

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-131

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

5 817 385 cases (116 048)

362 705 deaths (5 017)

Western Pacific Region

180 446 cases (1 944)

7 014 deaths (33)

European Region

2 122 350 cases (19 776)

179 353 deaths (975)

South-East Asia Region

249 525 cases (11 445)

7 157 deaths (313)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

489 921 cases (14 502)

12 078 deaths (245)

Region of the Americas

2 677 500 cases (64 408)

154 608 deaths (3 396)

African Region

96 902 cases (3 973)

2 482 deaths (55)



People are shopping in a market in Karachi without following SoPs—*Getty Images*

Global News

- US CDC reports total of 1.74m coronavirus cases, 102,785 deaths.
- Russia reports 181 new coronavirus deaths, down from Friday's record high.
- Brazil Covid-19 death toll hits 27,878, surpassing hard-hit Spain.
- More than 364,000 coronavirus deaths reported around the world.
- Trump says US 'terminating' relationship with WHO.
- Sanofi stops enrolling Covid-19 patients in hydroxychloroquine trials.
- France sees 52 more virus deaths, no sign of epidemic resurging.
- Portugal approves third phase of lockdown exit, Lisbon takes it slow.

Global Response

- Sri Lanka fears new virus outbreak after funeral breaks curfew.
- India announces major easing of coronavirus lockdown.
- Chinese vaccine could be ready by year-end, government body says.
- Saudi Arabia to open Prophet's Mosque to public in stages from Sunday.
- England want ICC to allow coronavirus substitutes.
- England easing Covid-19 lockdown too soon, scientific advisers warn.
- Mosques in Iran to resume daily prayers, president says.
- 30 countries including Pakistan launch alliance to share Covid-19 tools
- UK announces £4.39m aid to help Pakistan's coronavirus response.

Local News

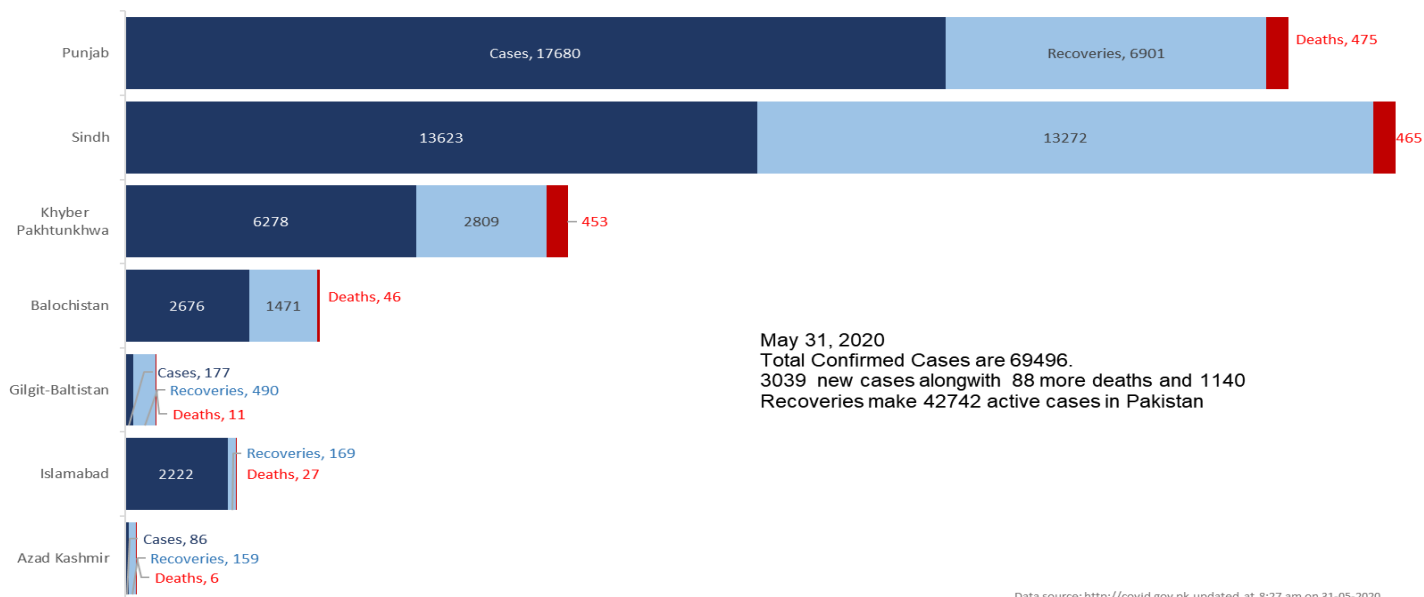
- Pakistan reports most number of COVID-19 cases, deaths over 24 hours.
- Senior pathologist in Peshawar succumbs to coronavirus, raising death toll of doctors to 18.
- KP's Covid-19 case tally tops 10,000 as 487 new cases reported in last 24 hours.
- Punjab reports 952 new cases, 36 more fatalities from virus.
- Sindh reports 885 new coronavirus cases, 16 more deaths.
- Pakistan's coronavirus recoveries top 25,000.
- Pakistan's local transmission rate is 92pc, says SAPM Mirza.

Local Response

- Private hospitals in Sindh can now set up isolation wards to treat Covid-19 patients: Wahab
- SAPM Yusuf clarifies only outbound international flights allowed to resume.
- 2,000 Pakistanis to be repatriated daily from June 1 to 10: SAPM Yusuf.
- 25pc of our hospital assets are engaged right now: Mirza.
- KP govt reopens non-Muslim places of worship.
- Schools in Sindh will not open on June 1.
- Careem restarts rickshaw rides in Karachi.
- Wearing of masks at public places mandatory now.

During the last 24 hours, 3039 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 69496. Thirty-eight deaths from Sindh, thirty-six from Punjab, eight from KP, four from Islamabad and two from Gilgit-Baltistan have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total of 1483 deaths and 25271 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1. The increase in incidence of cases during past seven days i.e. since May 24, 2020, is of 14895 new cases with 350 deaths and 8073 more recoveries.

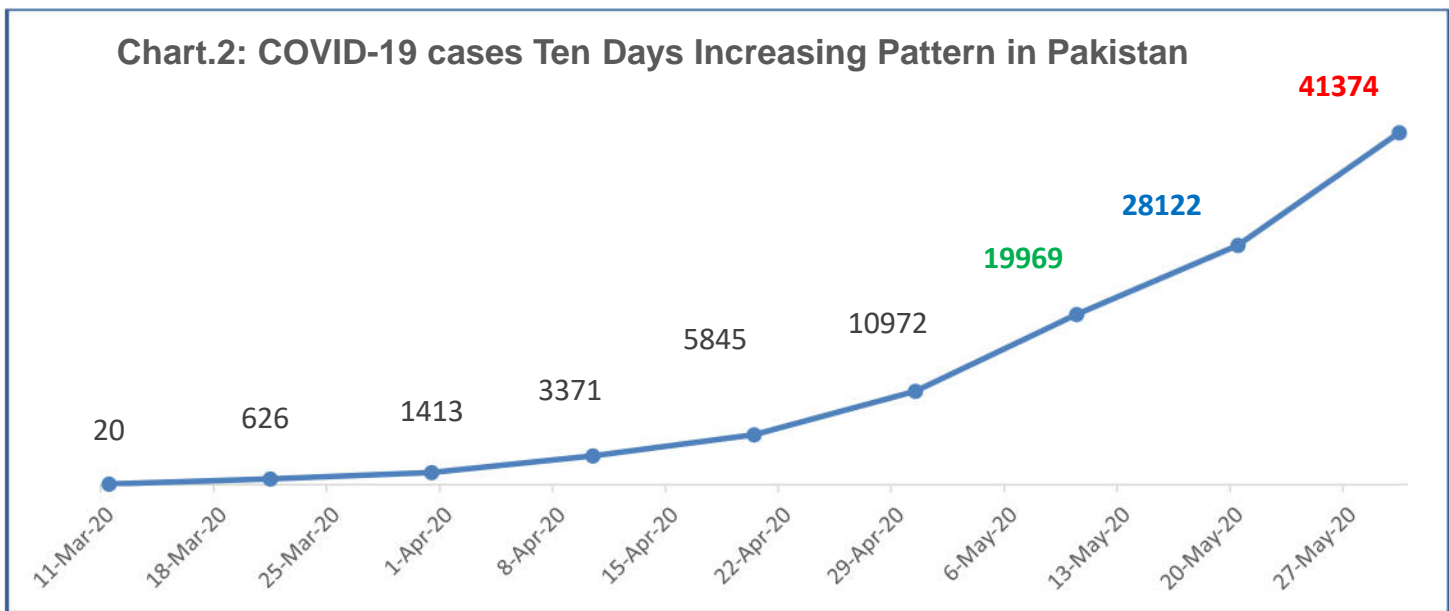
Chart.1: COVID-19 Number of Cases, Recoveries and Deaths confirmed Across Pakistan



The COVID-19 case counts in Pakistan are constantly rising since the report of the index case on Feb 26, 2020. Since the ease of lockdown on 15 April 2020 the number of cases increased manifold. From 12 May 2020 the lockdown was eased further and during last week of the holy month of Ramadan mega shopping malls and distinct markets were partially opened. The month of May 2020 remained worst ever, during the month more than fifty thousand new cases added. In last ten days from 21 May 2020 to 30 May 2020 more than forty thousand new cases reported, the highest ever reported cases with in ten days. During the month of May 2020, in the first ten days the number of COVID-19 cases was about twenty thousand in next ten days about twenty thousand cases reported, see Chart.2.

In early days since the first COVID-19 case reported, Federal and Provincial governments reacted adequately within their available resources to reduce the impact of the Pandemic. Although the current intensity of disease in Pakistan is much lower than many other countries but with in the region (South Asia) Pakistan stands at worst position (ref: PIDE NL no.39). A constant effort is needed to contain the spread of COVID-19 so that health sector can deal with the patients in coming days.

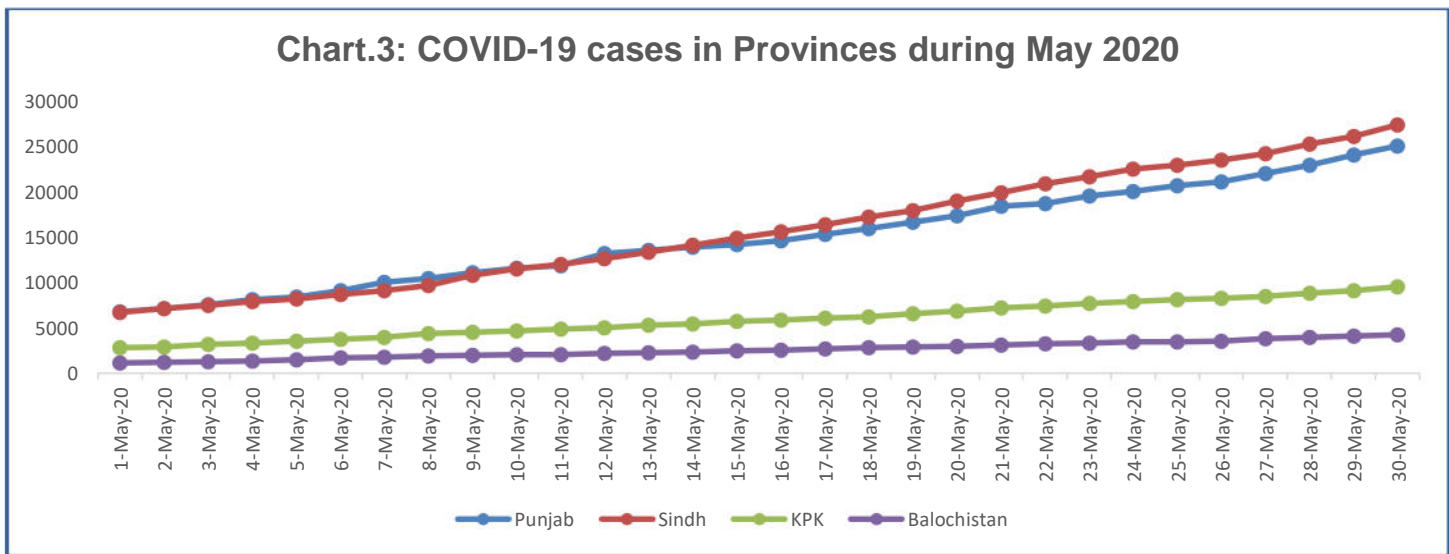
Chart.2: COVID-19 cases Ten Days Increasing Pattern in Pakistan



In all provinces of Pakistan, COVID-19 infected cases increase manifold during May 2020. It is observed that 12 May 2020 was the turning point and afterwards number COVID-19 cases increased rapidly. 12 May is the day when religious activities started, largely in Sindh, amid pressure by clergymen; the government intervention eased all over Pakistan and masses started violation of social distancing. After 12 May 2020 the number COVID-19 cases in Sindh crossed cases in Punjab, see Chart.3.

The effect of COVID-19 is reported to reflect with in seven to twenty days after getting infected. The effect of Eid holidays is yet to come, it means an increasing pattern may be observed in few coming days but it is not unusual. With continuous awareness campaign to change the Personnel Normative Belief (PNB) of masses, Pakistan will defeat the virus.

Chart.3: COVID-19 cases in Provinces during May 2020



Frequently Asked Questions

How can food businesses remain safe from virus contamination?

The main priority is to keep the virus out of the food environment. Several key measures are required including upgrading of cleaning and sanitation measures, disinfecting surfaces and high-touch points, educating staff on the virus and how to protect themselves and others, reinforcing protocols such as physical distancing, hand washing, and improved security with people staying in their vehicles/sanitizing hands when handing out documents and other material.

Should grocery store workers wear gloves? Masks?

- Disposable Gloves
- Gloves may be used by food workers but must be changed frequently and hands must be washed between glove changes and when gloves are removed. Gloves must be changed after carrying out non-food related activities such as opening/closing doors by hand, and emptying bins. Food workers should be aware that wearing gloves can allow bacteria to build up on the surface of the hands, so hand washing is extremely important when gloves are removed to avoid subsequent contamination of food. Food workers should not touch their mouth, nose and eyes when wearing gloves.
- Disposable gloves can give a false sense of safety and should not be used in the food work environment as a substitute for hand washing. The COVID-19 virus can contaminate disposable gloves in the same way it can get onto workers hands and contact surfaces. Removal of disposable gloves can lead to contamination of hands. Wearing disposable gloves can give you a false sense of security and may result in staff not washing hands as frequently as required.
- Handwashing is a greater protective barrier to infection than wearing of disposable gloves. Food businesses need to ensure adequate sanitary facilities are provided and ensure food workers thoroughly and frequently wash their hands. Soap and water is adequate for hand washing. Hand sanitizers can be used as an additional measure but should not replace hand washing.
- Wearing of Face Masks

- WHO advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19 should be followed. Face Masks do not have to be routinely used by food workers to protect against transmission of COVID-19. However, for some food processing activities, such as working in abattoirs or handling cooked, ready-to-eat foods, wearing face masks is a usual practice.
- WHO recommends that face masks should be used if a person is sick with symptoms of COVID-19 (especially coughing) or looking after someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- However, a food worker who is sick or who has symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed to work in grocery stores or other food businesses and should be excluded from work until free of symptoms or deemed fit for work by a medical doctor, as well as any evidence published so far. It is expected by mid-June.

Source: World Health Organization



A shopping mall official tags a scan sign on the floor at the main entrance of the mall—*Getty Images*

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (March 31, 2020 — April 1, 2020)

March 31 — WHO Western Pacific Regional Director Dr. Takeshi Kasai expresses concerns about how travel restrictions are impacting Pacific island countries' ability to diagnose COVID-19 cases. Lacking laboratory capacity, most countries need to ship specimen samples outside their territories. He calls on the international community to prioritize test kits that can run on GeneXpert machines, as these are available in many Pacific countries.

An International Rescue Committee international staff member who is working on the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo tests positive for COVID-19.

The U.S. government places a moratorium on USAID's global shipments of personal protective gear, asking it to instead be sent to the U.S., reports Politico.

COVID-19 claims the life of Professor Gita Ramjee, a world-renowned HIV scientist, in South Africa.

UNICEF tells The Telegraph it has halted routine and emergency vaccinations due to worries that these activities could further the spread of COVID-19, prompting concerns of a resurgence of diseases such as measles and polio.

Burundi and Sierra Leone report first cases of COVID-19.

April 1 — The COP26 U.N. climate change conference, which was scheduled to take place this November in Glasgow, Scotland, is postponed and will be rescheduled for 2021.

The Global Partnership for Education announces \$250 million to "help developing countries mitigate both the immediate and long-term disruptions to education being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic." The funds will go to 67 countries in areas such as producing educational radio and television programs, as well as distributing radios and textbooks.

The number of deaths from COVID-19 globally has more than doubled in the past week.

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

Experts' Opinion

The lesson one can learn here is that it is time to find plausible solutions to deal with this existential threat instead of making people's lives miserable. Otherwise the perception that humans never learn will hold true. **(Dr. Moonis Ahmar, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE)**

The ultimate measure of the government's performance from now onwards will be its ability to provide critical care to everyone who needs it over the next few months. **(Adnan Rafiq, THE NEWS)**

Which way will universities in Pakistan go? The decision might take some time. But it does seem that some level of physical teaching will have to happen given our infrastructural issues. It also seems that a hybrid model will also have to be introduced, as universities cannot handle all of their students if any SOPs are developed and effectively implemented. The exact nature of the hybrid model will vary with university, subject, year of instruction, nature of degree and so on. In addition, adequate protections for faculty and staff will have to be devised as well. **(Faisal Bari, DAWN)**

Countries that can afford to will, understandably, want to vaccinate their own populations first. After this, they will probably want to make sure they've saved up enough for a rainy day. Only after this will they look outwards. **(Salaar Khan, THE NEWS)**

According to research, 44% of girls in Pakistan do not have access to basic menstrual hygiene facilities at home, school or workplace. UNICEF has been working with its implementing partners to support the government in providing descent WASH facilities in schools. However, access to these has been hindered by the lockdowns, meaning millions of women/girls are faced by a double tragedy of Covid-19 and poor MHM. **(Abida Girma, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE)**

Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have a fever (i.e. have a higher than normal body temperature). They cannot detect people who are infected with COVID-19.

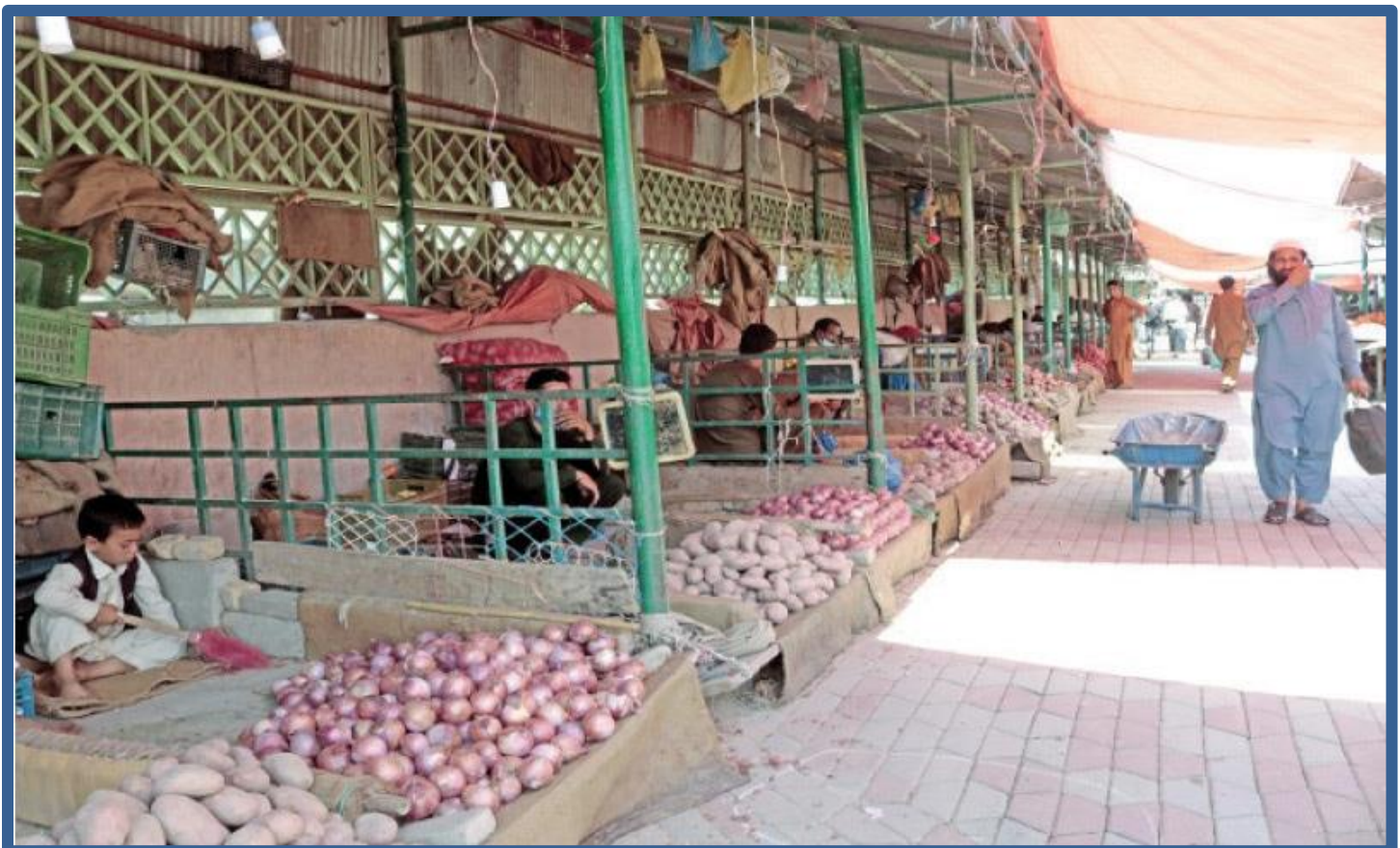
There are many causes of fever. Call your healthcare provider if you need assistance or seek immediate medical care if you have fever and live in an area with malaria or dengue.

FACT:
Thermal scanners
CANNOT detect
COVID-19



#COVID19 #Coronavirus

27 May 2020



H-9 weekly Bazaar is seen empty- DAWN



People observing social distancing while shopping—*DAWN*



People with masks are at a funeral prayer of Pakistani channel reporter Syed Fakhruddin who died from corona virus in Peshawar—*Getty Images*

COVID-19 READS

- 1. Doctor's Note: Does a high viral load make coronavirus worse?**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/doctor-note-high-viral-load-coronavirus-worse-200515075609542.html>
- 2. Amid the coronavirus, human rights defenders need more protection**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/coronavirus-human-rights-defenders-protection-200528114906737.html>
- 3. What Went Wrong With The Covid-19 Policy In Pakistan?**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/what-went-wrong-with-the-covid-19-policy-in-pakistan/>
- 4. Corona comes knocking**
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1560353/corona-comes-knocking>
- 5. What Can We Learn From Imam Hassan (AS) In This Difficult Time?**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/what-can-we-learn-from-imam-hassan-as-in-this-difficult-time/>
- 6. We have different attitudes toward social distancing, and it's straining relationships**
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/29/health/social-distancing-relationship-strain-wellness-trnd/index.html>

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