

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
587,014	17,117	13,128	556,769

Provinces	Active Cases	Confirmed Cases	Deaths	Recoveries
Sindh	6,281	259,164	4,405	248,478
Punjab	5,789	175,051	5,510	163,752
KPK	2,213	73,258	2,099	68,946
Islamabad	2,003	45,078	504	42,571
AJK	708	10,409	308	9,393
Balochistan	118	19,097	200	18,779
GB	5	4,957	102	4,850

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.



There is no use in getting vaccinated due to emerging new strains of COVID-19.

MYTH

There is currently no evidence to suggest that the current vaccines will not protect against the new Covid-19 strains. It's normal for viruses such as the flu virus to go through genetic changes. Scientists are studying the characteristics of the new coronavirus strains, and will know more soon. However, small variations in a virus do not often affect the effectiveness of the vaccine being used against it.

FACT

New study shows that COVID-19 vaccines reduce risk of serious illness by 80%.



A study in England shows that a single shot of either the Oxford-AstraZeneca or the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine reduces the chance of needing hospital treatment for COVID-19 by more than 80%. The [Public Health England data](#) showed the effect kicked in three to four weeks after vaccination. It was based on people aged over 80 who were the first to receive the jab. Government scientists hailed the result, but stressed that two doses were needed for the best protection. The PHE data, which has not been peer reviewed, also suggested the Pfizer vaccine, which started being rolled out a month before the AstraZeneca vaccine, leads to an 83% reduction in deaths from Covid. The data also showed that vaccination cuts the risk of people over 70 developing any Covid symptoms by around 60%, three weeks after an initial dose.

Source: BBC, Ministry of National Health Services



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SCHOOLS IN SINDH TO STICK TO COVID-19 SOPs, CAN ONLY ADMIT 50% STUDENTS



Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani said that schools in the province will only be allowed to call **50 percent of students** at a time in line with the **standard operating procedures** (SOPs) laid down by the government to curb the spread of COVID-19.

While addressing a press conference, Ghani said: "On one hand, the federal minister for education is announcing that [schools will be permitted to call] 100% of the students and on the other hand, he is also asking for the implementation of SOPs. It is not possible to call 100% of the students together."

Ghani further said that implementation of SOPs **will not be possible with 100%** of the students in attendance and maintaining social distancing will become hard. He acknowledged that the number of infections had decreased over the past few weeks, but stressed that the virus has "not been completely eradicated" (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.nhsrcc.gov.pk



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



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Amid the federal government's decision to vaccinate the people **aged 65 and over** against coronavirus, the **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department** has said the tally of vaccination centres in the province will reach **around 500 next week**. The vaccination of the elderly will begin on March 8.

"We [department] have established 280 Covid-19 vaccination centres in the province and will set up 216 more by March 2 taking the overall tally to 496," a senior health said. He said the department had made elaborate arrangements to administer an anti-coronavirus vaccine to **250 people daily** at every centre (Dawn).

Mild Symptoms include:



Sore Throat



Fatigue



Loss of smell



Headache



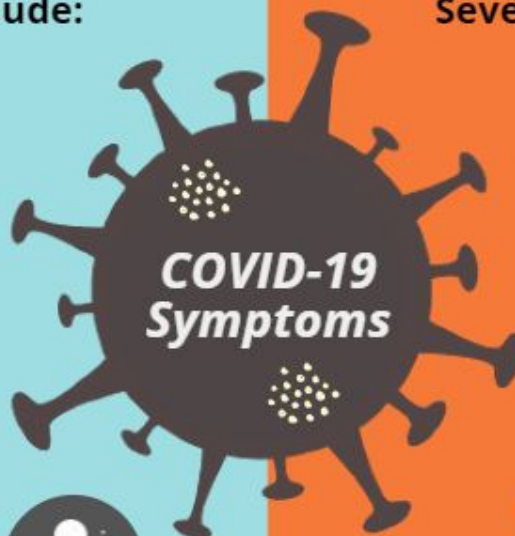
Vomiting



Fever



Coughing



Severe Symptoms include:



Chest Pain



Difficulty in Breathing



Inability to stay awake



Bluish Face or Lips

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



1166



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PAKISTAN AMONG 92 COUNTRIES WHERE UK STRAIN WAS DETECTED



The federal government has claimed that Pakistan is **among 92 countries** in the world where the UK strain of COVID-19 has been detected, urging people to follow health guidelines and get vaccinated. On the other hand, following the emergence of **1,315 more patients** and **33 deaths in a single day**, the overall number of cases since the first patient was reported in the country last year has **reached 578,797**, with the positivity rate of **6.49%**. Besides, **12,837** people have succumbed to the deadly virus till now.

“The new strain is being seen across the world and continues to be detected in samples in Pakistan. While this strain does not cause more severe disease, there is evidence that its transmission is faster,” a statement issued by the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) stated.

“This highlights the need to continue following prescribed standard operating procedures (SOPs) and guidelines issued by the government and to get vaccinated when your turn comes. The ministry is continuously monitoring the situation through a robust surveillance system,” the statement added (Dawn).

PAKISTAN RANKS LOW IN THE LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH COVID-19 TESTS



A [website](#) has placed Pakistan on the **29th position** in the **list of 30 countries** that have conducted the most **number of tests per million population (PMP)**. Pakistan is going to hold the first international conference dedicated to COVID-19 vaccine in which principal investigating officers of various vaccines will share their research papers. According to the website, www.worldometers.info which maintains global data, Pakistan has carried out 39,136 tests per million population, with Indonesia being the only country having conducted fewer tests – 38,135 tests PMP.

Compared to Pakistan, **India has conducted around four times more tests** – 152,821 tests PMP, Turkey has carried out 381,953 tests; Iran, 124,687 and Iraq, 162,756 tests. Similarly, the United Arab Emirates, which is ranked 49th in terms of the most number of cases, has conducted 2,978,906 tests and Denmark, 2,784,399 tests PMP despite being on the 58th position (Dawn).



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Where can I get tested?

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