

# Situation Update #160 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 1 – 7 May 2023 (Epi Week 18)

### HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 7 May 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 8 May April 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.7% (990,926) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (133) are active cases, and 1.19% (12,031) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (127) reported this week, 34.6% (44 cases) are from Kathmandu district followed by Banke district with 11.8% (15 cases). Majority of the new cases 42.5% (54) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur) in Bagmati Province.

### COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 2 May 2023)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,586,605	4,839,600
Vero Cell	10,406,738	9,274,963
Janssen	3,548,240	
Pfizer	5,020,528	3,858,392
Moderna	3,228,669	2,830,970

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 7 May 2023)

#### NEPAL

##### **Cumulative confirmed cases**

RT-PCR: 1,003,090

Antigen RDT: 153,806

**Cumulative deaths:** 12,031

##### **Cumulative tests**

RT-PCR: 6,037,231

Antigen RDT: 1,581,155

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

##### **Cumulative cases (%)**

61,113,283 (8%)

##### **Cumulative deaths (%)**

805,395 (12%)

#### GLOBAL

##### **Cumulative cases (%)**

765,835,110 (100%)

##### **Cumulative deaths (%)**

6,927,088 (100%)

### NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 78.2% (784,556/1,003,090) of RT-PCR confirmed cases were reported from three provinces, namely - Koshi, Bagmati, and Lumbini Provinces. The Kathmandu valley area (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur) in Bagmati Province has substantially high case load with 44.2% of national total (442,972/1,003,090), and 81.4% of the provincial total (442,972/544,202).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi week 18 ranged from 4.0% (Bagmati Province) to 59.4% (Lumbini Province) with a national positivity rate at 5.6%. Madhesh and Karnali Provinces did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 65% decrease in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=127) in Epi week 18 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 93% of the cases have been reported from Koshi, Lumbini, and Bagmati Provinces.
- Nepal reported 1 death in Epi week 18, 67% decrease compared to that in the previous week.

## National Influenza Surveillance

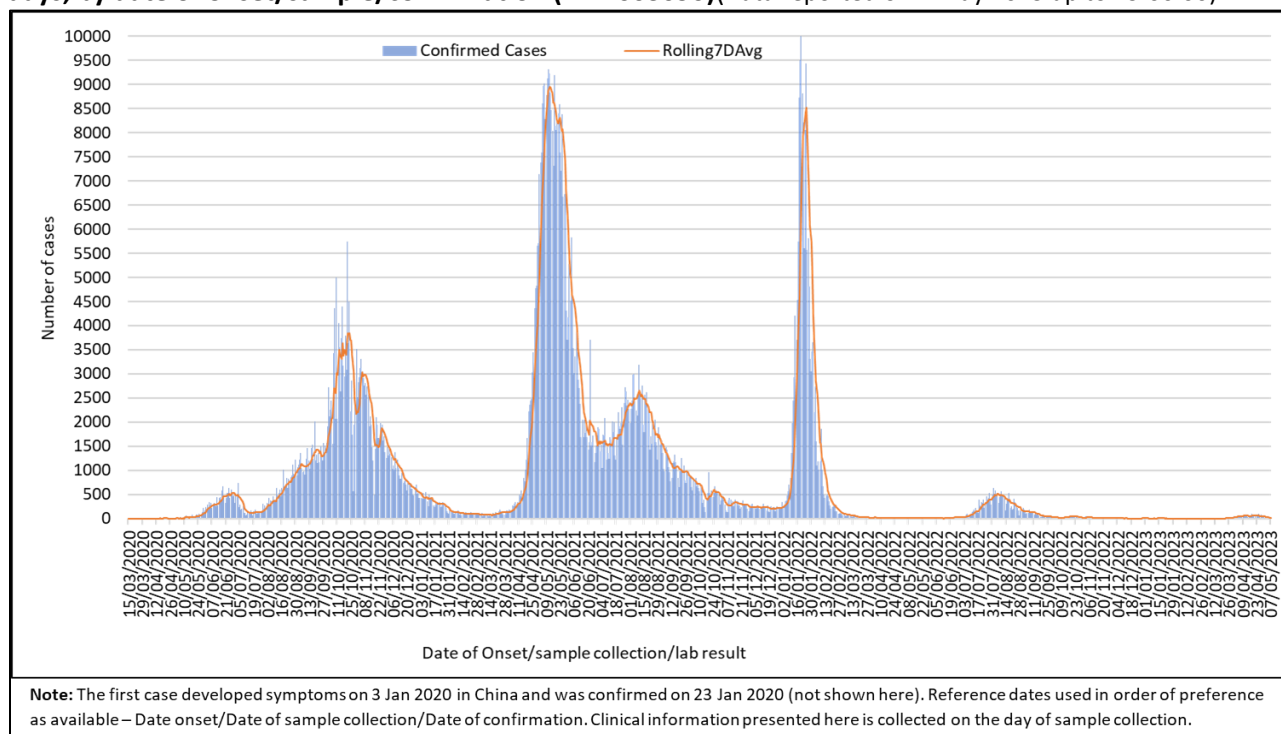
- WHO Nepal facilitated National Influenza Center (NIC)-National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) for the 'Onsite Monitoring and Review Meeting of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance Network at Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL)-Madhesh' on 2-3 May 2023. The meeting was held to review the ongoing Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance activities in PPHL-Madhesh and its sentinel site i.e Janakpur Provincial Hospital. The staff representing PPHL-Madhesh, Janakpur Provincial Hospital, NPHL, and WHO attended the meeting.
- NIC-NPHL reported 1 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 18 (1-7 May 2023). The sample tested negative for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing of 88 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 18 (1-7 May 2023).
  - None of the sample tested positive for Influenza.
  - Three samples tested SARS-CoV-2 Positive.
  - A total of 1800 samples were tested by PPHLs from 2 Jan – 7 May 2023.
- From 2 January 2023 until 7 May 2023:
  - A total of 480 samples tested positive for Influenza [(99 Influenza B, 344 Influenza A/H3, 36 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and 1 Influenza A positive (to be subtyped)] from 3534 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel SARI and ILI samples).
  - Similarly, 117 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from dual testing of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 in 3166 samples received from sentinel and non-sentinel SARI and ILI samples.<sup>1</sup>

**WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000). Link Here- <https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/covid/>**

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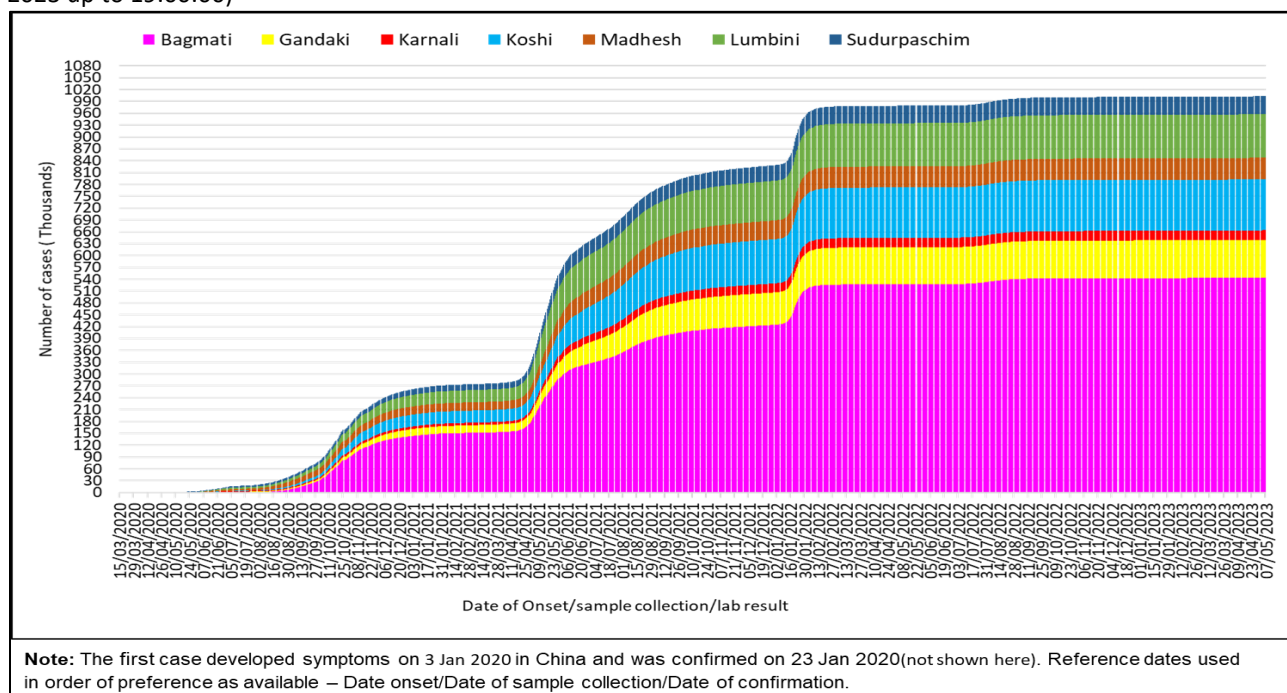
<sup>1</sup> These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

**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= 1003090)(Data reported on 7 May 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



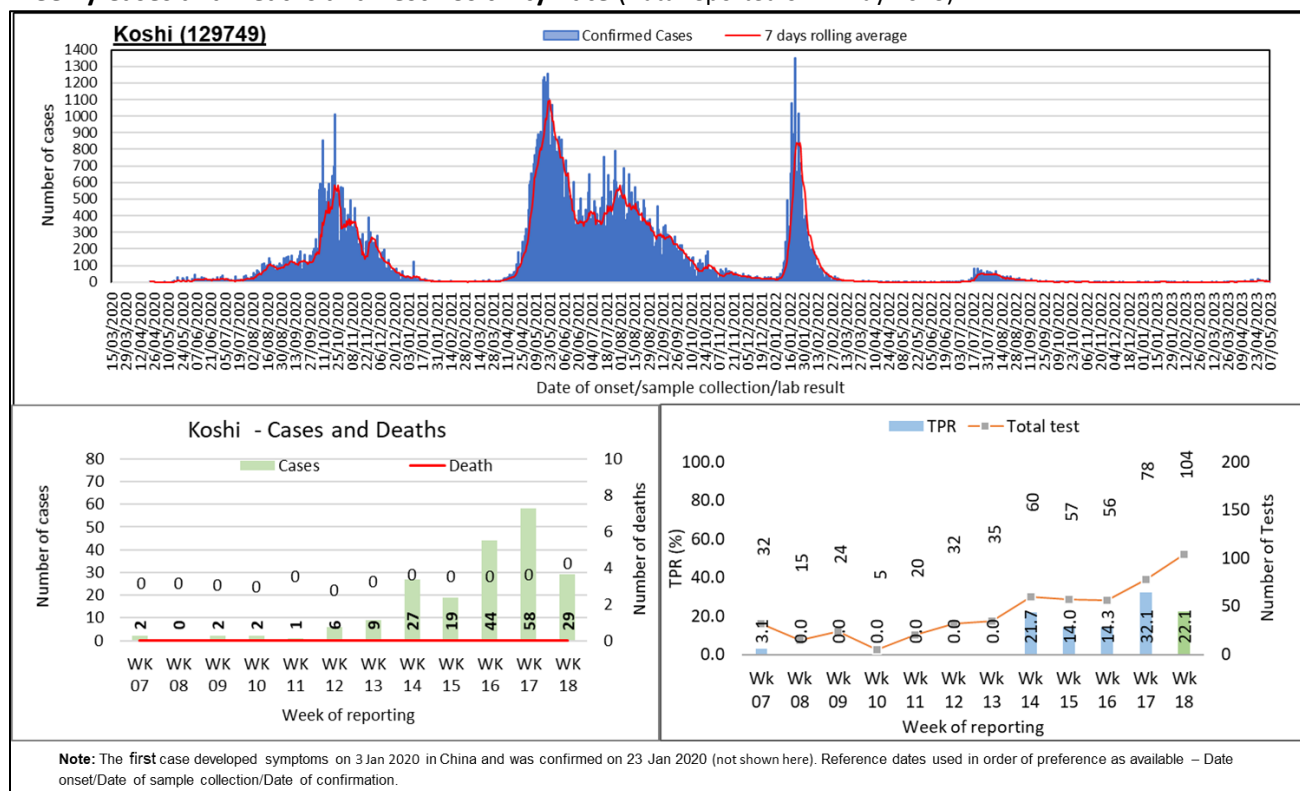
At national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the end of January 2022. Another wave of cases steadily soared up towards the middle of May 2022 following an overall declining trend since the middle of August 2022. Since the middle of March 2023, cases were soaring up, however the trend is decreasing since the end of April 2023.

**Figure 2: Cumulative case count of RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 (N= 1003090)(Data reported on 7 May 2023 up to 19:00:00)**



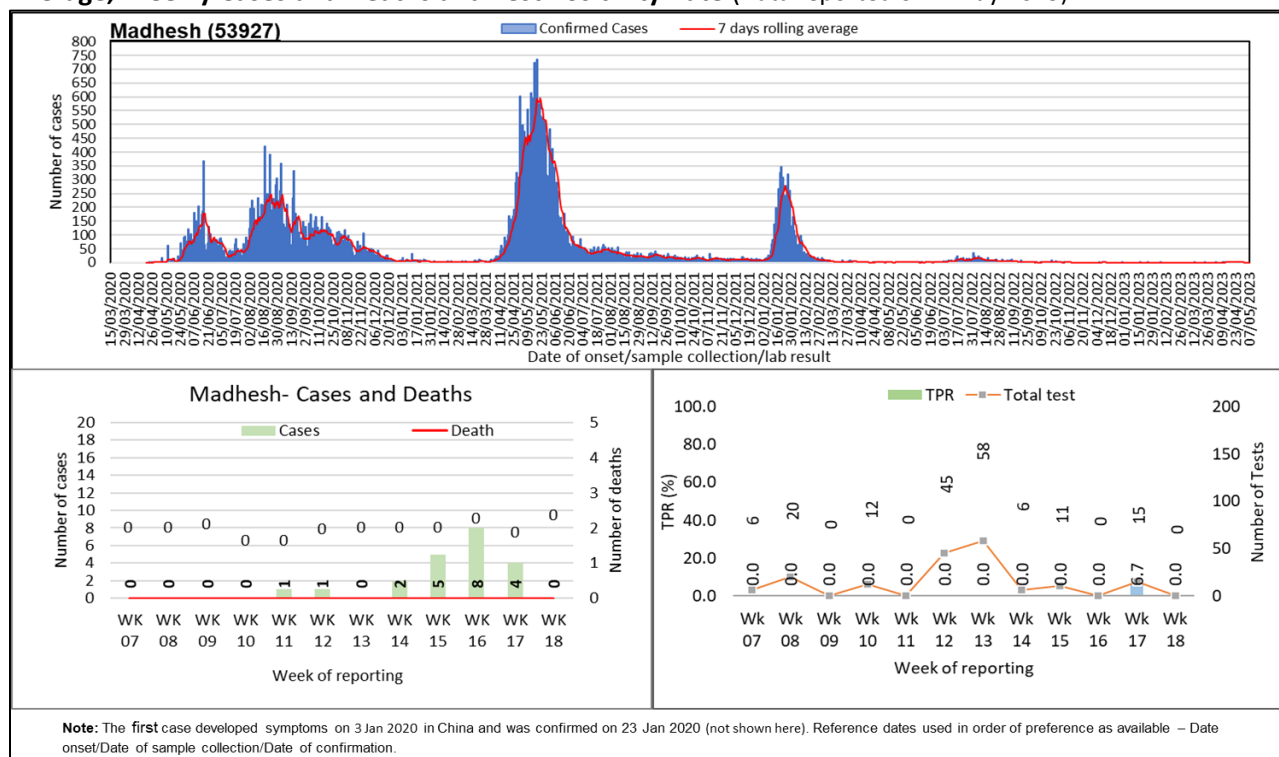
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Koshi and Lumbini Province.

**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 7 May 2023)**



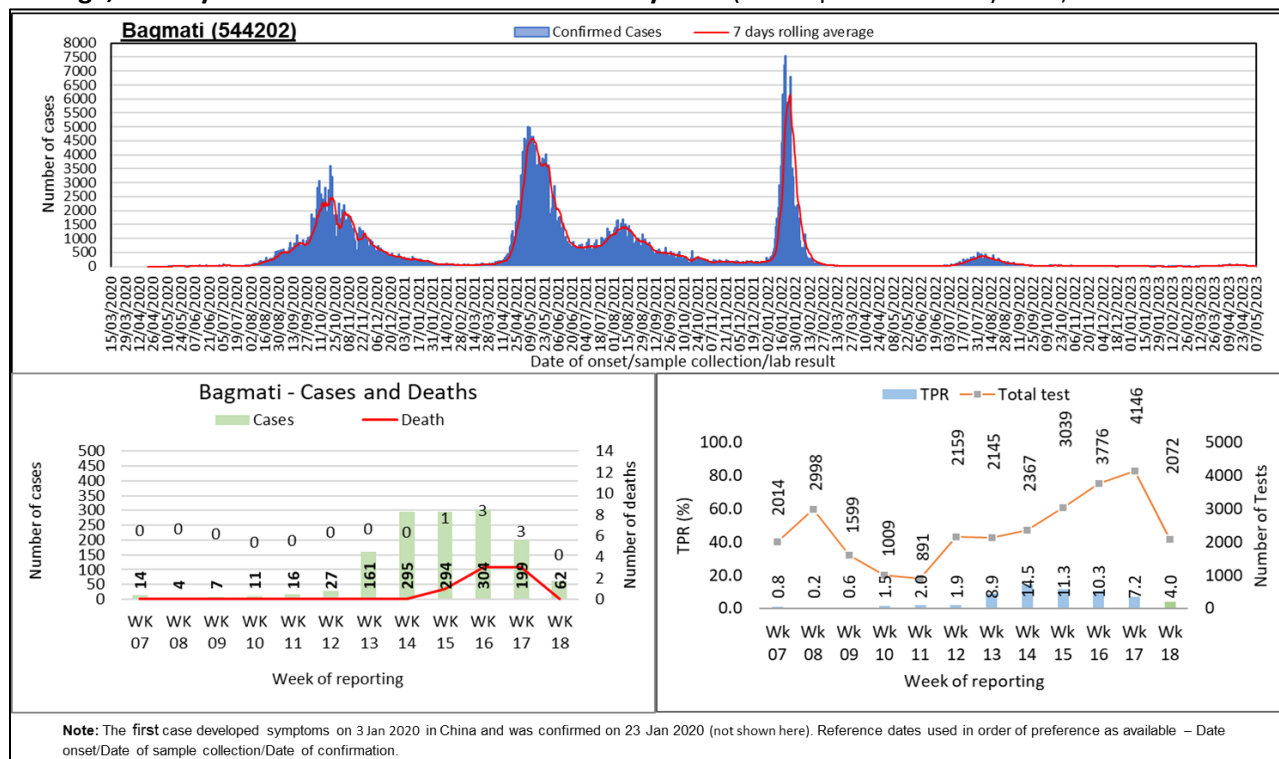
There were 29 new cases reported in the past week in Koshi Province. Cases have decreased by 50% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Koshi Province decreased to 22.1% in the past week. A total of 104 tests were performed in the past week, 33% more 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 7 May 2023)**



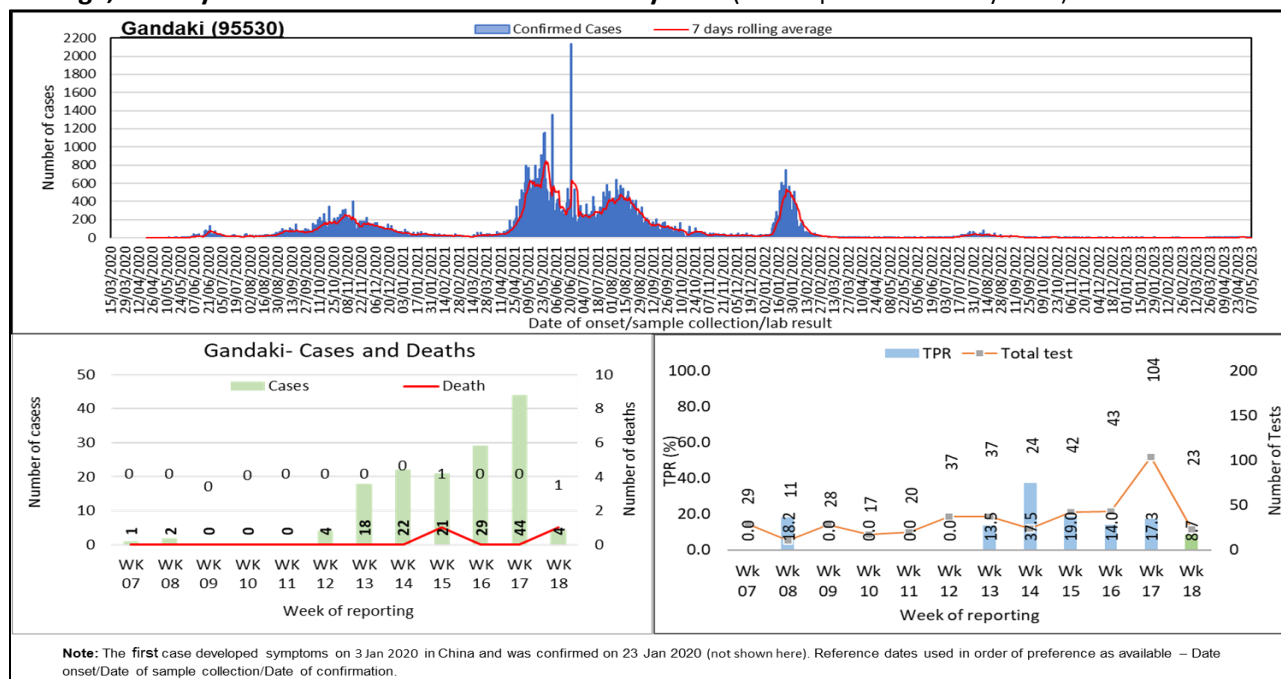
There were no new cases reported in the past week in Madhesh Province. Cases have decreased by 100% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no test performed reported in the past week.

**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 7 May 2023)**



In Bagmati Province, 199 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 35% in the past week  
In Bagmati Province, 62 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 69% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There were no deaths reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province decreased to 4.0% in the past week. A total of 2072 tests were performed in the past week, 50% less than that in the previous week.

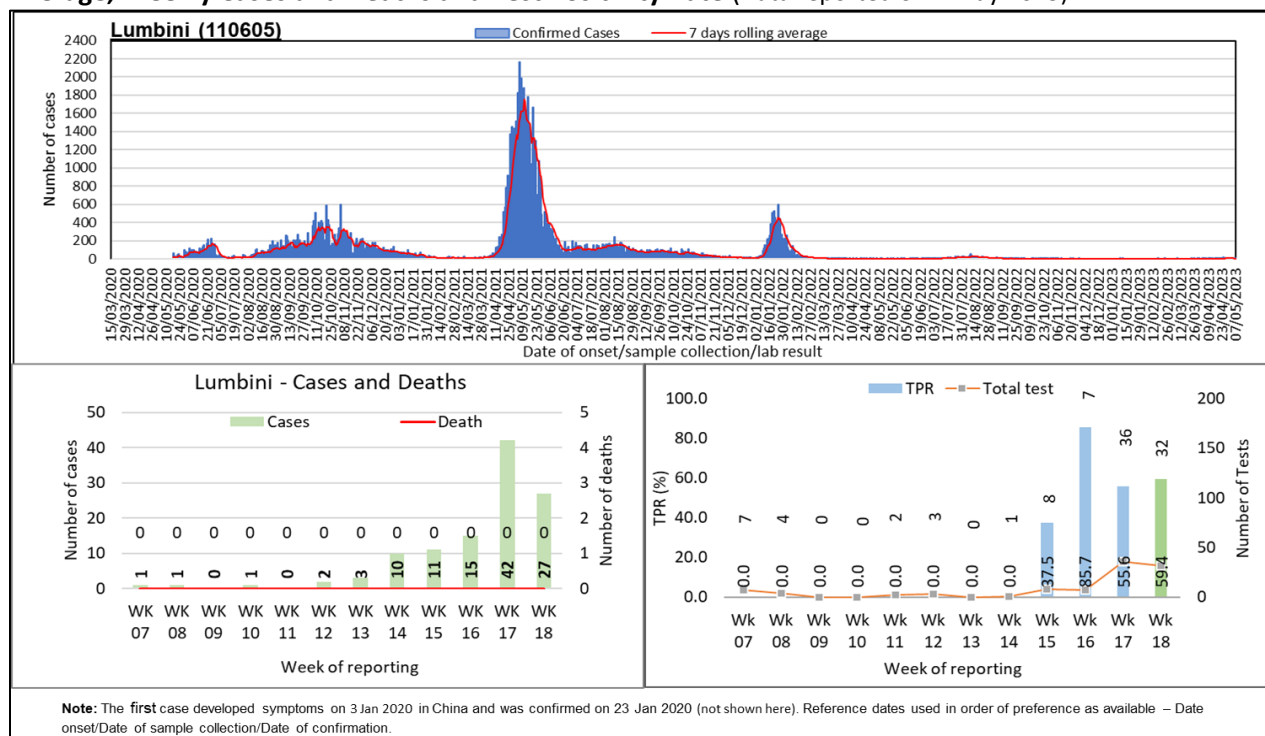
**Figure 3A4: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Gandaki Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 7 May 2023)**



In Gandaki Province, 4 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 91% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was 1 death reported in the past week, compared to none in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province decreased to 8.7% in the past week. A total of 23 tests were performed in the past week, 78% less than that in the previous week.

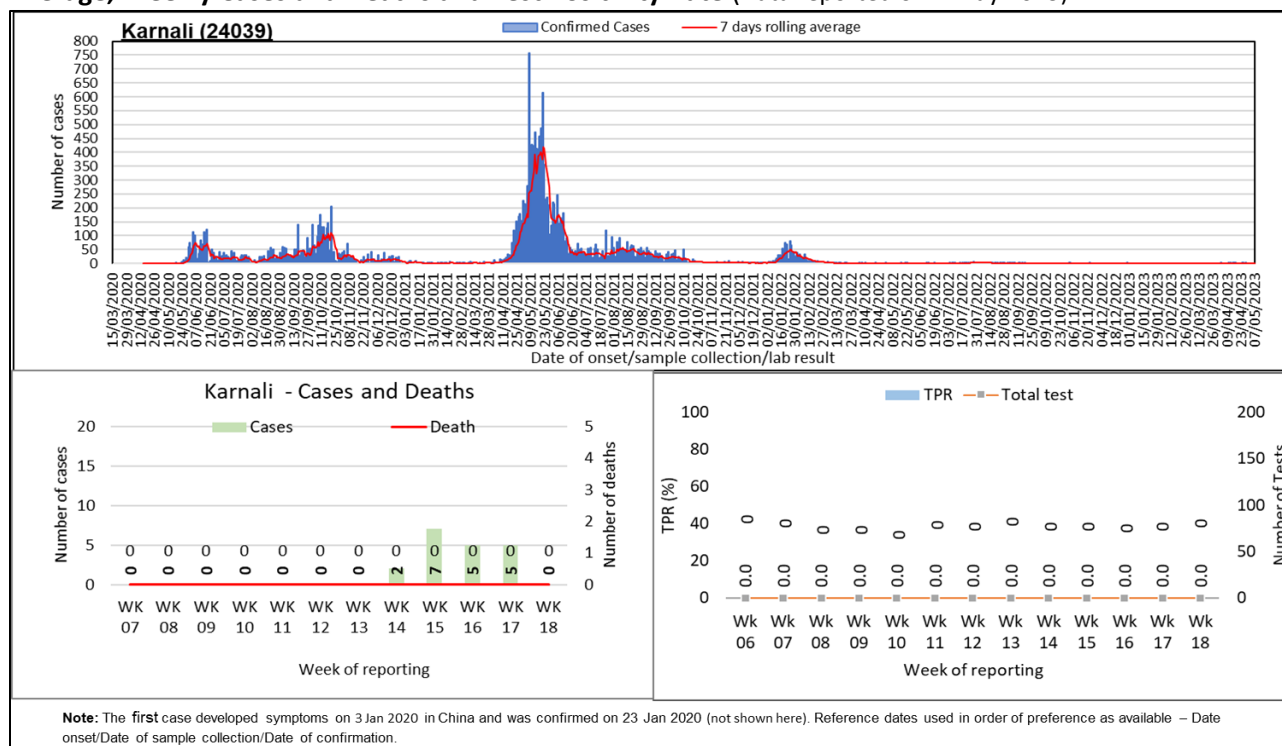


**Figure 3A5: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lumbini Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 7 May 2023)**



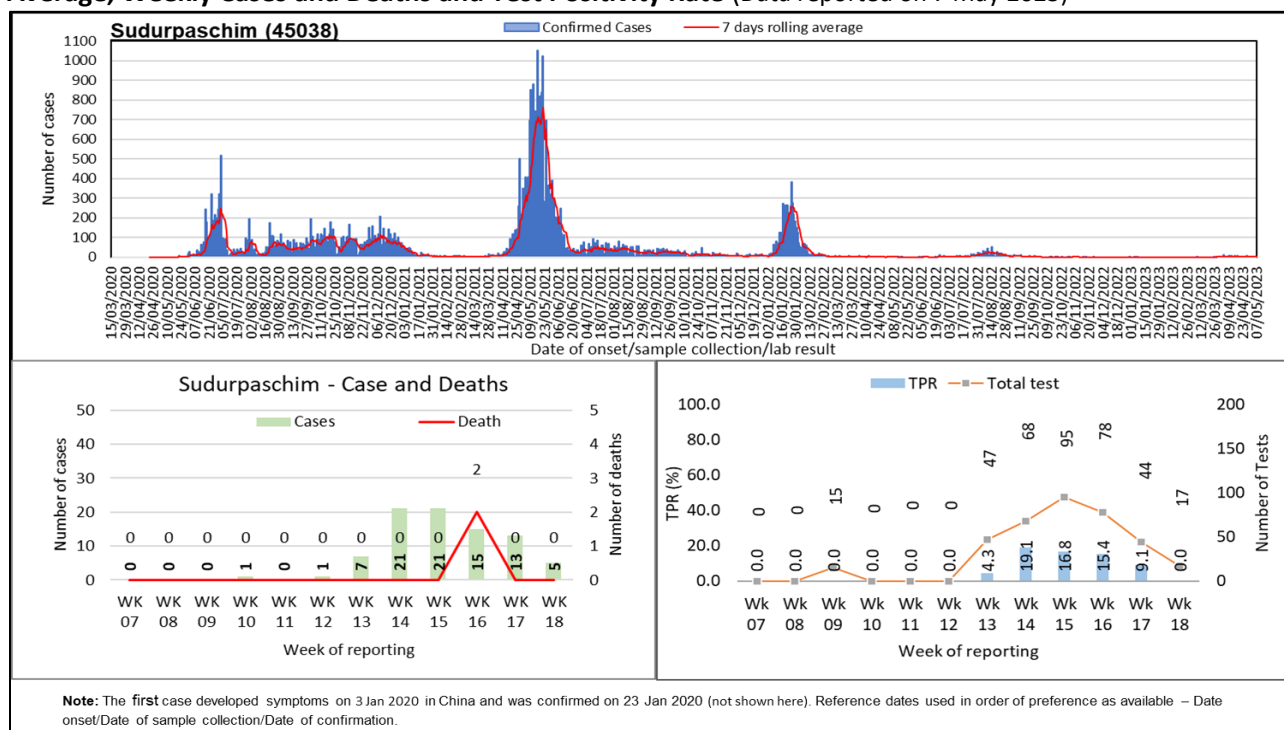
Lumbini Province reported 27 new cases in the past week. Cases have decreased by 36% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province increased to 59.4% in the past week. A total of 32 tests were performed in the past week, 11% 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 7 May 2023)**



In Karnali Province, no new cases were reported in the past week, 100% less than that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no test performed reported in the past week.

**Figure 3A7: RT- PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases in Sudurpaschim Province: Trend of Cases, 7 days Rolling Average, Weekly Cases and Deaths and Test Positivity Rate (Data reported on 7 May 2023)**



In Sudurpaschim Province, 5 new cases were reported in the past week, 62% less than that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim Province decreased to 0.0% in the past week. A total of 17 tests were performed in the past week, 61% less than that in the previous week



**Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, and transmission by Provinces** (Data reported on 7 May 2023 up to 19:00:00)

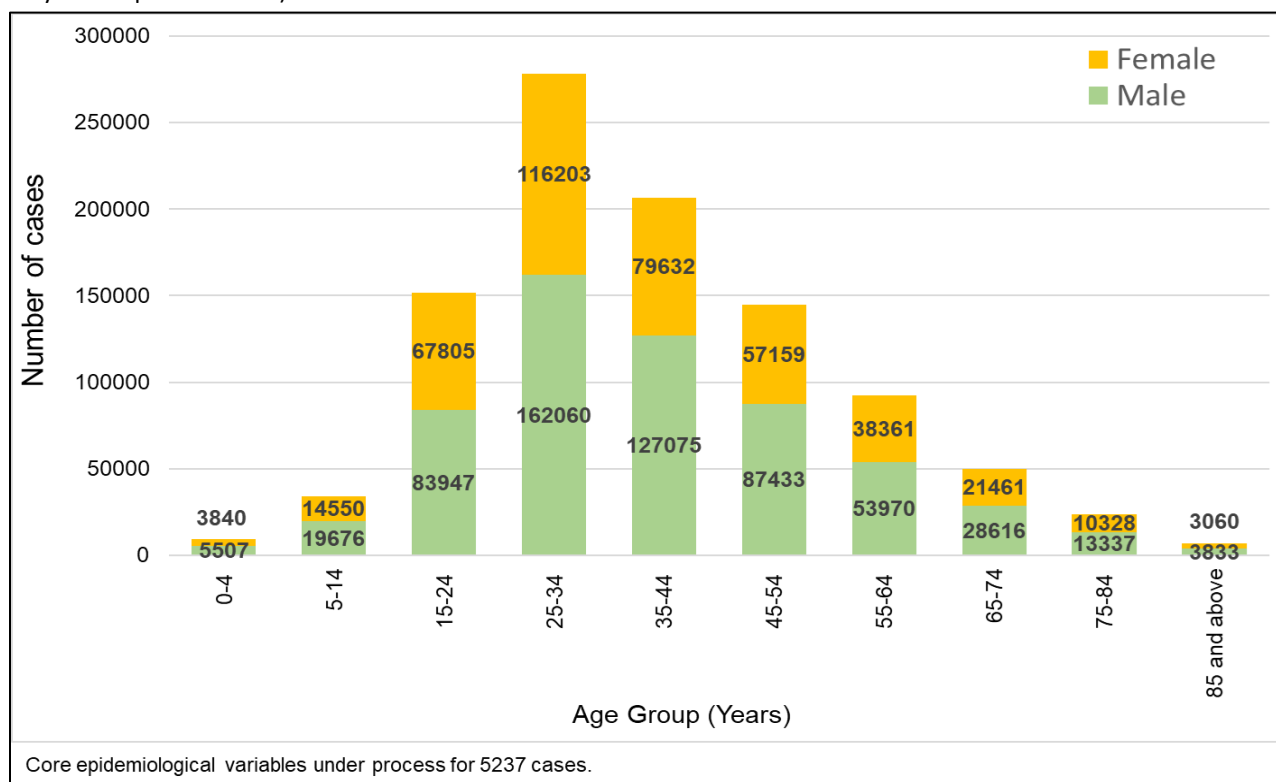
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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
Koshi	129749	30380	160129	14.1	1722	Community transmission	38	87	125	12.6	0
Madhesh	53927	1185	55112	4.9	783	Community transmission	2	4	6	0.6	0
Bagmati	544202	33352	577554	50.9	5210	Community transmission	189	261	450	45.5	3
Gandaki	95530	24838	120368	10.6	1430	Community transmission	83	48	131	13.2	1
Lumbini	110605	28427	139032	12.3	1874	Community transmission	98	69	167	16.9	0
Karnali	24039	6433	30472	2.7	492	Community transmission	32	5	37	3.7	0
Sudurpashchim	45038	6516	51554	4.5	520	Community transmission	55	18	73	7.4	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>1003090</b>	<b>131131*</b>	<b>1134221</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12031</b>	Community transmission	<b>497</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>

*\*Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 7 May 153806, IMU reported 131131*

Notes:

1. The source for the 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 entries and manual errors such as city names in place of districts, district names 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= 997853)**(Data reported on 7 May 2023 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= 1003090)**(Data reported on 7 May 2023 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	9347	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34226	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151752	92	97	71	0.12
25-34	278263	388	265	152	0.23
35-44	206707	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144592	1398	646	577	1.41
55-64	92331	1692	803	784	2.7
65-74	50077	1641	894	959	5.06
75-84	23665	1229	660	775	7.98
85+	6893	524	290	280	11.81
Unknown	5237	19	7	11	0.5
<b>National</b>	<b>1003090</b>	<b>7887</b>	<b>4144</b>	<b>3913</b>	<b>1.20</b>

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

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

A total of 12,031 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 7,887 (65.6%) were male and 4,144 (34.4%) were female. Amongst the deaths, 3,913 persons (32.5%) had at least one known comorbidity. The age specific case fatality ratio (CFR) progressively increases with age, ranging from 0.06% to 11.8%.

## PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- From 3 November 2022 onwards, the Government of Nepal has started administering second dose COVID-19 booster vaccination for people aged 55 and above and the vulnerable population group (immune-deficiency/chronic patients, pregnant women, and health workers).

### What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

#### **Laboratory Diagnosis**

- WHO Nepal has been providing support to the NPHL in continued routine work.

#### **Technical Expertise and Training**

- Continued routine work from the team of Technical Expertise and Training.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Operational Support and Logistics**

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- On the occasion of *World Hand Hygiene Day*, related IEC materials were shared on online platforms which highlighted the importance of hand hygiene to prevent diseases, including COVID-19.
- The latest episode of *Science in 5 (Episode #98 - COVID-19 evolving variants and how to stay safe)* was shared via social media.
- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
- Announcement of COVID-19 as an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC),
  - Importance of immunizations,
  - Smoking and COVID-19,
  - Physical activity and COVID-19,
  - WHO Global Strategic Preparedness, Readiness, and Response Plan for 2023-2025
- The *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and WHO Nepal website (link [here](#))

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<sup>2</sup> The routine works of the technical expertise and training team 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. To perform these activities, the team coordinates and discuss with relevant government authorities and partners for effective planning and conducting the various activities.

<sup>3</sup> The routine works of the operation support and logistics team included technical support to the Management Division of the Department of Health Services for the forecasting, quantification, procurement, and distribution plan of COVID-19 commodities. The other routine activities included daily operational support to the WHO country office and seven provincial health emergency operation centers, including fleet and travel management and the procurement of required logistics and supplies.

- The *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and WHO Nepal website (link [here](#)).
- The *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)).
- WHO press briefings on COVID-19 are being shared via social media.

### What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation<sup>4</sup>
- UNICEF and WHO are providing overall support for COVID-19 vaccination in close coordination with health partners and donors.
- 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 Nepal supported Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) to coordinate and conduct the “Coordination and Planning meeting for Pandemic Fund” on the 24 of April 2023 at Health Emergency Operations Center (HEOC). The meeting was chaired by the Chief of Quality Standards and Regulation Division on behalf of the Coordinator of the Technical Working Pandemic Fund.

### 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](#)

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<sup>4</sup> The routine works include coordinating with all the divisions, units, centers of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and Department of Health Services (DoHS), and the health partners for effective conduction of Health Cluster Coordination meeting. Furthermore, the works included the documentation and distribution of meeting minutes, health partner's support updates in the 3Ws (Who, What, Where) and thematic mapping, updates of WHO's support in the UNRCO 3W sheet, participate in multi-sectoral and emergency and disaster preparedness and response platforms and activities and the humanitarian country team operational meetings. Moreover, necessary support for effective coordination of Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) with different stakeholders is provided.

- WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard can be found [here](#)
- Visit the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

## CONTACT DETAILS

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