



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

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

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 40 (October 04 – 10, 2021)

BULLETIN No: 76

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Almost all of the individuals dying of COVID-19 these days are those who are not vaccinated.
- A total of 54,184 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-40 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,551,983.
- A total of 5,807 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 268 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-40 bringing the total cases and death to 354,476 and 5,990 respectively.
- On October 10, 2021, there are 745 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (771).
- A total of 272,176 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 5,788 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-40.
- The number of confirmed cases, laboratory test and deaths due to COVID-19 has shown decrement in this week after increment for consecutive weeks.

## II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- Almost all of the individuals dying of COVID-19 these days are those who are not vaccinated. Since mid of June to August 2021, all individuals who died of COVID-19 are not vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 except one person who died after taking the first dose of the vaccine.
- In Ethiopia, a total of 3,879,071 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm or Johnson and Johnson) are administered so far. Out of these, 138,911 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 1,831,713 (47%) people are fully vaccinated.

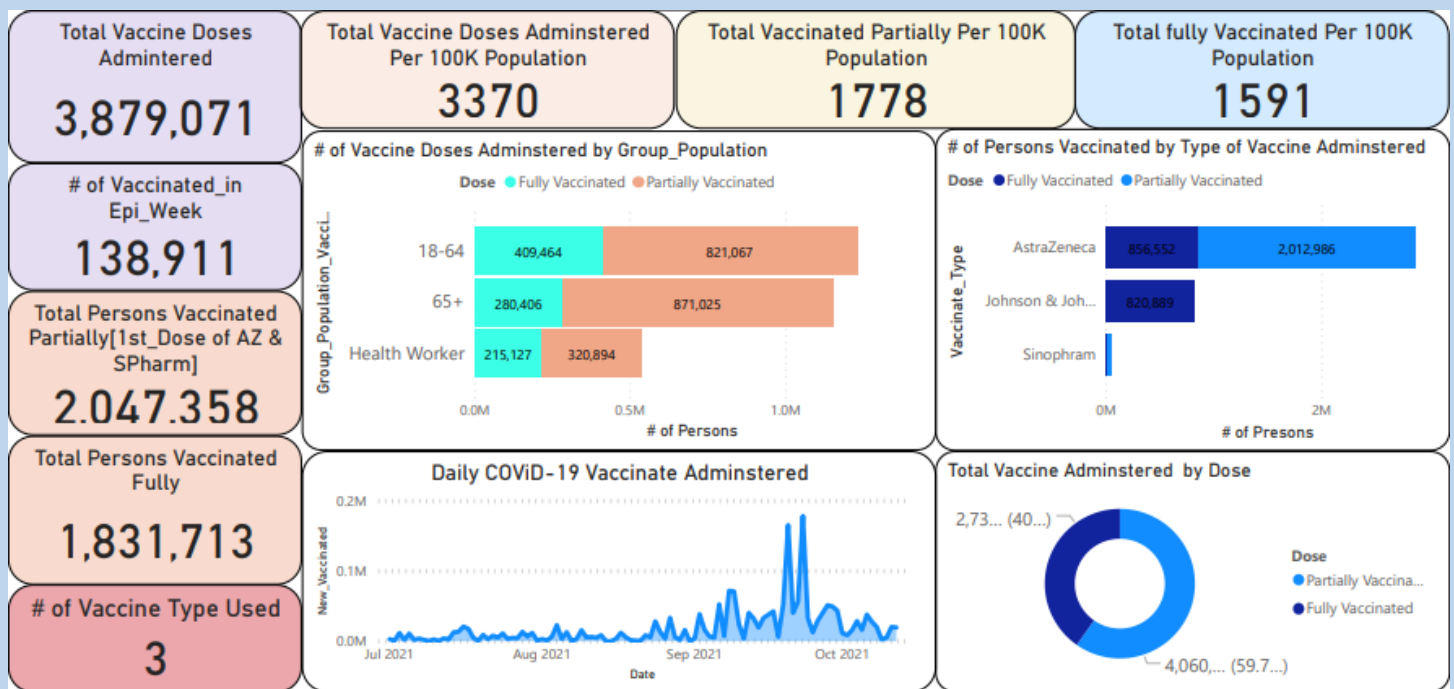


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of October 10, 2021

### III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

#### a. Global Situation

- Globally, the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to decline. This is a trend that has been observed since August.
- Over 4 million new cases and over 72,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 04 – 10 October 2021. Cases in this week decreased by 16% as compared to the previous week, while the number of deaths decreased by 15% compared to that of the past week.
- As of October 10, 2021, a total of 230,040,462 COVID-19 cases and 4,603,524 deaths (CFR=2.00%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 4,077,355 cases and 72,190 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-40.
- 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 India (673,982 new cases), the United States of America (551,882 new cases), the United Kingdom (261,764 new cases), Brazil (228,232 new cases) and Russian Federation (224,842 new cases).
- In Africa, as of October 10, 2021, a total of 8,297,427 cases and 209,403 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.52%). Of these, 95,900 cases (20% decrease compared to the previous week) and 2,897 deaths (14% increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-40.
- 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.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

**230,040,462**

New Confirmed Cases\_of Epi\_Week Globally

**4,077,355**

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

**4,603,524**

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi\_Week

**72,190**

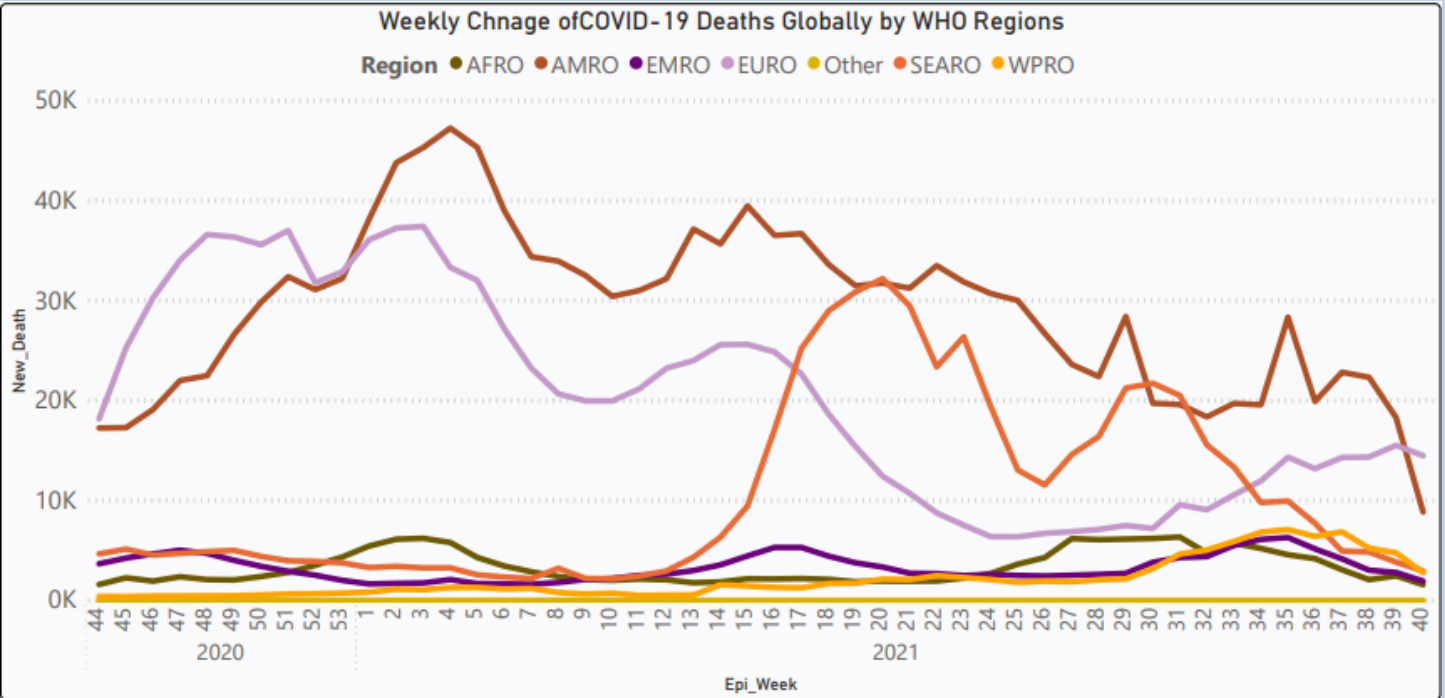
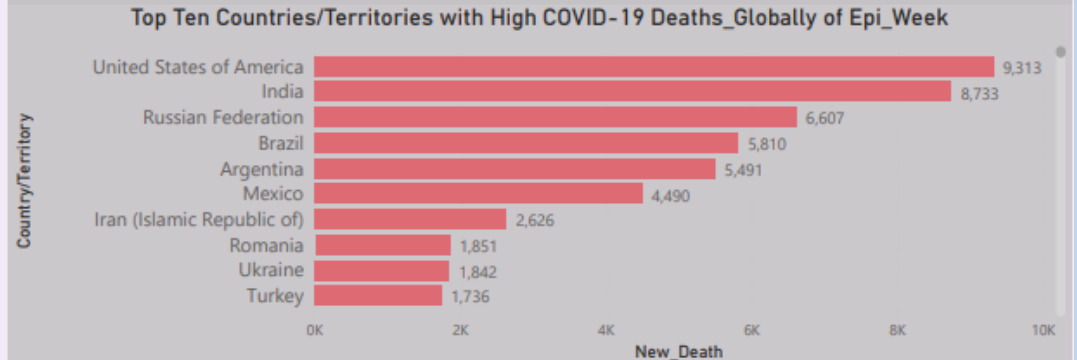
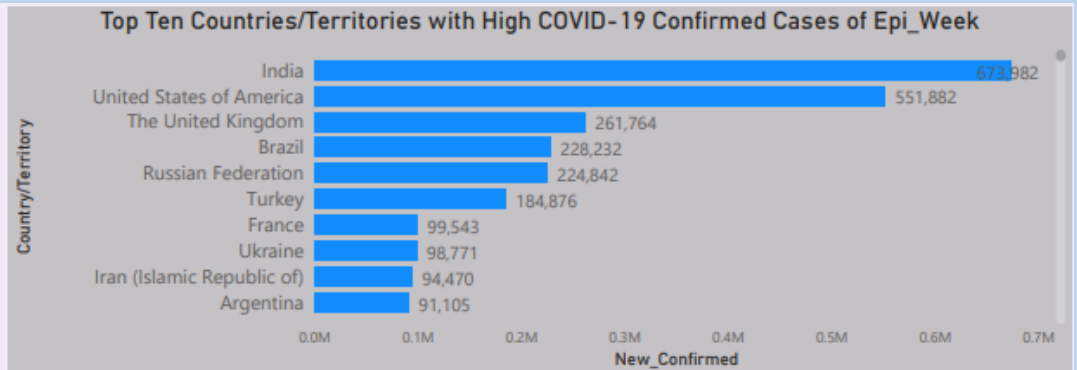


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of October 10, 2021 (Source: WHO)

Total Number of Cases Confirmed in Africa

**8,297,427**

New Confirmed Cases in Africa with COVID-19 of Epi\_Week

**95,900**

New Cases in Last 7Days Per 100K Popn. in Africa

**771**

Total Number of Deaths in Africa with COVID-19

**209,403**

New Deaths in Africa with COVID-19 in Epi\_Week

**2,897**

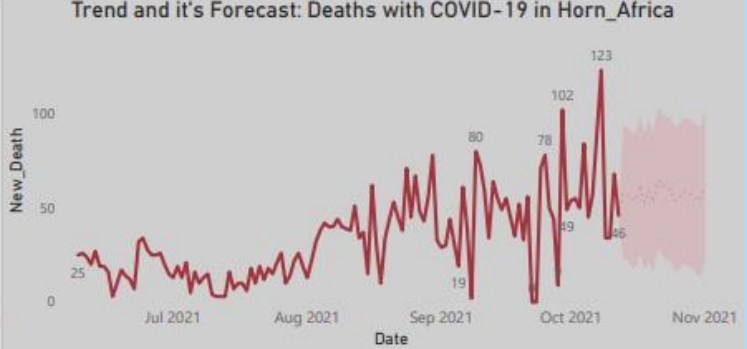
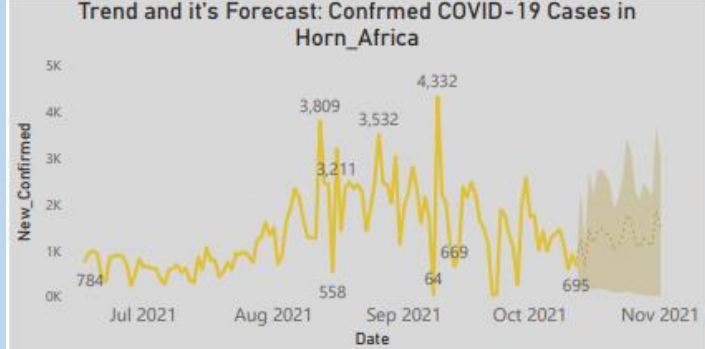
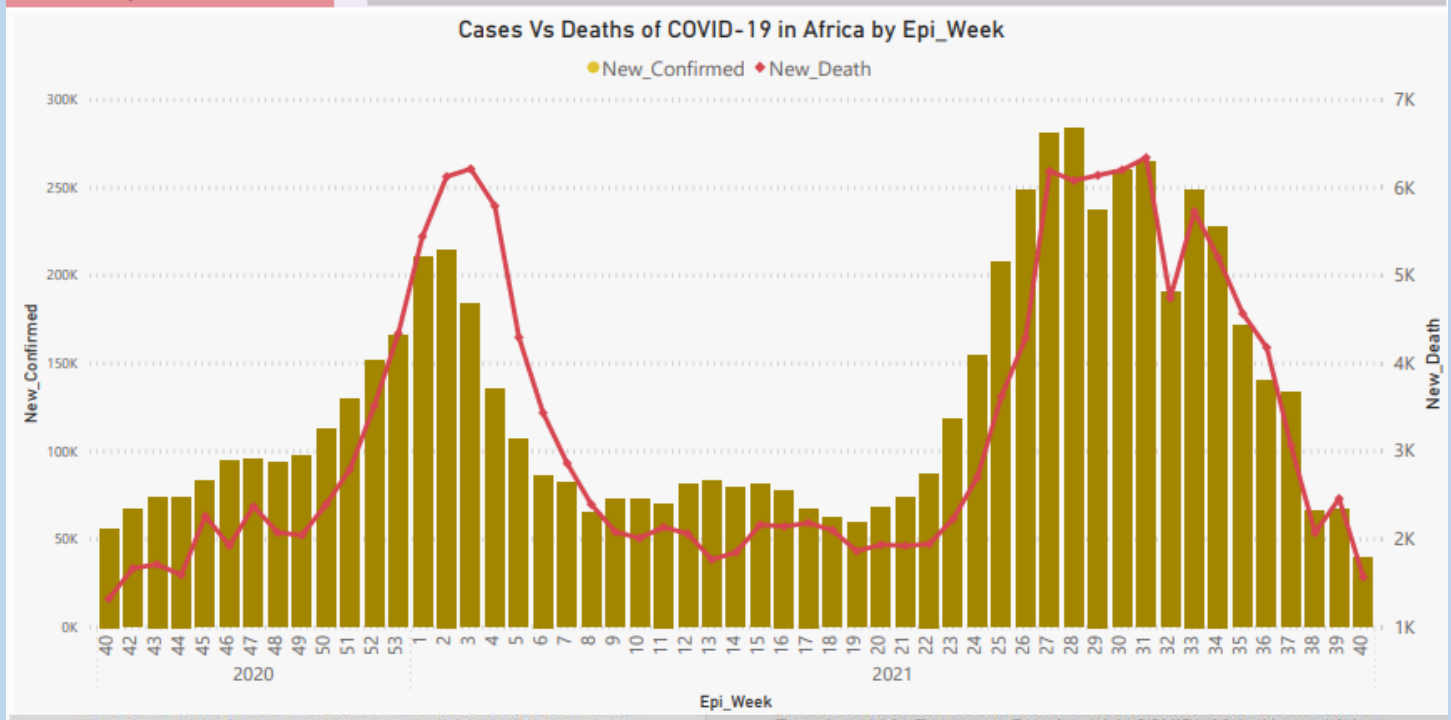
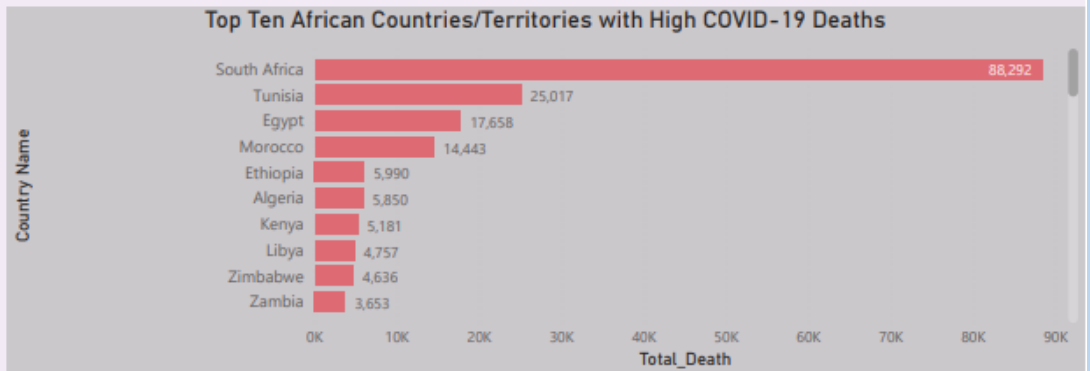
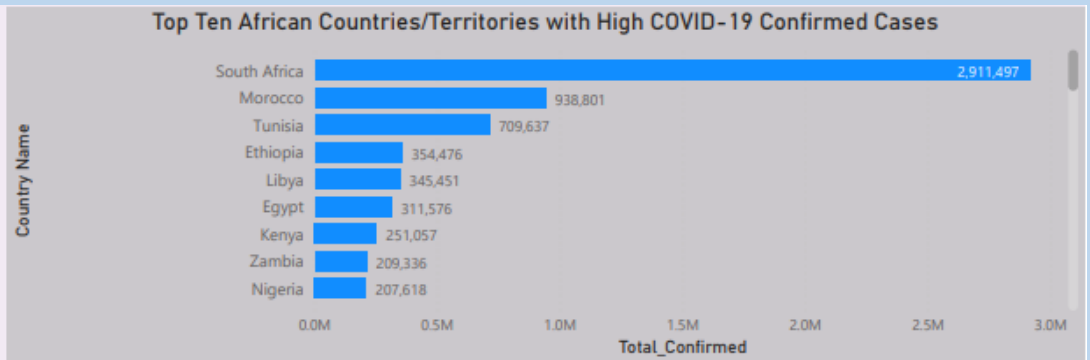


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of October 10, 2021 (Source: WHO)

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of October 10, 2021, a total of 354,476 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 5,990 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.69%. This puts Ethiopia in the fourth position by the number of confirmed cases and in the fifth position by the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Africa.
- Five-thousand-eight-hundred-seven (5,807) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 268 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-40.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last three consecutive weeks and decrease in the number of deaths after an increment for nine consecutive weeks. In this week, there is 17% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19.
- For detail, see the summary dashboard below.

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

**Table 1: Summary of National COVID-19 situation in the Epi-Week-40 of 2021**

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	37714	3240	390	161	8.4
SNNPR	5074	910	66	13	19.6
Oromia	3617	617	269	58	16.1
Dire Dawa	2123	337	30	3	16.5
Sidama	1428	302	47	13	20.7
Amhara	1035	183	56	15	17.0
Afar	979	66	0	0	5.4
Gambella	717	7	0	0	0.6
Benishangul G	633	26	16	0	5.0
Harari	611	77	10	1	12.9
Somali	253	42	38	4	18.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>54184</b>	<b>5807</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>12.7</b>

\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is the Averages of Regional Distributions

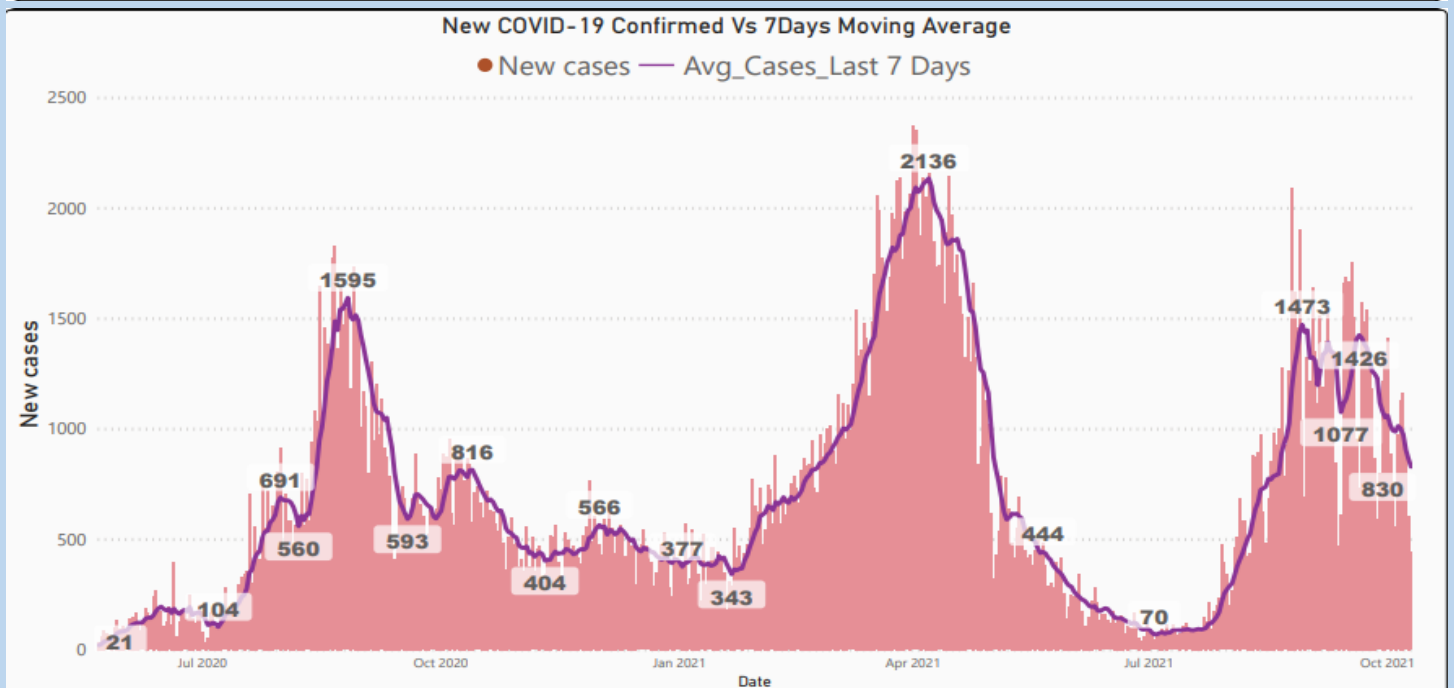
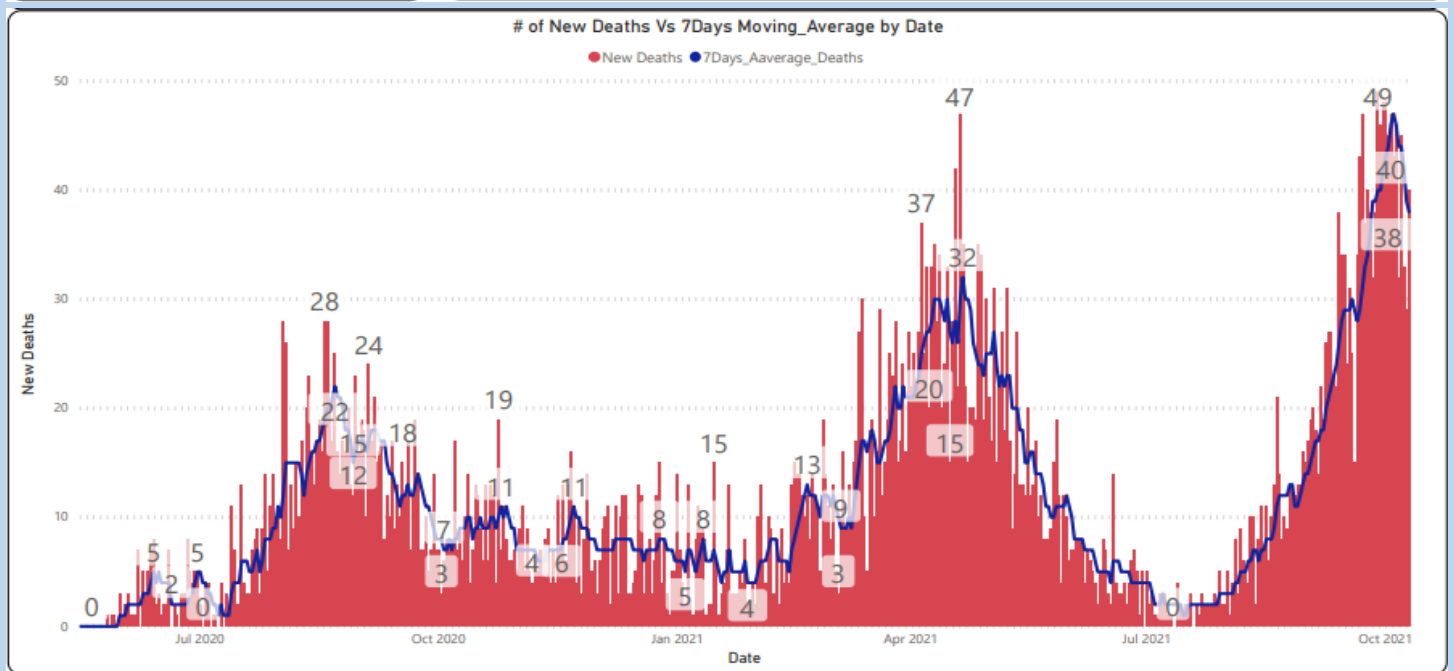
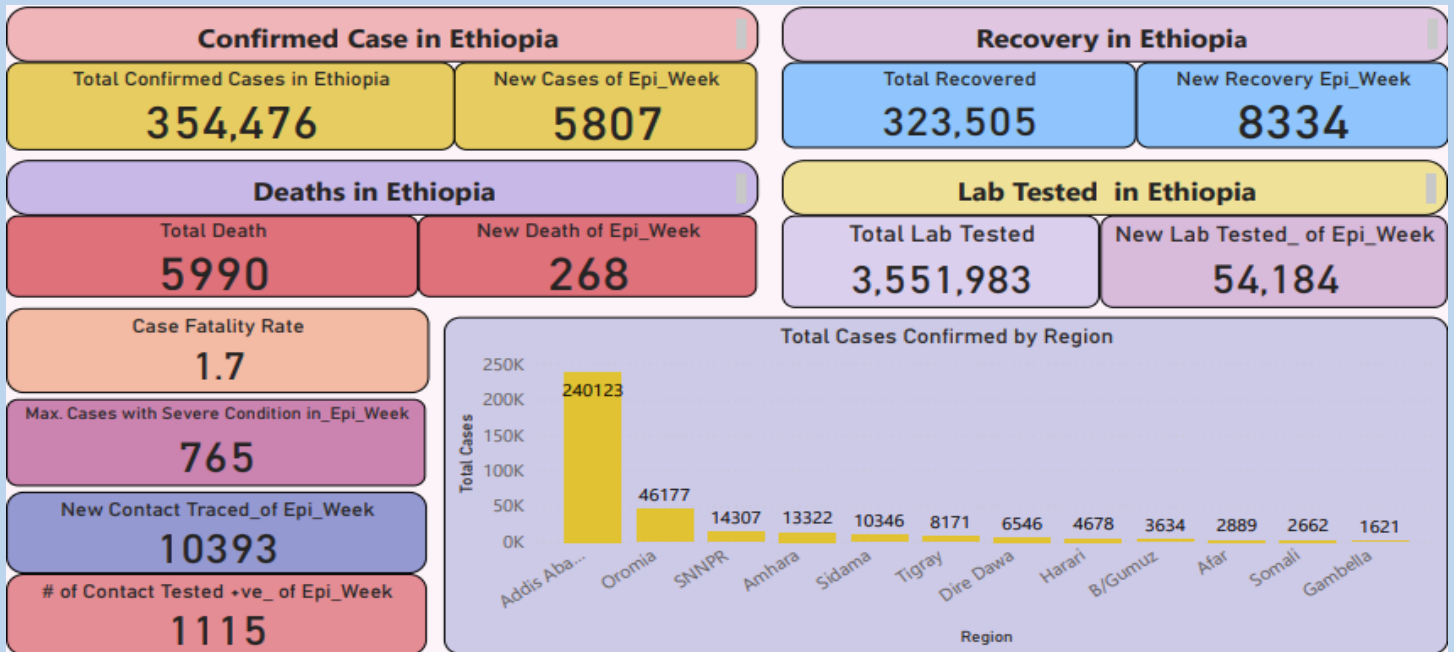


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of October 10, 2021, Ethiopia

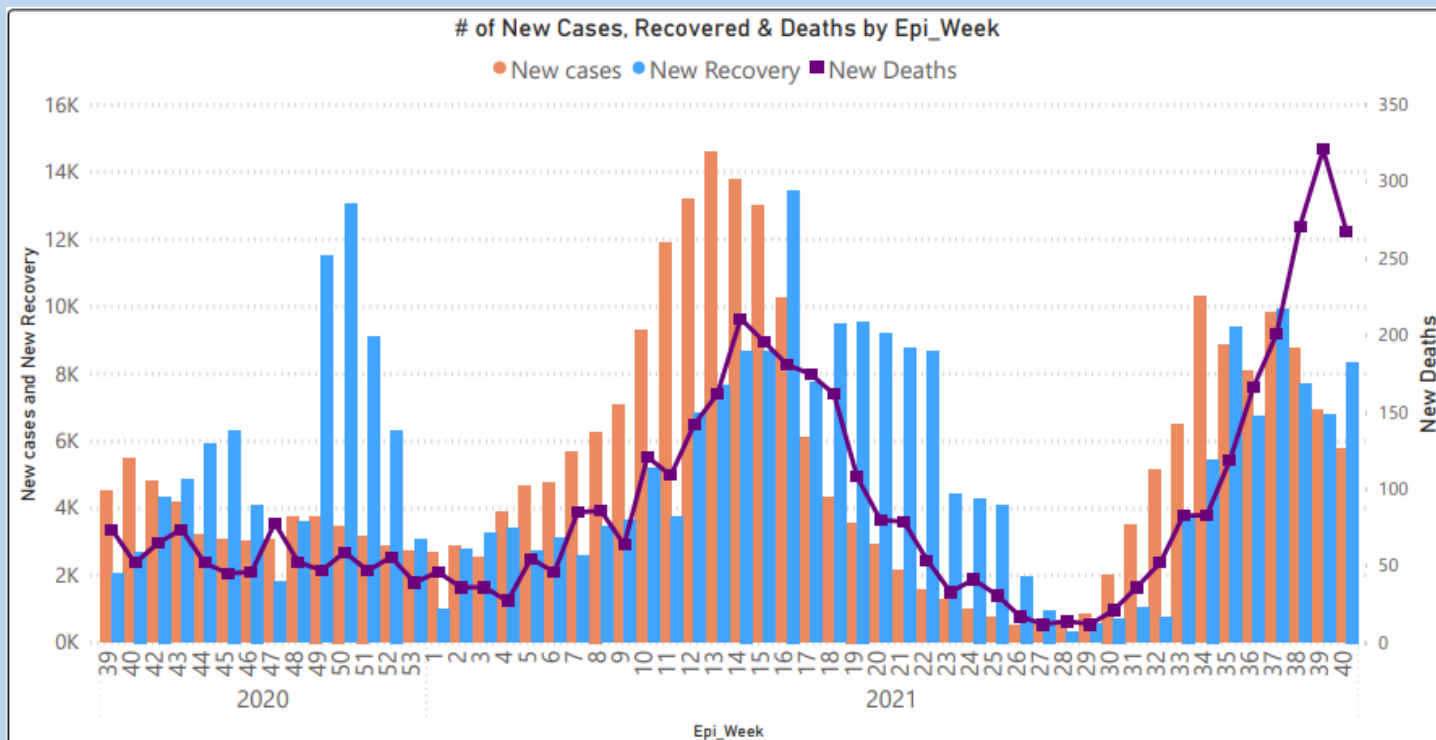


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of October 10, 2021, Ethiopia

### 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.

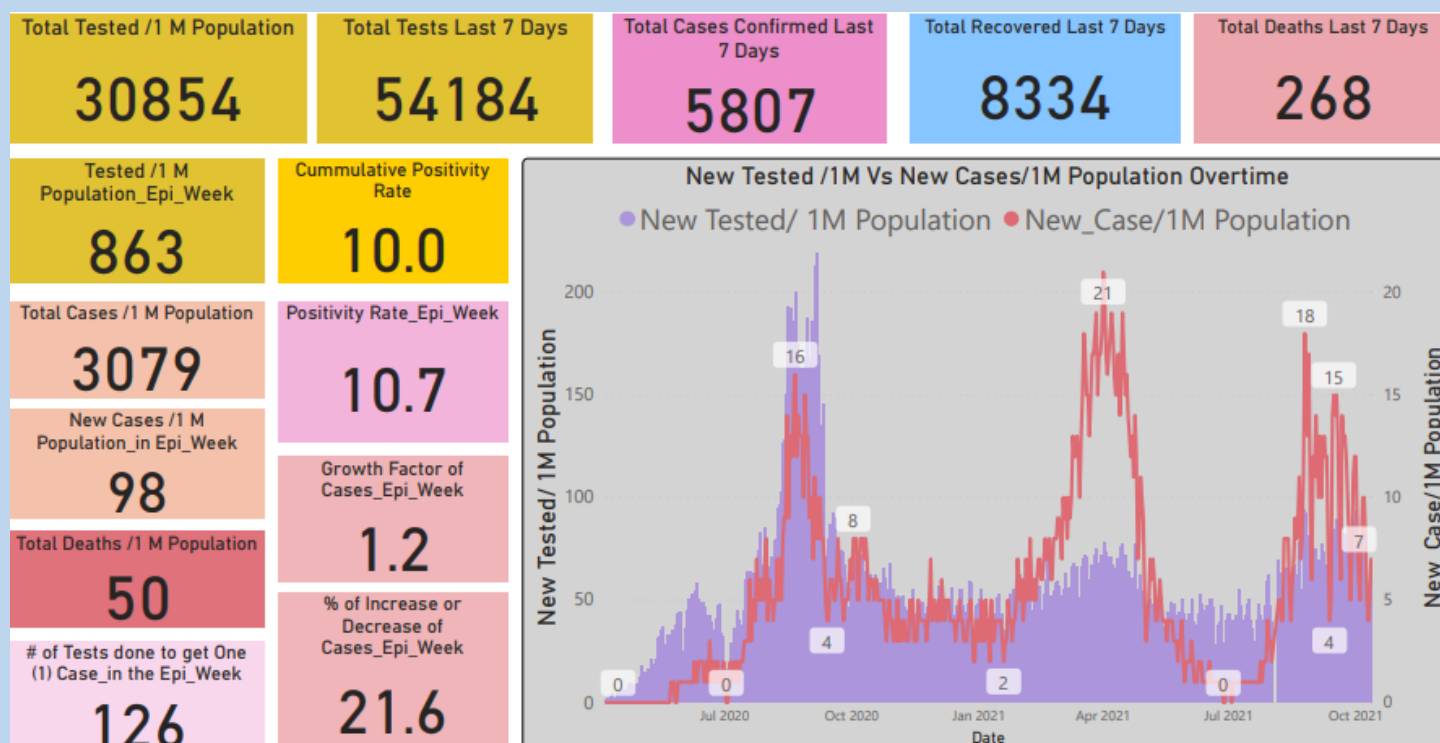
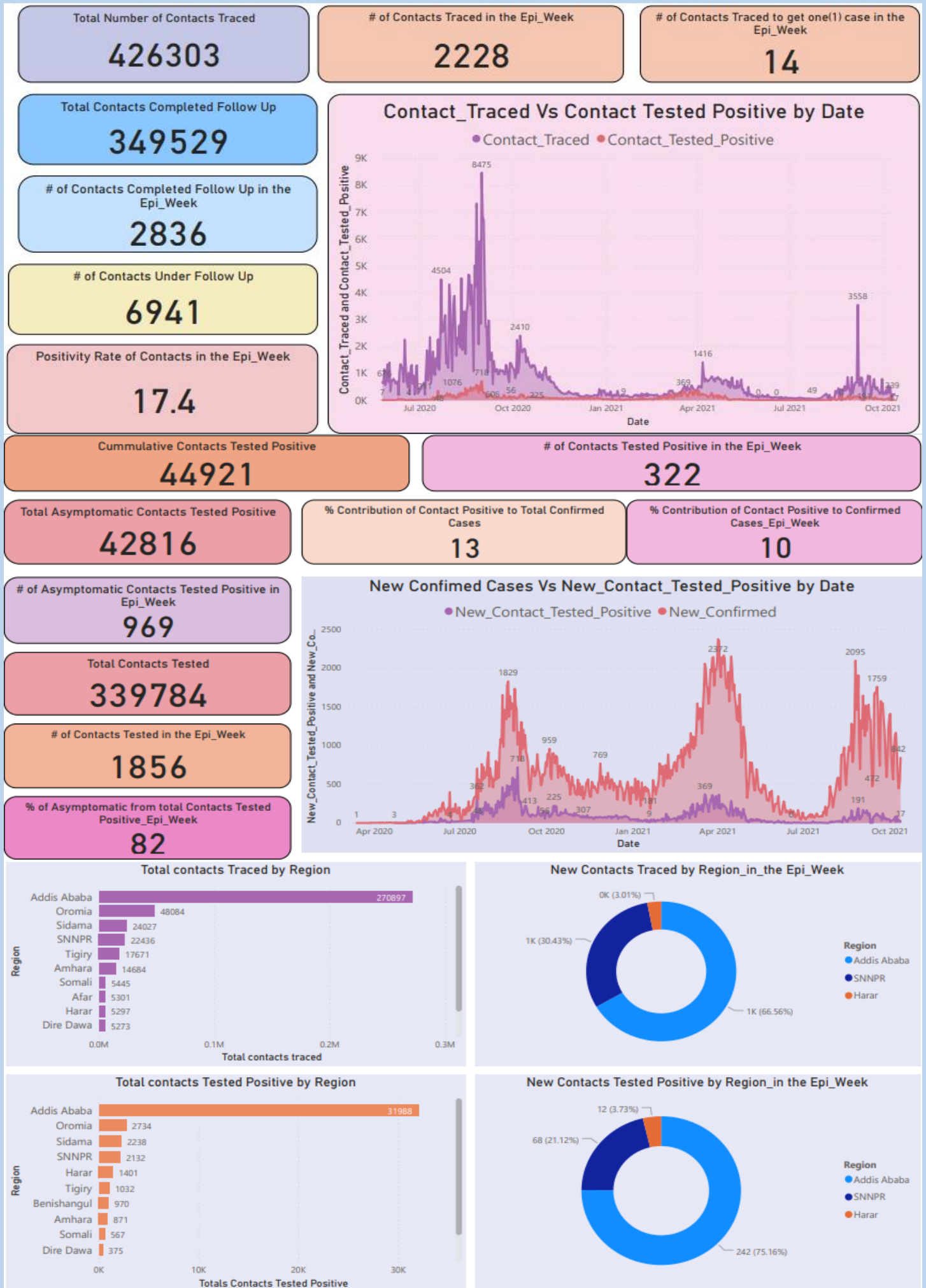


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of October 10, 2021.

#### **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 and thus should be enhanced.
- As of October 10, 2021:
  - A total of 426,303 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 2,228 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-40.
  - Of total contacts, 349,529 (81.99%) have completed follow-up, while 6,941 contacts are still on follow-up.
  - All the contacts traced are from Addis Ababa city administration and SNNP and Harari regional states; no contact tracing activity is reported from other regions.
- Overall, 44,921 (10.53%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 12.67% of the total cases. However, when there is transmission of the disease at community level, it is known that an individual acquires the disease from unknown/unidentified contacts.

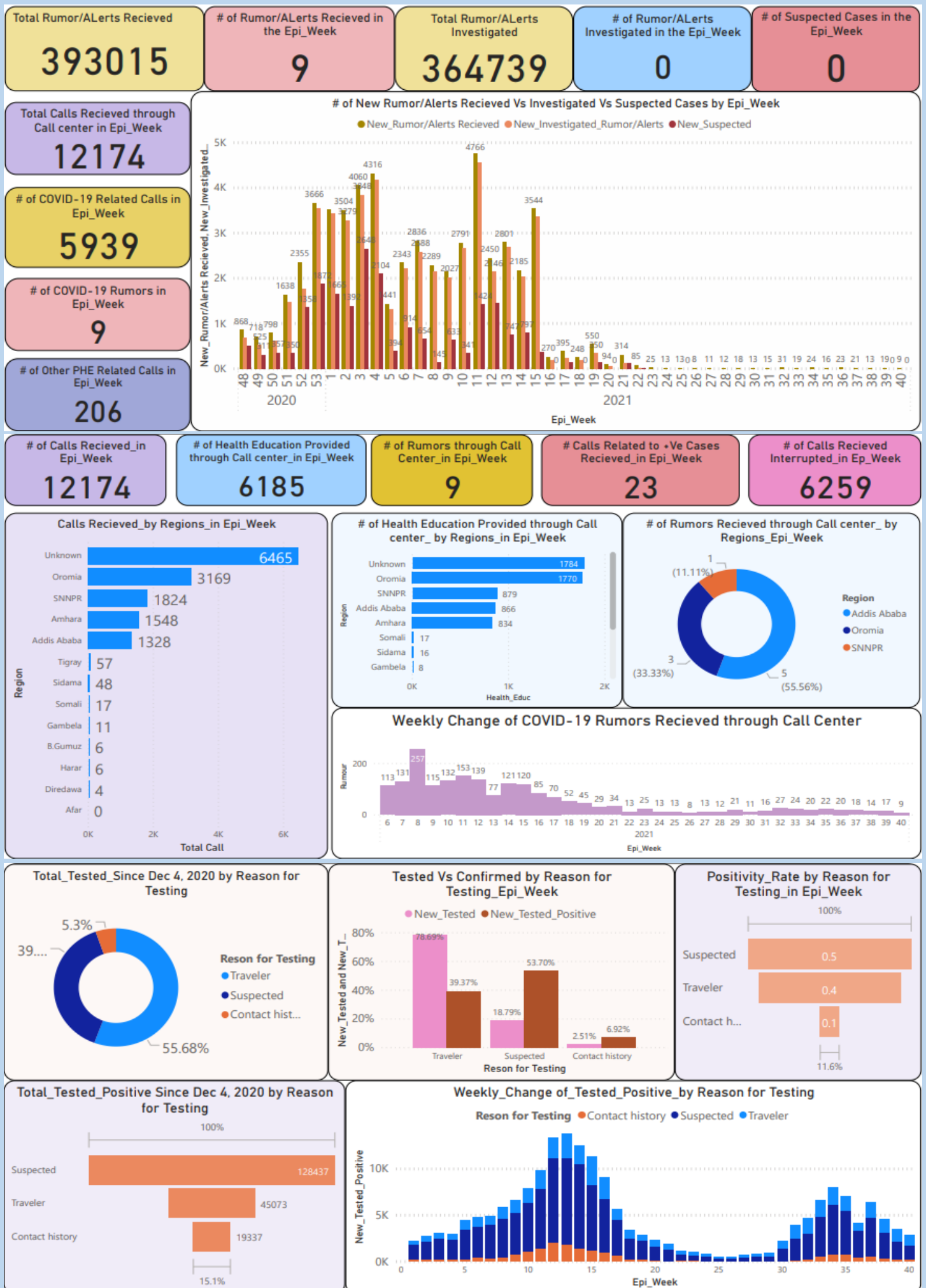




**Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of October 10, 2021, Ethiopia.**

## **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 October 10, 2021:
  - 393,015 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, nine rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-40.
  - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 12,174 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.



**Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as October 10, 2021, Ethiopia.**

### **iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities**

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,757,586 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 832,843 (30%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 21,216 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-40.
- As of October 10, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 59 (one in Epi-week-40) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 95 (none in week-40) SARS-COV-2 positive cases have been detected by RT-PCR after arrival laboratory test.
- Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag-RDT) for COVID-19 is also being done at Bole International Airport for returnees. So far, 8,677 tests (1,073 in week-40) are conducted among which 96 positive cases (none in week-40) are detected as of October 10, 2021.
- A total of 66,555 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 1,262 returnees were received in the Epi-week-40. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 64,899 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,656 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of October 10, 2021.

## IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 10 October 2021, a total of 3,551,983 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 54,184 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-40 which is a 2% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-40 is 10.72%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (12.52%).
- Sidama, SNNP, Somali, Amhara and Oromia regional states and Dire Dawa city administration have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 10 below).
- Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 380,497 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 16,805 is performed in the Epi-week-40 (figure 9 below).

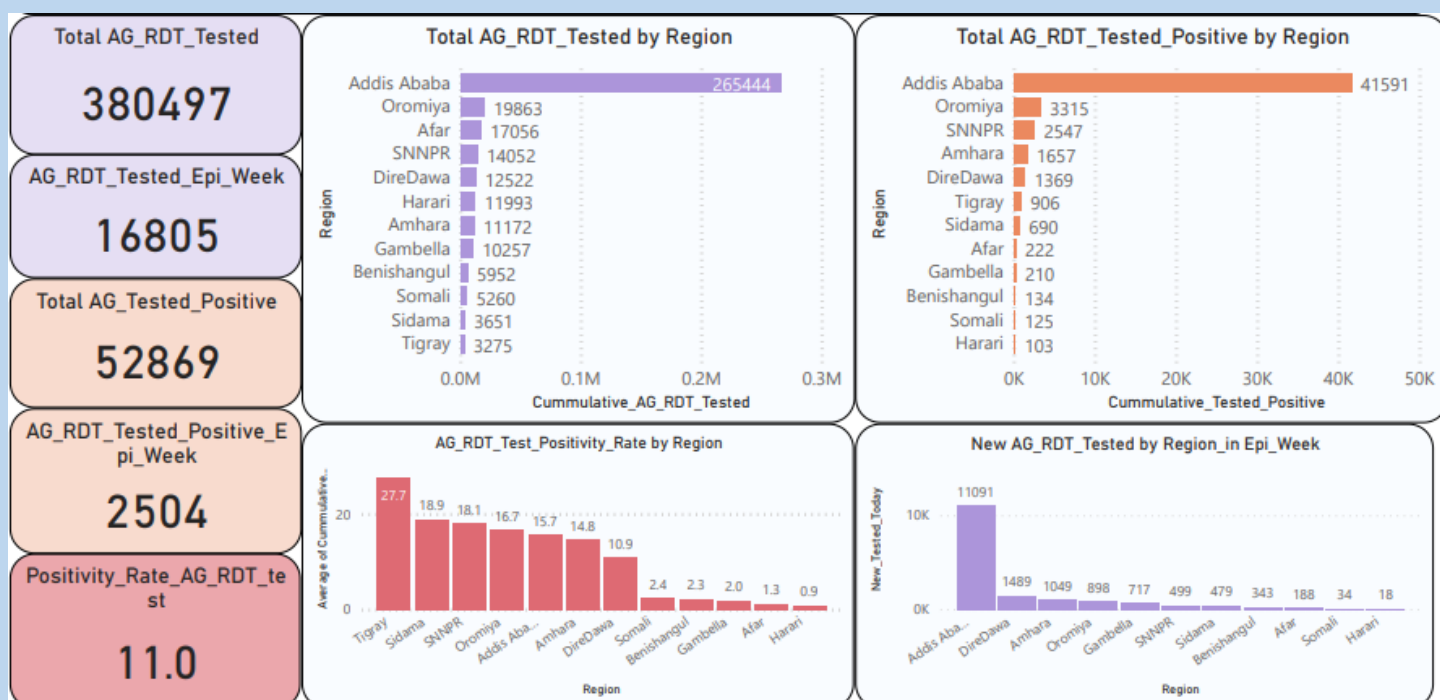
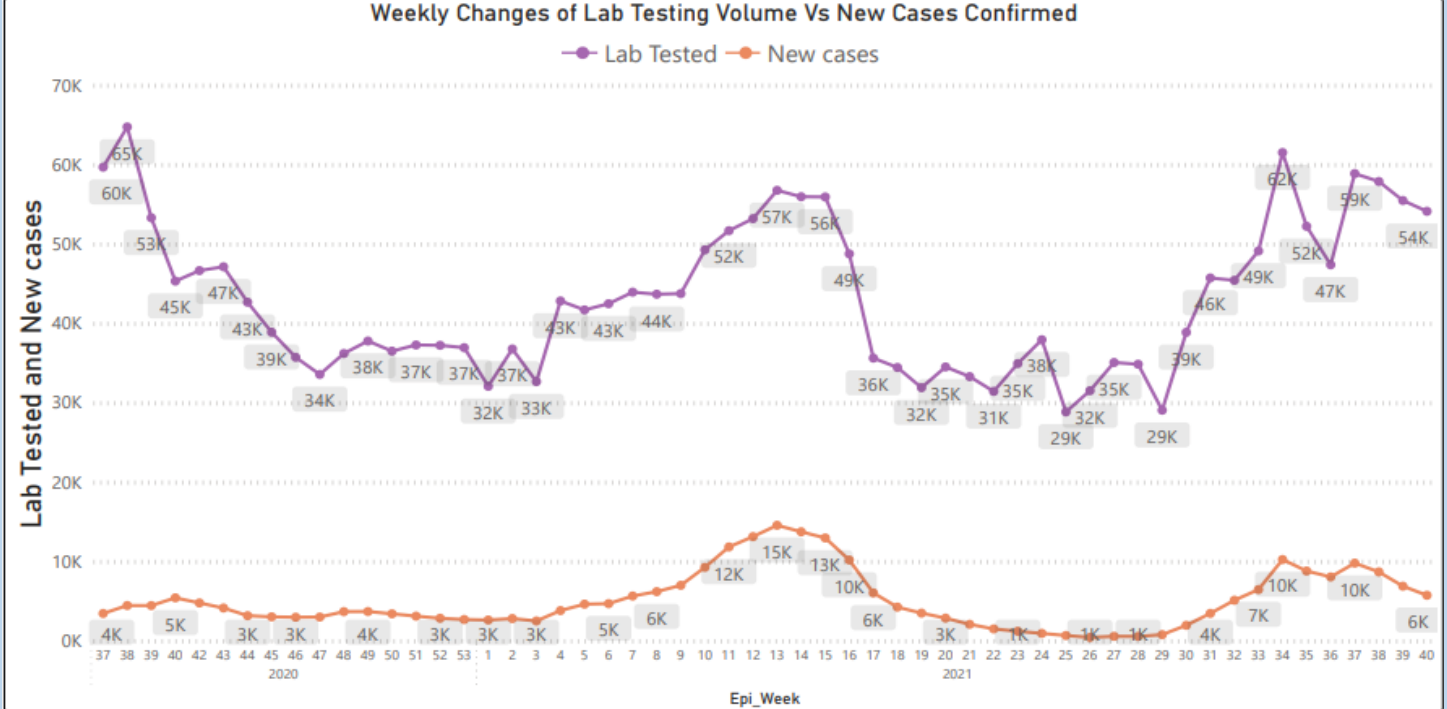
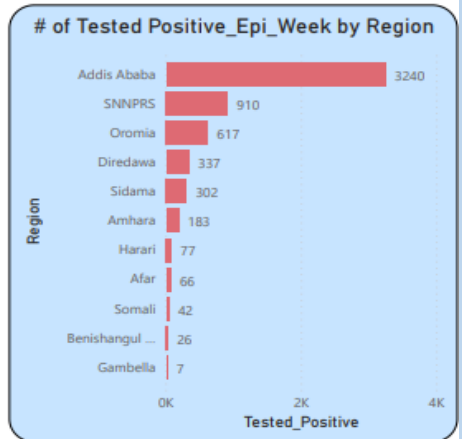
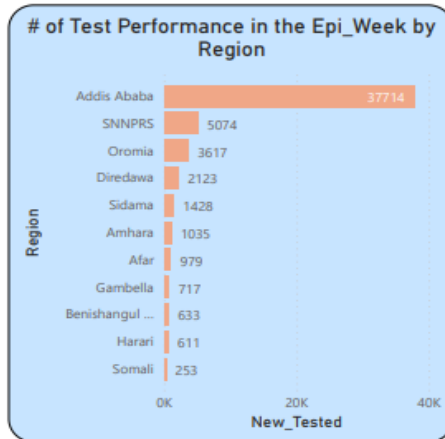
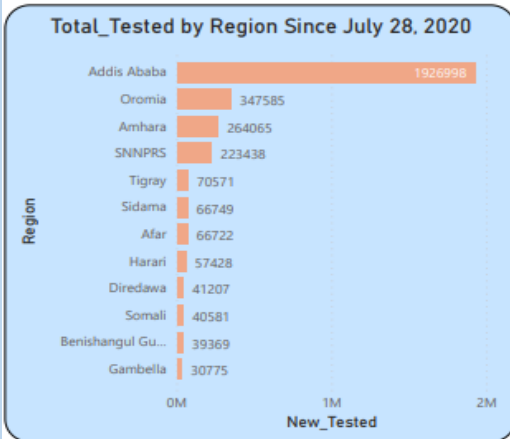


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of October 10, 2021

<b>Total Tested</b> <b>3551983</b>	<b># of New Tested in the Epi_Week</b> <b>54184</b>	<b>Total Tested / 1M Population</b> <b>30854</b>	<b>New Tested / 1M Population of Ep_Week</b> <b>863</b>
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Region/City Admn	New_Test	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	37714	3240	161	8.4
SNNPRS	5074	910	13	19.7
Oromia	3617	617	58	16.3
Diredawa	2123	337	3	16.2
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<b>Total</b>	<b>54184</b>	<b>5807</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>12.7</b>

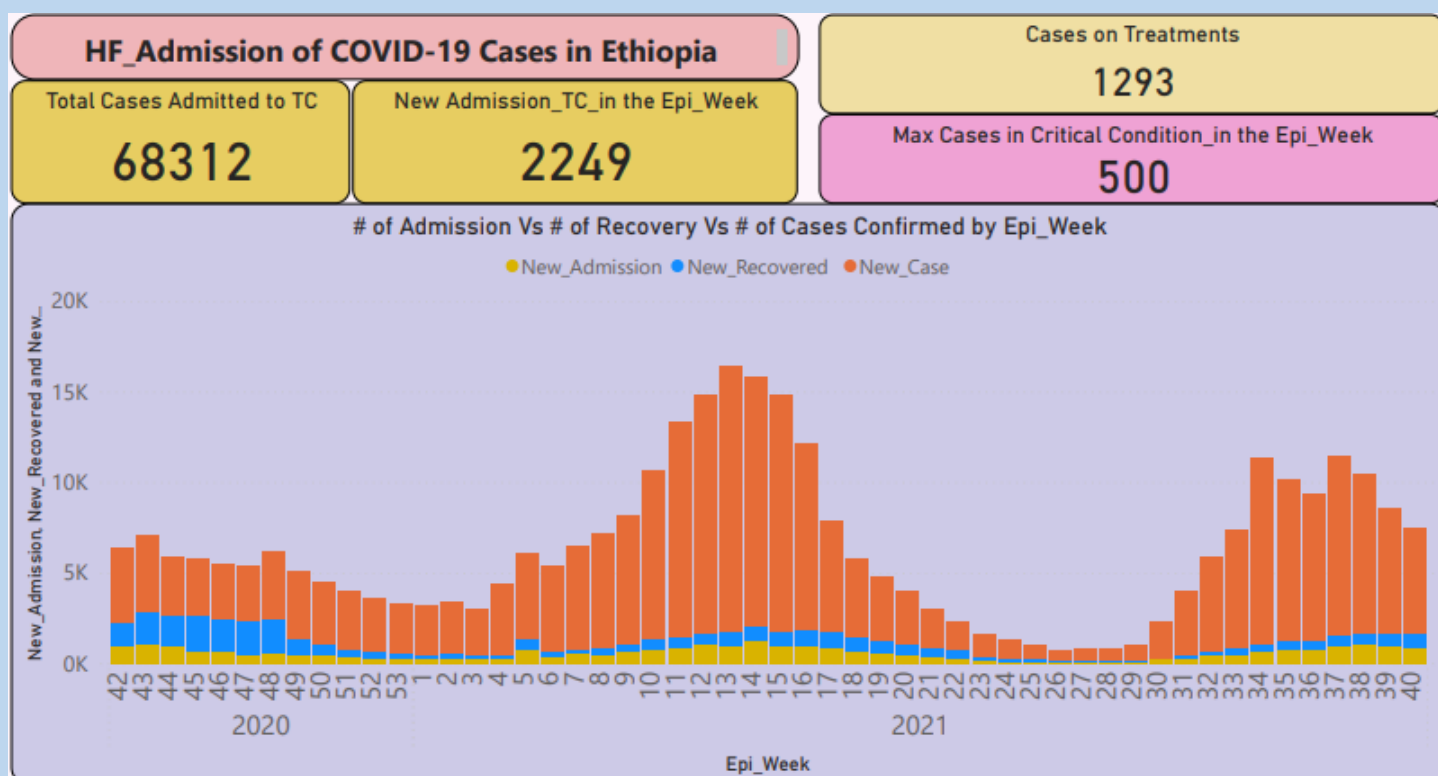
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distrn of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of October 10, 2021, Ethiopia.

## V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 8,334 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-40, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 323,505 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 91%.
- On October 10, 2021, there are 745 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (771).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of October 10, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of October 10, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	240123	350	35119	63	3379	29718	608	414
Oromia	46177	44	8550	21	763	7369	423	181
SNNPR	14307	29	4993	16	211	4752	67	39
Amhara	13322	2	4957	10	353	4531	68	48
Sidama	10346	17	3635	2	197	3337	37	17
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	6546	0	1306	5	86	1180	40	12
Harari	4678	1	1320	1	162	1152	10	10
Benishangul G	3634	0	931	0	23	892	18	2
Afar	2889	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2662	0	703	0	62	616	22	22
Gambella	1621	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

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

- So far, 272,176 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 263,128 (96.68%) have recovered and 39 (0.014%) died.
- Of these, 5,788 cases have been enrolled to HBIC, 7,401 cases have recovered and one case died in the Epi-Week-40.
- As of October 10, 2021, there are 11,402 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,408 (95 in the Epi-week-40) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,192 (63 in the Epi-week-40) 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.
- Press release provided by the Ministry of Health-Ethiopia on the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia.



Figure 12: Press release on COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia, October 09, 2021

- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 13: COVID-19 situation update as of October 10, 2021 shared on social media.



## **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 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 virtual meeting of Joint Steering Committee encompassing MOH, Agencies and RHB top leadership under the leadership of H.E Minister of Health is ongoing once in two weeks.

## **VIII. Challenges and Way Forward**

### **a. Challenges**

- Poor adherence to the public health and social measures by public figures and leaders.
- 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.
- COVID-19 vaccine related misinformation and hesitancy.
- 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.
- Intensifying risk communication and community engagement activities.
- Strengthening collaboration and coordination with key stakeholders and partners.
- 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.
- Intensification of a capacity building trainings and orientation including through virtual/online platforms.
- Enhancing performance and follow up on Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits from regional COVID-19 testing sites.

## IX. Public Health Policy Recommendation

### Advice for the Public:

- COVID-19 vaccines should be provided to the public only at public health facilities and free of charge. According to the program developed by the Ministry of Health, COVID-19 vaccines are still being given to priority groups at public health institutions at all levels.
- 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;
  - 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 Institute Main Website	<a href="https://www.ephi.gov.et/">https://www.ephi.gov.et/</a>	8335/952	<a href="mailto:ephieoc@gmail.com">ephieoc@gmail.com</a>
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	<a href="https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/">https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/">https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/</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/UCvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw</a>		
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	<a href="http://www.moh.gov.et">www.moh.gov.et</a>	952	

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>	6220	<a href="mailto:afarpheoc@gmail.com">afarpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/">https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/</a>	6981	<a href="mailto:aphieoc@gmail.com">aphieoc@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:bgpheoc@gmail.com">bgpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau">https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau</a>	6184	<a href="mailto:gambellapheoc@gmail.com">gambellapheoc@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:hrrhpheoc@gmail.com">hrrhpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/">https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/</a>	6955	<a href="mailto:oromiapheoc@gmail.com">oromiapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Somali Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/">https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...</a>	6599	<a href="mailto:somalipheoc@gmail.com">somalipheoc@gmail.com</a>
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs">https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs</a>	6929	<a href="mailto:snnppheoc@gmail.com">snnppheoc@gmail.com</a>
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/">https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/</a>	6244	<a href="mailto:tigraypheoc@gmail.com">tigraypheoc@gmail.com</a>
Sidama PHEM			<a href="mailto:sidamapheoc@gmail.com">sidamapheoc@gmail.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:ddpheoc@gmail.com">ddpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/">https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/</a>	6406	<a href="mailto:aapheoc@gmail.com">aapheoc@gmail.com</a>

### 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://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.

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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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