

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.



Behave responsibly



Follow government guidance



Ask for information on government spending around coronavirus



Do not stockpile supplies



Be safe and help others be safe



Report corruption, social unrest and black marketing

Rumors - Facts



We heard that doctors, nurses and health workers are not trained, and do not have protective equipment. What happens if healthcare workers are in danger or their morale is low?

The government will be providing health insurance in the amount of NS1,000,000, an extra allowance, and training and protective equipment.



Many people suspect that a huge number of people are already infected with coronavirus in Nepal. What is the reality?

According to the Ministry of Health and Population, 546 individuals have been tested for coronavirus in Nepal and among them, only one has tested positive. The test was conducted on January 23rd. The update from the ministry highlights that that person has already recovered.



There are still a lot of people coming to Nepal from abroad. How is the government taking steps to prevent coronavirus from entering with people arriving who may be infected?

Both Nepalese and foreign nationals coming from abroad are tested in the health desks located at the point of entry. Also, from from 20 March – 15 April, Nepal is not issuing tourist visas on arrival to any foreign nationals. Those entering on existing tourist visas must show a valid swab test PCR certificate completed no more than 7 days before their entry to Nepal. This requirement is being rigorously enforced. Those entering must subsequently stay in self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.



I heard coronavirus cannot survive in warm weather, and eating garlic will help prevent it. Is that true?

The coronavirus can be transmitted in any location with any kind of weather. Although the mediums for virus transmission are still not 100% known, the possibility of catching the virus is lower if one stays away from individuals coughing or with respiratory problems, and by washing hands regularly. There are some anti-microbial properties in garlic but, there is no evidence yet that this has any effect on coronavirus.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

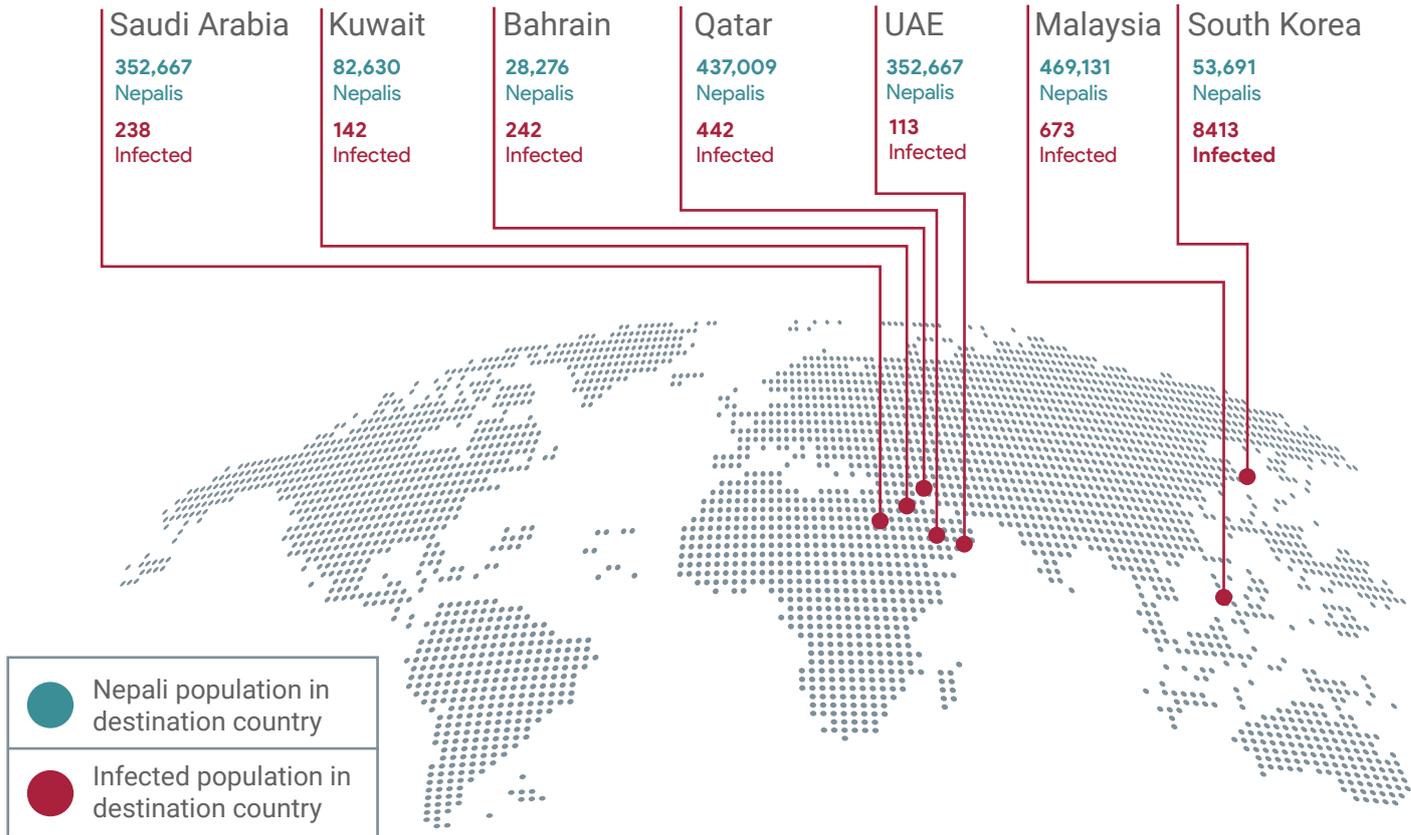
[Government Decision on Prevention and Control of COVID-19](#)

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

[Nepal Labour Force Survey Report](#)



Migrant workers in major destination countries



DECISIONS AFFECTING MIGRANT WORKERS



Individuals flying from countries in Europe, Western Asia and the Gulf region, or making these countries a transit point, will be unable to fly from 20th March to the 15th of April.



Visas for migrant workers will be extended if they are unable to fly back to Nepal due to travel restrictions.

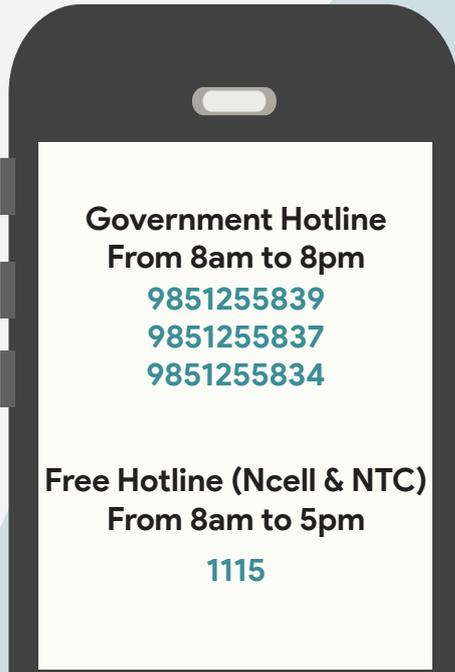
The Nepali government has promised employment to those who were prevented from travelling abroad as migrants due to coronavirus, through the Prime Minister's Employment Program.



If a flight is canceled by Nepali government or the airline company itself, the overall price of the ticket will be refunded or rescheduled at no cost for the individual.

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.

