



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-73

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

896 450 confirmed (72 839)

45 525 deaths (4923)

Western Pacific Region

107 626 confirmed (1204)

3723 deaths (22)

European Region

503 006 confirmed (38 809)

33 604 deaths (3515)

South-East Asia Region

5324 confirmed (149)

216 deaths (21)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

58 168 confirmed (3887)

3279 deaths (164)

Region of the Americas

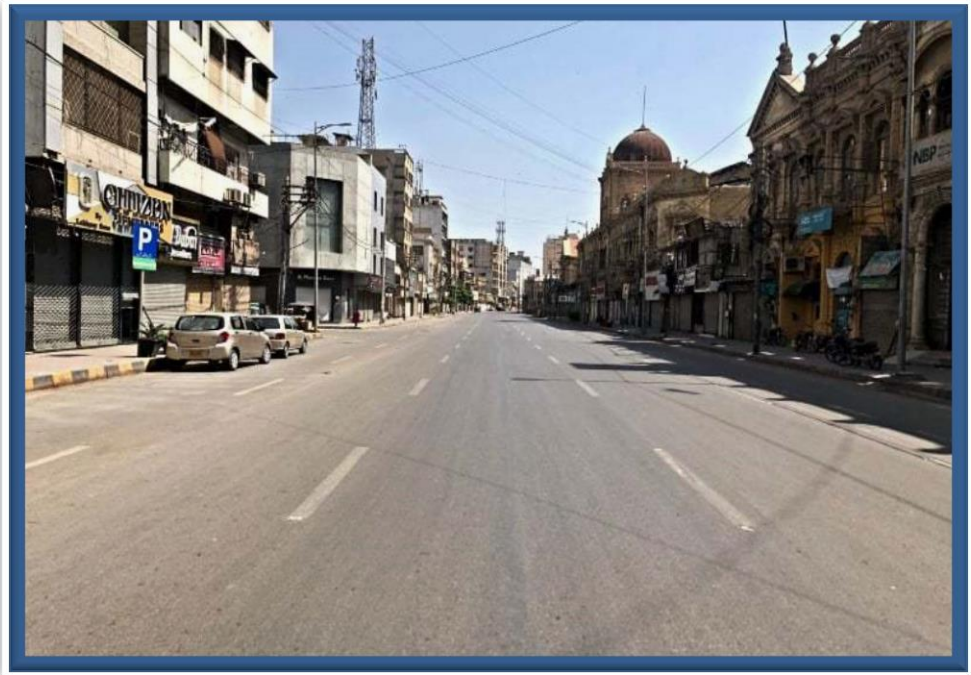
216 912 confirmed (28161)

4565 deaths (1165)

African Region

4702 confirmed (629)

127 deaths (36)



Sindh observed a strict lockdown to restrict Friday congregational prayers. *Reuters*

Global News

- New grim record: US becomes 1st country to report 1,000+ Covid-19 deaths in single day as global infections top 1 million.
- Another 6.6 million joined the U.S. unemployment ranks, bringing the two-week total to a staggering 10 million as the pandemic upends the economy.
- China says US officials making shameless comments on coronavirus data.
- Coronavirus threatens the next generation of smartphones.
- Coronavirus epicenter could 'possibly' shift back to Asia, says public health expert.

Global Response

- Leonardo DiCaprio helps launch \$12 million coronavirus food fund.
- Wall Street grapples with unemployment claims and rallying oil prices.
- Coronavirus: India's bailout may not be enough to save economy.
- WB approves \$200mn package for Pakistan to combat COVID-19.
- Singapore shuts schools and closes most workplaces temporarily to stem the spread of coronavirus.
- World Bank Offers India \$1 Billion Aid to Fight Coronavirus.

Local News

- Economists anticipate food shortages if pandemic prolongs.
- Dar says more than 400,000 youth register for Corona Relief Tigers' Force.
- US applauds Pakistani university for its efforts to counter coronavirus.
- ADB forecasts Pakistan's GDP to shrink, sees rise in inflation in 2020.
- Karachi's busiest roads devoid of traffic as city goes into lockdown.
- Strict lockdown across Pakistan to restrict Friday congregations.



**Daily-wage workers face problems throughout South Asian Region
due to Corona Lockdown—*Reuters***

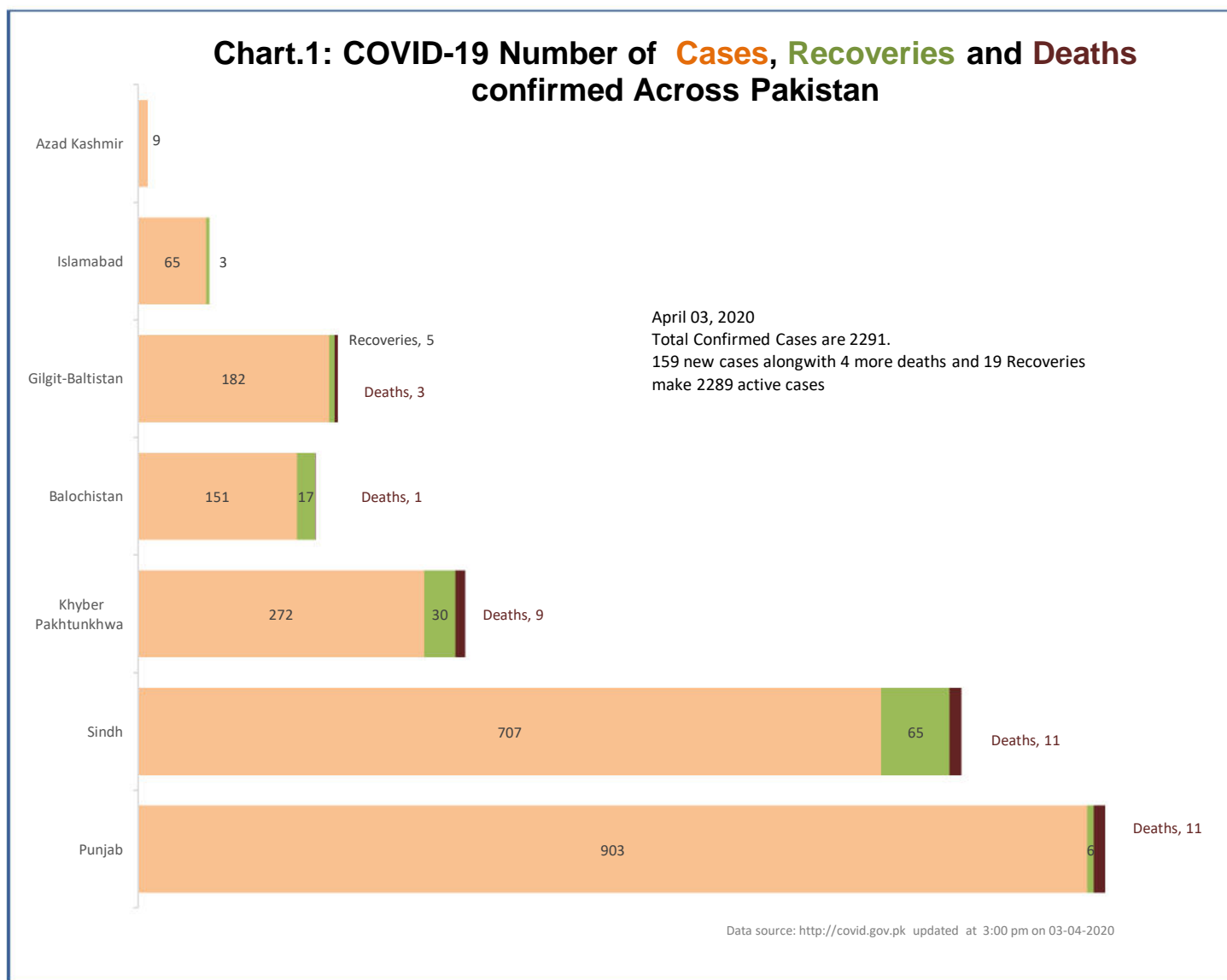
Local Response

- Govt. extends suspension of domestic flight operation till April 11.
- Education ministry, PTV sign agreement to launch Tele School.
- Pakistan's infectious disease experts warn about chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19.
- Nestle Pakistan commits Rs 100m to corona relief.
- Over Rs3 billion deposited in Sindh govt's relief fund for coronavirus pandemic.
- Council of Islamic Ideology urges public to pray at home, adhere to govt's safety guidelines.
- Punjab educational institutions should take 80% fees for April and May.
- Pakistan's first COVID-19 patient donates plasma for new therapy.

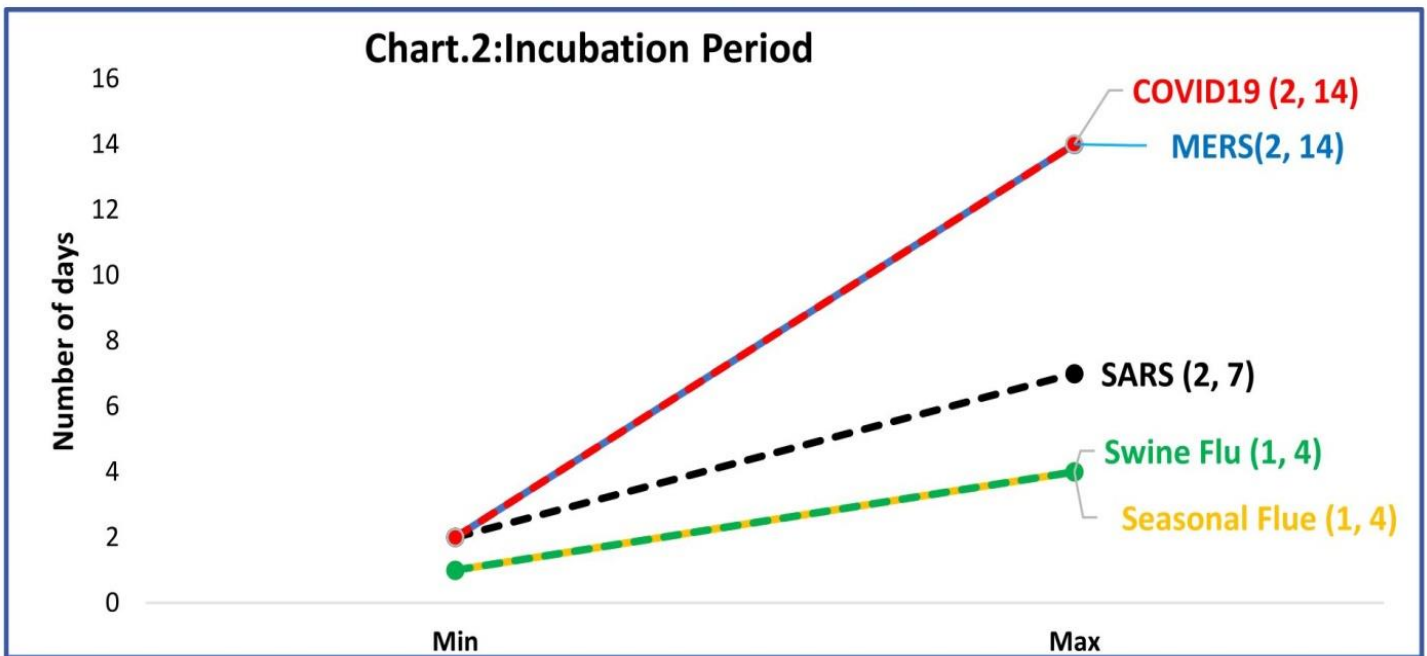


Wuhan preparing back to work by disinfecting the city—*Reuter*

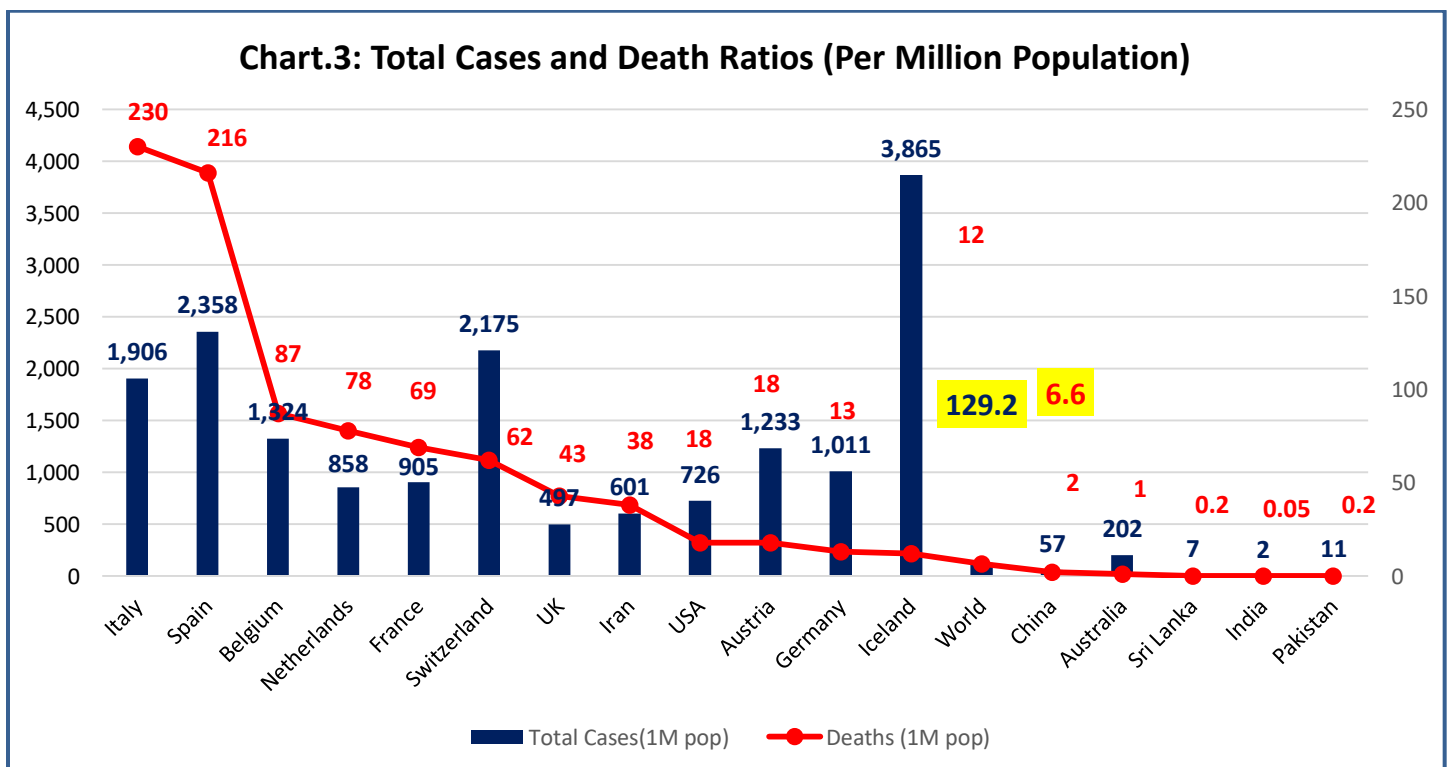
During last 24 hours, 159 new cases are confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 2450. Two deaths are reported from Sindh and one death is reported from KP and GB each in last 24 hours. Total deaths due to COVID-19 are 35 across country while 126 recoveries are reported. Current impact of the disease in Pakistan is declared as **High** by NIH, Pakistan. see Chart.1



For efficient and effective quarantine period of a specific infection, it is very important to know about the incubation period of that infection. The incubation period for COVID 19 just like MERS is 2-14 days. For SARS its 2-7 days and for seasonal flue and Swine Flu it is 1-4 days. (See Chart 2)



In Italy total cases per million population is 1906 and death per million is 230 per million which is highest in the world. This ratio is quite high in all European countries as compared to other countries. In US and Australia although total cases per million population is high but the death ratios not as high as European countries. In south Asian countries the death ratios of per million population is less than one, See char.3.



COVID–19 and a Paradigm Shift

A Crisis overturns existing social orders and instigates changes in the form of a paradigm shift; as composed by Albert Camus in his book 'The Plague'. COVID -19 being a global pandemic is affecting all forms of societies, nationalities and exposing the fault lines in our health systems. It will further take the entire globe equally by surprise just like wars have deep-rooted effects and introduce a paradigm shift. In the virtuous words of Camus "There have been as many plagues as wars; yet always plagues and wars take people equally by surprise".

It is not just about the immediate short term affects caused by this global calamity rather it is more about the unforeseen cascading long term effects that need to be taken care of. The pandemic, which is the true manifestation of a mutual suffering of humanity, is set to seriously hamper the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and possibly put us back in terms of progress made until now in this regard.

This state of urgency that has dawned upon us demands new models of dealing with risks, impacts and mitigation strategies of such calamities to be made and tested for upcoming years. The devastating situation as of now, especially the peaks and valleys of the global stock markets push for adaptations of newer models to combat with such pandemics in the future. The longer this contagious disease will stay the more it will speed up digital transformation and human dependence upon it. However, this widespread lockdown is somehow favoring the planet and letting it breathe better. This will pave way for further digitalization of cities which is need of the hour amidst social distancing.

Though this Novel Virus has sent shockwaves to the entire globe within days and with its hopeful end there's a hope for a paradigm shift. It will be great to see positive socio-political effects and better universal participation and uncontested coordination, as opposed to the principles of isolation we are at presently observing. If such constructive paradigm shift follows which should befall, Pakistan should warmly welcome it working along the lines of increased involvement and entanglement in post COVID international politics. **(written by Amna Urooj, a student at the PIDE School of Public Policy)**

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Jan. 25, 2020 – Jan. 27, 2020)

- Jan. 25** — The 2019-nCoV reaches more countries. Australia confirms the first case of 2019-nCoV in the continent, with health authorities announcing three more cases later in the day. France confirms three cases, the first in Europe. Malaysia also reports the first four cases, Canada reports its first case. Several infected countries also confirm new cases, such as Thailand and Japan. In China meanwhile, Chinese government reports 688 new cases, bringing the total to 1,975. Cases with severe conditions rise to 324, and deaths to 56 in total. Hong Kong meanwhile raises response to 2019-nCoV to the highest level, suspending all flights to and from Wuhan.
- Jan. 26** — China reports 769 new confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV, significantly raising the total number of cases globally to 2,801. This includes 461 severe cases and 80 deaths. China's National Health Commission starts recommending use of HIV drugs as treatment against 2019-nCoV, as scientists globally start efforts to look for effective treatment and preventive therapy. The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention also starts developing a vaccine against 2019-nCoV. In a circular, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs tells charities and volunteer organizations not to send staff and volunteers to Hubei province amid the ongoing novel coronavirus epidemic.
- Jan. 27** — WHO chief Tedros travels to Beijing to meet with government and health experts on 2019-nCoV outbreak response. Hong Kong denies entry to visitors with travel history from Hubei Province, China, in the past 14 days. Authorities in Hubei suspend passport application and the provision of exit and entry permits in efforts to contain the spread of the virus. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation commits \$10 million for the 2019-nCoV outbreak response in China, and screening and outbreak preparedness in Africa. Cambodia, Germany and Sri Lanka each confirm their first 2019-nCoV cases. In its latest update, China's National Health Commission reports 1,771 new confirmed cases, more than double the cases on Jan. 26. This brings total confirmed cases in China to 4,515, with 976 severe cases and 106 deaths, and 4,580 total cases globally.

Source: www.devex.com

Experts' View

Due to the lockdown and distancing rules, the burden on the internet in Pakistan and across the world is also increasing rapidly. Internet speeds are starting to slow down. We will also have to keep an eye on this. Infrastructure will need to be upgraded to take into account the additional expected and unexpected traffic. But this does not mean universities should not start experiments in online teaching. It means we have to start looking for, developing and deploying solutions. It will take some time for all universities to get there and for all students to have access of a sufficient quality, but the work has to start now. And universities, given their situations, will traverse this distance at varying speeds. The HEC should be ready to invest in infrastructure, material development and trainings. It has already announced some committees on these issues, but it remains to be seen what resources are invested in this pursuit and what the results are.

(Faisal Bari, DAWN)

Ensure that, in these challenging times, seafarers are adequately protected from the COVID-19 pandemic, have access to medical care, and can travel to and from their ships, as necessary, in order to continue to play their crucial role. **(ILO)**

Experts' Opinion

In Punjab a new law came into effect on March 27, 2020: the Punjab Infectious Diseases (Prevention and Control) Ordinance 2020. It gives legal backing to draconian steps that the government may need to take to control the spread of the coronavirus. The law empowers the government to require doctors and health facilities (including private ones) to treat patients. It does not prohibit charging for such services but does not expressly stipulate that compensation will be payable for providing services or facilities on the basis of a government directive. Any class of persons (including doctors and nurses) may be required to undergo medical examinations and to submit medical reports. They may be required to wear certain specified clothing and be subject to restrictions as to where they may go and with whom they maintain contact. **(Khawaja Ahmad Hosain, THE NEWS)**

The government needs to prepare a clear strategy to reach out to the people who need support to survive in these tough times. The lockdown has created a tough situation for daily wage labourers and contract workers both in the formal and informal sectors. The closure of markets, businesses and industries have made millions of daily wage labourers, third party contract workers and temporary workers unemployed. They need government support to survive in these tough times. The federal government and provincial governments are trying to help them. But they are facing two problems at the moment. One, there is no institution in the country that has accurate data of daily wage and contract workers working in industries, businesses and markets. No one has the data of self-employed workers who have also been badly hit by the lockdown. **(Khalid Bhatti, THE NEWS)**

World Health Organization
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

However, those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimized supportive care. Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials.

WHO is helping to accelerate research and development efforts with a range of partners.



#Coronavirus

**Are there any
specific medicines
to prevent or
treat the new
coronavirus?**



COVID-19 READS

1. COVID-19 pandemic is testing world leaders. Who's stepping up?
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/covid-19-pandemic-testing-world-leaders-stepping-200402201221844.html>
2. FDA authorizes first antibody-based test for COVID-19
<https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/2/21204478/fda-authorization-coronavirus-antibody-test-diagnostic-covid-19>
3. COVID-19 could lead to an epidemic of clinical depression
<https://theconversation.com/covid-19-could-lead-to-an-epidemic-of-clinical-depression-134528>
4. How will humans, by nature social animals, fare when isolated?
<https://www.economist.com/international/2020/04/04/how-will-humans-by-nature-social-animals-fare-when-isolated>
5. Oil prices could remain depressed for at least a year. Here's why
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/oil-prices-could-remain-depressed-for-at-least-a-year-heres-why/>
6. Covid-19 and the already anxious: 'I have been covertly training for this stress marathon'

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/apr/03/covid-19-and-the-already-anxious-i-have-been-covertly-training-for-this-stress-marathon>

7. Can Stress, Loneliness and Sleep Deprivation Make You More Prone to COVID-19?
<https://www.discovermagazine.com/health/can-stress-loneliness-and-sleep-deprivation-make-you-more-prone-to-covid-19>
8. Coronavirus live news: Spain records first drop in daily death toll as Wuhan residents told to stay indoors
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2020/apr/03/coronavirus-update-live-news-usa-uk-spain-italy-china-who-middle-east-spike-world-global-cases-latest-updates>
9. Coronavirus in Africa Tracker: How many covid-19 cases & where?
<https://africanarguments.org/2020/04/02/coronavirus-in-africa-tracker-how-many-cases-and-where-latest/>
10. Spanish Malady
<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/spanish-malady/>
11. Lessons from 1918 pandemic
<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/lessons-from-1918-pandemic/>
12. When will a coronavirus vaccine be ready?
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/03/when-will-a-coronavirus-vaccine-be-ready>

Idea by VC PIDE, Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque

Prepared by:

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro, Dr. Saud Ahmed Khan, Dr. Hassan Rasool
Dr. Ahsan ul Haq Satti, Dr. Amena Urooj, Ms. Fizzah Khalid Butt
and Fahd Zulfiqar