

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-82

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 610 909 confirmed (89 657)

99 690 deaths (6892)

Western Pacific Region

118 549 confirmed (1302)

4017 deaths (39)

European Region

839 257 confirmed (39 561)

70 565 deaths (4352)

South-East Asia Region

14 161 confirmed (1183)

617 deaths (48)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

92 226 confirmed (3569)

4771 deaths (164)

Region of the Americas

536 664 confirmed (43 491)

19 294 deaths (2256)

African Region

9340 confirmed (551)

415 deaths (33)



Women queue to collect cash through a mobile wallet under the governmental Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme for people in need in Karachi on Saturday.—AFP

Global News

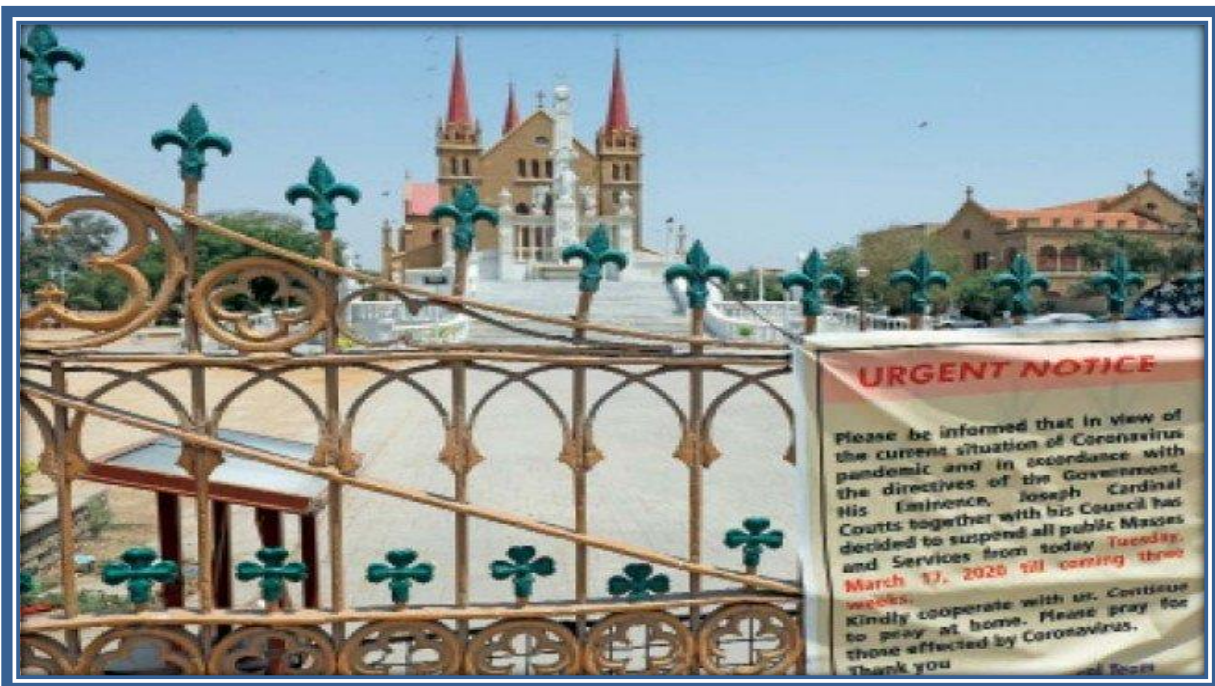
- Himalayas visible from India for first time in 30 years as Covid-19 lockdowns reduce pollution
- Spain's daily virus death toll falls again.
- China reports rise in coronavirus cases, most from abroad.
- Russia reports 1,667 new coronavirus cases.
- Coronavirus has melted away Belgium chocolate makers' hopes for Easter sales.
- A 93-year-old woman has recovered from corona in Turkey.
- US becomes first country to record more than 2,000 deaths in a day.

Global Response

- Turkey sends plane full of medical supplies to UK to help in Covid-19 fight
- Jogger in Scotland has raised 180,000 pounds for UK's NHS during Covid-19 outbreak.
- WHO says looking into reports of some Covid-19 patients testing positive again.
- Bangladesh extends coronavirus lockdown, India's Modi mulls longer restrictions.
- WHO warns about dangers of premature lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.
- New York kinless Covid-19 victims buried in mass graves.

Local News

- We are fighting on two fronts, corona and hunger: Ajmal Wazir.
- 20pc of tests conducted in past 24 hours came out positive: Sindh CM.
- State Bank governor hopeful about economy despite corona
- Six deaths recorded in Sindh in past 24 hours: CM Murad
- 'Country making atom bomb can't make ventilators, test kits' PM.
- Heatwave to grip Karachi amid coronavirus lockdown.
- More than 82 per cent of Sindh's new cases reported from Karachi.
- Balochistan CM requests federal govt. for 50,000 testing kits to get 'accurate estimate'.
- 6 new cases in Islamabad, 1 in AJK.



**Saint Patrick's Cathedral Church Karachi is empty on the Easter
due to Covid-19—*The Express Tribune***

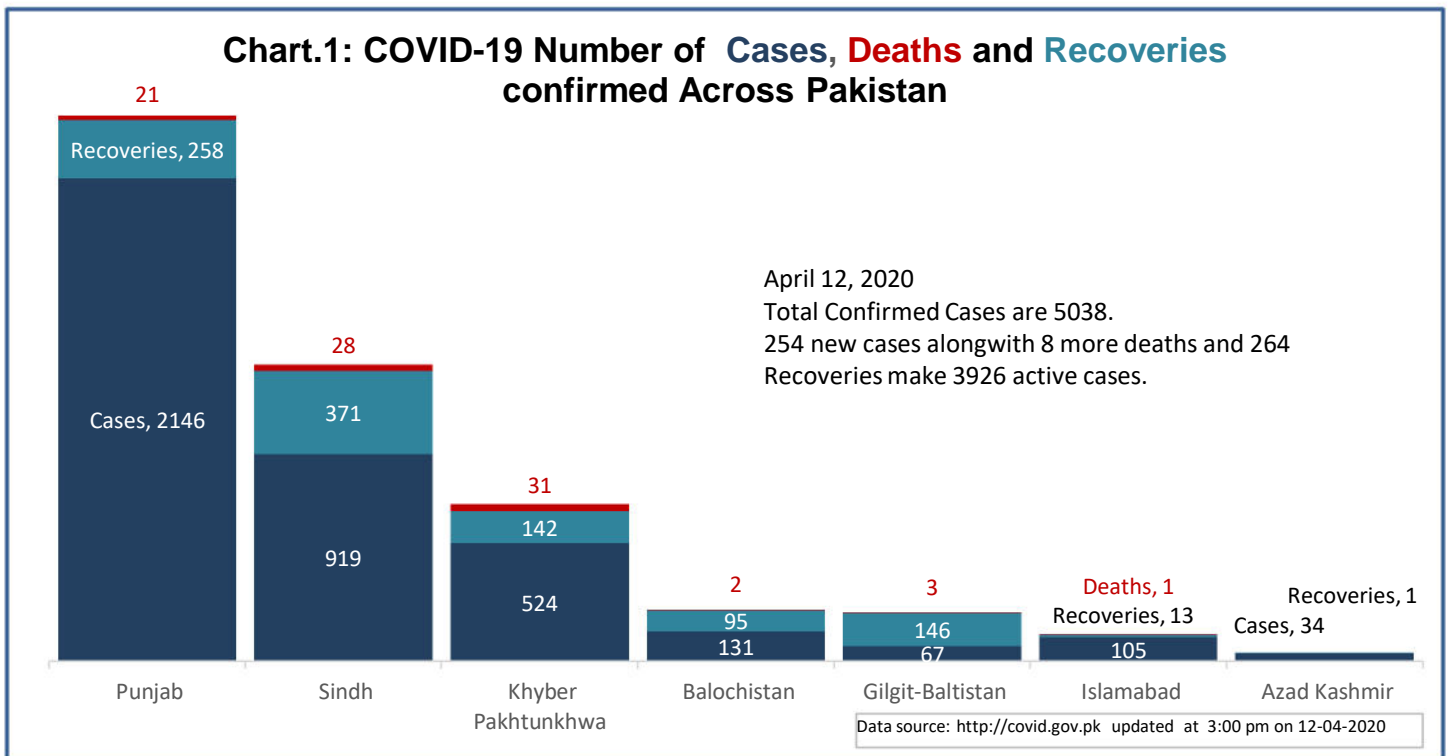
Local Response

- CJP to look into govt. steps on Corona
- Complete lockdown in two Malir areas after 24 coronavirus cases emerge.
- Payment of Rs12000 can be received from ATM, designated centers: Dr Sania Nishtar.
- KP calls on medical workers for recruitment in tribal districts.
- 762 people have now recovered from corona in Pakistan.
- State has to rescue small loan borrowers, observes court.
- PM assures doctors of full protection.
- Maulana Abdul Aziz booked for leading Friday prayers despite ban.
- SBP announces refinance scheme to avoid worker layoffs.



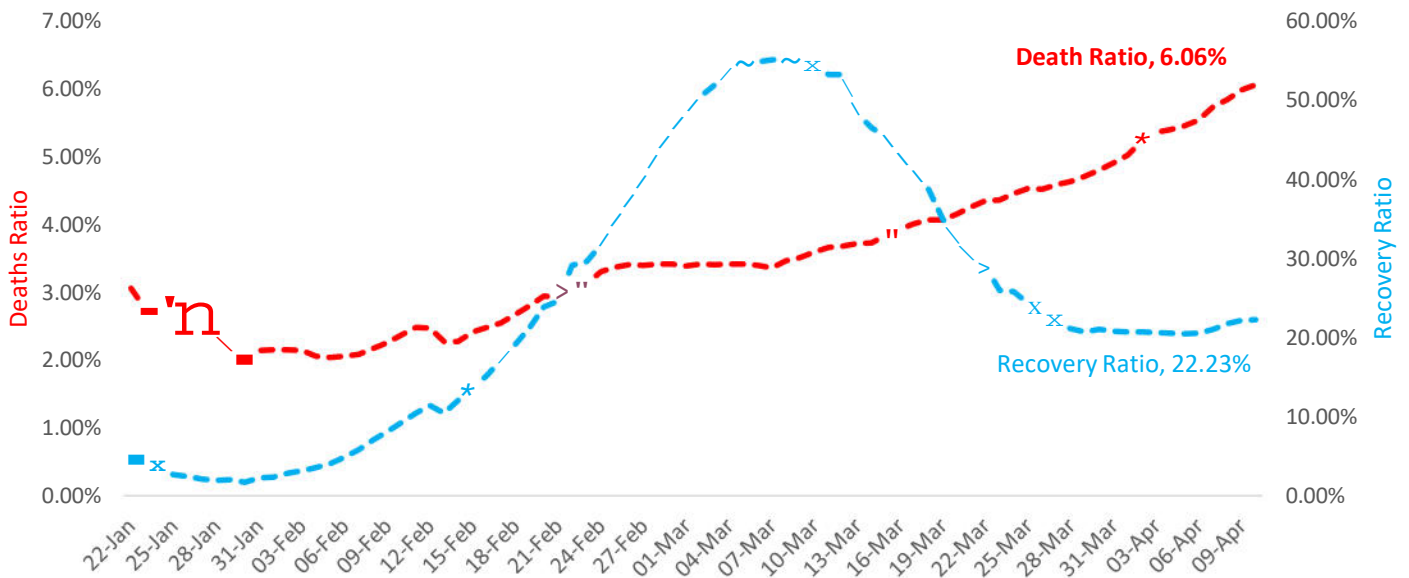
Medical staff members wearing protective gear wait in a train coach prepared as a temporary quarantine facility at the Rawalpindi Railway Station—*Getty Images*

During the last 24 hours, 254 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 5038. Six deaths from KP and two from Punjab have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 86 deaths and 1026 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



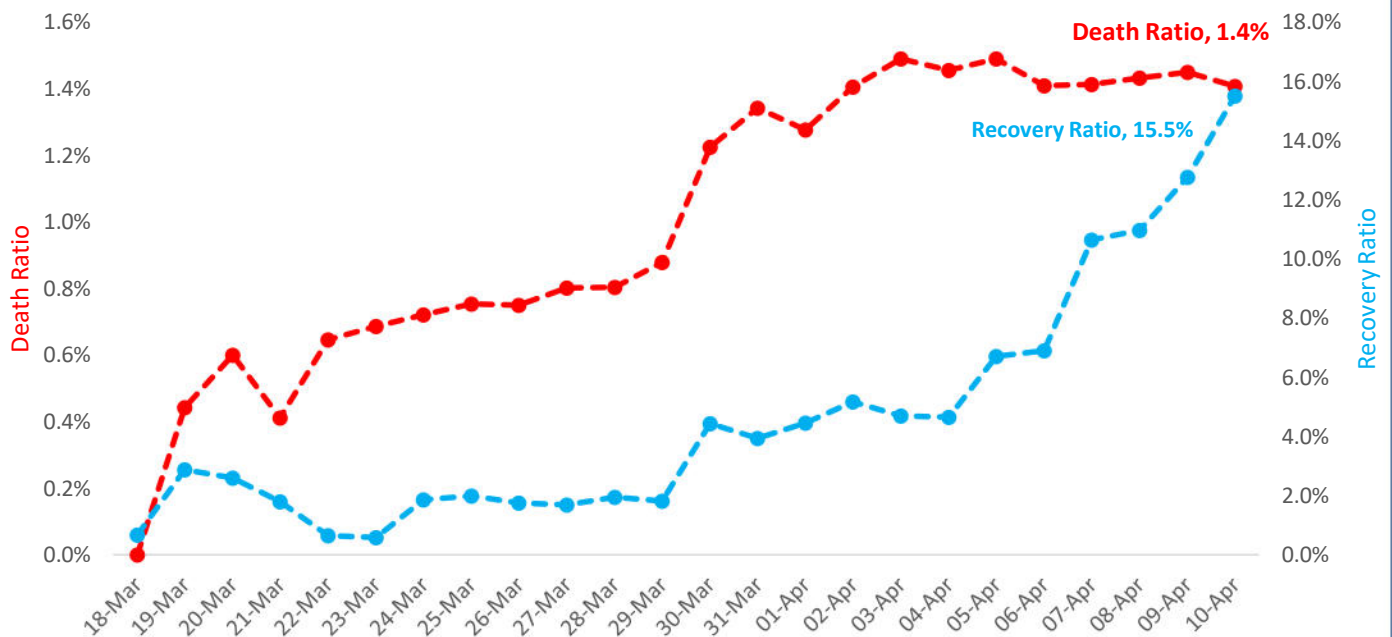
Since the outbreak of COVID-19, initially the global death ratio was 3% then decreased to about 2%. With worldwide spread the COVID-19 death ratio start increasing rapidly after mid-March 2020 and currently it is around 6%. The recovery ratio of COVID-19 depicts a bell curve shape it was highest at about 55%, after mid-March 2020 with worldwide spread especially in Europe and America the recovery ratio decreases sharply currently it is around 22%. Increasing death ratio and decreasing recovery ratio indicates the continuous worldwide spread of COVID-19. Amid continuous increase in COVID-19 cases globally these two ratios are not unusual; according to medical experts natural human immunity increases gradually, also it is dependent to climate conditions and human demographics. Soon it is expected to see a drop in death ratio and increase in recovery ratio, See Chart.2.

Chart.2: COVID-19 Global Death and Recoveries Ratios



In Pakistan, the highest COVID-19 death ratio persisted 1.5%, which is less than the least COVID-19 death ratio worldwide; since the second week of April 2020 it remains at 1.4%. The recovery ratio of COVID-19 cases is continuously increasing currently it is about 15.5%; though its less than global recovery ratio but it has continuous increasing trend, see Chart.3.

Chart.3: COVID-19 Death and Recoveries Ratios in Pakistan



How COVID-19 has affected the real estate or construction industry in Pakistan?

Construction industry is the second biggest sector of Pakistan's economy accounting for 10-12% of the total GDP spending.¹ World Bank estimates that 60%-70% of the global wealth lies in the real estate sector. If that were true for Pakistan as well then the estimated size of the country's real estate would be \$300-\$400 billion.² Despite its enormous wealth the sector began to show symptoms of slowdown in FY 2018-19. This is attributed to the lack of incentives by the new government and ban on non-filers to buy property worth more than Rs. 5million. Due to the forward and backward linkages of the construction sector with rest of the economy the overall growth came under pressure. This resulted in increasing calls in the political circles, often supported by the members of the ruling party, to offer support to construction and real estate sector. But the government seemed unwilling to make yet another radical policy change.

All of this was before March 2020 when Coronavirus was just a news for Pakistan. Soon the virus hit home and along came the *disaster capitalism*, a doctrine that explains how private industries profit from large scale system disruptions.

Amid the lock down and slowing economic growth the government came under increasing pressure to ease the burden of people, especially the lower class, who trade their services in the informal economy often working as laborers. The government has responded by offering amnesty to construction sector along with tax reduction and rebates, subsidy and special tribunals to resolve the disputes. Construction sector is also being granted the status of industry.

What is of concern here is the nature of real estate and construction sector which operates in asset class. Upon a single glance, it is revealed that the higher and middle asset classes stand to gain most from this arrangement. This may end up benefiting a minority at the cost of majority. However, it is yet to be seen.

The moguls of construction industry have responded very well to this development as they stand to gain from it in the long-run. While in the short-run uncertainty is expected to prevail depending largely on the containment of virus.

¹ *Package may not reboot construction, DAWN.*

² *The real estate in Pakistan: Prospects and Challenges, THE NATION.*

Construction experts don't expect the work to continue in full swing before Eid-ul-fitar, even though the sector will be opened on April 14. This is due to the migrant workers, most of whom have headed to their homes and are not likely to return before Eid. Growth in real estate and construction sector is likely to pickup by the end of this fiscal year and long run prospects look even brighter. The intervention by the government has offered Rs. 30 billion as a subsidy for Naya Pakistan Housing though a lot remains to be done to solve the housing problems of the poor. As the growth seldom guarantees equity. Another point of concern in the return of overseas Pakistanis, as the remittances are a major source of investment in lower-middle and middle asset class. Therefore the growth maybe certain in near future, its fruits will not be shared by all. **(Written by Hamza Murad, a student at the Department of Development Studies, PIDE)**



A worker disinfecting a mosque in Karachi—Getty Images

Frequently Asked Questions

Are smokers and tobacco users at higher risk of COVID-19 infection?

Smokers are likely to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips which increases the possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth. Smokers may also already have lung disease or reduced lung capacity which would greatly increase risk of serious illness.

Smoking products such as water pipes often involve the sharing of mouth pieces and hoses, which could facilitate the transmission of COVID-19 in communal and social settings.

Conditions that increase oxygen needs or reduce the ability of the body to use it properly will put patients at higher risk of serious lung conditions such as pneumonia.

How many malaria-affected countries have reported cases of COVID-19?

Malaria-endemic countries in all WHO regions have reported cases of COVID-19. In the WHO African Region, which carries more than 90% of the global malaria burden, 37 countries had reported cases of the disease as of 25 March; of these, 10 countries reported local transmission of the disease

What additional special measures may be needed in the context of COVID-19?

In addition to routine approaches to malaria control, there may be a case for special measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic – such as a temporary return to presumptive malaria treatment, or the use of mass drug administration – which have proved useful in some previous emergencies.

Presumptive malaria treatment refers to treatment of a suspected malaria case without the benefit of diagnostic confirmation (e.g. through a rapid diagnostic test). This approach is typically reserved for extreme circumstances, such as disease in settings where prompt diagnosis is no longer available.

Mass drug administration (MDA) is a WHO-recommended approach for rapidly reducing malaria mortality and morbidity during epidemics and in complex emergency settings. Through MDA, all individuals in a targeted population are given antimalarial

medicines—often at repeated intervals—regardless of whether or not they show symptoms of the disease.

Such special measures should only be adopted after careful consideration of 2 key aims: lowering malaria-related mortality and keeping health workers safe. WHO is exploring concrete proposals for when and how to activate such measures; guidance will be published in due course.

Source: World Health Organization



A cow roaming freely in Bhara Kahu during lockdown-Getty Images

Feb. 13 — Overnight, China reports a spike in cases, with 14,840 cases in Hubei province. This is due to the fact that the Chinese government changed its reporting to include both laboratory-confirmed cases and clinically diagnosed cases. This includes a medical professional classifying a confirmed case on the basis of chest imaging. "We understand that most of these cases relate to a period going back over days and weeks and are retrospectively reported as cases, since some time back to the beginning of the outbreak itself," says Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme, during a press conference.

WHO is still only reporting laboratory-confirmed cases. The rest of the world is also only reporting laboratory-confirmed cases.

The third death from the virus outside of mainland China is confirmed in Japan. The previous deaths took place in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

There could be information in a matter of weeks about the impact of drugs currently in trial to treat the virus, according to WHO.

A successful vaccine will require huge investments, according to WHO. "Making a decision to advance a vaccine to phase one, phase two, phase three trials, requires hundreds of millions of dollars to be invested. We may have to invest in multiple candidates, without any certainty that one of them will work," WHO's Ryan says.

WHO says 17 countries in Africa now have the capacity to test for COVID-19. This is a clarification from Feb. 7, when WHO had said 28 countries in Africa have the capacity.

Feb. 14 — China reports that 1,716 health workers have contracted COVID-19 and that six of them have died. "We've seen this before with MERS, we've seen this before with SARS, we've certainly seen this with hemorrhagic fevers," says Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme, during a press conference. "Our understanding is that the cases amongst health workers peaked in the third and fourth week of January and that there has been a rapid fall-off in the number of cases that have occurred in health workers in the last two weeks."

Overall, the percentage of health workers infected with COVID-19 is lower than what has occurred historically in outbreaks of other kinds of coronaviruses, he says.

Egypt reports its first case of COVID-19. This is the first case confirmed on the African continent and the first new country to see a case since Feb. 4.

Feb. 15 — France reports the first death from COVID-19 outside of Asia — an 80-year-old tourist from Hubei province. In a speech at the Munich Security Conference, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called for an increase in funding to the response. “We’re concerned by the lack of urgency in funding the response from the international community,” he said.

Feb. 16 — An American woman who had been on a cruise ship that docked in Cambodia, tests positive for COVID-19 after flying to Malaysia. The ship originally set sail from Hong Kong on Feb. 1, with 1,455 passengers and 802 members of its crew.

Taiwan reports its first death from COVID-19, marking the fifth death from the virus outside of mainland China.

Feb. 17 — China publishes a paper with detailed information on more than 44,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. The data appears to show that COVID-19 is not as deadly as other types of coronaviruses, including severe acute respiratory syndrome and Middle East respiratory syndrome. The data shows that more than 80% of patients have mild disease; about 14% of cases lead to severe diseases, including pneumonia; about 5% of cases lead to critical diseases including respiratory failure, septic shock and multiorgan failure; and about 2% of reported cases lead to death. Mortality rates increase in older patients, with few cases among children.

"This new data addresses some of the gaps in our understanding, but others remain," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a press conference.

WHO switches methods for reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases, now aligning with how the Chinese government has reported cases since Feb. 13. WHO previously reported only laboratory-confirmed cases but now includes cases that are clinically confirmed via chest imaging.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/>

Experts' View

And this brings me to the question: can a curfew to counter corona be as smooth and effective, given that it is required to cover the whole country rather than a city or two? Well, a short answer is a forthright no, mainly in view of the government's inability to cater to a large out-of-work segment of our population, facilitating them to stay indoors. A full-fledged curfew does run the risk of triggering chaos at some point and ending up abruptly. However, dismissing curfew as an option and continuing with the soft lockdown is much riskier — for being potentially fatal. It could be all hell breaking loose, like in the US and Europe. It is, thus, worth the “dare” to test the potential of our administrative machinery at managing an effective curfew, with the help of our highly disciplined military as well as our selfless philanthropists and every-ready volunteers. **(Syed Asif Ali, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE)**

A better strategy to deal with the balancing between health and economic needs is to try to emulate what South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Taiwan have achieved. They have undertaken massive testing of the disease, isolated the patients, traced the contacts (sometimes with mobile phone apps) that have come in contact with positive cases and isolated them as well. In other words, a well-implemented strategy of testing, tracing, and isolation has spared the massive China-style lockdowns for these above-mentioned countries. It is important to learn from those countries and try to emulate them, given that Pakistan cannot afford a shut-open strategy due to economic compulsions. **(Foqia Sadiq Khan, THE NEWS)**

Experts' Opinion

Gender norms associate women with the care economy within the family and in the health sector. Women make up 70 percent of the workforce in the health sector in Pakistan. Nurses are at the frontline to provide essential healthcare to Corona patients. Nurses and paramedics have more direct physical contact with corona patients in quarantine and isolation wards. But, despite their integral role in patient care, nurses and paramedics are given less preference in providing personal protective gear that makes them more vulnerable and exposed to virus contraction. Furthermore, women are responsible for taking care of families, children and sick relatives in their homes. Due to lockdown measures, closure of workplaces and schools, family members are confined to their homes, which has increased domestic workload on women and girls. This situation has also given rise to domestic violence. The global spike in domestic violence had led UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to make an appeal for peace in homes around the world and urged all governments to put “women's safety first as they respond to the pandemic”. **(Farzana Bari, THE NEWS)**

The immediate challenge for the [Pakistan] government is to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, while minimising economic losses and protecting the poorest. In the medium-to-long term, the government should remain focused on implementing much needed structural reforms to boost private investment sustainably. **(World Bank)**

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

People of all ages can be infected by the new coronavirus (nCoV-2019).

Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

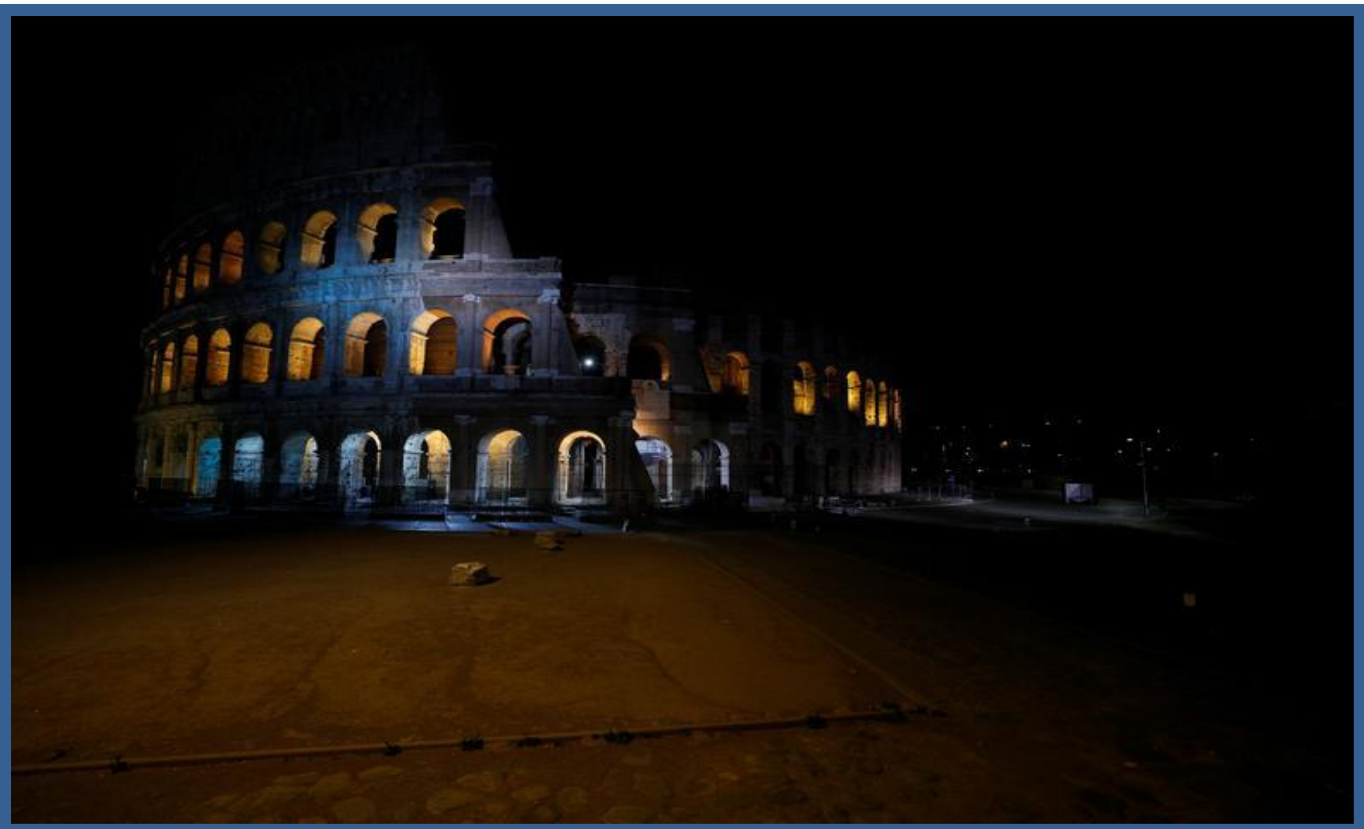
WHO advise people of all age to take steps to protect themselves from the virus, for example by following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.



World Health Organization

#Coronavirus

Does the new coronavirus affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible?



Empty colosseum on Good Friday sermon due to no public participation—*Reuters*

COVID-19 READS

1. **COVID-19: Economic impact, human solutions**
<https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/04/10/covid-19-economic-impact-human-solutions/>
2. **Covid-19 causes Britain's fastest economic contraction on record**
<https://www.economist.com/britain/2020/04/11/covid-19-causes-britains-fastest-economic-contraction-on-record>
3. **'Recruitment is on hold': the students graduating into the Covid-19 recession**
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/apr/10/recruitment-is-on-hold-the-students-graduating-into-the-covid-19-recession>
4. **SEO in the Age of COVID-19: Organic Impacts on the Retail Industry**
<https://www.searchenginejournal.com/seo-covid-19-retail-industry-impact/359168/>
5. **Market And Business Ties Often Determine Where COVID-19 Supplies Go**
<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/11/832176140/market-and-business-ties-often-determine-where-covid-19-supplies-go>
6. **How did coronavirus start and where did it come from? Was it really Wuhan's animal market?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/09/how-did-the-coronavirus-start-where-did-it-come-from-how-did-it-spread-humans-was-it-really-bats-pangolins-wuhan-animal-market>
7. **This visualisation shows what COVID-19 does to your body**
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/this-graphic-shows-what-covid-19-does-to-your-body>
8. **Coronavirus conspiracies like that bogus 5G claim are racing across the internet**
<https://techcrunch.com/2020/04/10/coronavirus-5g-covid-19-conspiracy-theory-misinformation/>
9. **Coronavirus symptoms: what are they and should I call the NHS?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/12/coronavirus-symptoms-what-call-the-nhs-fever-tiredness-cough>
10. **Social distancing is working, but when will things return to normal, and what will that look like?**
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/11/metro/social-distancing-is-working-when-will-things-return-normal-what-will-that-look-like/>
11. **Report: Trump ignored pleas to put social distancing practices in place, warnings of a pandemic**
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mattperez/2020/04/11/report-trump-ignored-pleas-to-put-social-distancing-practices-in-place-warnings-of-a-pandemic/#46af3637751f>
12. **Coronavirus world map: which countries have the most cases and deaths?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/12/coronavirus-world-map-which-countries-have-the-most-cases-and-deaths>

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