

Situation Update #178 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 04 - 10 September 2023 (Epi Week 36)

HIGHLIGHTS

(Data published in the MoHP Daily Bulletin as of 09 September 2023 and same data published in EDCC Report as of 10 September 2023)

- This week, there were four confirmed cases reported.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Data as of 10 September 2023

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases:

1,157,492

Cumulative deaths:

12,031

Cumulative tests:

7684229

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- Since 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country has reported a total of 1,157,492 confirmed cases.
- The test positivity rate for Epi week 36 was reported as 0.3% at the national level.
- A total of 4 new confirmed cases were reported in Epi week 36, which is 33% less compared to the previous week.
- There were no deaths reported in Epi week 36, the same as in the previous week

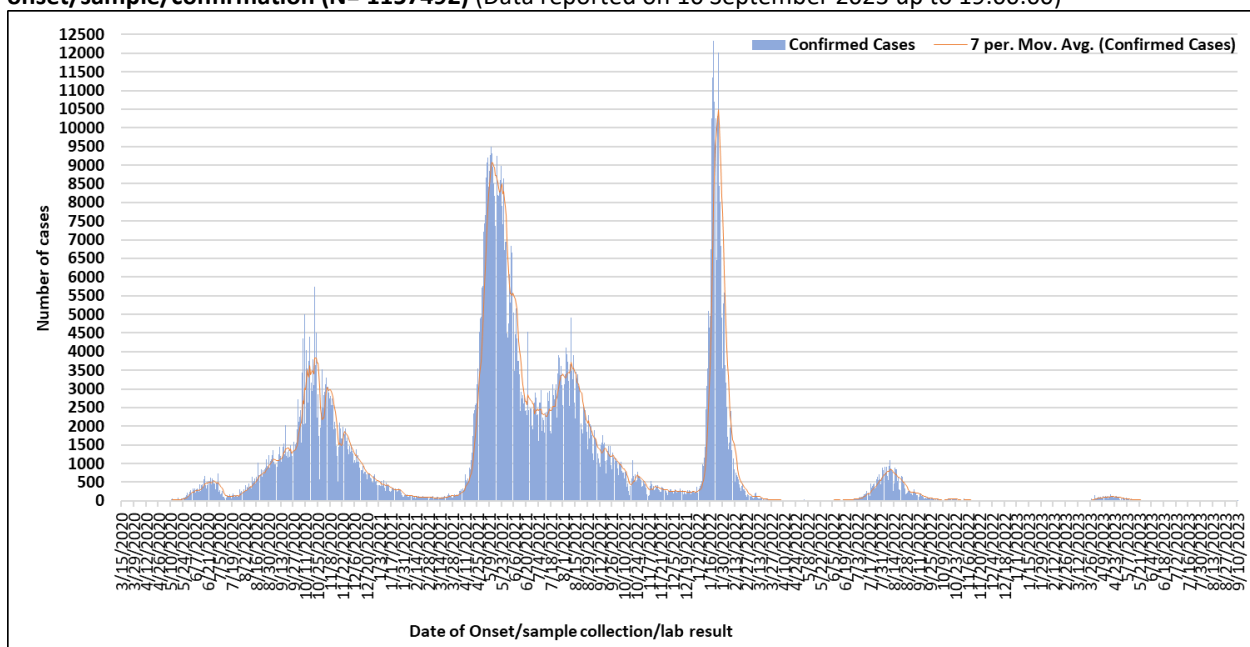
National Influenza Surveillance

- The National Influenza Centre (NIC) - National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) reported 53 diagnostic influenza samples on Epi week 36 (4-10 September 2023).
 - Three sample tested Influenza A/H3 positive
 - One sample tested Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 positive
 - Two samples tested Influenza A (yet to be subtyped) positive
 - One sample tested Influenza B (lineage not determined) positive
- NIC-NPHL received 8 influenza samples from sentinel hospitals on Epi week 36 (4-10 September 2023)
 - One sample tested Influenza A/H3 positive
 - One sample tested Influenza B (lineage not determined) positive
 - Two samples tested Influenza A (yet to be subtyped) positive
 - One sample tested Influenza B (lineage not determined) positive
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing 52 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using a Multiplex kit on Epi week 36 (4-10 September 2023)
 - One sample tested Influenza A positive (yet to be subtyped)
 - Seven samples tested Influenza B (lineage not determined) positive
- A total of 3269 samples were tested by PPHLs from 02 January to 10 September 2023.

- From 02 January until 10 September 2023:
 - A total of 707 samples have tested positive for influenza [(80 Influenza B (lineage not determined), 135 Influenza B Victoria, 32 Influenza A (yet to be subtyped), 414 Influenza A/H3, and 46 Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09)] from 6,191 samples (sentinel and non-sentinel SARI and ILI samples).
 - Similarly, 246 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from dual testing of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 in 5723 SARI and ILI samples received from sentinel and non-sentinel sites¹.

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

Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N= 1157492) (Data reported on 10 September 2023 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 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 there has been continuous decline in cases since the end of April 2023.

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

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 of COVID-19 booster vaccination for people aged 55 years 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?

Leadership

- WHO provided routine support, daily epidemiological situational analysis, and shared relevant regional and global updates to MoHP.

Laboratory Diagnosis

- A total of 76,84,229 (RT-PCR and Antigen) tests were performed nationwide by 110 designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation (as of 10 September 2023).

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from Technical Expertise and Training team².
- With support from WHO Nepal, the National Health Training Center conducted an eight-day pilot training on “Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)” from 3-10 September 2023 at the Sahid Gangalal National Heart Centre in Bansbari, Kathmandu. This comprehensive training, utilizing a blend of online and in-person modalities, engaged 16 participants from various tertiary-level hospitals in the Kathmandu valley. Following this successful pilot, the training program will be rolled out across the country.



*Group photo session of participants in the pilot training on IPC
Photo Courtesy: WHO Nepal/S.Paudel*

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics.³

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

- IEC materials on the following topics were shared via social media:
 - i. Harmful use of alcohol and COVID-19
- *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.

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.

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) 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](#)

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