



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER (PHEOC), ETHIOPIA

COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Epi-Week- 50 (December 13 – 19, 2021)

BULLETIN No. 86

I. Highlights

- The number of confirmed cases, deaths due to COVID-19 and positivity rate have shown increment in this week.
- A total of 42,698 laboratory samples were tested in the Epi-Week-50 bringing the total number of samples tested to 3,975,485.
- A total of 3,260 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 37 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-50 bringing the total cases and death to 376,375 and 6,866 respectively.
- On December 19, 2021, there are 326 cases in severe condition which is a bit lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (331).
- A total of 288,140 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been managed at Home Based Isolation and Care so far; 920 of these were enrolled in the Epi-Week-50.
- Discussion on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy has been held with religious leaders.



Figure 1: Discussion among religious leaders and MOH Leadership regarding COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, Dec. 14, 2021.

II. Vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia

- In Ethiopia, a total of 10,620,502 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (either AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson or Pfizer) are administered so far. Out of these, 190,775 doses are administered in this week. Among the vaccinated individuals 3,865,142 (36%) people are fully vaccinated.

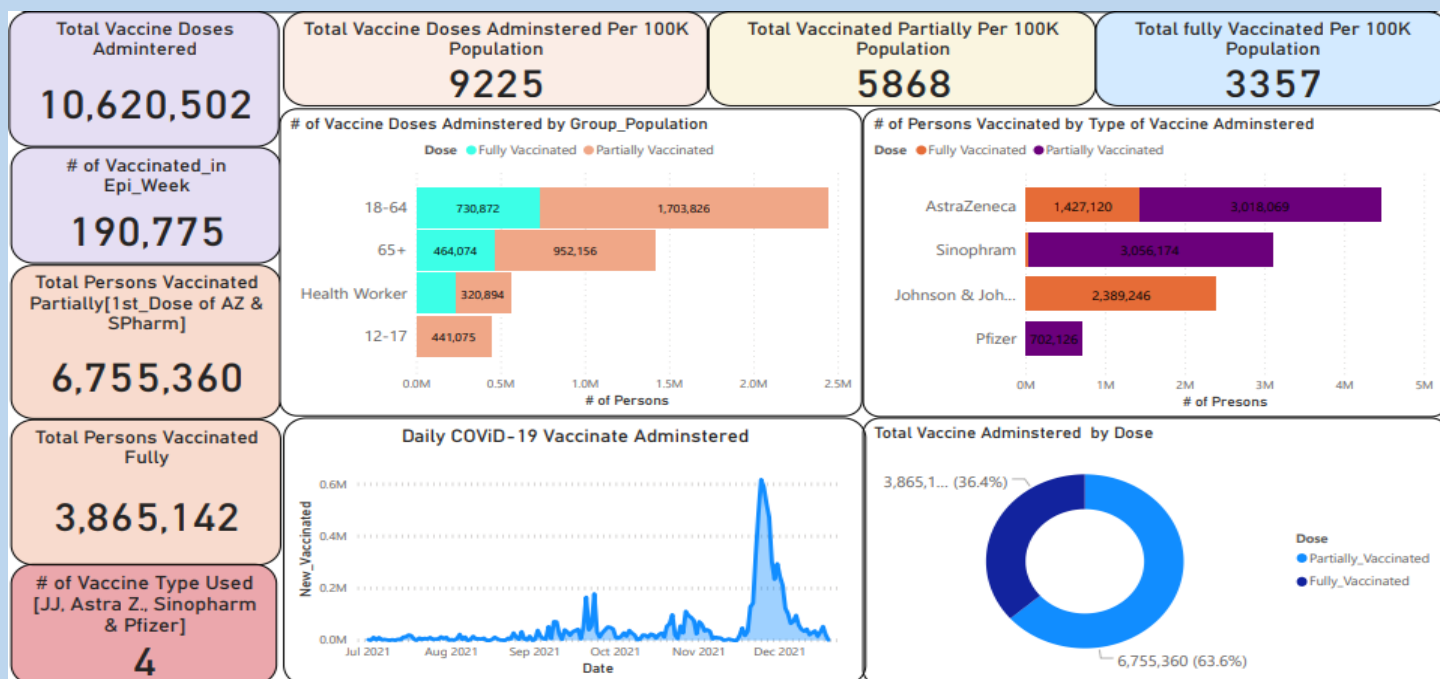


Figure 2: Summary of vaccination against COVID-19 in Ethiopia as of December 19, 2021

III. Epidemiological Situation

a. Global Situation

- Globally, both the number of weekly COVID-19 cases while the number of deaths have decreased.
- Over 8 million new cases and over 118,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 13 – 19 December 2021. The number of confirmed cases in this week increased by 3% as compared to the previous week while the number of deaths decreased by 3% compared to the previous week.
- As of December 19, 2021, a total of 262,103,908 COVID-19 cases and 5,050,096 deaths (CFR=1.93%) have occurred globally. Of the total cases and deaths reported since the beginning of the outbreak, 8,314,801 cases and 118,082 deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-50.
- The highest numbers of new cases in the last seven days were reported from the United States of America (2,054,645 new cases), The United Kingdom (632,969 new cases), France (441,135 new cases), Germany (433,067 new cases), and The Russian Federation (391,052 new cases).
- In Africa, as of December 19, 2021, a total of 9,080,345 cases and 220,043 deaths were reported across the continent (CFR=2.42%). Of these, 380,110 cases (38% increase compared to the previous week) and 3,305 deaths (13% decrease compared to previous week) were reported during the Epi-Week-50.
- 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.

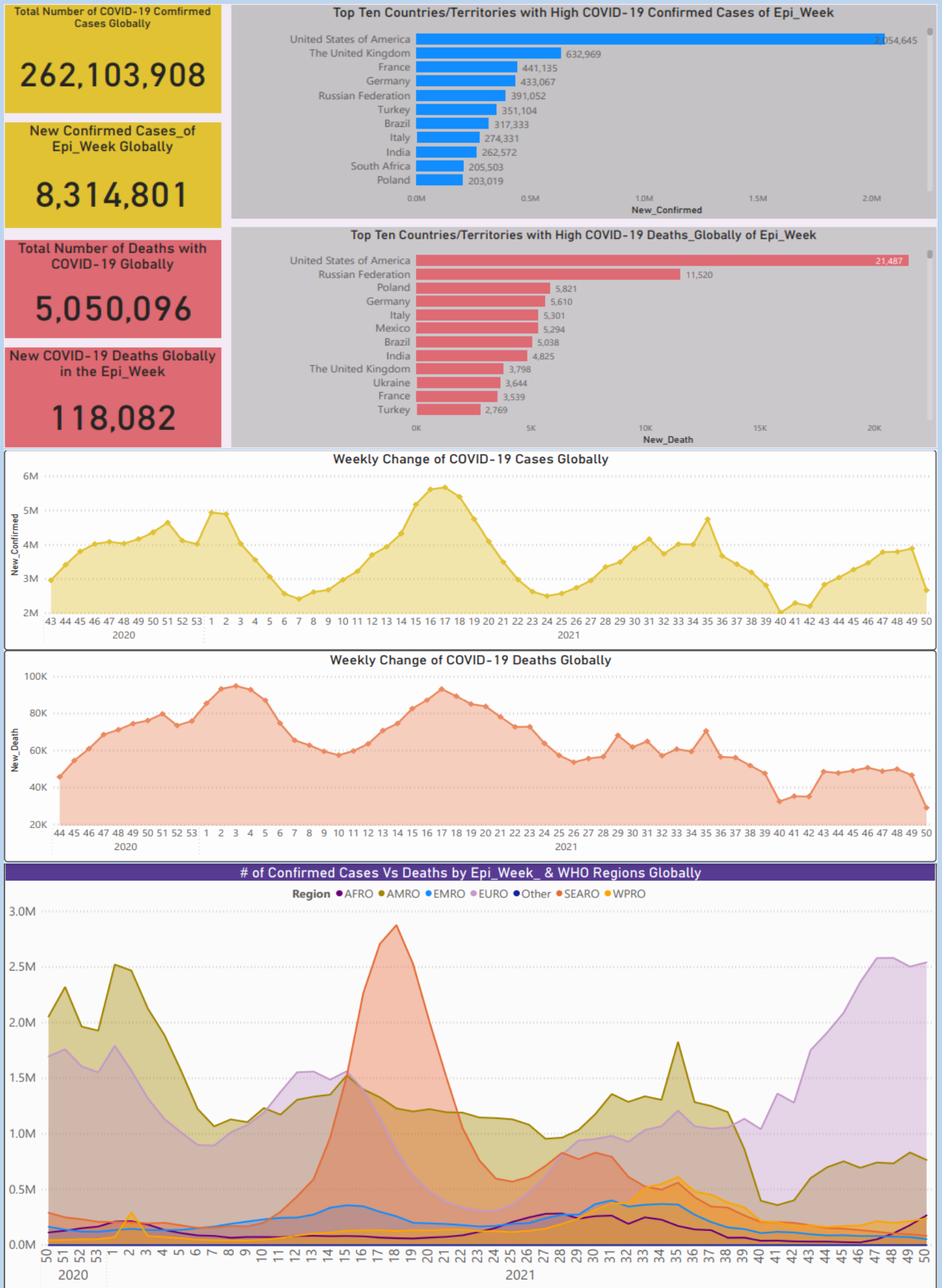


Figure 3: COVID-19 Global Situation Update as of December 19, 2021 (Source: WHO)

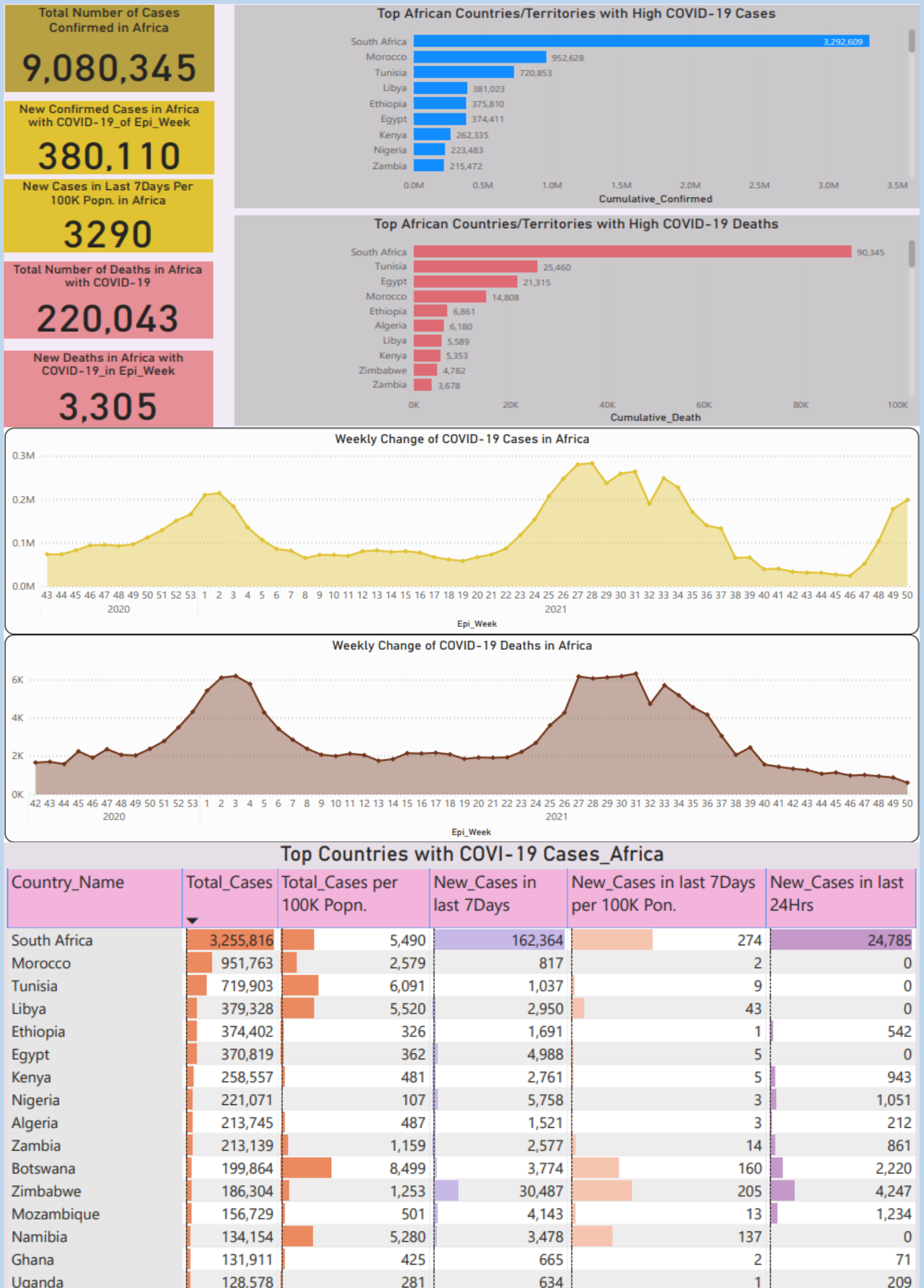


Figure 4: COVID-19 Situation Update in Africa as of December 19, 2021 (Source: WHO)

b. National COVID-19 situation:

- As of December 19, 2021, a total of 376,375 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,866 deaths were recorded in the country with a case fatality rate of 1.82%.
- Three-thousand-two-hundred-sixty (3,260) newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 37 COVID-19 related deaths were reported during the Epi-Week-50.
- There is a sharp increase in the number of cases after continuous decrease for twelve consecutive weeks and the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in this week. In this week, there is more than **200%** increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and **28%** 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-50 of 2021

Regions	New_Tested	New_Case	New_HF_Admission	New_Deaths	Positivity Rate
Addis Ababa	23941	2729	92	21	10.9
Oromia	7630	202	44	5	2.4
SNNPR	5235	174	82	4	3.0
Harari	1212	17	1	2	1.0
Sidama	1207	15	1	1	1.3
Dire Dawa	1120	19	1	1	1.1
Afar	795	3	0	0	0.4
Somali	590	17	0	0	2.2
Amhara	504	70	19	2	15.3
Benishangul G	298	14	0	1	5.8
Gambella	166	0	0	0	0.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0	
Total	42698	3260	240	37	4.1

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

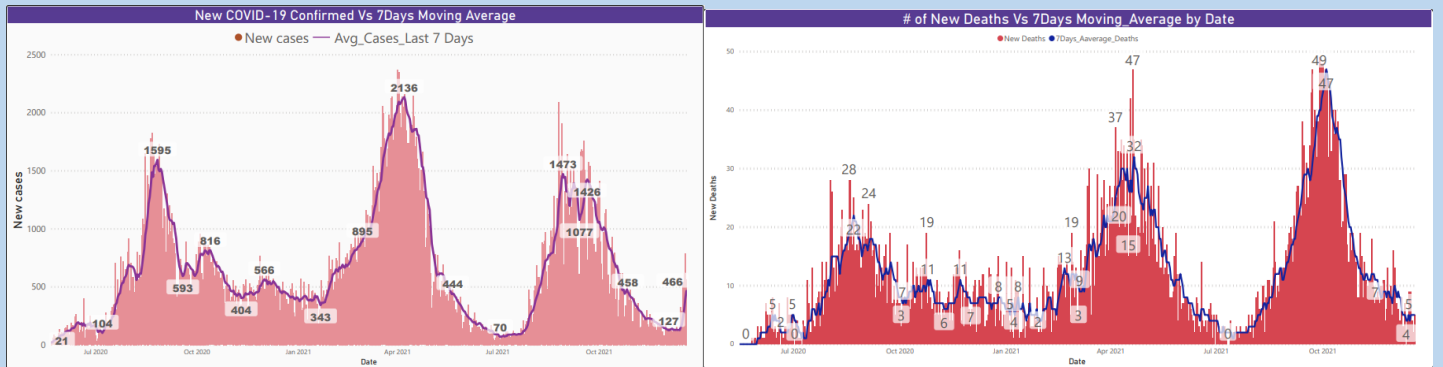
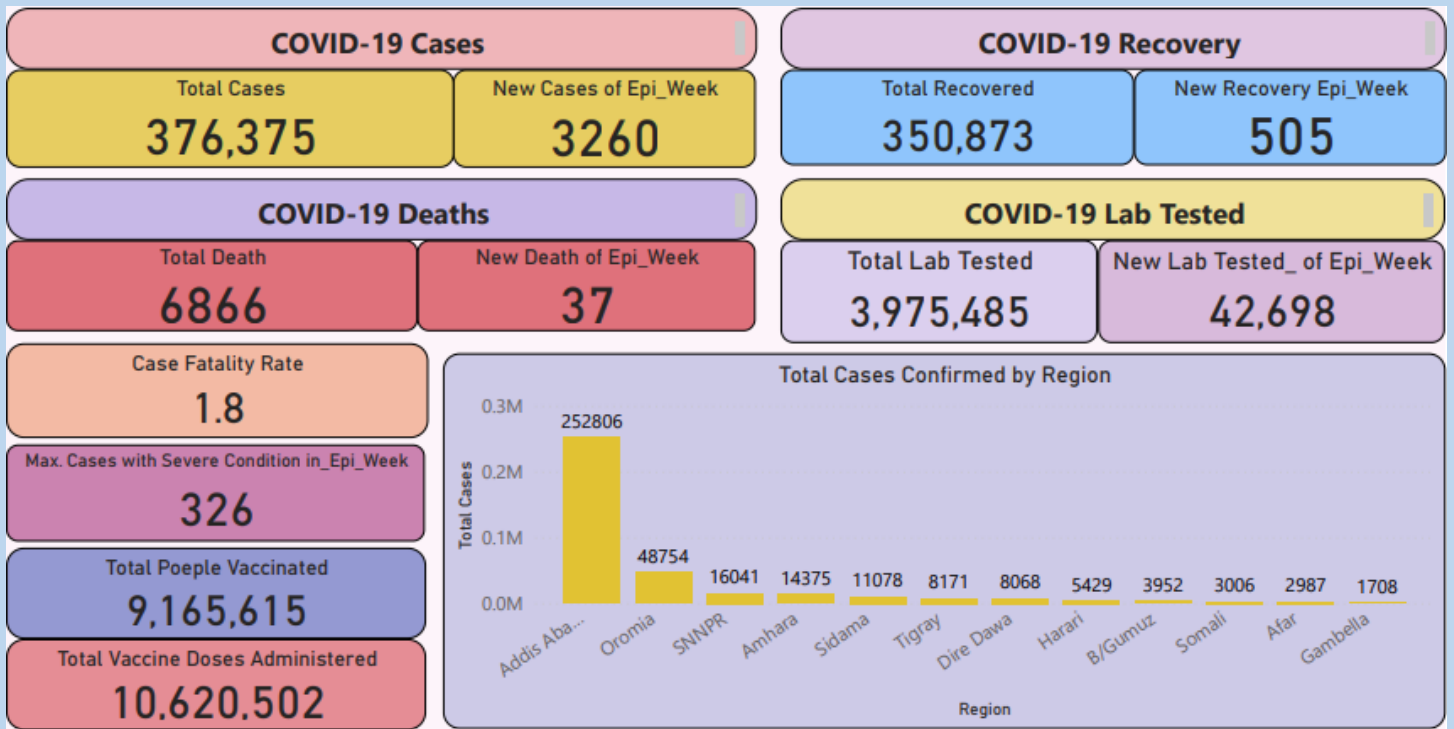


Figure 5: Summary of the COVID-19 situation in Ethiopia as of December 19, 2021, Ethiopia

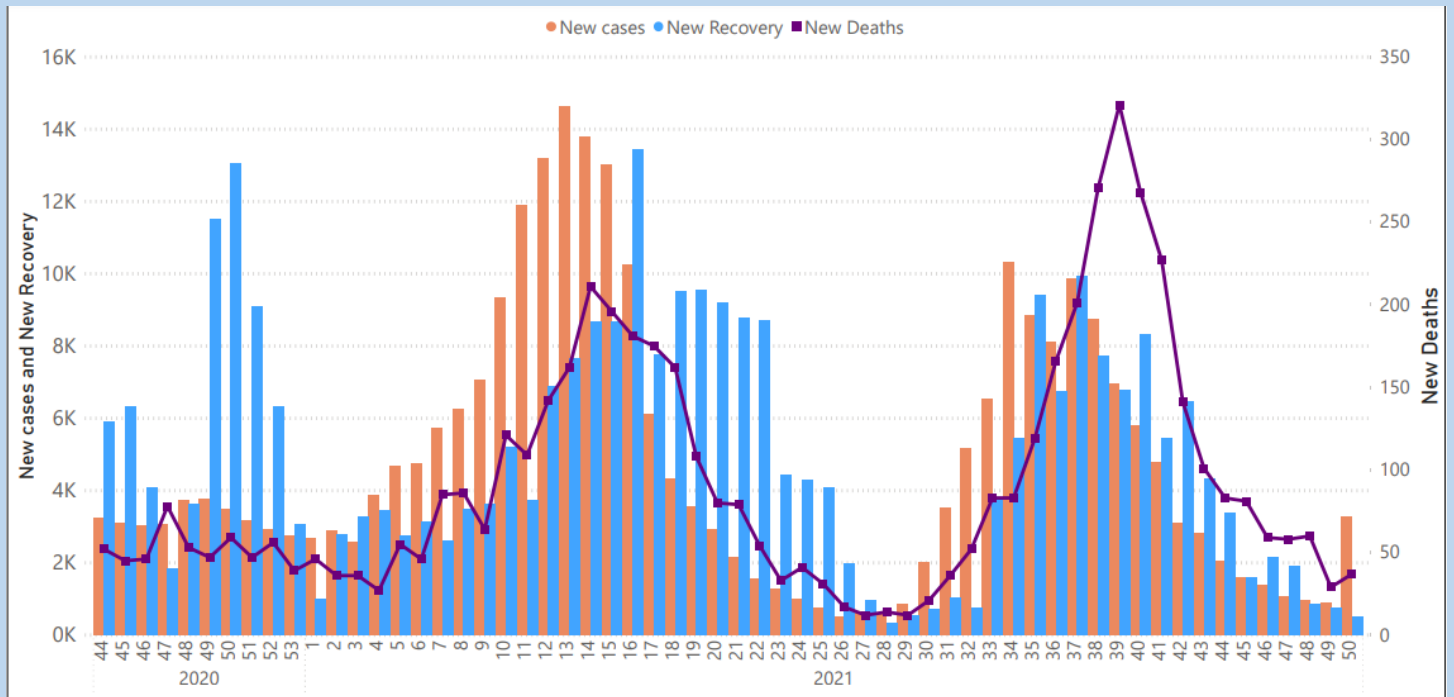


Figure 6: COVID-19 confirmed cases, recovery and death by Epi-Week as of December 19, 2021, Ethiopia

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.

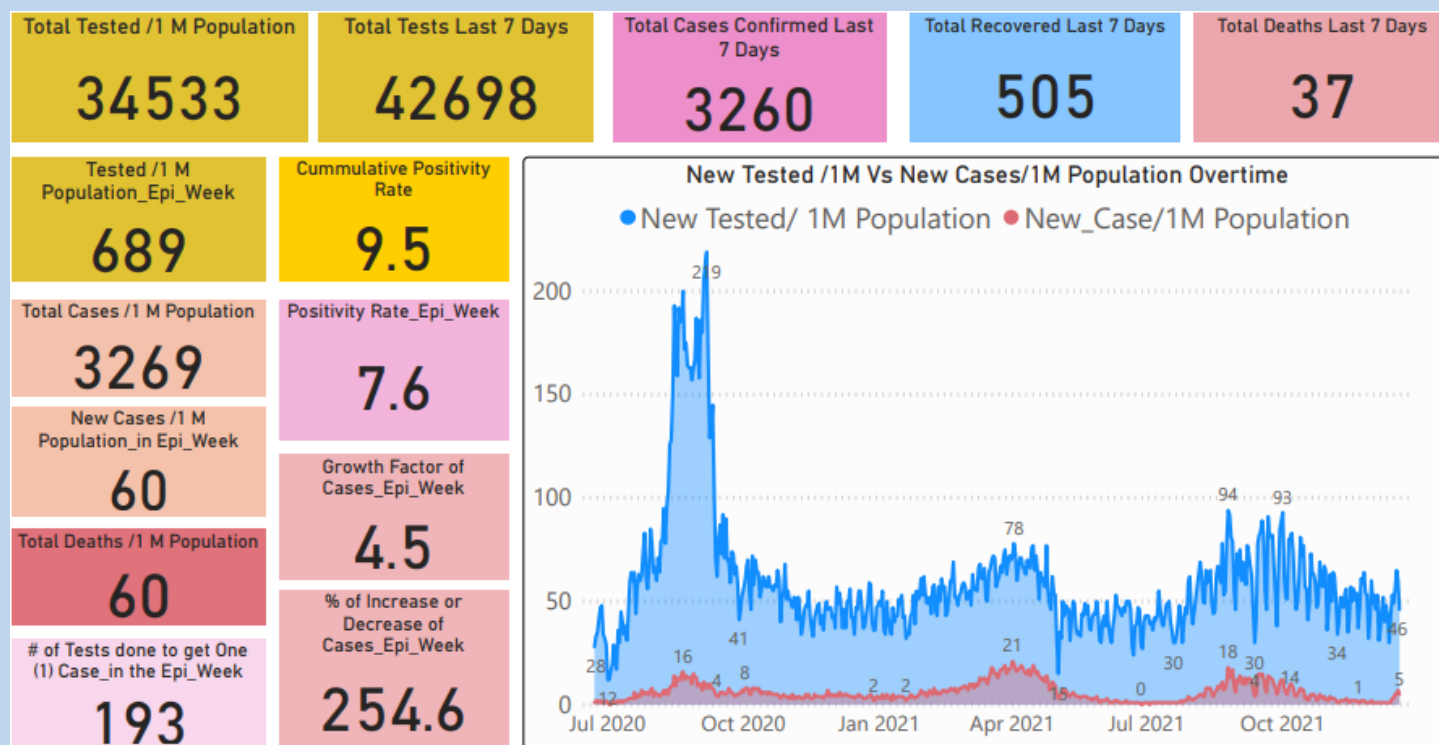


Figure 7: Summary of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ethiopia as of December 19, 2021.

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 19, 2021:
 - 393,043 rumors/alerts have been received and investigated.
 - 279,089 (71.01%) of the rumors/alerts have fulfilled the suspected case definition.
- 13,818 COVID-19 related calls are received through call centers in this Epi-week.

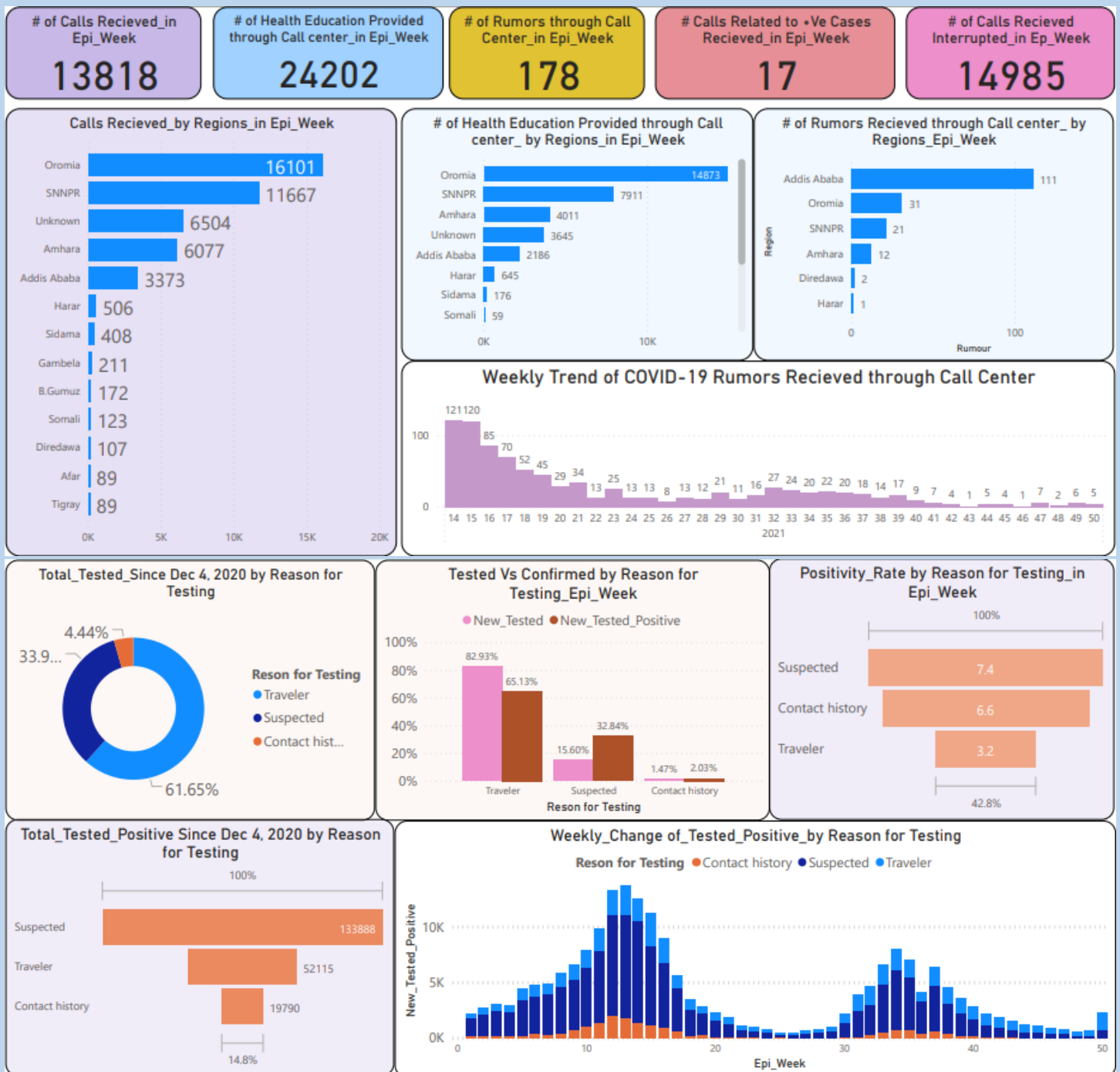


Figure 8: Summary of COVID-19 rumor/alert investigation as December 19, 2021, Ethiopia.

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-50.
- 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-50. 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 19, 2021.

IV. Laboratory related activities

- As of 19 December 2021, a total of 3,975,485 samples have been tested for COVID-19 by laboratories across the country.
- 42,698 laboratory tests were processed during the Epi-Week-50 which is a 25% increase compared to number of tests performed in the previous week.
- The laboratory test positivity rate for the Epi-Week-50 is 7.64%, which is higher than that of the preceding week (2.64%).
- Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regional states and Addis Ababa city administration have reported positivity rates higher than the national weighted average (figure 10 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 555,670 laboratory tests are performed by Ag-RDT among which 9,426 is performed in the Epi-week-50 (figure 9 below).

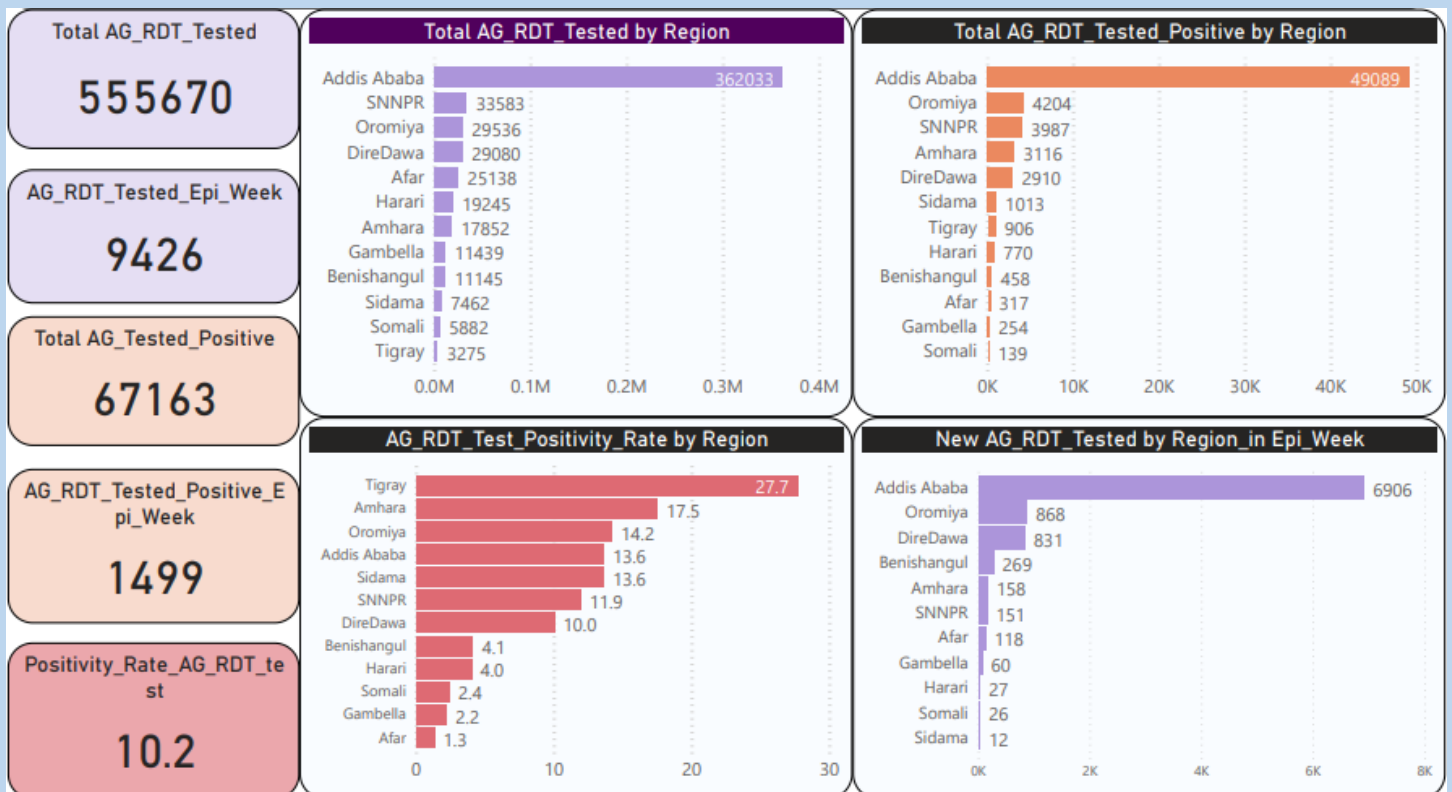
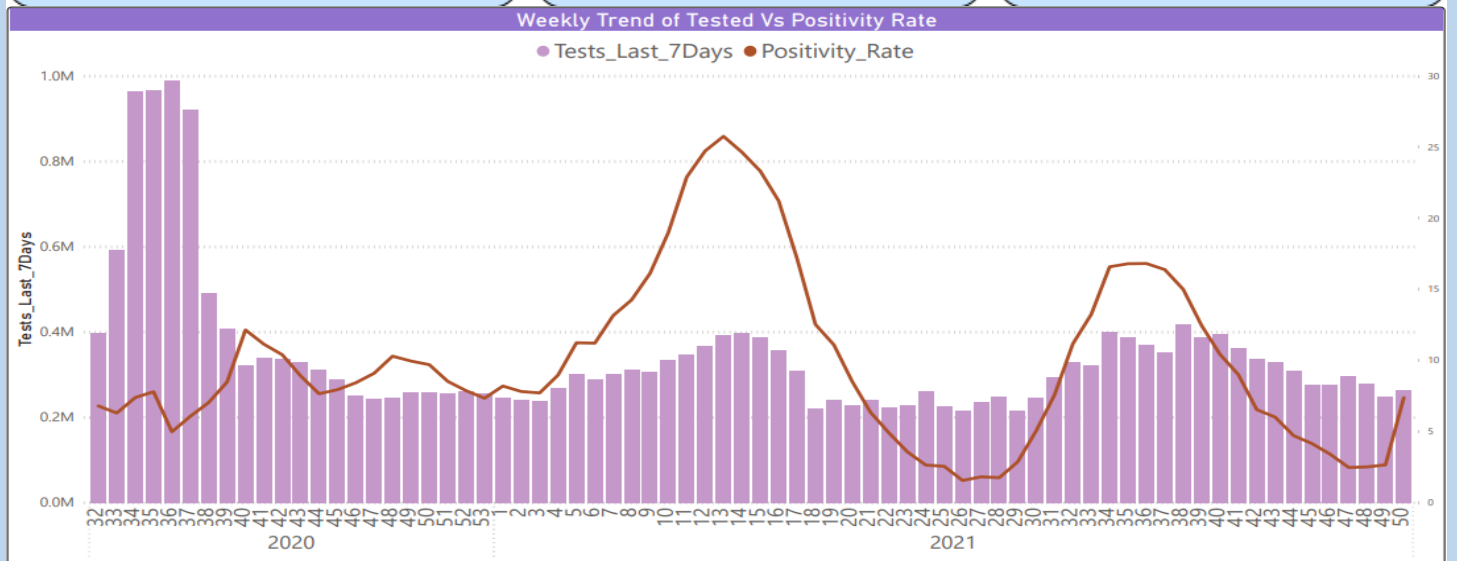
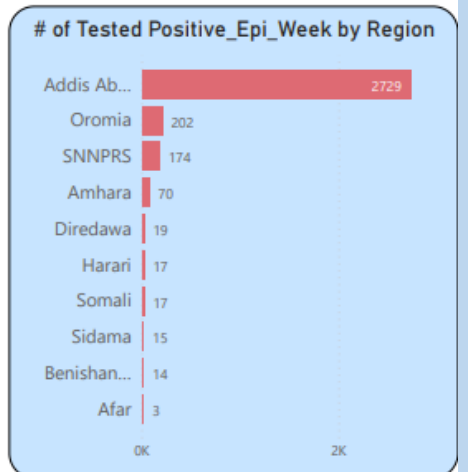
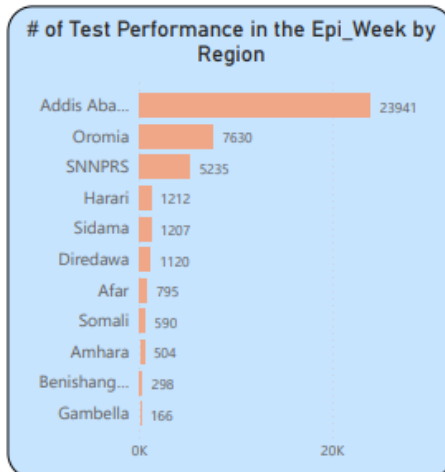
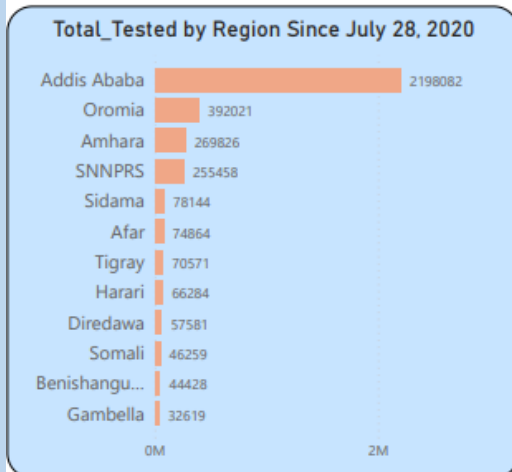
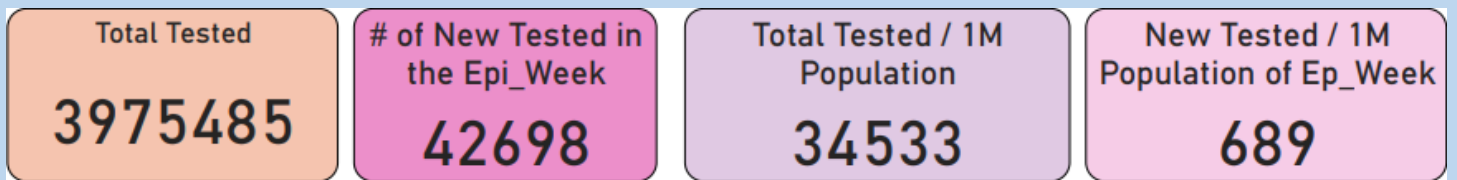


Figure 9: Update on laboratory tests performed by Ag-RDT, as of December 19, 2021



Region/City Admn	New_Tested	Tested_Positive	New_Deaths	Positivity_Rate
Addis Ababa	23941	2729	21	10.8
Oromia	7630	202	5	2.6
SNNPRS	5235	174	4	3.2
Harari	1212	17	2	1.1
Sidama	1207	15	1	1.3
Diredawa	1120	19	1	1.3
Afar	795	3	0	0.4
Somali	590	17	0	2.0
Amhara	504	70	2	15.1
Benishangul Gumuz	298	14	1	5.8
Gambella	166	0	0	0.0
Tigray	0	0	0	0.0
Total	42698	3260	37	3.9

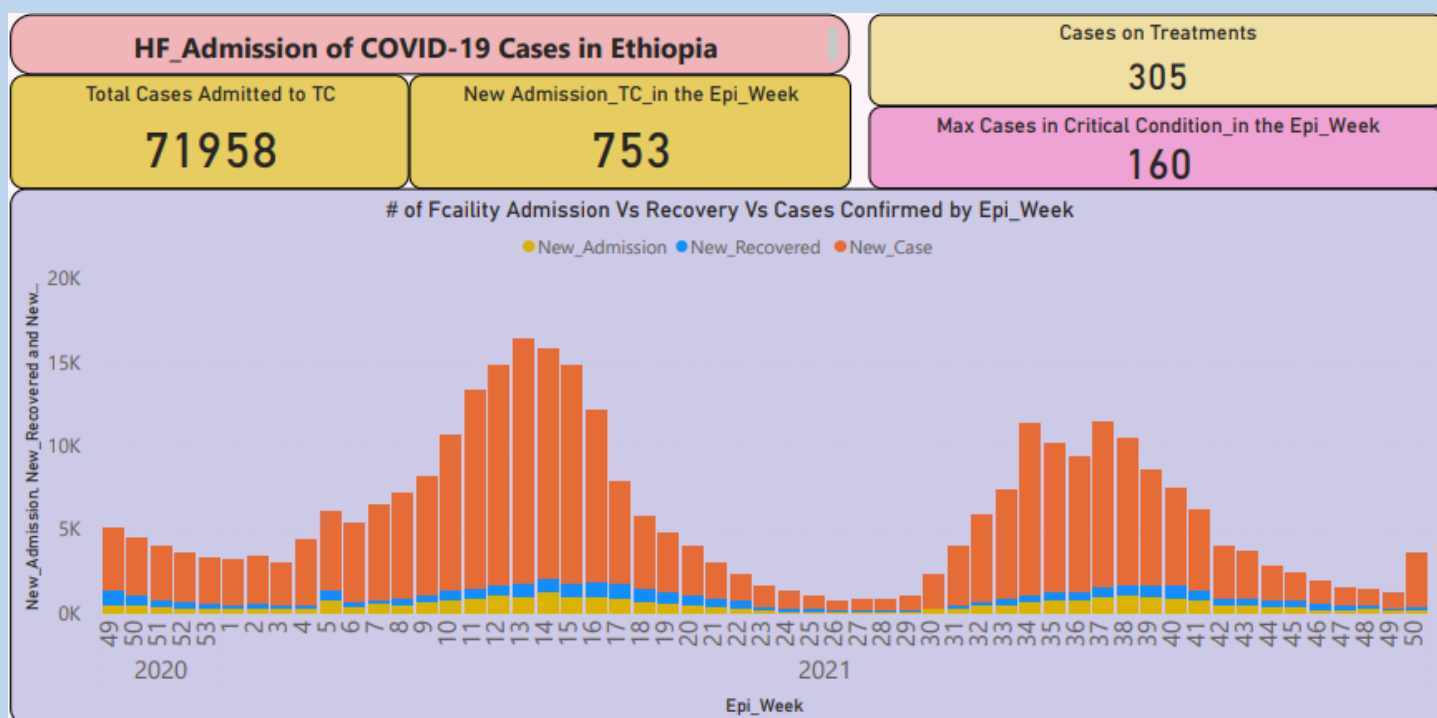
***** Positivity Rate is average of Regional Distn of Rates

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

V. Case Management and Facility Readiness

a. COVID-19 treatment center

- There were total of 505 newly recovered COVID-19 cases during the Epi-Week-50, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 350,873 (both from COVID-19 treatment center and from HBIC). This brings the overall recovery rate to 93%.
- In the week-50, the maximum number of cases in severe condition are 326 which is lower than the maximum number of daily cases in severe condition in the previous week (331).



HF=Health Facilities TC=Treatment Center

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

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

COVID-19 Summary Information								
Regions	Total_Case	New_Case	Total_Admission	New_Admission	Total_Death	Total_Recovered	On_Treatment	Critical_Case
Addis Ababa	252806	517	36499	12	3762	30999	105	63
Oromia	48754	29	9593	5	974	8526	89	48
SNNPR	16041	7	5273	27	266	4952	55	2
Amhara	14375	7	5421	1	429	4957	31	22
Sidama	11078	5	3701	0	225	3410	2	2
Tigray	8171	0	5290	0	59	5224	0	0
Dire Dawa	8068	0	1456	1	133	1318	5	2
Harari	5429	0	1429	0	186	1238	1	1
Benishangul G	3952	0	1018	0	31	989	0	0
Somali	3006	0	770	0	96	654	17	10
Afar	2987	0	826	0	5	812	0	0
Gambella	1708	0	682	0	8	674	0	0

b. Home Based Isolation and Care (HBIC):

- So far, 288,140 COVID-19 confirmed cases have been on HBIC. Of them 286,958 (99.79%) have recovered and 48 (0.017%) died.
- Of these, 920 cases have been enrolled to HBIC and 346 cases have recovered in the Epi-Week-50.
- As of December 19, 2021, there are 2,269 cases on HBIC.
- So far, 2,546 (none in the Epi-week-50) of the cases have been transferred from treatment centers to HBIC after improvement.
- So far, 1,278 (three in the Epi-week-50) 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.
- COVID-19 related key messages and updates shared on social media.



Figure 12: COVID-19 situation update as of December 19, 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.
- Discussion has been held among religious leaders and the Ministry of Health leadership regarding COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in the community. H.E Dr. Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health opened the discussion forum. In the opening remarks, Her Excellency mentioned that all stakeholders must take active part in the

awareness creation against vaccine hesitancy in the community. In the discussion forum, the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia Secretary-General Priest Tagay Tadele said “any negative COVID-19 related rumors disseminated via media are unacceptable both scientifically and spiritually”. In addition, the issue of impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the treatment of Peoples Living with HIV/AIDS has been given emphasis. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed among the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia and the Ministry of Health-Ethiopia to conduct months long campaign against COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in the country.



Figure 13: Discussion among religious leaders and MOH Leadership regarding COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, Dec. 14, 2021.

VIII. Challenges and Way Forward

a. Challenges

- Alarmingly increasing number of cases and circulating new variants globally
- 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 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.
- 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/UCvTzeY-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	hrrhpheoc@gmail.com
Oromia Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/OromiaHealth/	6955	oromiapheoc@gmail.com
Somali Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/srhbdotcom/...	6599	somalipheoc@gmail.com
SNNP Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/snnprhealthbureau/?ref=br_rs	6929	snnppheoc@gmail.com
Tigray Regional Health Bureau	https://www.facebook.com/tigrayrhb/	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

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

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, Public Health Emergency Operation Center
FOR MORE INFORMATION and NOTIFICATION

Web: www.ephi.gov.et

Follow us on Twitter: @EPHIEthiopia

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

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

Call: 8335/952 (TOLL FREE LINE) or 011 276 5340

Email: ephieoc@gmail.com or pheodatacenter@gmail.com