

**Virtual Fourteenth Health Cluster Coordination Meeting**  
**Kathmandu, Nepal**  
**9 July 2020 -THURSDAY (2:00 – 3:00 pm)**

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Jageswor Gautam, Lead of the Health Cluster and co-chaired by Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk, Co-lead of the Health Cluster. Dr. Lungten welcomed Dr. Gautam as the new chair for the Health Cluster Coordination Meeting. More than 40 health partners attended the meeting virtually. Dr. Lungten Z. Wangchuk facilitated the meeting.

**Agenda for #14 Health Cluster Coordination Meeting**  
**9 July 2020**

Agenda Item	Responsible	Time
Welcome and Update	Dr. Jageswor Gautam, 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. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair, WHO	14:10-14:15
COVID-19 response support from Centre for Mental Health and Counselling (CMC) Nepal	Dr. Pashupati Mahat, Technical Advisor	14:15-14:20
Summary of the meeting followed by discussions/questions	Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair, WHO; Advisors MoHP and Chair ( answers/comments to the questions)	14:20-14:25
Discussions/Questions	All	14:25-14:35
Comments/Answers to the questions	Advisors/Chair	14:35-14:40
Conclusion and closing	Dr. Jageswor Gautam, Chair-Health Cluster	14:40-14:55

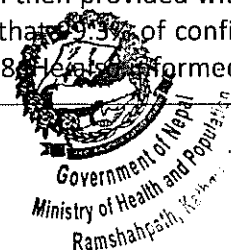
**Synopsis of the meeting**

Dr. Gautam 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 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were also provided. He informed about the endorsement and revision of different guidelines for COVID-19 response as per the needs and requirements. Interim guidelines regarding the **flow of essential health and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities in the context of COVID-19** had been issued, **health related arrangements for the persons in quarantine** was revised and **Health Care Waste Management in the context of COVID-19 Emergency, 2020 (Interim Guidance)** had been endorsed. He further informed that **Health standards for isolation of COVID-19 cases, 2077** and **Directives for amendment to the existing directives on reimbursement to hospitals treating COVID-19 cases, 2077** had been endorsed by cabinet of ministers. He also thanked Nepal Ayurved Druggist Association (NADA) and Bhoire Nepal for Ayurvedic medicines and nutritional items support to distribute to people in quarantine.

**As of 8 July 2020**  
 Total PCR sites: 25  
 Total PCR tests done: **266,557** (average of 4761 per day in past week)  
 Total PCR positive: **16423** (an increase of 2377 in past week)  
 Total active cases: **8636** (in isolation)  
 Total discharged: **7752** (4096 in past week)  
 Affected districts: 77  
 Deaths: 35  
 Total isolation beds: **8716**  
 Total quarantine beds: **228871**  
 Total people in quarantine: **25040**

Dr. Basu Dev Pandey, Director, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division then provided with the time, place and person distribution of COVID-19 cases stressing the fact that 93% of confirmed cases and all deaths occurred between the epidemiological weeks 20 to 28. He also informed that





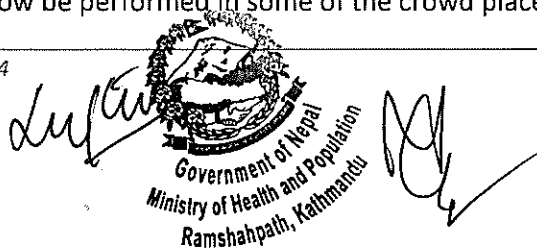
the COVID-19 cases in Nepal are either sporadic cases or cluster of cases. He also provided information about the outcome status of COVID-19 cases, age specific case fatality ratio and comorbidity deaths.

Dr. Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair also highlighted that the MoHP is doing all it can to ramp up number of PCR testing laboratories which had led to steady increase in the tests. She also provided a comparative distribution of COVID-19 cases in different countries in South East Asia. She then informed about the supports from different partners on COVID-19 response as well as informed that many health partners have planned for their support in the future aligning to the need. She thanked all the health partners for aligning their support to the key asks from MoHP as reiterated by the Chair in several meetings. She informed health partners to reach out to MoHP for specification of laboratory logistics if any partner is supporting laboratory logistics in order to provide compatible laboratory logistics support. She also informed that the roll-out of interim guidelines on RMNCAH is on-going at the provincial and local level.

Dr. Pashupati Mahat, Technical Advisor, Center for Mental Health and Counselling (CMC) Nepal then provided with the aim of CMC Nepal along with the different activities implemented by CMC Nepal for mental health in COVID-19 pandemic situation. Some of the major activities of the organization under the Mental Health and Psychological Support Sub-cluster in COVID-19 pandemic situation include tele-counseling, psychological first aid (PFA), stress management guidelines for all settings (individual, family, quarantine, safe houses, OCMC), development of Child and Adolescent COVID 19 mental health package with Kanti Children Hospital Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team, training and backstopping of frontline workers, mental health and psychosocial awareness and maintaining regular supply of psychotropic medicine at health facility/client level in coordination of local government and medicine suppliers. During the COVID 19 support, the organization identified increasing coordination between local and provincial level, continuous backstopping support and supervision of frontline workers, use of social and local media in creating COVID 19 awareness, telephone support/counseling and PFA to be effective means in providing mental health support.

Dr. Lungten thanked Dr. Mahat for his presentation and the activities the organization has been implementing through the mental health cluster which is critical in COVID-19 pandemic situation has affected socio-economic aspects of the people thereby leading to increased mental health related problems. She also informed about the strategic plan that is being formulated by mental health sub cluster to increase the reach of mental health services to all people of Nepal. She also requested partners to involve in mental health services as the issues in mental health have been critical in the COVID-19 response.

On query about the total number of active cases in Kathmandu valley, Dr. Gautam provided the number of active cases in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur. Dr. Manav, EDP chair raised questions on health waste management guideline as well as provincial implementation of the guideline and process of handling grievances be shared to which Dr. Lungten informed that all the guidelines endorsed have been uploaded to the MoHP website and asked all field level staffs to keep themselves updated on the guidelines. She also informed that provinces have been practicing IPC, waste and case management guidelines and cross-learning is being facilitated in the meetings that are held on Tuesdays. She also informed that the mental health sub-cluster will be connected to the meeting on Tuesdays as Dr. Mahat presented that coordination between local and provincial level is a must for improving the overall mental health of population in COVID-19 scenario. On the query on reduced number of tests and infected people in past week, Dr. Gautam informed that the number of tests decreased because of decreasing number of people in the quarantine settings. He also informed that the tests will now be performed in some of the crowd places like bank counters,



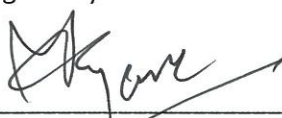
hospitals, emergencies, COVID clinics and high-risk pocket areas. He also provided the data of preliminary findings from some of the tested sites in Kathmandu and Lalitpur stating that all the samples tested in these sites were negative.

Before ending the meeting, Dr. Gautam thanked all the participants of the meeting for their presence and kind support in COVID-19 response. He also thanked Dr. Basu Dev Pandey and Dr. Pashupati Mahat for their presentations and urged everyone to work together in achieving a common goal of effective COVID-19 response.

#### Decision/Action points

- Provide support aligning to the key asks from MoHP using one door mechanism
- Reach to MoHP or HEOC for specifications about compatible laboratory items (reagents)
- Increase support in the areas of mental health

Signed by the Chair:



**Dr Jageswar Gautam**  
Chair/Lead

14 July 2020



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