

Press release #18
Results from 23 July 2020 to 29 July 2020
Nicaragua, 31 July 2020

The epidemic has not stopped. Do NOT let you guard down! Let's keep our preventative measures. No group meetings, keep a two metre distance from other people, use your face mask and face shield in public places, don't touch your face and constantly wash your hands with water and soap for 40 seconds.

Take preventative measures and let's save lives!

As of 29 July, we report a grand total of 9.044 **suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory** in all departments and autonomous regions (in 136 municipalities, 88% of the country). **This week we have registered 225 new cases.**

Managua (3,507), Matagalpa (1,013), León (666), Masaya (627), Estelí (526), Chinandega (321), Madriz (311), Jinotega (276), Granada (257), Carazo (249) and RACCS (214) are the departments and/or regions reporting the highest amount of suspected cases.

Up to the 28 July, the Ministry of Health (MINSa) has reported 3,672 confirmed cases, 825 active cases, 2,731 recovered and 116 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 29 July we have reported and verified **2,537 deaths**, of which **139 (5%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 2,398 (95%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.** Of these deaths, 293 (11%) took place in people's homes and 19 (1%) took place during a transfer to a healthcare unit.

These deaths have been reported across the 17 departments and autonomous regions, 121 municipalities (one more than last week, 79% total municipalities in the country). The department of **Managua has registered 35% of all deaths, Masaya 10%, Matagalpa 8%, León 7%, Chinandega and Estelí 5% respectively and Granada and Chontales 4% respectively.**

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This week we received information on **48 new fatalities.**

Until the 29 July, the Observatory received reports of **756 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions (in 73 municipalities).** Managua, León, Matagalpa, Nueva Segovia and Masaya are the departments with the highest amounts of cases.

As of 29 July, our data shows **101 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers.** Of these, 44 were doctors, 22 nursing staff, 14 administrative personnel, 8 lab technicians, 3 medical visitors, 3 dentists, and 7 categorised as 'other' (support personnel, for example).

Over the last few weeks, the Observatory has received fewer reports of cases and deaths. This should not be interpreted as a lower risk of contagion, or that preventative and protective measures should be relaxed. The information received by the Observatory shows that the epidemic is spreading across semi-urban and rural areas of the country. As of 29 July, **75 municipalities are reporting 10 or more suspected cases**, making up 92% of the total suspected cases.

The reports of deaths from pneumonia or from associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms also show the spread of the epidemic across the country's municipalities. Up until the 29 June, **47 municipalities report 10 or more deaths from pneumonia or from associated or presumed symptoms of COVID-19**, making up 84% of the total reported deaths.

As of 29 July, we have received reports of 2,068 irregularities. Group activities continue to be the most reported irregularities. Of the 25 irregularities reported this week, **14 (56%) are due to this reason.**

There were reports of **group activities in 6 departments, with most reports coming from León.** Among others, the reported activities were: ‘diabillitos’ party and other festivities in Carazo, a baseball game with a stadium full of spectators in Estelí, the inauguration of parking spaces for interurban buses and a vigil organized by the CUUN in León, the “vela” for someone who is presumed to have died from COVID-19 in Matagalpa, a Santa Ana celebration with an altar and typical dancing in Masaya. These activities, were, for the most part, organized, promoted and allowed by the respective mayoral offices in each municipalities.

There were reports that some school directors in León took students to walk through the streets in the center of the city. There were also complaints that an education center in Matagalpa will not give students class guides unless they attend class in person.

Despite this, there were reports that in this same school, there are students with symptoms and teachers who are not taken adequate protective measures. There were also complaints that classes are taking place in a normal way in an education center in Madriz.

There continue to be reports of funerals taking place under irregular conditions in Jinotega and Rivas.

There were complaints this week reporting that **the situation of Nicaraguans being held in border areas and not allowed to enter the country is precarious** and has now become a humanitarian emergency.

As of the 29 July there were a total of 9,044 suspected COVID-19 cases in 136 (88%) municipalities in the country, with **75 municipalities reporting 10 or more suspected cases**, making up 92% of suspected reported cases.

As of the 29 July there were a total of **2,537** reported COVID-19 deaths in 121 (79%) municipalities in the country, with **47 municipalities reporting 10 or more suspected deaths** from pneumonia or from associated symptoms or presumed COVID-19, making up 84% of suspected reported cases.

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **23 July 2020 to 29 July 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
9044	2537

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

Cases confirmed by MINSAs	Deaths reported by MINSAs
3672	116