Situation Update #98 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 21 - 27 February 2022 (EPI Week 08)

HIGHLIGHTS
(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 27 February 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 28 February 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 97.9% (956,413) of cases have recovered, 0.9% (8,517) are active cases and 1.2% (11,935) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 97.3% (8,285) cases are in home isolation; 2.7% (232) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 1.0% (81) of active cases require ICU admission, 12.4% (10) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Two districts (Kathmandu and Lalitpur) reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (1306) reported this week, 29.8% (389) are from Kathmandu district followed by Kaski district 7.3% (95). Majority of the new cases 37.1% (484) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 27 February 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cov-AstraZeneca</th>
<th>Vero Cell</th>
<th>Janssen</th>
<th>Pfizer</th>
<th>Moderna</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First dose</td>
<td>4,979,864</td>
<td>10,139,682</td>
<td>3,070,119</td>
<td>321,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second dose</td>
<td>3,794,768</td>
<td>8,791,006</td>
<td>166,438</td>
<td>1,597,013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 27 February 2022, a total of 976,865 COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 5,416,391 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 139,326 cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 1,059,871 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 8 ranged from 2.3% (Madhesh province) to 14.1% (Sudurpashchim province), with a national positivity rate at 3.6%. Karnali province did not report any PCR test conducted in the past week.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (574,374/976,865) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (449,837/574,374) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).
National Influenza Surveillance

- NPHL reported 3 Diagnostic samples tested at NIC-NPHL on EPID-week 8 (21-27th Feb 2022).
  - All three samples were tested negative for Influenza
  - All three samples from NIC-NPHL were tested for SARS-CoV-2, which were tested negative for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested Negative at NPHL on week 8 (21-27th Feb 2022), 92 SARS-CoV-2 samples have been tested for Influenza. None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
- From January 3rd, 2022 until February 27th 2022:
  - A total of 4 samples have been tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B Positive and 2 Influenza A/H3) from 1051 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  - Similarly, 184 samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 305 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).

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.
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Friday 04 March 2022

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=976865) (Data reported on 27 February 2022 up to 19:00:00)

![Chart showing COVID-19 cases over time](image)

**Note:** The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation. Clinical information presented here is collected on the day of sample collection.

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.
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case was confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Province 1 and Lumbini Province.
There were 218 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 47% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 75% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 6.6% in the past week. A total of 2237 tests were performed in the past week, 17% less than that in the previous week.
There were 71 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. 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 was 1 death reported in the past week, 50% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Madhesh Province decreased to 2.3% in the past week. A total of 554 tests were performed in the past week, 31% less than that in the previous week.
In Bagmati, 608 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 53% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 6 deaths reported in the past week, 63% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 2.9% in the past week. A total of 31,381 tests were performed in the past week, 6% less than that in the previous week.

Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.
In Gandaki, 172 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 42% 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 Gandaki decreased to 9.1% in the past week. A total of 996 tests were performed in the past week, 8% less than that in the previous week.
Lumbini reported 137 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 34% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 4 deaths reported in the past week, 300% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 8.2% in the past week. A total of 1166 tests were performed in the past week, 15% less than that in the previous week.
In Karnali, 37 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 31% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, an increase from that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 0.0% in the past week. No tests were reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week.
In Sudurpaschim, 63 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 16% in the past week compared to the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, 75% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim increased to 14.1% in the past week. A total of 283 tests were performed in the past week, 28% less than that in the previous week.
Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 27 February 2022 up to 19:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Province</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>Total Confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests</th>
<th>Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test</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>127239</td>
<td>29578</td>
<td>156817</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>1712</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhesh</td>
<td>53030</td>
<td>1146</td>
<td>54176</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>526009</td>
<td>29798</td>
<td>555807</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>5155</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>2099</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>93437</td>
<td>22808</td>
<td>116245</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>1416</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbini</td>
<td>109236</td>
<td>25339</td>
<td>134575</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>23865</td>
<td>5595</td>
<td>29460</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpashchim</td>
<td>44049</td>
<td>5383</td>
<td>49432</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Total</td>
<td>976865</td>
<td>119647*</td>
<td>1096512</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>11935</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>1630</td>
<td>3806</td>
<td>5436</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 27 February 2022, 139326 but IMU reported 119647

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 cities name in place of districts, district 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 on location of the laboratories rather than their place of residence.
Figure 4: Distribution of RT-PCR positive COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 971848) (Data reported on 27 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.
A total of 11,935 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,831 (65.6%) were male and 4,104 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,828 persons (32.1%) 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 12.2%.
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 27 February 2022)
  - Government of Nepal aims to vaccinate 100% of ≥18 years population with full dose of COVID-19 vaccine by 13 April 2022 (30 Chaitra 2078).
  - Till today, Government of Nepal has vaccinated 77% with first dose and 79% with full dose/second dose for ≥18 years population.
  - 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 has started vaccination for front liners, ≥60 years population and moderate to severe immunocompromised with booster doses from 16 January 2022.
  - Second dose of Moderna to a specific target group (children between 12 to 17 years of age) has 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 28th January 2022.
  - Till now, Nepal has received 47,882,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccine from various sources.
  - As of today, a total of 36,984,611 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (different types) have been safely administered which includes 1,110,550 additional doses. Total number of vaccinations administrated is lower compared to previous updates. This is due to some data entry error, which has been corrected in the recent update.
  - 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

- A total of 54,16,391 RT-PCR tests were performed nationwide by 104 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation (as of 27th Feb 2022).
- Supported the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of 19 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of 17 participating laboratories was 100% concordant and two laboratories was below 90%.
- Technical support provided to NPHL in validation of newly established lab at Sumeru City Hospital, Pulchowk, Lalitpur. The designated laboratory sent 10 positive samples and 10 negative samples to NPHL to undergo the validation process with 100% concordance result. WHO consultant supported in the validation, report preparation, and dissemination.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Interaction sessions, with members of the National Assembly and parliamentarians to discuss COVID-19 vaccination and the role of elected representatives in supporting the government’s vaccination goals, were held in various provinces. The session was organized by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), under the coordination of the National Assembly and technical support from...
WHO, Country Office for Nepal. The session with members of the National Assembly was held in Kathmandu on 22 February 2022. The sessions with parliamentarians from Karnali Province and Sudurpashchim Province were held at Surkhet on 25 February 2022 and at Dhangadhi on 27 February 2022 respectively.

- Bagmati Province: Facebook (link here) and Twitter (link here, here, here, and here)
- Karnali Province: Facebook (link here) and Twitter (here, here, and here)
- Gandaki Province: link here
- Sudurpashchim Province: link here

WHO Nepal continues to provide technical support to National Health Education Information Communication Center (NHEICC) on the following activities:

- Daily EIOS (Integration of the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources Media) monitoring
- Review of communications material including radio and television programs on a variety of health topics

WHO Nepal continues to support EDCD Call Center in debunking rumours, misinformation and addressing public concerns about COVID-19 Pandemic. WHO experts contribute towards preparing FAQs to respond to new and emerging queries on COVID-19.

WHO Nepal continues to provide technical support to the MoHP's press briefings which are held twice a week.

Episode 22 of Science in 5 podcast in Nepali language was released on Soundcloud (link here). The topic of the episode was polio and COVID-19. 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 web story - Crucial Training on Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome Held - was published on the website for WHO, Country Office for Nepal (link here). The training was provided to over 1,600 healthcare workers in Nepal to successfully manage Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) - an inflammatory lung injury with a high mortality rate which can occur in some COVID-19 patients.

Important announcements on the national administration of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines were shared.

The MoHP press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via Facebook and Twitter.

The following documents were uploaded on ReliefWeb (link here):

- Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring,
- Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and

IEC materials on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:

- COVID-19 preventive measures while re-opening schools,
- Preventive measures against COVID-19 and its variants in all places,
- Safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines,
- Preventive measures for COVID-19,
- Importance of public health and safety measures after COVID-19 vaccinations,
- Healthy lifestyles and COVID-19.
WHO Representative to Nepal, Dr Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, spoke about how essential leadership is at all levels of the society to address the many facets of the COVID-19 pandemic, during the interaction session with Members from the National Assembly, held in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province.

*Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/A.Maharjan*

Rt. Honorable Chairperson of the National Assembly, Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, inaugurated the interaction session conducted with Members from the National Assembly, held in Kathmandu

*Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/A.Maharjan*

Members from the National Assembly attending the interaction program in Kathmandu, Bagmati Province.

*Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/A.Maharjan*
Technical Planning and Operations

- WHO provided technical and financial support to the National Health Training Centre (NHTC) for conducting a 3-day Training of Trainers (TOT) on "Users Training on Biomedical Equipment". The training was provided to biomedical engineers based at different health facilities under Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) across the nation, at Nepal Armed Police Force Hospital from 22 February 2022.

- WHO facilitated to organize an ambulance driver training, conducted from 23 to 25 February 2022 by National Health Training Center. Sixteen ambulance drivers have completed the training course and received certification. The course is mandatory for renewing ambulances in Nepal.
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 health 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.
- WHO has been supporting health cluster lead in 3Ws (Who, What, Where) mapping of health partners’ support for COVID-19 responses and their thematic and geographical mapping as well.
- 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 about 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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