

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.



Nepal Army providing necessities in communities



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Rumors - Facts



The people tested positive for coronavirus have come in contact with a lot of people. Those people have further contacted others. Isn't everyone infected this way? How many people have the government traced until now?

Among the four infected individuals, the government has already completed contact tracing of two and has directed mandatory quarantine on them. Also, the contact tracing of the other two is 80% completed. The government has requested the public to be alert even though the risk of being infected from these contacts is low.



The government has directed to close businesses during the lockdown. However, the shops selling daily essentials are directed to open on a particular time frame. What are the government's incentives for essential service providers?

The government has decided to arrange for the transportation of the necessary items produced in the factories and the food items collected in the collection centers such as vegetables, milk, eggs, fish, meat, etc. to the nearest market or to Kathmandu valley. It has also decided to arrange a 25% subsidy through local levels for the transport of the items.



We hear that the private hospitals have stopped treating patients of seasonal flu as well. Do they only take advantage of the government's benefits? Shouldn't they fulfill their responsibility?

The Supreme Court has given an interim order to the private hospitals to treat the patients without any condition. Article 35 of the Constitution of Nepal has also guaranteed the basic health of people. According to the Constitution of Nepal, no health institution can refrain from providing essential services to the people. Moreover, the Government has decided to provide a minimum 20% discount on the overall service tax bills provided in the month of Chaitra.



Health workers are working in the fear of coronavirus and hoping for the government's full support. How do you incentivize the good ones while punishing the bad ones?

At the moment, it is the moral and professional obligation of every health professional to fulfill their given responsibility. The government is preparing to arrange food and shelter for all the health workers who work in COVID clinics. Similarly, all the health professionals including doctors, nurses, health technicians, ambulance drivers, sanitation workers and so on would be provided Nrs. 25 lakh worth fee insurance until Ashad. The government will come up with a punishment for those who don't fulfill their responsibility.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

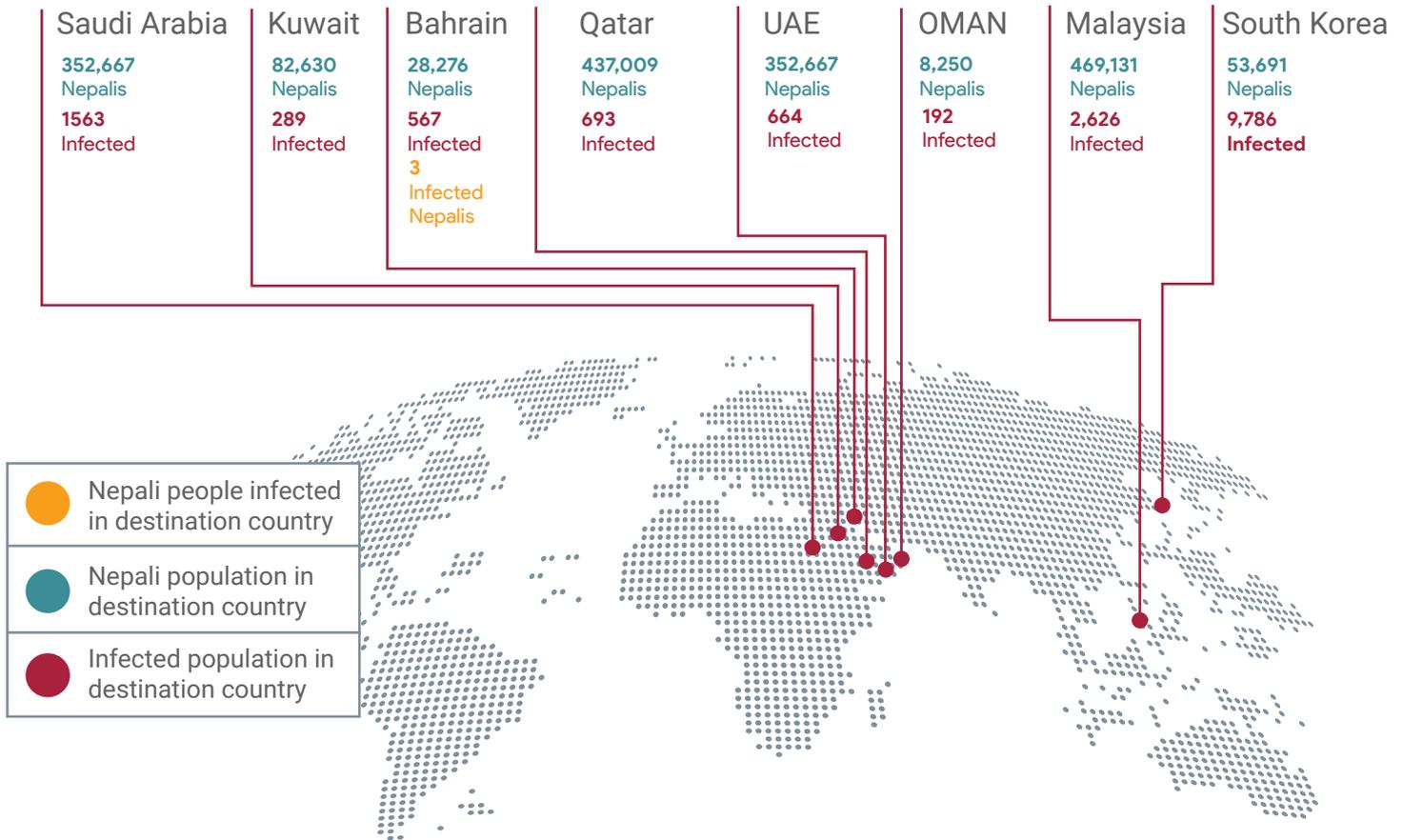
[Do's and don'ts](#) [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

[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

Labor migrants at high risk in destination countries, urgent action needed

- 1 Airports aren't still fully closed in Qatar which puts the laborers who work there at risk.
- 2 In most of the countries, Nepalese work at supermarkets. Since there is no supermarket closure, they unwillingly come in contact with new people that raises the fear of the transmission. Also, they undergo psychological trauma that the virus will transmit despite their precaution.
- 3 Between 8 - 10 labor migrants are obliged to share the same room. Since many of the works are still in operation, they fear that the working roommate could come in contact with the virus.
- 4 As thousands of laborers reside in one labor camp, the infection in one person can also bring about a detrimental situation.

One demand the government can immediately fulfill in the current situation

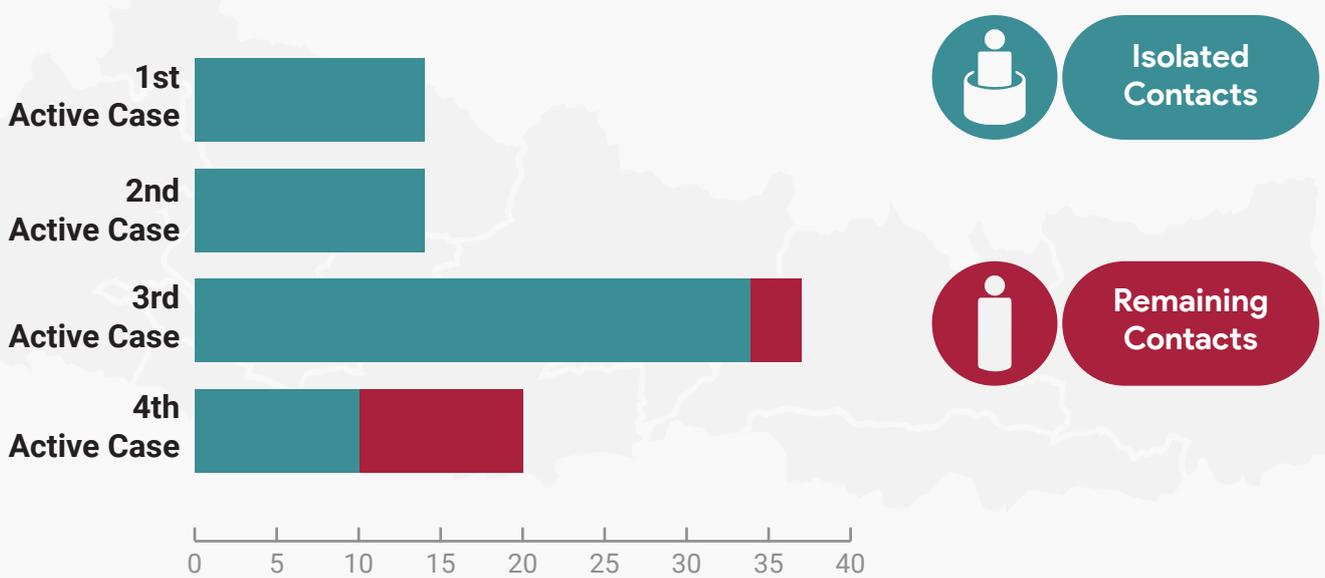


The migrant workers whose visas have expired and are willing to come back but are stranded due to the travel restrictions should be given a chance to come back with mandatory quarantine facilities as they are facing severe circumstances.



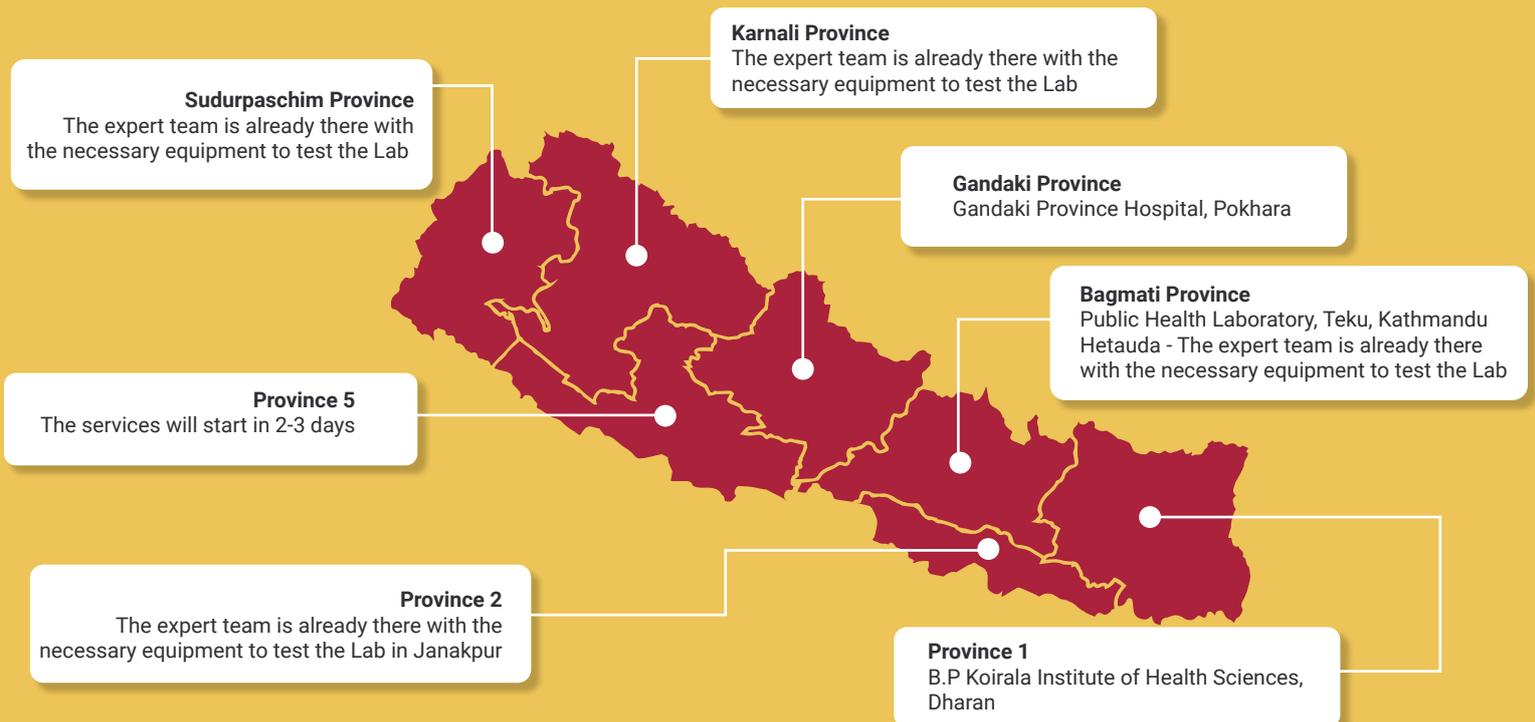
Is the government failing to trace contacts of active COVID-19 cases?

Total Contact Tracing of COVID-19 Infected Patients



The above graph shows the progress made by the Nepali government on contact tracing, which according to the government is done for the first 2 cases and is 80% in progress for the remaining 2. But, considering the travel history of all four active cases who were all in contact with other people for over 6 days, the numbers do not seem very convincing, begging the question whether or not the government is failing to trace all the contacts of the active COVID-19 cases.

Update on Province-Level Coronavirus Test Lab Management



Why do health workers and first responders need special care?



Frontline health workers need adequate infection prevention and control measures as per WHO and National guidelines regarding PPE. There has been a lot of discussion and news about the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) not only in Nepal but globally. The issue of PPE has been a hot debate and some hospitals, even in the USA, [are asking staff to work without PPE](#).

Current Perception:

PPE is only for the benefit and safety of health workers.

Truth:

1. PPE certainly helps health workers prevent the spread of infection.
2. If a health worker is infected, he/she should remain in self-quarantine/ isolation during that period which means he/she cannot work during that time.
3. A health worker infected from COVID 19 can be a carrier and can infect a large number of patients and other health workers.

Why is this important?

The government is enforcing a lockdown to; the rate of infection and trying to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The country and people are deeply affected during the lockdown as businesses are shut down. **Without PPE, the objective of the government lockdown cannot be achieved.** PPE is the single most important thing beyond testing to contain COVID 19 pandemic. It is unethical for health workers not to provide treatment to patients in emergency rooms, it is also equally unethical to put health workers at unnecessary risk and chances of infection.

PPP situation in Nepal and transparency in procurement

Recently the government purchased some PPE's and got some through donations. The equipment should be made available to the health workers in government hospitals and private medical colleges and hospitals. The Government should purchase more PPE, without which the control of this pandemic will be impossible. The procurement process must be prompt and transparent.

Be Pragmatic not live in Ideal world

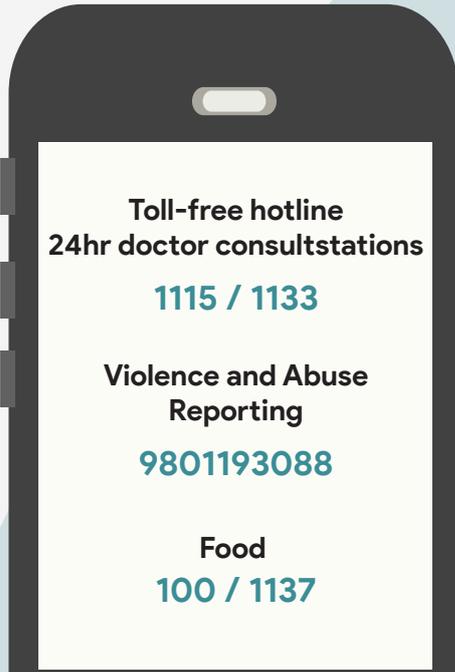
We don't live in an ideal world and we may need to be pragmatic. There may be shortages of PPEs but it is the moral duty of the government in the first place to try all possible options and ways to ensure equipment is available to frontline health workers in the first place.

This is the personal view of Dr Shushil Koirala

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What if I contract **coronavirus**?

COVID-19 HOTLINE



Where can I get a coronavirus test?

The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), Teku, Kathmandu 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 1,276 people in March 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
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