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 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, T07:00:00 hours (Week no. 45), a total 179613 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% (135841/179613) of cases were reported from three provinces, namely - Province 1, Bagmati Province and Lumbini Province. The Kathmandu valley area (Kathmandu,
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 IILI/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 2A: 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).

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.

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.
Situation Update #29 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Friday 6 November 2020

**Province 2 (16486)**

Note: The first case developed symptoms on 3 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020. Reference dates used in order of preference as available — Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

**Bagmati (95378)**

Note: The first case developed symptoms on 5 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020. Reference dates used in order of preference as available — Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.

**Gandaki (9502)**

Note: The first case developed symptoms on 5 Jan 2020 in China and was confirmed on 23 Jan 2020. Reference dates used in order of preference as available — Date onset/Date of sample collection/Date of confirmation.
Situation Update #29 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Friday 6 November 2020

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

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/Data of sample collection/Data of confirmation.

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)

National: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Total Death</th>
<th>CFR%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province 1</td>
<td>20292</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 2</td>
<td>18486</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>95378</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>9502</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 5</td>
<td>20171</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>5708</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpaschim</td>
<td>10076</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>179613</td>
<td>1004</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case Fatality ratio (CFR, lkrh) = Number of deaths from disease / Number of confirmed cases of disease x 100

The boundaries shown used in the maps in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Province</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>% of the total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>Total cumulative deaths</th>
<th>Transmission classification*</th>
<th>Districts affected (total districts)</th>
<th>Date of most recent case#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province 1</td>
<td>20292</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>14 (14)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 2</td>
<td>18486</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>8 (8)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>95378</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>13 (13)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>9502</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>11 (11)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 5</td>
<td>20171</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>12 (12)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>5708</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>10 (10)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpaschhim</td>
<td>10076</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Total</td>
<td>179613</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1004</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>77 (77)</td>
<td>3 November 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases</th>
<th>Death (male)</th>
<th>Death (female)</th>
<th>Deaths with any known comorbid condition</th>
<th>Age specific case fatality ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yrs</td>
<td>2115</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14 yrs</td>
<td>6621</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 yrs</td>
<td>31951</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 yrs</td>
<td>54595</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 yrs</td>
<td>38313</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 yrs</td>
<td>22818</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 yrs</td>
<td>12023</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 yrs</td>
<td>6268</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 yrs</td>
<td>2569</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>6.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ yrs</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>9.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1657</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>179613</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

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).

[Images of Parliamentarians and Dr. Binod Gupta]

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>TRANSLATION DOCUMENT</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2</td>
<td>Guideline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SOP for Cultural Programs</td>
<td>SOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Enhancing Public Health Preparedness for Festivals in the Context of COVID-19 in the South-East Asia Region</td>
<td>Document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Considerations in the investigation of cases and clusters of COVID-19</td>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Assessment tool for laboratories implementing SARS-CoV-2 testing</td>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Evidence Brief October 30</td>
<td>Evidence Brief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Calibrating public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19</td>
<td>Summary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **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 County Office for Nepal  
Email: pandavr@who.int

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

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

**Communication/Media Focal Point**
Mr Sujan G. Amatya  
Communications Officer  
WHO Country Office for Nepal  
Email: samatya@who.int