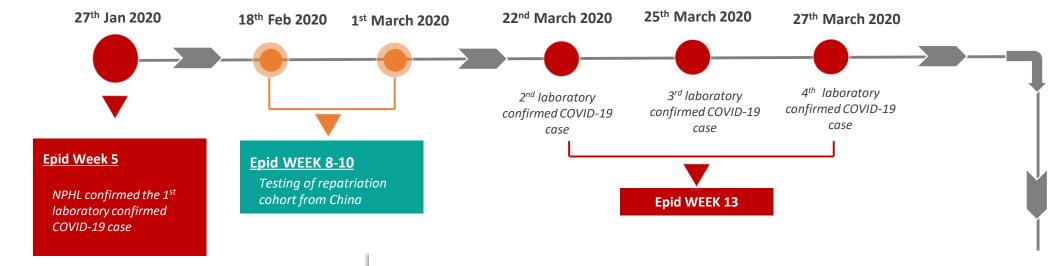
National Public Health Laboratory and COVID-19 response

Dr Runa Jha
Director, NPHL

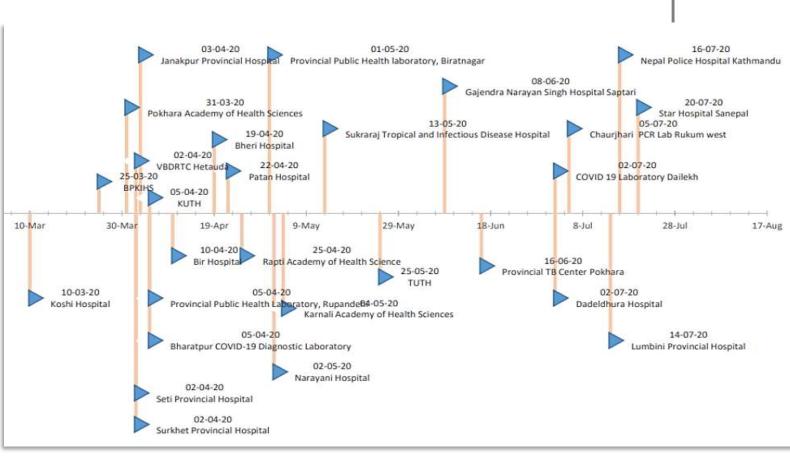
1st August 2020



Timeline for NPHL

COVID-19 Response





NPHL Initial Days in Covid-19 Response

NPHL Initial Days In Covid-19 Response





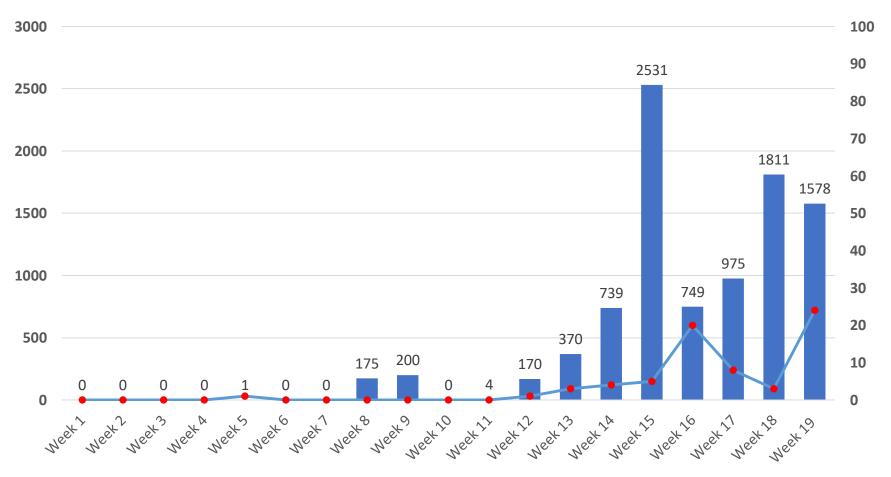




- First case → Laboratory confirmation by NPHL on 27th Jan 2020
- National Influenza Centre (NIC) unit was the only unit performing testing COVID-19 samples.
- >400 samples tested for repatriation Cohort between 18 Feb to 1st March
- Visited (Sindhupalchowk and Rasuwa) PoE with teams from (MoHP and WHO) to establish Health Desk and train HR for IPC measures.

NPHL Initial Days In Covid-19 Response

PCR tests performed in NPHL (per week)



PCR Tests — Positive Results

Epid Week	PCR Tests	Positive Results
Week 1	0	0
Week 2	0	0
Week 3	0	0
Week 4	0	0
Week 5	1	1
Week 6	0	0
Week 7	0	0
Week 8	175	0
Week 9	200	0
Week 10	0	0
Week 11	4	0
Week 12	170	1
Week 13	370	3
Week 14	739	4
Week 15	2531	5
Week 16	749	20
Week 17	975	8
Week 18	1811	3
Week 19	1578	24
Total	9303	69

*Note: database until epid-week 19 (9th May 2020)

NPHL Initial Days In Covid-19 Response (Cntd)...

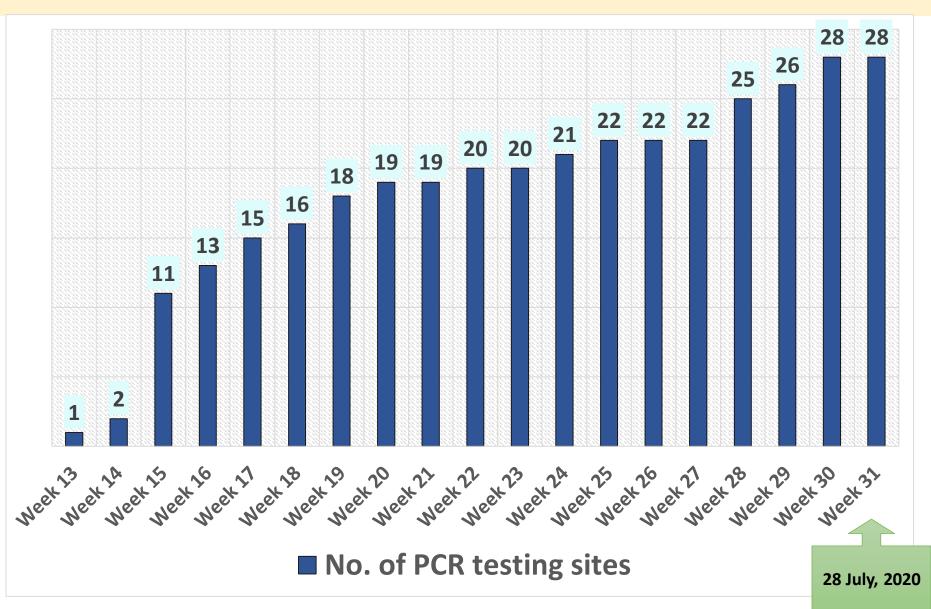
- To address the issues of transportation and shipment of COVID-19 samples → Domestic courier was identified → agreement done for 3 months.
- Agreement was done between NPHL and domestic courier agency (NepXpress) with ssupport from WHO Nepal.
- Sample shipment agreement with **77 district coverage**
- Challenges: National LOCKDOWN



Expanding
Laboratory Capacity
and Network for
Covid-19 Response

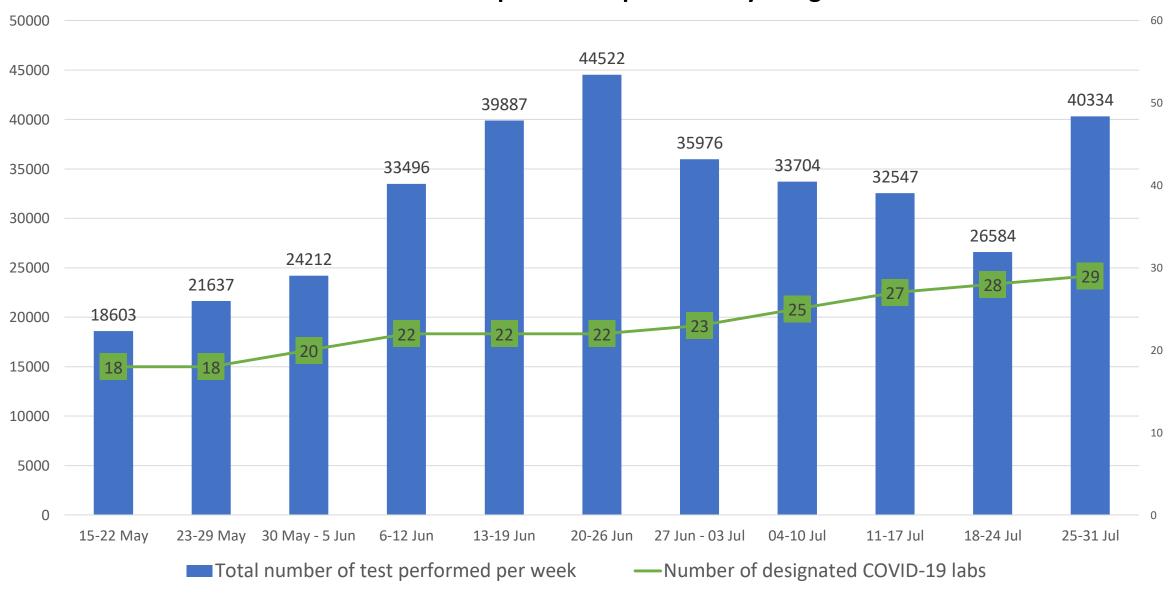
Number of PCR Testing sites / week

Province	Total No. of labs
Province 1	3
Province 2	3
Bagmati	10
Gandaki	2
Province 5	4
Karnali	4
Sudurpachim	2
Total Labs	28





Total number of PCR test performed per week by designated COVID-19



IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

Development and review of SOPs

- Evaluation and verification of PCR kits, VTM,Extraction kit
- Biorepository management of COVID-19 samples
- Disinfection of coldbox used for shipment of COVID-19 samples
- Antigen Detection kit
- Protocol for Dry Swab and direct PCR protocol



PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS (Cntd..)

Objective

to provide guidance to all the designated COVID-19 testing laboratories in Nepal. It provides guidelines related to collection of samples, physical infrastructures needed, workflow development, quality assurance and the communication of the results to concerned authority.

Scope

The document aims to provide guidance to the laboratories involved in SARS-CoV-2 testing by real time PCR.

Interim Guidelines for SARS-CoV-2 PCR Iaboratories in National Public Health Laboratory Network, Nepal

Released on: 19 June 2020

This document is subject to updates, please use the hyperlink to confirm the latest information where appropriate, http://nchl.gov.np/

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PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS (Cntd..)

National Quality Assessment (NQAS) of designated

COVID-19 laboratories across the country

June:

15 labs participation → outcome: satisfactory results

July:

target to capture 25 laboratories (received NQAS samples from 7 sites which has been processed with satisfactory result; *in process of receiving samples from remaining sites*).

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS (Cntd..)

Xpert Xpress SARs-CoV-2:

Two key technical documents have been endorsed by NTC and NPHL namely

- a) Protocol for kit verification and quality control of Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2 testing using the GeneXpert Dx System in Nepal
- b) STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOL FOR XPERT XPRESS SARS COV-2 TEST FOR DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19, NEPAL

The operational plan has been endorsed by MoHP and the operational plan with the testing algorithm will all be soon uploaded in Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) platform. National Tuberculosis Control Center (NTCC) is planning to work with HEOC to initiate letters to the GeneXpert center with the information and directives to start the testing in identified 10 centers. Testing may start from early next week.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAININGS



PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

Training of laboratory personnel on sample collection, packaging and Biosafety practices for COVID-19 testing

S.No	Name of training/orientation program	Location	Number of trained personnel
	Training of Trainers (ToT) Sample Collection, Packaging, Transport and Biosafety for COVID-19 Testing	Kathmandu	13
2	Orientation on Sample Collection, Packaging, Transport and Biosafety Practice for COVID-19 testing	Kathmandu	15
3	Orientation on Sample Collection, Packaging, Transport and Biosafety Practice for COVID-19 testing	All seven provinces	180
	TOTAL		208



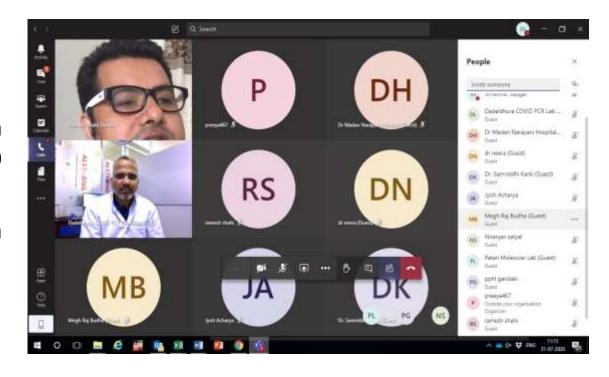


VIRTUAL LEARNINGS AND EXPERIENCE SHARING

(NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM)

At national platform:

- Virtual Meetings/Laboratory Experience sharing in COVID-19 response with designated COVID-19 testing laboratory network of Nepal
- Virtual Training for Laboratory reporting system (MIS) software
 - ☐ One on One training (sharing screen)
 - ☐ On site (Dhangadi and Dadeldhura)



At international level: (with technical support from WHO CO Nepal)

- Webinar on "Are Influenza Surveillance Systems Adapted For Co-circulation Of Influenza And Covid-19?" 30 July 2020
- Laboratory Information Management with a focus on COVID-19 response; 20 July 2020
- Laboratory Technical Webinar on the use of MGI Magnetic; 17 July 2020
- Webinar on 'Landscape of COVID-19 antigen based rapid diagnostic tests and considerations for use';14 July 2020
- WHO consultant Interaction with NPHL Nepal Real time PCR assay trouble shooting; 9 July 2020

Laboratory Information System-NPHL



NPHL has been currently using **DOLPHIN Software.**

Developed **MIS reporting system** in collaboration with Third party software vendor

-First phase/stage

*act as only data repository system from all designated COVID-19 laboratory network across the country -Working on collating data (ongoing)

Objective of MIS system:

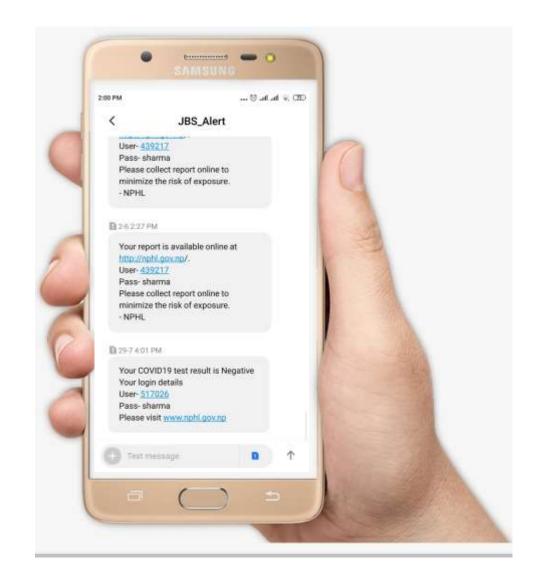
-to have a data repository system within the COVID-19 testing laboratory network across the country,

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Phone:

Report Dispatch

- Dispatched through SMS
- Hardcopies if the patient comes to take report physically at NPHL



Report dispatching system of Covid-19 PCR Centers

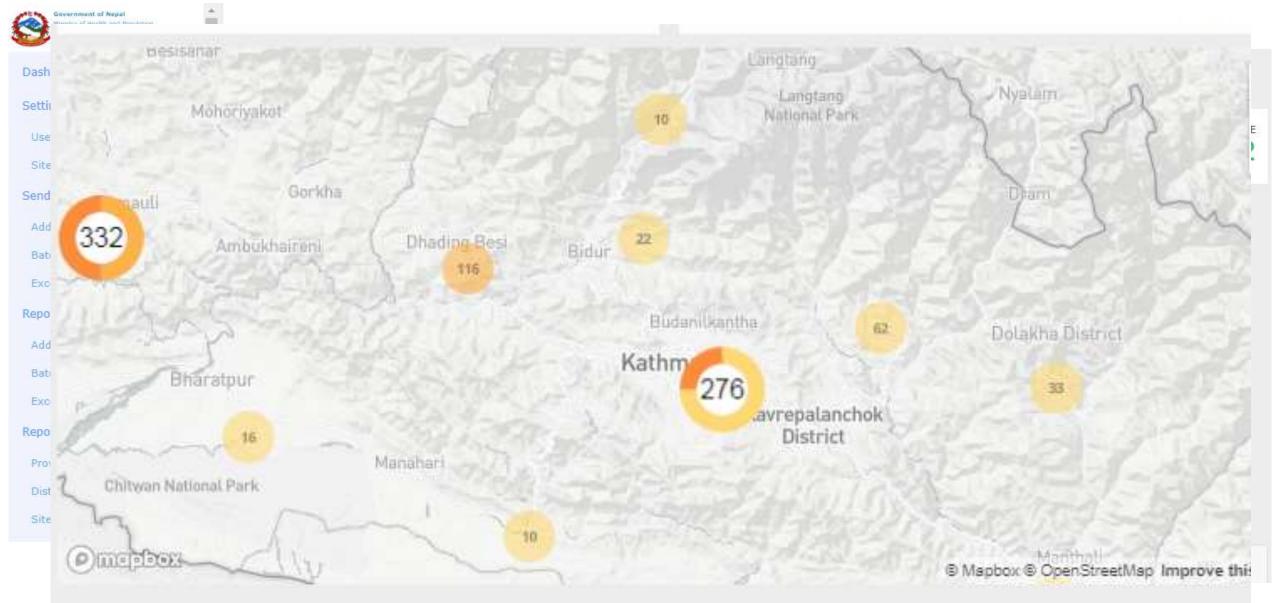
Province	S.N	Hospital Name/Center where COVID testing is done	Report dispatching system	Rema
				rks
Province 1	1	BP Koirala Institute of Health Science, Dharan	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	2	Koshi Hospital	Scanned reports (pdf file) are sent to local levels	
	3	Provincial Public Health Laboratory, Biratnagar	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
Province 2	4	Provincial Hospital Janakpurdham	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	5	Narayani Hospital, Birguni	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	6	Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
Province 3	7	National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL)	SMS, Printed reports and excel sheets are sent MOSD	
	8	Sukraraj Tropical and Infectious Disease Hospital (STIDH)	SMS & Printed reports	
	9	Dhulikhel Hospital	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	10	Bharatpur COVID-19 Diagnostic Lab, Chitwan	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	11	Bir Hospital	Printed reports	
	12	Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS)	Printed reports	
	13	VBDRTC, Hetauda	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	14	Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH)	Printed reports	
	15	Pokhara Academy of Health Science (WR Hospital)	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
Gandaki	16	PPHL, Pokhara	SMS (ID&PASSWORD), Excel sheets are sent to local levels	
Province 5	17	Provincial Public Health Laboratory, Bhairahawa,	SMS (ID&PASSWORD), Excel sheets are sent to local levels	
	18	Lumbini Hospital	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	19	Bheri Hospital, Nepalguni	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	20	Rapti Academy of Health Sciences	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	21	Chaurjahari PCR laboratory, Rukum (west)	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	22	Province Hospital Surkhet	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
Karnali	23	Karnali Academy of Health Sciences (KAHS)	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
	24	COVID-19 Testing Laboratory, Dailekh	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
Sudurpash	25	Seti Provincial Hospital, Dhangadhi	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	
chim	26	Dadeldhura Hospital Laboratory, Dadeldhura	Excel sheets are sent to local levels (printed report only on demand)	

MIS reporting system

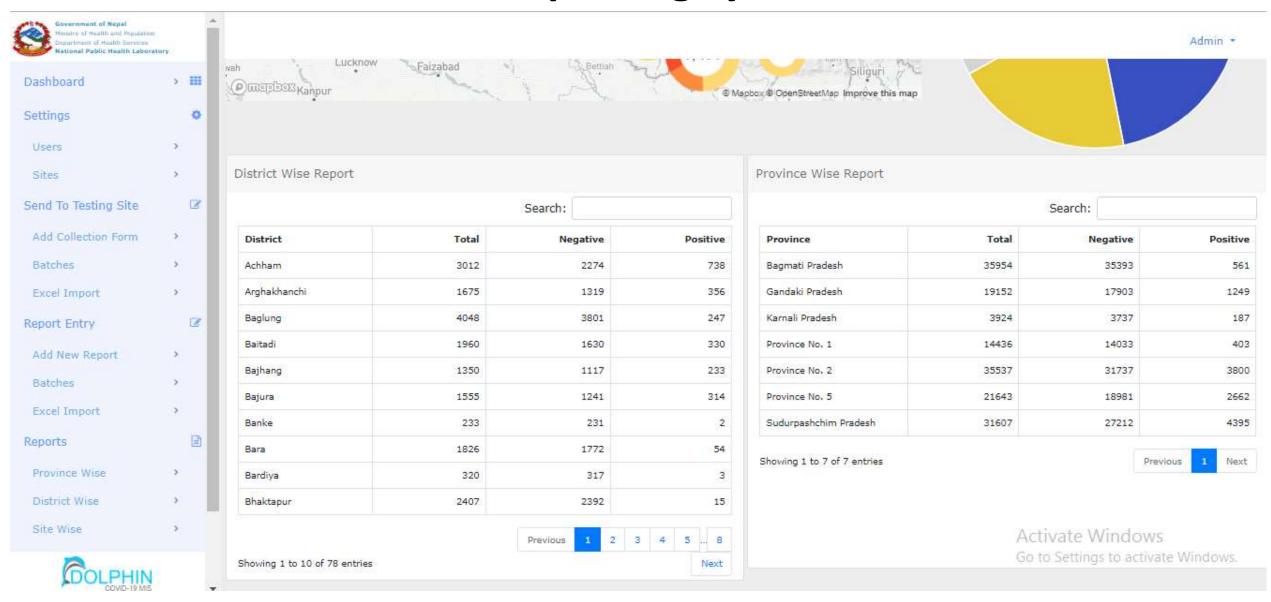
In phase I

- Will only capture the total number of total tested, total positive and total negative.
- Virtual training done with COVID-19 testing laboratories network.
 - -Laboratory focal points/data operators/managers of respective COVID-19 labs
- One on One virtual training is ongoing distantly with the laboratories who are struggling to understand the system. (sharing screens and orienting the HR)
- As of today: a total of 1,63,364 data has been entered from 24 different COVID-19 testing laboratories across the country.

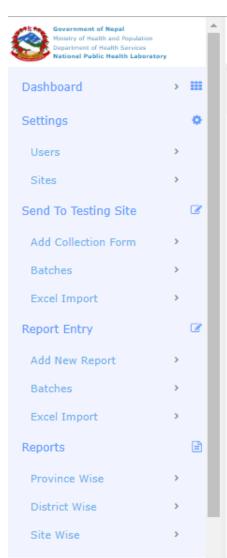
MIS reporting system



MIS reporting system



User Login details User activities



User List

+ Add User

Admin *

Name	Role	Site Name	Email	Address	Mobile No	Action
Umesh Shrestha	Standard User	HAMS	umesh@hamshospital.com	Dhumbarahi	9801172217	☐ Edit ☐ Delete
Hospital for Advanced Medicine & Surgery	Standard User	HAMS	info@hamshospital.com	Dhumbarahi	9851172217	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
Abishek Tulachan	Standard User	Bharatpur COVID-19 Diagnostic Lab, Chitwan	abishektulachan13@gmail.com	Kathmandu	9849429687	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
Geeta Khatiwada	Standard User	COVID-19 Testing Laboratory, Dailekh	geetakhatiwada86@yahoo.com	Kathmandu	9841626231	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
Om Raj Acharya	Standard User	Province Hospital Surkhet	omrajacharya@gmail.com	Surkhet	9848050774	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
Roshan Adhikari	Standard User	Narayani Hospital	roshanadhikari33@gmail.com	Narayani	9849412391	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
Jamuna Bhujell	Standard User	Karnali Academy of Health Sciences (KAHS)	krijansharma@yahoo.com	PAHS support	9843002787	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
Hira Lal Bhandari	Standard User	Rapti Academy of Health Sciences	rapti.academy@gmail.com	Dang	9857832924	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
Suman Sapkota	Standard User	Lumbini Provincial Hospital, Butwal	sumnsap@gmail.com	Butwal	9851141577	☑ Edit ☐ Delete
D Dhakal	Standard User	кмс	ddhakal93@gmail.com	Bhaktapur	9841357774	☑ Edit ☐ Delete

Showing 1 to 10 of 55 entries

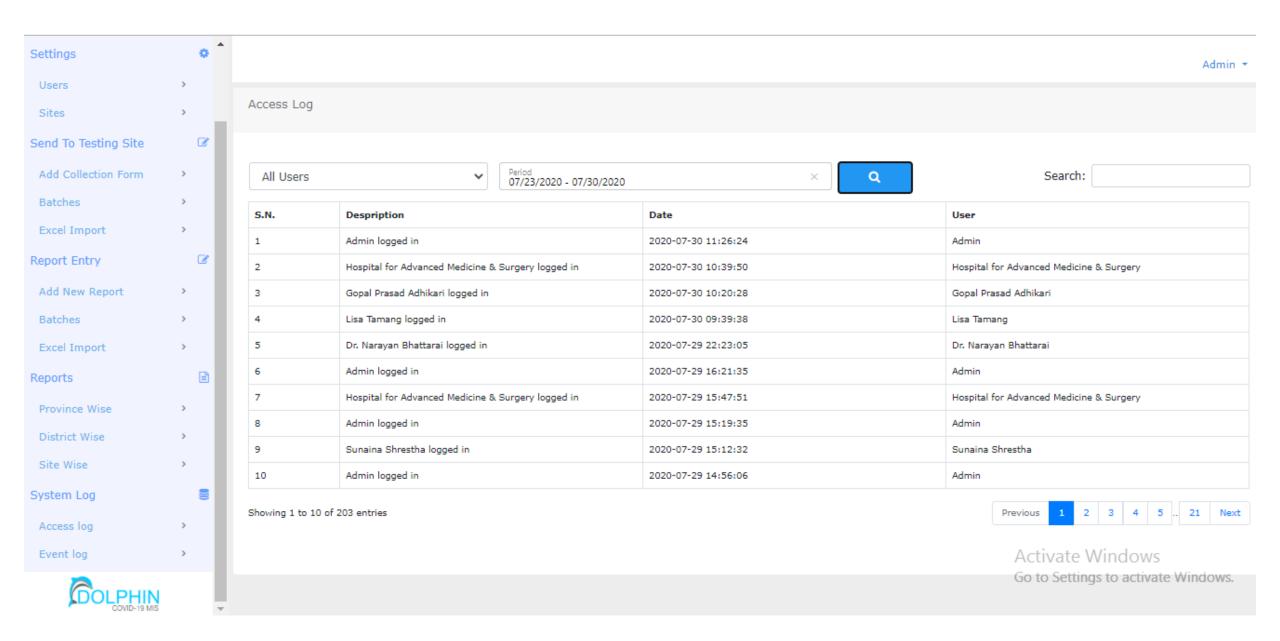
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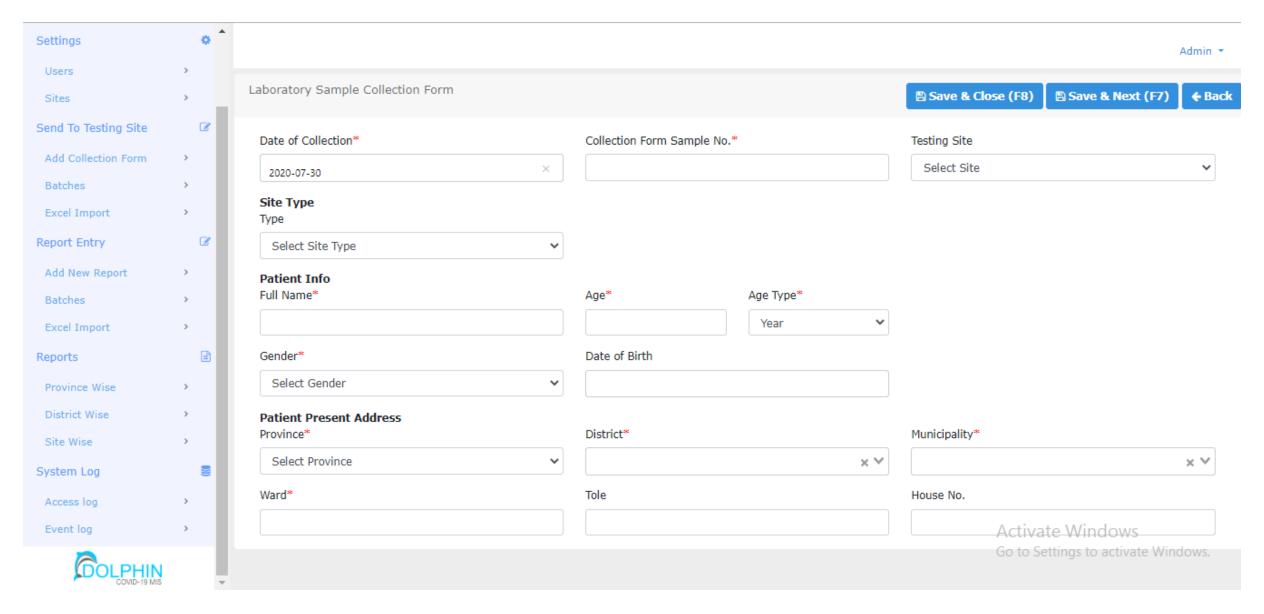
Go to Settings to activate Windows.



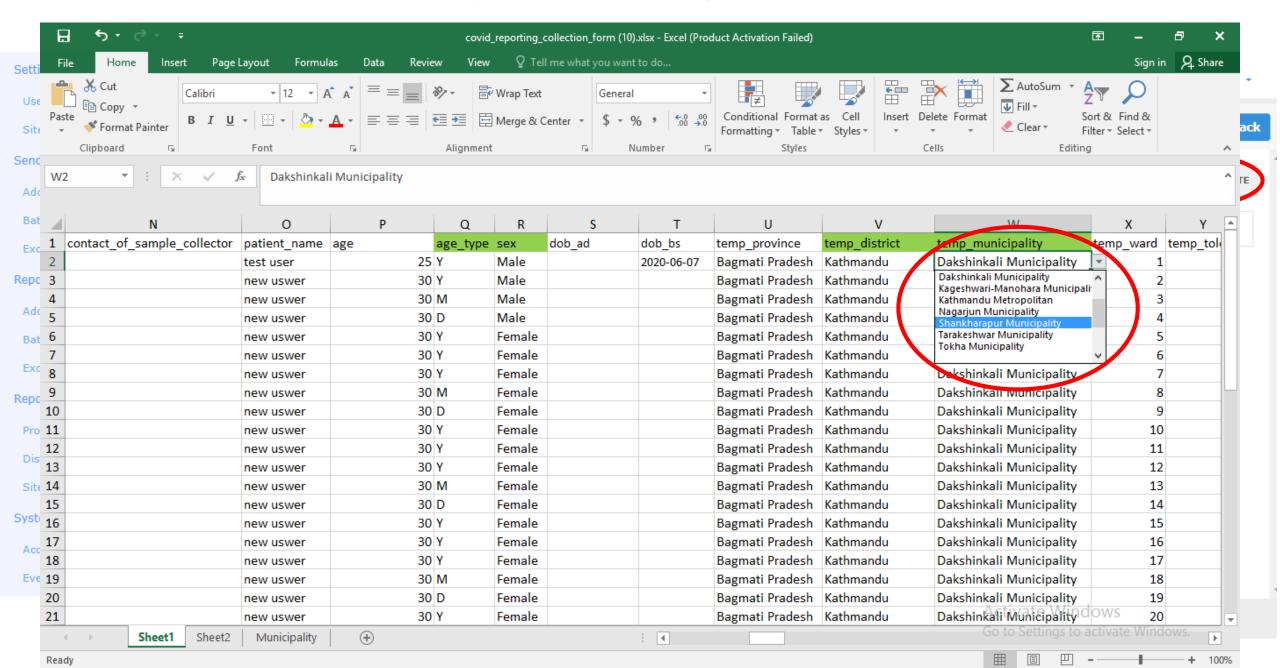
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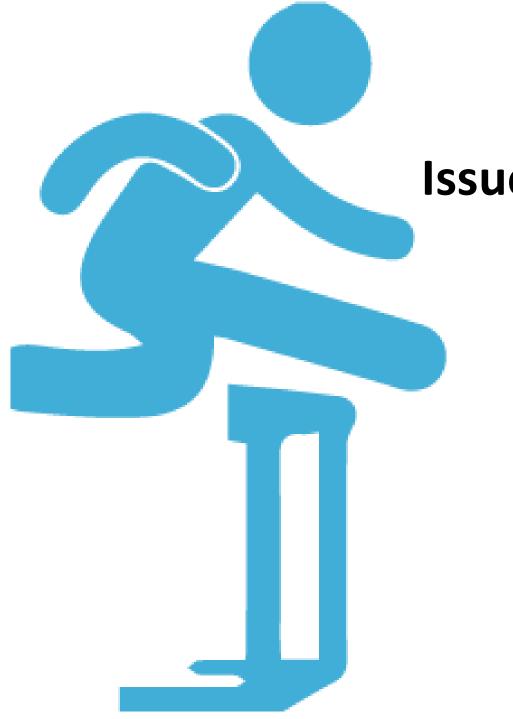


Sample entry (Option for single entry)



Excel Template for reporting (BULK ENTRY)





Issue/ Challenges for MIS system

- Completeness of Data at the lab
- Dedicated HR
- Frequent Turnover
- Willingness to send data



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- PCR kit validation
- Data information system
- ■NQAS: participation, transportation issues
- Issues of pending samples at the provinces
- Normalization/Routine functions of the labs

WAY FORWARDS:

- Capacity and quality assessment of NPHL and other designated
 COVID-19 testing laboratories
- Gene Sequencing
- Laboratory Management: performance indicator; Simple worksheet
- Virtual meeting RT PCR result interpretation and troubleshooting;
 Targeting all 28 designated COVID-19 labs across the country.
- BSL-III lab functional

THANK YOU