

**Virtual Tenth Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
11 June 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. More than 60 partners attended the meeting virtually. The Co-Chair facilitated the meeting.

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Agenda Items**

Agenda Items	Responsible	Time
Welcome and Update	Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Chair-Health Cluster	14:00-14:05
COVID-19 Epidemiological Situation	Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, EDCD	14:05- 14:10
Follow-up action points and brief updates from partners	Dr. WANGCHUK, Lungten (Zangmo) Co-chair	14:10-14:20
Coronavirus disease (COVID -19) Research In Nepal	Dr. Pradip Gyanwali, Executive Member Secretary, Nepal Health Research Council and MOHP ICS Research Pillar	14:20-14:30
Summary of the meeting followed by discussions/questions	Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-Chair <i>Advisors MoHP and Chair (answers/comments to the questions)</i>	14:30 -14:35
Discussions/Questions	All	14:35-14:45
Comments/Answers to the questions	Advisors/Chair	15:45 – 14:55
Conclusion and closing	Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, Chair-Health Cluster	14:55-15:00

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 10 June 2020 were also provided.

Dr. Lohani informed about the endorsement of different guidelines ie. "Minimum standards for the logistics supported from different donor/ supporting organization to Ministry of Health and Population for COVID-19, 2077 BS" and "National Testing Guidelines for COVID-19". He requested all the donor/supporting organizations to provide support for COVID-19 maintaining the minimum standards following one door mechanism. He thanked:

As of 10 June 2020
 Total PCR sites: **21**
 Total PCR tests done: **110744**
 (average of more than 4300 per day in past week)
 Total PCR positive: **4364**
 Total active cases: **3675**
 Total discharged: **674**
 Affected districts: **72**
 Deaths: **15**
 Total RDT performed: **172880**
 Total isolation beds: **5397**
 Total people in isolation: **3675**
 Total quarantine beds: **238783**
 Total people in quarantine: **172266**



- The employees of NABIL Bank Limited for providing Ministry of Health and Population a cheque with an amount of Nepalese Rupee Twenty-six lakhs, twenty-eight thousand, eight hundred and sixty-eight for COVID-19 response.
- And all the countries and organizations for providing response support to MoHP for COVID-19 management.

On the national testing guidelines for COVID-19, Dr. Lohani mentioned that the testing guideline have been amended/updated based on the WHO's latest clinical guidelines and assured that it would be accepted with time.

Dr. Basudev Pandey, Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) presented epidemiological updates on COVID-19 cases in Nepal. Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair then provided brief updates from partners and their supports on COVID-19 response. She requested all partners to provide continued support with major focus on health of returnees, improving quarantine environment, logistics for PCR tests, support to CICT teams and PPEs which are the key asks from the MoHP. Dr. Pradip Gyanwali, Executive Member Secretary, Nepal Health Research Council and MoHP ICS Research pillar provided with the list of researches on COVID-19 that are planned. NHRC provided with the result of the study that was conducted to assess the preparedness and readiness of Government of Nepal designated COVID hospitals and Hospitals-running-COVID clinics for COVID-19 related services. From the study findings, NHRC recommended strengthening of infrastructures especially - supply of PCR machine, establishment of laboratory facilities, increasing isolation facilities, proper management of IPC and orienting on COVID-clinics and dead body management for COVID-19 response.

After these presentations, Dr. Lohani opened the floor for discussions/Q&A session. He provided following response to queries raised by partners during Q&A session.

- Regarding the question on how to increase the daily number of PCR tests Dr. Lohani informed that one automated PCR machine is to be installed in each province in two weeks' time to meet the target and asked partners to support with required PCR logistics for the same.
- On questions regarding status and environment of quarantine Dr. Lohani informed that the quarantine is to be managed by local government with coordination of Nepal Army in accordance to the guidelines. MOHP is updating the health component of the quarantine guidelines and comments on nutrition and health are welcome. MOHP will review and incorporate the feedback in the guidelines.
- Regarding question asked on PCR test kits being stocked out, Dr Lohani mentioned that government is trying their best to address this, and partners are also requested to step in where possible.
- Dr. Lohani provided answer to the question on cost of PCR in private institutions that two options are being discussed, the first being fixing a price for the test by ministry and the other being reimbursing private institutions the cost of human resources and others as PCR logistics would be provided by the government.



After the answers from the chair, Dr. Lungten provided the key comments from the meeting.

- Dr. Lungten asked all the health partners to realign their support in line with the key asks particularly PCT-test, Health in quarantine and PPE, etc.
- She also asked all health partners to provide with health-related inputs for updating the quarantine management guidelines on time .
- She also informed that there are many other clusters who could provide help to local government for improving the health situation at the quarantine and thus requested them to join in the assistance and support as well.
- She also mentioned that the key strategic support by health partners in recent times would be logistics for laboratories, PPEs and support to COVID/Hub hospitals for the management of isolation facilities for COVID-19 management.

Decisions/Action points:

- Continue COVID-19 protective and diagnostic logistics support
- Provide comment/input to update the 'Health quarantine guideline'
- Assist in continuation of health services

Signed by the Chair:



Dr Gunaraj Lohani
Chair/Lead



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

15 June 2020