HIGHLIGHTS

Nepal

• Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has issued standards for the service delivery of senior citizens in the context of COVID-19. (Click Here for information)
• MoHP has revised the guidelines for the management of health workers and other personnel directly involved in the treatment of COVID-19 patients. (Click Here for information)
• With the addition of two more laboratories, i.e. one in Jhapa district of Province-1 and another in Kathmandu district of Bagmati Province, a total of 40 designated COVID-19 testing laboratories are now functional in the country.
• All seven provinces and 77 districts have been affected by COVID-19 transmission. However, no cases have been reported for the last 14 days from 4 districts i.e. Manang, Mustang, Dolpa and Solukhumbu.

Regional/Global

• Access to basic handwashing facilities is an essential condition for schools to be able to operate safely amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet the latest data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) found that 43% of schools worldwide lacked access to basic handwashing with soap and water in 2019. UNICEF and partners have published a Framework for Reopening schools and guidance on hand hygiene, which compliments Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools and Considerations for school-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19.
• WHO has published updated guidance on home based care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and the management of their contacts. The document provides guidance on the issues to be considered when deciding whether or not to provide care for COVID-19 patients at home. It offers advice for health workers and caregivers providing care.
WHO has published the Emergency Global Supply Chain System (COVID-19) catalogue, which lists all medical devices, including personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, medical consumables, single-use devices, laboratory and test-related devices that may be requested through the COVID-19 Supply Portal.

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

- As of 19 August 2020, 07:00 hours, (week no. 34), a total of 28,255 COVID-19 cases were confirmed through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in the country. In the last 14 days, a total of 6,232 cases were reported, which is 23% of the total confirmed cases, and these cases were reported from 72 districts in all seven provinces.
- All seven provinces and 77 districts in the country have been affected by COVID-19 transmission. Six provinces, i.e. Provinces 1, 2, 5, Bagmati, Karnali and Sudurpaschhim, are having transmission as clusters of cases and Gandaki has sporadic case transmission.
- Nevertheless, doubling time has increased, indicating a slowing down of transmission compared to earlier periods.
- At present, three Provinces (Province-2, Bagmati Province and Province-5) are showing an upward trend. About 78% (21,906/28,255) of the cases are reported from four Provinces (Province-2, Bagmati, Province-5 and Sudurpaschhim).
- Overall, the sex and age distribution is highly skewed towards males, who constitute 82% (23,149/28,255) of the confirmed cases and of the males, 90% (20,894/23,149) are in the 15-54-year age group.
- A total of 114 deaths (89 males and 25 females) have occurred in the country - all between weeks 20 and 34. Out of 114 deaths, 77 persons (68%) had at least one or more known co-morbid conditions. The overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1%, and CFR progressively increases with age beyond 55 years to the range of 2% to 15%.
- While less than 1% of the confirmed COVID-19 cases are symptomatic at diagnosis across all age groups, the proportion of symptomatic cases progressively increases beyond 55 years of age in the range of 2% to 7%.
- Nepal has been able to keep COVID-19 transmission to sporadic or clustered cases in its first wave of transmission through effective quarantine or isolation of returnees to Nepal. However, at present, an increasing trend has been seen among the persons without a history of international travel, albeit some of them are indeed direct contacts of the returnees. A sensitive surveillance system with fully functional and strengthened contact tracing and follow-up system ("boots on the ground") would be critical now to detect the signs of community transmission and to control it quickly.
- As of 16 August 2020, a total of 615 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI)) have been tested for COVID-19, of which ten cases have tested positive (all of these positive cases are included in COVID-19 database).
- A total of 10 samples were tested for Influenza last week (10-16 August 2020) with all testing negative, of these two have tested positive for COVID-19.
Figure 1: Confirmed COVID-19 cases in South East Asia Region (Data updated on 16 August 2020 from global Weekly Epidemiological Update 1)

![Confirmed COVID-19 Cases](image1)

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 = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

![Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases](image2)

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 19 August 2020 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 = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

Figure 3: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and districts shaded by current transmission status (N = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

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.

1 dot = 10 cases (dot placed randomly within municipal boundary)
A district is shaded if there is at least one case in any municipality within the district confirmed within the past 14 days
Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces. (N = 28255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Province</th>
<th>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>2,299</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>14 (14)</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 2</td>
<td>8,223</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>8 (8)</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmati</td>
<td>3,357</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>13 (13)</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gandaki</td>
<td>1,876</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sporadic cases</td>
<td>11 (11)</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province 5</td>
<td>5,249</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>12 (12)</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnali</td>
<td>2,174</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>10 (10)</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudurpaschhim</td>
<td>5,077</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td>18 August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,255</strong></td>
<td><strong>114</strong></td>
<td>Cluster of cases</td>
<td><strong>77 (77)</strong></td>
<td><strong>18 August 2020</strong></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](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/2020-05-24-covidsitrep141-eng.pdf?sfvrsn=4)

**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/or 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
- Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 28109) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

Details for 146 cases are yet to come

Situation Update #18- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WHO Country Office for Nepal
Friday 21 August 2020
Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 28,255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 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 comorbid condition</th>
<th>Age specific case fatality ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yrs</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14 yrs</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 yrs</td>
<td>8803</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 yrs</td>
<td>8773</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 yrs</td>
<td>5009</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 yrs</td>
<td>2357</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 yrs</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 yrs</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 yrs</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ yrs</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>28255</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 = 28255) (Data updated on 19 August 2020 7:00:00)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Total confirmed cases</th>
<th>Asymptomatic</th>
<th>Symptomatic (n)</th>
<th>Symptomatic (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yrs</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-14 yrs</td>
<td>1180</td>
<td>1178</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 yrs</td>
<td>8803</td>
<td>8792</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 yrs</td>
<td>8773</td>
<td>8747</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 yrs</td>
<td>5009</td>
<td>4991</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 yrs</td>
<td>2357</td>
<td>2340</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 yrs</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 yrs</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84 yrs</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+ yrs</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>28255</td>
<td>28136</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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

• A high-level committee at the MOHP decided to ask all medical colleges to allocate one-third of the beds of their hospitals for COVID-19 cases.
• There has been an expansion of different COVID-19 designated hospitals, i.e. COVID-19 Clinics: 115; Level-1 hospitals: 23; Level-2 hospitals: 19 and Level-3 hospitals: 7.
  o Chitawan Medical College and College of Medical Sciences, Bharatpur have been upgraded to COVID-19 designated level-3 hospitals.
  o Yeti Hospital, Pvt. Ltd. Kalanki has been upgraded to level-2 hospital and Vayodha Hospital Pvt. Ltd. Balkhu has been designated as a level-1 hospital.
• Government of Nepal has been assessing the financial requirements for the next six months to further strengthen COVID-19 response.
• Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to stop issuing inter-district passes to vehicles considering the recent spike in coronavirus cases and has directed all 77 district administration offices not to issue passes, effective from 13 August until further notice.
• District Administration Officers have been granted discretionary powers to enforce strict administrative measures necessary to contain the COVID-19 situation as per Clause-2 (2) of the Infectious Disease Act-1964 in coordination with the District Corona Crisis Management Centre.
  o District Administration Offices (DAO) of Kathmandu Valley has issued a Prohibitory Order for one week effective from midnight of Wednesday 19 August 2020 to control the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Kathmandu Valley during recent days.
  o Similarly, as per media reports, several other districts have also imposed Prohibitory Orders.
• The following decisions by the Government of Nepal – Cabinet of Ministers are still valid:
  o Flights (domestic and international) suspension until 31 August 2020.
  o Hotels and restaurants serving only takeaway food.
  o Ground crossings Point of Entry (PoE) reduced from 20 to 10 at the Nepal-India border (i.e. Jhapa- Kakarvitta; Morang- Rani; Siraha – Marder; Rautahat – Gaur; Pasha – Birgunj; Rupandehi –Behaliya; Kapilvastu – Krishnanagar; Banke – Jamunaha; Kailali – Gaurifanta and Kanchanpur – Gaddachauki)
  o Offices functioning virtually till further guidance from District COVID-19 Crisis Management Centers is received.
  o Inter-district travel to and from high-burden districts (>200 cases) restricted.
  o Schools to remain closed until further notice.

What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

• WHO provided technical assistance to the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) supported the development SOPs for validation of Thermofisher Extraction Kit and FOSUN PCR kit; and PT panel for COVID-19 laboratories.
• Two hospitals (Narayani and Lumbini) have started Xpert Xpress SARs-CoV-2 testing.
• Protocol for nation-wide sero-prevalence survey for COVID-19 to be conducted with EDCD completed for final endorsement by the Nepal Health Research Council.
• WASH and Education clusters supported to develop guidelines for cleaning and disinfection of schools after reopening in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.
• WHO teams of field personnel, deployed to all 7 provinces to support Provincial Health Directorates and local government and health cluster partners, have started participating in bi-weekly internal WCO IMS virtual call/meeting to discuss the issues and way forwards to strengthen technical assistance to Government of Nepal for COVID-19 response.
• WHO has supported the development of a web portal (mewellnepal.org.np) to help health care providers in taking care of their mental health.
• In collaboration with the COVID-19 Crises Management Center (CCMC), Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) and MoHP Incident Management System (IMS), the registration forms that have been developed by the CCMC for being used at the health desks of the PoEs have been modified with additional features suggested from the WCO, loaded on tablets and handed over for real-time data entry. The Health Desks are being operationalized.
• WHO continues to provide short summaries, to the Secretary of Health, of the recently updated and released WHO technical guidance documents, which are also translated into Nepali.
• Critical messages flagging the issue of stigmatization have been shared as "Anurodh" (Translation in English: Appeal) from WCO Nepal to the Ministry of Health and Population MoHP) for the daily live press briefing.
• The following interview of Dr Jos Vandelaer, WHO Representative to Nepal was published:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>TITLE (NEPALI)</th>
<th>PUBLICATION</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LANGUAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>अन्य देशको अनुभवलाई हेदा नेपालमा पनि सङ्ग्राम दर अझै बढ्न सक्छ : डा जोस भ्यान्देनलयर [अन्तवांर्ा]</td>
<td>Nepal Live (Web Story)</td>
<td>Link</td>
<td>12 August</td>
<td>Nepali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Ongoing technical support for national COVID-19 logistics forecasting, quantification, costing, procurement plan and distribution plan with additional updates.
• Development of the design and layout of the Emergency Health Facility (EHF) in collaboration with WFP engineering team has been completed with cost estimation from WFP focusing on the construction and from WHO focusing on the operations.
• Facility layout for exit screening finalized and incorporated in the CCMC demonstration of the MoHP endorsed Health Desk prototype at Points of Entry.
• Continued work on completing the COVID-19 information gathering survey tool under COVID-19 forecasting and supply chain strengthening project (Empower School of Health).
What are the health cluster partners doing?

• Regular health sector coordination for COVID-19 and monsoon emergency response has been ongoing, weekly coordination meeting with COVID-19 hospitals and Provincial Health Directorate Offices; and health cluster partners have been continuing every Tuesdays and Thursdays.
• Weekly provincial health cluster coordination meetings are ongoing at each of the provinces for managing monsoon and COVID-19 response.
• Health cluster partners, including Reproductive Health sub-cluster, mental health sub-cluster have been continuing their support for COVID-19 and non-COVID emergency response interventions throughout the country.

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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