

Press release #30

## Results from 15 to 21 of October

Nicaragua, 23 October 2020

**The epidemic has not ceased.**

**Take preventative measures and let's save lives!**

As of 21 October, we report a grand total of **10,778 suspected cases verified by the Citizen Observatory** in all departments and autonomous regions.

This week the Citizen Observatory did not receive reports of new deaths. Until 21 October we have reported and verified **2,780 deaths**, of which **141 (5%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 2,627 (95%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.**

These deaths have been reported across the 17 departments and autonomous regions, 123 municipalities (80% 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.**

As of 21 October, we have received reports of **2,505 irregularities**. The irregularities reported this week include reports of people exposed during group activities, lack of preventative measures in workplaces and lack of preventative measures in schools.

For three consecutive weeks, we have not received reports of new **suspected COVID-19 deaths among healthcare personnel**. Until 21 October, the Observatory had received reports of **814 healthcare workers with associated or presumptive COVID-19 symptoms**. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions (in 74 municipalities). **The majority of healthcare workers reporting associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms are medical personnel (487 or 60%) and nursing professionals (125 or 15%).**

In the last two weeks various countries in Europe and Latin America are reporting an increase in the number of cases. Meanwhile in Nicaragua:

Official data from the Ministry of Health (MINSa) published on its website reports an important increase in the number of registered deaths. For the first 15 causes of death registered, in 2017 they were 17,010; in 2018, they were 17,139 and in 2019, 16,321 were reported, whereas up to 31 August 2020, there have been 17,733 reported. At a glance, and just among the first 15 causes of death, an **Excess of Deaths** registered goes up to **72.67 daily deaths, 25.71 more than the highest published year so far.**

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020*
<b>Deaths</b>	17,010	17,139	16,321	17,733
<b>Daily average</b>	46.60	46.96	44.22	72.67

Source: Observatory calculations based on information from the Health Map [www.minsa.gob.ni](http://www.minsa.gob.ni)

\*Information up to 31 August 2020

This daily Excess of Deaths translates to **at least 6,273 deaths attributable to COVID-19**, to which the 155 MINSa-recorded COVID-19 deaths must be added, coming to a total of 6,428 deaths. This tragic statistic is also missing figures which are recorded under other causes of death and therefore not included in the first 15 causes.

**The MINSa continues to fail to explain the causes of excessive mortality** due to stroke, diabetes, hypertension and pneumonia observed in the country in 2020, compared to deaths from the same causes reported between 2017 and 2019.

The previous data refers exclusively to extreme harm, death. **We still do not know the number of people who are and have been mildly, moderately or gravely sick in the country.** Of course, the number of people who have been infected without developing the illness is entirely unknown.

This evidence shows us that Nicaraguans continue to be in the dark about the true magnitude of the pandemic.

We still do not know **how COVID-19 is expressing among the Nicaraguan population that has been affected.** COVID-19 sequels can take various forms, whether physical,

psychological or economic. They depend greatly on the gravity of the illness and the medical attention that the patient received. What measures has the government taken to ensure attention and follow-up for these people?

Protective measures continue to be the same: Keep a **physical distance** of two metres with regards to other people; **wash your hands** with water and soap for at least 40 seconds and if there is no access to water and soap, clean your hands with 70% alcohol for 20 seconds; **use a three-layered cloth face mask**, and if possible a face shield; **avoid group activities. Stay at home as much as you can!**

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **15 October 2020 to 21 October 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
<b>10778</b>	<b>2780</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>5434</b>	<b>155</b>