



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-84

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

1 773 084 confirmed (76 498)

111 652 deaths (5702)

Western Pacific Region

121 426 confirmed (1310)

4125 deaths (67)

European Region

913 349 confirmed (33 243)

77 419 deaths (3183)

South-East Asia Region

16 883 confirmed (842)

766 deaths (38)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

99 713 confirmed (3768)

5107 deaths (164)

Region of the Americas

610 742 confirmed (36 804)

23 759 deaths (2228)

African Region

10 259 confirmed (531)

464 deaths (21)



A barber in Peshawar is wearing a face mask as precautionary measure due to Corona virus—Reuters

Global News

- US coronavirus death toll tops 23,000
- UK chief adviser expects virus deaths' curve to plateau for 2-3 weeks.
- Turkey to impose fresh lockdown next weekend to halt Covid-19 spread: Erdogan.
- Canada coronavirus deaths rise by almost 9pc to 734.
- Putin says Russia may need the army to help battle coronavirus.
- Germany: Police attacked while enforcing social distancing measures.

Global Response

- Beijing to reopen some schools after coronavirus closures.
- COVID-19 pandemic offers chance for social sector, structural reforms: World Bank.
- European politicians, CEOs, lawmakers urge green coronavirus recovery.
- China tightens Russian border checks, approves experimental coronavirus vaccine trials.
- Beijing takes drastic measures to protect itself from second wave of virus.
- Nationwide lockdown in India extended till May 3: Modi.
- Taiwan introduces vending machines for face masks.
- New York, California and other states plan for reopening as coronavirus crisis eases.

Local News

- IMF acknowledges Pakistan's response to pandemic.
- Pakistan's virus cases doubling every 2 weeks: Tania Aidruss
- Pakistan grateful for China's cooperation in fighting coronavirus: NCOC.
- 68pc of Sindh's coronavirus patients are men, says Murad Ali Shah.
- 755 Zaireen quarantined in DG Khan have fully recovered, says Buzdar.
- Pakistan's Covid-19 recoveries surpass 1,000.
- 127 Pakistanis stranded in Azerbaijan evacuated via PIA flight: FO.
- Waste pickers across Pakistan remain vulnerable to coronavirus spread.



Two health workers in Spain mourning on the death of their colleague due to Covid-19—Reuters

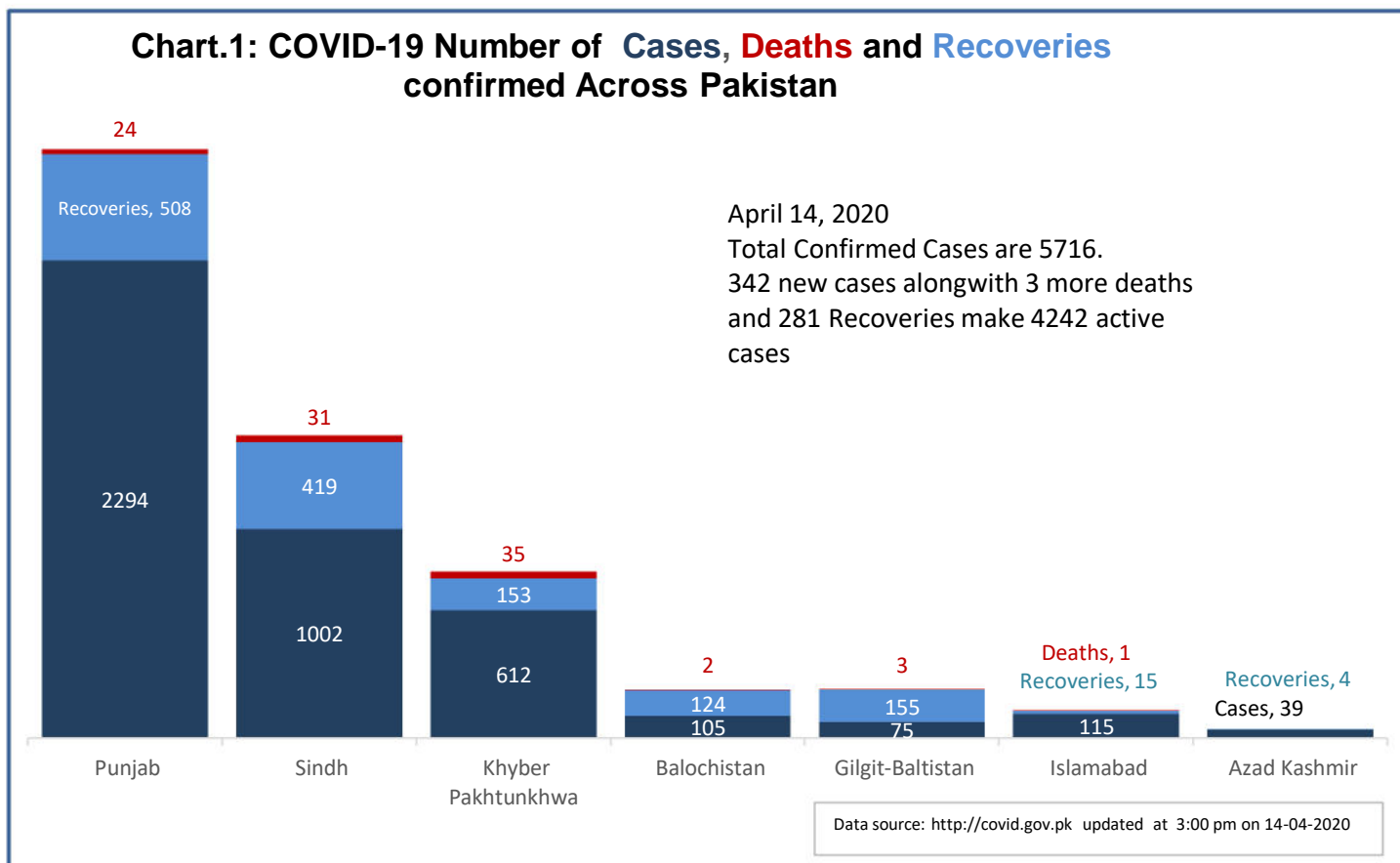
Local Response

- Face identification to also be used in Ehsaas programme: Awan.
- President Alvi visits GB to review steps taken to curb virus spread.
- Teleschool goes on air today to compensate for academic loss.
- Punjab establishes field hospitals in Rawalpindi and Sargodha for virus patients.
- 271 out of 274 pilgrims quarantined at Sukkur facility recovered.
- Train operations to remain suspended till April 24: minister.
- Man arrested in Jamshoro for illegally taking people to Peshawar.
- Blood donation camp set up in Multan amid acute shortage.
- Balochistan to start random COVID-19 testing from Wednesday: spokesperson.



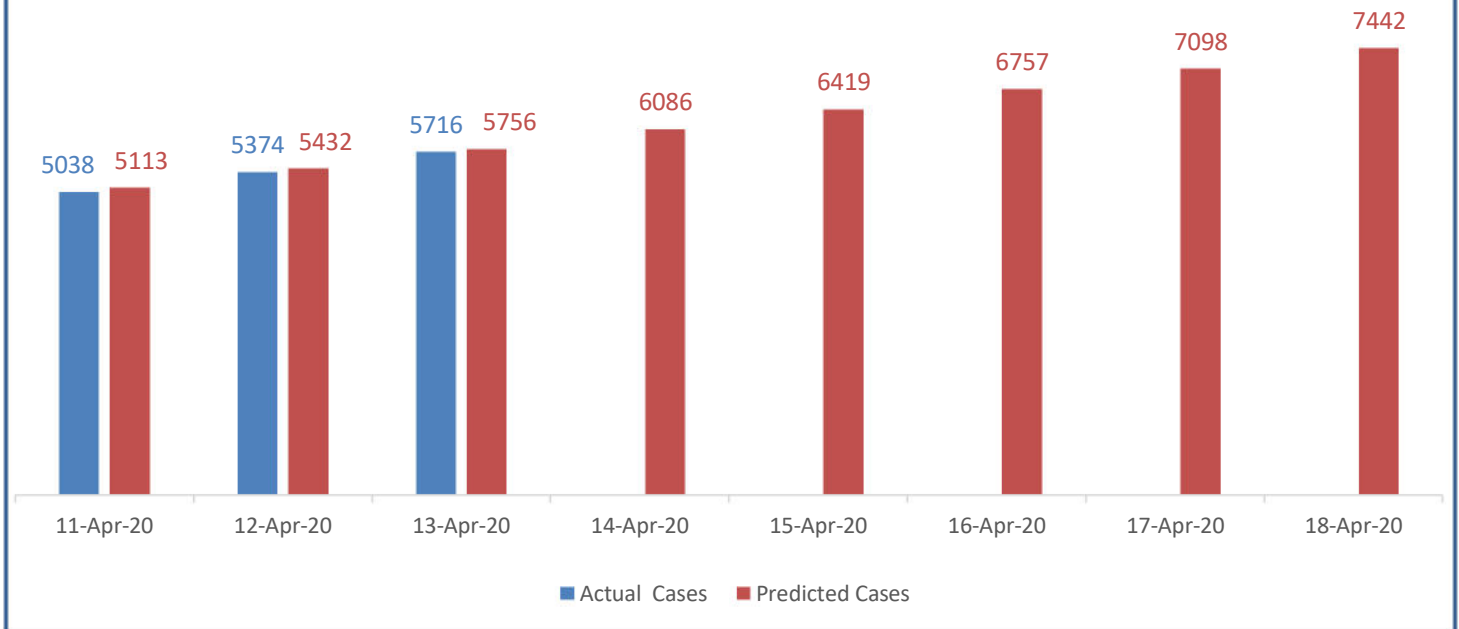
A health worker greets his daughter through the closed door as he maintains social distance from his family—*REUTERS*

During the last 24 hours, 342 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 5716. One death from Sindh, KP and Punjab each have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total of 96 deaths and 1378 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



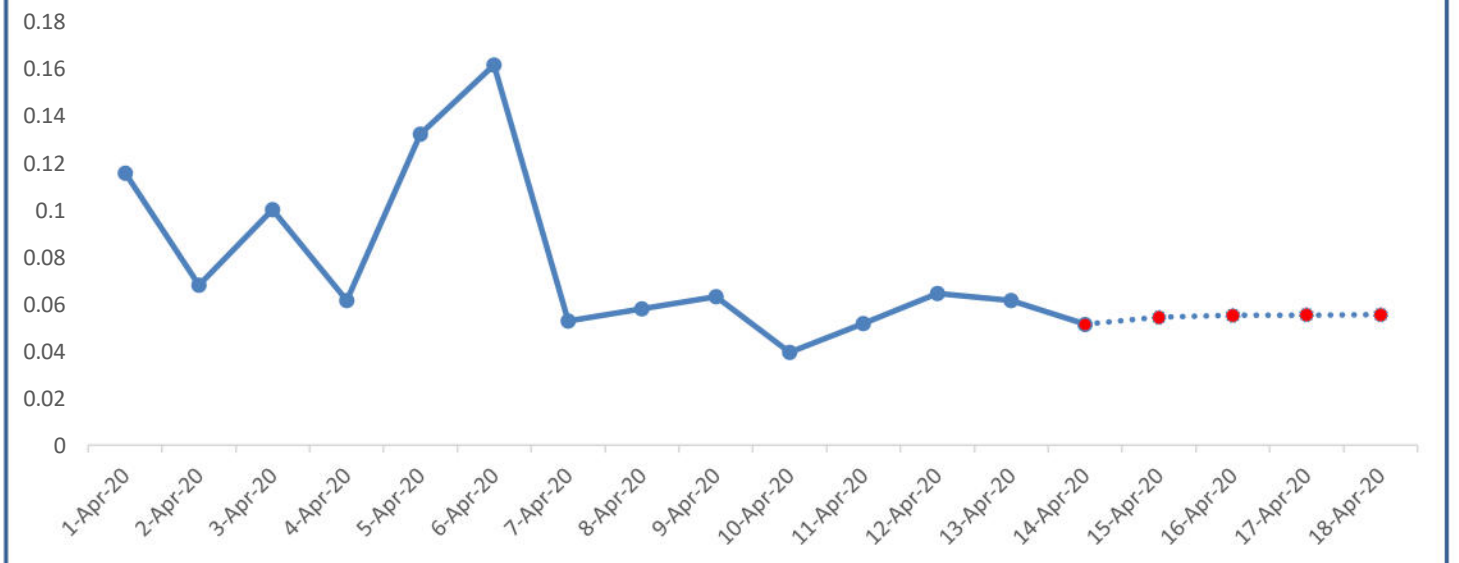
A careful track of COVID-19 cases and its sensible prediction is essential for necessary preparations to fight back pandemic. In Pakistan, the count increases manifold after mid-March 2020. Data set of infected cases after mid-March 2020 to 13th April 2020 is used to predict an estimated number of infected cases. Dynamic Econometric routine is employed to get the predicted values, it is observed that number of cases is not increasing exponentially but it shows cubic trajectory. To be justified and precise, only five days' prediction is estimated, see Chart.2. It is predicted that by the end of current week the total number of cases may rise to 7,442, which is just a fraction of cases in China and Italy during same period after first case is reported.

Chart.2: Actual & Predicted COVID-19 cases in PAKISTAN



Though the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing, but the growth rate of COVID-19 cases is pretty much stable after 7th April 2020. A careful forecast of growth rate shows a steady pattern till the end of the current week, see Chart.3. With general public awareness the spread can be controlled within next few weeks. In the presence of strong social bond and inherent best societal traditions, Pakistan is expected to achieve point of inflection much earlier than China and Italy.

Chart.3: Actual & Forecasted Growth Rate of COVID-19 caes in PAKISTAN



What is Behind the COVID-19?

Last year, the tyrant COVID arose and engulfed the whole world in no time and emergency declared on 11th of March, 2020 by the WHO. The whole world has become the victim of coronavirus and there is soaring trend in cases by every passing day. Moreover, the general population doesn't have any clue about what exactly is happening and why? What is behind this novel virus? Is it a game of trade or fear? What actually is it? And so on. In this article, some hidden aspects of this epidemic will be discussed and some facts will be uncovered that how this virus is a curse for some while blessing for others.

To commence with, thousands of people have lost their lives around the globe and around one million become the victim of this tyrant `virus worldwide. People are facing great fear after knowing the worsted situation of the advanced countries like USA, people have detached from each other. Consequently, people are not get effected only socially but mentally also like the case of German Finance minister Thomas Schaefer and the suicide of Karachi boy in Pakistan who killed himself after knowing that he is victim of this cruel virus. Continuous trend of job losses scared the people that how they will manage their daily life and how will they feed their families?

In a time. when the whole world is facing health threat; advanced countries are playing blame games as America named the virus as Chinese virus and Chinese foreign ministry claimed that the American soldiers had bring the virus to the China on purpose. Furthermore, American president Donald Trump issued a statement in February that 'the virus could perhaps disappear, we will see what happens. No one actually knows.' However, in a recent press conference he made projections that coronavirus could take probably 100,000 to 200,000 human lives in America. It seems to be contradictory and misleading stance as a president of world super power. Likewise, the UN secretary general Antonio Guterres also stated that the global pandemic will cause an economic downfall. When I attempted to understand the whole scenario, I am unable to understand that what actually COVID-19 wants? Is it a game of fear or something else?

We all know that everywhere either a group of friends or communities, there is a person who lead that group and same in the case of our world and every leading person try to use the powers, influence or something else means he/she use all the powers and influences to be remain the leader for the whole life or long term. And this a truth that some individuals from within that group try to become independent or some

starts seeing their self as a new leader of that group or community and same happened in case of world. They don't care about how it will affect the common people of that community or our beautiful world. Again, in the sense of COVID-19. What is it actually? A War of Trade or Fear? Or it is a weapon to remain the influential.

Maybe this is token for the influential group to insists the developing states or those who are facing strict economic conditions to remain in the influence of agents of change on their own terms and conditions or this is an attempt to implement the new world order. Our scholars neglecting this side of coin intentionally or unintentionally or they are in the need of happiness of the change actors or they forgot to look at this side.

It is also being said that it is a game played by the secret agencies and there are no real cases of corona virus in America because the American media did not show any dead bodies or the situations of their hospitals like Italy did. So, is the Chinese foreign ministry's statement true about America bring the virus to china and now is playing victim? Moreover, it could also be the scheme of some world top pharmaceutical industries to boost up their shares in the stock market or their trade in terms of medicines and other necessary medical equipment. The question is same, what actually is it? A game of trade or fear? So, the point to think that isn't the COVID-19 a special source of income for them? As the countries doing agreements for the medicines and medical equipment's with the actors.

It is a high time to think out of the box and understand the hidden aspects of the reality; instead of just believing what is being presented on the media. It is time to think that what if it is a planned biological war or is it a debt-trap? However, it has become dreadful for the whole world now and the great ratio of burden will be on the developing and third world countries.

It is like, they are hiding their true faces by selling and donating the masks and ventilators. It is time to think whether this virus is a war of trade by spreading the fear around the world. Or else, it is a token for agreements with developing or debt laden nations according to their terms, conditions. If they are helping the humanity based on the humanity principle then I would like to write a very beautiful sentence written in a novel named *THE INVISIBLE HEART: AN ECONOMIC ROMANCE* by Russel Roberts: "You should try to help people on their terms, not your own". **(Written by Abdul Khaliq, a student at the department of Economics and Econometrics, PIDE)**

Frequently Asked Questions

Is COVID-19 the same as SARS?

No. The virus that causes COVID-19 and the one that caused the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 are related to each other genetically, but the diseases they cause are quite different.

SARS was more deadly but much less infectious than COVID-19. There have been no outbreaks of SARS anywhere in the world since 2003.

How did the first human SARS-CoV-2 infections occur?

The first human cases of COVID-19 were identified in Wuhan City, China in December 2019. At this stage, it is not possible to determine precisely how humans in China were initially infected with SARS-CoV-2.

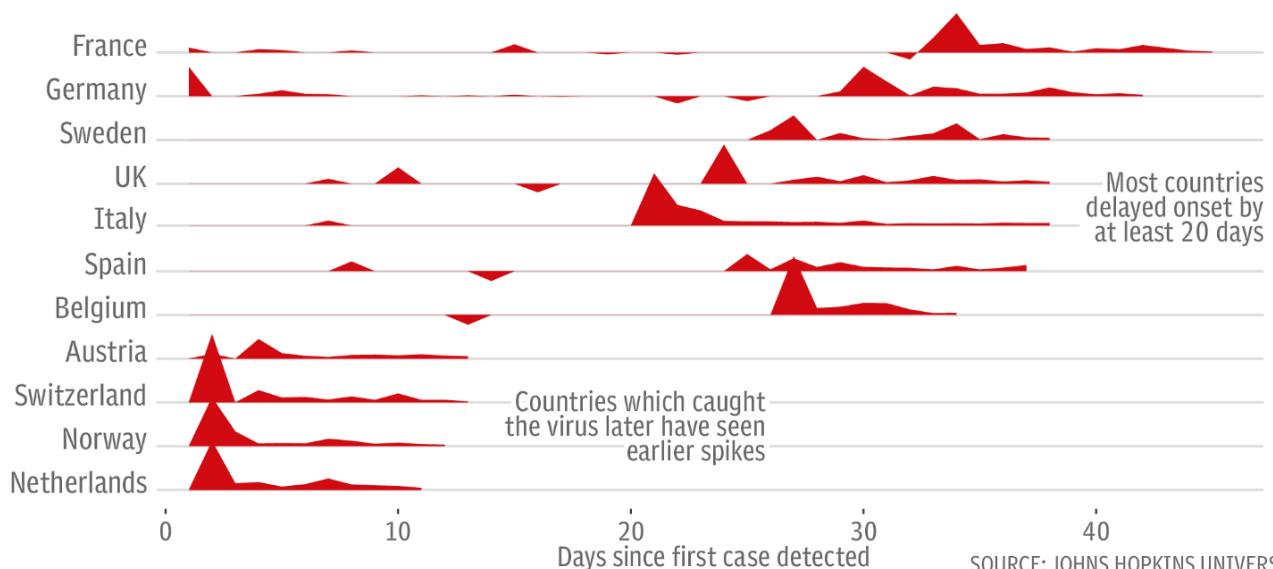
However, SARS-CoV, the virus which caused the SARS outbreak in 2003, jumped from an animal reservoir (civet cats, a farmed wild animal) to humans and then spread between humans. In a similar way, it is thought that SARS-CoV-2 jumped the species barrier and initially infected humans, but more likely through an intermediate host, that is another animal species more likely to be handled by humans - this could be a domestic animal, a wild animal, or a domesticated wild animal and, as of yet, has not been identified.

Until the source of this virus is identified and controlled, there is a risk of reintroduction of the virus in the human population and the risk of new outbreaks like the ones we are currently experiencing.

Source: World Health Organization

The spread of coronavirus in Europe

Daily change (%) in active cases since Covid-19 was first detected in each country



COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (Feb. 18, 2020 – Feb. 20, 2020)

Feb. 18 — There are currently 92 documented cases in 12 countries other than China in which human-to-human transmission of the virus has occurred. Liu Zhiming, director of the Wuchang Hospital in Wuhan, dies from COVID-19.

Countries work to evacuate their citizens from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, which is quarantined in Japan, as the number of COVID-19 cases on the ship surpasses 450. "Clearly there has been more transmission than expected on the ship, and I think the authorities in Japan are adjusting to that reality now and taking the necessary public health measures with other countries to evacuate people and deal with their follow up in a different way," says Ryan, during a press conference.

Feb. 19 — The death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 2,000.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS reports that, in a survey, nearly one-third of respondents living with HIV in China say they are at risk of running out of their HIV treatment in the coming days due to lockdowns and restrictions on movement amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

China revokes the press credentials of three Wall Street Journal reporters. The government's Foreign Ministry says the move was retribution for a recent opinion piece published by the media outlet. **Iran reports first COVID-19 cases.**

Feb. 20 — Peng Yinhua, a 29-year-old respiratory doctor in Wuhan, dies from COVID-19.

Iran reports five cases of COVID-19 in two days, two of which have resulted in death. These are the first deaths from COVID-19 in the Middle East.

South Korea sees a spike in cases, bringing its count to 104. The country now has the second-highest number of cases outside of mainland China. The new cases are concentrated in the city of Daegu and the surrounding North Gyeongsang province.

Outside of China, there are 1,076 cases in 26 countries, with seven deaths.

China has again changed the way that it classifies confirmed cases, removing the category of "clinically diagnosed," which includes the use of chest exams. "Some previously reported 'clinically diagnosed' cases are thus expected to be discarded over the coming days as laboratory testing is conducted and some are found to be COVID-19-negative," according to WHO.

"This virus is very dangerous, and it's public enemy No. 1. But it's not being treated as such, and one important indicator is the response, especially to financing the response," says WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during a press conference.

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

Experts' View

The global economy (hence all national economies) is expected to contract significantly and dangerously: people are not buying, and businesses will eventually shut down — no rocket science there. This will be a recession like no other. Double-digit unemployment and that too on the higher side is perhaps inevitable. With an unprecedented rise in non-performing loans, bank runs are probable. Commodity prices collapsing and global supply chains breaking down is a possibility. Free trade and free flow of currency may well become a memory. The future of paper currencies is highly uncertain, but definitely bleak. No point discussing the stock market, any broker will tell you it is always a buying market for some stupid reason! **(Syed Bakhtiyar Kazmi, DAWN)**

One can expect the employers to pay their staff on moral grounds, which is expected only by a small number of formal-sector employers as those running businesses in the informal sector have their own explanations against paying workers during the lockdown. The only short-term solution is to activate the existing tripartite mechanism in Sindh, in which workers, employers and the government come together to ensure that labourers are paid wages while businesses remain closed either as moral obligation or by law. It is equally important to learn from difficult situations and build systems and mechanisms which are more long-term, sustainable and credible to be relied upon both in normal and crisis situations. **(Zulfiqar Shah, DAWN)**

Experts' Opinion

No disease, not even a pandemic, is an equaliser. The mansions in Islamabad have drawn up their imaginary bridges and hide behind their high walls; others who can afford to have reduced their outings and are now either learning how to cook or yearning for company. But for many, life hasn't changed much...[I]t is not out of carelessness, as many (including politicians allege). As Ziaur Rehman, a Karachi-based journalist, points out, "No one is asking the poor why they are not staying in their homes." **(Arifa Noor, DAWN)**

On the question of preparing for the economic impact of Covid-19 on individuals, families, communities and the wider macroeconomic situation, I would argue that Pakistan has done remarkably well, both in terms of the range of its responses, as well as the tactics used. First, let's enumerate the responses. There is the Rs1.2 trillion Covid-19 relief package, the bulk of which was meant to put the business community at ease. Within this package is the Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme, meant to provide Rs12,000 to 12 million households. There is a construction industry stimulus, which is meant to offer big construction businesses a number of tax concessions and subsidies, and meant to offer low skill labour a large quantum of employment opportunities. In addition to these measures, there is a series of negotiations being conducted with the multilaterals, which has thus far yielded a \$1.4 billion IMF facility, and will likely generate both World Bank and Asian Development Bank loans. Finally, there is PM Khan's personal appeal for debt relief, an issue on which he is assuming global leadership. Now if the question is whether all of this will work, it is clearly too early to tell. But if the question is how this stands in terms of a range of responses, then the judgement has to be, quite emphatically, that this represents a remarkably timely, well-conceived, people-centric economic response to Covid-19. **(Mosharraf Zaidi, THE NEWS)**

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

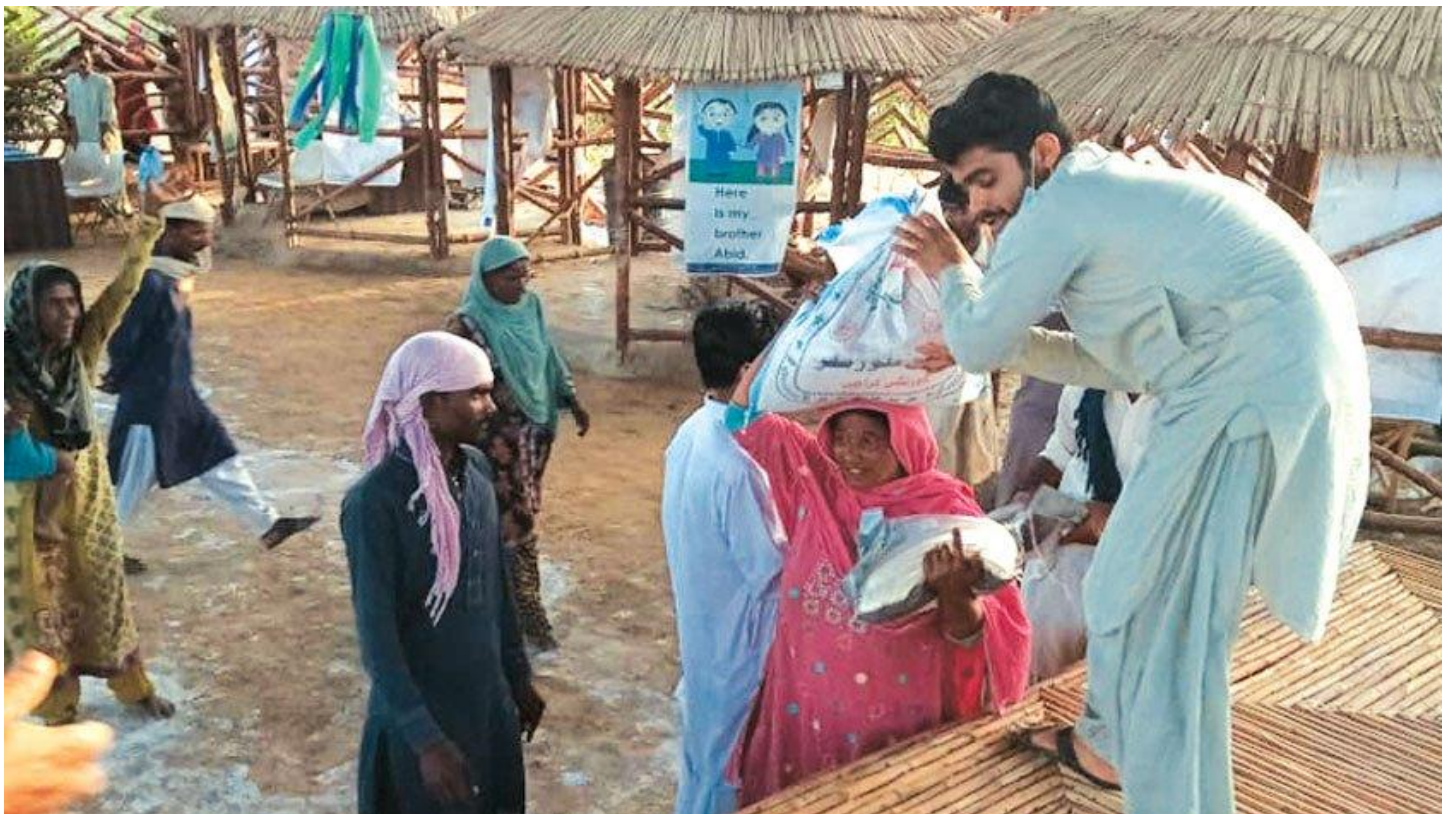
Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have developed a fever (i.e. have a higher than normal body temperature) because of infection with the new coronavirus.

However, they cannot detect people who are infected but are not yet sick with fever. This is because it takes between 2 and 10 days before people who are infected become sick and develop a fever.

How effective are thermal scanners in detecting people infected with the new coronavirus?



#2019nCoV



Ration distribution among the poor—*The News*

COVID-19 READS

1. **What We Know About The Silent Spreaders Of COVID-19**
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/04/13/831883560/can-a-coronavirus-patient-who-isnt-showing-symptoms-infect-others>
2. **Social Distancing Measures in China Reduced Magnitude of COVID-19 Peak**
<https://www.pulmonologyadvisor.com/home/topics/lung-infection/social-distancing-measures-in-china-reduced-magnitude-of-covid-19-peak/>
3. **What we know right now about Covid-19 immunity and the end of social distancing**
<https://www.vox.com/2020/4/13/21219727/coronavirus-covid-19-immunity-social-distancing-end>
4. **Coronavirus: how much of Covid-19's social distancing is here to stay?**
<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/3079655/video-talking-solitary-walking-how-much-covid-19s-social>
5. **Coronavirus map of the US: latest cases state by state**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/apr/13/coronavirus-map-us-latest-covid-19-cases-state-by-state>
6. **Milwaukee's Covid-19 spread highlights the disparities between white and black**
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/14/milwaukees-covid-19-spread-highlights-the-disparities-between-white-and-black>
7. **How Long Does It Take To Recover From COVID-19?**
<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/04/13/833412729/how-long-does-it-take-to-recover-from-covid-19-and-how-long-are-you-infectious>
8. **Column: Experts lose enthusiasm for chloroquine coronavirus treatment promoted by Trump**
<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-04-13/experts-lose-enthusiasm-chloroquine>
9. **Coronavirus treatments: Hydroxychloroquine, vaccines and drugs for COVID-19**
<https://www.cnet.com/how-to/coronavirus-treatments-hydroxychloroquine-vaccines-and-drugs-for-covid-19/>
10. **Trial of chloroquine to treat COVID-19 stopped early due to heart complications**
<https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-chloroquine-study-stopped-early.html>
11. **China approves two coronavirus vaccines for human trials**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/china-approves-coronavirus-vaccines-human-trials-200414083310079.html>
12. **'A perfect storm': poverty and race add to Covid-19 toll in US deep south**
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/12/coronavirus-us-deep-south-poverty-race-perfect-storm>

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