

Situation Update #7 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

3rd June 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

Nepal

- Ministry of Health and Population has announced the occurrence of 2036 confirmed cases and 8 deaths from COVID-19 as of 2nd June 2020.
- The Government of Nepal had announced the lockdown of the country effective from 24th March 2020. The meeting of the council of ministers held this week, decided to extend the lockdown until 14th June 2020 and mobilize Nepal Army in the highly affected areas to effectively implement the lockdown.
- Government of Nepal has tabled its budget for next fiscal year, which has prioritized health sector and COVID response. The budget includes activities to cover regular priority public health programmes, COVID-19 response and strengthening of health infrastructures and institutions to respond to infectious diseases. In total, NPR 90.7 billion has been allocated for the health sector.
- This week, Honorable Minister for Health and Population, Bhanu Bhakta Dhakal discussed with the Ministers of Social Development Ministry of all the seven provinces on prevention and containment of COVID-19 and effective measures for its control ([Source](#)).

Regional/Global

- The WHO-HQ published a new operational guidance on [maintaining essential health services](#), which provides recommendations for practical actions that countries can take at all level to reorganize and safely maintain access to high-quality, essential health services during the pandemic.
- This week the WHO-HQ has published various protocols and guidelines- interim guidance on the [clinical management of COVID-19](#); [assessment of risk factors for coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in health workers](#); [surveillance protocol for SARS-CoV-2 infection among health workers](#); [population-based age-stratified sero-epidemiological investigation protocol for COVID-19 virus infection](#); [controlling the spread of COVID-19 at ground crossings](#); [key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak](#); a [case report form for suspected cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome \(MIS\) in children and adolescents temporally related to COVID-19](#)

SITUATION OVERVIEW (reported up to 2nd June 2020)

NEPAL

2036 confirmed

8 deaths

266 recovered

75,343 RT-PCR tests

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

283 845 confirmed cases

8,000 deaths

GLOBAL

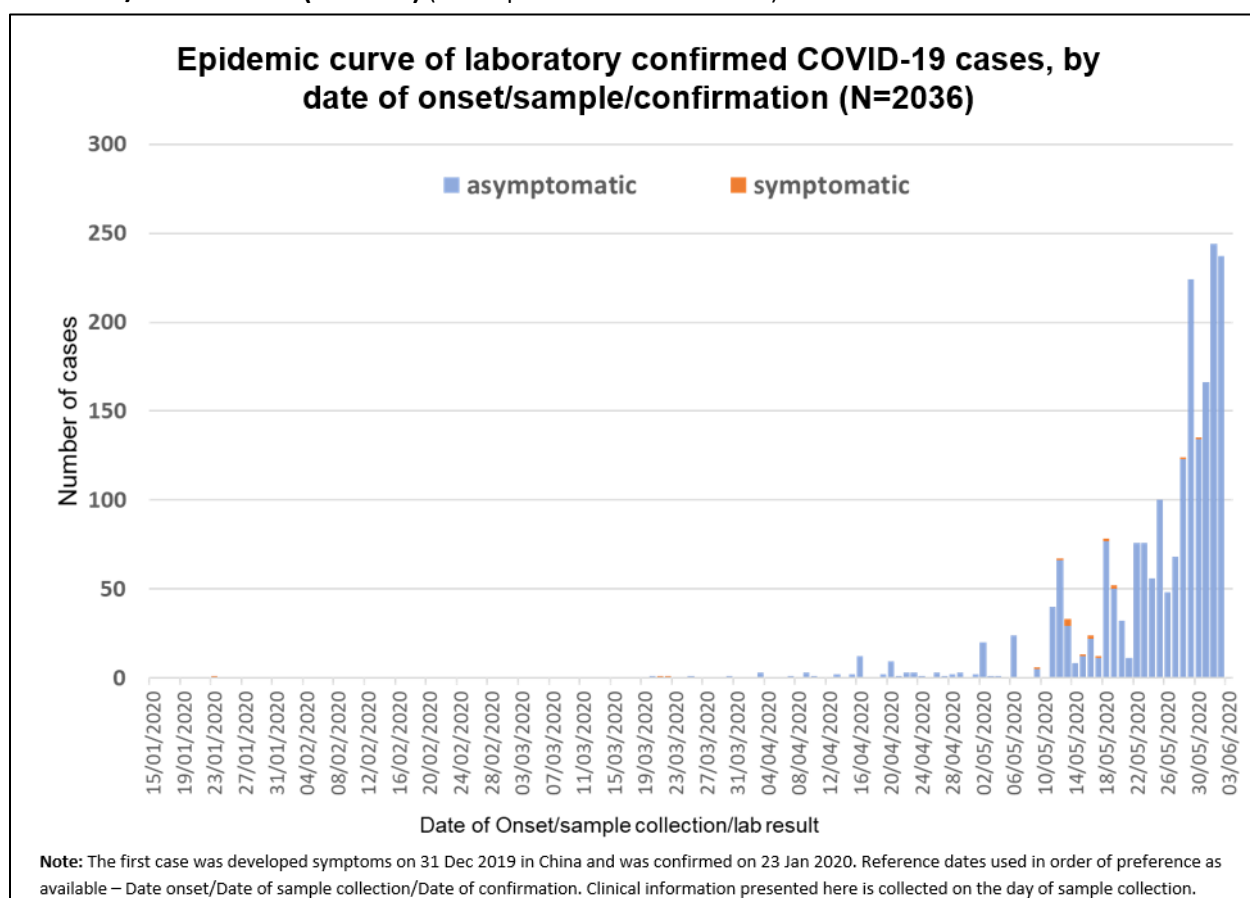
6 194 533 confirmed cases

376 320 deaths

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

In Nepal, 2036 people have tested positive by RT-PCR for COVID-19 and 8 deaths related to COVID-19 have occurred. 61 of 77 districts have been affected by COVID-19. Majority of cases were reported from Province 2 and Province 5. Karnali province has also observed sharp increase in cases. The increase in the number of positive cases and their profile reflects the high level of testing among recently arrived returnees from India. The returning migrant workers and their accompanying family members have been placed at quarantine centers and those testing positive isolated in border municipalities and districts thus effectively preventing transmission to other municipalities. There is also some evidence of secondary community transmission, but it is not widespread so far. Suboptimal infection control protocols in some overcrowded quarantine and isolation centers remain a matter of concern.

Figure 1A: Epidemic curve of laboratory confirmed COVID-19, by date of onset/sample collection/confirmation (N= 2036) (Data updated till 2nd June 2020)



Note: Asymptomatic/symptomatic at the time of sample collection or diagnosis.

Figure 1B: Cumulative case count by province (Data updated till 2nd June 2020)

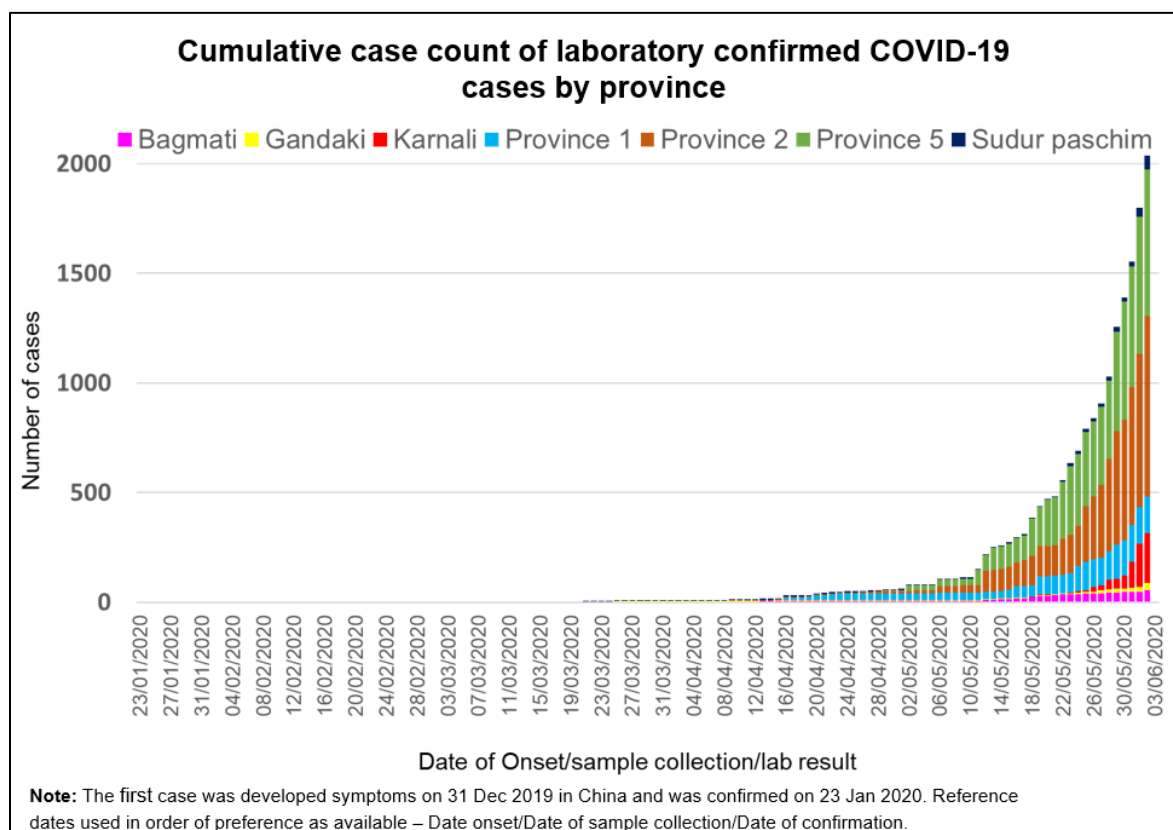


Table 1: Provinces with reported lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases & deaths. (Data updated till 02/06/2020)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	No of districts affected	Date of last case [#]
Province 1	167	-	Cluster of cases	9 (14)	01 June 2020
Province 2	822	1	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	02 June 2020
Bagmati	54	2	Sporadic cases	12 (13)	02 June 2020
Gandaki	35	-	Sporadic cases	7 (11)	02 June 2020
Province 5	669	3	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	02 June 2020
Karnali	227	1	Cluster of cases	5 (10)	02 June 2020
Sudurpaschhim	62	1	Sporadic cases	8 (9)	02 June 2020
National Total	2036	8		61 (77)	2 June 2020

[#] Date of last case is the date of onset or date of sample collection or date of lab report based on information available.

* Case classification is based on the [WHO transmission classification](#)

No cases- provinces with no cases

Sporadic cases- provinces with one or more cases, imported or locally detected[#]

Cluster of cases- provinces experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures

Community transmission- experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to:

- Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains
- Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance
- Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

Figure 2: Municipalities (by domicile) with reported laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases

(Data updated till 2nd June 2020)

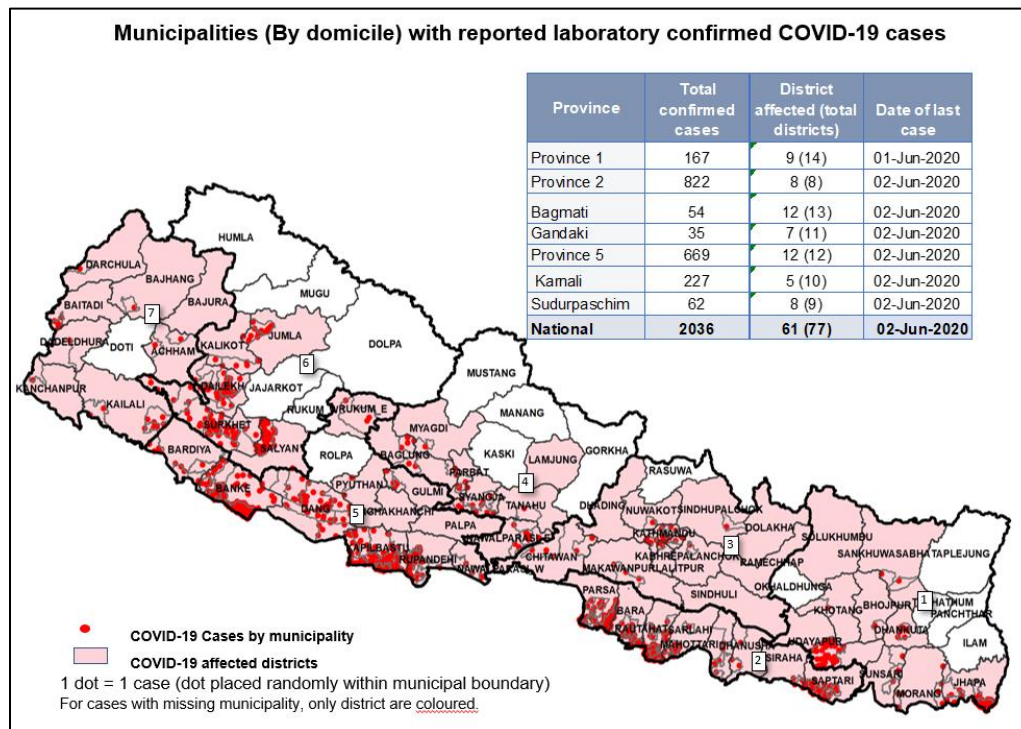


Figure 3: Epidemiological characteristics of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases

(Data updated till 2nd June 2020)

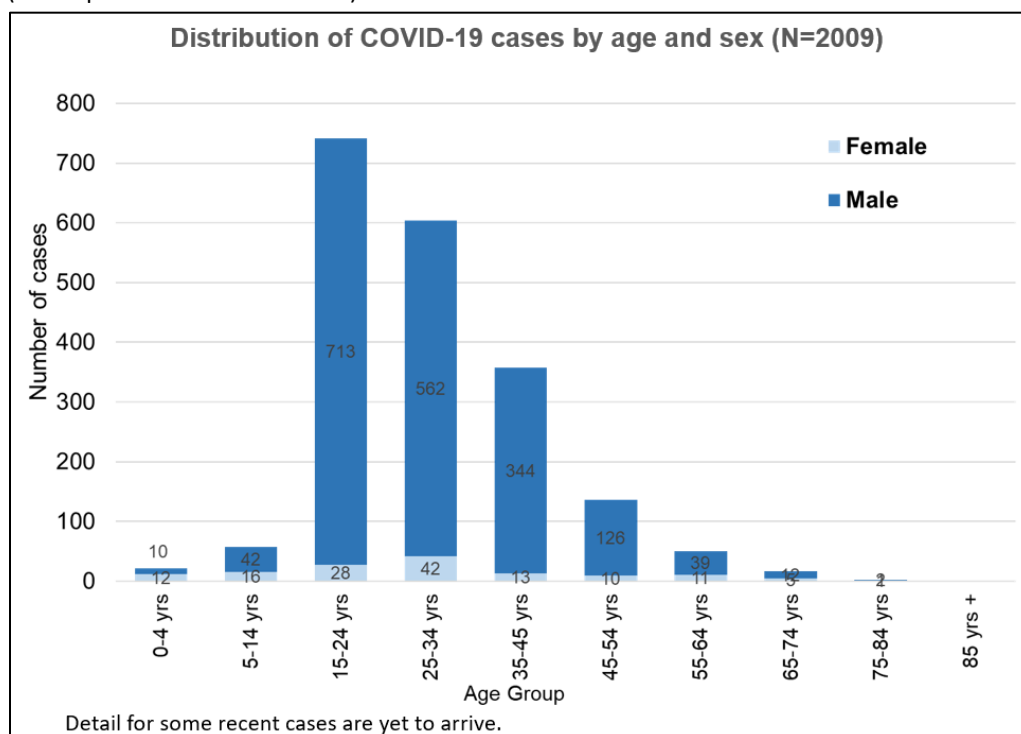
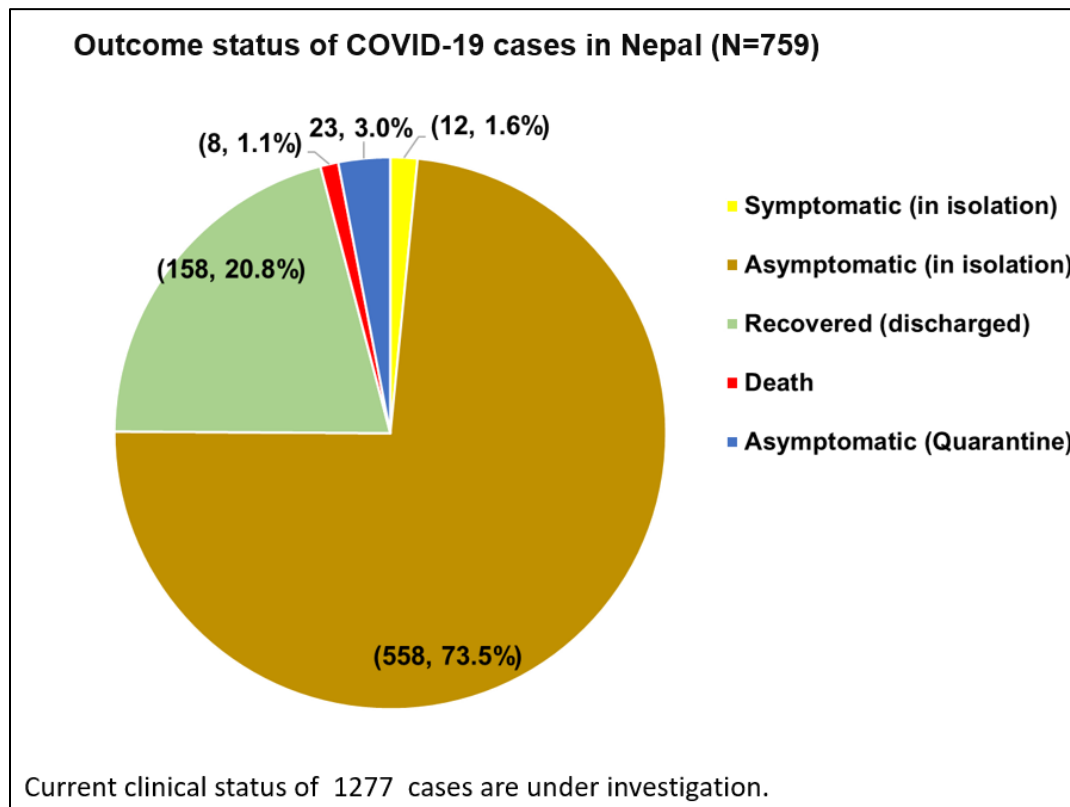


Figure 4: Outcome status of COVID-19 cases in Nepal (data updated till 2nd June 2020)



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

What are Government of Nepal (GoN) and the MoHP doing?

- The MoHP is fully engaged in case investigation and contact tracing, monitoring of quarantine sites and assisting the provincial governments in the response for COVID-19 with its teams fully mobilized in different parts of the country.
- The Government of Nepal has decided to extend the suspension of all international and national flights and closure of ground crossings until 30th June 2020.
- The MoHP has released the [revised guidelines for management of dead body of people who died from COVID-19](#), [COVID-19 Cases Isolation Management Guidelines](#) and [COVID-19 Emergency Medical Teams \(EMDT\) Mobilization Guidelines](#) this week.

What is the WHO, Country Office for Nepal, doing?

- Since the start of the COVID-19 response in March, the WHO staff have been embedded in most the MoHP units, centers and teams to provide hands- on support on a daily basis. This support is ongoing.
- The WHO co-leads together with the MoHP, the Health Cluster, with weekly virtual meetings in which all provinces and partners participate.
- EDCD teams and the WHO field staff (SMO, PHO and FMO) are supporting provinces and local levels in conducting case investigation and contact tracing and enhanced surveillance. The case investigation and contact

tracing SOP has been simplified and shortened on the basis of field experience gained to date.

- The WHO is providing ongoing support on a daily basis to EDCC in epidemiological analysis of COVID cases and contacts and data management and entry in the Go.Data
- The WHO is supporting to NPHL for the development of training packages for laboratory personnel on sample collection, packaging, transportation, and practices for COVID-19 testing in all 7 provinces.
- The WHO is providing regular technical support to Management Division, Department of Health Services, the MoHP for COVID- 19 commodities forecasting and distribution plan.
- The WHO supported the MoHP to revise the “Guidelines for the management of dead body of people who died from COVID-19”.
- The WHO is providing ongoing support to Epidemiology and Disease Control Division and National Health Education, Information and Communication Center to capture the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) through the COVID-19 call center and address the queries on contact tracing, quarantine and isolation.
- The WHO is working closely with National Health Training Center to tailor courses for critical care service providers.
- The WHO supported the MoHP and partners in the dissemination of information about the deadly connection between COVID-19 and the usage of tobacco products through various showcase platforms like website and face book using infographics, video along with a special story hosted in the webpage of WCO Nepal, and participation in a virtual conference on the topic.
- The WHO along with GIZ and UNICEF supported the Curative Services Division of the Department of Health Services to present the findings of the rapid assessment of Level 2 COVID-19 hospitals to the Incident Command System of the MoHP. Action plans for filling the gaps identified are being finalized.
- The WHO logisticians are ensuring that the provincial health emergency operations centers established newly with the WHO support are fully readied for operations.
- The WHO is coordinating closely with WASH cluster for provision of safe WASH facilities at designated Points of Entry.

What are partners doing?

- Partners are continuing to support COVID-19 response through one door mechanism.
- On the initiative of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Health Care Foundation Nepal (HECAF) has provided Ministry of Health and Population with 30 ventilators and medical supplies.
- Health cluster and WASH cluster are working together in coordinating addressing WASH needs of the health and quarantine facilities.
- GIZ provided 4000 Sanitary pads to address the needs of female health workers in 4 Corona Hub Hospitals (Sukraraj Tropical Disease Hospital, Bir Hospital, Patan Hospital and Nepal Armed Police Force Hospital).
- Save the Children provided 800 mosquito nets to Province 5 for use at the quarantine centers.
- United Distributors Nepal Pvt. Ltd (VG Foundation, VGL Co. CSRARM) handed over Gloves, KN-95 Masks, Thermometer, and Protection suit to the MoHP.
- Good Neighbors International provided 1000 pieces of PPE, 2000 pieces of Surgical mask, 1000 pairs of Sterile gloves, 1200 pieces of KN-95 masks, and 1200 pairs of Eye Goggles.

The WHO's STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The overarching goal is to control the pandemic by slowing down the transmission and reducing mortality associated with COVID-19. The global strategic objectives are as follows:

- **Mobilize** all sectors and communities to ensure that every sector of government and society takes ownership of and participates in the response and in preventing cases through hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and individual-level physical distancing.
- **Control** sporadic cases & clusters and prevent community transmission by rapidly finding and isolating all cases, providing them with appropriate care, and tracing, quarantining, and supporting all contacts.
- **Suppress** community transmission through context-appropriate infection prevention and control measures, population level physical distancing measures, and appropriate and proportionate restrictions on non-essential domestic and international travel.
- **Reduce** mortality by providing appropriate clinical care for those affected by COVID-19, ensuring continuity of essential health & social services; protecting frontline workers & vulnerable populations.
- **Develop** safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics that can be delivered at scale and that are accessible based on need.

RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [EPI-WIN](#): tailored information for individuals, organizations and communities

USEFUL LINKS

- The MoHP's COVID-19 official portal is available [here](#).
- Regular updates Nepal's COVID-19 updates and resources are available [here](#).
- For information regarding coronavirus disease from the WHO, please visit [here](#).
- Please visit this [site](#) for all technical guidance from the WHO.
- Online courses on COVID-19 from the WHO can be found [here](#).
- For global the WHO situation report, please visit this [site](#).
- Global coronavirus disease situation dashboard can be found [here](#).
- For COVID-19 updates from the WHO South East Asia Region Office, please visit [here](#).
- Visit the WHO Nepal Facebook page, and webpage (link [here](#)) on COVID-19.

CONTACT DETAILS

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