



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

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

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 41 (October 11 – 17, 2021)

BULLETIN No: 77

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 52,424 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-41 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,604,407.
- A total of 4,771 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 227 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-41 bringing the total cases and death to 328,962 and 6,217 respectively.
- On October 17, 2021, there are 599 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (745).
- A total of 275,293 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 3,117 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-41.
- The number of confirmed cases, laboratory test and deaths due to COVID-19 has shown decrement in this week.

## II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 4,007,643 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm or Johnson and Johnson) are administered so far. Out of these, 128,572 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 1,959,948 (49%) people are fully vaccinated.

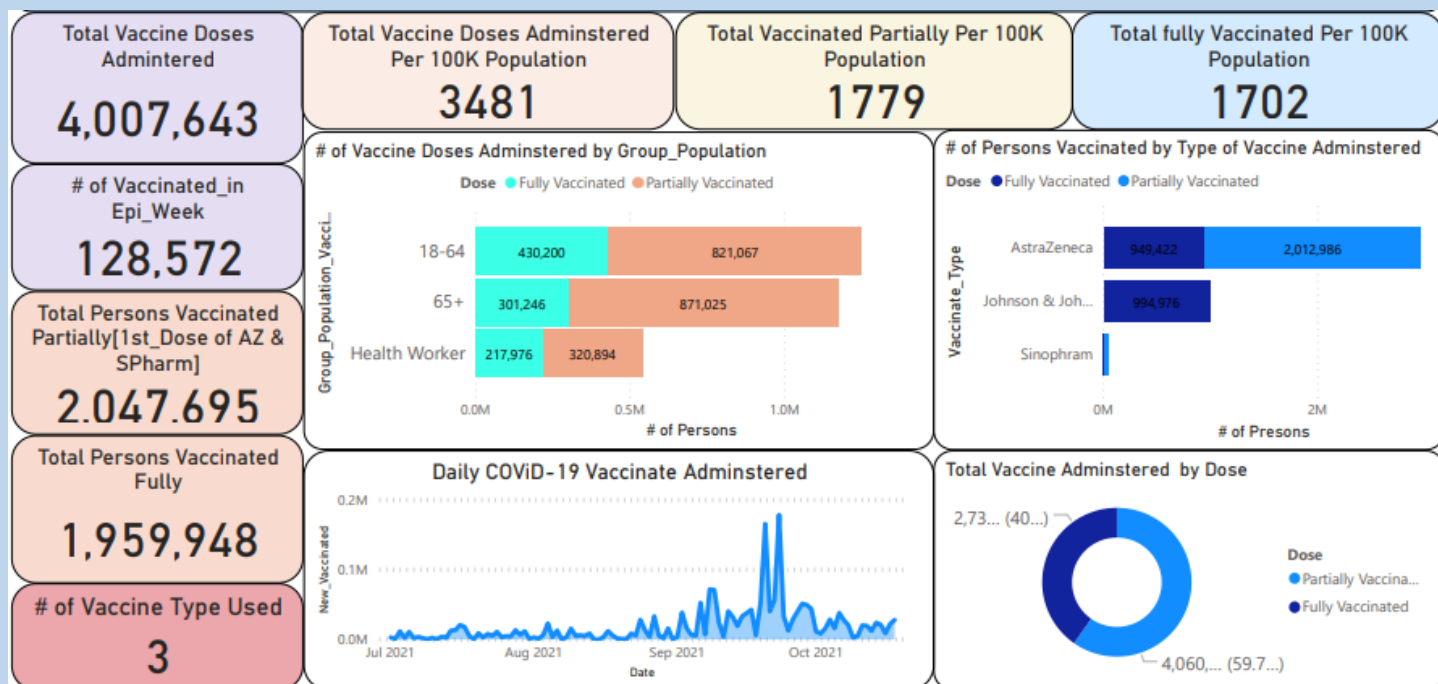


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of October 17, 2021

### III. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

#### a. Global Situation

- Globally, the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths has increased after a persistent decline for two consecutive months.
- Over 4.6 million new cases and over 75,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 11 – 17 October 2021. Cases in this week increased by 13% as compared to the previous week, while the number of deaths increased by 4% compared to that of the past week.
- As of October 17, 2021, a total of 232,084,204 COVID-19 cases and 4,634,658 deaths (CFR=2.00%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 4,609,444 cases and 75,103 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-41.
- Generally, the United States of America (USA) reported the highest number of cases followed by India.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from India (618,677 new cases), the United States of America (593,527 new cases), the United Kingdom (394,583 new cases), Russian Federation (301,039 new cases) and Turkey (224,998 new cases).
- In Africa, as of October 17, 2021, a total of 8,331,996 cases and 210,605 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.53%). Of these, 103,971 cases (8% increase compared to the previous week) and 2,990 deaths (3% increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-41.
- In Africa, South Africa reported the highest number of cases followed by Morocco.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa. See the summary dashboard below.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

**232,084,204**

New Confirmed Cases\_of Epi\_Week Globally

**4,609,444**

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

**4,634,658**

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi\_Week

**75,103**

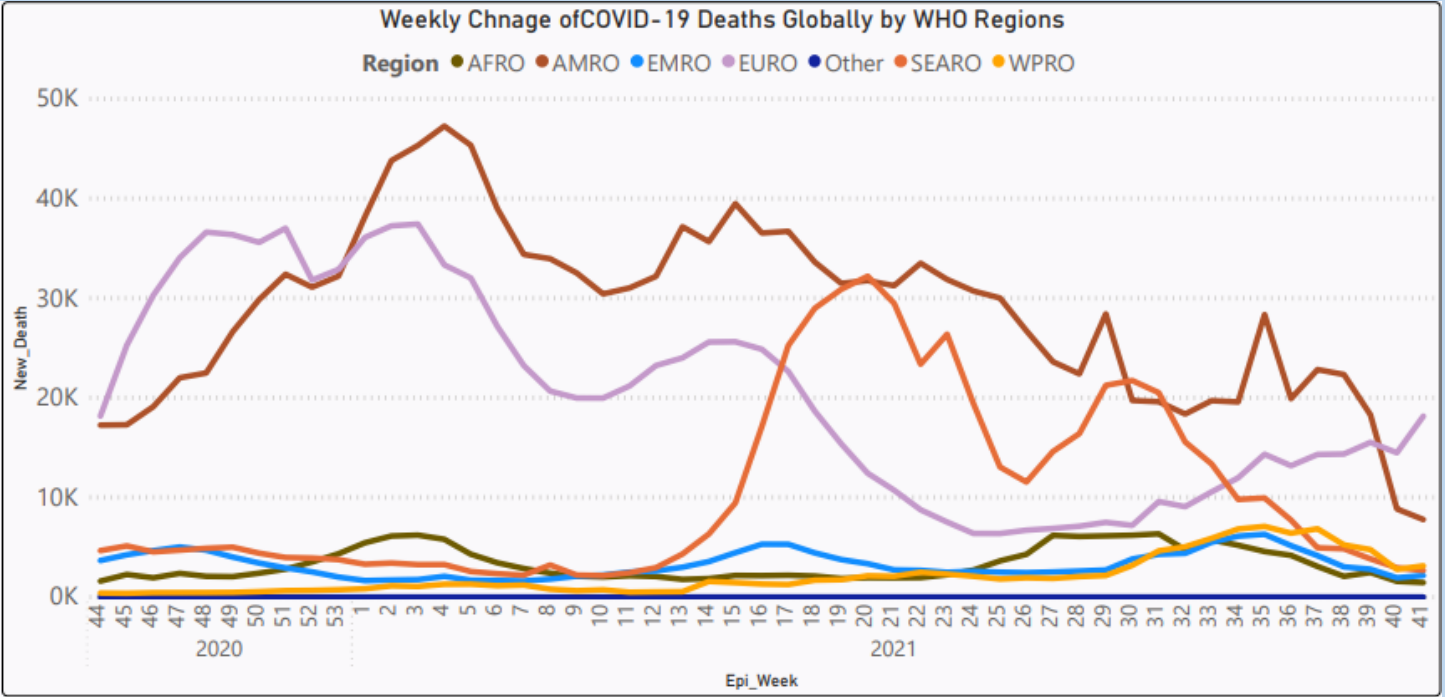
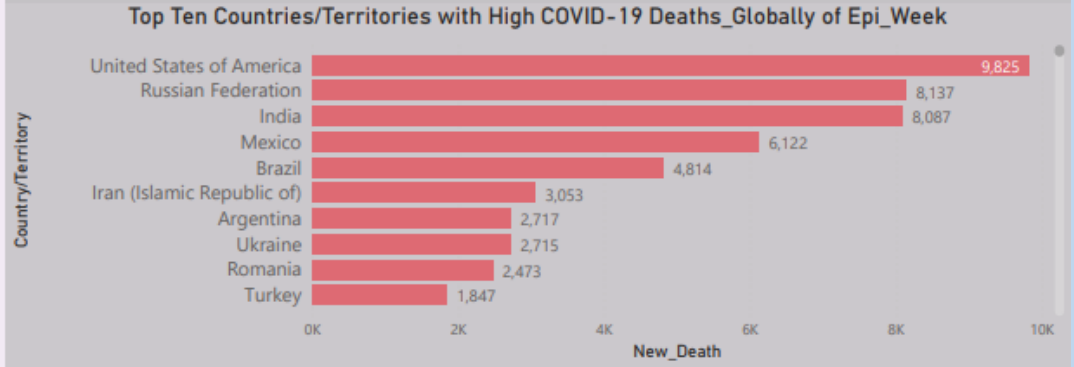
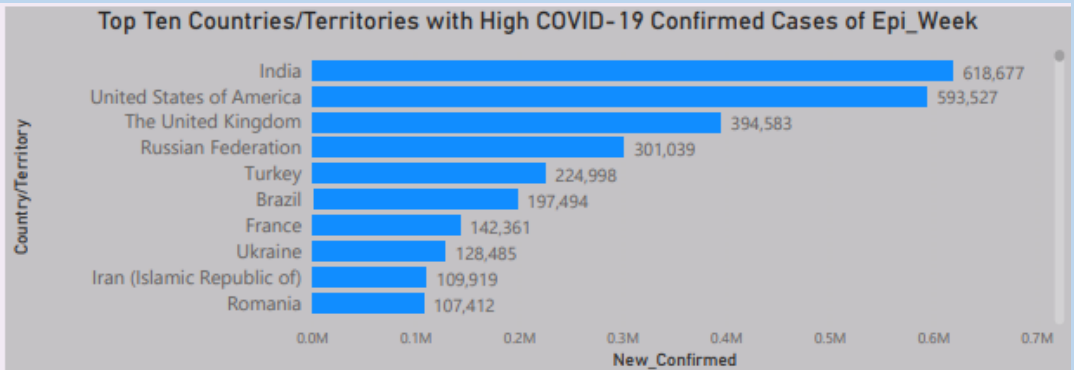


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of October 17, 2021 (Source: WHO)

Total Number of Cases Confirmed in Africa

**8,331,996**

New Confirmed Cases in Africa with COVID-19\_of Epi\_Week

**103,971**

New Cases in Last 7Days Per 100K Popn. in Africa

**626**

Total Number of Deaths in Africa with COVID-19

**210,605**

New Deaths in Africa with COVID-19\_in Epi\_Week

**2,990**

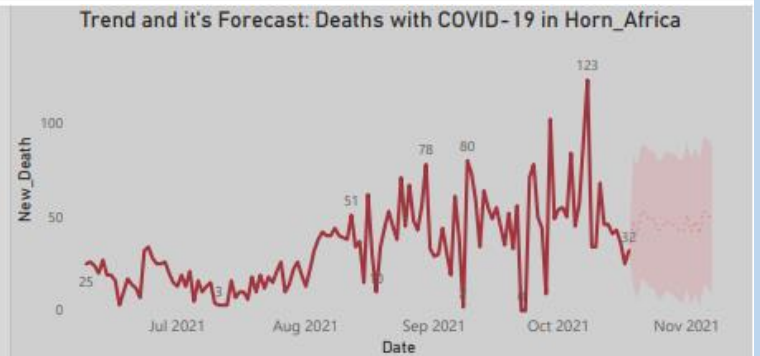
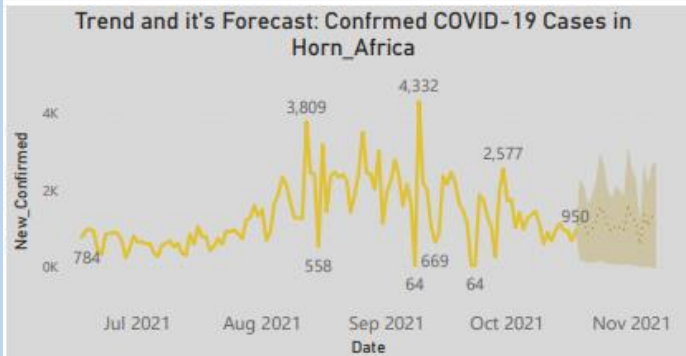
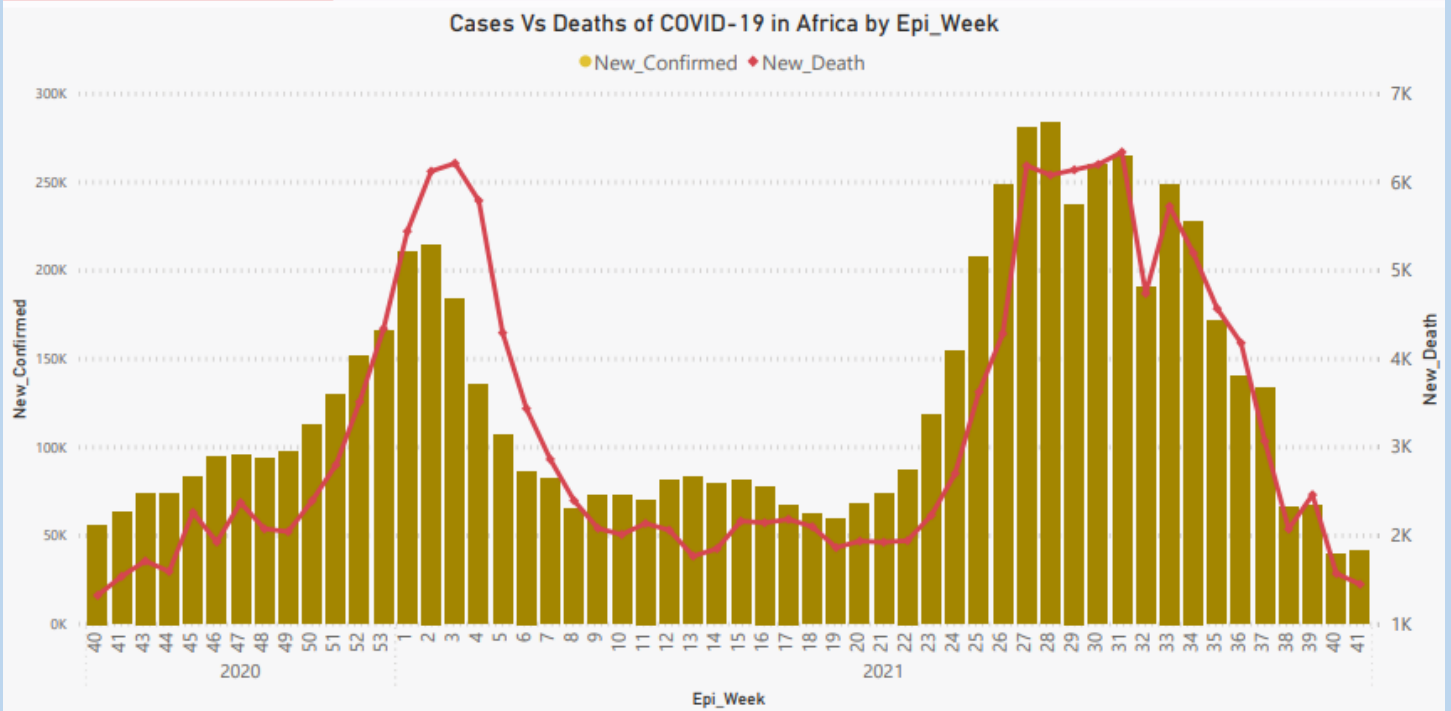
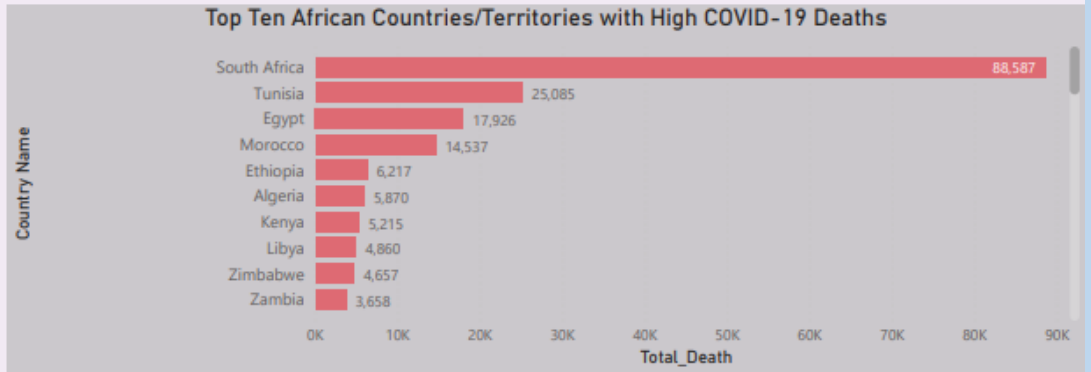
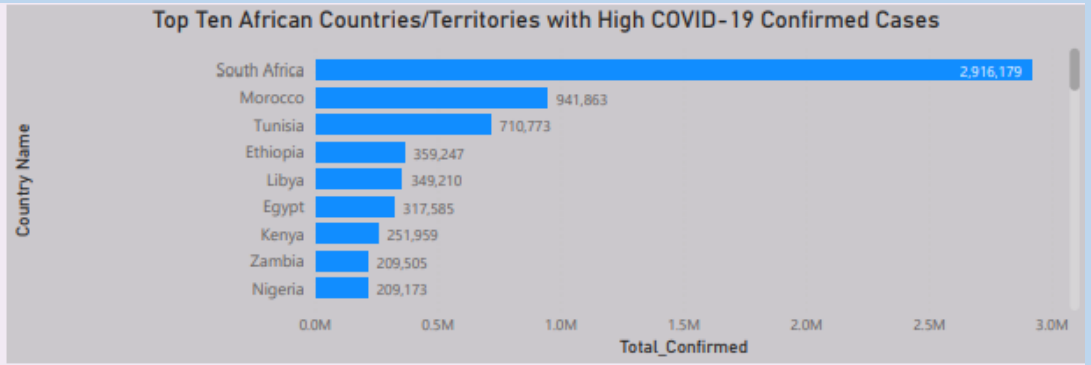


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of October 17, 2021 (Source: WHO)

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of October 17, 2021, a total of 359,247 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,217 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.73%. This puts Ethiopia in the fourth position by the number of confirmed cases and in the fifth position by the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Africa.
- Four-thousand-seven-hundred-seventy-one (4,771) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 227 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-41.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last four consecutive weeks and decrease in the number of deaths after an increment for nine consecutive weeks. In this week, there is 18% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 15% 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-41 of 2021**

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	35069	2349	254	100	6.6
Oromia	4629	766	270	70	18.6
SNNPR	4062	569	62	10	13.9
Dire Dawa	2570	370	31	10	14.0
Sidama	1798	299	19	8	16.6
Afar	1012	24	0	0	2.1
Amhara	956	164	67	7	16.6
Benishangul G	849	55	14	1	6.3
Harari	589	103	16	1	17.0
Somali	461	56	24	20	13.1
Gambella	429	16	0	0	5.7
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>52424</b>	<b>4771</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>11.9</b>

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

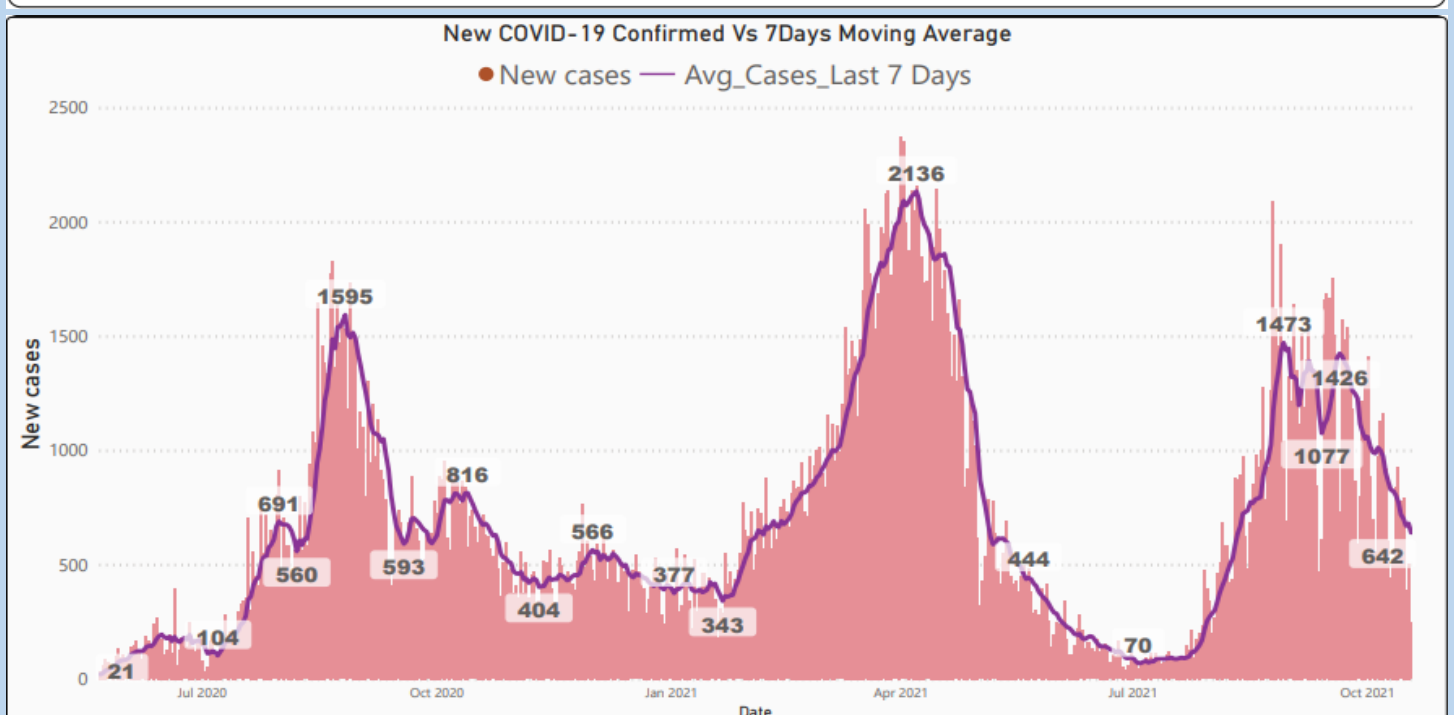
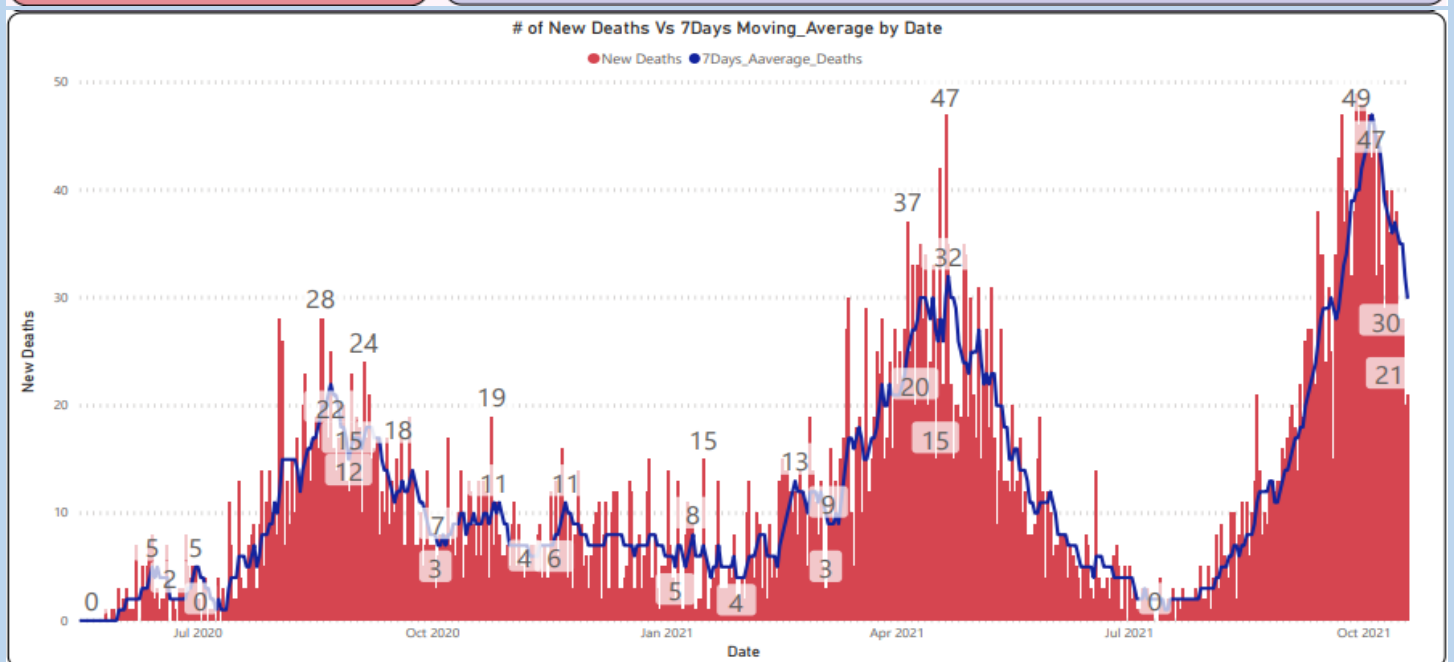
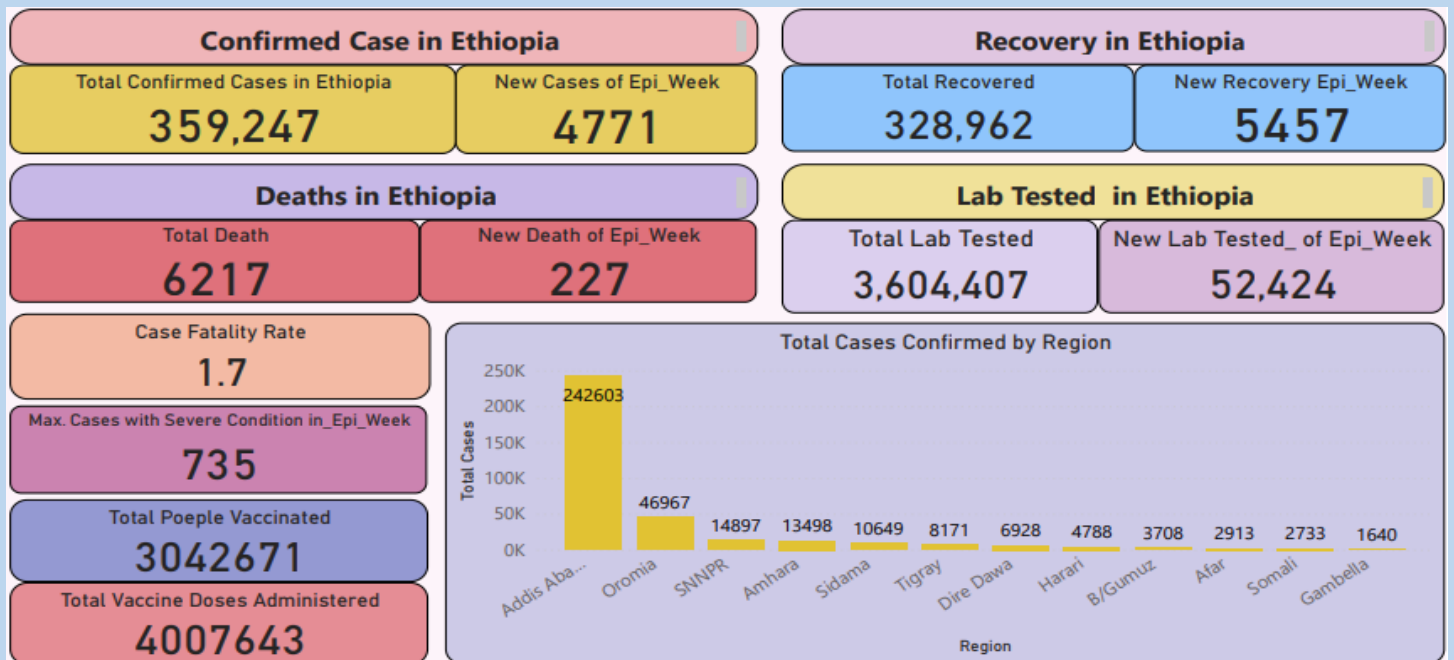


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of October 17, 2021, Ethiopia

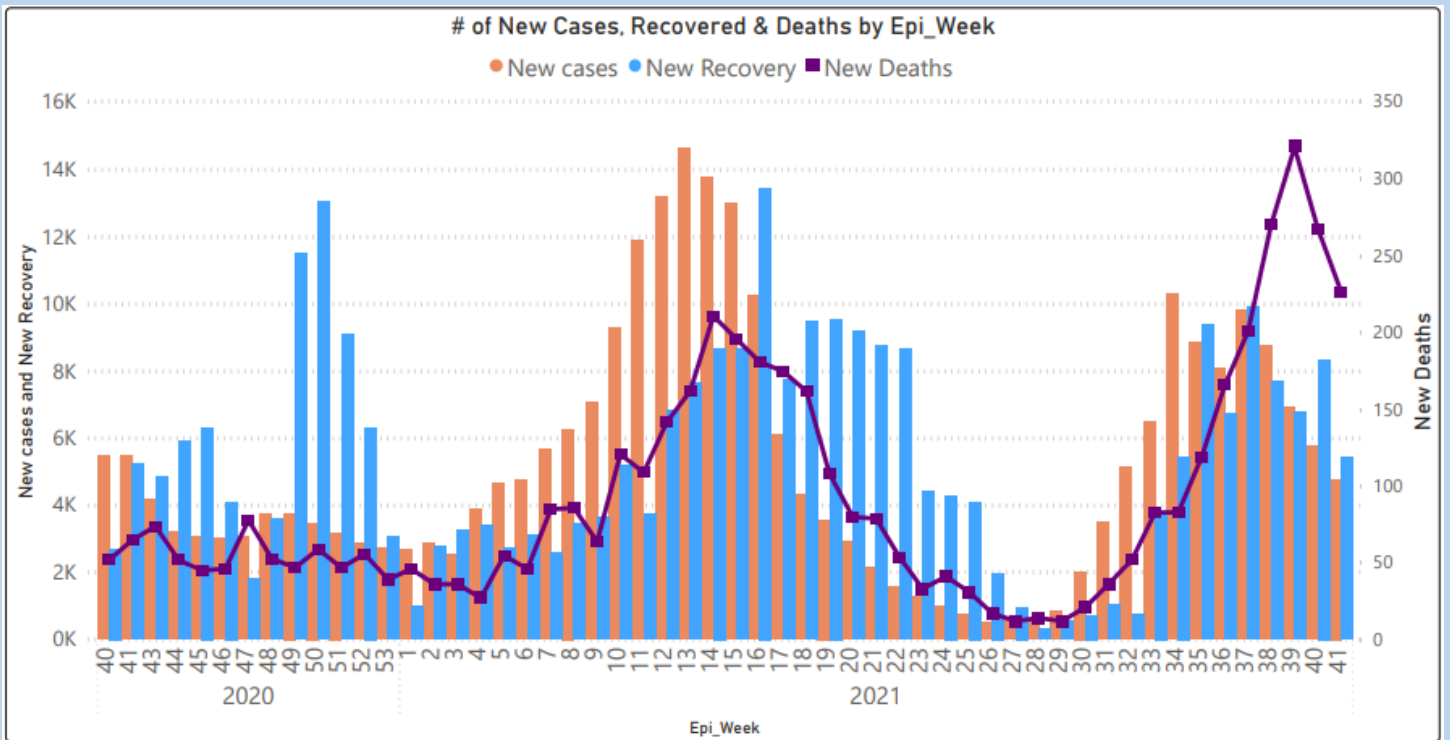


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of October 17, 2021, Ethiopia

### c. Other Epi-Surveillance Related Activities

There is ongoing travelers' health screening at point of entries (POEs), follow-up of international travelers, rumor collection, verification, investigation and information provision via toll free call center, active case detection by house to house search, contact listing, tracing 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.

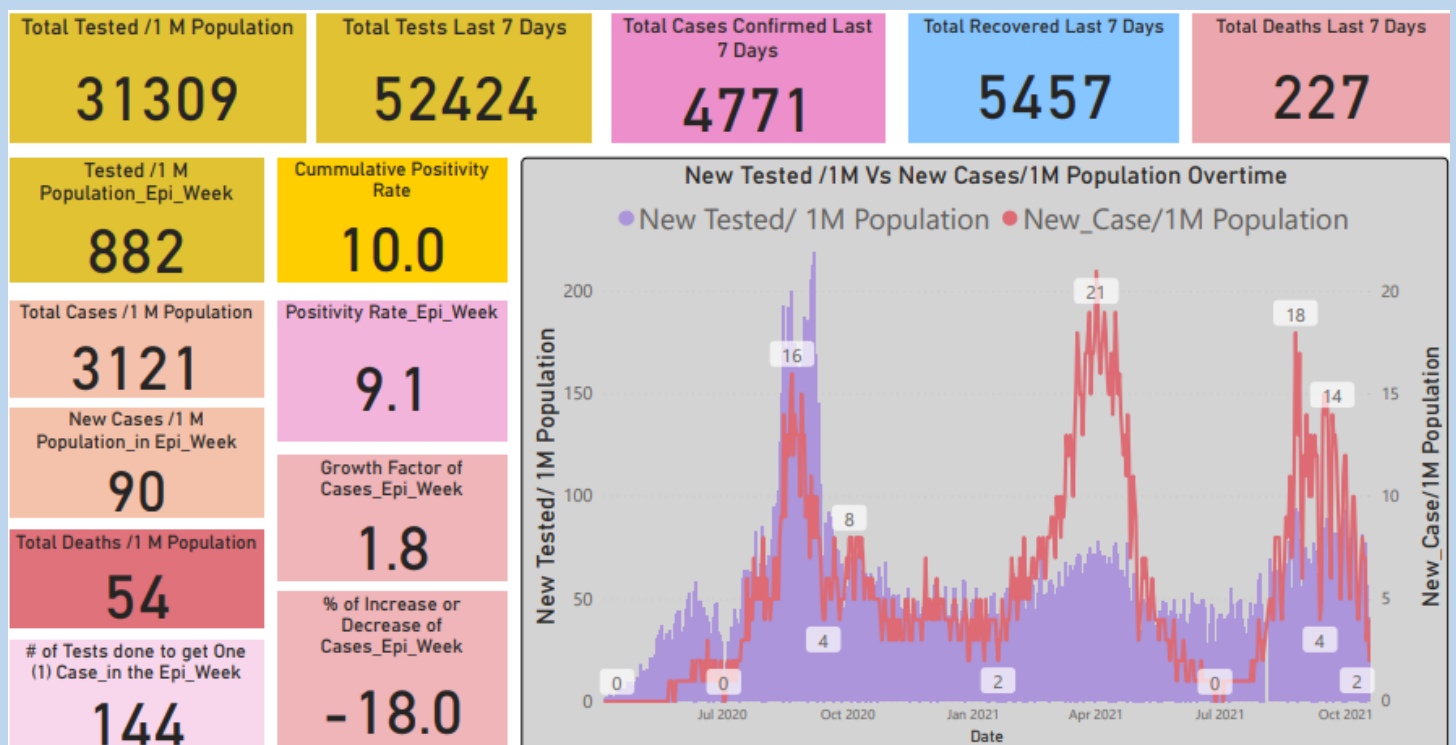
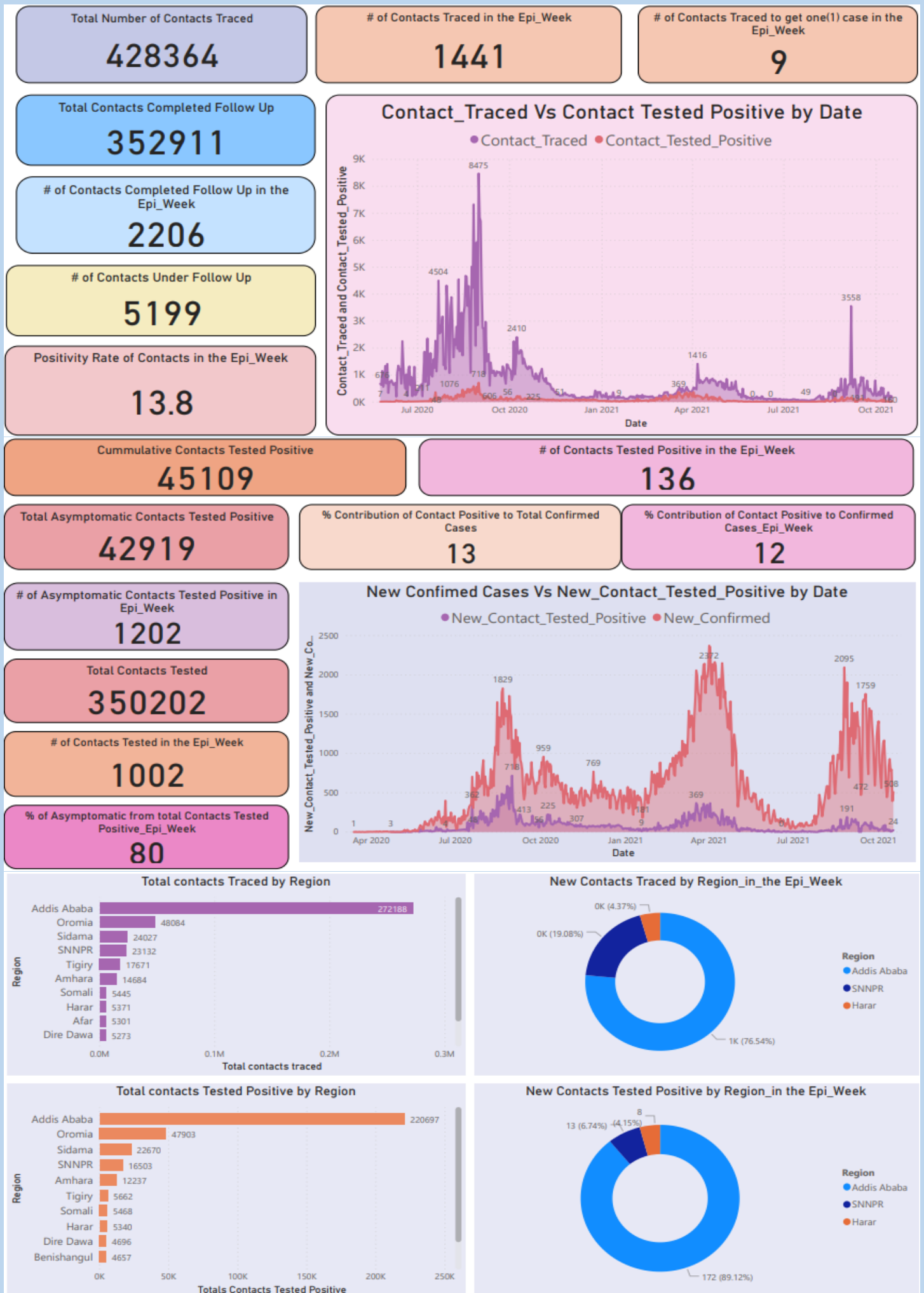


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of October 17, 2021.

#### **i. Contact tracing and follow-up:**

- Contact tracing is a key strategy for interrupting chains of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and reducing COVID-19-associated mortality and thus should be enhanced.
- As of October 17, 2021:
  - A total of 428,204 contacts of confirmed cases have been identified. Of these, 1,441 contacts were identified in the Epi-Week-41.
  - Of total contacts, 352,713 (82.37%) have completed follow-up, while 5,422 contacts are still on follow-up.
  - All the contacts traced are from Addis Ababa city administration and SNNP and Harari regional states; no contact tracing activity is reported from other regions.
- Overall, 45,085 (10.52%) of the contacts (symptomatic plus asymptomatic) have been tested positive.
- Contacts of the confirmed cases contributed for the 12.55% of the total cases. However, when there is transmission of the disease at community level, it is known that an individual acquires the disease from unknown/unidentified contacts.





**Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 contact tracing as of October 17, 2021, Ethiopia.**

## ii. 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, Travelers follow up, Point of Entry (PoE), Community surveillance and Special Settings.
- As of October 17, 2021:
  - 393,023 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated. Of these, ten rumors were reported in the Epi-Week-41.
  - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 13,397 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

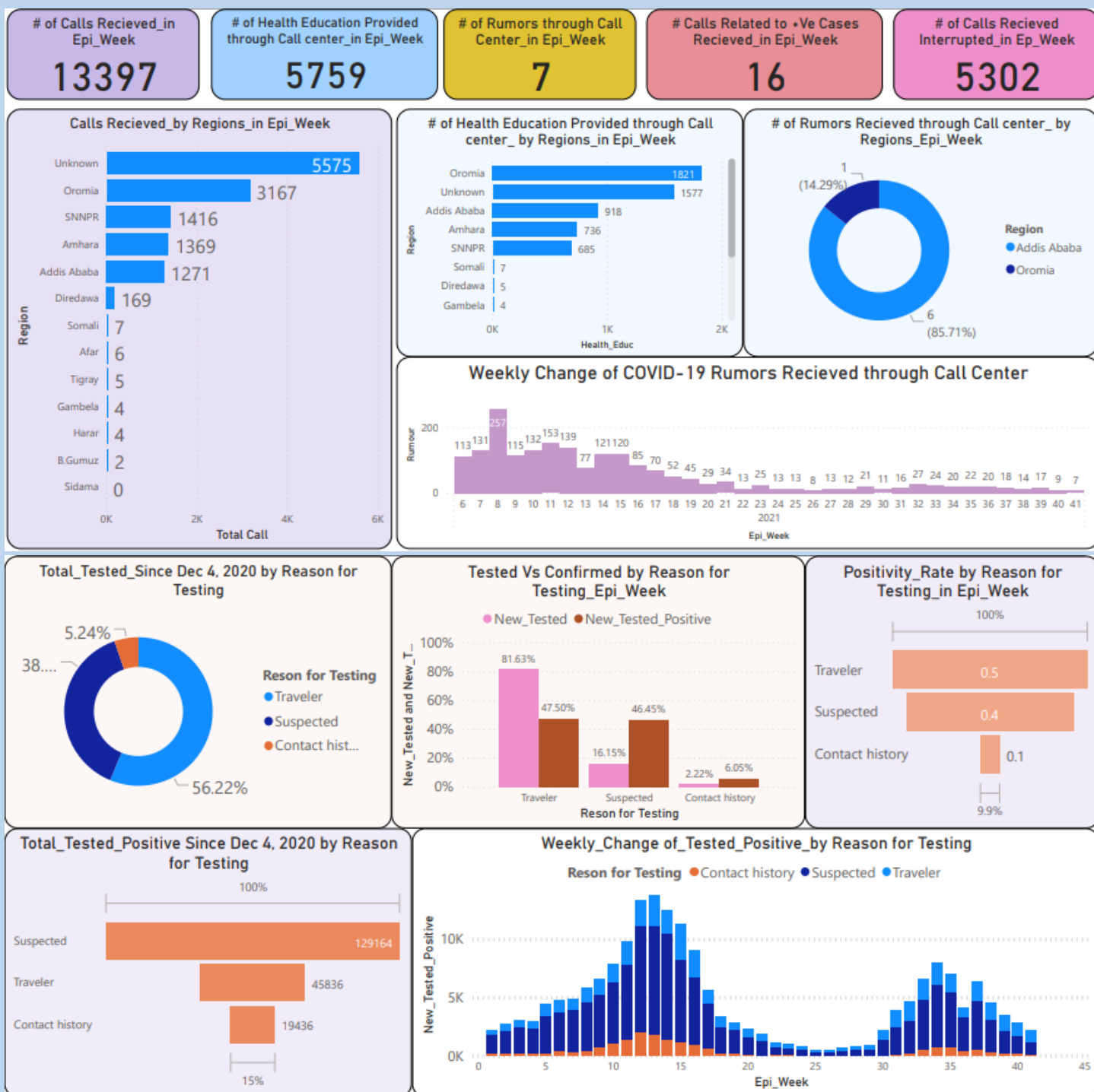


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as October 17, 2021, Ethiopia.

### iii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,784,770 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 833,572 (30%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 27,184 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-41.
- As of October 17, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 60 (one in Epi-week-41) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 97 (two in week-41) 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 (603 in week-41) are conducted among which 97 positive cases (one in week-41) are detected as of October 17, 2021.
- A total of 68,040 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 1,485 returnees were received in the Epi-week-41. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 66,369 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,671 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of October 17, 2021.

## IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 17 October 2021, a total of 3,604,407 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 52,424 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-41 which is a 3% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-41 is 9.10%, which is lower than that of the preceding week (10.72%).
- Oromia, Harari, Sidama, Amhara, SNNP and Somali regional states and Dire Dawa city administration have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 10 below).
- Among the total COVID-19 laboratory tests performed in Ethiopia, a total of 406,167 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 17,125 is performed in the Epi-week-41 (figure 9 below).

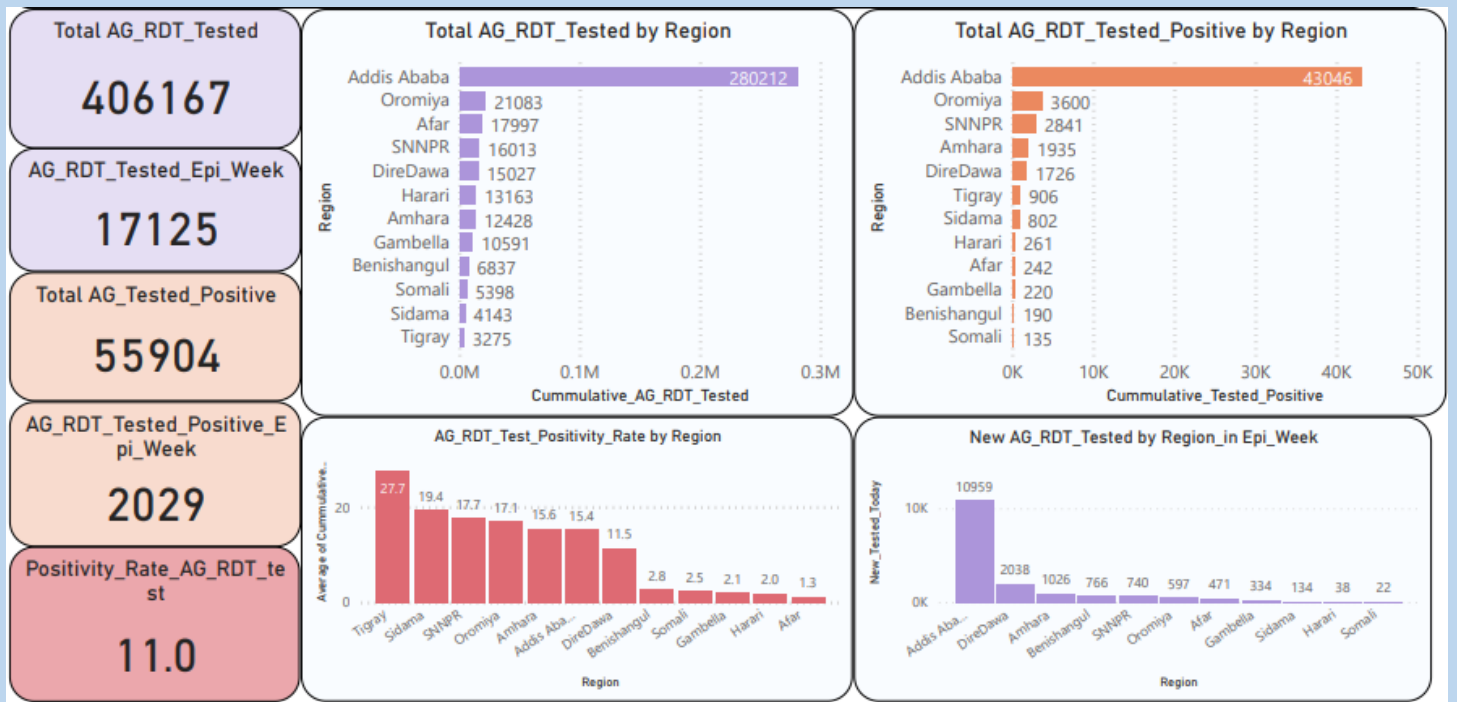
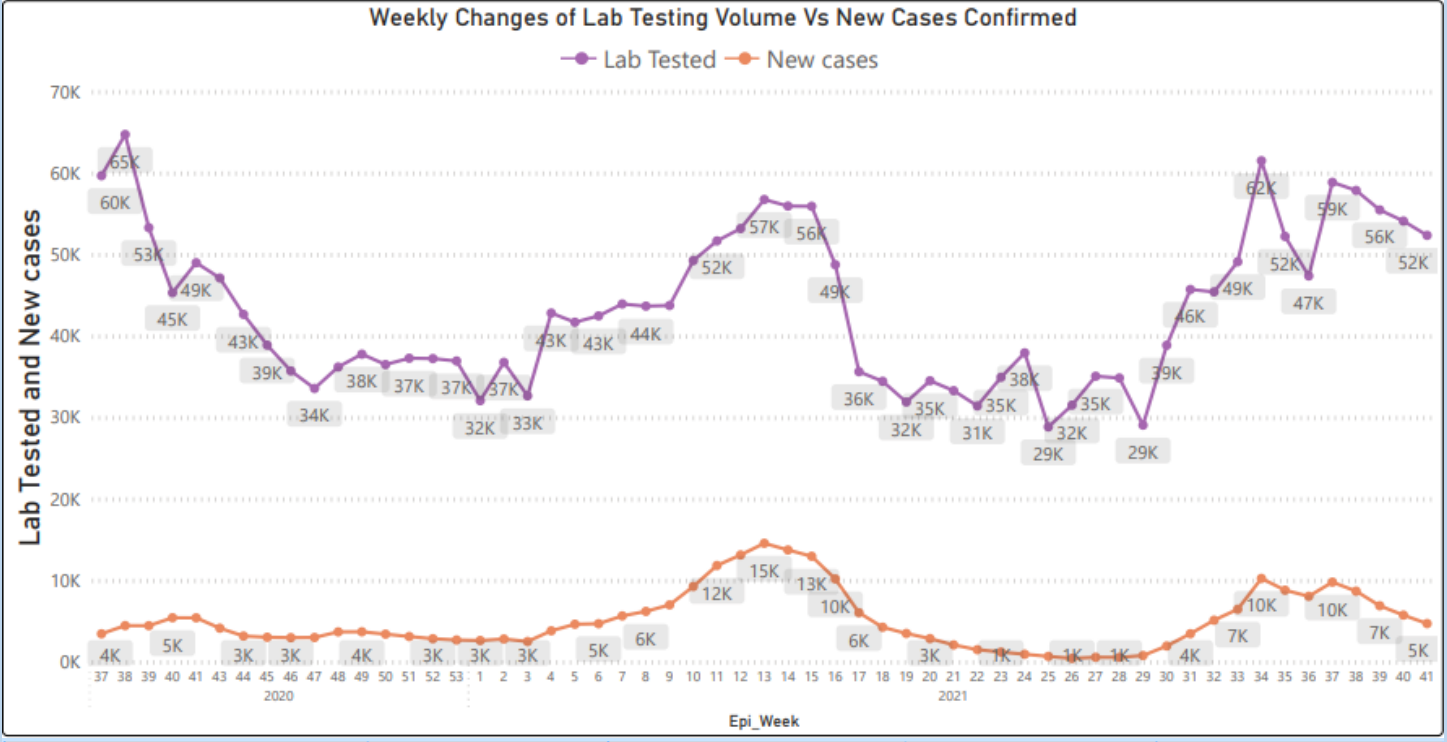
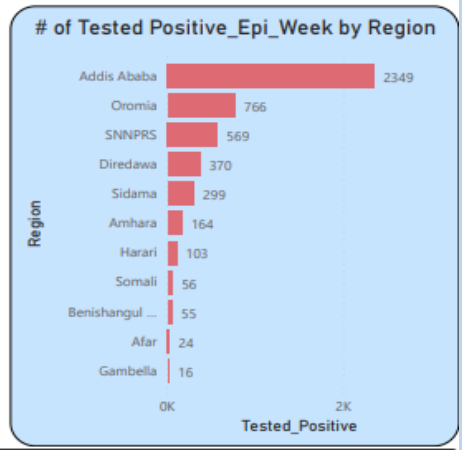
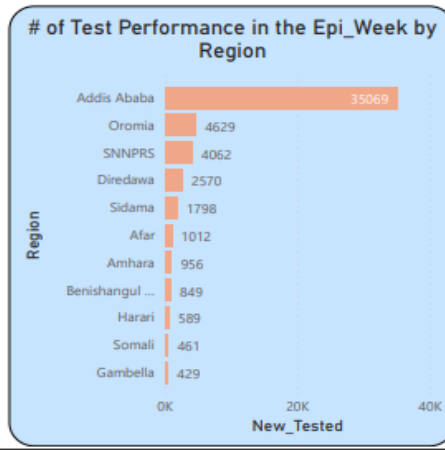
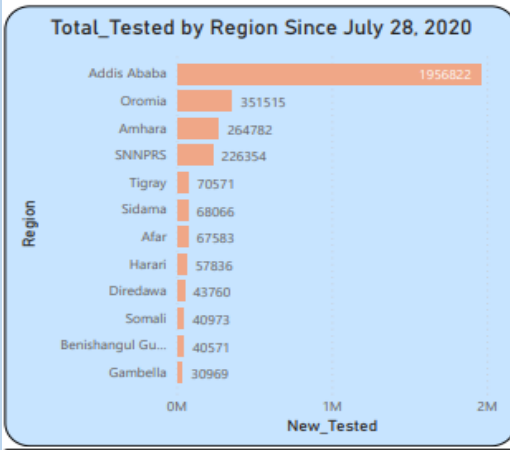
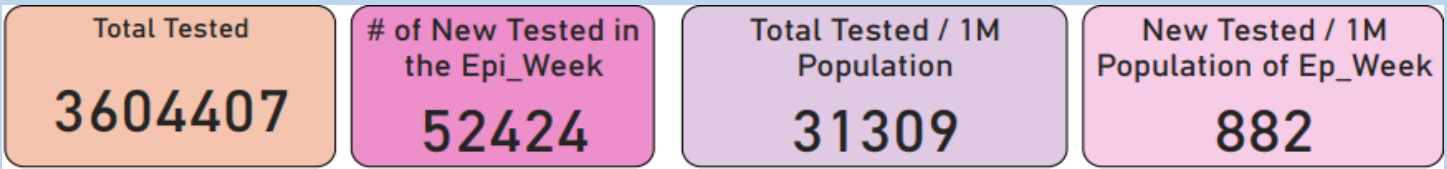


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of October 17, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	35069	2349	100	6.6
Oromia	4629	766	70	18.6
SNNPRS	4062	569	10	13.9
Diredawa	2570	370	10	14.2
Sidama	1798	299	8	16.4
Afar	1012	24	0	2.1
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<b>Total</b>	<b>52424</b>	<b>4771</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>11.8</b>

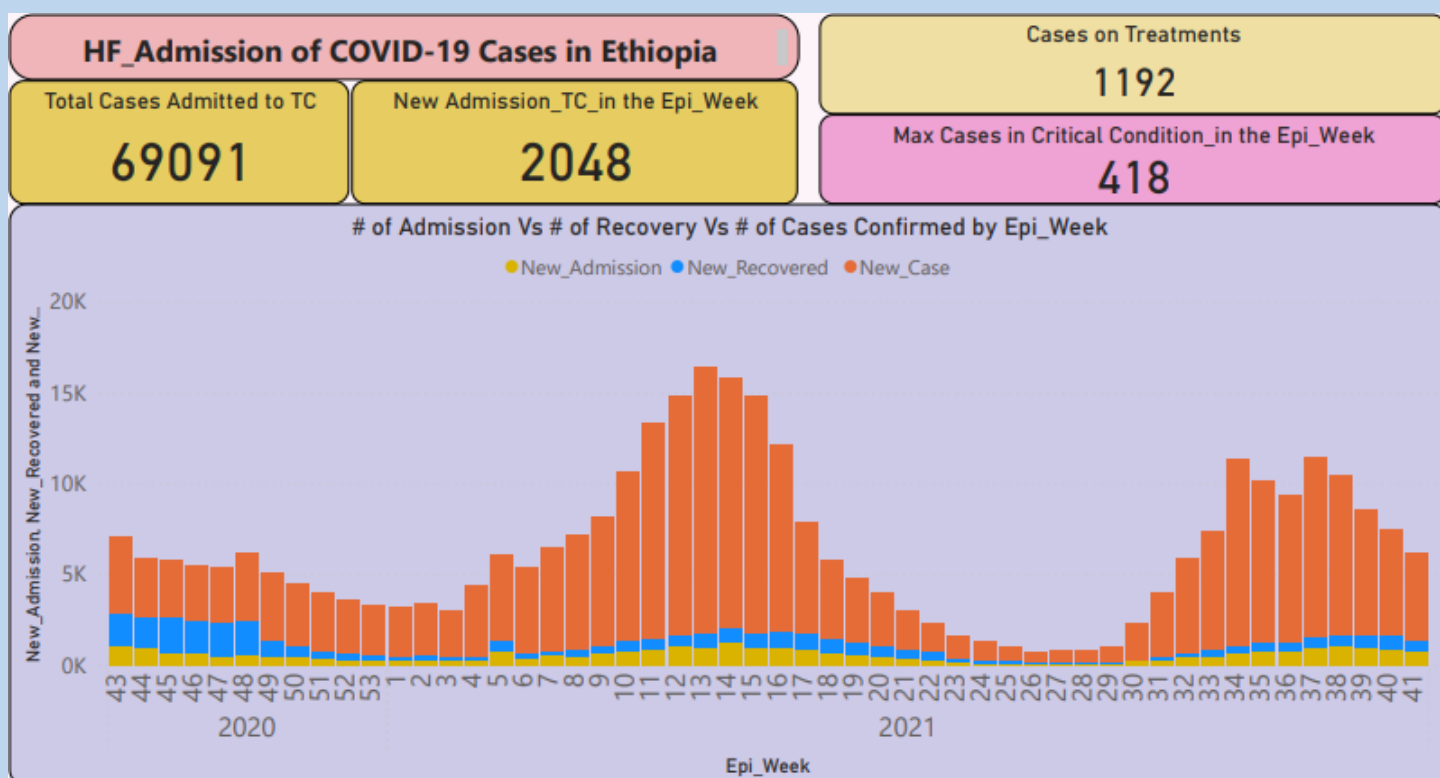
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of October 17, 2021, Ethiopia.

## V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 5,457 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-41, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 328,962(both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 92%.
- On October 17, 2021, there are 599 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (745).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 11: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of October 17, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of October 17, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	242472	242	35376	31	3477	30019	448	296
Oromia	46943	109	8821	0	833	7572	421	147
SNNPR	14876	34	5057	7	221	4777	96	11
Amhara	13486	5	5024	22	360	4582	78	60
Sidama	10645	14	3654	2	205	3350	35	15
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	6916	92	1337	6	96	1204	37	22
Harari	4781	4	1336	9	163	1154	15	15
Benishangul G	3689	6	945	0	24	892	31	1
Afar	2913	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Somali	2718	2	743	0	82	627	31	31
Gambella	1637	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

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

- So far, 275,293 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 267,929 (97.32%) have recovered and 41 (0.015%) died.
- Of these, 3,117 cases have been enrolled to HBIC, 4,801 cases have recovered and two cases died in the Epi-Week-41.
- As of October 17, 2021, there are 8,710 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,489 (81 in the Epi-week-41) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,206 (14 in the Epi-week-41) 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.
- Press release provided by the Ministry of Health-Ethiopia on the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic in Ethiopia.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.

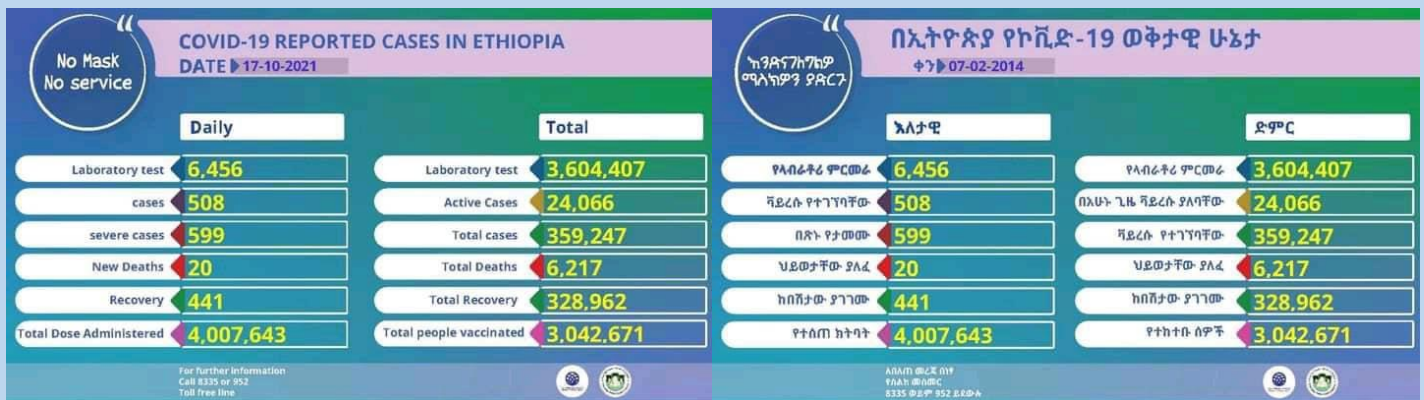


Figure 12: COVID-19 situation update as of October 17, 2021 shared on social media.

## 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**

- Enhancing law enforcement to enhance public health and social measures by all responsible bodies.
- Continuing the COVID-19 vaccination.
- 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 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 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**

MOH/EPHI/Region	Facebook page	Toll-free hotline	Email address (PHEOCs email)
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	<a href="https://www.eph.gov.et/">https://www.eph.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.eph.gov.et/">https://covid19.eph.gov.et/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ephipa/ge/">https://www.facebook.com/ephipa/ge/</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-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:hrrbpheoc@gmail.com">hrrbpheoc@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 Bureau	Regional Health	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot.com/">https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot.com/...</a>	6599	somalipheoc@gmail.com
SNNP Bureau	Regional Health	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs">https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs</a>	6929	snnppheoc@gmail.com
Tigray Bureau	Regional Health	<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> Apple- <a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873</a>

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**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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