

Situation Update #29 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Wednesday 4 November 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite an overall decrease in cases reported weekly in Southeast Asia region, case morbidity and mortality are increasing in Nepal.
- Hotspots of cases continue to be found in the Kathmandu Metropolitan Area, with additional cases found throughout wards and palikas of Kathmandu valley.
- Presently, 36,911 of active cases are in self-quarantine via home isolation.
- Among critical cases nationally, 379 patients are in intensive care (ICU) with 78 on ventilator support.
- With the addition of a new testing site this week, Government of Nepal's MoHP has supported the establishment of an overall 67 RT-PCR testing facilities. Among these facilities, approximately a third are from the private sector. On average 13,000 tests are conducted nationally on a daily basis.

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 04 November 2020, 07:00:00 hours (Week no. 45), a total 179,613 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the country through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Cases have now been reported in all 7 provinces and 77 districts since beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In the last 14 days, 40,485 cases were reported which constitutes 22.5 % of total confirmed cases. Out of 77 districts, only one district i.e. Manang (Gandaki) did not report any cases in the last 14 days.
- All 7 provinces in the country are now having transmission as clusters of cases. All provinces have reported fewer cases in the past week during the festival time related to earlier weeks.
- Observed doubling time - on 22 Sep, the case count crossed 65,536 mark and doubled in 28 days in 28 days, crossing 133,262 cases on 19 October.
- Total 75.6% (135,841/179,613) of cases were reported from three provinces, namely - Province 1, Bagmati Province and Lumbini Province. The Kathmandu valley area (Kathmandu,

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 4 November 2020, 07:00:00 hours)

179,613 confirmed cases

1034 deaths

1,494,122 RT-PCR tests (As of 4 November 2020)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 3pm CEST 3 November 2020)

9,352,375 confirmed cases

145,491 deaths

GLOBAL

(Data as of 3pm CEST 3 November 2020)

46,840,783 confirmed cases

1,204,028 deaths

Bhaktapur, Lalitpur) in Bagmati Province is experiencing substantially high case load with 45.1% of national total (81065/179613), and 85% of the provincial total (81065/95378).

- Overall, the gender distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 67.2% (120690/179613) of the confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 83.6% (100899/120690) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years). However, this skewness is changing in some of the provinces, especially in Bagmati Province where a relatively higher proportion of females are infected (38.2% of total cases in the province).
- As of date, a total of 1,004 deaths have been reported. Out of 1,004 deaths (details of one death awaited), 713 (71 %) were males and 291 (29%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 715 persons (71.2%) had at least one or more known co-morbid conditions. All deaths occurred in the country between weeks 20 and 45. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1 per cent, it progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 3.7% to 10%.
- Total of **18 samples** were tested for influenza with negative result for week EPID- week 42 & 43. No samples were received by **National Influenza Surveillance in NPHL** for Influenza on EPID-week 44 (26th Oct – 1st Nov, 2020). From January until 1st Nov, 2020, 754 samples have been tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2. 20 Samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (all these positive cases are included in COVID-19 database) till date ILI/SARI data and Influenza laboratory results are updated in FLUID and FLUNET.

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 1 November 2020 from #Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 12) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)

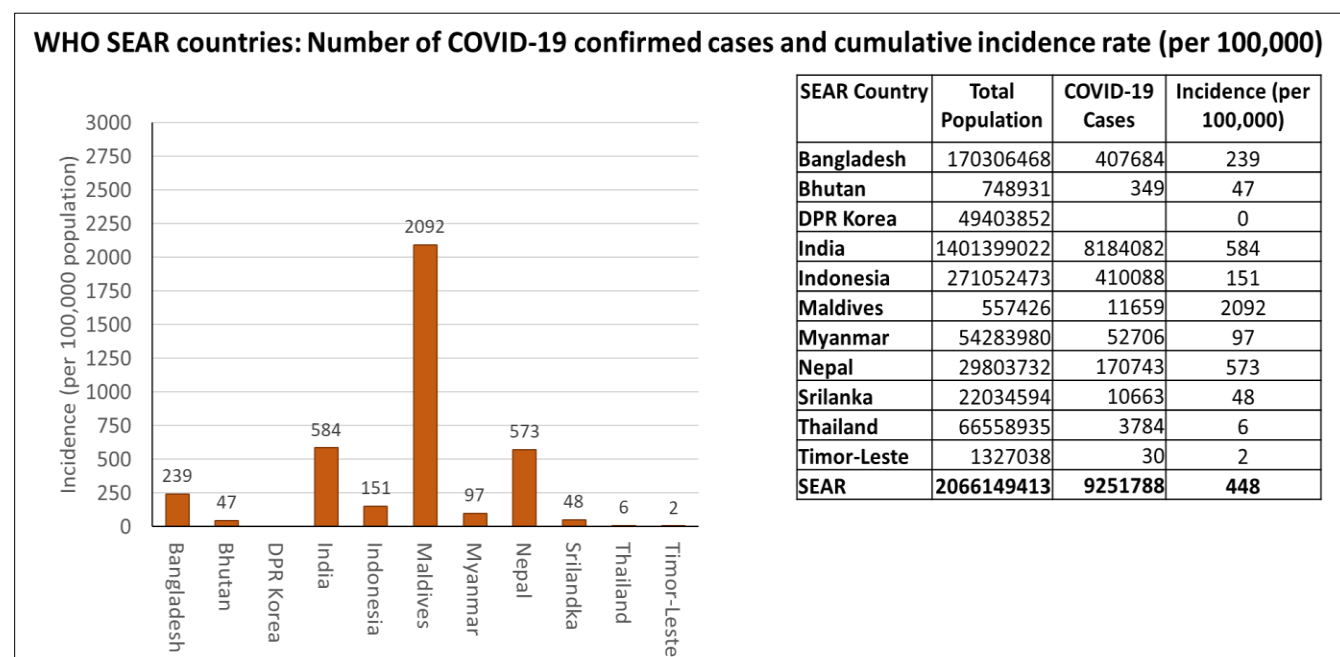


Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 179613) (Data updated on 4 November 2020 T07:00:00)

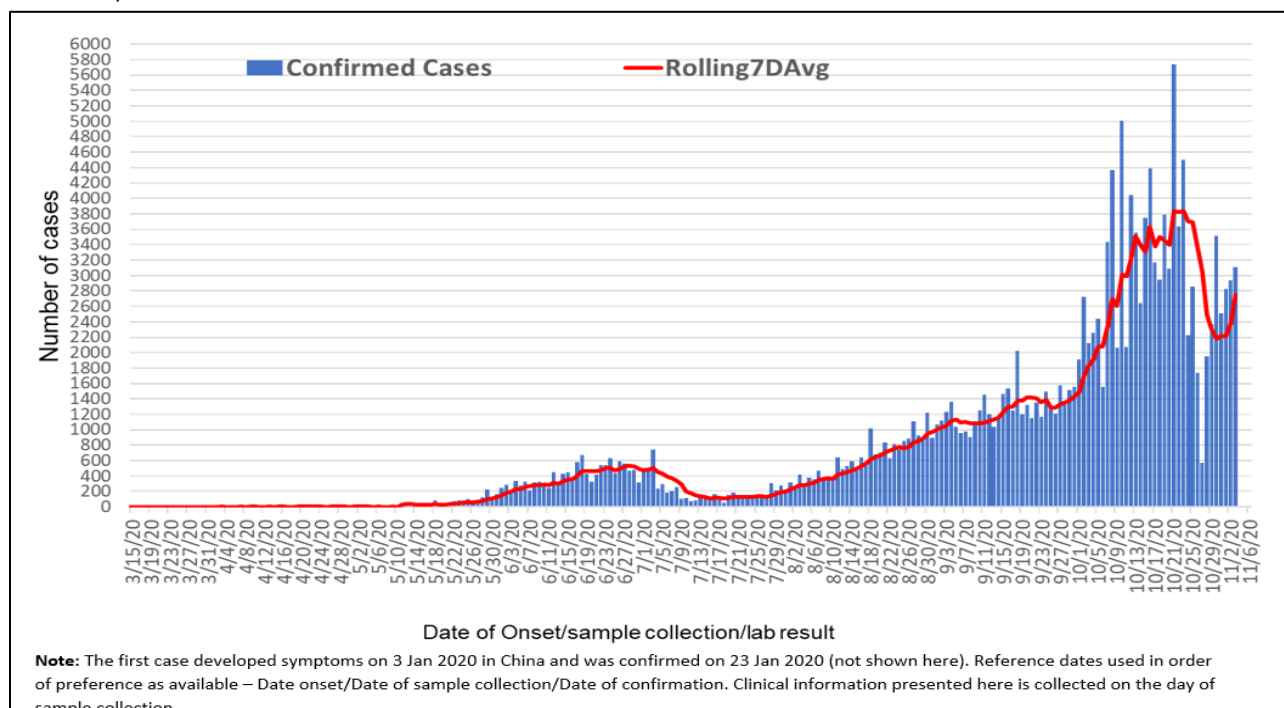
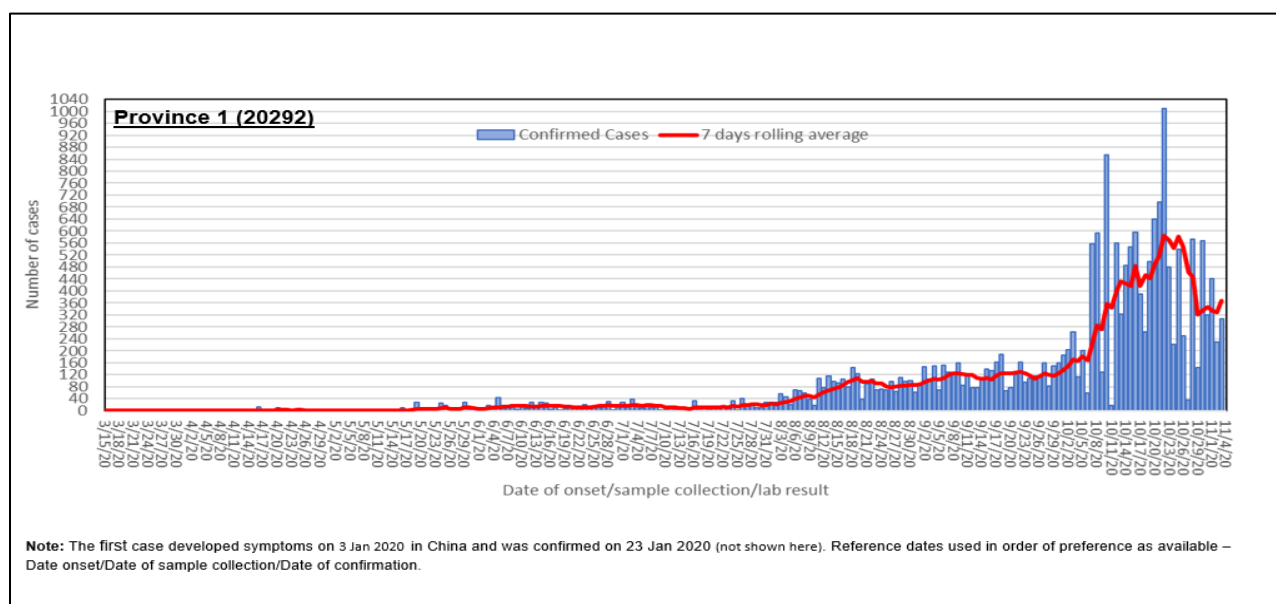
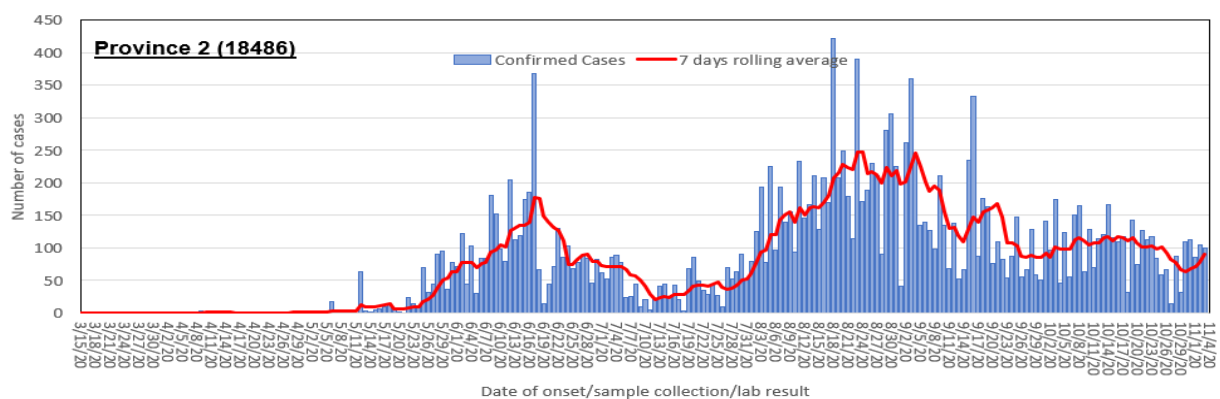


Figure 2B: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases and a 7-day rolling average of cases by date of onset/sample/confirmation by Provinces (Data updated on 4 November 2020 T07:00:00)

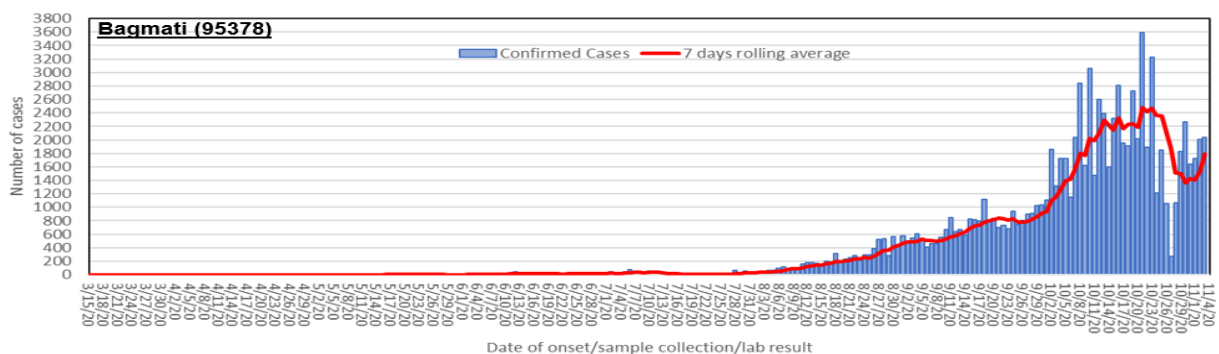
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2 B):

- Y-axis scale varies between Provinces.

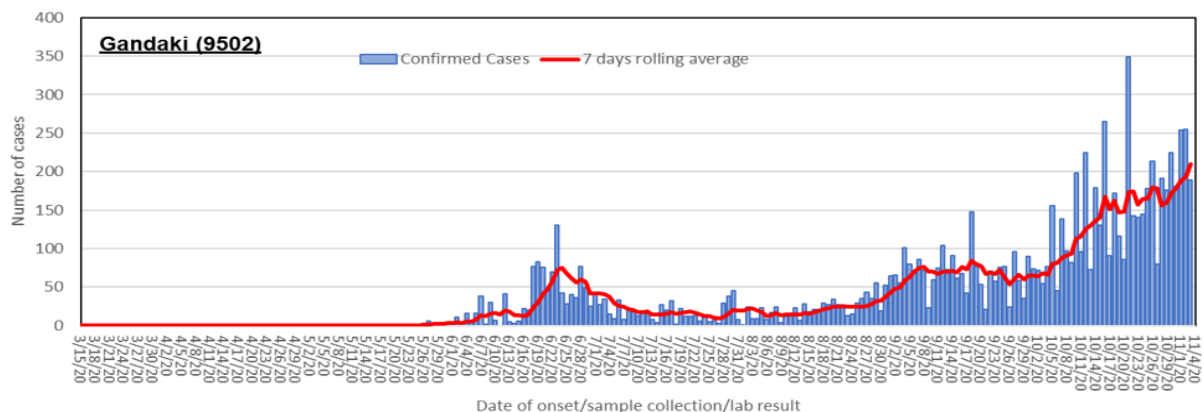




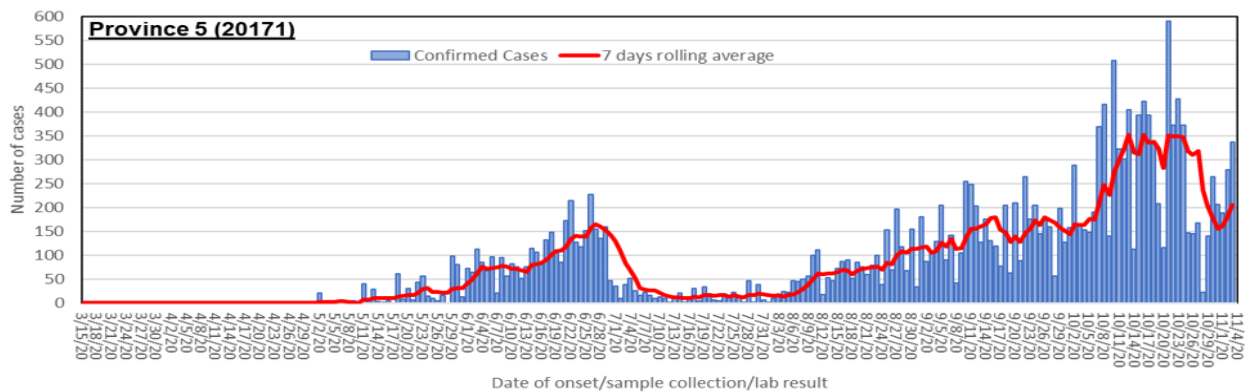
Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020(not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.



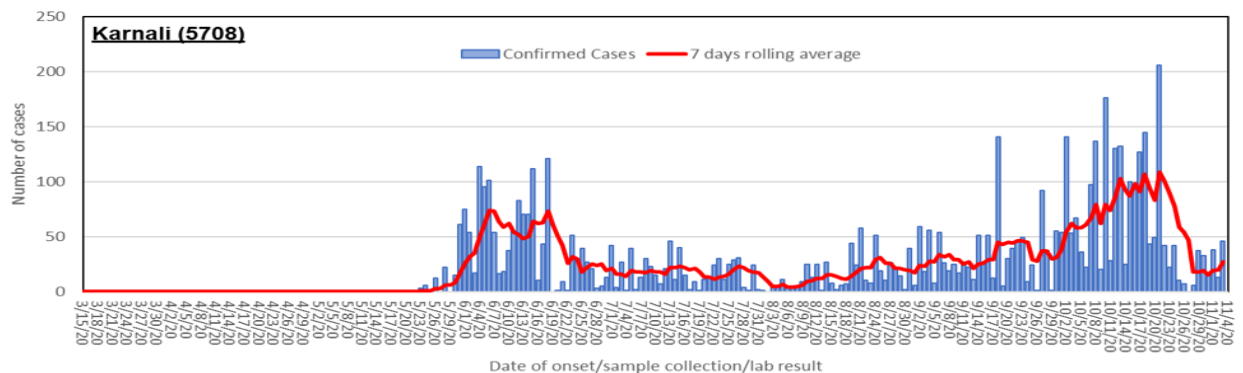
Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020(not shown here). Reference dates used in order of preference as available – Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.



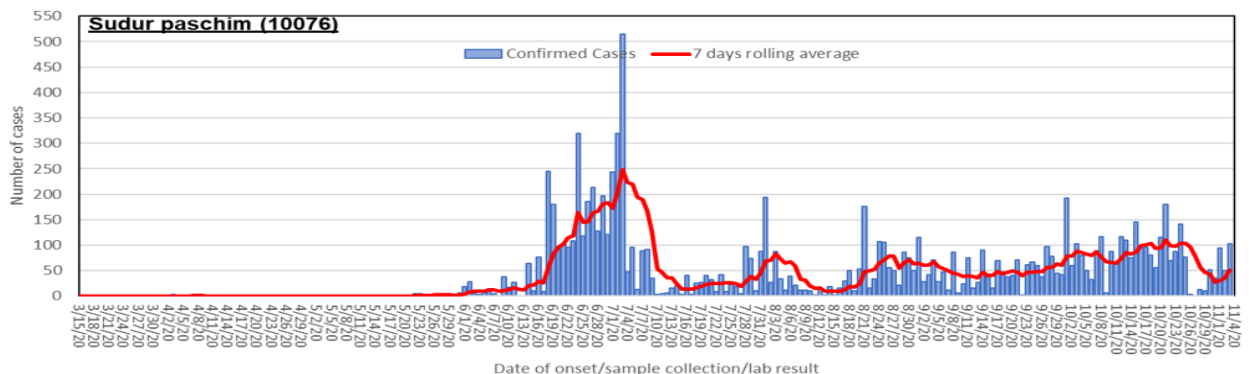
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Figure 2C: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 179613) (Data updated on 4 November 2020 T07:00:00)

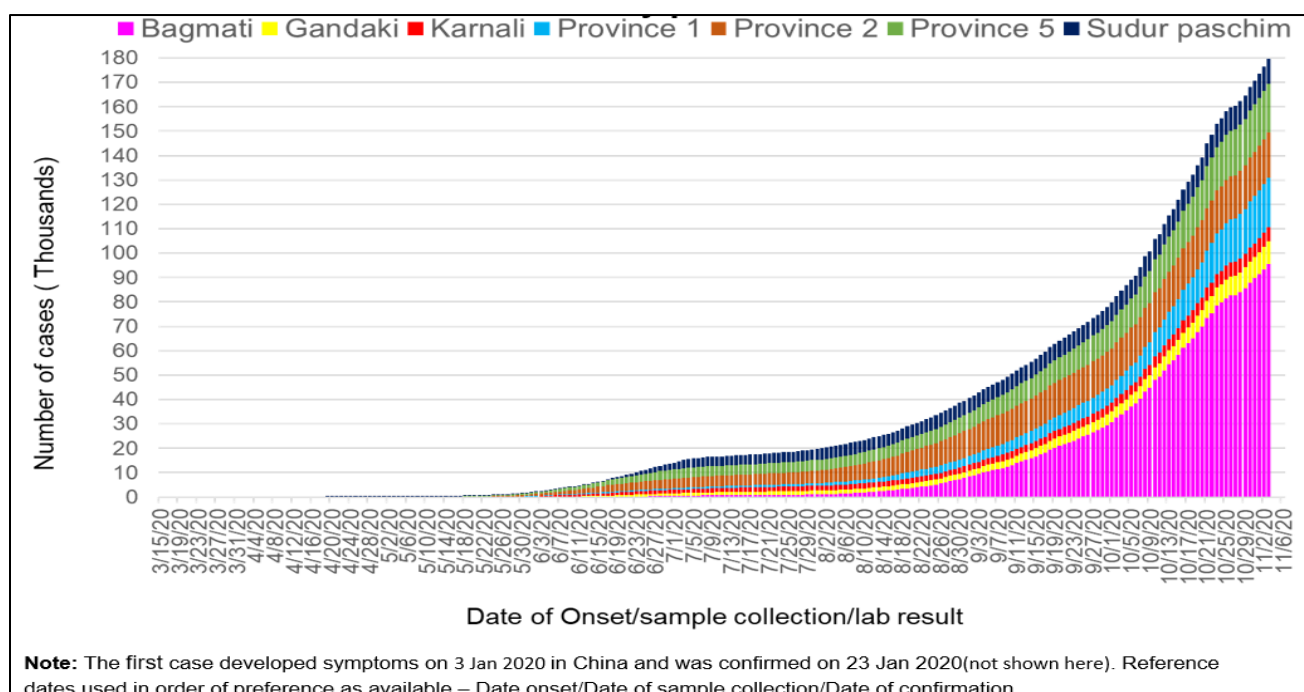


Figure 3: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 179613) (Data updated on 4 November 2020 T07:00:00)

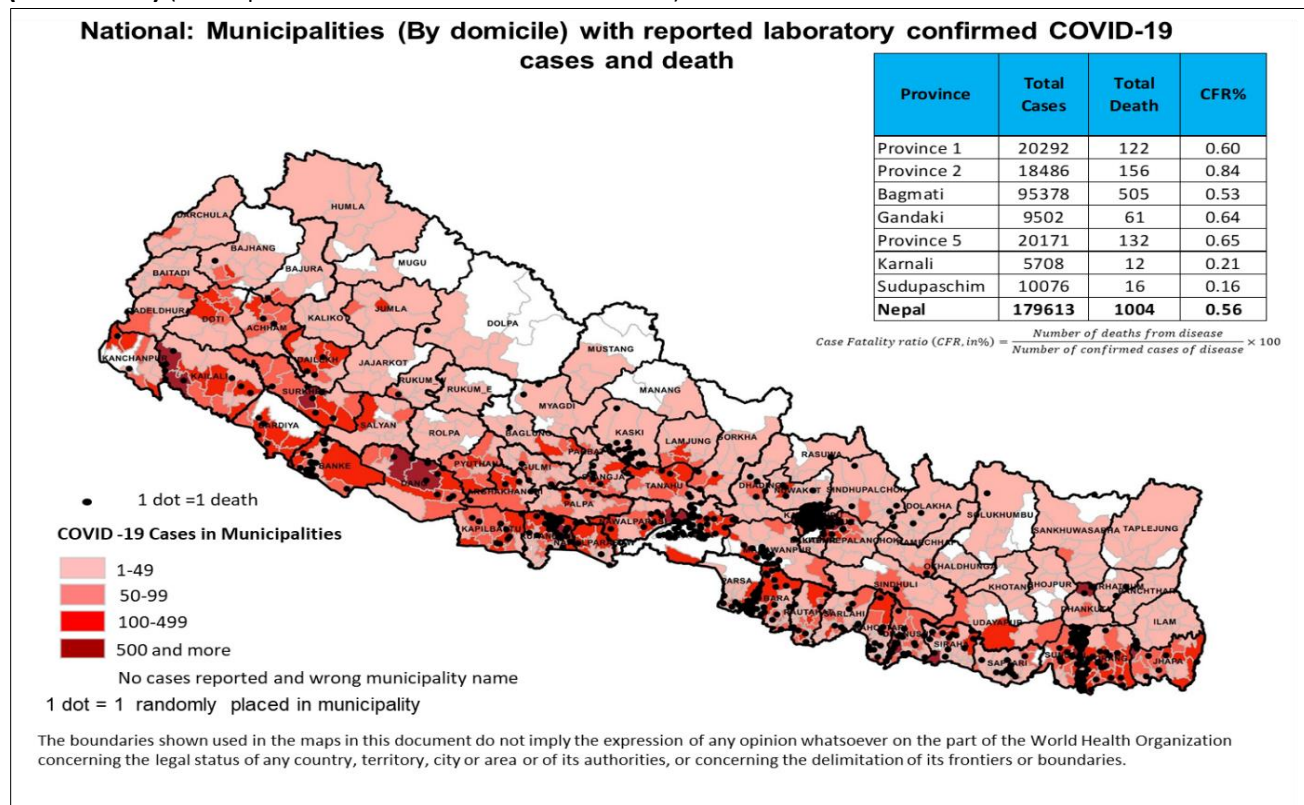


Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.
(N = 179613) (Data updated on 4 November 2020 T07:00:00) Transmission classification based on [WHO definitions](#)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of the total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Districts affected (total districts)	Date of most recent case [#]
Province 1	20292	11.3	122	Cluster of cases	14 (14)	3 November 2020
Province 2	18486	10.3	156	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	3 November 2020
Bagmati	95378	53.1	505	Cluster of cases	13 (13)	3 November 2020
Gandaki	9502	5.3	61	Cluster of cases	11 (11)	3 November 2020
Province 5	20171	11.2	132	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	3 November 2020
Karnali	5708	3.2	12	Cluster of cases	10 (10)	3 November 2020
Sudurpaschhim	10076	5.6	16	Cluster of cases	9 (9)	3 November 2020
National Total	179613	100	1004	Cluster of cases	77 (77)	3 November 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 = 177956) (Data updated on 4 November 2020 T07:00:00)

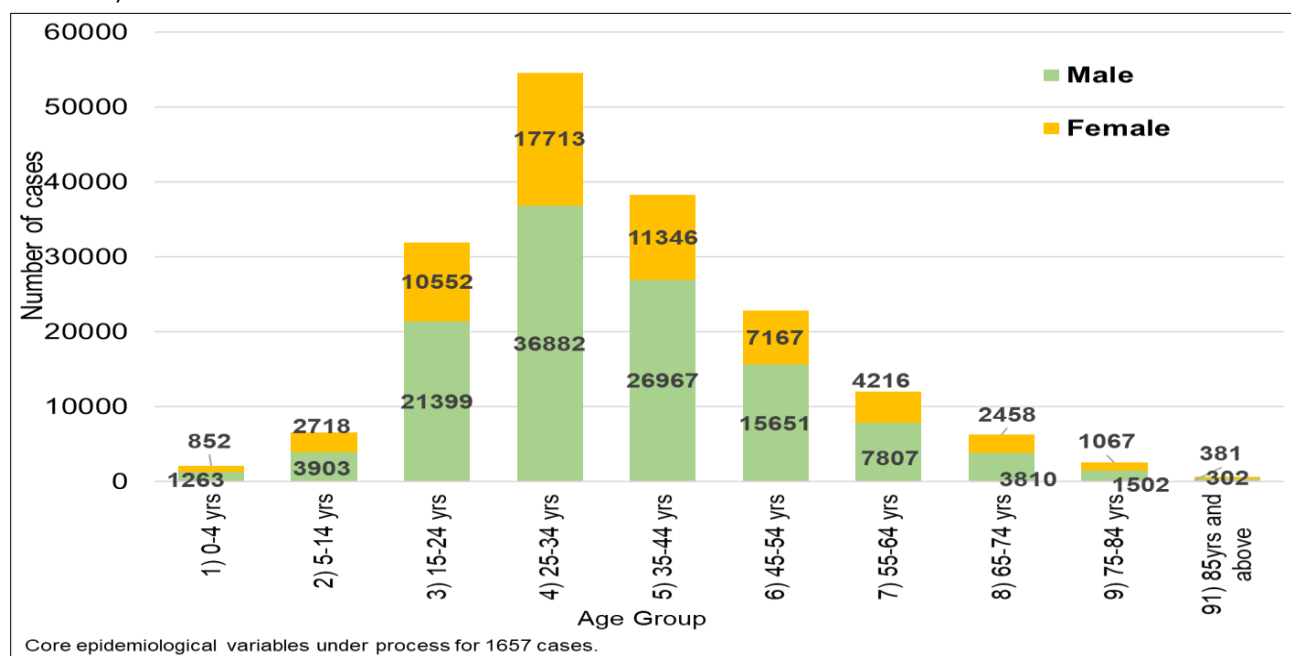


Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 179613) (Data updated on 4 November 2020 T07:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	2115	2	4	3	0.28
5-14 yrs	6621	2	1	3	0.05
15-24 yrs	31951	12	12	14	0.08
25-34 yrs	54595	38	17	39	0.1
35-44 yrs	38313	73	30	60	0.27
45-54 yrs	22818	104	42	101	0.64
55-64 yrs	12023	146	56	145	1.68
65-74 yrs	6268	167	65	184	3.7
75-84 yrs	2569	116	47	119	6.34
85+ yrs	683	51	17	45	9.96
Unknown	1657	2	0	2	0.12
National	179613	713	291	715	0.56
$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$ <p>COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.</p>					

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

- The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) decided (1 Nov 2020) to form new Incident Command System to accelerate response to COVID-19. The three pillars are led by Secretary level technical experts (Chief Specialists, 12th Level) and the Ministry has been given adequate authority to execute operations. Three response pillars are:
 - Surveillance, Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (CICT) & Testing
 - Case Management
 - Logistics, Information Management and Communication
- Following meetings were organized by the MoHP on 3rd Nov 2020
 - A meeting with CICT focal points of the Kathmandu valley to identify the operational bottleneck in performing their duties.
 - Expert Group meeting to discuss about the surveillance, contract tracing and testing options. The group suggested some policy changes (increase contact tracing, follow-up, testing coverage of close contacts and antigen-based testing etc., some of the key suggestions) which are under consideration by Ministry. Once decided will be communicated widely and collaboration will be strengthened with provincial government and municipalities.

- A total of **14,80,978** RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by **67** designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation (*as of 3 Nov 2020*). The latest addition to the designated COVID-19 labs this week is as listed below;
 - a) National Medical College Teaching Hospital, Province 2
 - b) Trisuli Hospital, Nuwakot, Bagmati Province
 - c) Alfa Diagnostic Laboratory, Lalitpur, Bagmati Province

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

- A total of **3,026** (*96% of the total*) seroprevalence samples has been received at NPHL, tracked, inventoried and stored at -70° C. Additional staff have been hired (lab technologist, lab technician, data/admin support) and trained to complete the testing of these samples rapidly.
- WHO Nepal has provided technical assistance through WHO consultants for
 - Validation of a newly established designated COVID-19 laboratory. **Janamaitri Hospital Laboratory of molecular biology** and **Modern Diagnostic Center Nepal** underwent validation this week and passed the validation process. The laboratory shared their 10 positive and 10 negative samples which were validated at NPHL. WHO consultant supported in the validation, report preparation and dissemination.
 - Ongoing technical support to NPHL in antigen kit validation (Hightop SARS-CoV-2 antigen rapid test immunochromatography).
 - Technical support for protocol preparation of Anti SARS-CoV-2 total antibody testing ELISA (**Wantai- SARS-CoV-2 Ab ELISA**). This protocol will be used for antibody testing in sero-surveillance study.
- Provision of support from WHO Nepal for following activities
 - National Health Training Center (NHTC) to implement a 3-day training to enable a pool of master trainers for critical care training, starting from 4-6 Nov 2020, with participation from all provinces.
 - Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) to present the finding from the rapid joint (EDCD/WHO) IPC assessment, to sensitize all staff working in the EDCD office
 - Presentation of the finding from the rapid joint (EDCD/WHO) IPC assessment to Director General (DG), which was used to sensitize all staff working in the DG office.
- WHO have been requested to perform IPC assessment of the response control room in the MoHP building.
- New WHO publications have been routinely summarized in English and then working with the communications team they have been translated in order to share with the Health Secretary and team.

- WHO has developed a pilot module to address the risk categorization of COVID-19 positive Health Care Workers and HCW at risk of Occupational Hazards, this has been positively received by the DG who will instruct the Curative Service Division (CSD) to take this important pilot forward.
- The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been working on the evaluation cost based on the layout design submitted by the WHO. After the evaluation of these cost, WHO country office will make a final decision to proceed the establishment of Point of Entry.
- WHO Media monitoring output shared every day with **MoHP spokesperson, HEOC** officials, as well as EDPs and other partners
- WHO Nepal in close coordination with MoHP is supporting Pan Nepal Parliamentarians orientation on COVID-19 throughout all provinces. Till date, 2 days orientation (3-4 November) has been conducted in Province 2 (picture below).



Honorable Chairman of National Assembly, Mr Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, with opening remarks during the event.

Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan



Dr Binod Gupta from WHO Nepal providing orientation to the parliamentarians of Province 2 on COVID-19.

Picture Credit: WHO Nepal/A. Maharjan

- The following Information documents were translated:

SN	TRANSLATION DOCUMENT	Type
1	Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2	Guideline
2	SOP for Cultural Programs	SOP
3	Enhancing Public Health Preparedness for Festivals in the Context of COVID-19 in the South-East Asia Region	Document
4	Considerations in the investigation of cases and clusters of COVID-19	Summary
5	Assessment tool for laboratories implementing SARS-CoV-2 testing	Summary
6	Evidence Brief October 30	Evidence Brief
7	Calibrating public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19	Summary

- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published:
 - I. Episode 4 (Nepali) | November 1: [Link](#)
 - II. Episode 5 (Nepali) | November 2: [Link](#)
 - III. Episode 6 (Nepali) | November 3: [Link](#)
- Ongoing COVID-19 messages for video content production in line with Strategic communication plan to support MoHP from political leaders and eminent social influencers for preventive measures for celebration of upcoming National festivals (Tihar and Chhath).
- WHO Nepal plans to handover the emergency health logistics items (Personal Protective Equipment, Biomedical equipment and Biomedical accessories) to the Ministry of Health and Population at the earliest. The packaging of these items is ongoing. These logistic items are worth USD \$ 332,909.
- WHO Nepal has provided logistic and operational support on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) sensitization to the parliamentarians in Province 2 and Gandaki Province. The support will be provided to remaining 5 provinces very soon.

What are the health cluster partners doing?

- Cluster coordination meeting for health sector response are ongoing at the Federal and Provincial levels for coherent actions at all levels.
- Health partners, including RH sub-cluster, 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.
- Health Cluster partners including sub-clusters are providing response support to continue the COVID-19 & Non-COVID-19 essential/continuation of health services throughout the country.
- Health Emergency Operation Centre (Federal and Provincial level) coordinates regularly with Emergency Operation Centers at all level, hub hospital networks and health partners for information management and timely sharing of information for effective response.
- Partners are providing support on COVID-19 commodities, monitoring of case management, monitoring of PoE, conduction of virtual/online training on various thematic areas to health personnel with NHTC, MOHP

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](#).

CONTACT DETAILS

WHO Representative

Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav
WHO Representative to the Federal
Democratic Republic of Nepal
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: pandavr@who.int

Health Cluster Co-lead

Dr Lungten Z. Wangchuk
Scientist; Team Lead - CDS
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: wangchukl@who.int

WHO Incident Manager

Dr Reuben Samuel
Team Leader - WHO Health Emergencies
Programme (WHE)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: samuelsr@who.int

Communication/Media Focal Point

Mr Sujan G. Amatya
Communications Officer
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Email: samatya@who.int