

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.



17 laborers walked back to Bardiya from Kathmandu (575 KM) after the lockdown



6T strategies finalized by the government to cope with Coronavirus

T Travel Restriction

- Closing all the entry points of arrival in Nepal from abroad
- Lockdown within the country

T Testing

- Performing tests for all the individuals staying in the quarantine arranged by local, provincial and federal government
- Broadening the horizon of the tests

T Tracing

- Conducting the test of the family members and people who come in contact with the corona infected person

T Tracking

- Identifying the potential infectants and tracking the movement of the corona infected and monitoring their status and preparing for isolation.

T Treatment

- Assigning hospitals for corona treatment both inside and outside the valley
- Government to bear the entire cost of the treatment for corona infected person

T Together

- Different committees are formed and mobilized from governments side
- Health workers, security personnels, those arranging daily essential consumables, government, and non-governmental organizations and media to collectively fight against coronavirus

Rumors - Facts



The Rs 6 Crores that the Members of Parliament receive will now be used for Corona Prevention and Control.

Since the budget for corona prevention and treatment has been transferred from the budget allocated to the local level, concerns were being raised that the amount received by the Members of Parliament under the Local Infrastructure Development Partnership Program annually should be invested in constructing hospitals for corona prevention. The meeting of the advisory committee has gained consensus to use the remaining amount from the program for the corona prevention, control, and treatment fund.



The patients who are tested positive from Rapid Testing Kit are being tested negative from PCR. Is it true that Rapid Testing Kit isn't effective?

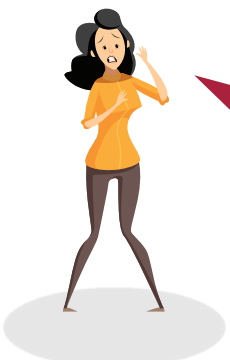
The PCR technique performs tests on genes whereas the rapid test kit performs tests on antibodies. At the beginning of infection only the virus can be detected whereas from 5 to 7 days of the infection, an antibody named IGM can be detected and after 2 weeks, an antibody named IGG can be detected. After a month the virus and IGM can test negative but IGG can remain for a long time.

In the beginning, only PCR tests positive whereas antibody tests negative. But, after a week or so both PCR and antibody tests might be positive. Similarly, after 3 - 4 weeks, PCR can be negative and antibody tests can be positive. Rapid Diagnostic Test is the need of the hour as it does not require huge expertise, can be learned with minimum training, can conduct testing from the field, can detect the result within 15 minutes and can find a large number of potential infectants. However, reliable technology is surely PCR.



We heard that the medicine supply is running out. Will it create a detrimental situation in the future?

The government of India has opened the ban on supplies of raw medicinal materials from 24 Chaitra. Although the rate of medicinal supplies has declined, the adequate import of medicinal raw materials has allowed the government to arrange sufficient medicine.



We heard that farmers are burying their chickens alive because they couldn't find grain. Isn't there any relief package for such farmers?

The Agriculture Ministry has submitted a proposal worth 70 Crore to the Council of Ministers to provide relief to the entrepreneurial farmers. According to it, the farmers owning chickens below 5000 should be offered support based on each chicken whereas farmers owning chickens above 5000 should be provided a 5% discount on the loan. Similarly, the farmers who could not sell the milk should be provided Rs 10 per litre as relief.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[World Health Organization](#)

[Ministry of Health and Population](#)

[Do's and don't's](#)

[Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)

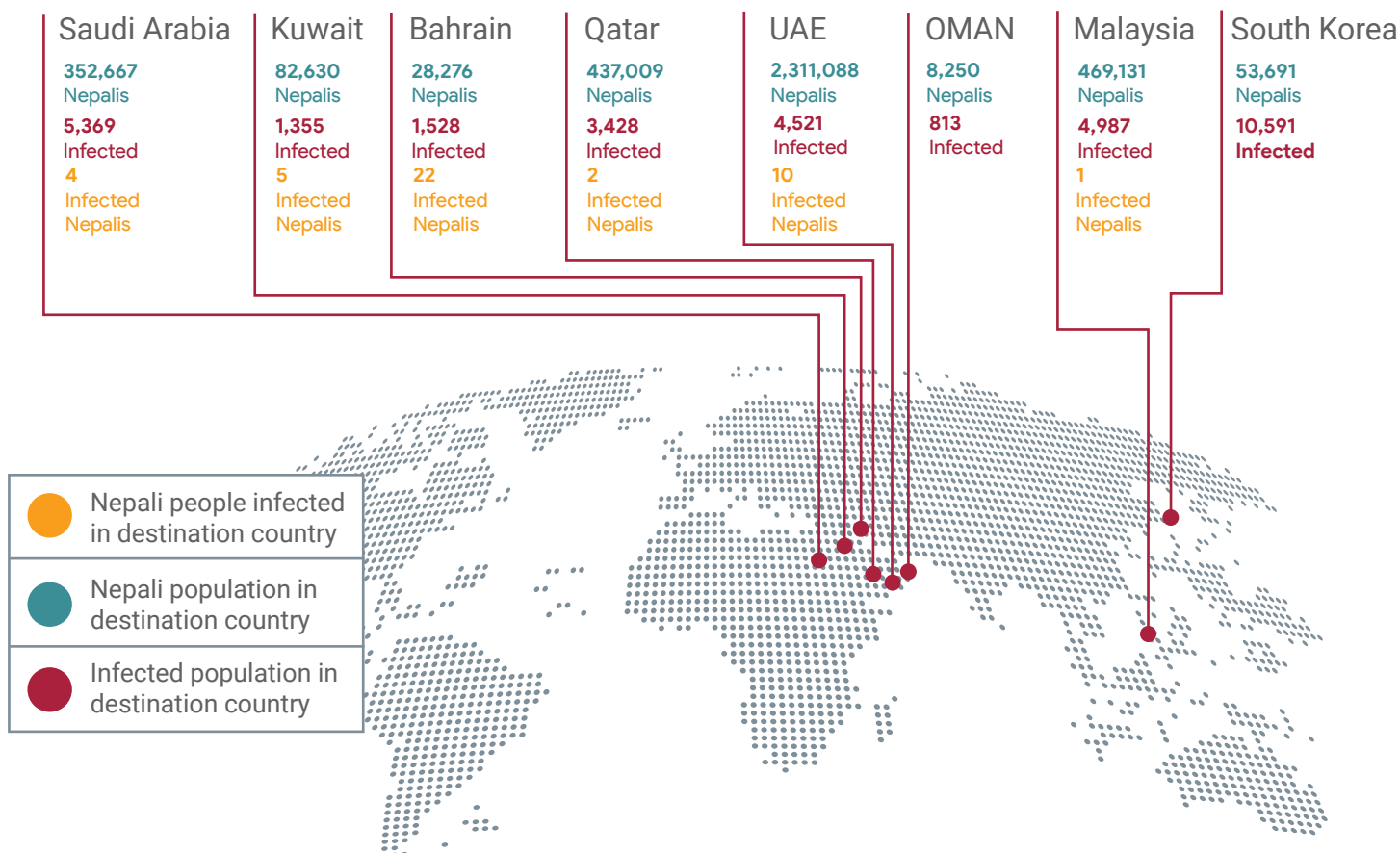
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal](#)

[Nepal Labour Force Survey Report](#)

[COVID-19 Situation](#)



Migrant workers in major destination countries



ShramikSanjal

Facilities provided by the UAE government to the migrant workers in the current situation

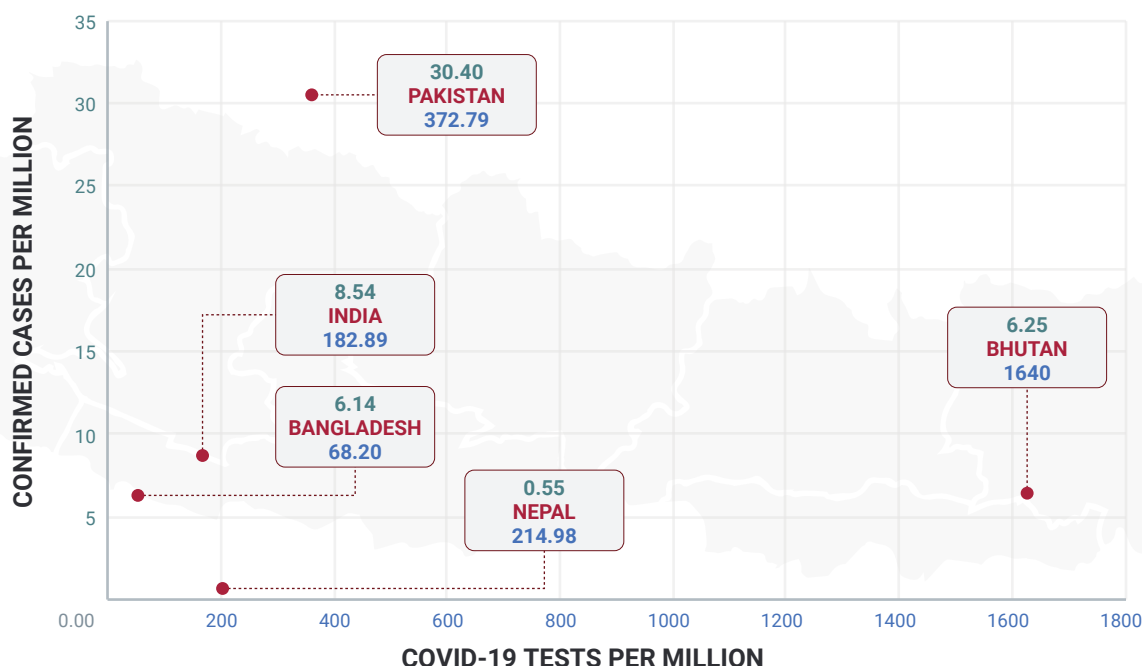
As per the law of UAE, if any migrant worker's visa is expired, the worker has to pay 100 Dirham on the first day and 25 Dirham daily thereafter. If the person is on a visit visa, then he/she has to pay 100 Dirham daily.



However, the government has now decided to cut the fine of those living on visit visa or company visa or whose visa has expired until December 2020. The government has also allowed the business companies to provide unpaid leave or use the annual leave of the employees for their ease. Thus, in times like this, if an employee wants to visit his house, then it's the responsibility of the home country to arrange it.

The government of UAE has even hinted that there can be a change in the migrant worker quota provided to the country if it does not arrange to take its citizen back.

Can Nepali government still do better with the COVID-19 test rates?



Above graph compares South Asian nations in terms of identified COVID-19 cases and tests performed per million population. It shows that Nepal has ample room for accelerating testing per million. Nepal has the lowest number of confirmed COVID cases compared to other nations except Bhutan.

Sudurpaschim Corona Prevention and Protection Fund

More than **402.7M** NRS

29.9M NRS



88 Local Units

3M NRS



Insurance

1.5M NRS - Health
1.5M NRS - Media

160M NRS



Relief

3K NRS Per Person

4.5M NRS



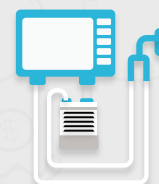
Nepal Police
Armed Police Force
Nepal Army

4.5M NRS



9

District Administration
Offices



20

Ventilators

Amount: **???**

Almost
200M NRS
???

Story of the 17 laborers who walked from Kathmandu to Rajapur, Bardiya

The lockdown which was initially announced for seven days had already extended to more than twelve days. With the increase in the lockdown, the laborers who had reached Kathmandu from Bardiya in search of work were left confused. The dilemma further increased when the food and money which they would earn in Kathmandu for the menial works as carrying sand, building houses, electric wiring, etc around 6 to 7 hundred per day started getting over.

They tried to attain relief but couldn't get it. Thus, with no other option left, they started the journey of 5 hundred 75 Km from Kathmandu to Bardiya.

Day 1

They reached Nagdhunga from Kathmandu around 12 AM at midnight and spent their night in the waiting-space eating noodles and water.



Day 2

They reached Manakamana from Nagdhunga and spent their night again eating noodles and water and slept below the clear sky.



They traveled 20-25Km in a truck from a place near Manakamana and walked the entire day to reach Narayanghat in the evening. One hotel was open in the area where they shared their plight. The youths in the hotel provided them food for free and also arranged for their travel up to Butwal in a truck. The laborers thanked the youths and carried on their journey.

Day 3



Day 4

The truck dropped them in a jungle near Butwal where they spent their night below the open sky.

Day 5

After walking around 15 - 20 Km, they traveled in a truck up to the bridge of Rapti river in Bhaluwang, Dang. Following that, they again walked for 8 - 10 Km and spent their night reaching Lamahi in a truck.



Day 6

They confessed their problem with the traffic police in Lamahi. The police then arranged a truck for them to travel up to Kohalpur. While they were walking from Kohalpur to Nepalgunj, a team of local social workers including Bishnu Khanal met them. Khanal provided them noodles and water and drove them to Nepalgunj in his private vehicle.

In Nepalgunj, the Sikh Locals took them to Gurudwara and served them hot dal. From there they traveled in the truck to Rajapur Municipality and reached there at 10 pm where their fever was tested.

Health workers permitted them to go home at 12 AM in a condition that they will stay separately at home, not roam around the village and inform the authorities as soon as they experience fever.

Day 7

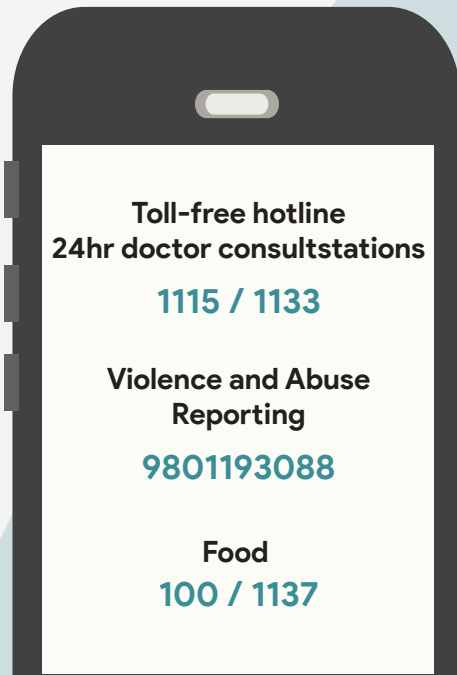
They reached their respective houses from Rajapur the same night by 1 AM.



Krishna Adhikari | Journalist, Nepalgunj

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.

