

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

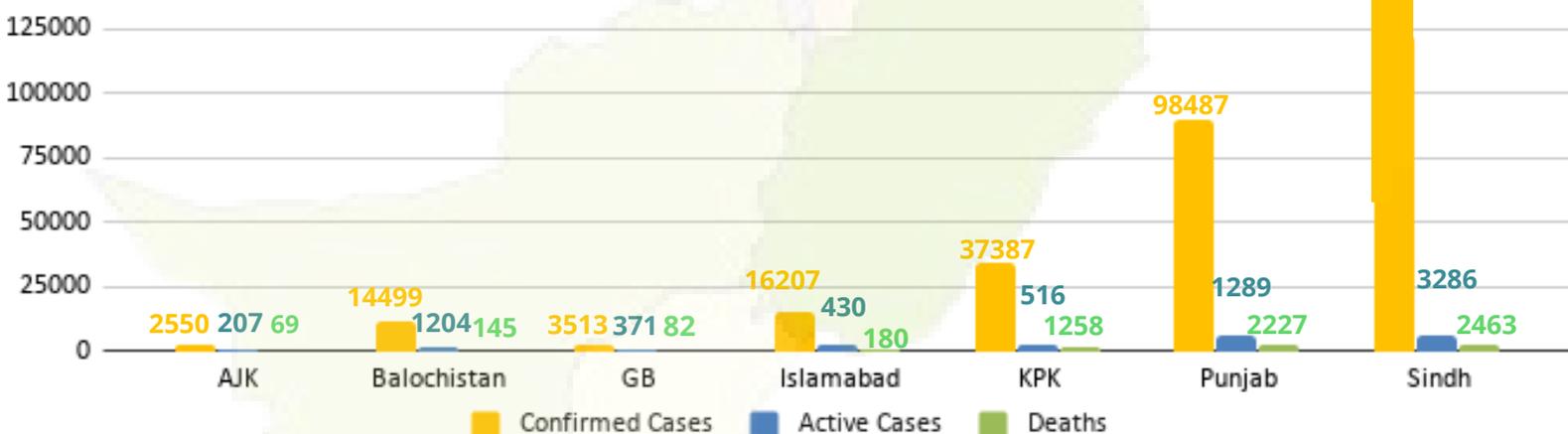
Total Confirmed Cases
306,886

Total Active Cases
7,303

Total Deaths
6,424

Total Recoveries
293,159

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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



Re-opening of schools amid COVID-19

Educational institutions in Pakistan have welcomed back the first batch of students of a phased reopening following a six-month break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As per decisions made by the state, students of public secondary and higher classes returned to school under the stage-wise plan for resumption of educational activities. Next, the lower classes and then the primary classes are to be resumed with a gap of seven days in between. However, a few private schools have already reopened.

The resumption of classes is taking place amid fears of a second wave of the pandemic and concerns about whether students will adhere to precautionary measures, especially the younger ones. Parents are still fearful for their children as educational institutions remain slow to implement standard operating procedures (SOP's).

A Mother's Concern

"I have three young kids, all below the age of eight, and they go to the same school, which reopened last week. Their classes have been scheduled in such a manner that my eldest son goes for the first three days of the week; then my six-year-old daughter goes for the next three days of the week; my youngest daughter, who is in pre-school, is yet to go



after two weeks. I am really worried for my kids as they are so young; they do not know how to care for themselves and may touch every other object in school. I myself have not seen any SOP's being followed at their school. If the children are wearing masks, then the guards are not and neither are many of their teachers."

(Punjab)

Twice the Burden

"With educational institutions being reopened, I travelled back to my University in Islamabad. I was relieved that my family would no longer have to bear the cost of a stable internet connection as my village is in a remote area. Not knowing how to engage with the new normal of online classes, I struggled to understand the lectures and to sit for exams.

Upon reaching the University, the administration announced that they would be conducting classes twice a week for each semester. One class would be on campus and the other would be online. Now, not only do I have to pay for the hostel charges but also for the internet connection. Apart from this, the flow of learning is also being affected. For people like me who come from a background that struggles to support us to receive a good education, it is putting a strain on their livelihoods."

(ICT)

Re-opening of schools amid COVID-19



Closed Again

“My college was sealed for violating the SOP’s issued by the state and provincial government. When I went on the first day, I found the entrance to the college gate crowded with students, parents, and van drivers encircling the guards and administration to ask about the COVID-19 related regulations. As far as

I could see there were few people wearing masks and social distancing was being implemented. Buses and vans were packed with students to ensure that they were utilizing maximum potential of the seats. Without the use of masks or gloves, the cafeteria staff were providing food and snacks to students and faculty all lined up and eating out in the open on tables and chairs. To me it felt like the times before the outbreak occurred, when no one had any fear of the existence of such a virus. Within the next two days, when the cases began to spike up again, our college was sealed.”

(Sindh)

What steps can be taken to overcome this issue?

It is critical for schools to open as safely and as quickly as possible for in-person learning. To enable schools to open and remain open, it is important to correctly adopt and consistently implement actions to slow the spread of COVID-19, not only inside the school, but also in the community.

There is a need for institutions to enforce the use of masks consistently for all those within the vicinity of the school. Social distancing is to be practiced as much as possible, be it hybrid classes, virtual classes, or dividing into cohorts. While staggering the entry and exit points, it's important to ensure that thermal testing is done at both these points. Furthermore, it can help in contact testing anyone who is infected. Avoid offering any self-serve food or drink options such as hot and cold food bars, salad or condiment bars, and drink stations. Have students and staff bring their own meals as much as possible. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces within the institution is also to be practiced as much as possible.

Coronavirus symptoms Include:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Tiredness

Contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at



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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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