

Situation Update #22 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Wednesday 16 September 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

Nepal

- All seven provinces and 77 districts in the country have reported one or more cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in Nepal. **Four out of 77 districts**- Humla, Dolpa, Mustang and Mugu, did not report any cases in the past 14 days.
- A total of 47 designated COVID-19 laboratories are now functional in the country, of which 34 are government and 13 are private.

Regional/Global

- Latest guidance by WHO published this week:
 - [integration of rapid immunoassays into COVID-19 outbreak management programs](#)
 - revised guidance on [diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2](#) which provides more background information on clinical diagnostic algorithms and new findings from the literature and best practices.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(data as of 16 September 2020, 07:00:00 hours)

56,787 confirmed cases

371 deaths

8,51,405 RT-PCR tests *(data as of 14 September 2020)*

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(data as of 10am CEST 13 September 2020)

53,77,062 confirmed cases

92,391 deaths

GLOBAL

(data as of 10am CEST 13 September 2020)

2,86,37,952 confirmed cases

9,17,417 deaths

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of **16 September 2020, 07:00 hours, (Week no. 38)**, a total **56,787** COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the country through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) All seven provinces and 77 districts have reported one or more cases since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in Nepal
- Of the seven provinces in the country, **except for Gandaki province** where transmission is occurring as sporadic cases, the remaining six provinces - Provinces 1,2, Bagmati, 5, Karnali and Sudurpaschim, transmission is occurring as clusters of cases. Bagmati province is showing a significant increase in cases of COVID-19 in the recent period. Up to 20th August the province had 49% of national total, and went on to 55% of total in the last 2 weeks and 58% in the last

week. The proportion of Kathmandu valley cases in Bagmati has been above 80% all through this period.

- The national trend of cases is on an upswing and is mainly caused by consistent upswing in the cases in Bagmati province, or Kathmandu valley.
- Overall, the gender distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute **75%** (42,570/56,787) of the confirmed cases and amongst the males, **87%** (37,068/42,570) are in the economically productive age group (15-54-years). However, this skewed sex and age distribution is changing in some of the provinces, especially Bagmati province, where a relatively higher proportion of females are getting infected.
- As of date, a total of 371 COVID-19 related deaths have occurred. Of **370** deaths with all details available, 265 were males, and 105 were females, and 246 persons (**66%**) had at least one or more known co-morbid conditions. All deaths have occurred after week 20 (11 May). Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, it progressively increases with age beyond 55 years in the range of 3% to 19%.
- Based on available data, less than 1% of the confirmed COVID-19 cases are symptomatic at diagnosis across all age groups, and the proportion of symptomatic cases progressively increases beyond 55 years of age in the range of **1.3% to 6.7%**.
- Apart from major transmission in Kathmandu valley (consisting of three districts - Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur), active transmission clusters have been observed in several Palikas of the country and in some of these, transmission clusters cut across provincial boundaries – like in Rupandehi, Nawalparasi West and East, and Chitwan districts.
- As of 13 September 2020, **665 samples** have been tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2, and **16** samples have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (*All these positive cases are included in COVID-19 database*).
- **Twenty-six samples** were received for Influenza on week 37 (7- 13 September 2020) with all testing negative for Influenza.

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 13 September 2020 from #Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 5) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)

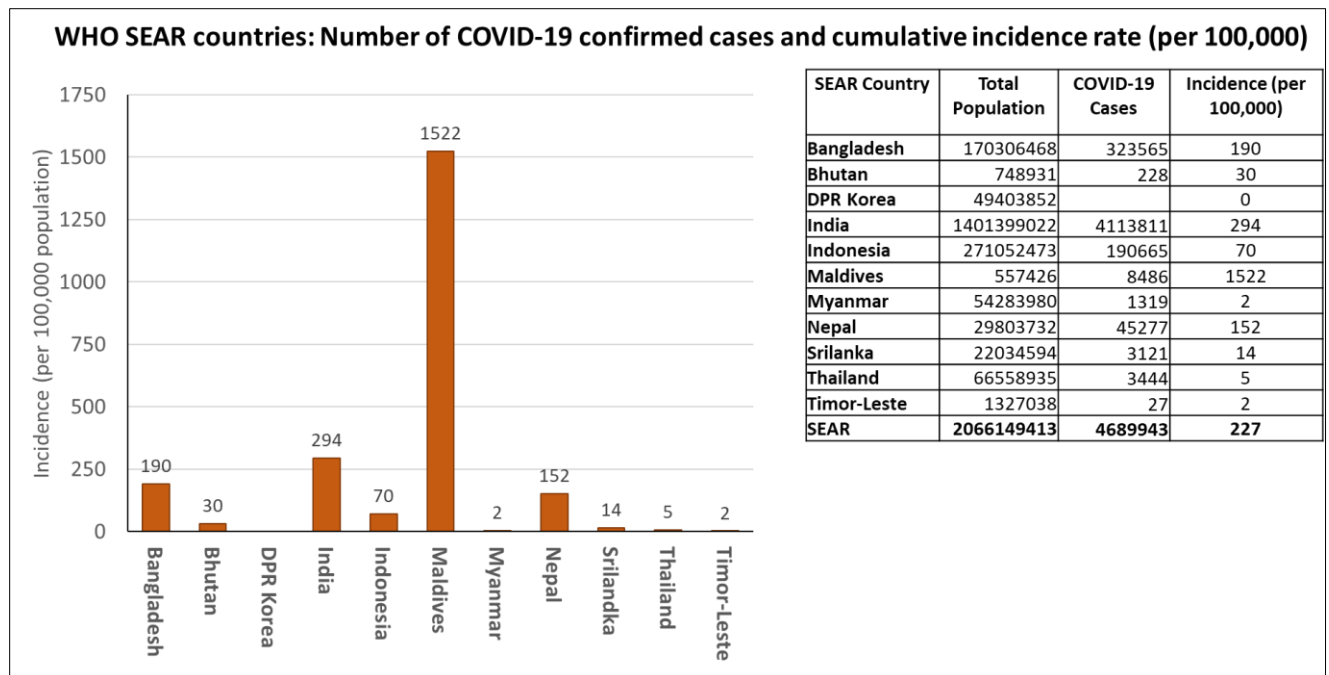


Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 56787) (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 7:00:00)

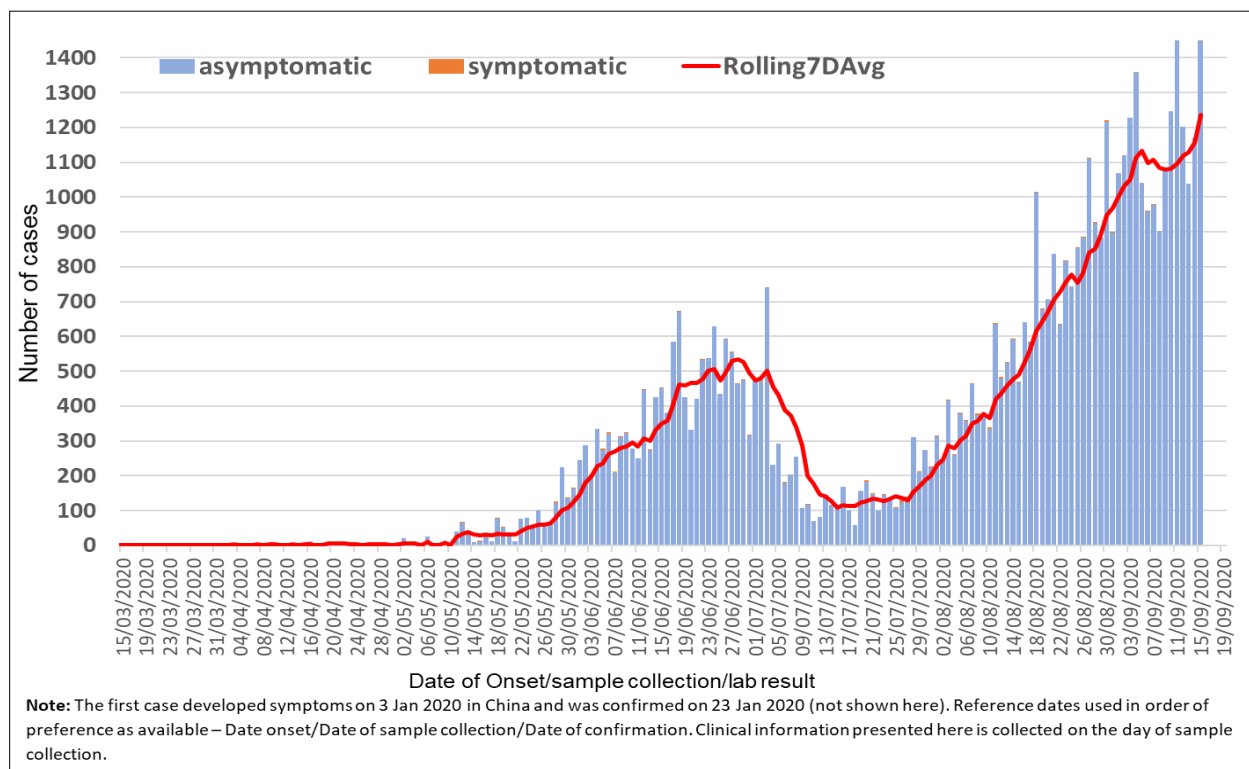
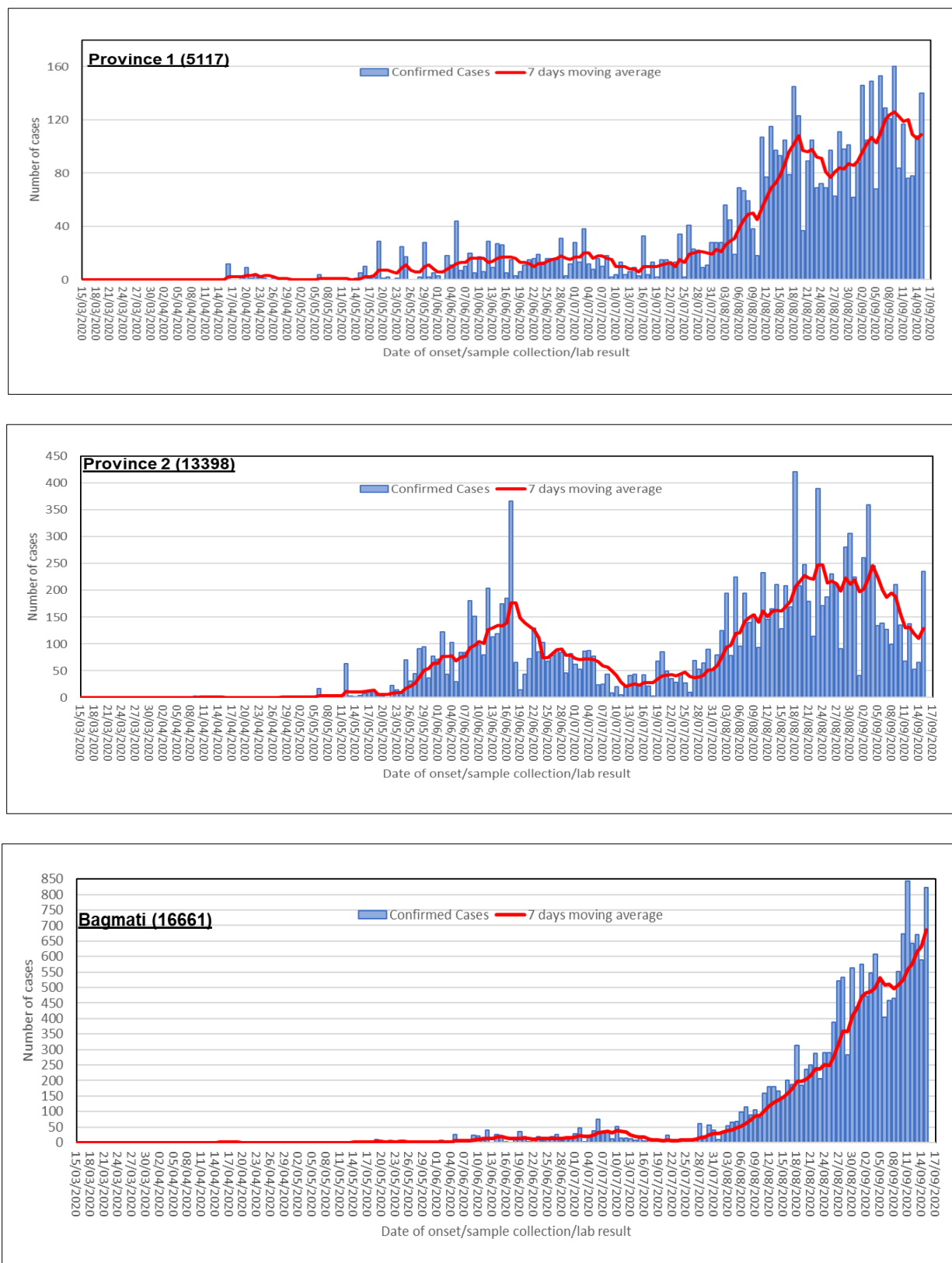
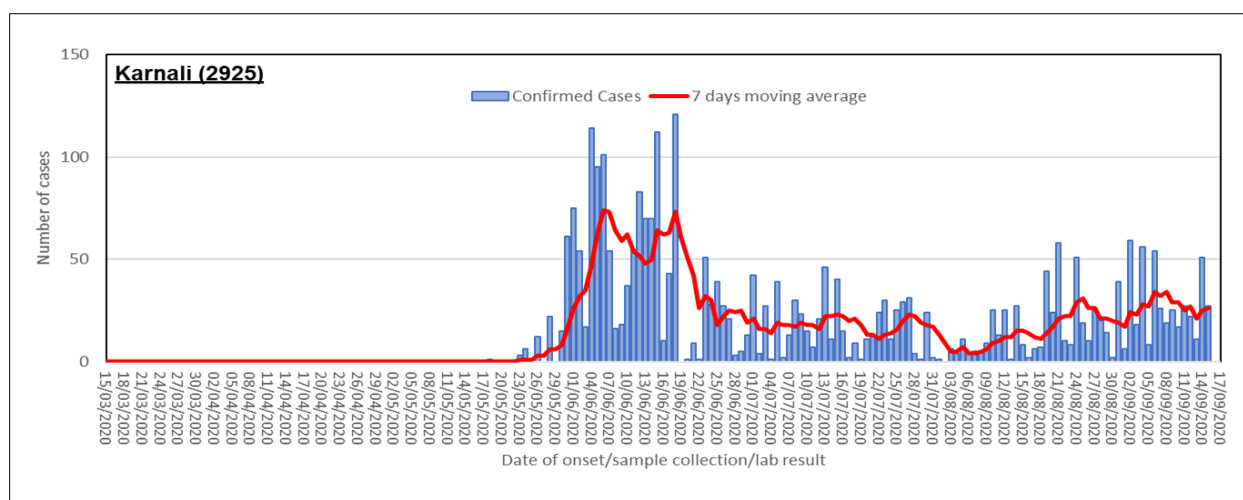
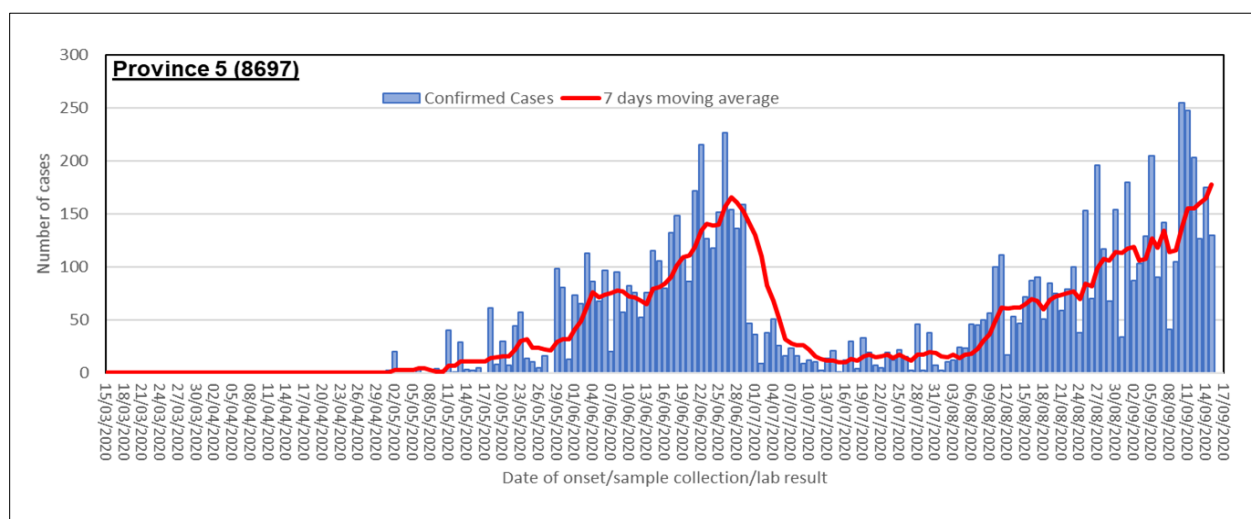
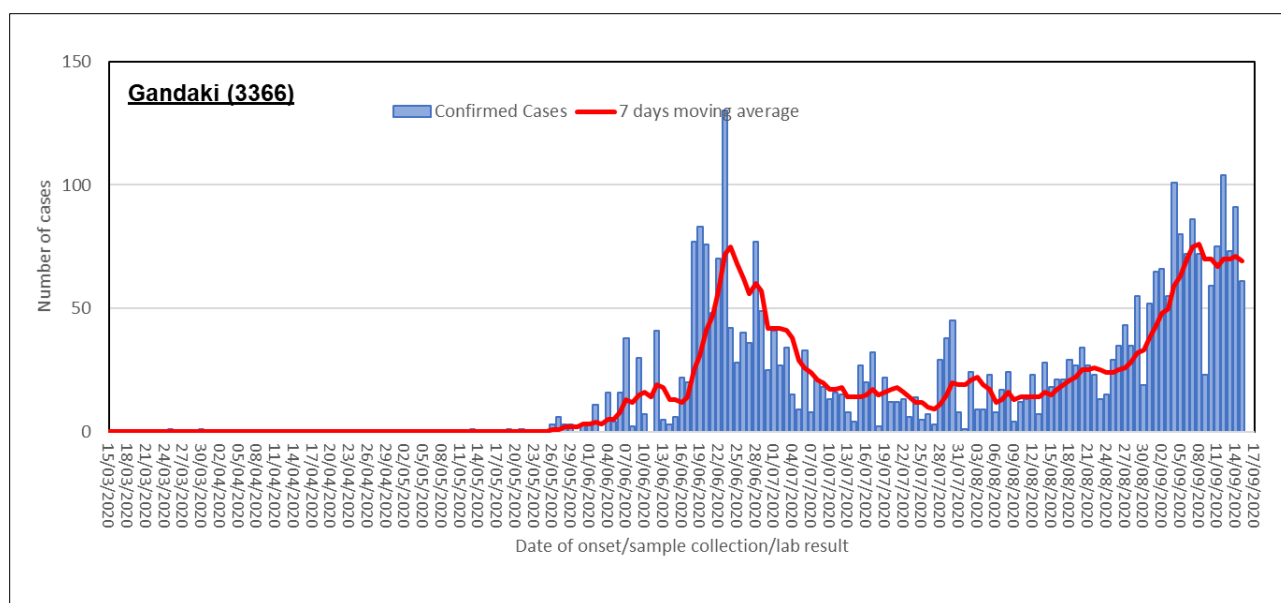
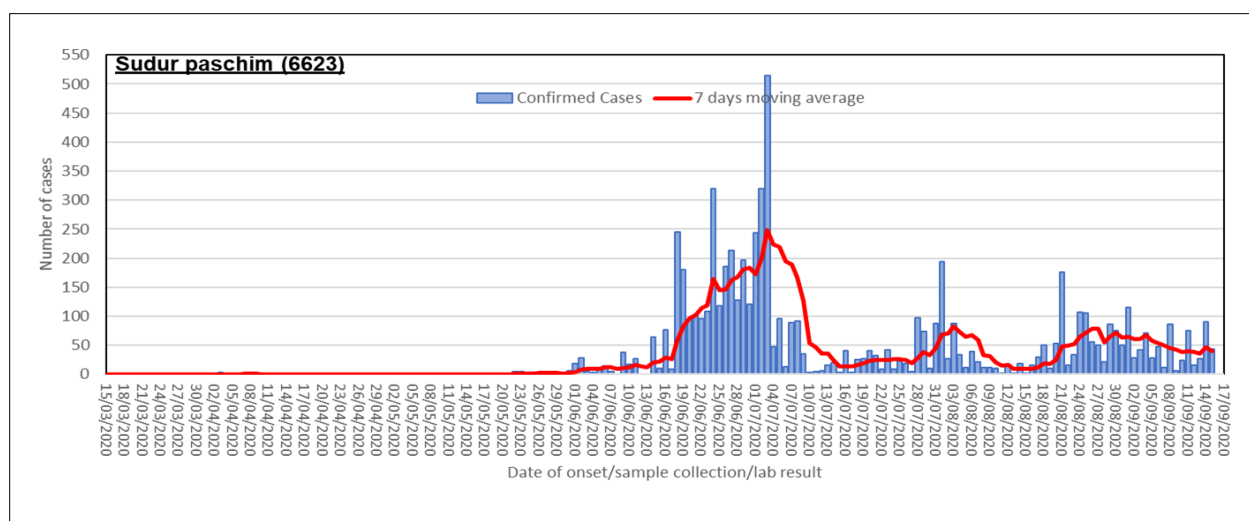


Figure 2B: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases and a 7-day rolling average of cases by date of onset/sample/confirmation by Provinces (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 7:00:00)







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 = 56787) (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 7:00:00)

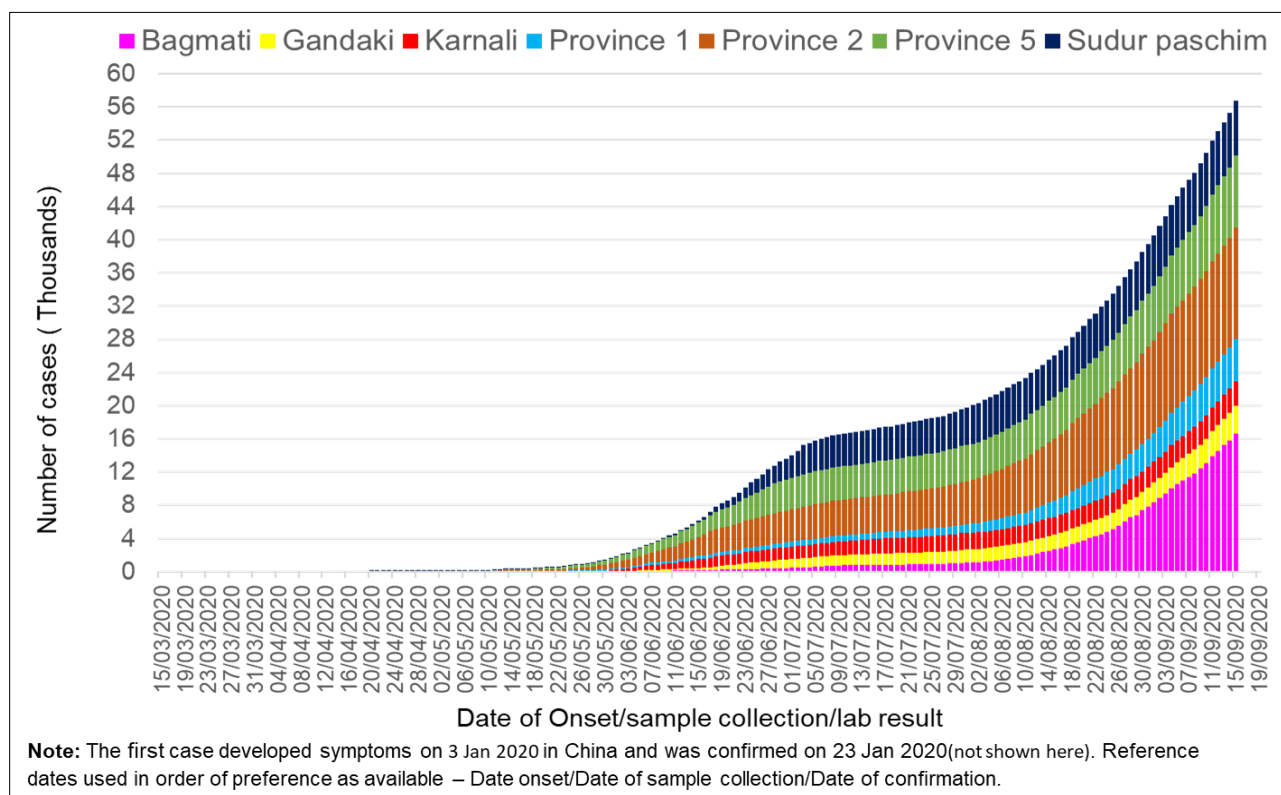


Figure 3: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and districts shaded by current transmission status (N = 56787) (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 7:00:00)

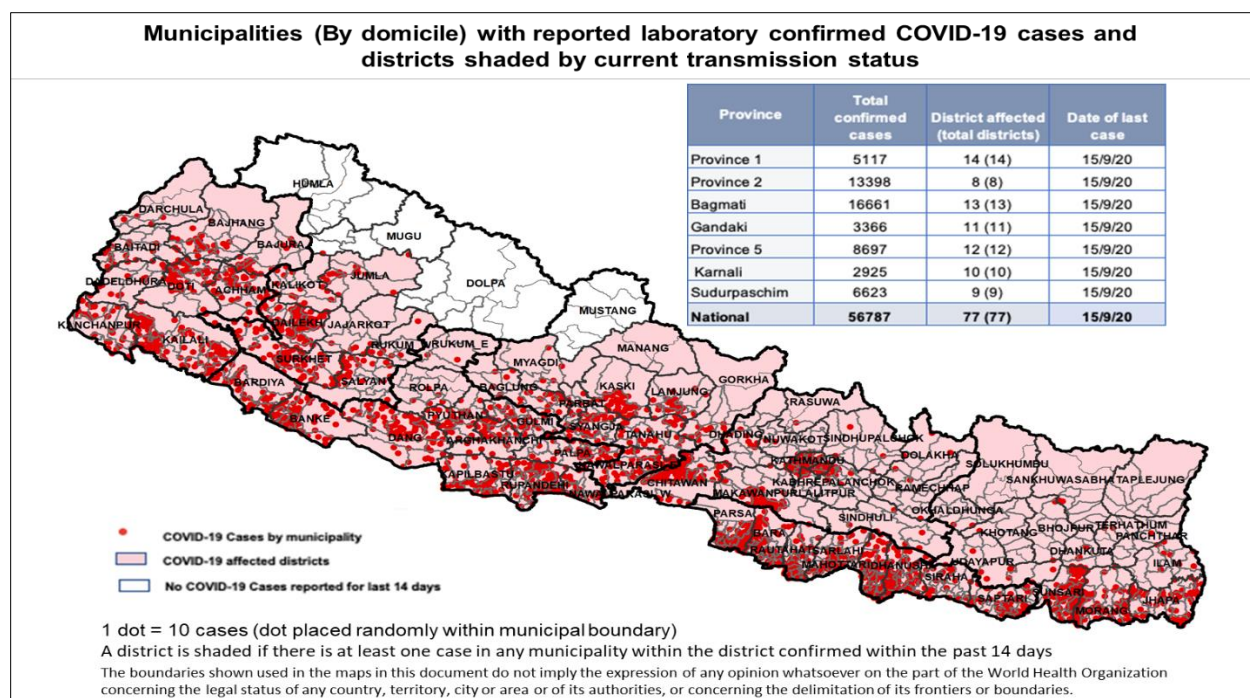


Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.

(N = 56787) (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 7:00:00)

Transmission classification based on [WHO definitions](#)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Districts affected (total districts)	Date of most recent case [#]
Province 1	5117	41	Cluster of cases	14 (14)	15 September 2020
Province 2	13398	111	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	15 September 2020
Bagmati	16661	127	Cluster of cases	13 (13)	15 September 2020
Gandaki	3366	26	Sporadic cases	11 (11)	15 September 2020
Province 5	8697	51	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	15 September 2020
Karnali	2925	5	Cluster of cases	10 (10)	15 September 2020
Sudurpaschhim	6623	9	Cluster of cases	9 (9)	15 September 2020
National Total	56787	370	Cluster of cases	77 (77)	15 September 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[#]

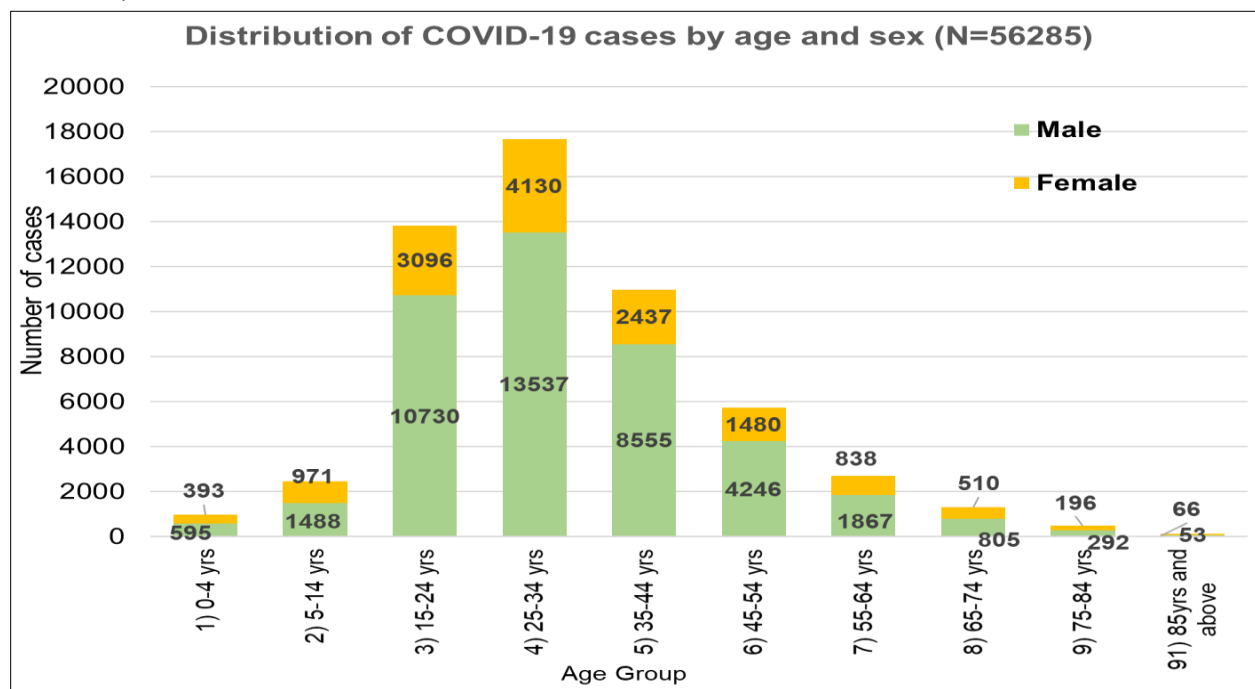
Cluster of cases - provinces experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and by common exposures

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 = 56285) (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 7:00:00)



Details for 502 cases are yet to come

Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 56787) (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 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	988	0	2	0	0.2
5-14 yrs	2459	2	1	3	0.12
15-24 yrs	13826	4	7	5	0.08
25-34 yrs	17667	14	5	11	0.11
35-44 yrs	10992	36	12	17	0.44
45-54 yrs	5726	45	17	43	1.08
55-64 yrs	2705	66	18	56	3.11
65-74 yrs	1315	55	25	67	6.08
75-84 yrs	488	28	10	29	7.79
85+ yrs	119	15	8	15	19.33
Unknown	502	0	0	0	0
National	56787	265	105	246	0.65

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

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

* Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

Table 3: Distribution symptomatic/asymptomatic COVID-19 cases at presentation (N = 56787) (Data updated on 16 September 2020 TO 7:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Asymptomatic	Symptomatic (n)	Symptomatic (%)
0-4 yrs	988	986	2	0.2
5-14 yrs	2459	2457	2	0.1
15-24 yrs	13826	13812	14	0.1
25-34 yrs	17667	17639	28	0.2
35-44 yrs	10992	10965	27	0.2
45-54 yrs	5726	5695	31	0.5
55-64 yrs	2705	2669	36	1.3
65-74 yrs	1315	1271	44	3.3
75-84 yrs	488	472	16	3.3
85+ yrs	119	111	8	6.7
Unknown	502	502	0	0.0
National	56787	56579	208	0.4

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- MoHP has decided to reduce the price of PCR testing from NPR 4400 to NPR 2000 per test at all the hospitals providing SARCOV-2 PCR testing across the country.
- MOHP is reviewing/updating its protocol and guidelines on COVID-19 management, considering the rapidly changing context.
- Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC), MoHP organized a regular weekly virtual interaction meeting with the media on *Friday 11 September 2020*. There were about 35 participants, including journalists and reporters. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Specialist / COVID-19 Focal Point, MoHP.
- Government of Nepal decided to allow operation of domestic and international flights; long-distance buses; hotel and restaurants from 17 September 2020 with strict application of the Public Health standards developed by MOHP.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

- WHO-Nepal has provided technical assistance to the **National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL)** by supporting the following activities:
 - conducting a virtual meeting on - 'Re-orientation on the Interim Guidelines for SARS-CoV-2 PCR laboratories in National Public Health Laboratory Network Nepal' at NPHL.

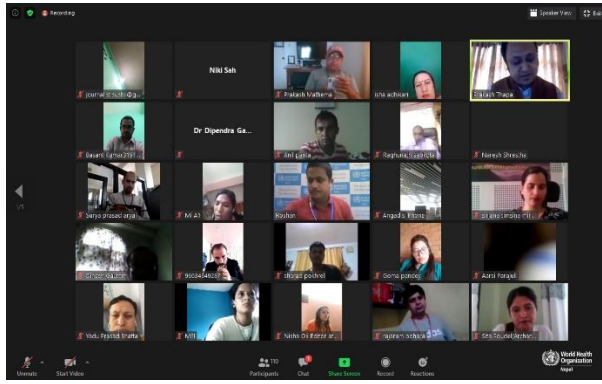
- Monthly 'National Quality Assessment Program (NQAP)' of all designated laboratories for COVID-19 testing and validation of newly established designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country.
- Three days Critical Care Training for Health Care Workers at Provincial level by **National Health Training Center**, MoHP, in collaboration with WHO-Nepal commenced from 09 September 2020. As of 15 September, training has been conducted in Gandaki Province (9-11 Sept) with 19 participants (doctors and nursing staff) from various COVID-19 hospitals. Training is ongoing (14-16 September) at Province 1 for 29 participants.



Essential Critical Care Training (14-16 September 2020) at COVID-19 designated hospital – Birat Medical College at Morang district, Province 1.

Picture Credit: WHO-Nepal/ S. Poudel

- WHO Media monitoring output shared every day with **MoHP spokesperson** and **HEOC officials**
- Ongoing video shoot and audio recording with MoHP officials on rumours, misinformation and concerns in Nepali language and also specifically with officials of the **Curative Service Division (CSD)** for the celebration of World Patient Safety Day to be held on 17 September 2020.
- *Anurodhs* (Appeal to the audience) shared with the MoHP for the daily press briefing that is broadcast to the nation on TV also covered messages for the celebration of World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September 2020.
- 1st edition of virtual WHO briefing to National Journalists from Kathmandu Valley was conducted on 14 September, in an event titled "Sensitizing Journalists on the 'Science Behind COVID-19'" organized by the **Federation of National Journalists (FNJ)**. One hundred ten media persons participated and stayed online for 97% of the 120 minutes session. WHO Nepal panelists briefed the journalists on COVID-19 Global Situation, Risk Communication and the challenges of an Infodemic and Media Reporting of COVID-19 (*picture below*).



Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/A. Maharjanx

- Interviews of the **WHO Representative** were covered in the following publications last week:

SN	TITLE	URL	PUBLICATION	DATE	LANGUAGE
1	Sewage serves as an affordable virus warning tool in Nepal	Link	Bangkok Post	10 September	English
2	Not wasted: Sewage in Nepal serves as an affordable virus warning tool	Link	The Jordan Times	11 September	English
3	មិនធម្មតា! ទឹកល្អឆ្អឹងក្នុងសំខាន់ក្នុងការតាមដានកូវីដនៅនេប៉ាល់	Link	Kohsantepheap Daily	11 September	Khmer
4	Nepal is truly vết ố dịch nhờ phát hiện con sông ô nhiễm	Link	VN Review	11 September	Vietnamese
5	Lấy mẫu nước thải dưới lòng sông làm công cụ truly vết COVID-19	Link	Vietnam Plus	10 September	Vietnamese
6	尼泊爾防疫好實惠 用廢水檢測對抗COVID-19	Link	Yahoo	10 September	Chinese
7	尼泊尔防疫好实惠 用废水检测对抗COVID-19	Link	Swiss Info	10 September	Chinese
8	Des chercheurs traquent le virus dans les égouts	Link	TdG Monde	10 September	French
9	Not wasted: Sewage in Nepal serves as an affordable virus warning tool	Link	Medical Xpress	10 September	English
10	Not wasted: Sewage in Nepal serves as an affordable virus warning tool	Link	Yahoo!	10 Sep	English
11	Au Népal, des chercheurs traquent le virus dans les égouts	Link	TV5 Monde	10 Sep	French

- The following Nepali publications covered the 73rd Regional Committee (September 9 - 10):
 - [WHO regional health ministers to meet today to discuss COVID](#) *The Himalayan Times*
 - [WHO members vow to fight coronavirus](#) *The Himalayan Times*
 - [WHO regional health ministers to meet today to discuss COVID](#) *Butwal Bazar*
 - [Nepal Has Prioritized Public Health Programmes And Prevention Of COVID-19: Minister Dhakal](#) *Rising Daily*
 - [कोभिड-१९ रोकथाम गर्न थप क्रियाकलाप बढाउँदैछौं – मन्त्री ढकाल](#) (In the Nepali Language) *Gorkhapatra Online*
 - [कोभिड-१९ रोकथाम गर्न थप क्रियाकलाप बढाउँदैछौं – मन्त्री ढकाल](#) (In the Nepali Language) *Sanchar Karma*

- [कोभिड-१९ को रोकथाम र नियन्त्रणका लागि थप क्रियाकलाप र स्रोतको आवश्यकता बढाउँदै लिएको छ :मन्त्री ढकाल](#) (In Nepali Language) *Online Radio Nepal*
- [कोभिड-१९ रोकथाम गर्न थप क्रियाकलाप बढाउँदैछौं – मन्त्री ढकाल](#) (In Nepali Language) *Dainik Online*
- [कोभिड-१९ रोकथाम गर्न थप क्रियाकलाप बढाउँदैछौं – मन्त्री ढकाल](#) (In Nepali Language) *Himalaya Post*
- [कोभिड-१९ रोकथाम गर्न थप क्रियाकलाप बढाउँदैछौं – मन्त्री ढकाल](#) (In Nepali language) *Mahila Swasthya*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali Language)*Gorkhapatra Online*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali Language) *Lokpath*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali Language) *Kha.bar*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali language) *Pahilo Post*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali language) *Ratopati*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali language) *Baahrakhari*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali language) *Khabar Hub*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali language) *Kharibot*
- [दक्षिणपूर्व एशियाली देशको कोभिड-१९ विरुद्ध साझा प्रतिकार्य गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता](#) (In Nepali Language) *DC Nepal*
- Continued technical support on national forecasting and quantification of COVID-19 logistics needs for the next three months' period in collaboration with **Management Division (MD), DoHS.**
- Ongoing orientation on WHO Essential Supply Forecasting Tool (ESFT) to MD, DoHS
- Establishment of **Provincial Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC)** in Province 5, Butwal nearing completion.
- Working on developing layout, design and costing for a 255 square meters Information Management Unit in MoHP in collaboration with **World Food Programme (WFP).**
- Working on the evaluation of projects for isolation wards for 10, 20 or 40 beds requested by MoHP in collaboration with WFP & **Nepal Health Sector Support Program (NHSSP).**

What are the health cluster partners doing?

- Continued facilitation of the MoHP to coordinate with the health cluster partners for addressing critical asks of the MoHP to support ongoing COVID-19 and monsoon response.
- Federal and Provincial HEOCs regularly coordinate with Emergency Operation Centers at all levels, hub hospital networks and health partners for information management and timely sharing of information for effective response.

- Health Cluster partners, including from the Sexual & Reproductive Health sub-cluster and Mental Health sub-cluster are supporting the continuation of COVID-19 and non-COVID response throughout the country to ensure continuity of services in the COVID-19 context.
- Regular health cluster coordination meeting for COVID-19 and monsoon response is ongoing at the Federal and Provincial levels, assisting in harmonized response to both these emergencies at all levels.
- Partners are being identified to support the operationalization of temporary health desks at Points of Entry.

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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