

Press release #15  
**Results from 2 July 2020 to 8 July 2020**  
Nicaragua, 10 July 2020

**The normalisation of a pandemic that has not been handled adequately can be lethal. Do not let your guard down! Use a face mask everywhere, keep a 2-metre distance from other people, avoid crowds and wash your hands with water and soap constantly.**

**Take preventative measures and save lives!**

As of 8 July, we report a grand total of 7,893 suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory in all departments and autonomous regions (and 87% of the country's municipalities). This week we have registered 448 new cases which represents a 6% increase compared to the previous week.

**Managua (3,287), Matagalpa (849), Masaya (586), León (518), Estelí (427), Chinandega (281), Madriz (242), Jinotega (236), Granada (207), Carazo (205) and RACCS (192)** are the departments and/or regions reporting the highest number of suspected cases.

**Up to the 7 July, the Ministry of Health (MINSa) has reported 2,846 confirmed cases, 762 active cases, 1,993 recovered and 91 deaths (a death toll of 3%). This death toll reaffirms the urgent need for the government to take measures to avoid transmission and count on detailed information collection that would steer decision making to confront the situation more effectively.**

Until the 8 July we have reported and verified **2,225 deaths**, of which **133 (6%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 2,092 (94%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19**. Of these deaths, 251 (11%) took place in people's homes and 18 (1%) took place during a transfer to a healthcare unit.

These deaths have been reported across the 17 departments and autonomous regions, 116 municipalities (75% total municipalities in the country). The department of **Managua has registered 38% of all deaths, Masaya 11%, León 8% and Matagalpa 8% respectively,**

**Chinandega and Estelí 5% respectively and Granada 4%.**

A total of 132 new fatalities were reported this week, representing a 6.5% increase compared to the previous week.

Until the 8 July, the Observatory received reports of **719 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions (in 70 municipalities).** Managua, León and Matagalpa are the departments with the highest amounts of cases.

As of the 8 July, our data shows **94 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers**. Of these, 40 were doctors, 22 nursing staff, 14 administrative personnel, 6 lab technicians, 2 dentists, 3 medical visitors, and 7 categorised as 'other' (support personnel, for example).

**As of 8 July, we have received reports of 1,987 irregularities.** The exposure of people during crowded activities has been the most reported irregularity in the last 6 weeks. Of the 81 irregularities reported this week, **27 (33%) refer to exposure of people through group activities.**

This week, reports were received about people **demanding more information about the risk they are facing by not staying home, or by not using a mask.** People also reported **fear over being victims of discrimination**, hiding symptoms or having been sick with COVID-19. This could be avoided if the government guaranteed a better flow and quality of information over the risk of COVID-19 and the ease with which it spreads.

There were **reports of group activities in 7 departments and in the autonomous region in the Southern Caribbean Coast (RACCS), with the vast amount of reports in León.** It is also important to highlight that there were reports noting that:

- More people are leaving their homes and/or are not wearing masks while outside.
- “Velatorios” are being held for people who have presumably died from COVID-19.
- No protective measures are being taken on public transport as people often don’t have disinfectants and don’t use masks.

This week, as in previous ones, we received **reports highlighting how healthcare personnel are at risk by not having the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).** Complaints also highlighted that some healthcare units are not accepting PPE donations from civil society.

There were **complaints about inadequate responses in healthcare services in 7 units, from 7 departments and RACCS.** Most reports

received came from RACCS. Some of the complaints are as follow:

- Diagnoses of pneumonia in patients that are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Lack of medication in healthcare units.
- Lack of preventative measures to keep patients from leaving hospitals prematurely.
- Lack of communication with patients’ relatives over the patient’s health.
- Lack of MINSA follow-up for patients who are at home recuperating, as well as contacting close contacts and family members to alert them.
- No communication between hospitalised patients and their family members.
- Manipulation of medical records and x-rays to hide the presence of COVID-19 in patients.

Indigenous communities continue to be one of the most vulnerable sectors in the country in the face of the pandemic. In the Karawala indigenous community, previous situations such as malnutrition and lack of access to healthcare increases their vulnerability and risk to the pandemic. **There have also been reports that police have banned the transfer of donations to the community.**

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **2 July 2020 to 8 July 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
<b>7893</b>	<b>2225</b>

*\* 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
<b>2846</b>	<b>91</b>

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