

Press release #21

Results from 13 August 2020 to 19 August 2020

Nicaragua, 21 August 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 19 August, we report a grand total of **9,822 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 173 new suspected cases.**

Managua (3,751), Matagalpa (1,122), León (716), Masaya (652), Estelí (558), Madriz, (405), Chinandega (340), Jinotega (312), Granada (273), Carazo (255) and RACCS (238) are the departments and/or regions reporting the highest amount of suspected cases.

Up to 18 August, the Department of Health (MINSa) has reported 4,311 confirmed cases, 967 active cases, 3,211 recovered and 133 deaths (a death toll of 3%). This death toll, which is in stark contrast with the unusual increase in deaths from other causes, reaffirms the urgent need for the government to provide more truthful and detailed information collection that would steer decision making to confront the situation more effectively. It is imperative that it meets its obligations to steer public health measures to diminish contagion.

Until 19 August we have reported and verified **2,652 deaths**, of which **139 (5%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 2,513 (95%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.** Of these deaths, 305 (11%) took place in people's homes and 20 (1%) took place during a transfer to a healthcare unit.

These deaths have been reported across the 17 departments and autonomous regions, 122

municipalities (79% total municipalities in the country). The department of **Managua has registered 34% of all deaths, Masaya 10%, Matagalpa 8%, León 7%, Chinandega and Estelí 5% respectively and Granada and Chontales 4% respectively.** This week we received information on **26 new fatalities.**

Until 19 August, the Observatory received reports of **786 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions (in 74 municipalities).** Managua, Matagalpa, León, Nueva Segovia, Masaya and Granada are the departments with the highest amounts of cases.

As of 12 August, our data shows **105 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers.** Of these, 46 were doctors, 24 nursing staff, 14 administrative personnel, 8 lab technicians, 3 medical visitors, 3 dentists, and 7 categorised as 'other' (support personnel, for example).

As of 19 August, we have received reports of **2,133 irregularities. We continue to receive reports of exposure of people to the disease due to public group activities.** Of the 17 irregularities reported this week, **8 (47%) are due to this reason.**

There were reports of **group activities in 6 departments, with most of these reported in Managua and Matagalpa.** These activities, were mostly all organised, promoted and allowed by their respective city halls in each municipality.

There were complaints of a **siege carried out by the National Police** outside of the labour courts, where a hearing was being held regarding demands for the reinstatement of dismissed doctors.

There **continue to be reports of burials taking place under irregular conditions in Chinandega and Boaco.**

There were complaints over a **lack of COVID-19 information on behalf of the government authorities in the Caribbean Coast.** Due to this lack of information in some communities in the region, there is a high number of suspected COVID-19 cases, and reported harassment of people if they take any measures against the pandemic.

This week, an analysis of COVID-19 tests reportedly carried out by the MISA was published. This was based on a filtered database that contains the results of **17,249 Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) tests**

processed by the National Centre for Diagnostics and Reference (CNDR) between 28 February and 24 July 2020. Among these tests, 7,582 (44%) were negative and 9,683 (56%) were positive¹. This analysis shows that from the beginning of the pandemic the MINSA has **hidden between 64% and 98% of the country's positive COVID-19 tests week by week. Besides, it has also focused most of its efforts in diagnosing only symptomatic cases.** Once again, there is evidence to suggest that the Nicaraguan government is hiding and providing inadequate information regarding the pandemic in the country. We remind the Nicaraguan state of its responsibility to guarantee the human and constitutional right to health, and to guarantee to right to information. The Citizen Observatory urges the MISA authorities to provide information on the pandemic that conforms with international standards and to take effective measures to confront the pandemic in the country.

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **13 August 2020 to 19 August 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
9822	2652

** 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
4311	133

¹ <https://confidencial.com.ni/dr-alvaro-ramirez-ortega-y-murillo-decidieron-mentir-a-la-poblacion-y-cambiar-los-datos/>