

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumours, and fake news, as observed in Pakistan during recent national catastrophes caused by dengue fever, floods, and earthquakes. The situation is no different with COVID-19 as stories emerge on how fake news is being used to manipulate response efforts, spread rumours and misinformation leading to behaviours that are undermining community cohesion, and causing citizens to be unaware of the role they can play in the pandemic response.

With that in mind, The Accountability Lab Pakistan (ALP), with the financial support from the European Union and technical support from The Asia Foundation (TAF) Pakistan, has officially launched the Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC). This campaign debunks rumours, conducts regular fact-checking, synthesizes data, and convenes virtual forums to produce informative bulletins each week. These bulletins include important government decisions, visual materials, community feedback, debunked rumours with verified information, valid concerns, and other questions from the ground around health and other issues. The goal is to support enhanced awareness among the most vulnerable groups in Pakistan (including ethnic minorities, religious minorities, returning migrants, trafficking victims, prisoners, women, internally displaced persons, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, victims of torture, and other marginalized communities), with a focus on the marginalized communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. These bulletins are translated into Urdu and Sindhi, with audio transcriptions in Pashto. They are shared with stakeholders, local government leaders, media, legal aid centers, community radios, learning centers, CSOs, and humanitarian networks via online and offline means. They are also disseminated through a web-page, shared widely on social media, and are aired on a wide network of radio stations in local languages.

### Current Situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan

| Total Confirmed Cases | Total Active Cases | Total Deaths | Total Recoveries |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 568,506               | 24,139             | 12,527       | 531,840          |

| Provinces   | Active Cases | Confirmed Cases | Deaths | Recoveries |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|------------|
| Sindh       | 12,742       | 255,039         | 4,267  | 238,030    |
| Punjab      | 7,152        | 166,242         | 5,166  | 153,924    |
| KPK         | 2,082        | 70,493          | 2,020  | 66,391     |
| Islamabad   | 1,518        | 43,145          | 488    | 41,139     |
| AJK         | 523          | 9,673           | 285    | 8,865      |
| Balochistan | 93           | 18,967          | 199    | 18,675     |
| GB          | 29           | 4,947           | 102    | 4,816      |

Source: <http://covid.gov.pk/stats/pakistan>



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# Fact

# Myth



Common myths around Covid-19 that have been circulating at the local, national, and international level have come into focus in the past few months of the pandemic.



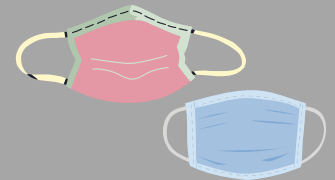
It's unsafe to get a COVID-19 vaccine for women who wish to reproduce.

**MYTH**

It is safe for women who want to get pregnant in the future to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. Experts believe that Covid-19 vaccines are unlikely to bring risk to someone trying to become pregnant in the short or long term. Scientists study every vaccine carefully for side effects immediately and for years afterward. The Covid-19 vaccines are being studied now and will continue to be studied for years to come, just like other vaccines. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from Covid-19 vaccination can cause problems with pregnancy, and there is no evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine.

**FACT**

New CDC study shows double masking reduces Covid-19 exposure.



The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found in a new study that close-fitting surgical masks worn underneath cloth masks – known as double masking – can greatly increase protection against Covid-19. This is the first CDC-backed research to recommend “double-masking”, although America’s top infectious disease expert, Dr Anthony Fauci, has recommended the public consider the measure in past briefings. The CDC study found that most protective masks fit well around the face “to prevent leakage of air around the masks edges”, and also recommended tying ear loops near the facial covering portion of the mask to bring the mask closer to the face.

Sources: CDC, The Guardian



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**accountabilitylab**  
PAKISTAN



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KP experienced a **poor response** by its healthcare workers to Covid-19 vaccination, and is finding ways to speed up the vaccination process of **64,000 frontline healthcare workers**, 25% of whom have been **inoculated**. A **team of NCOC** visited the medical teaching institutions in Peshawar to bring about more vaccination and ensure **immunization of 30,000 registered workers** in the first phase of vaccination, which would last for **two months**. The **staffers can now call** (instead of waiting for SMS for vaccination date) and get an appointment for vaccination at each of the **16 centres** established by the government in **eight districts of KP**; Peshawar, Mardan, Abbottabad, Swat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat and Nowshera. The workers can call **UAN 1166** and send their national identity card numbers to know about their respective vaccination centre and date (Dawn).

**If you think you or someone you know is infected with COVID-19, you can call the following government helplines by province:**

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT I OR SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY HAS CORONAVIRUS?**

**DON'T PANIC**

There are government helplines you can call for help

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| FEDERAL            | 1166                          |
| KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA | 1700                          |
| PUNJAB             | 0800 99 000                   |
| SINDH              | 021-99203443   021-99204405   |
| BALUCHISTAN        | 081-9241133-22   0334-9241133 |

whatsapp

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
www.nhsrc.gov.pk

**COVID 19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

Source: Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC)



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The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has issued emergency use authorization to the Chinese company **Cansino Biologics Inc's** Covid-19 vaccine after which supply of the doses will start in **a few weeks**. It will become the **fourth vaccine** to be allowed for **emergency use** in the country. So far, **four vaccines** - Sinopharm (China), Oxford-AstraZeneca (UK), Sputnik-V (Russia) and Cansino Bio (China) – **have been registered**.

### Mild Symptoms include:



### Severe Symptoms include:



If you have COVID-19 symptoms contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at



**1166**



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## REGISTRATION FOR PHASE 2 OF VACCINATION BEGINS IN PAKISTAN



All Pakistanis **above the age of 65** are now able to **register** for vaccination. If you are in this age group, send an **SMS** with your **CNIC number to 1166** or visit <http://nims.nadra.gov.pk> to get **registered**.

Details about the vaccination centre and date will be revealed once the vaccine arrives.

## SINDH GOVERNMENT TO BUY 20 MILLION COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES FROM CHINA



The Sindh government will buy **20 million doses** of Covid-19 vaccine from China and doctors and paramedical staff will be sent there for training in traditional Chinese medicine. The Chinese consul general assured the minister of assistance for provision of health technology. According to the **Sindh health department**, "The minister is engaged with the federal government for permission for the direct purchase of Covid-19 vaccines. The total estimated need of the province is **20 million doses** of the vaccine. It's important that the vaccination process continues without any interruption to make the province safe from coronavirus." **32% of the total 85,000 frontline** healthcare staff in Sindh have been vaccinated (as of Feb 13) in **12 facilities** set up in the province. The names of the **centers** are as follows:

1. Maternal Child Health Centre, Shaheed Benazirabad
2. Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Jamshoro
3. Sindh Govt Hospital, Korangi No. 5
4. Thaddo Nalo Hospital, Malir
5. Dow University Hospital-Ojha campus
6. Aga Khan University Hospital
7. Sindh Govt Qatar Hospital, Orangi
8. Sindh Govt Hospital Liaquatabad
9. Sindh Govt Hospital New Karachi
10. Sindh Govt Children Hospital, North Nazimabad
11. Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre
12. Khaliqdina Hall, Saddar

Source: Dawn



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## Reported cases of violence against women

JAN - DEC 2020



**2,297**

Total cases of VAW

**25**

Total districts reported



**July**

Peak month of reported cases

out of all cases reported,

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Punjab      | 57 % |
| Sindh       | 27 % |
| KP          | 08 % |
| GB          | 06 % |
| Baluchistan | 02 % |

### Type of cases reported

#### Punjab

#### Sindh

- ▶ Murder & Rape
- ▶ Suicide
- ▶ Acid burning
- ▶ Kidnapping
- ▶ Domestic Violence
- ▶ Child and forced marriage
- ▶ Dowry and Inheritance



Source: Dawn

From January to December 2020, **2,297 cases** of violence against women (VAW) were reported in **25 districts** of Pakistan despite the problem of underreporting due to Covid-19. At the peak of the pandemic in July, cases of VAW were at their highest.

The number of cases dropped again but rose again in **September** due to the surge of Covid-19 once again. These statistics have been released in the **report** 'Violence against women and girls in the time of COVID 19 Pandemic' launched by **Aurat Foundation** in collaboration with **SAP-PK** under the project 'Jazba-Democracy and Empowered Women or Jumhoriat Aur Baaikhtiar Aurat.' The research is based on review and analysis of data on the incidents of VAW from newspapers verified by local police stations, analysis of **14 case studies of VAW** and analysis of **6 interviews** from key government officials in Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women.

The findings show that among the total number of VAW incidents, **57% were reported from Punjab, 27% from Sindh, 8% from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 6% from Gilgit Baltistan, and 2% from Balochistan.**

Of all the provinces, **Punjab** reported the **highest incident** of murder, rape, suicide, acid burning, kidnapping, domestic violence, child and forced marriage, dowry and inheritance. **Sindh** reported the **highest cases of honor killing**. It was also found that the **victims of violence/survivors** of violence ranged from **two years to middle age** and they belonged to **all socio-economic backgrounds**, and that the violence occurred both in **home** and in **public places** (Dawn).



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## Where can I get tested?

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Islamabad    | <b>National Institute of Health</b><br>Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad  |
| Karachi      | <b>Agha Khan University Hospital,</b><br>Stadium Road, Karachi, Sindh  |
| Hyderabad    | <b>Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS),</b><br>Liberty Market Roundabout, Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad |
| Khairpur     | <b>Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences,</b><br>Gambat, Khairpur, Sindh  |
| Peshawar     | <b>Hayatabad Medical Complex</b><br>Phase-4 Phase 4 Hayatabad, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.   |
| Mardan       | <b>Chughtai Lab</b><br>Mardan point, near Allied Bank, Shamsi Road, Mardan, KP   |
| Haripur      | <b>Excel Labs,</b><br>TMA Plaza Shop No. 6, Near Girls Degree College Circular Road<br>Haripur, KP                                     |
| Lahore       | <b>Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital,</b><br>7A Block R-3 M.A. Johar Town, Lahore, Punjab   |
| Multan       | <b>Nishtar Hospital</b><br>Nishtar Road, Justice Hamid Colony, Multan  |
| Rawalpindi   | <b>Armed Forces Institute of Pathology,</b><br>Range Road, CMH Complex, Rawalpindi, Punjab   |
| Quetta       | <b>Fatima Jinnah Hospital</b><br>Bahadurabad, Wahdat Colony, Quetta  |
| Muzaffarabad | <b>Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS),</b><br>Ambore, Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir   |
| Gilgit       | <b>District Headquarters Hospital,</b><br>Hospital Road, Gilgit, GB  |

For more cities visit the [COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform](#)

To receive our  
regular updates  
through WhatsApp

1. Add our number **+27 60 080 6146** as a contact.
2. Send the word **"Pakistan"** as a message on WhatsApp.



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