

WHO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION REPORT-198

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Total (new) cases in
last 24 hours

Globally

18 354 342 cases (206 709)

696 147 deaths (5 116)

Western Pacific Region

341 165 cases (8 412)

8 549 deaths (35)

European Region

3 451 556 cases (21 623)

214 731 deaths (476)

South-East Asia Region

2 299 433 cases (56 777)

48 569 deaths (995)

Eastern Mediterranean Region

1 585 458 cases (10 907)

41 601 deaths (399)

Region of the Americas

9 841 842 cases (100 115)

367 934 deaths (2 600)

African Region

834 147 cases (8 875)

14 750 deaths (611)



Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and Prime Minister of Pakistani-administrated Kashmir, Farooq Haider lead a rally in solidarity with IO Kashmir, observing the Covid-19 SOPs in Muzaffarabad

Global News

- Trump says he may act alone if Congress can't reach deal on new coronavirus stimulus package.
- Tourism-reliant Thailand shelves 'travel bubble' plan as Asia virus cases rise.
- Twitter says Trump campaign posts blocked over virus claim.
- Europe fears second virus wave, reimposes restrictions.
- Greek PM warns over jump in Covid-19 cases, says new curbs possible.
- New York City erects quarantine checkpoints to curb coronavirus.
- Chicago public schools will begin school year entirely online.
- An infected man went to a church in Ohio. Soon 91 others fell ill.
- Italy threatens to ban Ryanair, says airline is violating covid-19 guidelines.
- Coronavirus surprise: Remittances to Mexico rise during pandemic.
- Sir Jeremy Farrar: Covid-19 vaccine ready in 2020 and 2021.

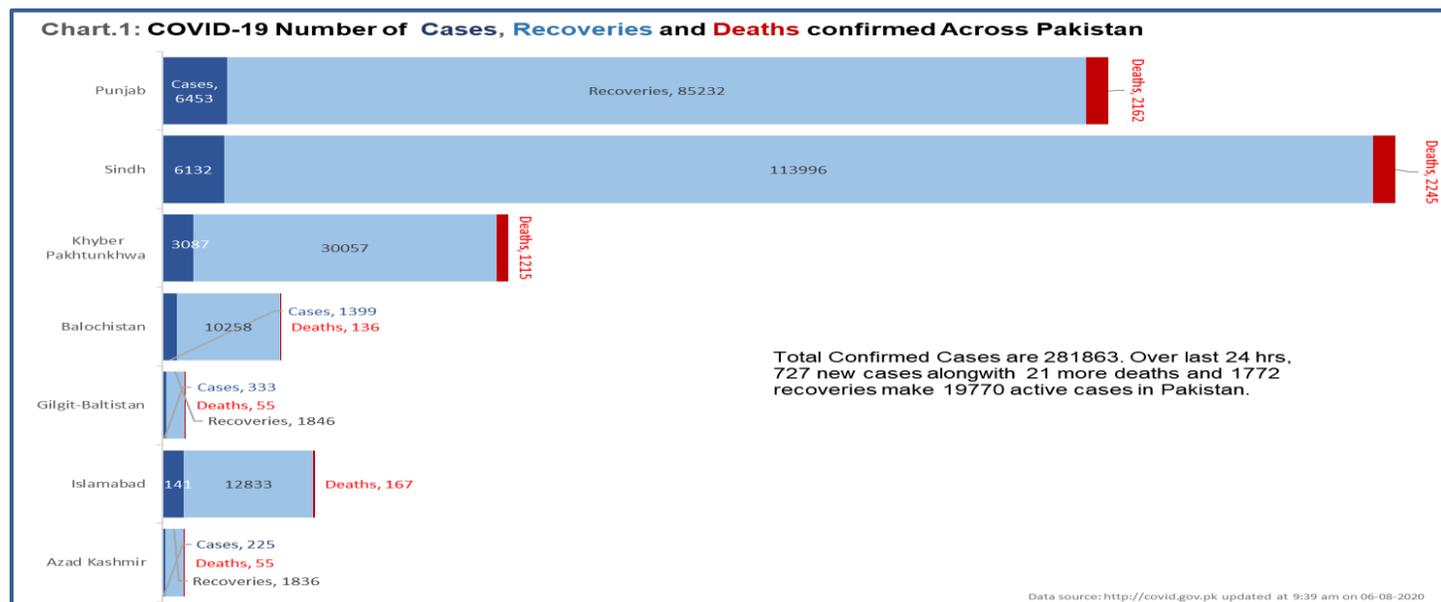
Local News

- Schools in KP to open today for admin, teaching staff.
- As Covid-19 cases fall, NCOCC (National Command and Operation Centre) meets today to decide future strategy.
- Thousands of tourists barred from entering Swat, Mansehra.
- Punjab waiting for NCOCC nod to reopen entertainment, tourism sectors.
- Tourism, recreational sector to be allowed to resume from the weekend, says Asad Umar.
- Chitral health centre closed over six virus cases.
- Coronavirus testing in KP must for hospital visitors with respiratory problems.
- Sindh govt to give Rs20bn cash to pandemic-hit people from next month.
- Marriage halls to reopen from Sept 15, business centres from next week.
- Restaurants, cafes and gyms to reopen from August 10: Asad Umar.
- Restrictions on timings, days of markets being lifted: Asad Umar.

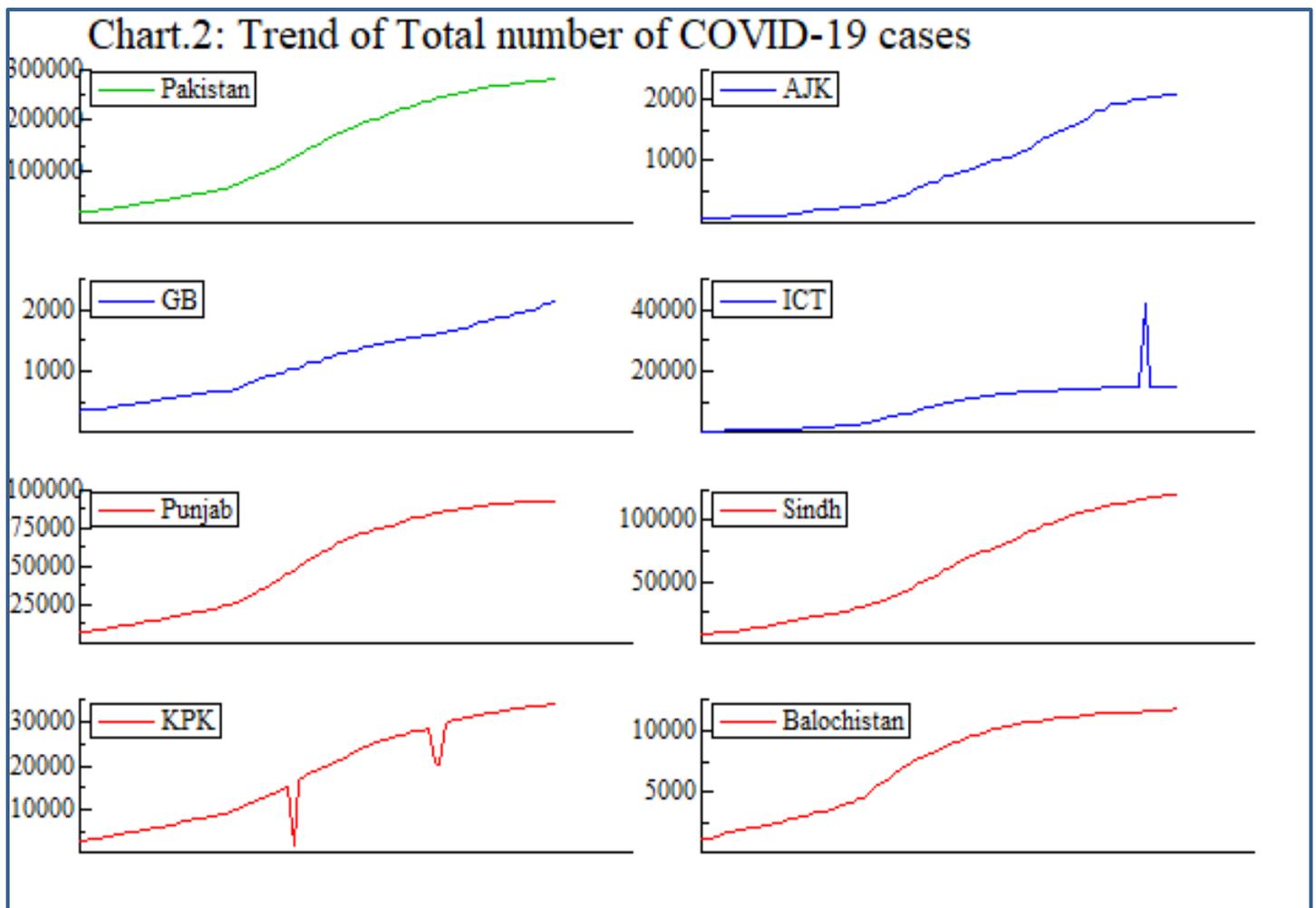


A general view of Test Match between England and Pakistan at Emirates Old Trafford without spectators due to Covid-19 on August 06, 2020 in Manchester, England. (Getty Images)

During the last 24 hours, 727 new cases have been confirmed by different laboratories, bringing the national tally to 281863. Fourteen deaths from Sindh, five from Punjab and two from KP have been reported in the last 24 hours. There are a total 6035 deaths and 256058 recoveries across the country, see Chart.1. The increase in incidence of cases during past one month, since July 05, 2020, is of 49318 new cases with 1252 deaths and 122637 more recoveries.

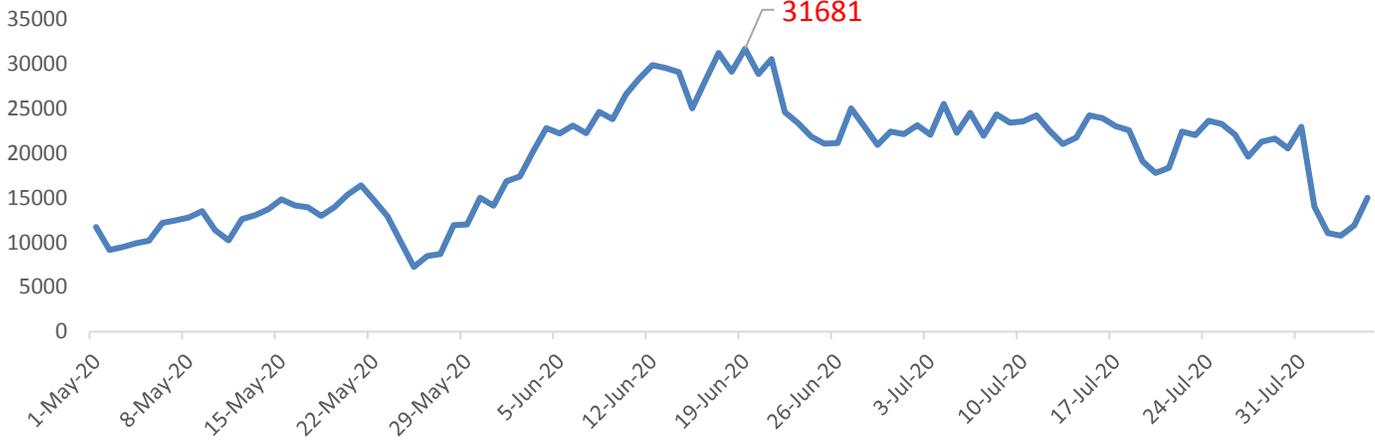


Is JUNE 2020 the month of CURVE FLATTENING: Since the first COVID-19 case reported on 26th Feb 2020 in Pakistan, the number of COVID-19 infected cases are increasing almost monotonically in all regions/provinces of Pakistan. Prompt decisions of smart lockdown and massive COVID-19 awareness campaign paid off and it is observed that pandemic spread in Pakistan remained milder than neighboring countries and internationally; but the spread keep continuously showing increasing trend. After April 2020 the number of COVID-19 victims in all provinces/regions of Pakistan increased many fold, see Chart.2. Almost all predictions of curve flattening couldn't come true and no clear point of inflection is observed so far.



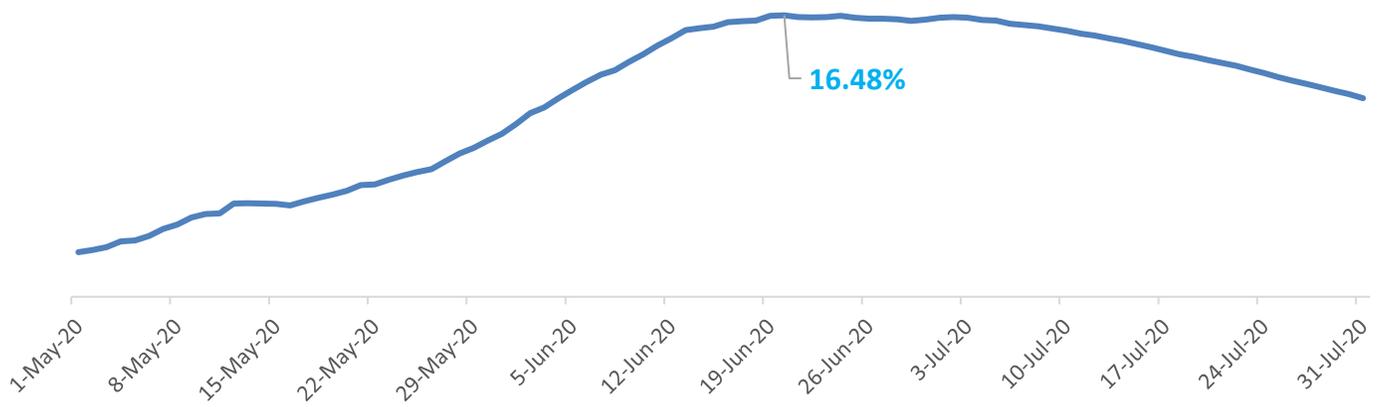
The initial awareness campaign educates people at one hand and on the other hand it generated bad perception about COVID-19 victims and general public start avoiding the tests and the number of tests dropped significantly until June 2020. It is observed that in June 2020 the number of tests per day increased significantly in Pakistan, one of the reason is that many hospitals (public/private) require COVID-19 test before regular treatment especially before any minor or major surgery. Particularly from 17th June 2020 to 20th June 2020 is the cluster of five days when number of tests per day were highest and exactly on 19th June 2020 the highest number of tests 31,681 were recorded in one day, see Chart.3. After 19th June 2020 the number of tests per day decreases but still remained higher on the average than number of tests per day before June 2020. Higher the number of tests, more clear insight about pandemic spread. Increasing number of tests may help provide better picture of COVID-19 spread.

Chart.3: Number of COVID-19 tests per day in Pakistan



Since the total number of COVID-19 positive cases is dependent to the total number of tests conducted, this number might mislead the conclusion about pandemic spread. The ratio of total positive cases to total tests conducted may give better information about COVID-19 pandemic spread. In a careful analysis of last three months, May 2020 through July 2020, it is observed that during June 2020 the ratio of positive COVID-19 cases touched its highest 16.48% after that the ratio start decreasing monotonically, see Chart.4. The number 16.48% seems a point of inflection and on optimistic view this decreasing trend might be an indication of curve flattening at Pakistan. On a realistic view we can't conclude that June 2020 is the month when pandemic spread start decreasing; the Eid ul Azha effect is still to come within next seven to twenty days. Following the SOPs devised by WHO and national Health Ministry, the COVID-19 pandemic can be contained within next few weeks or months in Pakistan.

Chart.4: Ratio of Total positive to Total tested COVID-19 cases in Pakistan



Frequently Asked Questions

What steps can be undertaken to improve the ventilation in indoor public spaces and buildings?

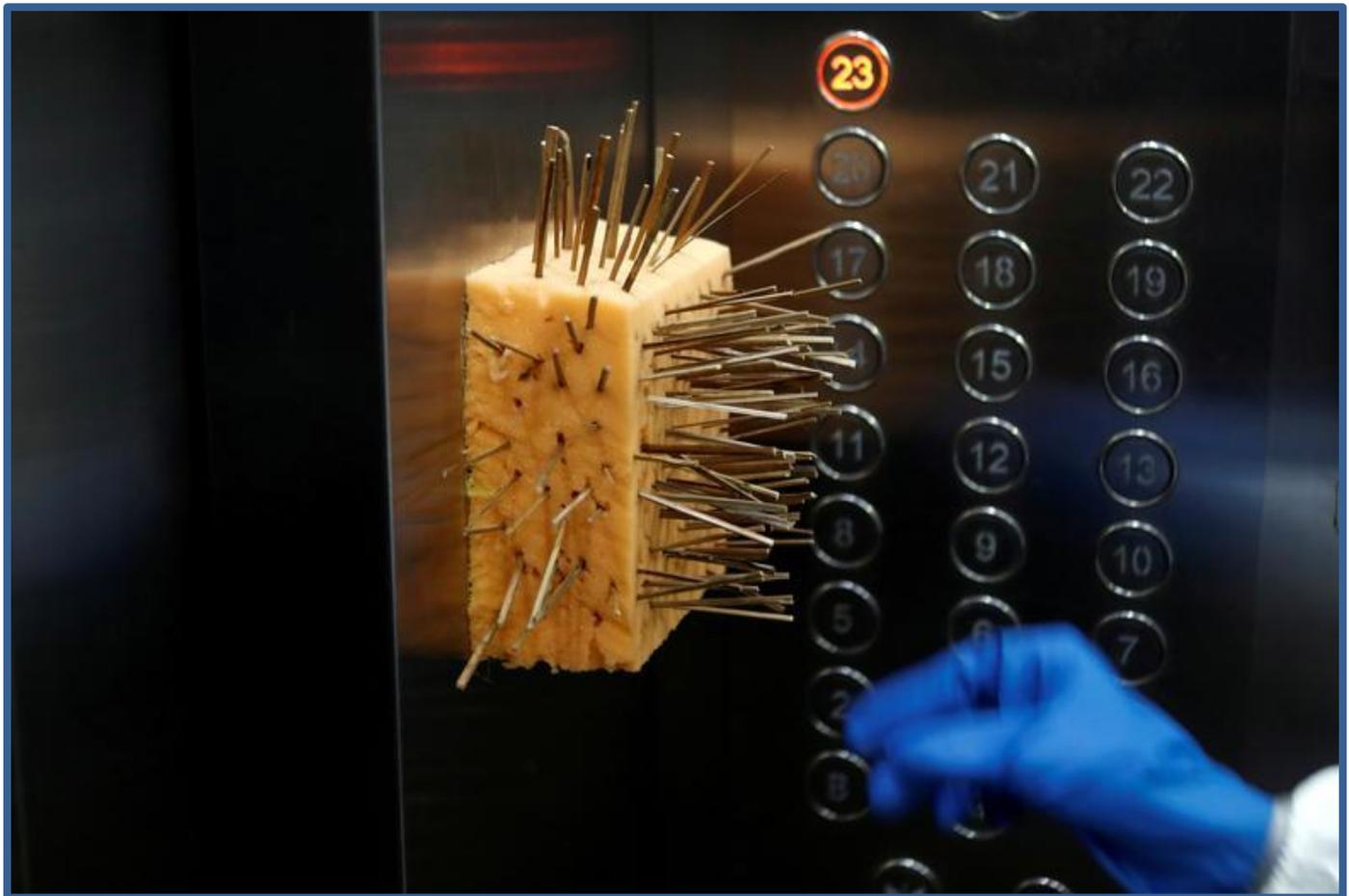
Ventilation is an important factor in preventing the virus that causes COVID-19 from spreading indoors. Below are steps to consider which can improve indoor ventilation. These steps should be considered in consultation with a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) professional.

- Consider using natural ventilation, opening windows if possible and safe to do so.
- For mechanical systems, increase the percentage of outdoor air, using economizer modes of HVAC operations and potentially as high as 100%. Before increasing outdoor air percentage, verify compatibility with HVAC system capabilities for both temperature and humidity control as well as compatibility with outdoor/indoor air quality considerations.
- Increase total airflow supply to occupied spaces, if possible.
- Disable demand-control ventilation controls that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy.
- Improve central air filtration:
 - Increase air filtration to as high as possible without significantly diminishing design airflow.
 - Inspect filter housing and racks to ensure appropriate filter fit and check for ways to minimize filter bypass.
- Consider running the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after spaces are occupied, in accordance with manufactory recommendations.
- Generate clean-to-less-clean air movements by re-evaluating the positioning of supply and exhaust air diffusers and/or dampers and adjusting zone supply and exhaust flow rates to establish measurable pressure differentials. Have staff work in “clean” ventilation zones that do not include higher-risk areas such as visitor reception or exercise facilities (if open).
- Ensure exhaust fans in restroom facilities are functional and operating at full capacity when the building is occupied.

Are there any recommendations for offices, schools and the accommodation sector regarding ventilation and air conditioning use?

In all workplaces, schools and tourist accommodations, there should be fresh, clean air. WHO recommends an increased ventilation rate through natural or mechanical means, preferably without recirculation of the air. In case of air recirculation, filters should be cleaned regularly, especially for jobs that place an individual at a medium or high risk of exposure to COVID-19. Examples of such jobs may include frontline workers in retail, tourist accommodation and domestic workers.

Source: World Health Organization



A sponge with toothpicks is seen inside an elevator to prevent people from touching the buttons with their bare hands at a residential society. **REUTERS**

COVID-19: Timeline of a Pandemic (August 03, 2020)

Aug. 3—Globally, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases surpasses 18 million. WHO launches a mask challenge, encouraging people to send in photos of themselves wearing a mask. Apart from being a key tool in stopping the virus, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says “the mask has come to represent solidarity.”

Chinese and WHO experts have now drafted the terms of reference for an investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. The work will be done by an international team of experts, which is yet to be assembled. Tedros says epidemiological studies will begin in Wuhan to identify the source of infection of the early cases there.

More extensive study is needed to look at early cases and fully understand the links between cases, to determine at what point, “in Wuhan or elsewhere,” the virus crossed from animals to humans, says Mike Ryan, WHO Health Emergencies Programme chief. Once it is clear where that took place, it will help lead the way to identify potential animal sources of the disease, he says. “Otherwise, it’s like needles in the haystack. You can sample every animal in China and outside, you might have no luck because you’re guessing.”

A few studies have estimated the infection fatality rate of COVID-19 at 0.6%, adds WHO’s Maria van Kerkhove. “That may not sound like a lot, but it is quite high,” she says.

That means just over 1 in 200 people infected will potentially die, but it is hugely skewed by age, with the risk much higher in older people, Ryan says. By comparison, the infection fatality rate for the 2009 H1N1 pandemic is believed to be somewhere between 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 100,000, showing just how deadly COVID-19 is. In addition, long-term health effects of COVID-19 infection are still not well understood, he says.

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

Can people wear masks while exercising?



16 June 2020

People should NOT wear masks when exercising as masks may reduce the ability to breathe comfortably.

Sweat can make the mask become wet more quickly which makes it difficult to breathe and promotes the growth of microorganisms.

The important preventive measure during exercise is to maintain physical distance of at least one meter from others.

#Coronavirus

#COVID19



Most people who get COVID-19 have mild or moderate symptoms and can recover thanks to supportive care.

If you have a cough, fever and difficulty breathing seek medical care early – call your health facility by telephone first.

If you have fever and live in an area with malaria or dengue seek medical care immediately.

FACT:
Most people who get COVID-19 recover from it



#Coronavirus

#COVID19

27 May 2020



A security guard, wearing a protective mask, patrols as a stall with a plastic barrier is seen closed amid the coronavirus outbreak, after Indonesian government eased restrictions in Jakarta, Indonesia. REUTERS



Teddy bears are placed at tables to maintain social distancing measures at Jaso Bakery restaurant in Mexico City. REUTERS

COVID-19 READS

- 1. Pandemic. Quarantine. Vaccine. What are the origins of the normalised vocabulary under Covid-19?**
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1571590/pandemic-quarantine-vaccine-what-are-the-origins-of-the-normalised-vocabulary-under-covid-19>
- 2. Thinking theologically with pandemics**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/thinking-theologically-pandemics-200728094128324.html>
- 3. Is Pakistan's Coronavirus Curve Really Flattening?**
<https://nayadaur.tv/2020/08/is-pakistans-coronavirus-curve-really-flattening/>
- 4. The occupation has left Palestinians unable to control the virus**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/occupation-left-palestinians-unable-control-virus-200729103848272.html>
- 5. African women face two pandemics**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/african-women-face-pandemics-200729132154433.html>
- 6. Coronavirus: How bad will winter really be?**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53515077>
- 7. Real Life Horror Stories From the World of Pandemic Motherhood**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/06/opinion/mothers-discrimination-coronavirus.html>
- 8. Where Will the New Good Jobs Come From? Look Here**
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/06/opinion/middle-class-prosperity.html>
- 9. African women face two pandemics**
<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/african-women-face-pandemics-200729132154433.html>
- 10. Thinking theologically with pandemics**
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