



Press release #22

Results from 20 August 2020 to 26 August 2020

Nicaragua, 28 August 2020

“There was a general and systematic concealment of information from the public by the national authorities.”

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 28 August, we report a grand total of **9,998 suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory** in all departments and autonomous regions (in 137 municipalities, 89% of the country). **This week we have registered 176 new suspected cases.**

Managua (3,763), Matagalpa (1,151), León (724), Masaya (652), Estelí (606), Madriz, (437), Chinandega (341), Jinotega (312), Granada (273), Carazo (255) and RACCS (240) are the departments and/or regions reporting the highest amount of suspected cases.

Up to 25 August, the Department of Health (MINSa) has reported 4,494 confirmed cases, 1,018 active cases, 3,339 recovered and 137 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. Since its last report, the MINSa has reported 183 new confirmed cases and 4 new deaths.

Until 26 August we have reported and verified **2,680 deaths**, of which **140 (5%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and**

2,540 (95%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.

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 33% of all deaths, Masaya 10%, Matagalpa 9%, León 7%, Chinandega and Estelí 5% respectively and Granada and Chontales 4% respectively.** This week we received information on **29 new fatalities.**

Until 26 August, the Observatory received reports of **798 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions.** Managua, Matagalpa, León, Nueva Segovia, Estelí and Granada are the departments with the highest amounts of cases.

As of 26 August, our data shows **107 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers.** Of these, 48 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).

In the last weeks, we have observed a decrease in the number of received reports. This should not be interpreted as though there is less of a risk of contagion, or that protective and preventative measures should be eased.

As of 26 August, we have received reports of **2,195 irregularities. We continue to receive reports of exposure of people to the disease due to public group activities.** Of the 44 irregularities reported this week, **29 (66%) 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.

Doctors have complained about the potential of a new wave, which they would credit to the State's lack of preventative measures.

The health authorities have not made a statement about the leak of information on the 17,284 COVID-19 tests carried out between 28 February and 24 July, of which 9,683 were supposedly positive. This would seem to indicate **there was a general and systematic concealment of information from the public.**

Up until 26 August, the Citizen Observatory has registered the arbitrary dismissals of 31 healthcare professionals between 22 April and

24 June; these dismissals have been linked to retaliations because those dismissed took measures or demanded better measures from healthcare personnel with regards to COVID-19.

Of the 31 people who were dismissed, 55% (17) were women and 45% (14) were men. The medical center with the largest amount of dismissals was the Manolo Morales Hospital in Managua.

NEW! You can now explore interactive data on our webpage, including cases and suspected deaths by age groups.

This new interactive webpage is in addition to those which already show:

- A) Suspected cases
- B) Deaths by pneumonia
- C) Suspected cases by department and municipality
- D) MINSA official data
- E) Cases and suspected deaths of healthcare personnel
- F) Age distribution
- G) Irregularities
- H) Deaths of Nicaraguans abroad

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **20 August 2020 to 26 August 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

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|---|--|
| Suspected cases reported by the Observatory | Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory |
| 9998 | 2680 |

** 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 |
| 4494 | 137 |