

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

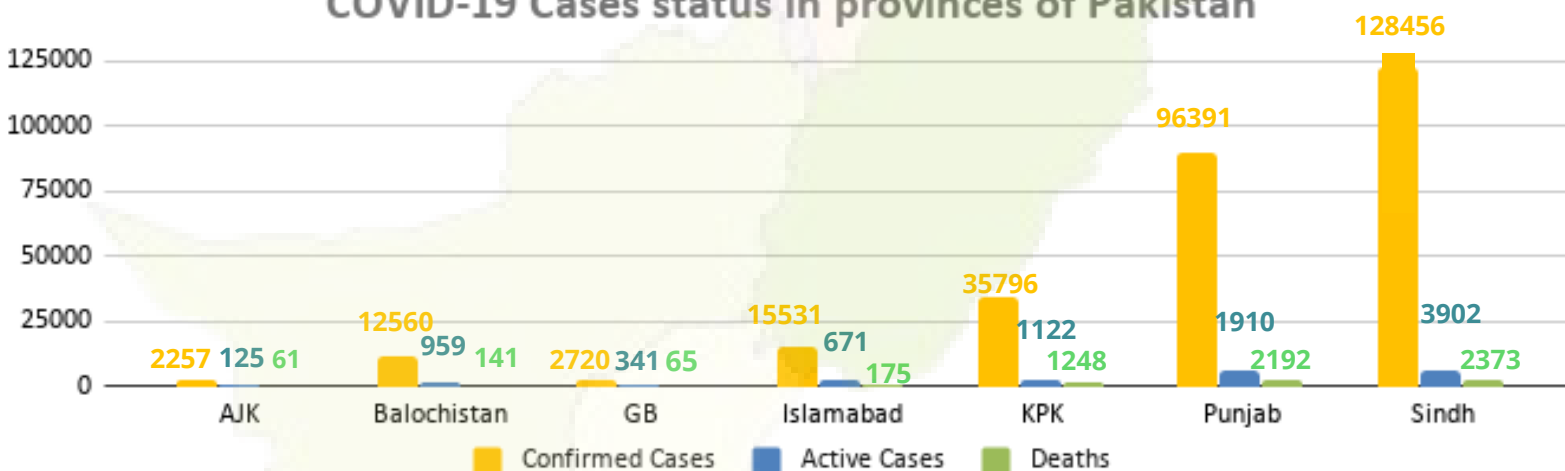
Total Confirmed Cases
293,711

Total Active Cases
9,031

Total Deaths
6,255

Total Recoveries
278,425

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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



On the Front-lines of Covid-19

Competition in Pakistan's news media landscape is cut-throat, with more than 30 24-hour television news channels competing with each other for ratings, in addition to dozens of national and regional newspapers.

For journalists working across the country, individual news organisations have issued guidelines regarding social distancing and protective equipment while reporting, but implementation on the ground has been inconsistent. Despite this, many media organisations continue to push journalists for news amid lax safety protocols.



Reporting at COVID-19 Hotspots

Mr. Ashraf, a reporter for a local television station in the southwest city of Quetta, was one of seven people to test positive for the coronavirus in his organisation.

"I was in the office and my body felt like I had a fever, and I felt really dizzy," he said.

"I left the office before my shift ended. When I returned home, I found it very difficult to stand." I had a high fever, and a lot of body pain. Being a reporter, we have to work at odd hours on the ground in areas known as 'Hotspots', where the virus has hit the hardest, in order to bring food to the table. But as this is a part of our duty, even with safety precautions me and many other media assistants of our team have been infected by this," added Ashraf.

(Quetta)

Easy Targets

"We are going into the field in the same way, working in the same way, in the field and in the office. We are contacting the public in the same way," expressed a cameraman for the local television station in the northwestern city of Peshawar.



He tested positive for the coronavirus late last month, reporting live from hospitals and public bazaars days before he became ill. "When I started to feel as if the symptoms were becoming visible, I got tested and found myself positive. I immediately informed the management and requested them to isolate the crew I was working closely with. After spending two weeks in quarantine at home, I got tested again and was certified as having recovered by health authorities."

On the Front-lines of Covid-19



Prepared to be Infected

"Even before, we journalists have been facing many barriers in performing our work but now the Covid-19 outbreak has been added as well. The general behaviour that we are seeing among reporters, technical staff and other media associates is that they have become mentally prepared that they

will contact the virus. We are aware that we cannot protect ourselves as many are being infected even while practising the SOP's.

Within our crew, I know of many people who are the sole breadwinners of their home, and everyday one can see them risking their lives. News organizations are not taking it as seriously as they should be. Their performance is zero on this front and they are not protecting the journalists."

(Reporter - Lahore)

Steps to be taken to protect Journalists

Similar to paramedical staff, media workers are at the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan. They continue to work by putting their lives at risk and stepping on the ground to overly crowded areas to provide accurate information to the citizens.

The state and federal governments are to ensure that personal protective equipment (PPE) is sufficiently



supplied and made available to hospital staff but for media house personnel as well. Additionally, they should extend special credits to media organizations so that they can continue paying their employees and cover any exceptional expenses.

As the nature of journalism is not such that it can be opted for work from home like other organizations, and requires going into the field, media organizations must, at the very least, ensure that the medical expenses are taken care of if any employee is infected with Covid-19.

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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