



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

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

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 06 (February 07 – 13, 2022)

BULLETIN No. 94

## I. Highlights

- A total of 37,925 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-06 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,429,282.
- A total of 959 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 61 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-06 bringing the total cases and death to 467,498 and 7,424 respectively.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 197 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (272).
- A total of 343,120 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 628 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-06.
- The new SARS-COV-2 Variants of Concern Omicron variant is detected in Ethiopia by the genomic sequencing conducted so far in the country and at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).
- Vaccination campaign against COVID-19 will be conducted throughout the country starting from February 7, 2022.



## II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- Vaccination campaign against COVID-19 will be conducted throughout the country starting from February 7, 2022 and COVID-19 vaccines will be availed and administered in all governmental health facilities and selected vaccination centers.
- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,975,742 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 2,117 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 4,033,576 (37%) people are fully vaccinated.

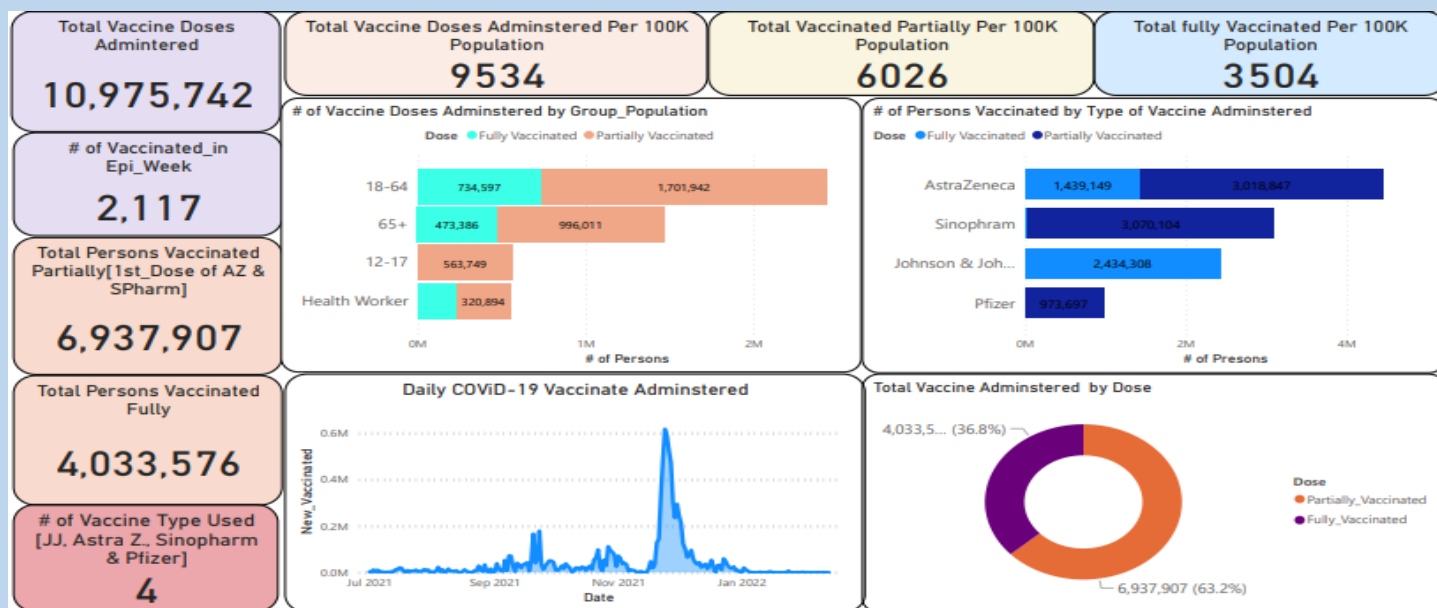


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of February 13, 2022

## III. Epidemiological Situation

### a. Global Situation

- During the week of 7 to 13 February 2022, the global number of new COVID-19 cases decreased by 19% as compared to the number reported during the previous week, while the number of new deaths remained similar to that of the previous week. Across the six WHO regions, just over 16 million new cases and just under 75 000 new deaths were reported.
- As of 13 February 2022, over 409 million confirmed cases and over 5.8 million deaths have been reported globally.
- At the regional level, the Western Pacific Region reported an increase of 19% in the number of new weekly cases while all other regions reported decreases: the South-East Asia Region (37% decrease), the Region of the Americas (32% decrease), the African Region (30% decrease), the European Region (16% decrease) and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (12% decrease). The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (38%), the Western Pacific Region (27%), the African Region (14%) and the Region of the Americas (5%), while it remained similar to that of the previous week in the European Region and decreased in the South-East Asia Region (9%).

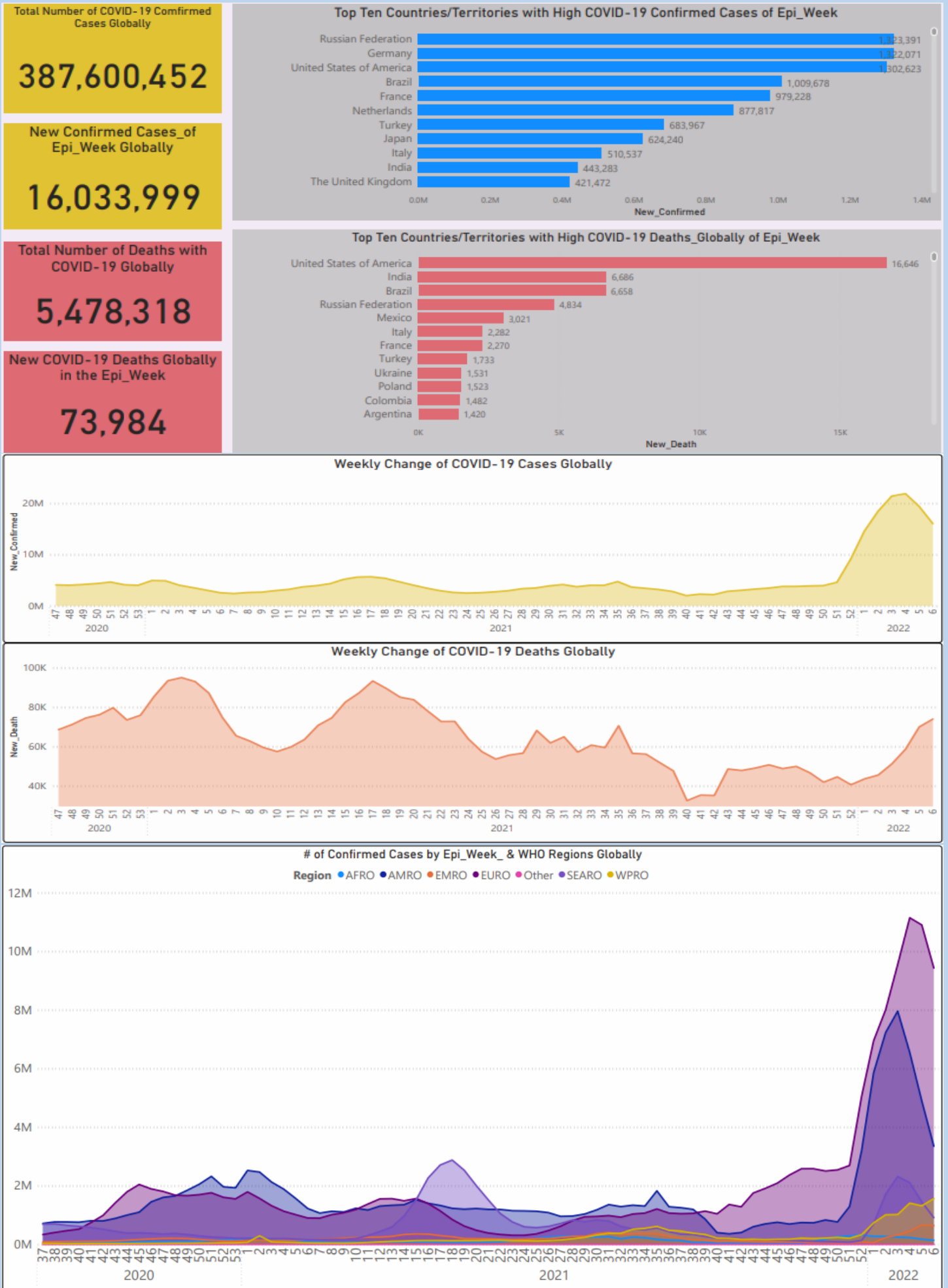


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of February 13, 2022 (Source: WHO)

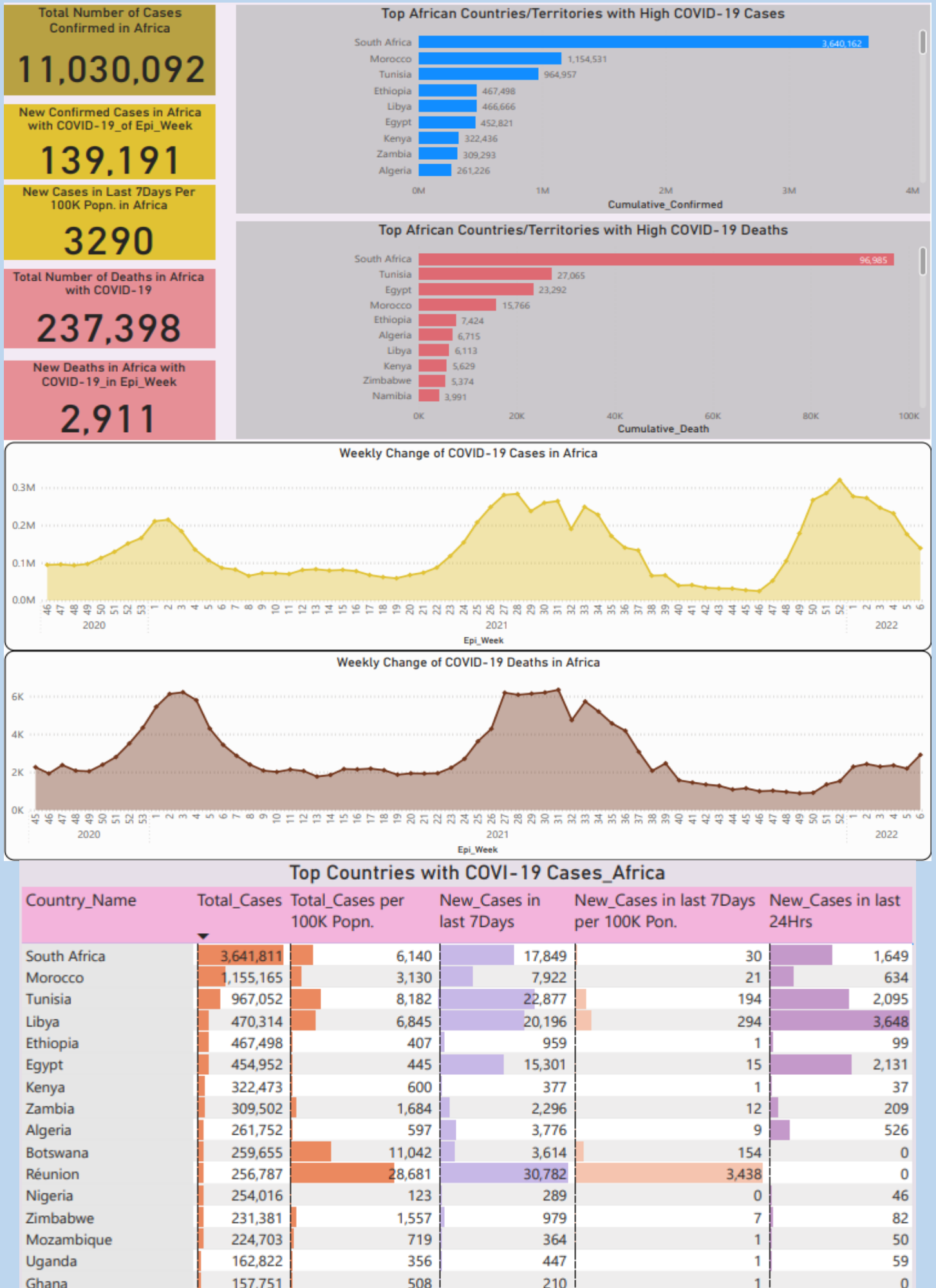


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of February 13, 2022 (Source: WHO)

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- The new SARS-COV-2 Variants of Concern Omicron variant is detected in Ethiopia by the genomic sequencing conducted so far in the country and at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) is a variant of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) that was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) from South Africa on 24 November 2021. Among the SARS-COV-2 Variants of Concern, Alpha, Beta, Delta and Omicron variants were detected in Ethiopia by the genomic sequencing conducted so far in the country and at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).
- As of February 13, 2022, a total of 467,498 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,424 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.59%.
- Nine-hundred-fifty-nine (959) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 61 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-06.
- In this week, there is 40% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 90% 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-06 of 2022**

| Regions       | New_Tested   | New_Case   | New_HF_Admission | New_Deaths | Positivity Rate |
|---------------|--------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Addis Ababa   | 24933        | 583        | 30               | 28         | 2.1             |
| SNNPR         | 5029         | 75         | 9                | 1          | 1.6             |
| Oromia        | 3304         | 193        | 107              | 12         | 5.3             |
| Dire Dawa     | 976          | 20         | 0                | 0          | 2.6             |
| Somali        | 830          | 49         | 12               | 19         | 4.4             |
| Harari        | 821          | 4          | 1                | 1          | 0.3             |
| Afar          | 819          | 4          | 0                | 0          | 0.6             |
| Amhara        | 330          | 12         | 0                | 0          | 3.7             |
| Benishangul G | 314          | 10         | 0                | 0          | 3.3             |
| Sidama        | 273          | 6          | 0                | 0          | 2.7             |
| SWEP          | 197          | 1          | 0                | 0          | 0.5             |
| Gambella      | 99           | 2          | 0                | 0          | 1.0             |
| Tigray        | 0            | 0          | 0                | 0          |                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>37925</b> | <b>959</b> | <b>159</b>       | <b>61</b>  | <b>2.3</b>      |

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



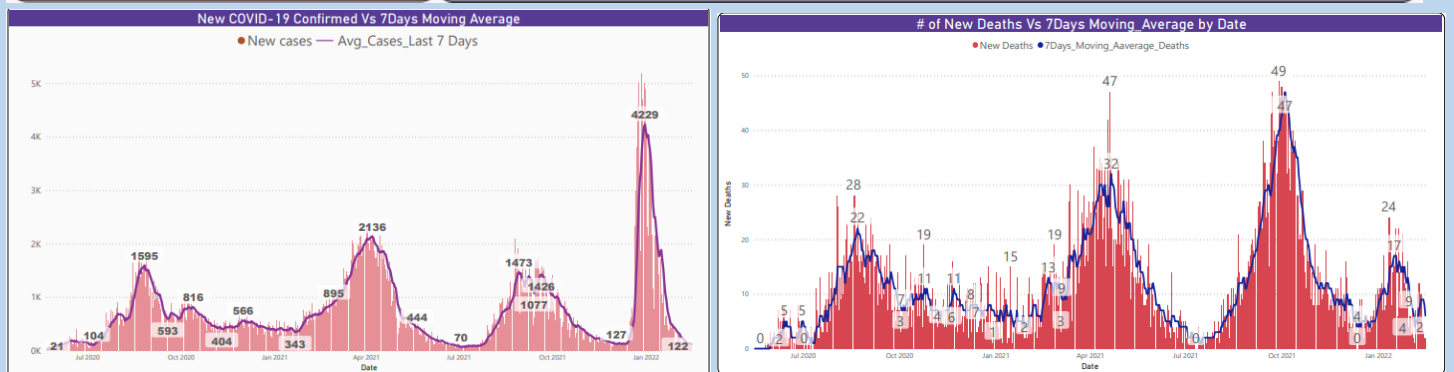
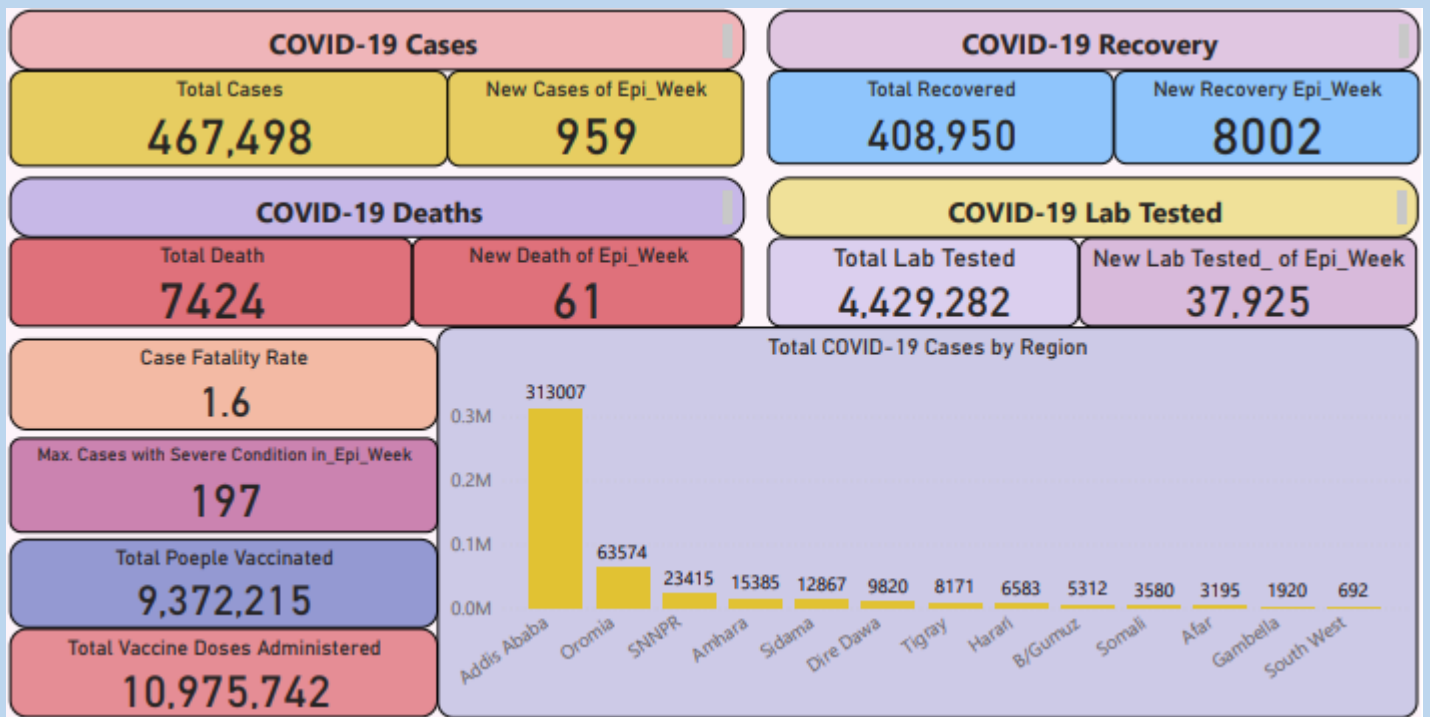


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of February 13, 2022, Ethiopia

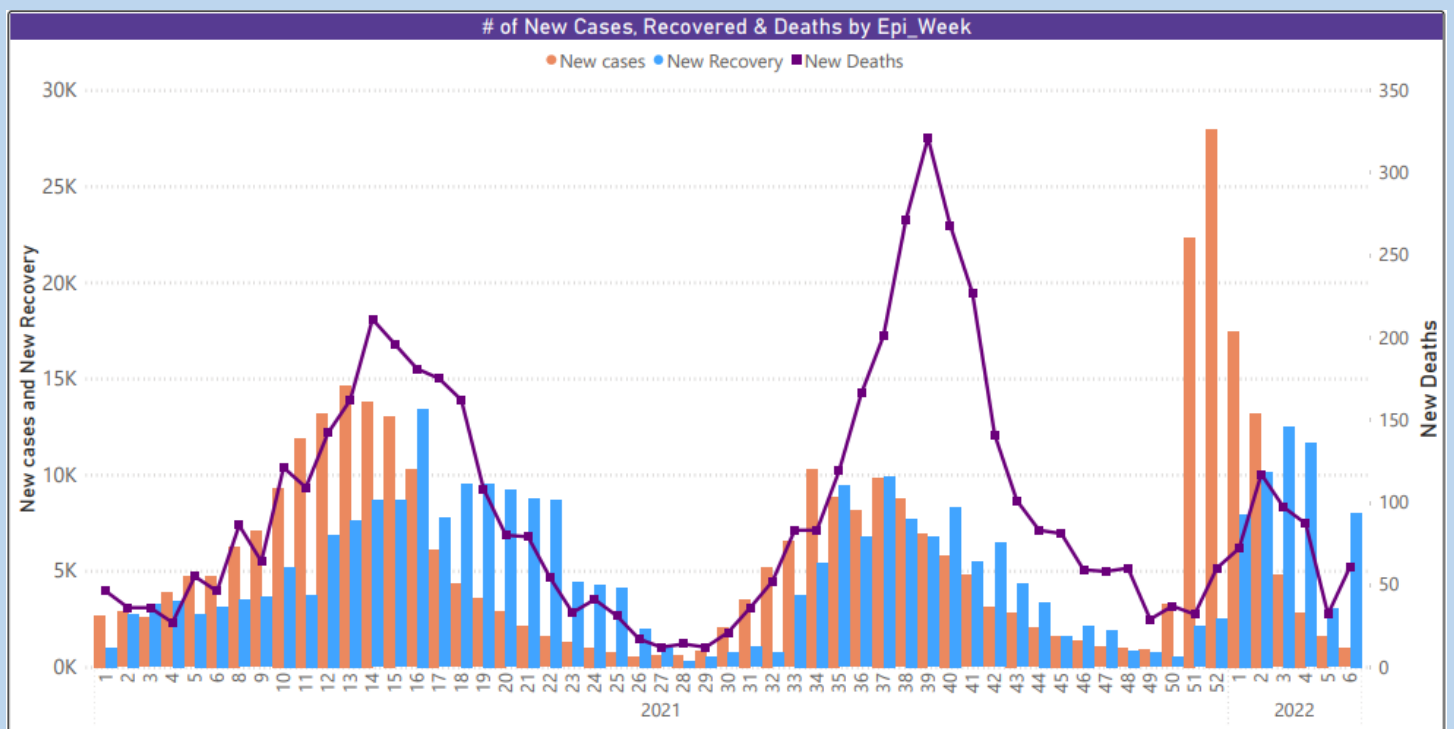


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of February 13, 2022, Ethiopia

### 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<br><b>38475</b>  | Total Tests Last 7 Days<br><b>37925</b>                          | Total Cases /1 M Population<br><b>4061</b>      | Cummulative Positivity Rate<br><b>10.6</b> | Total Recovered Last 7 Days<br><b>3034</b>                  | Total Deaths /1 M Population<br><b>64</b> |
| Tested /1 M Population_Epi_Week<br><b>330</b> | # of Tests done to get One (1) Case_in the Epi_Week<br><b>37</b> | Total Cases Confirmed Last 7 Days<br><b>959</b> | Positivity Rate_Epi_Week<br><b>2.5</b>     | % of Increase or Decrease of Cases_Epi_Week<br><b>-43.0</b> | Total Deaths Last 7 Days<br><b>61</b>     |

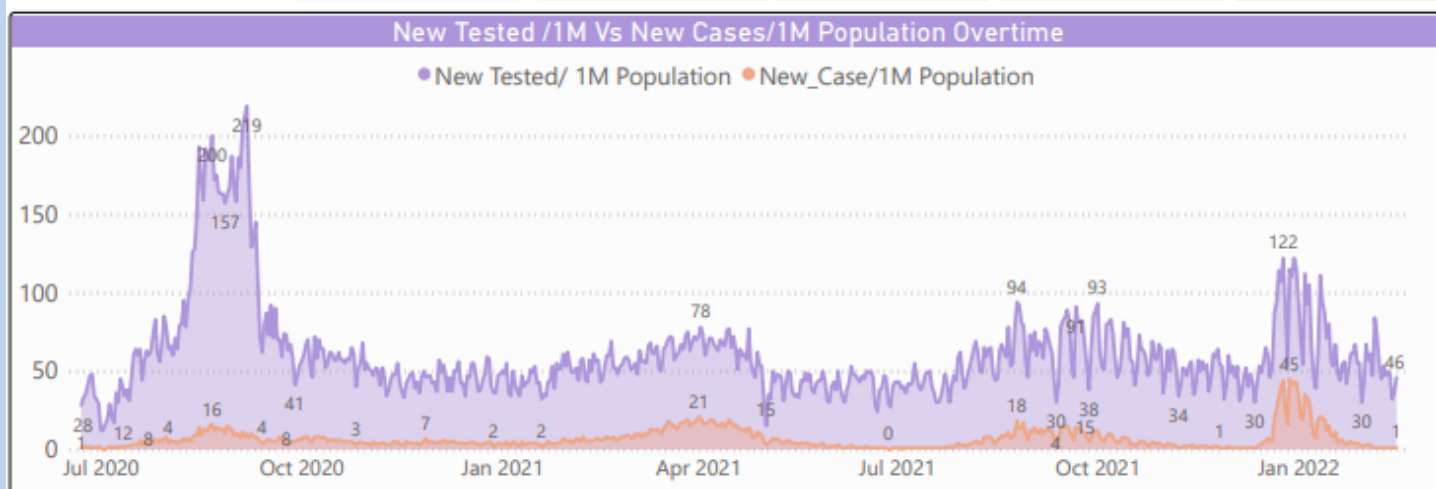


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of February 13, 2022.

#### 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 06, 2022:
  - 393,067 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
  - 279,089 (71%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 88,300 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

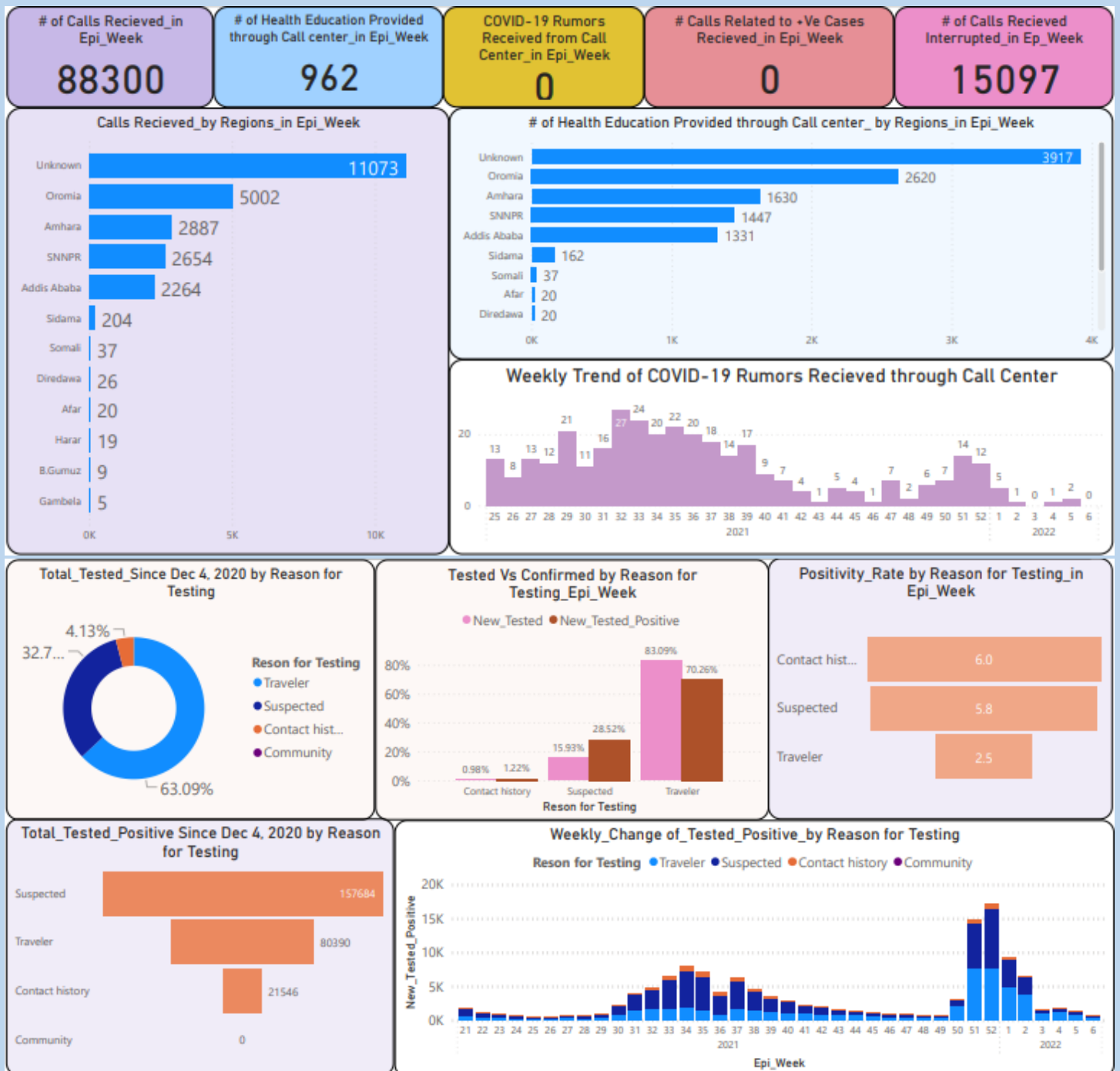


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as February 13, 2022, Ethiopia.



## IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 13 February 2022, a total of 4,429,282 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 37,925 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-06 which is a 23% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-06 is 2.53%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (3.25%).
- Oromia, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali and Sidama regional states and Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administrations 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 770,701 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 7,885 is performed in the Epi-week-06 (figure 8 below).

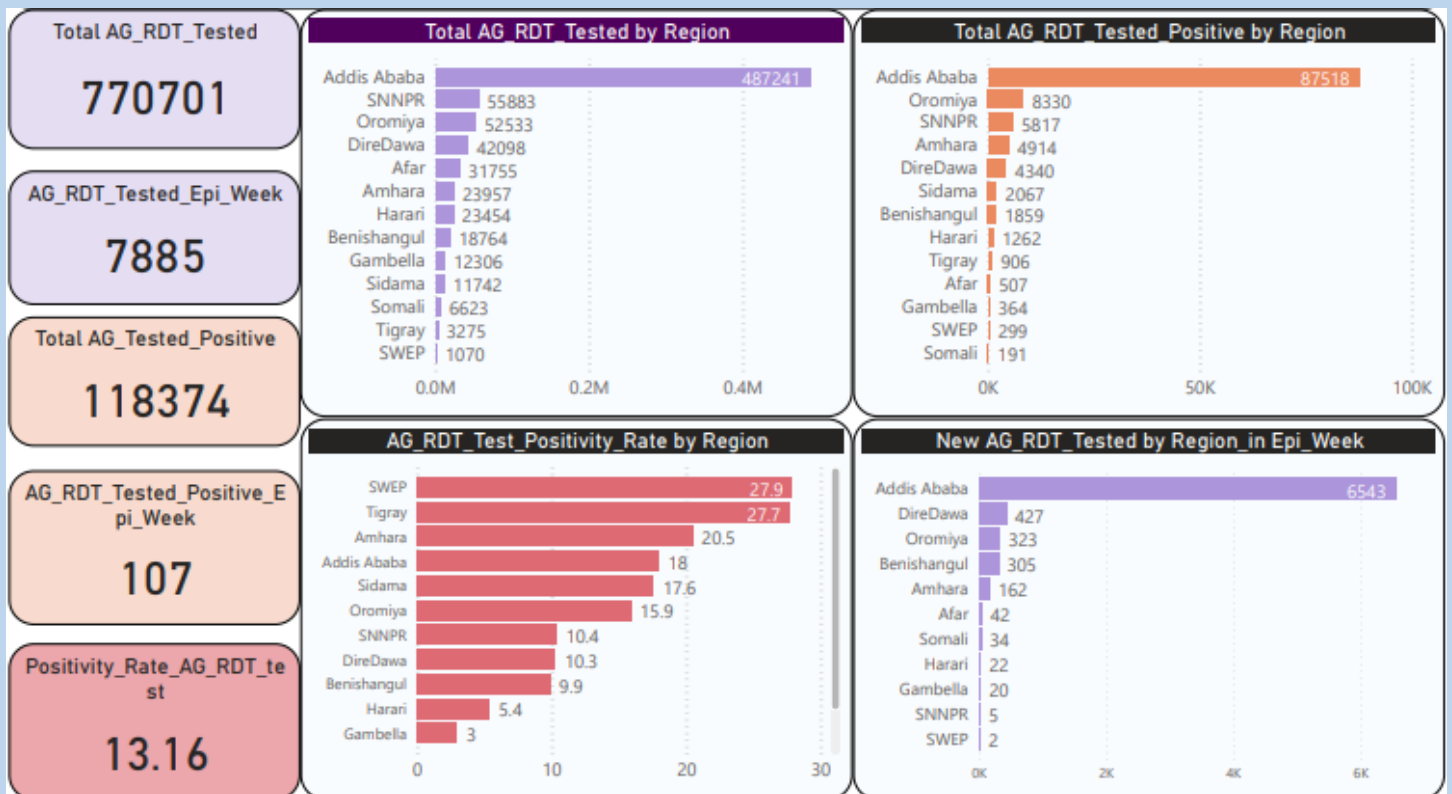
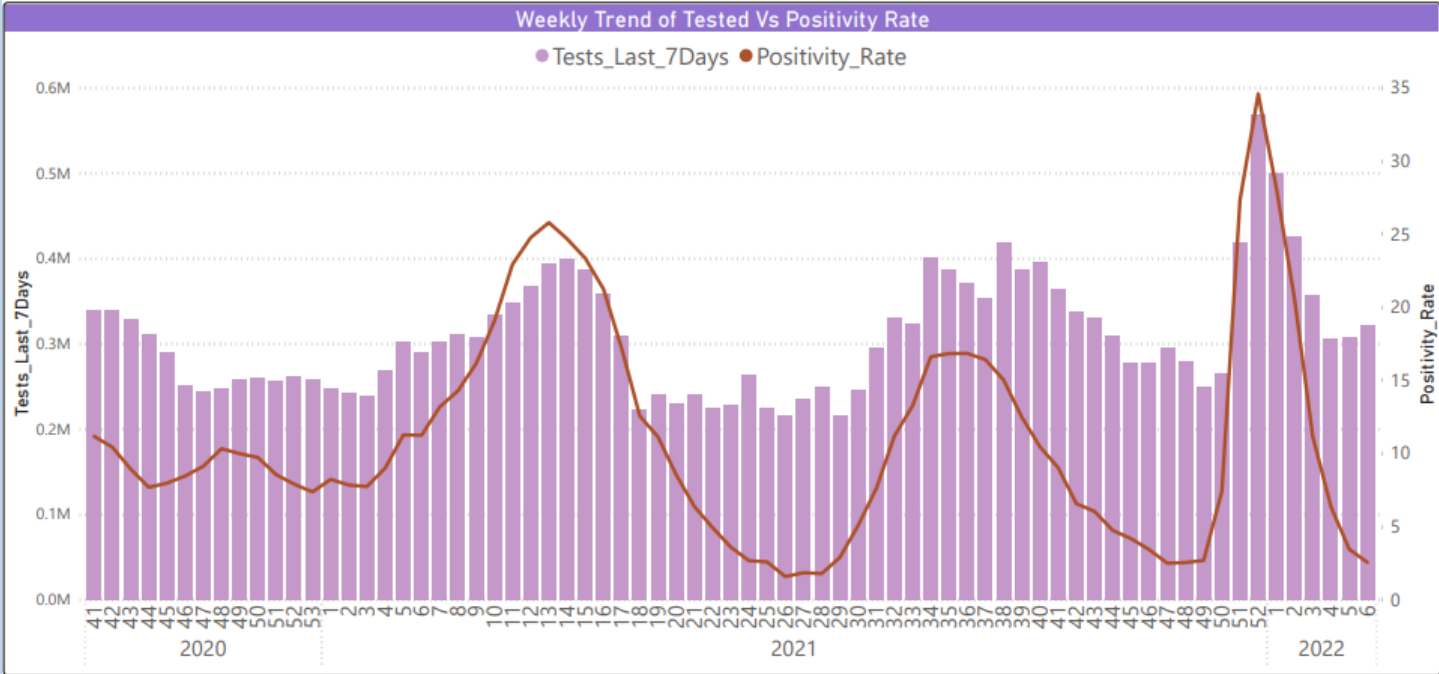
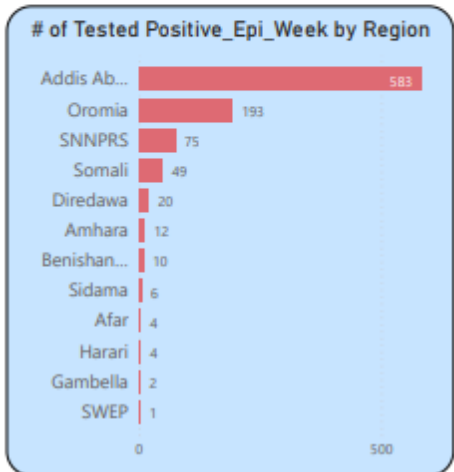
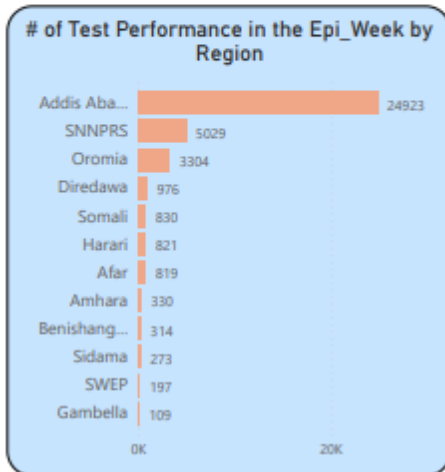
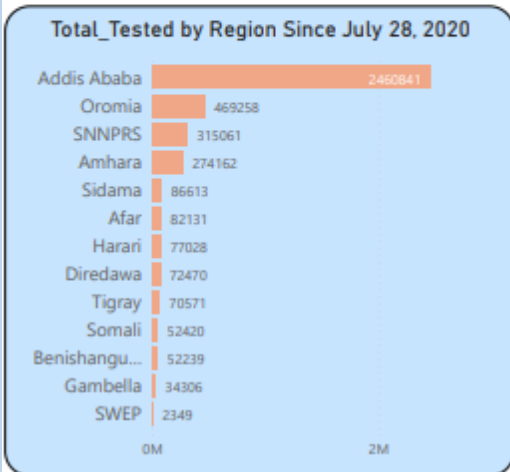
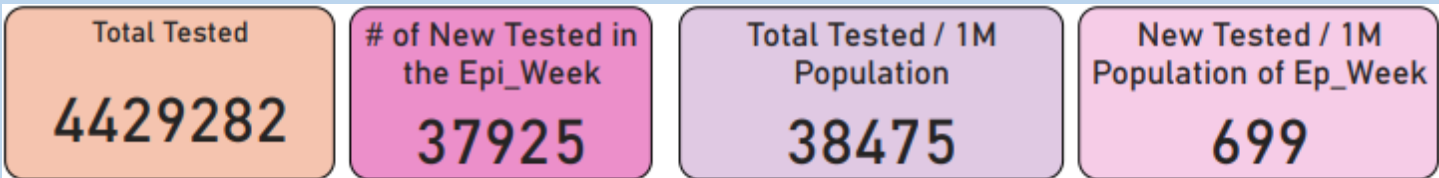


Figure 8: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of February 13, 2022



| Region/City Admn  | New_Testeds  | Tested_Positive | New_Deaths | Positivity_Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Addis Ababa       | 24923        | 583             | 28         | 2.1             |
| SNNPRS            | 5029         | 75              | 1          | 1.4             |
| Oromia            | 3304         | 193             | 13         | 4.6             |
| Diredawa          | 976          | 20              | 0          | 2.0             |
| Somali            | 830          | 49              | 19         | 2.5             |
| Harari            | 821          | 4               | 1          | 0.3             |
| Afar              | 819          | 4               | 0          | 0.5             |
| Amhara            | 330          | 12              | 0          | 3.1             |
| Benishangul Gumuz | 314          | 10              | 0          | 3.1             |
| Sidama            | 273          | 6               | 0          | 2.3             |
| SWEP              | 197          | 1               | 0          | 0.5             |
| Gambella          | 109          | 2               | 0          | 0.7             |
| Tigray            | 0            | 0               | 0          |                 |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>37925</b> | <b>959</b>      | <b>62</b>  | <b>1.9</b>      |

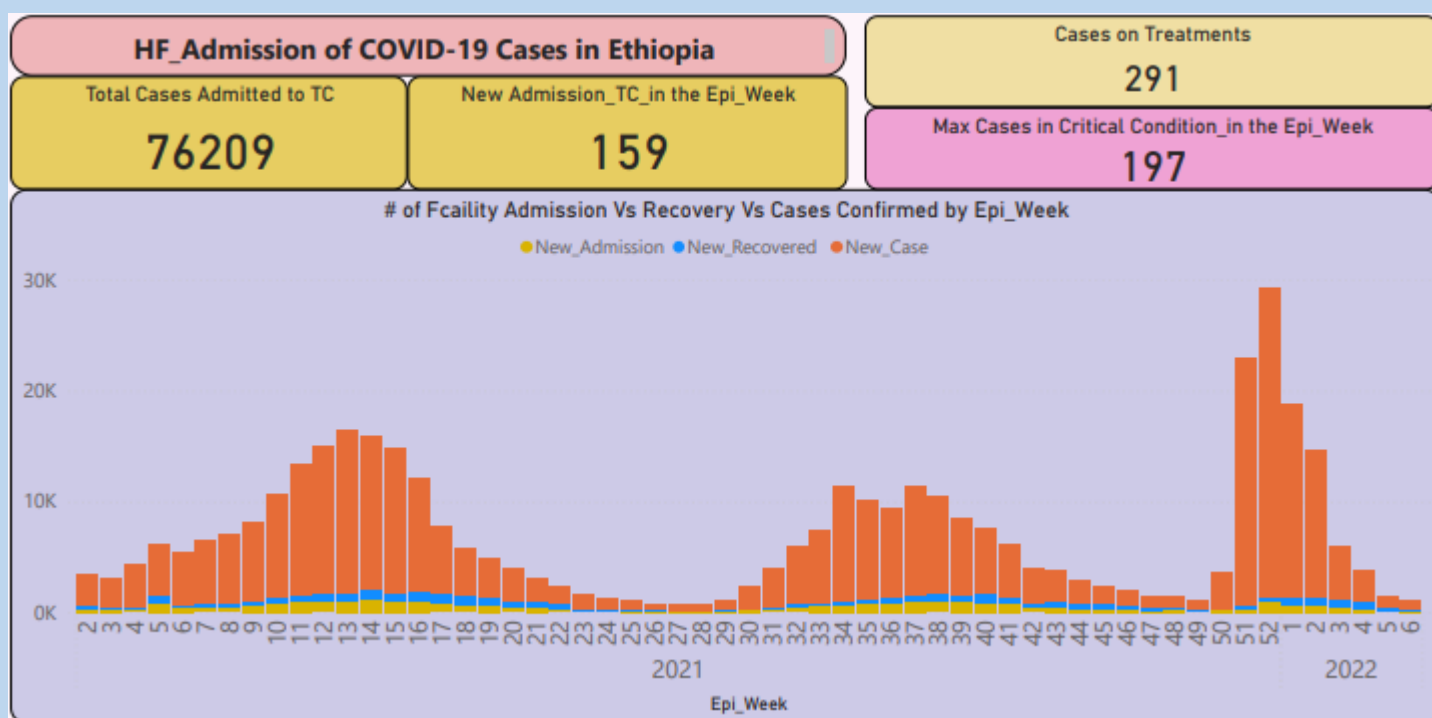
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distr of Rates

Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of February 13, 2022, Ethiopia.

## V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 8,002 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-06, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 408,950 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 87%.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 197 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (272).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of February 13, 2022.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of February 13, 2022

| Regions       | Total_Case | New_Case | Total_Admission | New_Admission | Total_Death | Total_Recovered | On_Treatment | Critical_Case |
|---------------|------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Addis Ababa   | 313007     | 75       | 38448           | 2             | 4050        | 32580           | 100          | 65            |
| Oromia        | 63574      | 7        | 11261           | 0             | 1125        | 10018           | 114          | 48            |
| SNNPR         | 23415      | 13       | 5000            | 3             | 287         | 4707            | 6            | 5             |
| Amhara        | 15385      | 0        | 5642            | 0             | 461         | 5117            | 61           | 33            |
| Sidama        | 12867      | 2        | 3740            | 0             | 231         | 3444            | 0            | 0             |
| Dire Dawa     | 9820       | 0        | 1536            | 0             | 144         | 1388            | 4            | 4             |
| Tigray        | 8171       | 0        | 5290            | 0             | 59          | 5224            | 0            | 0             |
| Harari        | 6583       | 0        | 1475            | 0             | 197         | 1273            | 1            | 1             |
| Benishangul G | 5312       | 0        | 1043            | 0             | 33          | 1008            | 4            | 0             |
| Somali        | 3580       | 0        | 782             | 0             | 115         | 663             | 1            | 1             |
| Afar          | 3195       | 2        | 826             | 0             | 5           | 812             | 0            | 0             |
| Gambella      | 1920       | 0        | 682             | 0             | 8           | 674             | 0            | 0             |
| SWEP          | 692        | 0        | 484             | 0             | 15          | 469             | 0            | 0             |

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

- So far, 343,120 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 340,578 (99%) have recovered and 50 (0.015%) died.
- Of these, 628 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 7,765 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-06.
- As of February 13, 2022, there are 3,594 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,525 (none in the Epi-week-06) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,321 (none in the Epi-week-06) 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.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 11: COVID-19 situation update as of February 13, 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.

## 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. 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     | <a href="https://www.ephi.gov.et/">https://www.ephi.gov.et/</a>   | 8335              | <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:hrhpheoc@gmail.com">hrhpheoc@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 | snnppheoc@gmail.com   |
| Tigray Regional Health Bureau                 | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/">https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/</a>   | 6244 | tigraypheoc@gmail.com |
| Sidama PHEM                                   |   |      | sidamapheoc@gmail.com |
| 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><br>Apple- <a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873</a> |



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)

**PREPARED BY**

Fantu Lombamo (MD, MPH in Field Epidemiology) – Planning Section, Situation Unit Leader  
Negusse Yohannes (PhD in Statistics) – Planning Section, Situation Unit Member

**REVIEWED BY**

Zewdu Assefa (MPH) – PHE Early Warning and Information System Management P/D/A/Director  
Shambel Habebe (MPH) – National PHEOC Manager  
Ahimed Mohammed (MD, MPH) - Planning Section Chief  
Mikiyas Teferi (MD) - Deputy Incident Manager, Case Management Section Chief  
Aschalew Abayneh (RN, BSc, MPH) - DDG-EPHI, Incident Manager

**National COVID-19 Response Incident Management system, Emergency Operation Center  
FOR MORE INFORMATION and NOTIFICATION**

**Web:** [www.ephi.gov.et](http://www.ephi.gov.et)

**Follow us on Twitter:** @EPHIEthiopia

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/>

**Telegram:** <https://t.me/EthPHI>

**Call:** 8335 (TOLL FREE LINE) or 011 276 5340

**Email:** [ephieoc@gmail.com](mailto:ephieoc@gmail.com) or [phemdatacenter@gmail.com](mailto:phemdatacenter@gmail.com)