



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-110

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

3 855 788 cases (95 845)

265 862 deaths (6388)

Western Pacific Region

1 585 23 cases (1076)

6449 deaths (55)

European Region

1 682 338 cases (27993)

154 233 deaths (2054)

South-East Asia Region

90 808 cases (4514)

3204 deaths (129)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

246 022 cases (8699)

8748 deaths (140)

Region of the Americas

1 636 841 cases (50712)

91 893 deaths (3963)

African Region

40 544 cases (2851)

1322 deaths (47)



Shopkeepers wait for a government notification regarding the reopening of markets outside Rabi Centre in Rawalpindi on Saturday—*Photo by Tanveer Shahzad/Dawn*

Global News

- COVID-19: Pakistan is the 20th most affected country from virus.
- Covid-19 Pandemic: Documents show top White House officials buried CDC reopening guidelines.
- Global death toll from Covid-19 surpasses 278,000.
- Coronavirus: Germany infection rate rises as lockdown eases.
- Former President Barack Obama describes the US response to the coronavirus crisis as "an absolute chaotic disaster".
- France records its lowest daily number of coronavirus deaths for more than a month, with 80 in 24 hours.
- Iran warns of virus resurgence after 51 new deaths.
- Saudi Arabia reports 1,704 new cases as country eases restrictions in Madina.

Global Response

- YouTube to provide \$5m to Pakistan as Covid-19 aid.
- Coronavirus: UK sent 50,000 Covid-19 samples to US for testing.
- Coronavirus: Boris Johnson to launch threat level alert system.
- Coronavirus: Russian hospital staff 'working without masks'.
- South Korea closes bars after cluster outbreak.
- "It's not over until it's over," South Korea's President Moon says as he warns of second wave later this year.
- Preschoolers return as Israel further eases coronavirus curbs.
- Malaysia extends curbs on movement, businesses to June 9.
- ADB to dedicate \$200m to assist struggling countries to combat virus.

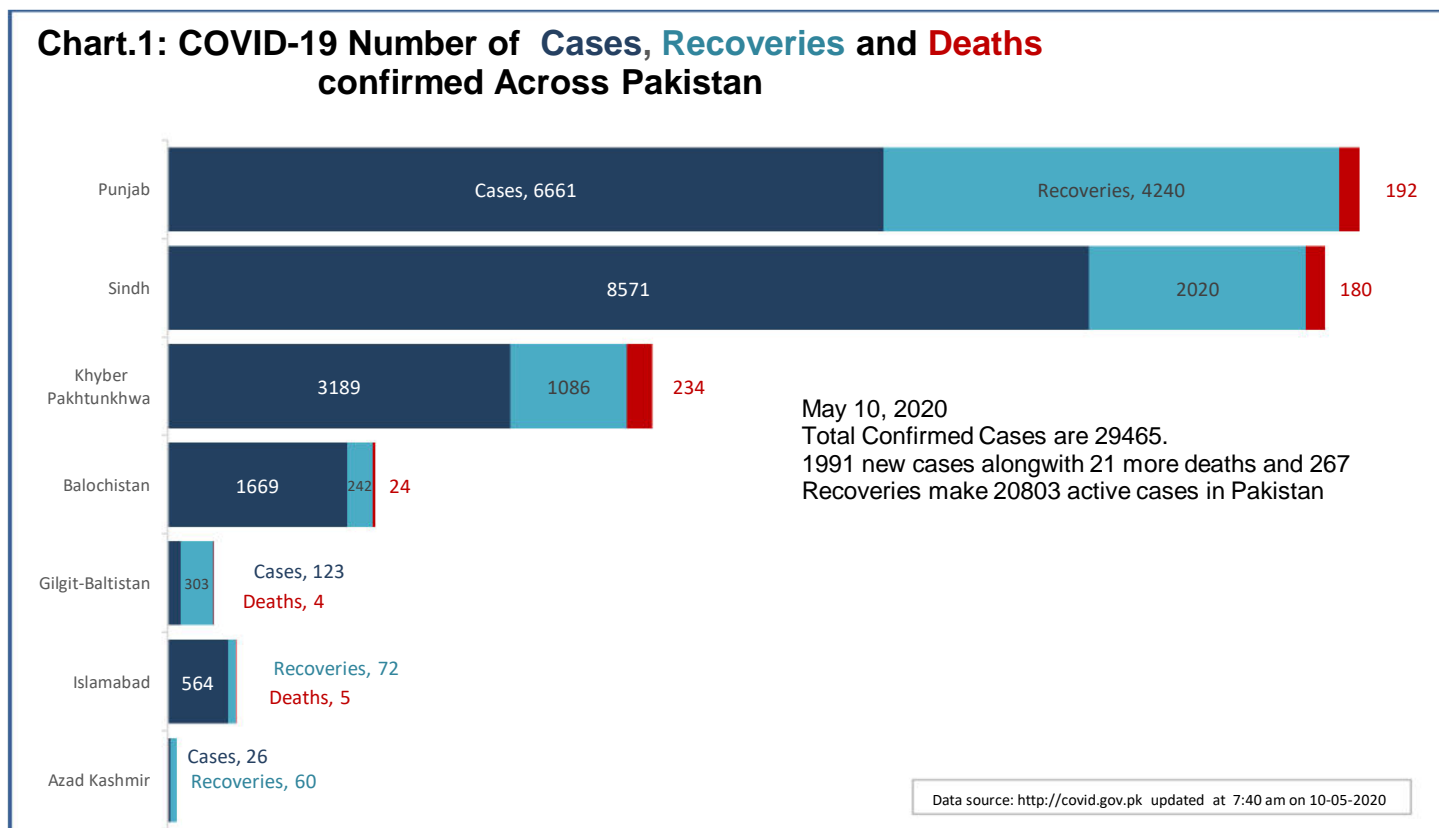
Local News

- Lockdown to be lifted in phases starting Saturday: PM Imran.
- 15 police officials tested for coronavirus in Hyderabad.
- Sunday bazaar stallholders protest in Islamabad, demand govt. allow businesses to reopen in 24 hours.
- 151 policemen in Sindh affected by coronavirus.
- 622 new cases take Punjab's tally over 11,000.
- Lockdown in Islamabad extended for 3 weeks with certain exemptions.
- PPP's Rehman Malik urges govt. to bear cost of virus tests for the poor.
- 58 new cases take Balochistan's tally to 1,935.

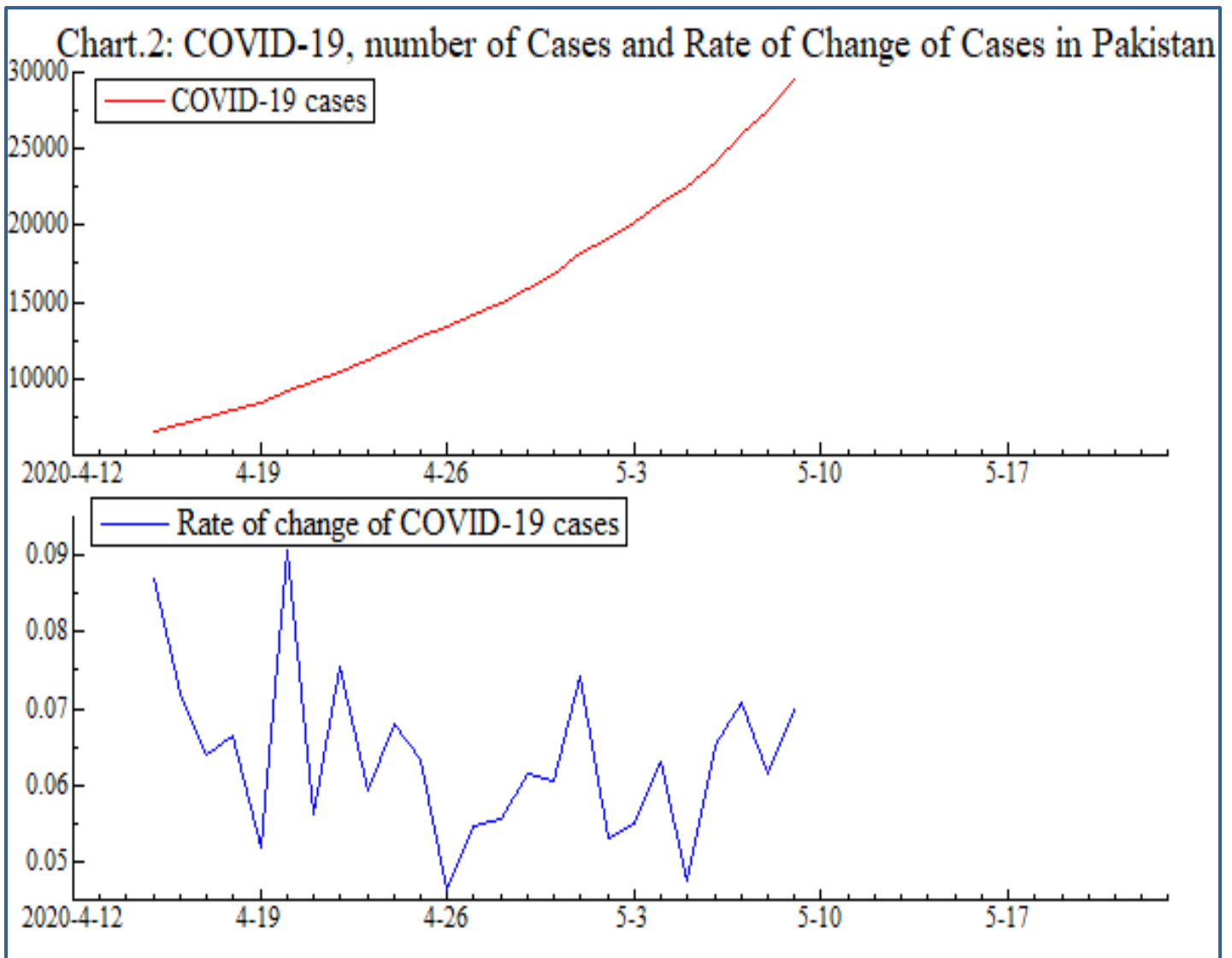
Local Response

- Mistreatment of corona patients' intolerable: PM Imran Khan
- Pakistan shelves plan for offshore storages of oil.
- Sindh govt. to reopen secretarial offices of nine administrative depts from tomorrow.
- Govt. aware of difficulties being faced by citizens due to lockdown: Usman Dar.
- Capital admin issues new SOPs for citizens returning from abroad.
- Virus hotspots being identified through technology, Govt. to implement 'smart lockdown' based on data gathered, says Umar.
- Pakistan Railways seeks resumption of train service before Eid.
- 14 new recoveries recorded in Pakistan.

During the last 24 hours, 1991 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 29465. Thirteen deaths from KP, five from Sindh and one from Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad each have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 639 deaths and 8023 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



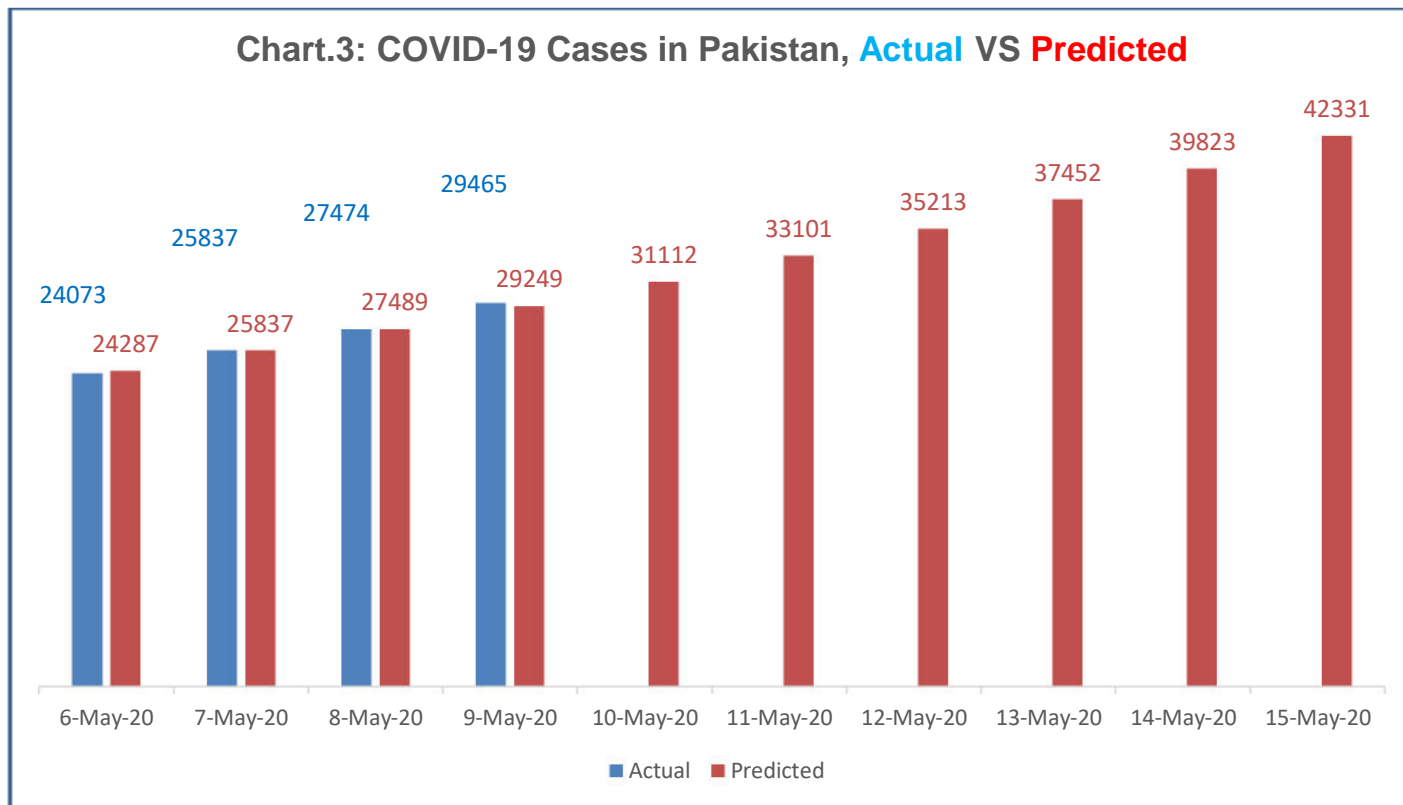
Since the lockdown was eased on 15 April 2020, the number of COVID-19 cases increased manifold. Social interaction is highly cohesive phenomenon; a minute breach triggers the greater momentum. Interaction within closed group immunizes the group against diseases prevailing within the group members; any interaction outside the group may bring breach of resistance in the group. With general public awareness about social distancing the spread can be controlled. Though the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing monotonically, but the growth rate (rate of change) of COVID-19 cases is pretty much fluctuating and shows a mean reversion behavior around mean growth rate of 6%, during 15th April 2020 to 9th May 2020, see Chart.2. In the presence of strong social bond and inherent best societal traditions, Pakistan is expected to achieve point of inflection much earlier than China, Iran and Italy.



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, till now the time series analysis reveals that the growth is not exponential but polynomial of degree three. We have sensibly forecasted COVID-19 cases in our previous PIDE Newsletter series No.09 and No.22, and correctly predicted that the number of COVID-19 cases is not increasing exponentially in Pakistan but the trend is polynomial.

On 15th April 2020 lockdown was eased since then the government interventions are relaxed and the level of social distancing is decreased. We analyze the post soften lockdown data of infected cases after mid-April 2020 to 9th May 2020 and predict an estimated number of infected cases. Dynamic Econometric routine is employed to get the predicted values, it is again confirmed that number of COVID-19 cases is not

increasing exponentially but it shows cubic trajectory during the period under analyses. To be justified and precise, only six days' prediction is estimated, see Chart.3. It is predicted that by the mid-May 2020 the total number of cases may cross 40,000 barrier which is still a fraction of cases in China, Iran, Italy and other countries during same period after first case was reported.



Integration of Stern's economic ideas into a case for Pandemics and natural disasters.

It is interesting to note that the Science of climate change in the previous two to three decades (to be least exact) has been instrumental in predicting the future scenarios globally. However, on close examination of the contemporary history of governance pertaining to the climatic change can be deemed as lackadaisical, if not abysmal.

The United Nations framework convention (1992) on climate change and the resulting Kyoto protocol (1997) has set some bedrock for the foundation of climate change governance. Although, the conflicting political and economic interests of Power Giants aka USA and China has led the advancement to a deadlock on the basis of protocol's technicalities, despite the backing of a lot of scientific data and model predictions on the repercussions of current economic system.

Nicholas stern was probably the first economist who realized that the political will can only be evoked by indicating the economic cost associated with the climate change. In 2006, with the publication of notorious 'stern review' gave certain impetus to the idea of un-sustainability of current global regime of un-fettered capitalism and the risk of business as usual activities in corporate world. This report along with the IPCC (Intergovernmental panel on climate change) assessment reports indicate a grim picture of the 21st century.

According to conservative estimations, a rise of 1-3 degree in global temperature and the extinction of many polar species, along with rise in sea levels due to glacier melting with mammoth economic costs to the global GDP, hazards of food insecurity in the third world and population displacements in the coastal regions have been predicted.

The case in point is 'Wuhan fish market' in china, notwithstanding its ethical or moral implications, can be attributed to the unsafe corridors of capitalist pathway and human greed. Natural and health disaster, if viewed more generally and holistically tells us a story in one phrase that 'we are only as much stronger as our weakest link' and what we are experiencing in these turbulent times are an exposition of many weaker links.

Still, there are many lessons to be learned by the global leadership in these dark times as Antonio Gramsci has rightly observed that we need to be more pessimistic by intellect and more optimistic by will.

Written by: Tabish Ayaz, a student at Department of Environmental Economics, PIDE

Frequently Asked Questions

What can older people do to prepare for COVID-19 in their community?

There is a lot that you can do to prepare for COVID-19 in your community.

- Inform yourself of the special measures taken in your community as well as the services and the sources of reliable information that are available during the health emergency (e.g. home deliveries, psychosocial support, health ministry website, alternative access to your pension).
- Create a list of the basic supplies that you will need for at least two weeks and try to get these delivered where possible (e.g. non-perishable food items, household products, batteries for assistive devices you may use, and prescription medicines). Alternatively, ask family members, caregivers, neighbours or community leaders to help with ordering and/or delivery of groceries or prescription medicines. Make sure that your mobile phone credit is topped up and identify a safe place to charge your phone regularly so that you can keep in contact with family and friends and reach emergency services if needed.
- Make a list of emergency numbers (e.g. COVID-19 local helpline, nearby hospital and health emergencies numbers, hotline for victims of abuse, psychosocial support hotline) and support contacts (e.g. family members and friends, main caregiver, community care worker, associations of older persons). If you live alone, you may wish to share this list and ask your neighbours, family or caregiver to be in touch regularly, for example, by phone or video chat.
- Discuss with your health-care worker how your health needs can be addressed during COVID-19. This may involve postponing non-urgent appointments, talking to your doctor or health-care worker by phone or video chat instead of in person and/or revising your vaccination schedule.
- If you rely on the support provided by a caregiver, identify with him or her another person that you trust to support your daily living and care needs in case your caregiver is unable to continue to provide care. Together, you can note down all the personal care and assistance that you require and how it should be provided and share it with this trusted person so that they can be ready to provide care in case of need.

- If you are the primary caregiver of another person who is care dependent (e.g. grandchild, older spouse, child with a disability), identify a person that you and the person that you care for trust to take on your caregiving responsibilities in case you fall sick. Local authorities or volunteer organizations that provide support in these situations in your community might be able to help.
- If multiple people live in your home, if possible prepare a separate room or space in your home so that anyone showing symptoms compatible with COVID-19 can be isolated from others. If you do not have space for self-isolation, contact your community leaders or local health authorities to see if there is community space that could help you or other household members self-isolate/
- Think about what matters most to you regarding care and support, including medical treatment, in case something happens to you and you are unable to make your own decisions. If you want to develop an advanced care plan to record your treatment and care wishes, you can talk about it with your health-care worker or someone that you trust. You can write down your wishes and share them with people you trust.

Source: World Health Organization



Pupils sitting behind partition boards made of plexiglass attend a class at the school—Reuters

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (March 16, 2020 — March 17, 2020)

March 16—For the first time since the beginning of the outbreak, infections and deaths outside China surpass those within China.

The Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation are sending 500,000 testing kits and 1 million masks in donations to the U.S.

"We have also seen a rapid escalation in social distancing measures, like closing schools and cancelling sporting events and other gatherings. But we have not seen an urgent enough escalation in testing, isolation and contact tracing — which is the backbone of the response," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesu says during a press conference.

"This is the defining global health crisis of our time," he said.

WHO announces its staff is now working through "teleworking arrangements," except for workers whose position requires them to access the agency's facilities.

Somalia, Benin, Liberia, and Tanzania report first cases of COVID-19.

March 17—Bloomberg Philanthropies announces \$40 million for a COVID-19 global response initiative to prevent and slow the spread in low- and middle-income countries. This includes funding rapid response teams, training health care workers, increasing lab capacity, measuring acceptance of social distancing activities through phone surveys, providing communications support for public education campaigns, and providing expertise for health organizations. It will have a "strong focus" on African nations.

WHO confirms two staff members at its Geneva headquarters tested positive with COVID-19.

Cases of COVID-19 surpass 480 in Southeast Asia. WHO calls on countries in the region "to urgently scale-up aggressive measures" to combat its spread.

The International Organization for Migration and The UN Refugee Agency temporarily suspend refugee resettlement departures to reduce the spread of the virus.

The World Bank Group announces an additional \$2 billion in funding to help with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Montenegro, Barbados, Gambia, and Montserrat report first cases of COVID-19.

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

Experts' View

It is true that Pakistan has so far been fortunate in not suffering a heavy loss of life or a massive spread of the virus. However, when other countries have allowed relaxation once the graph of infection was coming down after crossing its peak, we have done it when the number of cases and fatalities are steadily rising. **(Ghazi Salahuddin, THE NEWS)**

Highlighting flaws in the government strategy, experts said no plan had been announced yet to protect healthcare workers so far as shortage of personal protective equipment continued amid growing cases of infection among healthcare workers.

(Imran Ayub, DAWN)

The top priority is to strengthen regional health security. Investing in early warning, surveillance and rapid response systems, cross-border information sharing, and other forms of cooperation are critical to preventing and managing communicable diseases.

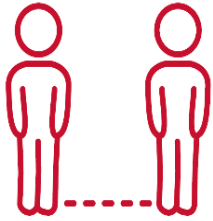
(Xinglan Hu / Kirthi Ramesh / Mariya Khatiwada Savchuk, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE)

Experts' Opinion

According to an age-wise analysis, the virus proved most fatal for those in 50-60 year age bracket as such patients make 32pc of the total victims. The patients between 61 to 70 years of age were the second-most vulnerable group as 27pc of those who died from Covid-19 fall in it. **(Asif Chaudary, DAWN)**

The world is still grappling with the brutal global economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pakistan has also experienced severe economic distress due to the disease. As if that were not enough, it is now certain that enormous locust swarms are set to invade Sindh after May 15. The swarms could devastate agriculture not only in Sindh but in other parts of the country as well by devouring precious crops. This could further weaken Pakistan's economy and trigger a food crisis. During the 41st Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) meeting of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Addis Ababa in December 2019, it was stated by the Iranian delegate that the level of infestation in Iran in 2019 was the highest in 50 years! The situation is, therefore, grim for Pakistan too. **(Shariq Jamal Khan, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE)**

Advice for the employees and employers: Workdenmark



Plan work so that employees can keep a distance to each other



Make wash basins or hand sanitizer available



Minimise contact with others



Make regular cleaning a top priority



Circles on the ground indicating where to sit and stand in a tramway in Nice, France



Customers wearing facemasks shop at a market after the government eased the nationwide lockdown, in Islamabad—*Getty Images*



Security personnel stand guard at a barricade near a market after the government eased the nationwide, in Lahore—*Getty Images*

COVID-19 READS

1. **Coronavirus has exposed the dangerous failings of NHS marketisation**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/05/coronavirus-nhs-marketisation-pandemic>
2. **This is what you should be demanding from your government to contain the virus**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/04/eight-lessons-controlling-coronavirus-east-asian-nations-pandemic-public-health>
3. **What the 1918 flu pandemic tells us about whether social distancing works**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/29/us-responses-1918-flu-pandemic-offer-stark-lessons-coronavirus-now>
4. **To soften the mental health impact of coronavirus, Hong Kong must take better care of the vulnerable**
<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3083457/soften-mental-health-impact-coronavirus-hong-kong-must-take-better>
5. **How the coronavirus pandemic can help us prepare for the next predictable surprise – the climate crisis**
<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3083683/how-coronavirus-pandemic-can-help-us-prepare-next-predictable>
6. **Trade union threats show the contours of the great post-Covid political battles to come**
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/09/trade-union-threats-show-contours-great-post-covid-political/>
7. **Containing Coronavirus: What Pakistan Can Learn From Germany**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/containing-coronavirus-what-pakistan-can-learn-from-germany/>
8. **Lockdown Is Over. Let's Learn How To Live With The Coronavirus**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/lockdown-is-over-lets-learn-how-to-live-with-the-coronavirus/>
9. **COVID-19 cases top 4m amid soaring joblessness, second wave fears**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/05/covid-19-cases-top-4m-soaring-joblessness-wave-fears-200510063153275.html>
10. **Amid the coronavirus, bailing out mosques is essential**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/coronavirus-bailing-mosques-essential-200505124520195.html>
11. **Coronavirus: Does being overweight or obese affect how ill people get?**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52561757>
12. **Coronavirus: How to cope with living alone in self-isolation**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-52196816>

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