

Situation Update #191 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 04 - 10 Dec 2023 (Epi Week 49)

HIGHLIGHTS

In total 60,634,365 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered as of 07 November 2023.

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- No updates of COVID-19 cases have been available from 21 October 2023

National Influenza Surveillance

- National Influenza Centre (NIC) - National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) reported 24 diagnostic influenza samples on Epi week 49.
 - One sample tested Influenza A (yet to be subtyped) positive
 - None of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
- NIC - NPHL received 13 influenza samples from sentinel hospitals on Epi week 49.
 - None of the samples tested positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2
- Provincial Public Health Laboratories (PPHLs) reported testing 54 samples for Influenza-SARS-CoV-2 using a Multiplex kit on Epi week 49.
 - None of the samples tested positive for influenza and SARS-CoV-2
- Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit Nepal (WARUN) reported testing of influenza and SARS-CoV-2 samples from Week 1 to Week 48.
 - A total of 2498 samples have been tested for influenza and SARS-CoV-2
 - One sample tested co-infection of Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 & Influenza B positive
 - Four samples tested co-infection of Influenza A/H3 & Influenza B positive
 - 169 samples tested Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 positive
 - 689 samples tested Influenza A/H3 positive
 - 489 samples tested Influenza B (lineage not determined) positive
 - 151 samples tested SARS-CoV-2 positive
- From 2 January until 10 December

A total of 2,109 samples have been tested positive for influenza from 9734 samples received from sentinel and non-sentinel sites. Among them:

- 504 Influenza B (lineage not determined)
- 203 Influenza B Victoria
- One co-infection of Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 & Influenza B
- Four co-infections of Influenza A/H3 & Influenza B
- Three Influenza A (yet to be subtyped)
- 1154 Influenza A/H3
- 240 Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09

Similarly, 342 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from dual testing of Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 in 8,065 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/>

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Data as of 20 October 2023

NEPAL

Cumulative confirmed cases:

1,157,522

Cumulative deaths:

12,031

Cumulative tests:

7,688,864

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?

- In total 60,634,365 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered as of 07 November 2023.

Table 1: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage in Nepal, as of 07 Nov 2023

Total Pop (Full Dose)	24,471,043 (83.6%)
≥ 12 Yrs. (Full Dose)	21,208,649 (94.1%)
05-11 Yrs. (Full Dose)	3,262,394 (85.7%)
First booster doses	10,273,390
Second booster doses	1,558,212

Source: COVID-19 Vaccination Achievement in Nepal, MoHP

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

Laboratory Diagnosis

- No updates of RT-PCR and antigen tests have been available from 21 October 2023.
- WHO provided technical assistance to National Public Health laboratory (NPHL) for COVID-19 Proficiency Testing Panel Sample preparation for National Quality Assurance round 9.
- WHO provided assistance to NPHL in organizing the "NSF 49 Basic Accredited Field Certifier Training" from 5-12 December 2023, with the aim to build a pool of certified field personnel within the government system capable for calibrating Biosafety Cabinets (BSCs) in public health facilities as required. A total of 12 biomedical engineers and technicians participated in the training.



Group photo after completion of NSF 49 Basic Accredited Field Certifier Training
Picture Courtesy: National Public Health Laboratory

Technical Expertise and Training

- Continued routine work from Technical Expertise and Training team².

²The 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.

Operational Support and Logistics

- Continued routine work from the team of Operation Support and Logistics³.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- 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.

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.

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](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

WHO Representative

Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav
WHO Representative to the Government of Nepal
Email: pandavr@who.int

WHO Incident Manager/ Health Cluster Co-lead

Dr. Allison Gocotano
Team Leader - WHO Health Emergencies Program (WHE)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gocotanoa@who.int

Communication/Media Focal Point

Ms. Tsering Dolkar Gurung
Media, Communication and Public Information Officer
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: gurungt@who.int