



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

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

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 13 (March 28 – April 03, 2022)

BULLETIN №: 101

## I. Highlights

- A total of 34,770 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-13 bringing the total number of samples tested to 4,672,113.
- A total of 198 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 12 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-13 bringing the total cases and deaths to 469,819 and 7,504 respectively.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 16 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (36).
- A total of 378,693 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 12,109 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-13.
- A Revised Directive for the Prevention and Control of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Directive No 882/2022 is issued and it has repealed the previous directive on prohibited activities and imposed duties for the Prevention and Control of Covid-19 Pandemic No 803/2021. The Directive shall be effective as of April 1, 2022.



Figure 1: H.E Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health, on press release regarding the revised COVID-19 directive, April 1, 2022

## II. Subject in focus: Revised COVID-19 directive

- The Ethiopian Public Health Institute has issued a Revised Directive for the Prevention and Control of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Directive No 882/2022. The Directive has repealed the previous directive on prohibited activities and imposed duties for the Prevention and Control of Covid-19 Pandemic No 803/2021. This Directive shall be effective as of April 1, 2022.
- The Directive has established a task force. The task force shall function at the Federal level. The Directive requires formation of a similar task force at the regional level. The federal task force is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The secretariat of the task force is the Ministry of Health. The task force is composed of 9 Ministries, two commissions, the Press Secretariat of the Prime Minister and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute. The main task of the task force includes providing directions on implementation of periodic guidelines on procedures of various preventive measures considering the prevalence of the disease. The task force also has the objective of promoting and implementing scientifically proven techniques for the prevention of spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The task force is accountable to the Prime Minister.
- The implementation of accustomed precautionary measures of wearing face masks, isolation and adequate ventilation and personal hygiene are still there. In addition to these, there are duties imposed on employers. Employers are duty bound to fully vaccinate their employees against COVID-19 where these institutions are service providers like banks, health facilities, hotels, transport providers, law enforcement agencies and other service providers whose employees are susceptible to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Any international traveler above the age of 12 coming through international airports of the country and enter Ethiopia shall bring the certificate of negative RT-PCR (Laboratory diagnosis of Covid-19 through molecular techniques) test done 72 hours or three days before departure or Ag-RDT (Antigen based Rapid Diagnostic Test) negative test up to 24 hours before arriving to Ethiopia or a certificate of recovery from Covid-19 within 90 days or evidence that shows he is fully completed the Covid-19 vaccine.
- A diplomat who fails to fulfill the requirement of a test or vaccination may enter Ethiopia by being tested at the airport. If the test result is positive or refuses to take the test, he shall isolate himself for 7 days.
- For returnees, if they do not have test results or fully vaccinated evidence, then they can enter the country by taking Ag-RDT at the airport. If positive, the normal isolation process shall be implemented.
- Meeting or conference organizers are duty bound to ensure that meeting attendees wear face masks, air ventilation is available, and hygienic materials are accessible. Similarly, organizers and competitors of sport events must undergo fully Covid-19 vaccination or obtain a certificate of Ag-RDT negative test result done no more than 24 hours or negative RT PCR test done no more than 72 hours or three days.
- The directive can be found [here](#)

### III. Vaccination against COVID-19

- In Ethiopia, a total of 29,410,266 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 36,788 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 21,009,179 (72%) people are fully vaccinated.

### IV. Epidemiological Situation

#### a. Global Situation

- After the increase observed during the first half of March 2022, the number of new COVID-19 cases has decreased for a second consecutive week, with a 16% decline during the week of 28 March through 3 April 2022 as compared to the previous week.
- The number of new weekly deaths also decreased sharply (-43%) as compared to the previous week, during which an artificial spike in deaths was observed.
- Across the six WHO regions, over nine million new cases and over 26 000 new deaths were reported, and all the regions show decreasing trends both in the number of new weekly cases and new weekly deaths.
- As of 3 April 2022, just over 489 million cases and over 6 million deaths have been reported globally.

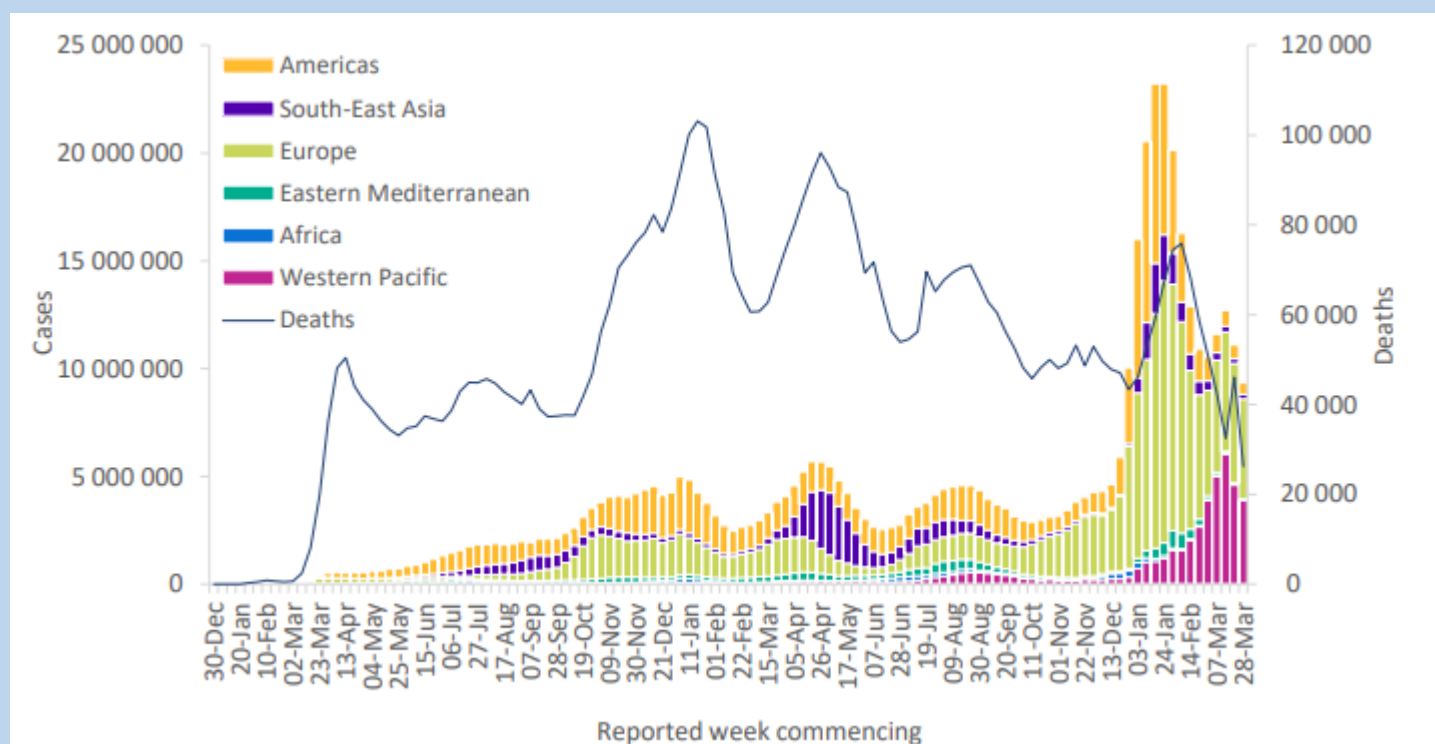


Figure 2: COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 3 April 2022 (source: WHO)

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of April 03, 2022, a total of 469,819 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 7,504 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.60%.
- One-hundred-ninety-eight (198) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 12 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-13.
- In this week, there is 20% increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and more than 100% 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.

SWEP: South West Ethiopia Peoples' Regional State

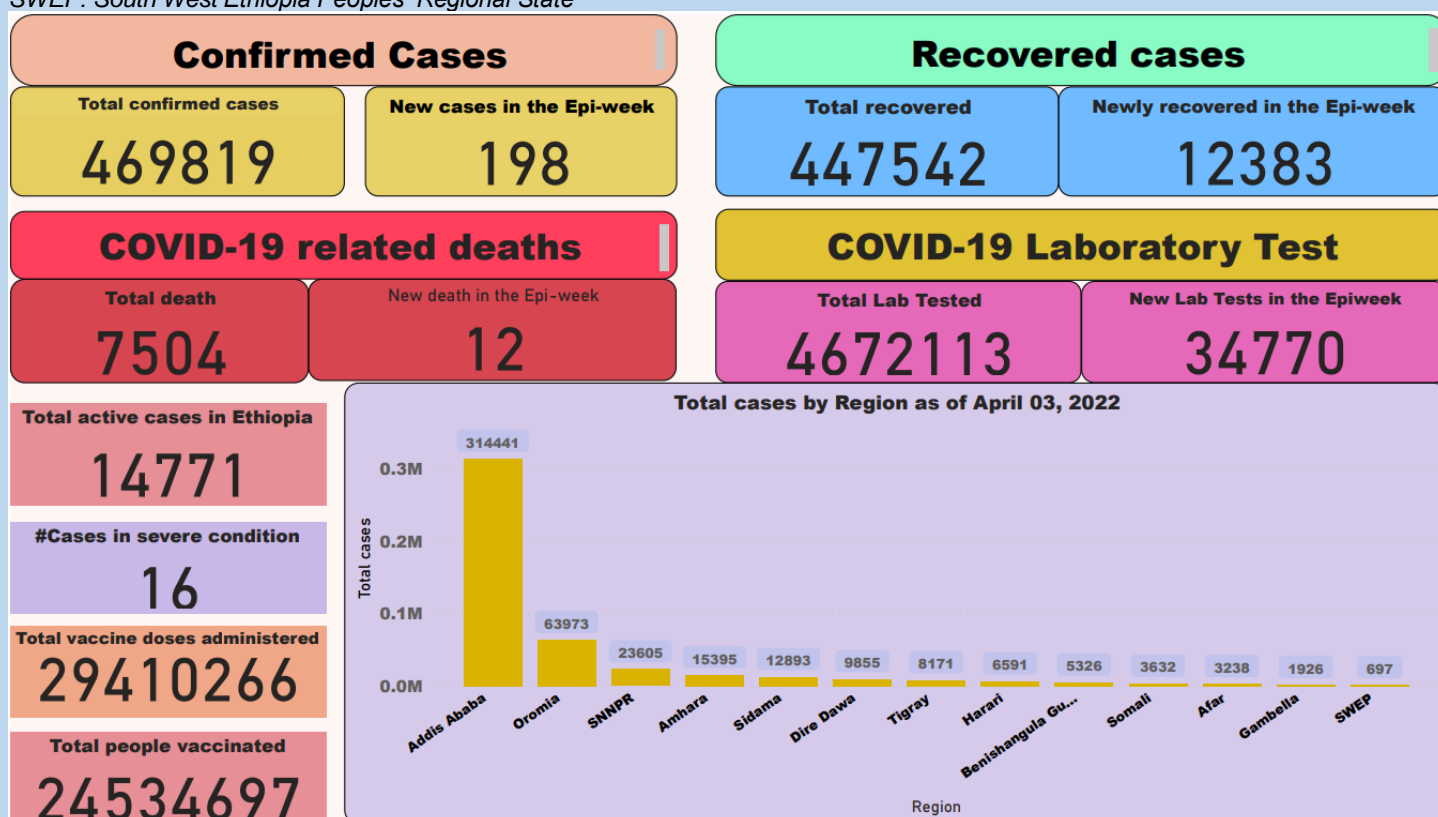


Figure 3: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of March 27, 2022, Ethiopia

## V. Laboratory related activities

- As of 03 April 2022, a total of 4,672,113 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 34,770 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-13 which is a 2% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-13 is 0.57%, which is a bit higher than that of the preceding week (0.47%).

## VI. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 12,383 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-13, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 447,542 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 95%.
- In this week the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition is 16 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (36).

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

- So far, 379,113 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. 378,693 Of them (99%) have recovered and 50 (0.014%) died.
- Of these, 12,109 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 26,751 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-13.
- As of April 03, 2022, there are 623 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,437 (88 in the Epi-week-13) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,321 (none in the Epi-week-13) of the cases have been transferred from HBIC to treatment centers for better care.

## VII. 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 4: COVID-19 situation update as of April 03, 2022 shared on social media.



## **VIII. 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.

## **IX. 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.

### **b. Way Forward**

- Integrating COVID-19 response with the essential health services.
- 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.
- Enhancing technical support, coordination and timely and accurate information sharing at all levels.
- Generating scientific evidence and forecast regarding COVID-19 progress.

## **X. 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 to priority groups 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/UCvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvTzeY-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-">https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-</a>	6016	<a href="mailto:bgpheoc@gmail.com">bgpheoc@gmail.com</a>

			1676282159265517/		
Gambela Bureau	Regional	Health	<a href="https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau">https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau</a>	6184	<a href="mailto:gambellapheoc@gmail.com">gambellapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Harari Bureau	Regional	Health	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/">https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/</a>	6864	<a href="mailto:hrrhpheoc@gmail.com">hrrhpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Oromia Bureau	Regional	Health	<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 Bureau	Regional	Health	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot.com/">https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot.com/...</a>	6599	<a href="mailto:somalipheoc@gmail.com">somalipheoc@gmail.com</a>
SNNP Bureau	Regional	Health	<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 Bureau	Regional	Health	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/">https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/</a>	6244	<a href="mailto:tigraypheoc@gmail.com">tigraypheoc@gmail.com</a>
Sidama PHEM				7794	<a href="mailto:sidaamapheoc@gmail.com">sidaamapheoc@gmail.com</a>
South West Ethiopia PHEM					<a href="mailto:swepheoc@gmail.com">swepheoc@gmail.com</a>
Dire Dawa Administration Bureau	city	Health	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/">https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/</a>	6407	<a href="mailto:ddpheoc@gmail.com">ddpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Addis Ababa Administration Bureau	City	Health	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/aaahb.gov.et/">https://www.facebook.com/aaahb.gov.et/</a>	6406	<a href="mailto:aapheoc@gmail.com">aapheoc@gmail.com</a>

### COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

Source	Link
WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard	<a href="https://covid19.who.int/">https://covid19.who.int/</a>
Africa CDC Dashboard, COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard	<a href="https://au.int/en/covid19">https://au.int/en/covid19</a>
WHO COVID-19 daily situation reports	<a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports</a>
WHO Academy mobile learning app for health workers, COVID-19 information	Android- <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOA</a> Apple- <a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873</a>





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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