

# Covid-19: Intensive screening at airports, border check points

## Nepalese Man Sent Back From Dharchula Border

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Dehradun/Rudrapur/Pithoragarh:** Following the alert regarding coronavirus, the state health department has claimed to have screened more than 10,000 people for symptoms of the virus at Dehradun and Pantnagar airports and at the six check posts on India-Nepal border in Pithoragarh and Champawat districts since January 15.

According to data provided by the health department, more than 5,500 people have been screened at five check points set up in Pithoragarh — Dharchula, Jaulajibi, Bajukot, Jhoolaghat, and Deoda — from January 15.

The data further reveals that almost 2,500 people were screened in Champawat district and a similar number of people were screened at the airports in the state as well.

Screening of foreigners who are visiting Rishikesh and Haridwar for the yoga fes-



Teachers hold a meeting at The Doon School in Dehradun on Wednesday about taking preventive measures against coronavirus

tivals currently taking place, are also being conducted, health officials said.

State health department sources said that they have held a meeting with representatives of educational institutions and requested them to ensure cleanliness inside the premises.

Schools in the city are also organising awareness sessions and distributing masks and sanitisers to students. On Wednesday, director general (health) Dr Amita Upreti conducted a meeting with chief medical officers of all dis-

tricts via video-conferencing and asked them to ensure that they have adequate stock of masks and medicines.

Meanwhile, amidst the coronavirus scare, the sale of N95 masks has sky-rocketed in the city. In a few places in Udham Singh Nagar district, the rise in demand led to a reported shortage of masks and consequently, an increase in their prices.

“We sold out our stock of masks three days ago due to bulk buying by purchasers,” said Vinod Kumar, pharmacist and owner of Prem Medi-

cal in Rudrapur’s Bhagat Singh Chowk. “Even our suppliers have run out of stock now. The hand sanitisers are also selling like hot cakes”, he added.

The US Nagar health department has identified over 80 persons in the district who travelled to coronavirus-hit countries like China, Italy, Singapore and Nepal.

Among these, 71 persons were not found with any coronavirus-like symptoms but the other 10 persons have been kept under observation, sources in the health department said.

Meanwhile, a Nepalese citizen coming to Dharchula was sent back after an Indian doctor at the entry point found out that he has coronavirus-like symptoms.

“A Nepalese man was found heading towards Dharchula through the suspension bridge. At the entry point, one of the doctors posted there, Dr Rakshit Shah, found that he has coronavirus-like symptoms,” Usha Gunjyal, chief medical officer of Pithoragarh, told TOI.

“The man works at a hotel at Kathamandu. He was handed over to a team of doctors in Nepal,” added Gunjyal.