



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

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

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 51 (December 20 – 26, 2021)

BULLETIN No. 87

## I. Highlights

- The total number of laboratory samples tested for COVID-19 surpassed four million in Ethiopia.
- A total of 77,083 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-51 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,052,568.
- A total of 22,321 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 32 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-51 bringing the total cases and death to 398,696 and 6,898 respectively.
- On December 26, 2021, there are 305 cases in severe condition which is a bit lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (326).
- A total of 294,971 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 6,831 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-51.
- The number of COVID-19 confirmed cases have shown an alarming increment in this week.

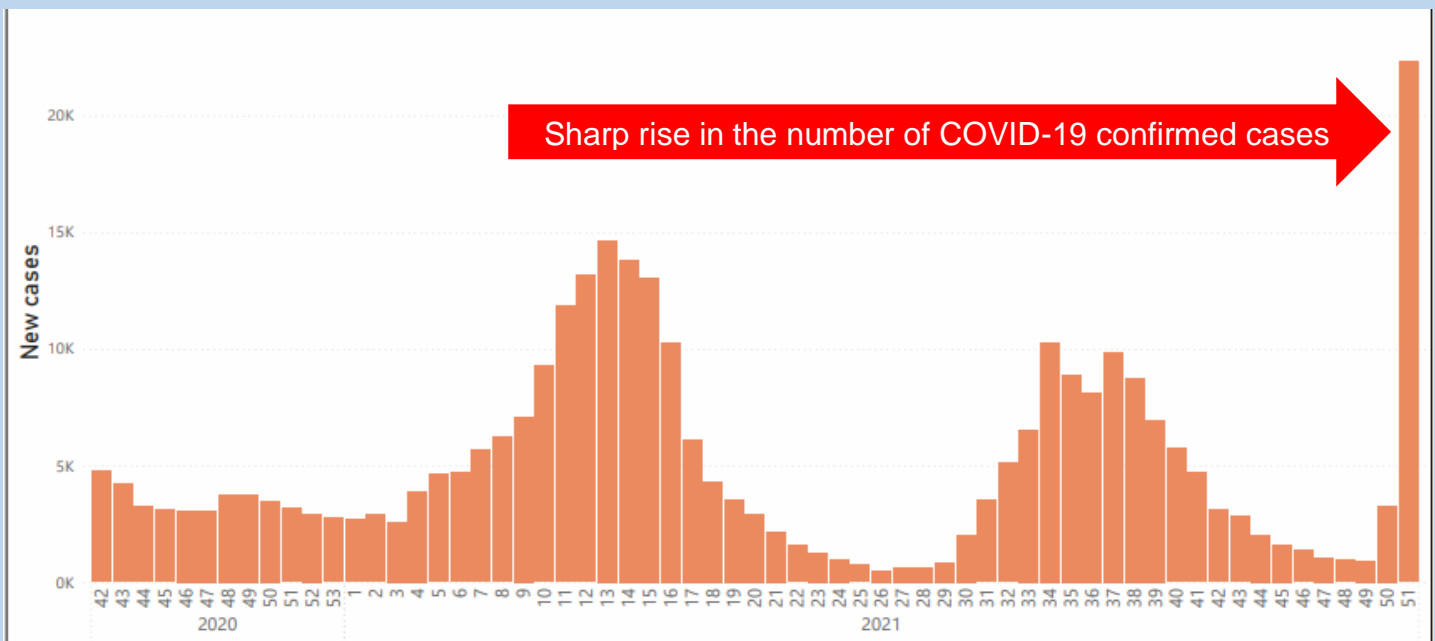


Figure 1: weekly trend of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of December 26, 2021

## II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,852,784 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 232,282 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 3,952,614 (36%) people are fully vaccinated.

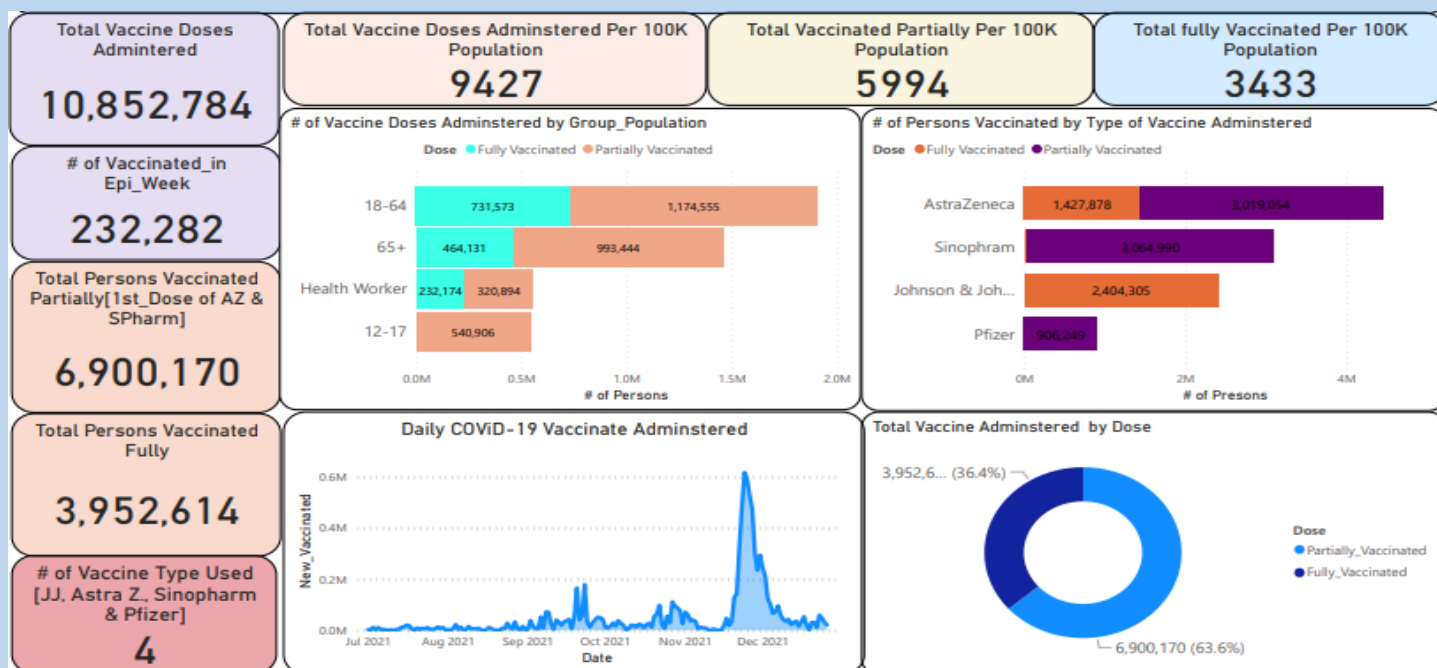


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of December 26, 2021

## III. Epidemiological Situation

### a. Global Situation

- Globally, both the number of weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths have increased.
- Over 9.2 million new cases and over 124,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 20 – 26 December 2021. The number of confirmed cases in this week increased by 11% as compared to the previous week while the number of deaths decreased by 5% compared to the previous week.
- As of December 26, 2021, a total of 266,715,053 COVID-19 cases and 5,094,714 deaths (CFR=1.91%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 9,255,897 cases and 124,360 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-51.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (2,683,444 new cases), The United Kingdom (785,127 new cases), France (598,935 new cases), The Russian Federation (371,679 new cases) and Germany (371,138 new cases).
- In Africa, as of December 26, 2021, a total of 9,365,824 cases and 221,395 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.36%). Of these, 414,911 cases (9% increase compared to the previous week) and 4,152 deaths (26% decrease compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-51.
- In Africa, the highest number of confirmed cases are reported from South Africa followed by Morocco.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

**266,715,053**

New Confirmed Cases\_of Epi\_Week Globally

**9,255,897**

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

**5,094,714**

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi\_Week

**124,360**

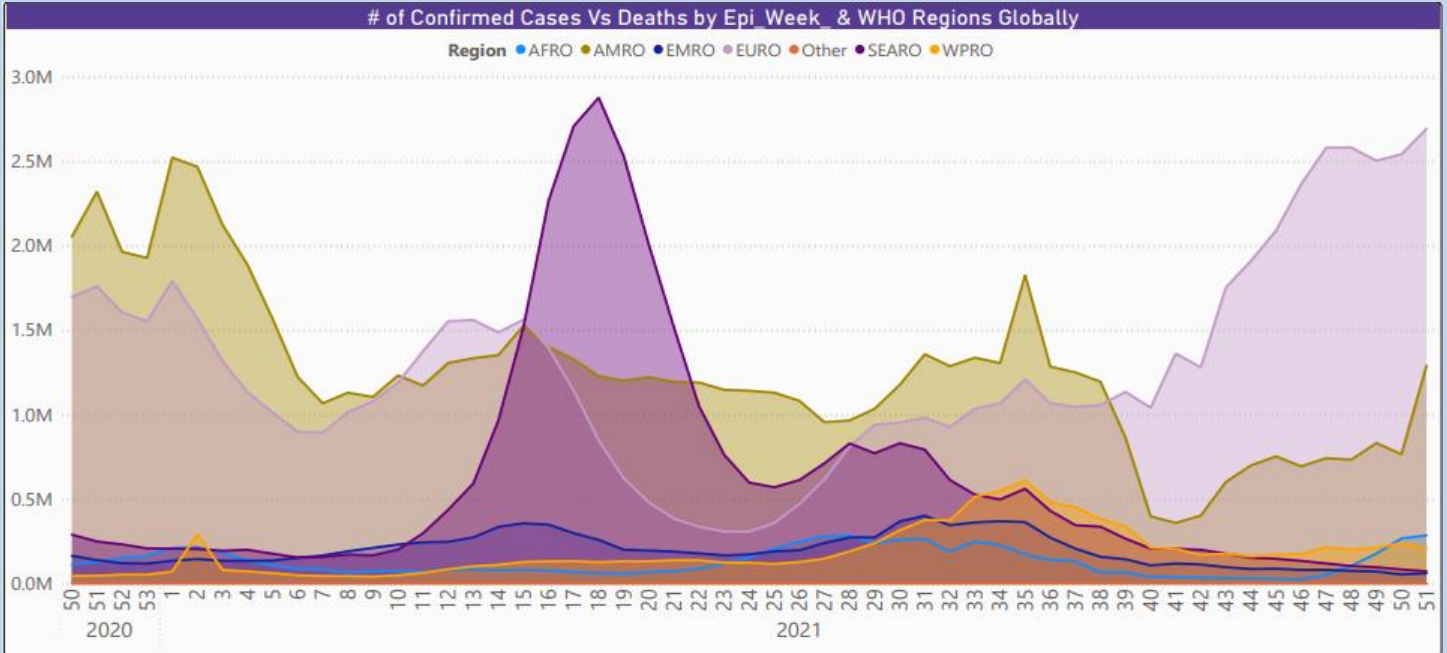
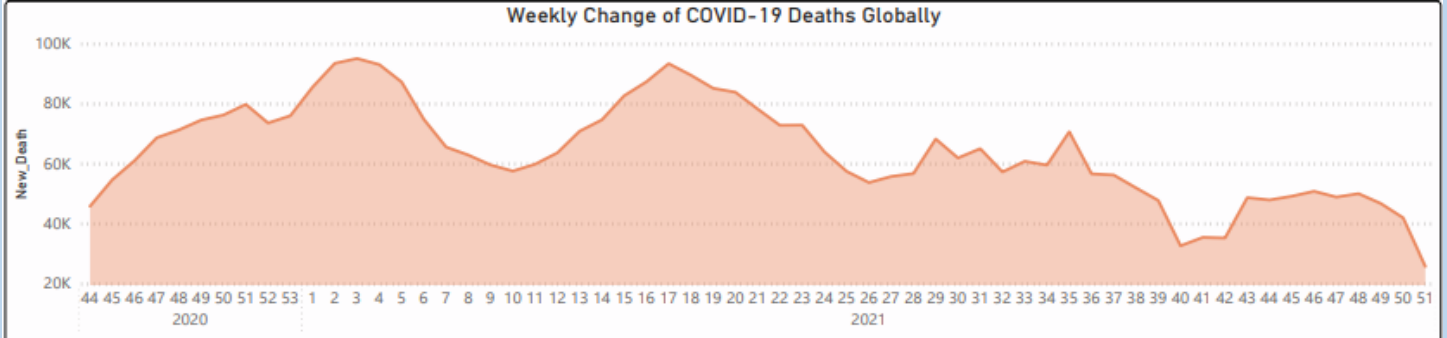
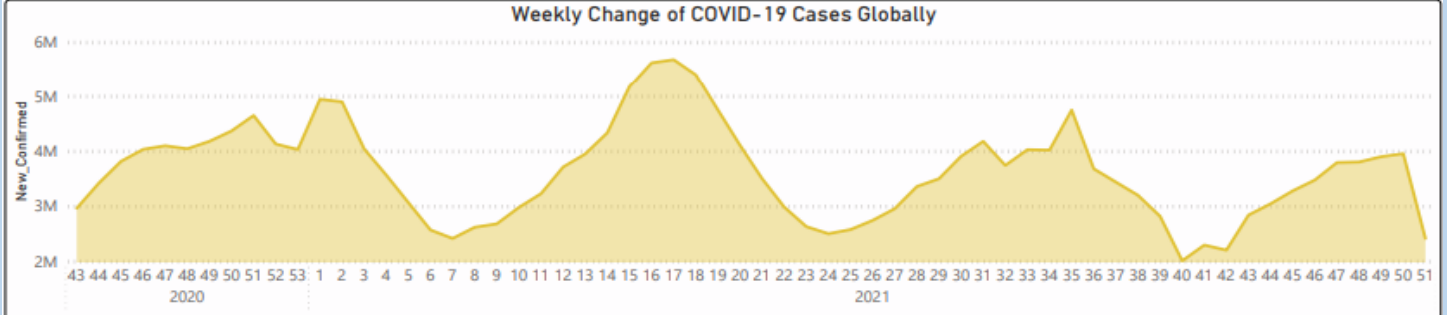
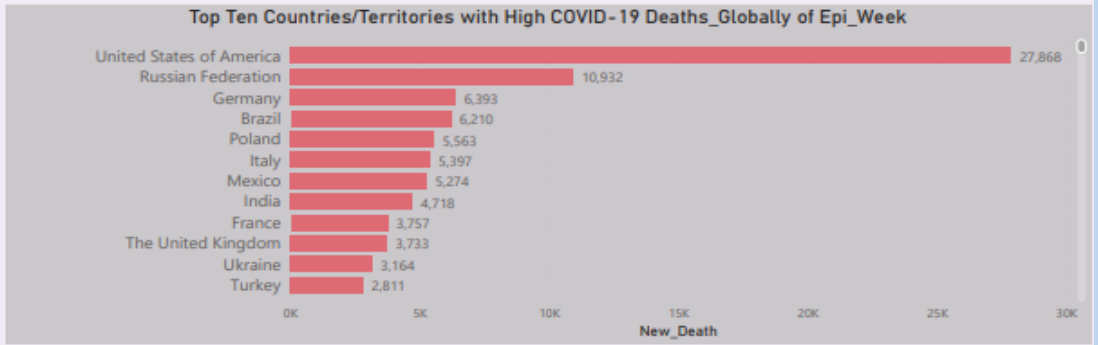
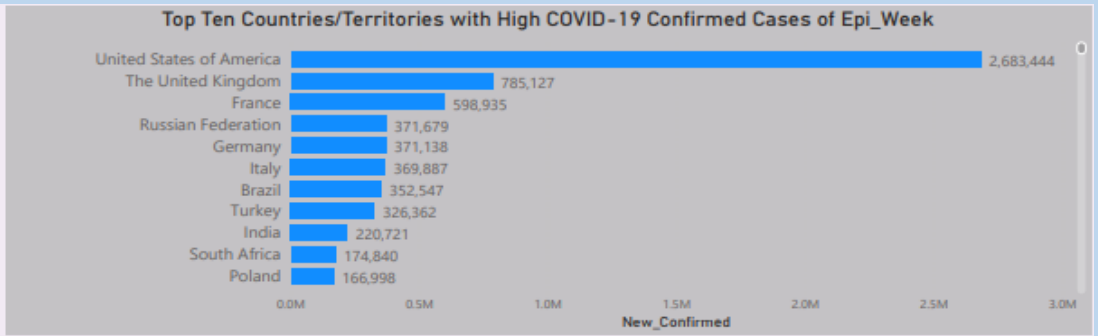


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of December 26, 2021 (Source: WHO)

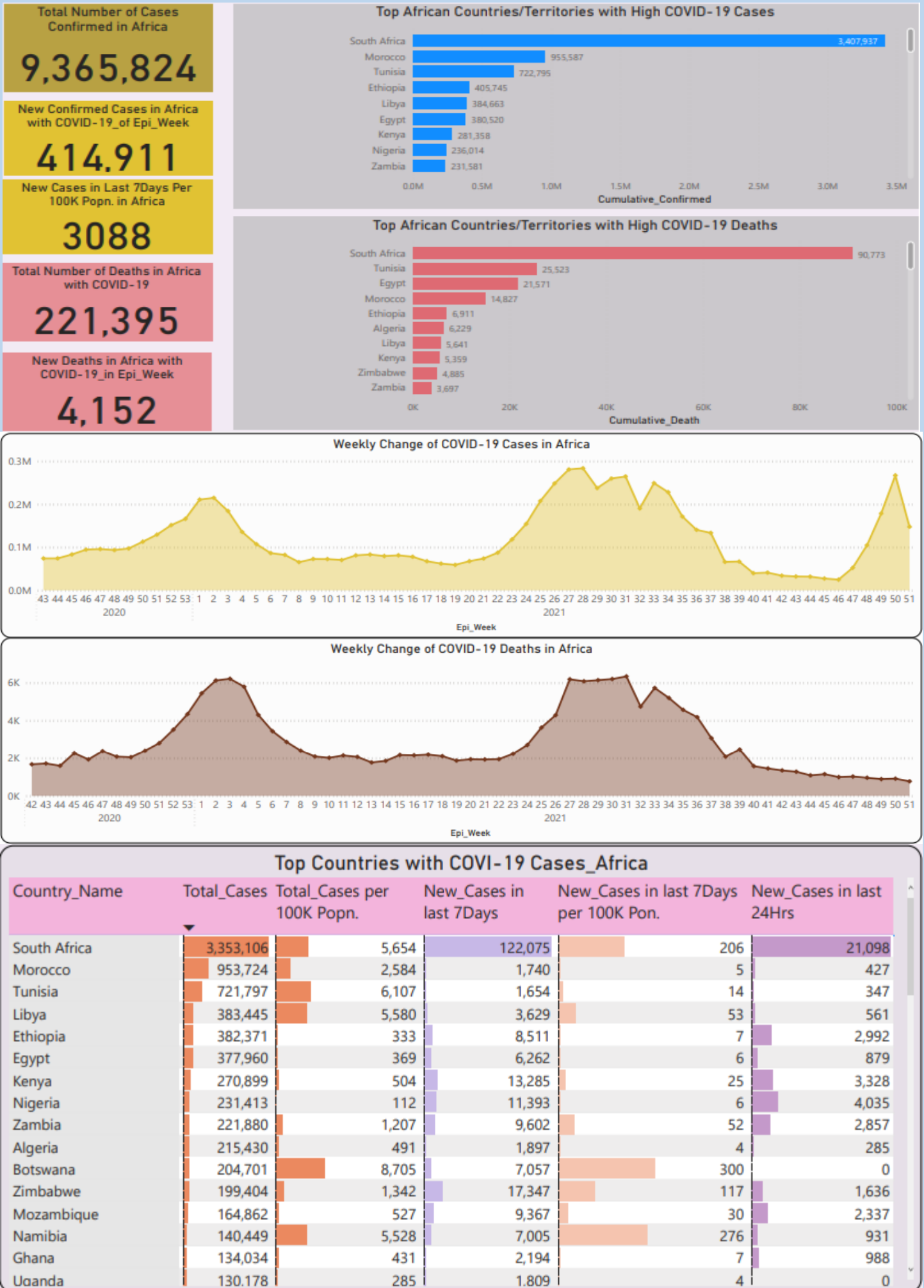


Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of December 26, 2021 (Source: WHO)

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of December 26, 2021, a total of 398,696 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,898 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.73%.
- Twenty-two-thousand-three-hundred-twenty-one (22,321) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 32 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-51.
- There is a sharp increase in the number of cases while the number of deaths due to COVID-19 has also shown decrease in this week. In this week, there is more 500% increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 16% decrease in the number of deaths due to COVID-19 compared to the previous week. This sharp increment in the number of cases may be related to unidentified new variant of the virus in the country. There is also an associated high positivity rate in the country especially in Addis Ababa. Around 50% positivity rate (COVID-19 positive cases among the laboratory tested samples) has been witnessed in Addis Ababa in daily basis. Though the number of deaths due to COVID-19 seems decreased in this week, it is expected that it will increase following the sharp increment in the number of confirmed cases in the country.
- 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-51 of 2021**

Regions	New_Testeds	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	52794	20640	264	19	36.6
Oromia	10472	798	90	4	8.0
SNNPR	5947	457	22	3	9.3
Harari	2172	33	1	0	1.7
Sidama	1628	181	1	2	14.1
Dire Dawa	1077	55	1	0	6.0
Benishangul G	906	40	1	1	4.0
Afar	892	6	0	0	0.7
Amhara	535	83	26	3	16.0
Somali	519	26	0	0	5.4
Gambella	141	2	0	0	1.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>77083</b>	<b>22321</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9.7</b>

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

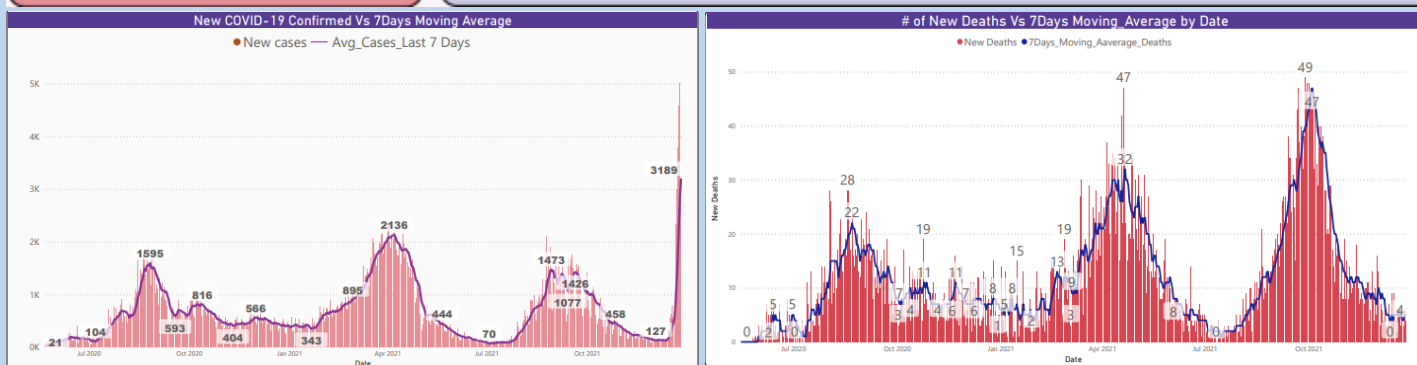
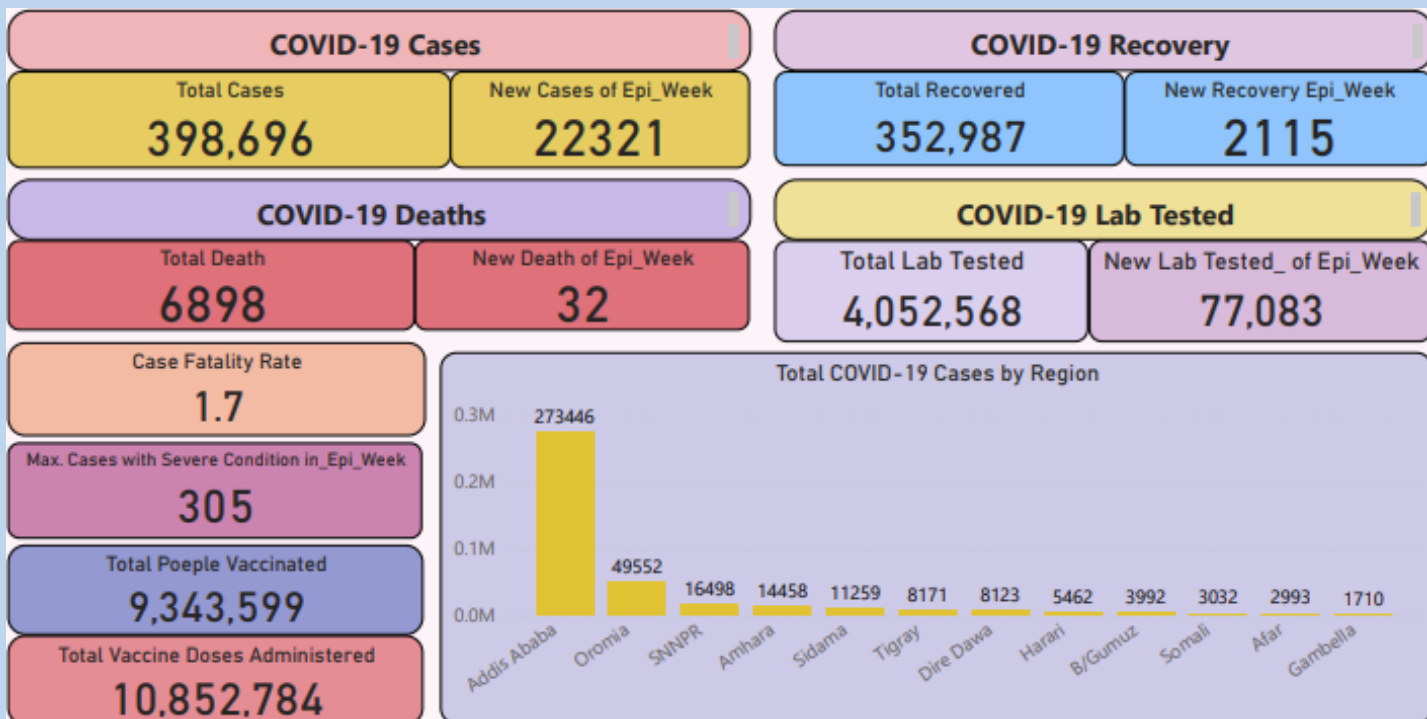


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of December 26, 2021, Ethiopia

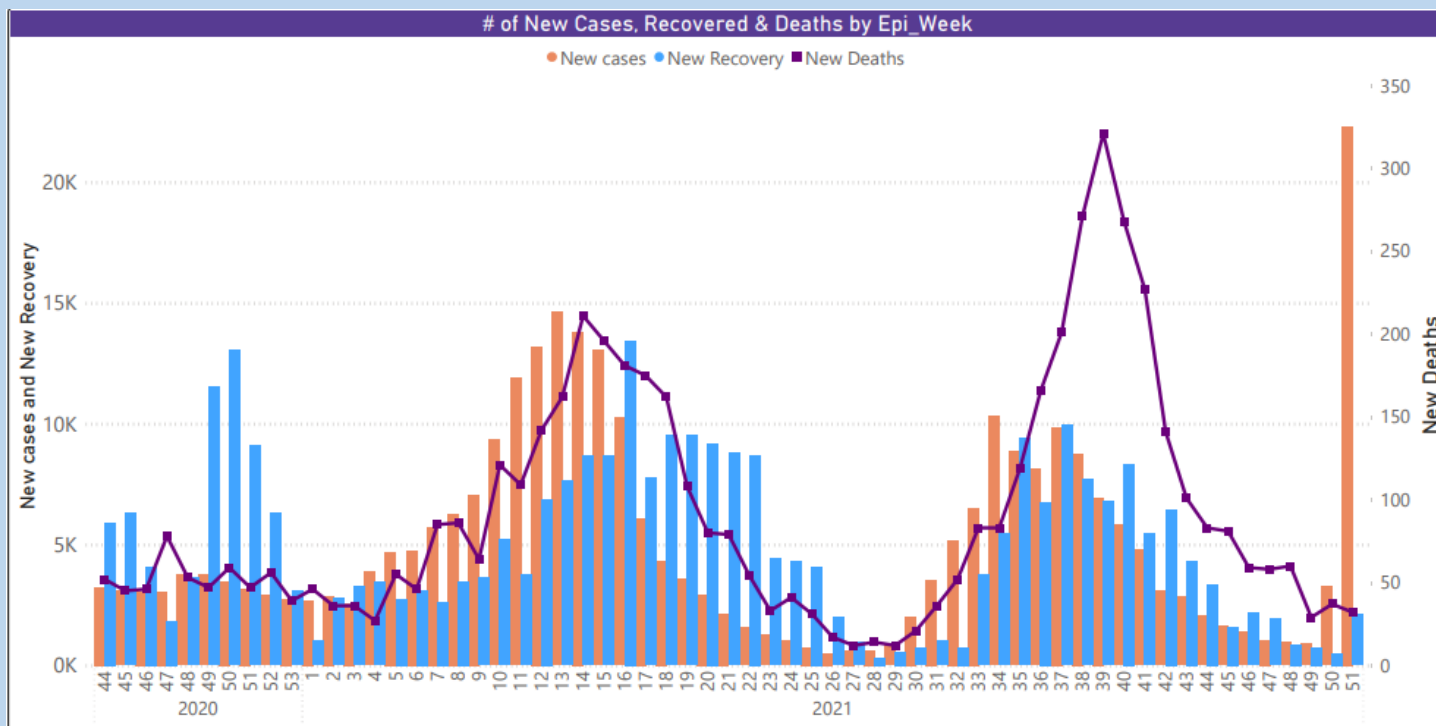


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of December 26, 2021, Ethiopia

### c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), 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.

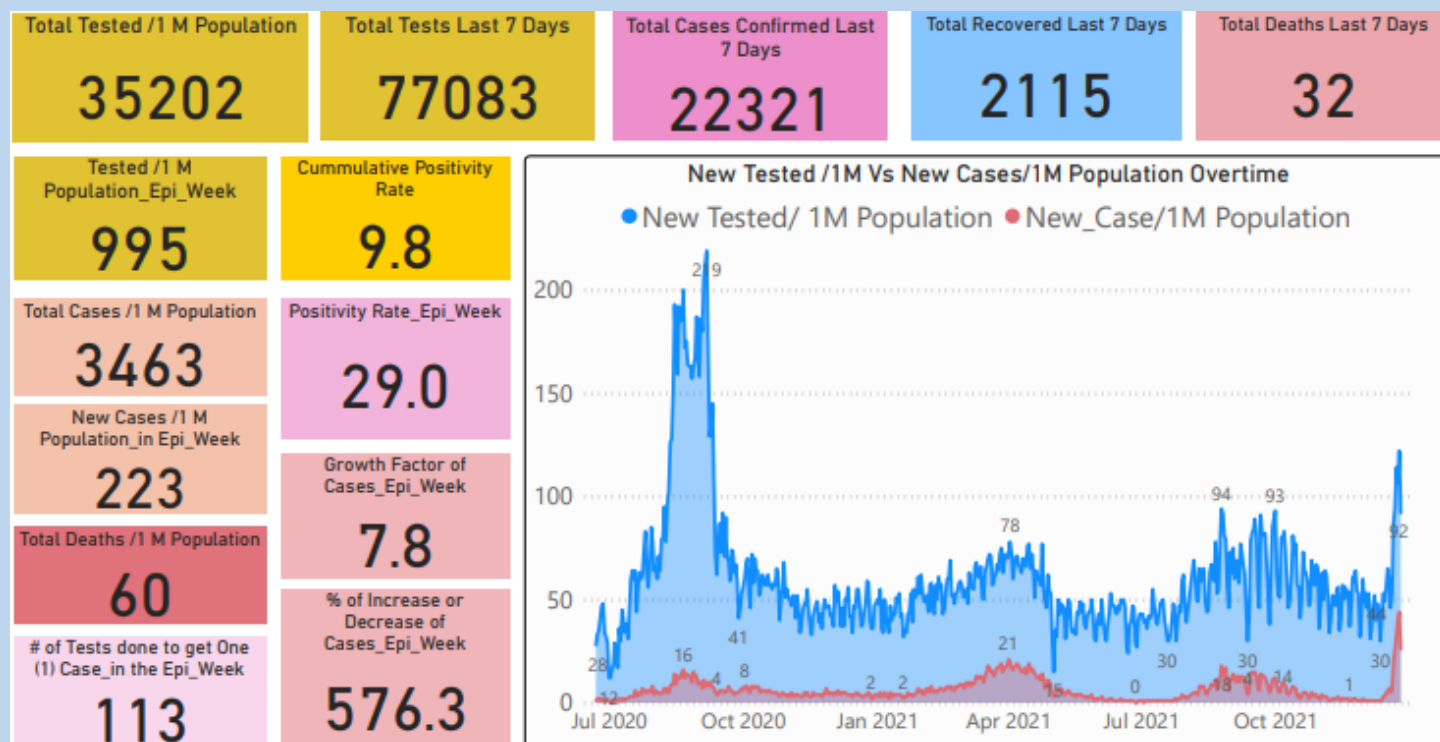


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of December 26, 2021.

#### 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 December 26, 2021:
  - 393,049 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
  - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 15,284 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

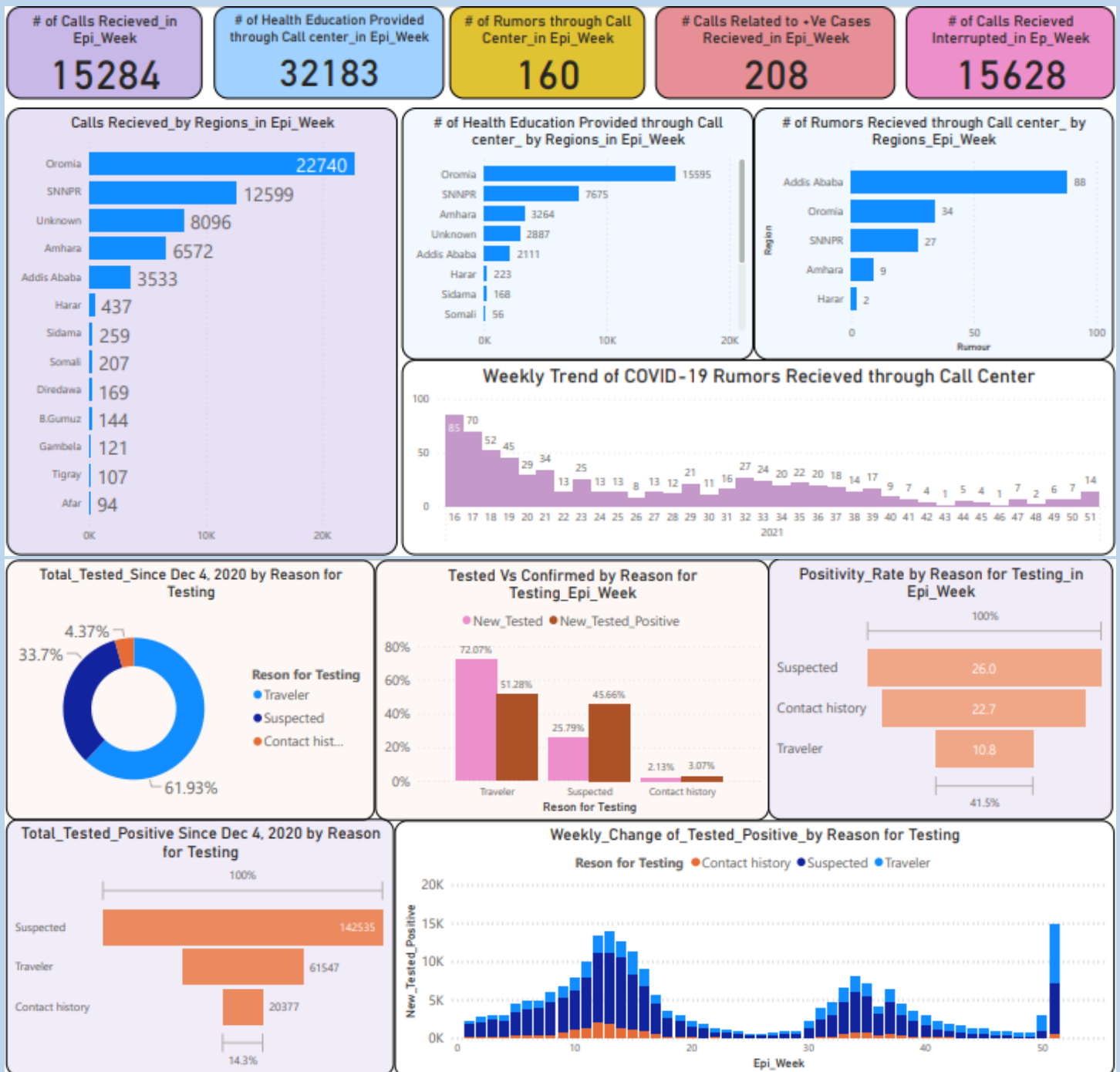


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as December 26, 2021, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,981,031 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 881,146 (30%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 6,183 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-51.
- A total of 73,852 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 27 returnees were received in the Epi-week-50. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 72,576 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,276 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of December 26, 2021.



## IV. Laboratory related activities

- The number of laboratory samples tested for COVID-19 surpassed 4 million in Ethiopia.
- As of 26 December 2021, a total of 4,052,568 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 77,083 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-51 which is more than 170% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-51 is 28.96%, which is higher than that of the preceding week (7.64%).
- Addis Ababa city administration and Amhara and Sidama regional states and have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 10 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 602,989 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 28,727 is performed in the Epi-week-51 (figure 9 below).

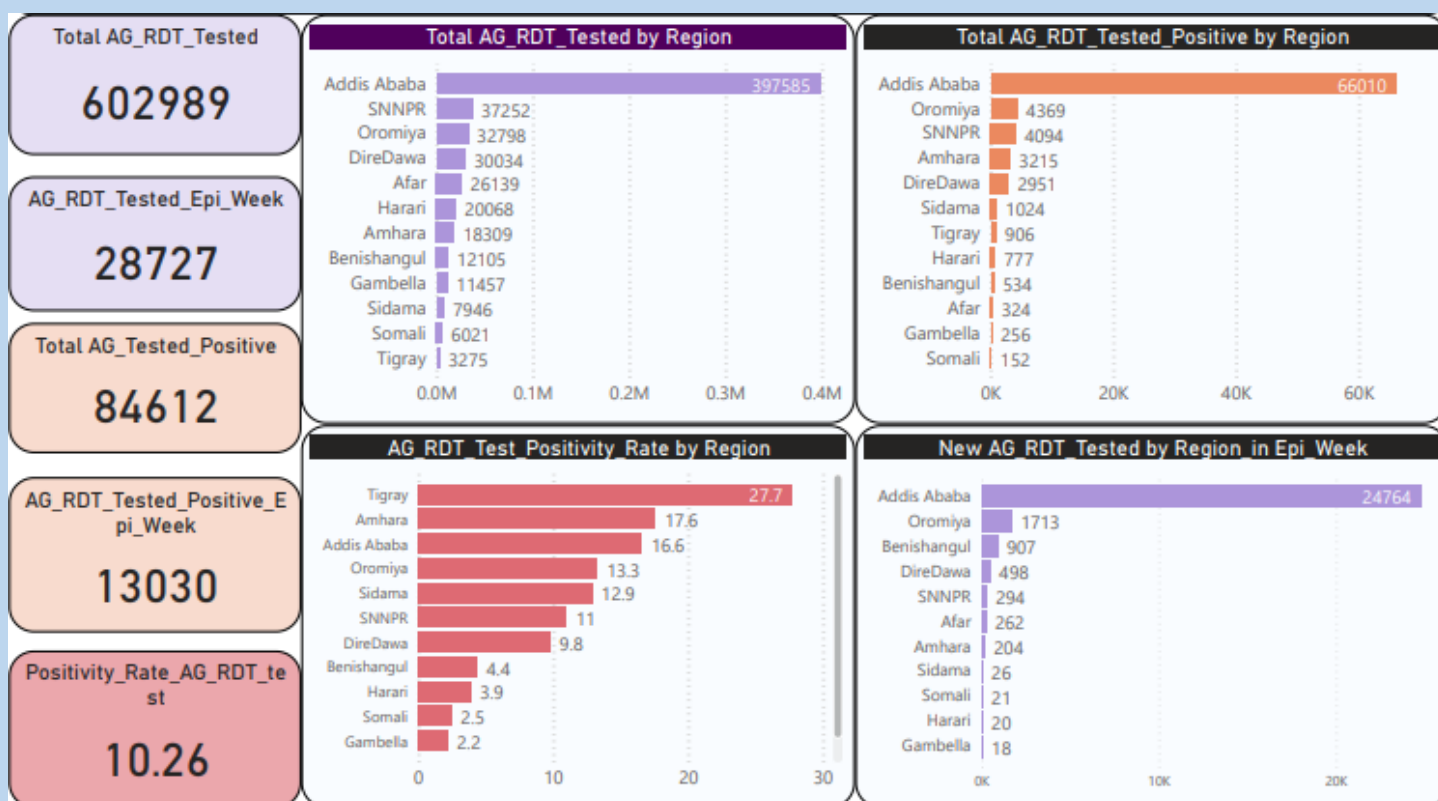
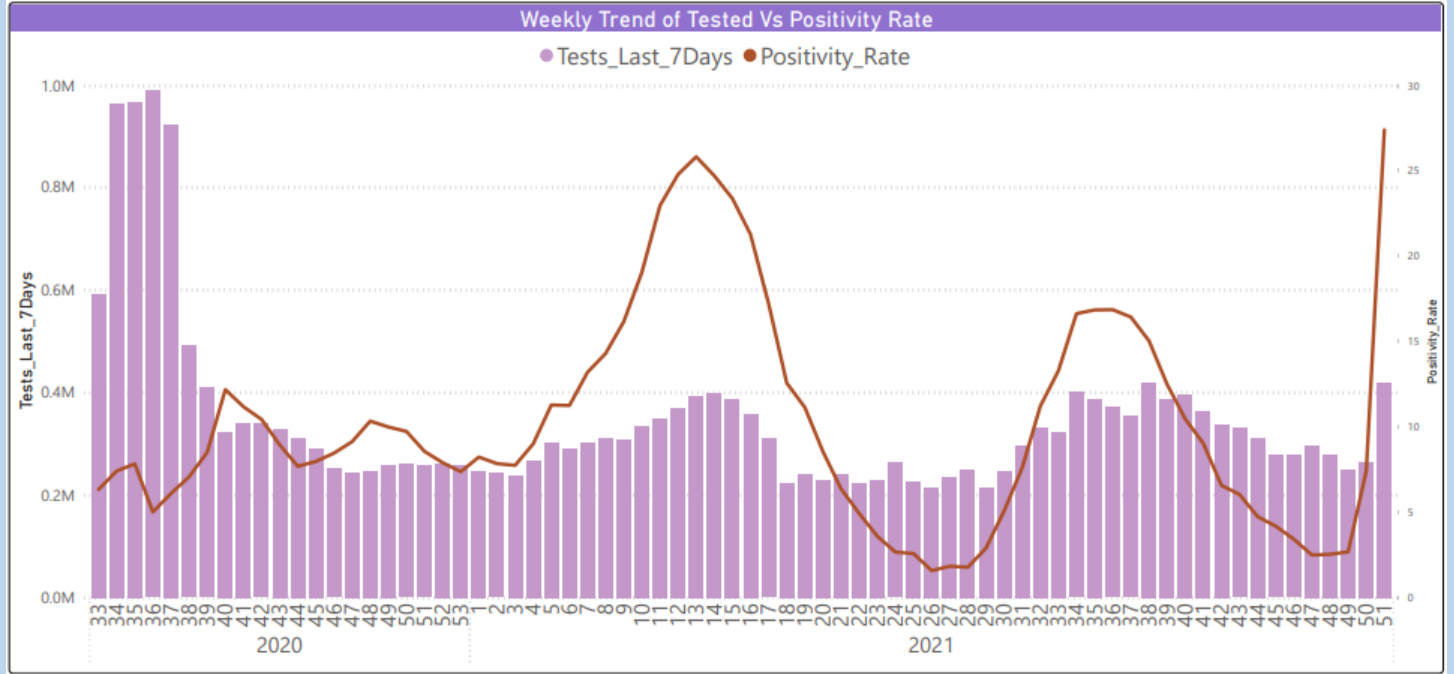
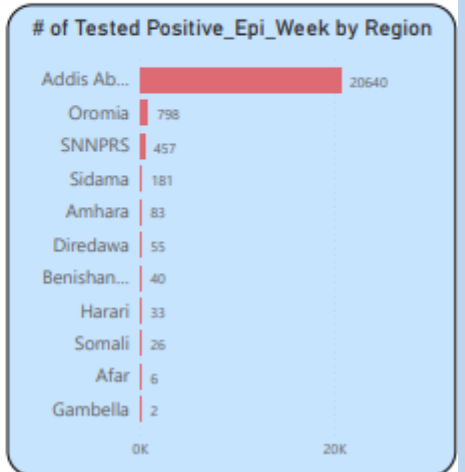
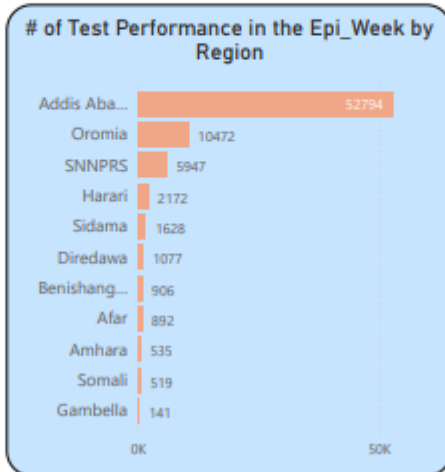
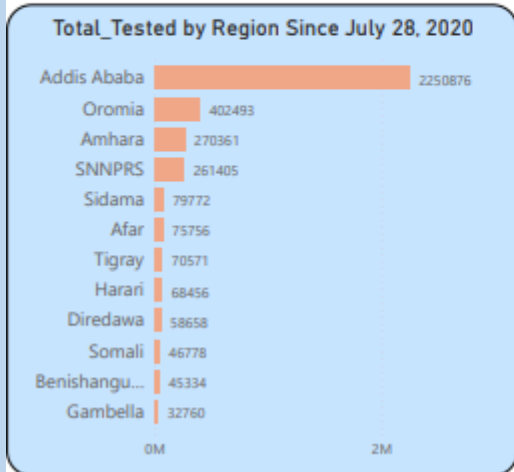
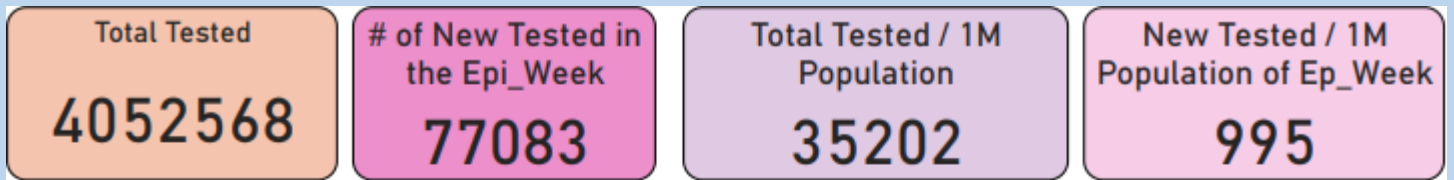


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of December 26, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Testeds	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	52794	20640	19	36.6
Oromia	10472	798	4	7.9
SNNPRS	5947	457	3	9.3
Harari	2172	33	0	1.5
Sidama	1628	181	2	14.1
Diredawa	1077	55	0	6.0
Benishangul Gumuz	906	40	1	4.1
Afar	892	6	0	0.6
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Somali	519	26	0	5.4
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<b>Total</b>	<b>77083</b>	<b>22321</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9.7</b>

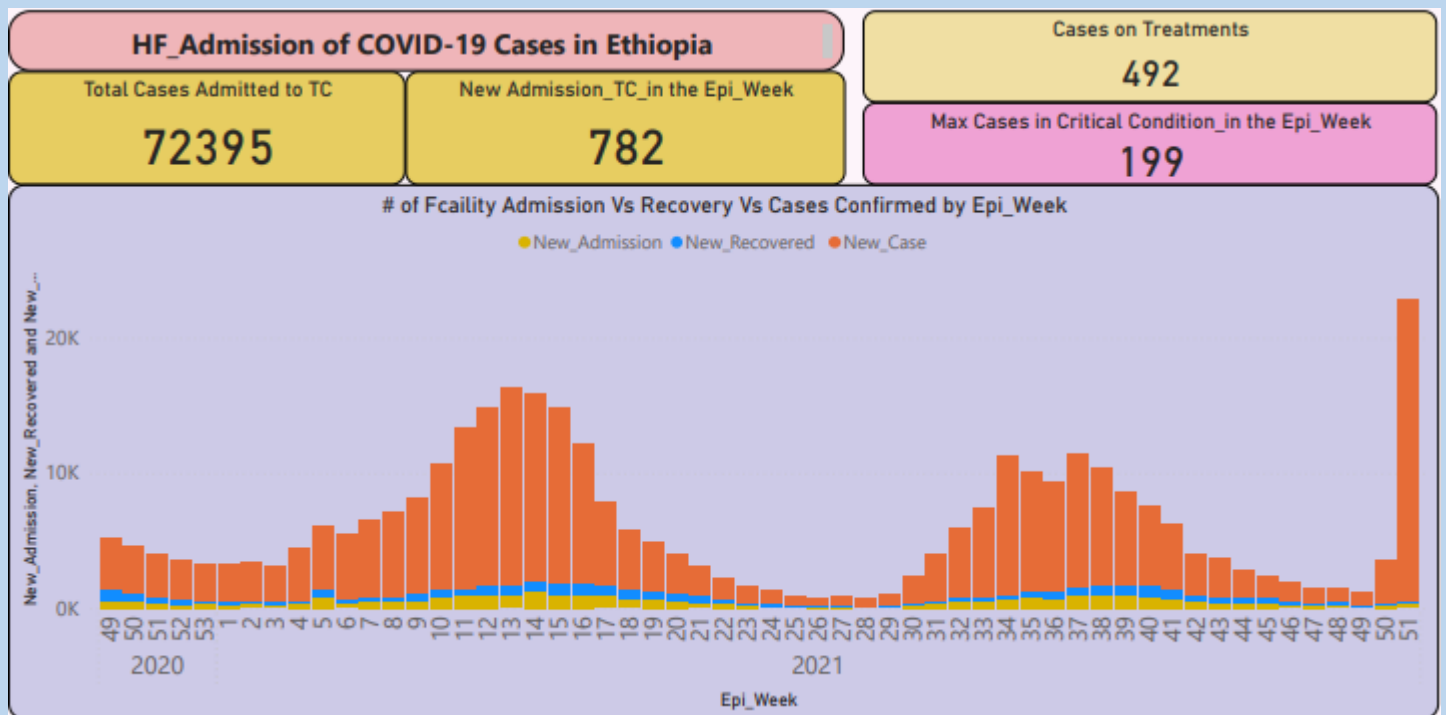
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of December 26, 2021, Ethiopia.

## V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 2,115 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-51, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 352,987 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 89%.
- In the week-51, the maximum number of cases in severe condition are 305 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (326).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

**Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of December 26, 2021.**

**Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of December 26, 2021**

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	273446	2715	36796	45	3780	31094	282	134
Oromia	49552	120	9684	11	978	8597	105	43
SNNPR	16498	19	5292	0	271	4967	54	2
Amhara	14458	6	5447	0	432	4984	28	13
Sidama	11259	54	3702	0	225	3412	1	1
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	8123	7	1457	0	133	1320	4	2
Harari	5462	19	1430	0	186	1239	1	1
Benishangul G	3992	5	1019	0	32	989	0	0
Somali	3032	1	770	0	96	654	17	3
Afar	2993	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Gambella	1710	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

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

- So far, 294,971 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 288,859 (97.93%) have recovered and 49 (0.017%) died.
- Of these, 6,831 cases have been enrolled to HBIC, 1,901 cases have recovered and one case died in the Epi-Week-51.
- As of December 26, 2021, there are 2,568 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,546 (none in the Epi-week-51) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,279 (one in the Epi-week-51) 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.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.

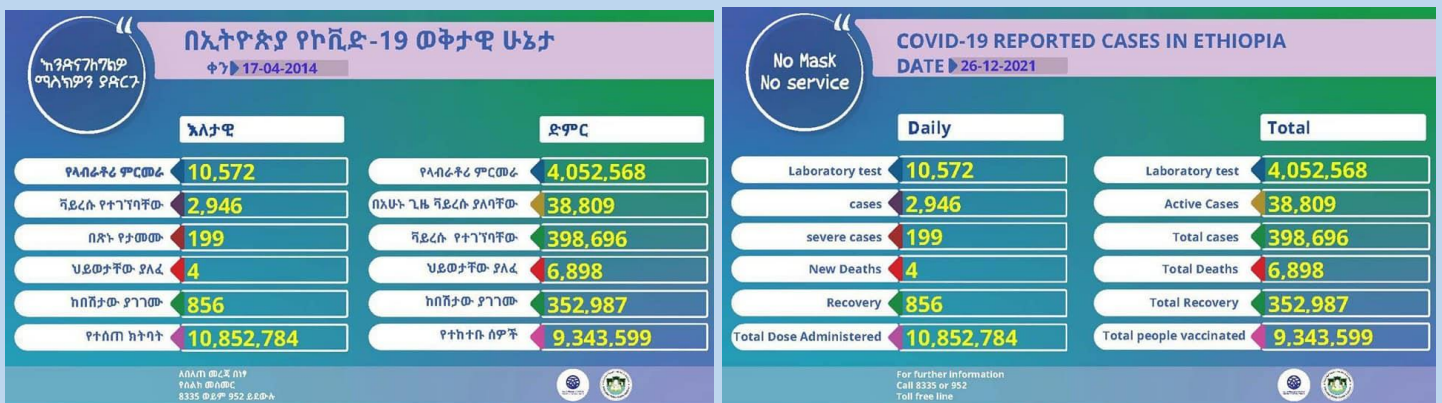


Figure 12: COVID-19 situation update as of December 26, 2021 shared on social media.

## 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.

- Discussion has been held among the Ministry of Health leadership and House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) regarding COVID-19 prevention and control. The discussion has been held in the presence of H.E W/ro Lomi Bedo, Deputy Speaker of House of Peoples' Representatives; HoPR Health, Social, Development, Culture and Sport Affairs Standing Committee chairperson and members and H.E Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health. During the discussion, emphasis has been given for the alarming increase in the COVID-19 spread in Ethiopia, public negligence on the prevention measures and vaccines hesitancy.



**Figure 13: Discussion among MOH Leadership and HoPR regarding COVID-19 prevention and control, Dec. 25, 2021, Bishoftu, Ethiopia.**

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

### **a. Challenges**

- Dramatic increase of cases
- 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 COVID-19 vaccination
- Enhancing law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.
- 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.
- 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.eph.gov.et/">https://www.eph.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.eph.gov.et/">https://covid19.eph.gov.et/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ephipa/ge/">https://www.facebook.com/ephipa/ge/</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/UCvvtZeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvtZeY-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.

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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