

Situation Update #92- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 10 - 16 January 2022 (EPI Week 02)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 16 January 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 17 January 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 95.6% (816,438) of cases have recovered, 3% (25,680) are active cases and 1.4% (11,620) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 95.7% (24,584) cases are in home isolation; 4.3% (1,096) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 0.5 % (122) of active cases require ICU admission, 23.8% (29) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Nine districts (Morang, Sunsari, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Chitwan, Kaski, Rupandehi and Kailali) reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (21,149) reported this week, 48.8% (10,321) are from Kathmandu district followed by Lalitpur district with 10.6% (2,247). Majority of the new cases about 65.2% (13,789) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 16 January 2022,09:20Hrs)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	: 4,404,562	First dose	: 9,565,982	Single Dose	: 2,080,667	First dose	: 187,277	First dose	: 1,738,007
Second dose	: 2,704,345	Second dose	: 7,384,951			Second dose	: 43,069		

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 16 January 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 853,738

Antigen RDT: 101,468

Cumulative deaths: 11,620

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,004,234

Antigen RDT: 887,595

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

47,445,610 (15%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

726,828 (13%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

323,610,370 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

5,529,693 (100%)

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 16 January 2022, a total of 853,738 (17.1%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 5,004,234 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 101,468 (11.4%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 887,595 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 2 ranged from 26.3% (Bagmati province) to 45.8% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 28.0%.

- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (505,190/853,738) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (393,492/505,190) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

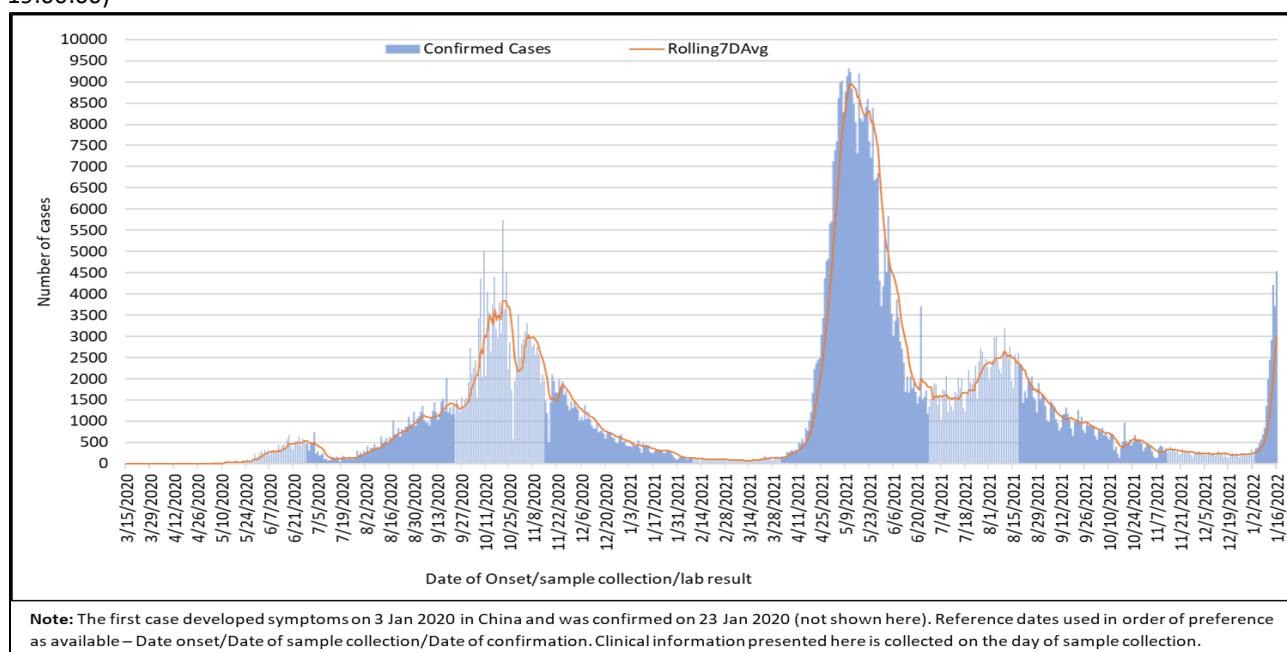
National Influenza Surveillance

- NPHL reported 6 diagnostic and surveillance samples on Epi-week 2 (10 – 16 January 2022).
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
 - One sample tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 among the samples tested at NIC.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 2, 93 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples have been tested for Influenza.
 - None of the sample tested positive for Influenza.
- From 3 January to 16 January 2022:
 - A total of 1 sample tested positive for Influenza (Influenza B Victoria) from 214 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 4 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 25 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/>

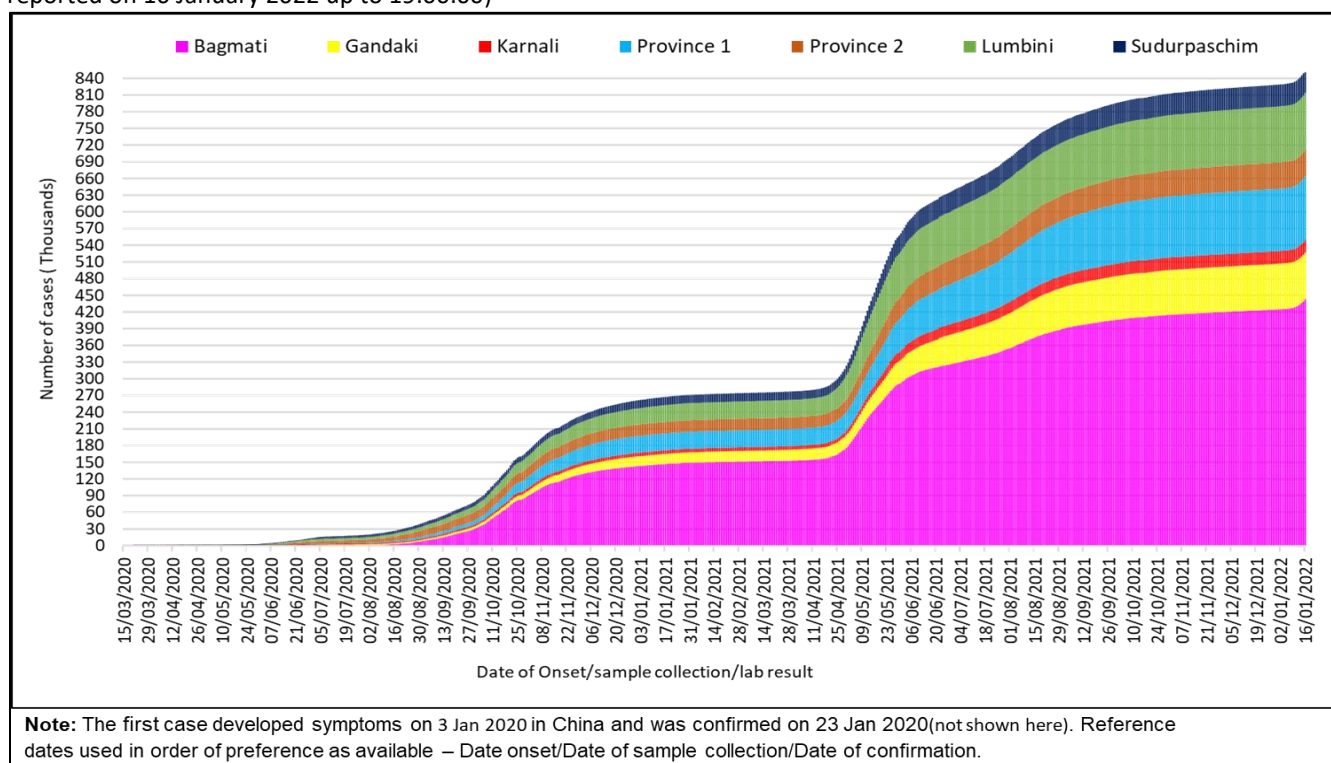
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 853738)(Data reported on 16 January 2022 up to 19:00:00)



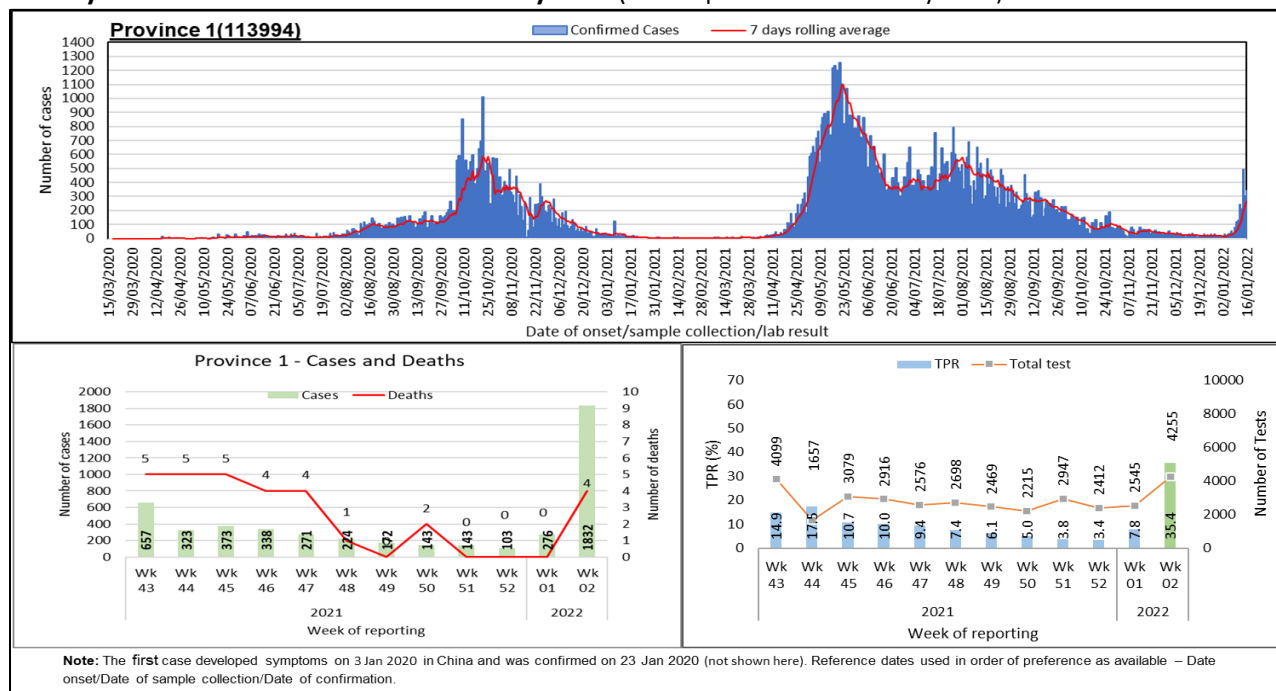
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. The total RT-PCR tests done in Nepal on 16 January 2022 was 12,562 which is 37% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases by province (N = 853738)(Data reported on 16 January 2022 up to 19:00:00)



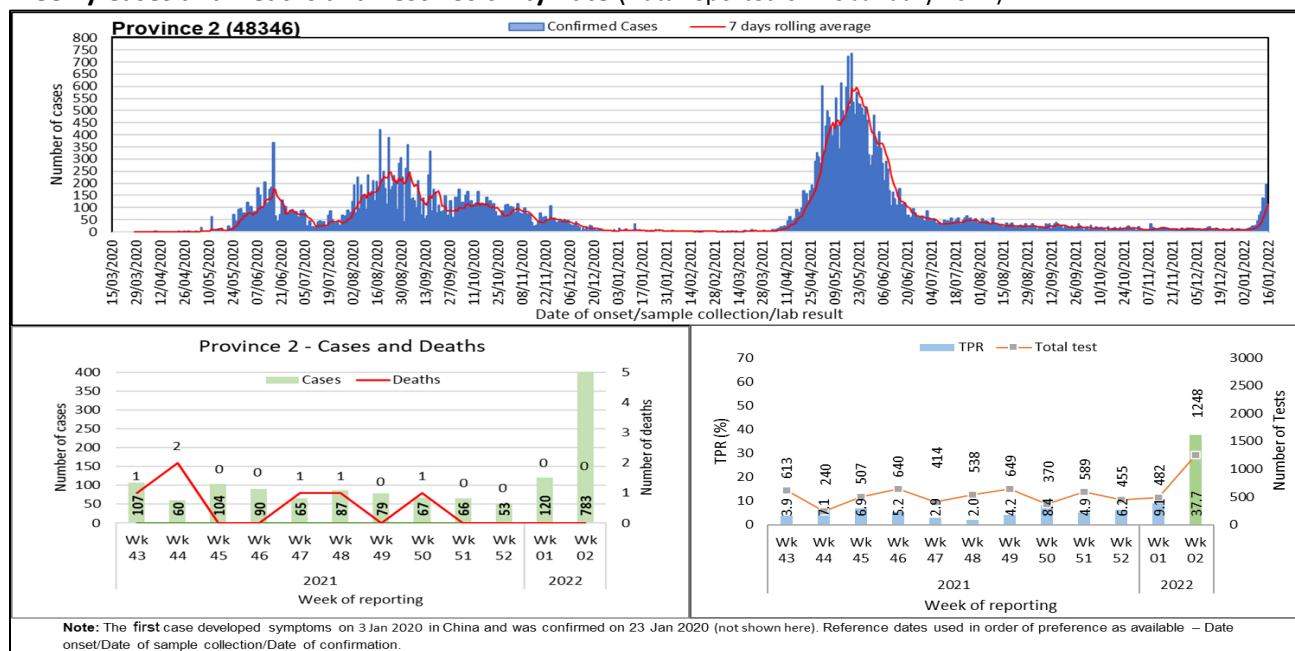
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 16 January 2022)



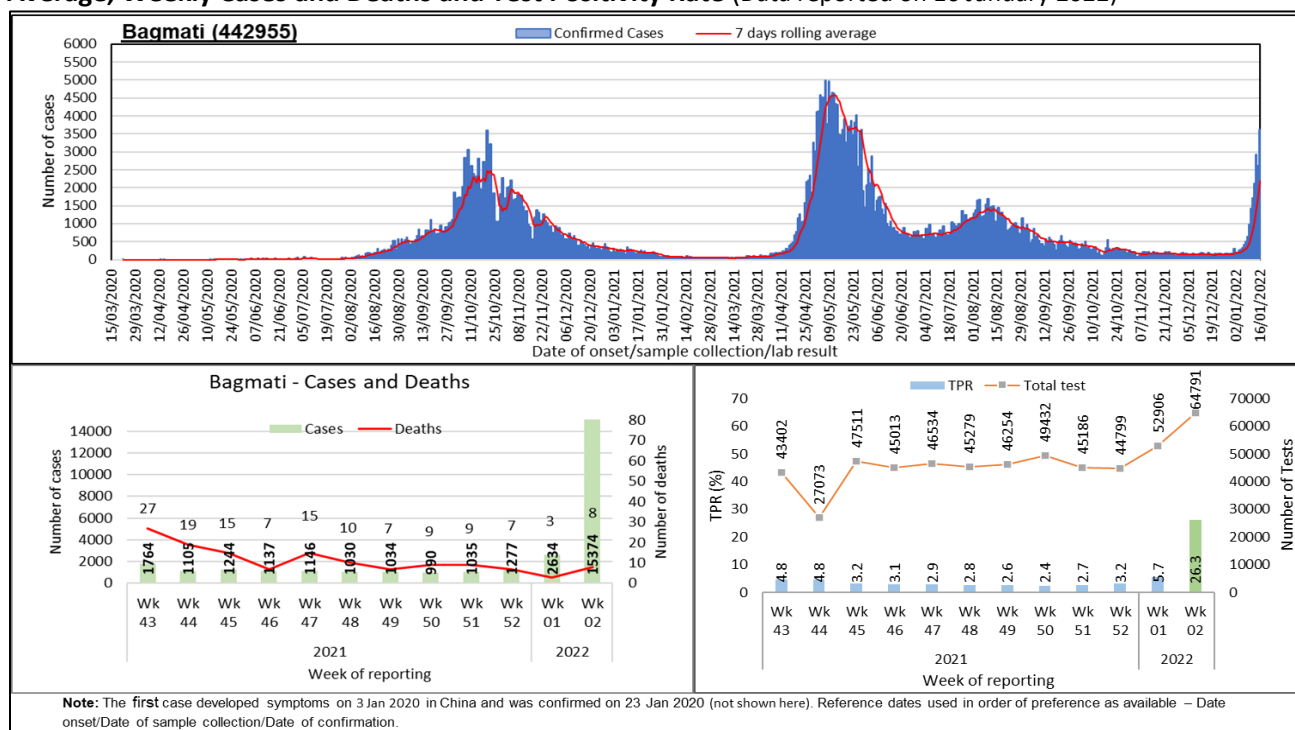
There were 1832 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 564% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, an increase from no death in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 increased to 35.4% in the past week. A total of 4255 tests were performed in the past week, 67% more than that in 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 16 January 2022)



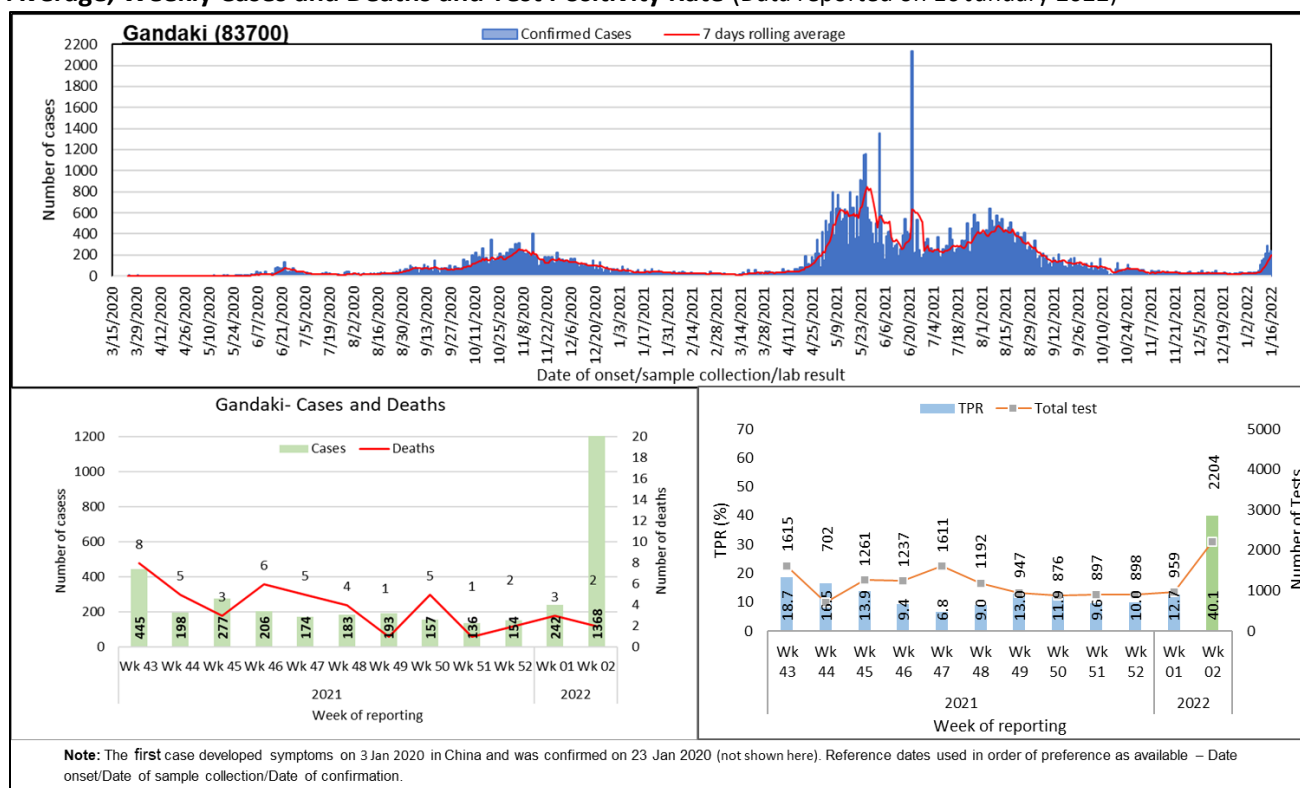
There were 783 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in Week 20, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 553% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 increased to 37.7% in the past week. A total of 1248 tests were performed in the past week, 159% more than that in 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 16 January 2022)



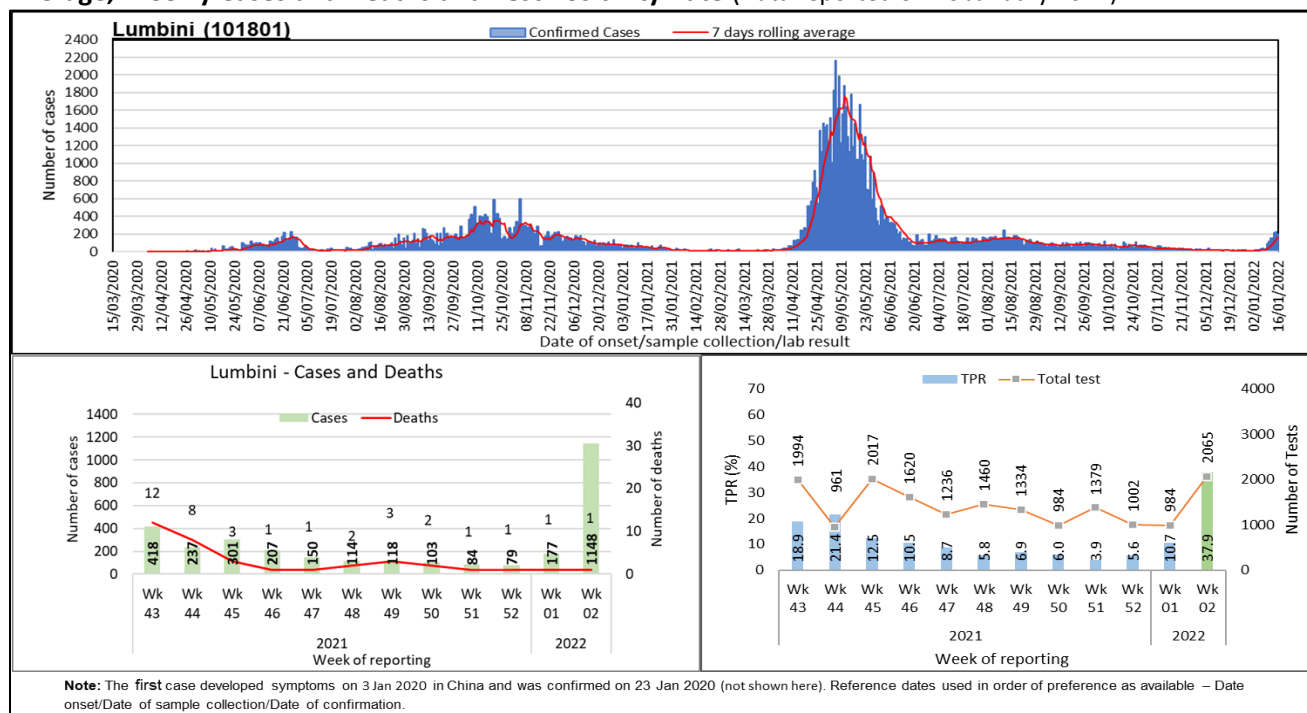
In Bagmati, 15374 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 484% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 8 deaths reported in the past week, 167% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati increased to 26.3% in the past week. A total of 64,791 tests were performed in the past week, 22% 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 16 January 2022)



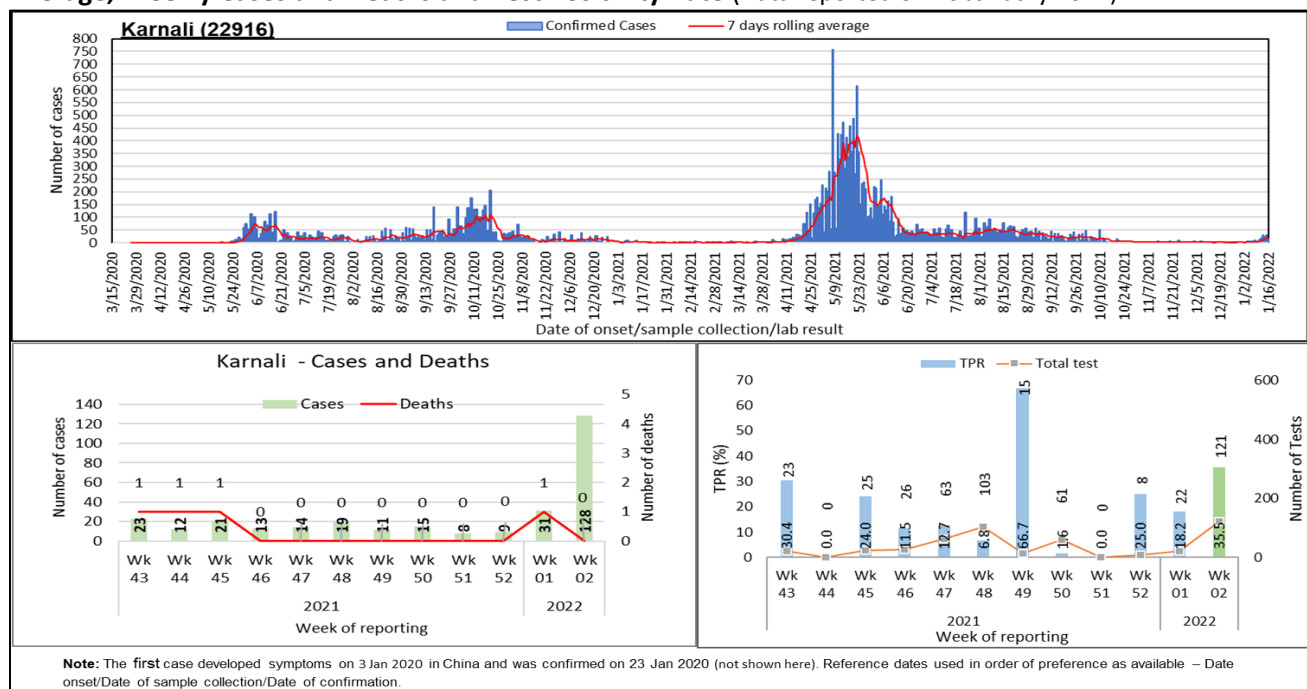
In Gandaki, 1368 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in Week 21, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 465% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 33% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 40.1% in the past week. A total of 2204 tests were performed in the past week, 130% more than that in 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 16 January 2022)



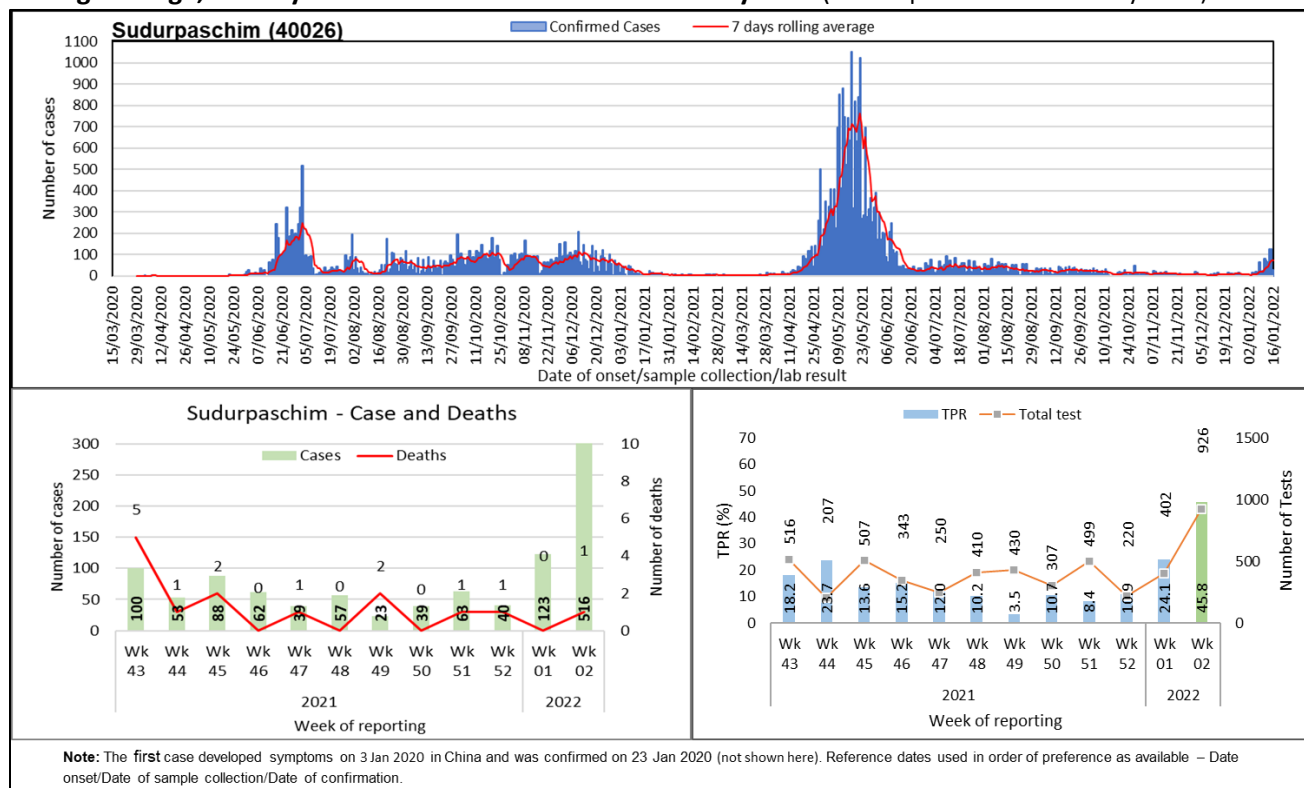
Lumbini reported 1148 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in Week 19, new cases were continuously declining. However, the cases have increased by 549% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, same as that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini increased to 37.9% in the past week. A total of 2065 tests were performed in the past week, 110% more than that in 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 16 January 2022)



In Karnali, 128 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 313% 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 Karnali increased to 35.5% in the past week. A total of 121 tests were in the past week, 450% more than that 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 16 January 2022)



In Sudurpashchim, 516 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 320% 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 increased to 45.8% in the past week. A total of 926 tests were performed in the past week, 130% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 16 January 2022 up to 19:00:00)

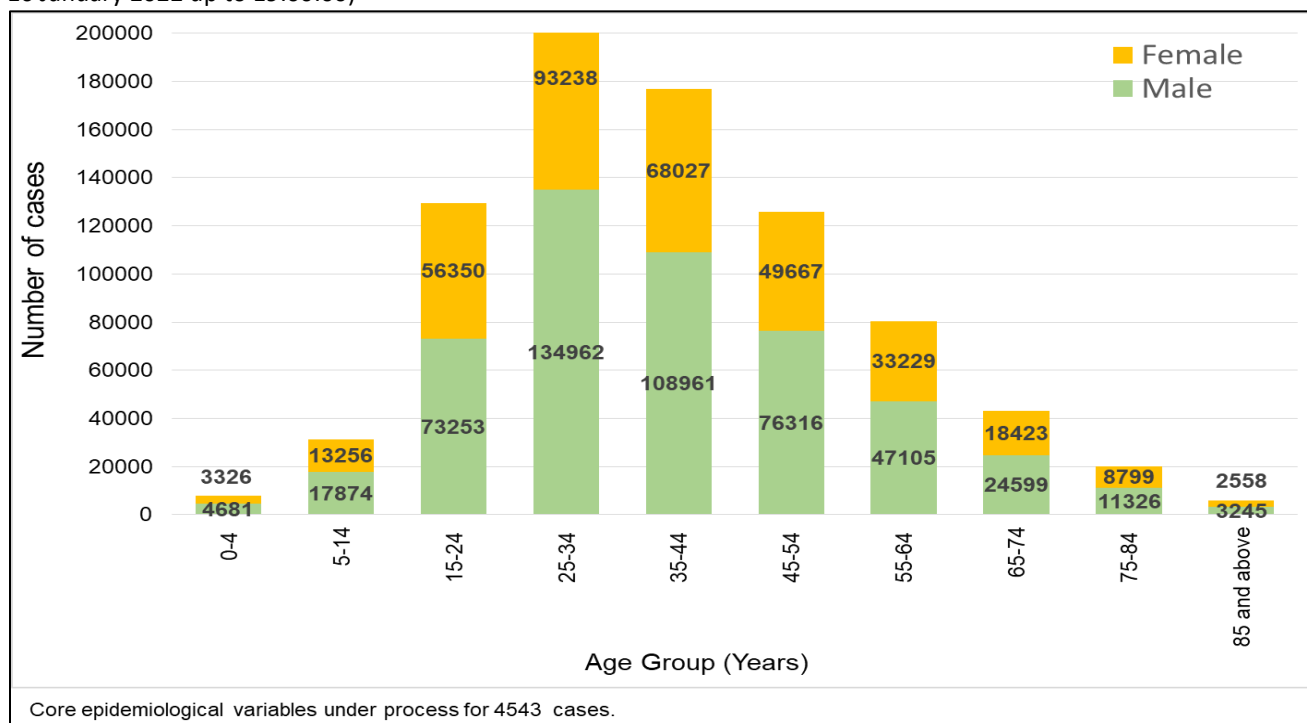
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RT-PCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	113994	25935	139929	14.9	1674	Community transmission	112	2108	2220	8.2	4
Province 2	48346	606	48952	5.2	772	Community transmission	106	903	1009	3.7	0
Bagmati	442955	21025	463980	49.3	4982	Community transmission	805	18008	18813	69.8	11
Gandaki	83700	17172	100872	10.7	1382	Community transmission	224	1610	1834	6.8	5
Lumbini	101801	16416	118217	12.6	1829	Community transmission	490	1325	1815	6.7	2
Karnali	22916	3353	26269	2.8	485	Community transmission	110	159	269	1.0	1
Sudurpashchim	40026	2916	42942	4.6	496	Community transmission	371	639	1010	3.7	1
National Total	853738	87423*	941161	100	11620	Community transmission	2218	24752	26970	100	24

Total reported in HEOC Sitrep as of 16 January 2022, **101468 but IMU reported **87423***

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.

Figure 4: Distribution of RT-PCR positive COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 849195)(Data reported on 16 January 2022 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 = 853738)(Data reported on 16 January 2022 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	8007	16	21	13	0.46
5-14	31130	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	129603	88	89	62	0.14
25-34	228200	370	259	136	0.28
35-44	176988	866	441	268	0.74
45-54	125983	1355	632	531	1.58
55-64	80334	1641	776	720	3.01
65-74	43022	1585	856	885	5.67
75-84	20125	1176	632	704	8.98
85+	5803	496	275	246	13.29
Unknown	4543	19	7	11	0.57
National	853738	7625	3995	3586	1.36

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$
 COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

A total of 11,620 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,625 (65.6%) were male and 3,995 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,586 persons (30.9%) 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 5.7% to 13.3%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- Based on the Cabinet decisions held at Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), 36 key decisions were issued on 14 January 2022 in context to the rising cases of new variant of COVID-19 (Omicron Variant) in the country (*uploaded at Viber group - MoHP Nepal COVID-19 on 19 January 2022*). Some of the points are as follows:
 - To conduct activities like seminars, workshops, reviews, and meetings through a virtual medium. If physical meetings are required, then they should be conducted in compliance with public health standards - with a maximum of 25 participants, who have tested negative through antigen tests. Also, while conducting such activities, arrangements shall be made to ensure that only fully vaccinated individuals participate in the program. This is to be implied after the 7 of Magh, 2078 BS (21 January 2022).
 - Cinema halls, dance bars, rehearsal halls, dance houses, clubs, health clubs, gyms, swimming pools, futsal, *regular markets*, and all other programs and places, likely to have crowds, shall not be operate until 15 Magh, 2078 BS (29 January 2022).
 - To conduct training/educational activities at schools, universities, college, and tuition centers, by adopting virtual or alternative teaching and learning methods. Physical operations shall not be conducted until 15 Magh, 2078 BS (29 January 2022).
 - Shopping malls, department stores, supermarkets, or other types of shops shall be operated with no more than 25 people at a time, with measures such as avoiding touching any goods unnecessarily, and maintaining a distance of at least two meters between two people. Shops should make masks mandatory and washing hands frequently with soap and water or sanitizer. The responsibility for complying/ensuring compliance with the public health standards shall rest with the manager or operator.
- COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital, Bagmati Province conducted a dissemination program of the National Guideline for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) with support from WHO Nepal and USAID (Link [Here](#)).
- Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) has published following document on 14 January 2022 with support from International Organization of Migration (IOM):
 - Orientation Manual on COVID-19 Management in POE (Link [Here](#))
- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update

- Government of Nepal aims to vaccinate 100% of ≥18 years population with full dose of COVID-19 vaccine by 13 April 2022.
- As of 16 January 2022, Government of Nepal has vaccinated 71% with first dose and 61% with full dose/ second dose for ≥18 years population.
- Nepal has reached the milestone of vaccinating 40% of its total population with full dose/second dose on 16 January 2022.
- 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 districts) to specific target group as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan, Addendum-1.
- Government of Nepal is starting vaccination for frontliners, ≥60 years population and moderate to severe immunocompromised with booster doses from 17 January 2022.
- Administration of second dose of Moderna to specific target group is starting from 16 January 2022 in the districts where the first dose was given from 19 December 2021.
- As of 16 January 2022, Nepal has received 40,388,840 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources and total of 28,108,860 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered.
- Among the population aged 18 years and above (19,922,164): 71% have received the first dose (excluding J&J vaccine) while 61% have received the second dose as of 16 January 2022. 81% of the mentioned population have received at least first dose including J&J vaccine.
- Among the 12 -17 age group, 52% 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.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

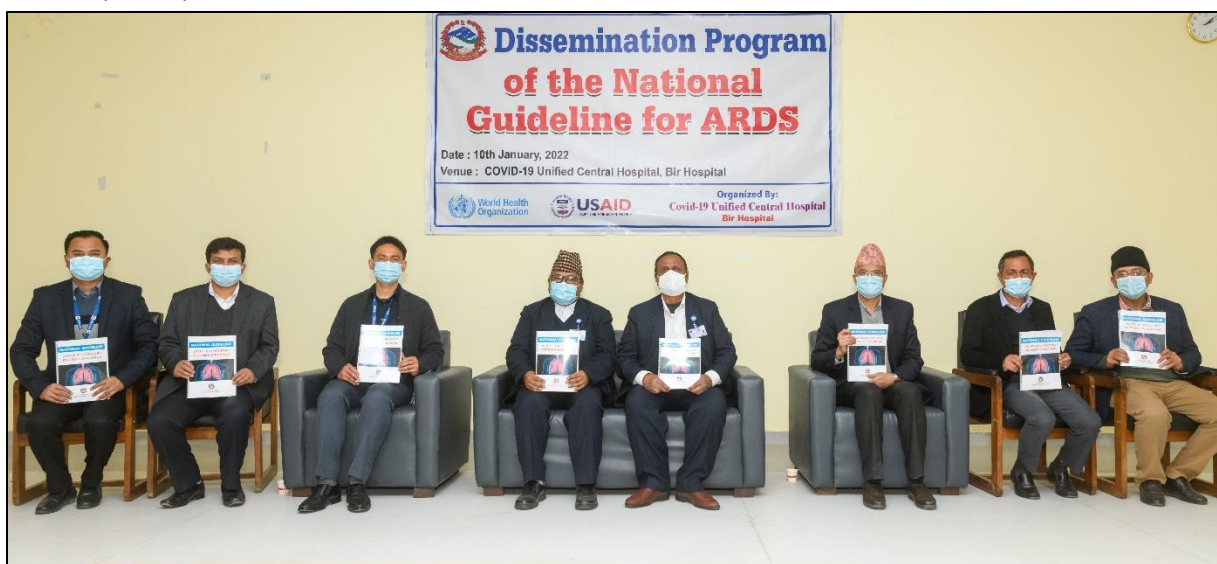
Laboratory Diagnosis

- 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 9 participating laboratories was 100% concordant and that of one laboratory was 90% concordant.
 - Validation of SARS-CoV-2 VoCs RT- qPCR Multiplex kit manufactured by ChemGenes Corporation.

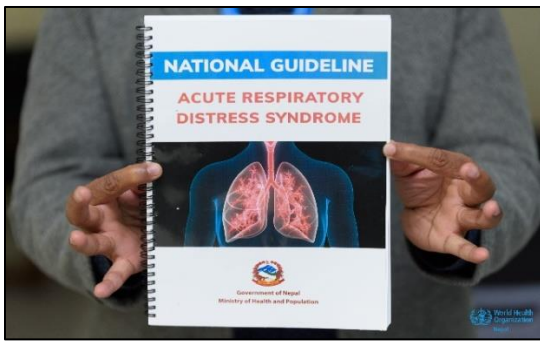
- WHO Nepal continues to support National Influenza Center (NIC)- NPHL by sending a total of 15 diagnostic influenza samples to WHO Collaborating Center (CCs) for Reference and Research on Influenza, National Institute of Infectious Disease (NIID), Tokyo, Japan. This is a regular activity under Global Influenza Program (GIP) where representative influenza isolates/samples on periodic basis are sent from Nepal to WHO CCs for enhancing preparedness for the forthcoming influenza season.

Technical Expertise and Training

- WHO Nepal provided technical and financial support on the development of the "National Guideline on Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)." A dissemination program was held on 10 January 2022. WHO Nepal along with officials from COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital (Bir Hospital) and officials from various professional associations and societies including nursing supervisors, general secretaries from Critical Care Nurses Association of Nepal (CCNAN), Nepalese Society of Critical Care Medicine (NSCCM), Society of Anesthesiologists of Nepal (SAN), and Society of Internal Medicine of Nepal (SIMON) and members of core working group attended the program. It was suggested that the guideline be converted into an app to enable easy reading and also convert the guideline into a training module involving same group of experts and officials from National Health Training Center (NHTC).



Dissemination Program of the National Guideline for ARDS at COVID-19 Unified Central Hospital, Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan



National Guideline "Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)", Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan

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. This notice came into effect from 05 January 2022.
 - 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 is providing technical and IT support to Health Coordination Division, specifically Spokesperson and Joint spokesperson of Ministry of Health and Population for the COVID-19 National Press Briefing.

- MoHP is conducting COVID-19 press briefing two days in a week, on Sunday and Wednesday at 4:15 PM which is live broadcast from the Nepal Television. The press briefing is also shared via the MOHP Facebook page to make it reach the wider audience.
- WHO Nepal mainly supports in drafting the technical content and talking point the press briefing, development of the comparative charts, graphics, notices, and other important information to be shared during the briefing, providing backend IT support, etc.
- Similarly, support is provided in developing the questions for the guest speakers, liaising with NTV officials to identify speaker, preparing concept note, questions, and theme that need to be covered under the "Pradesh Sawal" which features story of provinces in response to COVID-19.
- Likewise, WHO supported with the script/message to record video PSA with former Miss Nepal. The video PSA is about the importance of COVID-19 vaccine, Public health and social measures and informing public about the authentic source of information and not to rely on rumors about COVID-19 that are rampant in the social media.
- WHO Nepal also provided technical support via a colleague embedded at National Health Education Information Communication Center (NHEICC) with following activities:
 - Monitoring of the EIOS media daily.
 - Provision of technical content review and feedback on weekly radio program script
 - Omicron and vaccination IEC material development and dissemination
- WHO Nepal continues to support EDCD Call Center in debunking rumours, misinformation and addressing public concerns about COVID-19 Pandemic.
 - Total incoming calls- 4561 of which (4206) 92.2% answered.
 - Among the total, 99.3% effectively answered and recorded in software.
 - Most of the incoming calls are from Bagmati Province (53.4%) and followed by Sudurpashchim Province (3.2%), Lumbini Province (1.5%), Province 1 (1.4%), Karnali Province (1.3%), Gandaki Province (1.1%), Province 2 (0.9%), and province not mentioned (37.2%)
 - Number of callers on different category include Vaccination (44.9%), General information on COVID-19 (7.2%), Current status of COVID-19 (9.9%), Lockdown, quarantine & isolation (2.6%), Testing process (5.7%), Information about doctor, hospital, treatment & medicine (1.7%), Reporting suspected case (16.7%), Food & other precaution (0.9%), others COVID-19 related (7.2%) and other non-COVID-19 related (2.8%)

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

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links	
16	Need of following public health measures even after recovering from COVID-19 infection.	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))	

- The news of Nepal achieving 40% full vaccination status was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).
- Infographics on the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to 12-17 age group inside the Kathmandu Valley, and the importance of vaccination, was shared via Facebook (link [here](#) and [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#) and [here](#)).
- Infographics on the following ongoing public concerns was shared:
 - Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause any complication to the baby during pregnancy?: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
 - Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause any complication during breastfeeding?: Facebook [link](#) | Twitter [link](#)
- The news of WHO's recommendation of two new drugs to treat COVID-19 was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The press release was also shared with members of the Nepali media.
- The news of launch and dissemination of *National Guideline for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)* was shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link [here](#)). The document is the first of its kind to manage ARDS – a fatal inflammatory lung injury, with few effective modalities for treatment, and which needs to be identified at an early stage. The guideline, financially and technically supported by WHO and USAID, provides comprehensive clinical management of ARDS with practical recommendations on mechanical ventilation, management of complications, nutrition requirement, and early rehabilitation.
- A web story on the theme of the importance of vaccinations and WHO Workforce – titled “A polio-free Region, a great achievement, says a polio survivor and vaccination advocate” - was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)). The story also commemorated the polio-free certifications received by WHO South-East Asia Region and Nepal.
- 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*.

Situation Update #92 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Friday 21 January 2022

- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Omicron,
 - Cervical Cancer and COVID-19,
 - Tips on how to talk about COVID-19 vaccines,
 - Importance of public health and safety measures after COVID-19 vaccinations,
 - Safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - Preventive measures against COVID-19 and its variants,
 - Diabetes and COVID-19,
 - Harmful use of alcohol and COVID-19,
 - Pregnancy and COVID-19 vaccines,
 - Breastfeeding and COVID-19 vaccines,
 - COVID-19 preventive measure to adopt in public transportation.

Field Operations and Logistics Support

- WHO Nepal OSL Pillar supported the following activities during Epi Week 2:

Date	Activities
12 -13 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO Nepal facilitated to conduct a two-day workshop at Chitwan district, Bagmati Province on the State Party Self-Assessment (SPAR), IHR-2005 Annual Report. High-level officials from Province-1, Province-2, Bagmati Province and Gandaki Province participated in the workshop (Picture below)
13 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed the COVID-19 RDT testing protocol and supported with demonstration of use to all the WHO staff personnel at the country office via virtual meeting
14 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated the duty exemption and customs clearance to receive international consignment related to Oxygen study support and process for handover to the BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Sunsari district of Province 1. • Facilitated the purchase and distribution of Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kit to WHO staff/personnel at the country office. 264 WHO Staffs from all 7 Provinces have each received five sets of RDT Kits.
16 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-packed the near expiry items from international health kits (IEHK & Cholera Kit) and handed over to six hospitals in Kathmandu district. • Facilitated in receiving the WHO purchased items: Assistive Devices and WHO Personnel Deployment Kit(PDK) at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA), Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA). WHO

	Nepal is also preparing the PDK backpack and separate packages of Assistive Devices handover to the concerned consignee/personnel.
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Dr. Dipendra Gautam (NPO -WHO Health Emergencies Unit) facilitating the session on International Health Regulation monitoring and evaluation framework (IHR-MEF) at IHR-2005 State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report (SPAR) Meeting at Chitwan on (12-13 January 2022). Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan

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 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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