

Virtual SECOND Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
16 April 2020 -THURSDAY (2:00 – 3:30 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. Health coordination team from Province 2 were also present in the meeting. 102 members from different organizations were invited for the virtual meeting of which seventy-five (75) members participated in the meeting virtually. Dr Suresh Tiwari, advisor for MOHP also attended the meeting along with the chair and the co-chair (List of onsite and virtual participants attached).

Draft AGENDA	
TIME	AGENDA ITEM
14:00 to 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks: Dr Gunaraj Lohani, Chair/Lead • Update from MOHP: Dr Gunaraj Lohani (Chair/Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of last meeting's decision ○ Update on the new cases ○ MOHP COVID response contingency plan in progress ○ Announcement of MOHP Focal Point for Provincial Coordination ○ Update from Province 2 • Update from partners and status of Provincial V coordination meeting - Dr Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Co-Chair • Comments from Advisors, MOHP • Quick update from partners, verbal if not covered by Co-chair's presentation • Any additional comments by Chair and Advisors • Way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement on frequency of the Virtual Health Cluster Coordination meeting • AOB




Synopsis of the meeting:

Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, the chair welcomed all the participants and provided brief update of the situation.

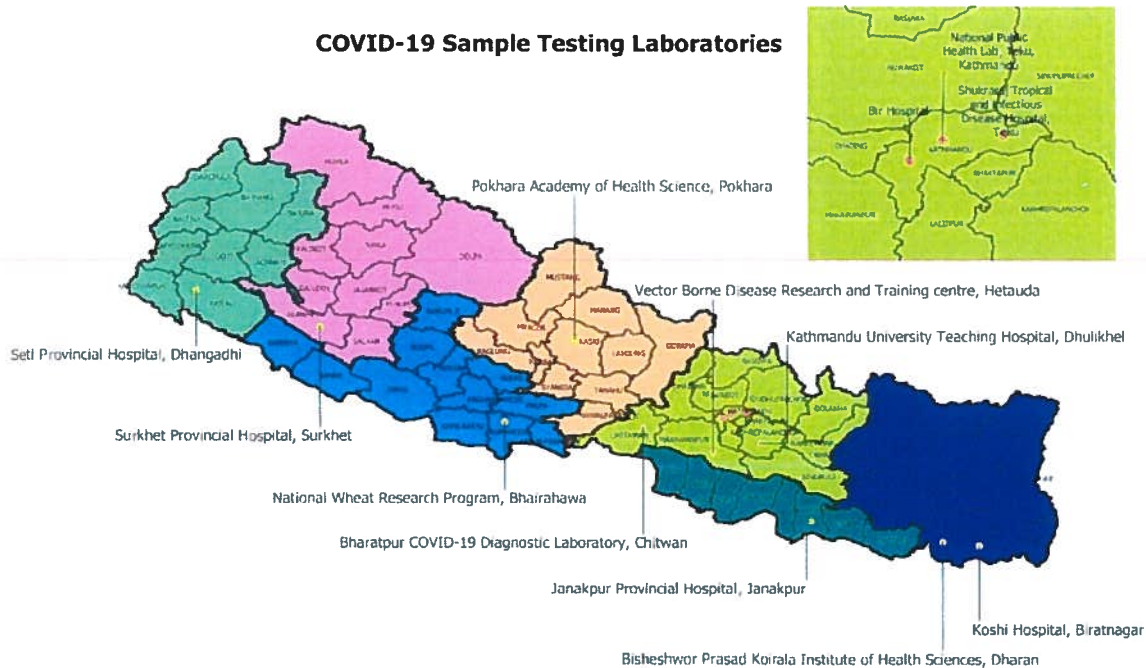
He provided the recent updates on policy, laboratory status and testing, risk communication and information sharing, COVID-19 surveillance, contact tracing, Infection Prevention and Control measures, COVID-19 case management, and logistics and supply.

He informed that MoHP has endorsed COVID and non COVID service guidelines (with the hospital list) to ensure continuity of essential health care services at different levels. The COVID hospitals providing COVID related services based on the case severity and non COVID hospitals providing other essential health services are outlined the guidelines. He also informed that MOHP is finalizing the Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for COVID-19 Pandemic. He also emphasized on **6 Ts** (Travel restriction, Testing, Tracing, Tracking, Treatment and Together) to control the transmission. He also informed that two additional testing sites (Birgunj and Surkhet) will be upgraded with PCR testing facilities which will ramp up testing sites to total of 15 locations performing COVID-19 PCR tests. Different locations currently performing PCR tests are as follows:

As of 15 April 2020

Total PCR tests performed = **6871**
 Total PCR positive cases = **16**
 PCR result awaited = **337**
 Total RDT tests performed = **8929**
 Suspected people in isolation wards = 11 (central designated hospital) + 106 = **117**
 Total beds available in quarantine facilities = **29730**
 People in quarantine facilities = **5614**

COVID-19 Sample Testing Laboratories



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Stressing on the importance of tests for COVID-19, Dr Lohani also informed that RDT has been provided to all the districts to perform the RDT as appropriate.

Dr Lohani also informed that three sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Package A, B and C, has been designed to supply different levels of hospital as per their need. He also informed that guidelines have also been endorsed for the proper usage of PPE in the hospital setting. He also thanked all the health partners and different organizations who are helping MoHP in responding to COVID-19. The chair requested the Co-Chair to update and present on behalf of health cluster partners.

Dr. Lungten Wangchuk presented the partners contribution for COVID-19 response. Partners were requested to provide their input based on the **Top 11 Asks** of MoHP as presented by MoHP advisor in the previous meeting. In addition, she also provided the lists of logistics support that will be provided by the health partners as per the three-top urgent asks in the last HC meeting as soon as the flight operations issues are sorted. She also briefly presented the support provided by the health partners in supporting essential service continuity as well as COVID-19 response at the grass root level. In addition, she informed that the contribution of all partners having their own funding will be collected through the common Donor Coordination Matrix that is maintained by the EDP Chair and this will be also shared with the Chair of the Health Cluster and advisor of the MoHP every Tuesdays and Fridays. This will enable one door partners' coordination information as per one of the 11 key asks in the first HC meeting. The sheet will be shared for information collection with the HC partners. The health cluster partners, who have their own funding can fill this Coordination Matrix and send to kathmanduhfp@usaid.gov. This will help avoid duplication of information and enable one-door coordinated information flow.

The co-chair proposed that the provincial health cluster representatives and provincial health directors to join the health cluster meeting every Thursdays at the same time so that problems and issues if any, at the provincial level can be put up to the chair of the health cluster for possible solutions in a coordinated manner. The chair agreed to the proposal and from next HC meeting, all provincial health cluster representatives and provincial health director will join the regular HC meeting. Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari was designated by the chair as the MoHP focal point for provincial health cluster coordination mechanism.

The chair also informed that for all logistics for COVID-19 arriving by flights, letters of Tax exempt and release from air-port will be issued to facilitate logistic release for now. Once the normal air transport resumes, a person will be identified to be there at the airport for this specific purpose.

Director, Provincial Health Directorate, Province 2. Mr. Bijaya Jha from Province 2 informed that, as per government decision they also are conducting contract tracing and testing. He requested



more PPEs, tests and requested for PCR testing facility at Janakpur Hospital and Gajendra Narayan Singh Hospital.

Dr. Harish Chandra Shah, Director highlighted the following difficulties faced by the Province:

- People are travelling to Hetauda and Dharan for health care services which is far from their homes
- Porous border is posing problems controlling people's movement and is a big threat, so needs complete control of these porous border
- Low laboratory capacity for testing COVID-19 as an issue and need to expand testing
- Lockdown affecting marginalized and poor people for their daily livelihoods
- In Province 2, there are very less number of health partners and EDPs present and needs support

The chair ensured that laboratory tests for COVID-19 will be strengthened in all the provinces. He informed that as per the request, the requested RDTs supplied to provinces and expansion of test are looked into

On response to the query of nutrition and other services not being included in the interim guideline, advisor for MoHP Dr Tiwari stressed that the interim guidelines is a summarized form, does not supersede other existing guidelines for the continuation of services. Hence, essential services must be continued. On the query about 'health services from any hospital and the harmful affect to vulnerable populations like pregnant health care service providers', Dr. Lohani clarified that the COVID and non-COVID services are to be provided separately and the hospital providing COVID services should maintain security of their staff including the vulnerable ones.

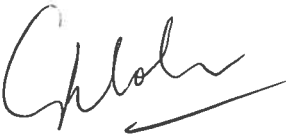
Mr. Kedar Prasad Parajuli, Chief, Nutrition Section of Family Welfare Division thanked Dr. Lohani for his leadership role on conducting/managing the health cluster meeting and thanked WHO for partners presentation. He suggested that MOHP needs vs gaps on availability of the PPEs and other logistics comparison will be helpful to understand the holistic picture from the next meeting. He also stressed on extensive use of HealthApp produced by MOHP and requested to including a tab for nutrition. He also requested an official circular to hospitals/health facilities on their respective roles as per the new guidelines.



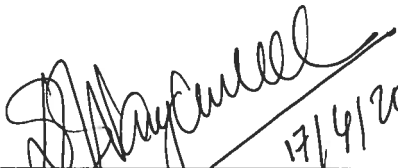
Decisions/Action point:

- Joint Health Cluster Coordination Meeting (Federal and Provincial) will be organized together weekly on every Thursdays 14:00 – 15:00 hours.
- All partners *having their own funding* to use one door information the “Donor Coordination Matrix” and send to kathmanduhfp@usaid.gov so that the health cluster can use this as a common information
- Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari designated as focal person from MoHP to support Provincial Health Cluster Coordination mechanism.
- Requests all partners, health facilities to follow the interim COVID and Non-COVID health service guidelines for the continuation of health services.
- Next meeting will present on the Need Vs. what we have, particularly related to logistics including PPEs.

Signed by the Chair:



Dr Gunaraj Lohani
Chair/Lead
17/4/2020



Dr Lungten Z. Wangchuk
Co-Chair/Co-Lead
17/4/2020

17 April 2020