



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 48 (November 29 – December 05, 2021)

BULLETIN No. 84

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 38,389 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-48 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,898,666.
- A total of 953 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 60 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-48 bringing the total cases and death to 372,215 and 6,800 respectively.
- On December 05, 2021, there are 334 cases in severe condition which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (233).
- A total of 286,859 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 409 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-48.
- The number of confirmed cases has shown decrement in this week while the number of deaths due to COVID-19 and cases in severe condition have shown increment.

II. Subject of focus: SARS-CoV-2 new Variant of Concern (Omicron)

- Omicron is the fifth SARS-CoV-2 variant to be designated as a Variant of Concern (VOC) by WHO, following the designation of the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta variants.
- The first known laboratory-confirmed case of Omicron was identified from a specimen collected on 9 November 2021 in South Africa, with the variant (Pango nomenclature B.1.1.529) first reported to WHO on 24 November.
- WHO designated B.1.1.529 as a VOC on 26 November in view of the potential for enhanced transmissibility and/or a degree of immune escape, given the number of mutations (26-32) in the spike protein, as well as concerning initial epidemiological reports from South Africa, including signals of increased risk of reinfection.
- As of 7 December 2021, the Omicron variant has been confirmed in 57 countries.

III. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,058,925 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 1,278,211 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 3,745,363 (37%) people are fully vaccinated.

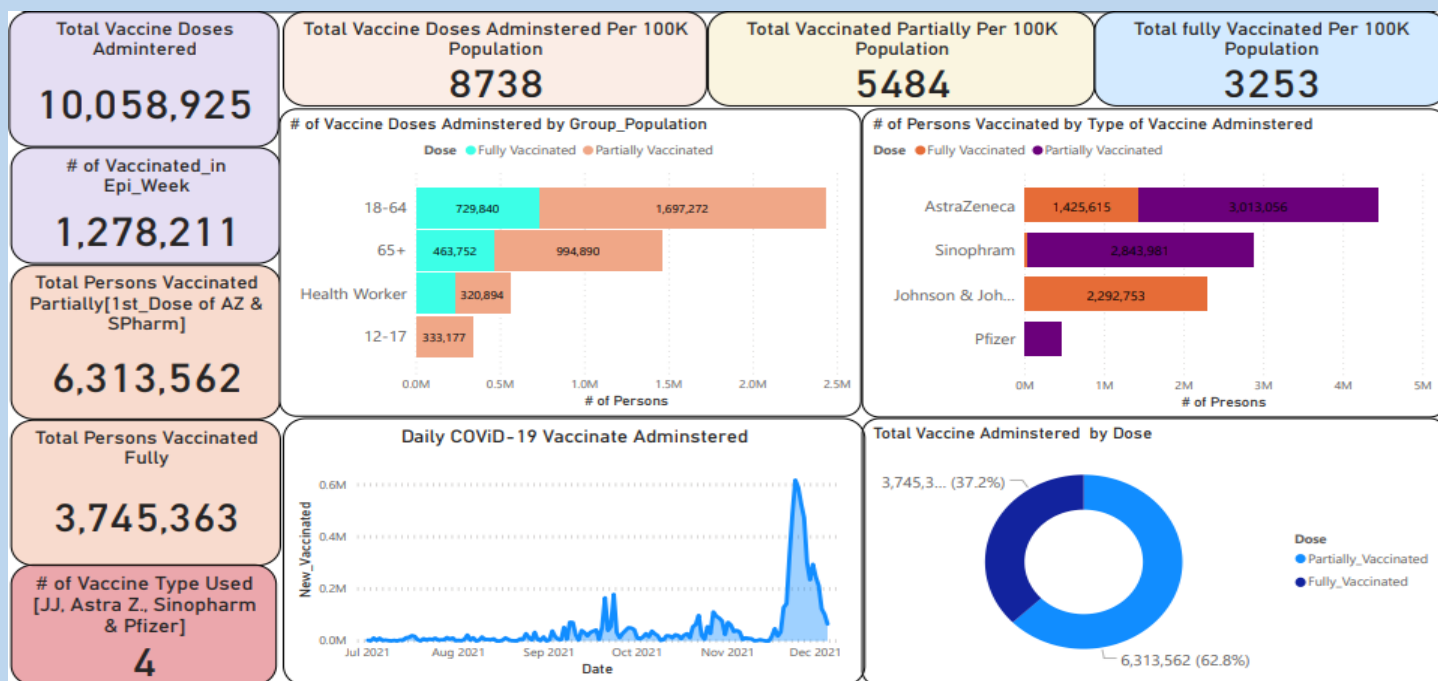


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of December 05, 2021

IV. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

a. Global Situation

- Globally, both the number of weekly COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths have increased.
- Over 7.8 million new cases and over 121,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 29 November – 05 December 2021. Increment in the number is equivalent to the previous week while the number of deaths in this week increased by 3% as compared to the previous week.
- As of December 05, 2021, a total of 254,256,363 COVID-19 cases and 4,961,551 deaths (CFR=1.95%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 7,840,235 cases and 121,164 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-48.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (1,707,523 new cases), Germany (520,860 new cases), The United Kingdom (422,485 new cases), The Russian Federation (411,227 new cases) and France (363,958 new cases).
- In Africa, as of December 05, 2021, a total of 8,634,671 cases and 218,245 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.53%). Of these, 198,183 cases (34% increase compared to the previous week) and 3,037 deaths (11% increase compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-48.
- In Africa, the highest number of confirmed cases are reported from South Africa followed by Morocco.
- Ethiopia reported the highest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in East Africa.

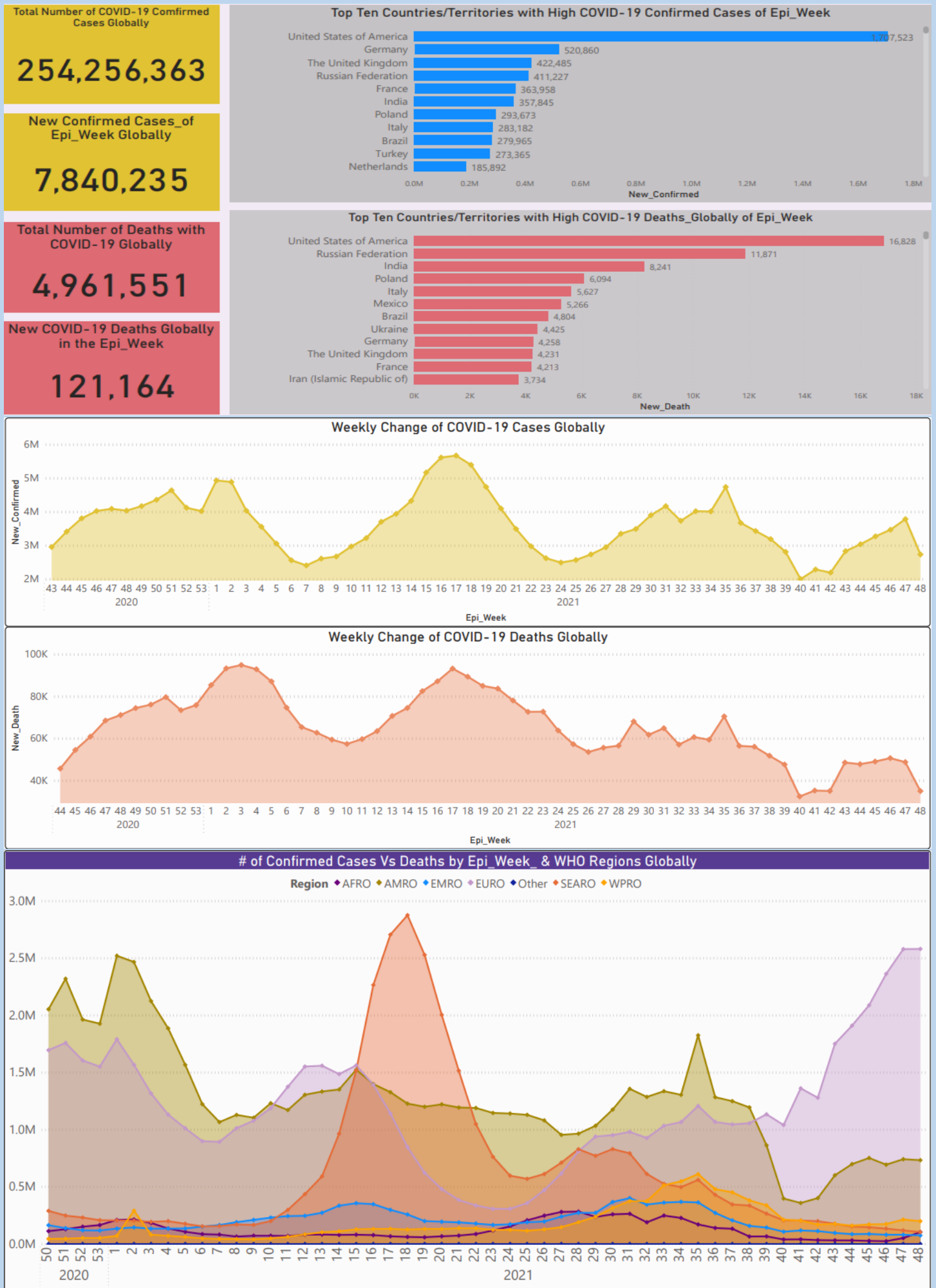


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of December 05, 2021 (Source: WHO)

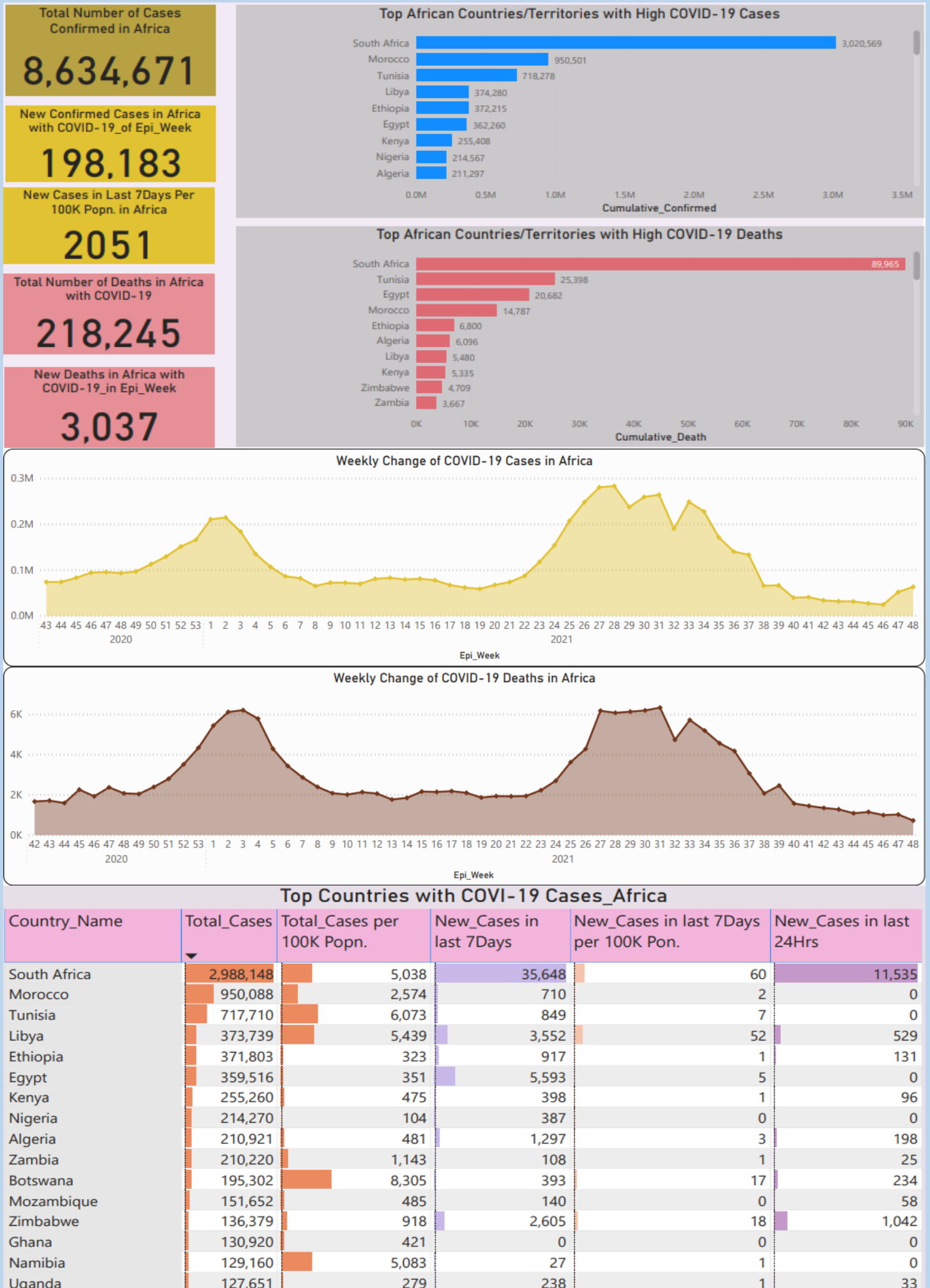


Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of December 05, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of December 05, 2021, a total of 372,215 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,800 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.83%.
- Nine-hundred-fifty-three (953) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 60 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-48.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last eleven consecutive weeks the number of deaths due to COVID-19 has shown slight increment after a decrease for eight consecutive weeks. In this week, there is 31% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and slight 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-48 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	24069	539	121	20	2.1
Oromia	5207	108	57	18	2.1
SNNPR	3555	90	16	8	2.7
Dire Dawa	1509	53	7	1	4.1
Sidama	1176	17	0	0	1.3
Afar	741	2	0	0	0.3
Amhara	555	84	50	9	15.6
Harari	537	33	10	4	6.3
Somali	447	7	0	0	1.6
Benishangul G	426	17	1	0	4.3
Gambella	167	3	0	0	2.8
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
Total	38389	953	262	60	3.9

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

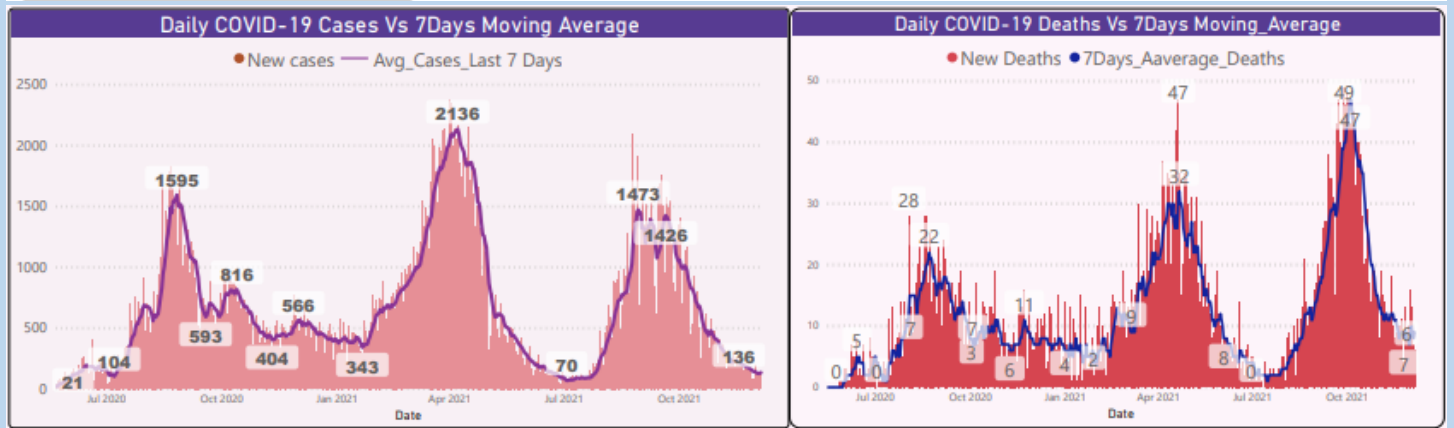
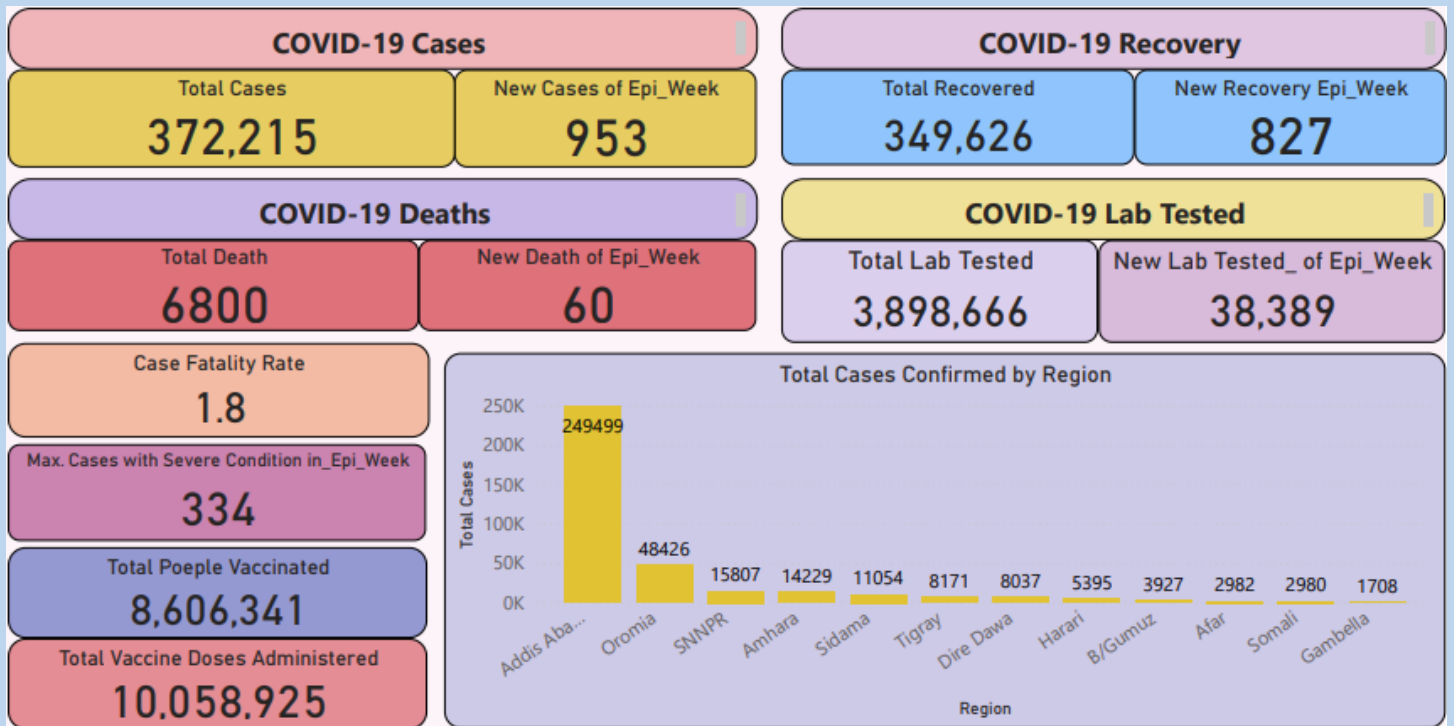


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of December 05, 2021, Ethiopia

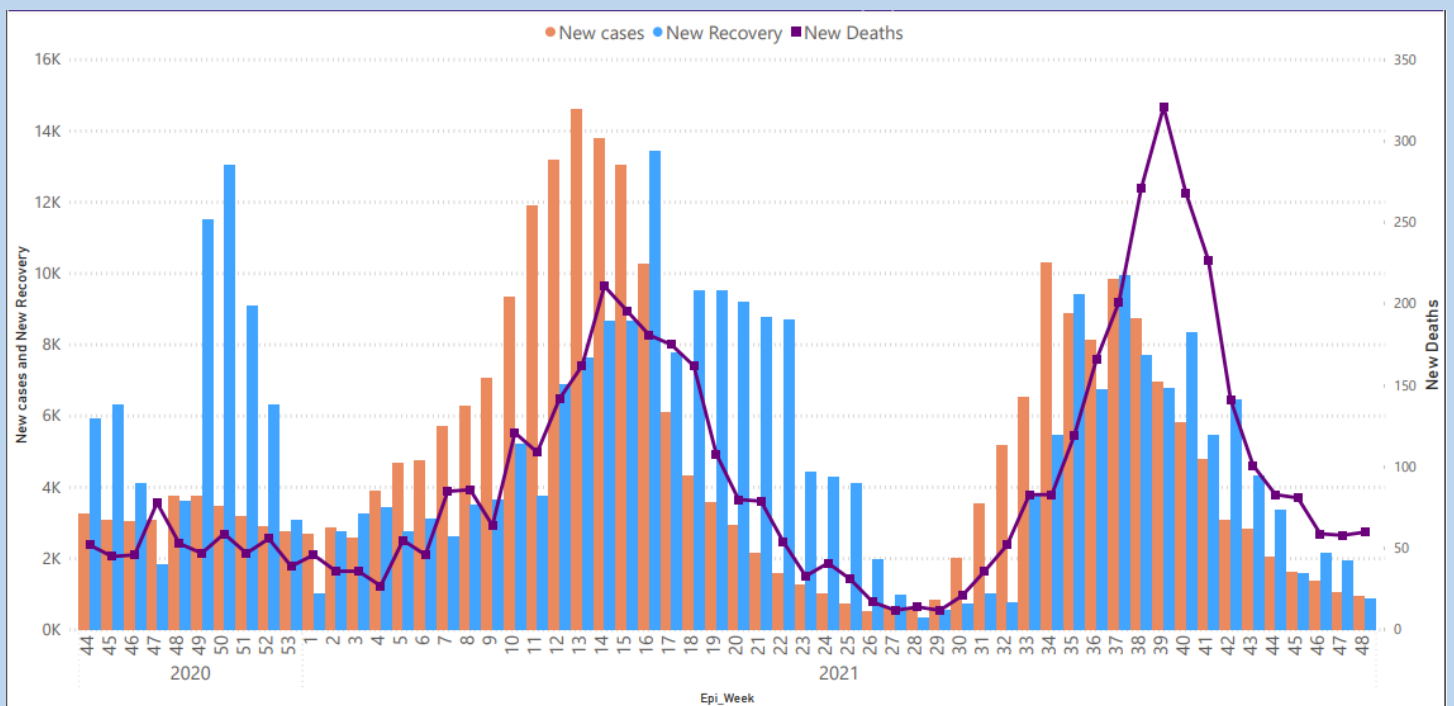


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of December 05, 2021, Ethiopia

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.

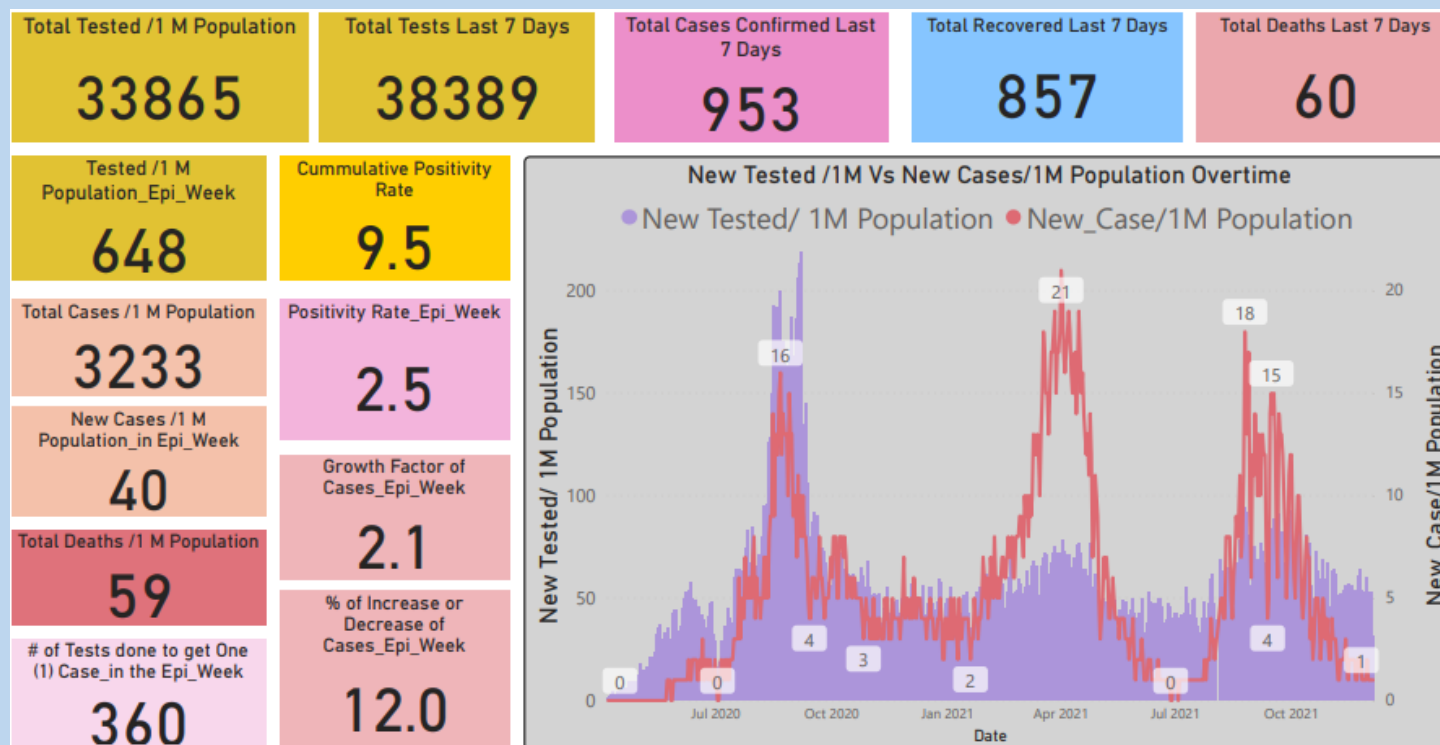


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of December 05, 2021.

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 December 05, 2021:
 - 393,036 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 17,140 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

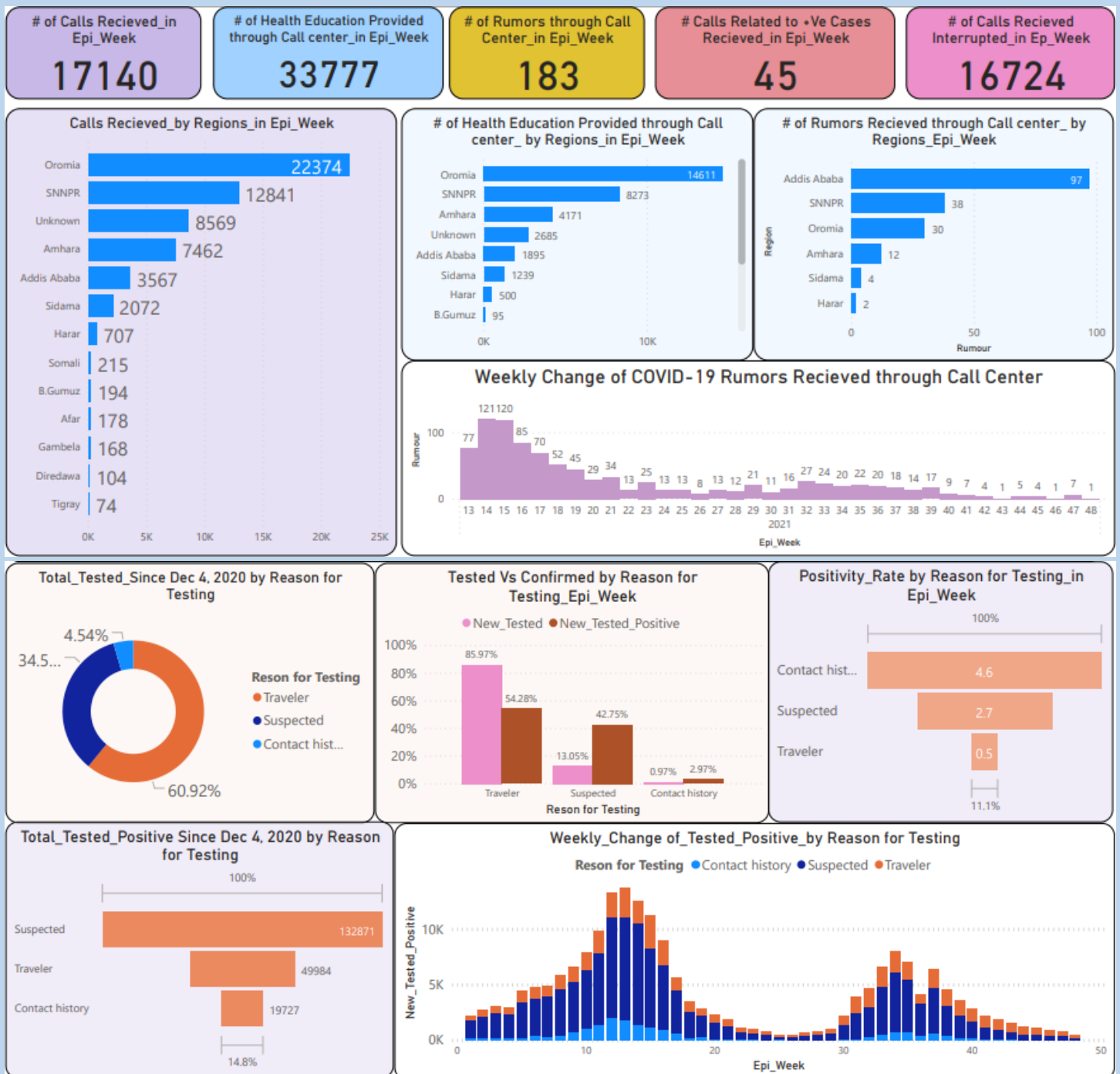


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as December 05, 2021, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,965,098 passengers have been screened at the Point of Entries of Ethiopia and 881,146 (30%) of them were screened at Bole International Airport.
- Of the total passengers screened, 8,825 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-48.
- As of December 05, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 60 (none in Epi-week-48) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 95 (none in week-48) 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-48) are conducted among which 97 positive cases (none in week-48) are detected as of December 05, 2021.
- A total of 73,852 returnees were received through Bole International Airport since April 28, 2021. A total of 27 returnees were received in the Epi-week-48. The returnees are admitted to Wosen, Kotebe, Gurdsholla, Megenagna, Kirkos, Nifasilk Lafto, Gerji and Entoto returnee centers. 72,576 (98%) returnees are discharged and there are 1,276 returnees currently in returnees' centers as of December 05, 2021.

V. Laboratory related activities

- As of 05 December 2021, a total of 3,898,666 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 38,389 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-48 which is a 10% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-48 is 2.48%, which is almost equivalent to that of the preceding week (2.49%).
- Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Harari regional states and Dire Dawa city administration 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 522,606 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 7,049 is performed in the Epi-week-48 (figure 8 below).

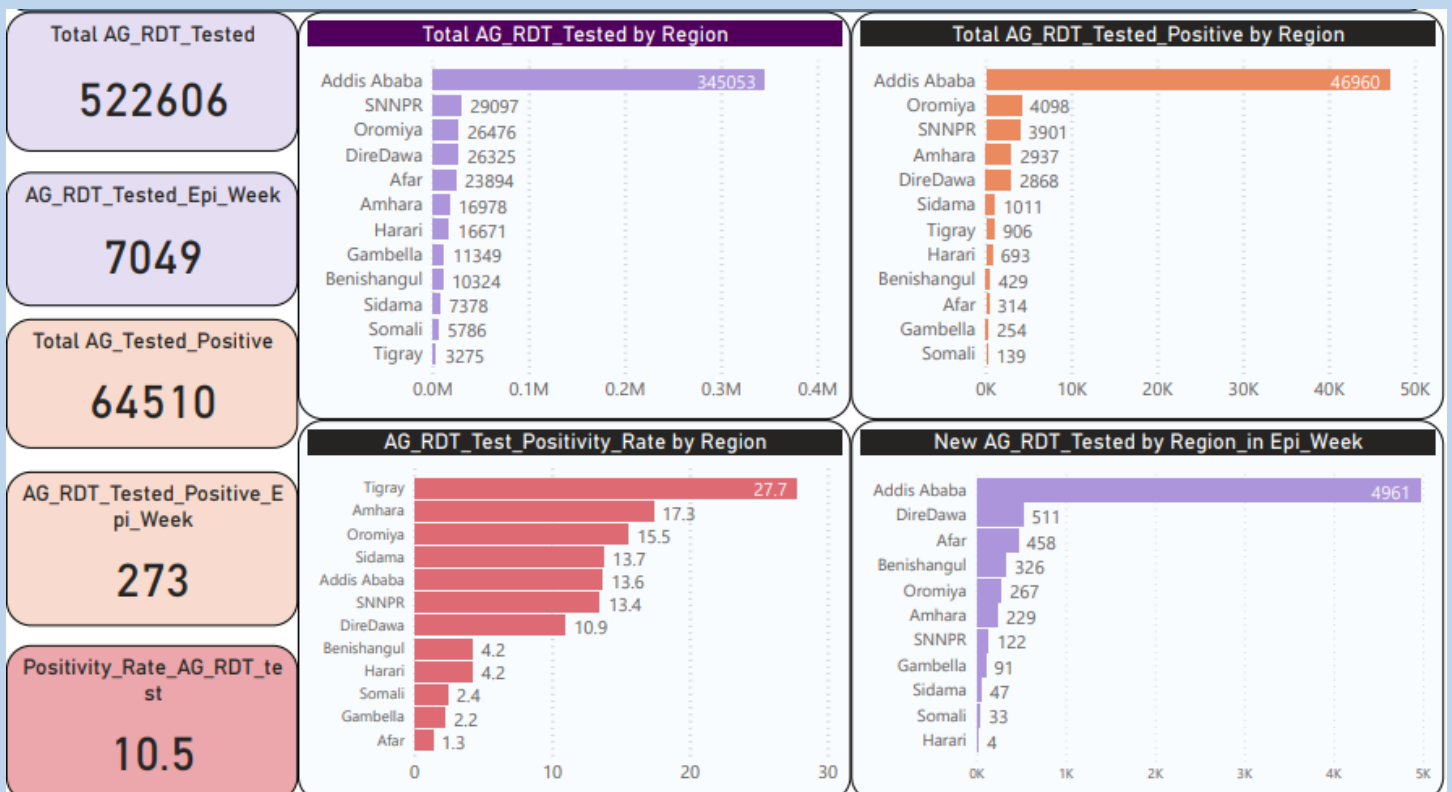
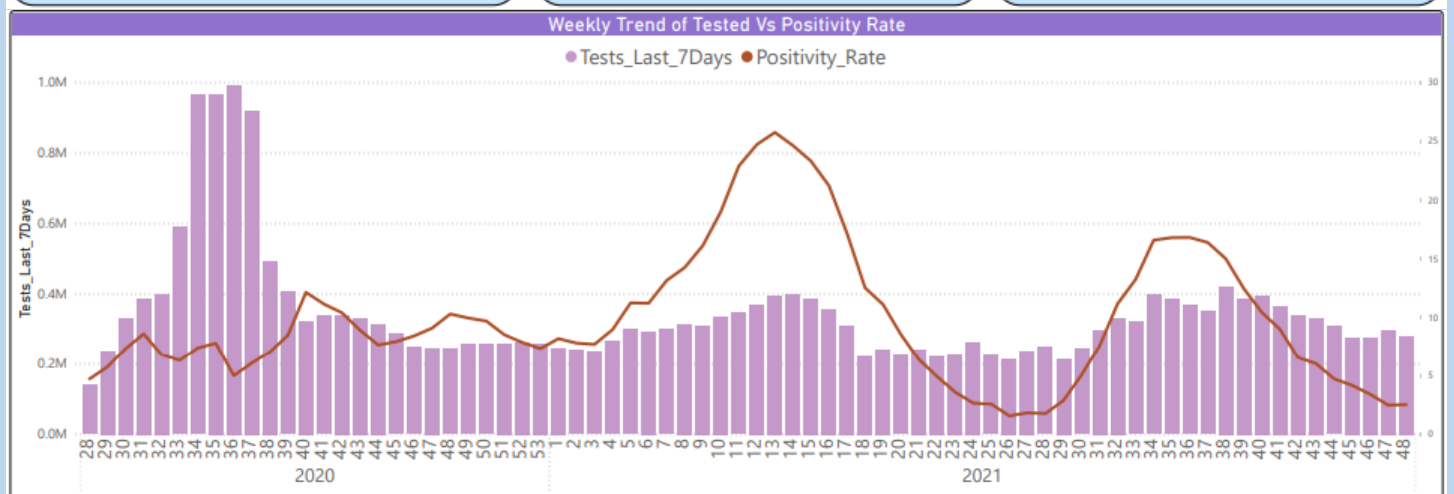
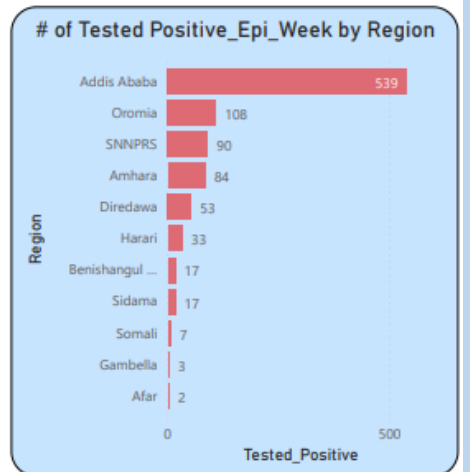
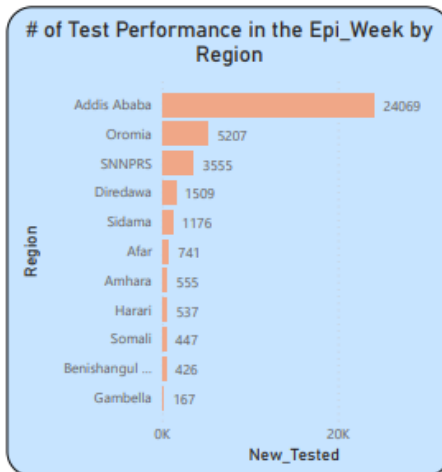
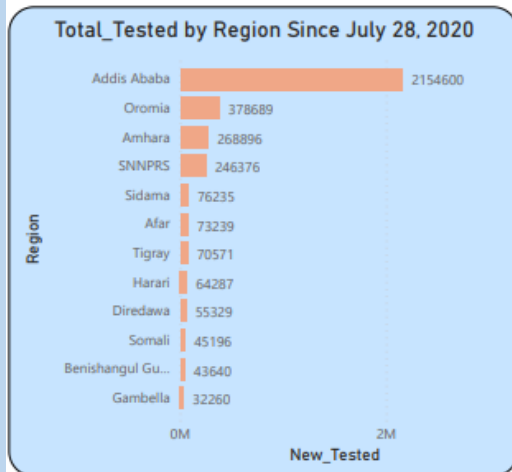
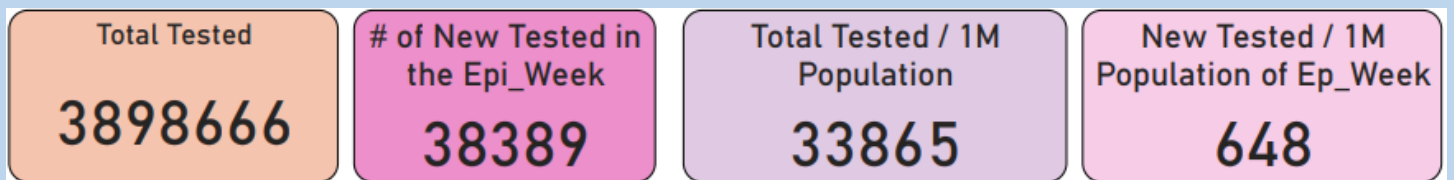


Figure 8: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of December 05, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	24069	539	20	2.3
Oromia	5207	108	18	2.3
SNNPRS	3555	90	8	2.8
Diredawa	1509	53	1	4.0
Sidama	1176	17	0	1.4
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Tigray	0	0	0	
Total	38389	953	60	3.9

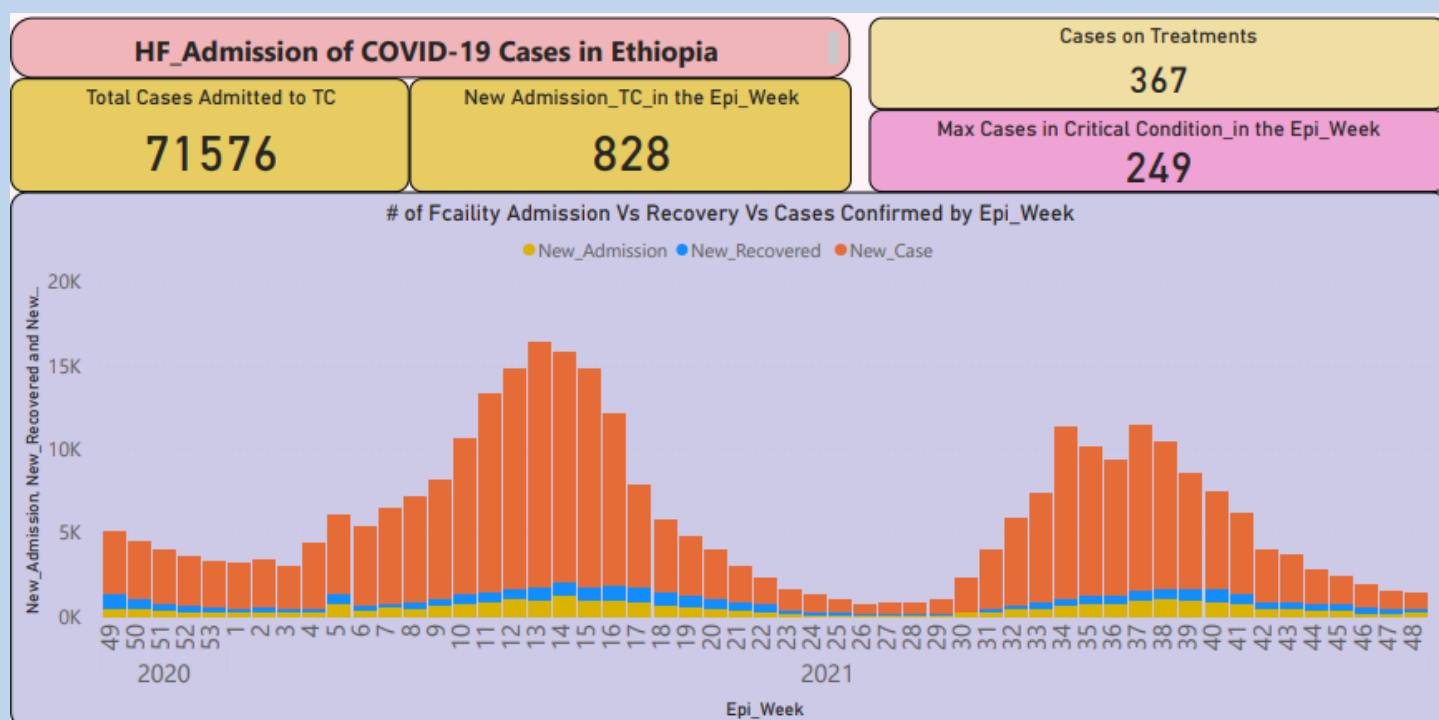
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of December 05, 2021, Ethiopia.

VI. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 827 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-48, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 349,626 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 94%.
- On December 05, 2021, there are 334 cases in severe condition which is higher than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (233).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of December 05, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of December 05, 2021

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	747463	169	108822	28	11149	92373	427	282
Oromia	145065	15	28413	13	2858	25161	388	165
SNNPR	47245	33	15514	2	763	14836	26	7
Amhara	42535	49	16034	11	1252	14645	129	86
Sidama	33136	9	11091	0	669	10217	13	11
Tigray	24513	0	15870	0	177	15672	0	0
Dire Dawa	24007	4	4346	2	391	3904	51	27
Harari	16123	9	4256	4	544	3664	36	36
Benishangul G	11750	6	3046	0	87	2944	21	0
Afar	8942	0	2478	0	15	2436	0	0
Somali	8926	0	2310	0	288	1914	99	57
Gambella	5118	0	2046	0	24	2022	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 286,859 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 286,045 (99.72%) have recovered and 47 (0.016%) died.
- Of these, 409 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 576 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-48.
- As of December 05, 2021, there are 2,104 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,546 (none in the Epi-week-48) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,131 (144 in the Epi-week-48) 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.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 11: COVID-19 situation update as of November 28, 2021 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

- Emergence of new variant of COVID-19 globally and high risk it poses in different perspectives including health and socio economic aspects.
- Competing priority of the leadership related to the current war in the country.
- 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 surveillance including genomic surveillances
- Enhancing 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.

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.
- 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	https://www.eph.gov.et/	8335/952	ephieoc@gmail.com
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	https://covid19.eph.gov.et/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/ephipa ge/		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	https://twitter.com/EPHIethiopia		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	https://t.me/EthPHI		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvvTzeY-IJiQfEFBULH9Mkw		
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Website	www.moh.gov.et	952	
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/EthiopiaFMoH/		
Afar Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/afarrhb.org/	6220	afarpheoc@gmail.com
Amhara Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Amhara-Healthbureau-682065755146948/	6981	aphieoc@gmail.com
Benishangul Gumuz Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-1676282159265517/	6016	bgpheoc@gmail.com
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau	6184	gambellapheoc@gmail.com
Harari Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/	6864	hrhbpheoc@gmail.com
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/	6955	oromiapheoc@gmail.com

Somali Bureau	Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/srhbdot.com/...	6599	somalipheoc@gmail.com
SNNP Bureau	Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs	6929	snnppheoc@gmail.com
Tigray Bureau	Regional Health	https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrh/b/	6244	tigraypheoc@gmail.com
Sidama PHEM				sidamapheoc@gmail.com
Dire Dawa city Administration Health Bureau		https://www.facebook.com/Dire-Dawa-Administration-Health-Bureau-1371606266279524/	6407	ddpheoc@gmail.com
Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau		https://www.facebook.com/aahb.gov.et/	6406	aapheoc@gmail.com

COVID-19 updates and sources of evidence:

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

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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

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