HIGHLIGHTS *Data as of HEOC of MoHP Situation Report, 19 July 2021

- Of the total COVID-19 positive cases, 94.7% (633,332) of cases have recovered and 3.8% (25,837) of cases are active.
- Of the total active cases, 90.3% (23,334) cases are in home isolation; 9.6% (2,765) of cases are undergoing hospital/institutional isolation. While 2.1% (564) patients require ICU admission, 27.4% (155) of the ICU admitted patients require ventilator support.
- Ten districts have reported more than 500 active cases.
- Among the total new cases (11612) reported this week, 19.4% (2249) are from Kathmandu district. Most of the new cases about 28.8% (3342) have been reported from Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts), Bagmati Province.
- COVID-19 vaccination coverage status
  - COVISHIELD Vaccine  SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell)
    - First dose : 1,828,484  First dose : 1238634
    - Second dose : 460734  Second dose : 673583

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 20 July 2021, 07:00:00 hours (week no. 29), a total of 668,751 (19.1%) COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR); 3,477,518 RT-PCR tests have been performed nationwide by designated functional COVID-19 laboratories. A total of 49,743 319 (18.5%) cases were confirmed through Antigen RDT; 266,662 Antigen RDT have been performed nationwide.
- As of 9 May 2021, all 7 provinces in the country are experiencing community transmission.
- Province-wise RT-PCR test positivity rate in past week (Week 28) ranged from 5.6% (Province 2) to 38.2% (Gandaki Province), with national positivity rate averaging 24.1%.
- Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 60% (404,273/668,751) of the RT-PCR confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 79% (317,500/404,273) are in the economically productive age group (15-54 years).
• National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) received 28 influenza diagnostic surveillance samples on EPID-week 28 (12-18 July 2021). 5 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, however none of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
• Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at NPHL on EPID-week 28 (12-18 July 2021), 177 SARS-CoV-2 negative samples were tested for Influenza for the same week. 7 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3.
• From 4 January until 18 July 2021:
  o A total of 76 samples tested positive for Influenza (All were Influenza A/H3) from 2558 samples (Sentinel and non-sentinel samples including SARS-CoV-2 negative SARI and ILI cases).
  o Similarly, 273 samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 from 1125 samples (Sentinel/non-sentinel ILI/SARI samples).\(^1\)

Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (Data as of 18 July 2021; Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 49) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)

\[^1\] These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.
At a national level, the second wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the third wave from the middle of March 2021. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 19 July 2021 was 7833 which is 61% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.
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Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 668751) (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)
Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces

There were 2885 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 14% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 50 deaths reported in the past week, 56% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 1 decreased to 32.7% in the past week. A total of 8517 tests were performed in the past week, 25% more than that of the previous week.
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There were 274 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. The cases have increased by 16% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 40% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Province 2 decreased to 5.6% in the past week. A total of 2702 tests were performed in the past week, 24% more than that of the previous week.

In Bagmati, 5232 new cases were reported in the past week. Since Week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 3% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 58 deaths reported in the past week, similar with that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Bagmati decreased to 18.3% in the past week. A total of 33149 tests were performed in the past week, 17% more than that of the previous week.
In Gandaki, 1994 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 20% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 34 deaths reported in the past week, 3% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Gandaki increased to 38.2% in the past week. A total of 4049 tests were performed in the past week, 17% more than that of the previous week.

Lumbini reported 743 new cases in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are considerably increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 2% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 13 deaths reported in the past week, 7% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Lumbini decreased to 15.6% in the past week. A total of 4043 tests were performed in the past week, 6% more than that of the previous week.
In Karnali, 245 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 1% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 8 deaths reported in the past week, 11% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Karnali decreased to 36.7% in the past week. A total of 575 tests were performed in the past week, 1% less than that of the previous week.

In Sudurpaschim, 287 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 3% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 2 deaths reported in the past week, 50% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity rate in Sudurpaschim increased to 21.6% in the past week. A total of 1175 tests were performed in the past week, 35% less than that in the previous week.
Cases and deaths have been reported in high numbers from Bagmati Province, mostly from Kathmandu valley area. The overall case fatality ratio (CFR) of Nepal is 1.43%. However, the CFR is relatively high in Karnali Province with 2.15% and Lumbini Province with 1.77%.

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Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Province</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests</th>
<th>Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases</th>
<th>Total cumulative deaths</th>
<th>Transmission classification*</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days RT-PCR test</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>% of total confirmed cumulative cases in last 14 days</th>
<th>Total Deaths in last 14 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Province 1</td>
<td>80044</td>
<td>12014</td>
<td>92058</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>1308</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>3588</td>
<td>5883</td>
<td>9471</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 2</td>
<td>44261</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>44679</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>341011</td>
<td>10616</td>
<td>351627</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>4081</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>2850</td>
<td>11045</td>
<td>13895</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>58283</td>
<td>7434</td>
<td>65717</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>1002</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>3917</td>
<td>5914</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbini</td>
<td>89136</td>
<td>6771</td>
<td>95907</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>1581</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>1342</td>
<td>1592</td>
<td>2934</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>19754</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>21651</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpashchim</td>
<td>36262</td>
<td>1705</td>
<td>37967</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Total</td>
<td>668751</td>
<td>40855*</td>
<td>709606</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>9582</td>
<td>Community transmission</td>
<td>10373</td>
<td>24129</td>
<td>34502</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total reported in HEOC Sitrep of 19 July 49734; but IMU reported 40855

Notes:
1. The source for case data used in this update is from RT-PCR test positivity reported by laboratories from various locations across Nepal, as shared by HEOC Sitrep and IMU/IHIMS.
2. Case data is screened and cleaned by our data team for double entry, wrong entry and manual errors such as a city’s name in place of districts, district name in place of province, etc.
3. Whereas the test positivity rate is calculated based on the test positivity reported in Sitrep for RT-PCR which may or may not be scrutinized or cleaned the same way and mark the cases on location of the laboratories rather than their place of stay.
Overall, the sex-distribution remains skewed towards males. The incidence of cases is higher in the economically productive age group (15-54 years) for both males and females.

Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 668751) (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)

<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 co-morbid condition</th>
<th>Age specific case fatality ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yrs</td>
<td>6246</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14 yrs</td>
<td>24837</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 yrs</td>
<td>101079</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 yrs</td>
<td>180241</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 yrs</td>
<td>139953</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 yrs</td>
<td>99237</td>
<td>1167</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>1.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 yrs</td>
<td>62182</td>
<td>1404</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 yrs</td>
<td>32554</td>
<td>1341</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>6.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 yrs</td>
<td>14520</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>9.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ yrs</td>
<td>4022</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>14.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>3880</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>668751</td>
<td>6408</td>
<td>3174</td>
<td>2850</td>
<td>1.43</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.
A total of 9,582 deaths have been reported. Out of the total deaths, 6,408 (66.9%) were males and 3,174 (33.1%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 2,850 persons (29.7%) had at least one known comorbidity. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, it progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 6.2% to 14.9%.

**PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

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

- A booklet ‘Risk Communication and Community Participation Guideline, 2078 ‘was endorsed by MoHP on 13 July 2021. Link [Here](#)
- The second round of nationwide Sero-Prevalence of SARS COV-2 study which started from 5 July 2021 is ongoing across all seven provinces. MoHP officials along with the WHO team are monitoring the survey.
- Government of Nepal is receiving medical equipment, supplies and health commodities from many countries and donor agencies. Within the reporting time frame, the following have provided logistics support:
  - United States Agency International Development (USAID)
  - Government of India
- COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign
  - COVID-19 vaccination campaign for ‘second dose of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (VeroCell)’ began throughout the country for 60 – 64 year old population in Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts) and 62-64 years age group in the remaining 74 districts from 06 July 2021. As of 19 July 2021, 376,272 out of 484,747 people were vaccinated with VeroCell vaccine.
  - COVID-19 vaccination campaign for the first dose of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell) started for ≥55 years and above age group conducted from 13 July 2021. Campaign has been conducted currently in three Provinces (Bagmati, Gandaki and Lumbini) and will be expanded in other Provinces soon. As of 19 July 2021, 533031 out of 2195195 people were vaccinated.
  - Similarly, COVID-19 vaccination campaign for Janssen vaccine (single dose vaccine), Johnson & Johnson started from 19 July 2021.

**What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?**

**Laboratory Capacity**

- WHO Nepal has been providing technical support to NPHL in the following activities:
  - Monitoring the quality standard of designated COVID-19 laboratories in the country through the National Quality Assurance Program (NQAP). A total of 8 designated COVID-19 laboratories participated in the NQAP this week. The result of all the participating laboratories were satisfactory ≥90%.
- RNA extraction and shipment of 48 SARS-CoV-2 positive samples for genome sequencing to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), New Delhi.
- Monitoring of sample collection, sample tracking, sample processing for ELISA test and, Internal Quality Control (IQC) panel preparation for second round of SARS-CoV-2 sero surveillance. Till 19 July, out of 13,700 samples for sero surveillance, a total of 3244 samples were received at NPHL.

**Technical Planning and Operations**
- Weekly Provincial sub cluster meetings on Disability Inclusion and Rehabilitation were held at 6 Provinces with exception of Karnali Province. Meetings were held with engagement of officials from Provinces, WHO and district representatives of National Federation of Disabled Nepal of 61 districts. Updates were shared and issues were addressed to be resolved through coordination and collaboration among provincial partners during the meeting.
- First Meeting of WHO Nepal & Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences (KUSMS), Dhulikhel was held on 13 July 2021, to discuss on Post COVID-19 Conditions and explore possible collaboration. Following the meeting, a joint (WHO- KUSMS) proposal ‘Model/Hybrid Approach to Post COVID-19 Condition & One Stop Rehab Services’ was agreed to be developed in next 2 weeks timeframe.
- A meeting was held to discuss on the software for record keeping of Telemedicine on 18 July 2021. The meeting was attended by health officials from CSD, IMCCR, MoHP and WHO.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**
- WHO Nepal’s support to the NHEICC continued this week by providing risk communication expertise through staff embedded at the NHEICC and also through support in production of audio content for dissemination via Radio Nepal.
- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, and published (13 – 19 July 2021):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Episodes</th>
<th>Titles</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Delta variant</td>
<td>कोभिड–१९ को डेल्टा स्वरूप</td>
<td>Nepali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- A photo story of Babandevi Chaudhari (62) and her husband Sitasharan Chaudhari (72) from Mahottari district in Province 2, who were among the thousands of Nepalis who received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine during the recent vaccination drive, was shared via Facebook (link here), Twitter (link here), and website (link here).
- WHO, Country Office for Nepal, joined the Government of Nepal in thanking the German Embassy Kathmandu for donating over one million medical masks to Nepal on Facebook (link here) and Twitter (link here).

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• Videos, by the following health officials on the importance of antigen testing in the community, were shared:
  o Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal: Facebook link | Twitter Link | YouTube link
  o Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Spokesperson, Ministry of Health and Population: Facebook link | Twitter Link | YouTube link
  o Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Spokesperson, Ministry of Health and Population: Facebook link | Twitter Link | YouTube link
  o Dr. Runa Jha, Director, National Public Health Laboratory: Facebook link | Twitter Link | YouTube Link
  o Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Health and Population: Facebook link | Twitter Link | YouTube link
  o Dr. Dipendra Gautam, National Professional Officer for International Health Regulations, WHO, Country Office for Nepal: Facebook link | Twitter Link | YouTube link

• The following documents were uploaded on ReliefWeb (link here):
  o Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring,
  o Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
  o The latest Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update.

• Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
  o Important notices on national COVID-19 immunization,
  o Importance of wearing a mask,
  o Prevention measures for COVID-19 at vaccination sites,
  o Debunking rumors of “Corona Guard”,
  o Preventive measures for COVID-19, even after the ease of lockdowns,
  o Preventive measures for COVID-19 at shops/business areas,
  o Food safety during COVID-19.

Field Operations and Logistics
• On 19 July 2021, WHO Nepal facilitated and participated at the joint handover of over 1,250,000 pcs masks to the Department of Health Services, MoHP by Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany at Humanitarian Staging Area (HAS), airport (Picture Below).
WHO Nepal also facilitated handover of 70 visibility jackets to EDCD on 13 July 2021 and 260 visibility jackets to DoHS on 19 July 2021.

What are the health clusters partners doing?

- 62nd health Cluster meeting was conducted on 15 July 2021 with participation of more than 70 health partners in the meeting. The following requests were made by chair and co-chair in the meeting:
  - The Co-Chair Dr Sunoor of WHO Nepal, requested all the presenters to
• Compile and send in the needs of their respective divisions for wider dissemination among partners.
• Send in their questions in advance so that respective presenters can be asked to answer them.
  o Dr Sunoor highlighted the need to discuss specific issues in smaller groups for more effective discussions.
  o The Chair- Dr Roshan acknowledged the challenges of transporting vaccines and assured that coordination with army will be conducted to facilitate easier vaccine transport.
  o Dr Roshan also mentioned the need to strengthen the storage capacity especially in Karnali Province and Province 2.
  o Dr Roshan reiterated the need to individualize the requirements of different divisions with partners in smaller groups so the requirements can be fulfilled.
• Provincial Health Directorate Offices are organizing Provincial Level Health Cluster Coordination meeting as and when require basis.
• Health partners are providing their support to government for the continuation of COVID and non-COVID responses throughout the country. The support provided through Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) especially with Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC), Health Coordination Division (HCD), Policy, Planning & Monitoring Division (PP&MD), Epidemiology and Diseases Control Division (EDCD), National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), National Health Training Centre (NHTC), National Health Education Information Communication Centre (NHEICC), Family Welfare Division (FWD), Management Division (MD), Hub hospital networks; MOHP/Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) especially with Provincial Health Directorate Offices, District Public/Health Offices, and municipalities. COVID-19 response support provided by specialist teams through telemedicine services.
• WHO and UNICEF are providing support for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in close coordination with External Development Partners (EDPs) which includes but is not limited to:
  o Micro planning including financing for the procurement of vaccination;
  o Training/orientations – to health personnel at various levels, local governments;
  o Provision of Logistics support – vehicle, cold chain boxes, delivery of vaccines, transportation of beneficiaries to the vaccination site;
  o Information Technology - registration, information communication, data management, IMU app etc;
  o Risk communication and community engagement – production and dissemination of messages, public awareness campaigns (All members of the Health Cluster are advocating through multiple channels that are available to them for the swift supply of vaccines to Nepal) and
Continuation of Technical Assistance.

- Second round of sero prevalence survey is ongoing throughout the country with technical and financial support from WHO.

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 (COVID-19) Pandemic 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.

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