



## Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring, Nepal



# Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring Nepal<sup>1</sup>

*-Sharpening the COVID-19 Response through Communications Intelligence*

**Date: September 7, 2021**  
Kathmandu, Nepal

## EMERGING THEME(S)

- Nepal reported 1,879 new COVID-19 infections, 20 deaths on September 6
- As schools reopen or get ready to reopen in-person classes after months, Health Ministry study shows there will not be total adherence to public safety health protocols as students were found to be exchanging masks, sharing water bottles; all 9 schools in Doti have reopened from September 5; schools in Kathmandu, Ramechhap, Banke, community schools in Hetaunda getting ready to reopen in-person classes
- Kailali's Tikapur Hospital lacks critical care doctors, skilled manpower to operate 7 ventilators it had arranged in the beginning of second COVID-19 wave; 46 people have lost their lives till May-June as they could not get needed medical care at the hospital

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<sup>1</sup> This intelligence is tracked through manually monitoring national print, digital and online media through a representative sample selection, and consultations with media persons and media influencers.

## ISSUE(S) IN FOCUS

The COVID-19 infection has been confirmed in 1,879 people in the past 24 hours, while 20 people lost their lives to the infection on September 6. A total of 1,488 were confirmed positive in PCR test and 409 confirmed positive in Antigen test.<sup>2</sup>

A study has shown that there will not be total adherence to the public health protocols with the reopening of the majority of schools in the country. A study done by the Ministry of Health and Population a couple of months ago found that students used to exchange masks and share bottles of drinking water. Another study by the United Nations Children's Fund also found that the protocols were not followed before, during and after the second lockdown. The experts have also been emphasizing that as it is impossible to maintain social distancing in schools, there needs to be a shift and turn-by-turn system to run the classes.<sup>3</sup>

All nine schools in the district of Doti, which have been closed for a long time due to the coronavirus pandemic, have resumed operations from September 5.<sup>4</sup>

Preparations have been made to reopen schools in the Kathmandu district from September 17. The education division of the local levels need to submit the report on the state of the COVID-19 infection, details on whether the teachers and staff have been vaccinated against COVID-19 or not, and the model of the running of schools to the District COVID-19 Crisis Management Center (DCCMC) by September 17. The DCCMC will give permission to reopen the schools on the basis of that report.<sup>5</sup>

The local levels of Ramechhap have started preparations to reopen schools as the administration has relaxed the prohibitory orders there.<sup>6</sup>

Community schools in Hetaunda Sub-Metropolis have decided to operate physical classes from September 12 in Makwanpur. The Sub-Metropolis decided to call 50 per cent students on alternative days, with students of even classes coming on even

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<sup>2</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>3</sup> Kantipur

<sup>4</sup> The Himalayan Times

<sup>5</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>6</sup> Kantipur

days, and students of odd classes coming on odd days.<sup>7</sup>

The community schools of Hetaunda Sub-Metropolitan are set to run in-person classes from September 12 — the classes will be run in the presence of only half the number of students.<sup>8</sup>

The Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality of Banke has started preparations to reopen schools that have been shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from September 12.<sup>9</sup>

The schools of Gorkha Municipality that have been shut down for the last five months will be allowed to run in-person classes from September 13.<sup>10</sup>

The Tikapur Hospital of Kailali arranged for seven ventilators before the beginning of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. However, even when the infected people, who reached the hospital on time, lost their lives due to a lack of doctors of critical care and human resources to operate the ventilators. A total of 46 people lost their lives to the COVID-19 infection till Jestha (May-June). The hospital has vacancies for eight specialist doctors and four medical officers, but the positions have been vacant for years till date.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The Himalayan Times

<sup>8</sup> Kantipur

<sup>9</sup> Nagarik

<sup>10</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>11</sup> Onlinekhabar

## OTHER(S)

### National News

People have stopped wearing masks in recent days and this could invite a fearful situation of COVID-19 pandemic in the near future. It's a question for people in 10 cities of the country who do not wear a mask or do not wear it properly — 'Where is your mask?'<sup>12</sup>

The 74th meeting of the World Health Organization South-East Asia Region has begun from September 6. The major health leaders of the world have emphasized on the need for more commitment to providing worldwide health services and for the health system that is able to face the risk.<sup>13</sup>

The prohibitory orders have been extended till September 16 in Gulmi — all the shops and businesses however have been allowed to reopen as part of the relaxed orders.<sup>14</sup>

Nepali laborers who have returned home amidst the COVID-19 pandemic have been cheated by recruitment companies. According to a study of National Network of Safe Migration, around 33 per cent of laborers who have returned home have not got their salaries from their employers, while 62.66 per cent have not got the salary as per the contract during the pandemic.<sup>15</sup>

The healthcare materials — oxygen concentrators, masks, PPE, sanitizers among others — needed for the control of COVID-19 pandemic have been distributed to three local levels of Morang.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Annapurna Post

<sup>13</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>14</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>15</sup> Nayapatrika

<sup>16</sup> Nagarik

The Pashupatinath Temple, which had been closed to the public for nearly four-and-a-half months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will reopen from September 17.<sup>17</sup>

The Manakamana and Gorakhkali Temple of Gorkha will be reopened to the public from September 8.<sup>18</sup>

The hotel business in Lumbini is at risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 2,500 small and big hotels in the area worth Rs 25,000,000,000, but the area has remained still due to the lack of tourists.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Annapurna Post

<sup>18</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>19</sup> Nayapatrika

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