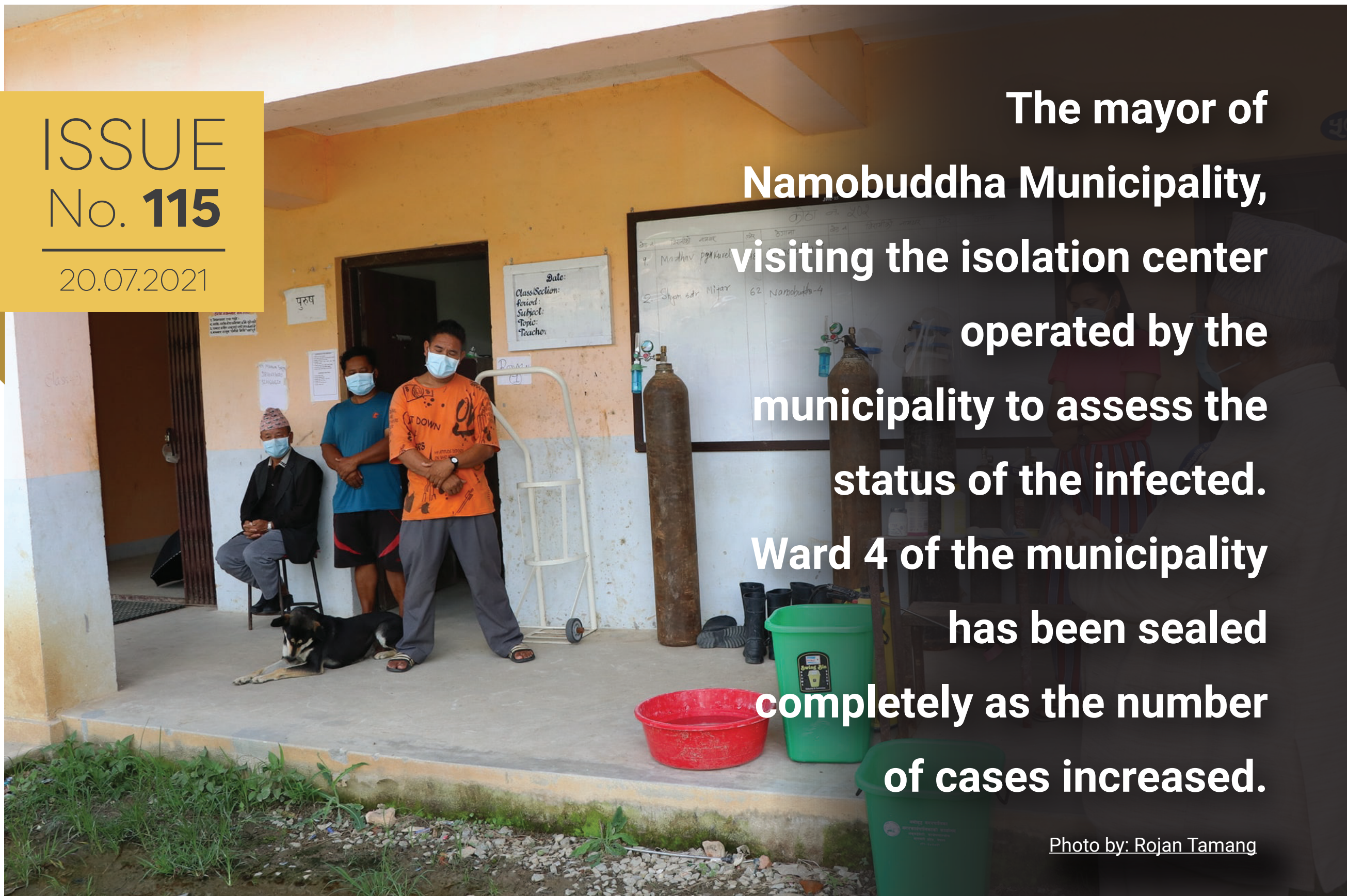


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The mayor of
Namobuddha Municipality,
visiting the isolation center
operated by the
municipality to assess the
status of the infected.
Ward 4 of the municipality
has been sealed
completely as the number
of cases increased.

Photo by: [Rojan Tamang](#)



Excessive crowd at the vaccination centres. The PM directs the Chief Secretary and Secretary at Health to manage the vaccination campaign after the people's complaints.

[Click here for more information](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Low allocation of budget in COVID-related headings in Bharatpur Metropolitan City.

The metropolitan has allocated only 1.87% of the budget for the health sector.

What is it with the rumors of Johnson & Johnson vaccines not being safe?

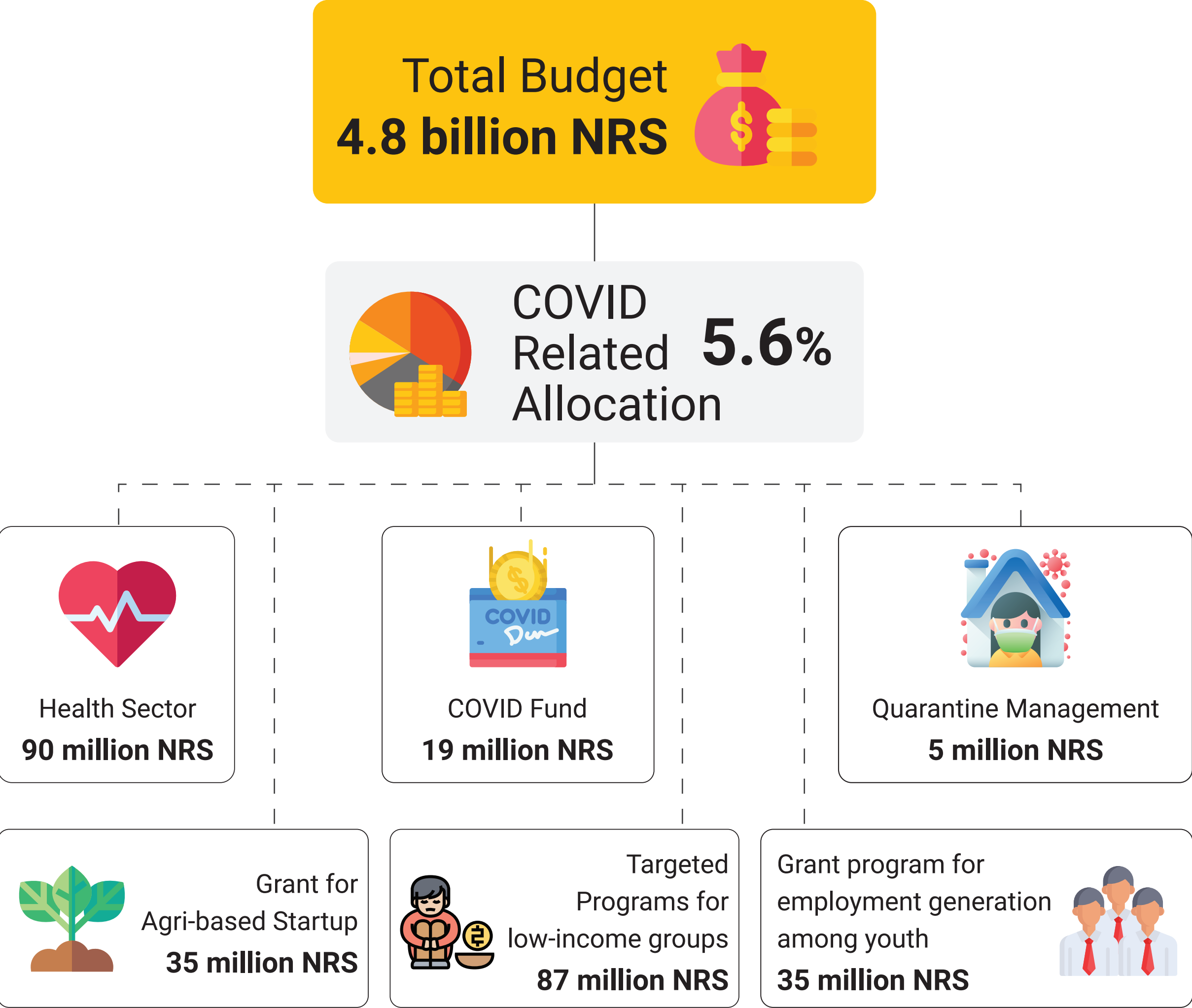
Based on the available evidence no direct relation between the vaccine and Guillain Barre Syndrome is established.

Those coming from other districts can easily enter Kathmandu Valley.

The recommendation of the municipality and administration office is made mandatory.

FACT SHEET

Low allocation of budget in COVID-related headings in Bharatpur Metropolitan City



Bharatpur Metropolitan City has recently passed its annual budget for the fiscal year 2078/79. The total budget for the upcoming fiscal year is Nrs 4.8112 billion. Being one of the main trading hubs of Nepal, one would expect Bharatpur Metropolitan would prepare a budget prioritizing COVID recovery. But, like many other local governments in Nepal, Bharatpur Metropolitan city has kept recovery from the COVID pandemic as one of the major objectives of the budget, yet the actual allocation of budget does not reflect this. The health sector allocation stands at 1.87% of the total budget and the emergency COVID fund only at 0.39%. Allocation for quarantine management which is the responsibility of local governments is only 0.1%. Additionally, the allocation for grants programs for employment generation and agricultural start-ups does not include any provision for COVID-affected families. Clearly, there is a mismatch between the objective and the allocation of the budget.

Source: https://www.swc.org.np/sites/default/files/suchana/FlashReport_infograph_July%209.pdf

RUMORS & FACTS

?

What is it with the rumors of Johnson & Johnson vaccines not being safe?

This rumor surfaced after the US Drug Enforcement Administration said the Johnson & Johnson vaccine could increase the risk of Guillain Barre Syndrome relating to the nervous system. However, there is no proof about the direct link between the vaccine and risk of Guillain Barre Syndrome. The institution has in fact said that the benefits of the vaccine outweighs the risks. The Government of Nepal has also requested not to follow such rumors.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/mmVz9kn>

The Ministry of Health and Population has informed that the second dose of Covishield vaccine has been arranged and will be made available for all the people above 65 years of age who had been vaccinated with the first dose. Similarly, the government has stated that additional vaccines purchased from China will arrive from 6 Shrawan and at least 32 lakh doses of vaccine will arrive by 15 Shrawan. The government has also stated that now the vaccines are gradually coming, the second dose will be provided on time to all who have received the first dose.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/EmVqfL6>

?

Four months have passed since we received the first dose, there is no hope of receiving the second dose. Now again, the news about the first dose is heard. Isn't the government fooling everyone by providing the first dose of vaccine?

?

It is heard that those coming from other districts can easily enter Kathmandu Valley. Is the recommendation not needed anymore?

It is said that the private and public vehicles entering the Kathmandu Valley due to urgent work will be allowed to pass. This facility has been provided especially for the convenience of the students who have to take exams. However, the recommendation of the local unit or administration office is mandatory for this.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/qmBbBie>

CORPSE MANAGEMENT DURING COVID-19

Obstruction of corpse management by community members



Disclaimer: This is disaggregated data collected by compiling published reports of obstruction in corpse management in online media, national dailies, district-level newspapers, and police websites. Therefore, the data reflects a trend rather than the actual prevalence of these protests during the period.

Corpse management of people who died due to COVID-19 has been an issue since the early stages of 2020. The government of Nepal published a detailed procedure of dead body management on April 7, 2020, which was later updated and finalized on October 11, 2020. Yet, communities across Nepal did not stop obstructing the management of dead bodies. Stories were recorded of 14 different protests where family members were not allowed to cremate or bury their loved ones due to the fear of virus transmission. WHO had already mentioned there is very little risk of transmission of the virus after a body has been buried, even less after cremation. Therefore, the protests and obstructions are uncalled for, provided that the people managing the dead bodies follow the correct protocol. The issue is a lack of awareness in communities that are obstructing funeral rites with the fear of being infected. In many cases, the dead bodies have been held up in Ambulances or dumped improperly. This clearly violates the procedure publicized by the government, which mentions that the hospital should properly manage dead bodies until they have been buried or cremated. The government should properly monitor the management of dead bodies and educate communities to allow people to conduct funeral rites for their loved ones.

Source: <https://nepalmonitor.org/>

Eid has started in Middle East countries. Eid Mubarak to all of our friends

UAE

- In Abu Dhabi, malls, cinemas, restaurants and public places will be available only with a certain capacity. Under which:
 - Shopping Mall: 40 percent
 - Beach, swimming pool, restaurant, public spaces: 50 percent
 - Cinema: 30 percent
- Only three people can travel in the six seater taxi
- On the occasion of Eid, toll gates and parking charges have been made free in all the emirates in UAE including Abu Dhabi
- COVID-19 Vaccination Centre will remain closed in Eid holidays
- Seha has opened another COVID-19 drive thru Centre in Abu Dhabi
- National Sterilisation Programme will be restarted from 20th July in Abu Dhabi
- Postponed flight from India, Bangladesh to UAE has been postponed till July 31. Nepal is not included in the current notice. In case, there is no other notice, we can be optimistic about the flight from Nepal to UAE on July 21 onwards.



Kuwait

- Eid holidays have started in Kuwait. The government offices will reopen from 25 onwards.
- Those who have a visa for foreign employment will be given a Johnson & Johnson vaccine from 19th July. Various local bodies have already published the information and the workers can go to the nearest health office, show their visa and get vaccinated.
- Prioritising COVID vaccine, mobile vaccine teams have been delivered to larger camps
- Kuwait has started providing vaccines to the children of age 12-15.

Qatar

Nepali Embassy is now closed during the Eid holidays. One can however contact 33560117 for the emergency services.

The embassy has informed that the passports that have been prepared and arrived at the embassy will be distributed on July 22 from 9 am to 12 noon.

You can listen to our Facebook live at www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjali every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening UAE time (8: 00 PM), Kuwait (7: 00 PM) and Malaysia (12 Midnight).



GROUND NARRATIVES

An green activist planting a tree to celebrate the recovery of corona

Hemantaraj Kafle is known to the public of Nepalgunj as a green engineer. He is also a teacher and journalist by profession. When Nepalgunj became the hotspot of Corona, he was unsure about the steps he should take. There was a lack of oxygen everywhere. The hospitals were full of patients. He couldn't just sit and watch. He started the "For 1,000 Hospitals" campaign with a motive that it is a duty of responsible citizens to help others in crisis. Within a few days from the start of the campaign, a good amount of support was gathered. From the money raised, he purchased 5 Lakh health items and handed them over to Bheri Hospital.

While some people insulted him for begging, there were also friends who said "a handful of rice is a great help, when you are in trouble. That kept inspiring him.



Meanwhile, his sister also became corona infected. He had to stay as a caretaker. During that time, he saw even more dreadful cases. Like everyone's breath was up to the doctor and nurse. When the doctor and nurse leave, their breath also leaves with them. He also had no other choice. Listening to the patients' screams and waiting for the doctor and nurse became his daily routine. Kafle started suffering from a sore throat while he was staying as a caretaker. He stayed at home as per doctor's advice.

Kafle, who underwent PCR testing after showing symptoms, also tested positive for corona. His condition was critical, but Kafle didn't dare to stay in the hospital after seeing the awful situation. After a long battle, he was finally released. On the day he was free from the infection, he happily planted a sapling in the premises of his house and wished good health to all. Green activist Hemant Raj Kafle had been running the campaign for a long time, but his efforts almost doubled after the lack of oxygen was observed during the second COVID wave.

VOICES OUT LOUD

The lockdown forced all the people to stay at home and even those who had gone out for work returned home. Because of this females were more tensed of unwanted pregnancy. With this mind, we worked to ensure that the family planning measures were easily accessible to everyone. We have even provided services at the doorsteps to those who could not come to the urban health clinic. Because of our little effort, we were able to prevent unintended pregnancy of many women.

MINA RANA

ANM, Ghosuwada Urban Clinic,
Dhangadhi, Kailali



DR. BACHASPATI SUBEDI

Emergency Physician,
Gandaki Medical College, Pokhara

There was a shortage of human resources in the first wave however, in the second wave because of the availability of adequate human resources, 4 days duty in a week was enough. Once at the peak of the pandemic, a 6/7 year old kid came to me and pleaded, “Doctor Uncle save my father at any cost.” This does not let me stay at home. Now that the government has lifted the restrictions, the number of cases in the hospital has increased again. You feel the pain only when you experience it. So it is wise to be cautious.

FAIR FACTS

is a product of:



FAIR FACTS is an open platform that connects citizens, leaders and institutions; and exchanges authentic information to tackle misinformation and popular myths around Covid-19 in Nepal. The ongoing crisis of the Coronavirus pandemic demands quick, scientific and fair information around health services, livelihoods, and social security. With FAIR FACTS we build an ecosystem of changemakers and use the power of real stories and voices from all corners of the country for a disaster response mechanism that is fair and equitable.

Covid-19 is not just a health crisis but also exacerbates a lack of integrity and accountability in governance systems. To help beat this virus effectively, we track facts, share helpful information, and build unlikely networks.

Brought to you by:



DISCLAIMER

The sources of rumors, information, and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations, government agencies, international organizations, news articles, social media, and Community Frontliners in all 7 provinces of Nepal, as well as the CivActs team based on their conversations with different people, directly and indirectly, over the past week. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and its potential impact on society. The information presented here is correct at the time of the issue.

REACH OUT TO US ON



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