

# Situation Update #13- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

14 July 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Nepal

- The Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), Department of Health Services (DoHS) conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (CICT) to 70 health workers and an orientation on COVID-19 and the CICT process to 52 health workers from the Sudurpaschim & Karnali provinces from 4 to 9 July 2020 in two sessions respectively.
- The high-level committee meeting of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) was held under the chairmanship of the Honorable Minister of Health to make available paid PCR test services from some Government designated COVID-19 hospital laboratories, selected Provincial Public Health laboratories and some private hospitals and laboratories at a rate not exceeding NRs 5500
- All seven provinces and 77 districts are affected by COVID-19 but, no cases have been reported for the last 14 days from 4 districts (Bhojpur, Humla, Manang and Mustang).

#### **SITUATION OVERVIEW** (reported up to 14<sup>July</sup> 2020)

##### **NEPAL**

**17059 confirmed cases**

**37 deaths**

**2,89,371 RT-PCR tests (As of 13th July 2020)**

##### **SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION**

**11,96,651 confirmed cases**

**29,900 deaths**

##### **GLOBAL**

**1,29,64,809 confirmed cases**

**5,70,288 deaths**

#### Regional/Global

- [OpenWHO.org](https://openwho.org), WHO's health emergencies online learning platform, has published courses on thirteen COVID-19 topics with more than 3.7 million enrollments.
- The [WHO Academy](https://whoacademy.org), which aims to build one of the world's largest and most innovative digital learning platforms, is holding a [survey from 8 to 29 July](#) to learn about how courses can be adapted to meet the needs of health workers and other stakeholders globally.
- WHO launched the [Access Initiative for Quitting Tobacco](#), which aims to help the world's 1.3 billion tobacco users quit tobacco use during the pandemic. The Initiative also enlists the help of WHO's - and the world's - first ever virtual health worker, Florence. You can [speak with Florence](#), to dispel myths around COVID-19 and smoking, and to help develop a personalized plan to quit tobacco.
- WHO has published the [guidance on maintaining a safe and adequate blood supply during the coronavirus disease pandemic](#).
- WHO has published the [Emergency Global Supply Chain System \(COVID-19\) catalogue](#) that lists all medical devices, including personal protective equipment, medical equipment, medical

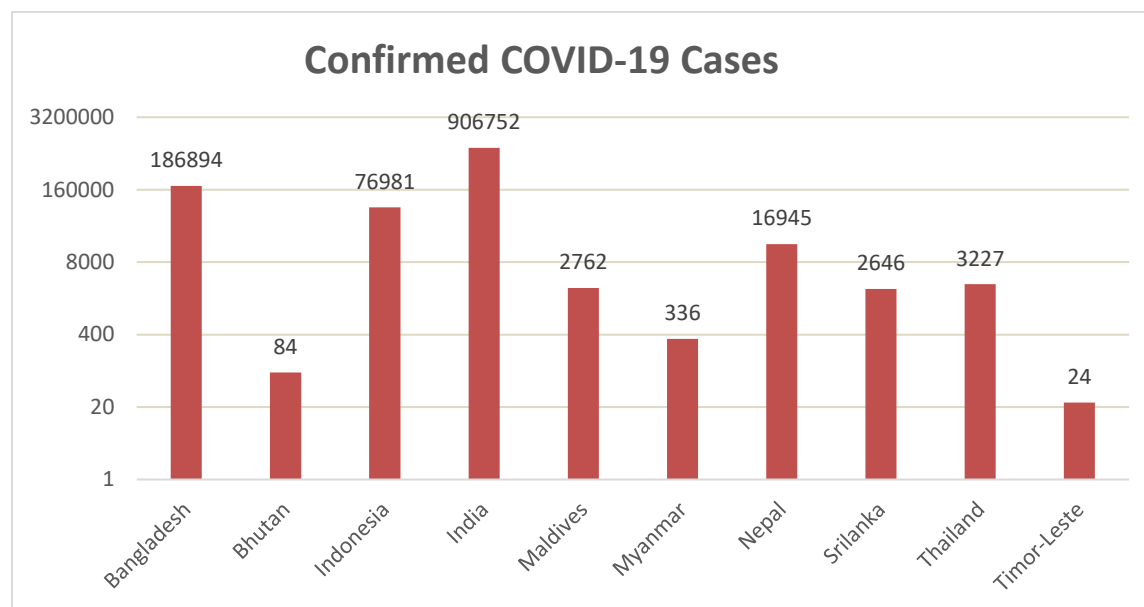
consumables, single use devices, and laboratory and test-related devices. These may be requested through the COVID-19 Supply Portal.

- WHO has updated the [risk assessment tools for mass gatherings, religious gatherings, and mass gatherings during sports events](#) to guide authorities and planning and event organizers during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- WHO updated its [Q&A page](#) to include information on schools and COVID-19.

## NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

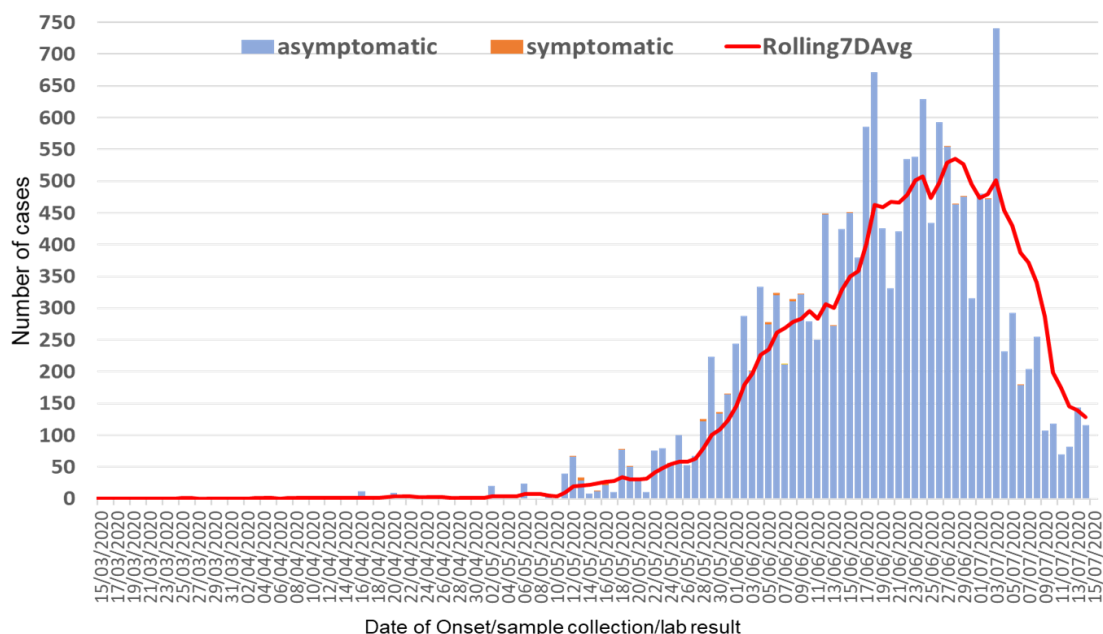
- As of 15 July 2020 07:00 hours, (week no. 29), Nepal has confirmed 17,061 (17,059 with core epidemiological data available) cases through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and 99% (16,949) of the total confirmed cases have been detected in the weeks from 20 to 29; While less than 1% of the confirmed cases are symptomatic at diagnosis across all age groups, the proportion of symptomatic persons progressively increases beyond 55 years of age.
- A declining trend in daily incident cases is observed which may be real or apparent. Firm conclusion can be drawn only after the information on the level of backlog of samples in the labs and any decline in testing intensity is reviewed and factored in.
- Thirty-seven persons (32 male and 5 female) who tested positive for COVID-19 have died. Of these, 23 persons (62% cases) had one or more co-morbid conditions. Although overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, the CFR progressively increases with age beyond 55 years from 2% to more than 7%.
- In five provinces, transmission has been classified as clusters of cases, while the remaining two have been classified as having sporadic cases.
- The age sex distribution is highly skewed towards males, who constitute 86% (14675/17059) of the confirmed cases. 92% (13567/14675) of the males are in the 15-54-year age group, indicating that those affected are large groups of infected migrant workers (who are predominantly males in economically productive age group) returning to Nepal.
- Although concerns have been expressed about the state of transmission in Bagmati province including environmental isolation of SARS-CoV-2, the incident case data clearly indicate that the present case load is relatively high in Province-5 and the western part of Nepal - Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces.
- The spatial distribution of cases is still clustered within a few municipalities, rather than being widespread across the districts.
- For a more detailed epidemiological updates please see – <http://edcd.gov.np/news/covid-19-situation-updates>
- Total number of people quarantined at government designated quarantine centres nationwide is 24,716 (*source: NEOC district report updated on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020*)

**Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases in South East Asia Region** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)



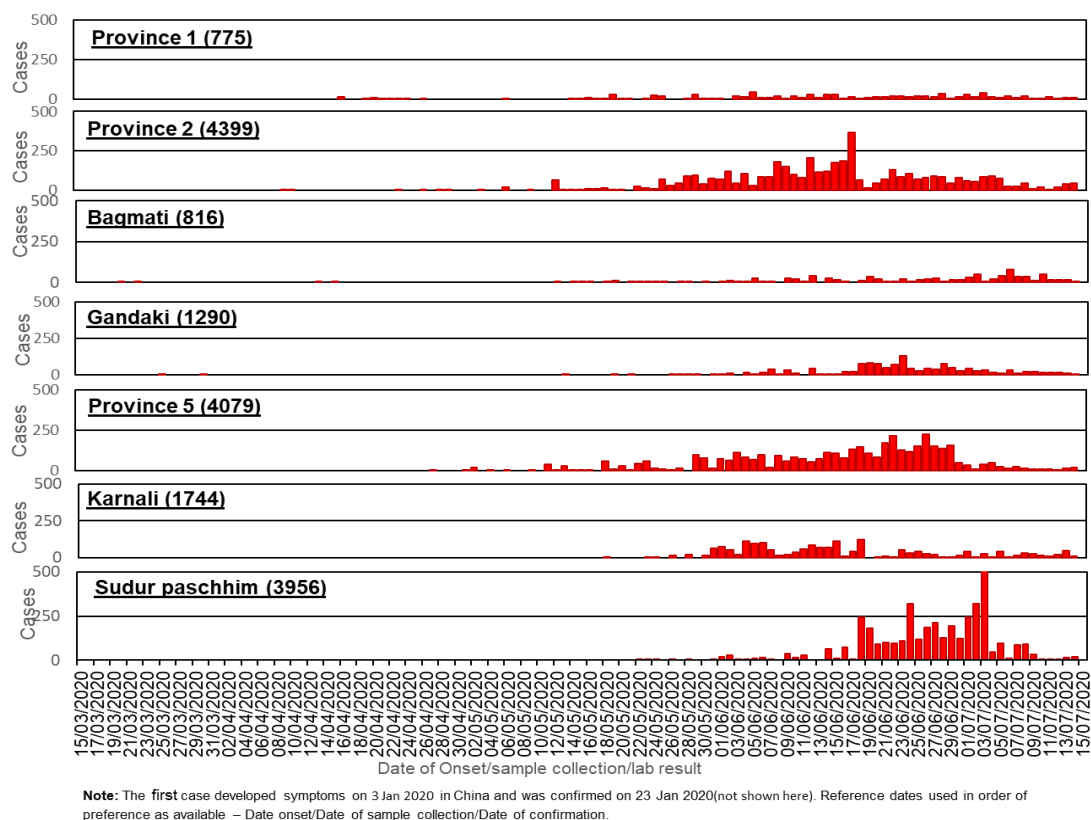
**Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N=17059)** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)

**Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N=17059)**

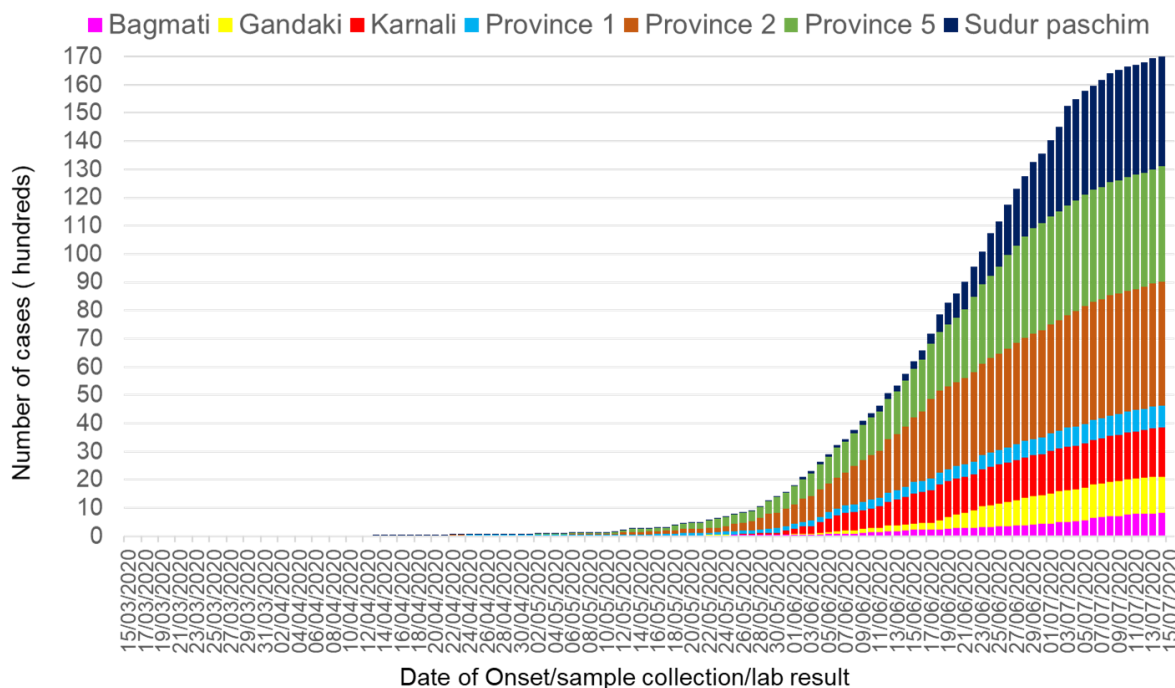


**Note:** The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020 (not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation. Clinical information presented here is collected on the day of sample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

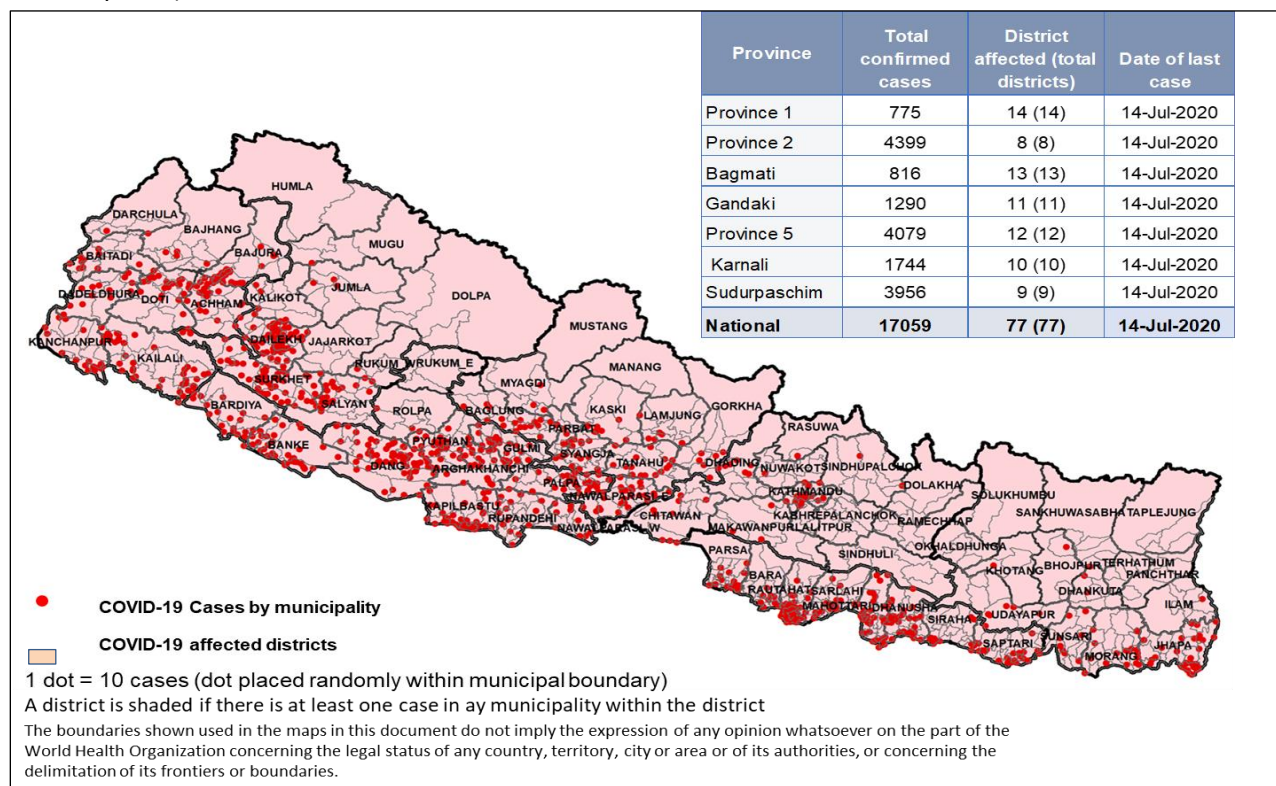
**Figure 2B: Epidemic curve of laboratory confirmed COVID-19, by Provinces (N= 17059)** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)



**Figure 2C: Cumulative case count of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 by province** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)



**Figure 3: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)



**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Districts affected (total districts)	Date of most recent case <sup>#</sup>
Province 1	775	0	Cluster of cases	14 (14)	14 July 2020
Province 2	4399	4	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	14 July 2020
Bagmati	816	8	Sporadic cases	13 (13)	14 July 2020
Gandaki	1290	5	Sporadic cases	11 (11)	14 July 2020
Province 5	4079	10	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	14 July 2020
Karnali	1744	4	Cluster of cases	10 (10)	14 July 2020
Sudurpaschim	3956	6	Cluster of cases	9 (9)	14 July 2020
<b>National Total</b>	<b>17059</b>	<b>37</b>		<b>77 (77)</b>	<b>14 July 2020</b>

<sup>#</sup> Date of last case is the date of onset or date of sample collection or date of lab report based on information available.

\* Case classification is based on [WHO transmission classification](#)

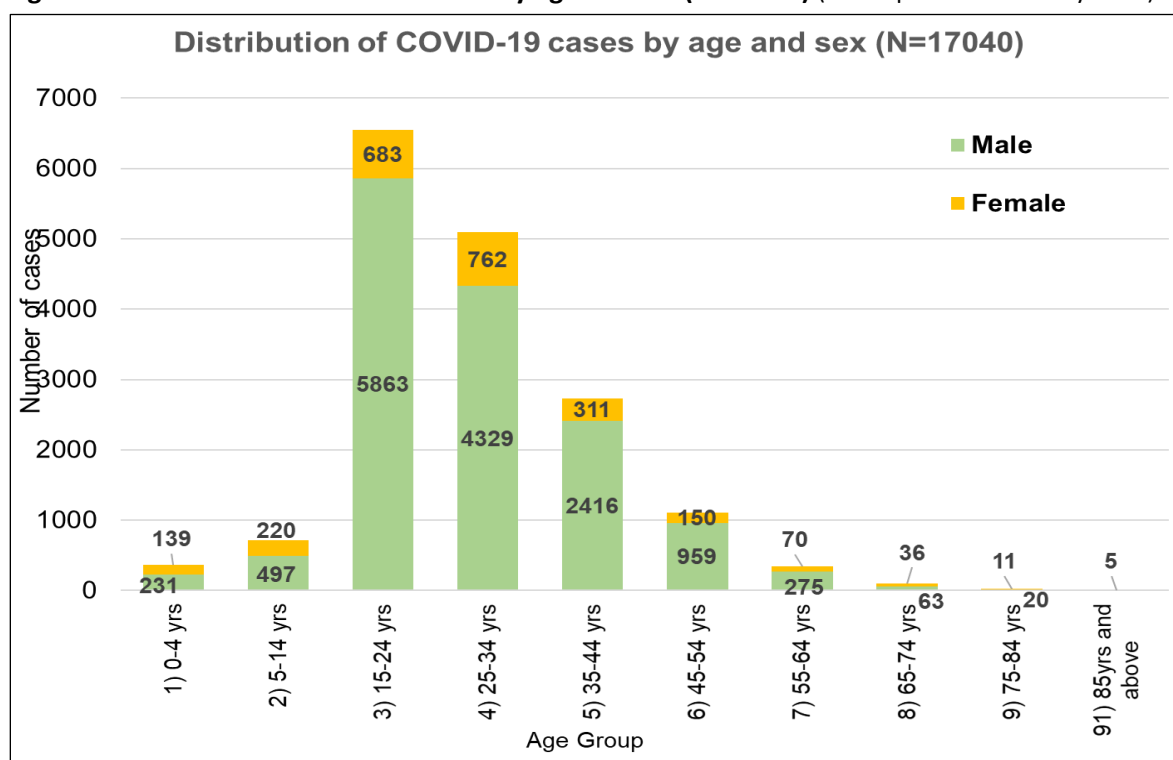
**No cases-** provinces with no cases

**Sporadic cases-** provinces with one or more cases, imported or locally detected<sup>#</sup>

**Cluster of cases-** provinces experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures

**Community transmission-** experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to: - Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains  
 - Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance  
 - Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

**Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N=17040)** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)



*Details for 19 cases are yet to come*

**Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths\* in COVID-19 confirmed cases. (N=17059)** (Data updated on 14 July 2020)

**Age-specific case fatality ratio and comorbidity of deaths\* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N=17059)**

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	370	1	1	0	0.54
5-14 yrs	717	1	0	0	0.14
15-24 yrs	6546	1	0	1	0.02
25-34 yrs	5091	4	2	3	0.12
35-44 yrs	2727	5	1	3	0.22
45-54 yrs	1109	7	1	5	0.72
55-64 yrs	345	7	0	6	2.03
65-74 yrs	99	3	0	3	3.03
75-84 yrs	31	2	0	2	6.45
85+ yrs	5	1	0	0	20
Unknown	19	0	0	0	0
<b>National</b>	<b>17059</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0.22</b>

*COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation. \* Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>*



**Table 3: Distribution symptomatic/asymptomatic COVID-19 cases at presentation (N=17,059)**

(Data updated on 14 July 2020)

**Distribution symptomatic/asymptomatic COVID-19 cases at presentation (N=17059)**

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Asymptomatic	Symptomatic (n)	Symptomatic (%)
0-4 yrs	370	369	1	0.3
5-14 yrs	717	715	2	0.3
15-24 yrs	6546	6538	8	0.1
25-34 yrs	5091	5071	20	0.4
35-44 yrs	2727	2720	7	0.3
45-54 yrs	1109	1107	2	0.2
55-64 yrs	345	341	4	1.2
65-74 yrs	99	98	1	1.0
75-84 yrs	31	30	1	3.2
85+ yrs	5	4	1	20.0
Unknown	19	19	0	0.0
<b>National</b>	<b>17059</b>	<b>17012</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0.3</b>

**PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE****What are Government of Nepal (GoN) and MoHP doing?**

- Ministry has issued a rapid action plan, prioritizing activities for the immediate three months period derived from the overall health response plan
- Ministry issued guidance on testing of high-risk groups and random testing of people in communities at Kathmandu Valley including other high risk COVID-19 affected districts to detect community transmission.

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

- WHO has provided support to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in developing and finalizing 'Interim guidelines for SARS-CoV-2 PCR laboratories in the National Public Health Laboratory Network Nepal'. Approval of the guideline from MoHP is awaited.
- National and international consultants and staff from WHO are providing technical support on site and remotely for the preparation of and reviewing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for: PCR kit verification; and Evaluation and verification of VTM and Extraction kit

- National Quality Assessment (NQAS) of 16 designated laboratories for COVID-19 testing has been completed by NPHL with WHO technical assistance. NPHL performed quality assessment using 5 positive and 5 negatives samples from 16 designated COVID-19 testing laboratories across the country. All the participating laboratory results were satisfactory. *(Note: These 16 labs and all remaining designated SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratories will be participating in the NQAS every month).*
- WHO has been providing technical support to NPHL for the development of ***'Protocol for biorepository management of COVID-19 samples'*** (ongoing)
- Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2: WHO provided technical support for development of two key technical documents - Protocol ***for kit verification and quality control of Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2 testing using GeneXpert Dx System in Nepal*** and ***Standard operating protocol for xpert xpress SARS COV-2 test for the diagnosis of COVID-19, Nepal*** have been endorsed by National Tuberculosis Control Centre (NTCC) and NPHL.
- Updating of the MoHP Infection Prevention Control and Clinical Management pocketbook is in progress with support from WHO-Nepal to incorporate the updates in the WHO interim guidance
- WHO is supporting the EDCD to develop a reference document for Palliative Care in the COVID-19 context.
- Upon the invitation of the Nepal Army College, WHO held a COVID-19 presentation on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to senior officers (Colonel and Brigadier level) of Nepal Army War and responded to questions by the participants.
- Explainer videos on Contact Tracing have been filmed together with WHO colleagues and are in the post-production phase. These will be made available for dissemination in English, Nepali and Maithili languages.
- WHO-Nepal provided technical support to orient and discuss with Parliamentary Ministers of Karnali Province on COVID-19 Preparedness and response activities during the **Karnali Provincial Assembly Meeting** held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 which was hosted by UNDP. There was also sharing of insights on pertinent, evidence-based information to deal with potential misinformation, disinformation, rumors and/or misleading news.
- *Anurodh*s (Appeal to audience) shared by the WHO RCCE Team with the MoHP for the daily press briefing that are broadcast to the nation on TV covered the following topics:
  - How to dispose or disinfect and reuse PPE (masks, aprons, gloves etc) in quarantine centre/ health care facilities?
  - Plastic (dishes) Waste Management at Quarantine centre.
  - COVID-19 and airborne transmission
- While WHO Nepal continued to feature in the media with technical and scientific input especially on digital and social media platforms, the more prominent stories with inputs from the WHO Representative are highlighted below:
  - Does COVID-19 transmit from vegetables and fruits (link [here](#))?
  - What are the differences between the COVID-19 virus and influenza virus (link [here](#))?
  - What is the risk for smokers in regards to the COVID-19 virus (link [here](#))?
- WHO technical support is continuously being provided for national forecasting, quantification, and costing of COVID-19 logistics need.





WHO Surveillance Medical Officer (SMO) Dr Dipendra Khatiwada collecting information from a household for contact investigation of a COVID-19 confirmed death case in Nijgard Municipality, Bara District.

*Photo Courtesy: WHO Nepal/D Khatiwada*

### What are partners doing?

- Through the health cluster mechanism, several partners are continuing to provide technical, logistic, risk communication, mental health and psychosocial support and other support in the COVID-19 response.
- Given the steady increase in number of cases, partners continue to realign their support including in case management areas based on changing epidemiology and gaps.
- Since the onset of monsoon, the UN partners had come up with the Nepal: Monsoon Emergency Response Preparedness Plan 2020. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20-07-08%20Monsoon%20ERP%20Final 3.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20-07-08%20Monsoon%20ERP%20Final%203.pdf)
- All the health partners have started planning and supporting the government in responding to monsoon related casualties and health needs.

### 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's COVID-19 official portal is available [here](#).
- Nepal's COVID-19 regular updates and resources are available [here](#).
- For COVID-19 updates from WHO South East Asia Region Office, please visit [here](#).
- For information regarding coronavirus disease 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](#).
- Global coronavirus disease situation dashboard can be found [here](#).
- Visit WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#).

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