

Press release #12
Results from June 11, 2020 to June 17, 2020
Nicaragua, June 19, 2020

In this stage during which the number of people with the disease continues to rise, it is time to increase individual, family and community protections. We urge everyone to continue taking preventative measures such as physical distancing, hand washing and using masks.

If you can, stay home and save lives!

As of June 17, we report a grand total of **5,957 suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory in all departments and autonomous regions (in 131 municipalities, 10 more than last week). This week we have registered 903 new cases which represents an 18% increase during this period.**

Managua (2,551), Matagalpa (610), Masaya (535), Leon (380), Chinandega (261), Estelí (221), Jinotega (184) and Granada (174) are the departments or regions that are reporting the highest amount of suspected cases.

Up to June 17, the Ministry of Health (MINSa) has reported 1,823 confirmed cases, 521 active cases, 1,238 recovered and 64 deaths (a death toll of 4%). This death toll reaffirms the urgent need for the government to take measures to avoid transmission and to provide detailed information that would allow to take informed actions to address the situation more effectively.

Of the 71 irregularities reported this week, **18 refer to exposure of people through group activities, 17 to threats and retaliation, and 10 to an inadequate MINSa response.**

Until the June 17, we have reported and verified 1,688 deaths, of which **127 (8%) are categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 1,561 (92%) are reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.** These deaths have taken place across the 17 departments and autonomous regions in the country. Managua (664), Masaya (216), León (133) and Chinandega (108) report the highest number of deaths. This week we have verified information on **275 new fatalities**, which

represents a **20% increase** on the number of deaths from last week.

These deaths are reported from 17 departments and autonomous regions (and 91 municipalities). The department of **Managua has registered 39% of all deaths, Masaya 13%, León 8%, Chinandega and Matagalpa 6% respectively and Granada 5%.**

From these 1,688 deaths, 189 (11%) took place in people's homes and 16 (1%) during a transfer to a healthcare facility. **We continue to receive reports of deaths in homes for care of the elderly, to date 3 fatalities have been recorded.**

Up to June 17, the Observatory received reports of **614 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across ALL departments or autonomous regions** (mainly Managua, León and Matagalpa) and 65 municipalities.

As of June 17, our data shows **72 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers.** Of these, 32 were doctors, 18 nursing staff, 2 lab technicians and 7 categorised as 'other' (technical personnel, for example).

The increasing lack of medical and healthcare staff due to illness, exhaustion and stress is seriously debilitating the capacity for the health system to respond.

The government must hire more healthcare personnel to adequately satisfy the demand for attention on the frontline as well as specialised attention in hospitals.

We received reports from 8 departments and/or autonomous regions of inadequate responses in different healthcare units that. These reports indicate:

- A lack of beds in hospitals. Wards for COVID-19 patients are at maximum capacity.
- Pneumonia being registered as cause of death on death certificates for people who had COVID-19 symptoms.
- Complete care for COVID-19 only given to healthcare workers.
- Transfers to healthcare units where patients are returned to their initial units.
- Late response to medical emergency calls and/or lack of follow-up on behalf of MINSA for people who are in their homes and presenting COVID-19 symptoms.
- Lack of response on behalf of the Red Cross and fire emergency staff for people with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Disregarding calls for medical check-ups for family members of persons who have died from COVID-19, followed up by disinfecting the home where the deceased lived with their family.

We also continued receiving reports of clandestine burials, with some reports indicating:

- The direct transfer of cadavers from the place of death to the cemetery.
- Burials taking place at night and dawn.
- The presence of police officers guarding cemeteries and coffin transfers.
- The burial of cadavers in localities that do not correspond with the municipality where the deceased lived.
- The transfer of cadavers in waste disposal vehicles.
- The transfer of many coffins in army vehicles.
- The ban on family members of the deceased using cell phones during coffin transfers.
- Energy cuts during the transfer of coffins from the hospital to the cemetery so that family members cannot watch/report what is happening.

If you can, stay home and save lives!

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **11 to 17 June 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
5957	1688

** Suspected cases reported by the Observatory, deaths by pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 have been verified by a local information source.*

Cases confirmed by MINSA	Deaths reported by MINSA
1823	64

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