

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

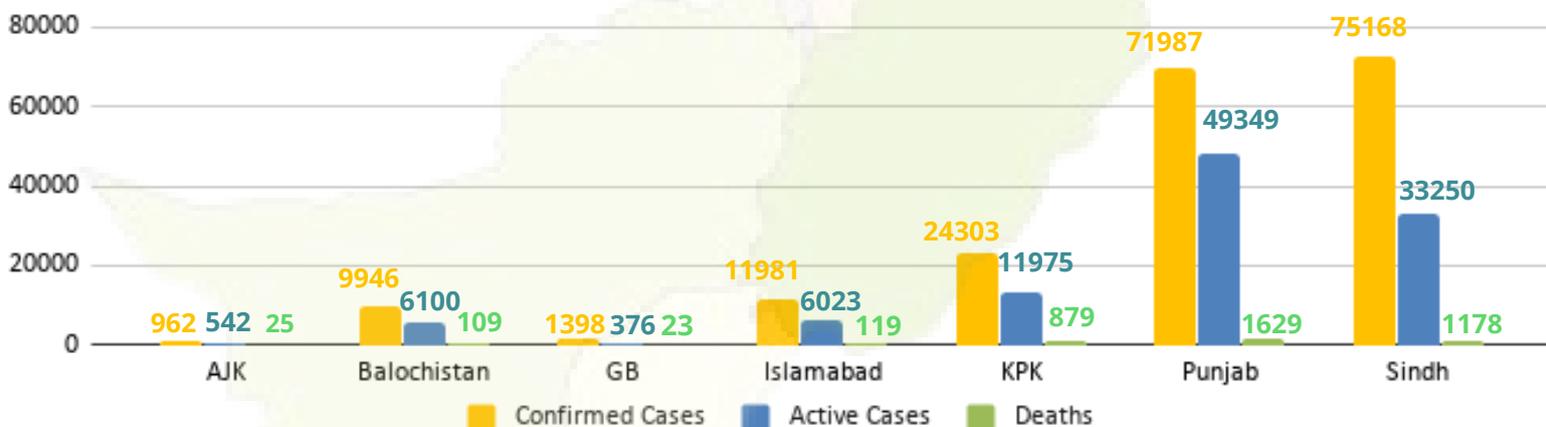
Total Confirmed Cases
195,745

Total Active Cases
107,615

Total Deaths
3,962

Total Recoveries
84,168

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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.



Virtual Events: The New Normal

Which virtual conferencing platforms are most popular in Pakistan?

Virtual conferencing is the socially distant way of previous in person meetings. For audio meetings ,conference call options, your service provider, and [WhatsApp](#) are great options if you want to connect with a small group of people using audio. They are very useful solutions where internet connectivity is poor but limit the number of participants.

For video conferencing, [Zoom](#), [Google meets](#), [Skype](#) and [Blue Jeans](#) are really popular due to their user friendly design. Google Meets have a free version where calls do not have any time limit. And their link is easily generated while sending a google calendar invite. However in the free version calls cant be recorded and there are no provisions for break out rooms.

For Zoom the free version has a time limit of 40 mins but you can record the call and go into break out rooms. For Blue Jeans, there is also no time restriction, have the recording options and break out sessions for the free version but has a trial period for free users. Skype though previously most widely used but it does not have a recording or break out room feature, which are becoming increasingly popular during the pandemic.

How to conduct an online video conferencing event?

Online facilitation has many parallels with in-person facilitation like defining roles and building a team. After setting the agenda and understanding different features of the event, these roles could be defined and distributed e.g who will be in charge of screen sharing, vigilantly moderating the chat box, and keeping time.

Making the event as much as visual is key, using [Jamboards](#) for idea boards and [Menti](#) for visual poll taking are two examples of tools that can be used. In virtual events we usually feel that there is a disconnect with the audience to avoid asking as many questions as possible. Be aware of the room before starting the session by conducting icebreakers.

To be proactive about any privacy concerns, disable the annotation button, only allow hosts to share screens, add registration prerequisites and avoid sharing the link for the event on social media pages. When you are aware of participants having accessibility issues plan ahead. For hearing impaired participants a sign language interpreter could be added. For visually impaired more visual descriptions might be the way. For people from different languages maybe two rooms can be created where translation can occur in one of the rooms and do check the accessibility features of the platform you are using.

How to conduct virtual public events?

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual events are likely to become a mainstay of our working lives. In order to get the best out of this new normal, here are some tips and guidelines for conducting online events effectively during COVID-19.

1. Firstly, decide on the purpose: What is the event intended for? Is it for driving decisions, trust building or influencing? Secondly, set out the specific objectives and concrete outputs of the event. This becomes the basis for everything else.
2. Write a detailed agenda with a clear logic model that connects to your objectives, and get presenter buy-in. Be careful not to over-schedule or have too many topics. Give room to breathe, reflect and be spontaneous.
3. Ideally, online events are NO LONGER THAN 60 minutes. If it must be longer, never make people sit for more than 90 minutes to ensure focus and any individual presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes if possible, preferably shorter.
4. Be prepared for technical issues and network failures. Ensure that apart from the moderator, have a tech expert as a host as well to handle any such issues.
5. Help prepare with your presenters beforehand, focusing on less is more. Give speakers specific questions to answer or a mandate which is as clear as possible on what should be covered and why. Ideally, aim for one or two main points and two to three supporting points/anecdotes per point.
6. As 90% of information transmitted to the brain is visual, and 40% of people respond better to visuals than to text, encourage presenters to share visuals when relevant such as an infographic.
7. Another important aspect is to create opportunities for interaction such as icebreakers, polling, Q/A's, and brainstorming. This creates better engagement amongst attendees and allows them to feel more connected to one another.
8. Share notes, recordings and any relevant resources within 24- hours. Invite feedback from participants to improve for next time around.

How to run ice breaker activities on online events?

While managing a remote team, there are different challenges like lackness of the opportunities for strong bonding. Virtual icebreakers are a great way of overcoming such challenges by building team rapport, reduced feelings of isolation and loneliness, improving communication, and bringing an element of fun and interactivity to team meetings or brainstorming sessions. [Bit.AI](#) reports that “97% of employees and executives believe lack of alignment within a team impacts the outcome of a task or project.”

Some of the ways through which ice breakers can be conducted can be organizing a coffee session, joint breaks, before a meeting, in between meetings, or gathering on a video chat with your teammates for an informal catch-up. A few ice breaker ideas which can be implemented are:

1. Giving a tour of the room where you have set up your office space.
2. Have everyone from the team share a photo of themselves when they were younger.
3. Sharing a favorite vacation story.
4. Each team member presents three statements about themselves: two truths and one that is false. The other team members have to guess which statements are true and which is false.
5. Ask people to stay in their chairs until you call out a household item. The first one to get it and bring it back to the camera gets the point. Tally up the points at the end to see who wins a prize.

Resources

[Virtual Team Building](#)

[Zoom Tips](#)

[Donor-Driven Events](#)

[Quizbreaker](#)

[Popular Web Conferencing softwares](#)

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](#)

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by
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