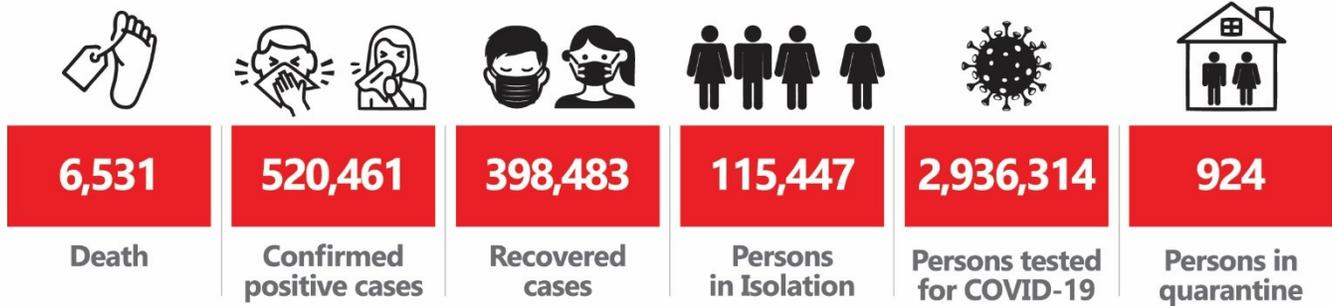


COVID 19: NEPAL RESPONSE

SITUATION REPORT VOLUME: 02 25 MAY, 2021



Source: MOHP (as of 24 May)

National Context:

- Nepal recorded 246 deaths related to COVID-19 on 19 May making it the highest record of death in a single day.
- President Bidya Devi Bhandari has issued an ordinance (The COVID-19 Risk Management Ordinance, 2078 BS) which has now paved the way for the government to impose a state of emergency in the country to contain further spread of COVID-19 pandemic if deemed necessary.
- Although the number of COVID-19 cases is steadily declining in the Kathmandu Valley for the past few days, the number of people coming for treatment from villages outside the valley has witnessed a significant increase, according to the hospitals.
- 75 out of 77 Districts (including our working Districts; Dhading, Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti, Achham, Dailekh) have imposed lockdown/prohibitory order as of 23 May.
- On 18 May, the government confirmed that another variant of the coronavirus - B.1.617.2 - has been detected in Nepal, signifying that three known variants of the virus are currently active in the country.
- The Serum Institute, the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer company in India, hopes to provide the Covishield vaccine to other countries only by the end of 2021. With this, Nepal will now have to wait till the end of 2021 to get the remaining one million doses of the Covishield vaccine earlier purchased from the Institute.
- The MoHP has released a clear list of 30 private and community hospitals and medical colleges for the treatment of corona. The ministry said in a statement on 19 May that corona would be treated free of charge at seven state hospitals.
- The government is mulling some changes to its COVID-19 travel restriction regulations that will allow the citizens to return home and fly abroad. As per the latest decision, Nepali nationals can leave the country on chartered flights which have been allowed to fly into the country to rescue foreign citizens.

(Source: MoHP, Media)

Local Context in DCA's working areas:

Doti, Achham, Dailekh, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Banke, Bardiya and Dhading (based on the DCA's partners' weekly report)

- All these Districts are under lockdown and have reported increasing cases of COVID-19. The death cases are on the rise and there is lack of isolation centre and shortage of human resources and essential health commodities such as oxygen, oximeters, etc. in Districts. RT-PCR testing and Antigen RDT testing are inadequate. Community level surveillance, case investigation, contact tracing and monitor inflow of returnee migrants from India are limited and insufficient.

- Medicine crunch hits Sudurpaschim Province hard as important medicines for blood infection and pneumonia gets scarce.
- Households with low education level, people with disability, female-headed who live in rural areas are found to be further in risk of food insecurity in DCA's working areas.
- Cases of domestic violence on the rise, but protection services from the local judicial committees have stopped leaving women deprived of legal services.
- In Achham District, migrant returnees are jobless, and people do not have access to PCR and antigen test. There is no quarantine provision.
- Farmers are not able to sell their produce to markets and many people are jobless in Bardiya District. Hygiene kit and psychosocial counselling are also not available. Some door to door visit programmes for people in home isolation has started there. DCA's partners have prepared FCHVs list to be mobilised in covid response activities.
- Local Governments (LG) are not able to expand tests and people still do not follow the minimum rules to avoid corona in Doti District. There is a lack of equipment and health materials in isolation centres, but Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality has decided to build a temporary covid hospital with 50 beds in Silgadhi and Purbichouki Rural Municipality (RM) is constructing one isolation center with 35 beds. The

District Administration Office has appealed to all agencies to follow one door system to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Belauri Municipality has decided to establish a 50 bed isolation centre and Laljhadi Municipality will have 12 bed isolation centre in Kanchanpur District. In Bheemdatta Municipality, DCA's partner has set up a help desk and assigned two human resources for COVID-19 test and contract tracing and to motivate home isolation patients. Similarly, a help desk and eight hand washing stations have been established in Belauri Municipality.
- In Dhangadi District, sampling test through antigen kit in Kailari RM has started. The Municipality has prioritised those Wards where people are suffering from fever related symptoms. The LG has started their planning process and has asked each tole to send in their requirements.
- In Banke District, there is a high risk of COVID-19 due to the open border between Nepal and India. The quarantine centres are not established, and isolation centres are not equipped and well managed. Baijanath RM has started antigen tests and free ambulance service for COVID-19 patients. Khajura RM has started distributing hygiene kits to the people in home isolation. Duduwa RM is also planning to start antigen tests soon.

Updates:

COVID-19 help desk established in Kanchanpur

A COVID-19 help desk has been set up in Bheemdatta Municipality of Kanchanpur District by DCA partner NNSWO. A COVID-19 help desk has been set up in the municipality to make the information and data related to corona more systematic and effective. Manpower has been provided at the help desk with necessary materials which will help in information and necessary assistance regarding corona. Mayor of Bheemdatta Municipality Surendra Bista said that a helpdesk will contribute to help prevent and control COVID-19 spread and help systemise information much better.





COVID-19 Help Desk

कोभिड-१९ सहायता कक्ष

भीमदत्त नगरपालिका

नगर कार्यपालिकाको कार्यालय, कञ्चनपुर



टोल फ्रि नम्बर : १६६०६६५११११

फोन नम्बर : ०६६-५२५३३३

ई-मेल : bheemdattahealth@gmail.com



NNSWA
Nepal National State Welfare Association
Kathmandu



Distribution of masks and sanitisers

SOSEC Nepal supported people residing in isolation centre in Aathabis Municipality with fresh fruits and nutritious food. They also distributed masks and sanitiser materials to the members of Laliguras farmers group at Panchadewal Binayak Municipality 8, where Tara Prasad Khanal, ward chairman was also present and handed over the materials to the community members. Masks and sanitisers were also given to Panchakoshi farmers group and Pipalchautari farmers group in Dullu Municipality Ward 9.



Virtual meeting of stakeholders on COVID -19 management

In a virtual meeting organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Nepalgunj, on 20 May, INSEC (DCA partner) Lumbini Provincial Office and Federation of Nepali Journalists, Banke branch participants stressed the need for all to play their part and collaborate in controlling COVID-19 and preventing mortality. Bijay Raj Gautam, INSEC's Executive Director said that discussions were underway for the role of civil society and how to improve the situation, adding that civil society should help in this situation without making negative comments on the work done by the government. He said that INSEC is always ready to coordinate, cooperate, and assist in the campaigns in all the Districts of Nepal.

Various issues and concerns were raised during the meeting as it had participants representing hospitals, CDO, students, Consumer Protection Committee, medical experts, members from NHRC, etc. The meeting concluded with the commitment of participants to collaborate and cooperate to fight against the pandemic.



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