

## **Repatriation of Nepalese Workers in Qatar**

The State of Qatar's response to Coronavirus has been driven by the highest international standards of public health policy. In late February and early March, Qatar and much of the international community worked to understand the spread of coronavirus and identify any patterns. Qatar undertook a dedicated effort to test individuals and provide medical care to those confirmed with the virus or showing symptoms.

Early testing indicated a cluster of coronavirus cases in Qatar's Industrial Area. As a result, public health and medical professionals began increased testing and treatment. Health officials and public safety officials worked to ensure that testing was conducted, and living and working facilities were clean, safe, and sanitary. Individuals who tested positive for the virus were provided with immediate access to medical care.

Through these inspections, officials uncovered individuals engaged in illegal and illicit activity. This included the manufacture and sale of banned and prohibited substances, along with the sale of dangerous food goods that could seriously threaten the health of people if consumed.

Individuals found trafficking in illegal and dangerous goods were repatriated to their country of citizenship, in line with Qatar's legal system.

These activities predate the quarantine of the Industrial Area, one of the initial actions taken as part of the national response to coronavirus. Qatar will continue to provide free, world-class healthcare, including check-ups, testing, treatment and medical supplies to all citizens and residents without discrimination and regardless of race, background or residence status.

Qatar will continue to enforce its laws and violators will be penalized appropriately. This includes any citizens, residents, or visitors that gather in public or violate quarantines and jeopardize public health.

There are currently over 400,000 citizens of Nepal residing and working in the State of Qatar. Every one of them has access to free Coronavirus testing, and those that test positive receive the highest quality of medical care at no cost.

Since the quarantine restrictions have been in place, Qatar has clearly communicated these measures through a large-scale, multi-language communications campaign. Materials in multiple languages have been distributed directly, posted on public billboards and promoted through social media channels. Medical officials have additionally provided direct information to the public via interviews on local Asian language radio stations.