

Situation Update #18- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Wednesday 19 August 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

Nepal

- Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has issued standards for the service delivery of senior citizens in the context of COVID-19. (Click [Here](#) for information)
- MoHP has revised the guidelines for the management of health workers and other personnel directly involved in the treatment of COVID-19 patients. (Click [Here](#) for information)
- With the addition of two more laboratories, i.e. one in Jhapa district of Province-1 and another in Kathmandu district of Bagmati Province, a total of **40** designated COVID-19 testing laboratories are now functional in the country.
- All seven provinces and 77 districts have been affected by COVID-19 transmission. However, no cases have been reported for the last 14 days from 4 districts i.e. Manang, Mustang, Dolpa and Solukhumbu.

SITUATION OVERVIEW (Reported up to 18 August 2020)

NEPAL

28,255 confirmed cases

114 deaths

5,29,427 RT-PCR tests (data as of 17 August)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(data as of 16 August)

30,40,168 confirmed cases

59,875 deaths

GLOBAL

(data as of 16 August)

2,12,94,845 confirmed cases

7,61,779 deaths

Regional/Global

- Access to basic handwashing facilities is an essential condition for schools to be able to operate safely amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the latest data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) found that [43% of schools worldwide lacked access to basic handwashing with soap and water in 2019](#). UNICEF and partners have published a [Framework for Reopening schools](#) and [guidance on hand hygiene](#), which compliments [Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools](#) and [Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19](#).
- WHO has published updated guidance on [home based care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and the management of their contacts](#). The document provides guidance on the issues to be considered when deciding whether or not to provide care for COVID-19 patients at home. It offers advice for health workers and caregivers providing care.

- WHO has published the [Emergency Global Supply Chain System \(COVID-19\) catalogue](#), which lists all medical devices, including personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, medical consumables, single-use devices, laboratory and test-related devices that may be requested through the [COVID-19 Supply Portal](#).

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of **19 August 2020, 07:00 hours, (week no. 34)**, a total of 28,255 COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in the country. In the last 14 days, a total of 6,232 cases were reported, which is 23 % of the total confirmed cases, and these cases were reported from 72 districts in all seven provinces.
- All seven provinces and 77 districts in the country have been affected by COVID-19 transmission. Six provinces, i.e. Provinces 1, 2, 5, Bagmati, Karnali and Sudurpaschhim, are having transmission as clusters of cases and Gandaki has sporadic case transmission.
- Nevertheless, doubling time has increased, indicating a slowing down of transmission compared to earlier periods.
- At present, three Provinces (Province-2, Bagmati Province and Province-5) are showing an upward trend. About **78% (21,906/28,255)** of the cases are reported from four Provinces (Province-2, Bagmati, Province-5 and Sudurpaschhim).
- Overall, the sex and age distribution is highly skewed towards males, who constitute **82% (23,149/28,255)** of the confirmed cases and of the males, **90% (20,894/23,149)** are in the 15-54-year age group.
- A total of **114** deaths (89 males and 25 females) have occurred in the country - all between weeks 20 and 34. Out of 114 deaths, 77 persons (68%) had at least one or more known co-morbid conditions. The overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, and CFR progressively increases with age beyond 55 years to the range of 2% to 15%.
- While less than 1% of the confirmed COVID-19 cases are symptomatic at diagnosis across all age groups, the proportion of symptomatic cases progressively increases beyond 55 years of age in the range of 2% to 7%.
- *Nepal has been able to keep COVID-19 transmission to sporadic or clustered cases in its first wave of transmission through effective quarantine or isolation of returnees to Nepal. However, at present, an increasing trend has been seen among the persons without a history of international travel, albeit some of them are indeed direct contacts of the returnees. A sensitive surveillance system with fully functional and strengthened contact tracing and follow-up system ("boots on the ground") would be critical now to detect the signs of community transmission and to control it quickly.*
- As of 16 August 2020, a total of **615 cases** of influenza-like illness (ILI) have been tested for COVID-19, of which **ten cases** have tested positive (all of these positive cases are included in COVID-19 database).
- A total of 10 samples were tested for Influenza last week (10- 16 August 2020) with all testing negative, *of these two have tested positive for COVID-19.*

Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases in South East Asia Region (Data updated on 16 August 2020 from global Weekly Epidemiological Update 1)

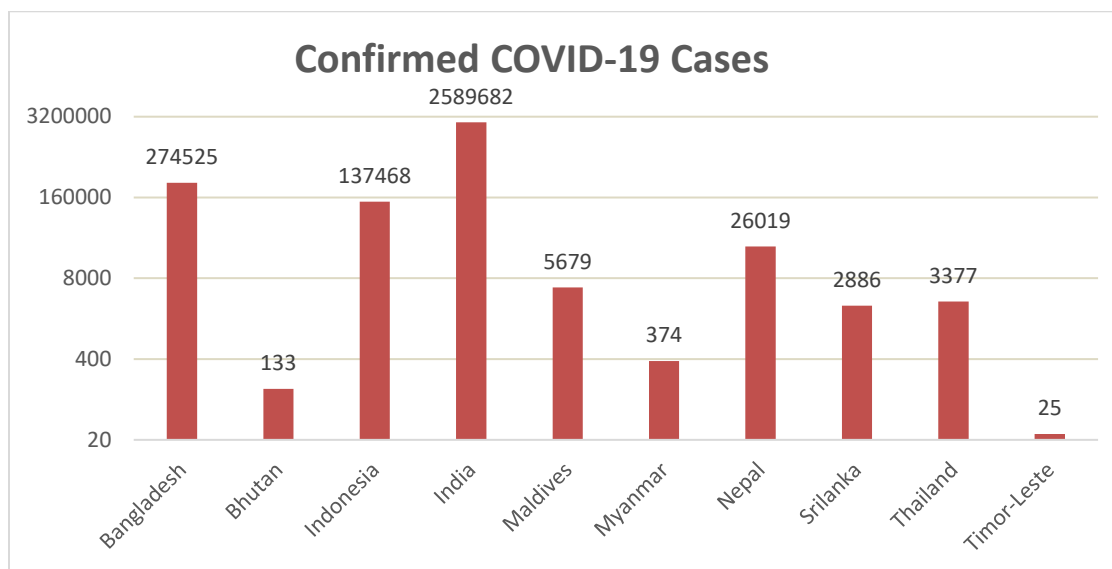


Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

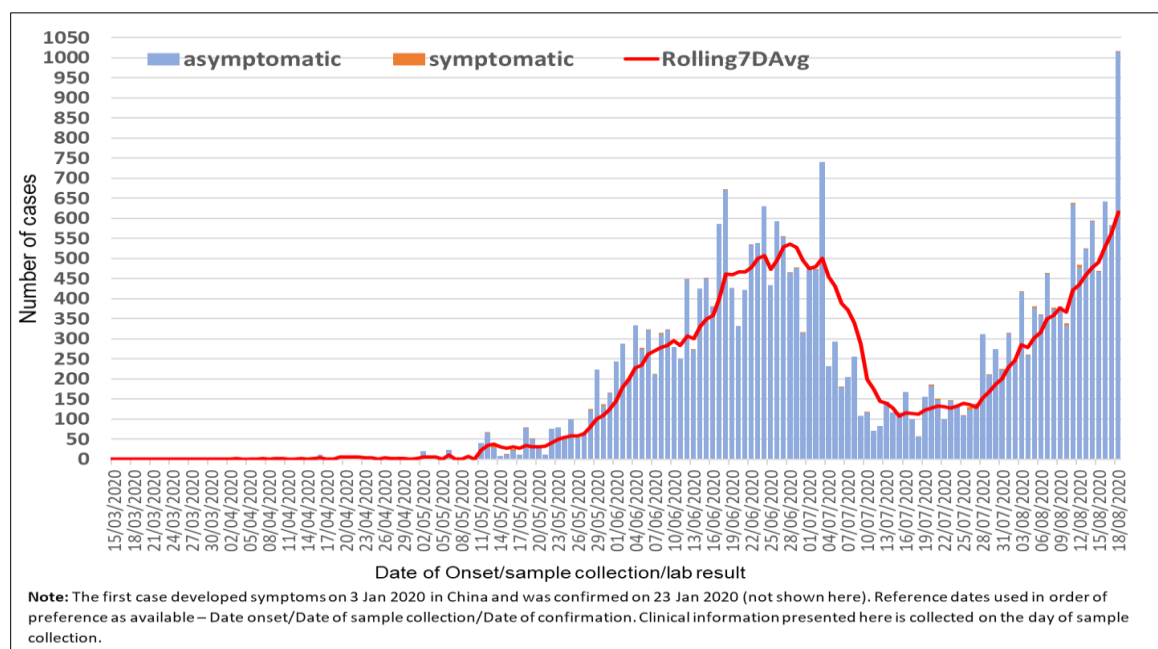
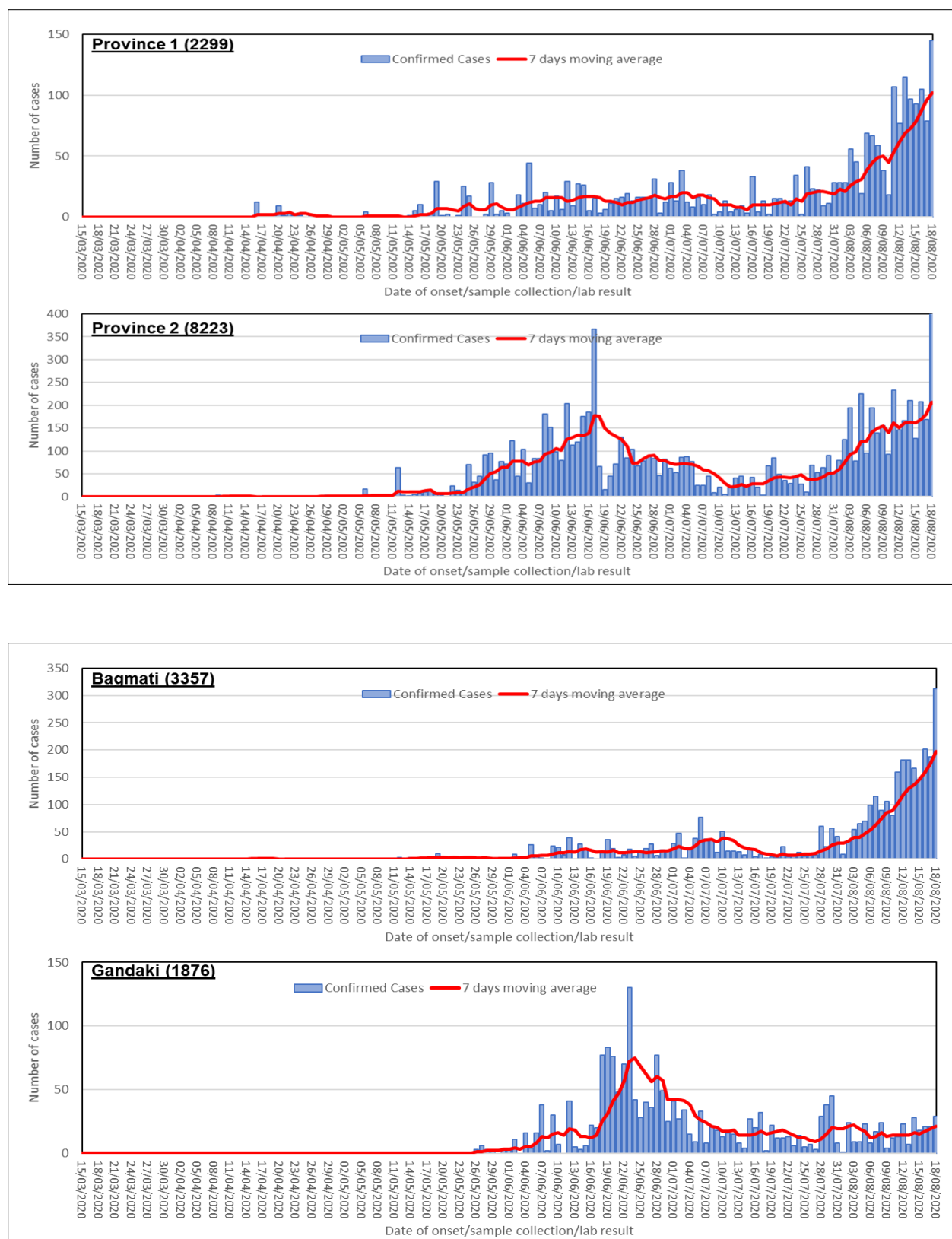
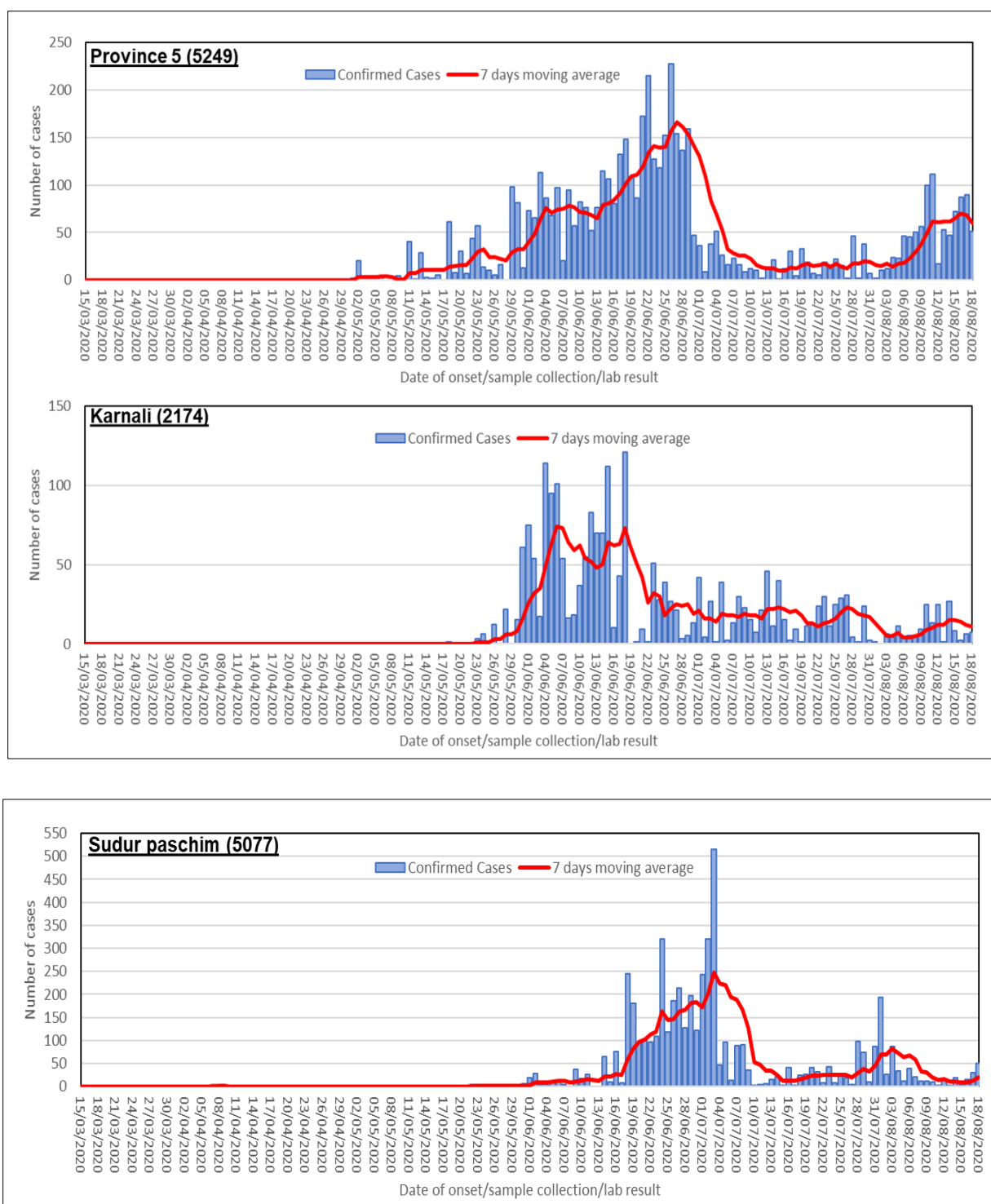


Figure 2B: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases and a 7-day rolling average of cases by date of onset/sample/confirmation by Provinces (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)





Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2 B):

- The first case developed symptoms on 3 January 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.
- **Y-axis scale varies between Provinces.**

Figure 2C: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

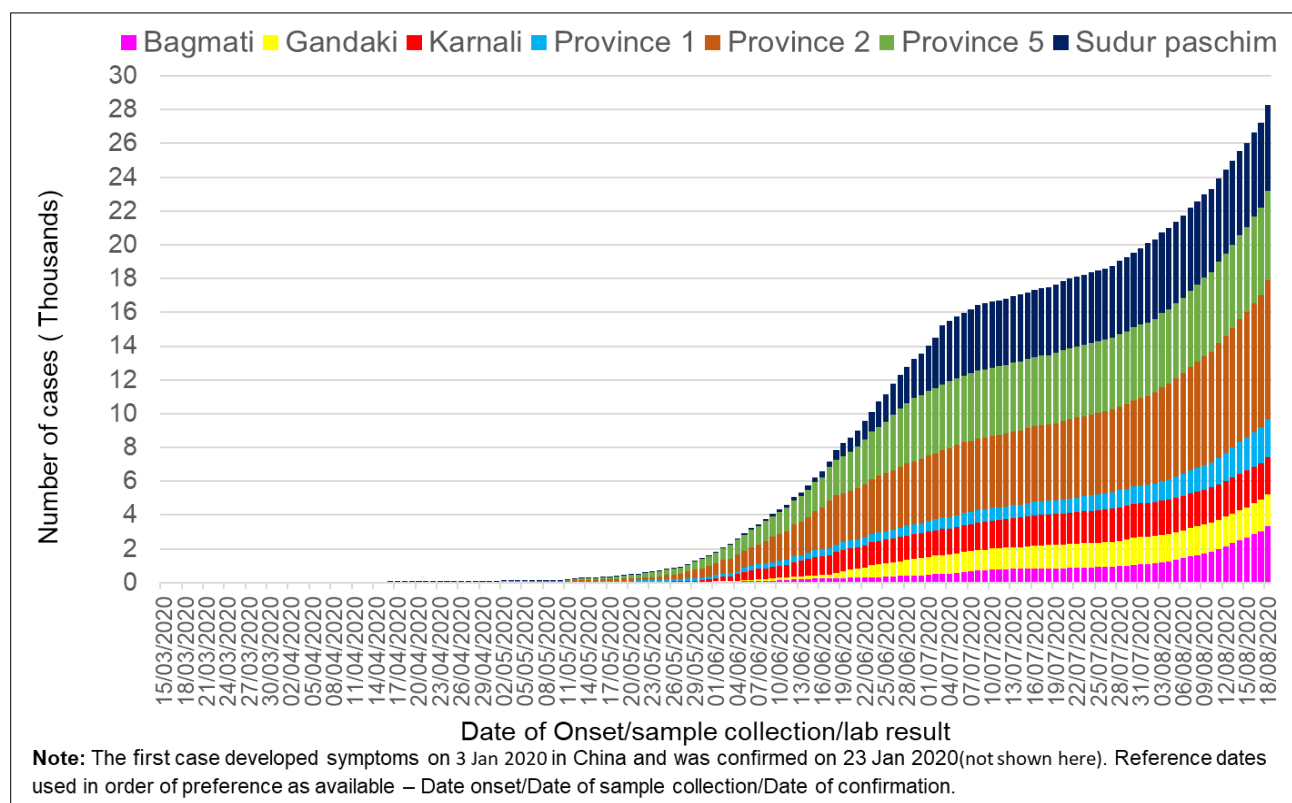


Figure 3: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and districts shaded by current transmission status (N = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

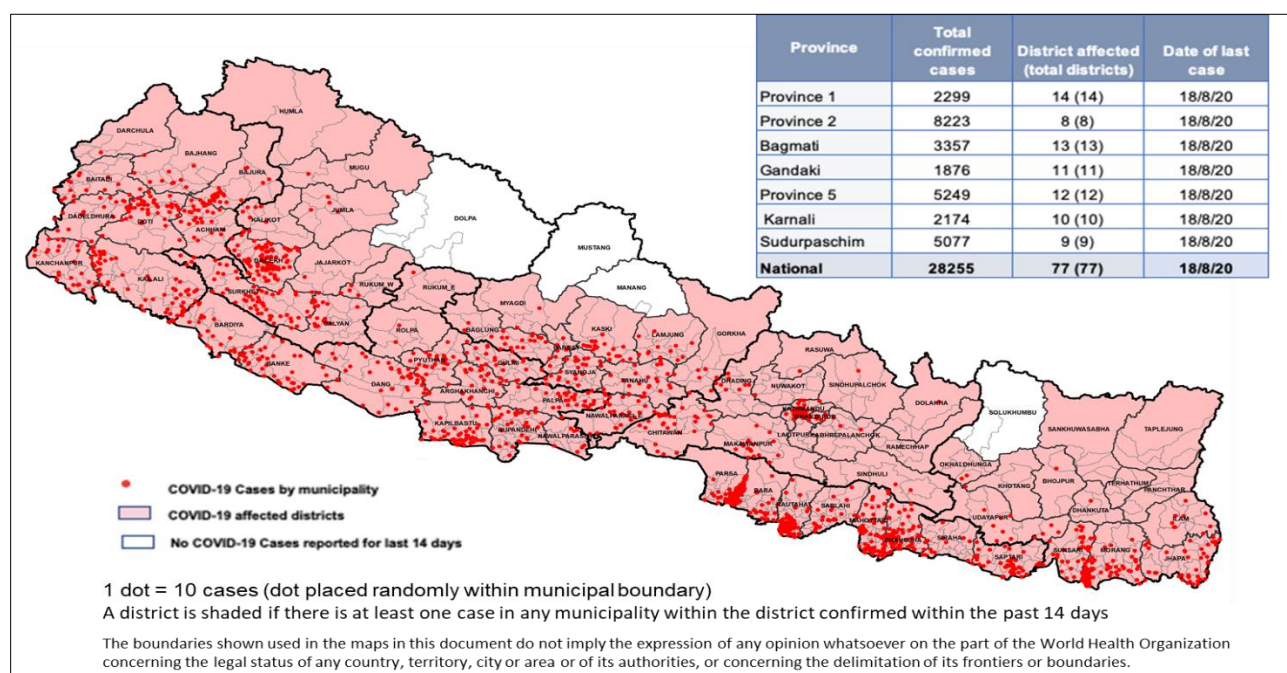


Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.
(N = 28255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Districts affected (total districts)	Date of most recent case [#]
Province 1	2,299	12	Cluster of cases	14 (14)	18 August 2020
Province 2	8,223	46	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	18 August 2020
Bagmati	3,357	22	Cluster of cases	13 (13)	18 August 2020
Gandaki	1,876	8	Sporadic cases	11 (11)	18 August 2020
Province 5	5,249	15	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	18 August 2020
Karnali	2,174	4	Cluster of cases	10 (10)	18 August 2020
Sudurpaschhim	5,077	7	Cluster of cases	9 (9)	18 August 2020
National Total	28,255	114	Cluster of cases	77 (77)	18 August 2020

[#] Date of the 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

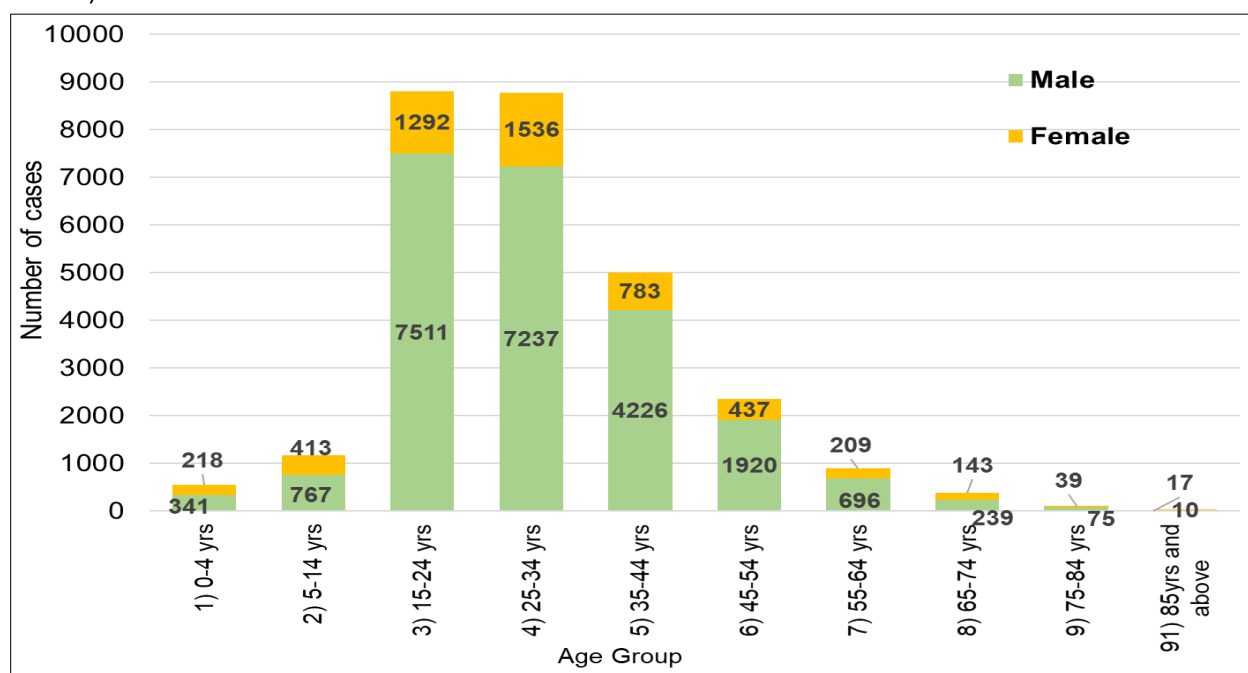
Sporadic cases- provinces with one or more cases, imported or locally detected[#]

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 = 28109) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)



Details for 146 cases are yet to come

Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	559	1	1	1	0.36
5-14 yrs	1180	1	0	0	0.08
15-24 yrs	8803	3	3	4	0.07
25-34 yrs	8773	7	2	5	0.1
35-44 yrs	5009	13	3	6	0.32
45-54 yrs	2357	19	6	19	1.06
55-64 yrs	905	20	2	18	2.43
65-74 yrs	382	15	6	15	5.5
75-84 yrs	114	7	1	7	7.02
85+ yrs	27	3	1	2	14.81
Unknown	146	0	0	0	0
National	28255	89	25	77	0.4

*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 = 28255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Asymptomatic	Symptomatic (n)	Symptomatic (%)
0-4 yrs	559	557	2	0.4
5-14 yrs	1180	1178	2	0.2
15-24 yrs	8803	8792	11	0.1
25-34 yrs	8773	8747	26	0.3
35-44 yrs	5009	4991	18	0.4
45-54 yrs	2357	2340	17	0.7
55-64 yrs	905	886	19	2.1
65-74 yrs	382	365	17	4.5
75-84 yrs	114	109	5	4.4
85+ yrs	27	25	2	7.4
Unknown	146	146	0	0.0
National	28255	28136	119	0.4

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- A high-level committee at the MOHP decided to ask all medical colleges to allocate one-third of the beds of their hospitals for COVID-19 cases.
- There has been an expansion of different COVID-19 designated hospitals, i.e. COVID-19 Clinics: 115; Level-1 hospitals: 23; Level-2 hospitals: 19 and Level-3 hospitals: 7.
 - Chitawan Medical College and College of Medical Sciences, Bharatpur have been upgraded to COVID-19 designated level-3 hospitals.
 - Yeti Hospital, Pvt. Ltd. Kalanki has been upgraded to level-2 hospital and Vayodha Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Balkhu has been designated as a level-1 hospital.
- Government of Nepal has been assessing the financial requirements for the next six months to further strengthen COVID-19 response.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to stop issuing inter-district passes to vehicles considering the recent spike in coronavirus cases and has directed all 77 district administration offices not to issue passes, effective from 13 August until further notice.
- District Administration Officers have been granted discretionary powers to enforce strict administrative measures necessary to contain the COVID-19 situation as per Clause-2 (2) of the Infectious Disease Act-1964 in coordination with the District Corona Crisis Management Centre.
 - District Administration Offices (DAO) of Kathmandu Valley has issued a Prohibitory Order for one week effective from midnight of Wednesday 19 August 2020 to control the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Kathmandu Valley during recent days.
 - Similarly, as per media reports, several other districts have also imposed Prohibitory Orders.
- The following decisions by the Government of Nepal – Cabinet of Ministers are still valid:
 - Flights (domestic and international) suspension until 31 August 2020.
 - Hotels and restaurants serving only takeaway food.
 - Ground crossings Point of Entry (PoE) reduced from 20 to 10 at the Nepal-India border (i.e. Jhapa- Kakarvitta; Morang- Rani; Siraha – Marder; Rautahat – Gaur; Pasha – Birgunj; Rupandehi –Behaliya; Kapilvastu – Krishnanagar; Banke – Jamunaha; Kailali – Gaurifanta and Kanchanpur – Gaddachauki)
 - Offices functioning virtually till further guidance from District COVID-19 Crisis Management Centers is received.
 - Inter-district travel to and from high-burden districts (>200 cases) restricted.
 - Schools to remain closed until further notice.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

- WHO provided **technical assistance to the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL)** supported the development SOPs for validation of Thermofisher Extraction Kit and FOSUN PCR kit; and PT panel for COVID-19 laboratories.
- Two hospitals (Narayani and Lumbini) have started Xpert Xpress SARs-CoV-2 testing.

- Protocol for nation-wide sero-prevalence survey for COVID-19 to be conducted with EDCC completed for final endorsement by the Nepal Health Research Council.
- WASH and Education clusters supported to develop guidelines for cleaning and disinfection of schools after reopening in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.
- WHO teams of field personnel, deployed to all 7 provinces to support Provincial Health Directorates and local government and health cluster partners, have started participating in bi-weekly internal WCO IMS virtual call/meeting to discuss the issues and way forwards to strengthen technical assistance to Government of Nepal for COVID-19 response.
- WHO has supported the development of a web portal (mewellnepal.org.np) to help health care providers in taking care of their mental health.
- In collaboration with the COVID-19 Crises Management Center (CCMC), Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCCD) and MoHP Incident Management System (IMS), the registration forms that have been developed by the CCMC for being used at the health desks of the PoEs have been modified with additional features suggested from the WCO, loaded on tablets and handed over for real-time data entry. The Health Desks are being operationalized.
- WHO continues to provide short summaries, to the Secretary of Health, of the recently updated and released WHO technical guidance documents, which are also translated into Nepali.
- Critical messages flagging the issue of stigmatization have been shared as "Anurodh" (Translation in English: Appeal) from WCO Nepal to the Ministry of Health and Population MoHP) for the daily live press briefing.
- The following interview of Dr Jos Vandelaer, WHO Representative to Nepal was published:

SN	TITLE (NEPALI)	PUBLICATION	URL	DATE	LANGUAGE
1	अन्य देशको अनुभवलाई हेर्दा नेपालमा पनि संक्रमण दर अझै बढ्न सक्छ : डा जोस भ्यान्देलियर [अन्तर्वार्ता] Looking at other countries experience, there may also be higher rise of COVID-19 cases: Dr Jos Vandelaer	Nepal Live (Web Story)	Link	12 August	Nepali

- Ongoing technical support for **national COVID-19 logistics** forecasting, quantification, costing, procurement plan and distribution plan with additional updates.
- Development of the design and layout of the Emergency Health Facility (EHF) in collaboration with WFP engineering team has been completed with cost estimation from WFP focusing on the construction and from WHO focusing on the operations.
- Facility layout for exit screening finalized and incorporated in the CCMC demonstration of the MoHP endorsed Health Desk prototype at Points of Entry.
- Continued work on completing the COVID-19 information gathering survey tool under COVID-19 forecasting and supply chain strengthening project (Empower School of Health).

What are the health cluster partners doing?

- Regular health sector coordination for COVID-19 and monsoon emergency response has been ongoing, weekly coordination meeting with COVID-19 hospitals and Provincial Health Directorate Offices; and health cluster partners have been continuing every Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Weekly provincial health cluster coordination meetings are ongoing at each of the provinces for managing monsoon and COVID-19 response.
- Health cluster partners, including Reproductive Health sub-cluster, mental health sub-cluster have been continuing their support for COVID-19 and non-COVID emergency response interventions throughout the country.

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 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 the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

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