

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.

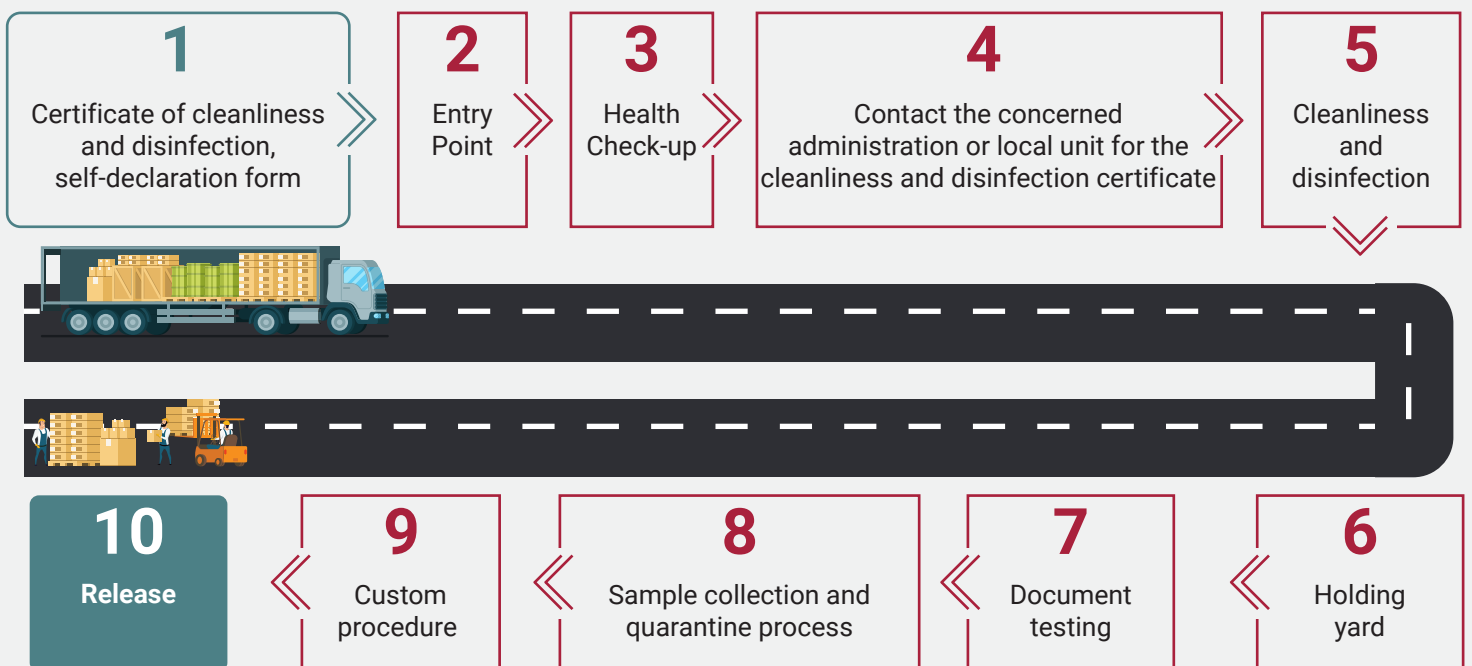


Buddhist monks wear protective masks at a mass prayer meeting for victims of the coronavirus in Kathmandu, Nepal

Photo: EPA-EFE



10 safety measures to be practiced in the goods import points



It is mandatory to present the certificate of disinfection of the goods before it is loaded at the import points. It is also mandatory to confirm that the driver and people bringing goods are not infected and they submit a certificate proving it.

Rumors & Facts



The families of those migrants who lost their lives in labor destinations haven't been able to bring the dead bodies. Isn't there any agency where the families can seek help?

The Foreign Employment Board has issued a notice that the families of those labor migrants who lost their lives in countries like Malaysia, the Gulf, the Middle East should report the name of the dead person, passport number, destination country, date of death, and name and phone no. along with other details of the focal person in Nepal at 1141 or 16600150005 from Nepal via phone call which is free or via paid call at 97715970008, Emo/Viber at 9801800013 and email at callcenter@febb.gov.np from abroad.



We have heard that there has been an outbreak of measles due to the hurdle in the regular vaccination program. How has the government planned to tackle the situation?

The Ministry of Health and Population has paid special attention to the news regarding the outbreak of measles due to obstruction in the regular vaccination program. The ministry has thus directed all the local government bodies on 10 Baisakh to continue with the regular vaccination program and provide the required support in coordination for its execution.



We have heard that the Nepal - India border has been closed. Is it true that there has been no transport of goods and raw materials?

The import of the goods from Kakarvitta checkpoint halted on 27 Chaitra, 2076 when the Government of Western Bengal of India decided to close all border points. However, the goods are being transported regularly from other border points.



Shouldn't the government employees except for the health workers and security personnel go to offices?

During the lockdown, the chief of the offices are directed to provide leave to other employees except for the ones from the essential sectors such as health, security, drinking water, milk, electricity, telecom, information and communication, custom, quarantine, waste management, and so on. However, the ones who are provided with leave will have to be present as soon as they are needed in the office.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[World Health Organization](#)

[Ministry of Health and Population](#)

[Do's and dont's](#)

[Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

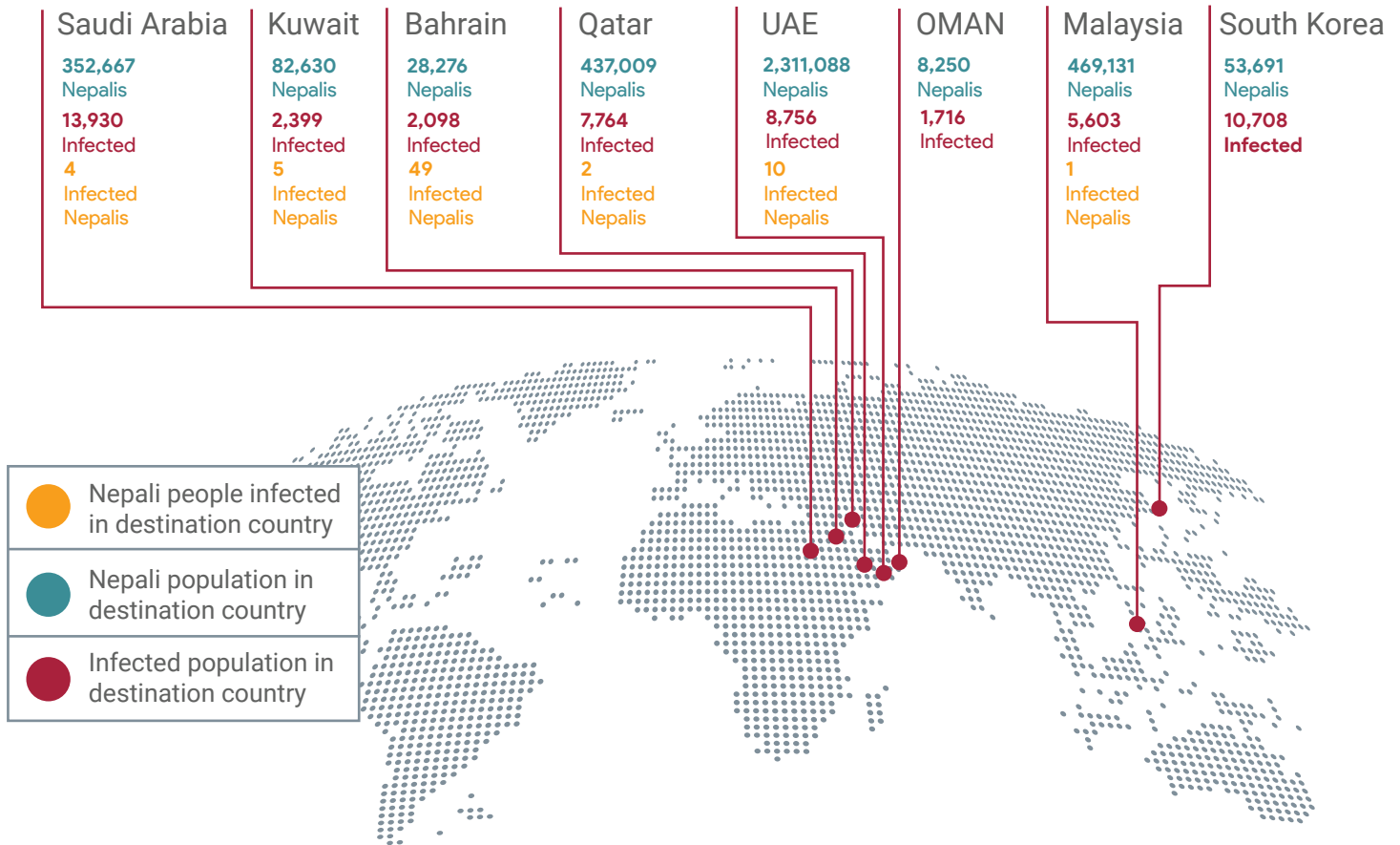
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal](#)

[Nepal Labour Force Survey Report](#)

[COVID-19 Situation](#)



Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Useful information for labors in foreign employment



As Ramadan starts in UAE, Oman, and Kuwait from 24 April and in Bahrain from 25 April, the government has changed the lockdown timing taking it into consideration. Also, marking the occasion, Qatar is releasing 17 Nepali prisoners and UAE is releasing around 2000 prisoners from different jails. However, the number of Nepali prisoners in the UAE hasn't been confirmed yet.



Digital payment will be made mandatory in all the grocery stores of Saudi Arabia from May 10.



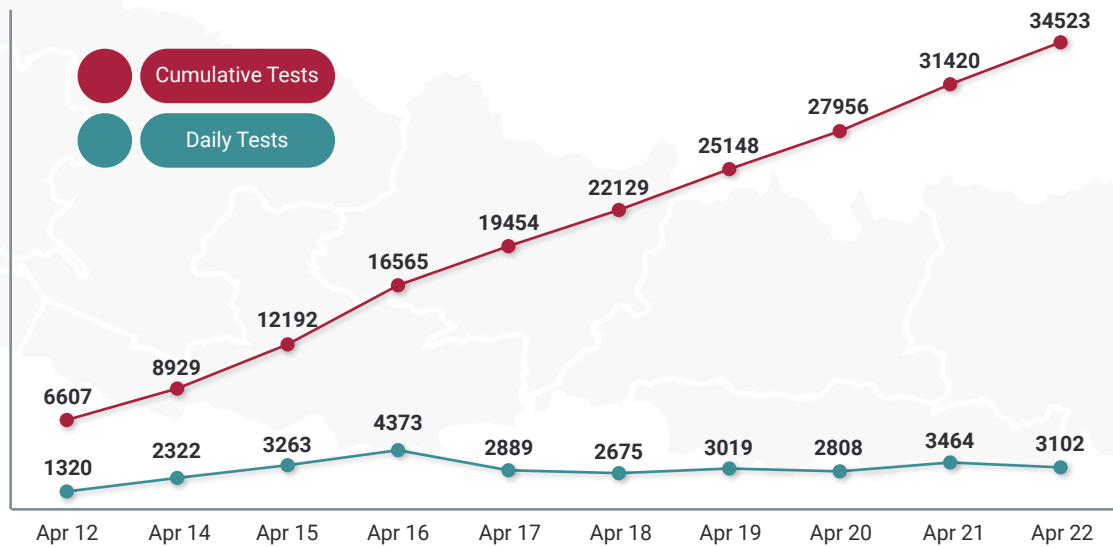
In Malaysia, the Movement Control Order has been extended until 12 May. The government has defined a strict fine and jail punishment in case anyone violates the order. The number of infected Nepalis in Malaysia is lower in comparison to other countries. Moreover, the number of individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 is higher than the number of infected people.



If we face any problems in the labor destinations and are not able to contact the embassy or solve a problem, then we can contact the call center at the Ministry of Labour. The number to make a phone call is 977-1-5970008, which is open between 7 Am to 9 PM Nepali time or Viber at 977-9801800013.

Is the current pace of rapid tests enough to loosen Nepal's lockdown?

COVID -19 Rapid Diagnostic Tests Rate



The above graph shows that although a significant number of Rapid Diagnostic Tests are done every day, the rate of daily tests has not improved significantly in the last two weeks. This might be because of human resource limitations or poor coordination but it has to be understood that testing rapidly is directly related to how fast the lockdown can be loosened. Can the government do better at increasing the pace of these tests, or is there a need to change strategies to fight COVID-19?

\$ Follow the Money

Total

Spent

Federal Government:

The budget allocated from Nepal Government and Ministry of Finance in three rounds

Around 1.48B NRS

The total fund in Coronavirus Infection Prevention, Treatment and Control Fund

Around 2.1B NRS

The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus

Around 1.5B NRS

Province 2

The total amount in Corona Infection Prevention, Treatment and Control Fund

250M NRS

Relief and interest subsidy program

360M NRS

Distribution to the local governments

Around 177M NRS

10 steps to be taken by the provincial government to make the corona prevention, control and treatment more effective



1

Develop protocol in a simple language which can be easily understood by the public

Make one-window relief distribution mechanism more effective

2



3

Mobilize employees with expertise by developing protocols to provide them important tasks

Provide proper safety and facilities to the employees who work in the forefront

4



5

Bring programs that join local representative - local representative, local representative - government, local representative - citizen

Identify the number of all the entry points of provinces and strictly monitor the movements

6



7

Build proper coordination between provincial and local government for the supervision of individuals kept in quarantine

Since a proper mechanism is more important than an individual to operate effectively, the focus of the provincial assembly members should be on drafting timely policies rather than working in the field

8



9

Regularly publish the details of the budget, expense and policies made by the provincial government against coronavirus control

Proper use of the platforms for social awareness

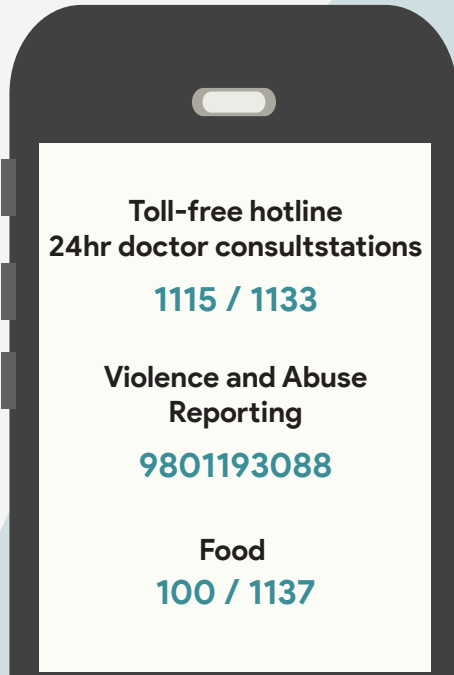
10



This material is based on the issues raised in the video conference organized by Accountability Lab in collaboration with IRI with the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and other MPs of the Karnali State Assembly.

What if I contract **coronavirus**?

COVID-19 HOTLINE



Where can I get a coronavirus test?

The PCR tests for Coronavirus are conducted in 14 Labs across 7 provinces including the National Public Health Laboratory whereas R.D.T tests are conducted in all 7 districts across Nepal.

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 PCR tests reports are given in between 6 to 48 hours, whereas the reports for RDT tests are given in 15 minutes.

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.

