

Press release #20
Results from 6 August 2020 to 12 August 2020
Nicaragua, 14 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 12 August, we report a grand total of **9,646 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 178 new suspected cases.**

Managua (3,734), Matagalpa (1,106), León (694), Masaya (646), Estelí (536), Madriz, (387), Chinandega (325), Jinotega (297), Granada (273), Carazo (253) and RACCS (236) are the departments and/or regions reporting the highest amount of suspected cases.

Up to 11 August, the Department of Health (MINSa) has reported 4,115 confirmed cases, 915 active cases, 3,072 recovered and 128 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 12 August we have reported and verified **2,626 deaths**, of which **139 (5%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 2,487 (95%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.** Of these deaths, 300 (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 (one more than last week, and 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 **29 new fatalities.**

Until 12 August, the Observatory received reports of **778 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions (in 75 municipalities, two more than last week).** Managua, Matagalpa, León, Nueva Segovia, Masaya and Granada are the departments with the highest amounts of cases.

As of 12 August, our data shows **104 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers.** Of these, 45 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).

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.

At the same time, it is important to note reports coming from new municipalities and an increase in municipalities that are rural, such as La Dalia, Somoto, Jalapa Nueva Guinea and San Juan de Nicaragua. **This new development suggests the disease has migrated towards rural areas.**

We have analysed age distribution of a total of 4,950 suspected COVID-19 cases reported by the Observatory which included such information. There are reports of suspected cases across all

age groups. **The largest amount of suspected cases of COVID-19 are among people between the ages of 20 and 79: 29.1% of cases in people who are between 20-39 years old, 32.2% of cases in people who are between 40-59 years old and 27.5% of cases in people who are between 60-79 years old.**

Additionally, we have analysed age distribution for 1,165 pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 deaths for which we had such information. Deaths were registered among all age groups. **70.4% of such deaths were registered in people between 50-79 years old: 18.4% in people between 50 and 59 years old, 28.4% in people between 60 to 69 years old and 32.6% in people between 70 and 79 years old. 14.1% of these deaths took place for people older than 80.** Most cases are found amongst people between 20 and 79 years old, and more than 70% of these deaths were people between 50 and 79 years old, confirming the increased vulnerability among the elderly. We need to remember that everyone is susceptible to disease in all age groups, even though younger people have a higher possibility of having the disease asymptotically, and if they do develop the disease, the consequences are less likely to be fatal.

We can confirm that it is younger people who become infected, but older people who die.

COVID-19 mortality analyses by million inhabitants in 16 countries in Latin America show that making this analysis using the COVID-19 death toll reported by the Observatory on 12 August, Nicaragua is reporting **396 COVID-19 deaths by million inhabitants. This death toll places Nicaragua in the sixth place among the countries that have the highest COVID-19 mortality rate by million inhabitants, and above average for the 16 countries.** Using COVID-19 death toll statistics reported by the MINSA on 11 August, Nicaragua is reporting 19 COVID-19 deaths by million inhabitants which would place the country in the fourth place with the lowest death rates among those countries.

As of 5 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 30 irregularities reported this week, **13 (43%) are due to this reason.**

It is important to mention that there were reports in various departments of people seeking care at health facilities, even when they are showing COVID-19 symptoms.

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **6 August 2020 to 12 August 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
9646	2626

** 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
4115	128