



Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring, Nepal



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-Sharpening the COVID-19 Response through Communications Intelligence

Date: October 12, 2021
Kathmandu, Nepal

EMERGING THEME(S)

- Nepal reported 663 new COVID-19 cases on October 11; Nepal's infection rate has dropped to below 5 per cent, according to Health Ministry
- Nepal aims to inoculate two-thirds of eligible population against COVID-19 by January 14, 2022, entire eligible population by mid-May

RECURRING THEME(S)

- A higher number of people returning home for Dashain this year raising the risk of the spread of coronavirus infection in the villages as health protocols are not being adhered to while traveling

¹ 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

Nepal on October 11 reported 663 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours taking the nationwide infection tally to 802,861. In its regular situation report, the Ministry of Health and Population did not mention the death toll over the past 24 hours. It, however, reported 12 COVID-19-related fatalities, which included the number of deaths managed by Nepal Army on different dates. The countrywide death toll has now reached 11,243. The number of active cases stands at 14,787.²

The rate of COVID-19 infection has reduced to below 5 per cent in Nepal. According to the Ministry of Health and Population, the infection rate was less than 5 per cent on October 10 — 596 people out of 12,404 tested positive for COVID-19.³

The government aims to inoculate two-thirds of the eligible population with the COVID-19 vaccine by the end of Poush (January 14, 2022), and the entire eligible population by the end of Baisakh (mid-May). However, this seems a difficult goal for the government to meet if the current average daily inoculation is considered. At the current speed of vaccination, only two-thirds of the population will be inoculated within the next 150 days. Two-thirds of the population needs to be inoculated within the next 95 days to meet the government's set target.⁴

The COVID-19 vaccine is being given to differently-abled and physically weak people by visiting their homes in Dhangadhi. The Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City started the campaign to visit households of people for this.⁵

The number of people returning to their villages to celebrate Dashain is high this year. People are traveling in public vehicles without adhering to the health protocols — this will lead to a high risk of COVID-19 infection, according to the doctors. Meanwhile, there is less number of people who have taken the vaccine against COVID-19 in the rural areas of Nepal and those traveling to the villages might also carry the coronavirus with them — these factors can put the villages at high risk of the infection.⁶

² Kathmandupost.com

³ Setopati

⁴ Nagarik

⁵ Nayapatrika

⁶ Onlinekhabar

OTHER(S)

National News

The home stays of Chitwan that had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have started to come alive with the arrival of domestic tourists. The Tharu homestay of Meghauri has come into full operation adhering to public health protocols.⁷

International News

Thousands of demonstrators marched down Rome's famous Via Veneto and other streets on October 9, some smashing their way into a union office and clashing with police as they protested Italy's new 'Green Pass' vaccination requirement for employees to enter their offices. The certification is mandatory beginning on October 15 and applies to public and private workplaces. Both employees and employers risk fines if they do not comply.⁸

Elated Sydneysiders were emerging from almost four months of "blood, sweat and no beers" early on October 11 as a long coronavirus lockdown was lifted in Australia's city. Sydney's more than 5 million residents have been subjected to a 106-day lockdown, designed to limit the march of the highly transmissible Delta variant. With new infections now falling and more than 70 per cent of over-16s double vaccinated, Sydney was dusting off the cobwebs.⁹

The fate of Twenty20 World Cup matches if players test COVID-19-positive will be decided by a committee and not by the member boards, the global cricket governing body said on October 10.¹⁰

⁷ Nayapatrika

⁸ The Associated Press (in The Himalayan Times)

⁹ Agence France Presse (in The Kathmandu Post)

¹⁰ Agence France Presse (in The Kathmandu Post)

Contacts for further details

Ms Tsering Dolkar Gurung

NPO (Communication, Media and Public Information)
World Health Organization, Country Office for Nepal
gurungt@who.int

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