

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.

Nepalis returned from Qatar on Thursday

Source: <https://nepalkhabar.com/society/22462-2020-03-20-12-43-32>



Do not spread fake news. It is punishable by the law.



Do not create artificial shortage of supplies.



Work from home as much as it's feasible.



Urgent actions needed by the government



Create a central data portal concerning coronavirus to make vital information accessible to the public.



Set up coronavirus testing labs in each provincial hub of Nepal.

Rumors - Facts



Fake news about the coronavirus on social media is spreading fear and panic among the public. What actions is the government taking against the people spreading such rumors?

The government is going to take strong actions against individuals and groups spreading rumors based on existing laws. This action includes jail or heavy fines or both.



Is it true that Nepal is not prepared for the coronavirus outbreak as it does not have sufficient testing equipment and human resources?

The government is preparing to expand the administration of COVID-19 tests. The first preference for tests will be given to elderly individuals, those that are vulnerable to the virus due to other illnesses, and health workers who may become infected. The government has started preparation to test at least 20,000 samples in the NPHL. Similarly, the government has started making necessary preparations for COVID-19 testing labs in Bir Hospital, Dhulikhel Hospital, and B.P Koirala Institute of Health Sciences in Dharan.



What happens if the Qatar government sends back all the Nepali migrant workers to Nepal? Does Nepal have the capacity to test and quarantine 4 million of them?

According to news sources, the Qatar government had sent back 150 Nepali migrant workers on the charge of violating government rules and regulations. Similarly, prior to that, 250 of them had been arrested and sent back because it was claimed they were present in crowds in Qatar. The Qatari government has sent 400 Nepali migrant workers back as of today. There is no evidence that Qatar is going to deport all migrant workers.



The Finance Minister mentioned employment opportunities in Nepal. Is the government providing employment to those that are unemployed? Where do I find more information about this?

The government is providing employment to individuals who are unable to pursue foreign employment due to the outbreak of coronavirus. This employment is not desk jobs but wage work through the Prime Minister's Employment Program.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

[List of the emergency contacts](#) [Do's and don't's](#)

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

[Nepal Labour Force Survey Report](#)



Migrant workers in major destination countries

Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Bahrain	Qatar	UAE	Malaysia	South Korea
352,667 Nepalis	82,630 Nepalis	28,276 Nepalis	437,009 Nepalis	352,667 Nepalis	469,131 Nepalis	53,691 Nepalis
238 Infected	142 Infected	242 Infected	442 Infected	113 Infected 2 Infected Nepalis	673 Infected	8413 Infected



South Korea: Without Nepali Ambassador

Nepali migrant workers in South Korea, who are fearful of the coronavirus infection, aren't able to return home even when they want to. Unless their employer grants them a work leave or permission to quit they cannot leave the country. They are in such trouble because the country has been without a Nepali ambassador for the past year and a half.

FEARS AMONG NEPALI MIGRANT WORKERS



Coronavirus Infection



Forceful deportation



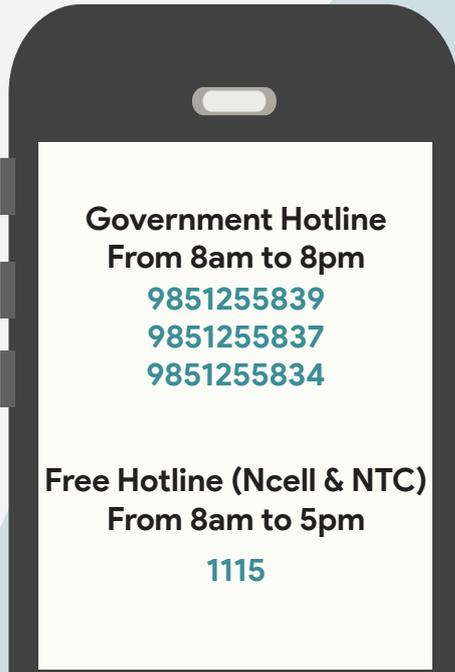
Loss of job and income



Family disconnection and trauma

What if I contract **coronavirus**?

COVID-19 HOTLINE



Where can I get a coronavirus test?

The National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL), Teku, Kathmandu is 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 early 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
Accountability Lab Nepal.

