



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 08 (February 21 – 27, 2022)

BULLETIN №: 96

I. Highlights

- A total of 36,339 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-08 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,501,473.
- A total of 329 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 22 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-08 bringing the total cases and death to 468,674 and 7,460 respectively.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 125 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (160).
- A total of 349,975 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 6,594 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-08.
- Vaccination campaign against COVID-19 has been being conducted throughout the country starting from February 07, 2022. In Ethiopia, a total of 23,993,633 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 6,359,253 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 16,054,415 (67%) people are fully vaccinated.

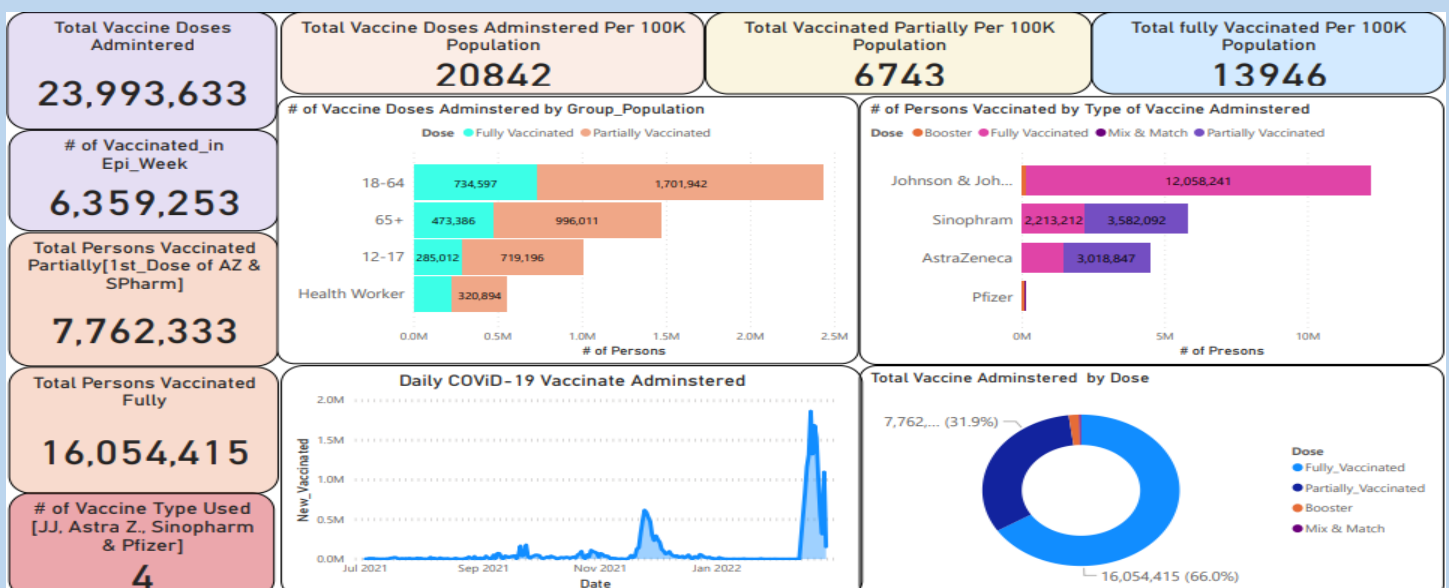


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of February 27, 2022

II. Epidemiological Situation

a. Global Situation

- Globally, during the week of 21 through 27 February 2022, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to decline by 16% and 10% respectively, as compared to the previous week.
- Across the six WHO regions, over 10 million new cases and over 60 000 new deaths were reported.
- As of 27 February 2022, over 433 million confirmed cases and over 5.9 million deaths have been reported globally.
- At the regional level, the Western Pacific Region reported a 32% increase in the number of new weekly cases while all other regions reported decreases. The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Western Pacific (+22%) and the Eastern Mediterranean (+4%) Regions, whilst a decreasing trend have been reported by the Regions of Africa (-59%), South-East Asia (-18%), Europe (-13%) and Americas (-8%).

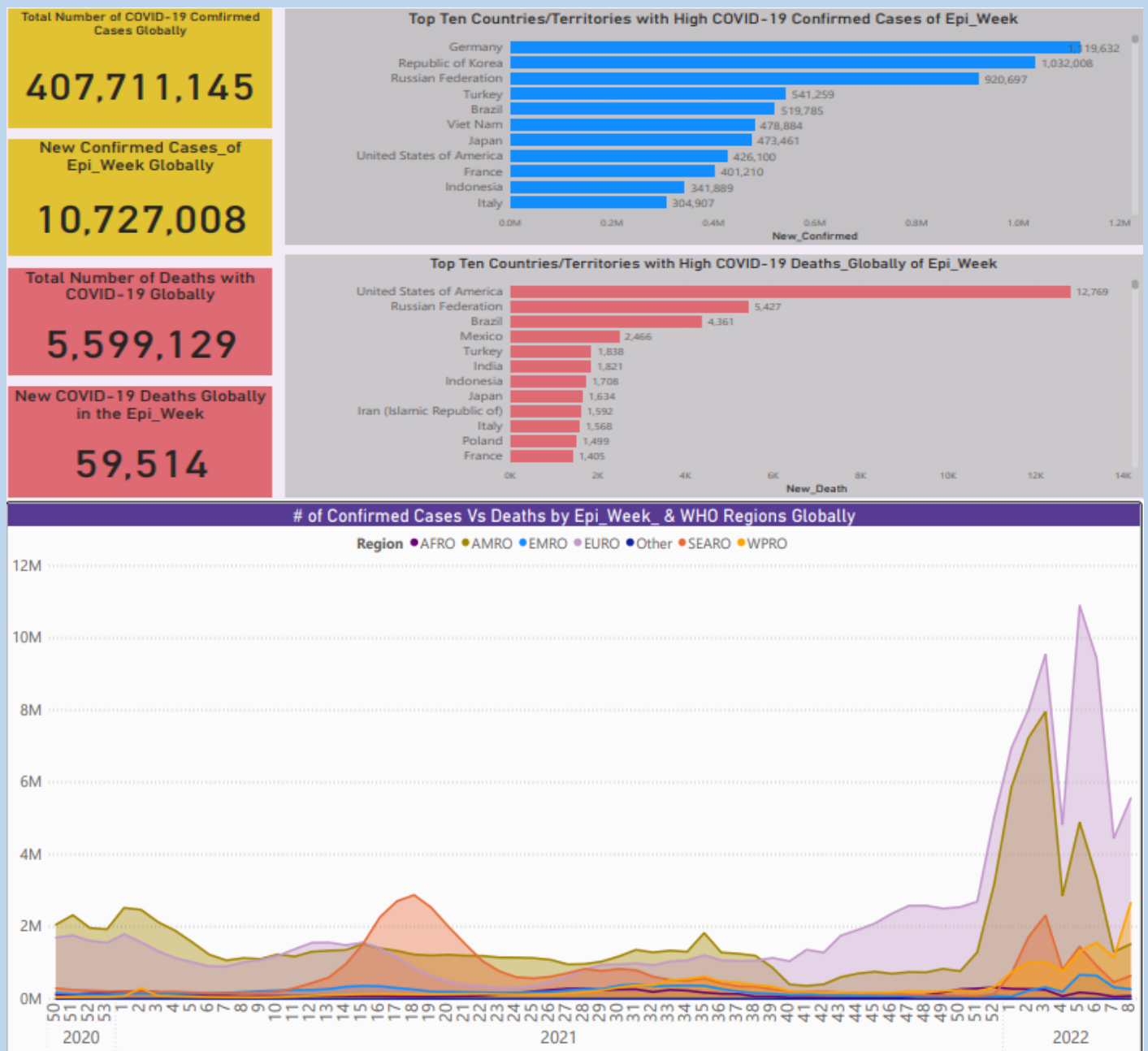


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of February 27, 2022 (Source: WHO)

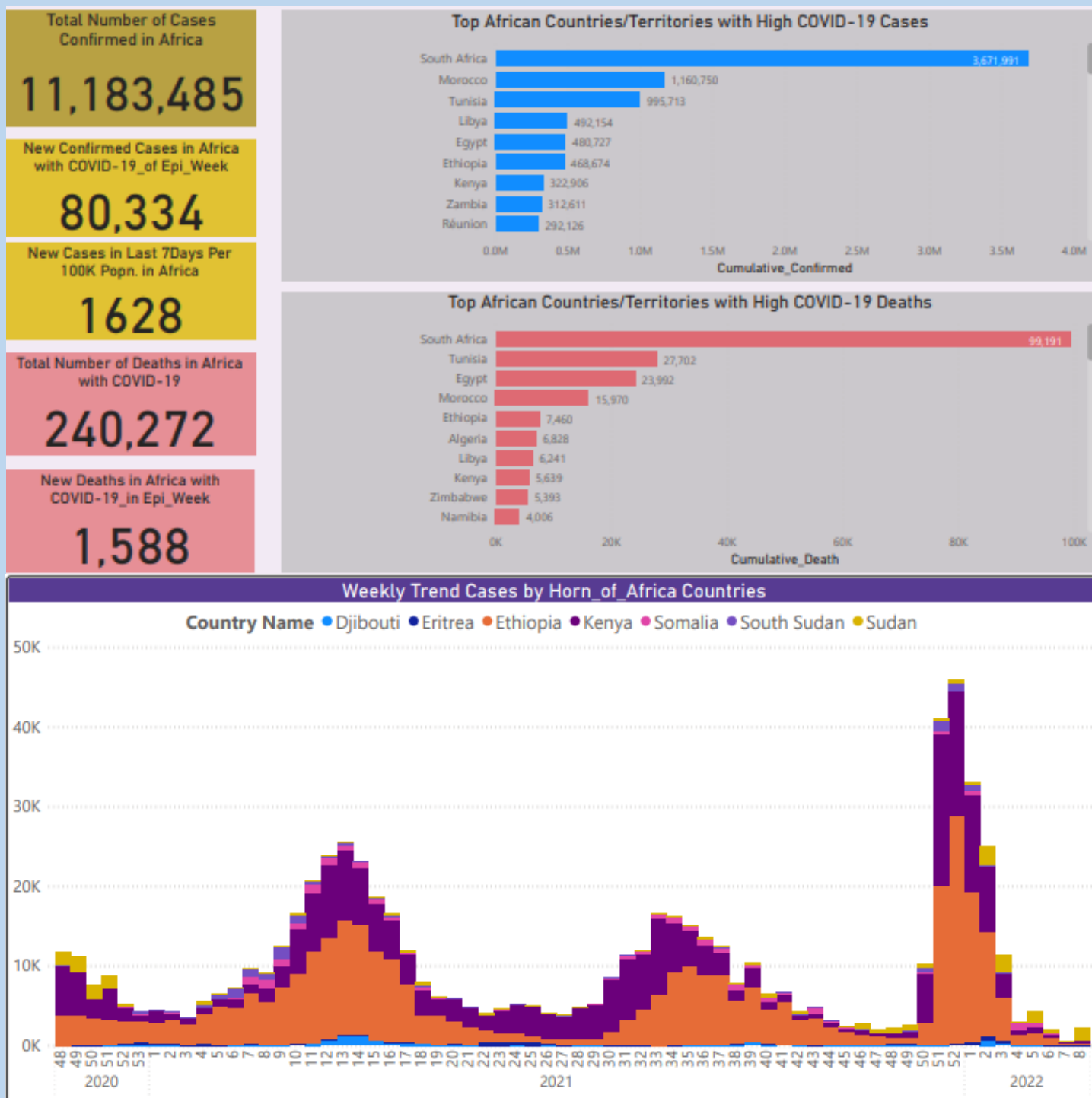


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of February 27, 2022 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of February 20, 2022, a total of 468,674 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,460 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.59%.
- Three-hundred-twenty-nine (329) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 22 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-08.
- In this week, there is 61% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 57% 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-08 of 2022

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	21,349	231	77	5	1.0
SNNPR	6,531	22	2	0	0.1
Oromia	3,070	33	78	0	1.1
Dire Dawa	1,002	12	0	0	0.7
Afar	872	14	0	0	1.6
Somali	815	9	0	0	1.0
Sidama	768	6	0	0	0.4
Harari	725	1	0	0	0.1
Amhara	516	1	2	17	0.0
SWEP	443	0	0	0	0.0
Benishangul G	233	0	0	0	0.0
Gambella	15	0	0	0	0.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0	0.0
Total	36,339	329	159	22	0.6

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

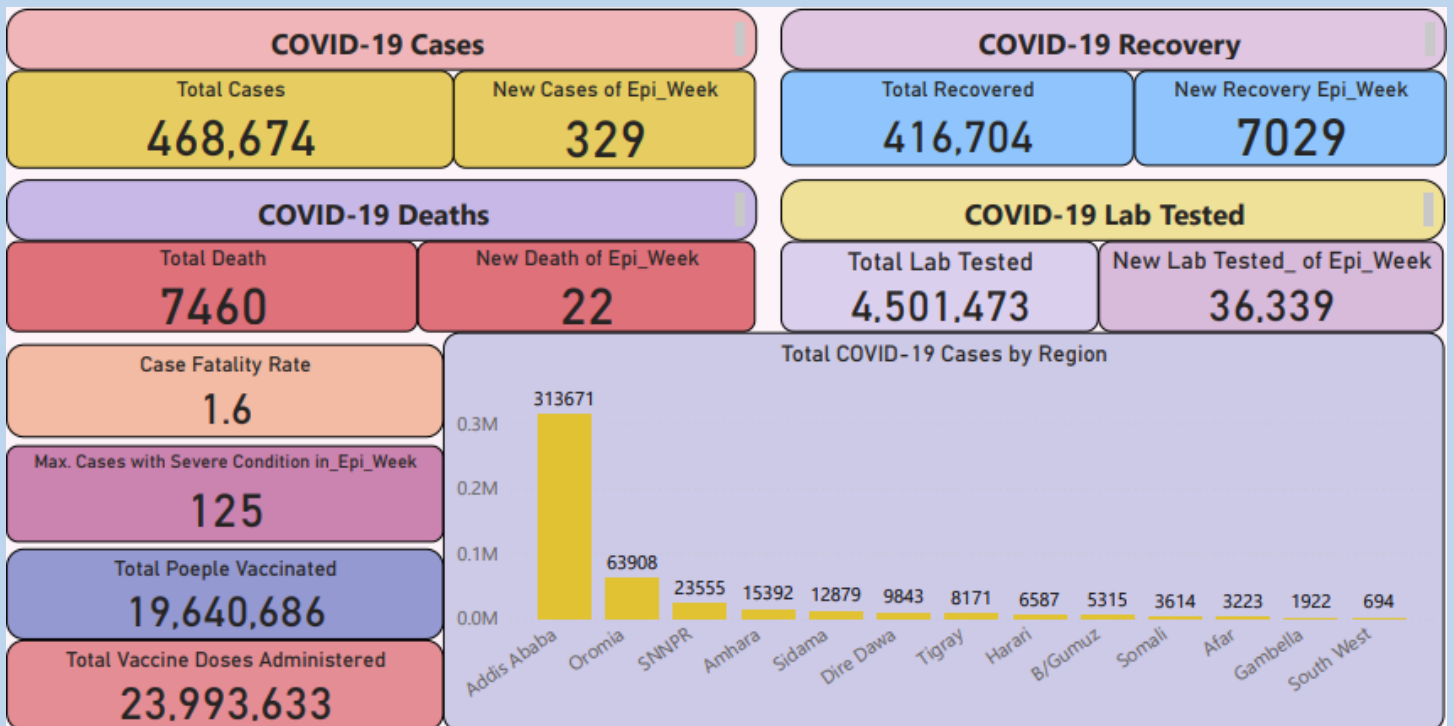


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of February 27, 2022, Ethiopia

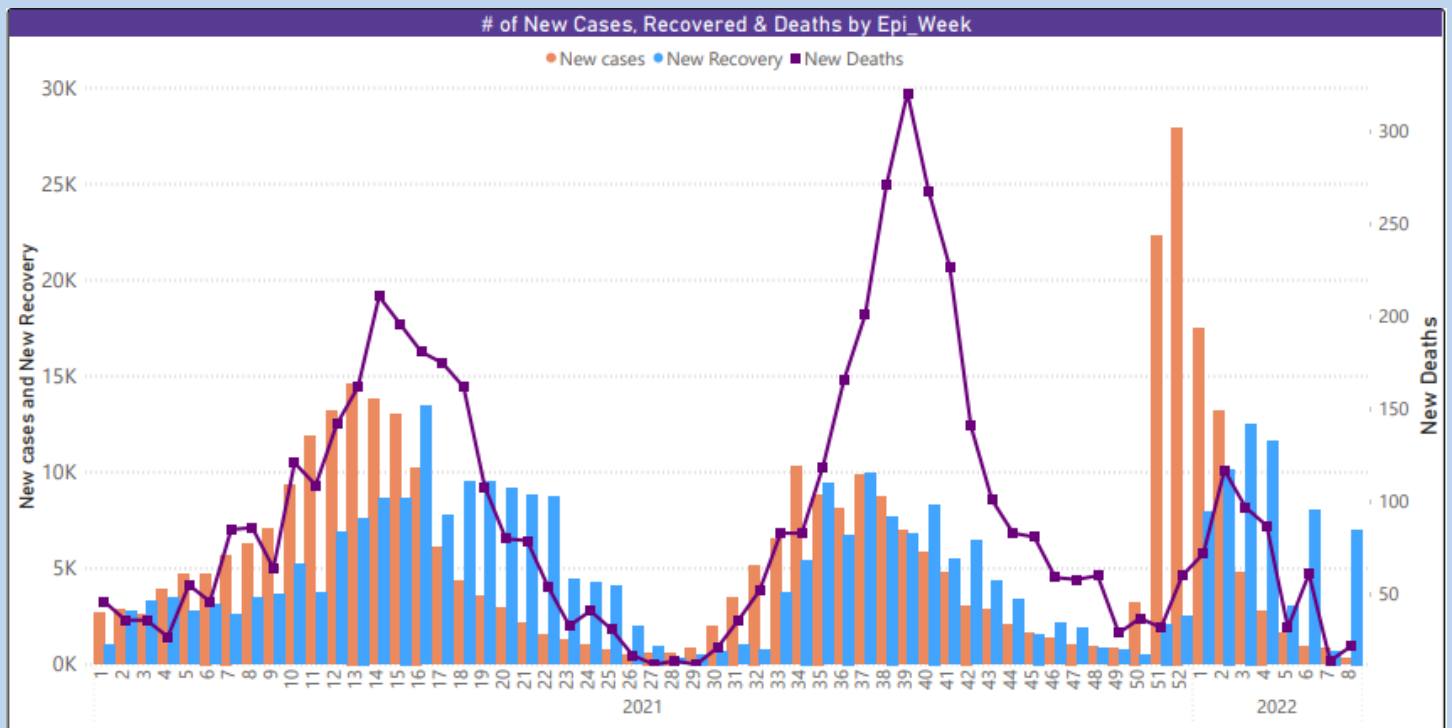


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of February 27, 2022, Ethiopia

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.

Total Tested /1 M Population 39102	Total Tests Last 7 Days 36339	Total Cases /1 M Population 4071	Cummulative Positivity Rate 10.4	Total Recovered Last 7 Days 7029	Total Deaths /1 M Population 65
Tested /1 M Population_Epi_Week 316	# of Tests done to get One (1) Case_in the Epi_Week 86	Total Cases Confirmed Last 7 Days 329	Positivity Rate_Epi_Week 0.9	% of Increase or Decrease of Cases_Epi_Week -61.2	Total Deaths Last 7 Days 22

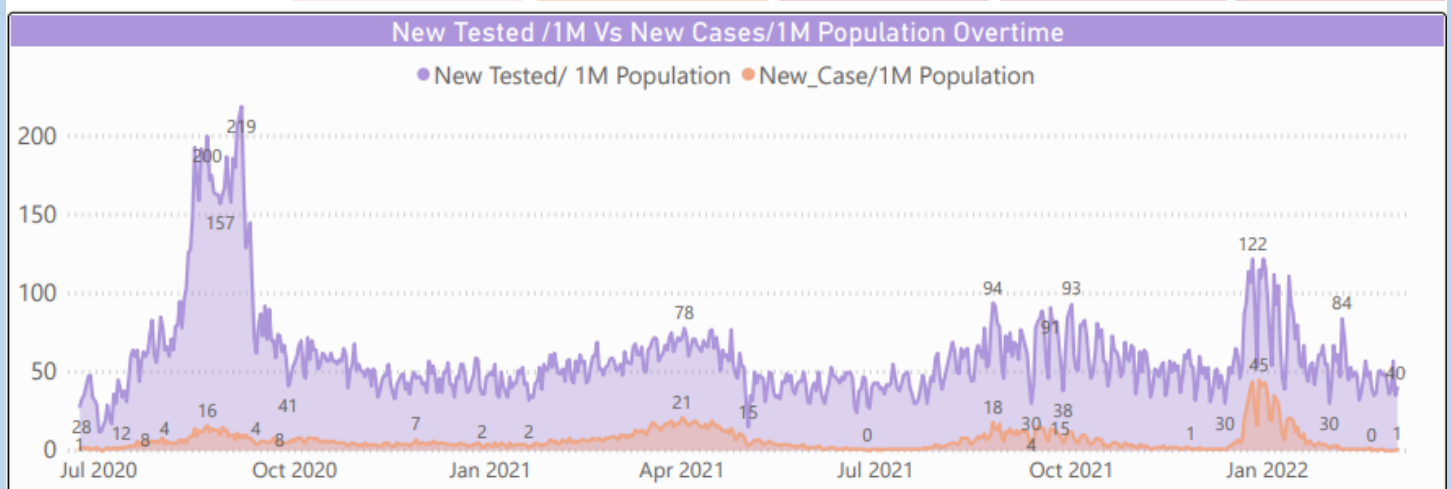


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of February 27, 2022.

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 February 27, 2022:
 - 393,069 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 138,351 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

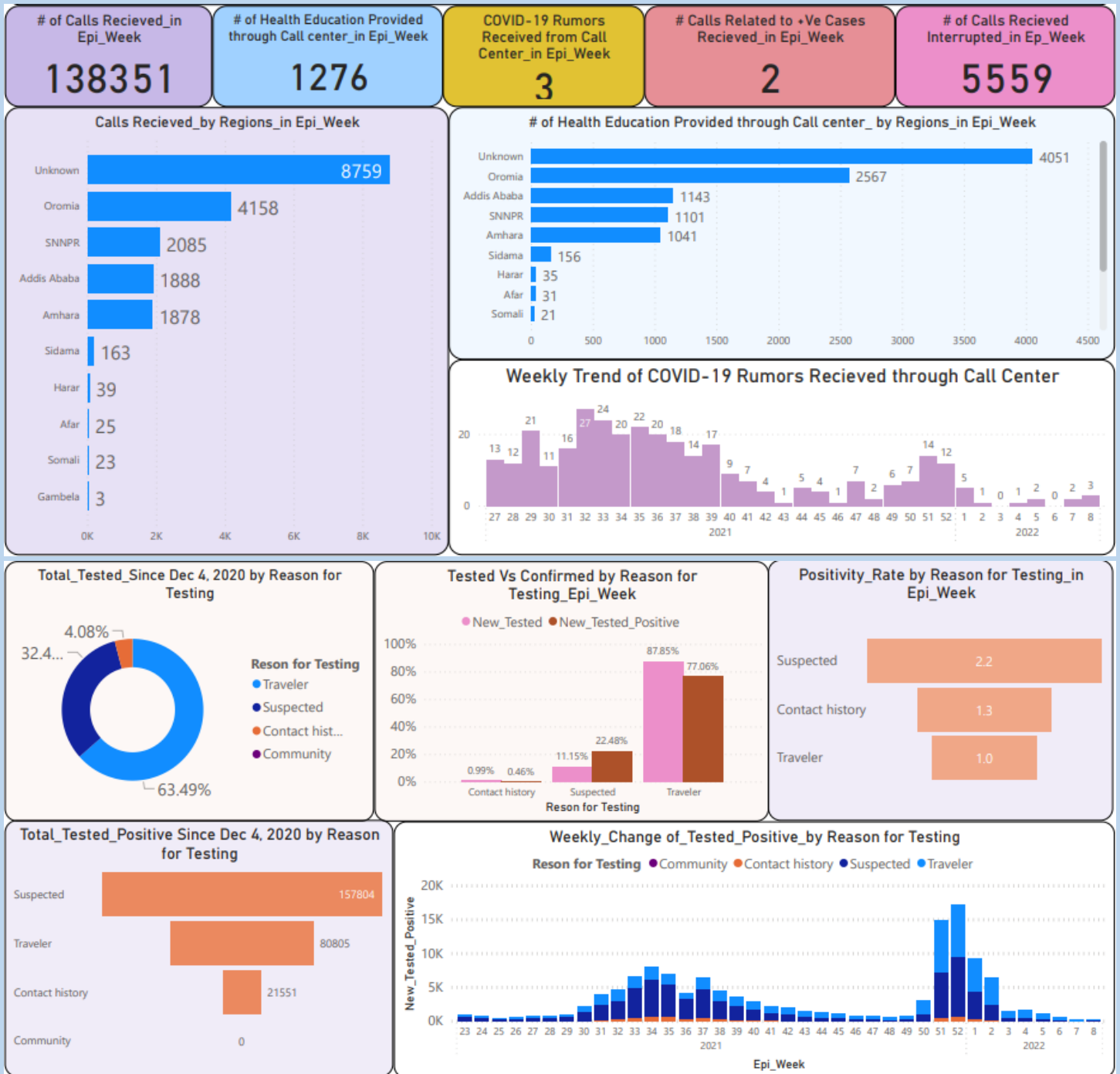


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as February 27, 2022, Ethiopia.

III. Laboratory related activities

- As of 27 February 2022, a total of 4,501,473 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 36,339 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-08 which is a 1.36% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-08 is 0.91%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (2.36%).
- Oromia, Gambella and Somali regional states 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 799,545 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 6,204 is performed in the Epi-week-08 (figure 8 below).

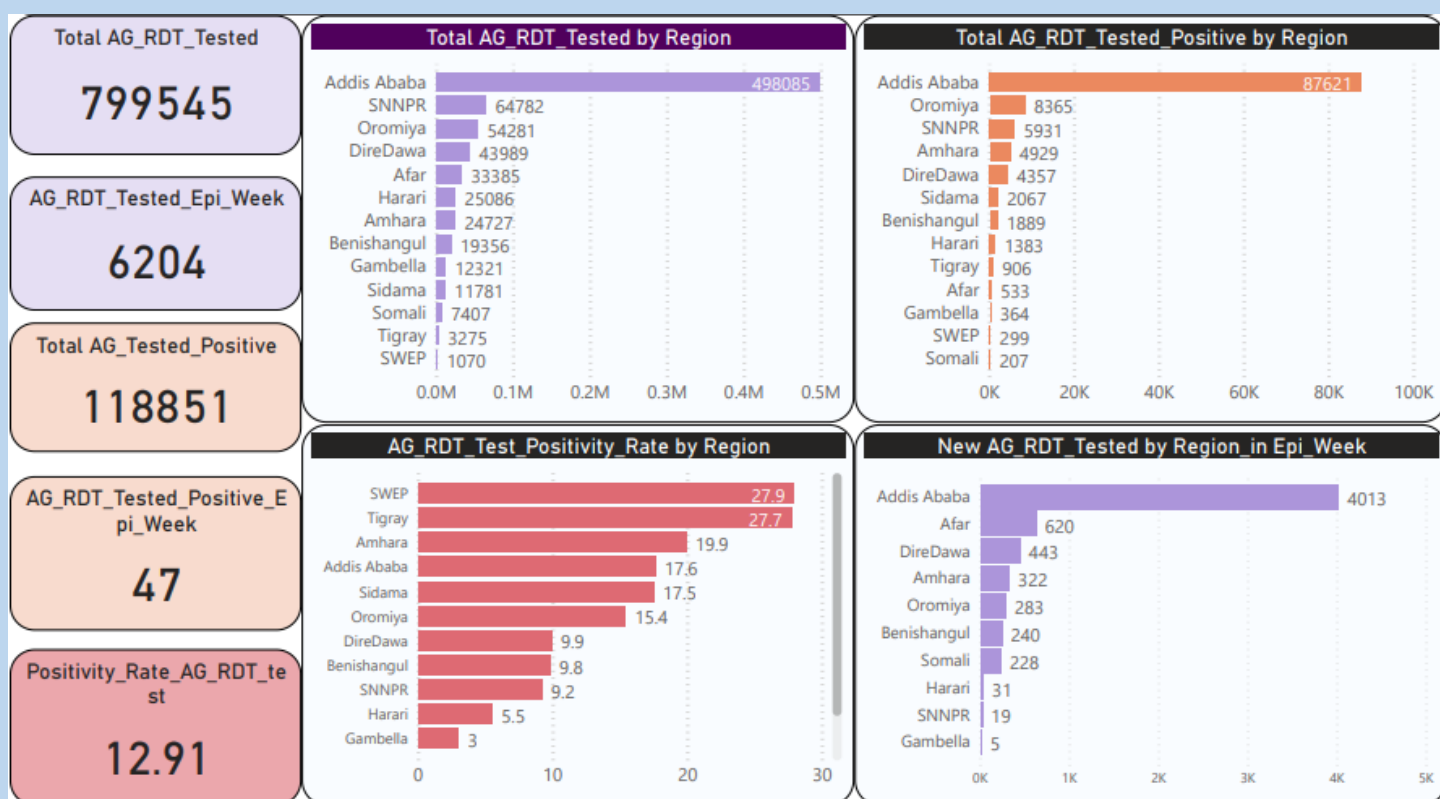


Figure 8: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of February 27, 2022

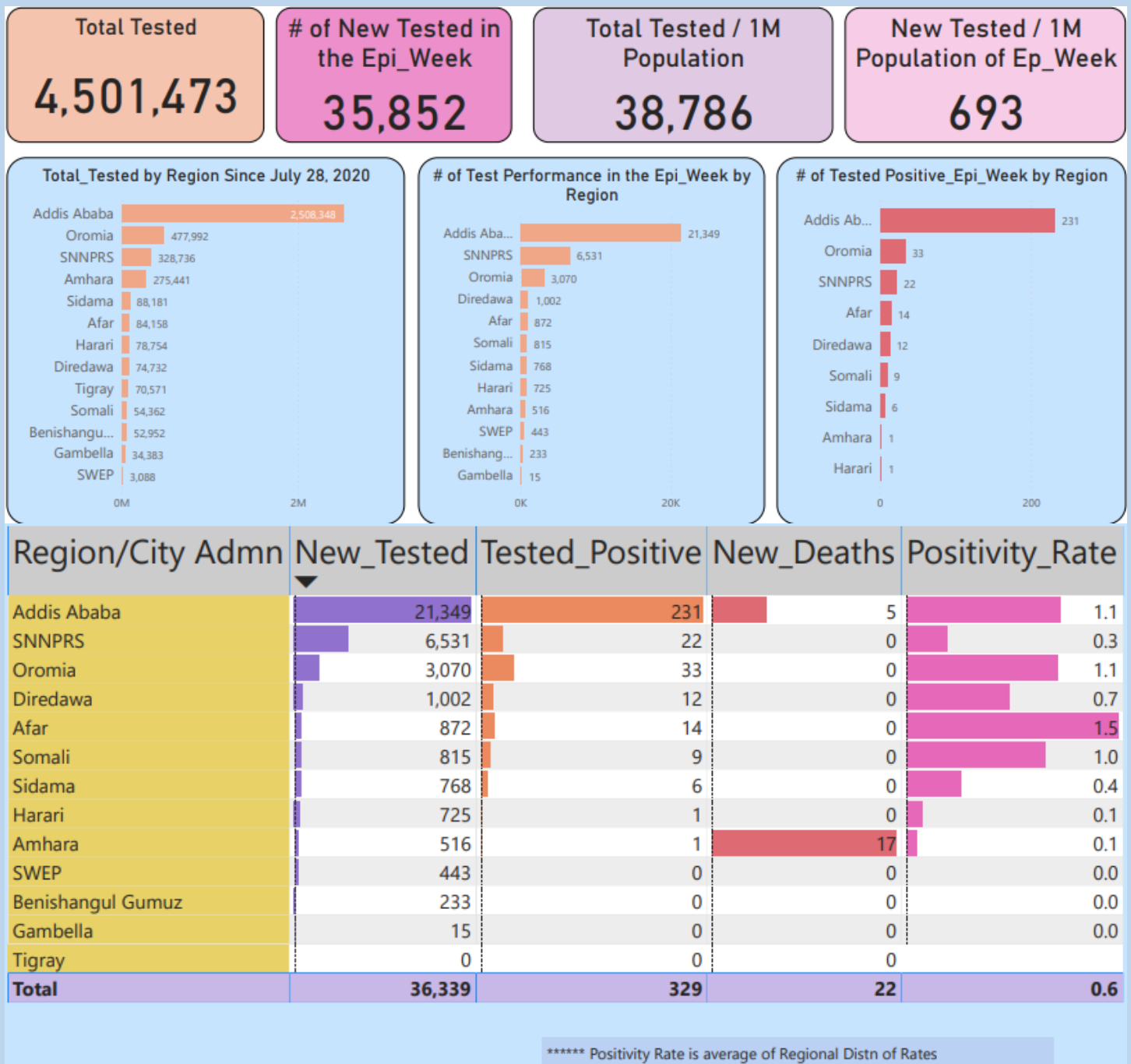
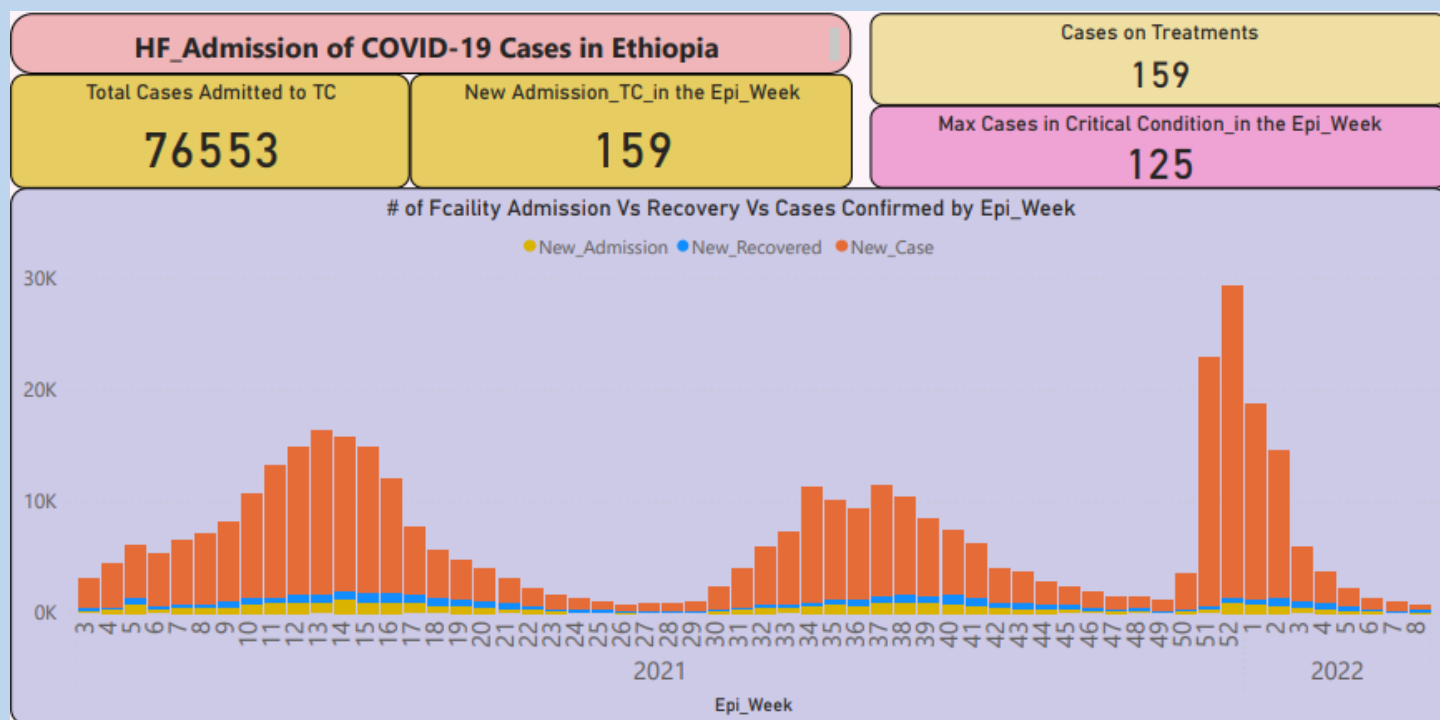


Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of February 27, 2022, Ethiopia.

IV. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 7,029 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-08, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 416,704 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 89%.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 125 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (160).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of February 27, 2022.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of February 27, 2022

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	313671	36	38549	0	4065	32707	42	39
Oromia	63908	8	11408	1	1128	10195	81	23
SNNPR	23555	3	5007	0	288	4717	2	2
Amhara	15392	0	5726	0	478	5218	27	19
Sidama	12879	0	3741	0	231	3445	0	0
Dire Dawa	9843	0	1539	0	144	1392	3	3
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Harari	6587	0	1476	0	197	1275	0	0
Benishangul G	5315	0	1043	0	33	1008	4	0
Somali	3614	1	782	0	115	664	0	0
Afar	3223	1	826	0	5	812	0	0
Gambella	1922	0	682	0	8	674	0	0
SWEP	694	0	484	0	15	469	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 349,975 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 347,908 (99%) have recovered and 50 (0.014%) died.
- Of these, 6,594 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 6,727 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-08.
- As of February 27, 2022, there are 3,119 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,525 (none in the Epi-week-08) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,321 (none in the Epi-week-08) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

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



Figure 11: COVID-19 situation update as of February 20, 2022 shared on social media.

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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 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 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	hrrhpheoc@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		7794	sidaamapheoc@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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