

Virtual Sixth Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
14 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. Health Coordination Team from all the Provinces were also included in the meeting. Dr. Suresh Tiwari, Advisor, MOHP, Dr. Gunanidhi Sharma, Senior Public Health Administrator, Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari, Chief, HEOC were also present in the meeting. Dr. Basudev Pandey, Director, EDCD virtually presented on COVID-19 information management. The meeting was attended by more than 51 agencies, all seven provincial teams, all relevant officials of the MoHP. Dr Samir Kumar Adhikari, Chief, HEOC and Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk co-facilitated the meeting.

AGENDA for 6th Health Cluster Coordination Meeting 14 May 2020											
TIME	AGENDA ITEMS										
14:00 To 15:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome Remarks: Dr Gunaraj Lohani, Chair/Lead 2. Opening & key update from MOHP: Dr Gunaraj Lohani Chair/Lead 3. COVID-19 Information management (collation, analysis and dissemination) at Epidemiology and Diseases Control Division (EDCD): Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, EDCD 4. Action points last meeting and brief presentation from partners: Dr Lungten Wangchuk, Co-Chair 5. Provincial Update – (Province 7,6,5,4,3,2,1) Facilitated by Dr Samir Kumar Adhikari, HEOC. <p>ONE SLIDE as per the following structure:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Province Name</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Issues</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Solution</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> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Key Asks and comments by Advisors and Chair 7. Summary of the meeting by Co-chair 8. Closing by Chair 	Province Name		Issues	Solution	1	1	2	2	3	3
Province Name											
Issues	Solution										
1	1										
2	2										
3	3										




Synopsis of the meeting:

Dr. Lohani welcomed all the participants and provided brief update from MOHP. The details of tests and isolation/quarantine of COVID-19 cases as of 13 May 2020 were also provided. Dr. Lohani also informed that the followings have been endorsed in the past week which would help provinces as well as health care service providers to manage COVID-19 cases.

- Health Sector Emergency Response Plan: COVID-19 Pandemic, May 2020 was endorsed by the MoHP
- Guidelines for COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Team Deployment and
- Pocket Book for Infection Prevention and Control Measures for COVID-19 in the Healthcare Setting were also endorsed.

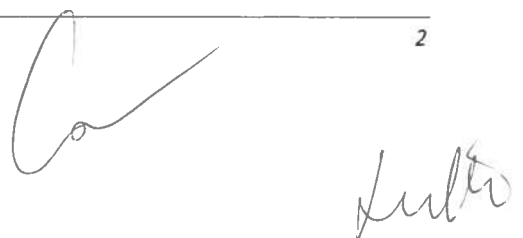
The chair thanked all health sector members including America Nepal Medical Foundation Nepal, The Swiss Government, through the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and Government of China for their generous support for this response. He re-iterated health partners to provide support for COVID-19 through "One door mechanism", even if they are providing support to the local levels. The chair stressed that the key asks of MoHP still are the COVID-19 related protective equipments and laboratory supplies (PPE sets, gowns, N95 masks, googles, face shields, VTMs, RNA Extraction kits and PCR-reagents), continuation of basic and essential health services along with COVID-19 services and risk communication and community engagement.

Dr. Lohani requested Dr. Gunanidhi Sharma to present the Health Sector COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan. Dr. Sharma explained briefly about the plan explaining its objectives, methodology, assumptions, and estimated budget based on different scenarios. He also informed that the plan is a dynamic and modifiable plan as per evolving evidences and best practices. Following Dr. Sharma, Dr. Basudev Pandey, Director, EDCD provided updates on case investigation and contact tracing (CICT), total cases and contacts, data entry mechanism and the support EDCD has been providing to provinces for Case Investigation and Contract Tracing (CICT).

After these presentations, Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair provided brief updates from partners and sub-clusters for COVID-19 response. She also thanked health sector partners for their continuous support and requested them to provide similar supports through one door mechanism.

Dr Samir facilitated the provincial presentation and all Provincial Health Cluster leads provided the updates, key issues and way forward.

As of 13 May 2020
Total PCR sites: 19 (Narayani Hospital, Birgunj newly added)
Total PCR tests done: 21,340 (average of more than 1000 per day in past week)
Total PCR positive: 219
Total active cases: 184
Total discharged: 35 (13 in past week)
Total RDT performed: 60,319 (average of more than 1000 per day in past week)
Total isolation beds: 3,198
Total people in isolation: 245
Total quarantine beds: 51,539
Total people in quarantine: 14,313



The major issues from the provinces were:

- Inadequate protective commodities like PPE (goggles, masks -N95, face shields, gowns) for both COVID and non-COVID (basic and essential) health services
- Inadequate PCR testing logistics (lab reagent, RNA extraction kits)
- Inadequate human resources (laboratory)
- Alternate/Additional sites for PCR testing
- MR campaign conduction
- Mental health during COVID-19
- Coordination issues (between three level of government)
- Transportation issues
- Reimbursement of expenses for the management of quarantine
- Issues related to guideline for prisoners' placement and surgeries during COVID-19
- For the cross-border provinces, influx of people in quarantine centers with no clear guidelines on how to manage them and resource constraint is a big issue and clear guidance and additional resources are being sought.

The co-chair then summarized the key asks from MoHP as well as provinces as protective and testing commodities, support in mental health issues related to COVID-19 public health and social measures, continuation of non-COVID health services while responding to COVID-19. She also stressed on the focused risk communication and strong community engagement/empowerment as Government adjusts the public health and social measures.

Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, then responded queries raised by the Provincial Health Teams.

- Management of quarantine is to be done following the guideline "Standards for implementing and managing quarantine for COVID-19, 2076".
- Several queries received on management of quarantine sites in Province 5. Please monitor, discuss in the quarantine management committee and manage accordingly following approved quarantine standards.
- With the operation of Train Services in India, there will be huge influx of population in the border, chances of crossing will remain high. Consider this in your provincial planning.
- People in the quarantine are to be released/discharged if they have negative RDT result after 14 days of stay.
- The management of the tests that are set as criteria for the release/discharge of quarantined people should be done by the provinces themselves.
- He also notified that a Quarantine Health Form will be developed and shared with all the provinces for finalization.
- He also stressed on the importance of CICT to know the flow of transmission of COVID-19 and requested the provinces to be active in case investigations and contact tracing.

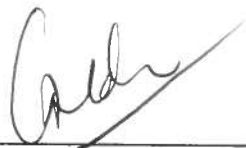


Dr. Lohani thanked all the COVID and non-COVID frontline workers for providing uninterrupted health services as well as thanked partners for supporting the COVID-19 response. He re-emphasized health partners for their continuous support through one door mechanism.

Decisions/Action points:

- Strictly follow one door mechanism when providing and reporting of COVID-19 response supports at all levels
- Provinces are requested to prepare the list of hospitals with number and type of beds allocated for COVID response as per the format provided by HEOC.
- Provinces are requested to report on the Provincial ICS at HEOC

Signed by the Chair:



Dr Gunaraj Lohani
Chair/Lead

17 May 2020



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