

Situation Update #66- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Reporting Date: 13 – 19 July 2021

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).

SITUATION OVERVIEW

NEPAL

(Data as of 20 July 2021, 07:00:00 hours)

**668,751 (RT-PCR) and
49,743 (Antigen RDT)
confirmed cases**

**9,582 deaths
3,477,518 RT-PCR tests and
266,662 Antigen RDT**

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

(Data as of 18 July 2021)

**36,760,906 confirmed cases
526,942 deaths**

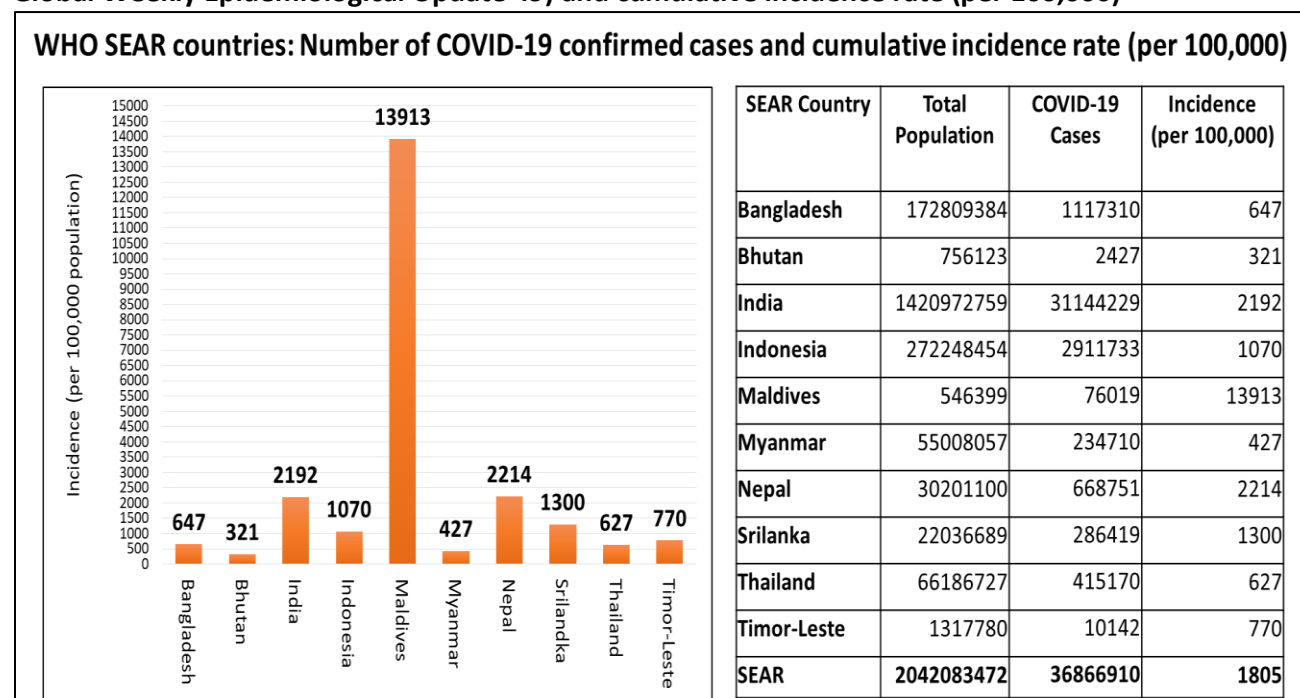
GLOBAL

(Data as of 18 July 2021)

**190,169,833 confirmed cases
4,086,000 deaths**

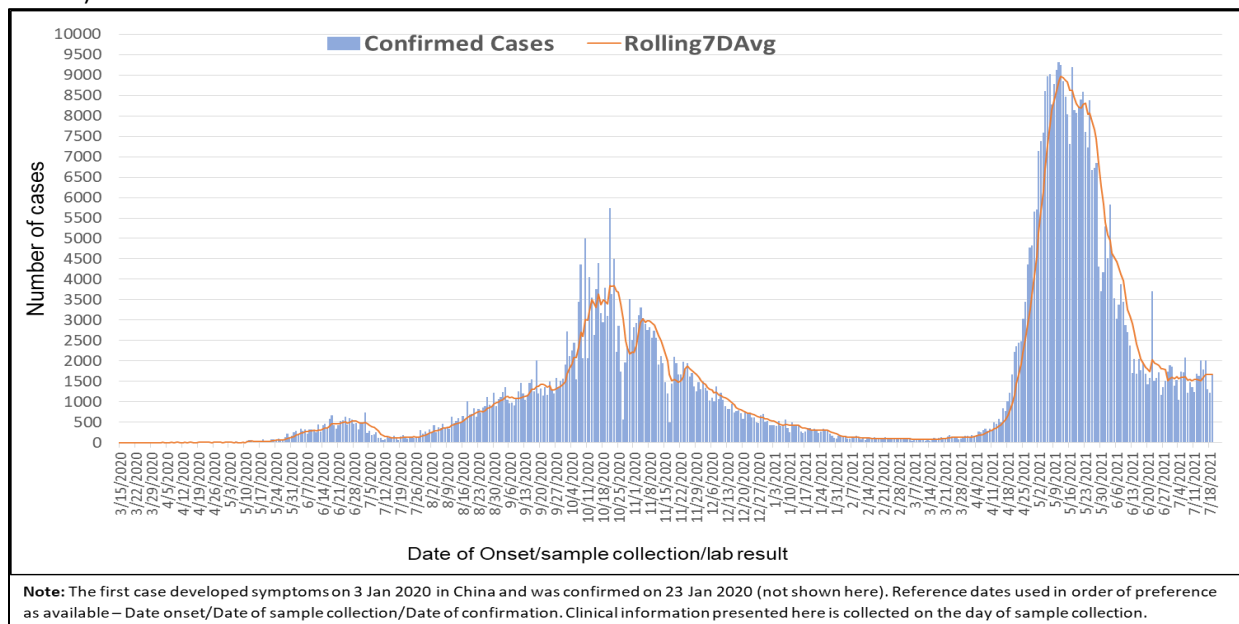
- National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) received 28 influenza diagnostic surveillance samples on EPID-week 28 (12 -18 July 2021). 5 samples tested positive for Influenza A/H3, however none of the samples tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Out of the total SARS-CoV-2 samples that tested negative at 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:
 - 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).
 - 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)



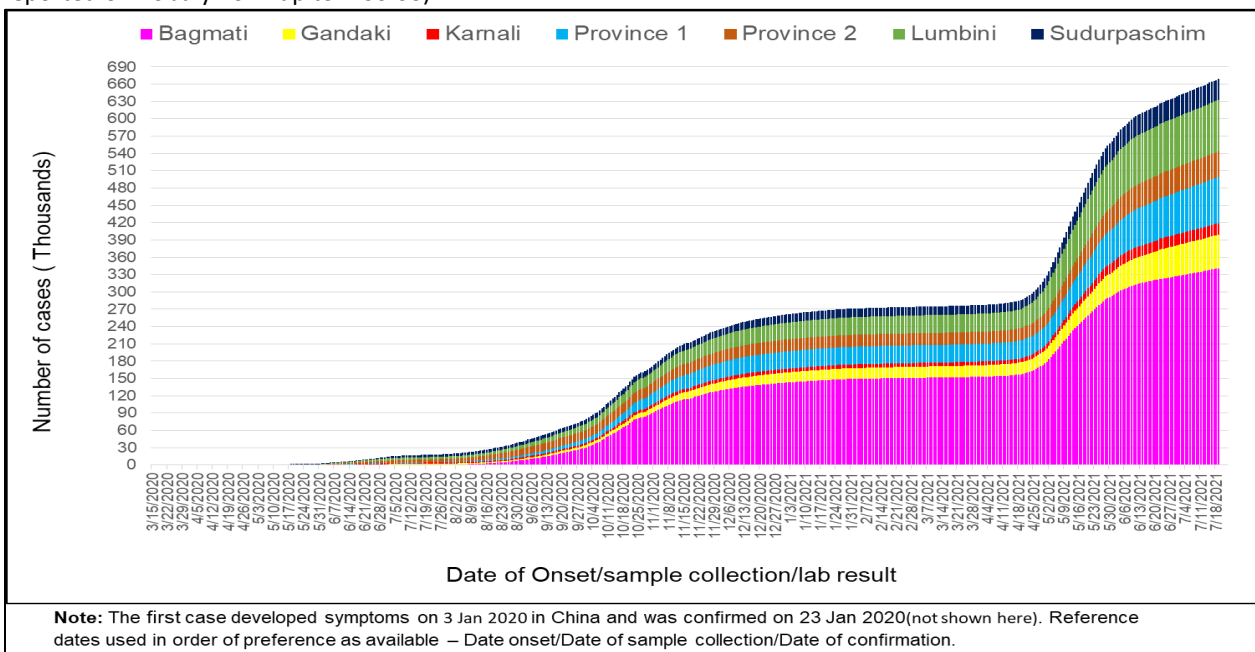
¹ These positive cases are included in the COVID-19 database.

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 = 668751) (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)



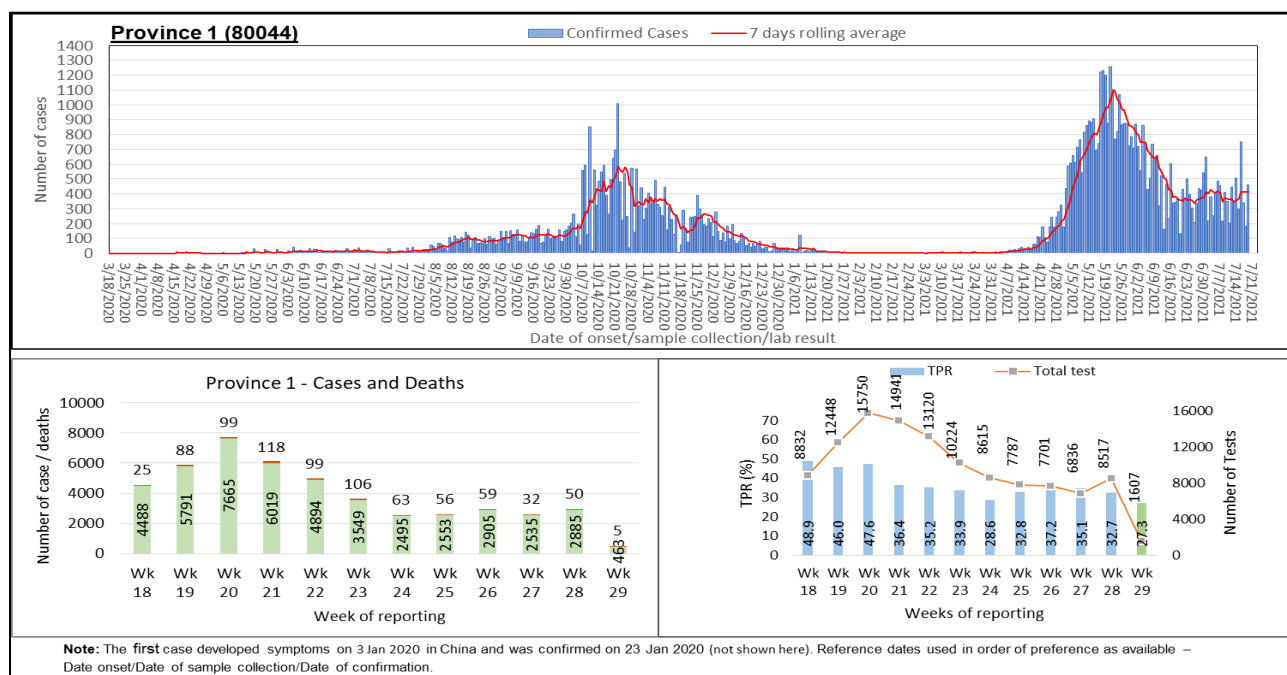
At a national level, the second wave of cases between July 2020 and February 2021 was followed by the third wave from the middle of March 2021. The total PCR tests done in Nepal on 19 July 2021 was 7833 which is 61% less than the number tested during the peak in the beginning of May 2021.

Figure 2B: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 668751) (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)

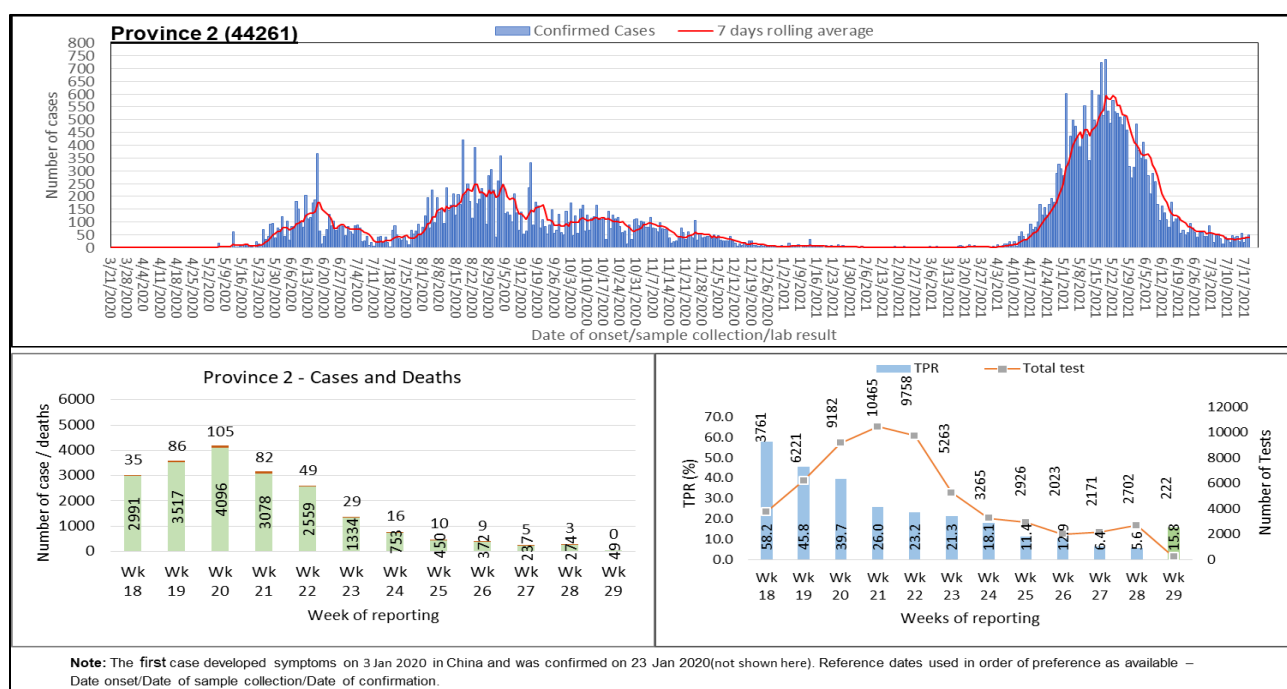


The cumulative case incidence has been increasing in Nepal since the first case confirmed in 23 January 2020. Cases have been largely reported from Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province and Province 1.

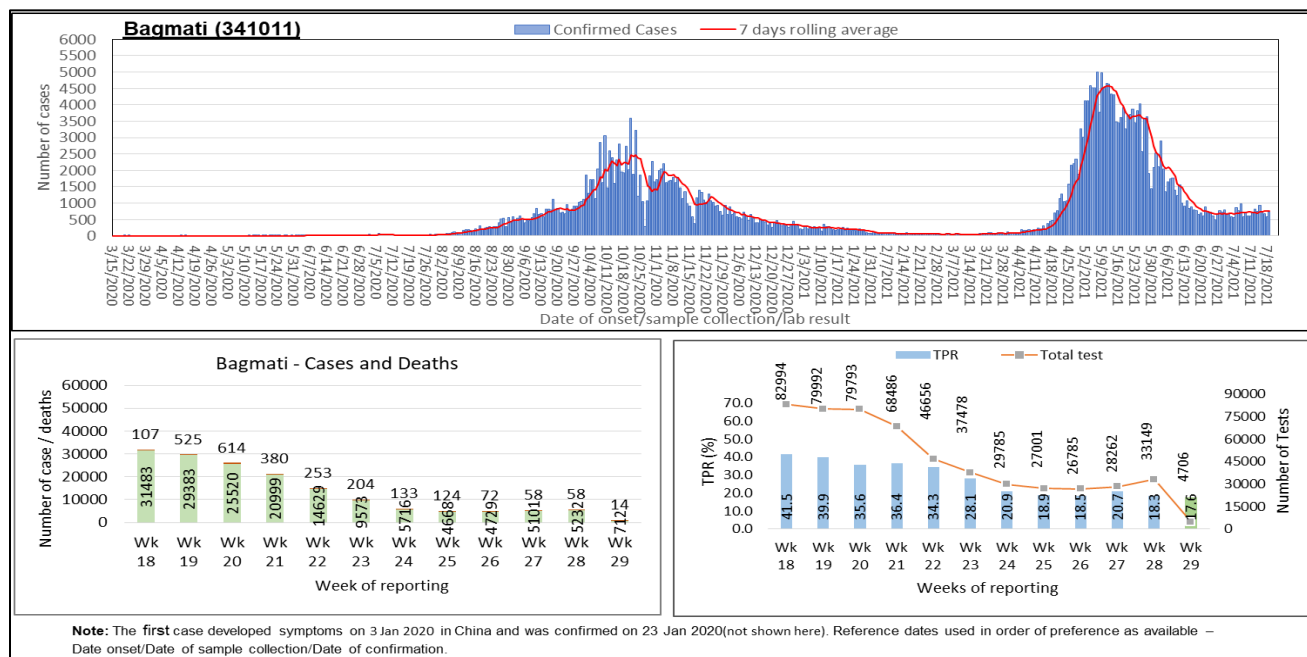
Figure 2C: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases: Trend of cases, 7-days rolling average, weekly cases and deaths and Test Positivity Rate (N = 668751) (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)
 Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2C): Y-axis scale varies between Provinces



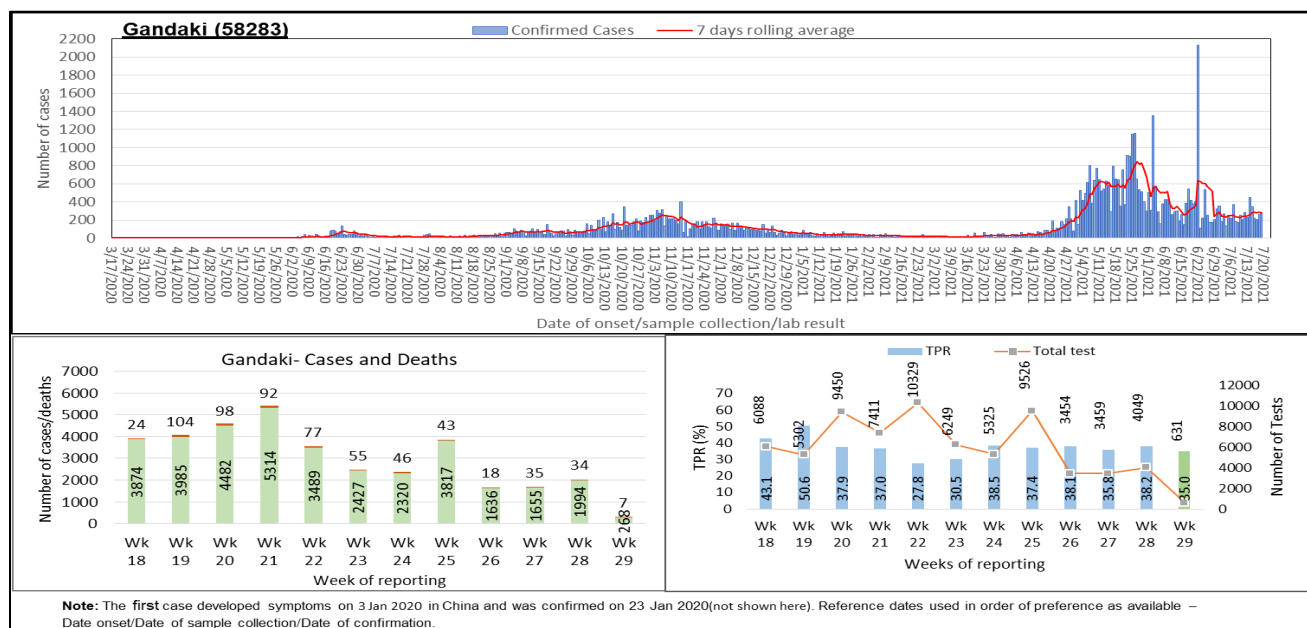
There were 2885 new cases reported in the past week in Province 1. Since week 10, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 14% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 50 deaths reported in the past week, 56% more than that of the previous week. The test positivity 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.



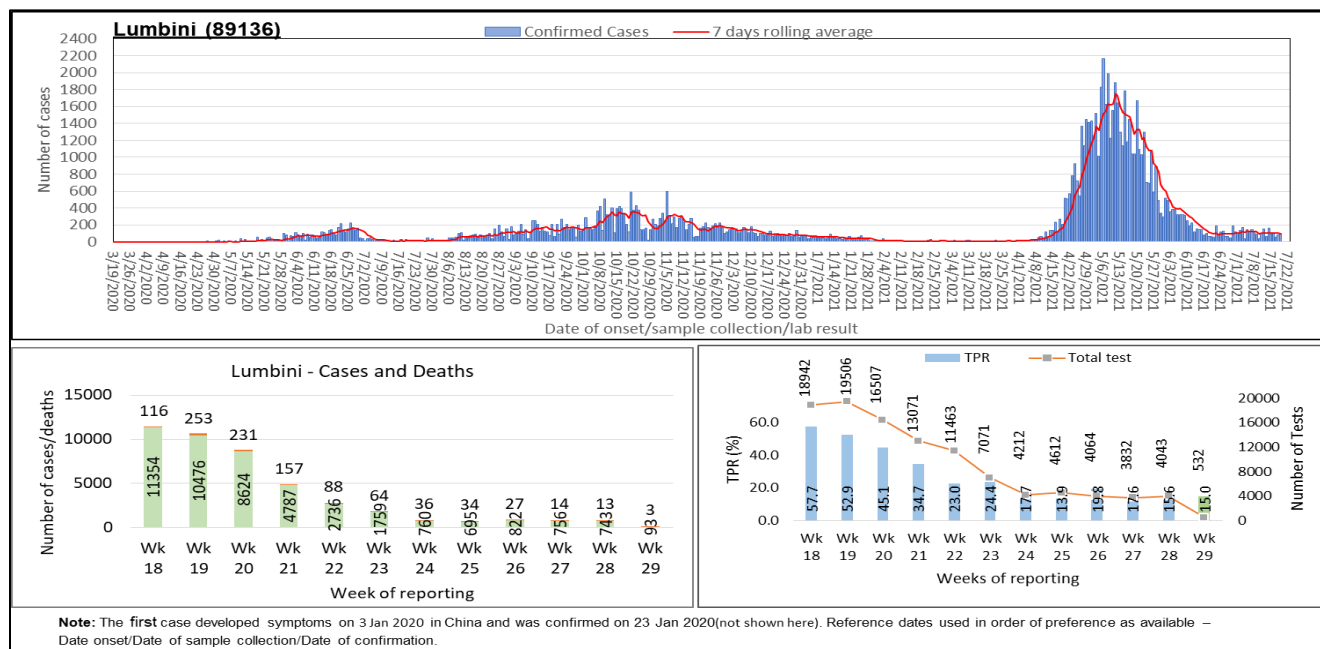
There were 274 new cases reported in the past week in Province 2. Since week 11, new cases are steadily increasing. The cases have increased by 16% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 3 deaths reported in the past week, 40% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity 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.



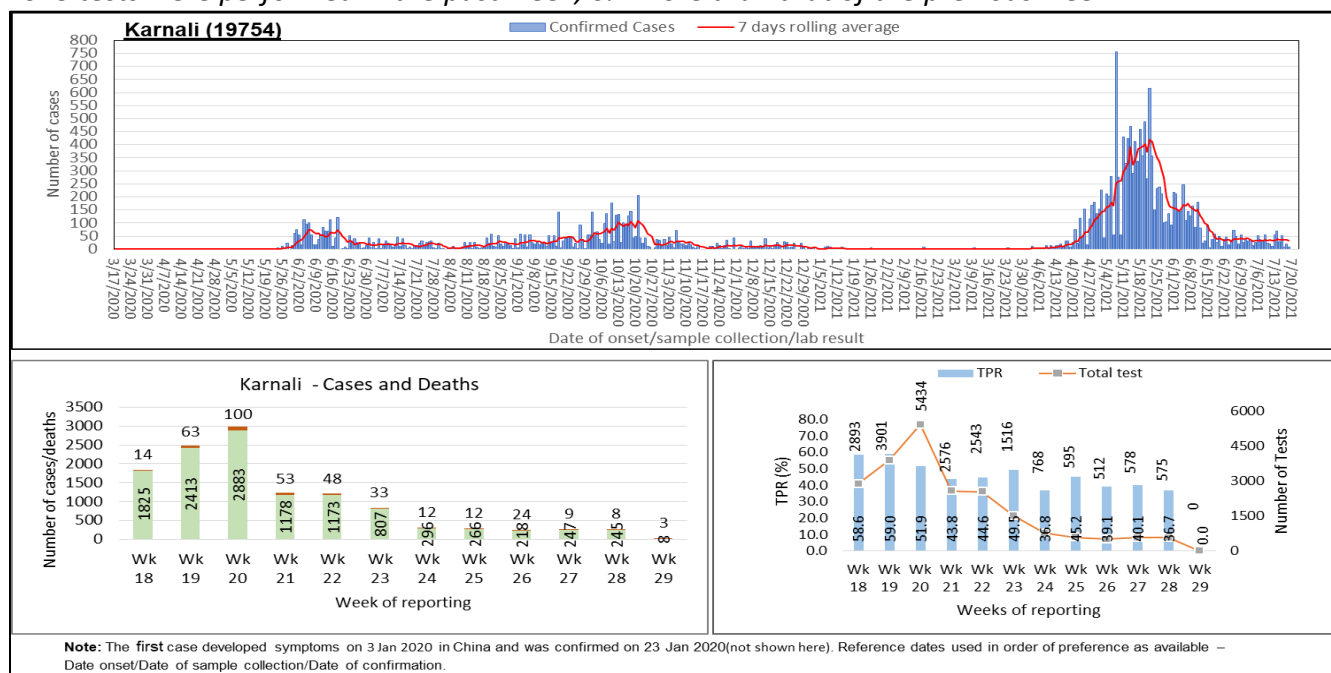
In Bagmati, 5232 new cases were reported in the past week. Since Week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 3% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 58 deaths reported in the past week, similar with that of the previous week. The test positivity rate 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.



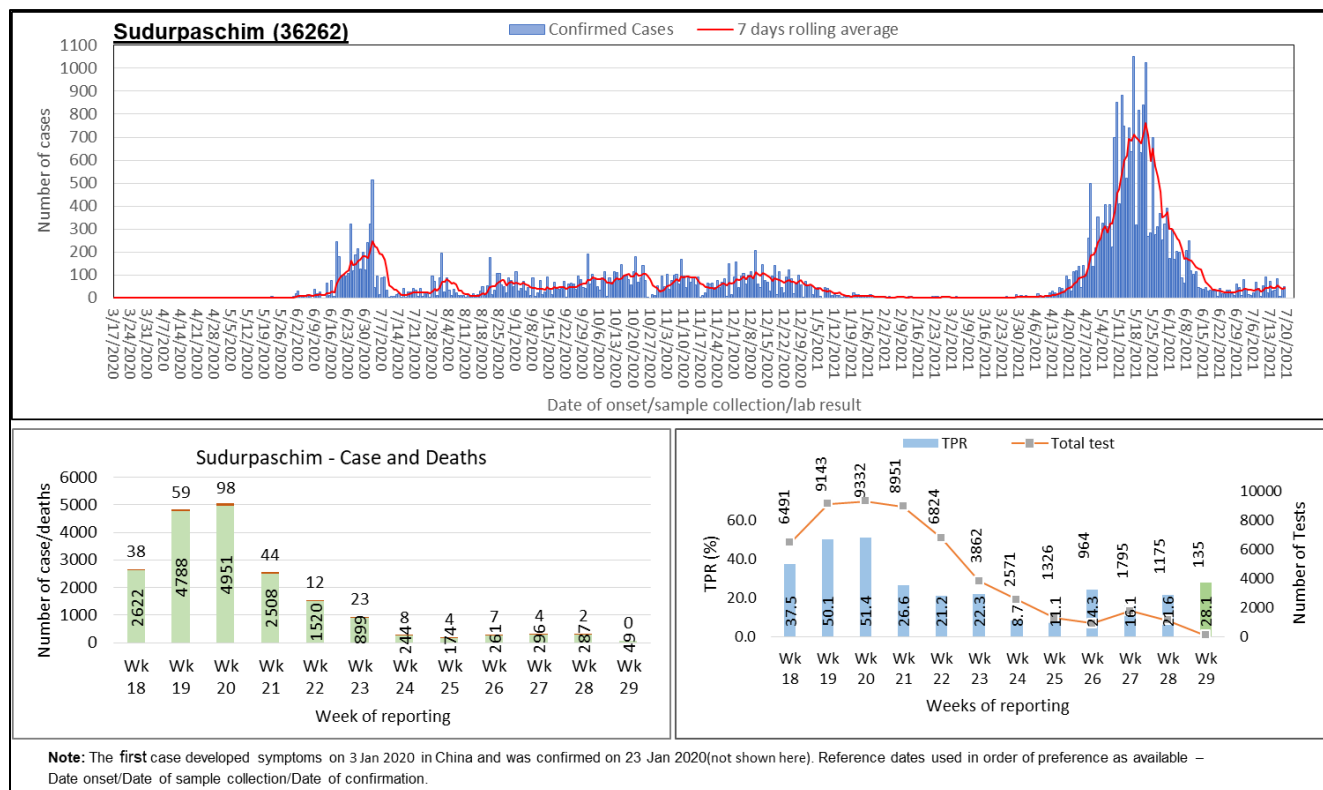
In Gandaki, 1994 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 11, new cases are continuously increasing. The cases have increased by 20% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 34 deaths reported in the past week, 3% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity 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.

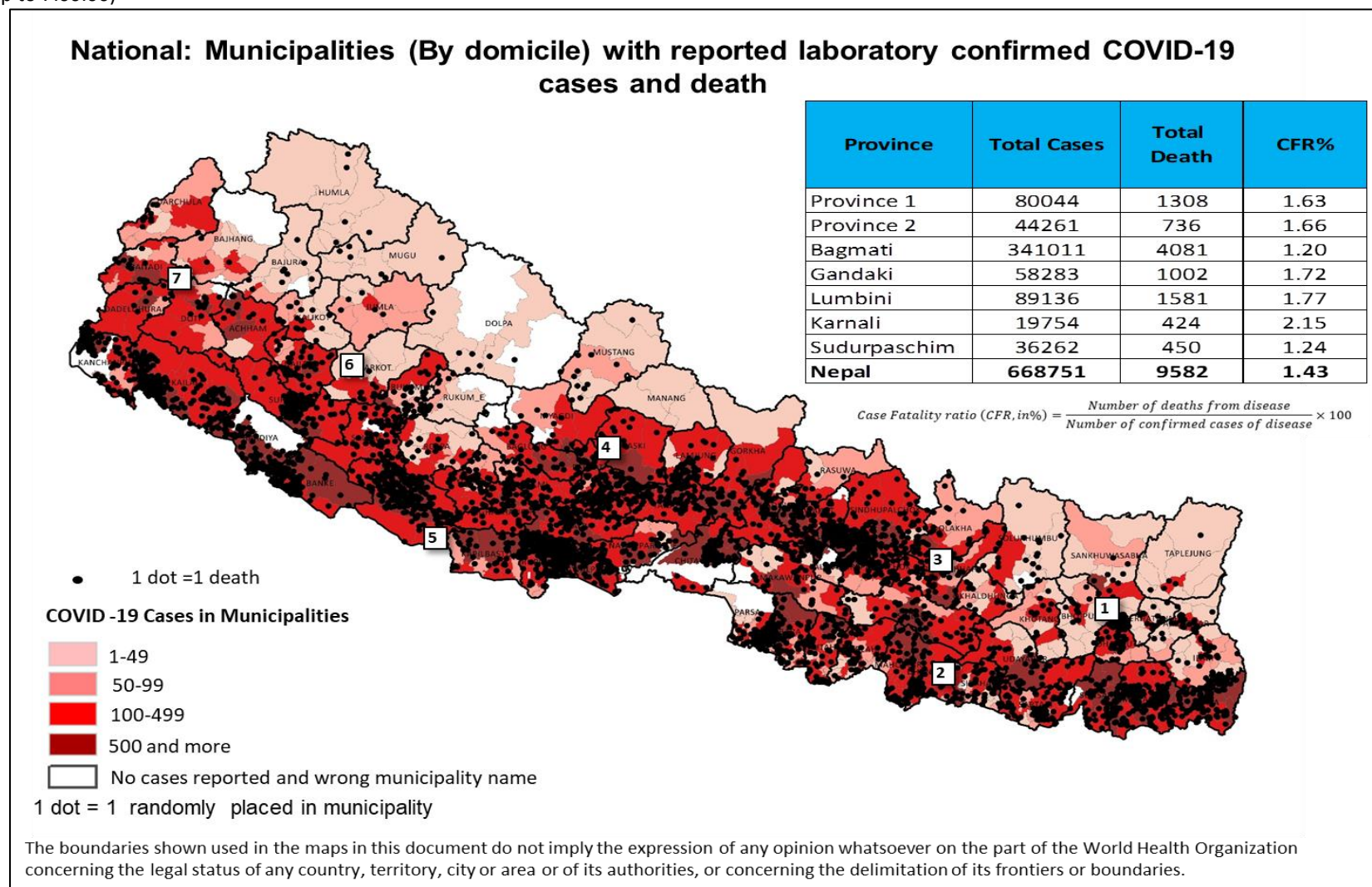


In Karnali, 245 new cases were reported in the past week. Since week 12, new cases are continuously increasing. However, the cases have decreased by 1% in the past week compared to the previous week. There were 8 deaths reported in the past week, 11% less than that of the previous week. The test positivity 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.

Figure 3: National -Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 668751) (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)



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%.

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)

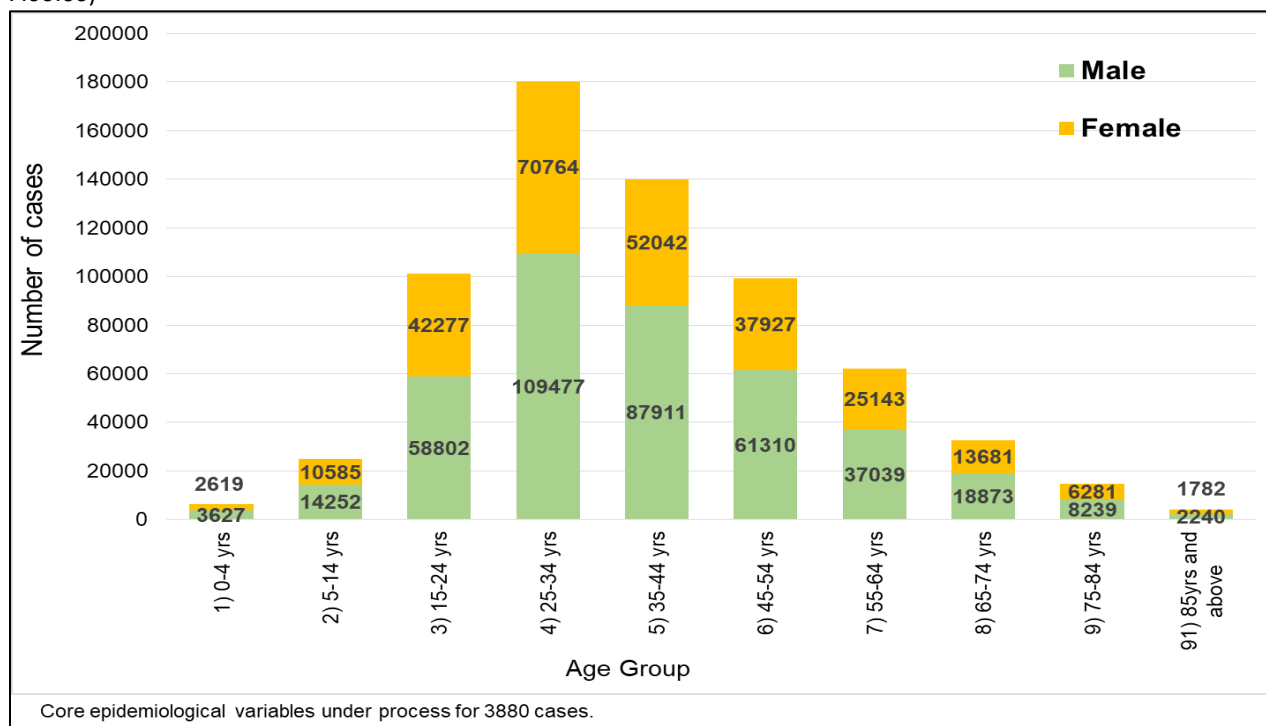
Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases RTPCR Tests	Total Confirmed cumulative cases Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Total confirmed cases in last 14 days Antigen RDT test	Total confirmed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

**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.

Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 664871) (Data reported on 20 July 2021 up to 7:00:00)



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)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	6246	13	16	10	0.46
5-14 yrs	24837	12	7	9	0.08
15-24 yrs	101079	68	73	46	0.14
25-34 yrs	180241	323	203	102	0.29
35-44 yrs	139953	743	345	212	0.78
45-54 yrs	99237	1167	515	423	1.69
55-64 yrs	62182	1404	627	582	3.27
65-74 yrs	32554	1341	674	725	6.19
75-84 yrs	14520	932	495	544	9.83
85+ yrs	4022	389	213	187	14.97
Unknown	3880	16	6	10	0.57
National	668751	6408	3174	2850	1.43

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):

Episodes	Titles	Language	Links
45	Delta variant कोभिड-१९ को डेल्टा स्वरूप	Nepali	Link

- 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](#)).

- Videos, by the following health officials on the importance of antigen testing in the community, were shared:
 - Dr. Rajesh Sambhajirao Pandav, WHO Representative to Nepal: [Facebook link](#) | [Twitter Link](#) | [YouTube link](#)
 - Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Spokesperson, Ministry of Health and Population: [Facebook link](#) | [Twitter Link](#) | [YouTube link](#)
 - Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Spokesperson, Ministry of Health and Population: [Facebook link](#) | [Twitter Link](#) | [YouTube link](#)
 - Dr. Runa Jha, Director, National Public Health Laboratory: [Facebook link](#) | [Twitter Link](#) | [YouTube link](#)
 - Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Health and Population: [Facebook link](#) | [Twitter Link](#) | [YouTube link](#)
 - 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](#)):
 - *Daily Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring*,
 - Weekly COVID-19 EPI Dashboard, and
 - The latest *Weekly WHO Nepal COVID-19 Situation Update*.
- Infographics on the following topics were shared via WHO, Country Office for Nepal, social media:
 - Important notices on national COVID-19 immunization,
 - Importance of wearing a mask,
 - Prevention measures for COVID-19 at vaccination sites,
 - Debunking rumors of “Corona Guard”,
 - Preventive measures for COVID-19, even after the ease of lockdowns,
 - Preventive measures for COVID-19 at shops/business areas,
 - 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).



Joint handover of 1.25 Million masks to the DoHS by German embassy at airport. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal

- WHO Nepal also facilitated handover of 70 visibility jackets to EDCC on 13 July 2021 and 260 visibility jackets to DoHS on 19 July 2021.

WHO handover of visibility jackets to DoHS staff. Picture Credit- WHO Nepal



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.
- Dr Sunoor highlighted the need to discuss specific issues in smaller groups for more effective discussions.
- The Chair- Dr Roshan acknowledged the challenges of transporting vaccines and assured that coordination with army will be conducted to facilitate easier vaccine transport.
- Dr Roshan also mentioned the need to strengthen the storage capacity especially in Karnali Province and Province 2.
- 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 tele-medicine 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:
 - Micro planning including financing for the procurement of vaccination;
 - Training/orientations – to health personnel at various levels, local governments;
 - Provision of Logistics support – vehicle, cold chain boxes, delivery of vaccines, transportation of beneficiaries to the vaccination site;
 - Information Technology - registration, information communication, data management, IMU app etc;
 - 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](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

WHO Representative

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

Health Cluster Co-lead

Dr Sunoor Verma
Pillar Lead – Partner Coordination
WHO Country Office for Nepal
COVID-19 Response IMS
Email: sverma@who.int

WHO Incident Manager

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