

Situation Update #161 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 8 - 14 May 2023 (Epi Week 19)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Situation Report as of 14 May 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 15 May April 2023)

- Of the total RT-PCR confirmed COVID-19 cases, 98.7% (991,071) of cases have recovered, 0.01% (120) are active cases, and 1.19% (12,031) are deaths.
- Among the new RT-PCR confirmed cases (132) reported this week, 33.3% (44 cases) are from Kathmandu district followed by Banke district with 13.6% (18 cases). Majority of the new cases 37.9% (50) have been reported from Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur) in Bagmati Province.

COVID-19 vaccination coverage status (as of 9 May 2023)

Vaccine	First dose	Second dose
Covi-AstraZeneca	5,586,605	4,839,600
Vero Cell	10,407,689	9,275,949
Janssen	3,548,246	
Pfizer	5,023,253	3,862,758
Moderna	3,228,669	2,830,970

SITUATION OVERVIEW

(Data as of 14 May 2023)

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases

RT-PCR: 1,003,222

Antigen RDT: 153,908

Cumulative deaths: 12,031

Cumulative tests

RT-PCR: 6,040,671

Antigen RDT: 1,587,857

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

Cumulative cases (%)

61,138,297 (8%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

805,667 (12%)

GLOBAL

Cumulative cases (%)

766,404,339 (100%)

Cumulative deaths (%)

6,935,958 (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% (784,664/1,003,222) 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 the national total (443,022/1,003,222), and 81.4% of the provincial total (443,022/544,258).
- Province-wise, RT-PCR test positivity rate in Epi week 19 ranged from 0.0% (Lumbini Province) to 42.3% (Koshi Province) with the national positivity rate at 3.8%. Madhesh and Karnali Provinces did not report any RT-PCR test performed in the last week.
- Nepal reported a 4% increase in the number of new RT-PCR confirmed cases (n=132) in Epi week 19 compared to that in the previous week. Of these total cases reported last week, 82% of the cases have been reported from Koshi, Lumbini and Bagmati Provinces.
- Nepal reported no death in Epi week 19, a 100% decrease compared to that in the previous week.

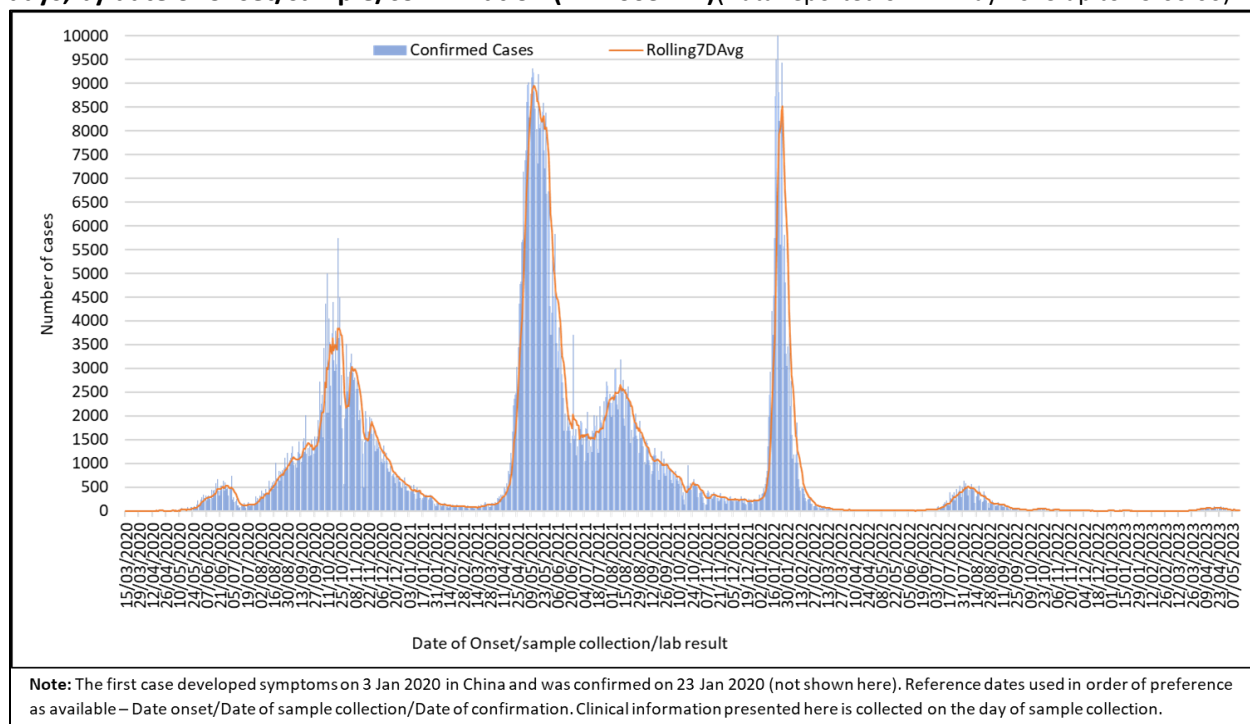
National Influenza Surveillance

- 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 the Provincial Public Health Laboratory (PPHL)-Sudurpaschim' on 9-10 May 2023. The meeting was held to review the ongoing Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance activities in PPHL-Sudurpaschim and its sentinel site: Seti Provincial Hospital. Staff from PPHL-Sudurpaschim, Seti Provincial Hospital, NPHL and WHO attended the meeting.
- NIC-NPHL reported 13 diagnostic Influenza samples on Epi-week 19.
 - None of the samples tested Influenza positive.
 - One sample tested SARS-CoV-2 positive.
- NIC-NPHL received 11 Influenza samples from sentinel hospitals on Epi-week 19.
 - None of the samples tested Influenza positive.
 - One sample tested SARS-CoV-2 positive.
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing of 92 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using Multiplex kit on Epi-week 19.
 - One sample tested Influenza A positive (to be subtyped) and 1 sample was tested Influenza B positive.
 - Four samples tested SARS-CoV-2 Positive.
 - A total of 1815 samples have been tested by PPHLs from 2 Jan – 14 May 2023.
- From 2 January 2023 until 14 May 2023:
 - A total of 501 samples tested positive for Influenza [(109 Influenza B, 353 Influenza A/H3, 38 Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and 1 Influenza A positive (to be subtyped)] from 3828 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel SARI and ILI samples).
 - Similarly, 184 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from dual testing of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 in 3466 SARI and ILI samples received from sentinel and non-sentinel sites.¹

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

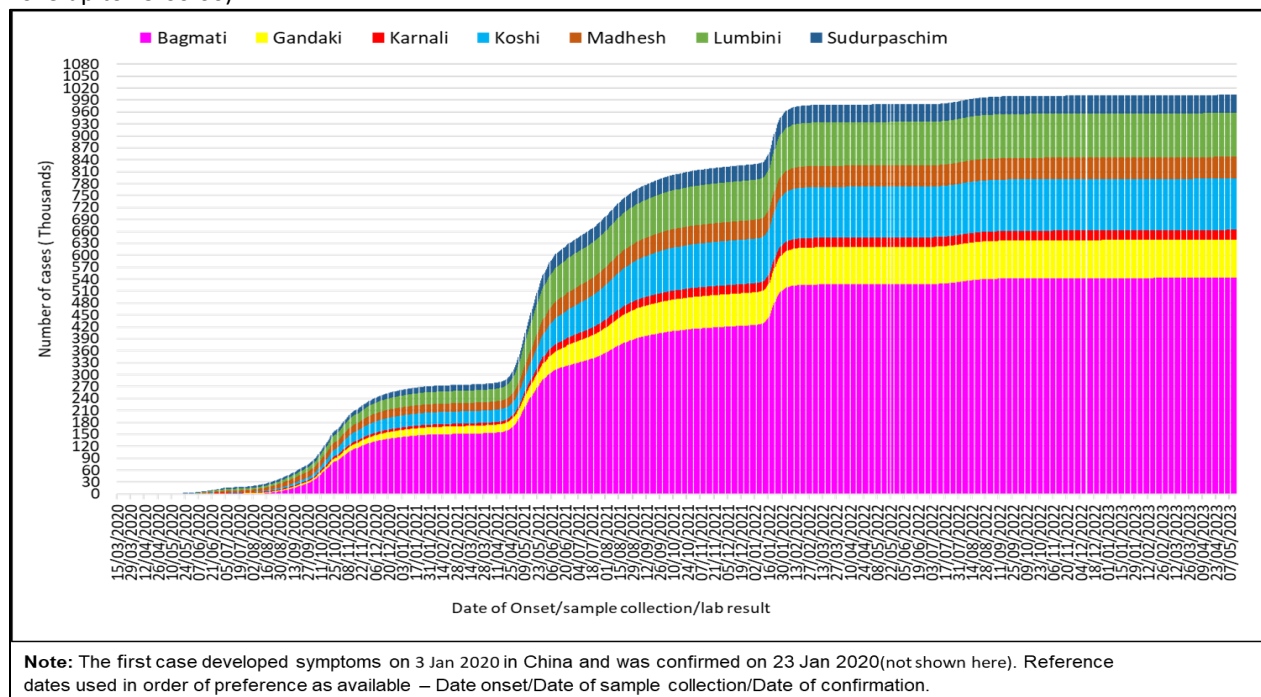
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database

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= 1003222)(Data reported on 14 May 2023 up to 19:00:00)



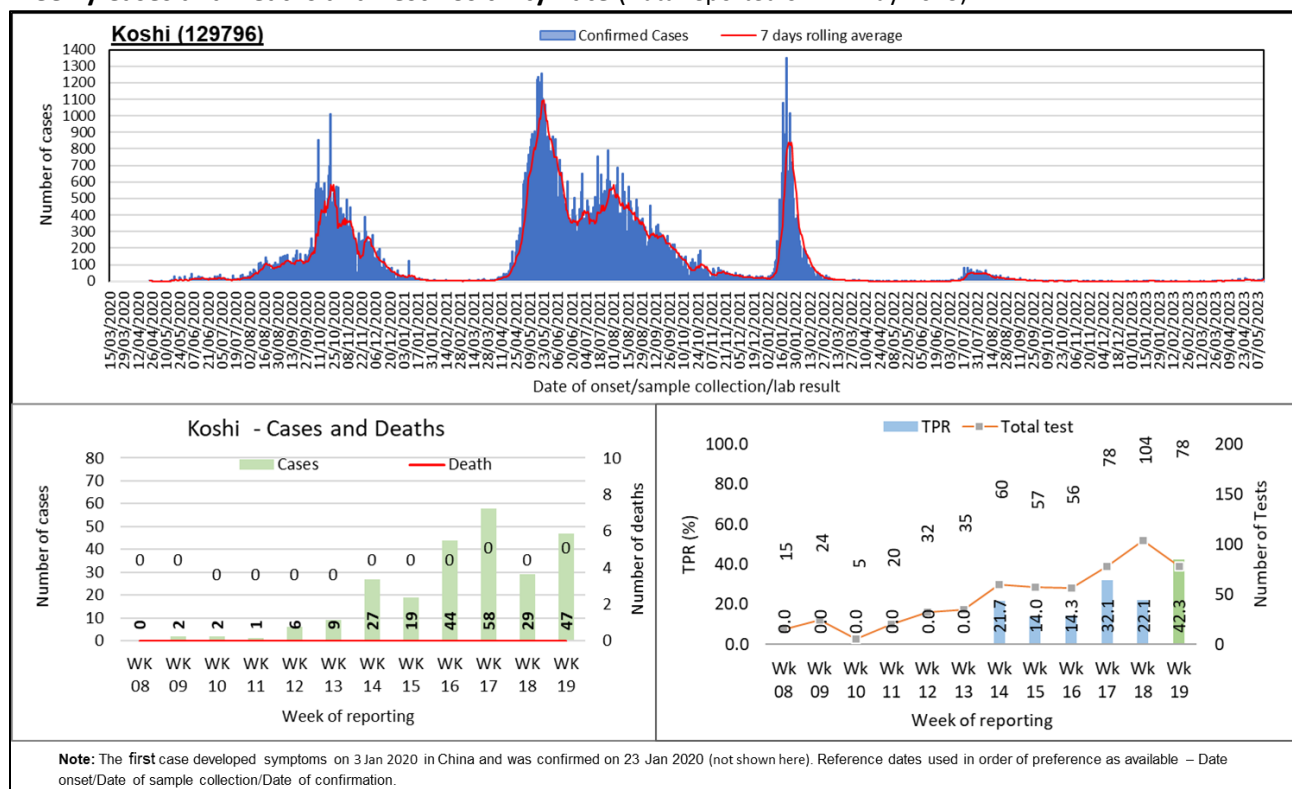
At the national level, the first wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the second wave from the middle of March 2021. Since the middle of December 2021, a third wave of cases soared up exceeding the highest number of single day cases reported in the past surges towards the 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= 1003222)(Data reported on 14 May 2023 up to 19:00:00)



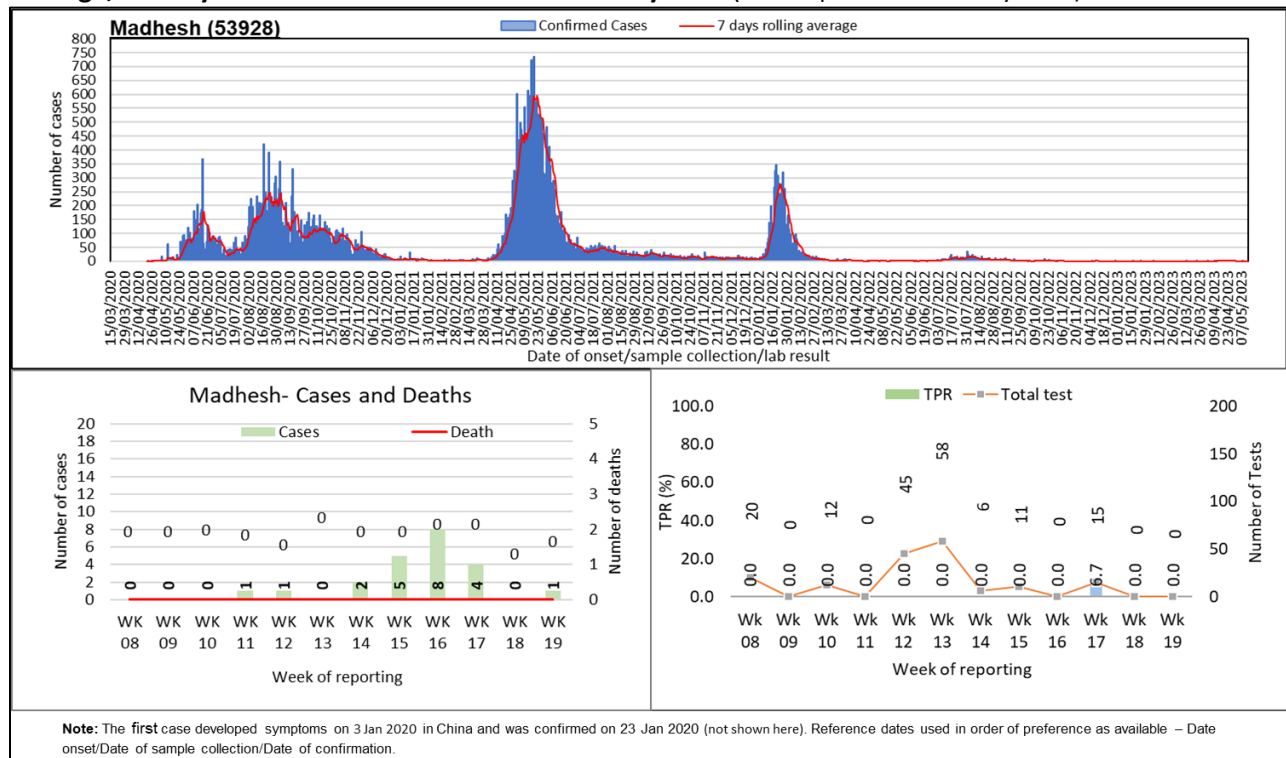
The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed on 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Koshi and Lumbini Province.

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 14 May 2023)



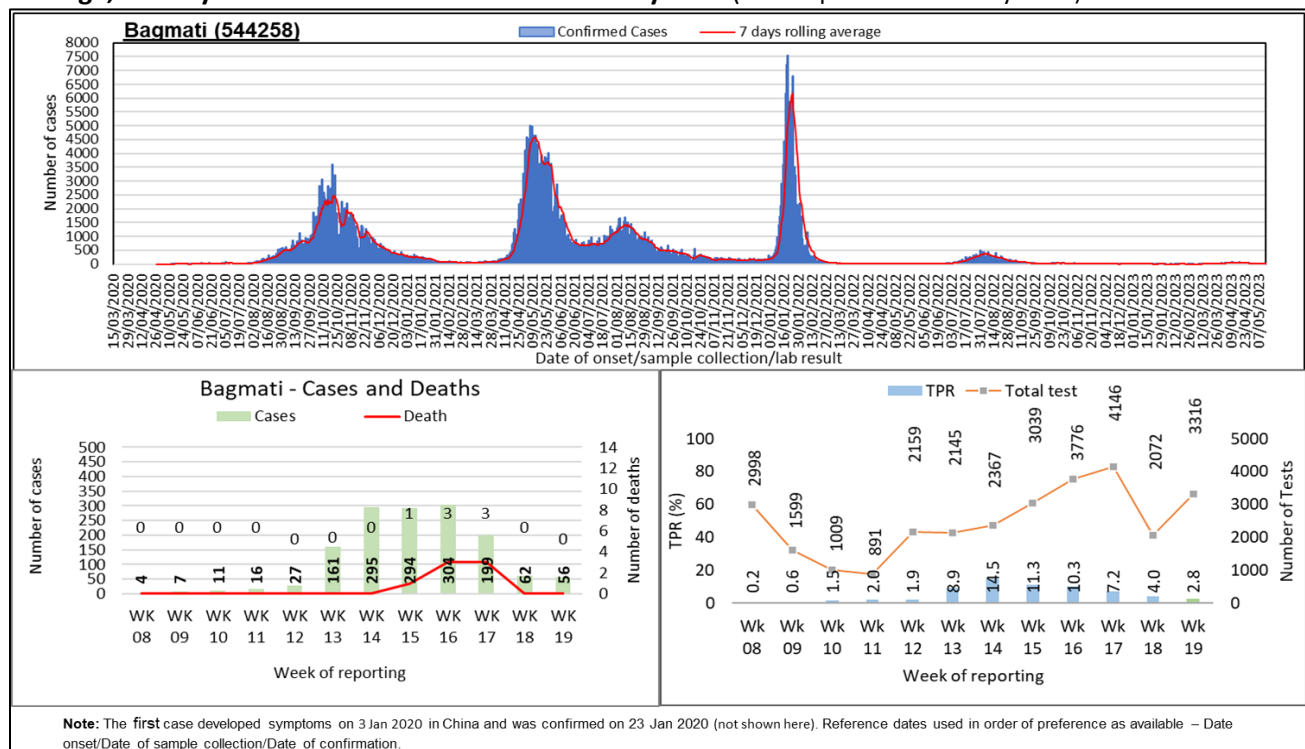
There were 47 new cases reported in the past week in Koshi Province. Cases have increased by 62% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Koshi Province increased to 42.3% in the past week. A total of 78 tests were performed in the past week, 25% 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 14 May 2023)



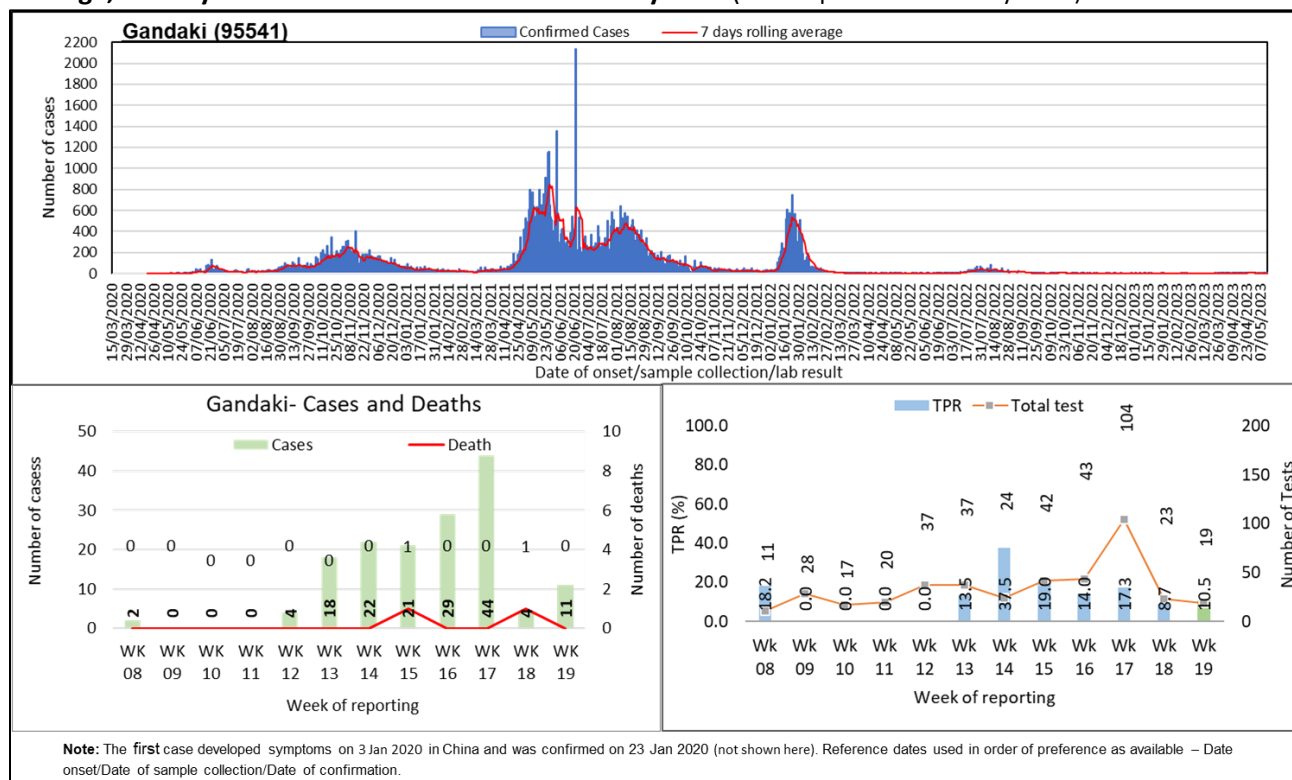
There was 1 new case reported in the past week in Madhesh Province. Cases have increased in the past week compared to none in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. There was no test performed reported in the past week.

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 14 May 2023)



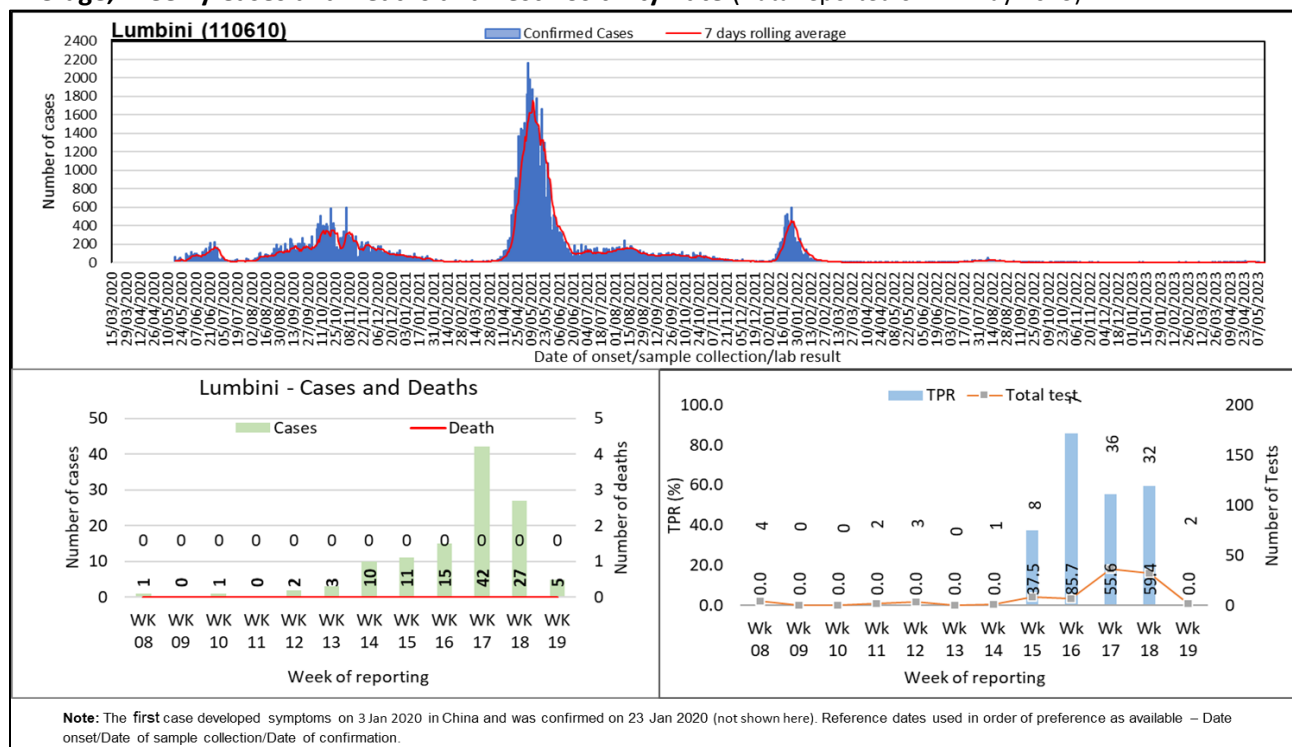
In Bagmati Province , 56 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have decreased by 10% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati Province decreased to 2.8% in the past week. A total of 3316 tests were performed in the past week, 60% more 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 14 May 2023)



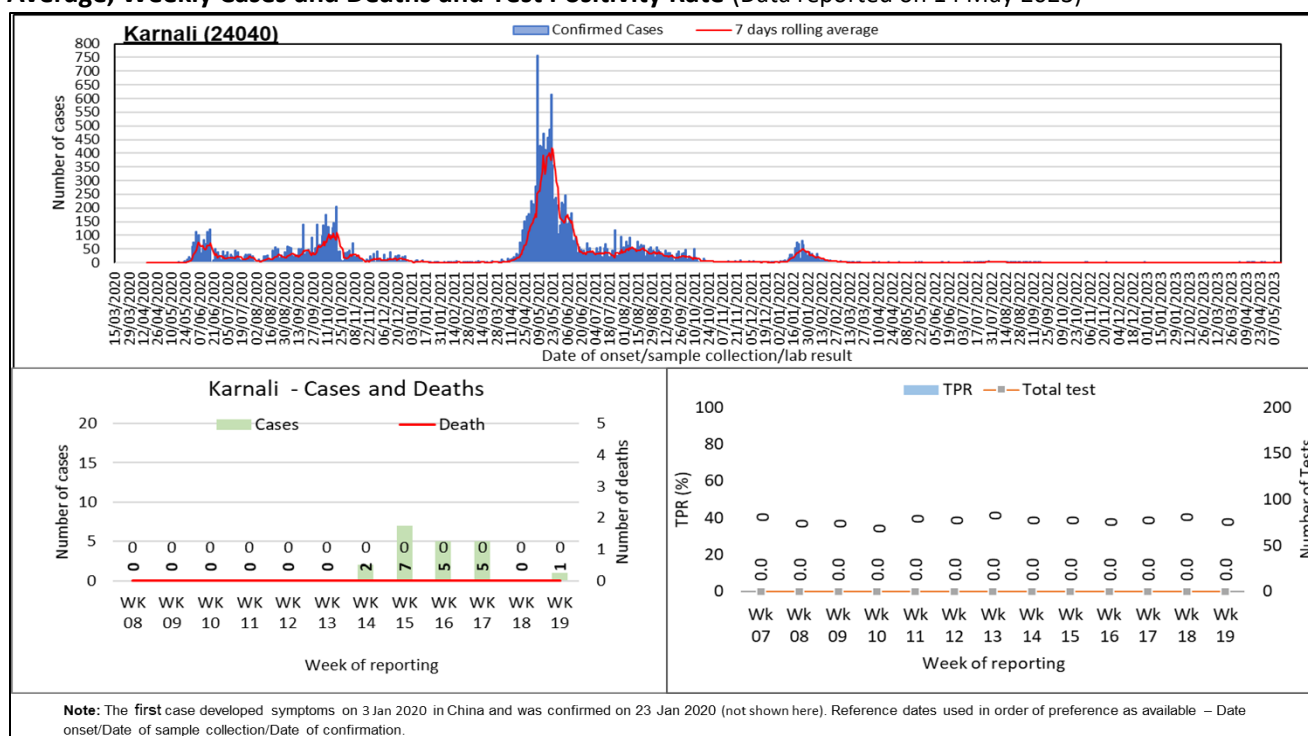
In Gandaki Province , 11 new cases were reported in the past week. Cases have increased by 175% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, 100% less compared to that in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki Province increased to 10.5% in the past week. A total of 19 tests were performed in the past week, 17% 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 14 May 2023)



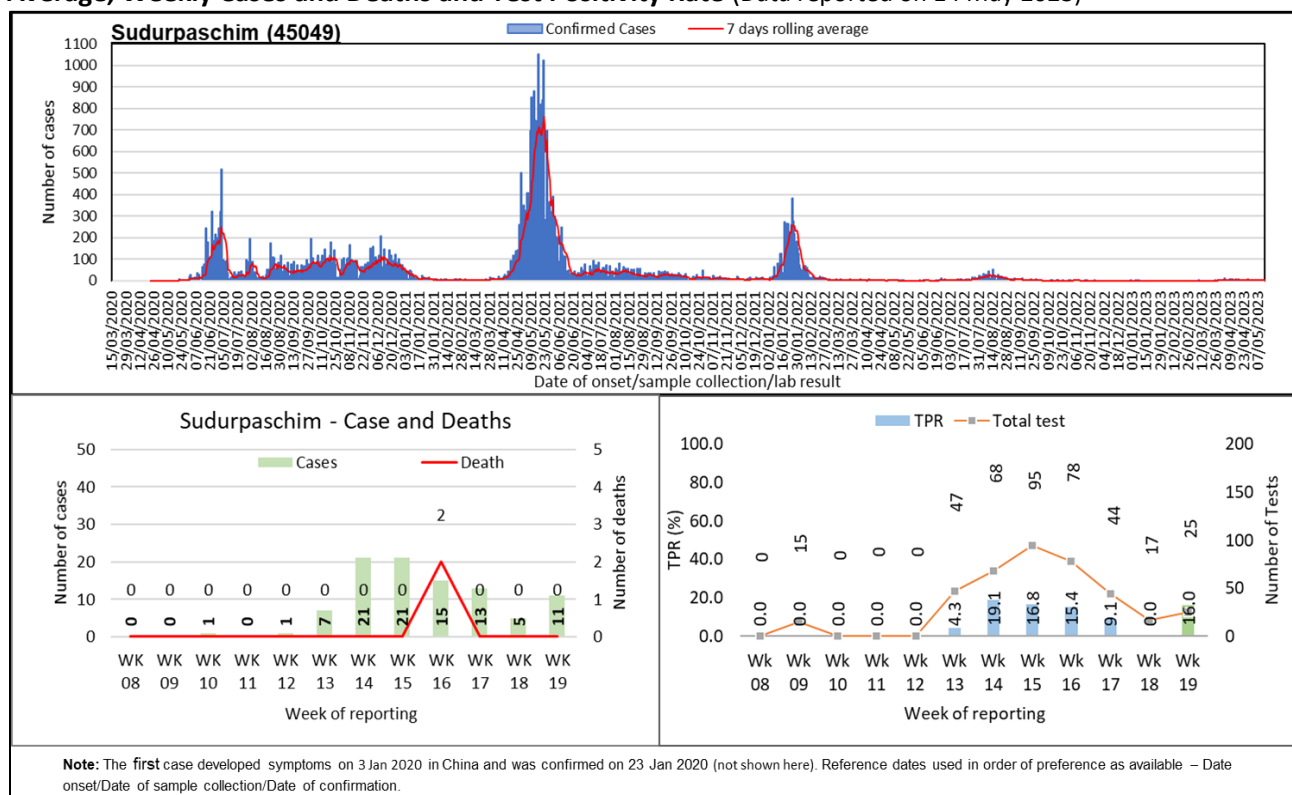
Lumbini Province reported 5 new cases in the past week. Cases have decreased by 81% in the past week compared to that in the previous week. There was no death reported in the past week, same as in the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini Province decreased to 0.0% in the past week. A total of 2 tests were performed in the past week, 94% 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 14 May 2023)



In Karnali Province, 1 new case was reported in the past week, compared to none 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 14 May 2023)



In Sudurpaschim Province, 11 new cases were reported in the past week, 120% more 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 increased to 16.0% in the past week. A total of 25 tests were performed in the past week, 47% more than that in the previous week.

Table 1: Summary of confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, and transmission by Provinces (Data reported on 14 May 2023 up to 19:00:00)

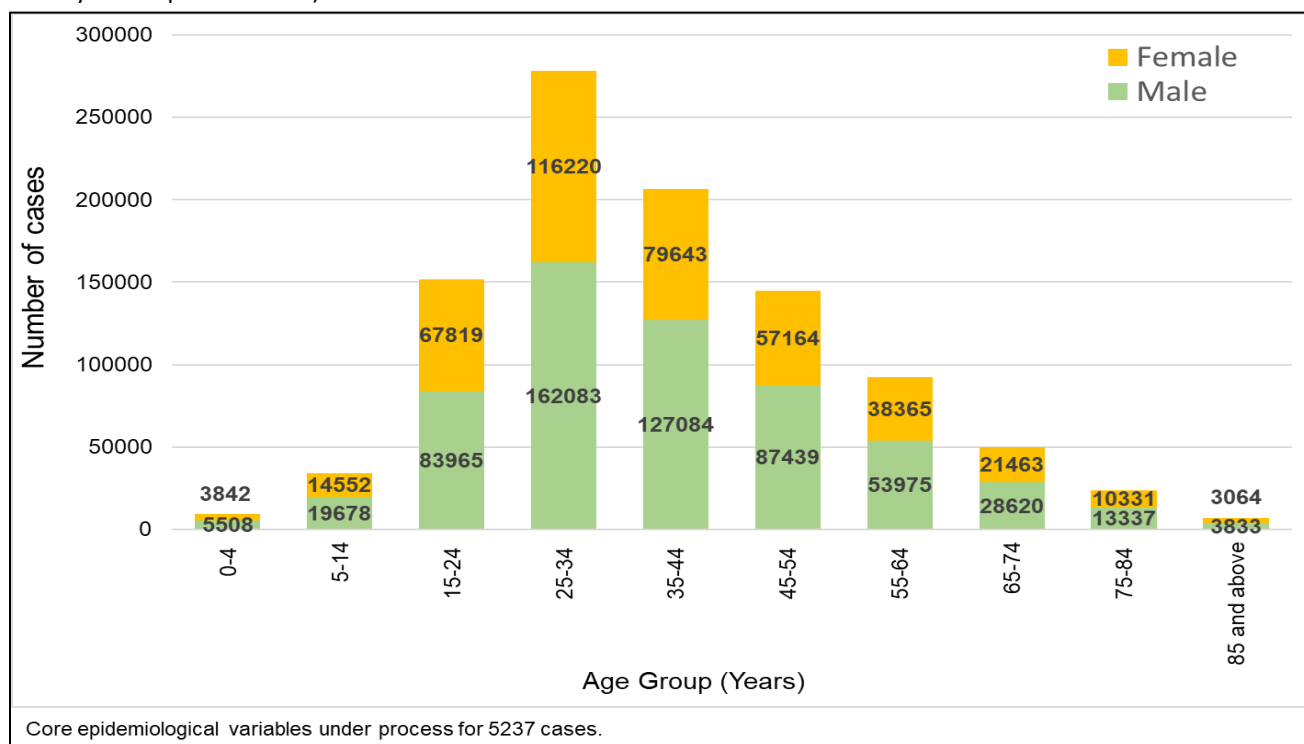
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed 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	129796	30382	160178	14.1	1722	Community transmission	28	76	104	18.3	0
Madhesh	53928	1186	55114	4.9	783	Community transmission	1	1	2	0.4	0
Bagmati	544258	33371	577629	50.9	5210	Community transmission	82	118	200	35.3	0
Gandaki	95541	24854	120395	10.6	1430	Community transmission	53	15	68	12.0	1
Lumbini	110610	28461	139071	12.3	1874	Community transmission	84	32	116	20.5	0
Karnali	24040	6444	30484	2.7	492	Community transmission	26	1	27	4.8	0
Sudurpashchim	45049	6535	51584	4.5	520	Community transmission	34	16	50	8.8	0
National Total	1003222	131233*	1134455	100	12031	Community transmission	308	259	567	100	1

Total reported in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) Sitrep as of 14 May **153908, IMU reported **131233***

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= 997985)(Data reported on 14 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= 1003222)(Data reported on 14 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	9350	16	23	13	0.42
5-14	34230	13	7	10	0.06
15-24	151784	92	97	71	0.12
25-34	278303	388	265	152	0.23
35-44	206727	875	452	281	0.64
45-54	144603	1398	646	577	1.41
55-64	92340	1692	803	784	2.7
65-74	50083	1641	894	959	5.06
75-84	23668	1229	660	775	7.98
85+	6897	524	290	280	11.8
Unknown	5237	19	7	11	0.5
National	1003222	7887	4144	3913	1.20

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

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.²
- WHO is supporting the TOT training of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) Management organized by Curriculum Development Section of NHTC at NAMS Bir Hospital, Kathmandu from 14-16 May. There were 10 trainers and 16 participants which included doctors and nurses from BPKIHS, Narayani Hospital, Chitwan Medical College, Shree Birendra Hospital, Madhesh Academy of Health Science, Nepalgunj Medical College and Teaching Hospital, Seti Provincial Hospital, Karnali Academy of Health Science, Koshi Hospital, Dadeldura Hospital, Karnali Provincial Hospital, Infectious and Communicable Disease Hospital Gandaki, APF Hospital, Lumbini Provincial Hospital, Bharatpur Hospital and Grande international Hospital, Kathmandu.

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics.³
- WHO Country Office Nepal facilitated four-days annual training on risk communication and community engagement and infodemic management: 'Strengthening regional capacity to communicate during emergencies' from 08 - 11 May 2023 started with preparatory meeting on 07 May 2023 and post internal meeting on 12 May 2023. The support included accommodation and travel support to the international delegates, conference, and logistics arrangement for the training. This event was organized by WHO SEARO and participants were from the WHO SEAR region, WHO HQ and from Ministry of Health and external partners from SEAR Region.

² 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.

³ 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.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- The Annual Regional Training on Risk Communication, Community Engagement, and Infodemic Management, organized by WHO South-East Asia Region, was held in Kathmandu from 8-11 May 2023. For more information: Facebook (link [here](#)), Instagram (link [here](#)), and Twitter (link [here](#)).



Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal, delivered opening remarks on behalf of Regional Director Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, during the inaugural session of the Annual Regional Training on Risk Communication, Community Engagement and Infodemic Management held in Kathmandu. Photo credit: WHO Nepal



Group photo of participants, facilitators, and dignitaries at the Annual Regional Training on Risk Communication, Community Engagement, and Infodemic Management held to strengthen the RCCE capacity of the WHO South-East Asia Region. Photo credit : WHO Nepal

- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
 - Announcement of mpox as no longer constituting a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC),
 - Importance of vaccinations.
- The *Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link [here](#))
- The *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)) and WHO, Country Office for Nepal, website (link [here](#)).
- The *Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring* was uploaded on *ReliefWeb* (link [here](#)).

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- Continued routine work from the team of Partner Coordination and Donor Relation⁴
- 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'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](#)

⁴ 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.

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