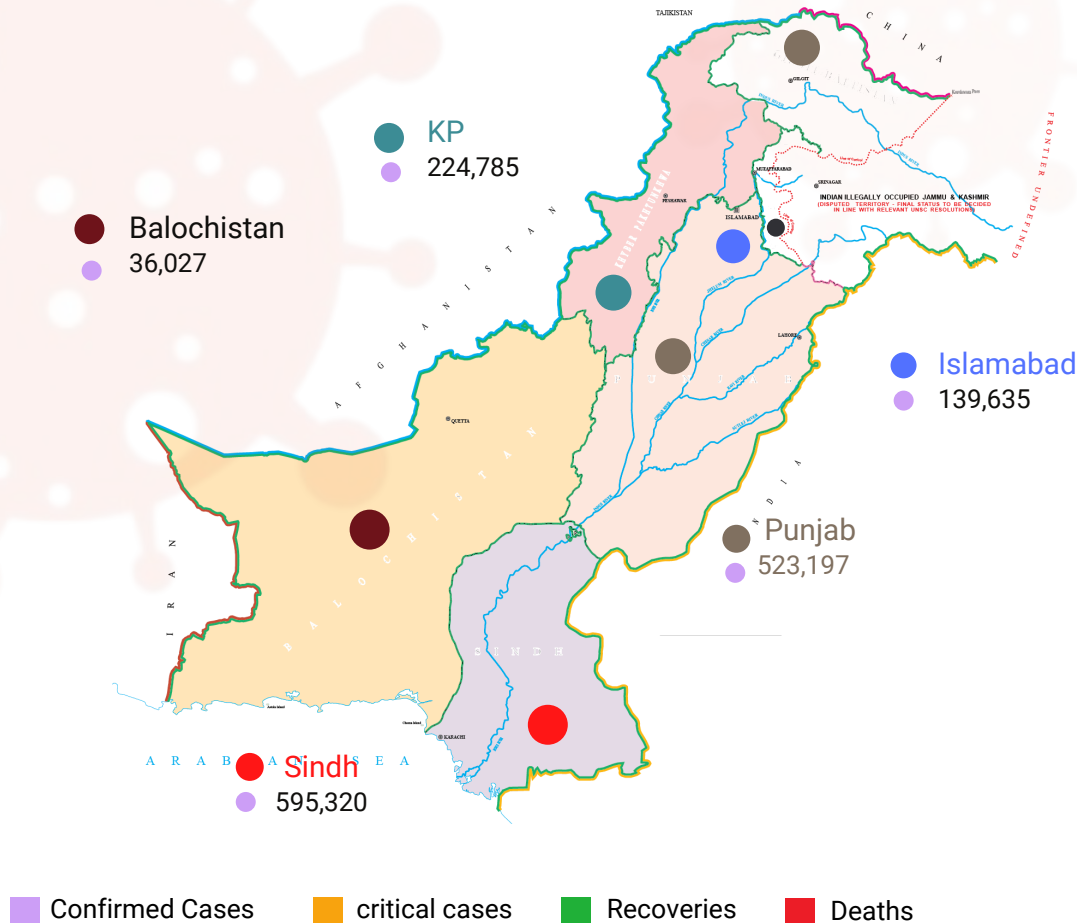


COVID-19 DASHBOARD

(Pakistan)



AJK
44,336/12,085

Total Tests
31,094,659



LAST 24 HOURS: 6,442

Confirmed Cases
1,39,644,465



LAST 24 HOURS: 18

Critical Cases
25



LAST 24 HOURS:

Deaths
30,635



LAST 24 HOURS: 1

Recoveries
1,544,103



LAST 24 HOURS: 16

Vaccination Statistics

First Dose
139,644,465



LAST 24 HOURS: 1,892

Booster Doses
132,317,738



LAST 24 HOURS: 4,972

Fully Vaccinated
48,935,695



LAST 24 HOURS: 55,003

Total Doses Administered
302,427,642



LAST 24 HOURS: 78,602

SOURCE : [Government of Pakistan](https://www.gov.pk)



MISINFORMATION



We are living in the digital age where there is a huge influx of information through various mediums. Especially, with so many sources of information online, it has become difficult to discern which content is based on facts, half-truths, or lies. Using digital platforms to share things we believe to be true, when they may not be, can have a powerful ripple effect that causes others to see them as true. This can be particularly dangerous for children and young people, who can adopt distorted worldviews that can harm them or others in the real world. This blog explains what misinformation is and how it can affect those who see it.

Misinformation is any piece of Information that is false but not created with the deliberate intention of causing harm. Having said this, sometimes misinformation can be dangerous to a far extent. It is frequently commenced by someone who honestly desires to apprehend a topic and cares about maintaining people safe and well by the use of that information.

It is then further shared through others who sense the same. Intentional or unintentional, the information consists of grey's. The story is actually a lie and doesn't consist of real facts. It can be semi-misinformation too, which brings wrong conclusions. All of us believe they are sharing correct information but unfortunately, they're not. And depending on what is being shared, misinformation can come pretty dangerous.

From ancient times newspapers have been in the race of being the first to break news. First newspapers and then TV channels made use of Yellow Journalism (Sensation) to gain more reach. At the speed of sensation, they broke the ethics of journalism and spread false information.

The race of being first even leads to misinformation. Even today the channels, to be exclusive, quote the wrong facts about certain incidents. For example, a number of people died in xyz blast, an out-of-context portion of a quote by someone, and so on.

There are a lot more examples like sharing inaccurate photos, quotes, or dates online because you believe them to be true.

Clickbait on social media especially YouTube usually contains misinformation or semi-misinformation. Click baits are thumbnails used to attract maximum viewership. Similarly, WhatsApp messages about certain events may also contain misinformation.

Some people or groups spread false information deliberately. They have certain agendas behind it. At times the Misinformation can be unintentional as well, we may randomly share some intentional misinformation shared by someone else and it can spread further. For example, the myths shared on social media or the religious sayings which are baseless and do not carry any references are forwarded to many, and in the name of religion, people share them ahead. Being literate, we always should be careful. Misinformation leads to very serious consequences. It not only makes you lose your credibility when you share forward but it can also mislead people. People may even make wrong decisions over misinformation.



WAYS TO FIGHT MISINFORMATION

Despite Misinformation being an obstacle, we can fight it. There are many tools that can be used to detect misinformation. To make sure that provided information is not fake following the steps given below may help:



Check the social media account where the information is posted. It might already indicate itself as a false source.

While sharing the information, one should use all his or her senses and where you are in doubt over the factual accuracy of any information please do not share.



BREAKING NEWS

Sensational news is an indicator towards misleading facts. Sensation sells well so some people use it even if they have to compromise the ethics of journalism over it.

Always rely on authentic news websites like credible news channels and reputed blog sites.



Cross Check with the authentic news website. For example, if you hear about a big personality who died, check on news channels. The channels must be covering it, if true.

Follow genuine social media accounts in order to be safe from such havoc.



Check the important indicators. At times the fake post itself has the signs that it carries false information.

Always try to figure out where the information is coming from," Southwell said. "Do you know the original source of the data? Is it listed clearly? Are you able to clearly tell what organization is accountable for this? I assume having humans sluggish down and doing a short search to see if you may discover different information resources that would affirm those facts, is going a long way."

It is important for everybody to realize the way to spot misinformation online to avoid spreading falsehoods and to be vital clients of online news, especially through social media. Misinformation has become so widespread online that a few agencies have launched initiatives to address it, which include the Google News Initiative, and Poynter's MediaWise teenage fact-Checking network. The discussion concludes that no doubt we are living in the world 2.0 surrounded by the blessings and curses of technology but we ourselves should have to be aware of it. We will have to act as mindful citizens and fail the agendas of fake news propagandists. Misinformation is dangerous so we should take care and confirm the news before sharing it with others.

HOW TO STOP FAKE NEWS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks, What's the whole story?



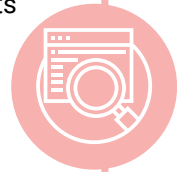
CHECK THE AUTHOR

DO a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story?



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to the current event.



IS IT A JOKE?

if it is too oldish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if you have your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

