

Situation Update #99 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 28 February - 06 March 2022 (EPI Week 09)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 06 March 2022 and same data published in EDCD Report as of 07 March 2022)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.1% (959,093) of cases have recovered, 0.7% (6,461) are active cases and 1.2% (11,947) are deaths.
- Among the total active cases, 98.1% (6,338) cases are in home isolation; 1.9% (123) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 0.9% (56) 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 (636) reported this week, 23.3% (148) are from Kathmandu district followed by Kaski district 7.1% (45). Majority of the new cases 31.6% (201) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status *(as of 06 March 2022)*

Covi-AstraZeneca		Vero Cell		Janssen		Pfizer		Moderna	
First dose	5,020,310	First dose	10,163,557	Single dose	3,121,011	First dose	324,411	First dose	3,018,912
Second dose	3,866,620	Second dose	8,882,826			Second dose	235,002	Second dose	1,770,764

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 6 March 2022, a total of 977,501 COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 5,446,075 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 139,545 cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 1,076,912 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 9 ranged from 1.7% (Bagmati province) to 6.8% (Gandaki province), with a national positivity rate at 2.1%. Karnali province did not report any PCR test conducted in the past week.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 59% (574,751/977,501) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 78% (450,116/574,751) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 06 March 2022)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 977,501

Antigen RDT: 139,545

Cumulative deaths: 11,947

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 5,446,075

Antigen RDT: 1,076,912

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

56,121,859 (13%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

765,628 (13%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

444,101,547 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

5,995,585 (100%)

- A total of 29684 RT-PCR tests were performed in week 9, 19% less than that in week 8 (36617). A total of 17,041 Antigen tests were performed in week 9, 18% less than that in week 8 (20873). A total of 46725 tests (PCR plus AgRDT) were performed in week 9, 19% less than that in week 8 (57490).

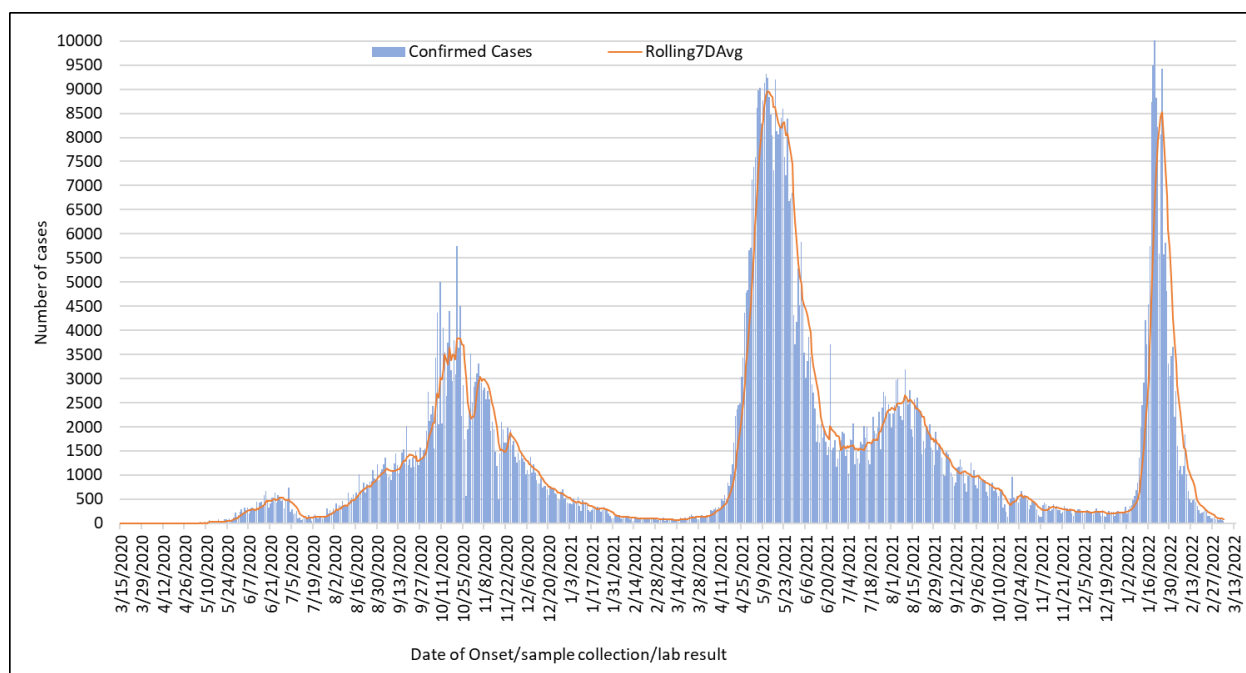
National Influenza Surveillance

- NPHL reported 6 Diagnostic samples tested at NIC-NPHL on EPID-week 9 (28 Feb - 06 Mar 2022).
 - All six samples were tested negative for Influenza
 - All six 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 9 (28 Feb - 06 Mar 2022), 91 SARS-CoV-2 samples have been tested for Influenza. None of the samples tested positive for Influenza.
- From January 3rd, 2022 until March 6th, 2022:
 - A total of 4 samples have been tested positive for Influenza (2 Influenza B Positive and 2 Influenza A/H3) from 1199 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
 - Similarly, 198 samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 364 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.

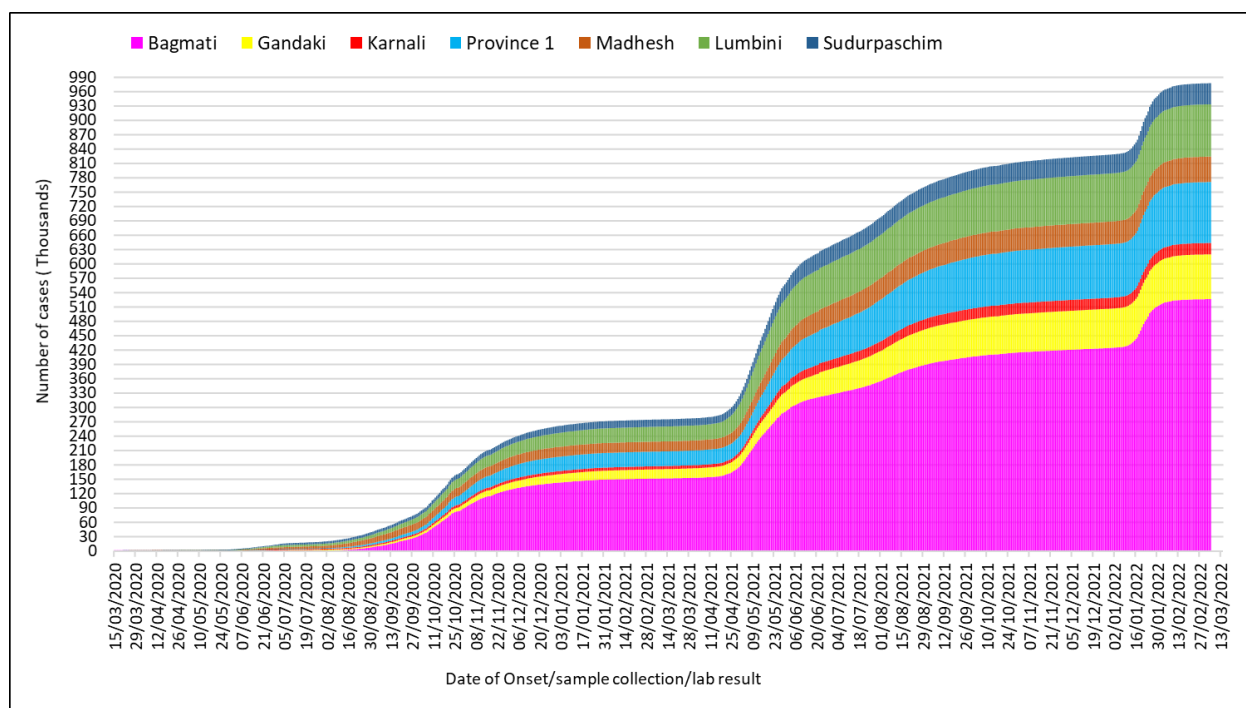
Figure 1: RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N=977,501) (Data reported on 06 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)



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.

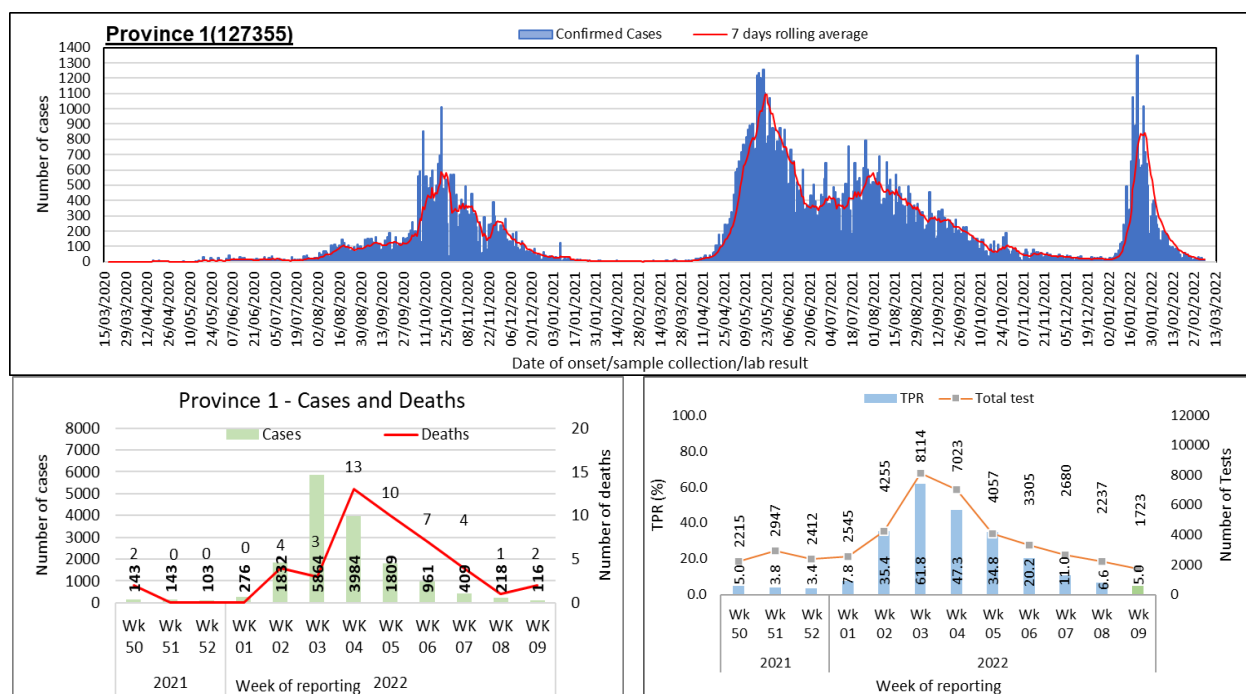
Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases by province (N=977,501) (Data reported on 06 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)



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.

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.

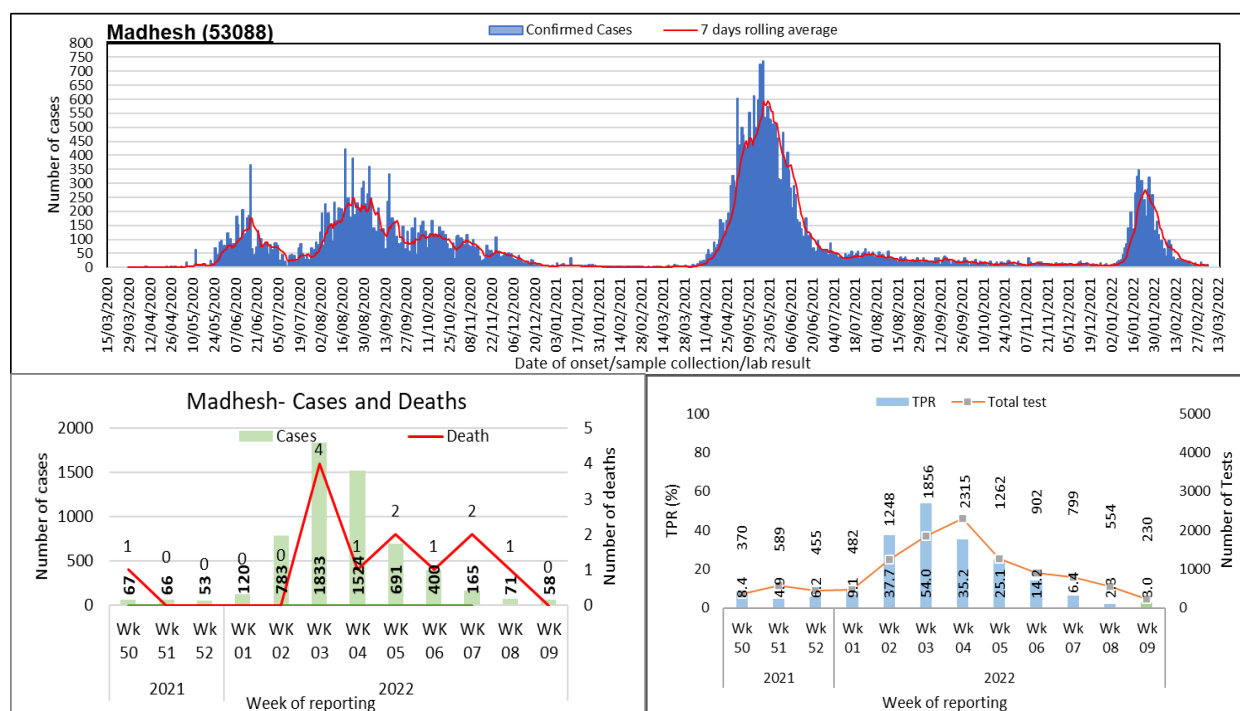
Figure 3A1: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Province 1: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 06 March 2022)



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.

There were 116 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 were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 100% more than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 5.0% in the past week. A total of 1723 tests were performed in the past week, 23% less than that in the previous week.

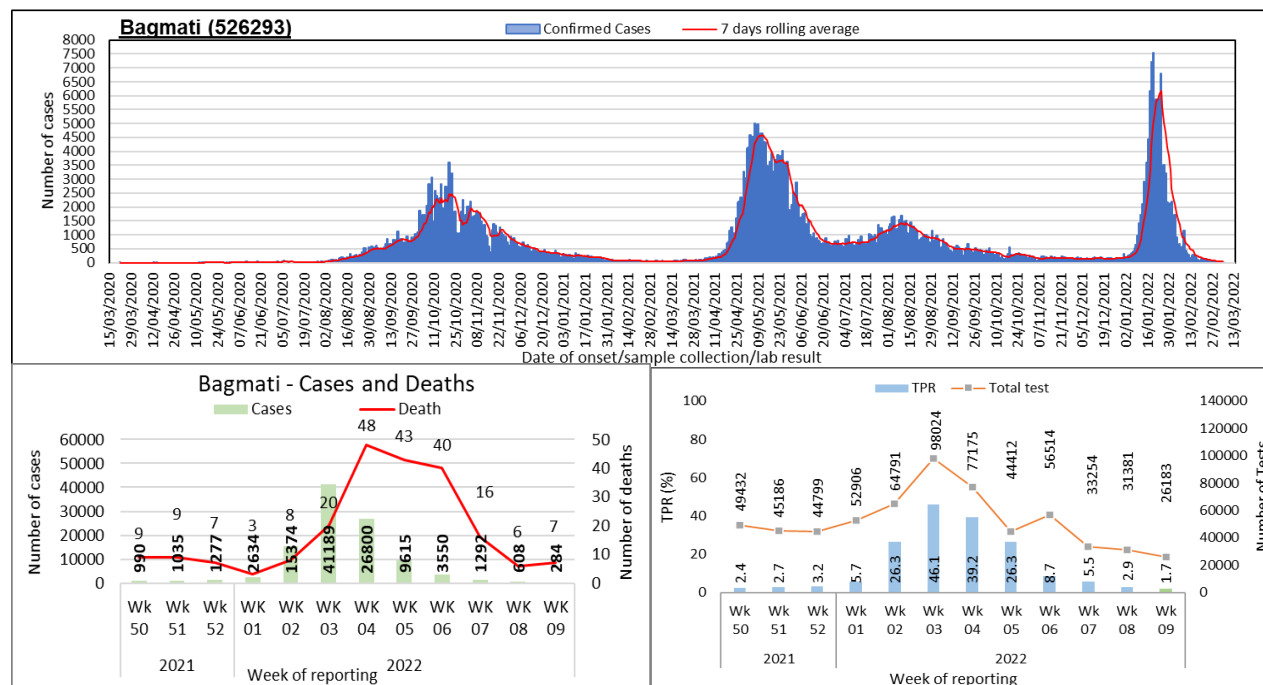
Figure 3A2: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Madhesh Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 06 March 2022)



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.

There were 58 new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh province. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 18% 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 Madhesh Province decreased to 3.0% in the past week. A total of 230 tests were performed in the past week, 58% less than that in the previous week.

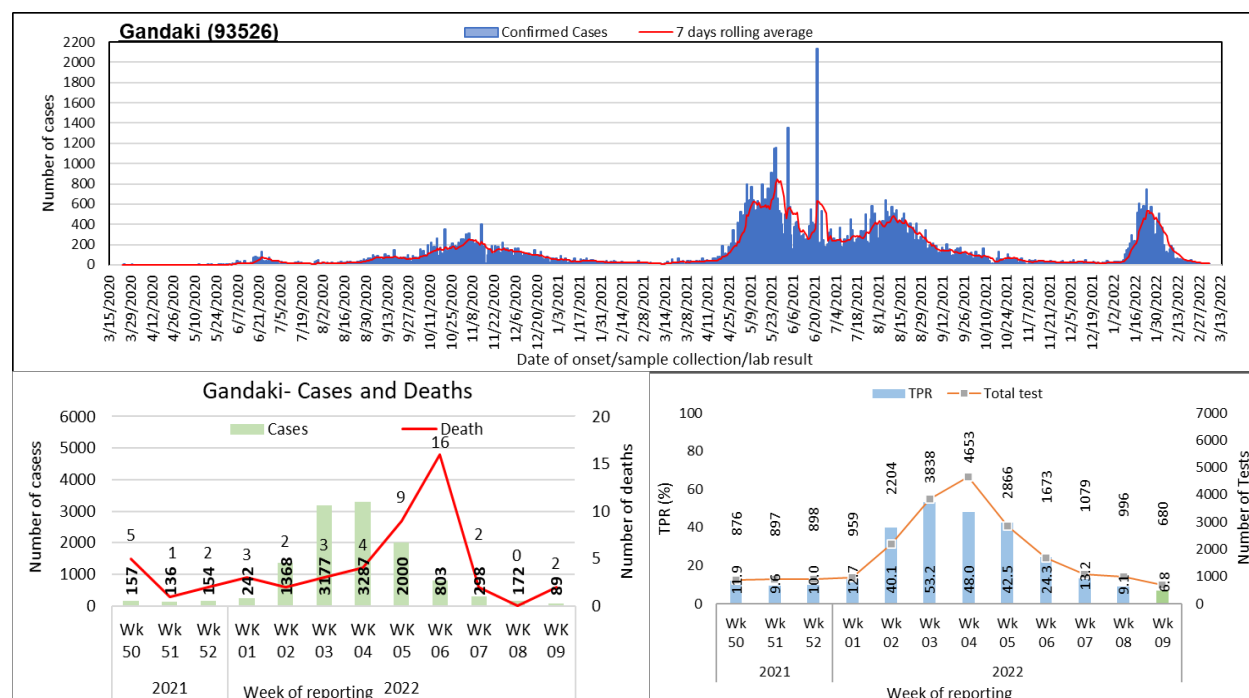
Figure 3A3: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Bagmati Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 06 March 2022)



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 Bagmati, 284 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 7 deaths reported in the past week, 17% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 1.7% in the past week. A total of 26,183 tests were performed in the past week, 17% less than that in the previous week.

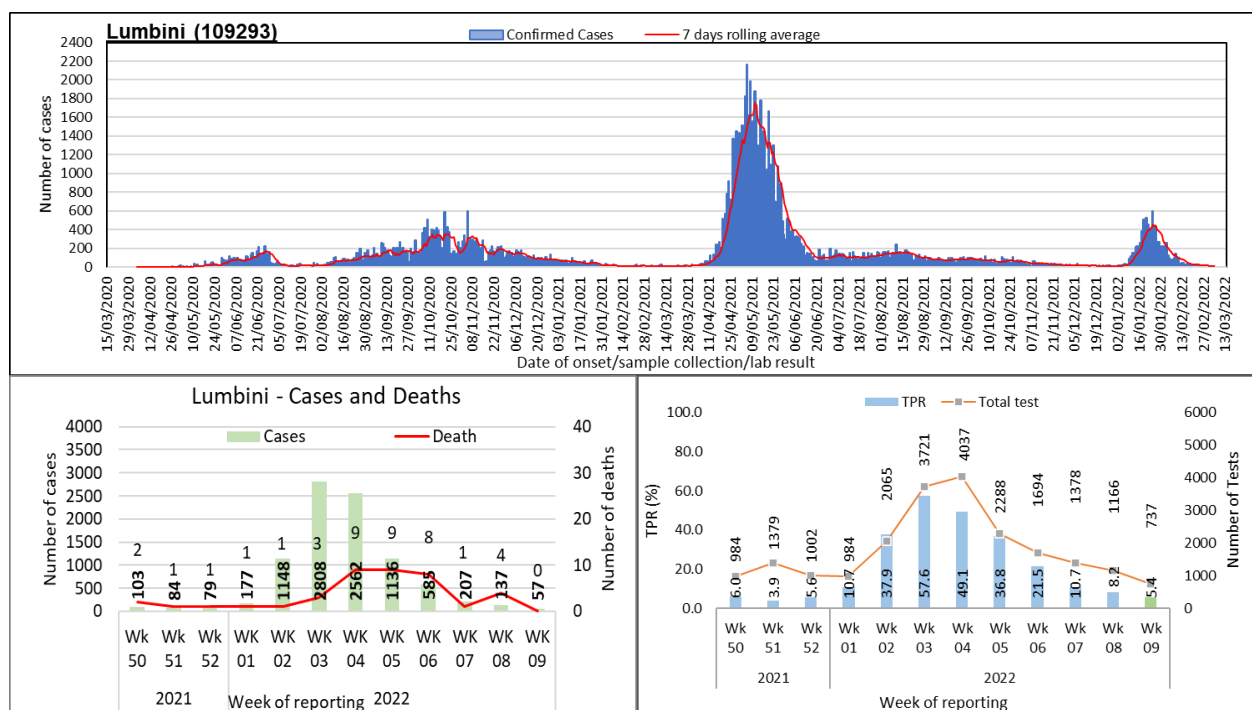
Figure 3A4: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gandaki Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 06 March 2022)



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, 89 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 48% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, increase from no death in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki decreased to 6.8% in the past week. A total of 680 tests were performed in the past week, 32% less than that in the previous week.

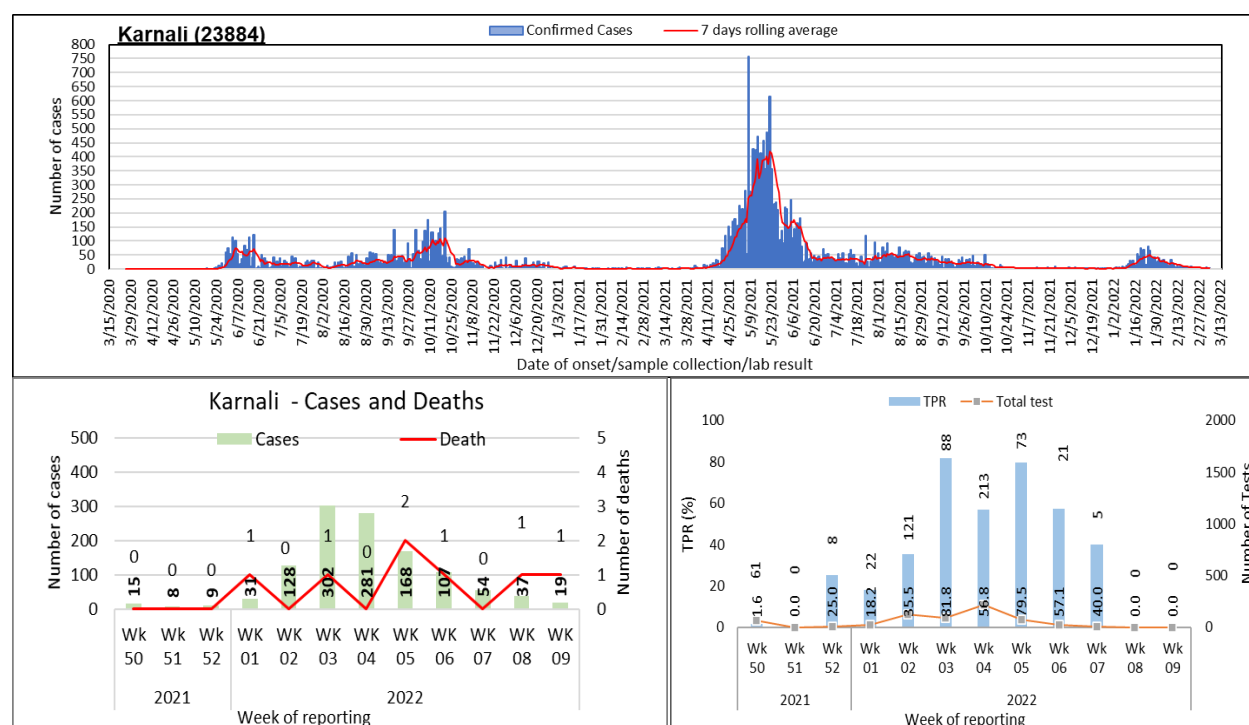
Figure 3A5: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lumbini Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 06 March 2022)



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.

Lumbini reported 77 new cases in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 58% 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 Lumbini decreased to 5.4% in the past week. A total of 737 tests were performed in the past week, 37% less than that in the previous week.

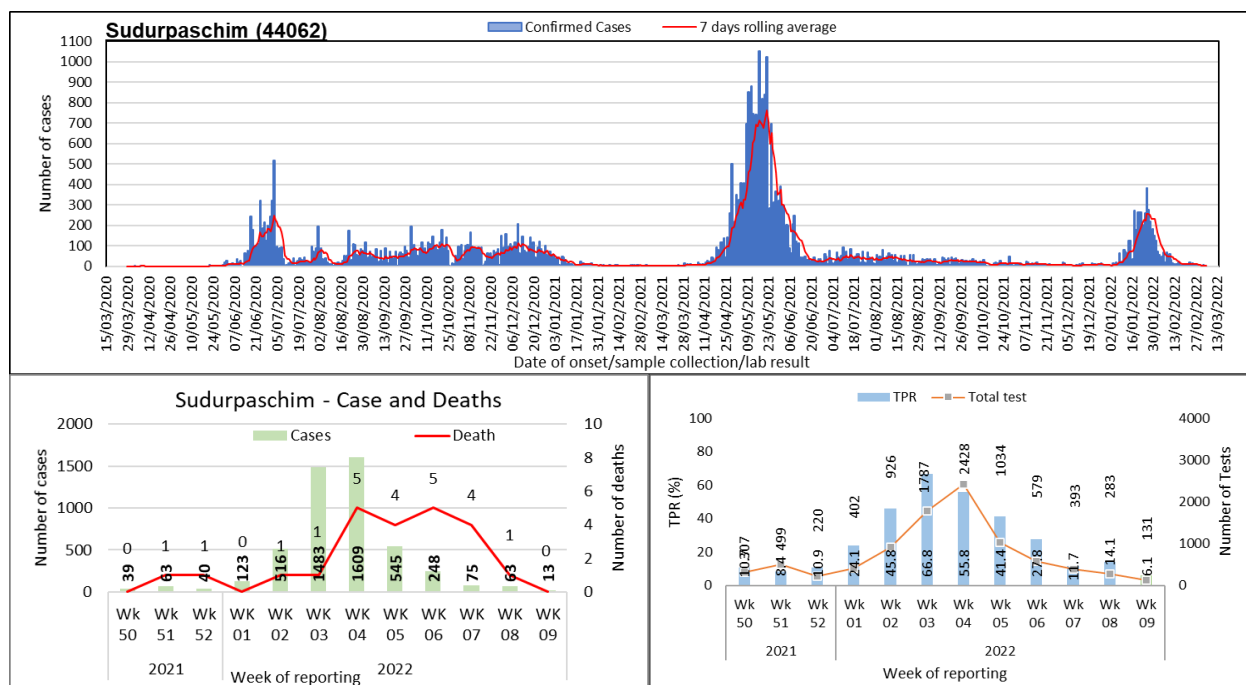
Figure 3A6: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Karnali Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 06 March 2022)



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 Karnali, 19 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 3, cases are continuously decreasing. Cases have decreased by 49% 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 Karnali remain 0.0% in the past week with no test performed reported in the past week.

Figure 3A7: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Sudurpashchim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 06 March 2022)



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 Sudurpaschim, 13 new cases were reported in the past week. Since a peak in week 4, cases are in a decreasing trend. Cases have decreased by 79% 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 Sudurpaschim increased to 6.1% in the past week. A total of 131 tests were performed in the past week, 54% less than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 06 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)

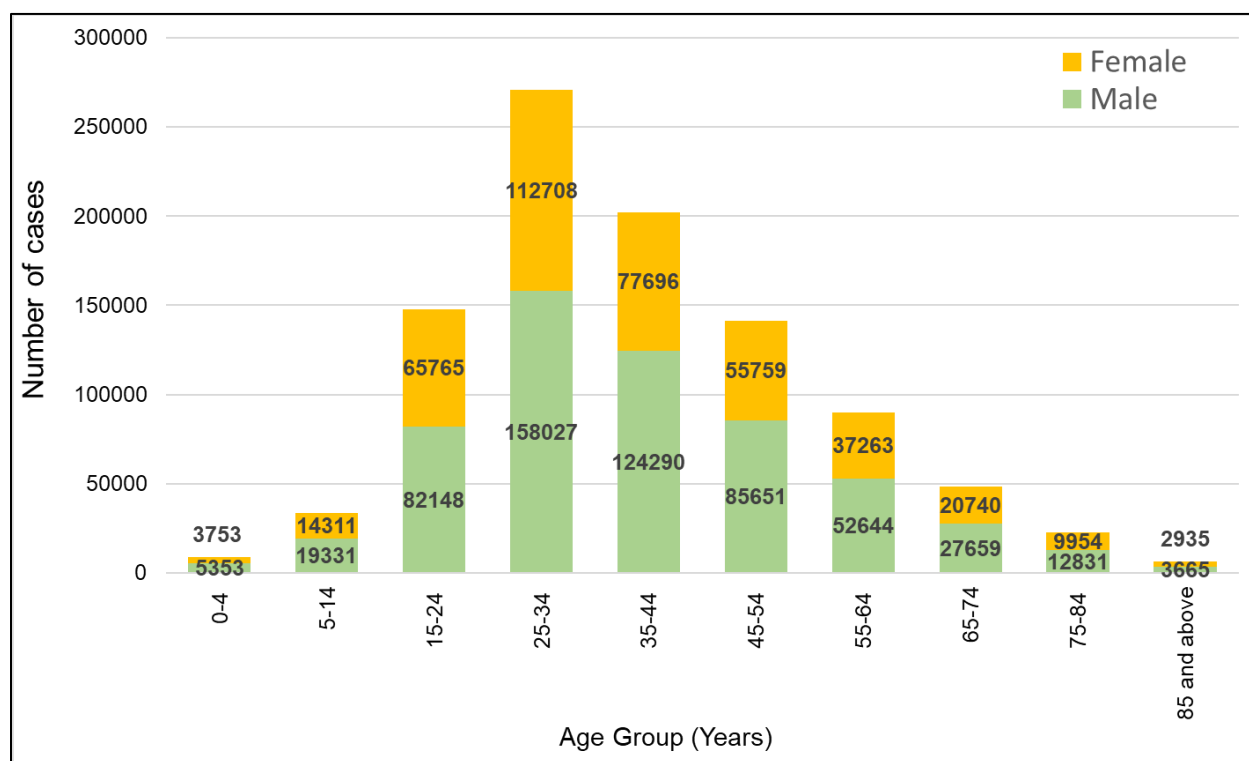
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	127355	29592	156947	14.3	1714	Community transmission	136	334	470	16.3	3
Madhesh	53088	1148	54236	4.9	783	Community transmission	5	129	134	4.7	1
Bagmati	526293	29818	556111	50.7	5162	Community transmission	129	892	1021	35.4	13
Gandaki	93526	22830	116356	10.6	1418	Community transmission	89	261	350	12.1	2
Lumbini	109293	25406	134699	12.3	1863	Community transmission	322	194	516	17.9	4
Karnali	23884	5628	29512	2.7	491	Community transmission	190	56	246	8.5	2
Sudurpashchim	44062	5406	49468	4.5	516	Community transmission	68	76	144	5.0	1
National Total	977501	119828*	1097329	100	11947	Community transmission	939	1942	2881	100	26

*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 06 March 2022, **139545** but IMU reported **119828**

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=972,483) (Data reported on 06 March 2022 up to 19:00:00)



Note: Core epidemiological variables under process for 5018 cases.

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=977,501) (Data reported on 06 March 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	9106	16	23	13	0.43
5-14	33642	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	147913	91	95	69	0.13
25-34	270735	385	264	149	0.24
35-44	201986	875	450	279	0.66
45-54	141410	1385	643	564	1.43
55-64	89907	1682	796	769	2.76
65-74	48399	1631	884	940	5.2
75-84	22785	1220	654	761	8.22
85+	6600	519	288	274	12.23
Unknown	5018	19	7	11	0.52
National	977501	7836	4111	3839	1.22

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

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

A total of 11,947 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,836 (65.6%) were male and 4,111 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,839 persons (32.1%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is 1.1%, 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 is going simultaneously in all provinces of the country
- Ministry of Health and Population is planning to conduct a COVID-19 Intra-action Review in March 2022
- All restrictions related to COVID-19 lifted fully with effect from 5th March 2022 in Kathmandu Valley. However standard PHSM protocols still apply in mass gathering, educational institutions and business activities.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

Laboratory Diagnosis

- A total of 54,46,075 RT-PCR tests were performed nationwide by 105 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation (as of 06th March 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 5 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all participating laboratories was 100% concordant.
- Technical support provided to NPHL in sample preparation for sixth round of SARS-CoV-2 real-time PCR assay proficiency testing of designated COVID-19 laboratories.
- Technical support provided in conducting gene sequencing of 32 SARS-CoV-2 samples at NPHL.

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training²
- WHO provided technical and financial support to the National Health Training Centre (NHTC) for conducting second batch of ambulance driver training. The training was conducted from 02 to 04 March 2022 at National Health Training Center, Kathmandu. Eighteen ambulance drivers have completed the training course and received certification. The course is mandatory for renewing ambulances in Nepal.

² The routine works of the technical expertise and training team are included technical support to the Ministry of Health and Population and its department for developing different guidelines/manuals, conducting health programs and conducting capacity building activities. In order to perform these activities, the team coordinates and discuss with relevant government authorities and partners for effective planning and conducting the various activities.



Second batch of ambulance driver training conducted from 2-4 March 2022 by National Health Training Center, Kathmandu.

Photo Courtesy: National Health Training Centre/S.K.Dev



Mr Bajresh Tamang, is a certified Basic Emergency Technician, National Health Training Center selected him to train ambulance driver training. Mr Tamang is a government employee, working as a Health Assistant in Dhading District.

Photo Courtesy: WHO Nepal/B. Bist

Operational Support and Logistics

- WHO handed over tablets and pulse oximeters (fingertip and portable handheld) to B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKISH) on 23 February 2022 for ongoing Oxygen study related to COVID-19. The project is supported by WHO headquarter.
- The team provided event management and logistics support for the series of events on the “Parliamentarian Interaction Program” on Risk Communication and Community Engagement and COVID-19 Vaccination at three provinces.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- WHO Nepal is providing regular support to Health Coordination Division, Ministry of Health, and Population (MoHP) for conducting its National Briefing on COVID-19, that is broadcasted twice a week, on Sundays and Wednesdays at 4:15 PM via Nepal Television and simultaneously streamed on social media platforms.
- This week's briefings covered COVID-19 cases updates, COVID-19 vaccination coverage status, questions related to booster dose and Post COVID-19 condition, among others. A segment on the accomplishments at Point of Entries was also featured.
- WHO Nepal provided technical support for an interaction program with members of the Upper House of Nepal's Parliament which was organized by Ministry of Health and Population on 02 March 2022 at Kathmandu. The objective was to brief the parliamentarians on importance of risk communications and community engagement and discuss the roles of elected officials in promoting vaccine uptake.
- Episode 67 of *Science in 5 (Understanding immunity)* was translated, dubbed, and published via the following links: Maithili: Facebook [link](#); OneDrive [link](#); YouTube [link](#)
- Episode 23 of *Science in 5* podcast in Nepali language was released on Soundcloud (link [here](#)). The topic of the episode was if it was safe to take different COVID-19 vaccines. 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](#)): i. *Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*, ii. *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard*, and iii. 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: Safety and importance of COVID-19 vaccines, Mental health and COVID-19, Safe celebrations of festivals during COVID-19, Preventive measures against COVID-19 and its variants in all places, COVID-19 preventive measures while re-opening schools.
- Regular support to NHEICC for review of technical content and regular documentation of WHO's activities is continued. This week, the news of the training of over 1,600 healthcare workers in Nepal to successfully manage Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) was shared via Facebook (link [here](#)) and Twitter (link [here](#)).

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- 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.
- 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](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

WHO Representative

Dr Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav
WHO Representative to the
Government of Nepal
Email: pandavr@who.int

Health Cluster Co-lead

Dr Sunoor Verma
Pillar Lead – Partner Coordination
WHO Country Office for Nepal
COVID-19 Response IMS
Email: sverma@who.int

WHO Incident Manager

Dr Allison Gocotano
Team Leader - WHO Health Emergencies
Program (WHE)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gocotanoa@who.int

Communication/Media Focal Point

Ms Tsering Dolkar Gurung
Media, Communication and Public
Information Officer
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gurungt@who.int