



Address: Telephone: +251-112-765-340, Toll free: 8335, Fax: +251-112-758-634, Website: www.ephi.gov.et, P.O. Box 1242, Swaziland Street, Addis Ababa

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 27 (July 05 – 11, 2021)

BULLETIN Nº: 63

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Among the SARS-COV-2 Variants of Concern, Alpha and Beta variants were detected in Ethiopia by the genomic sequencing conducted so far in the country and at KEMRI.
- A total of 35,135 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-27 bringing the total number of samples tested to 2,920,624.
- A total of 636 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 12 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-27 bringing the total cases and death to 277,071 and 4,343 respectively.
- A total of 206,937 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 611 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-27.
- Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test for COVID-19 started at Bole International Airport for returnees.
- In WHO's rapid risk assessment, conducted on 9 July 2021, the global public health risk remains very high.

NB: Data from Tigray regional state is as of June 28, 2021.

II. Subject in Focus:

a) SARS-COV-2 new variants

- Among the SARS-COV-2 Variants of Concern Alpha and Beta variants were detected in Ethiopia by the genomic sequencing conducted so far in the country and at KEMRI. Activities regarding genomic sequencing for other new variants, like Delta variant, are under way in Ethiopia.
- The new variants of SARS-COV-2 (Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest) are being detected in new countries and territories. Below are the incidence of the four variants of concern detected in various countries as of July 11, 2021.
 - Globally, cases of the Alpha variant have been reported in 178 countries, territories or areas (six new countries in the past week), while 123 countries (three new countries) reported cases of the Beta variant;
 75 countries (three new countries) reported cases of the Gamma variant; 111 countries (15 new countries) reported cases of the Delta variant.

b) COVID-19 plan revitalization ('Dagim Tikuret LeCOVID-19')

- The COVID-19 response revitalization movement which mainly focuses on enhancing overall COVID-19
 response via increasing community awareness through Risk Communication and Community Engagement,
 detection capacity and improving quality care and capacity is ongoing at national and subnational level.
- In line with the revitalization plan regional support teams have been deployed to support regional Public Health Emergency Operation Centers and weekly meeting with regional and national Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOC) staffs is being conducted. The weekly meeting agenda focuses on the overall COVID-19 response plan status, detection capacity, challenges (ongoing & predicted) and support area required (identifying resources on hand and gaps).
- Eight weeks have passed since the "Dagim Tikuret LeCOVID-19" movement is launched nationally.
- All regional states have launched and initiated the movement.
- A total of 5,910,513 house to house visits are planned to be conducted in 60 days. As of July 11, 2021, a total of 1,214,391 (20.55% of the total plan) house to house visits have been reported from the regions and city administrations. Among these 378,070 house-to-house visits were conducted in the Epi-week-27.

c) Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

 In Ethiopia, a total of 2,058,333 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca or Sinopharm) are administered so far. Among these 21, 541 doses are administered in the Epi-week-27. The second dose of the vaccine jab is also started for those who took the first dose.

Total vaccinated	1st dose		2 nd dose
2,058,333 (21,541 in week-27)	2,008,363		49,970
Sinopharm	1 st dose		2 nd dose
9,150	6,264		2,886
AstraZeneca	1 st dose		2 nd dose
2,049,183	2,002,099		47,084
65+ years old	1 st dose		2 nd dose
875,061	868,730		6,331
55-64 years old	1 st dose		2 nd dose
792,596	787,185	\geq [5,411
Health worker	1 st dose		2 nd dose
354,586	319,244	/[35,342
Somali region only	30-54 years old 26,940		

Fig. 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of July 11, 2021

III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- In WHO's rapid risk assessment, conducted through an in-depth hazard, exposure and context assessment on 9 July 2021, the global public health risk remains very high¹. The assessment also included a review of the vulnerabilities and capacities available to respond to the public health event and to investigate the current risk to human health, risks of ongoing spread globally, and risk of insufficient control capacities. To date, a total of 11 global rapid risk assessments have been undertaken for COVID-19, and additional assessments have been conducted for specific events surrounding the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOCs).
- Globally, over 4 million new cases are reported in the last week (Figure 2) which is a 10% increase in the number of new cases compared to the previous week.
- More than 87 thousand new deaths (3% increase compared to previous week) are reported globally in the Epi-week-27.
- As of July 11, 2021, a total of 182,964,356 COVID-19 cases and 3,851,690 deaths (CFR=2.11%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 4,257,365 cases and 87,783 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-27.
- Generally, the United States of America (USA) reported the highest number of cases followed by India.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from Brazil (597,137 new cases), the United States of America (447,428 new cases), India (436,095 new cases), Indonesia (252,449 case) and Russian Federation (219,206 new cases).
- In Africa, as of July 11, 2021, a total of 5,955,542 cases and 150,587 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.53%). Of these 371,714 cases and 7,805 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-27.
- In Africa, South Africa reported the highest number of cases followed by Morocco.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa. See the summary dashboard below.

¹ <u>https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---13-july-2021</u>

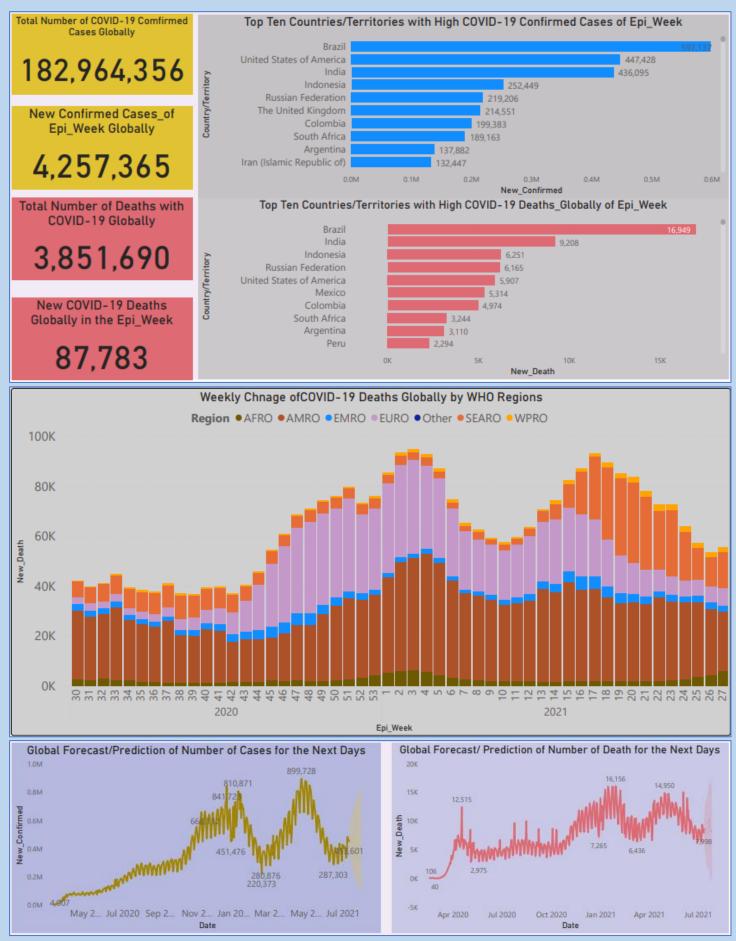


Fig. 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of July 11, 2021 (Source: WHO)

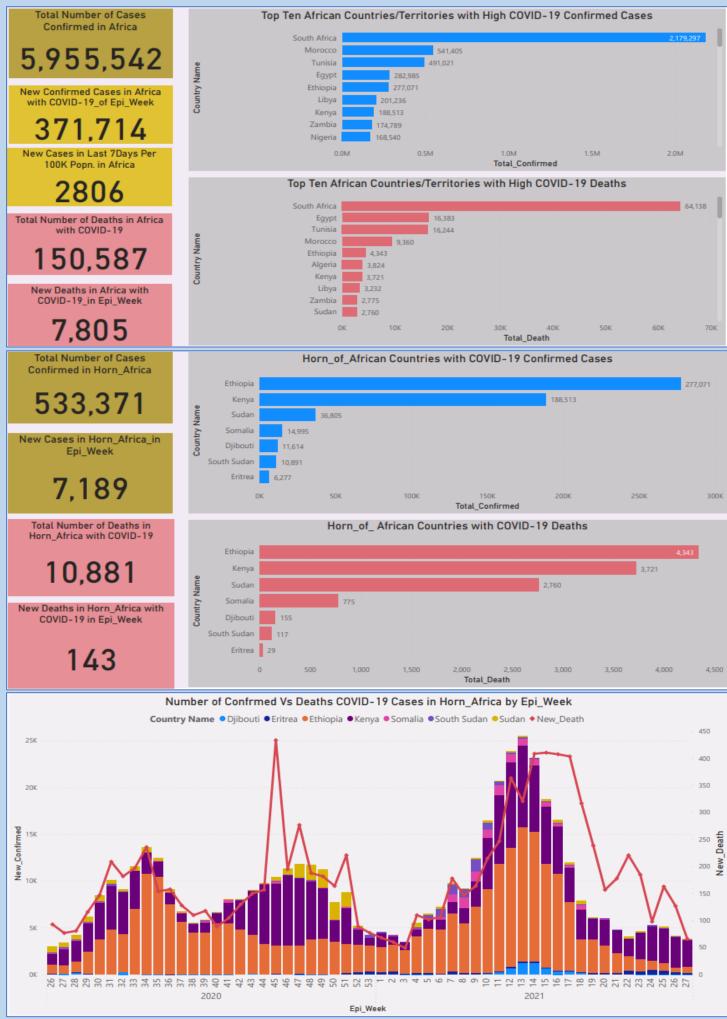


Fig. 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of July 11, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of July 11, 2021, a total of 277,071 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,343 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.57%. This puts Ethiopia in the fifth position by the number of confirmed cases and by the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Africa.
- Six-hundred-thirty-six (636) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 12 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-27.
- In this week, there is a 27% increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (after decrease for 13 consecutive weeks) and there is a 29% decrease in the number of deaths due to COVID-19 (for the 3rd consecutive week).
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-27 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate #	t of Recovery
Addis Ababa	26788	504	61	10	1.9	800
Harari	1831	6	1	1	0.1	14
Gambella	1335	2	0	0	0.0	10
Oromia	1276	54	4	0	5.3	65
Afar	983	9	0	0	1.1	0
SNNPR	904	24	0	0	2.6	36
Somali	617	2	0	1	0.3	3
Amhara	589	19	18	0	4.1	33
Dire Dawa	353	3	2	0	1.2	0
Benshangul	224	1	1	0	0.5	1
Sidama	149	1	0	0	0.4	2
Benishangul G	86	11	11	0	13.0	0
Tigray	0	0	0	0		0
Total	35135	636	98	12	**** 2.0	964
			**** Positivity Rate is the Averages of Regional Distributions			

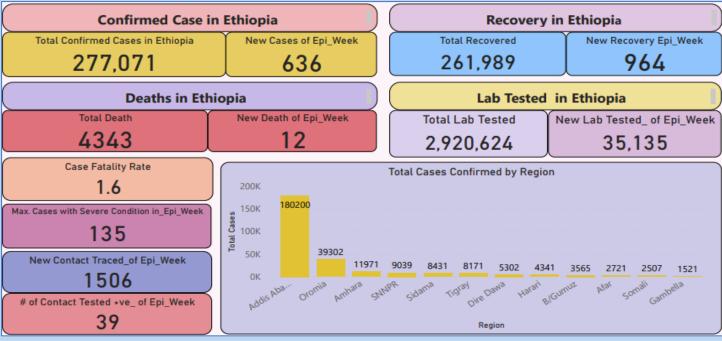


Fig. 4: Weekly summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of July 11, 2021, Ethiopia

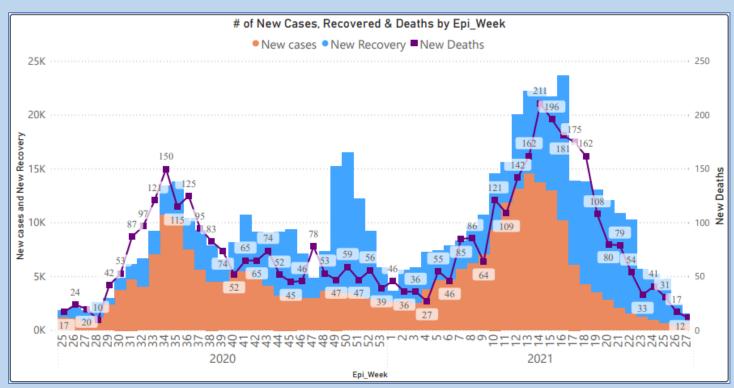


Fig. 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of July 11, 2021, Ethiopia

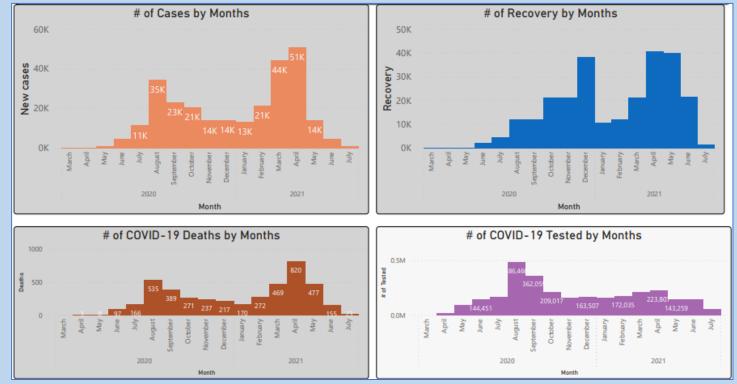


Fig. 6: Summary of monthly trend of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of July 11, 2021.

c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), follow-up of international travelers, 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, contacts of confirmed cases, SARI/pneumonia cases and community members, surveillance and assessment in school and congregated setting communities.

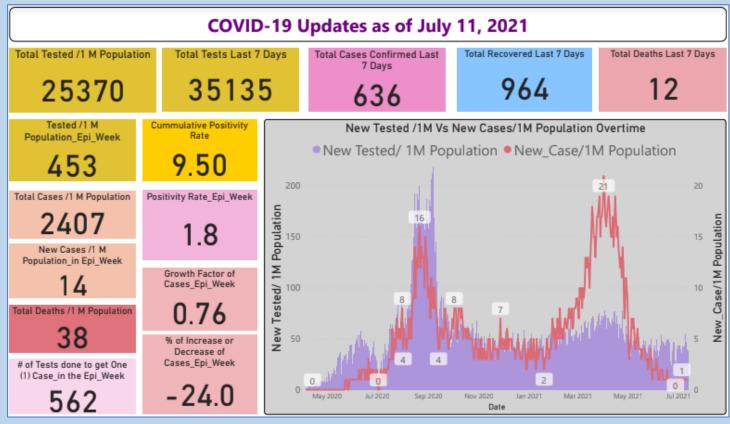


Fig. 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of July 11, 2021.

i. Contact tracing and follow-up:

- Contact tracing is a key strategy for interrupting chains of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and reducing COVID-19-associated mortality. Thus, it should be enhanced.
- As of July 11, 2021:
 - A total of 374,083 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 1,506 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-27.
 - Of total contacts, 329,017 (87.95%) have completed 14 days follow-up, while 3,322 contacts are still on follow-up.
- Overall, 42,181 (11.27%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 15.22% of the total cases.

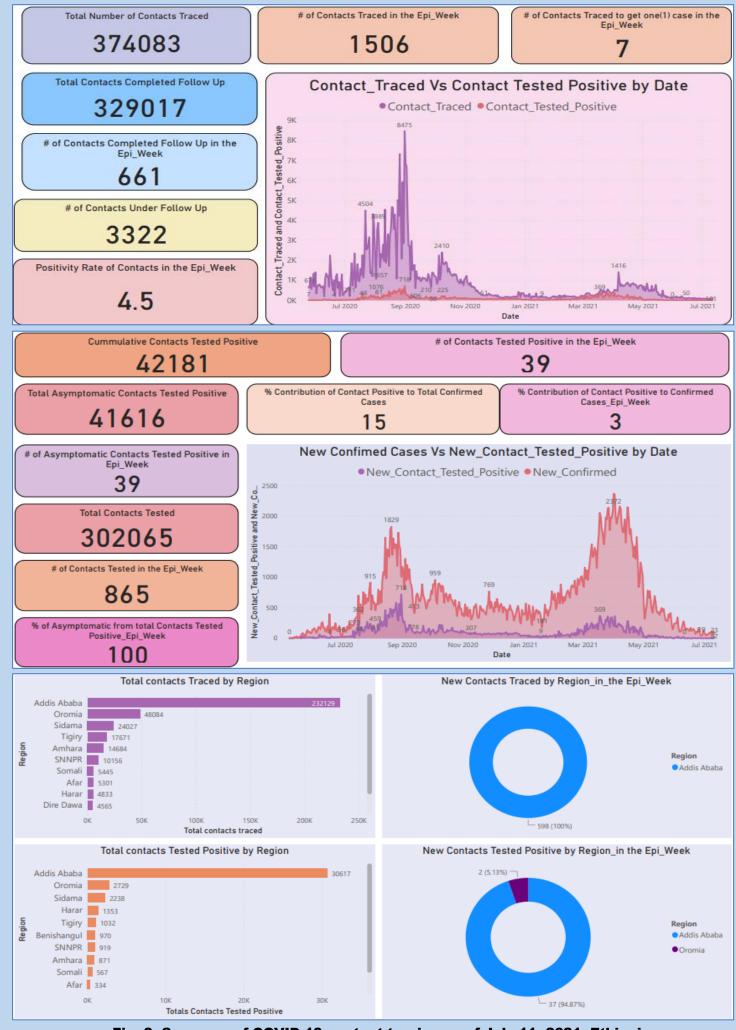


Fig. 8: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of July 11, 2021, Ethiopia.

ii. Rumors collection and verification from all sources

- COVID-19 related rumors are received from different sources: Call centers, Health facilities, Contact follow up, Self-report, Travelers follow up, Point of Entry (PoE), Community surveillance and Special Settings.
- As of July 11, 2021:
 - 392,782 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, 11 rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-27.
 - o 279,089 (71.05%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 16,553 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

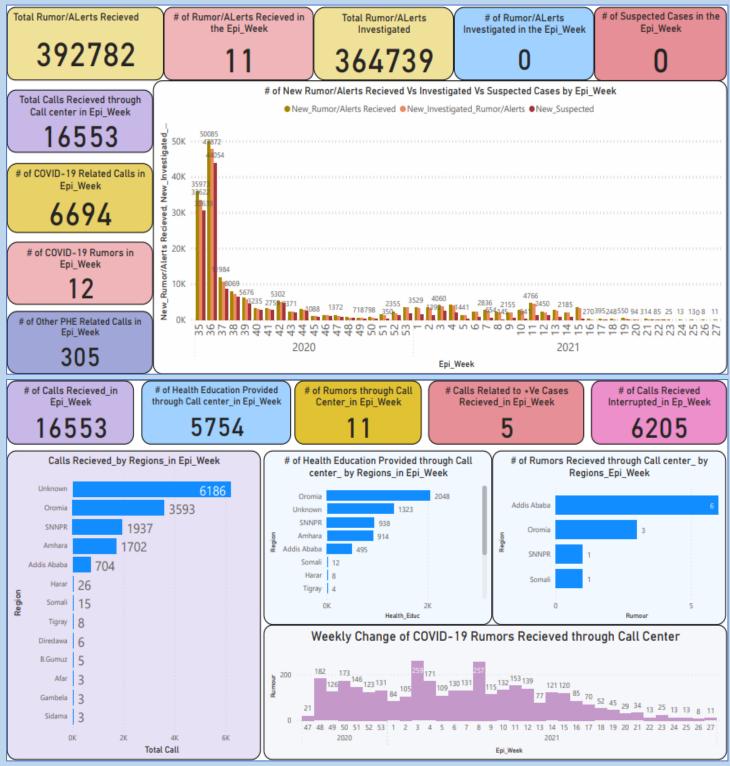


Fig. 9: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as of July 11, 2021, Ethiopia.

iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,404,985 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 753,774 (31%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 32,763 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-27.
- As of July 11, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 51 (none in Epi-week-27) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 91 SARS-COV-2 positive cases have been detected after arrival laboratory test.
- Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) for COVID-19 started at Bole International Airport for returnees. The Ag-RDT was started on July 07, 2021. So far, 332 tests are conducted among which 14 positive cases are detected as of July 11, 2021 among returnees.
- A total of 49,434 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. Among these 14,338 returnees were received in the Epi-week-27. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. Among all the returnees admitted to these center, 48,758 (98%) are discharged and there are 1,333 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of July 11, 2021.

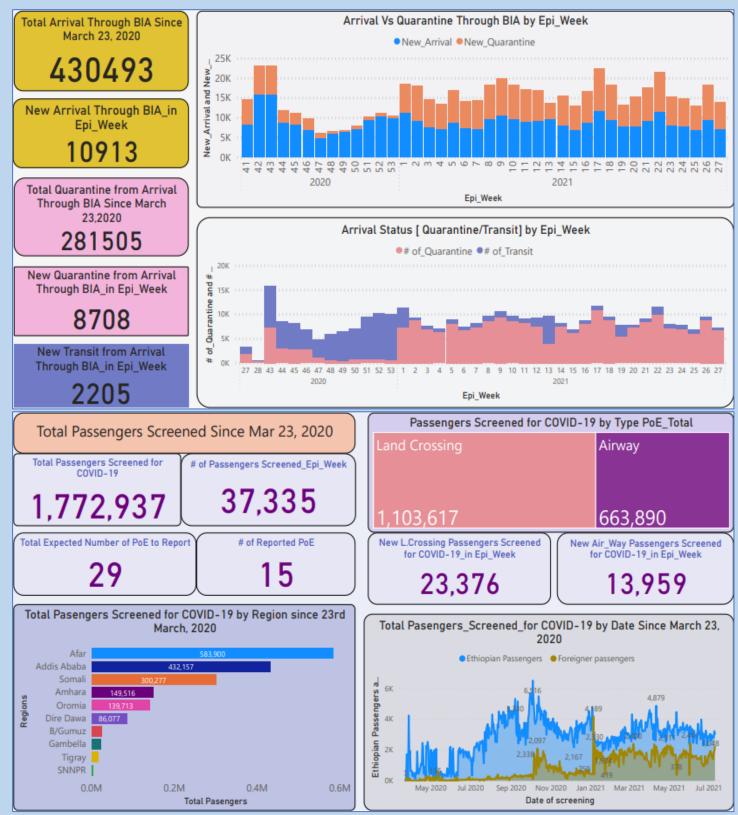


Fig. 10: Summary of Passengers screening for COVID-19 as of July 11, 2021, Ethiopia.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 11 July 2021, a total of 2,920,624 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 35,135 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-27 which is an 11% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-27 is 1.81%, which is higher than that of the preceding week (1.58%).
- Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara and SNNP regional states have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average while the positivity rate in Addis Ababa has showed a decrease (figure 12 below). This shows that the COVID-19 epidemic has got high spread to regions. There is no report from Tigray regional state since June 29, 2021. The last report from the region was received on June 28, 2021.
- COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) is also being performed nationally. Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 35,240 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 4,112 is performed in the Epi-week-27 (figure 11 below).
 - There are around 1.5 million Ag-RDT kits (distributed to testing sites and available at central store at EPSA).
 - All the available Ag-RDT kits will be expired by January 31, 2022. In order to utilize the available Ag-RDT kits before their expiry date, more than 7000 samples (average) must be performed by the kits per day.

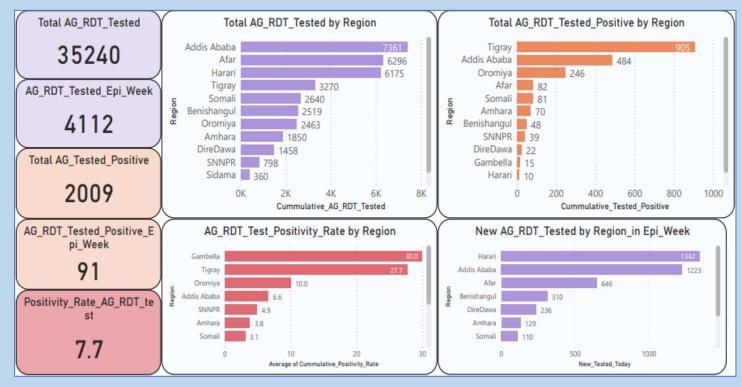
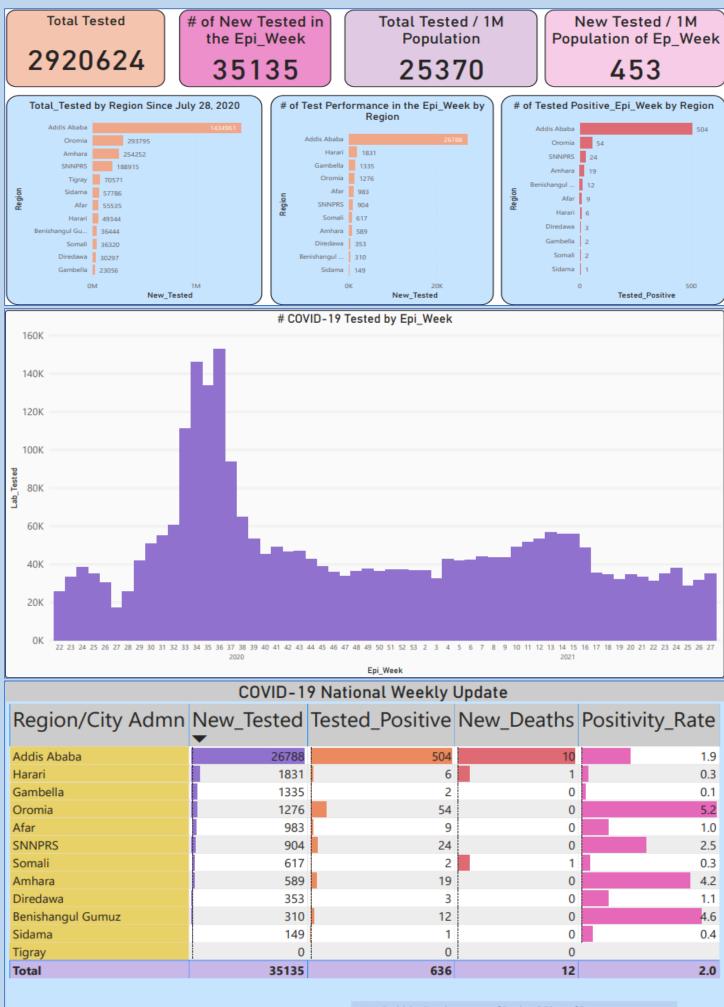


Fig. 11: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of July 11, 2021



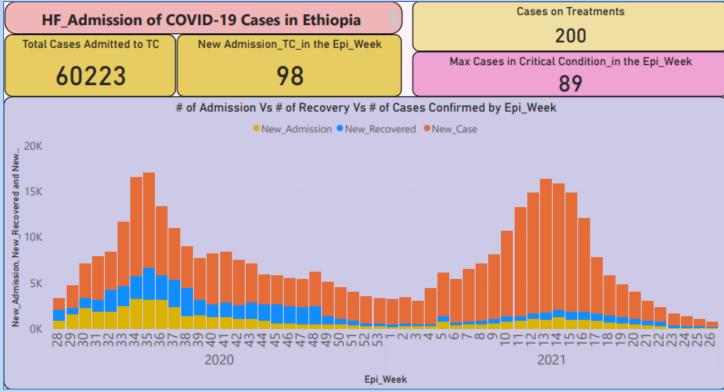
****** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

Fig. 12: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of March July 11, 2021, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 964 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-27, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 261,989 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 95%.
- The highest number of daily cases in severe condition reported in this week is 135 (daily average of the week is 126).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

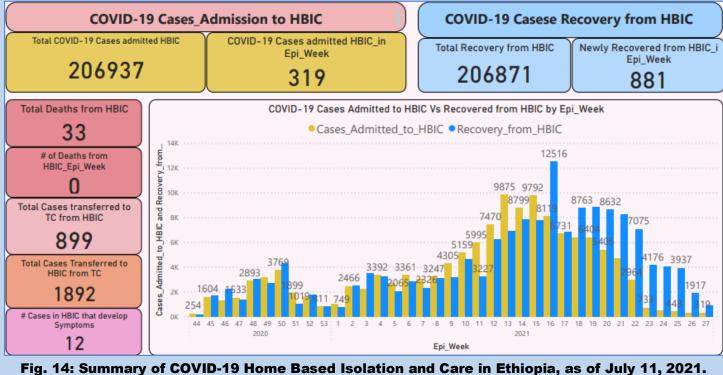
Fig. 13: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of July 11, 2021.

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	180200	79	29764	4	2239	26389	107	85
Oromia	39302	0	7279	0	511	6733	30	8
Amhara	11971	1	4552	0	253	4261	27	12
SNNPR	9039	1	4389	0	147	4278	0	0
Sidama	8431	0	3432	0	158	3210	2	1
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5206	16	14
Dire Dawa	5302	1	1182	0	67	1111	2	0
Harari	4341	0	1277	0	151	1120	2	2
Benshangul	3565	0	890	0	19	854	13	0
Afar	2721	5	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2507	0	660	0	56	600	1	0
Gambella	1521	0	682	0	8	649	0	0

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of July 11, 2021

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 206,937 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 206,871 (99.97%) have recovered and 33 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 611 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 897 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-26.
- As of July 11, 2021, there are 1,026 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,185 (one in the epi-week-27) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 898 (none in the Epi-week-27) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.



VI. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Media (mass media and social media) monitoring on COVID-19 related information is ongoing.
- Text messages regarding COVID-19 prevention and control was sent to all subscribers of Ethiotelecom
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.

No Mask No service	COVID-19 REPORTED DATE 11-07-2021	CASES IN ETHIOF	PIA	(/ ነነንጽናንክንክም ማለካምን ያጽርን	<mark>በኢትዮጵያ የኮ</mark> ቪ ቀን▶04-11-2013	ድ-19 ወቅታዊ ሁኔ	ታ
\smile	Daily		Total		እለታዊ		ድምር
Laboratory test	4,630	Laboratory test	2,920,624	የላብራቶሪ ምርመራ	4,630	የላብራቶሪ ምርመራ	2,920,624
cases	87	Active Cases	10,737	ቫይረሱ የተገኘባቸው	87	በአሁኑ ጊዜ ቫይረሱ ያለባቸው 🔹	10,737
severe cases	122	Total cases	277,071	በጽኑ የታመሙ 🖣	122	ቫይረሱ የተገኘባቸው	277,071
New Deaths	0	Total Deaths	4,343	ህይወታቸው ያለፈ	0	ህይወታቸው ያለፈ	4,343
Recovery	10	Total Recovery	261,989	ከበሽታው ያገገሙ 🕻	10	ከበሽታው ያገገሙ	261.989
		Total Vaccinated	2,058,333			ክትባት የተከተቡ	2.058.333
	For further information Call 8335 or 952 Toll free line		۲		ለበለጠ መረጃ ሰነቱ የሰልክ መስመር 8335 ወይም 952 ይደውሉ		۲

VII. 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 leadership and strategic virtual meeting, chaired by the H.E MOH Minster, is being conducted to oversee and guide the response efforts.
- Weekly joint meeting is ongoing, every Tuesday, among the national and regional Emergency Operations Centers COVID-19 response IMS (incident management system) to evaluate weekly COVID-19 situations, progress of response strategies, challenges faced and way forwards.
- The weekly virtual meeting of Joint Steering Committee encompassing MOH, Agencies and RHB top leadership under the leadership of H.E Minister of Health is ongoing.
- Rotary-Ethiopia donated 5 million Birr worth PPE that will be reaching 23 health facilities across the country to strengthen the fight against COVID-19. The latest support is part of Rotary Ethiopia's continued support to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.



Fig. 16: Rotary-Ethiopia Donating PPE to the FMOH to support the fight against COVID-19 in Ethiopia, July 10, 2021

VIII. Challenges and Way Forward

a. Challenges

- Poor adherence to the public health and social measures by public figures, leaders and community in general.
- Poor attention given to COVID-19 at all levels by all responsible bodies.
- Weak law enforcement efforts to enhance adherence to COVID-19 prevention and control measures.
- Lack of full information on circulating variant and circulation of Alpha and Beta variants
- Low stock status of personal protective equipment and laboratory supplies.
- COVID-19 vaccine shortage due to global vaccine stock shortage
- COVID-19 vaccine related misinformation and hesitancy.
- Very low performance of the revitalization plan
- Very low utilization of Antigen-Rapid Diagnostic Test kits by facilities despite its distribution to all regions and capacity building activities.

b. Way Forward

- Enhancing law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.
- Continuing the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Genomic surveillance establishment, networking and strengthening.
- Intensifying risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthening collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- Advocating and strengthening Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC).
- Conducting intensive testing of high-risk population group and contacts of confirmed cases for COVID-19.
- Enhancing technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Enhancing 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.
- Strengthening and sustaining other essential health services besides COVID-19.
- Enhancing performance and follow up on Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits from regional COVID-19 testing sites.

• Conduct '*I have a stake*' Initiatives at selected sector offices and launch the theme '*I have a stake to prevent further impacts and spread of new variants*' in each sectors based on organizational structure and culture.

IX. 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;
 - o Don't touch your mouth, nose or eye by unwashed hands;
 - Keep physical distancing; avoid mass gathering and shaking hands;
 - Get vaccinated against COVID-19.
- 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

MOH/EPHI/Region	Facebook page	Toll-free hotline	Email address (PHEOCs email)	
Ethiopian Public Health	https://www.ephi.gov.et/	8335/952	ephieoc@gmail.com	
Institute Main Website				
Ethiopian Public Health	https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/			
Institute COVID-19 Website				
Ethiopian Public Health	https://www.facebook.com/ephipa			
Institute Facebook Page	ge/			
Ethiopian Public Health	https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia			
Institute Twitter Page				
Ethiopian Public Health	https://t.me/EthPHI			
Institute Telegram Channel				
Ethiopian Public Health	https://www.youtube.com/channel/			
Institute YouTube Channel	UCvvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw			
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia	www.moh.gov.et	952		
Website				

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Ministry of Health, Ethiopia	https://www.facebook.com/Ethiopi		
Facebook Page	aFMoH/		
Afar Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb	6220	afarpheoc@gmail.com
	.org/		
Amhara Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/Amhar	6981	aphieoc@gmail.com
Bureau	a-Healthbureau-		
	682065755146948/		
Benishangul Gumuz	https://www.facebook.com/Benish	6016	bgpheoc@gmail.com
Regional Health Bureau	angul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-	0010	Sgprice C ginalice in
rtegional rioaltr Bareau	1676282159265517/		
Gambela Regional Health	https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealth	6184	gambellapheoc@gmail.com
5		0104	gambellapheoc@gmail.com
Bureau	bureau	0004	
Harari Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/Harari-	6864	hrhbpheoc@gmail.com
Bureau	Regional-Health-Bureau-		
	1464182130355007/		
Oromia Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/Oromia	6955	oromiapheoc@gmail.com
Bureau	Health/		
Somali Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot	6599	somalipheoc@gmail.com
Bureau	com/		
SNNP Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/snnprh	6929	snnppheoc@gmail.com
Bureau	ealthbureau/?ref=br_rs		
Tigray Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrh	6244	tigraypheoc@gmail.com
Bureau	b/		ig, price e griancom
Sidama PHEM			sidamapheoc@gmail.com
Dire Dawa city Administration	https://www.facabook.com/Dira	6407	
Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Dire-	0407	ddpheoc@gmail.com
	Dawa-Administration-Health-		
	Bureau-1371606266279524/	0.400	
Addis Ababa City	https://www.facebook.com/aahb.g	6406	aapheoc@gmail.com
Administration Health Bureau	ov.et/		

COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

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





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://covid19.ephi.gov.et/covid-19/)

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; <u>www.ephi.gov.et</u>

PREPARED BY

Fantu Lombamo (MD, MPH) – Planning Section, Situation Unit Lead Negusse Yohannes (PhD in Statistics) – Planning Section, Situation Unit Member

EDITED AND REVIEWED BY

Shambel Habebe (MPH-Field Epi) - Planning Section Chief Zewdu Assefa (MPH- Field Epi) - Deputy Incident Manager Aschalew Abayneh (RN, BSc, MPH) - DDG-EPHI, Incident Manager

FOR MORE INFORMATION and NOTIFICATION

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