



## DID YOU KNOW...?

2 of every 10 Venezuelan migrants believe that the vaccines will kill more people than COVID-19 itself and that the masks and physical distancing are not effective measures against COVID-19?

This was demonstrated through a survey carried out by Internews with the support of Fedemedios and the Corporation Caribe Afirmativo in Nariño with surveyors from Venezuelan nationality. This community engagement approach allowed us to reach 221 migrants between October and November of 2020. The migrants also participating in collecting the rumors about the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to them, between the 12th and the 25th of November, we identified 192 rumors, 165 of which were taken from social media and 27 from other sources.

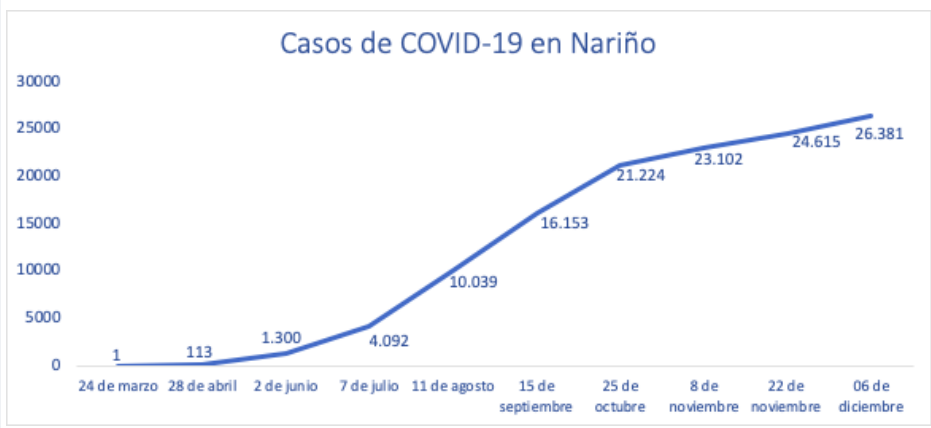


Nariño	
Date	06/12/2020
New Cases	157
Total Cases	26,381
Recovered	23,378
Deceased	8,614
Hospitalized	65

Source: Departmental Institute of Health in Nariño (IDSN)

## THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN NARIÑO

Rooted in Trust project from Internews carried out a survey in October and November in 2020 demonstrated that 1 in every 10 migrants settled or in transit in Nariño believe they receive the information they need. In the last two weeks, Nariño has registered a total of 1,766 new COVID-19 cases. The authorities have warned of another outbreak during the holiday season and the end of the year. Let's keep taking care of ourselves!



Source: Data taken from IDSN

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**Departmental Institute of Health in Nariño**

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(2) 7235428  
<http://www.idsn.gov.co>

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**Red Cross Colombia, Nariño Section**

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(2) 7237448  
[www.facebook.com/cruzroja.seccionalnarino/](http://www.facebook.com/cruzroja.seccionalnarino/)

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**Jesuit Refugee Service in Nariño**

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Calle 20 No. 24-64  
 Colegio San Francisco Javier Pasto  
 Phone: (2) 7231728 o 7238555 – extension 1191 - Cell: 3143700759

For more details on where you can access health care, or to inquire about any COVID-19 concerns, please contact the above organizations and institutions.

**COVID-19 and the pandemic are not gone! Let's not lower our guard. Let's stay informed about the virus and maintain self-care!**

This rumor bulletin features common, high-risk rumors analyzed by the Internews Rooted In Trust Colombia team. These rumors were posted by individuals on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp in the month of November 2020.

## VACCINES

### RUMOR #1 AT-HOME LABS

A rumor on Facebook warns that the supposed vaccine being developed in home laboratories in Colombia.

- Currently, there are more than 150 possible vaccines in development around the world and this week, two laboratories, Moderna and Pfizer, announced that the effectiveness of their vaccines has reached 90%.
  - The Moderna, Pfizer/BioNtech y Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines are all in Phase III of development. Recently, the Pfizer vaccine was approved the United Kingdom for distribution. However, some authorities warn that this could be a hasty decision.
- Colombia has had a defined strategy for several months regarding access to the COVID-19 vaccine, following which the country will carry out a joint acquisition of the leading global COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccines that are approved by the government will be distributed through the social security system.


RESPONSE 

Source: Ministry of Health

**MEDIUM RISK**

### RUMOR #2 REPORTING

A rumor on Facebook suggests that there no mechanism to report the pharmaceutical companies for possible collateral damage caused by vaccines.

- Normally the process to to approve a vaccines requires 3-4 phases of clinical trials. In the third phase, the vaccine is administrated to thousands of people to test its safety and efficacy.
  - The Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) explains that the rapid development of the COVID-19 vaccine is due to the great financial investment and human capital that is dedicated to developing it. She ensures that they are not skipping any of the traditional steps for guaranteeing its safety and efficacy.
  - Nevertheless, as the Colombian Association for Public Health declares, Article 5 of the bill (for vaccination for the coronavirus in Colombia) exonerates pharmaceutical companies of the responsibility for potential side effects that the vaccine may cause in citizens.
-  Try to obtain truthful information from accredited and reliable health and sanitation authorities. Remember that thoughts and beliefs not based in science can play with your emotions.

RESPONSE 

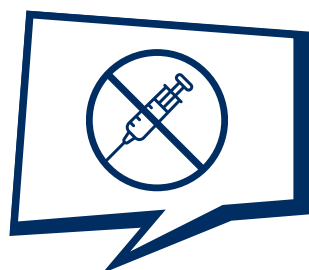
Source: *El Tiempo*, *The pharmaceuticals will not respond to the adverse effects of the vaccine*, October 2020


**MEDIUM RISK**

### RUMOR #3 FEAR

Many people have shared their concerns on social media about the speed at which the clinical trials were carried for the potential COVID-19 vaccines. One of the most frequent rumors on social media calls for people to avoid receiving the vaccine.

RESPONSE 



- Fear of vaccines is not a new phenomenon. In January 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the rejection of vaccines as one of the 10 threats against global health. Normally, the development of a vaccines takes years. However, the experts suggest that the speed at which the COVID-19 vaccine is advancing is due to many factors, such as: there was previous knowledge about the coronavirus, the genetic sequence was clear from the beginning, the technological advancements in science, the amount of money invested, and some regulatory changes. The experts assure that the efficacy and safety of the vaccine is still a priority.
  - The process to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 is breaking records of speed without sacrificing standards of efficacy and safety. Nevertheless, scientists warn that accelerating the process further could have detrimental effects.
-  Even if the news about the research, studies, development, and approval of the COVID-19 vaccine changes daily and cause fear or accelerated optimism, what is certain is that no vaccine will arrive to Colombia before the first quarter of 2021. For now we hope that the doubts the scientific community has begun to express have been resolved by the Expert Committee of the WHO, which is in charge with establishing recommendations and detailed directives regarding the manufacturing, licensing, and control of the vaccines and other developments in the field of medicine.



Source: Ministry of Health

**HIGH RISK**

## CORRUPTION

### RUMOR #4 DIAGNOSIS

In November we detected rumors on Facebook that suggest that doctors are diagnosing everything as COVID-19. In various of these rumors, the speaker asks the population not to turn to the health system because it will mean a false diagnosis of COVID-19.

RESPONSE

➤ There are two principal types of tests to detect COVID-19. According to the Ministry of Health in Colombia, the principal test to confirm a COVID-19 diagnosis is the molecular PCR test. The second type of test which is used as an alternative diagnosis is the antigen and antibodies test. By ensuring that the diagnosis is made using these tests, one can prevent the confusion between what is COVID-19 and what is another illness.

👁️ If you suspect you have COVID-19, whether because you have symptoms or because you had extended contact with a positive case, you should contact the national hotline, dial 192 from a cell phone or 018000-955590 from a landline. Additionally, you can contact the IDSN at 3057431717 and dial 1.

Source: Ministry of Health

**HIGH RISK**

### RUMOR #5 FIGURES

Given that the figures around COVID-19 vary between the Departmental Institute of Health in Nariño (IDSN) and the National Institute of Health (INS), it's been rumored in the Nariño community that the present regional level reports about COVID-19 are falsified.

RESPONSE

➤ Until November 22nd, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) reported that until November 22nd, 2020 there were 41,288 deaths from COVID-19 in Colombia, the Ministry of Health only reported 35,287 deaths. The differences arise because the DANE statistic includes the number of deaths under investigation or suspected of having COVID-19 in the total number.

➤ If one excludes the deaths categorized as suspected patient cases, the difference in the statistics is only .72%, as explained the Minister of Health, Fernando Ruíz.

👁️ Between the 10th and 11th of November, IDSN increased their statistics for the number of people recovered from COVID-19 in the department by 2,865, who were listed as active patients with COVID-19 before. This doesn't mean the data has been manipulated, but rather that it was not up to date on the website while the INS statistics were up to date.

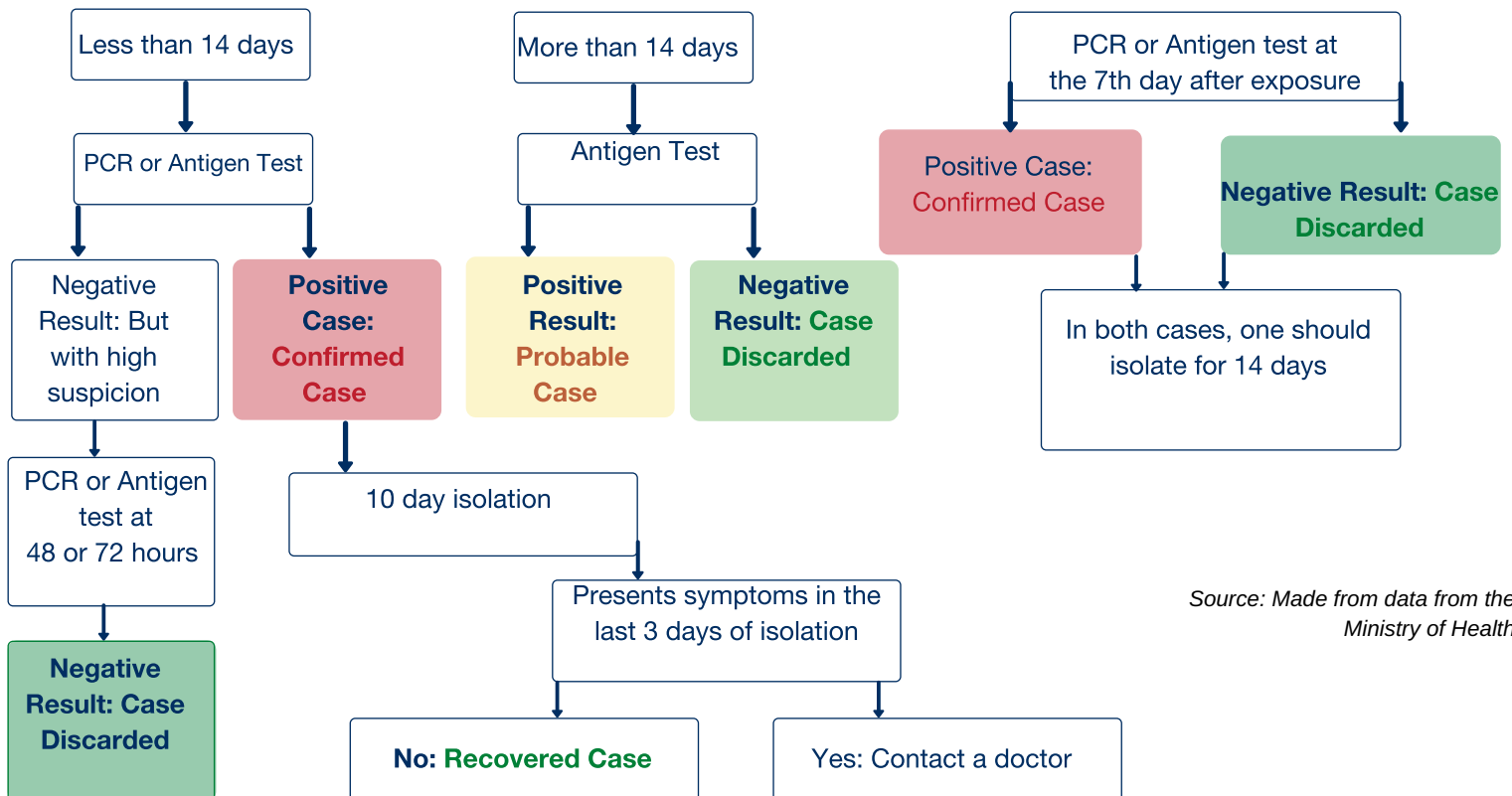
Source: DANE

**MEDIUM RISK**

## COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS IN COLOMBIA

### SYMPTOMATIC

### ASYMPTOMATIC



Source: Made from data from the Ministry of Health

## TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

### RUMOR #6 EUCALYPTUS

Various rumors on Facebook and Twitter have been detected that refer to eucalyptus as a posible cure or treatment for COVID-19.

RESPONSE

- Eucalyptus is a plant traditionally used to treat inflammation, diabetes and some viruses.
  - According to this rumor, the University of Habana demonstrated that a component of eucalyptus prevents the development of COVID-19. However, Colombiacheck found that there was no evidence of such an analysis.
  - Some studies suggest that eucalyptus could inhibit COVID-19. However, there are no definitive results about this claim in particular.
- The WHO explains that there is still not cure or vaccine for this disease, although it has also authorized the studies and experiments with plants and traditional medicines that seem to provide positive results in Africa. For now, the best way to prevent infection of the virus is to follow the hand-washing, distancing, and use of mask measures.

Source: WHO

LOW RISK

## MIGRATION

### RUMOR #7 BORDERS

Alongside the possible reopening of the border with Ecuador, have surfaced many rumors about the lack of border protocols for biosecurity on the Ecuador side and the constant risk that the illegal routes represent.

RESPONSE

- Decree 1550 on November 28 extends the border closure between Colombia and Ecuador from December 1st to January 16th.
  - Ecuador has an exhaustive list of protocols and guides for the sanitation emergency caused by COVID-19, among which there are specific protocols about the transport of goods across the border and the centers of attention on the border.
- 👁️ The closure of the border has increased the number of illegal crossings (63 routes identified). These routes create risks for migrants because of their geographical conditions and because of the potential for extortion, kidnapping, and violence that migrants can face while crossing. The routes reduce the possibility of sanitary control and biosecurity in the face of COVID-19. If you are a migrant and you need medical assistance, you can reach out to Medecins du Monde (Tel: 320 4721283).

Source: Ministry of Interior

MEDIUM RISK

### RUMOR #8 MASKS

It is rumored on social media that with the new discoveries regarding the vaccine and the reopening of the economy, the use of masks will no longer be necessary.

RESPONSE

- A recent study in 196 countries determined the mortality rate per capita has increased by 61.9% per week in the countries that did not promote the use of masks verses a rate of 16.2% in the countries that make wearing a mask mandatory.
  - For the holiday season, the Ministry of Health has requested that the population continue using masks to "protect themselves and exercise self case."
- 👁️ Recently, the WHO updated its global guide for using masks, which can be found here:

<https://www.who.int/es/emergencias/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>



Source: American Medicine and Tropical Hygiene Review, December 2020

MEDIUM RISK

## CÓMO UTILIZAR UNA MASCARILLA MÉDICA DE FORMA SEGURA

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Recuerde que, por sí sola, una mascarilla no lo protegerá de la COVID-19. Manténgase al menos a 1 metro de distancia de otras personas y lávese las manos con frecuencia y a fondo, incluso si lleva la mascarilla puesta.

[who.int/epi-win](https://who.int/epi-win) Organización Mundial de la Salud