

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

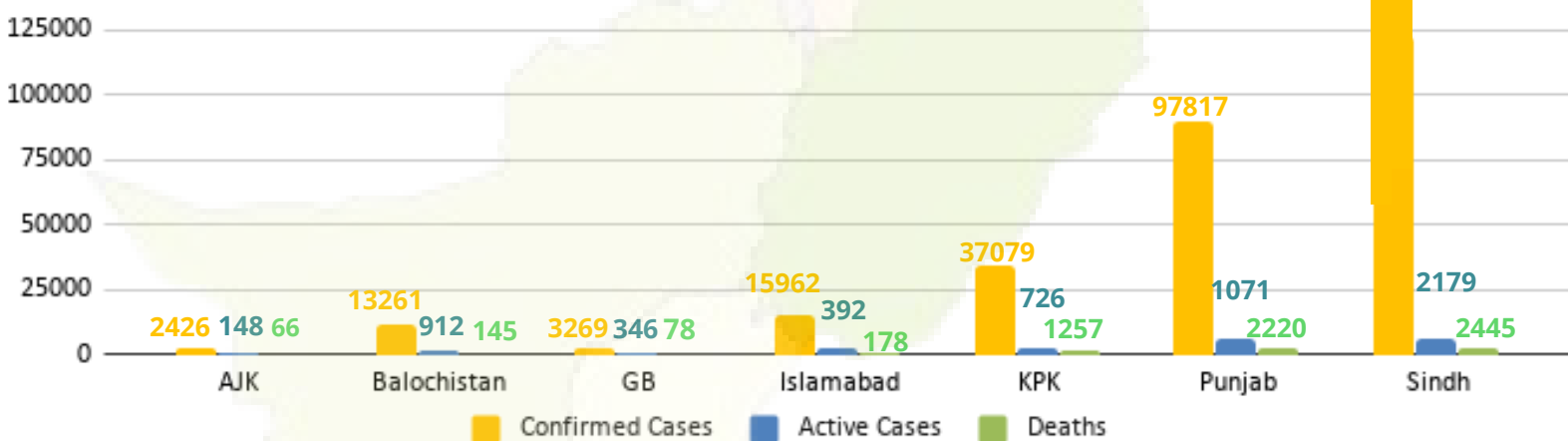
Total Confirmed Cases
302,424

Total Active Cases
5,774

Total Deaths
6,389

Total Recoveries
290,261

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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Pandemic Puts Police in the Spotlight

Police in Pakistan have found themselves in an unprecedented situation since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year. Under-resourced and poorly trained, they have struggled to ensure compliance with public health restrictions such as lockdowns and social distancing. With only outdated legal frameworks and conventional training and education to rely on, the police have largely responded to violations with corporal punishment, detentions, and arrests.

The public health emergency (PHE) preparedness plans have excluded law enforcement agencies and the security sector despite the fact that the police are first responders during such emergencies. This is partly due to valid concerns about securitizing public health. As a consequence of such exclusion and the disconnect between law enforcement and the public health sector, police have little guidance to rely on when responding to a pandemic.

Mob Attack

“Responding to orders from the Chief of my police department, my team and I were assigned to enforce a curfew to stop people from holding congregational prayers at the town’s mosque to ensure social distancing is maintained and help curb the spread of the virus. While most mosques and Imams followed the orders, the mosque assigned to us had an Islamic cleric who allegedly opposed the restrictions and called on his congregants



to defy the ban. Being a part of law enforcement, we are ordered not to fight back unless the opposing party resists and initiates action.

The residents gathered into a mob and reacted violently towards my team and I without even attempting to make conversation with us. Rocks were thrown at us as well as a few pieces of broken glass that injured a few of the team members. They didn't even leave our vehicle that was parked aside; they smashed its windows and headlights. We were then told to retreat by the Chief.” (Anonymous - Karachi)

We are Struggling Too

“I have not seen my family in five months; ever since the pandemic commenced in Pakistan. Before, we would have specified shift hours and authority over a certain station. But now work has become sleepless nights and overburdened work hours. Although the work may not be as difficult if not for the way the public is behaving. They do not understand the situation and believe that closure of offices and educational institutes means that it's a holiday where they can go outside.

I tested positive for Covid-19 during the duration when the lockdown was eased for Eid. We were posted to ensure that SOPs were being followed in commercial markets along with law and order. In those days it was as if the world was about to end; crowded markets, no social distancing, and no masks. After about a week of isolation, I was called back on duty”.

Pandemic Puts Police in the Spotlight



Not Taken Seriously.

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About three days into the assignment, a group of men came towards us and started to ask when the restrictions would be over as they said they couldn't stay in their houses for long as they had certain errands to run. We had informed them that the lockdown would remain intact until further notice. Earlier the next day, we saw a large group of residents going along with a funeral that was passing by on foot.

My colleagues went over to stop and inspect the situation, when three motorbikes stopped right where I was sitting. The young men ordered me to open the gate and let them pass through. When I refused they started mocking me saying: "Now a woman would stop us; What do you know about security, you are a weak female? We feel pity for you! You are nothing in front of us!" When they saw me resisting and my colleagues coming back, the three of them spat on me and quickly drove away".

(Aiman - Islamabad)

What steps can be taken to improve the law enforcement departments?

There is a need to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) designed for officers in the field, especially those on patrol and in police stations who have received substandard education and training to ensure that officers nationwide are on the same page and are performing uniformly.

Additionally, it has been seen that the law enforcement department has struggled to get funds from the federal government for police welfare during the pandemic. Even though some provincial governments have agreed to provide financial support, a concerted effort to support the police is missing at the national level. This risks depletion of police resources and can exacerbate feelings of job insecurity, delay the provision of personal protective equipment to police officers, and possibly result in malpractice on the part of the police. The federal government needs to ensure that these law enforcement officers are taken into consideration and provided support accordingly both in terms of health and safety and financial security.

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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