

Situation Update #97- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 14 - 20 February 2022 (EPI Week 07)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 20 February 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 21 February 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 97.5% (951,394) of cases have recovered, 1.3% (12,244) are active cases and 1.2% (11,921) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 96% (11,754) cases are in home isolation; 4% (490) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.1% (136) of active cases require ICU admission, 10.3% (14) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Five districts (Morang, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kaski and Kailali) reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (2500) reported this week, 33.1% (828) are from Kathmandu district followed by Kaski district 5.4% (136). Majority of the new cases about 40.8% (1021) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 19 February 2022, 09:20Hrs)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 20 February 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 975,559

Antigen RDT: 138,597

Cumulative deaths: 11,921

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,379,774

Antigen RDT: 1,038,998

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

55,041,156 (13%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

757,525 (13%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

422,188,754 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

5,876,766 (100%)

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	: 4,936,097	First dose	: 10,135,519	Single dose	: 2,995,911	First dose	: 319,608	First dose	: 2,958,404
Second dose	: 3,672,598	Second dose	: 8,645,672			Second dose	: 166,211	Second dose	: 2,184,124

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 20 February 2022, a total of 975,559 (18.1%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) of the total 5,379,774 RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by 104 designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 138,597 (13.3%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT of the total 1,038,998 Antigen RDT 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 7 ranged from 5.5% (Bagmati province) to 40.0% (Karnali province), with a national positivity rate at 6.3%.

- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (573,638/975,559) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (449,333/573,638) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

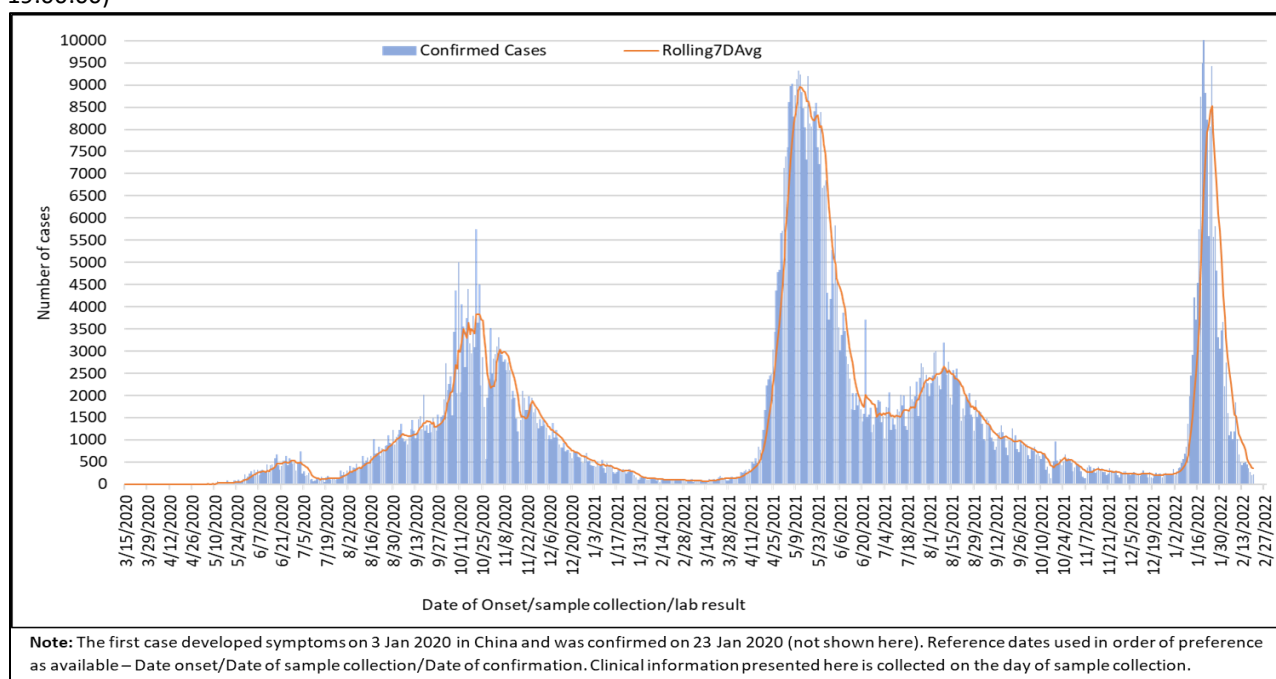
National Influenza Surveillance

- NPHL reported of 2 diagnostic samples tested at NIC-NPHL on Epi-week 7 (14-20 February 2022).
 - Both the samples tested negative for Influenza.
 - Two samples from NIC-NPHL were tested for SARS-CoV-2, which was negative for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on Epi-week 9, 3 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza.
 - None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
- From 3 January 2022 until 20 February 2022:
 - A total of 4 samples tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B Positive and 2 Influenza A/H3) from 956 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 184 samples have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 302 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/>

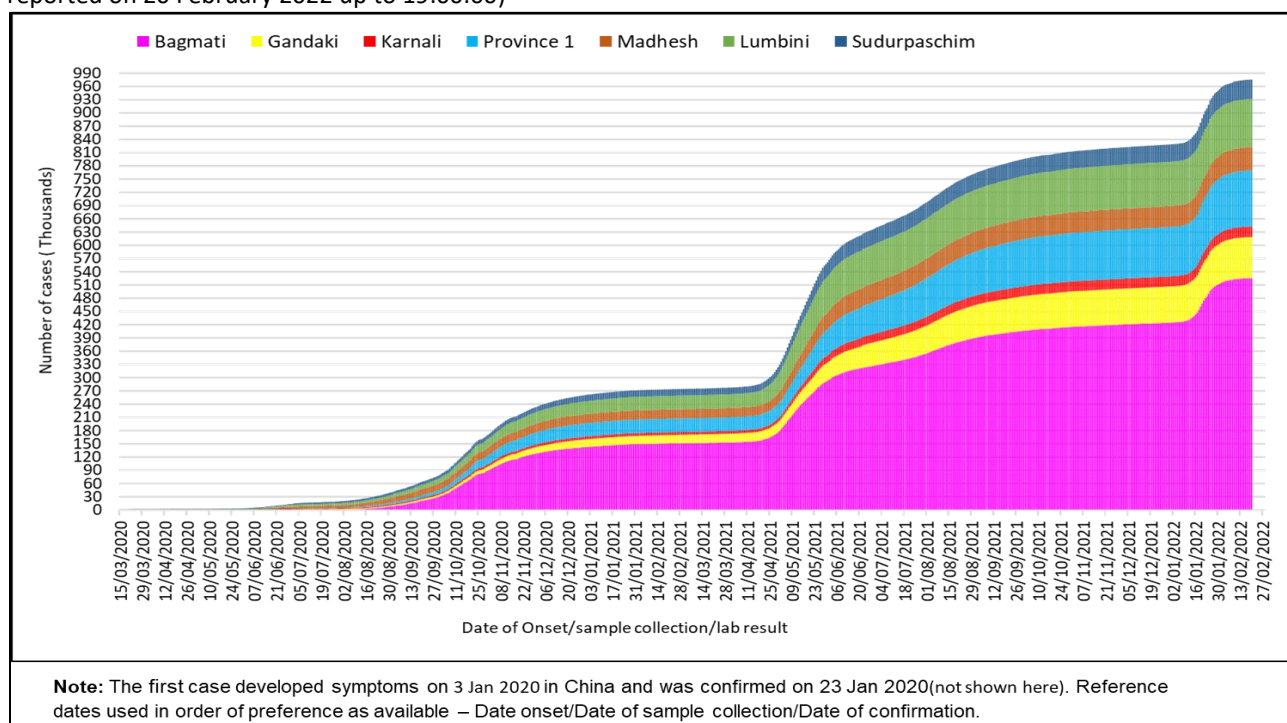
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 975559)(Data reported on 20 February 2022 up to 19:00:00)



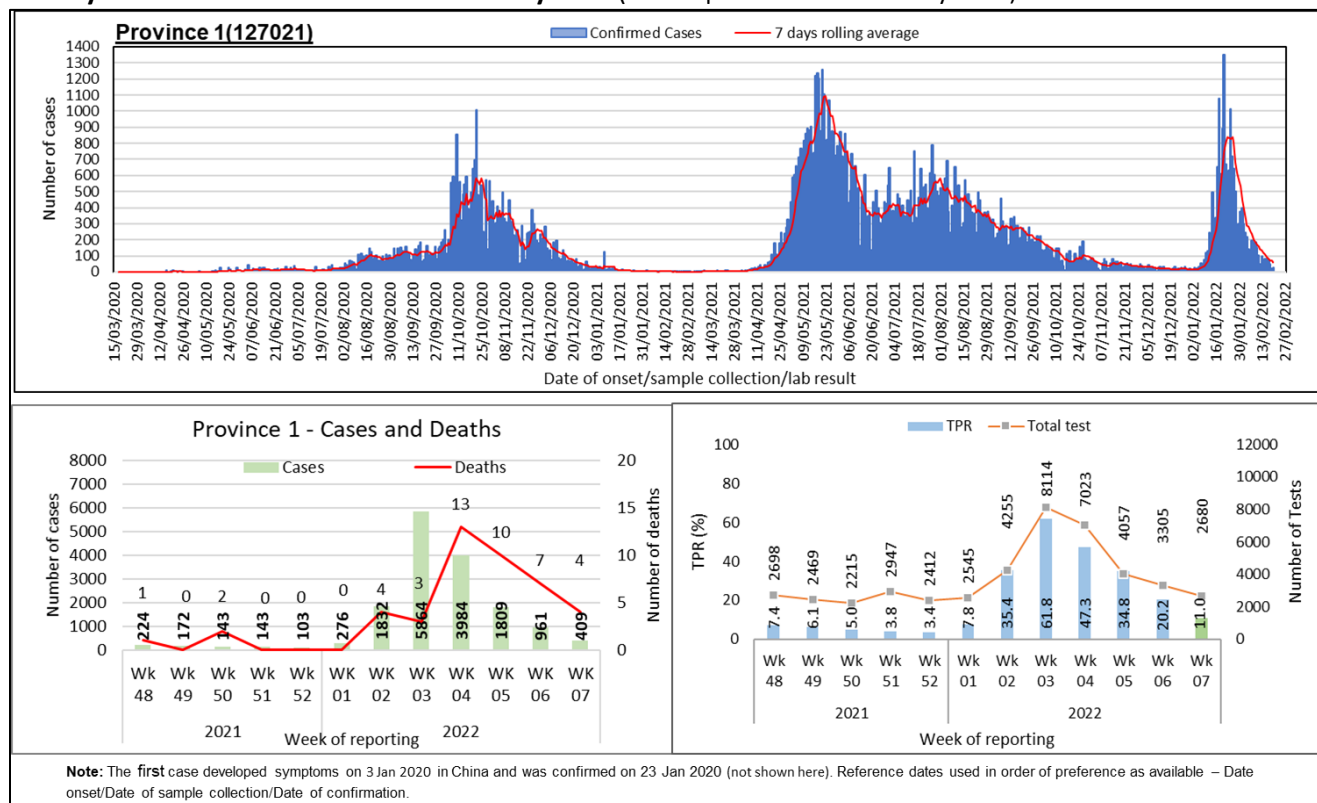
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, cases were continuously soaring up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges, however the trend has been continuously decreasing.

Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases by province (N = 975559)(Data reported on 20 February 2022 up to 19:00:00)



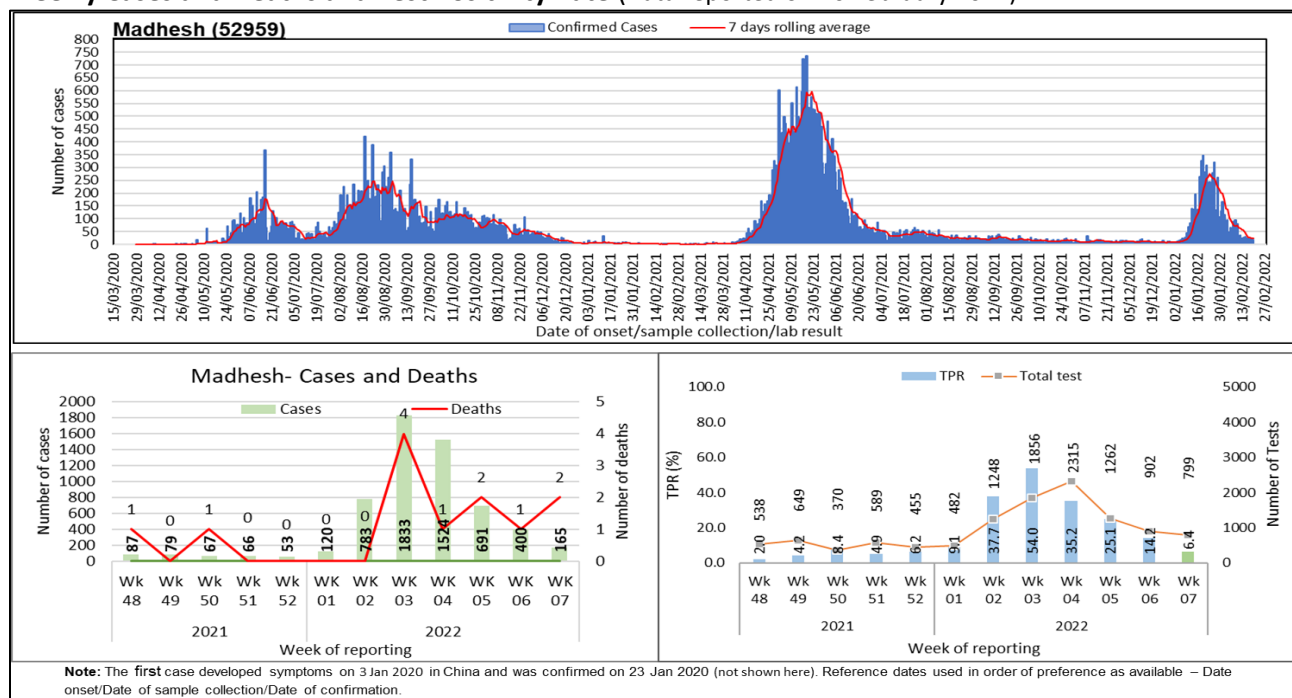
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.

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 20 February 2022)



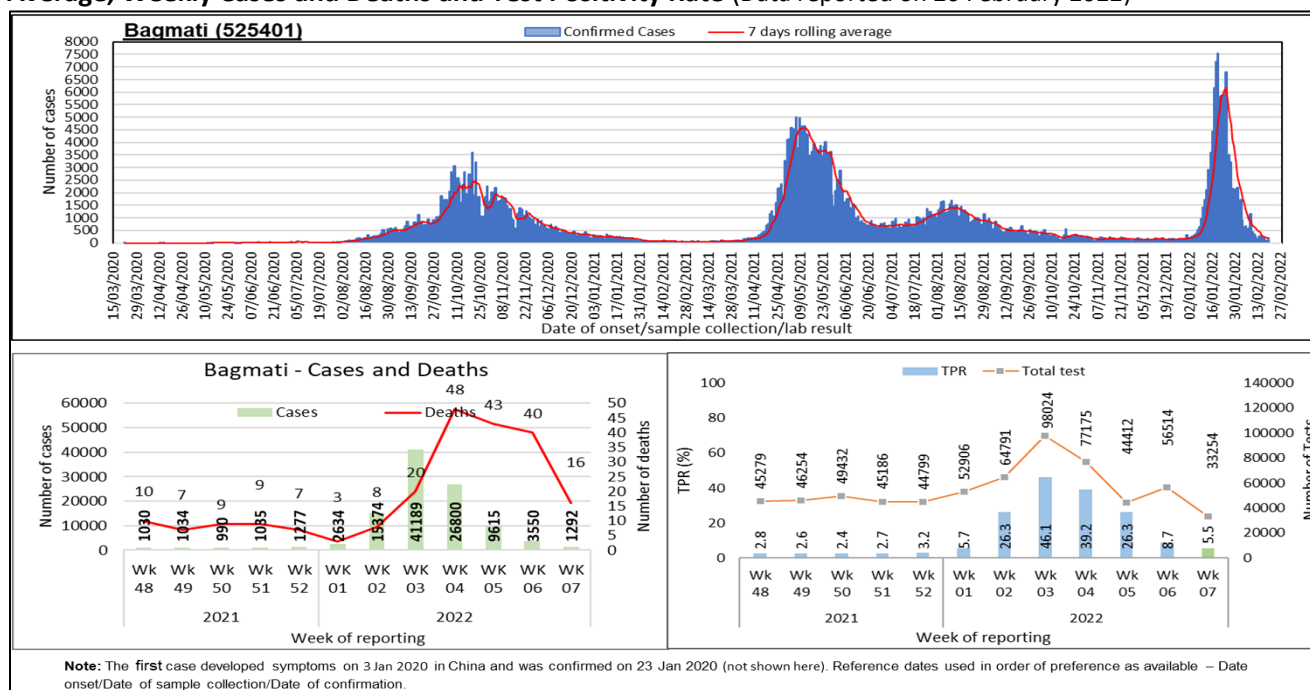
There were 409 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 57% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 43% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 11.0% in the past week. A total of 2680 tests were performed in the past week, 19% less 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 20 February 2022)



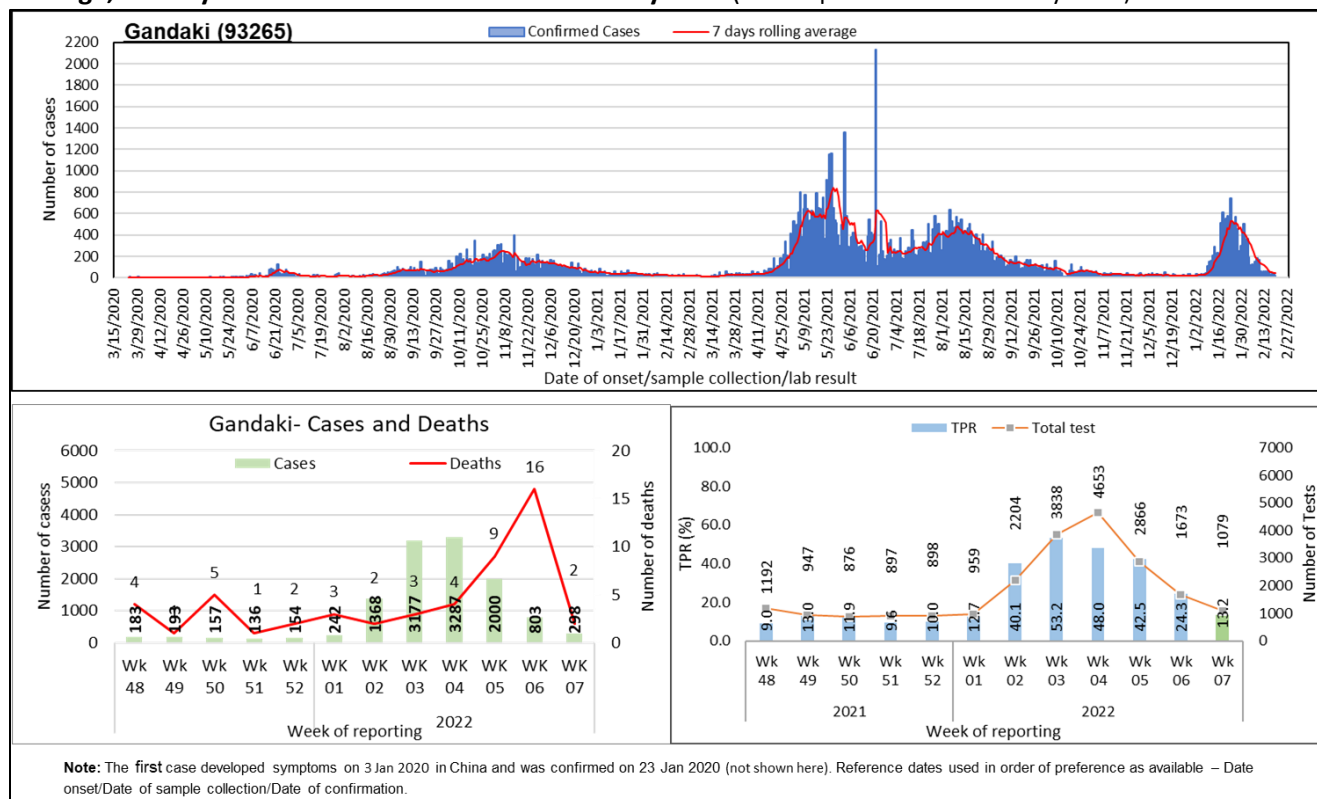
There were 165 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 59% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 6.4% in the past week. A total of 799 tests were performed in the past week, 11% less 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 20 February 2022)



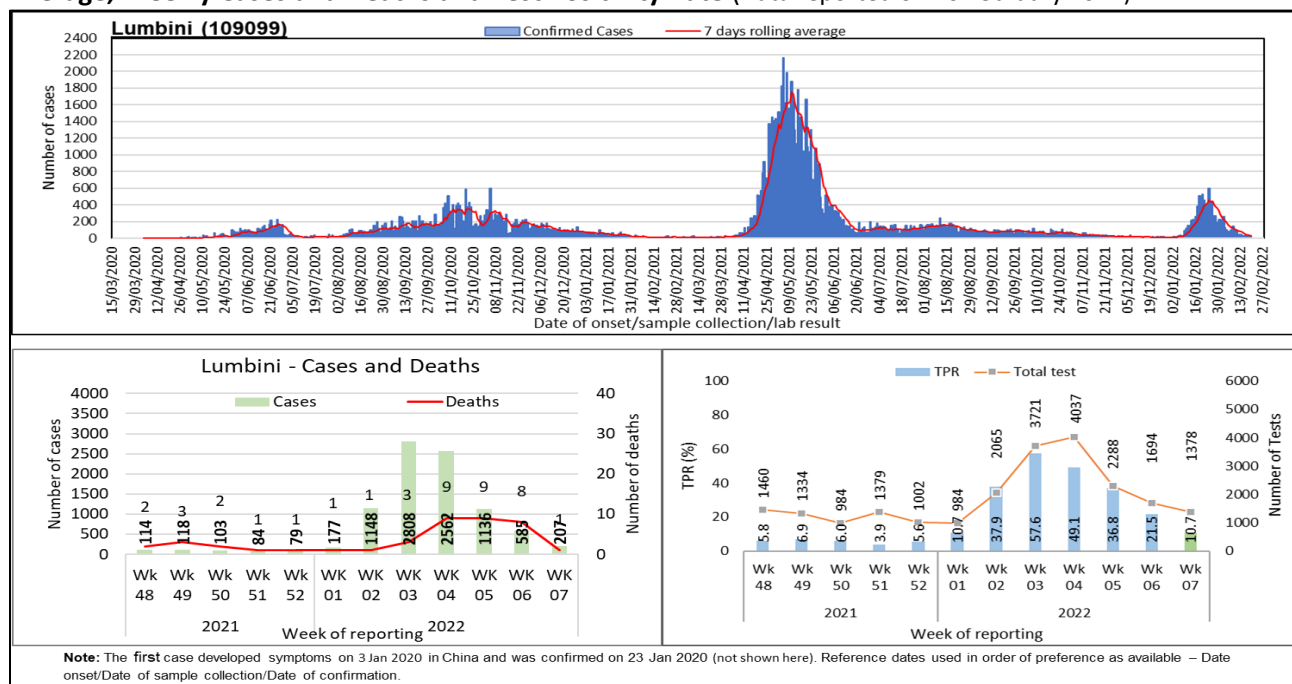
In Bagmati, 1292 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 64% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 16 deaths reported in the past week, 60% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 5.5% in the past week. A total of 33,254 tests were performed in the past week, 41% less 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 20 February 2022)



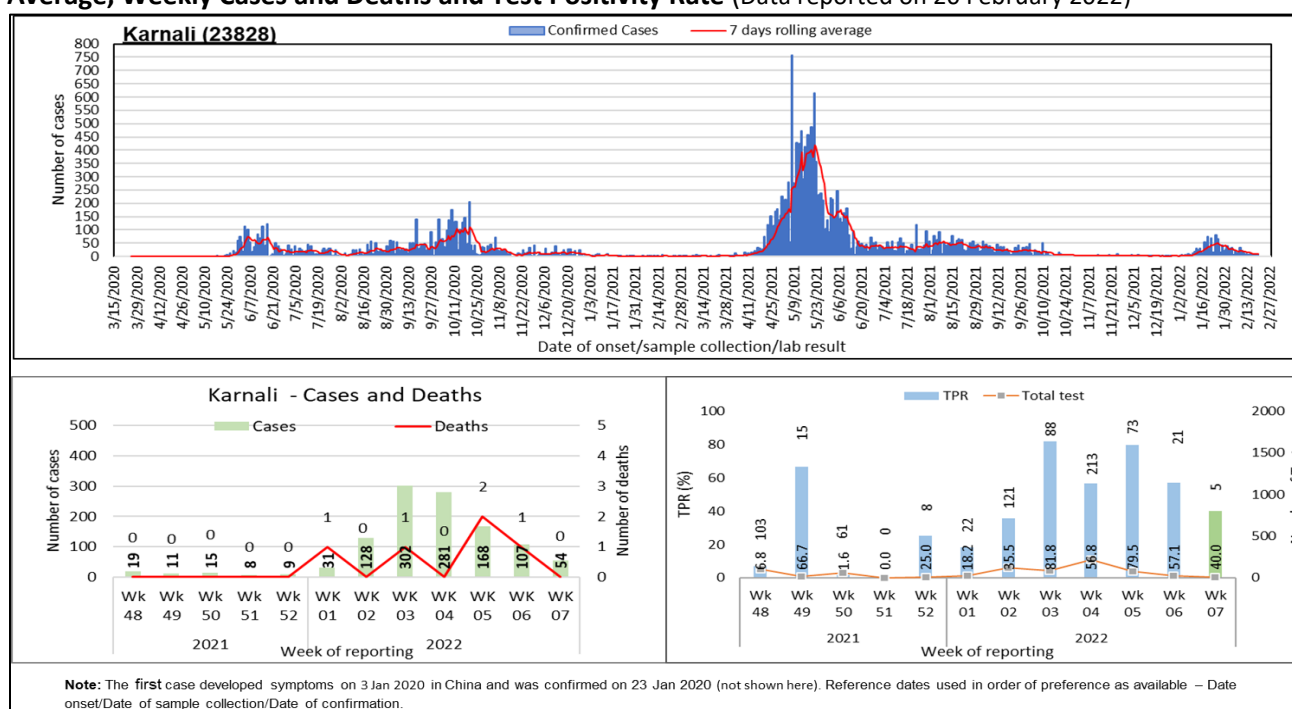
In Gandaki, 298 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 63% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 88% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 13.2% in the past week. A total of 1079 tests were performed in the past week, 36% less 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 20 February 2022)



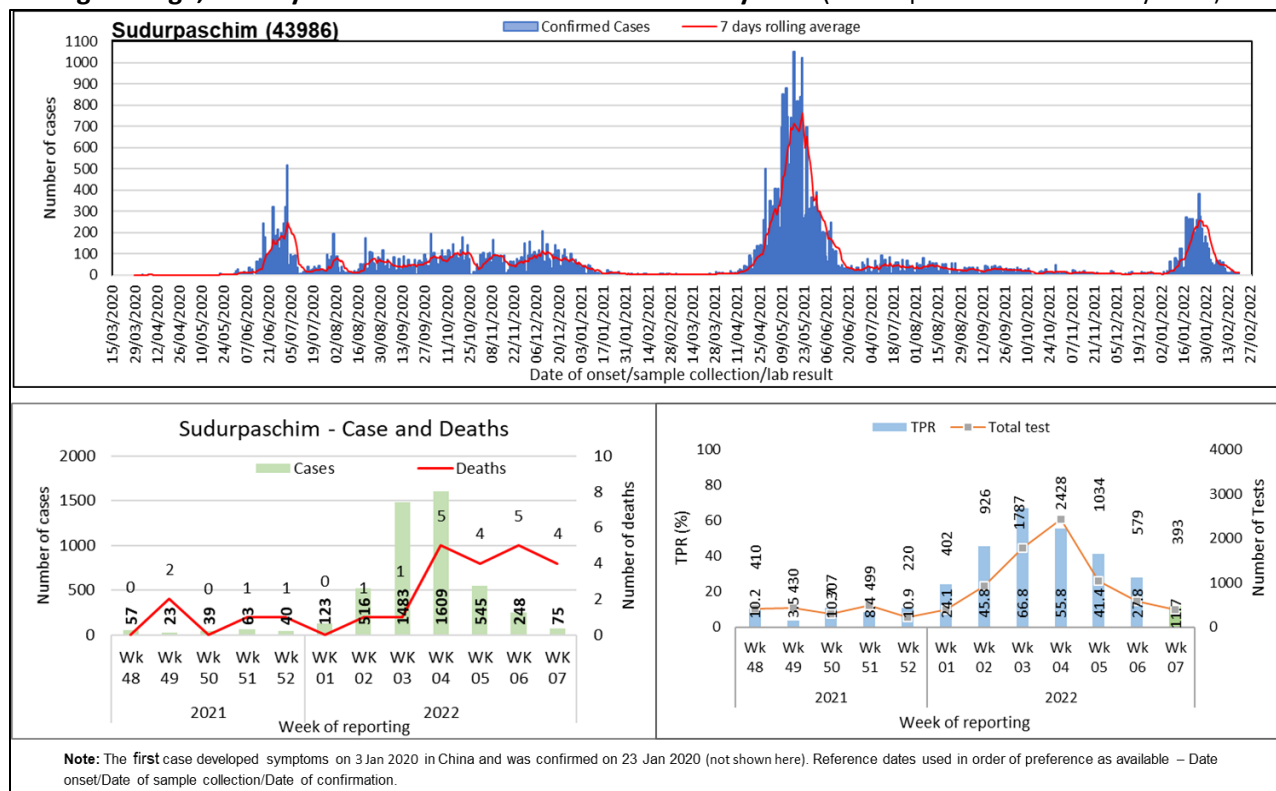
Lumbini reported 207 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 65% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 88% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 10.7% in the past week. A total of 1378 tests were performed in the past week, 19% less 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 20 February 2022)



In Karnali, 54 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 50% 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 40.0% in the past week. A total of 5 tests were in the past week, 76% less 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 20 February 2022)



In Sudurpashchim, 75 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 70% 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 Sudurpashchim decreased to 11.7% in the past week. A total of 393 tests were performed in the past week, 32% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 20 February 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	127021	29465	156486	14.3	1711	Community transmission	674	1370	2044	15.8	11
Province 2	52959	1146	54105	4.9	782	Community transmission	18	565	583	4.5	3
Bagmati	525401	29734	555135	50.7	5149	Community transmission	484	4842	5326	41.2	56
Gandaki	93265	22751	116016	10.6	1416	Community transmission	603	1101	1704	13.2	18
Lumbini	109099	25091	134190	12.3	1859	Community transmission	1428	792	2220	17.2	9
Karnali	23828	5484	29312	2.7	489	Community transmission	334	161	495	3.8	1
Sudurpashchim	43986	5349	49335	4.5	515	Community transmission	244	323	567	4.4	9
National Total	975559	119020*	1094579	100	11921	Community transmission	3785	9154	12939	100	107

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 20 February 2022, **138597 but IMU reported **119020***

Notes:

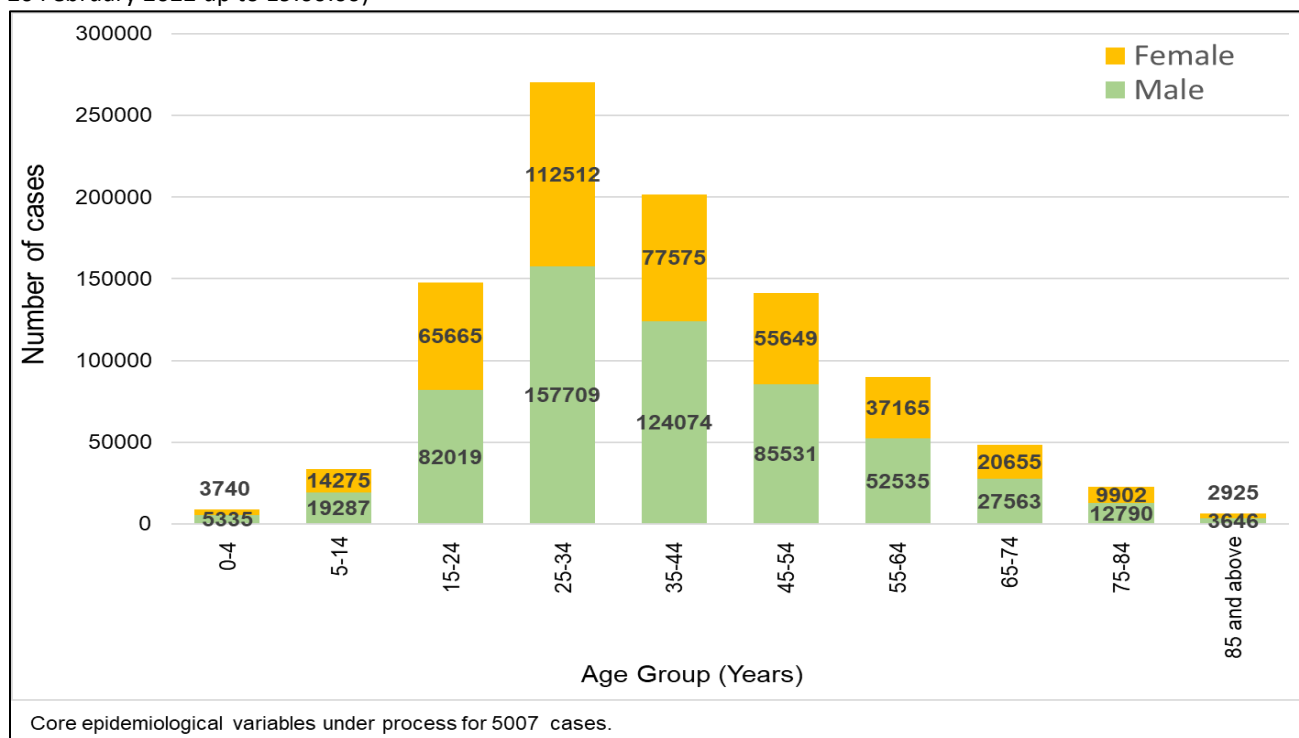
1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT- PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city's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

Situation Update #97 – Corona virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Friday 25 January 2022

Figure 4: Distribution of RT-PCR positive COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 970552)(Data reported on 20 February 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 = 975559)(Data reported on 20 February 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	9075	16	23	13	0.43
5-14	33562	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	147684	91	94	68	0.13
25-34	270221	384	262	146	0.24
35-44	201649	875	450	279	0.66
45-54	141180	1383	643	562	1.44
55-64	89700	1679	796	767	2.76
65-74	48218	1626	880	932	5.2
75-84	22692	1217	651	755	8.23
85+	6571	517	288	272	12.25
Unknown	5007	19	7	11	0.52
National	975559	7820	4101	3815	1.22

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$

COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

A total of 11,921 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,820 (65.6%) were male and 4,101 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,815 persons (32.0%) 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 5.2% to 12.3%.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Update (Data as of 19 February 2022)
 - Government of Nepal aims to vaccinate 100% of ≥18 years population with full dose of COVID-19 vaccine by 13 April 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 (12- 17 year old children) as specified by MoHP and as per National Deployment and Vaccination Plan, Addendum-1.
 - Government of Nepal started vaccination for front liners, ≥60 years population and moderate to severe immunocompromised with booster doses from 16 January 2022.
 - Second dose of Moderna vaccination to specific target group was started from 16 January 2022 in the districts where 1st dose was given from 19 December 2021.
 - Nepal reached the landmark of administering more than 30 million COVID-19 vaccine doses on 28 January 2022.
 - As of 19 February 2022, Nepal has received 47,882,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources and a total of 36,896,436 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered which includes 882,292 booster doses.
 - Among the population aged 18 years and above (19,922,164): 77% have received the first dose (excluding J&J vaccine) while 78% have received the full/second dose as of 19 February 2022. 92% of the mentioned population have received at least first dose including J&J vaccine.
 - Among the 12 -17 age group, 88% have received the first dose while 65% 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:
 - A donation of 2.1 million Astrazeneca COVID-19 vaccines from the UK to Nepal through the COVAX Facility was officially handed over to the Ministry of Health and Population on 17 February 2022.

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:
 - Coordination with designated COVID-19 laboratories and collecting the poster templates for the upcoming conference program on 'COVID-19 Laboratory Experience Sharing'.
 - Standardization of CDC Trioplex kit, which has now enabled NPHL in diagnosis of Chikungunya, Zika, and Dengue viruses.
 - TRUPCR kit validation manufactured by Kiplest India Ltd for the detection of SARS COV-2 by real time PCR.
 - Supported National Influenza Centre (NIC)-NPHL for growth and maintenance of MDCK (Madin-Darby canine kidney) cell line for the isolation of human influenza virus for Influenza virus Surveillance.
- WHO-Laboratory team facilitated the conduction of 'Implementation meeting of Integrated Influenza SARS CoV-2 Sentinel Surveillance in Nepal' on 17 – 18 February 2022 at Gandaki Province. The program was led by NPHL and attended by representatives from Provincial Public Health Laboratory, Pokhara Academy of Health Sciences & Provincial Health Directorate from Gandaki Province, NPHL and WHO Nepal.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Technical and IT support was provided for the MoHP's national press briefing about COVID-19 held on 16 February 2022 (Wednesday) and on 19 February 2022 (Sunday).
 - This week's briefing was focused on discussion around when one should take vaccine if a person has been infected with COVID-19. And the government's decision to vaccinate all people , against COVID-19 based on the self-declaration of their age.
 - Similarly, the message about the provision of heterologous vaccines for the Booster dose was explained in the briefing of this week.
- Under the coordination of the National Assembly and with technical support from World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office for Nepal, the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) organized an interaction program with Speakers, Deputy Speakers and secretaries of all seven Provinces on 19 February 2022 at Kaski district of Gandaki Province. The Interaction Program was centered around COVID-19 vaccination, risk communication, and community engagement. Parliamentarians were also briefed on the Ministry's upcoming plans to conduct such programs with elected officials at each province in the country.



Inauguration of the interaction program with honorable members of the seven Provincial Assemblies which was held in Pokhara, Gandaki Province. Picture Credit - WHO Nepal/A.Maharjan



Left: Dr Allison Gocotano, Team Lead of the World Health Emergencies Program at WHO, Country Office for Nepal, presented on the science behind public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19. Right: Dr Sangita Kaushal Mishra, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Health and Population, gave welcome remarks and described the objectives behind the event. 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 Pandemic.
- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published (14 – 20 February 2022):

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
66	Air pollution, a public health emergency	Nepali	Nepali: Facebook link ; OneDrive link ; YouTube link
66	Air pollution, a public health emergency e	Maithili	Maithili: Facebook link ; OneDrive link ; YouTube link

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

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
21	Medical waste generated during the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects health	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 following documents were uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)):
 - *Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*,
 - *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*, and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Coping mechanisms to deal with grief during COVID-19,
 - Vaccine hesitancy,
 - Vaccine equity,
 - COVID-19 antigen tests,
 - Preventive measures against COVID-19 and its variants in all places,
 - Safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
 - Omicron,
 - Preventive measures for COVID-19,
 - Importance of public health and safety measures after COVID-19 vaccinations,
 - WHO guidance on contact tracing and quarantine for places with extremely high cases due to COVID-19 variant of concern Omicron,
 - Healthy lifestyles and COVID-19,
 - Smoking and COVID-19,
 - Vaccines and Pregnancy,
 - COVID-19 preventive measures while re-opening schools.

Technical Planning and Operations

- WHO co-facilitated MoHP in an orientation on National Ambulance Guideline 2021 with focus on ‘what Traffic Police must know about monitoring of ambulances’ held on 18 February 2022. The program was organized by Metropolitan Traffic Police Division, Kathmandu whereby 65 traffic polices were oriented and handed over 20 copies of guidelines and checklist.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Provincial Ministries of Health and Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Health Cluster Coordination meetings, 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.



- The WHO has been supporting health cluster lead in 3Ws (Who, What, Where) mapping of health partners' support for COVID-19 response.
- The WHO has also been supporting thematic and geographical mapping of health cluster partners.
- 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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