



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 01 (January 03 – 09, 2022)

BULLETIN No. 89

I. Highlights

- A total of 59,414 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-01 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,191,021.
- A total of 17,468 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 72 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-01 bringing the total cases and death to 444,124 and 7,030 respectively.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 442 which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (375).
- A total of 294,971 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 30,405 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-01.
- Ministry of Health has received over 7.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- COVID-19 Respondents Celebrated the Birthday of Jesus Christ at the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center.



Figure 1: COVID-19 pandemic responders celebrating Christmas in the National PHEOC, January 07, 2022

II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,956,131 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 19,641 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 4,025,404 (37%) people are fully vaccinated.

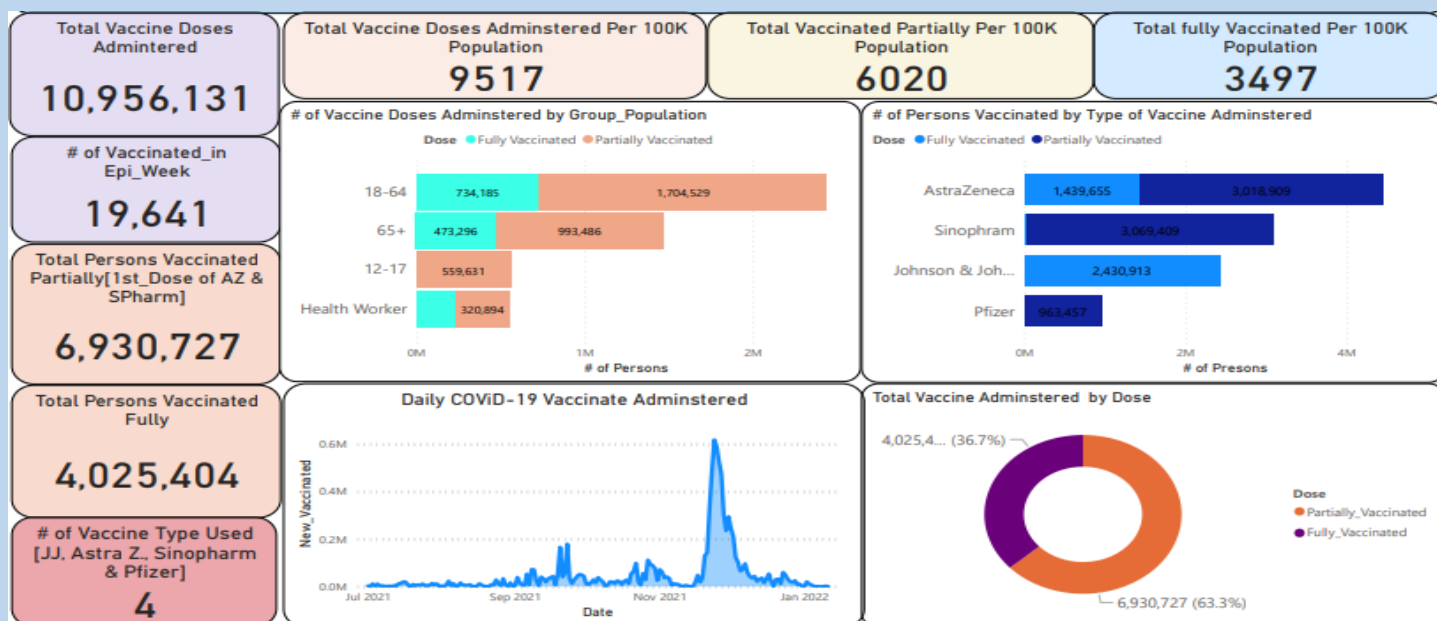


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of January 09, 2022

III. Epidemiological Situation

a. Global Situation

- Globally, the number of weekly COVID-19 cases have increased while the number of deaths due to COVID-19 have decreased.
- Over 14 million new cases and over 43,000 new deaths were reported during the week of January 03 – 09, 2022. The number of confirmed cases in this week increased by 10% as compared to the previous week while the number of deaths decreased by 62% compared to the previous week.
- As of January 09, 2022, a total of 290,402,543 COVID-19 cases and 5,178,899 deaths (CFR=1.78%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 13,234,362 cases and 114,119 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-01.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (4,445,595 new cases), France (1,601,232 new cases), The United Kingdom (1,218,632 new cases), Italy (1,014,358 new cases) and India (638,872 new cases).
- In Africa, as of January 09, 2022, a total of 9,963,417 cases and 225,214 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.26%). Of these, 276,917 cases (41% decrease compared to the previous week) and 5,047 deaths (more than 800% increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-01.
- 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.

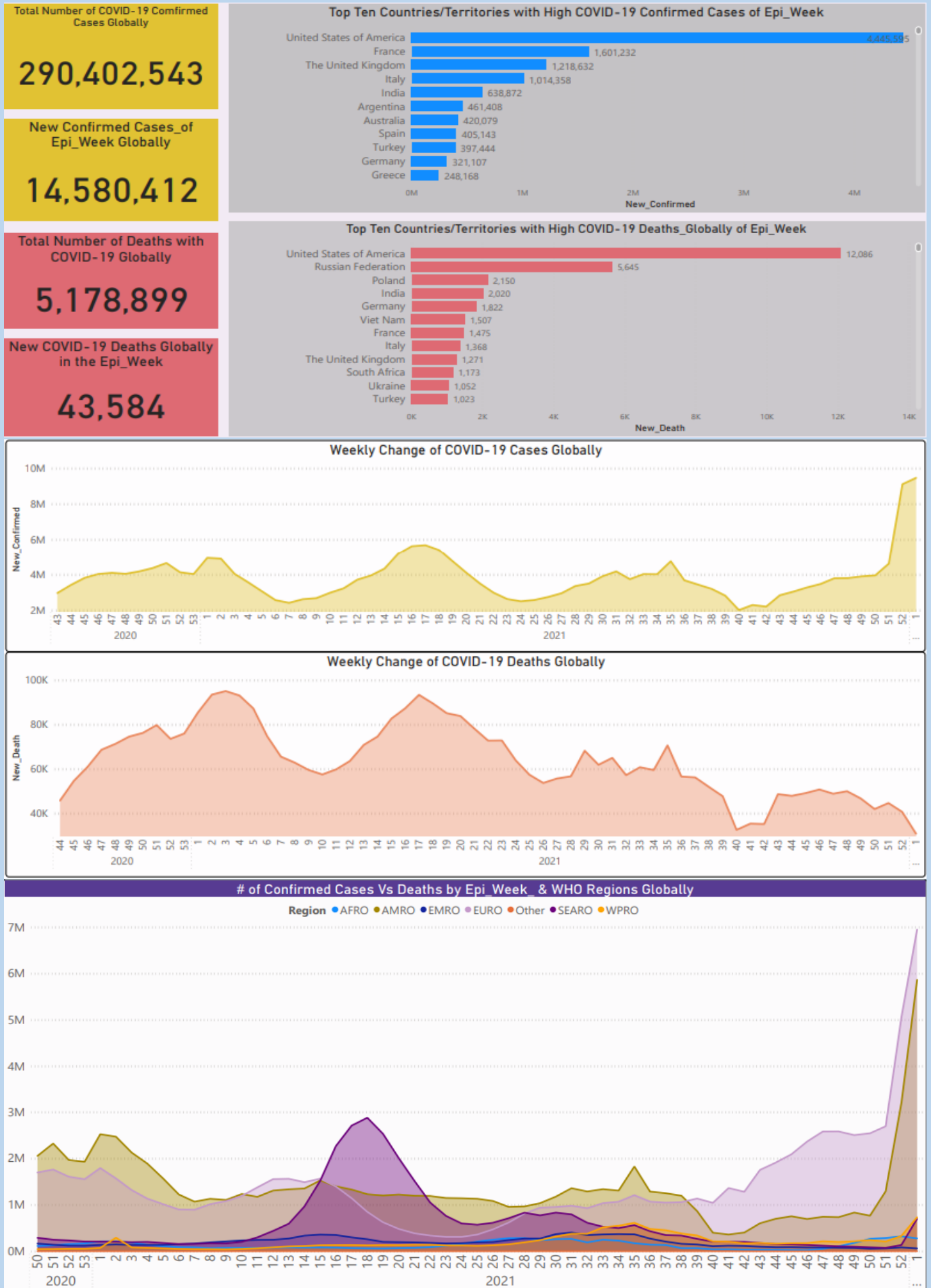


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of January 09, 2022 (Source: WHO)

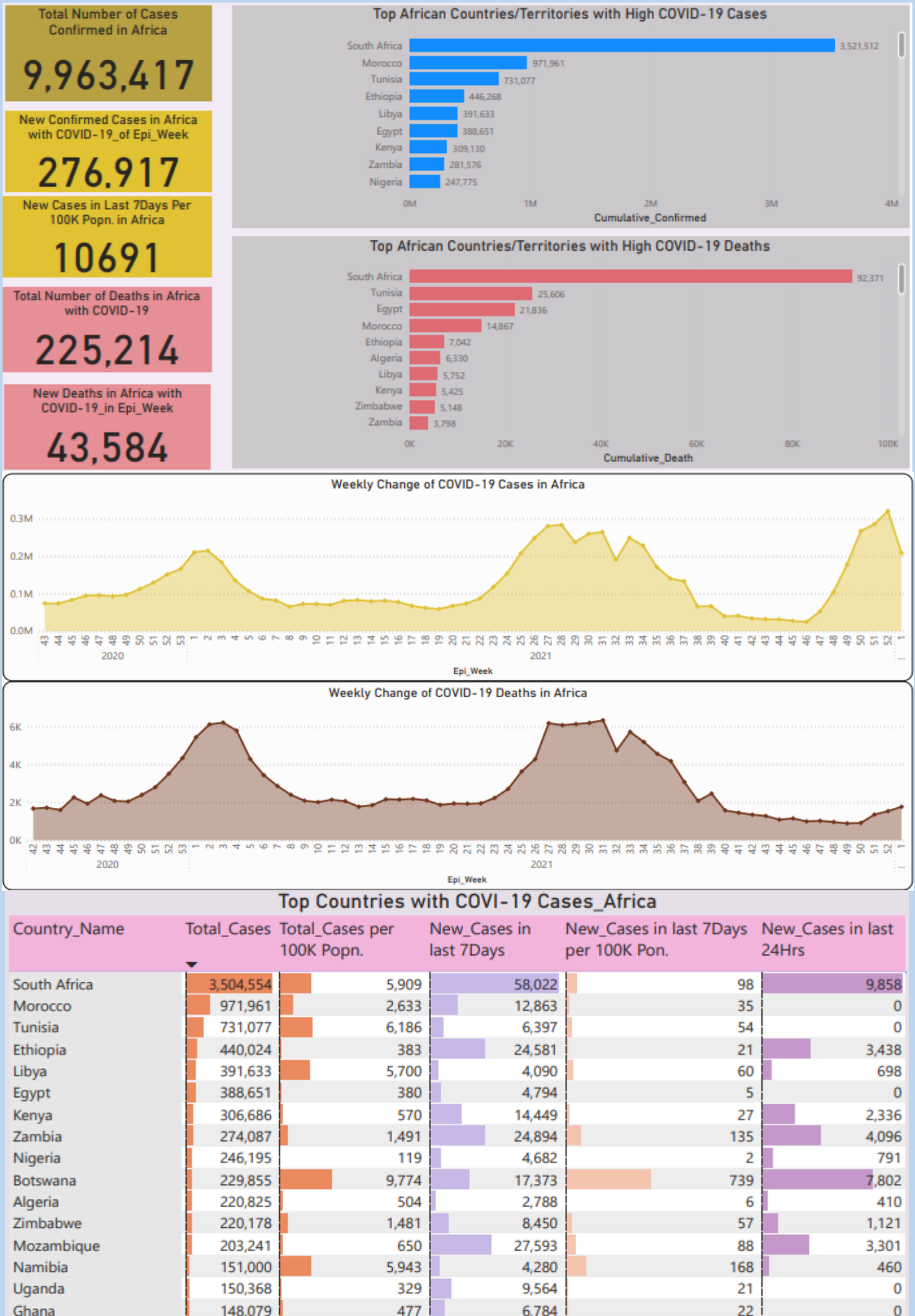


Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of January 09, 2022 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of January 09, 2022, a total of 444,124 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,030 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.58%.
- Seventeen-thousand-four-hundred-sixty-eight (17,468) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 72 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-01.
- In this week, there is 38% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 20% increase in the number of deaths due to COVID-19 compared to the previous week.
- 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-01 of 2022

| COVID-19 Summary Information of Epi_Week_49 | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Regions | New_Tested | New_Case | New_HF_Admission | New_Deaths | Positivity Rate |
| Addis Ababa | 28320 | 8826 | 405 | 48 | 29.3 |
| Oromia | 12483 | 3881 | 254 | 15 | 30.6 |
| SNNPR | 8705 | 2267 | 23 | 3 | 23.9 |
| Dire Dawa | 2730 | 661 | 28 | 3 | 24.9 |
| Harari | 1438 | 407 | 9 | 0 | 26.6 |
| Somali | 1294 | 228 | 0 | 0 | 17.5 |
| Benishangul G | 1259 | 340 | 4 | 0 | 26.5 |
| Sidama | 1238 | 440 | 7 | 0 | 35.7 |
| Afar | 942 | 77 | 0 | 0 | 7.9 |
| Amhara | 708 | 267 | 41 | 3 | 37.9 |
| Gambella | 297 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 24.2 |
| South West | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Tigray | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total | 59414 | 17468 | 771 | 72 | 26.0 |

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

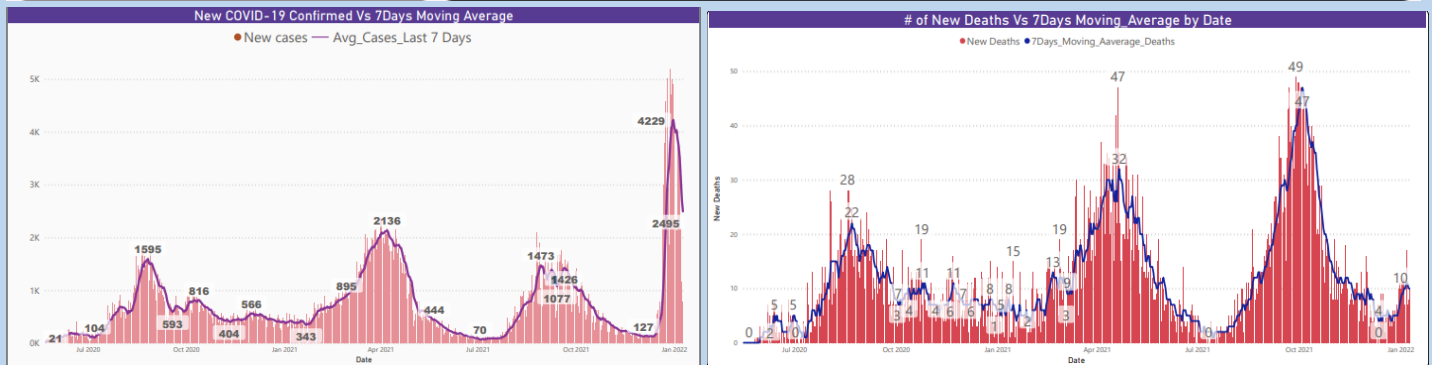
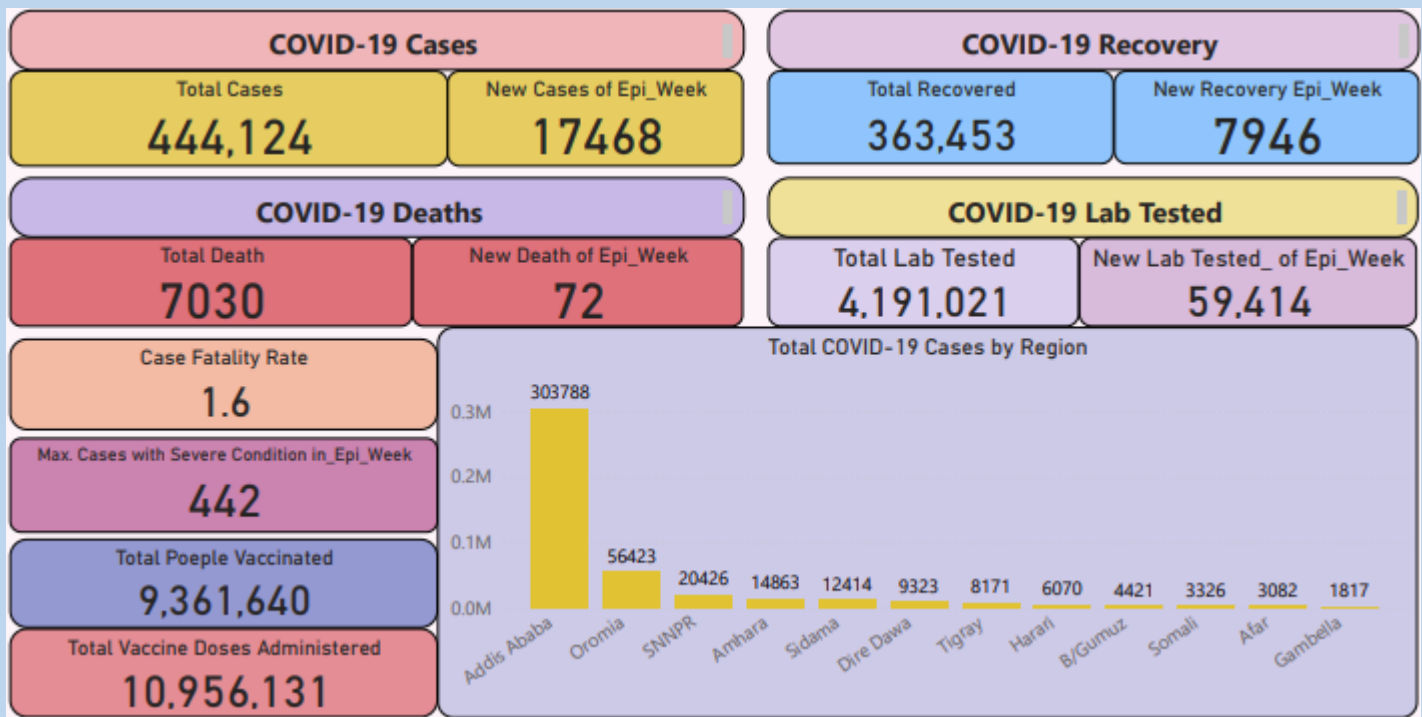


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 09, 2022, Ethiopia

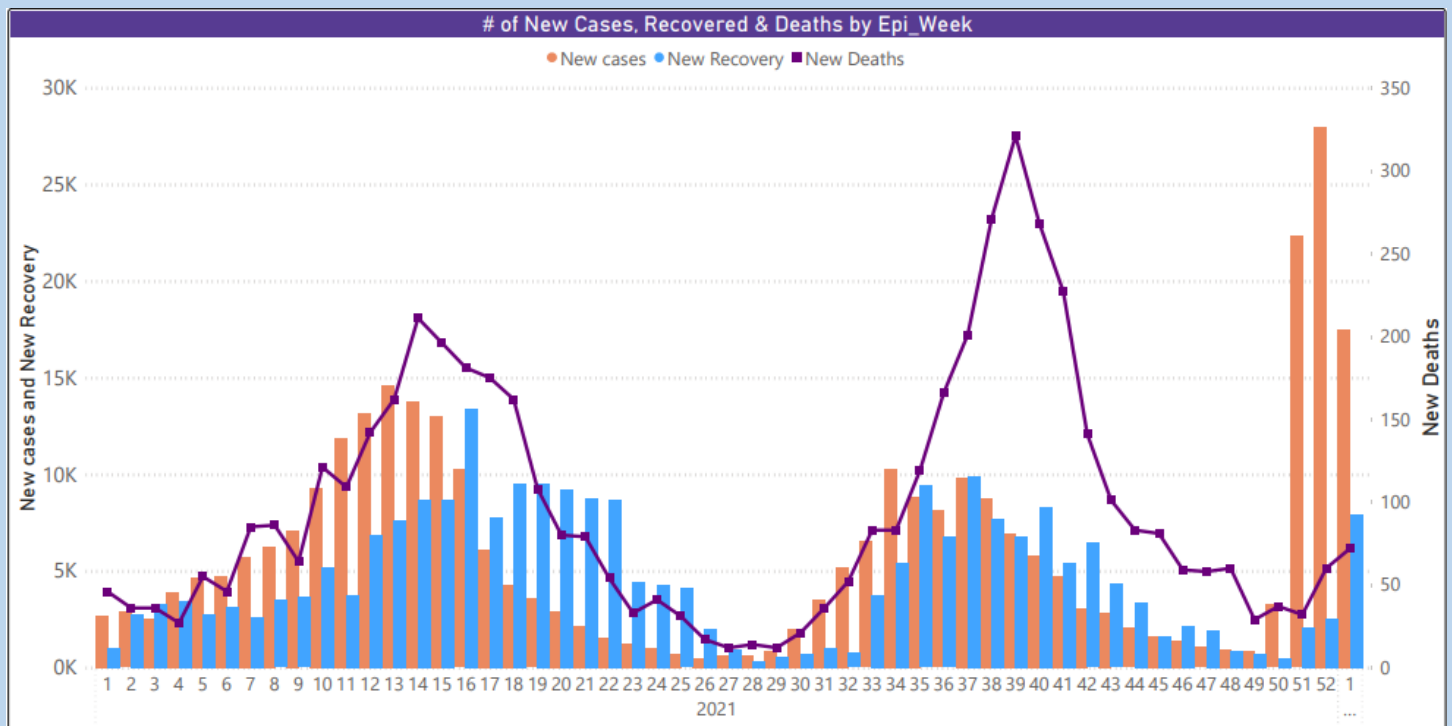


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of January 09, 2022, Ethiopia

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.

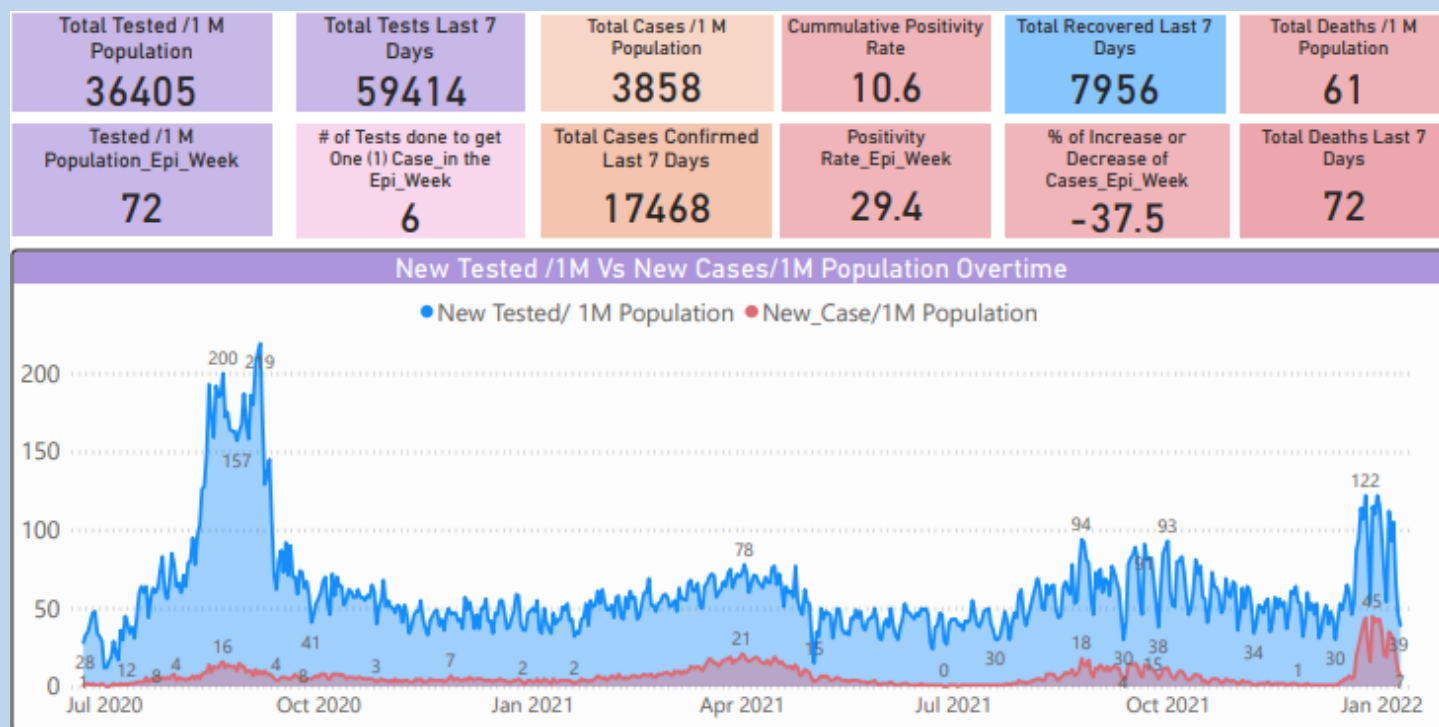


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of January 09, 2022.

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 January 09, 2022:
 - 393,084 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 11,474 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

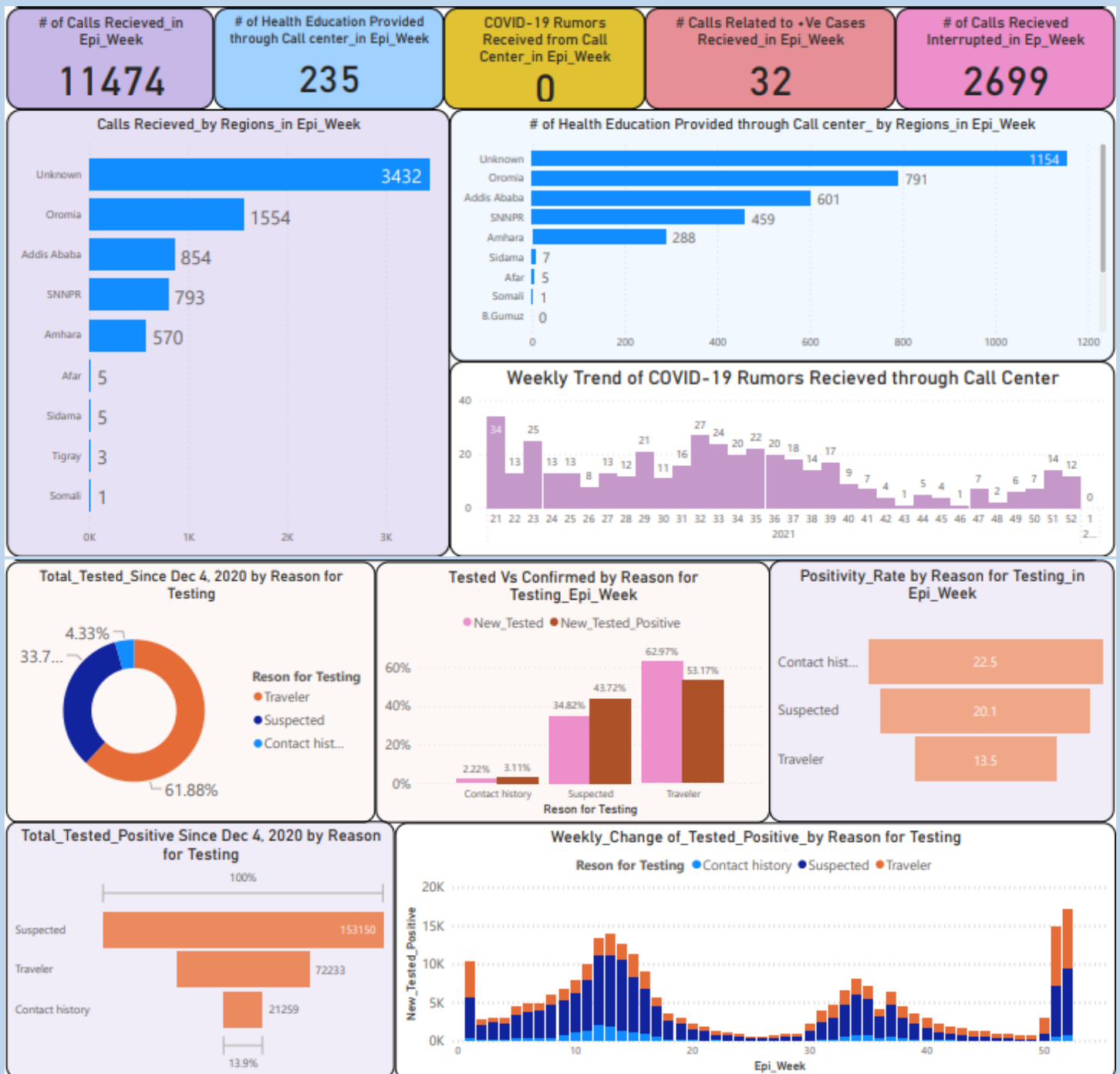


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as January 09, 2022, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 3,011,828 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 881,146 (29%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 15,611 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-01.
- A total of 73,899 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 47 returnees were received in the Epi-week-01. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 72,703 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,259 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of January 09, 2022.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 09 January 2022, a total of 4,191,021 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 59,414 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-01 which is a 23% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-01 is 29.40%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (35.37%).
- Addis Ababa city administration and Amhara, Sidama, Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz regional states 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 657,306 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 16,620 is performed in the Epi-week-01 (figure 9 below).

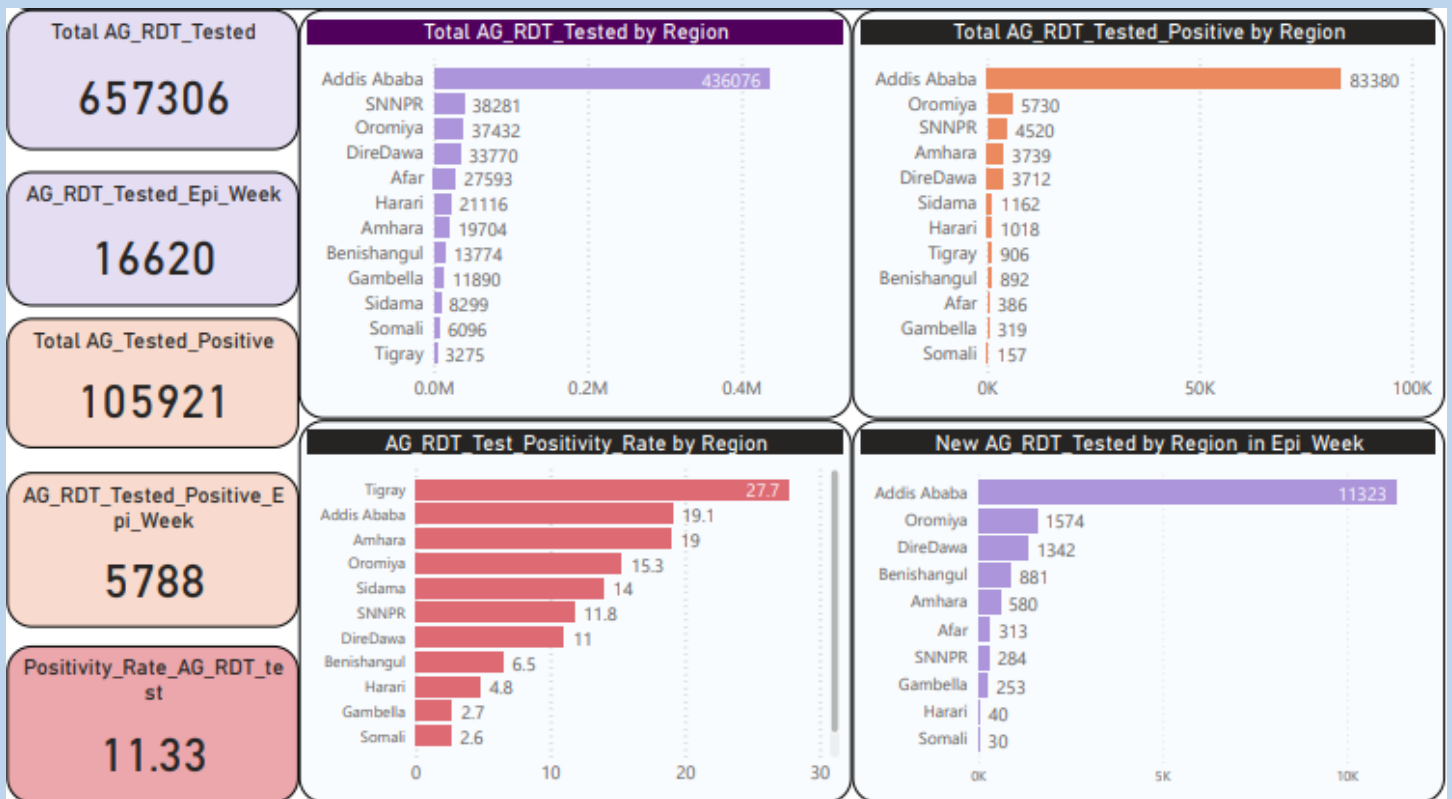
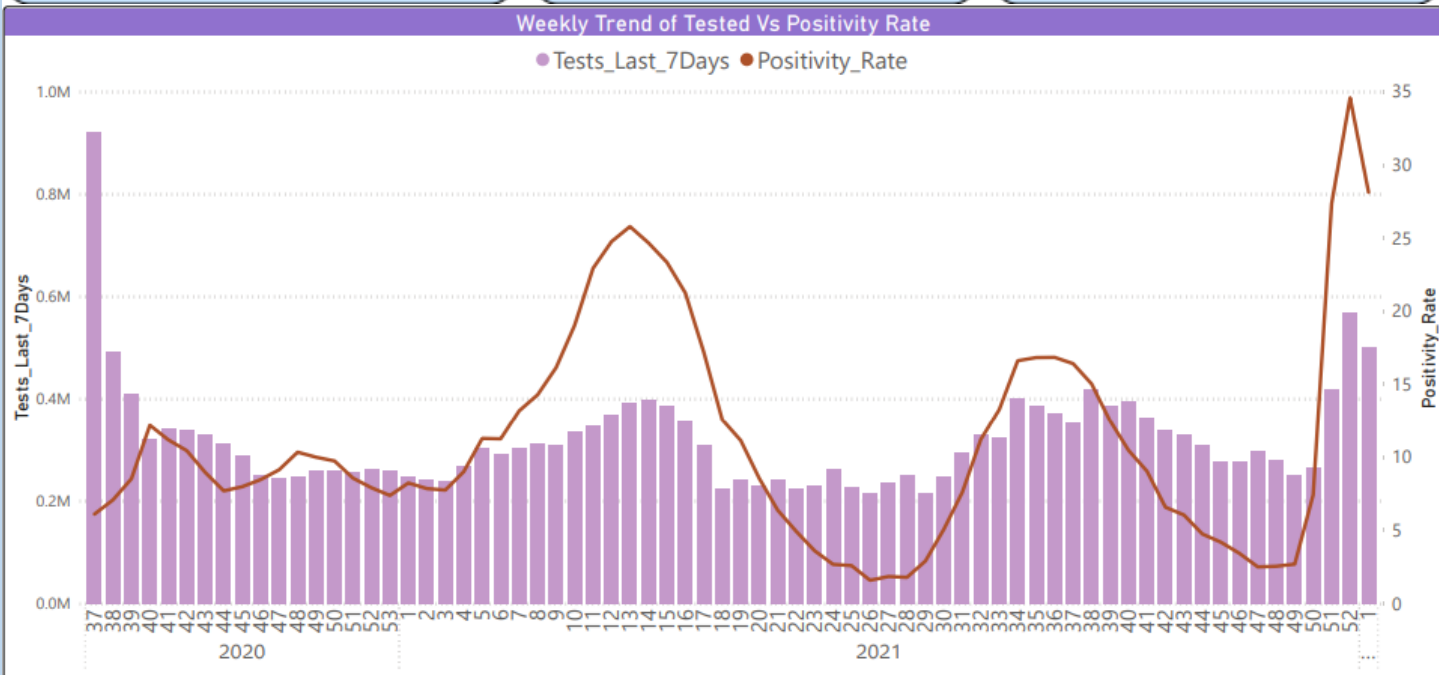
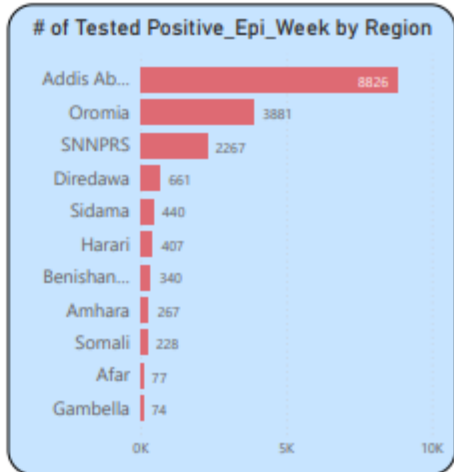
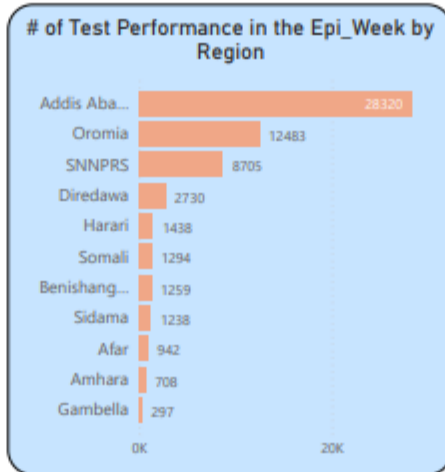
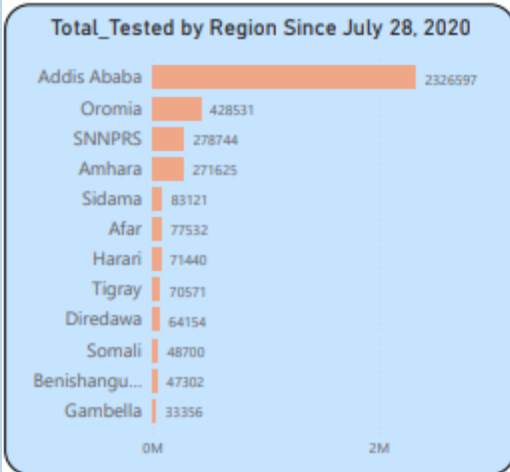
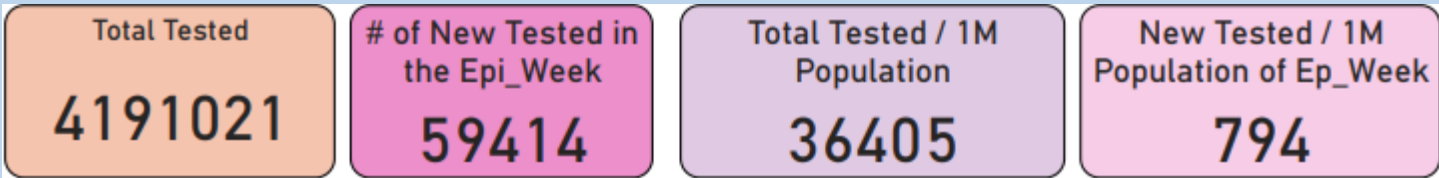


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of January 09, 2022



COVID-19 National Weekly Update

| Region/City Admn | New_Tested | Tested_Positive | New_Deaths | Positivity_Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Addis Ababa | 28320 | 8826 | 48 | 29.5 |
| Oromia | 12483 | 3881 | 15 | 30.5 |
| SNNPRS | 8705 | 2267 | 3 | 23.7 |
| Diredawa | 2730 | 661 | 3 | 24.7 |
| Harari | 1438 | 407 | 0 | 26.6 |
| Somali | 1294 | 228 | 0 | 17.6 |
| Benishangul Gumuz | 1259 | 340 | 0 | 26.6 |
| Sidama | 1238 | 440 | 0 | 35.7 |
| Afar | 942 | 77 | 0 | 7.8 |
| Amhara | 708 | 267 | 3 | 38.0 |
| Gambella | 297 | 74 | 0 | 24.5 |
| Tigray | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Total | 59414 | 17468 | 72 | 26.1 |

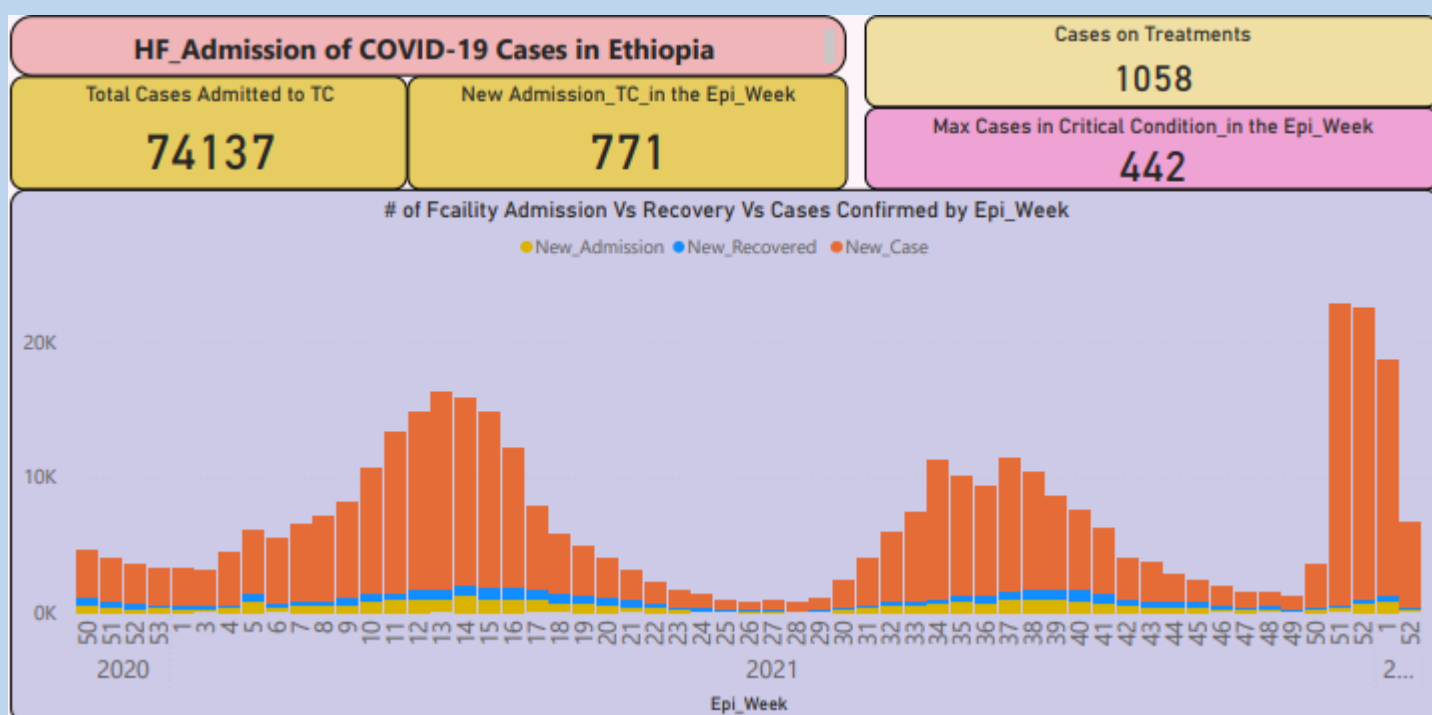
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distr of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of January 09, 2022, Ethiopia.

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 7,946 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-01, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 363,453 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 82%.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 442 which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (375).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of January 09, 2022.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of January 09, 2022

| Regions | Total_Case | New_Case | Total_Admission | New_Admission | Total_Death | Total_Recovered | On_Treatment | Critical_Case |
|---------------|------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Addis Ababa | 303788 | 582 | 37824 | 24 | 3866 | 31690 | 587 | 229 |
| Oromia | 56423 | 110 | 10168 | 14 | 1009 | 8891 | 264 | 88 |
| SNNPR | 20426 | 23 | 4869 | 2 | 261 | 4519 | 89 | 16 |
| Amhara | 14863 | 8 | 5536 | 4 | 438 | 5042 | 53 | 24 |
| Sidama | 12414 | 11 | 3719 | 2 | 226 | 3422 | 7 | 7 |
| Dire Dawa | 9323 | 36 | 1495 | 2 | 136 | 1327 | 32 | 7 |
| Tigray | 8171 | 0 | 5290 | 0 | 59 | 5224 | 0 | 0 |
| Harari | 6070 | 6 | 1440 | 0 | 186 | 1244 | 6 | 6 |
| Benishangul G | 4421 | 0 | 1034 | 0 | 32 | 1001 | 3 | 1 |
| Somali | 3326 | 0 | 770 | 0 | 96 | 654 | 17 | 3 |
| Afar | 3082 | 9 | 826 | 0 | 5 | 812 | 0 | 0 |
| Gambella | 1817 | 0 | 682 | 0 | 8 | 674 | 0 | 0 |

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 325,376 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 297,506 (91.43%) have recovered and 49 (0.015%) died.
- Of these, 15,520 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 6,568 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-01.
- As of January 09, 2022, there are 28,950 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,425 (none in the Epi-week-01) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,296 (ten in the Epi-week-01) 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.
- Risk communication and awareness creation activities are ongoing regarding the alarming increment of COVID-19 cases and rampant spread of flu like symptoms among the public in Ethiopia.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 12: COVID-19 key message and situation update as of January 09, 2022 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.

- Ministry of Health has received over 7.3 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine. The governments of Germany and Portugal have donated the Covid-19 vaccine. Receiving the support of both governments, the Minister of Health, HE. Dr. Lia Tadesse, said that the donation of more than 7.3 million doses of Johnson& Johnson Covid-19 vaccine for our country will play a significant role in reducing the impact of the current increase in Covid 19 spread. Acknowledging the support and cooperation of the German and Portuguese governments to the Ethiopian government and people, HE. Dr. Lia Tadesse also called on both governments to continue their support in rebuilding war-torn health facilities. HE. has thanked the German and Portuguese governments, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) for their support and asked for their continual assistance in the future as well. German Deputy Ambassador to Ethiopia HE. Heiko Nietzsche and Portuguese Embassy Representative HE. Joanna Marinho on their part said their governments have donated the Johnson Covid-19 vaccine for Ethiopia through the Covax International Coalition. Representatives of the two governments praised the ongoing efforts of the Ethiopian government to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and said that their government will continue to strengthen its support to curb the increasing spread of the virus. The German government, through the German Deputy Ambassador to Ethiopia, provided 7,192,800 doses and the Portuguese government through the Portugal Embassy in Ethiopia provided 165,600 doses of Covid-19 vaccine.



Figure 13: COVID-19 vaccine donation from the governments of Germany and Portugal to the Ministry of Health-Ethiopia, January 06, 2022

- COVID-19 Respondents Celebrated the Birth of Jesus Christ at the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Aschalew Abayneh, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and COVID-19 Response Incident Manager, and Dr. Mikiyas Teferi, Deputy Incident Manager of COVID-19 Response at the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center were also present at the program. They conveyed the best wishes and acknowledgement to the COVID-19 responders in the Emergency Operation Center.

The Ethiopian Public Health Institute expresses its sincere wish to all Christians Happy Christmas.



Figure 14: COVID-19 pandemic responders celebrating Christmas in the National PHEOC, January 07, 2022

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 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 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.eph.gov.et/ | 8335 | ephieoc@gmail.com |
| Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website | https://covid19.eph.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/UCvTzeY-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/tigrayrhb/ | 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 |



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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