



## NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

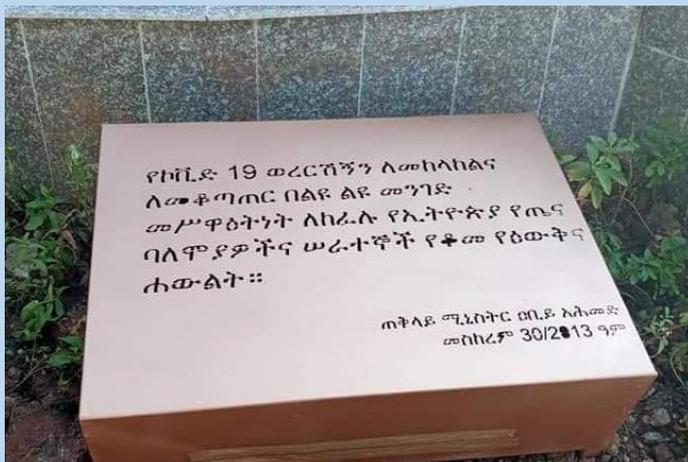
WHO Epi-Week-41 (October 05-11, 2020)

**BULLETIN No: 24**

**Issue Date: October 12, 2020**

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Total of 49,063 laboratory samples were tested in the WHO-Epi-Week-41, which is an 8.10% increase compared to the WHO-Epi-Week-40.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the WHO-Epi-Week-41 is 11.16%, which is slightly lower than the preceding week (12.09%).
- A total of 5,476 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 65 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-41 bringing the total cases and death to 84,295 and 1,287 respectively.
- The number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Ethiopia has increased by 25% in the WHO-Epi-Week-41 compared to the reports in Epi-Week-40.
- There were total of 5,256 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the WHO Epi-Week-41, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 38,316.
- A total of 21,712 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been at Home Based Isolation and Care.
- A total of 11,183 contacts were identified during the WHO Epi-week-41.
- A monument is inaugurated in Entoto Natural Park in honor of Health Professionals fighting against COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia.



Inauguration of monument in honor of health professionals on COVID-19 response, Oct. 10, 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## II. BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) in collaboration with partners have intensified response efforts to prevent the spread and severity of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Ethiopia. The national and the regional Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) has been activated and laboratory diagnosis capacity has been expanded to other national institutions, subnational and private laboratories.

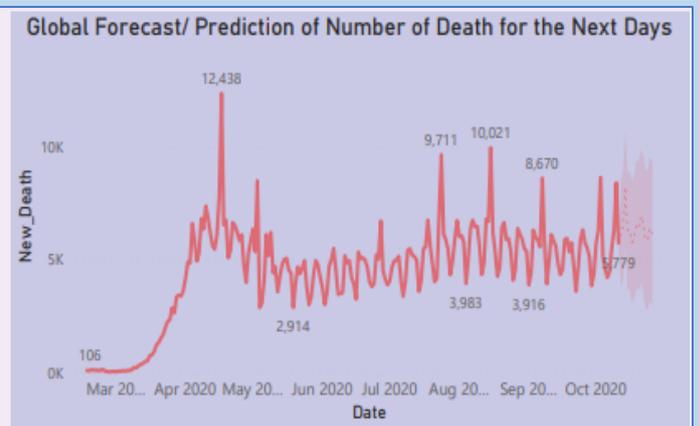
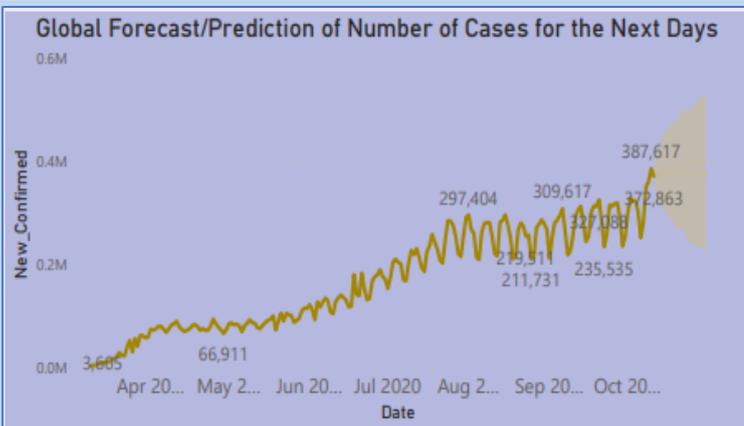
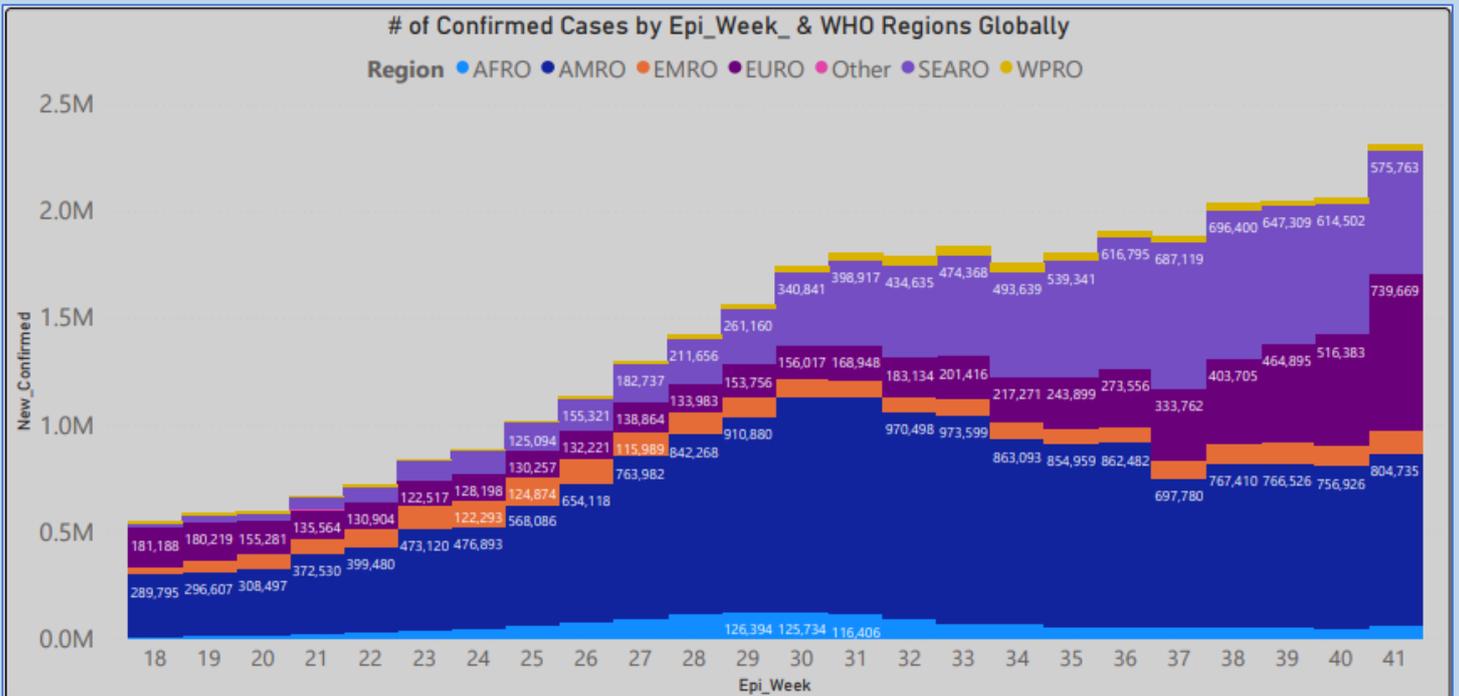
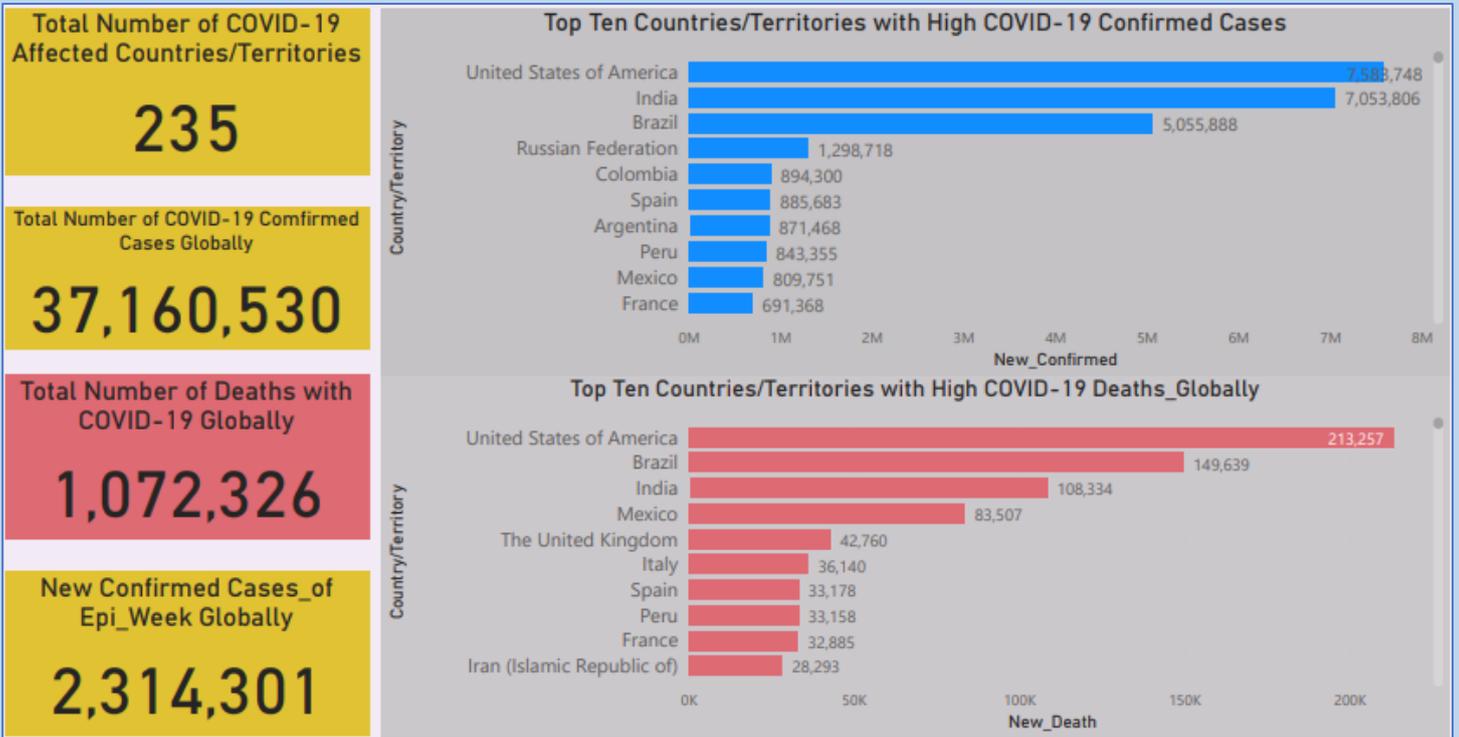
The national and regional PHEOC are playing a pivotal role in coordinating resources from different responding agencies and coordinating COVID-19 related information through regular EOC meetings and partners' coordination forums. The MOH and EPHI are providing information to the public and stakeholders on a regular and uninterrupted manner using different means of communication modalities.

The WHO and other partners are currently supporting in scaling-up preparedness and response efforts and implementation of related recommendations suggested by the IHR Emergency Committee.

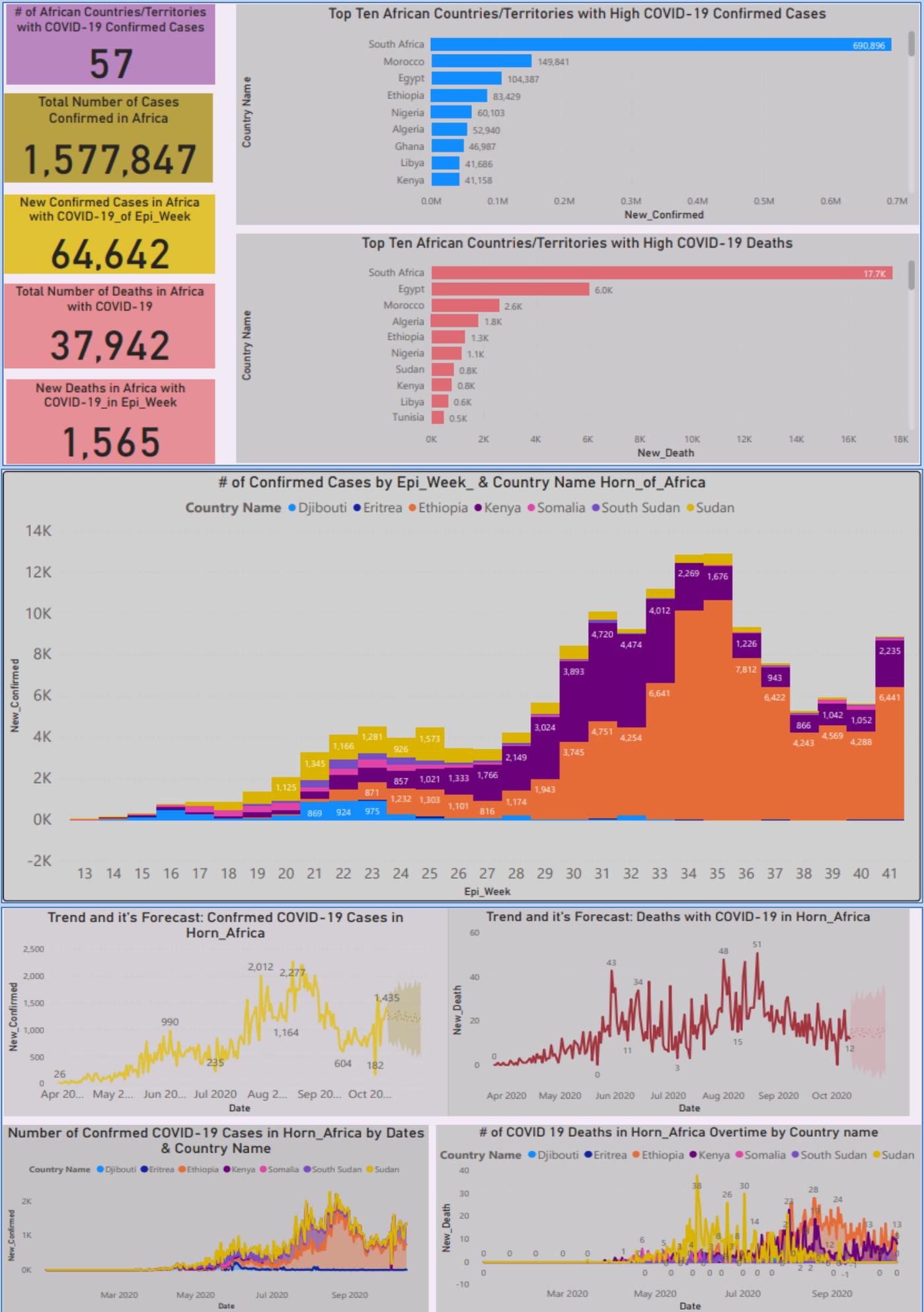
## III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

### Global Situation

- Between December 31, 2019 and October 11, 2020, COVID-19 pandemic affected 235 countries/territories causing 37,109,851 cases and 1,071,819 deaths (CFR=2.89%) globally.
- Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 2,272,627 cases and 39,531 deaths were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-41.
- The United States of America (USA) reported the highest number of cases (7,583,748) with CFR of 2.81% followed by India (7,053,806 cases) with a CFR of 1.54%.
- In Africa, 57 countries/territories have reported COVID-19 cases.
- As of October 11, 2020, a total of 1,577,832 cases and 37,942 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.40%). Of these 64,212 cases and 1,565 deaths were reported during the WHO-Epi-Week-41.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa. See the summary dashboard below.



**Fig. 1: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of October 11, 2020 (Source: WHO)**



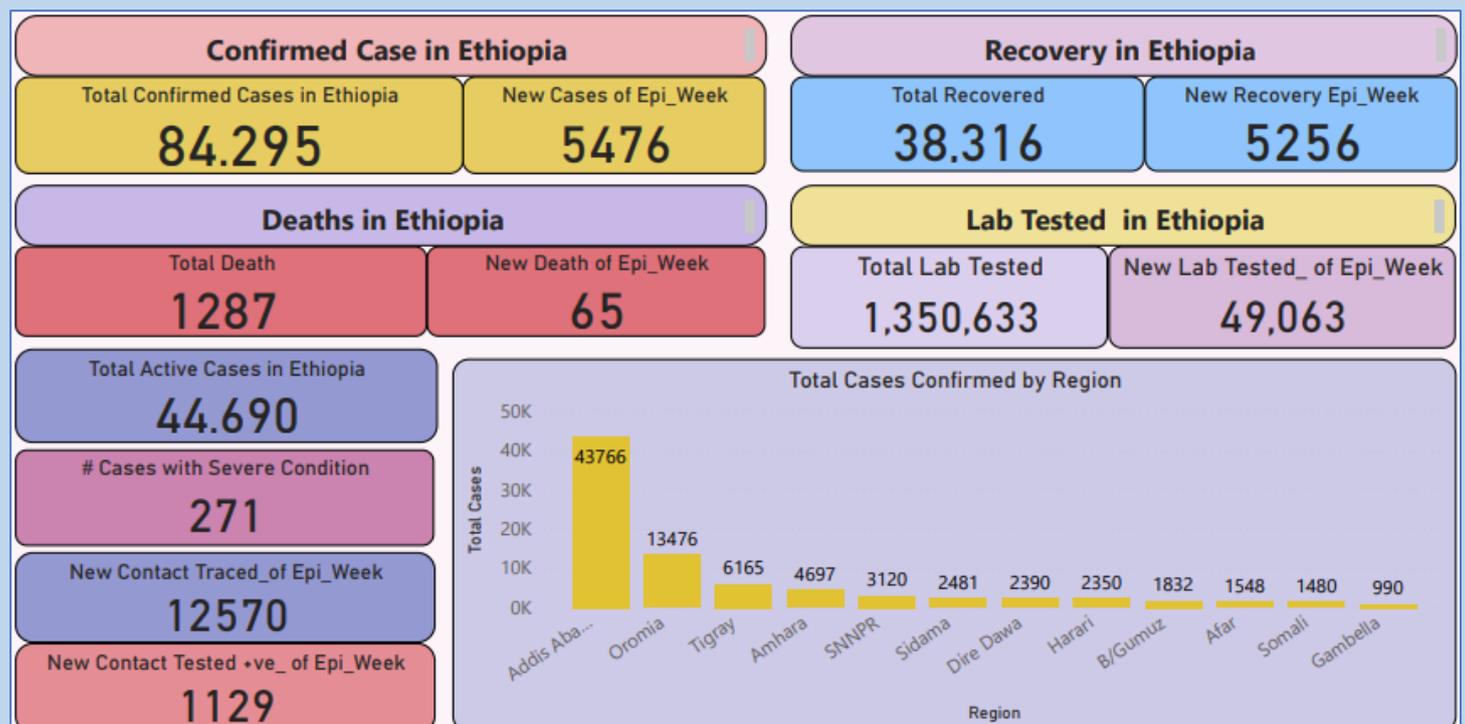
**Fig. 2: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of October 11, 2020 (Source: WHO)**

## National COVID-19 situation

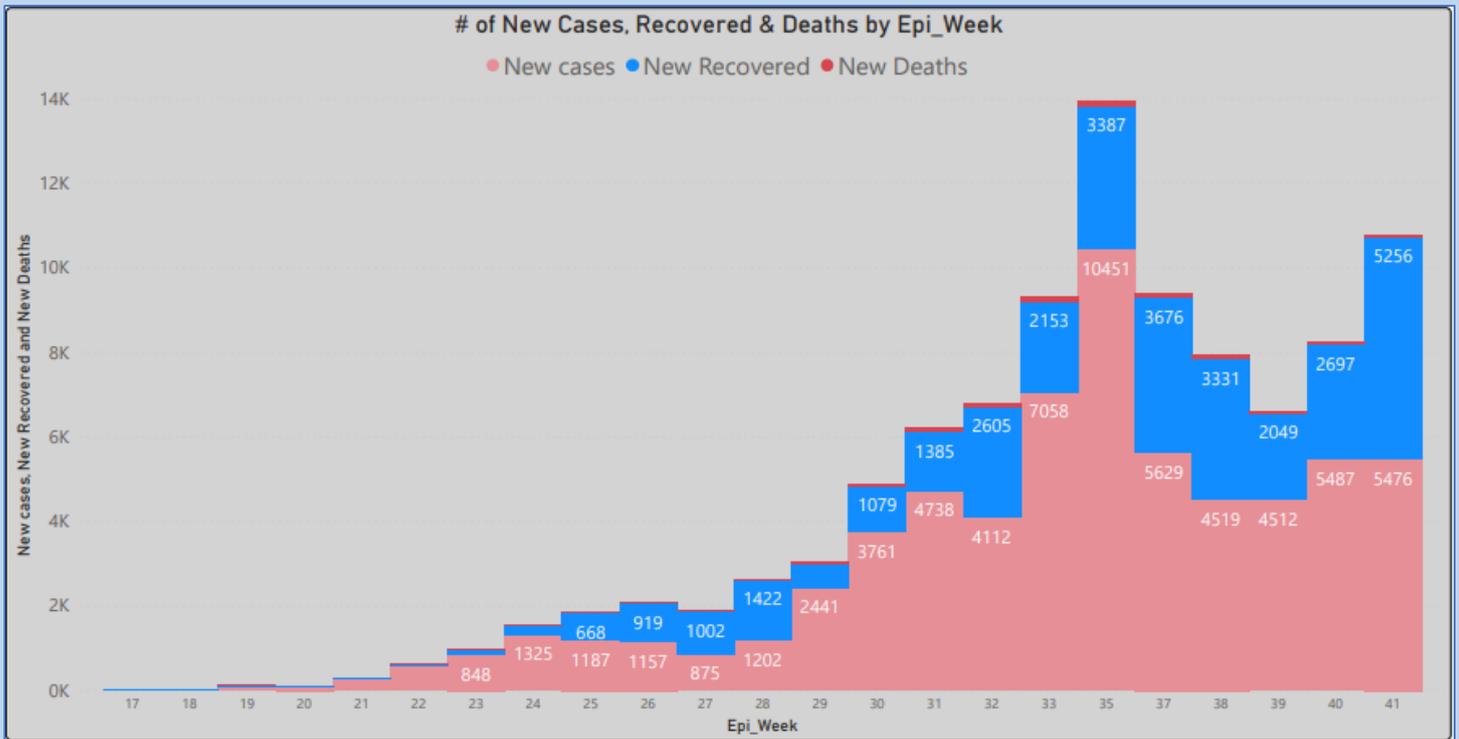
- Five-thousand-four-hundred-seventy-six (5,476) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases (equivalent to that of Epi-Week-40) and 65 COVID-19 related deaths (25% increase compared to that of Epi-Week-40) were reported during the WHO Epi-Week-41.
- As of October 11, a total of 84,295 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,287 deaths were recorded in the country.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

**Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the WHO-Epi-Week-41**

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_Admission	New Death	Positivity Rate	Recovery Rate
Addis Ababa	22145	2209	341	33	9.9	34.0
SNNPR	6936	294	300	4	4.9	82.1
Amhara	6695	621	118	8	9.4	62.0
Oromia	3843	937	123	12	25.3	25.0
Tigray	3199	175	199	3	5.7	73.9
Harari	1435	387	21	2	28.6	32.3
Sidama	1377	134	153	2	9.9	75.1
Somali	1348	27	2	0	2.6	32.0
Dire Dawa	1167	466	16	0	38.7	38.9
Benishangul G	758	222	11	1	28.1	36.1
Gambella	114	2	3	0	0.4	59.4
Afar	46	2	4	0	1.3	48.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>49063</b>	<b>5476</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>65</b>	Weighted average <b>13.7</b>	<b>49.9</b>



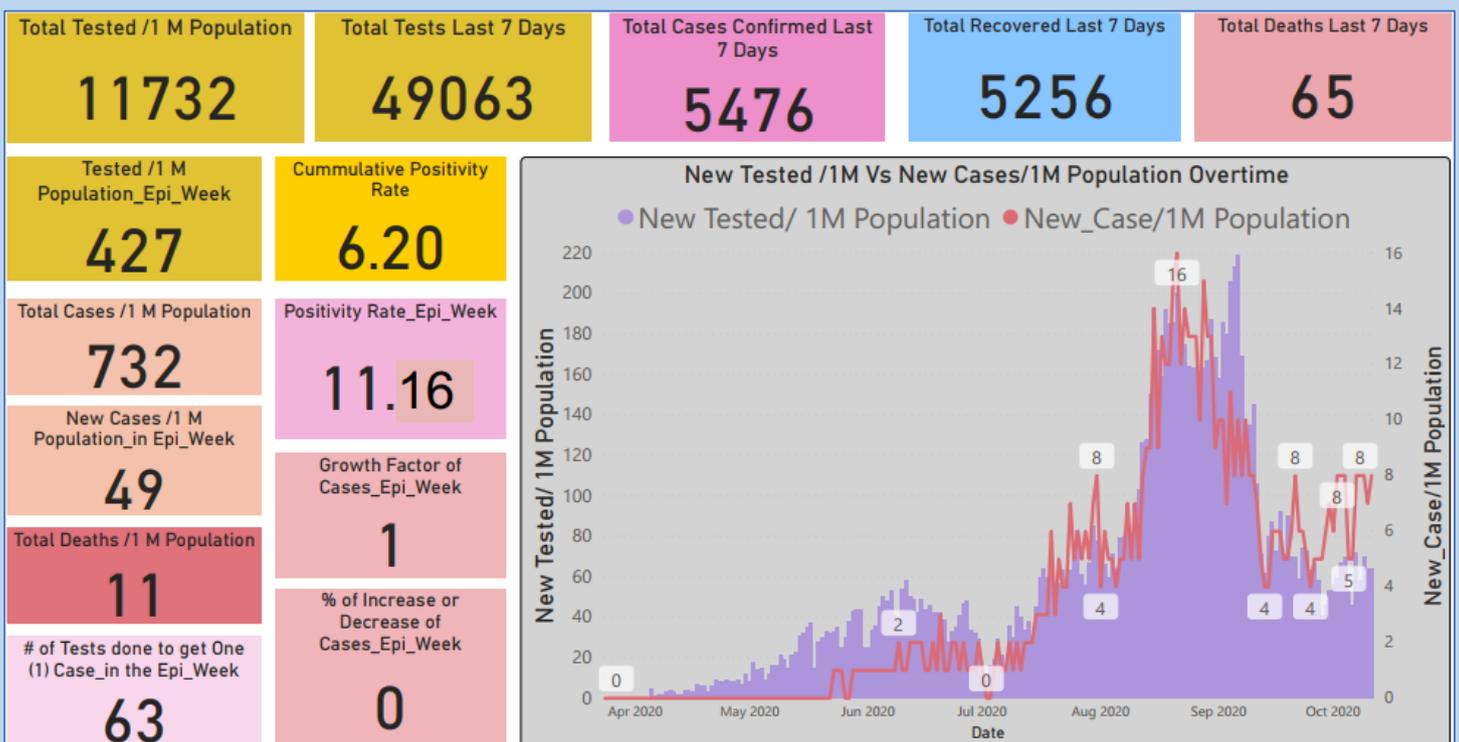
**Fig. 3: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of October 11, 2020, Ethiopia**



**Fig. 4: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by WHO Epi-Week as of October 11, 2020, Ethiopia**

### Epi-Surveillance and Laboratory Related Activities

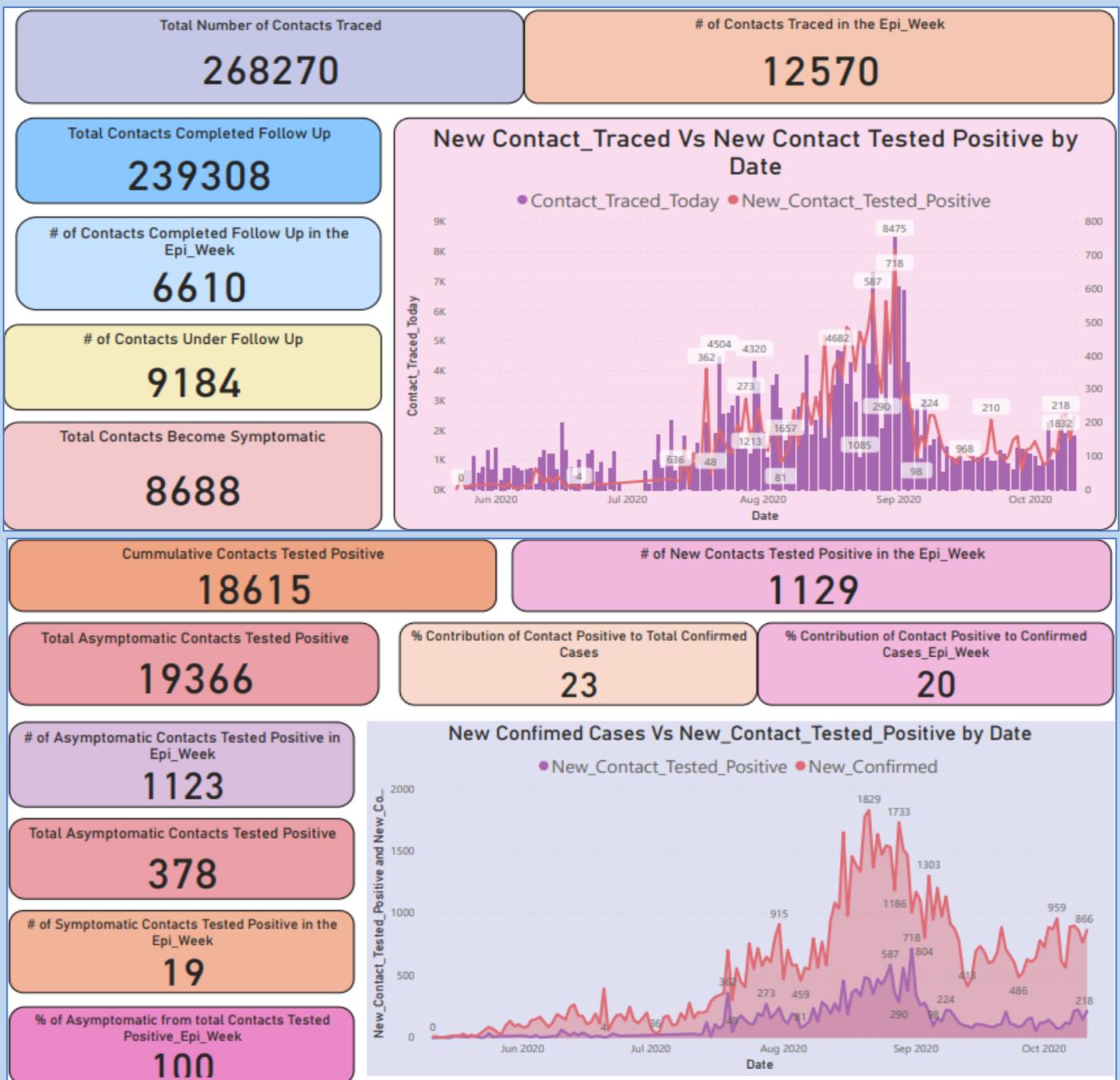
There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), follow-up of international travelers, mandatory quarantine of passengers coming to Ethiopia, rumor collection, verification, investigation and information provision via toll free call center, active case detection by house to house search, contact listing, tracing and follow-up of persons who had contact with confirmed cases. There is also laboratory investigation of suspected cases, quarantined individuals, contacts of confirmed cases, SARI/pneumonia cases and community members.



**Fig. 5: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of October 11, 2020.**

### Contact tracing and follow-up:

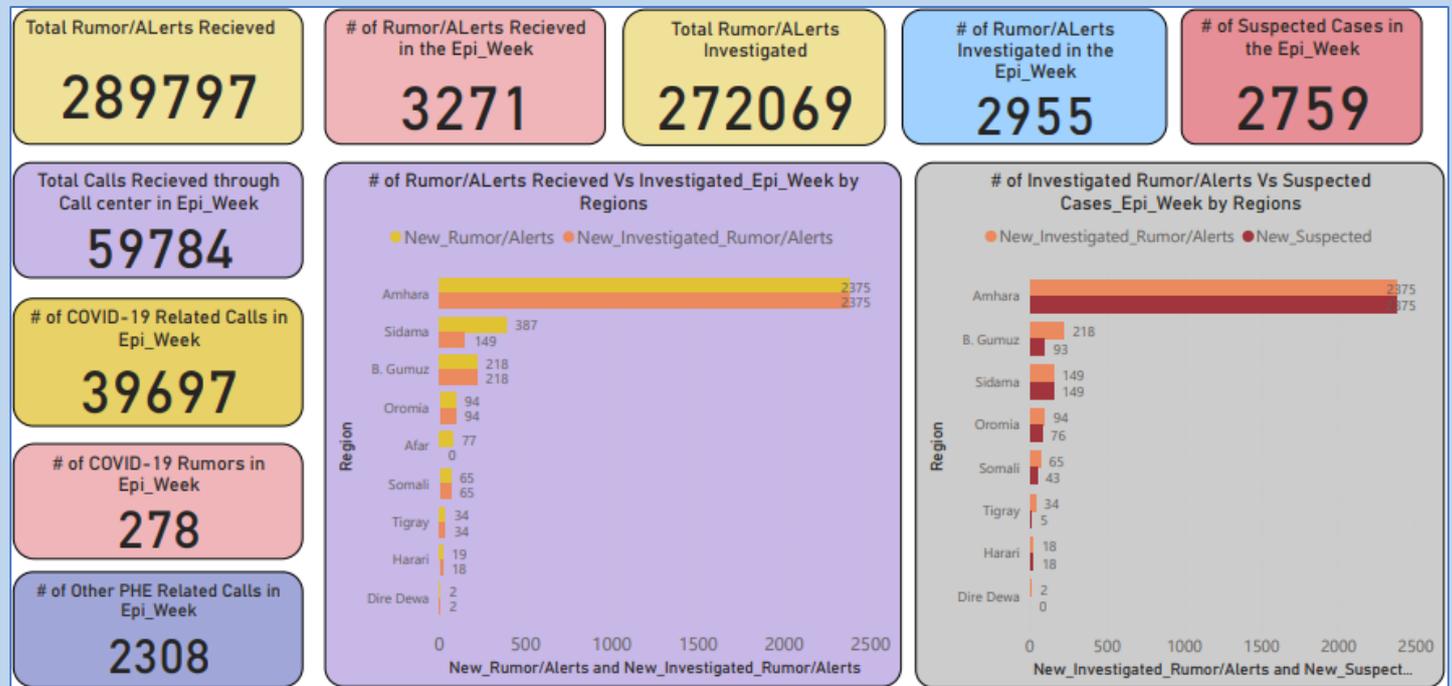
- As of October 11, 2020:
  - A total of 268,270 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 111,833 contacts were identified in the WHO-Epi-Week-41.
  - Of total contacts, 239,308 (89.20%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 9,184 contacts are still on follow-up.
  - 414 (0.17%) contacts have developed COVID-19 suggestive symptoms. Of these symptomatic contacts, 378 (91.30%) have tested positive.
- Overall, 19,744 (7.40%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have tested positive.
- Contacts contributed for the 23.42% of the total cases.



**Fig. 6: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of October 11, 2020, Ethiopia.**

## Rumors collection and verification from all sources

- As of October 11, 2020:
  - 289,844 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 5832 rumors were reported in the WHO-Epi-Week-41.
  - 224,155 (77.33%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition



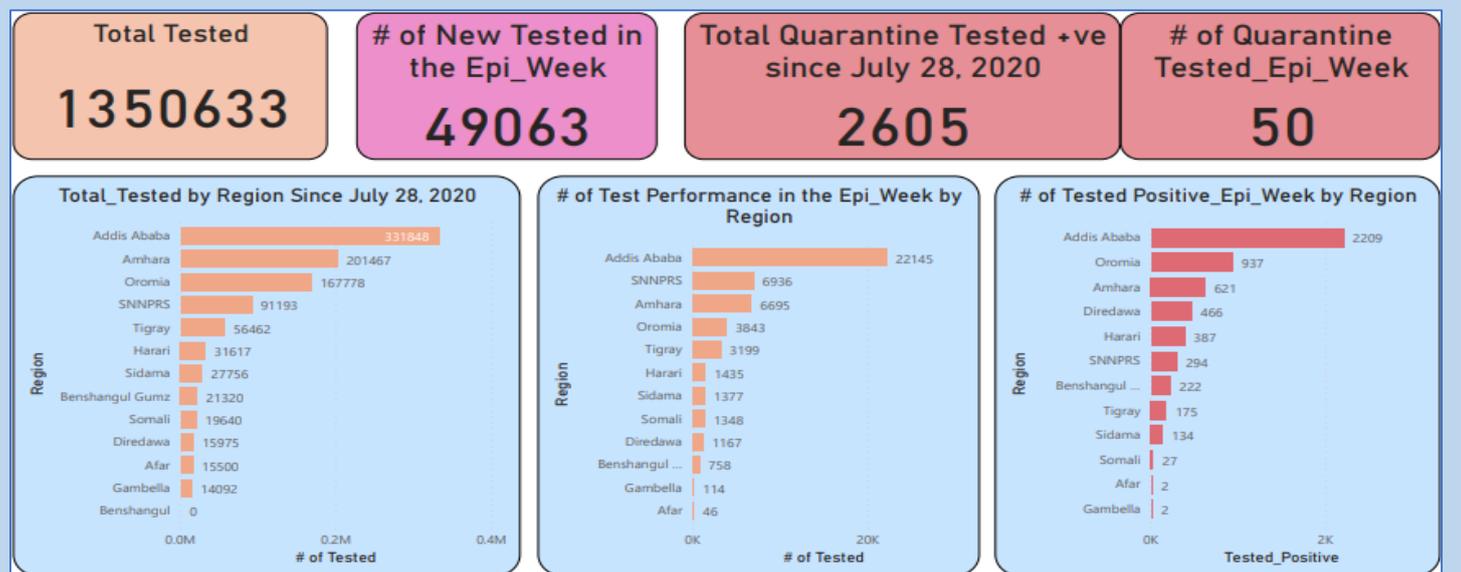
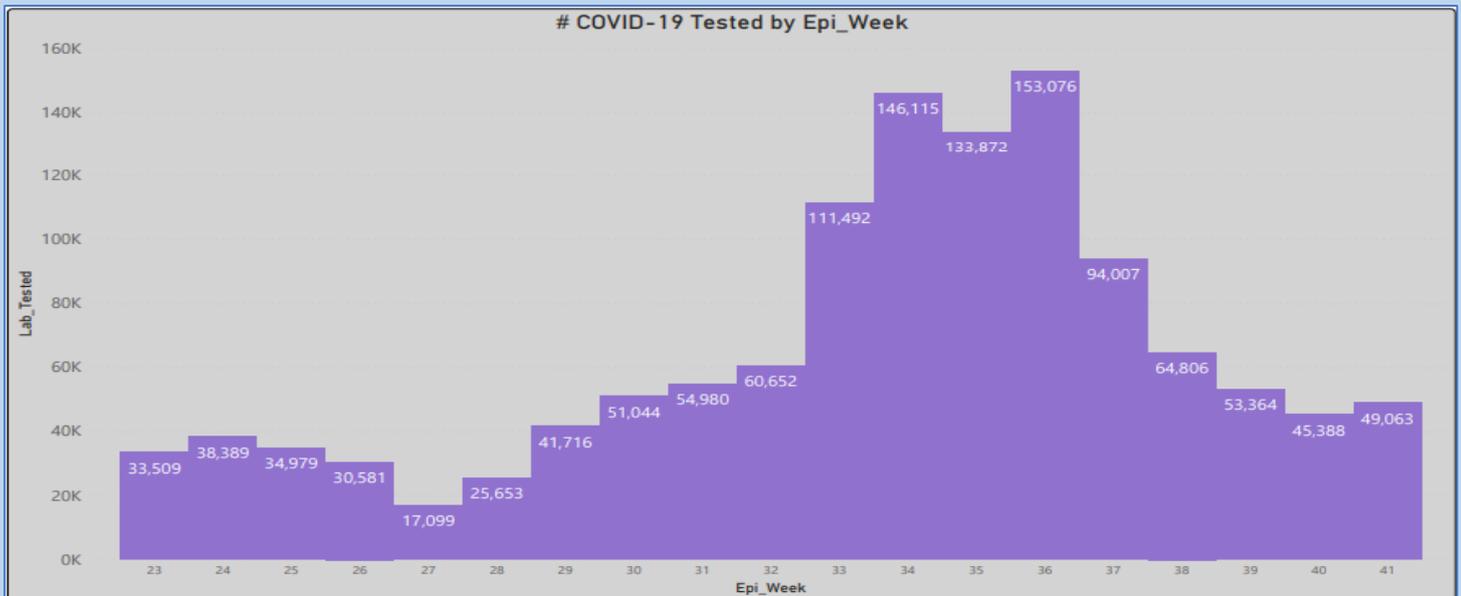
**Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of October 11, 2020, Ethiopia.**

## Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 1,171,317 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 447,267 (38.18%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 36,664 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-41.
- Nationally, 69,015 68,974 passengers have been quarantined since March 23, 2020 (when mandatory quarantine started). Of these 34,707 (50.29%) passengers have been quarantined in Addis Ababa.
- On October 11, 2020, there were 336 passengers in the quarantine centers across the country.

## Laboratory related activities

- As of October 11, 2020, a total of 1,350,633 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 49,063 laboratory tests were processed during the WHO Epi-Week-41, which is an 8.10% increase compared to that of Epi-Week-40.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the WHO-Epi-Week-41 is 11.16%, which is slightly lower than the preceding week, which was 12.09%.
- The overall positivity rate for the laboratory test since the occurrence of the disease in the country is 6.24%.



**Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of October 11, 2020, Ethiopia.**

## IV. Coordination and Leadership

- The national PHEOC is collaboratively working with stakeholders: government agencies, partner organizations, UN agencies, embassies, hospitals, Industrial parks and others.
- Morning briefing of IMS is being conducted every day by core IMS staffs and key partners' representatives.
- Weekly virtual (zoom) meeting is being conducted with technical working group members, which comprises members from subnational level focal, key partners and stakeholders.
- Weekly leadership and strategic virtual meeting, chaired by the H.E MOH Minister, is being conducted to oversee and guide the response efforts.
- A monument is inaugurated in Entoto Natural Park in honor of Health Professionals fighting against COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia. The inauguration was officially conducted by Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed on October 10, 2020.

## V. Case Management and IPC

- Of the active cases, 271 (0.61%) patients are in severe clinical condition.

### Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 21,712 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 15,573 (71.73%), have recovered and 5 died.
- Of these, 1998 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 2,083 cases have recovered on the WHO-Epi-Week-41.
- As of October 11, 2020, there are 6,139 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 182 of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 166 (3 of them in Epi-Week-41) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

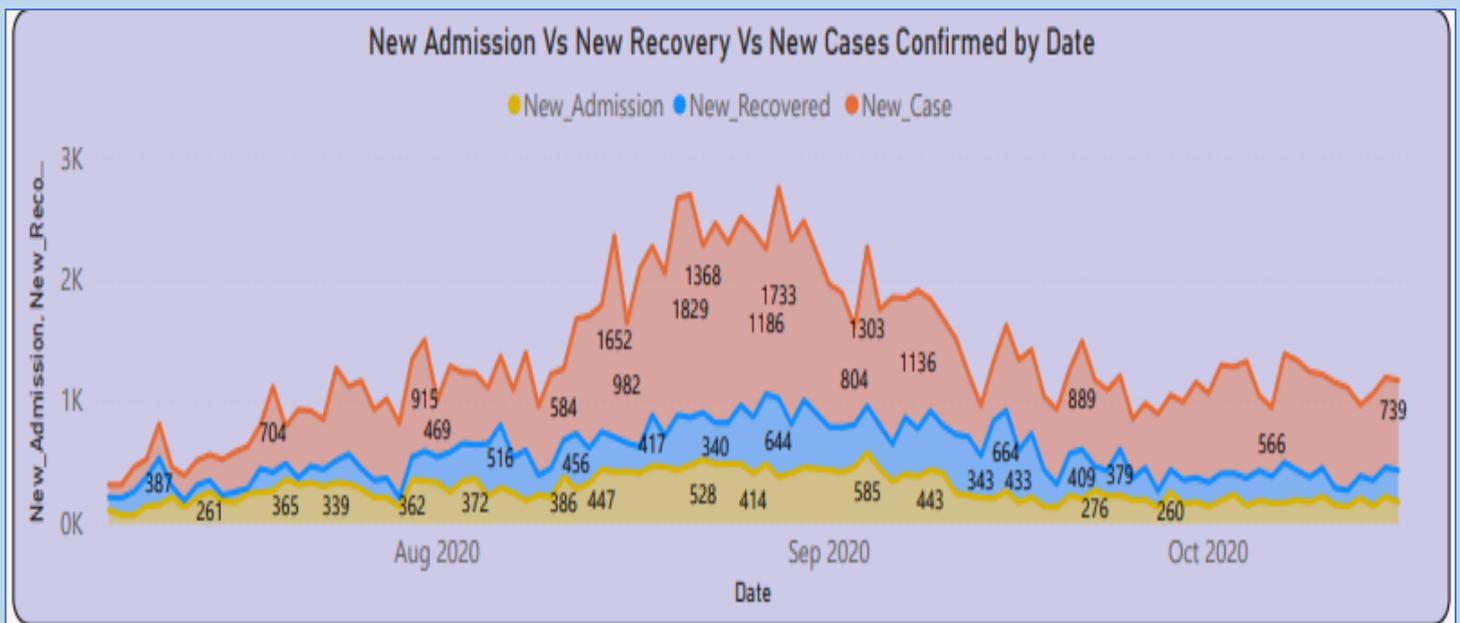


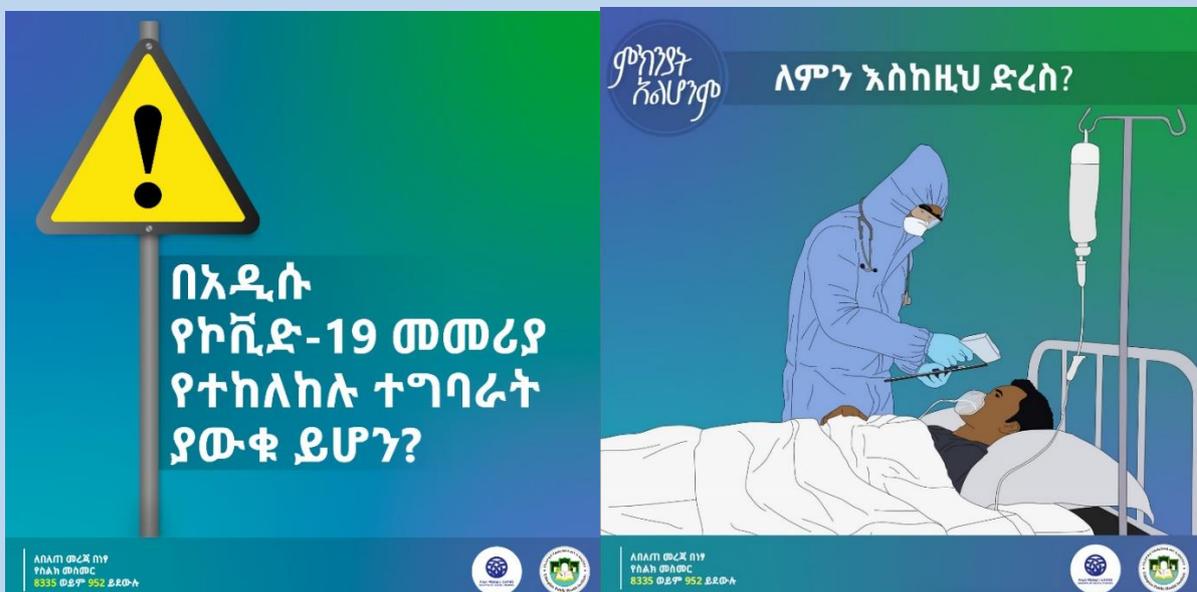
Fig. 10: Trends of New confirmed cases, admission and recoveries as of October 11, 2020.

## VI. WASH and IPC:

- Communication with and follow up of each regions by assigned staff from the national Emergency Operations Center regarding WASH and IPC activities.
- Regular phone follow-up and support and compilation of regional reports.
- Communication with regions on Monitoring of IPC practice in Non-COVID health care facilities, regular phone follow-up and support, compiling reports.
- Facilitation of disinfection whenever there is positive confirmed case and sending disinfectant based on need.

## VII. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Daily press statement is being given on COVID-19 situation on daily basis through Mass Media.
- Updating of media engagement activities on reopening of schools, preparation of news & articles at home, unwell news & discrimination and stigma article was conducted (5 news, 2 articles and 2 press news were released).
- Increasing social media engagement, publication of social media messages, creation of dashboard and info-grams on daily bases was conducted.
- Panel discussion on school reopening with Fana Radio and facilitation of media visit program was performed.
- Well-tailored messages were developed based on identified population and events, audio message content for COVID-19 and content message on cholera, immunization for Internally Displaced Population (IDPs) were produced.
- Development of key messages for tourists and recording of Mobile Van messages on COVID -19 for sensitization were performed.
- Audio messages for both prison and industry park recorded, edited and finalized.
- Weekly coordination meeting with Regional Natural Disaster and Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) was conducted.
- School RCCE meeting was conducted with Ministry of Education to facilitate community commitment and religious leaders' engagement on school reopening.
- Development of guides and slides for provision of orientation training for federal transport staffs and bus stations and car associations were performed.
- COVID-19 related key messages shared on social media.



## VIII. Logistic and Supplies

- The EPHI store was refilled with Facemask (25500 PCs), Respiratory mask (5000 PCs), surgical gloves (592), Shoe cover (900 pcs), and Biohazard bag (10) from Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Supply Agency (EPSA) store.
- Reagents and consumable supplies were delivered to 63 COVID-19 Testing Laboratories and 20 sample collectors.
- The Emergency Supply chain training Manual was finalized and expert from different area and stake holders have invited in the validation workshop.
- The weekly stock status analysis report (Stock on hand, procurement, stock on pipeline, distribution update, received), which incorporated the regional stock reports, was prepared and shared.
- Automation data tracking system expanded to other Health Facilities or treatment sites and cascading training on the software was provided for 19 personals from Addis Ababa Health bureau and Zoom training for seven regional health bureaus.

## IX. Training and Orientation Activities

- There is ongoing training and orientation for the public and health professionals on COVID-19.
- TOT on Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC) was provided for health professionals from Afar, SNNP and Tigray regions.

## X. Challenges and Way Forward

### Challenges

- Happenings of super spreading events-Mass gatherings with poor physical distancing and facemask use which exacerbates the spread of COVID-19.
- Increasing number of COVID-19 cases in congregated settings.
- Increasing number of cases being detected in the community.
- Low stock status of personal protective equipment is still a problem.

### Way Forward

- Advocate and strengthen Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC).
- Conduct intensive testing of high-risk population group and contacts of confirmed cases for COVID-19.
- Enhance technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Strengthened collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- Intensify risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Enhance active surveillance for COVID-19 such as house-to-house case search and detection in the community.

- Intensification of a capacity building trainings and orientation including through virtual/online platforms.
- Strengthen and sustain essential health services other than COVID-19.

## **XI. Public Health Policy Recommendation**

### **Advice for the Public:**

- For any individual confirmed to have COVID-19 and who is candidate for Home Based Isolation and Care:
  - Properly isolate from other family members.
  - Take full responsibility in prevention of transmission
  - Strictly adhere to the National Directive of Home-Based Isolation& Care.
  - Provide reliable information during regular follow up either by phone or home visit.
  - Report to nearest health facilities/follow up team in case of any emergency, appearance of new symptoms or worsening of existing symptoms.
- It is important to be informed of the situation and act appropriately to protect yourself and your family.
  - Wash hands frequently
  - Don't touch your mouth, nose or eye by unwashed hands
  - Keep physical distancing; avoid mass gathering and shaking hands.
- For most people, COVID-19 infection will cause mild illness however, it can make some people very ill and, in some people, it can be fatal.
- Older people, and those with pre-existing medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease or diabetes) are at risk for severe disease.
- If anybody had contact with a COVID-19 confirmed patient, he/she should call 8335 or 952 or report to regional toll-free lines or to the nearby health facilities.

### **National/Regional official websites, social media pages and toll-free hotline for COVID-19 information**

<b>MOH/EPHI/Region</b>	<b>Facebook page</b>	<b>Toll-free hotline</b>
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	<a href="https://www.eph.gov.et/">https://www.eph.gov.et/</a>	<b>8335/952</b>
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	<a href="https://covid19.eph.gov.et/">https://covid19.eph.gov.et/</a>	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ephpage/">https://www.facebook.com/ephpage/</a>	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	<a href="https://twitter.com/EPHIethiopia">https://twitter.com/EPHIethiopia</a>	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	<a href="https://t.me/EthPHI">https://t.me/EthPHI</a>	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvwTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvwTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw</a>	
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	<a href="http://www.moh.gov.et">www.moh.gov.et</a>	<b>952</b>
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/">https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/</a>	
Afar Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/">https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/</a>	<b>6220</b>

Amhara Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/">https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/</a>	6981
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/">https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/</a>	6016
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau">https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau</a>	6184
Harari Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/">https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/</a>	6864
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/">https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/</a>	6955
Somali Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/">https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...</a>	6599
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs">https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs</a>	6929
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/">https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/</a>	6244
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/">https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/</a>	6407
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/">https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/</a>	6406

## Health Evidence summary

Articles/Comment/ Correspondence/ Editorials	Summary
<p>COVID-19 Risk Factors Among Health Workers: A Rapid Review  <a href="https://dx.doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.shaw.2020.06.001">https://dx.doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.shaw.2020.06.001</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of personal protective equipment, exposure to infected patients, work overload, poor infection control, and preexisting medical conditions were identified as risk factors for Covid-19 among HWs.</li> <li>In the context of Covid-19, HWs face an unprecedented occupational risk of morbidity and mortality. There is need for rapid development of sustainable measures that protect HWs from the pandemic.</li> </ul>
<p>Clinical manifestations and outcomes of COVID-19 in the paediatric population: a systematic review  <a href="https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj208646">https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj208646</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As compared with that in adults, the presentation of COVID-19 in children is mild and has a better prognosis.</li> <li>Sufficient evidence regarding the probability of intrauterine vertical transmission could not be found, and further studies need to be conducted to establish this relationship.</li> </ul>
<p>Chest computed tomography (CT) features in children with reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)-confirmed COVID-19: A systematic review  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/1754-9485.13098">https://doi.org/10.1111/1754-9485.13098</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chest CT features in children with COVID-19 differ from those in adults. 'Ground-glass opacities' (GGOs) are the most commonly described abnormalities, but closely followed by a combination of GGO and consolidation, not usual in adults.</li> <li>Children tend to have a more variable involvement than the subpleural and posterior and basal topography described in adults.</li> <li>Interlobular thickening and air bronchogram found in adults with COVID-19 are not frequent in children.</li> <li>Pulmonary embolism reported in up to 30% of adults has not been yet reported in children.</li> </ul>
<p>Clinical features and outcomes of adults with COVID-19: A systematic review and pooled analysis of the literature  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/ijcp.13725">https://doi.org/10.1111/ijcp.13725</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 most commonly presents with fever, cough, fatigue and anorexia among patients with existing hypertension and cardiovascular disease.</li> <li>It is important as serious adverse outcomes can develop such as acute respiratory distress syndrome, acute cardiac injury, acute kidney injury and death.</li> </ul>

<p>Decreased mortality in COVID-19 patients treated with Tocilizumab: a rapid systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1445">https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1445</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The results showed that mortality was 12% lower for COVID-19 patients treated with tocilizumab compared to COVID-19 patients who were not treated with tocilizumab.</li> <li>• The number needed to treat was 11, suggesting that for every 11 (severe) COVID-19 patients treated with tocilizumab 1 death is prevented.</li> <li>• These results require confirmation by randomized controlled trials.</li> </ul>
<p>Favipiravir versus other antiviral or standard of care for COVID-19 treatment: a rapid systematic review and meta-analysis  <a href="https://virologyj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12985-020-01412-z">https://virologyj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12985-020-01412-z</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a significant clinical and radiological improvement following treatment with FVP in comparison to the standard of care with no significant differences on viral clearance, oxygen support requirement and side effect profiles.</li> </ul>

**COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:**

Source	Link
WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard	<a href="https://covid19.who.int/">https://covid19.who.int/</a>
Africa CDC Dashboard, COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard	<a href="https://au.int/en/covid19">https://au.int/en/covid19</a>
WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports	<a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports</a>
WHO Academy mobile learning app for health workers, COVID-19 information	Android- <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA</a> Apple- <a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873</a>

**8335 / 952**



**Call-Centers**  
**FOR MORE INFO and**  
**ALERT NOTIFICATION on**  
**COVID-19**



The above presented Quick Reader (QR) code takes you to a portal that you can access updates and all COVID-19 related information available (<https://www.ephi.gov.et/index.php/public-health-emergency/novel-corona-virus-update>)

**DISCLAIMER**

This weekly bulletin is produced based on figures pulled from official releases of the World Health Organization and activities and reports of all the sections under the Incident management System.

This Weekly Bulletin series of publications is published by the Ethiopian public health Institute (EPHI), public health emergency operation center (PHEOC). The aim of this bulletin is to inform decision makers within the institute and FMOH, UN agencies and NGOs about COVID-19 preparedness and response activities. All interested health and other professionals can get this bulletin at the Institute website; [www.ephi.gov.et](http://www.ephi.gov.et)

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