

Virtual SECOND Health Cluster Coordination Meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal
23 April 2020 -THURSDAY (3:00 – 5:20 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. A total of 125 members participated in the meeting virtually. Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari, Chief of HEOC and Dr Suresh Tiwari, advisor, MOHP also attended the meeting along with the chair and the co-chair (List of onsite and virtual participants attached).

AGENDA for 3 rd Health Cluster Coordination Meeting 23 rd APRIL 2020	
TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
15:00 To 16:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome Remarks: Dr Gunaraj Lohani, Chair/Lead 2. Update from MOHP - Dr Gunaraj Lohani Chair/Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review of last meeting's decisions/action points ➤ Update on the new cases ➤ Update on surge human resource deployment to Provinces 3. Provincial Update - Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari, HEOC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Additional updates, if any, from provinces 4. Partners presentation - Dr Lungten Wangchuk, Co-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Status of commodities supported for COVID-19 (requirements verses support) ➤ Trend analysis of PCR test ➤ Update from RH & MH clusters 5. Quick update from partners verbal if not covered by Co-chair's presentation 6. Comments from Advisors, MOHP 7. Any additional comments by Chair and Advisors 8. AOB




Synopsis of the meeting:

Dr. Gunaraj Lohani, the Chair welcomed all the participants and provided the brief update from MOHP.

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

He informed that major activities have been conducted focusing on Testing, Tracing, Tracking, Treatment for COVID-19 response.

Number of PCR laboratories **testing** has increased to 15 locations, atleast one in each location. No cross-verification needed for the result of PCR test conducted at BPKIHS and Bheri Hospital. He also informed that human resources and logistics for **contact tracing, testing and COVID-19 management activities** have been mobilized targeting the areas with high number of COVID-19 positive cases. He also informed that there are **continuous tracking of people** who have returned from foreign countries. He stated that 34 MD/MS doctors from National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) were mobilized to different parts of Sudurpaschim Province to support **COVID-19 management and response**. He also provided information that the **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for COVID-19 hospitals and hospitals with COVID-19 clinics** were developed to guide the hospitals in **proper management of COVID-19 cases**. He is optimistic about control of COVID-19 as amidst rise in identification of COVID-19 cases, the number of positive cases who were recovered and discharged after treatment from hospital (total ten discharged this week) is a good encouragement.

Dr Lohani informed that a coordination team have been formed in each Provinces with the lead of the team sent by MoHP. Provincial Health Director, representative of MoSD are included in the team to coordinate and monitor the response and serve as link between the Province and the central level. He also informed that different guidelines have been endorsed for proper management of COVID-19 throughout the country. He thanked all the health cluster partners and different organizations who have been helping MoHP in supporting the COVID-19 in a coordinated manner.

Dr. Samir Kumar Adhikari (as focal point for provincial coordination) presented major activities, challenges, needs and proposed way forward from provinces. Majority of the needs on the ground are: commodities especially PPEs, N95 masks, ventilators, VTM, RDT, increase ICU facilities, technical human resources, guidelines/SOPs for the continuation of services etc.

After this presentation Dr. Lohani opened the floor for discussion and requested provincial team to add key points if that was not covered in the presentation. Director, from Provincial Health

As of 22 April 2020

Total PCR tests performed = 9014
Total PCR positive cases = 45
Total RDT performed = 31420
Total tests performed = 40434
Total isolation beds: 3126
Total beds available
in quarantine facilities = 34394
People in quarantine facilities = 8595
Suspected people
in isolation wards = 95

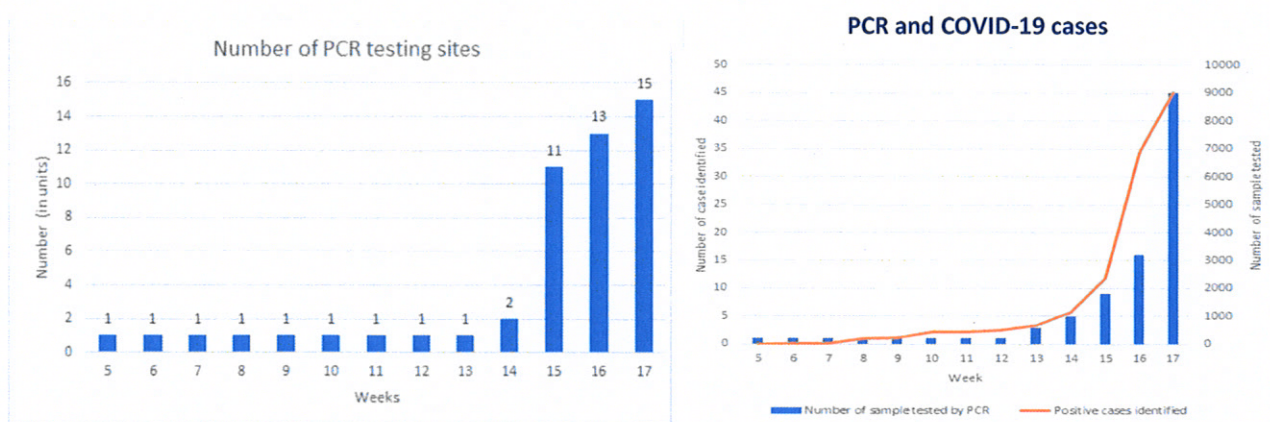
Offices briefly explained on what they are doing, what are the current needs for the provinces to manage the COVID-19 situation. The major queries, expectations and challenges put forward from the provinces were as follows:

- Clarity on use of RDT for COVID-19 testing
- Detail guidelines and SOP for lab, hospitals to manage the cases
- Logistics for laboratory (VTM and swab sticks)
- Clarity on the definition of different terms used and the proper guideline for contact tracing
- Clear guidelines for resumption of immunization services, basic health services
- Human resources for COVID-19 management/treatment
- Inter-ministerial coordination (MOHP, MOHA, MOFAGA) for effective implementation of directives
- Guideline for the mobilization of FCHVs
- Incentives for health personnel as per involvement in COVID-19 response
- Supply of logistics

Other participants in the virtual meeting provided with their issues and challenges and hoped for response from the federal level in following major areas:

- Infection Prevention Control measures
- Healthcare Waste Management
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene
- Basic infrastructure and IPC, Handwashing and HCWM in quarantine and isolation centers
- Integration of mental health and psychosocial supports in the response
- Tracing and tracking of the 3 cases in Narayani Hospital
- Inclusion of rehabilitation experts while drafting the clinical approach/guidelines on COVID-19
- Clear guidance on the contact tracing following RDT testing

Following the updates from provinces, Dr Lungten Wangchuk, Co-chair presented the partners' contribution for ongoing COVID-19 response. She presented the following figures on number of PCR testing sites and number of positive cases as of 22 April 2020.



Lungten Wangchuk

[Signature]

The lab capacity has been increased and facilities are available in each province. We can clearly visualize it that with the increase in testing sites across the country, we were able to test more, and so is the increase in number of cases and testing of one of the core strategies. In addition, she also presented the commodities needs, haves and gap based on the Health EDP COVID donor coordination matrix compiled by EDP Chair. Updates and recommendations from sub-clusters (Mental Health and Reproductive Health), Reproductive health cluster and challenges in service linkage during COVID-19 response prepared by Association of INGOs in Nepal (AIN) Health Working Group were also presented by the Co-lead. She thanked all partners who are continuing to work hard and contributing to COVID-19 response.

Dr Lohani then addressed many of the issues raised by Provincial leads as well as provided with some instructions to the provinces.

- He assured that guidelines for quarantine quality and management as well as incentives for COVID-19 health care service providers are nearly finalized and will be shared as soon as this is endorsed.
- He also advised that all the provinces to activate the Provincial Health Cluster Coordination Mechanism with Provincial Health Director as lead and WHO, PHOs as the co-leads.
- Regarding contact tracing, MOHP is preparing the guideline on “Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Team (CICTT)” which includes a minimum of public health professional, a lab technician and staff nurse/AHW in each team in all provinces. Number of CICTT is as follows:
 - Rural Municipality 1
 - Urban Municipality 2
 - Sub-Metropolitan City 3
 - Metropolitan City 5
- He also informed that there has been low availability of PPE, reagent and VTM at central level and thus requested all the provinces for their rational use.
- He also stated that the issues regarding FCHV and VTM stick will be verified and addressed accordingly.
- He also requested all partners providing logistics support, follow one door policy. All official request has to routed through HEOC to Management Division using ‘Health EDP Donor Coordination Matrix’ to avoid duplications.
- He also asked co-lead to develop and circulate a standard template to the provinces in order to forward their updates, issues, needs/way forwards and any innovative ideas.

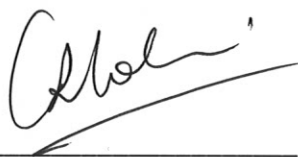


The Chair and Co-Chair then thanked all the participants for their presence in the meeting and ended the meeting.

Decisions/Action point:

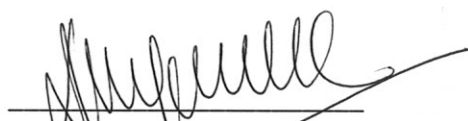
- Activation of Provincial Health Cluster Coordination Mechanism with Provincial Health Director as lead and WHO, PHOs as co-lead in each province.
- A standard template to be circulated to the provinces to forward their updates, issues, needs, way forwards and any innovative ideas
- All logistics supplies routed through one door information sheet, the Health EDP Donor Coordination Matrix
- Rational use of PPE as there is low stock at central level

Signed by the Chair:



Dr Gunaraj Lohani
Chair/Lead

24 April 2020


Dr Lungten Z. Wangchuk
Co-Chair/Co-Lead
24/4/2020