

Press release #16
Results from 9 July 2020 to 15 July 2020
Nicaragua, 17 July 2020

The normalisation of a pandemic that has not been handled adequately can be lethal. Do not let your guard down! Use a face mask everywhere, keep a 2-metre distance from other people, avoid crowds and wash your hands with water and soap constantly.

Take preventative measures and let's save lives!

As of 15 July, we report a grand total of 8,508 **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 332 new cases which represents a 4% increase compared to the previous week.**

Managua (3,427), Matagalpa (941), Masaya (605), León (585), Estelí (478), Chinandega (300), Madriz (262), Jinotega (268), Granada (226), Carazo (212) and RACCS (208) are the departments and/or regions reporting the highest amount of suspected cases.

Up to the 14 July, the Ministry of Health (MINSa) has reported 3,147 confirmed cases, 766 active cases, 2,282 recovered and 99 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 the 15 July we have reported and verified **2,397 deaths**, of which **137 (6%) can be categorised as deaths from pneumonia and 2,260 (94%) can be reported as suspected deaths from COVID-19.** Of these deaths, 268 (11%) took place in people's homes and 19 (1%) took place during a transfer to a healthcare unit.

These deaths have been reported across the 17 departments and autonomous regions, 118 municipalities (77% total municipalities in the country). The department of **Managua has registered 36% of all deaths, Masaya 10%, Matagalpa 8%, León 7%, Chinandega and Estelí 5% respectively and Granada 4%.**

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This week we received information on **100 new fatalities**, which represents a **4% increase** in the number of deaths reported in the previous week.

Until the 15 July, the Observatory received reports of **724 healthcare workers with associated or presumed COVID-19 symptoms. These were recorded across all departments or autonomous regions (in 72 municipalities).** Managua, León and Matagalpa are the departments with the highest number of cases.

As of the 15 July, our data shows **96 suspected COVID-19 fatalities in healthcare workers.** Of these, 40 were doctors, 22 nursing staff, 14 administrative personnel, 7 lab technicians, 3 medical visitors, 3 dentists, and 7 categorised as 'other' (support personnel, for example).

As of 15 July, we have received reports of 2,014 irregularities. The exposure of people during crowded activities has been the most reported irregularity in the last 7 weeks. Of the 27 irregularities reported this week, **10 (37%) refer to exposure of people through group activities.**

This week we received reports of a physiotherapist being fired from a healthcare unit in Matagalpa without redundancy payments. This reportedly occurred after she refused to work without the appropriate protective equipment.

There were also reports that the Commission for Truth, Justice and Peace received a **complaint against the Nicaraguan Medical Association (AMN)** on behalf of a group of people who are accusing it of publishing false information about deaths and/or cause of death of healthcare personnel. Despite this complaint, AMN's board has explained that the information used to support

these complaints was not developed or shared by the association.

In addition, this week a lawyer was found guilty to injury for saying in a private audio conversation that someone's cause of death had been COVID-19.

There were complaints in León, Managua and the Autonomous Region of the Southern Caribbean Coast over **irregularities in healthcare in healthcare units**. Some of the complaints are as follow:

- The death of a boy due to a lack of ventilators in a healthcare unit.
- Lack of access to water in the regional hospital Ernesto Sequeira Blanco in Bluefields. The hospital has been using firehoses for days without knowing if the water is potable.
- Changes in causes of death to hide COVID-19 deaths.
- Patients abandoning hospitals. It is reported that in many cases these abandonments are taking place as people

prefer to be looked after at home instead of in healthcare units.

Group activities continue to be the most reported irregularity. This week the Observatory received reports from 6 departments, with most reports coming from León. Among the reported activities were: the maize fair in Chinandega, funeral rites for people who are presumed to have died of COVID-19 in Estelí and Jinotega, partisan activities with dozens of FSLN militants in two municipalities in León, the celebration of the second anniversary of the paramilitary attack on students at the Divina Misericordia church in Managua and a mobile clinic being tended to without protective personal equipment or distancing measures in a public place in Matagalpa.

In many of these activities it is reported that a large number of participants were not wearing face masks.

These activities were, in the most part, organized, promoted and/or allowed by their respective town councils.

Please find attached the (Spanish language) report from **9 July 2020 to 15 July 2020**, developed by the Observatory:

Suspected cases reported by the Observatory	Deaths from pneumonia and suspected COVID-19 reported by the Observatory
8508	2397

** 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
3147	99