



WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-119

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

4 618 821 cases (93 324)

311 847 deaths (4452)

Western Pacific Region

168 515 cases (969)

6 743 deaths (13)

European Region

1 890 467 cases (19922)

167 173 deaths (1222)

South-East Asia Region

141 593 cases (7062)

4 582 deaths (231)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

338 560 cases (11 992)

9 979 deaths (138)

Region of the Americas

2 017 811 cases (50879)

121 609 deaths (2810)

African Region

61 163 cases (2 500)

1 748 deaths (38)



A mural dedicated to medical specialists involved in the fight against coronavirus in Russia—*Reuters*

Global News

- China says US trying to shift blame and smear Beijing over WHO.
- Pandemic threatens to deepen crisis in mental health care.
- Russia now has the second highest number of Covid-19 cases.
- New Zealand reports no new coronavirus cases for second straight day.
- India's coronavirus infections surge past 100,000, deaths top 3,000.
- Summer unlikely to curb coronavirus pandemic growth: study.
- 535 expats have died due to Covid-19, says Turkish foreign minister.
- South Sudan's vice president, wife test positive for virus.
- France reports more coronavirus deaths, raising total to 28,239.

Global Response

- Trump's use of malaria drug to combat virus spurs India boon.
- Indonesia's gravediggers struggle to protect themselves from virus as they bury victims.
- China reports six new coronavirus cases, including one in Wuhan.
- EU may fast track remdesivir sale before US.
- UK benefits ban leaves migrants struggling for food amid lockdown.
- Iran sees new surge in virus cases after reopening country: NYT.
- Coronavirus pandemic will be overcome quicker if world works together, says Merkel.
- Uber to lay off 3,000 workers in second cut this month.
- New Delhi reopens public transport as nearby Chinese-owned factory is hit by outbreak.
- Chinese scientists believe new drug can stop pandemic 'without vaccine'.

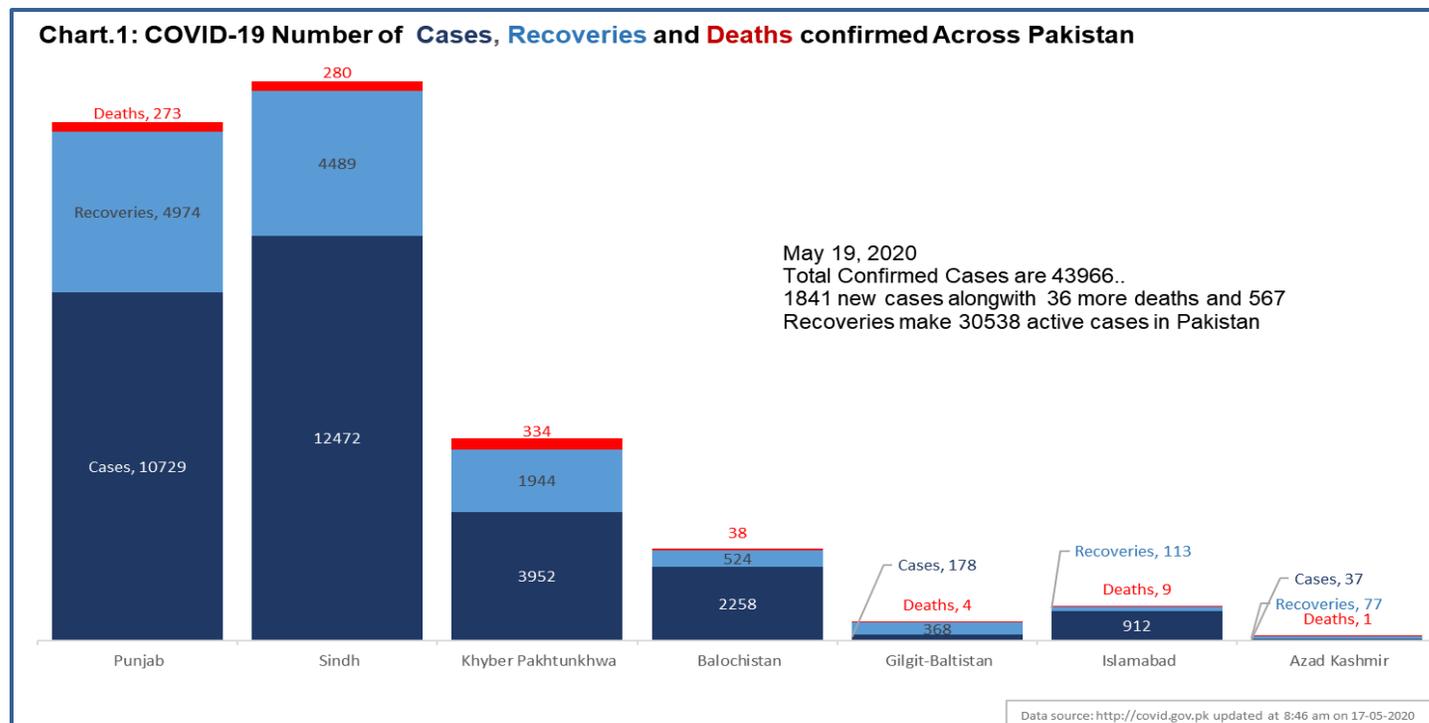
Local News

- Sindh govt. launches app for digital learning.
- Countrywide Covid-19 tally surges past 44,000 as Sindh, Punjab collectively report 1,336 cases.
- Punjab reports 630 new cases, 13 deaths.
- 50 new cases emerge in Islamabad, federal territories collectively.
- Shopping malls to open in Sindh in line with SC's orders: Saeed Ghani
- 2 SHOs test positive for Covid-19 in Rawalpindi.
- AJK reports 20 new coronavirus cases, govt. says lockdown 'need of the hour'.

Local Response

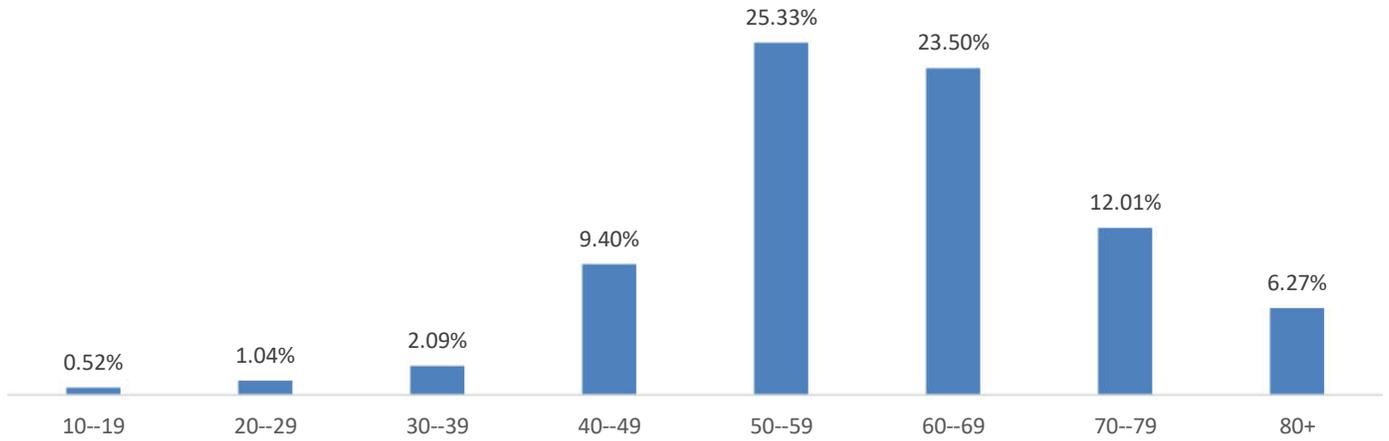
- No reduction in fares as trains will already run at 60pc occupancy: Shaikh Rashid.
- 567 recoveries reported in Pakistan.
- Balochistan not to allow public transport resumption.
- Clerics announce resumption of congregational prayers at mosques.
- Experts find idea of herd immunity risky: Fawad.
- Balochistan reports 128 new cases, 1 more death.
- Dolmen Mall, Clifton says it will open its door for the public from tomorrow.
- Despite pandemic, Pakistan's FDI soars 32% in April.

During the last 24 hours, 1841 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 43966. Sixteen deaths from KP, thirteen from Punjab, three from Sindh and two from Balochistan have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 939 deaths and 112489 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1.



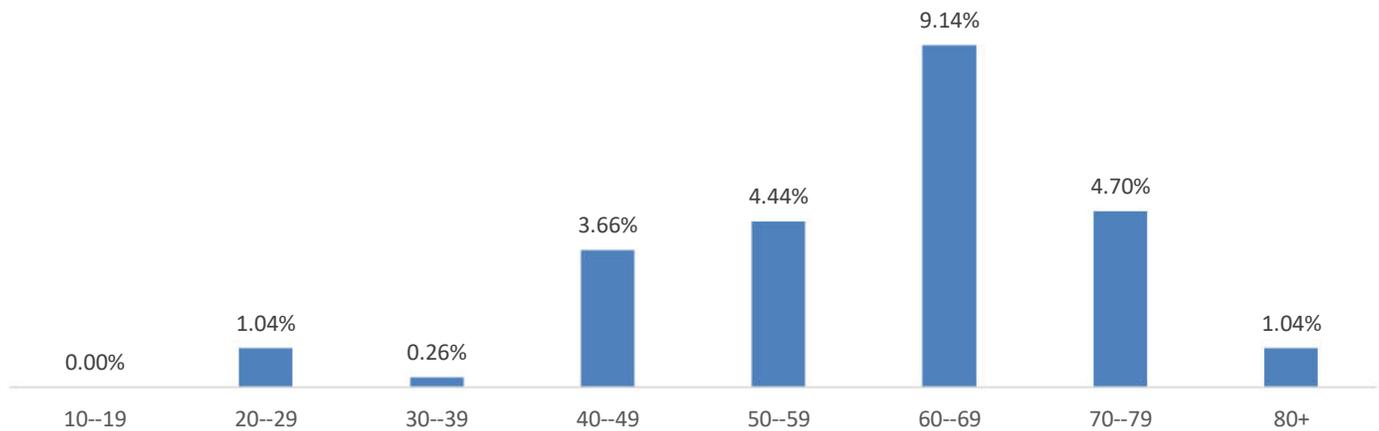
The age wise distribution of male deaths by COVID-19 reveals that age clusters 50-59 and 60-69 are more vulnerable than other age groups in male category, See Chart.2. About 50% male deaths by COVID-19 are reported in these two age groups combined together; less than 14% male deaths are reported in all age groups less than 50 years of age. The age-wise distribution of male deaths by COVID-19 is right skewed indicating lower immunity of elderly males against the pandemic. It is to note that younger male groups are more infected by the COVID-19, whereas lesser infected cases are observed from elder cohorts (ref: PIDE, NL No.36) but higher percentage of deaths are reported in elderly male groups. Still as of May 19, 2020, the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Pakistan has hit mostly people less than 59 years of age. The deceased cases show different trajectory as it is more to do with the immunity of individuals. COVID-19 is contagious; in the absence of any medicine/vaccination social distancing is the only cure.

Chart.2: COVID-19 Age-wise Percentage of Male Deaths in Pakistan



The age wise distribution of Female deaths by COVID-19 reveals that age cluster 60-69 is most vulnerable than all other age groups in female category, See Chart.3. At highest 9% female deaths by COVID-19 are reported in this age group; none of the other age group crossed 5% deaths by COVID-19 in female category in Pakistan. The age-wise distribution of female deaths by COVID-19 is right skewed indicating lower immunity of elderly females against the pandemic. Just as the case in male category the younger female groups are more infected by the COVID-19, whereas lesser infected cases are observed from elder cohorts (ref: PIDE, NL No.36) but higher percentage of deaths are reported in elderly female groups. The female deaths percentages by COVID-19 are far below than male categories of same age; are women more immune against COVID-19 or they might be stricter to precautionary measures? The answer could be YES as it is observed in all type of diseases that female immunity is higher in general.

Chart.3: COVID-19 Age-wise Percentage of Female Deaths in Pakistan



Frequently Asked Questions

Are public systems for disinfecting individuals such as spraying via tunnel or chambers safe to use?

No. Spraying of individuals with disinfectants (such as in a tunnel, cabinet, or chamber) is not recommended under any circumstances. This practice could be physically and psychologically harmful and would not reduce an infected person's ability to spread the virus through droplets or contact. Even if someone who is infected with COVID-19 goes through a disinfection tunnel or chamber, as soon as they start speaking, coughing or sneezing they can still spread the virus.

The toxic effect of spraying with chemicals such as chlorine on individuals can lead to eye and skin irritation, bronchospasm due to inhalation, and potentially gastrointestinal effects such as nausea and vomiting. In addition to health safety concerns, the use of chlorine in large-scale spraying practices may prevent this resource from being used for important interventions such as drinking water treatment and environmental disinfection of health care facilities.

Are gloves recommended for the community in public spaces to protect against COVID-19, for example when going to the grocery store supermarket?

No. The use of gloves by the public in public spaces is not a recommended or proven prevention measure. Wearing gloves in public spaces does not replace the need for hand hygiene, nor does it offer any additional measure of protection against the COVID-19 virus than hand hygiene. Gloves do not provide complete protection against hand contamination, as pathogens may gain access to the hands via small defects in gloves or by contamination of the hands during glove removal. People can also transfer pathogens from one surface to another by touching with gloved hands, or even transfer pathogens to the mouth, nose, or eyes if they touch their face with gloved hands.

How should I clean food items from the grocery store, for example fruit, vegetables or packaged items?

There is no evidence to date of viruses that cause respiratory illnesses being transmitted via food or food packaging. Coronaviruses cannot multiply in food; they need an animal or human host to multiply. The COVID-19 virus is generally thought to be spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. Currently, there is no evidence to support transmission of the COVID-19 virus associated with food.

Source: World Health Organization

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (March 24, 2020 — March 25, 2020)

March 24 — Cases of COVID-19 surpass 400,000. It took over three months to reach the first 100,000 confirmed cases, 12 days to reach 200,000, three days to reach 300,000, and two days to reach 400,000.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces a lockdown of 21 days for the country's 1.3 billion residents. This is the largest lockdown announced since the beginning of the outbreak.

The Chinese government announces it will lift the lockdown on Wuhan, the city at the center of the outbreak, on April 8.

An Asian Development Bank employee tests positive for COVID-19.

Libya and Laos report first cases of COVID-19.

March 25 — The United Nations launches a \$2 billion global humanitarian response plan appeal to assist vulnerable countries in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds would go to laboratory equipment, medical supplies, handwashing stations, public information campaigns, and the creation of air bridges and hubs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to move humanitarian workers and supplies.

"COVID-19 is menacing the whole of humanity — and so the whole of humanity must fight back. Individual country responses are not going to be enough," says U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres when announcing the appeal.

During a press conference, Tedros lists six steps countries should take as they are in lockdown mode: expand, train, and deploy health care workforce; create systems to find all suspected case at community levels; increase production and availability of testing; identify and equip facilities needed to treat and isolate patients; develop plans on how to quarantine contacts; and focus the whole government on the suppression and control of the pandemic.

"These measures are the best way to suppress and stop transmission, so that when restrictions are lifted, the virus doesn't resurge. The last thing any country needs is to open schools and businesses, only to be forced to close them again because of a resurgence," he says.

Saint Kitts and Nevis, Guinea-Bissau, British Virgin Islands, and Mali report first cases of COVID-19.

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

Experts' Opinion

EVEN in this day and age, many businesses ignore technology and neglect to invest in it. In normal times, such ignorance can put businesses and their consumers at a disadvantage. In a 21st-century pandemic, this ignorance can end many businesses and put consumers at risk and leave them at a loss. **(Waqas Younas, DAWN)**

Notwithstanding where a pandemic starts, it is the poor who bear the burnt in low and middle income countries (LMICs) due to the limited capacity to handle such surges. Even if a vaccine is developed, it won't reach the markets of the LMICs due to vaccine nationalism and as per market logic – the market always responds to demand and that demand always comes from the rich countries first. **(Dr. Manzoor Ali Isran, THE NEWS)**

If Muslim countries as well as other humanitarian organisations fail to come to the rescue of the beleaguered Rohingyas then the impoverished ethnic minority will never forget nor forgive the inaction shown by the 1.6 billion Muslims and the many global organisations that espouse the cause of the oppressed. **(Rustam Shah Mahmood, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE)**

Our leaders think we have escaped the worst compared with the US and Europe, due to unproven factors like our climate, sturdy DNAs, divine favour bestowed on a chosen nation, etc. But this is still premature to say. The US now has 80,000-plus deaths. But when it had 42,000 confirmed cases, as we did until the other day (they have increased since) have now, it had only 522 deaths compared to our nearly 900. It reached 42,000 cases two months after its first known case; we did so after 2.75 months. Our cases are increasing more slowly, but until our curve falls sharply there is no guarantee it won't increase faster soon. **(Dr. Niaz Murtaza, DAWN)**



A messages of protest contesting the ability to pay for rent hang in the window of an apartment building in Washington—*Reuters*



Passengers wearing facemasks sit in a bus as transport reopened to the public—*Getty Images*



Shoppers are seen inside a shopping mall after the government announced to open the malls—*Getty Images*



A worker sprays disinfectant in a train carriage at the Peshawar railway station as train services prepare to resume—*Getty Images*

COVID-19 READS

1. **After All the Chaos, Pakistanis Have Decided To Live With the Virus**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/after-all-the-chaos-pakistanis-have-decided-to-live-with-the-virus/>
2. **Pakistani Scientist Part Of COVID-19 Vaccine Team Shortlisted By WHO**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/05/pakistani-scientist-part-of-covid-19-vaccine-team-shortlisted-by-who/>
3. **UNWTO RELEASES A COVID-19 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR TOURISM RECOVERY**
<https://www.unwto.org/news/unwto-releases-a-covid-19-technical-assistance-package-for-tourism-recovery>
4. **Coronavirus and the prospect of mass involuntary euthanasia**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/coronavirus-prospect-mass-involuntary-euthanasia-200515122939558.html>
5. **China backs coronavirus investigation but says it should wait until pandemic is contained**
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/18/health/world-health-assembly-china-inquiry-intl/index.html>
6. **How Covid-19 is threatening Central America's economic lifeline**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-52550389>
7. **To prevent a second coronavirus wave, we need to look beyond the R number**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/19/second-coronavirus-wave-r-number-uk-test-and-trace-mass-gatherings-travel>
8. **How do we stop an unemployment pandemic?**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/19/unemployment-pandemic-coronavirus-crisis-uk-us>
9. **After the war, the arts came back stronger. They can do so again now**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/18/war-arts-stronger-covid-19-devastated-theatres-museums-imagination>
10. **The 'lockdown sceptics' want a culture war, with experts as the enemy**
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/may/18/lockdown-sceptics-coronavirus-brexit>
11. **The Phony Coronavirus Class War**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/opinion/coronavirus-reopen-workers.html>
12. **The Right of the People to Protest Lockdown**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/19/opinion/coronavirus-first-amendment-protests.html>
13. **Why Are Some Health Care Workers Paid Poverty Wages?**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/19/opinion/coronavirus-health-care-workers-hazard-pay.html>

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