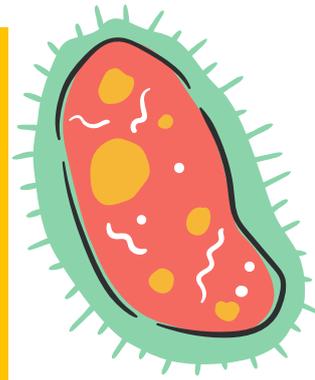
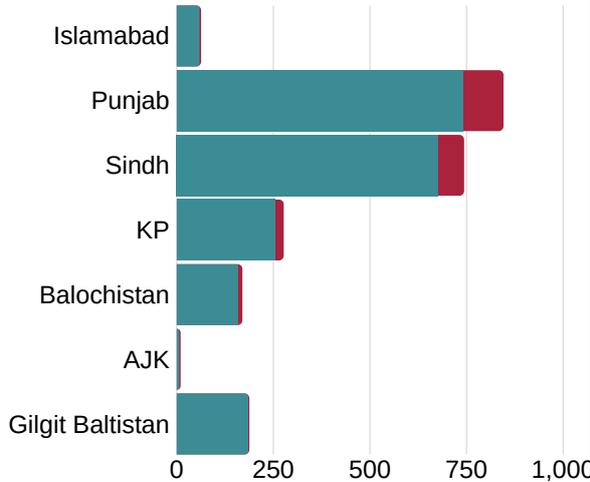


Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we've seen in the past. Every day we continue to see more false information shared throughout communities, confusing citizens and leaving them unsure as to who can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



Confirmed Cases



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.



DON'T PANIC!

Follow these steps to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water aren't available.
- Cover your nose and mouth (with your elbow or a tissue) when sneezing.
- Avoid crowded places and practice social distancing. If you think you have been exposed to someone with coronavirus, quarantine yourself for a minimum of 14 days and monitor any symptoms.
- Do not stockpile supplies.

IS IT TRUE?

Is the government doing anything for journalists and members of the media?

On Wednesday, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Media and Broadcasting, Ms. Firdous Ashiq Awan announced that the government is launching an application specifically designed to cater to the grievances of media personnel. The app, called "COVID-19 Care for Media" will also allow journalists to register themselves and their families, and seek out help if they contract coronavirus.

I heard Karachi has opened drive-through testing facilities. Is this true?

Yes. This week, the government of Sindh opened its first drive-through coronavirus testing facility in the parking area of Bagh Ibne Qasim near the Bahria Icon Tower.

This facility will allow suspected coronavirus patients to get themselves tested without having to wait in long lines at hospitals. In order to be tested at this facility, people will have to call 021-99203012 for a pre-assessment screening where they will be asked several questions regarding their symptoms and travel history. Based on screening results, the operator will provide an appointment time and a code number necessary for the appointment. Prior to being tested, those with code numbers will undergo an X-ray upon arrival, which will help clarify which individuals really require the test. Walk-ins will not be tested.

How can poor/needy people get cash in case of an emergency?

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister launched a national level SMS service called the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program to cater to poor people, especially daily wage workers, during the current coronavirus situation. Through this service, needy people can receive a lump sum of Rs. 12,000 as financial assistance for four months.

Speaking to Radio Pakistan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Dr. Sania Nishtar, shared that this 150 billion Rupee program is the biggest social protection program in Pakistan for poor families facing financial troubles due to coronavirus. To apply for the grant, SMS your CNIC number to 8171. For step-by-step instructions and eligibility requirements, [click here](#).



IS IT TRUE?

Have Pakistani doctors found any treatments for coronavirus?

Recently, the United States Food and Drug Authority formally authorized the emergency-based use of antimalarial drugs, chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine to treat patients with coronavirus. This approval prompted the Punjab government to move forward with these treatments for seriously ill patients. CEO Mayo Hospital, Prof. Dr. Asad Aslam Khan shared that doctors at the hospital are using antimalarial drugs to treat patients, with initial assessments suggesting that both bear positive results.

Are flights still suspended? What will happen to Pakistanis stuck overseas?

Due to the rising number of positive coronavirus cases in Pakistan, the government has decided to extend domestic and international flight suspensions until April 11. The only exceptions to this are diplomatic flights, special/cargo flights, PIA flights with special permission, and domestic flights to/from Islamabad for Gilgit and Skardu. All other domestic scheduled/non-scheduled, chartered, and private flights are suspended. For Pakistanis stranded overseas, the government is working with PIA to bring back over 2,000 Pakistani nationals via 17 PIA flights from April 3-11.

I've seen the price of food items go up recently. Is this because of a food shortage?

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics recently released a bulletin titled "Food Prices Post COVID-19 Outbreak: The Case of Punjab" in which they noted that if the pandemic does not last too long, there is no reason to believe that there will be a major shortage of food staples. However, if the situation carries on, perishable food items like fresh fruit and vegetables will be impacted first, followed by staple foods. Already, prices of staple food items have started going up due to high-demand because people have begun stockpiling. In some places, the price of a 20kg bag of wheat flour increased from Rs. 1,100 to Rs. 1,450 in one week, and the price of sugar increased from Rs. 80/kg to Rs. 85/kg.

Sources: [ARY 1](#) [ARY 2](#) [ARY 3](#) [ARY 4](#) [Radio Pakistan 1](#) [Radio Pakistan 2](#) [Geo 1](#) [Geo 2](#) [Geo 3](#) [Geo 4](#) [Business Recorder](#) [The News 1](#) [The News 2](#) [The News 3](#) [The News 4](#) [Dawn](#) [Samaa](#) [Tribune](#) [Nation 1](#) [Nation 3](#) [Pro Pakistani](#) [Dunya News 1](#) [Dunya News 2](#) [INC Pakistan](#) [Bol News](#)



What do I do if I think I have coronavirus?

Do you have any symptoms?

- **Fever**
- **Shortness of breath**
- **Dry cough**
- **Tiredness**



If so, 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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