

[NCOC asks provinces to prepare guidelines for tourism](#)

[Ikram Junaidi](#) Updated 09 Aug 2020



ISLAMABAD: With active Covid-19 cases falling below 18,000 in the country, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Saturday directed the provinces to prepare guidelines to manage tourism so that a resurgence of cases does not occur.

The centre pointed out violations of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) at almost all tourist destinations, saying if the situation was not handled properly, a second wave could not be ruled out.

On the other hand, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has suggested conducting antibodies tests of all staffers before reopening educational institutions.

According to the data released by the NCOC on Saturday, the number of active cases has been continuously decreasing, with only 17,815 infected people left in the country.

Besides, only 160 ventilators, out of 1,859 allocated for coronavirus, were in use, and 1,344 patients admitted to 735 hospitals with Covid-19 facilities.

PMA wants antibodies tests of all staffers done before schools, colleges reopen

According to a statement, the NCOC meeting, which was chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, discussed [opening of tourism sector](#) but with the necessary SOPs and safety guidelines.

“Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir administrations have been requested to make all out efforts to enforce SOPs on visiting tourists, including wearing of face masks and managing the number of visitors. Other provinces must also adopt measures to control the flow of tourists. For the next three weeks, special efforts to ramp up testing and contact tracing of tourists through establishing of special sentinel sites at tourist spots and airports will be ensured.

“Detailed SOPs on tourism have already been issued, however, the Ministry of Health will formulate and issue special guidelines and action plan for tourist management,” the statement added.

The PMA, meanwhile, suggested conducting antibodies tests of staffers, including van drivers and attendants, before resuming educational activities.

The doctors' representative body said as the government had been lifting restrictions on all sectors for the betterment of people it should save them from coronavirus pandemic as well as the worsening economic conditions.

“It is appreciable that the government will review the situation before opening schools. We suggest that antibodies tests of all staff members should be carried out before opening of educational institutions because one infected person can spread the disease to the entire institution. Moreover, it is suggested to open the educational institutions stepwise: primary and pre-primary classes should be the last to be opened,” PMA secretary general Dr Qaisar Sajjad said.

The PMA expressed its surprise over the decision to open all sectors at the same time.

“We are still in quarantine period after Eidul Azha. After five to six days we will be able to know how many new cases have emerged. We believe the government has taken this decision in haste as the upcoming festivals like Independence Day, Muharram and Rabiul Awwal are very close. This decision should have been taken after these festivals,” Dr Sajjad said.

He said it had been observed that 80 to 85pc people did not follow SOPs nowadays. Even in government offices people do not adopt preventive measures, therefore it is the responsibility of the government to implement SOPs strictly, he added.

The PMA secretary general said other countries had eased their lockdowns and opened various sectors when their cases decreased.

But, cases rose again in countries like United States, United Kingdom, Brazil, Australia, China and South Korea, he added.

Dr Sajjad said it was a fact that the number of positive cases and deaths had been decreasing in Pakistan since July, but, unfortunately, as per information, cases were increasing in Skardu, Gilgit and other nearby areas.

“We are scared that our graph might rise again. It could increase the burden on our hospitals and healthcare workers just like it happened after Eidul Fitr. So far, 101 doctors and 24 paramedics have sacrificed their lives during the war against coronavirus,” he said.

The association once again called on people to follow the SOPs and continue adopting preventive measures.

“Wear masks, keep social distance, wash or sanitise your hands, avoid going out and avoid crowds. Public should support the government to normalise life and economic conditions in Pakistan,” Dr Sajjad added.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1573423>

PMA cautions govt against reopening all sectors ‘in haste’

[The Newspaper's Staff Reporter](#) Updated 09 Aug 2020

KARACHI: The Pakistan Medical Association has expressed its surprise over the government’s decision to reopen all sectors at the same time.

In a statement issued here, it said that the government had [announced](#) to open almost all sectors in the country from Aug 8, which the PMA described as a “decision in haste”.

According to the government announcement, schools and marriage halls would also reopen in September.

The PMA said that while the government was opening all sectors for the betterment of the people, it was necessary to save the people from the coronavirus as well.

“We are still under quarantine period for monitoring corona cases after Eidul Azha. And after five to six days we will be able to know how many new cases have emerged after Eid. We believe that the government has taken this decision in haste because our upcoming festivals and important events like Independence Day, Muharram and Rabi al-Awwal are very close. This decision should have been made after these dates,” the PMA said in the statement.

“Majalis, processions and religious gatherings would be held in Muharram and Rabi al-Awwal. And it has been observed that 80 to 85 per cent people do not follow SOPs nowadays. Even in the government offices people do not adopt preventive measures,” the PMA added.

It said that it was the responsibility of the government to implement SOPs strictly.

“It is appreciable that the government will review the situation before reopening schools. We suggest that corona test (antibodies test) of all the staff, including van drivers and attendants, is done before reopening of educational institutes because one infected person can spread the disease to the whole institution.”

Moreover, it is suggested that educational institutes are reopened stepwise and primary and pre-primary classes are reopened last.

Other countries eased their lockdowns and opened different sectors at a time when their cases decreased. But now again cases have increased in the second phase in countries like the United States, UK, Brazil, Australia, China and South Korea, the statement added.

“It is a fact that the number of cases of coronavirus and number of deaths are decreasing in Pakistan from the month of July, but unfortunately as per our information, the number of cases are increasing in Skardu, Gilgit and other nearby areas. We are scared that our graph may increase again. It could increase the burden on our hospitals and healthcare workers like it happened after Eidul Fitr.”

According to a PMA report, 101 doctors and 24 paramedics have died during this war against coronavirus.

The PMA once again requested the people to follow SOPs and continuously adopt preventive measures.

Wear mask, keep social distance, wash or sanitise hands, avoid going out and avoid going into crowds, it said.

“PMA believes that the government should feel its responsibility and implement the SOPs strictly. The government should maintain economic activities and should also keep the public safe from coronavirus.

“We hope that it doesn’t turn out that deadly virus is eliminated from the world, but continues to exist in Pakistan.”

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1573298/pma-cautions-govt-against-reopening-all-sectors-in-haste>

Reopening all sectors at once worrying: PMA

Doctors body says decision should have been made after Aug 14, Muharram and Rabiul Awwal

[Our Correspondent](#) August 08, 2020

ISLAMABAD:

The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Saturday expressed its concerns over the federal government's decision to reopen all sectors at the same time and also recommended measures that should be taken for allowing educational institutions to operate from next month.

“[The PMA] is surprised over the decision to open all sectors at the same time,” Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad, the secretary general of the doctors association, said in a statement.

“We are still under quarantine period for monitoring coronavirus cases after Eidul Azha,” he added. “After five to six days, we will be able to know how many new cases have emerged after Eid.”

The PMA official said the government had apparently made the decision to reopen almost sectors “in haste” because of the upcoming Independence Day, Muharram and Rabiul Awwal. He added that the decision should have been made after these events.

The federal government has allow the reopening of restaurants, hotels, cinemas, beauty parlours, gyms and other businesses in the hospitality and recreational sectors from Monday in the wake of the decline in Covid-19 cases and fatalities.

Restrictions on the tourism sector, which includes hotels, have been lifted on Saturday. Restaurants, cinemas and other businesses as well as shrines and expo centres will reopen from Monday.

The PMA secretary general noted that processions and religious gatherings would be held during Muharram and Rabiul Awwal.

“It has been observed that 80% to 85% people do not follow SOPs [standard operating procedures] nowadays. Even in government offices people do not adopt preventive measures,” he added.

Dr Sajjad acknowledged that the number of cases of coronavirus and deaths were decreasing in Pakistan from the month of July. “But unfortunately as per our information the number of cases is increasing in Skardu, Gilgit and other nearby areas,” he maintained.

The PMA official feared that there could be coronavirus cases could resurge and increase the burden on hospitals and healthcare workers similar to what happened after Eidul Fitr.

“Other countries eased their lockdowns and opened different sectors at a time when their cases decreased. Now again cases have increased in the second phase in the countries like the US, UK, Brazil, Australia, China and South Korea,” he warned.

Tourism check must to avoid Covid ‘resurge’

According to the PMA’s report, 101 doctors and 24 paramedics embraced martyrdom in the fight war against coronavirus.

The PMA again requested citizens to follow the SOPs -- wear masks, maintain social distancing, wash or sanitise your hands and avoid going out and into crowds.

“The government should implement the SOPs strictly. It should maintain the economic activities and also keep the public safe from coronavirus.”

The PMA official appreciated the government’s decision to review the situation before allowing the reopening of schools.

“We suggest that coronavirus test (antibodies test) of all staff members including van drivers and attendants should be done before the reopening of educational institutions,” he said.

The association suggested stepwise reopening of educational institution. Primary and pre-primary classes should be allowed after the reopening of other educational institutions.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2258627/reopening-all-sectors-at-once-worrying-pma>



PMA concerned over ‘hasty decision’ of opening all sectors

OUR STAFF REPORT

August 09, 2020

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Saturday expressed concerns on opening of all sectors in the country during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation calling it ‘a decision in haste by the government.’

The statement released said that “Pakistan Medical Association is surprised over the decision to open all sectors at the same time. We are still under a quarantine period for monitoring corona cases after Eid-ul-Azha, after five to six days we will be able to know how many new cases have emerged after Eid.”

It said the PMA believes that the government has made this decision in haste because our upcoming festivals like Independence Day, Muharram and Rabi-ul-Awal are very close.

This decision should have been made after these festivals. Other countries eased their lockdowns and opened different sectors at a time when their cases decreased. Now again cases have increased in the second phase in countries like the United States, UK, Brazil, Australia, China and South Korea. PMA requested people to follow SOPs and continuously adopt preventive measures.

<https://nation.com.pk/09-Aug-2020/pma-concerned-over-hasty-decision-of-opening-all-sectors>



حکومت نے تمام شعبے کھولنے کا فیصلہ جلدی میں کیا، پی ایم اے

عوام کو ابتر معاشی حالات کیساتھ کورونا جیسی مہلک وبا سے بھی بچایا جائے، اعلامیہ

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان میڈیکل ایسوسی ایشن نے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے 8 اگست سے تمام شعبہ جات کھولنے کا اعلان کر دیا ہے جو کورونا وائرس کے پھیلاؤ کو روکنے کے لئے بند کیے گئے تھے، تمام شعبہ جات یقیناً عوام کی بھلائی کیلئے کھولے جا رہے ہیں، لیکن حکومت کو چاہیے کہ وہ عوام کو ابتر معاشی حالات کے ساتھ کورونا جیسی مہلک وبا سے بھی بچائے۔ جاری اعلامیہ کے مطابق یہ بات قابل تعریف ہے کہ حکومت اسکول کھولنے سے پہلے صورتحال کا جائزہ لے گی، ہم حکومت کو مشورہ دیتے ہیں کہ تعلیمی ادارے کھولنے سے پہلے تمام اسٹاف بشمول وین ڈرائیورز اور کنڈیکٹرز کا کورونا ٹیسٹ لازمی کرایا جائے کیونکہ وائرس سے متاثرہ ایک شخص بھی پورے ادارے کو بیماری میں مبتلا کر سکتا ہے، تعلیمی ادارے مرحلہ وار کھولے جائیں، پرائمری، پری پرائمری کلاسیں سب سے آخر میں کھولی جائیں۔ پی ایم اے ایک ہی وقت میں تمام شعبہ جات کھولنے کے فیصلے پر حیرانگی کا اظہار کرتی ہے، ہمارا کہنا ہے کہ حکومت نے یہ فیصلہ جلد بازی میں کیا۔

August 9, 2020

لاہور، کراچی اور جبکٹ کے فنانس کے قیام پر فیصلہ کیا جائے گا

ہم کو نشانے کے پیریڈ سے گزر رہے ہیں، 6 روز بعد معلوم ہوگا کہ عید قربان کے بعد کتنے نئے کیسز سامنے آئے ہیں

م آزاد، محرم اور ربیع الاول کے تہواروں کے بعد تمام شعبے کھولنے کا فیصلہ کیا جاتا تو زیادہ بہتر ہوتا، اعلامیہ ام ایس او پیز اور احتیاطی تدابیر پر مکمل عمل کریں، ماسک پہنیں، سماجی فاصلہ برقرار رکھیں اور ہاتھ بار بار دھوئیں

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان میڈیکل ایسوسی ایشن نے حکومت کی جانب سے 8 اگست سے ایسے تمام شعبے جات جو کو رونا وائرس کے پھیلاؤ کو روکنے کے لیے بند کیے گئے تھے کھولنے کے اعلان پر حیرانگی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ایک ہی وقت میں تمام شعبے کھولنے کا فیصلہ جلدی میں کیا گیا ہے، عید الاضحیٰ کے بعد ابھی تک ہم کو نشانے کے پیریڈ سے گزر رہے ہیں اور 5 یا 6 دن کے بعد ہمیں معلوم ہوگا کہ عید الاضحیٰ کے بعد کتنے نئے کیسز سامنے آئے ہیں، یوم آزاد، محرم اور ربیع الاول جیسے تہوار بالکل قریب ہیں، زیادہ بہتر ہوتا اگر یہ فیصلہ ان تہواروں کے بعد کیا جاتا، پی ایم اے سینٹر کے جاری اعلامیے کے مطابق یہ بات قابل تعریف ہے کہ حکومت اسکول کھولنے سے پہلے صورتحال کا جائزہ لے گی، ہم حکومت کو مشورہ دیتے ہیں کہ تعلیمی ادارے کھولنے سے پہلے تمام اسٹاف بشمول وین ڈرائیور اور کنڈکٹر کے سب کا کرونا ٹیسٹ (اینٹی باڈیز ٹیسٹ) لازمی کروایا جائے کیونکہ وائرس سے متاثرہ ایک شخص بھی پورے ادارے کو بیماری میں مبتلا کر سکتا ہے، اس لیے تعلیمی ادارے مرحلہ وار کھولے جائیں اور پرائمری، پری پرائمری کلاس سب سے آخر میں کھولی جائیں، عام مشاہدہ ہے کہ 80 تا 85 فیصد لوگ آج کل ایس او پیز پر عمل درآمد نہیں کرتے یہاں تک کہ سرکاری دفاتر میں بھی لوگ احتیاطی تدابیر پر عمل نہیں کرتے، یہ حکومت کی ذمہ داری ہے کہ وہ سختی کے ساتھ ایس او پیز پر عمل درآمد کو یقینی بنائے، اسکرود، گلگت اور ان کے قریبی علاقوں میں کو رونا کے کیسز کی تعداد بڑھ رہی ہے، ہمیں ڈر ہے کہ ہمارا گراف کمپنیں پھر اوپر نہ چلا جائے جس سے ہمارے اسپتالوں اور صحت کارکنوں پر بوجھ بڑھ سکتا ہے جیسا کہ عید الفطر کے بعد ہوا تھا، عوام ایس او پیز اور احتیاطی تدابیر پر عمل کریں، ماسک پہنیں، سماجی فاصلہ برقرار رکھیں اور اپنے ہاتھوں کو دھوئیں یا سینیٹائز کریں، باہر جانے سے گریز کریں، عوام کو چاہیے کہ زندگی اور معاشی حالات کو نارمل سطح پر لانے کیلئے حکومت سے تعاون کریں اور اپنے روزگار کے ساتھ ساتھ احتیاطی تدابیر پر بھی عمل جاری رکھیں۔

