

PAKISTAN CORONAVIRUS CIVICACTS CAMPAIGN

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With the continuous spread of COVID-19 in Pakistan; Accountability Lab is continuously building on its work with district governments and Community Front Liners (network of volunteers) through Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC) to debunk rumours, fake news & misinformation related to COVID-19. The Coronavirus CivActs Campaign supported by the Open Society Foundation also conducts fact-checking, synthesizes data, pushes out the verified information through weekly bulletins and social media campaign for mass awareness, and gathers feedback on the COVID19 response in Pakistan. The bulletins are disseminated in five languages including English, Urdu, Pashto, Punjabi & Sindhi to reach far and wide to help citizens build resilience and fight against the pandemic. These bulletins are also shared with a range of stakeholders from the general public, to government departments, development agencies, CSOs and humanitarian networks via online and offline means.

The campaign also highlights important government decisions, information about vaccination drives, community feedback and concerns related to COVID-19. The objective of the campaign is to enhance awareness among the most vulnerable segments of the society including women, youth, ethnic and religious minorities, transgenders and persons with disabilities. In the current phase of the campaign, Accountability Lab has also engaged the local female community leaders and building their capacity through training and active civic engagement to counter-myths and disseminate facts around COVID-19 and gender issues.

MYTHBUSTERS

! SARS-CoV-2 may also impact various organs and sometimes causes long-lasting breathing problems, fatigue or chronic kidney impairment.



FACT ✓

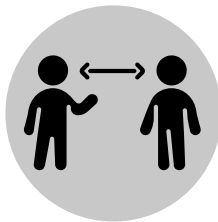
OR

MYTH ✗

The disease once thought to be mere 'pneumonia of unknown cause' has turned out to be far more different. Having been two years into the pandemic, we know about the primary symptoms of coronavirus that can be observed in an individual. SARS-CoV-2 also impacts various organs and sometimes causes long-lasting breathing problems, fatigue or chronic kidney impairment. However, further research has shown that the virus might also be responsible for long-term effects and damage to the body. One research found that youth under the age of 18 were more likely to receive a new diabetes diagnosis a month or more post-infection than young people who didn't have COVID-19 – and when compared with respiratory infections before the pandemic. Getting vaccinated against the virus is proven to help fight the virus and survive with just a mild infection.

Source: [CBC](#)

PREVENTIVE MEASURES THAT CAN BE TAKEN AGAINST CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Wear a mask that has two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric and covers your mouth, nose and chin. It should not be loose on the sides.

Practice physical distancing outside your home by keeping a distance of 3 feet between you and others.

Get registered for vaccination as soon as possible and follow all pre and post-vaccination guidelines.

Avoid unnecessary contact with eyes, nose and mouth as that increases chances of virus transfer.



Keep yourself and your environment clean.

If you fall sick, stay at home and contact a healthcare provider.

Avoid unnecessary outdoor socialising and spending time in crowded spaces

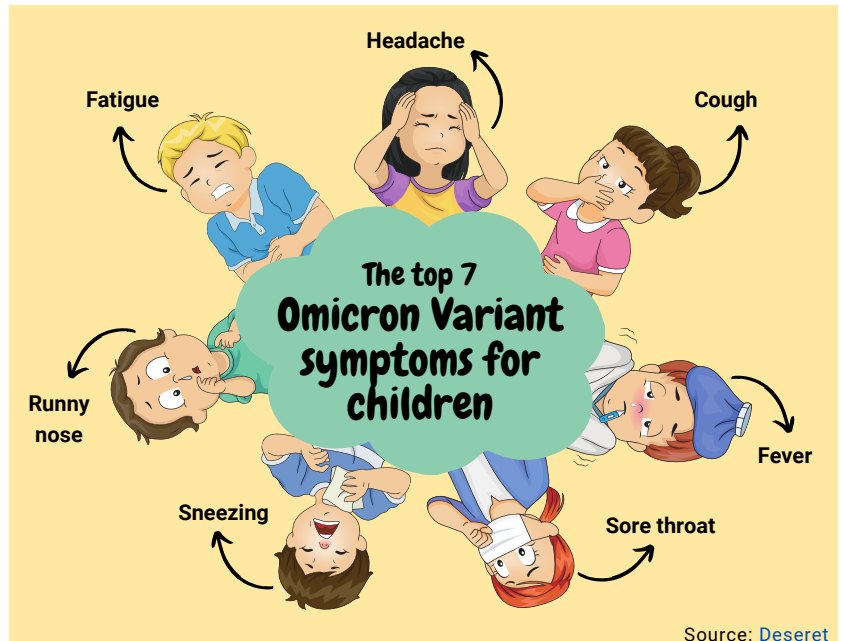
UPDATES

NCOC ANNOUNCES CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS WITH HIGH COVID-19 POSITIVITY RATIO FOR ONE WEEK

According to a notification issued by the NCOC, all the educational institutions, premises, sections, specific classes with high positivity will be closed for one week.

"Provincial administration, in consultation with district health, education authorities, and school administrations, is to set a threshold of cases for deciding such closures," the notification added. The NCOC also carried out COVID-19 testing in major schools and colleges and due to the results of the tests it has been decided to take the following steps to help

control further spread of the virus: Aggressive testing in education institutes for the next two weeks especially in high disease prevalence cities. Federating units to carry out special vaccination drives in schools to ensure 100% vaccination of students over 12 years of age.

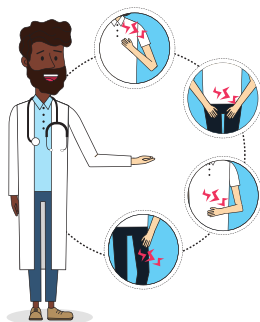


Source: [Deseret](#)

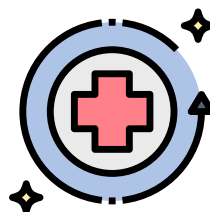
Source: [The News](#)

DIFFERENCES IN OMICRON VARIANT SYMPTOMS FOR VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED

As the omicron variant continues to run through the country, it's important for people to know what symptoms to expect if they become infected. The biggest difference in omicron variant symptoms between unvaccinated and fully vaccinated individuals comes down to the severity.



It is expected that many vaccinated and especially boosted people are experiencing very mild symptoms and there is a higher proportion of vaccinated people who have no symptoms.



Vaccinated people often experience omicron variant symptoms for a less amount of time.



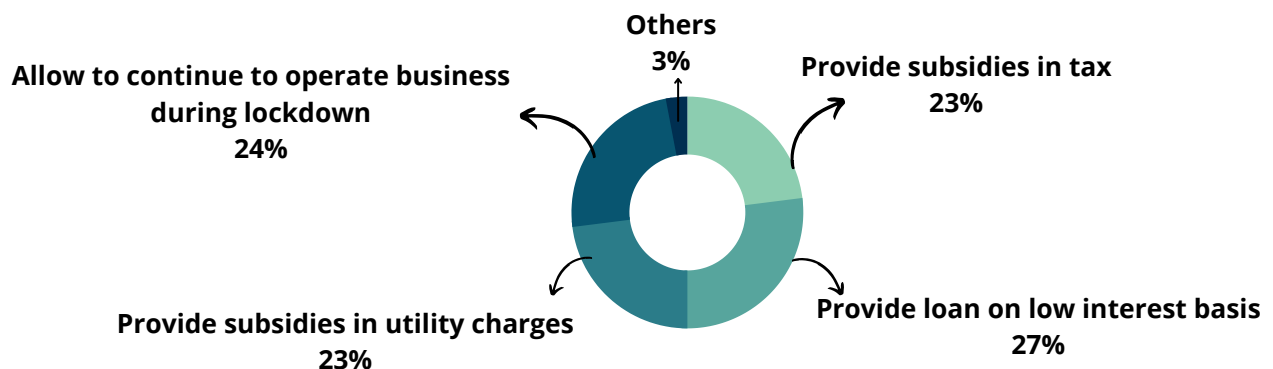
Those who are fully vaccinated will have symptoms for one or two days, whereas unvaccinated will see symptoms for five or more days.

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS WITH COVID-19 OUTCOME AND RESPONSE

It is fairly certain that a changed world awaits us at the end of this pandemic. This image largely depends on how we analyze the pandemic and more importantly how we react to it. With mass vaccination taking place, it may be perceived that the risk of COVID-19 has fallen behind us. However, it is important to assess the damage and risk of the virus that presents itself due to the cultural, and socioeconomic disparity on the lives of humans post-pandemic as well. Studies and research have been conducted to show associations and correlations between socioeconomic disparity and COVID-19 impact. Socio-economic factors play an important role in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) prevalence and mortality. [Lower education level was the strongest association with both cases and fatalities](#). There is preliminary evidence of racial and social-economic disparities in the population infected by and dying from COVID-19 in the United States, Europe as well as [Japan](#). However, not many studies have documented the national-level disparities in most Asian countries, for example in Pakistan.

Why is it important to document these disparities for an enhanced COVID-19 response?

COVID-19 is a health pandemic with [economic consequences](#) whose severity cannot be underestimated. Yet there is limited understanding of the pandemic's [effects on the economic lives](#) of citizens. Statistics show that unemployment rate increased by 34.1% in the pre-lockdown phase and mean income fell by over 42%. However it is important to note that not all citizens experienced the shock of the same magnitude. For instance, Citizens engaged in urban and rural non-farm activities suffered a bigger unemployment and income shock than citizens involved in farm-related activities.



[Social Inequality](#) is also a major contributor to the unequal effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on different sectors. There has been a distressing trend witnessed globally in the increase in domestic violence against women or violence perpetrated against women by an intimate partner. In France, for example, cases of domestic violence have increased by 30% since the lockdown on March 17. Helplines in Cyprus and Singapore have registered an increase in calls by 30% and 33%, respectively. In Argentina, emergency calls for domestic violence cases have increased by 25% since the lockdown started.

[Gender disparity](#) in Pakistan is a major concern in formulating the COVID-19 response. Women face an array of vulnerabilities and are relatively more at risk because of the following reasons:



less likely to receive vital information on health safety



less likely to have access to a mobile phone or internet services



higher probability of employment in the informal sector and lower wages



higher share of domestic responsibilities which have only increased during the pandemic

Therefore, it is important to take this dividend into account while formulating mechanisms to fight the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences.

[Data*](#) suggests that in Pakistan,

For every 10 deaths among confirmed cases in women.....



the number of male and female coronavirus cases in Pakistan suggest that women may be struggling to access testing or care.

"What we are seeing is a situation in which women are potentially being left out of testing and their health deprioritized,"

- [Stacey Means](#), senior technical adviser of emergency health at the IRC.

What factors add up to differences in the impact of the pandemic on different sectors and people from different socioeconomic backgrounds?

- Limited to no access to healthcare
- [Digital divide](#) between [urban and rural populations](#)
- Misinformation/ lack of access to authentic resources and information
- Inequalities in unemployment vulnerability (especially with regards to daily wagers and workers employed in physical settings)
- Inequalities stemming from state action as most of these support programs such as the ehsas program are directed towards a specific class of people and is often very limited aid
- Differences in population [densities](#) in different areas and cities of Pakistan.
- [Vaccination hesitancy](#) observed among populations with lower literacy rates.

Where can I get tested?

Islamabad	National Institute of Health Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad
Karachi	Agha Khan University Hospital, Stadium Road, Karachi, Sindh
Hyderabad	Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Liberty Market Roundabout, Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad
Khairpur	Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences, Gambat, Khairpur, Sindh
Peshawar	Hayatabad Medical Complex Phase-4 Phase 4 Hayatabad, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
Mardan	Chughtai Lab Mardan point, near Allied Bank, Shamsi Road, Mardan, KP
Haripur	Excel Labs, TMA Plaza Shop No. 6, Near Girls Degree College Circular Road Haripur, KP
Lahore	Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital, 7A Block R-3 M.A. Johar Town, Lahore, Punjab
Multan	Nishtar Hospital Nishtar Road, Justice Hamid Colony, Multan
Rawalpindi	Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Range Road, CMH Complex, Rawalpindi, Punjab
Quetta	Fatima Jinnah Hospital Bahadurabad, Wahdat Colony, Quetta
Muzaffarabad	Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), Ambore, Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir
Gilgit	District Headquarters Hospital, Hospital Road, Gilgit, GB

For more cities visit the [COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform](#)