



## Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring, Nepal



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

**Date: October 26, 2021**

Kathmandu, Nepal

## EMERGING THEME(S)

- Nepal reported 673 new COVID-19 infections, 13 deaths on October 25
- US-donated 100,620 doses of Pfizer vaccine under COVAX facility arrived in Kathmandu on October 25 morning
- Second dose of AstraZeneca will be administered from October 26 from 8 local levels of Kathmandu district

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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

Nepal recorded 673 new coronavirus infections in last 24 hours, pushing the nationwide tally to 809,729, while the death toll climbed to 11,361 with 13 fatalities on October 25. Nepal's COVID-19 recovery rate stands at 97.3 per cent, the fatality rate stands at 1.4 per cent, while the active COVID-19 case count currently is 10,360.<sup>2</sup>

The United States-donated 100,620 doses of Pfizer vaccine arrived in Nepal on October 25. The vaccine doses supplied by the US government to Nepal to fight COVID-19 in partnership with the COVAX facility landed at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu aboard a Qatar Airways flight. This is the first time the vaccine manufactured by Pfizer has arrived in Nepal. The two-dose vaccine that needs to be administered within a period of a month must be kept at minus 70 degrees.<sup>3</sup>

The Pfizer vaccine received under the COVAX facility will be given to the people with underlying health conditions who are above the age of 12 years. According to Dr Sagar Dahal, Chief of the Immunization Division, the vaccine is very less in number, and will be given to those in the risk category, according to the rules of COVAX.<sup>4</sup>

The 100,620 doses of Pfizer vaccine received under grant assistance from the USA arrived in Nepal on October 25. The vaccine received under the COVAX facility, via the World Health Organization, has been stored at the central vaccine storage of Teku at present. It has been stored at the temperature of minu-80 degree Celsius.<sup>5</sup>

The Pfizer vaccine, received under the COVAX facility, will be administered from 24 hospitals of the country. It will be administered to those aged 12-18 years with underlying health conditions from November 14, according to the Ministry of Health and Population.<sup>6</sup>

Nepal is receiving 100,620 doses of Pfizer vaccine that can be administered to children, from the USA on October 25. But it won't be given to children because the quantity of vaccine is less. It would rather be given to the people with underlying health

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<sup>2</sup> THT Online

<sup>3</sup> THT Online

<sup>4</sup> Nagarik

<sup>5</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>6</sup> Ratopati

conditions, the Ministry of Health and Population has said.<sup>7</sup>

A total of 100,620 doses of Pfizer vaccine produced in the US will arrive in Kathmandu on October 25, as per the US Embassy that took to Twitter to make the announcement. The vaccine doses are provided by the US to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and to accelerate vaccination drive in Nepal.<sup>8</sup>

The second dose of AstraZeneca will be given from October 26 from eight local levels of Kathmandu district. The second dose will be given to those above the age of 18 who have taken the first dose.<sup>9</sup>

## OTHER(S)

### National News

An oxygen plant that was installed around two months ago is yet to come into operation at Birgunj-based Narayani Hospital. Udaya Narayan Singh, Coordinator of the COVID-19 unit, said the oxygen plant could not come into operation due to a lack of required electricity supply.<sup>10</sup>

### International News

The number of coronavirus infections recorded so far in eastern Europe surpassed 20 million on October 24, according to Reuters tally as the region grapples with its worst outbreak since the pandemic started and inoculation efforts lag. Countries in

<sup>7</sup> Nayapatrika

<sup>8</sup> The Himalayan Times

<sup>9</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>10</sup> The Kathmandu Post

the region have the lowest vaccination rates in Europe with less than half of the population having received a single dose. New infections in the region have steadily risen and now average over 83,700 new cases per day, the highest level since November last year, Reuters data through October 22 showed.<sup>11</sup>

China's latest COVID-19 outbreak is increasingly likely to spread further, a health official said on October 24 as authorities urged all regions to step up monitoring and called for a reduction in travel across provinces. More than 100 locally transmitted cases have been confirmed over the last week across 11 provincial areas, with most linked to 13 different tour groups. There is increasing risk that the outbreak might spread further, helped by 'seasonal factors', Mi Feng, Spokesman at the National health Commission, told reporters on October 24.<sup>12</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic has unexpectedly helped Japan's nursing homes and information technology companies overcome years of labor shortages as job cuts at restaurants and hotels have prompted workers to look for new careers. This newfound job mobility marks a shift in a country whose rigid labor practices are partially blamed for a long-term decline in productivity.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Reuters (in The Kathmandu Post)

<sup>12</sup> Reuters (in The Himalayan Times)

<sup>13</sup> Reuters (in The Kathmandu Post)

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