

Corona Virus Pandemic State and Role of OHW

Background

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that was not been previously identified in humans. The human tragedy of the coronavirus is immense. So far, over 4,000 have died and more than 100,000 have been infected globally and millions have been affected.

In Nepal until now 425 samples tested, 424 found negative. One positive case now recovered as per the laboratory test result.

Rational

This is the international health emergency. OHW as a responsible organization towards health and wellbeing of its target population, it is expected to act rationally on this condition also. Furthermore, OHW is one of the major partners for supporting MNCH activities, invited and attended different task groups. Visible and needful contribution after earthquake disaster in Nepal, expectation from MOHP is higher with OHW for preparation of possible outbreaks of CoV in Nepal.

Nepal's Effort

Nepal has activated different task groups for preparation in case of outbreak in Nepal.

Central Level

- High-level steering committee formed
- Two-health sector meeting held
- Travel advisory issued
- Hotline numbers regarding Public Concerns established (9851255839,9851255837, 9851255834)

Provincial level

- Health desk operational at the main land borders crossing with china, India and at airports
- Hospitals have prepared the Hospital Disaster Preparedness and response plan with isolation facilities

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- Hospitals are also directed to comply with the algorithm and protocol prepared by the MoHP.

Area of support - MOHP requested

1. Equipment /Supplies: PPE, Surgical Mask, gloves, goggles, face shield, spray machine
2. Preparedness and capacity strengthening of designated hospitals: isolation ward, training, capacity building, information centers
3. Capacities strengthening of the laboratories
4. Surveillance officers: at least 10 officers for three months
5. Health information center at entry points: health personal and equipment. As per information, there are 136 points of entry from India.
6. IEC development, dissemination and utilization
7. Information and education at the community level
8. Information center at selected sites.

OHW's response

- Dissemination of authorized radio message through contracted local FM radio. Reschedule the message airing time and replace the message with coronavirus prevention messages.
- Use any possible opportunities to spread message among people. We have been conducting several community and municipal level activities in the district such as FCHV meetings, interaction with mother's and community people, municipality level meetings and health facility level activities. Use these forums to spread related messages through video showing, giving out messages etc.
- Share/copy message to all in their mobile/pen drive and ask them to show/disseminate at every possible platform

For emergency response to COVID 19, OHW may support in personal protective equipment (PPE) - Infrared thermometer, gloves, masks, hand sanitizer etc. We are currently working on PPE needs for health workers and potential outbreaks.

Actions to be taken for OHW field/staff

Dos

- Reduce event requiring mass gathering
- Limit exposure to the crowd i.e. less movement by big public buses

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- Share authentic information's frequently
- Remain alert and information back with any news of outbreak etc.
- Inform authorities if you have fever and other flu like syndromes.

Don'ts

- Do not entertain the requests for support for refreshment costs as such meetings have to take place frequently.
- Don't panic, everything at this moment is under control.