

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic quickly lead to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we saw after the earthquakes in Nepal. We can all play a role in beating the virus by making sure that we are sharing validated information and using trusted sources to inform our decision-making.

The **Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC)** gathers rumours, concerns and questions from communities across Nepal to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, NGOs and citizens. By providing the public with facts, the CCC ensures a better understanding of needs regarding the coronavirus and debunks rumours before they can do more harm.



Buying daily necessities during the lockdown



Total Stock of Daily Essentials in Private and Public Depots in Nepal


Rice
1,02,569.5
MT

Dal
16,080.54
MT

Sugar
7294.56
MT

**Iodine
Salt**
1,61,643.01
MT

**Petroleum
Products**

Disel
36,7663
KGs

Petrol
7,401
KGs

Kerosene
2,574
KGs

**Air
Fuel**
7,010
KGs

**L.P.
Gas**
45,381
MT

Rumors - Facts



When someone infected with Coronavirus dies, the relatives cannot even touch their bodies. They will be wrapped in plastic and buried on the ground.

The last rituals for the dead bodies infected with Coronavirus needs to be done carefully. The ritual can be conducted as usual [as per the religion] if the health workers in the hospital, people conducting the last ritual, ambulance staff, and relatives participating in the ritual use gloves, cap, and PPE with masks. Further, it is important to stop the people above the age of 60 or with long term disease to participate in the ritual. Similarly, the other people participating should maintain a meter distance from the dead body taking turns to see it.



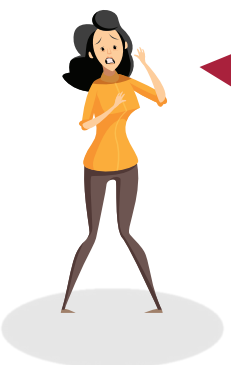
The local government is establishing a separate fund to distribute the relief. What is this separate fund? How is its record maintained?

The ministry has directed the local government units to use the approved budget from the federal government and the municipal internal funds (after changing the budget heads), and establish a separate fund for Corona management and relief distribution. The Office of the Auditor General has given directions to keep the records of the fund in a separate file.



There are a lot of people in the community trying to contribute as volunteers. There is a fear that they can transmit the virus.

The government has introduced a guideline to mobilize volunteers for Coronavirus prevention and control. It states that, there should be 1 health worker, 2-3 volunteers and 1 police coordinated by the ward chairperson in each ward. To select the local level volunteers, the priority should be given to volunteers from Red Cross, representatives from local non-government organizations, past security personnel or temporary police, and actives members in the Tole Committee.



Is it true that there is a shortage of essential supplies in the market as India has stopped exporting it to Nepal?

The import of the essentials has not reduced after the lockdown. The import has gradually increased from the first week of the lockdown to the second week where there is a 9.7% increase in food, 87.7% in Dal, 70.2% in vegetables, 293.1% in fruits, 249% in dairy products, and 61.9% in raw medicinal products. Whereas the import of medicines has reduced by 39.9%. As the storage centers in Nepal have sufficient supplies, there is no need to worry yet.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[World Health Organization](#) [Ministry of Health and Population](#)

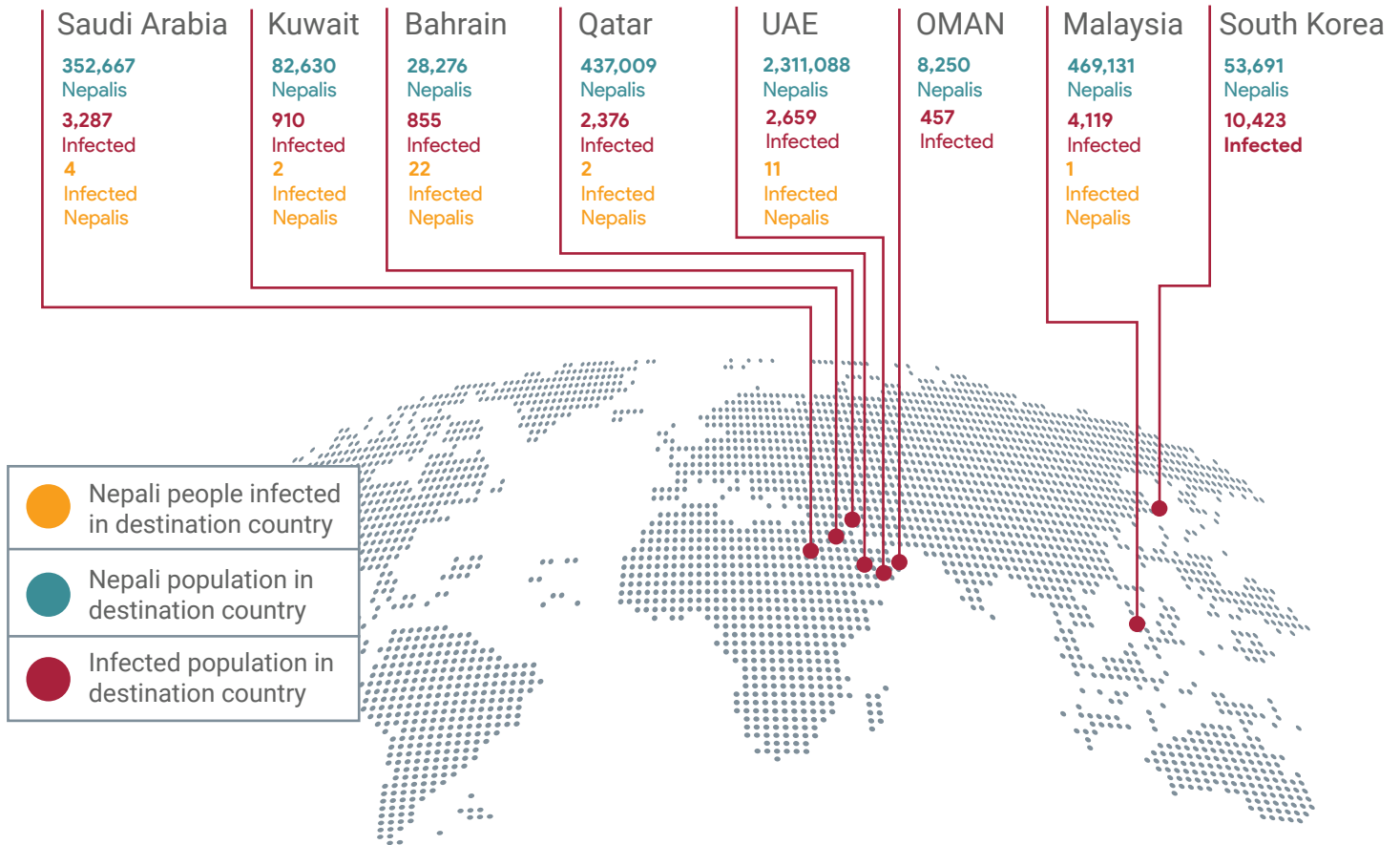
[Do's and dont's](#) [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal](#)

[Nepal Labour Force Survey Report](#) [COVID-19 Situation](#)



Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Are you currently in UAE? What steps to take if you think you've contracted COVID-19?

The coronavirus tests in the UAE have started taking place at a rapid pace. Almost 600,000 people have been tested until now. If you believe you've been infected by the virus, then what should you do?

The procedure from Dubai Health Authority

- Keep yourself away from others' contact
- Request others who had come in contact with you in the past days to stay away from others
- Call Dubai Health Authority (DHA) to book your appointment
- Wait for a phone call from DHA

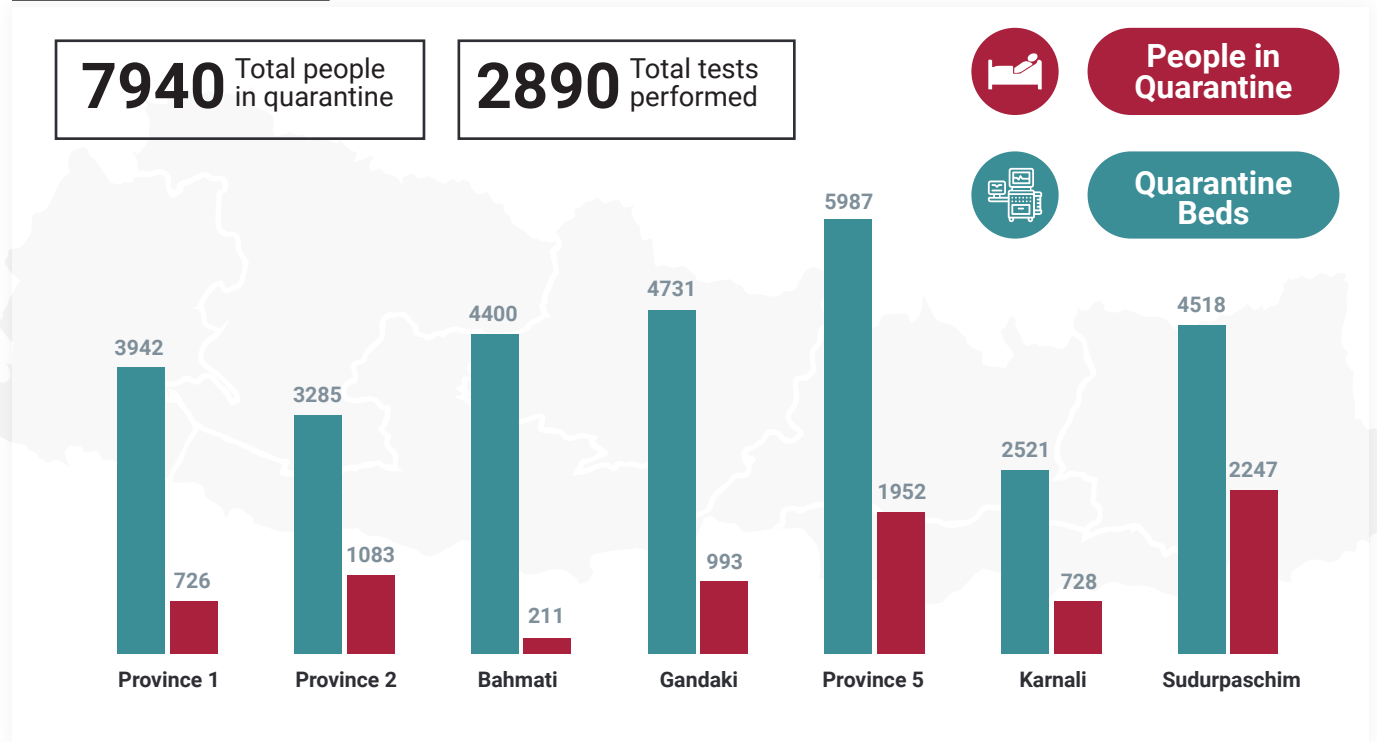


- ◆ In case of severe difficulty, please call the ambulance in 999 or 998
- ◆ There are 13 test centers UAE. You can get yourself tested by going to the closest center and paying 370 Dirham.

Abu Dhabi: 800-1717, Dubai: 800-342, Health and Prevention Ministry: 800-11111

Is the testing rate for COVID-19 too slow to really prevent it's spread?

Date of Data: 9.4.2020



The above graph shows the number of people in quarantine with respect to available quarantine beds denoting that only 27% of the total beds have been filled. Also noting the fact that the ratio of the total COVID-19 tests performed to total people in quarantine is almost 1:2.5 people, it shows a lack of actions taken to prevent the spread. The government needs to take more proactive measures in facilitating more people into quarantine and increasing the number of tests.

Karnali Province Disaster Management Fund



79 total local units

132M NRS



Birendranagar Municipality

3M NRS

Municipality

24 total local units

48M NRS

2M NRS per local unit

Rural Municipality

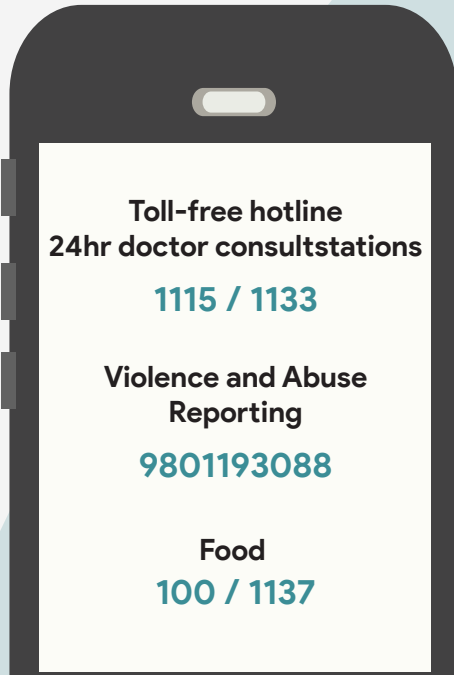
54 total local units

81M NRS

1.5M NRS per local unit

What if I contract **coronavirus**?

COVID-19 HOTLINE



Where can I get a coronavirus test?

The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) Teku, Kathmandu, Bharatpur, Dhulikhel, Bhairahawa as well as all provincial hospitals are conducting tests. As the person suspected to have the virus needs to be isolated, the sample is collected by hospitals and sent to the NPHL.

Is the sick person allowed to go to the lab to get tested? How much does it cost?

The sick person is not allowed to go to the lab directly. The local hospitals will refer to the NPHL to test if suspected. There is no cost for the test.

How long does it take to see the results of the test?

The test report is provided between 24-48 hours after the sample is submitted to the lab. If the report is positive, the concerned hospital or the doctor is informed.

The sources of rumors, information and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations and individuals including the Ministry of Health and Population, the World Health Organization (WHO), social media and the CivActs team based on their conversations with over 2000 people in April 2020. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance and potential impact. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by
Accountability Lab Nepal.

