



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

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

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 49 (December 06 – 12, 2021)

BULLETIN No. 85

## I. HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 34,121 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-49 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,932,787.
- A total of 900 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 29 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-49 bringing the total cases and death to 373,115 and 6,829 respectively.
- On December 12, 2021, there are 331 cases in severe condition which is a bit lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (334).
- A total of 287,220 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 361 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-49.
- The number of confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19 have shown decrement in this week.

## II. Subject of focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern<sup>1</sup>

- The current global epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 is characterized by a predominance of the Delta variant, declining trend in the proportion of Alpha, Beta and Gamma, and the emergence of Omicron variant; however, regional and country-level variations continue to be observed.
- Of 879 779 sequences processed by WHO with specimens collected in the last 60 days, 872 876 (99.2%) were Delta, 3 755 (0.4%) were Omicron, 206 (<0.1%) Alpha, 179 (<0.1%) Gamma, 16 (<0.1%) Beta, and <0.1% comprised other circulating variants (including VOIs Mu and Lambda).
- This week, for the first time since Delta was classified as a VOC in April 2021, the percentage of Delta sequences has declined in respect to other VOCs.
- While most of the Omicron cases identified in November 2021 were travel-related, community transmission with associated clusters has now been reported in several countries.
- In this week, the Omicron variant has been confirmed in 76 countries.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---14-december-2021>

### III. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,429,727 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 370,802 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 3,801,041 (36%) people are fully vaccinated.

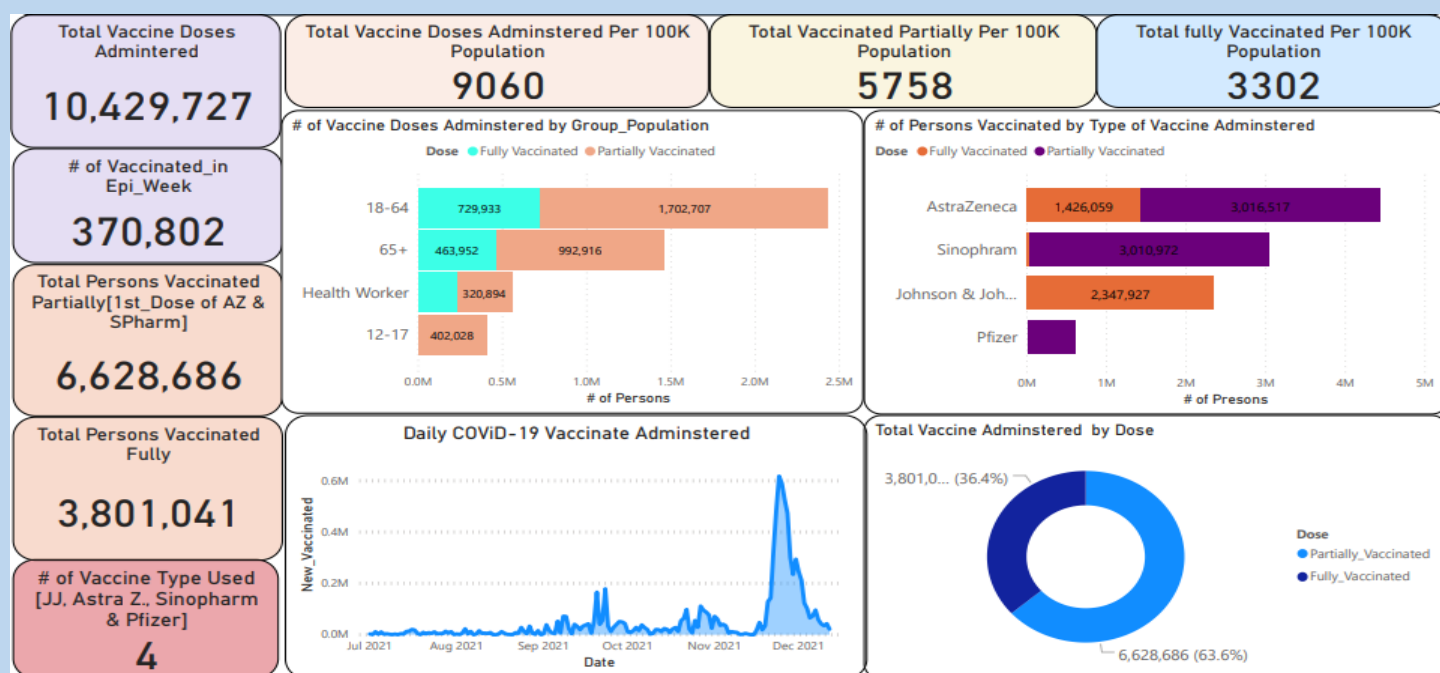


Figure 1: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of December 12, 2021

### IV. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

#### a. Global Situation

- Globally, both the number of weekly COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths have increased.
- Over 8 million new cases and over 121,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 06 – 12 December 2021. The number of confirmed cases in this week increased by 3% as compared to the previous week while increment in the number of deaths is almost equivalent to the previous week.
- As of December 12, 2021, a total of 258,152,594 COVID-19 cases and 5,008,204 deaths (CFR=1.94%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 8,071,229 cases and 121,171 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-49.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (1,922,014 new cases), Germany (480,360 new cases), The United Kingdom (451,139 new cases), France (408,061 new cases) and The Russian Federation (406,737 new cases).
- In Africa, as of December 12, 2021, a total of 8,813,184 cases and 219,132 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.49%). Of these, 275,682 cases (39% increase compared to the previous week) and 2,933 deaths (3% decrease compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-49.
- 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.

Total Number of COVID-19 Confirmed Cases Globally

**258,152,594**

New Confirmed Cases\_of Epi\_Week Globally

**8,071,229**

Total Number of Deaths with COVID-19 Globally

**5,008,204**

New COVID-19 Deaths Globally in the Epi\_Week

**121,171**

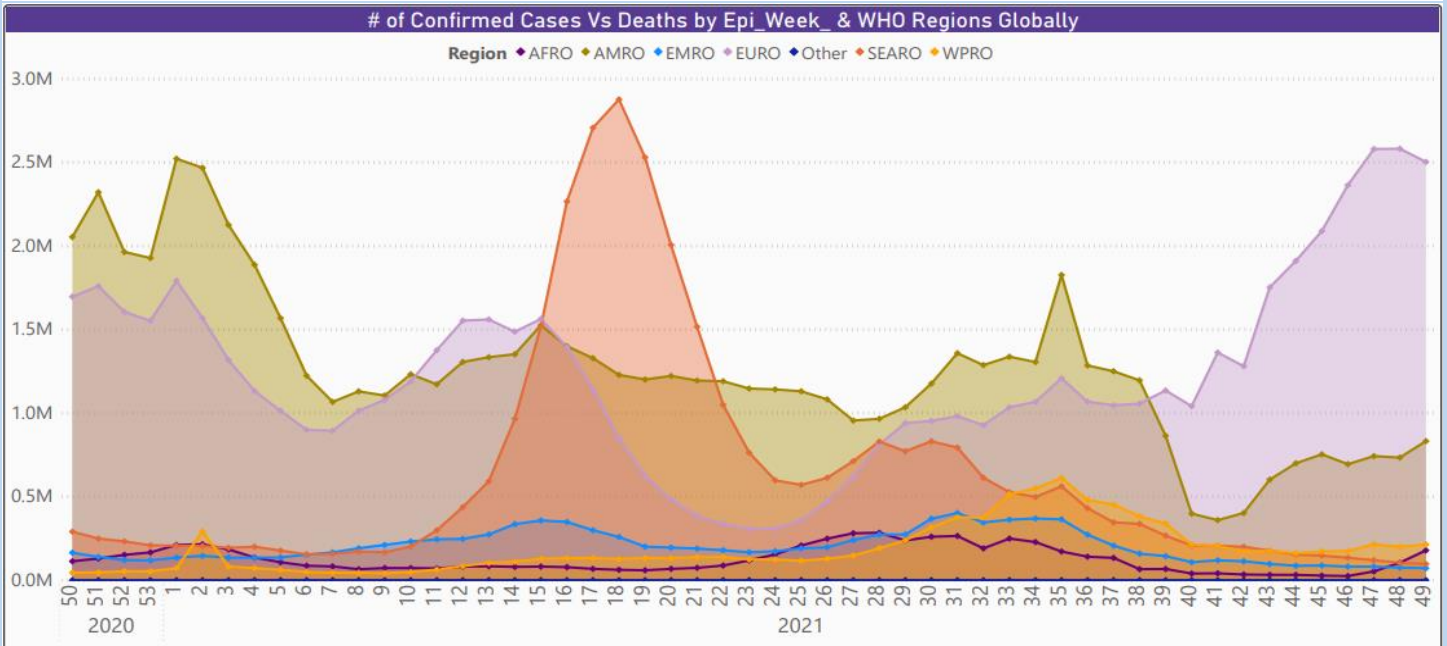
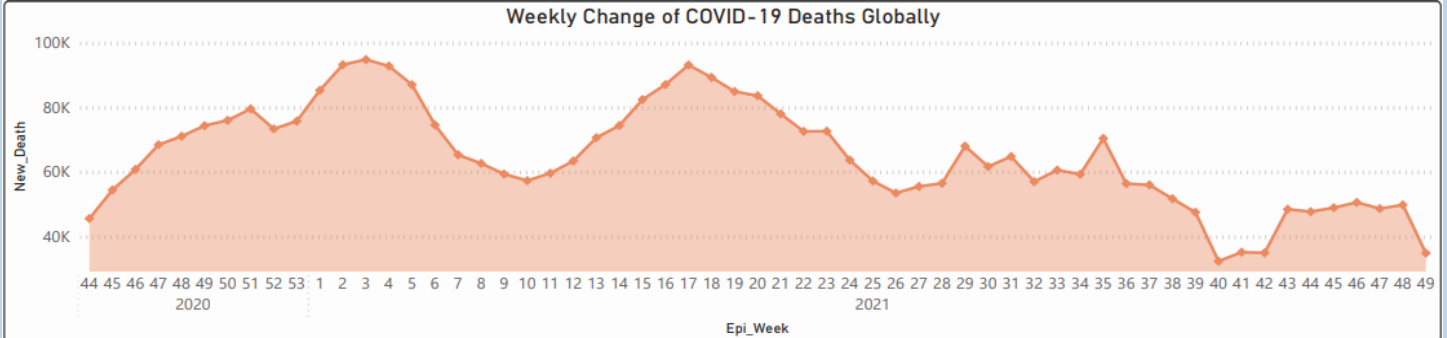
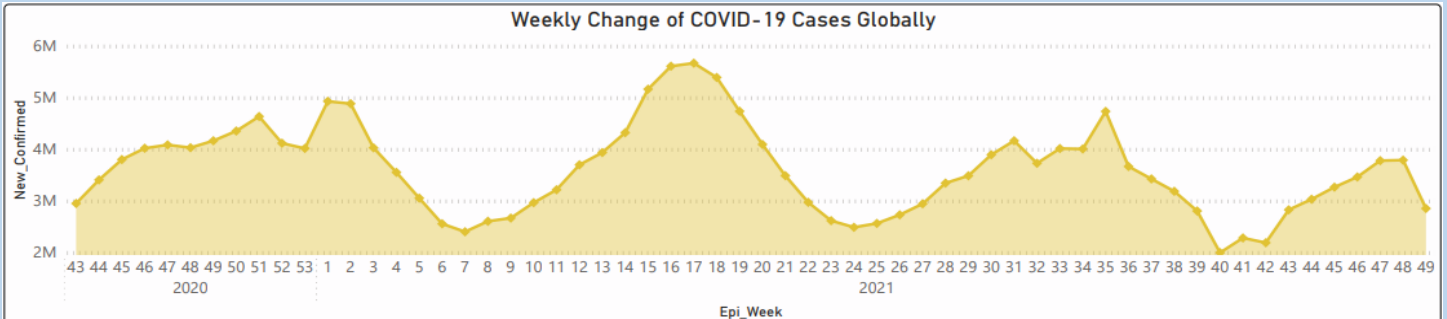
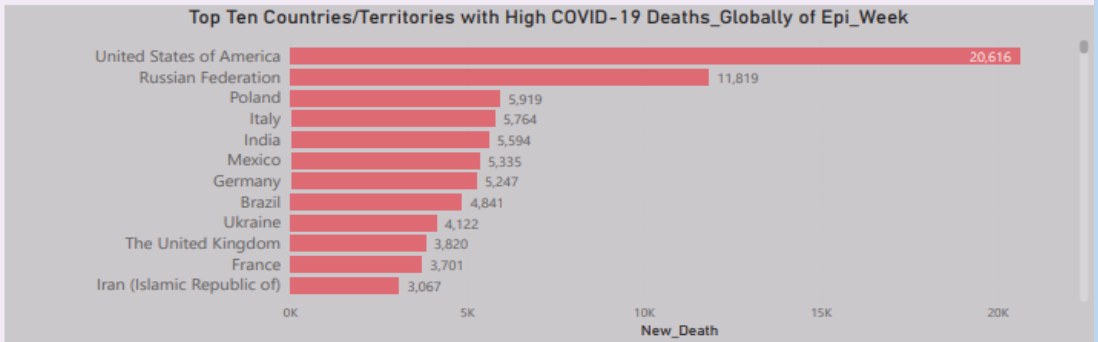
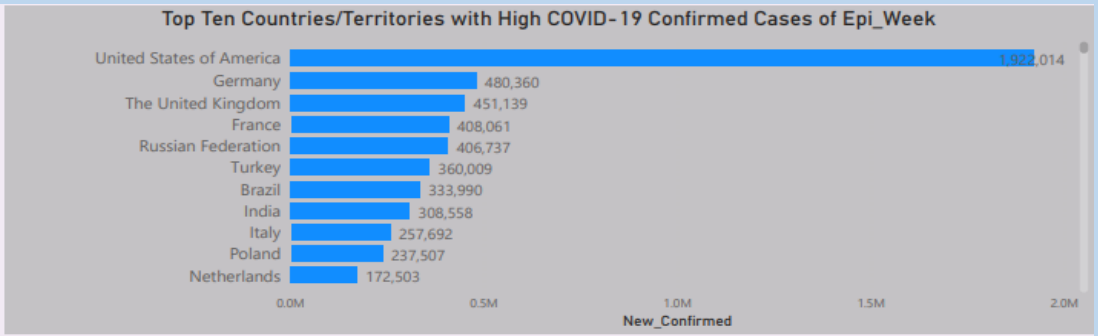
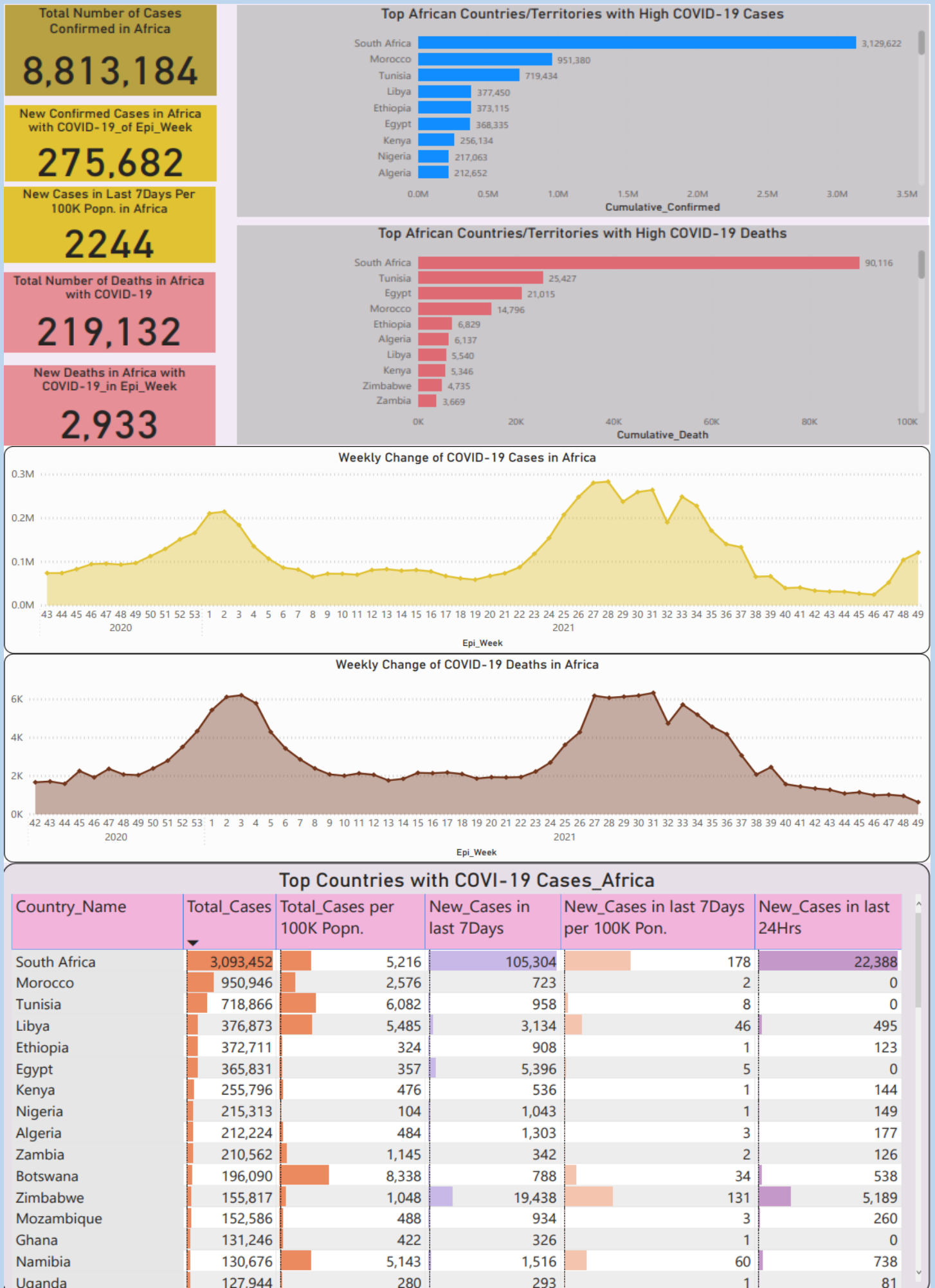


Figure 2: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of December 12, 2021 (Source: WHO)



**Figure 3: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of December 12, 2021 (Source: WHO)**

## b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of December 12, 2021, a total of 373,115 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,829 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.83%.
- Nine-hundred (900) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 29 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-49.
- There is decrease in the number of cases for the last twelve consecutive weeks and the number of deaths due to COVID-19. In this week, there is 6% decrease in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 50% decrease 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-49 of 2021**

Regions	New_Testeds	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	19541	578	51	13	2.9
Oromia	5702	126	41	5	2.0
SNNPR	3847	60	4	3	1.7
Dire Dawa	1132	12	2	1	0.7
Afar	830	2	0	0	0.4
Harari	785	17	3	0	3.1
Sidama	702	9	3	1	2.7
Benishangul G	490	11	2	1	2.8
Somali	473	9	0	0	1.8
Amhara	426	76	30	4	14.1
Gambella	193	0	0	0	0.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>34121</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3.0</b>

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

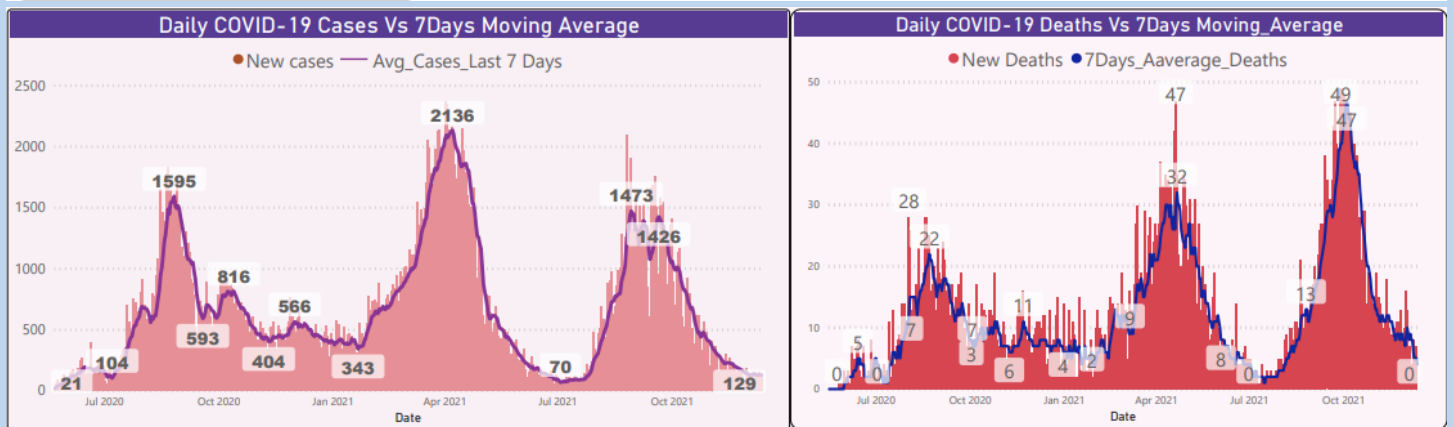
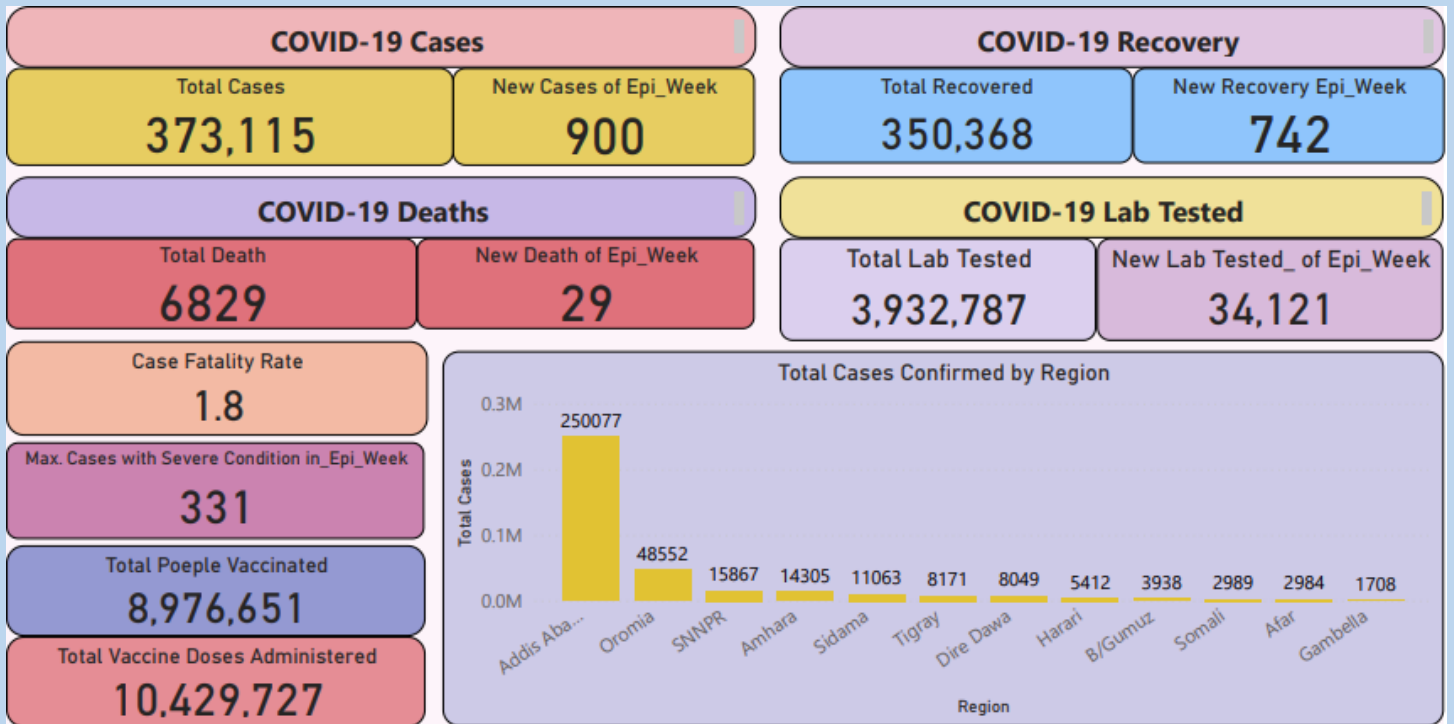


Figure 4: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of December 05, 2021, Ethiopia

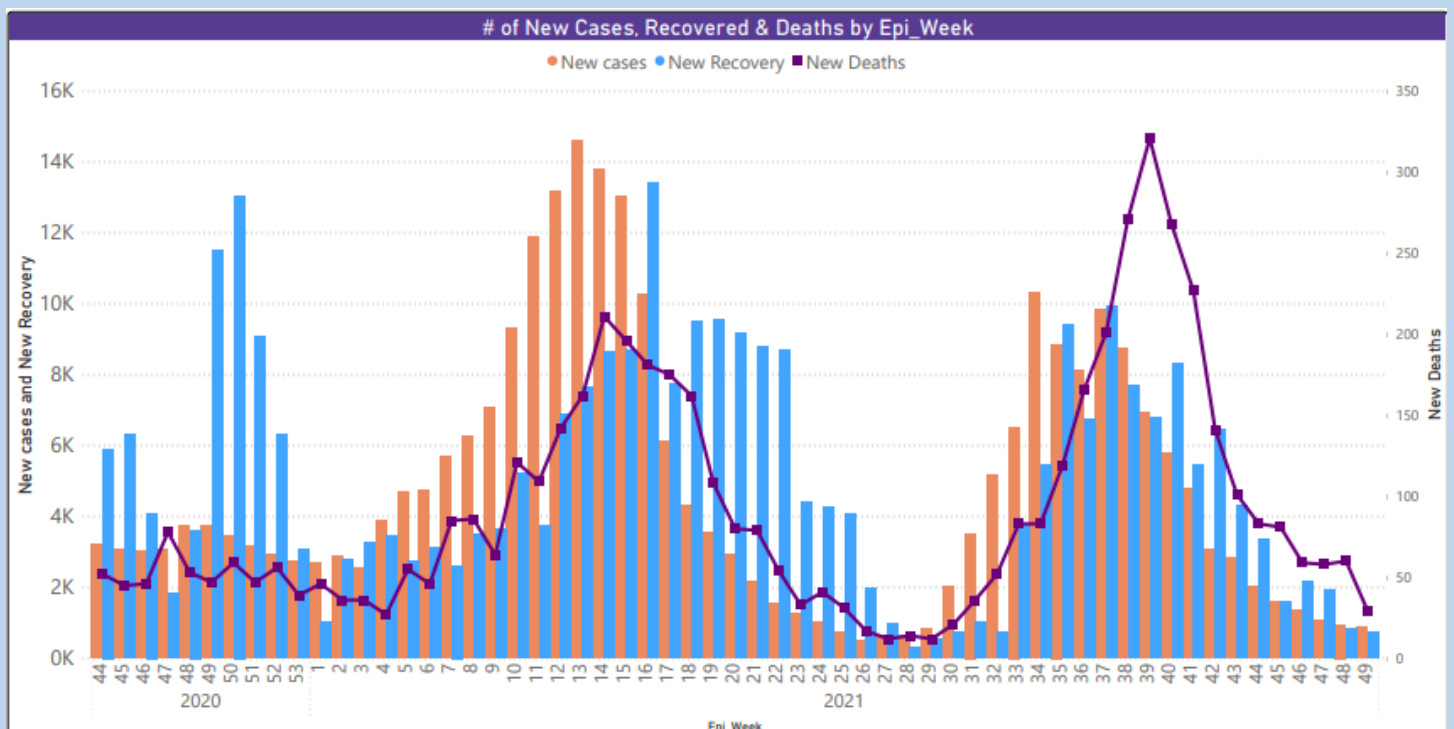


Figure 5: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of December 12, 2021, Ethiopia

### 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.

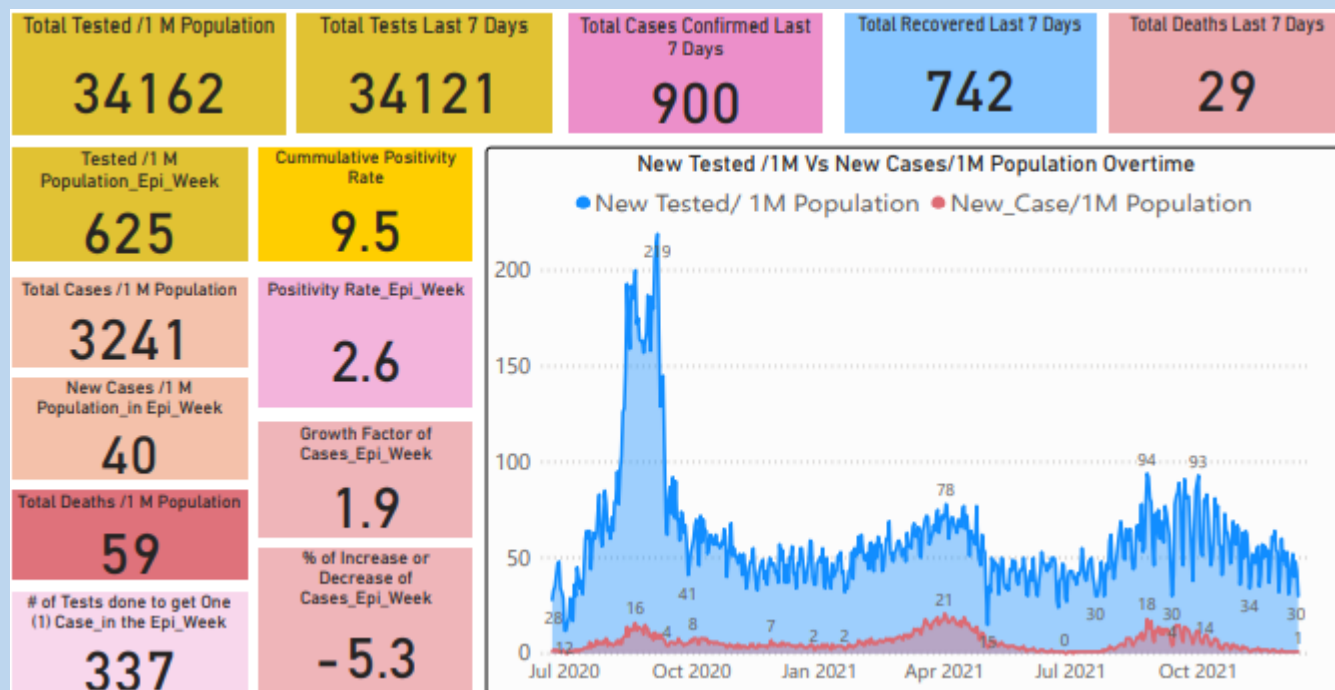


Figure 6: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of December 12, 2021.

#### 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 12, 2021:
  - 393,041 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
  - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 15,873 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

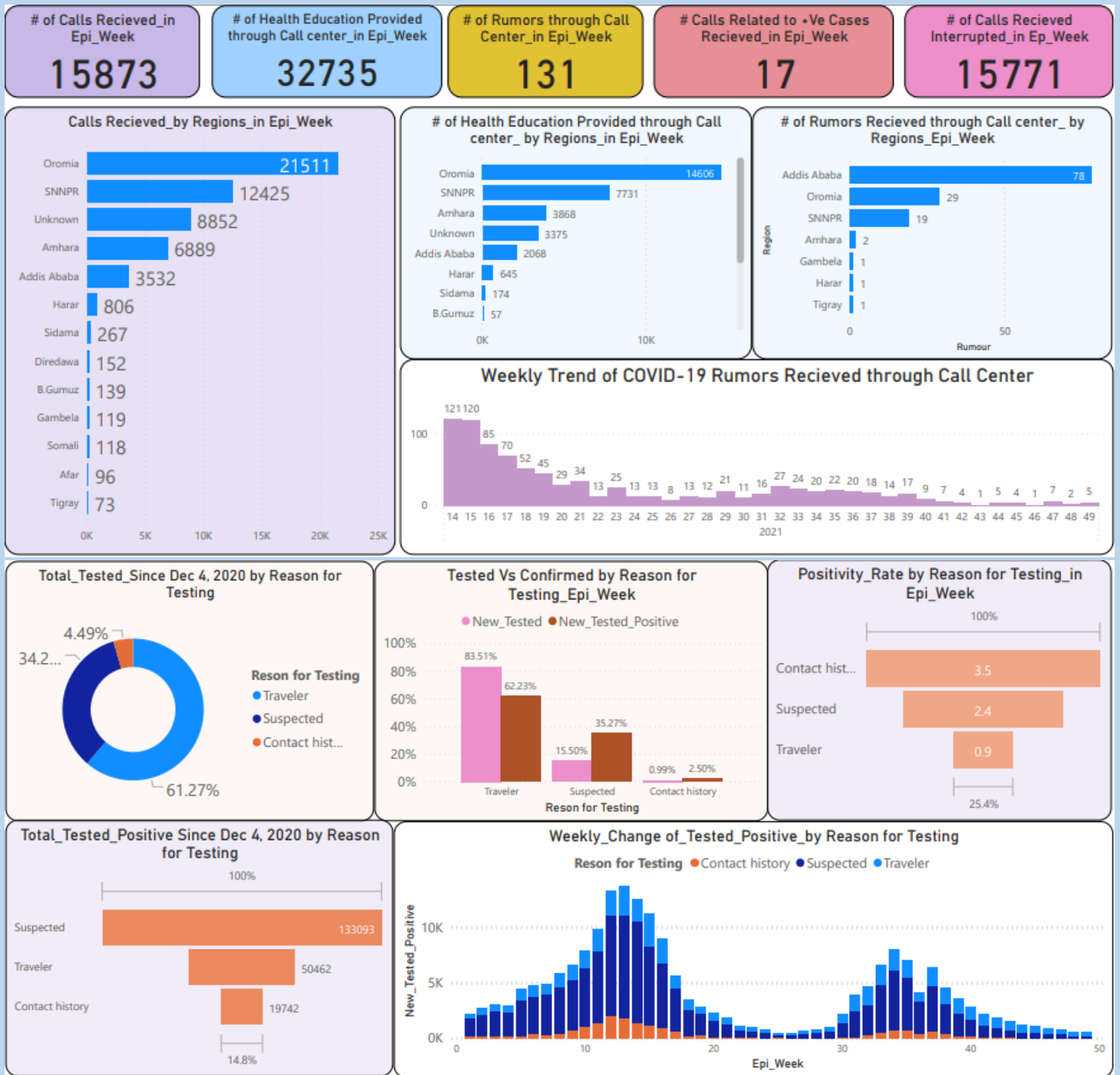


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as December 12, 2021, Ethiopia.

ii. Point of entry and Quarantine related activities

- Since the start of the outbreak, 2,974,848 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, 9,750 were screened for COVID-19 in the Epi-Week-49.
- As of December 12, 2021, among the passengers coming with COVID-19 PCR test result certificates 60 (none in Epi-week-49) passengers with PCR positive certificates were identified during health screening. A total of 95 (none in week-49) SARS-COV-2 positive cases have been detected by RT-PCR after arrival laboratory test.



- 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-49. 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 12 December 2021, a total of 3,932,787 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 34,121 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-49 which is an 11% decrease compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-49 is 2.64%, which is a bit higher than that of the preceding week (2.48%).
- Amhara and Harari regional states and Addis Ababa 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 538,192 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 7,231 is performed in the Epi-week-49 (figure 8 below).

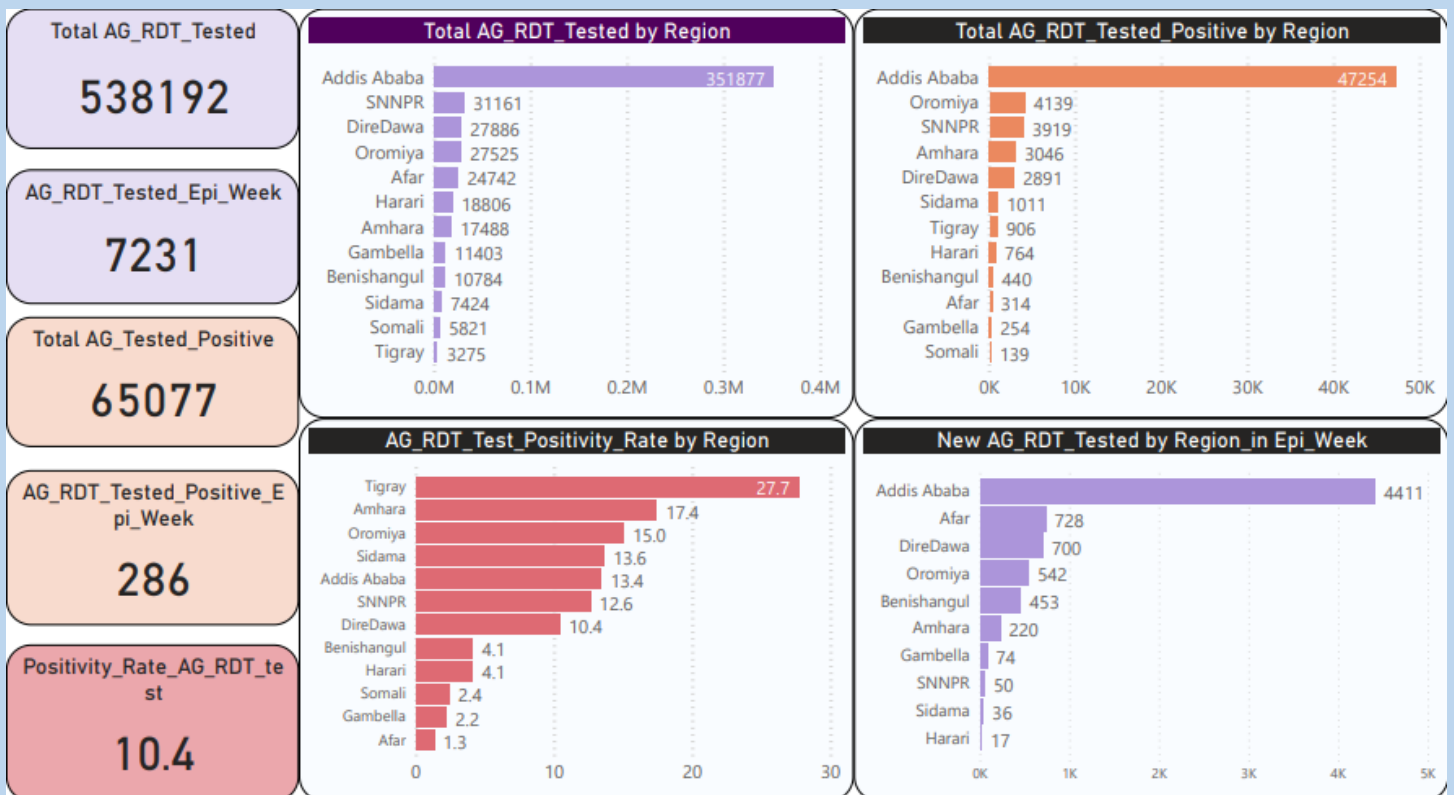
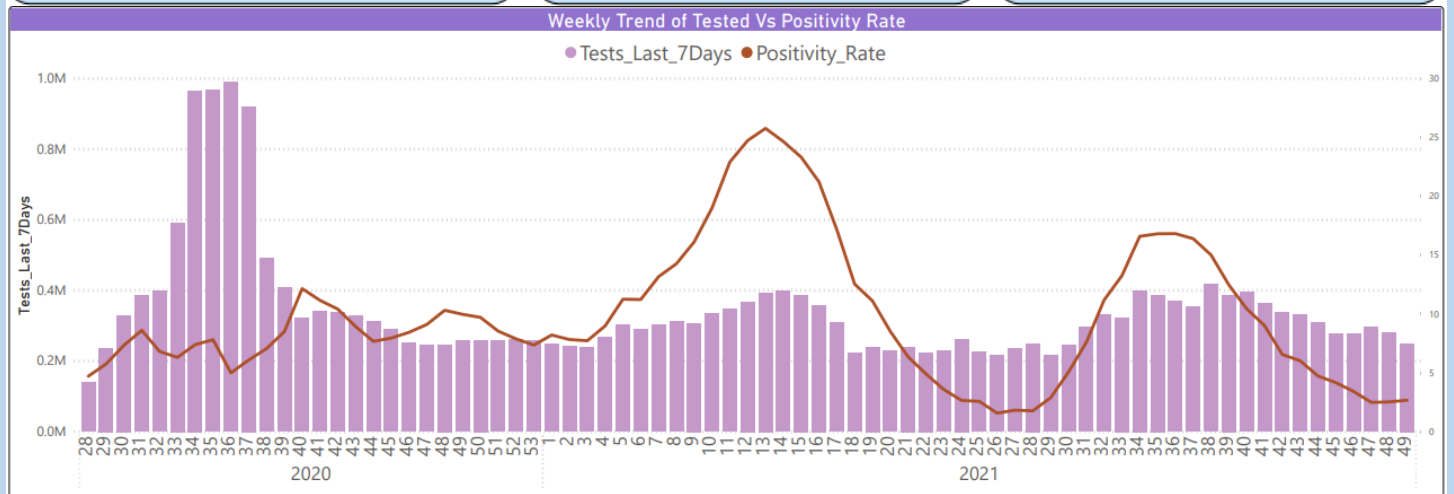
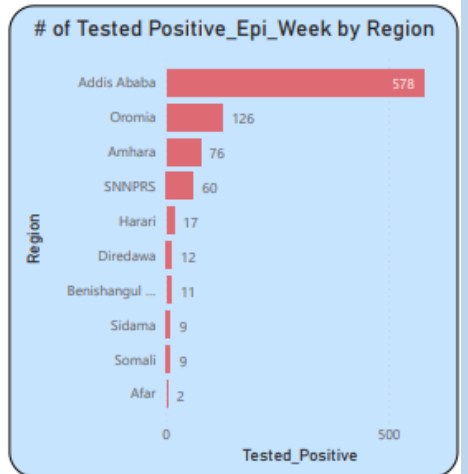
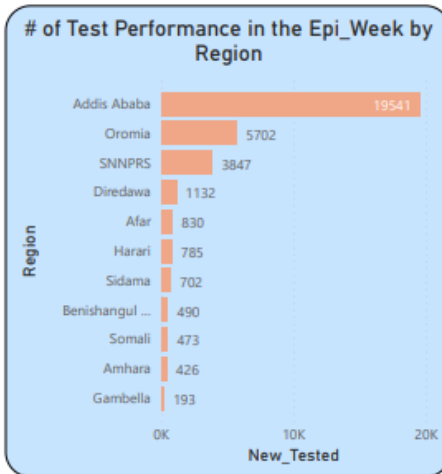
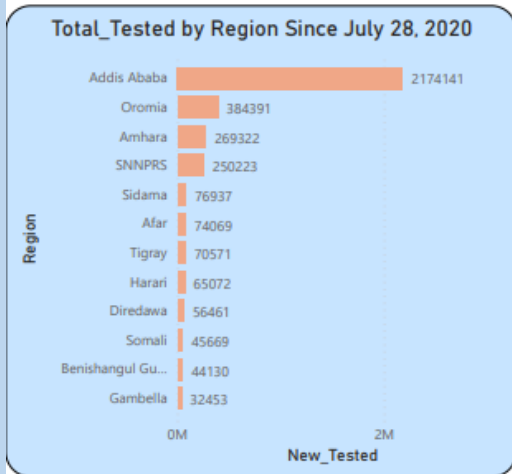
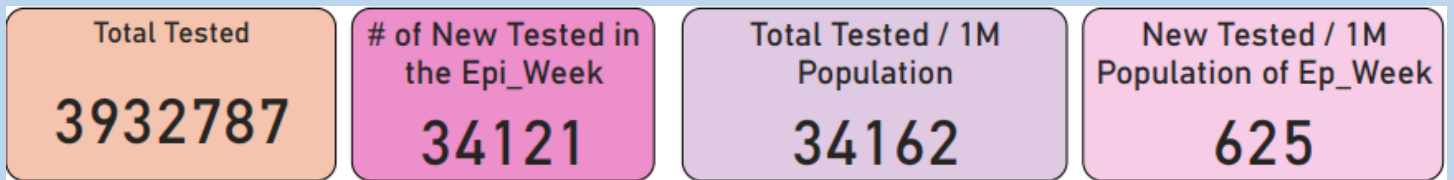


Figure 8: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of December 12, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	19541	578	14	3.0
Oromia	5702	126	5	2.2
SNNPRS	3847	60	3	1.7
Diredawa	1132	12	1	0.8
Afar	830	2	0	0.4
Harari	785	17	0	3.2
Sidama	702	9	1	2.6
Benishangul Gumuz	490	11	1	2.7
Somali	473	9	0	1.4
Amhara	426	76	4	14.2
Gambella	193	0	0	0.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34121</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2.9</b>

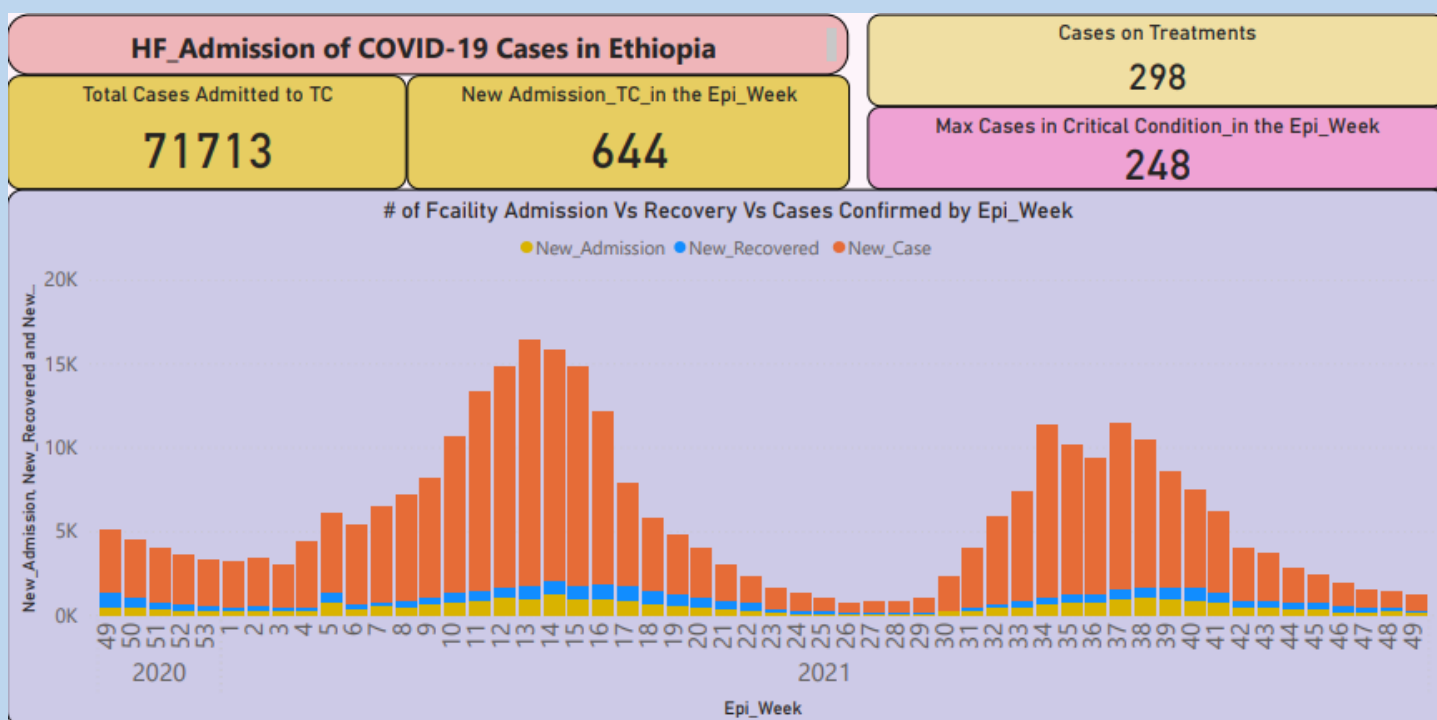
\*\*\*\*\* Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

**Figure 9: Summary of COVID-19 laboratory testing as of December 12, 2021, Ethiopia.**

## VI. Case Management and Facility Readiness

### a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 742 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-49, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 350,368 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 94%.
- On December 12, 2021, there are 331 cases in severe condition which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (334).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

**Figure 10: Summary of COVID-19 cases in Health Facilities/Treatment centers, as of December 12, 2021.**

**Table 2: Summary of COVID-19 cases at treatment centers as of December 12, 2021**

Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	748041	204	108873	30	11162	92432	405	261
Oromia	145191	12	28454	7	2863	25209	376	159
SNNPR	47305	12	15519	1	766	14836	28	6
Amhara	42611	25	16064	11	1256	14686	112	71
Sidama	33145	10	11094	0	670	10218	14	12
Tigray	24513	0	15870	0	177	15672	0	0
Dire Dawa	24019	4	4348	1	392	3909	47	26
Harari	16140	8	4259	2	544	3668	35	35
Benishangul G	11761	7	3048	0	88	2945	21	1
Afar	8944	2	2478	0	15	2436	0	0
Somali	8935	0	2310	0	288	1930	83	48
Gambella	5118	0	2046	0	24	2022	0	0

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

- So far, 287,220 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 286,612 (99.79%) have recovered and 48 (0.017%) died.
- Of these, 361 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 567 cases have recovered and one case died in the Epi-Week-49.
- As of December 12, 2021, there are 1,679 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,546 (none in the Epi-week-49) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,275 (144 in the Epi-week-49) 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 December 12, 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 the variant of concern
- 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 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**

<b>MOH/EPHI/Region</b>	<b>Facebook page</b>	<b>Toll-free hotline</b>	<b>Email address (PHEOCs email)</b>
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Main Website	<a href="https://www.ephi.gov.et/">https://www.ephi.gov.et/</a>	8335/952	<a href="mailto:ephieoc@gmail.com">ephieoc@gmail.com</a>
Ethiopian Public Health Institute COVID-19 Website	<a href="https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/">https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Facebook Page	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/">https://www.facebook.com/ephipage/</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Twitter Page	<a href="https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia">https://twitter.com/EPHIEthiopia</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute Telegram Channel	<a href="https://t.me/EthPHI">https://t.me/EthPHI</a>		
Ethiopian Public Health Institute YouTube Channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/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-167628215926517/">https://www.facebook.com/Benishangul-Gumuz-Health-Bureau-167628215926517/</a>	6016	<a href="mailto:bgpheoc@gmail.com">bgpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Gambela Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau">https://fb.me/gambellaregionhealthbureau</a>	6184	<a href="mailto:gambellapheoc@gmail.com">gambellapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Harari Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/">https://www.facebook.com/Harari-Regional-Health-Bureau-1464182130355007/</a>	6864	<a href="mailto:hrhbpheoc@gmail.com">hrhbpheoc@gmail.com</a>
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/">https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/</a>	6955	<a href="mailto:oromiapheoc@gmail.com">oromiapheoc@gmail.com</a>
Somali Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/">https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...</a>	6599	<a href="mailto:somalipheoc@gmail.com">somalipheoc@gmail.com</a>

SNNP Regional Health Bureau	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs">https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs</a>	6929	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> Apple- <a href="https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873">https://apps.apple.com/us/app/who-academy/id1506019873</a>

**8335 / 952**



**Call-Centers**  
**FOR MORE INFO and**  
**ALERT NOTIFICATION on**  
**COVID-19**



The above presented Quick Reader (QR) code takes you to a portal that you can access updates and all COVID-19 related information available (<https://covid19.ephi.gov.et/covid-19/>)

**DISCLAIMER**

This weekly bulletin is produced based on figures pulled from official releases of the World Health Organization and activities and reports of all the sections under the Incident management System.

This Weekly Bulletin series of publications is published by the Ethiopian public health Institute (EPHI), public health emergency operation center (PHEOC). The aim of this bulletin is to inform decision makers within the institute and FMOH, UN agencies and NGOs about COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

All interested health and other professionals can get this bulletin at the Institute website; [www.ephi.gov.et](http://www.ephi.gov.et)

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**National COVID-19 Response Incident Management system, Emergency Operation Center**  
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