



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 45 (November 08 – 14, 2021)

BULLETIN No: 81

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- Ethiopia launched a two-week long COVID-19 vaccination campaign that targets residents of 65 cities and towns of Ethiopia.
- A total of 38,537 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-45 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,777,639.
- A total of 1,612 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 81 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-45 bringing the total cases and death to 368,822 and 6,623 respectively.
- On November 14, 2021, there are 285 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (421).
- A total of 284,417 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 746 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-45.
- The number of confirmed cases, deaths due to COVID-19 and positivity rate has shown decrement in this week.

II. Subject in focus: COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Ethiopia

- Ethiopia launched a two-week long COVID-19 vaccination campaign that targets residents of 65 cities/towns of Ethiopia. The new vaccination drive, which starts in Addis Ababa on Monday, aims to prevent the alarming spread of the virus and its devastating consequences in the country. The newly launched vaccination campaign targets “vulnerable communities” in Ethiopian cities and towns to take the available doses. Up to 65 cities/towns in all the regions and city administrations will be reached across the country to vaccinate people of over 18 years of age in the coming two weeks. The recently obtained Pfizer vaccine will also be given to persons aged 12 years and above. Apart from Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, AstraZeneca, and Sinopharm vaccines are being administered.

III. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 5,066,269 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm or Johnson and Johnson) are administered so far. Out of these, 29,178 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 2,653,510 (52%) people are fully vaccinated.

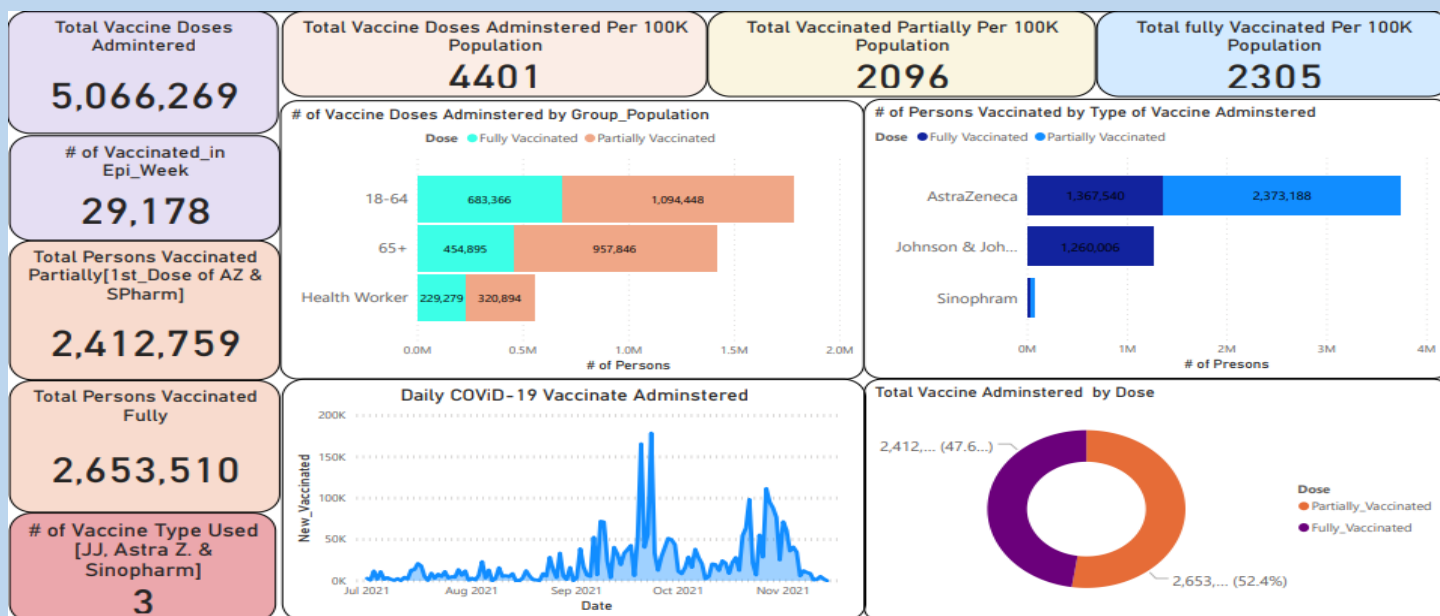


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of November 14, 2021

IV. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, both the number of weekly COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths have increased.
- Over 7 million new cases and over 103,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 08 – 14 November 2021. Cases in this week increased by 10% as compared to the previous week, while the number of deaths increased by 11% compared to that of the past week.
- As of November 14, 2021, a total of 243,193,689 COVID-19 cases and 4,812,076 deaths (CFR=1.98%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 7,087,226 cases and 103,665 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-45.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (1,235,177 new cases), France (447,070 new cases), The Russian Federation (413,132 new cases), The United Kingdom (412,686 new cases) and India (405,443 new cases).
- In Africa, as of November 14, 2021, a total of 8,452,859 cases and 215,269 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.55%). Of these, 110,702 cases (a 5% increase compared to the previous week) and 2,993 deaths (14% increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-45.
- In Africa, the highest number of confirmed cases are reported from Morocco (33,951 new case) followed by South Africa (12,380 new cases).
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa.

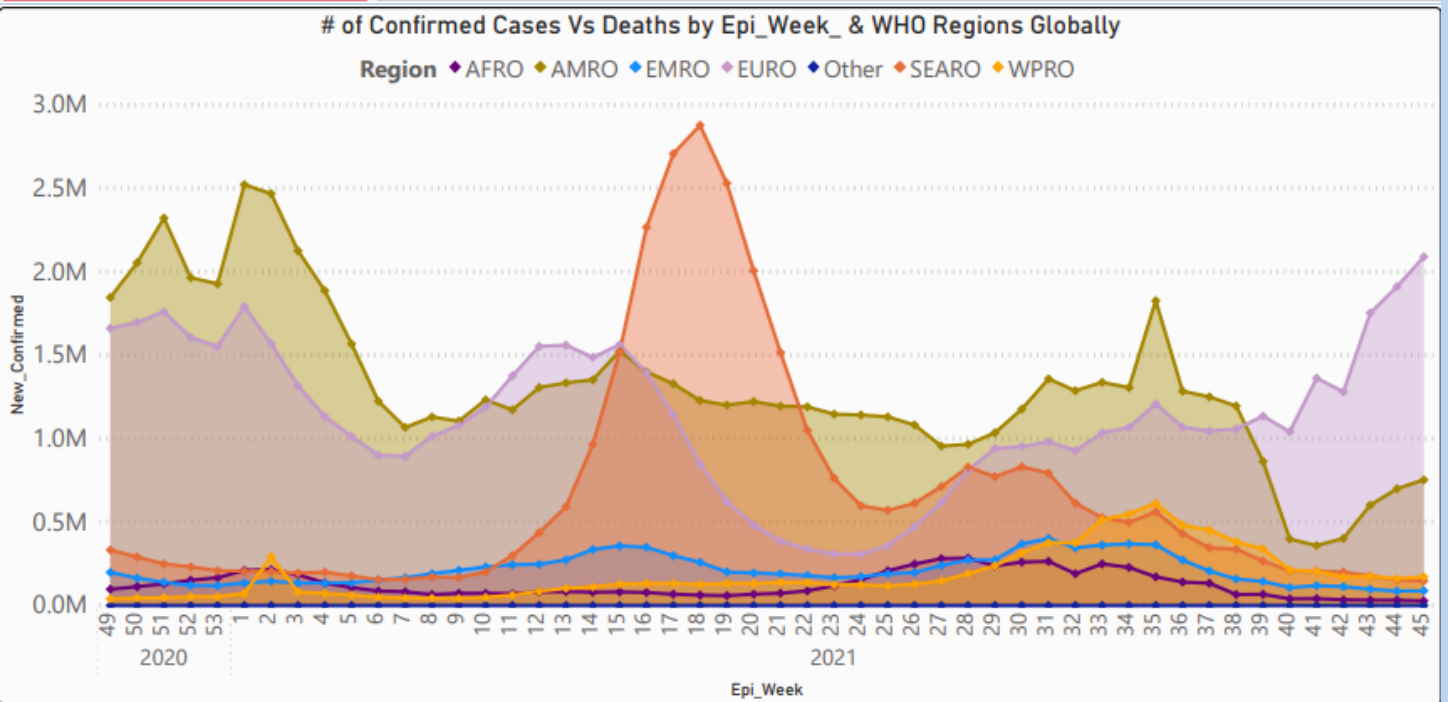
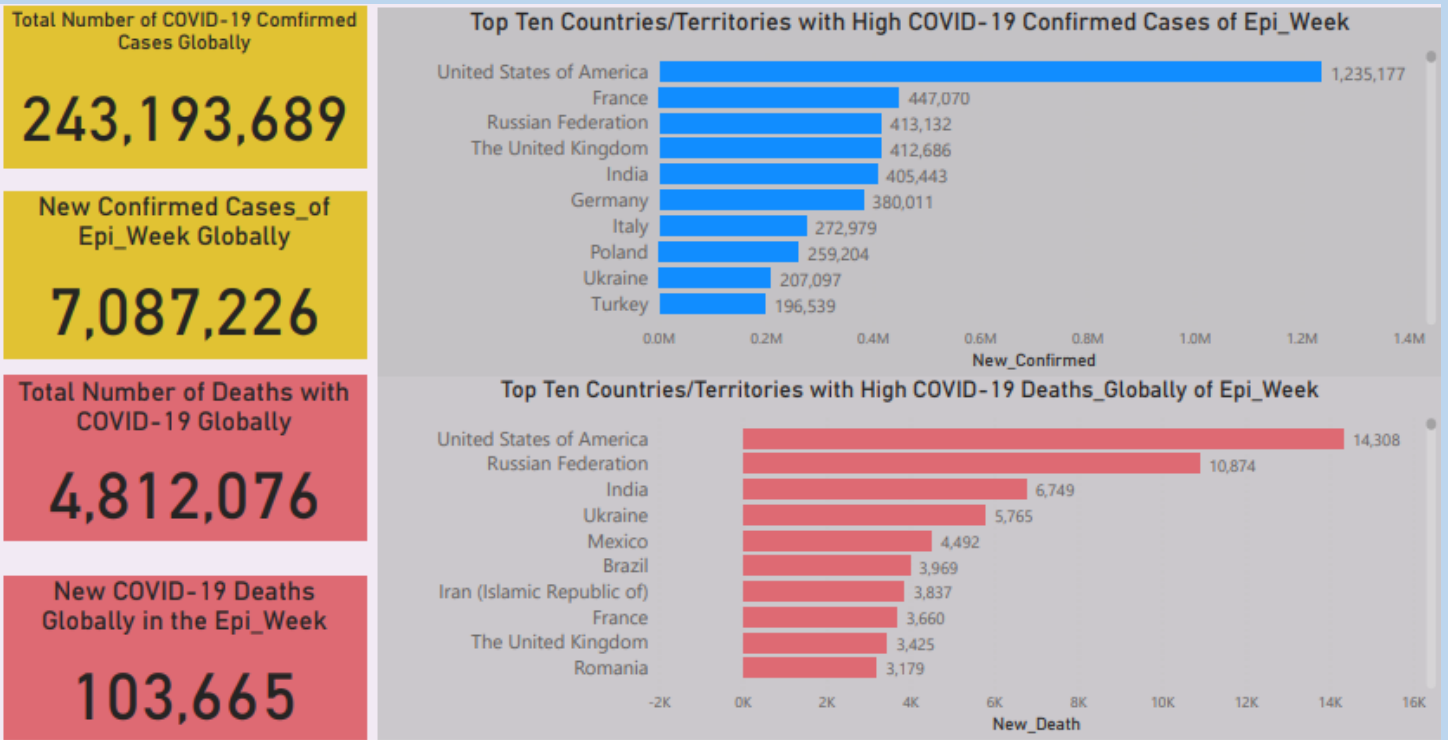


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of November 14, 2021 (Source: WHO)

Total Number of Cases Confirmed in Africa

8,452,859

New Confirmed Cases in Africa with COVID-19 of Epi_Week

110,702

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

638

Total Number of Deaths in Africa with COVID-19

215,269

New Deaths in Africa with COVID-19 in Epi_Week

3,413

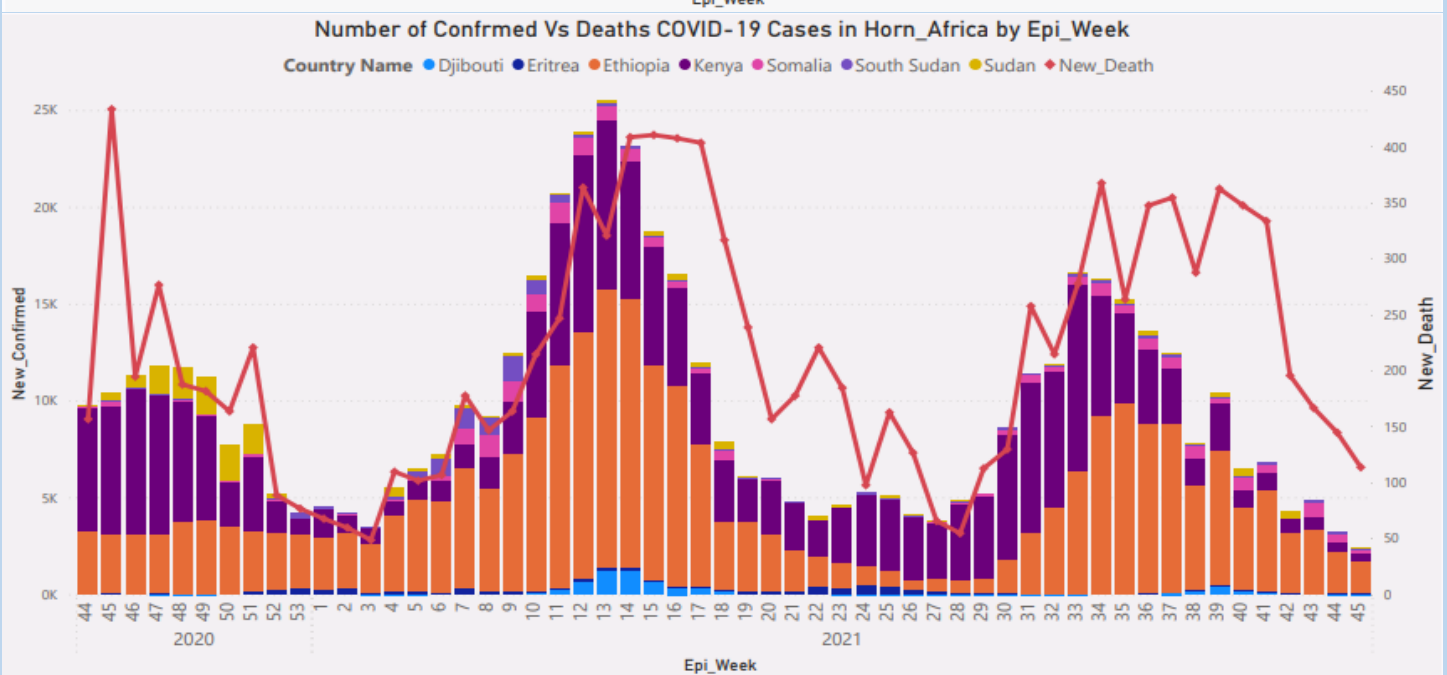
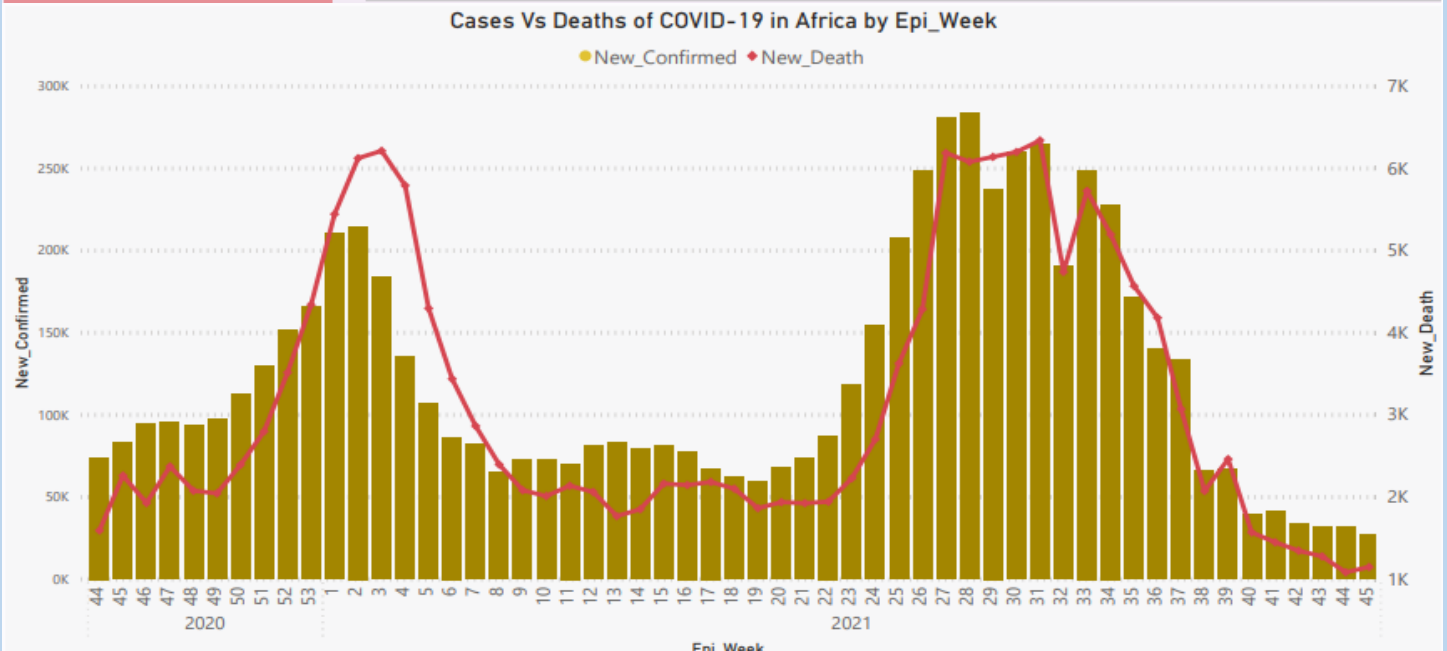
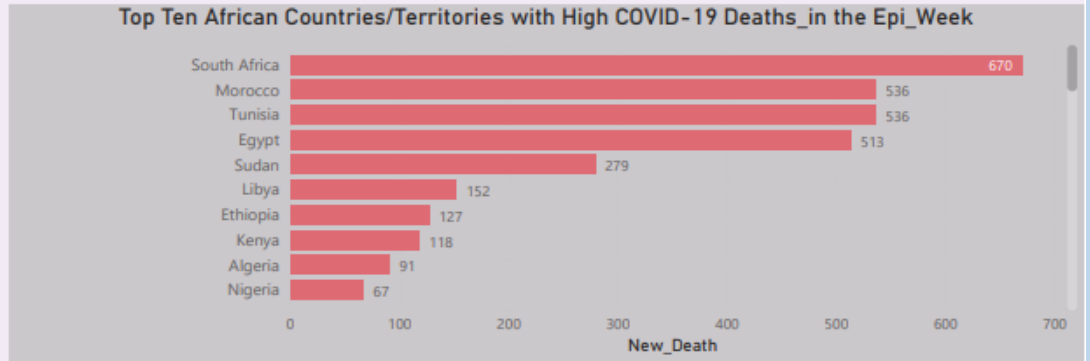
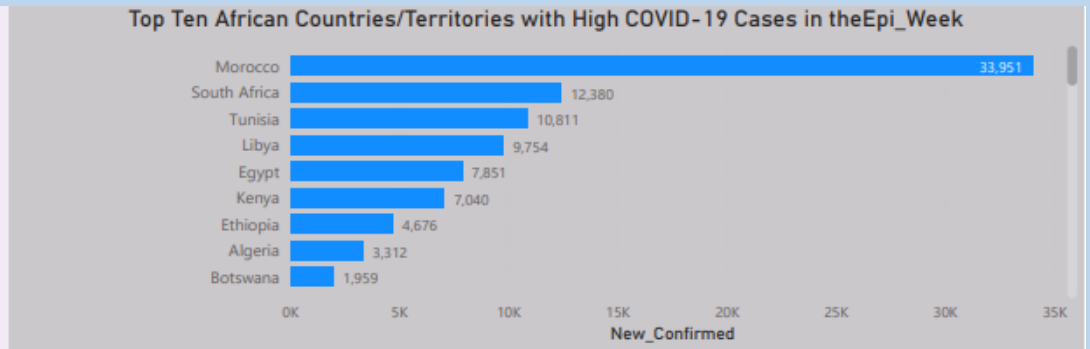


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of November 14, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of November 14, 2021, a total of 368,822 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,623 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.80%.
- One-thousand-six-hundred-twelve (1,612) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 81 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-45.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last eight consecutive weeks and decrease in the number of deaths for the last six consecutive weeks. In this week, there is 21% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 2% decrease in the number of 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-45 of 2021

Regions	New_Testeds	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	27980	937	172	36	3.3
Oromia	3180	176	122	17	5.3
SNNPR	2372	60	12	1	2.4
Dire Dawa	1334	119	20	6	10.0
Afar	836	21	0	0	2.6
Amhara	687	165	42	11	20.4
Sidama	657	33	0	3	7.3
Harari	537	56	16	7	11.0
Somali	514	22	0	0	5.3
Benishangul G	282	15	8	0	4.4
Gambella	158	8	0	0	4.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
Total	38537	1612	392	81	7.1

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

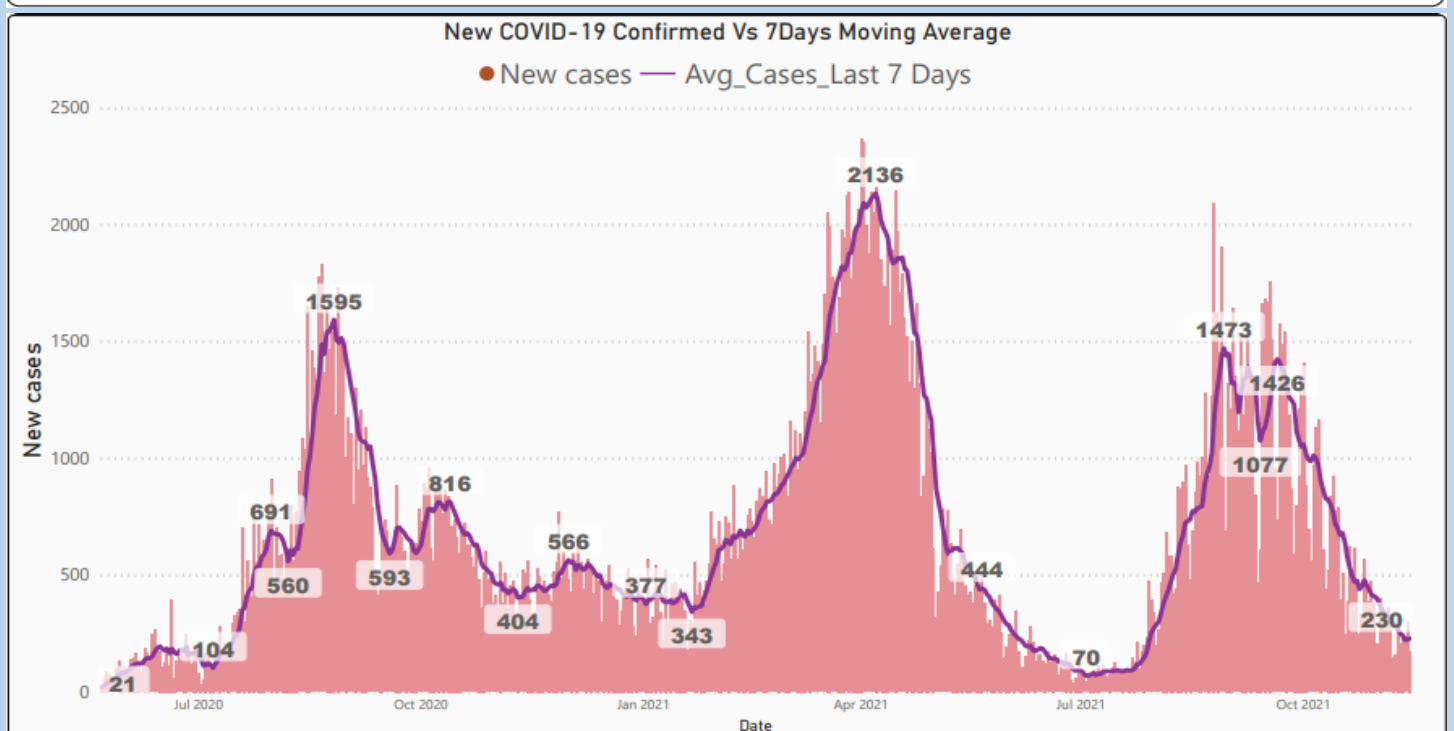
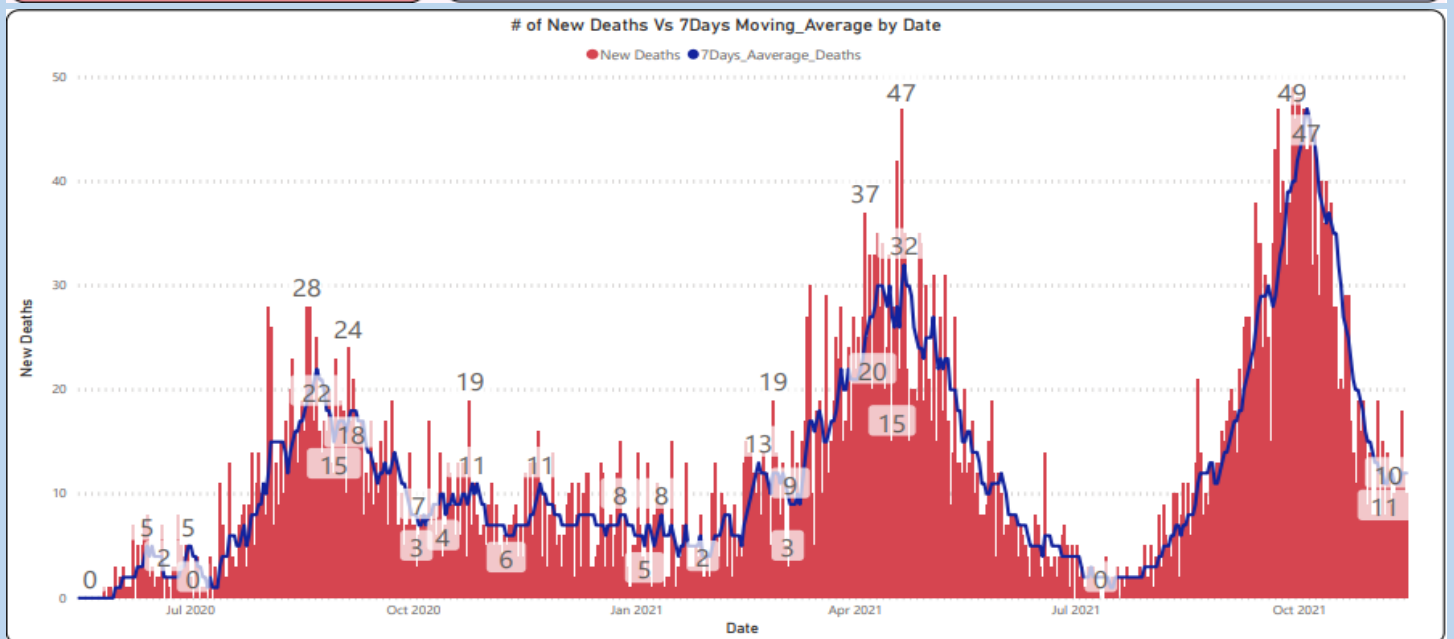
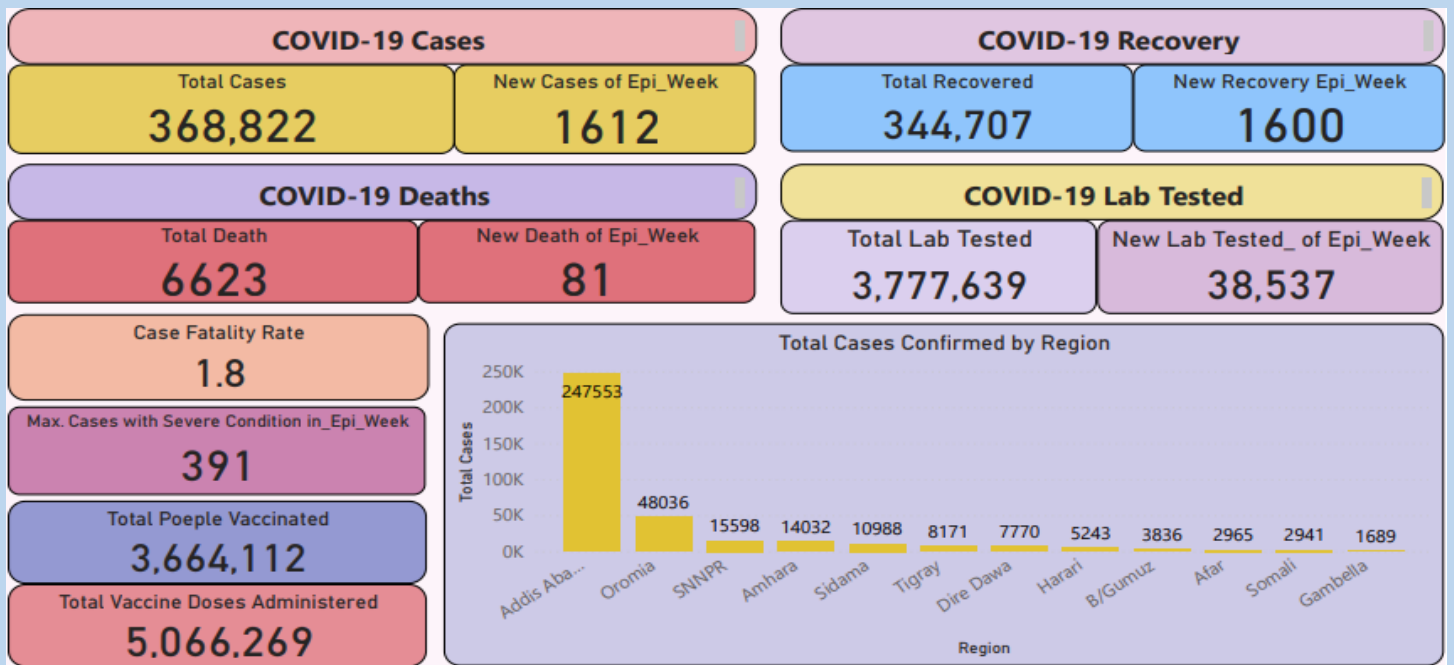


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of November 14, 2021, Ethiopia

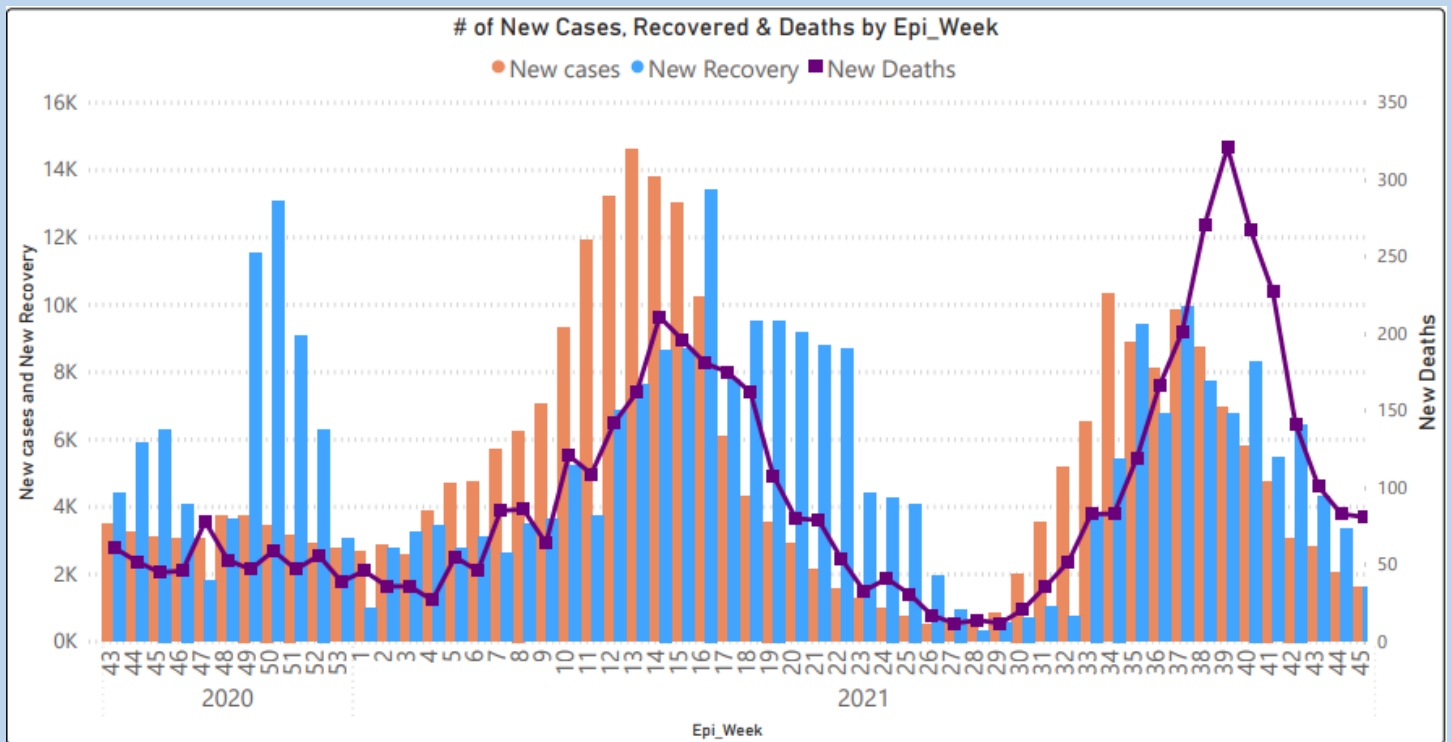


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of November 14, 2021, Ethiopia

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 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.

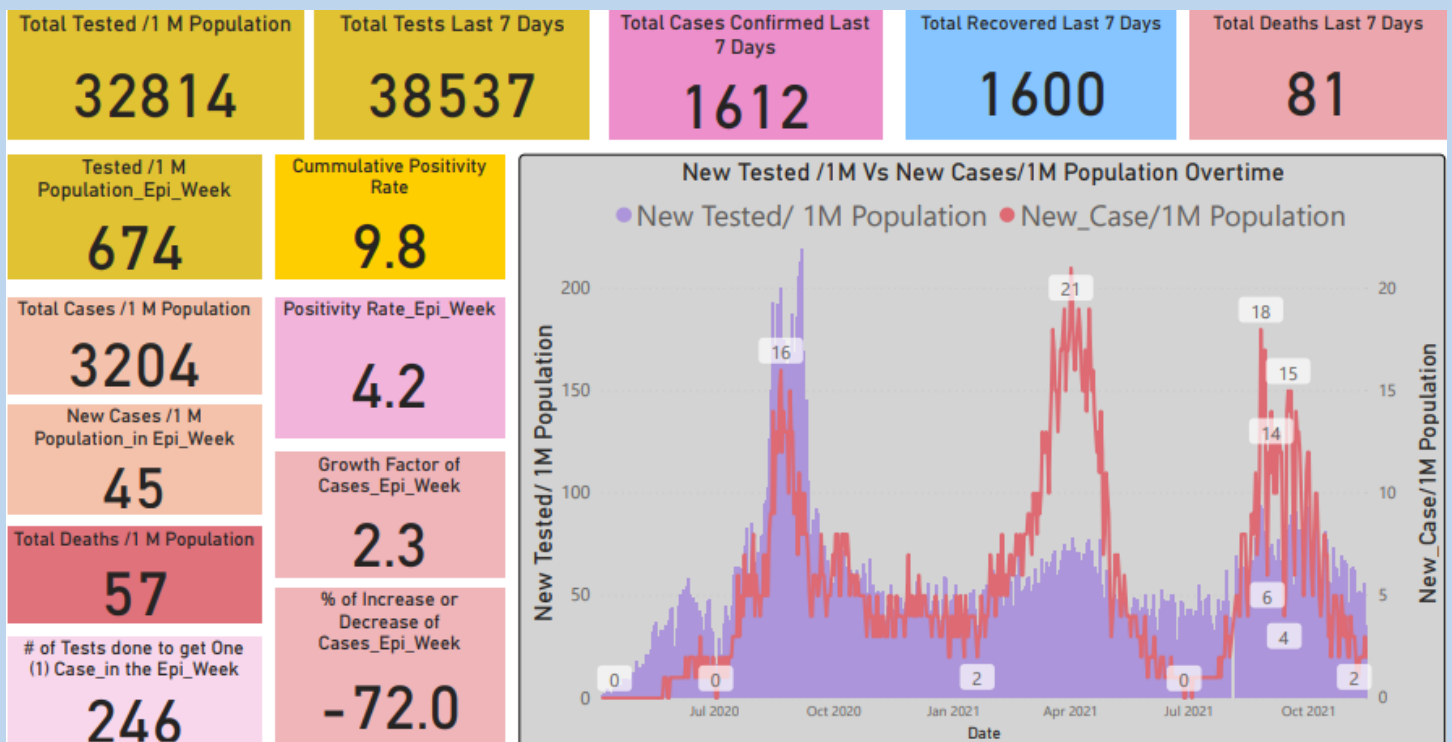


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of November 14, 2021.

i. 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, Point of Entry (PoE), Community surveillance and Special Settings.
- As of November 14, 2021:
 - 393,029 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 17,227 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

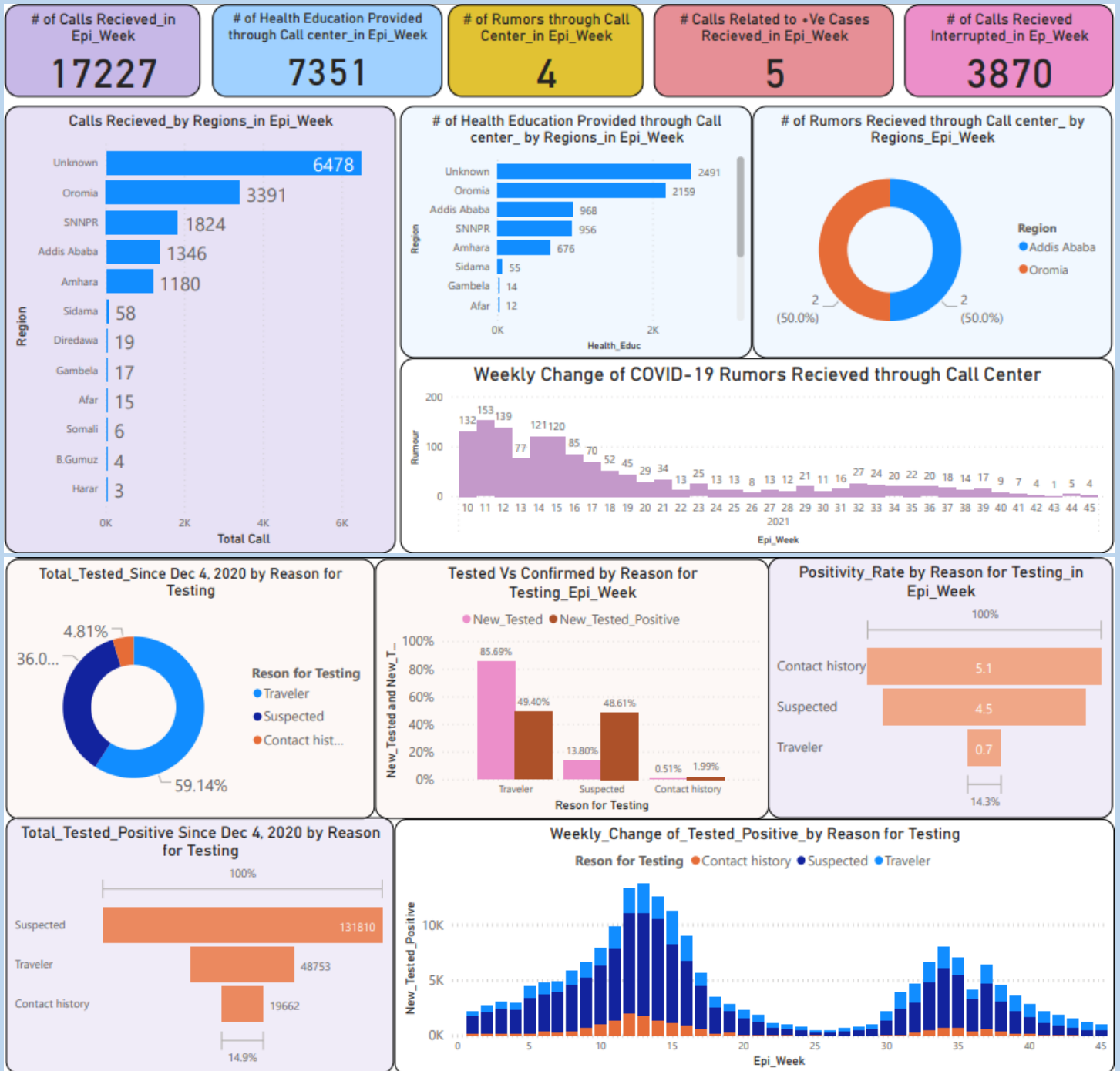


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as November 14, 2021, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,863,810 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 836,663 (29%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 8,562 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-45.
- As of November 14, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 60 (none in Epi-week-45) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 95 (none in week-45) 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, 9,280 tests (none in week-45) are conducted among which 97 positive cases (none in week-45) are detected as of November 01, 2021.
- A total of 71,757 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 170 returnees were received in the Epi-week-45. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 70,481 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,276 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of November 14, 2021.

V. Laboratory related activities

- As of 14 November 2021, a total of 3,777,639 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 38,537 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-45 which is a 9.34% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-45 is 4.18%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (4.81%).
- Amhara, Harari, Sidama regional states and Dire Dawa city administration have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 9 below). There is no report from Tigray regional state since June 29, 2021.
- Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 473,878 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 8,287 is performed in the Epi-week-45 (figure 8 below).

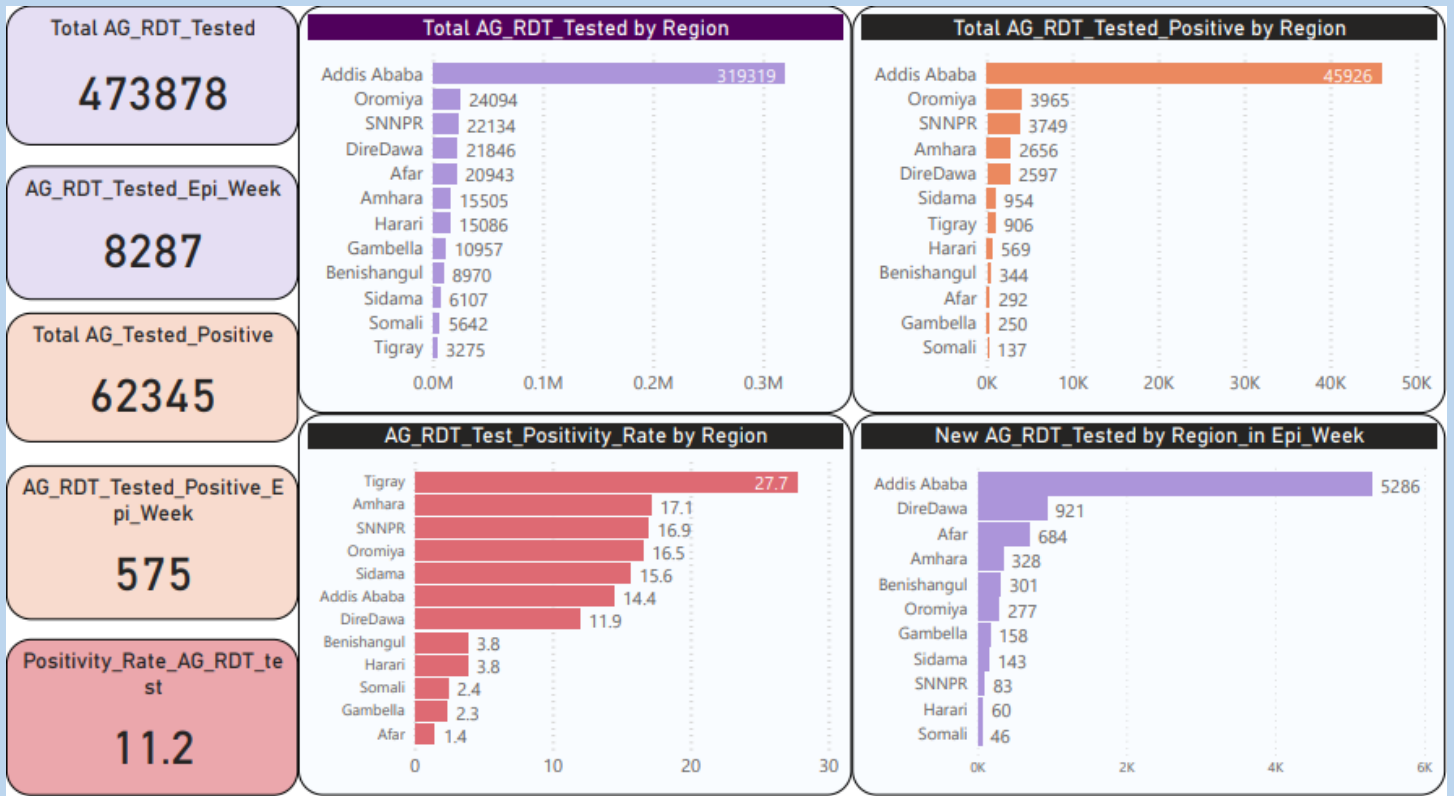
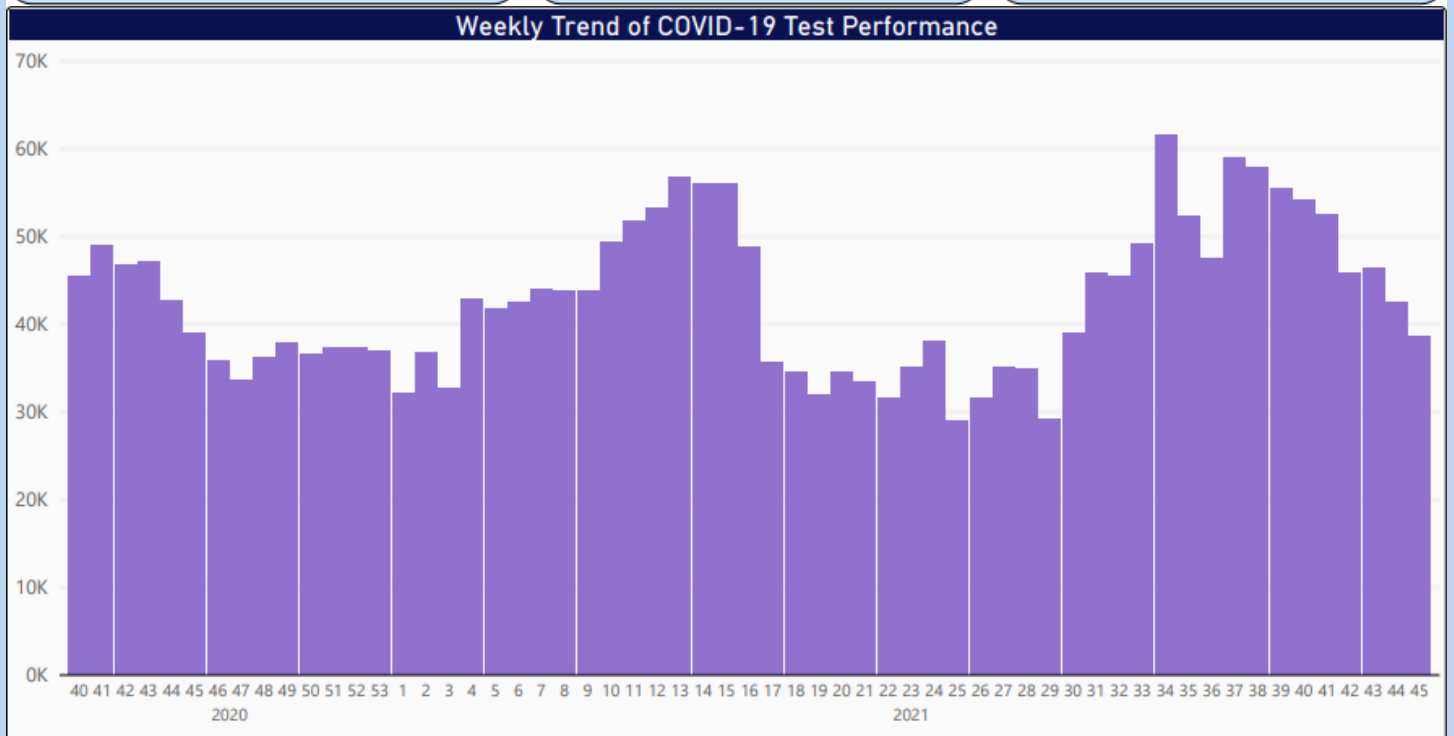
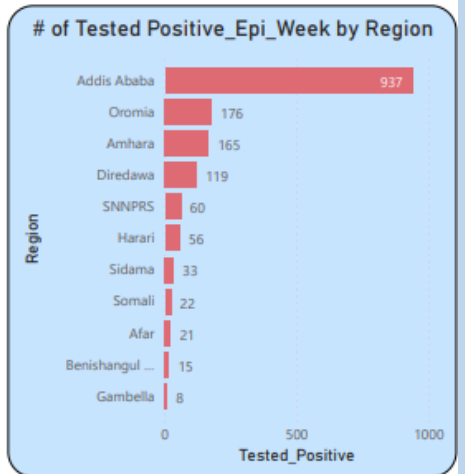
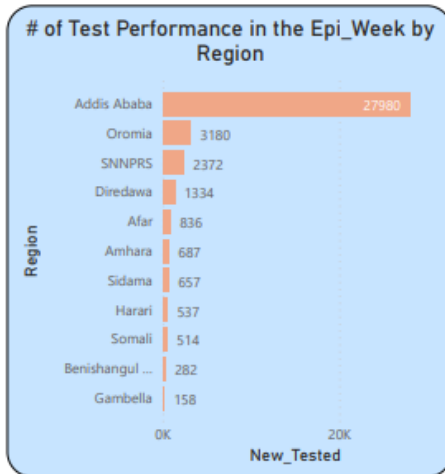
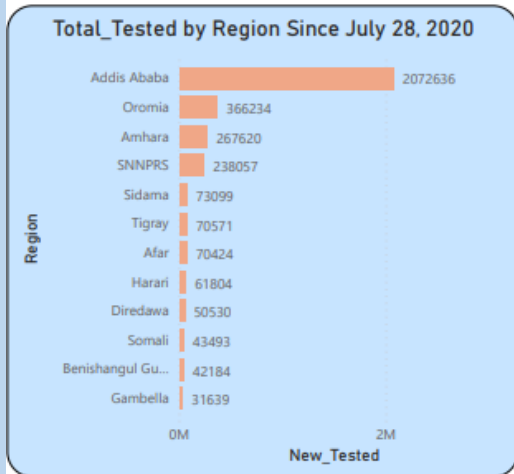
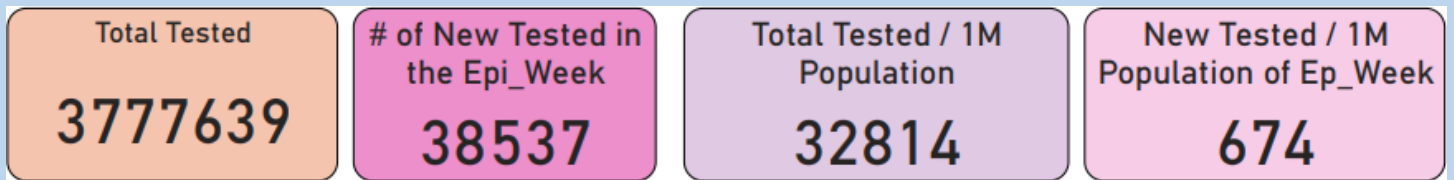


Figure 8: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of November 14, 2021



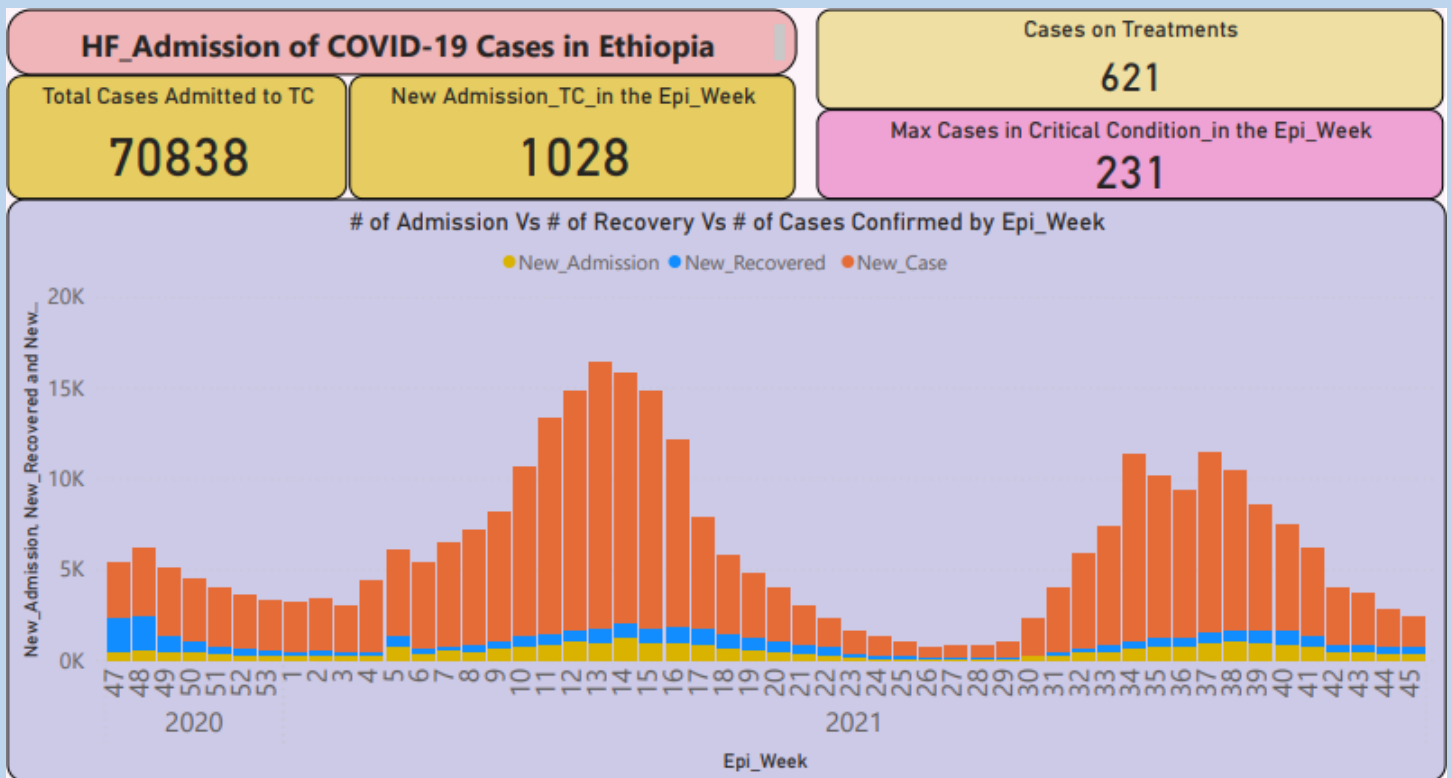
Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
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SNNPRS	2372	60	0	2.4
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Somali	514	22	0	5.3
Benishangul Gumuz	282	15	1	4.3
Gambella	158	8	4	4.1
Tigray	0	0	0	
Total	38537	1612	81	7.1

Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of November 14, 2021, Ethiopia.

VI. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 1,600 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-45, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 344,707 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 93%.
- On November 14, 2021, there are 285 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (421).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of November 14, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of November 14, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	247553	136	36042	16	3661	30575	205	112
Oromia	48036	11	9330	8	921	8179	235	79
SNNPR	15598	8	5142	4	239	4929	11	2
Amhara	14032	3	5245	1	398	4795	50	27
Sidama	10988	2	3691	0	221	3400	6	3
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	7770	9	1426	3	121	1274	31	15
Harari	5243	6	1389	0	176	1194	15	15
Benishangul G	3836	0	1005	0	27	956	24	2
Afar	2965	1	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2941	0	770	0	96	627	44	30
Gambella	1689	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 284,417 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 281,908 (99.18%) have recovered and 47 (0.017%) died.
- Of these, 746 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 1,180 cases have recovered and four deaths occurred in the Epi-Week-45.
- As of November 14, 2021, there are 4,086 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,519 (nine in the Epi-week-45) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,130 (seven in the Epi-week-45) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

VII. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Media (mass media and social media) monitoring on COVID-19 related information is ongoing.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 11: COVID-19 situation update as of November 14, 2021 shared on social media.

VIII. 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.

IX. 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.

X. 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	https://www.ephi.gov.et/	8335/952	ephieoc@gmail.com
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/ephipa ge/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	https://twitter.com/EPHIethiopia		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	https://t.me/EthPHI		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw		
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	www.moh.gov.et	952	
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/		
Afar Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/	6220	afarpheoc@gmail.com
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/	6981	aphieoc@gmail.com
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/	6016	bgpheoc@gmail.com
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau	6184	gambellapheoc@gmail.com
Harari Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/	6864	hrhbpheoc@gmail.com
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/	6955	oromiapheoc@gmail.com
Somali Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...	6599	somalipheoc@gmail.com
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs	6929	snnppheoc@gmail.com

Tigray Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrh/b/	6244	tigraypheoc@gmail.com
Sidama PHEM			sidamapheoc@gmail.com
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/	6407	ddpheoc@gmail.com
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/	6406	aapheoc@gmail.com

COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

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

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.

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

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National COVID-19 Response Incident Management system, Emergency Operation Center
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