

NEPAL COVID SITREP as at 4 JUN 21

HEADLINES

1. The Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) continue to be engaged in identifying Nepal's medical needs. Talks between FCDO, Nepali Ministry of Health and Nepal's Ambassador to UK continue.
2. Army Medical and Advisory Team (MAT) now in Nepal and engaged with Government of Nepal (GoN) and Nepal Army to define the team's role and tasks.
3. Nepal is to receive "a share" of the 7M Covid-19 vaccines given to 17 Asian countries by the US. This is part of the 19M vaccines donated to Covax by the US.
4. Various groups in UK continue to lobby the UK Govt to send vaccines to Nepal.

POLITICAL

5. International.

- a. The UN Nepal Covid Pandemic Situation Report as at 4 June 21 gives a more detailed report on the situation in various parts of Nepal.
- b. International organisation operating in Nepal are liaising with GoN about the repatriation of non-essential staff.

6. Nepal.

- a. All international flights (except charter and those to/from India) are suspended. Suspension of flights originally set at 31 May has now been extended until 14 Jun 21.
- b. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has approved two flights a week to/from India and one flight to China mainly for medical supplies. Schedule weekly flights, by a single airline, to China, Qatar and Turkey resumed from 1 Jun 21.
- c. Domestic Airlines suspended until further notice.
- d. GoN has given rights to each local government to impose a lockdown or take any other additional measures if COVID cases reach certain limits. The three Chief District Officers (CDOs) of Kathmandu Valley have extended the lockdown in the valley until 14 Jun 21.
- e. Restriction have been increased and fresh food shops opening hours limited to 0700 and 0900 hrs. No one is allowed out for any the reason other than shopping or going to the hospital.
- f. There is no assured capacity to admit new COVID patients to hospital. All hospitals are at maximum capacity and provision only becomes available after patient discharge or dies.
- g. Covid stats (provided by BGN)

Nepal COVID Statistics	Total Numbers
Total Cases (x)	576,936
Total Recovered (y)	467,467
Active (x-y)	109,469
No of Tests Conducted	21,773
Recovery Rate	81%

Total Death	7,630
National daily reported cases	6,825 (with most cases in Kathmandu Valley)

h. Pensioners and Widows stats as at 30 May 21 (provided by GWT) are below.

7. **UK:**

- a. Dep Col Comdt tabled an urgent question in the House of Lords for 19 May.
- b. Pressure brought by several Lords for a special effort for Nepal, notably from Lord Sheikh and the Earl of Sandwich, both sit on the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Nepal.
- c. Lord Ahmad (Minister for South Asia & Commonwealth) spoke to the Nepali Foreign Minister on 18 May and is in regular dialogue with the Nepali Ambassador in the UK.
- d. UK Aid essential medical supplies arrived in Nepal. UK Ambassador to Nepal (Ms Nicola Pollitt) met the aircraft at Kathmandu airport.
- e. Change Org petition to Foreign Secretary launched with lots of high profile signatories: Joanna Lumley, Michael Palin, scientists, academics, Everest climbers, Gurkha veterans, including Capt Rambahadur Limbu VC, two former Col Comdts and other friends of Nepal, join the call for urgent medical aid.– Petition - Send Oxygen to Nepal. The petition has been rejected by the Govt because of the similar petition "Provide Emergency Support to Treat COVID Patients in Nepal" had been submitted earlier.
- f. Co-Chair Britain Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT) and Chairman Britain Nepal Society (BNS) are both engaged in lobby the UK Govt for vaccines to be sent to Nepal.

8. **FCDO**

- a. Planning for draw-down completed. Recovery of non-essential staff and dependents, using the medical supplies aircraft, accomplished. Core staff will remain in place to continue developmental work.
- b. The UK MST task and purpose are being discussed with GoN and Nepal Army.

9. **MOD/Army:**

- a. Col Comdt and HQBG are engaged with senior leaders in Army HQ.
- b. CGS' office have engaged with DA Kathmandu.
- c. FCDO/MoD continue to monitor the COVID situation in Nepal and concurrent activity to generate maximum support is in progress.
- d. FCDO/MOD are reassessing the humanitarian situation and further support options.
- e. Ongoing planning in MOD:
 - (1) MoD support and FCDO approved medical equipment (see para 2d (2) for details), arrived on 28 May 21.
 - (2) Army HQ staff are reviewing options to provide wider support to Nepal in line with the FCDO intent. Chief of Defence Logistics Support (CDLS) staff are addressing the delta between aspiration and provision and are working on plans to close this gap.
 - (3) MoD held a meeting on 28 May to discuss what else UK and MoD can do to

support Nepal. The significant wish list received will be discuss with the aim of preparing a Ministerial Submission. Details have yet to be promulgated.

(4) All non-essential and at-risk service personnel/dependants have returned to the UK, bar a few who were in quarantine and unable to travel. Total c150 pax (including those on leave) have now arrived in UK. Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI) process has started.

(5) HQBG Team are now preparing accommodation for repatriated staff once they leave quarantine.

Major Mani Rai MBE, DL

Brigade Secretary | Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas

Robertson House | Camberley | GU15 4NP |

Tel (Skype) 03001650582| . Email: mani.rai121@mod.gov.uk

PENSIONERS AND WIDOWS STATS

In the table below you can find a breakdown (by Regt) of COVID cases and deaths attributable to COVID among all pension types (WPs/SPs etc) in Nepal as at 30 May 21.

These statistics are only based on cases that have been reported to our AWCs and may therefore not present the full picture.

Regiment	Recovered or Active Cases	Deceased	Total
1GR		1	1
2GR	15	6	21
4GR	3	1	4
6GR	31	7	38
7GR	17	9	26
8GR	2	1	3
9GR	1	1	2
10GR	32	6	38
1RGR	4	1	5
2RGR	8	1	9
3RGR	1		1
QGE	13	6	19
QGS	11	1	12
QOGLR	11	2	13
GSPS	2		2
TDBG	2		2
GCSPF	28	3	31
TOTAL	181	46	227