



Focused COVID-19 and Health Media Monitoring, Nepal

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RECURRING THEME(S)

- Dengue cases have been rapidly increasing in Bagmati Province.

ISSUE(S) IN FOCUS

The Nepal Medical Board has tightened the recommendation letters given to the government employees. After the government instructed the working employees to go to respective places where their postings have been done, there has been a rush to make a recommendation to the medical board to prove that they have a disease. After the employees started making recommendation letters easily for their own convenience, the board started to be strict. ¹

The National Public Health Laboratory has demanded that there should be a separate agency to monitor and regulate the laboratories. Dr. Runa Jha, Director of the laboratory, said that it was difficult to have only one body for monitoring and testing. She said that there is a problem in working with the same agency for monitoring, testing, policy planning, and setting standards for the laboratory. ³

World Breastfeeding Week 2080 is being celebrated for one week from Tuesday with the slogan 'Ensuring Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace, Commitment of All Stakeholders'. World Breastfeeding Week has been celebrated every year since 1992 to protect and promote breastfeeding. The Family Welfare Division, along with the provincial and local governments, are also celebrating this day by holding various programs throughout the week. Though the government has been conducting awareness programs about breastfeeding with various schemes, infants and children in Nepal still do not get enough breast milk. ³

The World Bank will continue its support for the improvement of Nepal's health system. Faris Hadad Zervos, Country Director of the World Bank, made this commitment after meeting with the Minister of Health and Population, Mohan Bahadur Basnet. During the meeting, Health Minister Basnet appreciated the various support provided by the World Bank in Nepal's health sector and asked for more financial and technical support in the future. ³ (WHO mentioned)

NEWS RELATED TO PROVINCE ONE

According to the Safe Maternal and Reproductive Health Rights Act 2075, there is a clear provision that government, non-governmental, or private organizations must provide breastfeeding rooms for women working in the office to breastfeed their

babies for two years after the birth of the baby. But there has been no progress or update to cater to breastfeeding women working in public places that sees a high crowd of public customers. There are regional structures in Biratnagar, the capital of Koshi province. However, since the government structure of the new state has been established in the format of the old government structure, there is no breastfeeding room even in the office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers. There is no provision even in provincial assembly buildings and ministries. ⁹

NEWS RELATED TO BAGMATI PROVINCE

For the first time, the annual progress report 2080 of the Central Prison Hospital along with the medical personnel working there has been published. Chief Guest, Home Secretary Dinesh Bhattarai and Health Secretary, Dr. Roshan Pokharel released the report in the program held in the auditorium of the Central Prison Hospital. In the program, the Chief Medical Superintendent of the Central Prison Hospital, Dr. Prakash Budhathoki that around 35,000 prisoners were provided with out-patient services and 1,000 more with in-patient services. He also added that the physical infrastructure has been an obstacle to the expansion of quality services of the hospital. ³

Dengue infection has been increasing in Bagmati province. According to the Ministry of Health of Bagmati province, dengue infection has been confirmed in 980 people from December 17 to July 15. Dhading has been affected the most during the seven-month period. According to the Ministry of Health, dengue has been reported in all 13 districts of the province. ⁹

NEWS RELATED TO LUMBINI PROVINCE

Sickle cell and thalassemia have been found in 15.33 percent of children in the Tharu community of Bardiya. In the screening test conducted by the Health Office of Bardiya on 3106 students of eight different schools, 10.82 percent were found to have sickle cell anemia and 4.51 percent had thalassemia. ⁶

NEWS RELATED TO SUDURPASHCHIM PROVINCE

Viral hepatitis has spread in Patan Municipality-4 Chillepani of Baitadi as it was found in 19 people. Yogesh Prasad Bhatta, Head of the Health Office, informed that after viral hepatitis was found in three children of the same household, 16 more people were found to be infected in the village. ²

Pancheshwar Health Post located in Pancheshwar Rural Municipality 1 of Baitadi has been plagued by issues of drinking water. Because the water accumulates in the tank for a long time and there is no sanitation, frogs and lizards have been found

there. Suresh Karki, in-charge of the health post, claims that most of the women who have taken delivery services at the Pancheshwar health post have problems with their uterus due to the polluted water. ⁷

MENTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND POPULATION

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¹ Onlinekhabar

² Nepalkhabar

³ Swasthyakhabar

⁴ The Himalayan Times

⁵ Kantipur

⁶ Nayapatrika

⁷ Annapurna Post

⁸ Nagarik

⁹ Gorkhapatra

Contact for further details

Ms Tsering Dolkar Gurung

NPO (Communication, Media, and Public Information)
World Health Organization, Country Office for Nepal
gurungt@who.int

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