

# COVID-19 IN NEPAL: CURRENT SITUATION

MAY 18-24, 2021

(NEPAL TIME GMT+5:45)

## INFECTIONS PEAKING IN NEPAL

By the time of our reporting on 24 May 2021, the number of infections and deaths during the second wave in Nepal had surpassed the 2020 COVID-19 first wave. **The total of positive COVID-19 cases have increased by almost three fold.** The highest rate of infections was 25.2% positivity rate during the first wave, but has now reached 46.7%. The deaths per million was 131.7 persons during the first wave and has increased to 307.6 persons per million on a daily basis during the second wave.

This week has shown reduction in the number of infections by 5.6% in the whole country but this is not the case for all provinces compared to previous week ending on 17 May 2021 (please refer to map). **The rate of infections is still high with 50 out of 77 districts with an infection rate of more than 10 persons per 100,000 population.**

## CHILDREN AT HIGH RISK



Since the second wave started, the number of children who were infected on a daily basis has increased from 22 on 14 April 2021 to more than 150 especially in the last two weeks of our reporting. The number of infections among children reached 5,344 between 14 April to 24 May 2021, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Population. It also estimated that during this year, there was 1.1 percent of death among children with positive COVID-19 cases.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The total of positive COVID-19 cases have increased by almost three fold.
- The number of infections among children reached 5,344.
- Shortage in the health facilities, human resources and medical kits, machines and supplies.
- United Nations (UN) launched the Nepal COVID-19 Response Plan on 21 May 2021 calling for financial support of \$83.7 million as emergency response for Nepal.

## COMPOUNDING A CRISIS: UNDER VACCINATION, OVERCROWDING & A SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

There are concerns that Nepal's response to the pandemic situation is marred by shortage in the health facilities, human resources and medical kits, machines and supplies. With over 8,000 infected on daily basis in the last week, 157 government and private hospitals are helping in providing ventilators, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU) beds.

Until now, there are only 904 ventilators and there are plans to add 630 more soon. There are 2,075 HDU beds in the government facilities, in addition to 778 in private hospitals with plans to add 1,400 more beds. There are 32 oxygen plants in operation and soon the government will add 19 more.

**Additionally, due to a shortage of vaccines in the country, only 2.6 million of Nepal's 30 million population, have received their first dose of the COVID vaccine.** The number of people fully vaccinated with both doses is even less with just 593,599 in total.

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO NEPAL

The Government of Nepal has requested a supply of vaccines from China, India, the USA and Russia. Vaccines have already been delivered from both India and China.

Several countries across the world have also been providing medical equipment support, specifically: oxygen cylinders, ventilators, antigen kits, oxygen concentrators, and PPE kits, worth nearly 2 billion Nepali Rupees (approx. \$17 million USD).

In addition, the United Nations (UN) launched the Nepal COVID-19 Response Plan on 21 May 2021 calling for financial support of \$83.7 million to mobilize emergency response over the next three months to assist the most vulnerable affected by the pandemic.



*OHW team handing over oxygen cylinders to rural Mehnikot Hospital in Kavreplanchowk, one of Nepal's most affected districts.*

## ONE HEART WORLDWIDE SUPPORT IN NEPAL

One Heart Worldwide (OHW) team in Nepal has handed over 125 oxygen cylinders to Government of Nepal on May 20, 2021. Most of the oxygen cylinders have been sent outside Kathmandu to 10 hotspot districts, where the cases of infections have increased beyond the capacity of local health management.

The gas cylinders were brought in via a chartered flight, obtained with assistance from the Nepali government. The essential supplies were donated by [DAK Foundation](#) via Rotary Australia World Community Services Ltd ([RAWCS](#)).

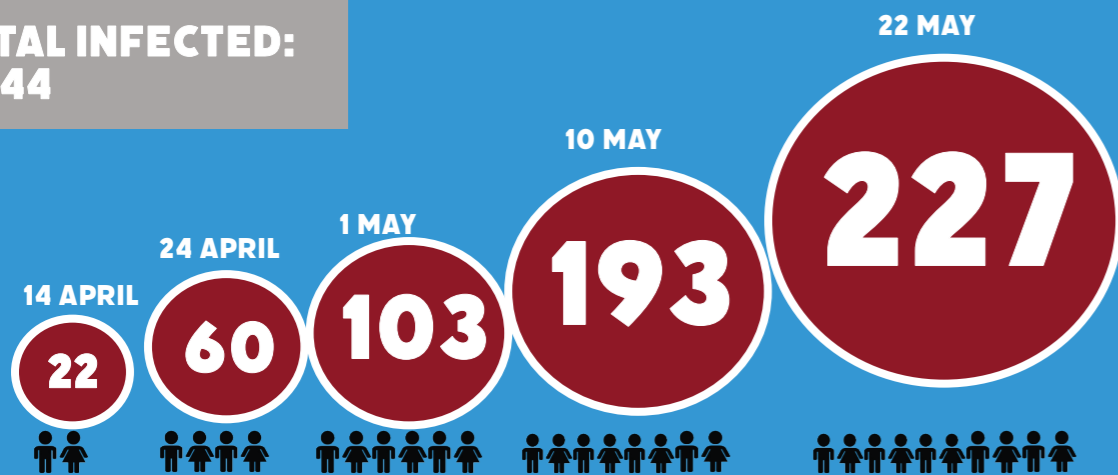
OHW has been monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in rural contexts closely and is closely monitoring the consequences and direct impact on maternal and newborn healthcare services in the districts we serve.

## CHILDREN AT RISK

*The Second Wave*

DAILY INFECTIONS

TOTAL INFECTED:  
5,344



# SECOND WAVE OF COVID19 IN NEPAL: MOST AFFECTED DISTRICTS

18-24 MAY 2021

18-24 MAY 2021

**CONFIRMED INFECTIONS: 57,797**  
**DEATHS: 1,316**

