Can symptoms from the #CoronaTracker predict the daily increase in COVID 19 cases in India?

Team C-Water's #CoronaTracker asks respondents to report ILI (Influenza Like Illness) symptoms in their household and neighbourhood. This includes symptoms typically associated with COVID-19. If current trends continue, the tracker could be used to predict the daily increase in Coronavirus cases in India ahead of time.

Trajectory of ILI Symptoms

Have you seen flu-like symptoms like high fever, cold, dry cough or similar symptoms in any family member (within your own household) or in your neighbourhood? (people who you normally meet in your day-to-day life?)

Yes, myself
Yes, in the household
Yes, in my neighbourhood
Total

What trends do self-reported ILI symptoms show?

In the initial weeks of the survey, reports of self-infection were much higher than reports of infection in households.

This pattern is reversed after mid-April, with more reports of infection in households and neighbourhood. Both ILI and COVID-19 symptoms spread mainly from person to person. This is likely to be the reason why ILI cases who reported having any ILI symptoms in the initial weeks of the survey no longer admit to having ILI and saying that they have instead passed it on to someone in their household or neighbourhood.

Out of all reports of ILI symptoms (self/household and neighbourhood), the highest proportion is that of reports of symptoms in the neighbourhood. However, this proportion reduces drastically, reaching around 0.5% in mid-May.

These symptoms can be representative of "self-reported cases" in a given population. Since the awareness of symptoms takes a few days to manifest, the information from the daily tracker could show the number of positive cases ahead of time (as reported by Govt and Hospitals).

Daily Reported Coronavirus Cases

Total ILI symptoms Reported

Can self-reported symptoms predict the daily increase in COVID 19 cases in India?

Respondents for the past month, have also been asked about which symptoms (aside as associated with COVID 19) have they seen in their household (including themselves) and in their neighbourhood.

There seems to be a noticeable increase in specific COVID 19 symptoms reported in the tracker and the actual number of confirmed cases in the country.

It is likely that both graphs are following similar trends in their trajectories, and if they continue to go up in parallel, the tracker data can be useful to predict the number of cases in India.

Current survey findings and projections are based on the Team C-Water daily tracking tool conducted from March 25th 2020 to April 20th 2020 among 1500+ citizens statewide, including every state demographic. This data is further filtered to the known demographic profile of every state. It holds age group, marital group, income, region, gender and education background.