



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

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

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 46 (November 15 – 21, 2021)

BULLETIN No. 82

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 40,037 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-46 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,817,676.
- A total of 1,378 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 59 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-46 bringing the total cases and death to 370,200 and 6,682 respectively.
- On November 21, 2021, there are 260 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (285).
- A total of 285,553 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 1,136 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-46.
- The number of confirmed cases, deaths due to COVID-19 and positivity rate has shown decrement in this week.

## II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- The community is called upon to join forces for the success of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. In the next two weeks and beyond, the community was called upon to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and to avoid misinformation regarding the vaccines.



Figure 1: H.E. Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health-Ethiopia, on media brief regarding COVID-19 vaccination campaign, Nov. 16, 2021

- Ethiopia has launched a two-week long COVID-19 vaccination campaign that targets residents of 65 cities and towns of Ethiopia. The new vaccination drive, which started in Addis Ababa and other towns, aims to prevent the alarming spread of the virus and its devastating consequences in the country. The newly launched immunization campaign targets “vulnerable communities” in Ethiopian cities and towns to take the available doses. Up to 65 cities 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 and above. Apart from Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, AstraZeneca, and Sinopharm vaccines are being administered to the public.
- In Ethiopia, a total of 5,458,357 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 392,088 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 2,823,583 (52%) people are fully vaccinated.

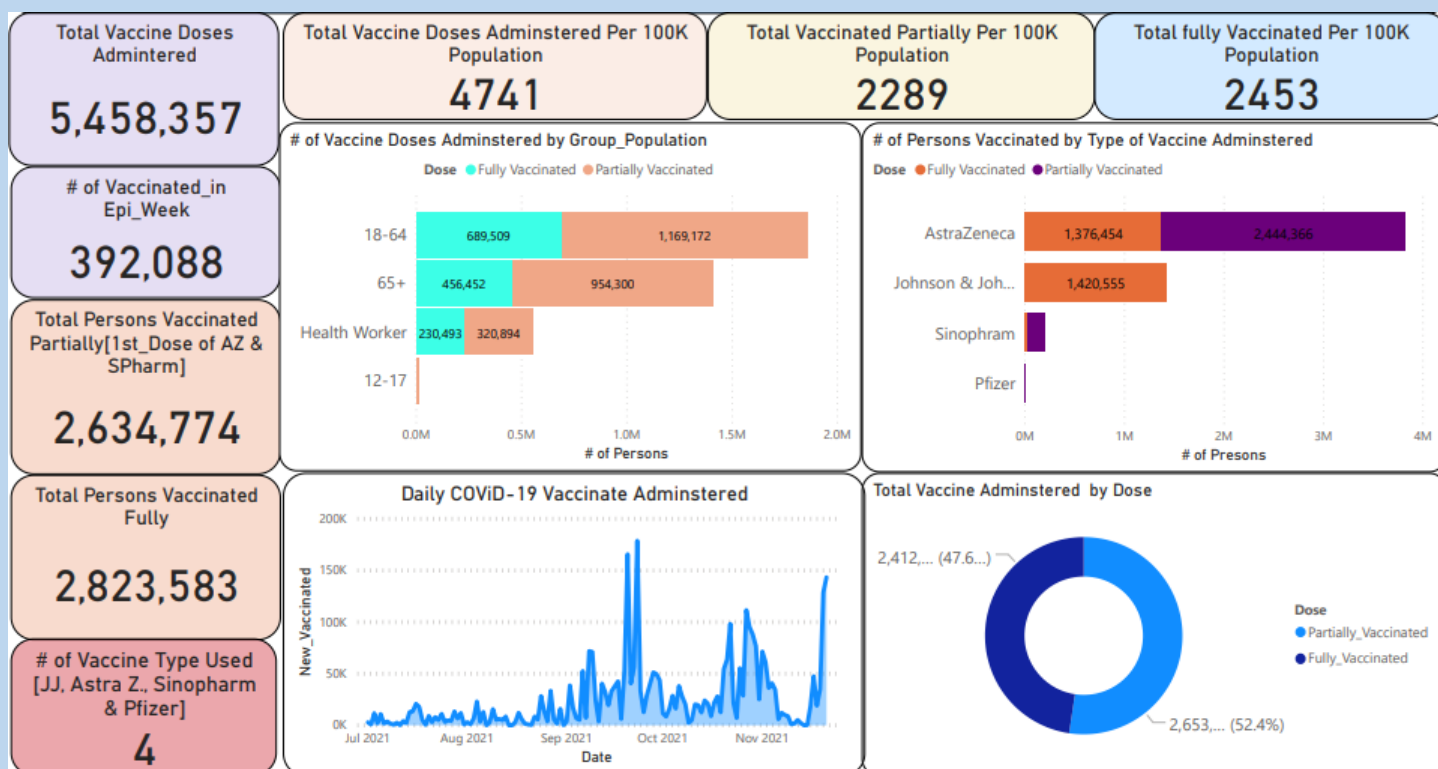


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of November 21, 2021

### III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

#### a. Global Situation

- Globally, both the number of weekly COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths have increased.
- Over 7.5 million new cases and over 111,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 15 – 21 November 2021. Cases in this week increased by 6% as compared to the previous week, while the number of deaths increased by 8% compared to that of the past week.
- As of November 21, 2021, a total of 246,666,727 COVID-19 cases and 4,862,802 deaths (CFR=1.97%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 7,502,829 cases and 111,674 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-46.

- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (1,504,700 new cases), Germany (465,471 new cases), The United Kingdom (453,978 new cases), The Russian Federation (411,975 new cases) and India (379,931 new cases).
- In Africa, as of November 21, 2021, a total of 8,477,654 cases and 216,263 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.55%). Of these, 119,394 cases (8% increase compared to the previous week) and 2,923 deaths (2% decrease compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-46.
- In Africa, the highest number of confirmed cases are reported from Morocco (36,699 new case) followed by South Africa (16,774 new cases).
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

**246,666,727**

New Confirmed Cases\_of Epi\_Week Globally

**7,502,829**

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

**4,862,802**

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi\_Week

**111,674**

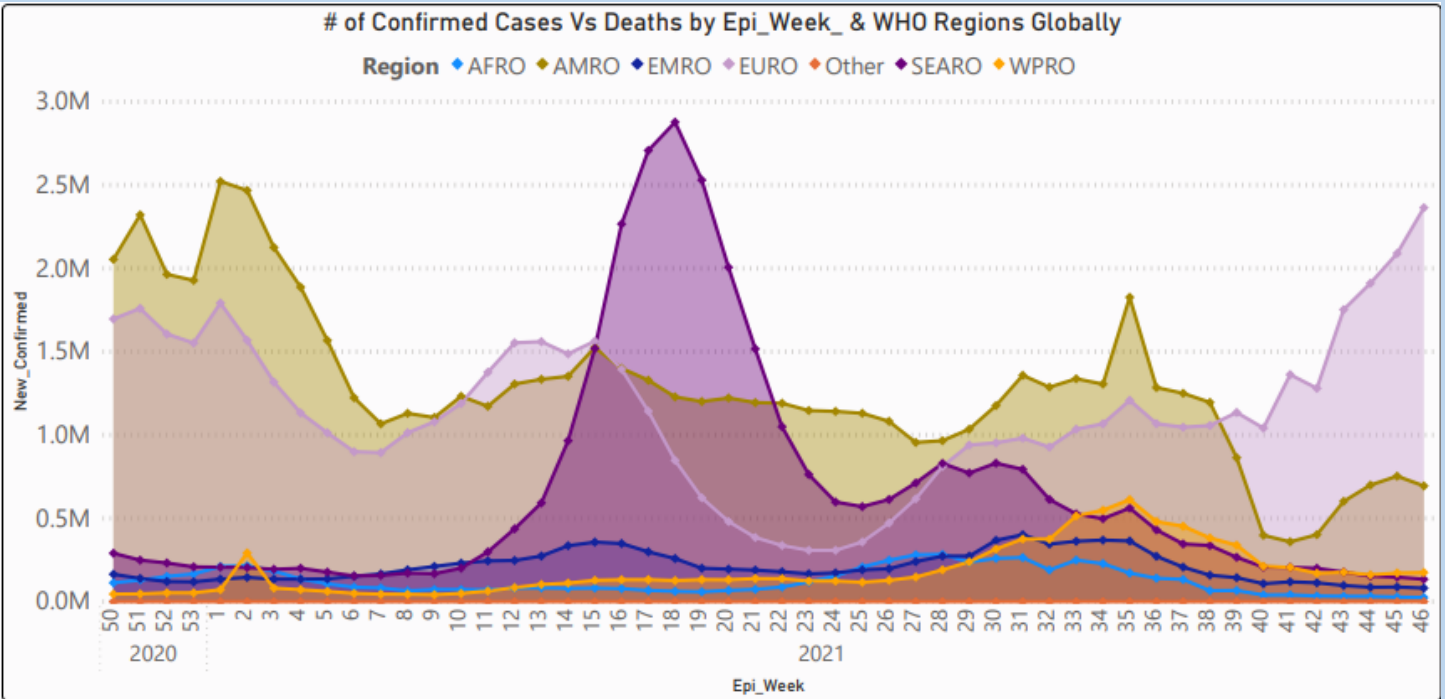
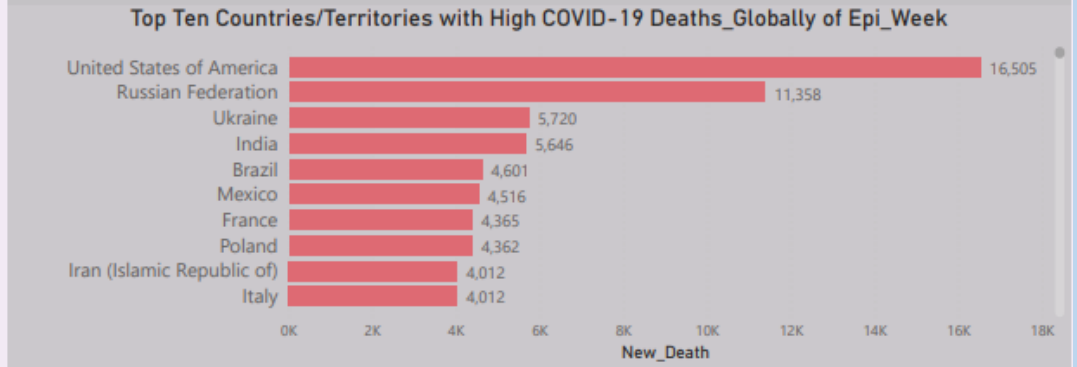
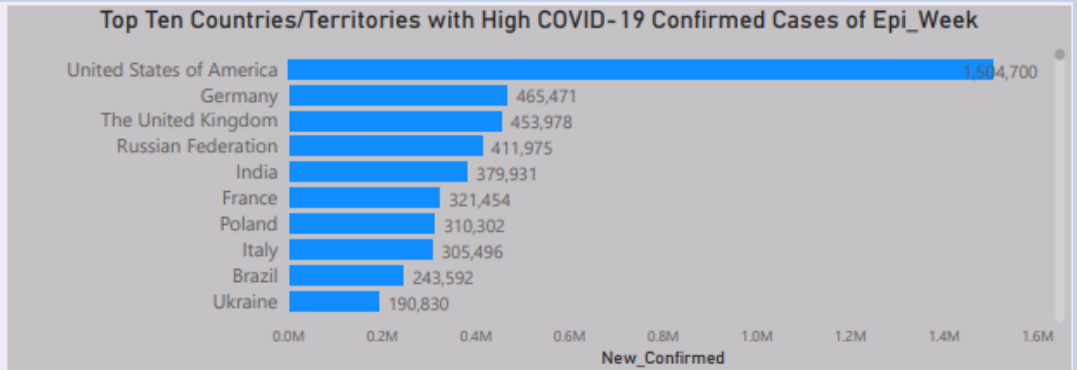
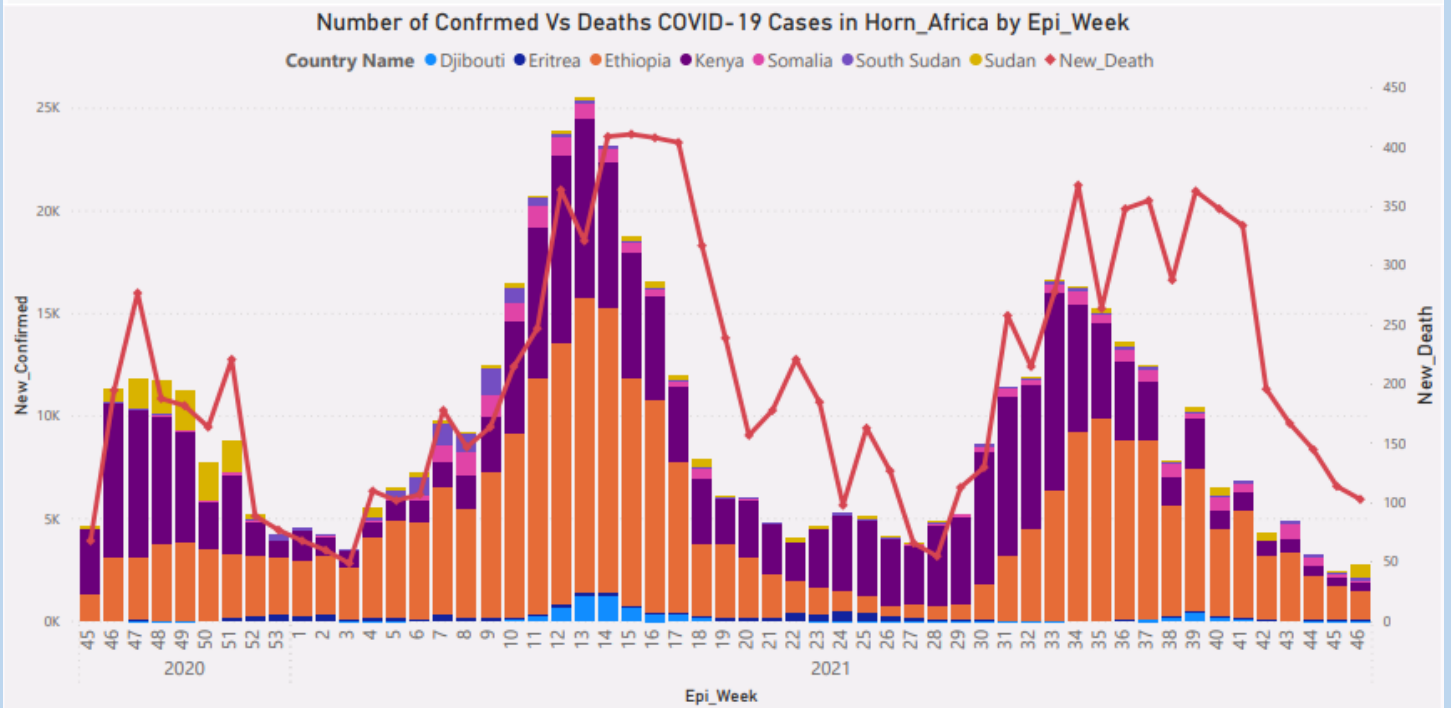
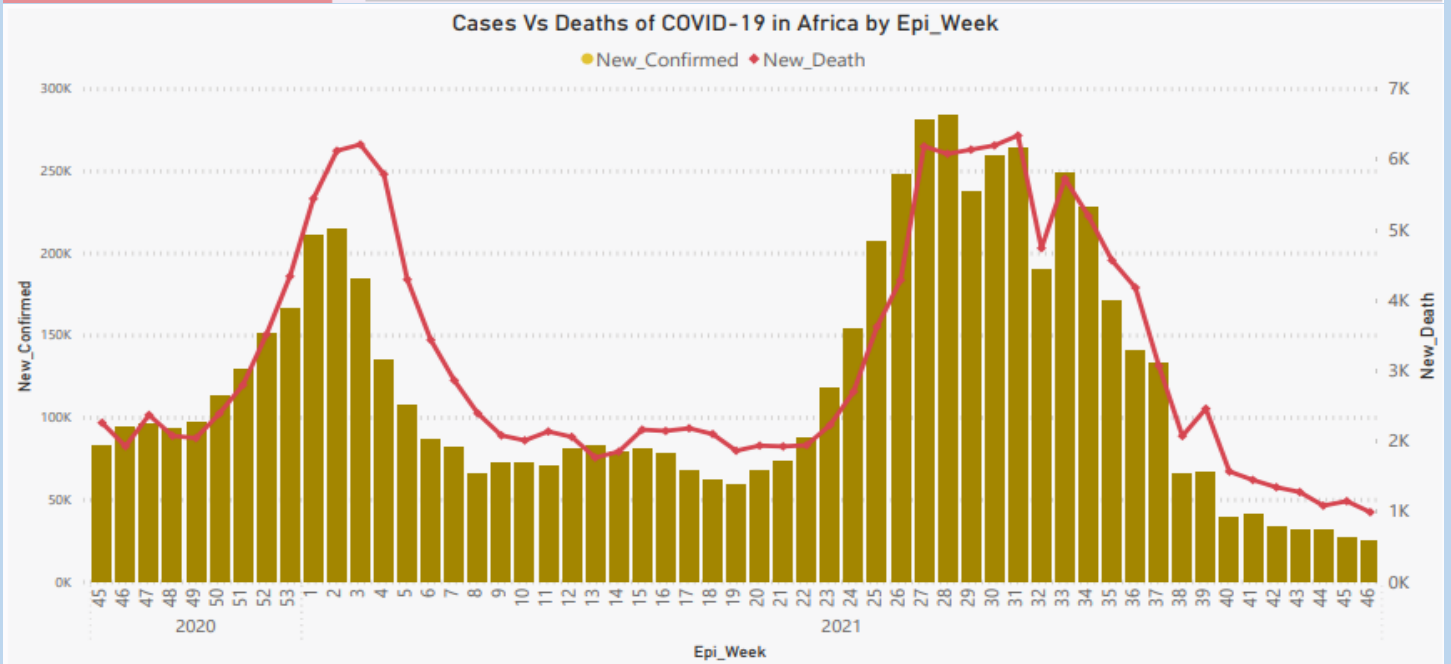
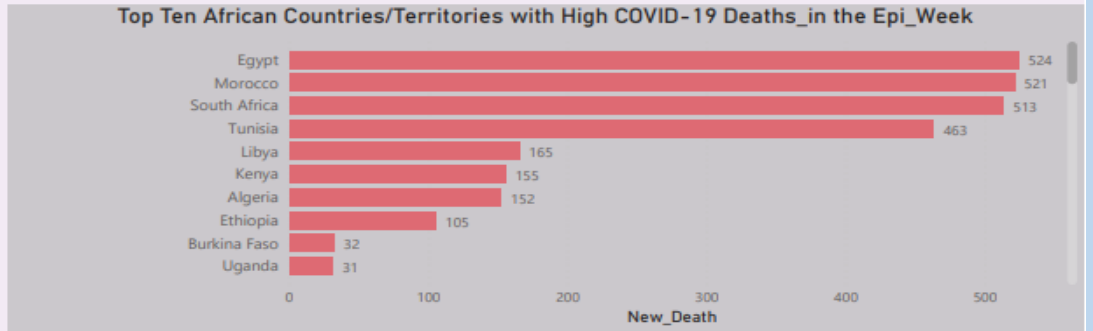
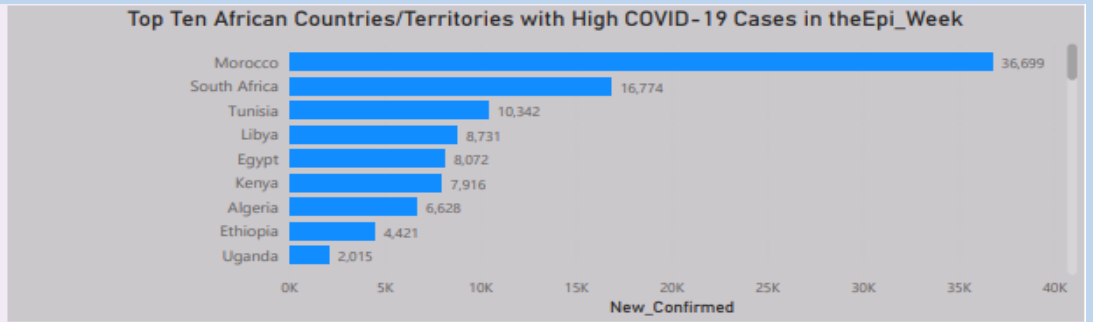
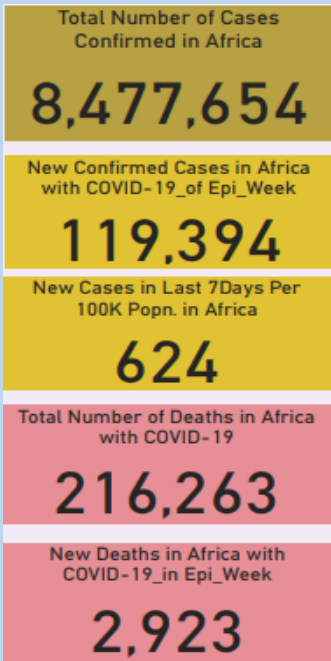


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of November 21, 2021 (Source: WHO)



**Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of November 21, 2021 (Source: WHO)**

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of November 21, 2021, a total of 370,200 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,682 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.80%.
- One-thousand-three-hundred-seventy-eight (1,378) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 59 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-46.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last nine consecutive weeks and decrease in the number of deaths for the last seven consecutive weeks. In this week, there is 15% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 27% 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-46 of 2021**

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	27926	781	101	28	2.9
Oromia	3627	180	68	11	5.3
SNNPR	2569	88	11	7	3.3
Dire Dawa	1410	95	13	6	6.7
Afar	1041	6	0	0	0.7
Sidama	857	25	4	0	2.7
Harari	743	62	14	2	8.0
Somali	654	16	0	0	1.9
Benishangul G	561	54	9	0	13.2
Amhara	407	57	45	5	16.0
Gambella	242	14	0	0	4.4
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40037</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>5.7</b>

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

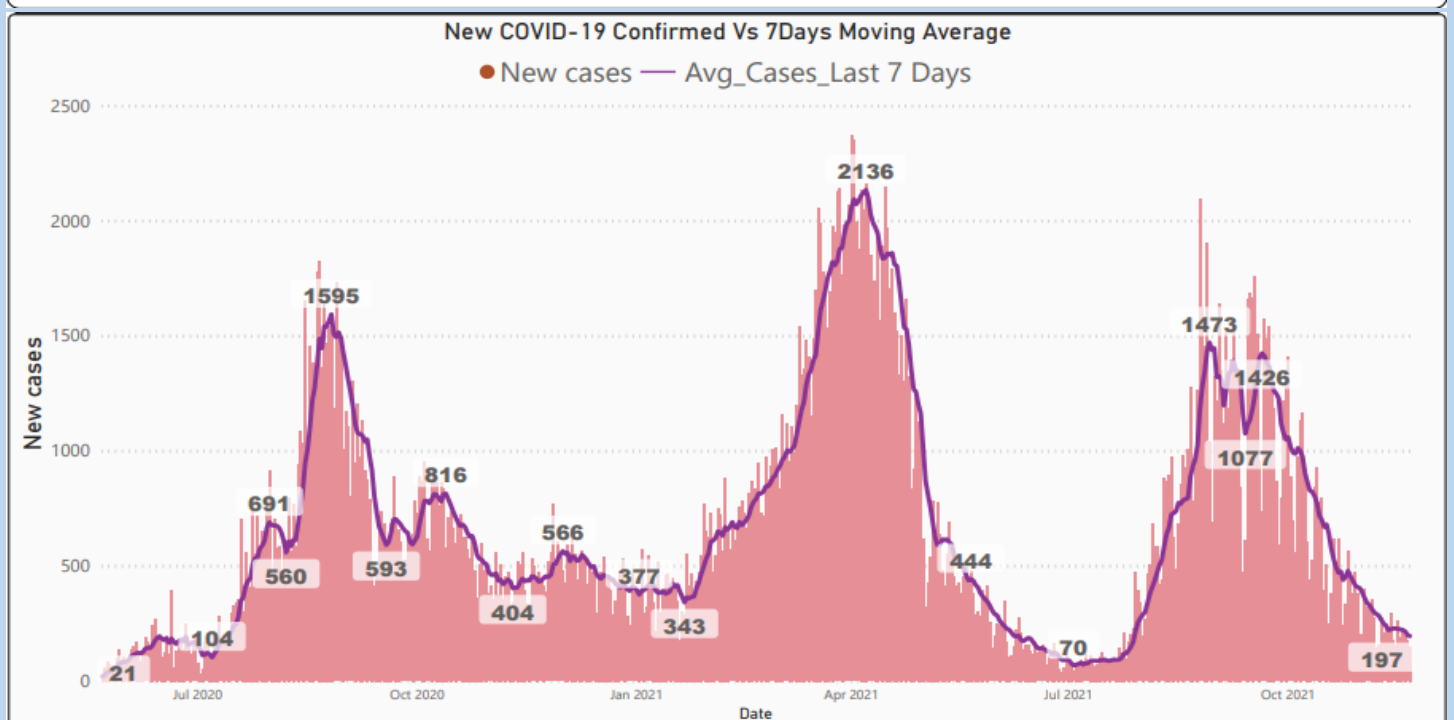
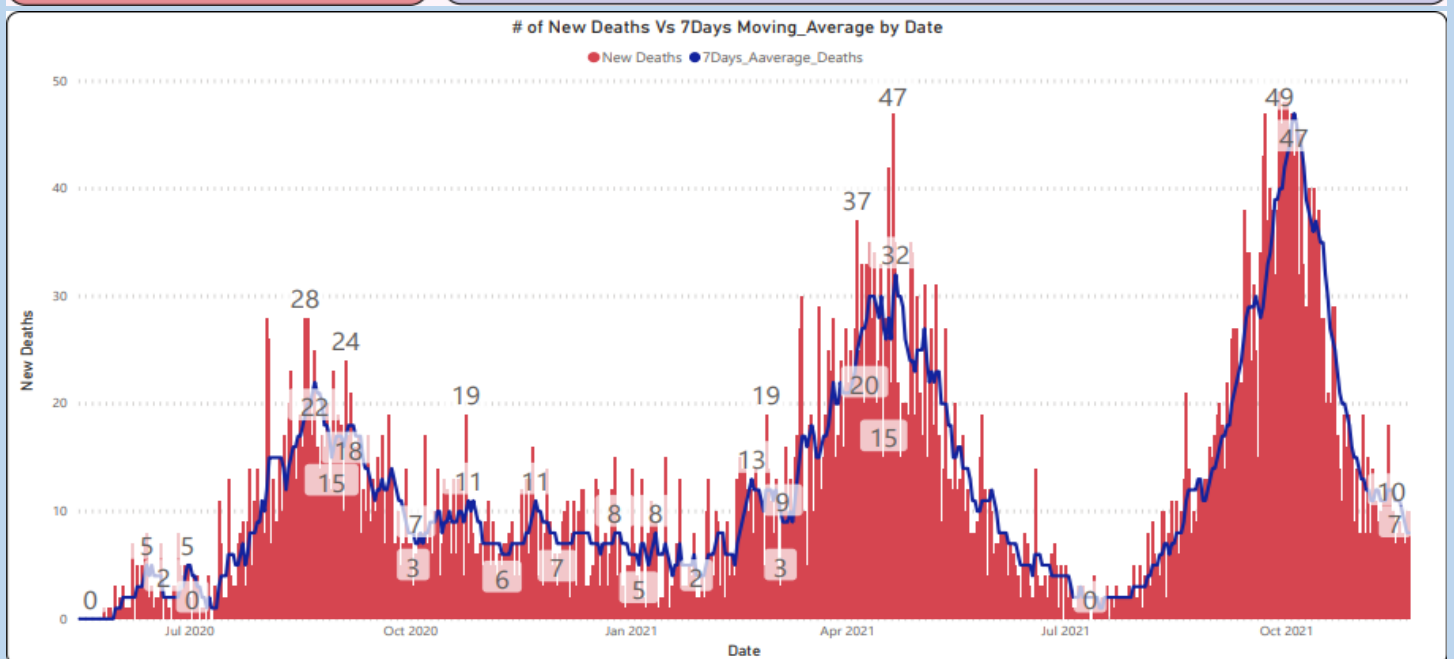
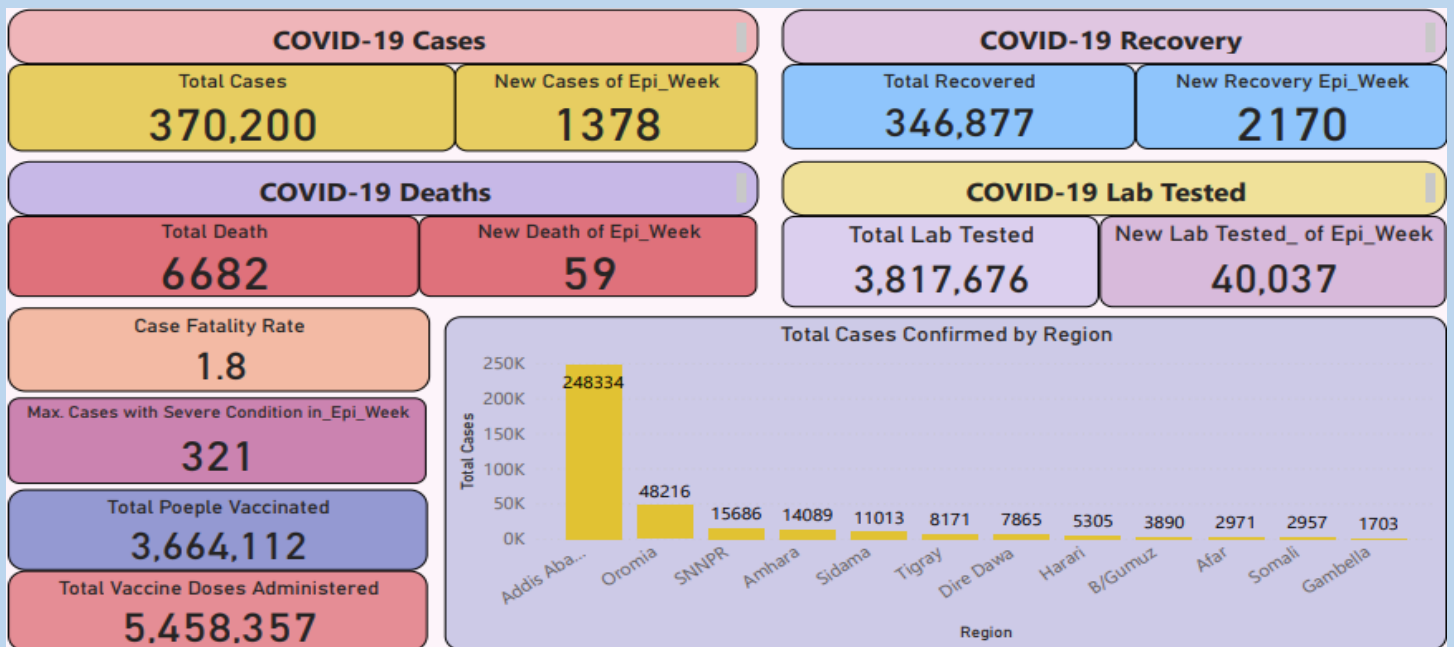


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of November 21, 2021, Ethiopia

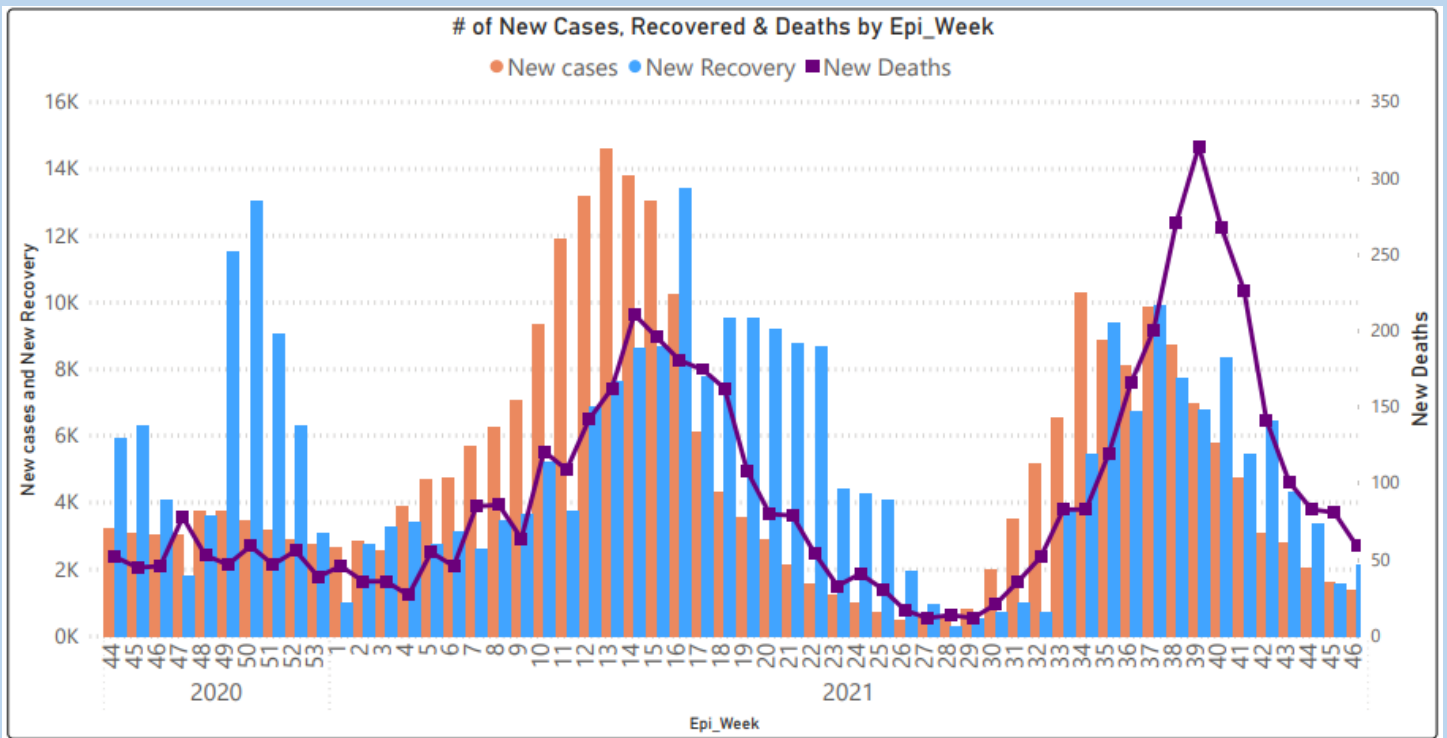


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of November 21, 2021, Ethiopia

### 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.

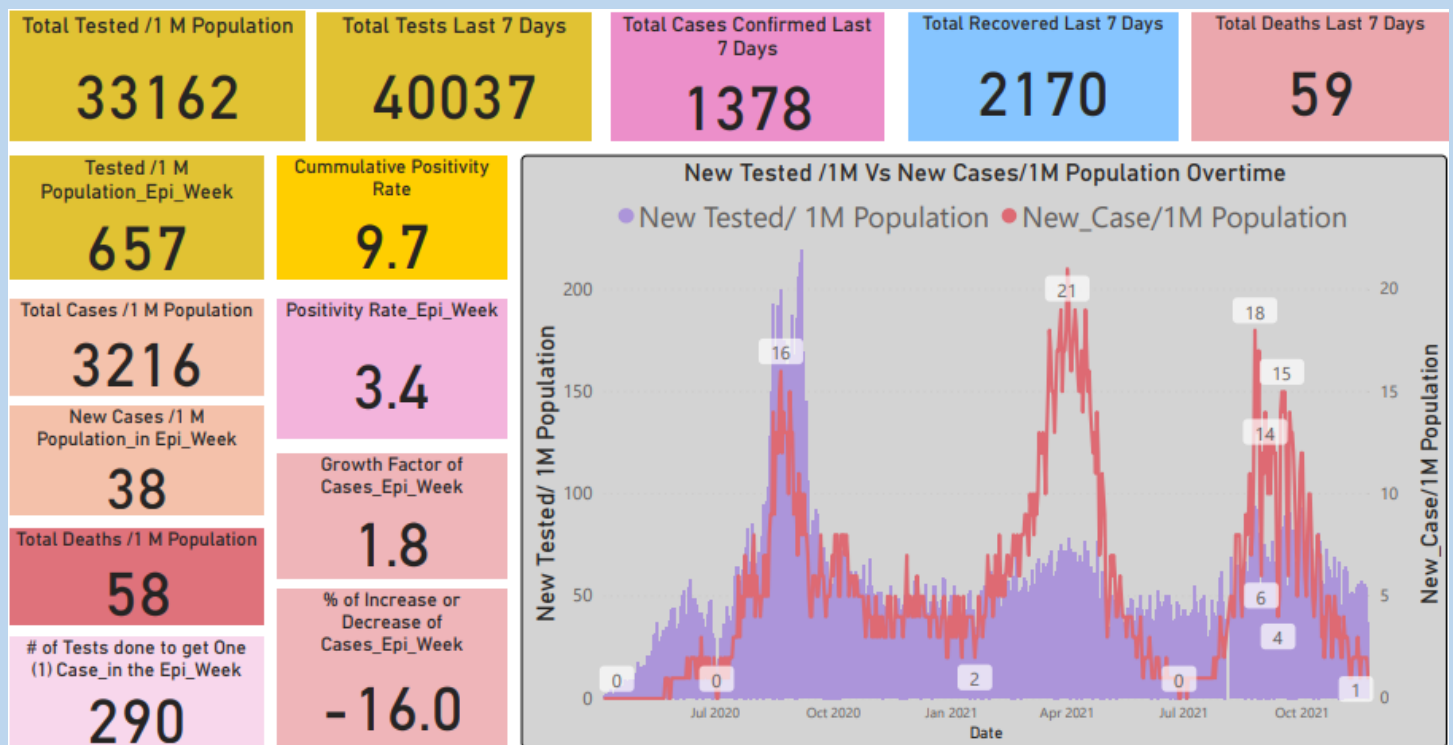


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of November 21, 2021.



### 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 21, 2021:
  - 393,031 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
  - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 13,145 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

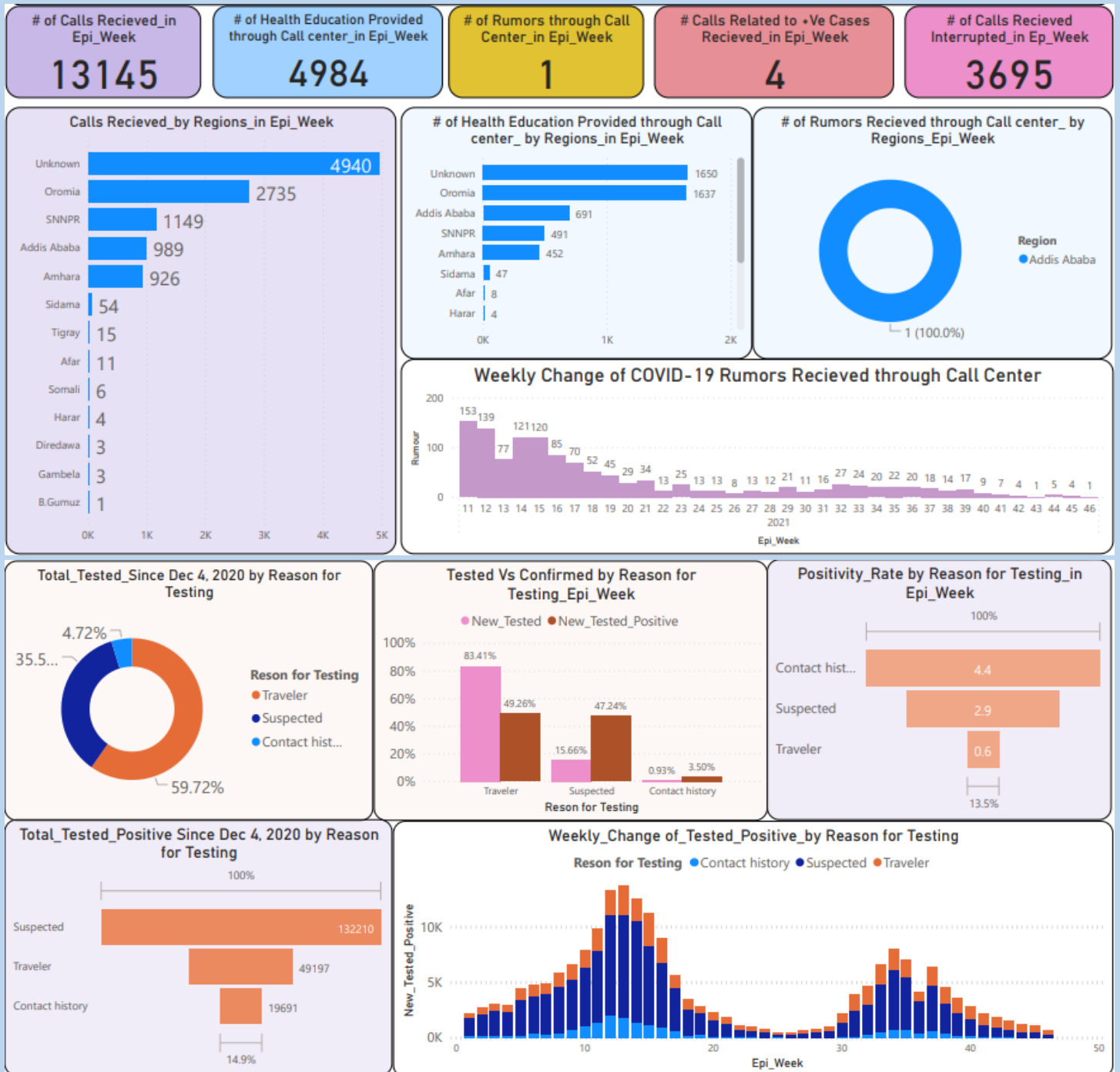


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as November 21, 2021, Ethiopia.

## ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,878,093 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, 14,283 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-46.
- As of November 21, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 60 (none in Epi-week-46) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 95 (none in week-46) 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-46) are conducted among which 97 positive cases (none in week-46) are detected as of November 21, 2021.
- A total of 73,434 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 1,677 returnees were received in the Epi-week-46. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 72,158 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,276 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of November 21, 2021.

## IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 21 November 2021, a total of 3,817,676 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 38,537 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-46 which is a 3.89% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-46 is 3.44%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (4.18%).
- Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Harari regional states and Dire Dawa city administration 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 488,203 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 9,681 is performed in the Epi-week-46 (figure 9 below).

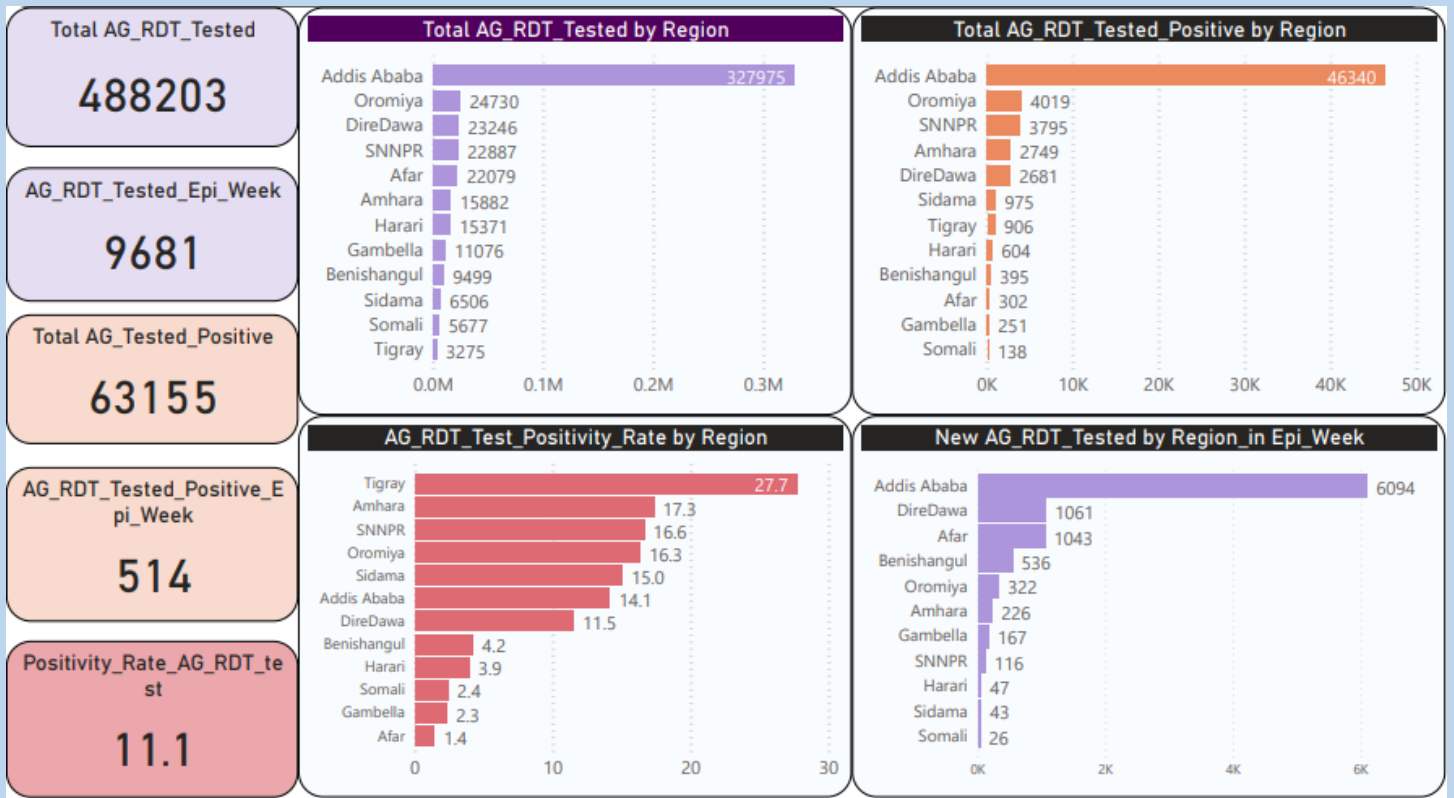
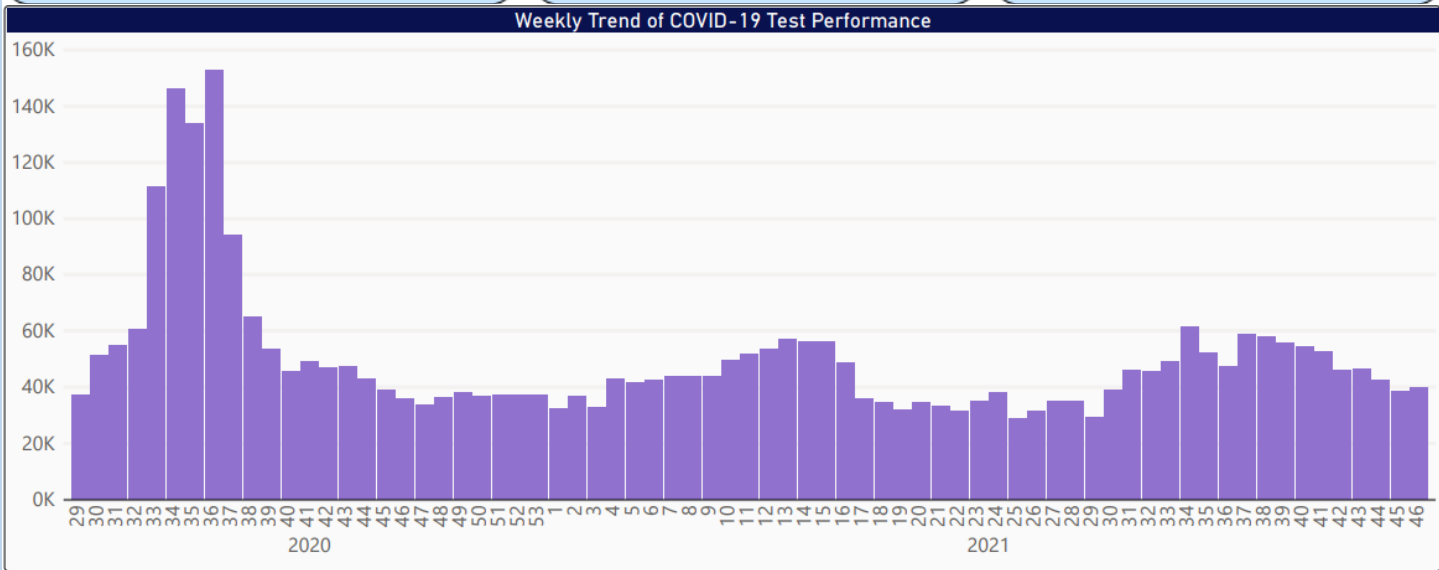
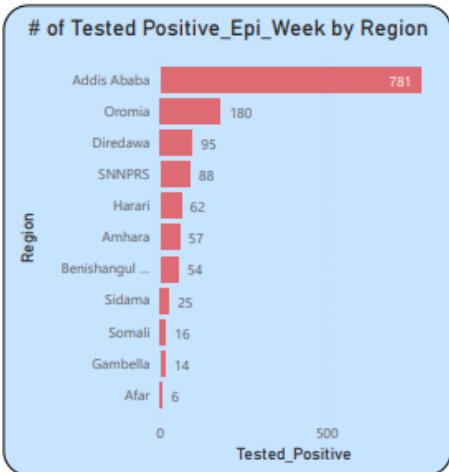
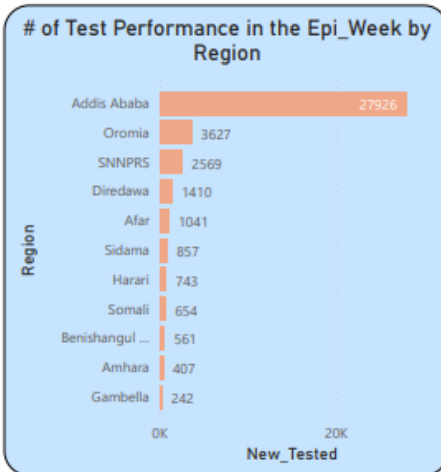
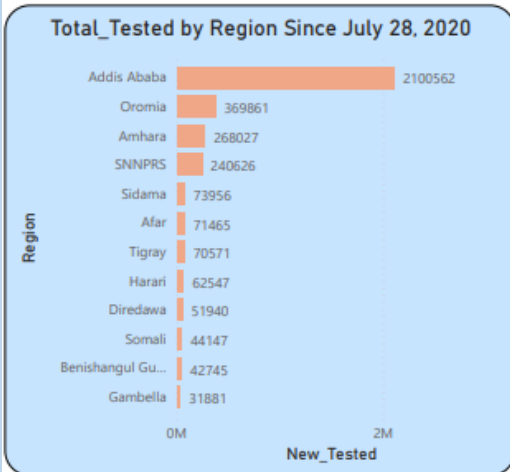


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of November 21, 2021

<b>Total Tested</b> <b>3817676</b>	<b># of New Tested in the Epi_Week</b> <b>40037</b>	<b>Total Tested / 1M Population</b> <b>33162</b>	<b>New Tested / 1M Population of Ep_Week</b> <b>657</b>
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Region/City Admn	New_Test	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
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Oromia	3627	180	10	5.4
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Diredawa	1410	95	6	6.8
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Benishangul Gumuz	561	54	0	13.0
Amhara	407	57	5	16.2
Gambella	242	14	0	4.4
Tigray	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40037</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>5.7</b>

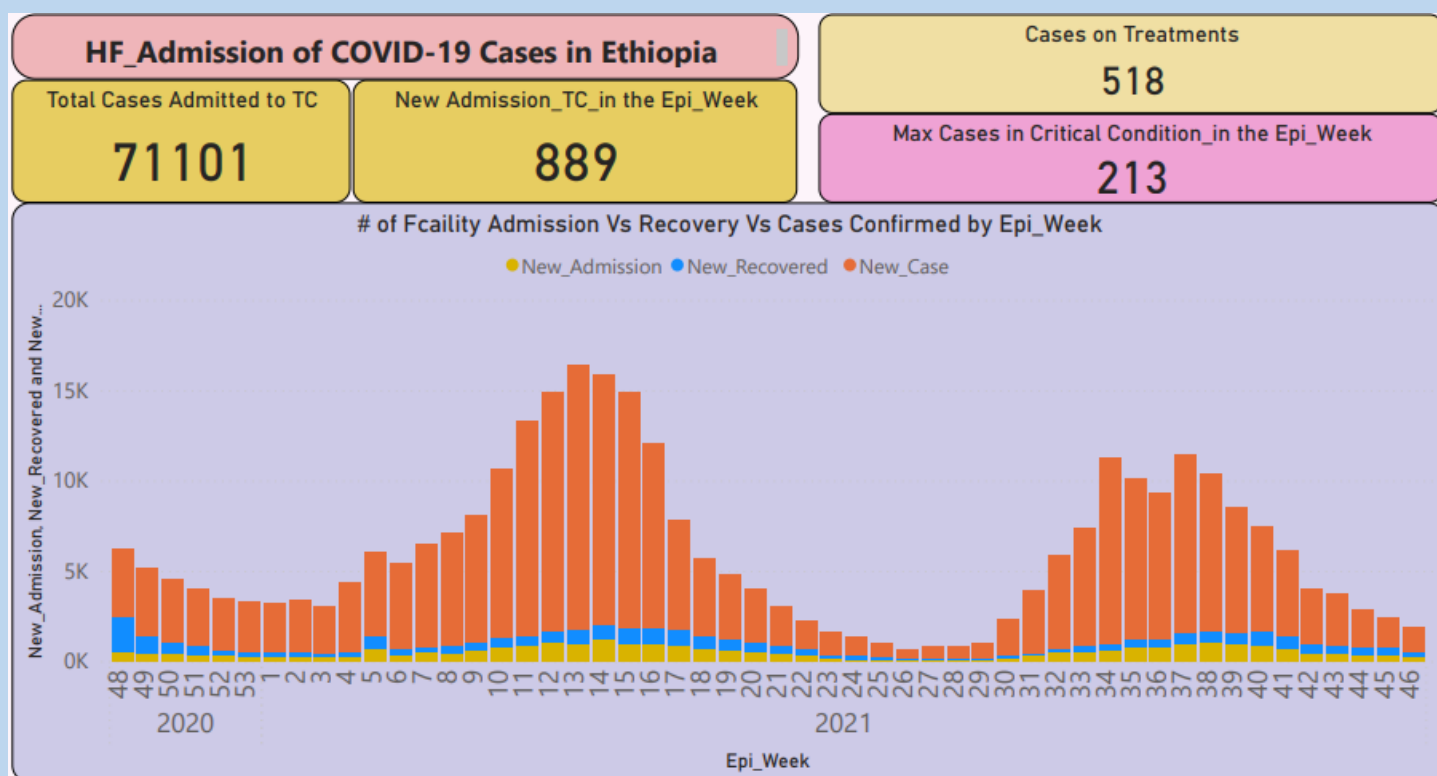
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of November 21, 2021, Ethiopia.

## V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 2,170 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-46, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 346,877 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 94%.
- On November 21, 2021, there are 260 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (285).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

**Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of November 21, 2021.**

**Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of November 21, 2021**

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	248334	85	36141	8	3689	30672	165	90
Oromia	48216	37	9398	3	932	8278	186	84
SNNPR	15686	6	5155	6	246	4936	10	2
Amhara	14089	6	5290	4	403	4837	47	29
Sidama	11013	8	3693	1	221	3403	5	3
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	7865	11	1439	0	127	1281	31	15
Harari	5305	1	1403	0	178	1206	15	15
Benishangul G	3890	0	1014	0	27	963	26	3
Afar	2971	1	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2957	0	770	0	96	638	33	19
Gambella	1703	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

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

- So far, 285,553 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 283,793 (99.38%) have recovered and 47 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 1,136 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 1,885 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-46.
- As of November 21, 2021, there are 3,104 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,519 (none in the Epi-week-46) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,131 (one in the Epi-week-46) 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 November 21, 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

- Continuing the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- 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**

<b>MOH/EPHI/Region</b>	<b>Facebook page</b>	<b>Toll-free hotline</b>	<b>Email address (PHEOCs email)</b>
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/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:hrhbpheoc@gmail.com">hrhbpheoc@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/tigrayrhub/">https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhub/</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	ddpheoc@gmail.com
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/">https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/</a>	6406	aapheoc@gmail.com

### 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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