

Virtual Seventh Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
21 May 2020 -THURSDAY (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Lead of the Health Cluster and co-chaired by Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Co-lead of the Health Cluster. Distinguished officials from the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Health Coordination Team and Provincial teams from all the provinces, and health partners from more than 51 agencies attended the meeting virtually. Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk facilitated the meeting.

TIME	Seventh Health Cluster Coordination Meeting Kathmandu, Nepal 21 May 2020 -THURSDAY (2:00 – 4:00 pm) Agenda Items												
14:00	1. Welcome, opening and key update from MOHP: Dr Gunaraj Lohani Chair/Lead 2. COVID-19 Epidemiological Situation: Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, EDCD 3. Overall logistics briefing: Mr. Bhogendra Dotel, Director, MD 4. Follow-up action points and brief presentation from partners: Dr Lungten Wangchuk, Co-Chair												
To	5. Provincial Update – (Province 1,2,3,4,5,6,7) facilitated by Dr Samir Kumar Adhikari, HEOC. ONLY ONE SLIDE FROM EACH PROVINCE as per the following structure:												
15:00	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Province Name</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Key achievements & Innovations if any</th> <th style="width: 50%;">KEY ASKS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Province Name		Key achievements & Innovations if any	KEY ASKS	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4
Province Name													
Key achievements & Innovations if any	KEY ASKS												
1	1												
2	2												
3	3												
4	4												
	6. Summary of the meeting followed by discussions/questions: by Co-chair 7. Comments/answers: by Advisors and Chair 8. Closing by Chair												




Synopsis of the meeting:

Dr. Lohani welcomed all the participants to the meeting and provided brief updates on the responses of MoHP to manage and control COVID-19. The details of tests and isolation/quarantine of COVID-19 cases as of 20 May 2020 were also provided.

Dr. Lohani thanked all the countries and organizations for providing continued support to MoHP through “One Door Mechanism” for COVID-19 response. He also informed that a patient profile format to admit COVID-19 patient in COVID hospitals has been developed thereby providing uniformity in case identification and information recording and reporting of COVID-19 cases. He further informed that health standards for quarantine facilities and the health standards to be maintained by all the people within quarantine facilities has also been formulated which will help break the transmission of COVID-19 within the quarantine facilities and provide safe environment for the people living within the quarantine facilities.


As of 20 May 2020
Total PCR sites: 19
Total PCR tests done: 35494 (average of more than 2000 per day in past week)
Total PCR positive: 427
Total active cases: 380
Total discharged: 45 (10 in past week)
Total RDT performed: 75072 (average of more than 2000 per day in past week)
Total isolation beds: 3349
Total people in isolation: 380
Total quarantine beds: 67419
Total people in quarantine: 23202

Dr. Basudev Pandey, Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) provided updates on epidemiology of COVID-19 in Nepal and the support EDCD had been providing to provinces for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing (CICT). Mr. Bhogendra Dotel, Director, Management Division (MD) of Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) presented details of the logistic forecast using 5000 case scenarios for different levels. He also presented details on demand, supply, and stock of different COVID-19 logistics with gaps in COVID-19 logistics for different hospitals and laboratories. He focused on the expansion of eLMIS and active role of Provincial Health Logistic Management Center to optimally fulfill the COVID-19 logistics demand from different hospitals and laboratories. Clear need, haves and gaps for one-month forecast were also presented.

Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair then provided brief updates from partners for COVID-19 response. She thanked different health partners for their support and stressed that along with the previous key asks (protective and laboratory logistics, continuation of basic/essential services and community engagement) there has been recent need to address returnee issues, quarantine issues, etc.. She also reiterated the key ASKs by the chair: PCT-testing kits, PPE, Expansion of the Isolation ward in in Seti, Surkhet, Bheri, Lumbini, Janakpur, Narayani, and Koshi hub hospitals, support for training and mobilization of case investigation and contact tracing teams (CICTT) at local level and addressing need of the health component of quarantine setting such as test, health checkup and hygiene support.

Following the health partners presentation, Provincial Health Cluster leads provided the provincial updates, activities, key issues and their way forward. The major issues from the provinces were:

- Management, testing and quarantine of returnees with management of quarantine facilities
- PCR testing issues (machine, lab reagent, RNA extraction kits)
- Inadequate human resources for PCR laboratories
- Incompetent human resources for CICT and need for training



- Lack of involvement of private hospitals/medical colleges in COVID-19 response particularly for case management in province five. If possible, requested for reclassification of COVID-19 hospitals level 2 and 3 including some of the private hospitals
- Inadequate protective commodities like PPE (goggles, masks -N95, face shields, gowns) for both COVID and non-COVID (basic and essential)-health services
- Need for clear guidelines for management of asymptomatic cases as majority of cases are asymptomatic

However, some of the provinces reported that they had forecasted different logistics requirement using different COVID-19 case scenario and preparation started to certain extent particularly province four.

Dr. Suresh Tiwari, Advisor stressed that continued support is required on COVID-19 supplies especially logistics for testing and protection. He also focused on the support for expansion of isolation in COVID hospitals and capacitating human resources required in the community or within the hospitals for COVID response at local levels.

- Dr. Lohani before ending the meeting provided some response to the provincial issues raised: **Quarantine and testing of returnees:** Dr. Lohani suggested the provinces for optimal use of testing and asked the provinces to test returnees based on science and incubation period as per guidelines.
- **Case Investigation and Contact Tracing:** He requested provinces to follow guidelines developed by MoHP for formation and distribution of different teams for COVID-19 responses and asked the provinces to work with the local level on the same. He also requested local level to comply with the provinces.
- **Health Care Services in quarantine:** He informed that the health-related standards for quarantine facilities are to ensure minimal transmission of COVID-19 within quarantine facilities and suggested provinces to ensure presence of health personnel within the facility 24 hours with minimum of two check-ups of all the quarantined per day. He also suggested that quarantine facilities to have oxygen cylinders, contact with hospitals and ambulance services if required for emergency transportation of quarantine person for hospitalization.
- **High asymptomatic cases:** Dr. Lohani informed that since major cases are asymptomatic, her needs to be alternate management guidelines for those cases and this will be worked out including but not limited to home isolation. .
- **Provincial Incident Command System:** He emphasized on the importance of stronger response team in health emergencies at provincial levels and instructed all provinces to activate Incident Command System at provincial level and report regularly to the central ICS from PHEOC.

Decisions/Action points:

- Evidence based testing of returnees
- Formation and training of CICT teams at provincial and local levels
- Improve and maintain health-related standards of quarantine facilities
- Optimal use of available resources for COVID-19 case management
- Regular reporting of provincial ICS to the HEOC

Key asks form partners:

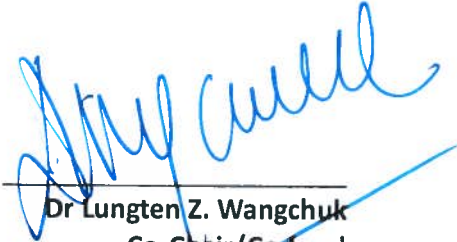
- Testing kits-RTPCR reagents
- Personal Protective Equipment(PPE)
- Expansion of Isolation ward in Seti, Surkhet, Bheri, Lumbini, Janakpur, Narayani, and Koshi hub hospitals
- Support in the training and mobilisation of Case Investigation and Contract Tracing Team (CICTT) at local level
- Testing, Health check-up and hygiene support in quarantine

Signed by the Chair:



Dr Gunaraj Lohani
Chair/Lead

22 May 2020



Dr Lungten Z. Wangchuk
Co-Chair/Co-Lead