

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we've seen in the past. Every day we continue to see more false information shared throughout communities, confusing citizens and leaving them unsure as to who can answer their questions.

The **Pakistan Coronavirus CivicActs Campaign (CCC)** captures rumors and perceptions among communities to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, humanitarian agencies and citizens. By providing the public with facts, these coronavirus bulletins aim to create a better understanding of needs regarding coronavirus and to debunk rumors before they can do more harm.

## Current Situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan

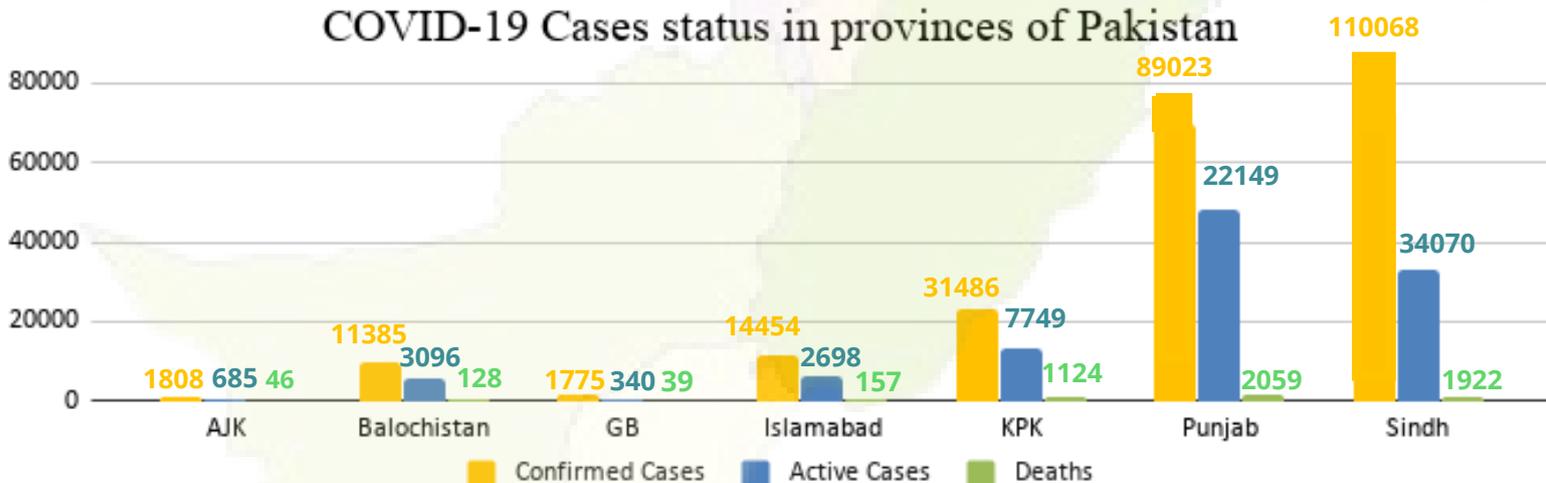
**Total Confirmed Cases**  
259,999

**Total Active Cases**  
70,787

**Total Deaths**  
5,475

**Total Recoveries**  
183,737

### COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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2. Send the word **"Pakistan"** as a message on WhatsApp.



## How the Pandemic is Upending Learning

### Lowering Attention spans

"I have 3 kids who were all position holders. But with the COVID-19 outbreak and change in learning methods, their attention span has been badly affected. With my husband working from home, I find it difficult to balance home and kids. I don't have any prior knowledge of using technology and it has been a difficult part as the kids' school activities and curriculum have shifted online.

Even the school isn't sure which App or platform to use; everyday it's a new application that is being used, some work fine on the computer while some don't. My



daughter was the topper of her class, but now she just wants to spend time playing games and watching movies as she has lost interest in studies saying that I don't understand much now. My son was given an assignment to complete within 2 months' time, but even though it's just basic maths and English, he hasn't completed it yet." (Mother of three)

### Upbringing Being Affected



"Being a teacher myself, I have found that digital learning is quite different from what we used to perceive about it pre-pandemic period. Since the COVID-19 outbreak occurred, many businesses and organizations have moved towards digital platforms in order to cope with the situation, which also led all educational institutions from pre-schools to universities to go online as well. In Pakistan, the scope of online learning was not quite a

normal aspect being that the country faces power shortages and lack of internet availability in most areas, and traditional means of learning have always been a thing of the past here. So when the transition happened, students as well as teachers started to face many challenges.

My children would usually use gadgets only in their spare time to play games or for entertainment purposes, but now they seem to be getting education and game time both from the same tool. And being a parent this is something I'm not keen about. Pre-pandemic there had been a routine system in which there would be allotted time for waking up, having breakfast, getting ready for school, going to school, and then some homework time and then leisure time, which was maintained and controlled. But now, I see my kids who are just in class 4th, or 5th and they have their classes scheduled all throughout the day, so they're just sitting there and being projected to a screen, with no means of physical learning. My husband also works from home now, and as I am a teacher, I also spend my entire day in front of a screen switching from one class to another, unable to have time for my family. Even the parents of my students have been calling me during odd hours just to ask about homework and assignments even when I have strictly allocated time for phone calls. I am really worried about how my kids will grow up to be without proper training and practical learning." (Prabahat- Mother of three and a school teacher)

## **Dreams Being Crushed**

"I remember when my daughter was born, and many relatives mocked my husband for not having a son. He used to hate our daughter and would say that he would not waste money on her education. Until the age of 5, I would teach her the alphabet and numbers at home when my husband would be at work. I somehow managed to convince my husband that our daughter could also be educated and obtain a good position as women now have started to work in every field despite their gender.

When our daughter received admission at school, I would spare my time to help her in her studies. She was a really bright student, always getting 1st position in class, and submitting all assignments on time.

However, since the pandemic, all her classes have been shifted online, leading to a new form of learning. But as the interaction capacity is not as much, I saw my daughter start to dull her shine. Instead of understanding concepts, she began cramming things and that would take her hours just to remember a paragraph. Her focus began diverting a lot, either because the students wouldn't let the teacher deliver the lecture in a proper manner or due to poor internet connectivity. In her mid term exams she secured an average passing mark. Now given the circumstances, my husband has decided that if things continue like this, he will have her discontinue her studies and then have her married." (Sara- Mother and Housewife)



## **What Steps Can the Government Take:**

Pakistan already struggles to keep millions of children in school, and as partial shutdowns continue, educators warn that enrollments could drop further. Some private-school students were given study plans and extra coursework, but most children, those who attend government schools were sent home with no further guidance.

Health experts have also cautioned against reopening schools too quickly, however, the government has announced that educational institutions will be reopened from September 15.

But to ensure the safety of faculty and students, the governments should develop strict implementation and monitoring of SOP's to prevent the curve from rising again. Also, instead of re-opening all at once, the management should divide the students' classes into different shifts to ensure social distancing and control the spread (if it occurs). As the pandemic is here to stay for some time, management of all educational institutions should focus on developing and adopting a hybrid model of physical and virtual learning.

## Coronavirus symptoms Include:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Tiredness

Contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at



**1166**



## Where can I get tested?

### Karachi

#### Aga Khan University Hospital

Stadium Road, Karachi

#### Civil Hospital

DOW University Campus  
Mission Road, Karachi

#### Dow Medical Hospital

Ojha Campus  
Suparco Road, Karachi

#### Indus Hospital

Opposite Darussalam Society, Korangi  
Crossing, Karachi

### Lahore

#### Punjab AIDS Lab

PACP Complex  
6 - Birdwood Road, Lahore

#### Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital

7A Block R-3 M.A. Johar Town, Lahore

### Islamabad

#### National Institute of Health

Park Road  
Chak Shahzad, Islamabad

### Rawalpindi

#### Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

Range Road  
CMH Complex, Rawalpindi

### Multan

#### Nishtar Hospital

Nishtar Road,  
Justice Hamid Colony, Multan

For more cities visit the

[COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform](#)

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