

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

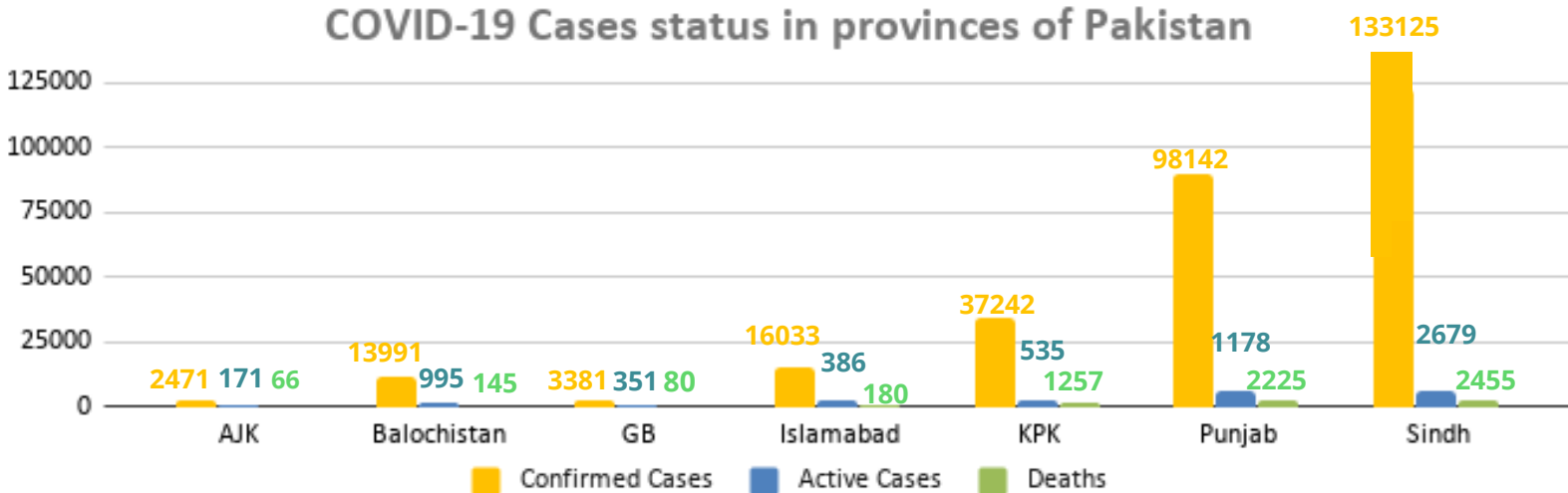
Total Confirmed Cases
304,386

Total Active Cases
6,295

Total Deaths
6,408

Total Recoveries
291,683

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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Covid-19 adds perils to Janitorial and Sanitary work

The coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve throughout Pakistan. Initially, the outbreak resulted in an escalated demand to clean and disinfect all public spaces, from retail centers and schools to office buildings and warehouses. This demand has led to increased risks for one key class of workers on the front lines: the janitors and cleaning crews.

Janitorial and cleaning staff are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many teams are now responsible for deep cleaning and sanitizing surfaces and areas that have been infected with the coronavirus. Additionally, these workers handle potentially dangerous chemicals and remove trash and other waste that could be contaminated.

Stabbed by Hope

"I have been working as a sweeper and cleaner for the waste management company for three years, and have been assigned to a particular section of the city. When the virus spread started to rise significantly in the city, I received a call from the management, informing me that I was being posted to one of the quarantine centers set up by the district government. Additionally, they told me that the assignment was



for two weeks and that I would be paid Rs. 2,000 a day above my monthly salary of 15,000. With my wife's delivery date approaching, we were both relieved that this opportunity would give us the money we would need.

Upon reaching the quarantine center, I realised that instead of eight sanitary staff members, we were four in total for a population of 156 Covid-19 patients, medical staff, police, and civil defence officials. Not being provided any protective equipment, we were exposed to the Covid-19 positive people for 24 hours a day for almost a month. We tried to protect ourselves by wrapping pieces of cloth around our mouth and nose. During the last days of the month, I began to sense that I was catching a cold and may also have a temperature. When I informed the person in charge, he immediately gave orders to have me sent back home, and I was not even given the bonus let alone my salary. Being weak from the virus and having the baby due in a day or two, I had to beg my relatives for a loan, to get through this difficult time."

(Sonny - Faisalabad)

No Days Off

"Our working shifts have multiplied since March, without any breaks in between. With sleepless nights and jam-packed days, I feel that we (housekeeping staff) are being physically as well as mentally affected. We ourselves are working on fighting the Covid-19 as frontline workers but our efforts are not being taken into consideration.

Over the past few weeks, we have had many team members made redundant for asking for new PPE as we have been using the same for a few months now. Instead, we were told that those are for doctors as they directly deal with the patients. Those of us remaining are allowed to take a day off." (Anonymous - Sindh)

Covid-19 adds perils to Janitorial and Sanitary work



No safety for Us

“When our hospital began to provide the Covid-19 testing facility, I along with two other members were made responsible for cleaning the unit, especially after a person had been tested. Just outside the unit people would dispose of their used tissues and masks without even making the effort to throw them in the allocated dustbins.

Since we were not supplied with any sanitizers or disposable gloves we had to clean the unit with our hands.

Without realizing it, I touched my face many times during the process. Two days later, I was declared Covid-19 positive. During my days in isolation, my salary was deducted as the supervisor told me that I would not be paid for the days I am not present whatever the reason.” (Shahid - Rawalpindi)

What steps can be taken to overcome this issue?

Janitorial and sanitation workers are among the most neglected and discriminated- against members of society. They are forced to carry out their jobs with no equipment, protection or legal rights, often violating their dignity and human rights.

There is a need for state authorities to establish workplace guidelines for janitorial and sanitary staff that includes basic infection prevention measures, such as promoting frequent hand washing, and urging workers to stay home if they're feeling ill. Furthermore, training, reviewing, revising and expanding work safety practices can help keep employees on the front lines safer. Another major issue these workers face is their right to claim leave; even during these difficult times their right to take a day off must not be taken away from them.

Management must ensure that all members of the organization, regardless of position in the hierarchy, must be provided with PPE and other safety supplies as well. Apart from this, there is a need to provide unemployment insurance benefits for workers and staff members who have been laid off to receive enhanced benefits that can help them in coping with the situation.

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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