

Situation Update #15- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

29 July 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

Nepal

- All 77 districts of seven provinces in Nepal are affected by COVID-19 but no cases have been reported for last 14 days or more from 7 districts i.e. Bhojpur, Dolkha, Dolpa, Manang, Mustang, Rasuwa and Sankhuwasabha.

Regional/Global

- The COVID-19 pandemic has affected older people disproportionately, especially those living in long-term care facilities. WHO has published a [policy brief](#) on preventing and managing COVID-19 across long-term care services.
- WHO has published an interim guidance on [safe Eid Al-Adha practices in the context of COVID-19](#). The document highlights public health advice for social gatherings and religious practices that can be applied across different regional and national contexts.
- WHO has released a set of [practical steps for](#) implementing the [prescriptions of the WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19](#). These prescriptions aim to create a healthier, fairer and greener world while investing to maintain and resuscitate the economy hit by the effects of the pandemic.
- WHO has published a [draft landscape of COVID-19 candidate vaccines](#). As of 24 July, twenty-five candidate vaccines are under clinical evaluation.

SITUATION OVERVIEW (Reported up to 28 July 2020)

NEPAL

19,061 confirmed cases

49 deaths

3, 47,275 RT-PCR tests (As of 27 July 2020)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

18, 38,380 confirmed cases

41,366 deaths

GLOBAL

1, 63, 41,920 confirmed cases

6, 50,805 deaths

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of **29 July 2020, 07:00 hours, (Week no. 31)**, in Nepal total 19,061 cases were confirmed as COVID-19 cases through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and 99% of total confirmed cases (18,950) were found during the weeks from 20 to 31.
- Out of 7 provinces, five provinces including province 1, 2, 5, Karnali and Sudurpaschhim are having transmission as clusters of cases and two provinces i.e. Bagmati and Gandaki, are classified as having sporadic case transmission.
- As of 29 July, forty-nine deaths (40 males and 9 females) reported in the country and all deaths happened from weeks 20 to 31. Out of 49 deaths, 31 persons (63% cases) had at least one or more known co-morbid conditions and 11 persons were above 65 years of age while three were under 15 years of age. Although, overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, the CFR progressively increases with age beyond 55 years of age in the range of 2% to 6% and the highest CFR 25% among 85 years and above age group.
- While less than 1% of the confirmed COVID-19 cases have been symptomatic at diagnosis across all age groups, the proportion of symptomatic cases at diagnosis progressively increases, mainly above age of 55 years.
- About **82% cases (15,577 out of total 19,061)** are reported from Provinces 2, 5, Karnali and Sudurpaschhim. However, the recent reports indicate that there is an increase of COVID-19 cases in Bagmati and Province-2 and these cases are under investigation.
- The age and sex distribution continues to be highly skewed towards males, who constitute **86% of the cases (16,308 out of total 19,061)** of the confirmed cases and of the males; and **92% of the cases (15,020 out of total 16,308)** are in 15-54 years age group; this indicates that the confirmed case burden probably disproportionately affecting large number of migrant workers (who are predominantly males in economically productive age group) who have returned to Nepal.
- *Although Nepal has been able to contain COVID-19 transmission to sporadic or cluster of cases through quarantine or isolation of the returnees to the country, a sensitive surveillance system with a fully functional and empowered system for contact tracing and follow-up teams would be critical now to detect the clusters of cases and sporadic cases and contain transmission rapidly. The COVID-19 response programme should anticipate such occurrences and be prepared to respond.*
- For a more detailed epidemiological updates please see – <http://edcd.gov.np/news/covid-19-situation-updates>
- As of 28 July 2020, **604 cases** of influenza like illness (ILI) have been tested for COVID-19 and **eight cases** have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 all of which have been included in the COVID-19 case management and database.
- The number of SARI cases reported in EWARS during this period is less compared to the same period last year, for example **64 cases** in epidemiological week 29 of 2020 and **116 cases** in the same week of 2019.

Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases in South East Asia Region (Data updated on 28 July 2020 from global sitrep #190)

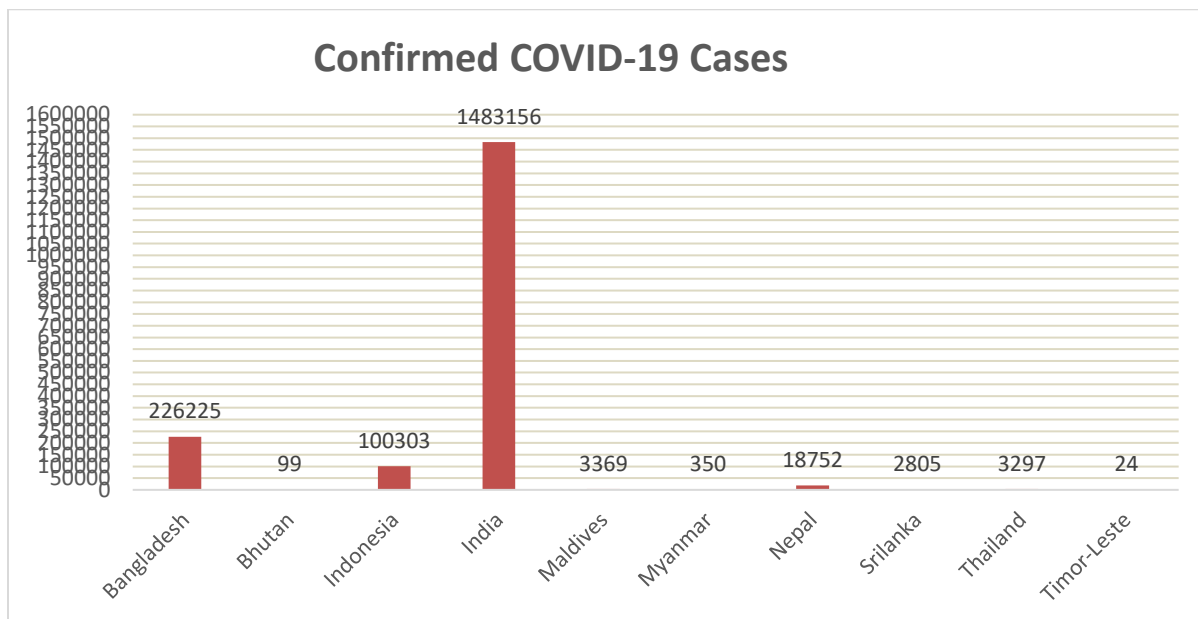


Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N=19,061) (Data updated on 28 July 2020)

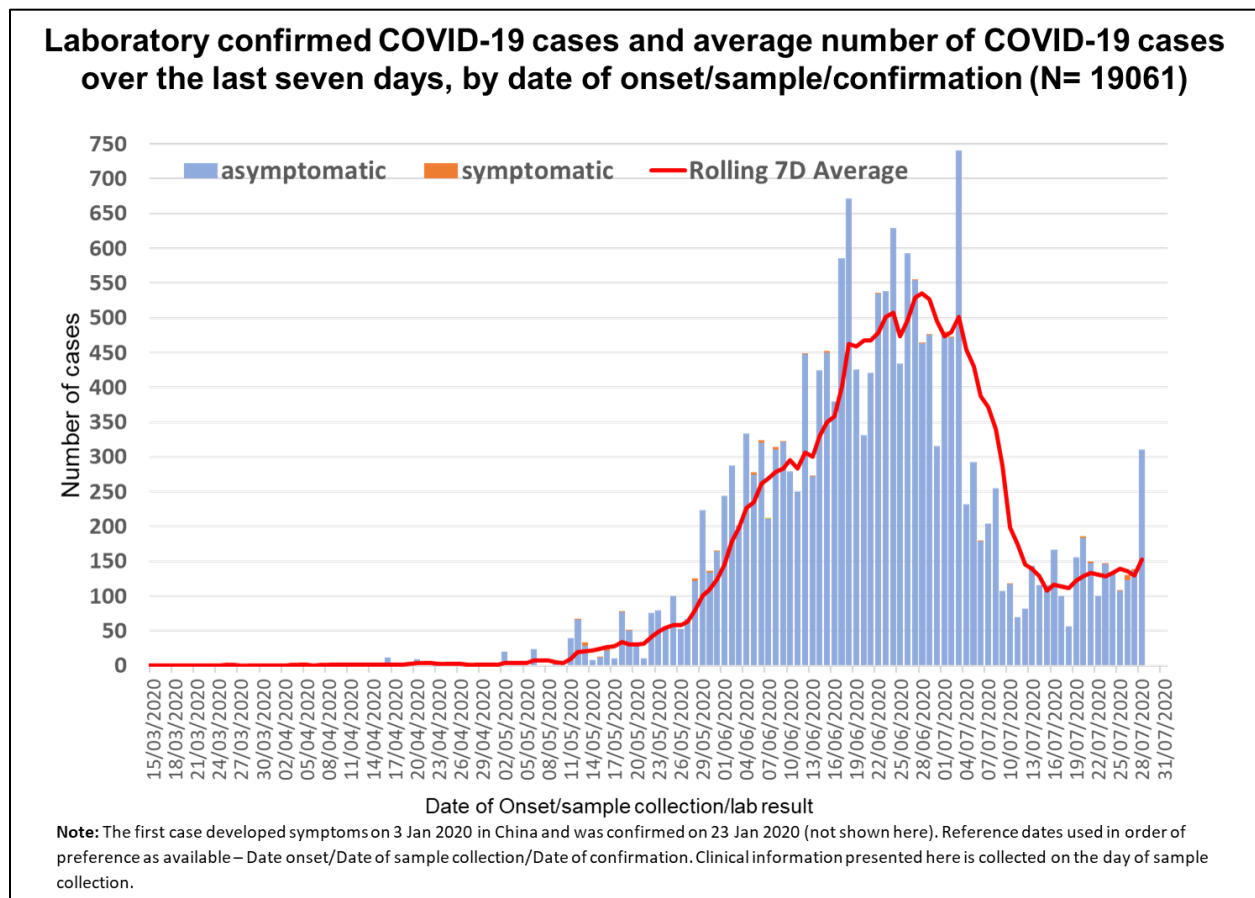


Figure 2B: Epidemic curve of laboratory confirmed COVID-19, by Provinces (N= 19,061) (Data updated on 28 July 2020)

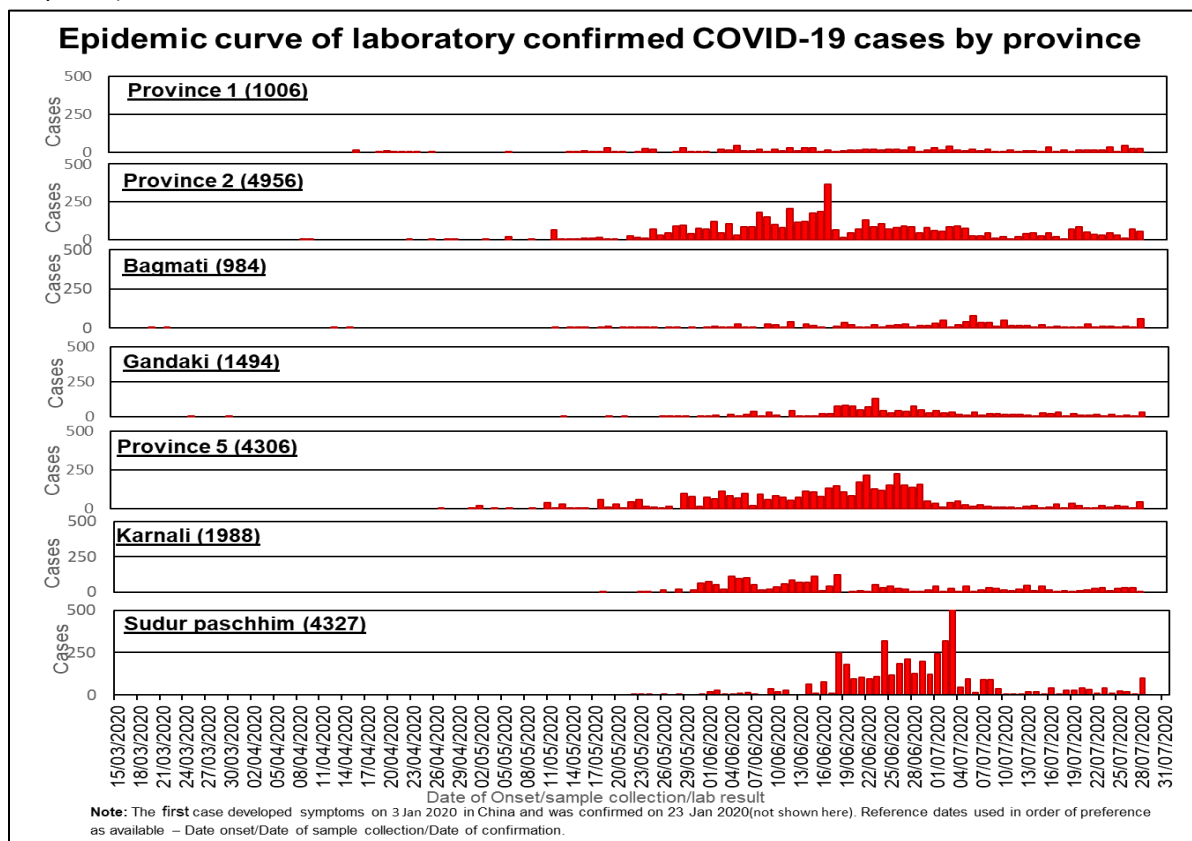


Figure 2C: Cumulative case count of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 by province (Data updated on 28 July 2020)

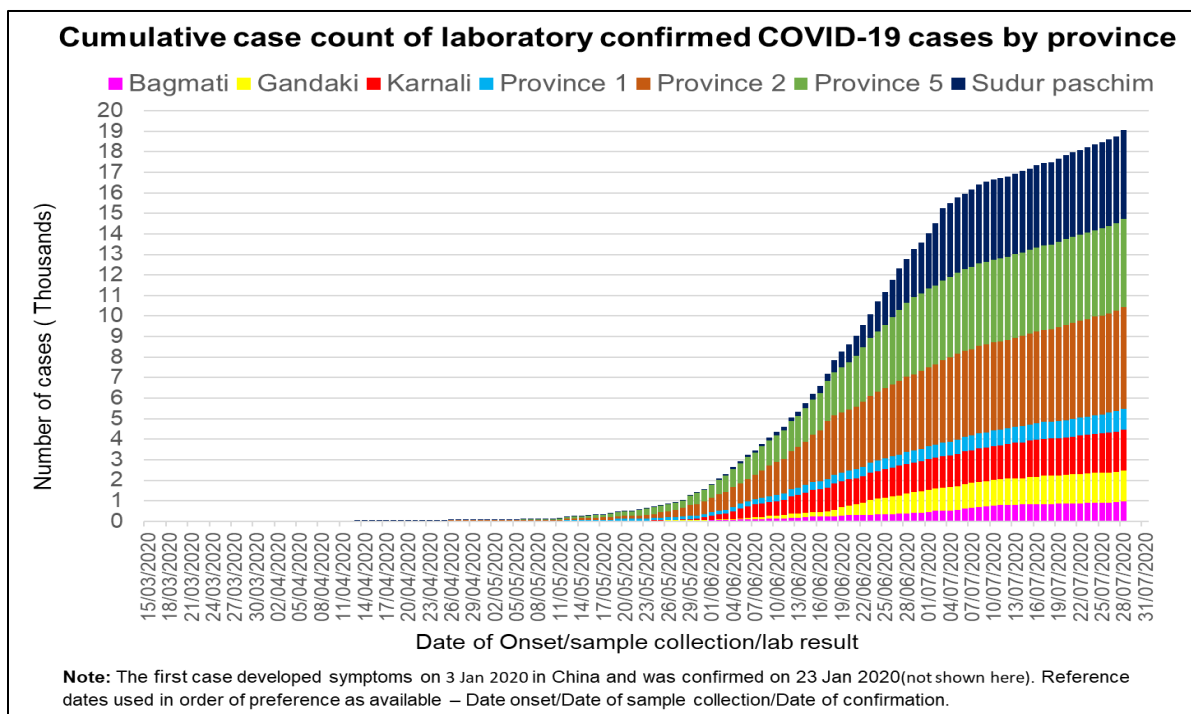


Figure 3: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases (Data updated on 28 July 2020)

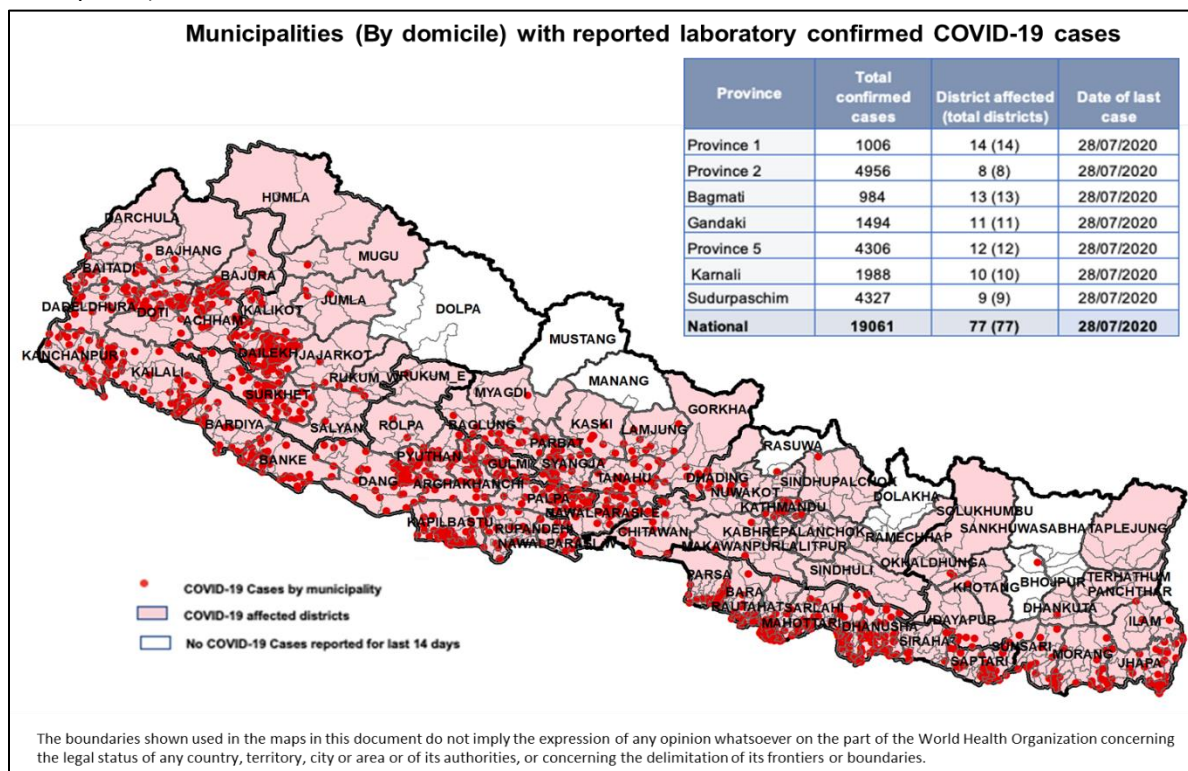


Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data updated on 28 July 2020)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Districts affected (total districts)	Date of most recent case [#]
Province 1	1006	1	Cluster of cases	14 (14)	28 July 2020
Province 2	4956	12	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	28 July 2020
Bagmati	984	10	Sporadic cases	13 (13)	28 July 2020
Gandaki	1494	5	Sporadic cases	11 (11)	28 July 2020
Province 5	4306	10	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	28 July 2020
Karnali	1988	4	Cluster of cases	10 (10)	28 July 2020
Sudurpaschim	4327	7	Cluster of cases	9 (9)	28 July 2020
National Total	19061	49		77 (77)	28 July 2020

[#] 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[#]

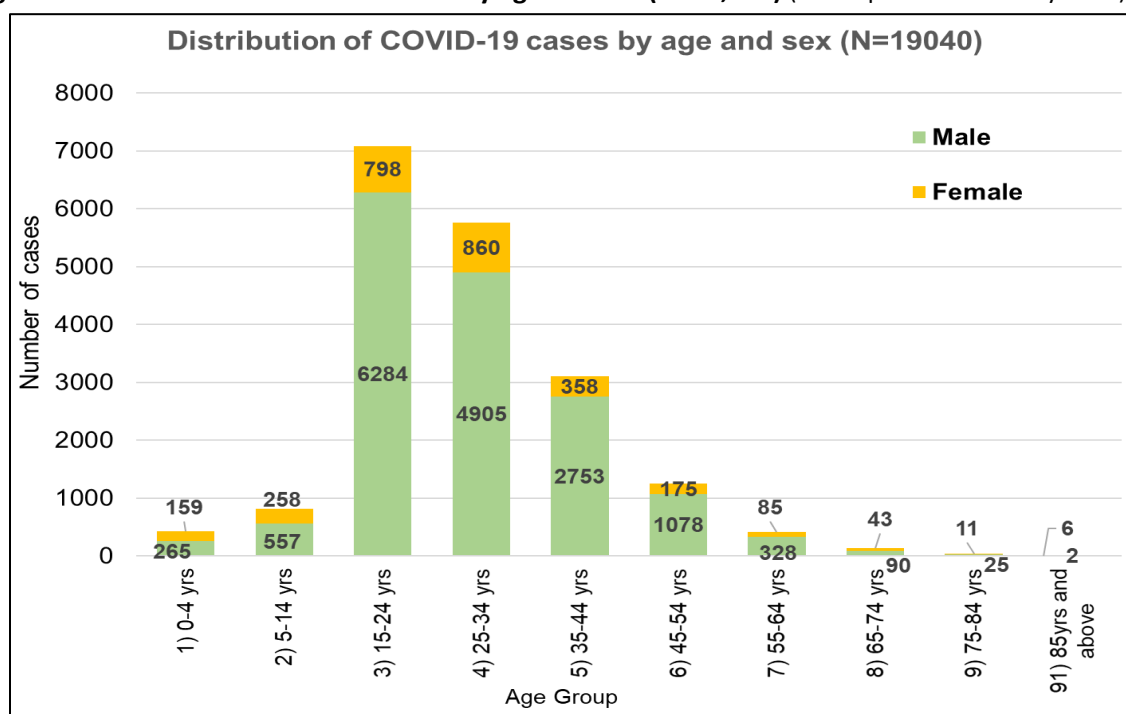
Cluster of cases- provinces experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures

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=19,061) (Data updated on 28 July 2020)



Details for 21 cases are yet to come

Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases. (N=19,061) (Data updated on 28 July 2020)

Age-specific case fatality ratio and comorbidity of deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N= 19061)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	424	1	1	1	0.47
5-14 yrs	815	1	0	0	0.12
15-24 yrs	7082	1	1	1	0.03
25-34 yrs	5765	4	2	3	0.1
35-44 yrs	3111	7	1	3	0.26
45-54 yrs	1253	7	2	7	0.72
55-64 yrs	413	9	1	8	2.42
65-74 yrs	133	7	0	5	5.26
75-84 yrs	36	2	0	2	5.56
85+ yrs	8	1	1	1	25
Unknown	21	0	0	0	0
National	19061	40	9	31	0.26

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

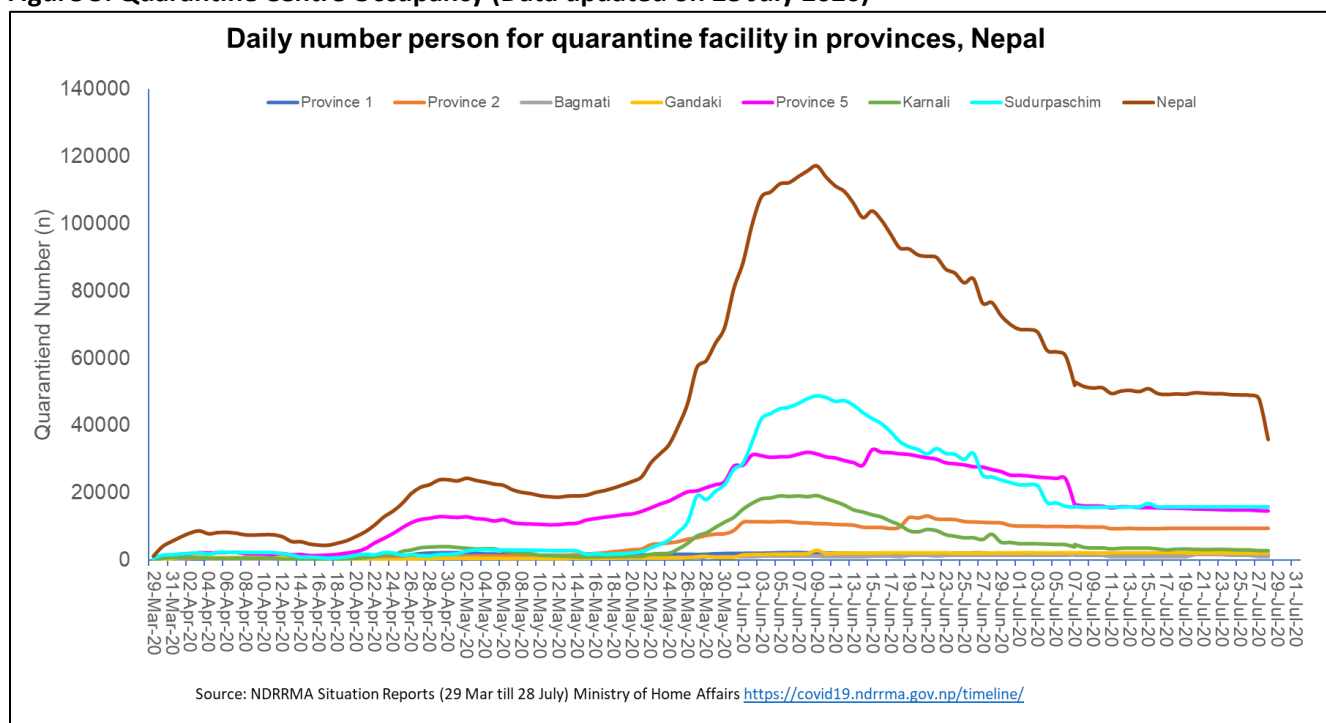
Table 3: Distribution symptomatic/asymptomatic COVID-19 cases at presentation (N=19,061)

(Data updated on 28 July 2020)

Distribution symptomatic/asymptomatic COVID-19 cases at presentation (N=19061)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Asymptomatic	Symptomatic (n)	Symptomatic (%)
0-4 yrs	424	423	1	0.2
5-14 yrs	815	813	2	0.2
15-24 yrs	7082	7072	10	0.1
25-34 yrs	5765	5741	24	0.4
35-44 yrs	3111	3100	11	0.4
45-54 yrs	1253	1250	3	0.2
55-64 yrs	413	404	9	2.2
65-74 yrs	133	125	8	6.0
75-84 yrs	36	35	1	2.8
85+ yrs	8	7	1	12.5
Unknown	21	21	0	0.0
National	19061	18991	70	0.4

Figure 5: Quarantine Centre Occupancy (Data updated on 28 July 2020)



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- COVID-19 response strategies, action plans and intervention protocols being reviewed and adapted to the nation-wide post-lockdown period.
- National Public Health Laboratory has established an online reporting system, functional in 24 laboratories out of a total 28 COVID-19 testing laboratories across the 7 provinces of Nepal.
- MOHP deployed a surge team of laboratorians for collecting samples from returnees/travelers entering Kathmandu Valley prioritizing those from districts with a high case positive rate.

What the WHO Country Office for Nepal is doing?

- Technical support to National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in preparation and reviewing Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for evaluation and verification of VTM and extraction kit has been completed.
- Technical support to NPHL, for monthly National Quality Assessment (NQAS) of all designated laboratories for COVID-19 testing. *Previous month, 15 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated with satisfactory results. This month, National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) has received NQAS samples from 7 designated laboratories, which have been processed with satisfactory results and is in the process of receiving samples for NQAS from the remaining other laboratories.*
- Xpert Xpress SARs-CoV-2: Two key technical documents have been endorsed by NTCC and NPHL namely;
 - Protocol for kit verification and quality control of Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2 testing using the GeneXpert Dx System in Nepal
 - Standard operating protocol for Xpert Xpress SARS COV-2 test for diagnosis of COVID-19, Nepal.
- WHO has drafted an Infection Prevention Control (IPC) guidance to support the UNCT (UN Country Teams) to support for Back to Work initiative.
- In view of large number of Nepalese returning to home, WHO has been supporting MoHP to develop guidance for upcoming Nepali festivals (mainly: Dashain, Tihar) in an attempt to minimize a potential surge in COVID-19 cases around festival season.
- WHO is providing ongoing support to the MoHP to strengthen Monsoon and Flood response.
- An Emergency Logistician has been recruited and 2 laboratory experts are being mobilized through the Global Alert and Response Network (GOARN).
- WHO is liaising with MoHP to better understand the number of Health Care Workers (HCWs) who have contracted the COVID-19 virus within the workplace, to target strengthening of IPC practices within the respective health facilities.
- WHE Information Management team has been working with UN RCO IM team in mapping of vulnerability of COVID hospitals and clinics, in flood and landslide prone areas, through satellite mapping to help MoHP to understand potential risk and plan response accordingly.
- International travel and borders will remain closed till 16 August 2020.

- Long route bus services and domestic and international passenger flights to resume from 17 August 2020 onwards as per the recent decision of Government.
- PoE closed until further notice: Entries from border points except the designated ones will be closed until 16 August 2020. However, the 25 May 2020 directives of the Government of Nepal allow cargos and arrival of Nepalese in need of urgent travels to the country remains still be effective.
- Interviews of Dr Jos Vandelaer, Representative WHO Nepal were published as follows:

SN	TITLE	URL	PUBLICATION	DATE	LANGUAGE
1	Nepal Should Prepare for The Worst: WHO Representative	Link	The Rising Nepal	July 28	English
2	नेपाल अत्यन्तै खराब समयका लागि तयार बस्नुपर्छ (Nepal should stay ready to deal with worst time/situation)	Link	Gorkhapatra	July 28	Nepali
3	Nepal Has Still Huge Risk Of The COVID-19: WHO Representative To Nepal	Link	New Spotlight Nepal	July 23	English
4	सरकारले राम्रो गरेको छ तर जिम्मेवारी सकिएको छैन (Government has performed very well, however the responsibility has not yet completed)	Link	Gorkhapatra	July 23	Nepali
5	No Widespread Community Virus Transmission In Nepal, Says WHO Representative	Link	The Rising Nepal	July 23	English

- Interview of Dr Jos Vandelaer, Representative was recorded at the MoHP on Monday 27 July 2020. The interview was conducted by Dr Jageshwar, Spokesperson of MoHP. Excerpts from the recording of WR's interview will be used as plugins into the subsequent daily briefings telecasted by the MoHP.
- Contact Tracing FAQ videos are being finalised and should be ready shortly in Nepali, Maithili and English. Dissemination strategy is being finalised with Immunization Preventable Diseases (IPD) team.
- Filming of video snippets on the topics of Malaria, Dengue, HIV, and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) has been recorded with the Communicable Disease Surveillance (CDS) team and with MoHP colleagues, and the postproduction work is in progress.

- A smaller working group (from overall RCCE group) has been created to disseminate key messages on the adverse effects of the monsoon with the UNRCO in the lead. Key messages are being prepared which will be translated in relevant languages.
- “Anurodhs” (Translation: English- Appeal) shared from WCO Nepal to MoHP for the daily live press briefing:
 - WHO World Hepatitis day message,
 - WHO guidance and infographics on Safe practices during Eid Al-Adha (*Nepali translated*),
 - WHO Questions & Answers on small mass gathering and COVID-19 (*Nepali translated*),
- Development of the Emergency Health Facility (EHF) continues, in collaboration with World Food Program (WFP) engineering team – final draft of the facility layout is to be finalized this week and the process completed through several rounds of consultation between WFP and WHO.
- Cost estimation of the EHF has been on-going, in collaboration with WFP engineering team; the cost estimation is broken down into: construction cost; operational costs; and monthly operational costs will also be calculated;
- Support to layout development for the Information Management Unit office space to be located in the HEOC.
- Continued technical support provided for national COVID-19 logistics for forecasting the needs, quantification and costing as well as distribution.

What the health cluster and the cluster partners are doing?

- WHO partners coordination team continued with weekly national health cluster, COVID hospitals and provincial health directorates meetings at the MOHP HEOC.
- Health cluster partners and other sectors provide support to both COVID-19 and monsoon response; and to TB, HIV, Malaria and other programmes to ensure service continuity through virtual trainings and solving critical drug stock issues.
- Reproductive health partners have supported to conduct orientation on the Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) guidelines, monitoring essential supplies and supporting procurement, distribution and transportation of some of the Reproductive Health commodities.

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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