Global Governmental Response to COVID-19 in accordance to WHO guidelines

Actions taken by Nepal to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as of February 3, 2021.

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Our Organization

The UN Compliance Research Group is a global organization which specializes in monitoring the work of the United Nations (UN). Through our professional team of academics, scholars, researchers and students we aim to serve as the world's leading independent source of information on members' compliance to UN resolutions and guidelines. Our scope of activity is broad, including assessing the compliance of member states to UN resolutions and plan of actions, adherence to judgments of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and commitments made at UN pledging conferences. We’re proud to present the international community and global governments with our native research findings on states’ annual compliance with the commitments of the UN and its affiliated agencies. Our goal as world citizens is to foster a global change towards a sustainable future; one which starts with ensuring that the words of delegates are transformed into action and that UN initiatives don’t remain ink on paper. Hence, we offer policy analysis and provide advice on fostering accountability and transparency in UN governance as well as tracing the connection between the UN policy-makers and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Yet, we aim to adopt a neutral path and do not engage in advocacy for issues or actions taken by the UN or member states. Acting as such, for the sake of transparency. The UN Compliance Research Group dedicates all its effort to inform the public and scholars about the issues and agenda of the UN and its affiliated agencies.
Purpose

The International Health Regulations (2005) are legally binding on 196 States Parties, including all WHO Member States. The IHR aims to keep the world informed about public health risks, through committing all signatories to cooperate together in combating any future “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans.” Under IHR, countries agreed to strengthen their public health capacities and notify the WHO of any such illness in their populations. The WHO would be the centralized body for all countries facing a health threat, with the power to declare a “public health emergency of international concern,” issue recommendations, and work with countries to tackle a crisis.

Although, with the sudden and rapid spread of COVID-19 in the world, many countries varied in implementing the WHO guidelines and health recommendations. While some countries followed the WHO guidelines, others imposed travel restrictions against the WHO’s recommendations. Some refused to share their data with the organization. Others banned the export of medical equipment, even in the face of global shortages. The UN Compliance Research group will focus during the current cycle on analyzing the compliance of the WHO member states to the organization’s guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/educational institutions:</th>
<th>Workplaces and institutions:</th>
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</table>
| ● Decision makers should consider the following if they decide to open or close schools: Current understanding about COVID-19 transmission and severity in children, Local situation and epidemiology of COVID-19 where the school(s) are located, School setting and ability to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control measures.  
● Recommended to promote: Hygiene and environmental cleaning to limit exposure, Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff, Communication with parents and students, Physical distancing at school, Tele-schooling and distance learning. | ● Partial closure of workplaces as of early March.  
● Hand hygiene: Regular and thorough handwashing, Hand hygiene stations.  
● Respiratory hygiene: Promote respiratory etiquette, Develop a policy on wearing a mask or a face covering.  
● Physical distancing: less people, implementing shifts.  
● Reduce and manage work-related travels.  
● Regular environmental cleaning and disinfection.  
● Risk communication, training, and education: Provide posters, videos, and electronic message boards.  
● Management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts: introduce thermal screening.  
● Take more measures when it comes to jobs at medium and high risk. |

<table>
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<th>Public events:</th>
<th>Public Transport:</th>
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| ● Restriction to host gatherings or events that exceed a large number of individuals. ex) sport games, religious functions, restaurants, etc.  
● Planning phase: Liaison with all relevant stakeholders, Development of a preparedness and response plan, Assessment of capacities and resources.  
● Operational phase: Modifications of the event, Risk communication, Surveillance of participants, aimed at detecting and managing individuals developing symptoms during the event.  
● Post-event phase: Liaison between event organizers and health authorities. | ● Reduce crowding, limit access to, or close public spaces, restaurants, sporting events, 24 sports clubs, entertainment venues, places of worship, 25 or venues with limited ventilation.  
● Encourage physical distancing in public places and transportation.  
● Reduce mixing between individuals and households.  
● Communicate to recommend wearing masks in public. |
### WHO Guidelines and Recommendations

#### Public Information Campaign:
- Communicate risk clearly with information on how to protect oneself and others.
- Simplify messages, encourage sharing of information.
- Engage with communities in decision-making and to strengthen engagement for public health measures.
- Identify local networks and engage communities, businesses, religious leaders, and local influencers.

#### Domestic/International Travel:
- Reduction in Travel to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- International travel should not occur unless in an emergency.
- Recommended to adhere to safety measures while travelling.
- Establish effective contingency plans and arrangements for responding a Public Health Emergency.

#### Testing Framework:
- Set up testing centers in large venues or in check points.
- Require travellers to self-quarantine after being tested.
- Molecular (e.g. PCR) testing of respiratory tract samples is the recommended method for the identification and laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 cases.
- To inform WHO policy on the use of immunodiagnostic rapid tests for COVID-19.

#### Contact Tracing:
- Set up relational databases linking lists of contacts to line lists of cases.
- Allow for tailored case investigation forms, contact listing forms, and contact follow-up forms to be set up.
- Used for self-checking and self-reporting of signs and symptoms by people through mobile phone apps or SMS technology.

#### Lockdown/Curfew:
- Implementation of curfew hours.
- Require citizens to stay in home unless of an emergency.
- Monitor locations to abide by the curfew hours.
Methodology and Scoring System

- This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (the International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from −1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, −1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of −1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where −1 equals 0 percent and +1 equals 100 percent.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>State does not comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), nor does it comply with any of the World Health Organization's guidelines and recommendations to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>State complies with the IHR and partially complies with the WHO recommendations on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to at least two commitments of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>State fully complies with the IHR and the WHO guidelines on combating the Coronavirus, through implementing policies and actions which adhere to all nine areas of the WHO guidelines on curbing the pandemic.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Assessment

Nepal complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) but partially complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions only in some commitment features. Thus, Nepal receives a compliance score of 0.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
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* Nepal complied with the International Health Regulations (IHR) but partially complied with the World Health Organization’s guidelines and recommendations on curbing the Coronavirus (COVID-19), through implementing complying policies and actions only in some commitment features. Thus, Nepal receives a compliance score of 0.
As of 24 March 2020, the government has announced a nationwide lockdown from 06:00 on 24 March until 06:00, 31 March.
• As of 31 March 2020, the government announced an extension to the curfew for it to last until 6 April.
• As of 6 April 2020, the government has announced an eight day extension until 14 April.
• As of 14 April 2020, the government of Nepal announced the extension to the lockdown which will now last until 7 May.
• On 7 May 2020, the government announced an extension to the lockdown which will now end on 18 May.
• On 17 May 2020, Nepal announced an extension to the curfew which is said to end on 2 June.
• As of 30 June 2020, the government announced an extension to the lockdown which will now last until 22 July.
• As of 22 July 2020, the government announced that restrictions have been lifted for the lockdown and that there is no curfew time anymore.
• As of 26 August 2020, lockdown restrictions on Kathmandu have been resumed and it is said to finish on 2 September.
• As of 2 September 2020, the government announced an extension to the curfew in Kathmandu to end on 9 September.
• On 9 September 2020, the government announced the extension of the curfew in Kathmandu to last until 16 September.
• On 16 September 2020, the government has announced an end to the curfew but still require the use of masks and practicing social distancing.

As of 11 March 2020, the government has suspended visas on arrival from China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Japan, France, Germany and Spain.
• As of 17 March 2020, the government suspends issuance of tourist visas on arrival.
• As of 18 March 2020, Nepalese citizens looking to enter Nepal are prohibited if they are travelling through Europe or the Middle East.
• As of 22 March 2020, the government has suspended all international flights until 31 March.
• As of 24 March 2020, the government has closed its borders with China for one week.
• As of 7 April 2020, the government of Nepal extended its suspension on international flights until 30 April.
• As of 25 April 2020, Nepal announced the extension to domestic and international flights to 15 May.
• As of 7 May 2020, the government announced an extension to flight suspension which will now last until 18 May.
• As of 18 May 2020, the government announced an extension to the flight suspension which will now last until 2 June.
• On 30 May 2020, the government announced the flight suspension will be extended until 30 June.
• As of 15 June 2020, the government announced an extension to the flight suspension which will now last until 5 July.
• As of 19 June 2020, the government announced the resumption of domestic and international flights to be on 1 August.
• On 18 July 2020, the government announced that the resumption to domestic and international flights will now be on 5 August.
• As of 5 August 2020, the government extended the ban to 2 September.
• As of 31 August 2020, the government announced domestic and international restrictions to flights will be banned until 16 September.
• As of 16 September 2020, the government announced an extension to the ban which will last until 2 October.
• On 2 October 2020, the government announced a gradual resumption to domestic and international flights. People entering the country must provide a PCR test that has been conducted in the past 72 hours and must quarantine up to 14 days.
• On 23 December 2020, the government announced a ban on the entry of arrivals from the UK, due to new COVID-19 strain.
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<th>Public Info Campaign</th>
<th>Testing Framework</th>
<th>Contact Tracing</th>
<th>Workplace and Institutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>On 18 March 2020, the government has banned social gatherings and public events of more than 25 people.</td>
<td>As of 20 March 2020, the government announced that they will begin to focus on efforts on planning, prevention and preparation.</td>
<td>On 20 January 2020, the government announced that over 5 hospitals will take care of testing COVID-19 patients.</td>
<td>As of 26 March 2020, the government has set up a public telephone line to report any individuals who have been in contact with COVID-19.</td>
<td>On 20 March 2020, the government announced that public employees should report to work on weekends and not leave the Kathmandu valley. The government also declared a raise to workers monthly salaries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As of 22 July 2020, public gathering and public event restrictions have been lifted.</td>
<td>On 21 March 2020, the government announced the deployment of 200 personnel to display placards with awareness messages about the effects of COVID-19.</td>
<td>As of 27 January 2020, Nepal announced COVID-19 tests will occur in the National Public Health Laboratory.</td>
<td>As of 7 May 2020, the government announced the beginning of contract tracing work by monitoring and surveillancing individuals who have gotten COVID-19 testing.</td>
<td>As of 22 March 2020, the government has closed all government official office places and government services until further notice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As of 19 August 2020, the government announced that restrictions on public gatherings and public events will resume for Kathmandu due to increased COVID-19 cases.</td>
<td>As of 1 May 2020, the government announced that citizens must respect the rules and regulations authorities are carrying out in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.</td>
<td>As of 4 April 2020, the government of Nepal announced the start of rapid COVID-19 diagnostic testing in districts like Kailali, Kanchanpur and Baglung.</td>
<td>As of 17 October 2020, the government announced the end of contact tracing efforts.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>On 23 October 2020, the government announced the resumption of public events which will begin on 26 October.</td>
<td>On 14 April 2020, the government announced the conduction of PCR testing.</td>
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<td>As of 15 December 2020, Nepal announced the mandatory use of masks and a general relaxation to public events and public gatherings.</td>
<td>As of 3 February 2021, Nepal conducted a total of 70,699 tests per 1 million people.</td>
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### Educational Institutions

- **On 18 March 2020**, the government announced the closure of schools which will last until 12 April.
- **As of 6 April 2020**, the government announced that schools and educational institutions will resume on 27 April.
- **As of 26 April 2020**, the government announced that educational institutions will resume on 30 April.
- **On 30 April 2020**, the government has announced that schools will remain closed until further notice.
- **On 29 September 2020**, the government announced the reopening of schools nationwide.

### Public Transportation

- **As of 21 March 2020**, the government has announced a ban on long distance public transport until further notice.
- **As of 22 July 2020**, the government announced the resumption of long bus routes to commence on 17 August.
- **On 17 August 2020**, the government resumed the use of public transport.
- **As of 19 August 2020**, the government announced restrictions to be placed on public transport in Kathmandu and that transport should only be for essential purposes.

### Vaccine

- **As of 26 January 2021**, the government of Nepal announced receiving the first batch of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine (1 million dose) which was gifted to them by the Indian government. Health workers are said to receive the vaccine first. Following that would be the elderly population and along with them the rest of the population of Nepal.
- **On 3 February 2021**, the UN Health Agency announced that Nepal is set to receive a total of 2,56,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the month, under the WHO COVAX program.
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Nepal

Sources


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