)</th>
<th>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care workers and entrants, Waste management services, WASH facilities/logistics, Proper documentation at the point of entries, Transportation of positive cases to isolation, Follow up and contact tracing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination</td>
<td>Ultra-cold chain storage facilities, Vaccine transport facilities, Advocacy for participation in vaccination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen management</td>
<td>Support of oxygen delivery system (PSA plants, Liquid Oxygen plants, oxygen cylinders and/or concentrators), Maintenance of oxygen delivery system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigen testing</td>
<td>Establishment of temporary testing booths at mass gathering sites and hot spot areas, Advocacy on the use of antigen test, Screening and testing of travelers at the PoEs, Recording and reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reagents</td>
<td>Sequencing reagents, PCR Reagent from Seegene (to detect S gene target failure in non thermo PCR machines ), GeneXpert cartridges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Situation Update #91 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Friday 14 January 2022
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human resources (PoEs, isolation centers, hospitals, critical care, etc.)</th>
<th>Addition of skilled human resources, Training to the existing human resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuation of non-COVID services</td>
<td>Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health services, Routine Immunization, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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 response to health-related offices and institutions throughout the country.
- WHO has been supporting health cluster lead in 3W (Who, What, Where) mapping of health partner’s support which is disseminated through the Health Emergency Operations 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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