

Situation Update #8 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

10th June 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

Nepal

- The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has announced the occurrence of 4075 confirmed cases and 15 deaths from COVID-19 as of 9th June 2020.
- Government of Nepal is reviewing the current approach to manage lockdown. The MoHP provided input particularly focusing on public health measures and conditions to manage lockdown (release or reimpose lockdown) based on epidemiology.
- The MoHP released the updated [National Testing Guidelines for COVID-19](#) this week.

Regional/Global

- More than 7 million cases of COVID-19 and over 400 000 deaths have now been reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) from member states.
- During a media briefing this week, the WHO Director General Dr Tedros announced [updated guidance on the use of masks](#) for the control of COVID-19. Further guidance for the public on use of mask is available [here](#).
- WHO-HQ has published various notes, protocols and guidelines this week
 - [Basic psychosocial skills](#).
 - [Key planning recommendations for mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19](#).
 - [Medical certification, ICD mortality coding, and reporting mortality](#).

SITUATION OVERVIEW (reported up to 9th June 2020)

NEPAL

4075 confirmed cases
15 deaths
584 recovered
106,331 RT-PCR tests

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

378,118 confirmed cases
10,376 deaths

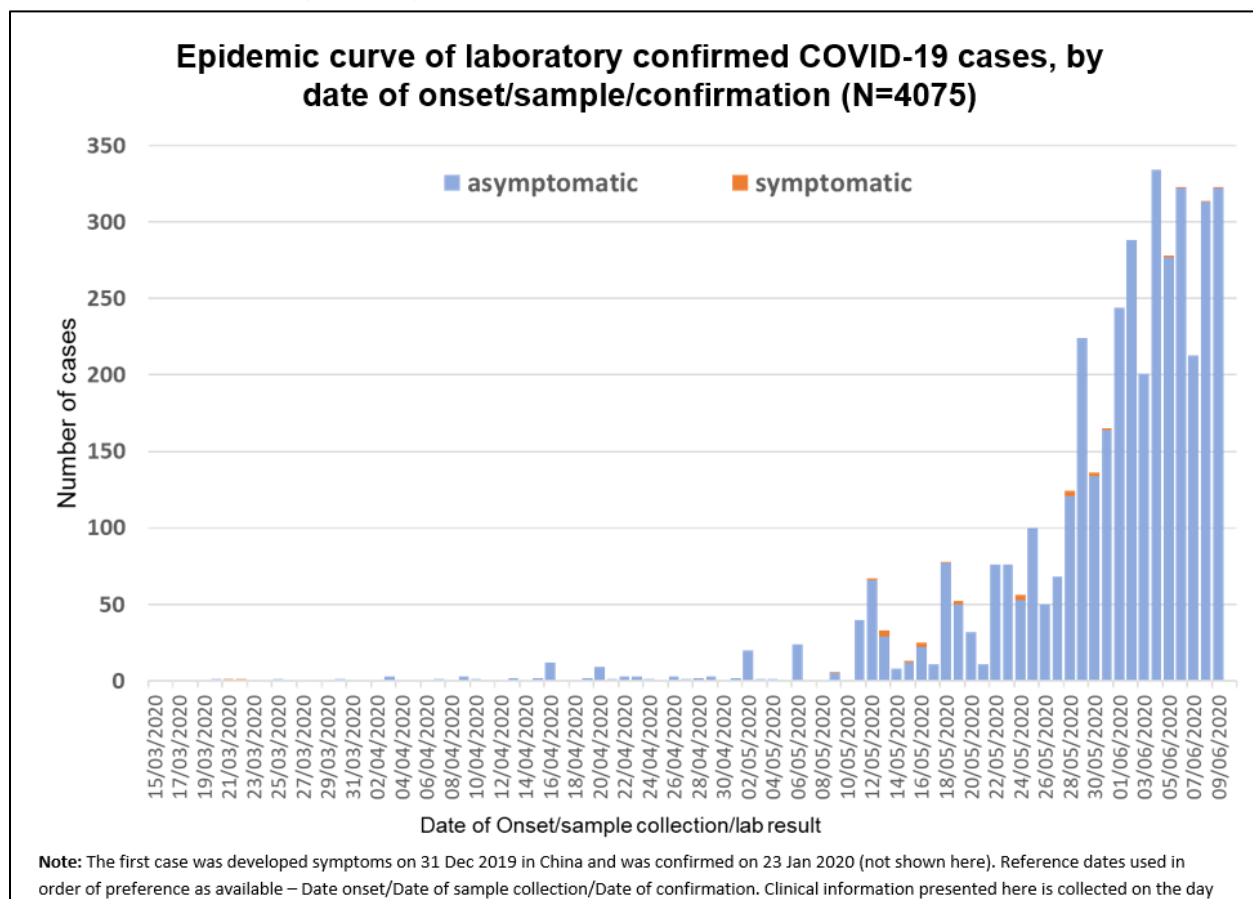
GLOBAL

7,039,918 confirmed cases
404,396 deaths

NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

In Nepal, 4075 people have tested positive by RT-PCR for COVID-19 and only 0.7 % of these cases are symptomatic at the time of diagnosis. 15 deaths related to COVID-19 have occurred and the case fatality ratio is highest in the ≥ 55 -year age population (6.60 %) followed by 2.33% among the infants and children in the 0-4 year age group. 72 of 77 districts have been affected by COVID-19. Majority of cases (67%) were reported from Province 2 and Province 5. Karnali province has also observed a 3-fold increase in the number of cases over the last week. The increase in the number of RT-PCR 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 have been isolated in border municipalities and districts thus effectively reducing transmission to other municipalities. There is also some evidence of limited secondary community transmission and some geographic spread. 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= 4075) (Data updated till 9th June 2020)



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

Figure 1B: Cumulative case count by province (Data updated till 9th June 2020)

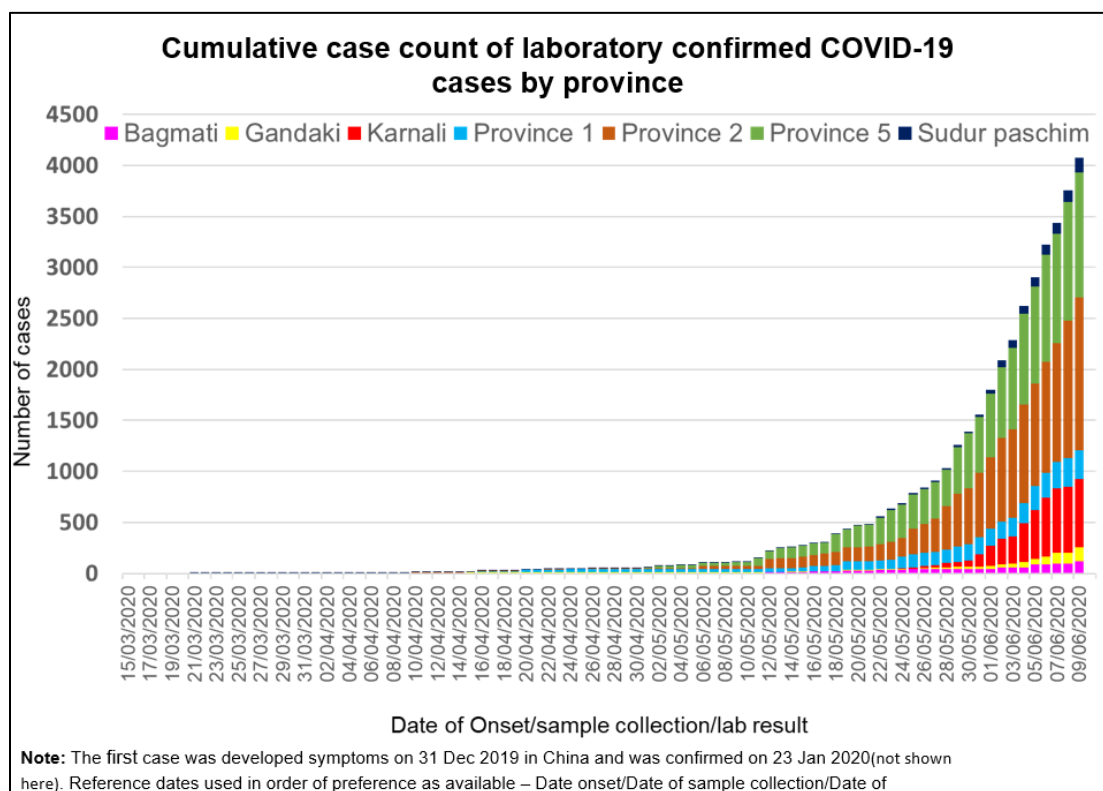


Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.

(Data updated till 09/06/2020)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	No of districts affected	Date of last case [#]
Province 1	283	0	Cluster of cases	13 (14)	09 June 2020
Province 2	1500	1	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	09 June 2020
Bagmati	116	4	Sporadic cases	12 (13)	09 June 2020
Gandaki	143	1	Sporadic cases	9 (11)	09 June 2020
Province 5	1223	4	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	09 June 2020
Karnali	664	3	Cluster of cases	9(10)	09 June 2020
Sudurpaschhim	146	2	Sporadic cases	9 (9)	09 June 2020
National Total	4075	15		72 (77)	09 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 [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 9th June 2020)

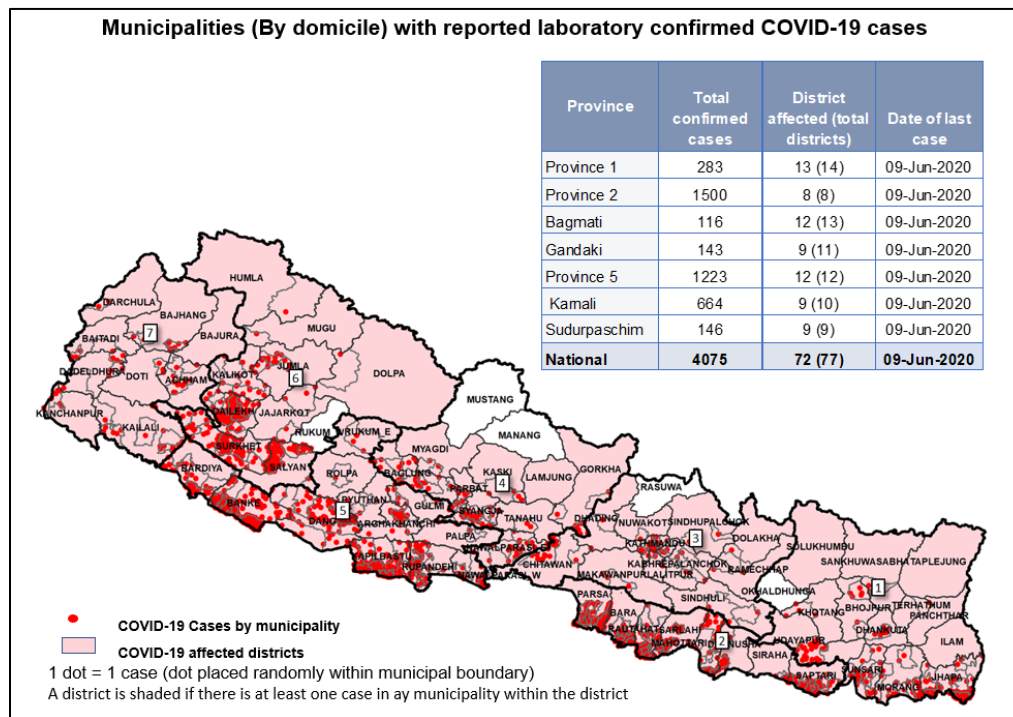


Figure 3: Epidemiological characteristics of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases
(Data updated till 9th June 2020)

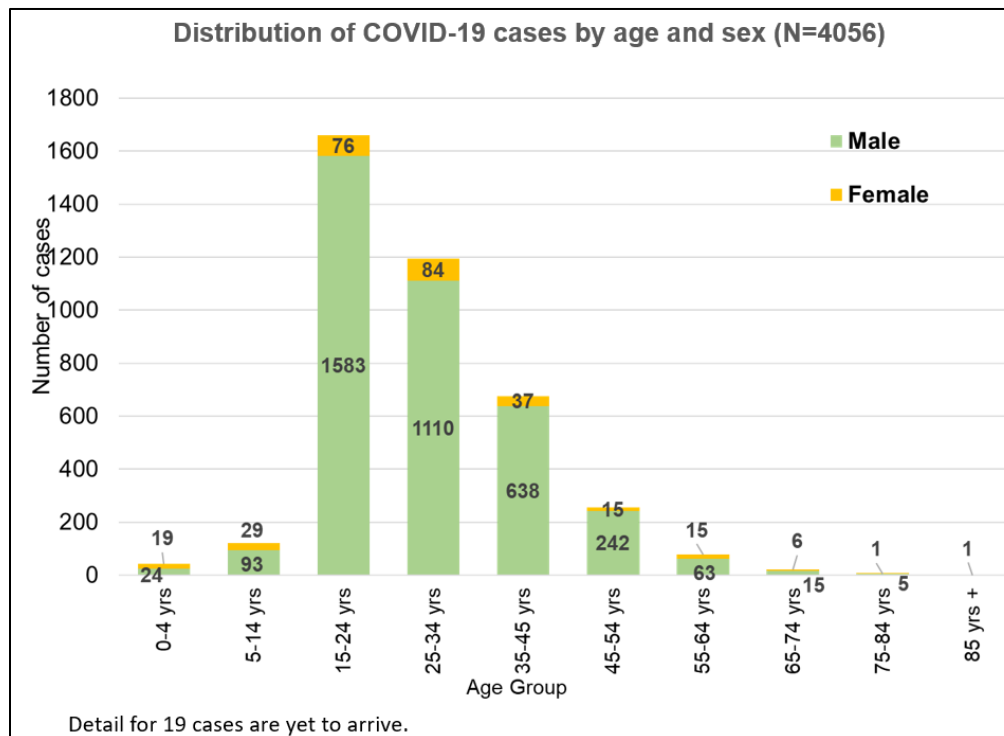


Figure 4: Outcome status of COVID-19 cases in Nepal (data updated till 9th June 2020)

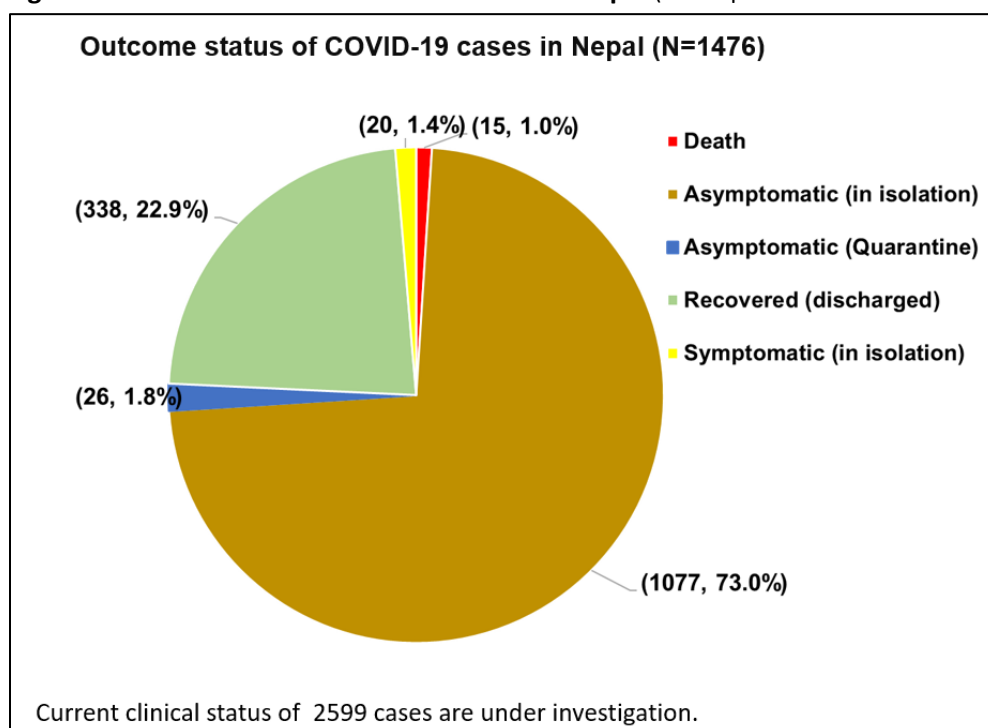


Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths in COVID-19 confirmed cases.
(N=4075) (data updated till 9th June 2020)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	43	0	1	0	2.33
5-14 yrs	122	0	0	0	0
15-24 yrs	1659	1	0	1	0.06
25-34 yrs	1194	1	1	1	0.17
35-44 yrs	675	3	0	1	0.44
45-54 yrs	257	1	0	0	0.39
55-64 yrs	78	4	0	3	5.13
65-74 yrs	21	2	0	2	9.52
75-84 yrs	6	1	0	1	16.67
85 yrs and above	1	0	0	0	0
Unknown	19	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	4075	13	2	9	0.37

COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation

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 MoHP has issued a guideline on [minimum standards for donor agencies/partner organizations for COVID-19 logistics support to the MoHP-2020](#) this week.
- The MoHP has initiated a weekly virtual meeting between central health cluster and provincial health cluster to discuss issues and challenges at the provincial and local levels.
- The MoHP has established RT-PCR testing facility in one more center this week, bringing the total of laboratories with RT-PCR testing capacity for COVID-19 to 21 with centers covering all seven provinces.

Figure 5: Provincial health directorate and WHO field staff, from Province Gandaki Pradesh, fully engaged in case investigation and contact tracing in Gorkha District. P:C: WHO/R. Lalchan



What is WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

- Since the start of the COVID-19 response in March, 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.
- WHO, co-leads together with the MoHP, the Health Cluster, with weekly virtual meetings in which all provinces and partners participate.
- EDCC teams and WHO field staff (SMO, PHO and FMO) are supporting provinces and local levels in conducting case investigation and contact tracing and enhanced surveillance.
- WHO is providing ongoing support on a daily basis to EDCC in epidemiological analysis of COVID-19 cases and contacts and data management and entry in the Go.Data
- WHO supported 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.
- WHO supported NPHL for the development of technical and operational guidelines of COVID-19 laboratories.
- 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.
- WHO supported the Ministry of Social Development-Province 3, to establish a Provincial Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC), which will continue working as center for COVID 19 response in Province 3.
- WHO supported to set-up a tent for running the COVID-19 clinic at TU Teaching Hospital.
- Arrangements are ongoing for strengthening communication and meeting facilities at the MoHP, EDCC and NPHL.
- WHO has been providing support to Management Division, DoHS for listing, quantification and costing of COVID-19 related logistics items considering the different case number scenarios.
- WHO supported Ministry of Health and Population for the development of the technical guidance on WASH and Waste Management, Hand Hygiene, Use of Masks and disinfection.
- The findings of Rapid Assessment on WASH, Health Care Waste Management, Infection Prevention & Control and Clinical Readiness in the designated COVID-19 Level 2 hospitals in Kathmandu supported by GIZ, UNICEF and WHO was presented to the Ministry of Health and Population by Curative Service Division.
- WHO supported Ministry of Health and Population to validate the findings of the Rapid Assessment on WASH, Health Care Waste Management, Infection Prevention & Control and Clinical Readiness in the designated COVID-19 Level 2 hospitals in the provinces for its completion.
- WHO supported Ministry of Health and Population with on-site training and coaching on Crisis Communication to the new spokesperson of the ministry.
- WHO has made a detailed presentation on the status of the information management framework and system for COVID-19 especially focusing on epidemiological and laboratory data, and provided key suggestions for the strengthening of the mechanism to the ICS of the MoHP.
- WHO has provided guidance to the EDCC on issues related to communication pertaining to IHR, sero-surveillance, data requirements for epidemiological modelling.
- ICS/MoHP is being supported with the conceptualization of optimal model for health desk at returnee quarantine centers.

What are partners doing?

- Partners are continuing to support COVID-19 response through one door mechanism.
- Employees of NABIL Bank Limited have provided Ministry of Health and Population a cheque with an amount of NPR 26,28,868 to support COVID-19 response.
- GIZ handed over second lot of RT-PCR test kits and other laboratory reagents, total worth of Euro 66,787 from the German Government (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)).

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 WHO, please visit [here](#)
- Please visit this [site](#) for all technical guidance from WHO.
- Online courses on COVID-19 from WHO can be found [here](#)
- For global WHO situation report, please visit this [site](#)
- Global coronavirus disease situation dashboard can be found [here](#)
- For COVID-19 updates from WHO South East Asia Region Office, please visit [here](#).
- Visit WHO Nepal Facebook page [here](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#).

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