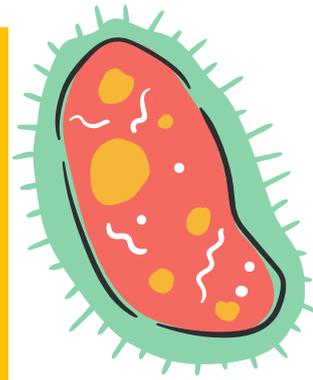
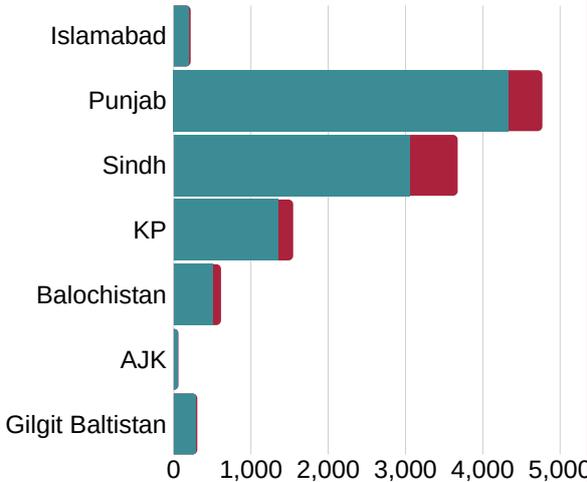


Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we've seen in the past. Every day we continue to see more false information shared throughout communities, confusing citizens and leaving them unsure as to who can answer their questions.



Confirmed Cases



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.



DON'T PANIC!

Follow these steps to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water aren't available.
- Cover your nose and mouth (with your elbow or a tissue) when sneezing.
- Avoid crowded places and practice social distancing. If you think you have been exposed to someone with coronavirus, quarantine yourself for a minimum of 14 days and monitor any symptoms.
- Do not stockpile supplies.

IS IT TRUE?



Is it true that seven people tested positive for coronavirus at an F-7 madrassa in Islamabad?

Yes. On Wednesday, Bab-ul-Islam mosque and madrassa located in Islamabad's F-7 sector were sealed after one death, and seven people in the area tested positive for the coronavirus. Authorities have sealed the adjacent area and are tracing for people who have been in contact with the infected individuals.

How are mosques around the world responding to the pandemic?

Several Muslim majority countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey and Malaysia, have stopped congregational prayers in mosques. Prestigious mosques, in Mecca and Madina have been closed, and the call to prayers in all the mosques have added a line at the end which emphasizes praying at home. As an alternative, many mosques are conducting live-streamed sermons. Other religions are also taking precautions amid COVID-19, Christian leaders gave their annual Easter addresses over the internet as the churches were closed due to extension in lockdown.

Why are doctors asking to close the mosques in Pakistan?



Doctors across the country are holding press conferences urging the government to review its decision to allow congregational prayers in mosques during the month of Ramadan. They highlighted that mostly people aged 50 and above, who are considered extremely vulnerable, were going to mosques and attending prayers. Hospitals throughout Pakistan are experiencing a significant rise in the number of coronavirus patients, and it is anticipated that these numbers will increase during Ramadan if congregational prayers are allowed. So far about 140 doctors and paramedical staff have been infected, and doctors have cautioned that while they are ready to put their lives at risk, if healthcare professionals in Pakistan die as per the trend seen in other countries, "there won't be many resources [left] including manpower to look after our patients".



IS IT TRUE?

Are Muslims and Asians better immune to the coronavirus?

No. In a press conference, doctors and paramedical staff clarified that Pakistanis are no more immune to this virus than the rest of the world, referencing data released by the UK's National Health Service which had shown that among patients who died in the UK due to COVID-19, there were many Asians and many Muslims.

What Precautions has the government of Pakistan put into place for mosques to follow in order to remain open?

Recently, the Ulema and the federal government agreed upon a 20-point action plan which is to be followed by all mosques throughout the country during the month of Ramadan. The plan aims to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the mosques during Taraweeh and congregational prayers. Precautions from this action plan include people to bring their own prayer mats, mosque floors being washed with chlorine disinfectants, congregational rows being formed by maintaining a distance of six feet between each worshipper, ablution to be performed at home, mandatory wearing of masks inside mosques, and no handshaking or hugging will be allowed.

What will happen if mosques start breaching commitments?

The government of Pakistan stated that if the number of coronavirus patients increases, they will reassess the situation and will seal areas emerging as COVID-19 hotspots. In order to prevent the spread of the virus in their vicinity, citizens need to focus surveillance of coronavirus cases using the COVID-19 Gov PK app. If you see the number of patients increasing in your area, refrain from visiting that area and follow proper precautions of social distancing.



What do I do if I think I have coronavirus?

Do you have any symptoms?

- **Fever**
- **Shortness of breath**
- **Dry cough**
- **Tiredness**



If so, 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**](#)

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by
Accountability Lab Pakistan.