

## **PMA urges govt to monitor intercity transport, travellers from UK**

[Faiza Ilyas](#) Published March 16, 2021 -

KARACHI: Expressing concern over the rising Covid-19 cases in the country, particularly Punjab, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Monday called for immediate steps to prevent the spread of coronavirus from one province to another.

It urged the government to ensure strict implementation of precautionary Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) across the country and impose heavy fines on violators.

“This is needed to make people take the situation seriously and follow preventive measures. If this is not done, the situation will get worse and, consequently, a larger number of cities will have to be put under lockdown, causing more financial hardships for the poor and the country,” said Dr Qaiser Sajjad of PMA.

He also emphasised the need for close monitoring of intercity transportation as well as passengers arriving from abroad, particularly the UK.

“All entry points of the country and provinces should be monitored strictly for detecting Covid-19 patients,” he said.

It may be recalled that the number of active cases has jumped from 16,000 to 21,000 in just two weeks with the national positivity ratio rising from 3.2 per cent to 6.2pc.

“The situation is alarming. The UK variant strain is prevalent in Punjab, which is reportedly more lethal and has higher transmissibility. The government must not lift coronavirus-related restrictions till 70 per cent of the country’s population gets vaccinated,” he said.

### **Learning to live with virus**

The association also urged the general public to change their lifestyle, and learn to live with the virus by adhering to SOPs while performing their routine activities.

“Coronavirus is here to stay. It caused many deaths in the first wave, then the second wave and now in the third. Today, it was someone else hit by the virus but tomorrow it could be me or you.

“People must realise that the virus can hit them even if they are vaccinated against the disease as a vaccine provides only 70 to 90 per cent protection and that too for a certain period of time,” he explained.

The government early this month relaxed Covid-19 related restrictions on commercial activities, schools, offices and other workplaces, allowing them to function at full strength in Punjab.

It had decided to grant permission for indoor wedding ceremonies, dining inside restaurants and opening of cinemas and shrines from March 15. But it had to withdraw the decision seeing the rising coronavirus cases.

The association requested all healthcare workers to take the issue seriously and get vaccinated against the virus, which has so far caused deaths of 190 doctors and 30 paramedics.

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<https://www.dawn.com/news/1612733/pma-urges-govt-to-monitor-intercity-transport-travellers-from-uk>



# **PMA concerned over surge in Covid-19 cases**

## **OUR STAFF REPORT**

March 16, 2021

ISLAMABAD- The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) on Monday expressed its concern over the speedy surge of Covid-19 patients in the country, particularly in Punjab, during this third wave of pandemic.

A statement issued by the PMA said that the number of active cases has jumped from 16,000 to 21,000 in just two weeks with the national positivity ratio rising to 6.2 per cent. The situation is alarming and if we do not take appropriate steps for prevention, the situation could further deteriorate and the deadly virus could spread to other cities and provinces.

Moreover, the new UK variant strain is prevalent in Punjab which is ridiculously more lethal and problematic.

The PMA, in the beginning of March, showed its concerns over the government's decision to relax Covid related restrictions on commercial activities, schools, offices and other workplaces, allowing them to function at full strength in Punjab.

Permission of indoor wedding ceremonies, dining inside restaurants, opening of cinemas and shrines were to be granted from March 15. We warned and suggested the government not to lift Corona related restrictions till 70% population of the country gets vaccinated. We are thankful to the National Command and Operation Centre for withdrawing its decision of relaxing corona related restrictions on PMA's request.

According to the National Command and Operation Centre, till today 607,453 people have been affected by Coronavirus and 13,537 have died so far. During the last 24 hours, 2,253 cases were reported positive and 29 people died of Covid-19.

The PMA once again suggests the government takes immediate steps to avoid the spread of coronavirus from one province to another. We also request the government to implement the SOPs strictly all over Pakistan. The people found violating SOPs should be fined heavily because it has been observed that people are least bothered about pursuing preventive measures. If SOPs are not followed strictly, the situation will deteriorate and consequently the affected cities will have to be locked down.

Please closely monitor the people coming from abroad particularly from the UK. All entry points of the country should be monitored strictly for detecting corona patients.

The PMA also requests all the healthcare workers to take the issue seriously and get vaccinated as soon as possible to avoid the deadly virus which has so far killed 190 doctors and 30 paramedics.

<https://nation.com.pk/16-Mar-2021/pma-concerned-over-surge-in-covid-19-cases>

## Steps to check coronavirus spread stressed

[Our Correspondent](#)

March 16, 2021

LAHORE: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has expressed concern over the speedy surge of COVID-19 patients in the country, particularly in Punjab, during this third wave of pandemic.

The number of active cases has jumped from 16,000 to 21,000 in just two weeks with the national positivity ratio rising to 6.2 percent. According to a press release issued here Monday, PMA (Centre) Secretary General Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad observed that the situation was alarming and if we did not take appropriate steps for prevention situation could further deteriorate and the virus could spread to other cities and provinces.

Moreover, the new UK variant strain is prevalent in Punjab which is ridiculously more lethal and problematic. He thanked the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) for withdrawing its decision of relaxing corona related restrictions on PMA's request. PMA demanded the government take immediate steps to check spread of coronavirus from one province to another, enforce the SOPs strictly all over Pakistan, closely monitor the people coming from abroad particularly from England and monitor all entry points of the country.

TBA office-bearers sworn in: AN oath-taking ceremony of newly elected cabinet of Lahore Tax Bar Association 2021-22 held here on Monday. Advocate Amir Umer took oath as President along with Vice-President Muhammad Yousaf Bilal, General Secretary Malik Muhammad Ali Awan and others. It is pertinent to mention that Lahore Tax Bar had unanimously elected unopposed Amir Umer Khan Advocate Supreme Court as President Yousuf Bilal as Vice-President Malik Muhammad Ali Awan as General Secretary, Chaudhry Rehmat Ali as Finance Secretary and Ehsan Saleem as Joint Secretary. The lawyers and members of the tax bar celebrated the historic victory of the new cabinet. Only one group nominated their candidature and won the election unopposed.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/804869-steps-to-check-coronavirus-spread-stressed>

March 16, 2021



## پنجاب میں کورونا کیس بڑھنے

### پر پی ایم اے کا اظہار تشویش

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان میڈیکل ایسوسی ایشن نے ملک بھر میں اور خاص طور پر پنجاب میں کورونا وائرس کے مریضوں کی تعداد میں تیز رفتار اضافے پر گہری تشویش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ پنجاب میں دو ہفتوں کے دوران متحرک کیسز کی تعداد 16 ہزار سے 21 ہزار تک جا پہنچی ہے۔ ملک بھر میں مثبت کیسز کی شرح 6.2 فیصد ہو چکی ہے۔ یہ خطرناک صورت حال ہے اور کورونا وائرس کی روک تھام کے لیے مناسب اقدامات نہ کیے گئے تو مزید ابتری خارج از امکان نہیں۔ یہ وائرس شہروں اور تمام صوبوں میں تیزی سے پھیل سکتا ہے۔ کورونا وائرس کا نیا، برطانوی ورژن پنجاب میں تیزی سے پھیل رہا ہے۔ یہ زیادہ پیچیدہ اور مہلک ہے۔ ایک بیان میں پی ایم اے کا کہنا تھا کہ مارچ کے شروع میں ہی حکومت نے معاشی سرگرمیوں، تعلیمی اداروں، دفاتر اور دوسری کام کرنے والی جگہوں پر پابندی میں نرمی اور مکمل طور پر کھولنے کے فیصلے پر تحفظات کا اظہار کیا تھا۔ 15 مارچ سے چار دیواری کے اندر شادیوں، ریستوران کے اندر کھانا کھانے نیز سینما گھر اور مزارات کھولنے کا بھی اعلان کر دیا گیا تھا جبکہ ہم نے حکومت کو متنبہ کیا تھا کہ 70 فیصد آبادی کی ویکسی نیشن تک پابندیاں نرم نہ کی جائیں۔ پی ایم اے نے حکومت سے درخواست کی کہ صوبوں میں کورونا وائرس کی منتقلی روکنے کے لیے خاطر خواہ اقدامات کیے جائیں اور ملک بھر میں کورونا ایس او پیز پر سختی سے عمل کرایا جائے۔ ایس او پیز کی خلاف ورزی کرنے والے افراد پر بھاری جرمانہ عائد کیا جائے کیونکہ یہ عام مشاہدہ ہے کہ لوگ احتیاطی تدابیر پر عمل کرنے کے معاملے میں سنجیدہ نہیں۔ اگر ایس او پیز پر سختی سے عمل نہ کیا گیا تو صورت حال مزید بگڑے گی اور اس کے نتیجے میں متاثرہ شہروں میں لاک ڈاؤن نافذ کرنا پڑے گا۔ پی ایم اے کا کہنا تھا کہ بیرون ملک، بالخصوص برطانیہ سے آنے والوں کا اچھی طرح چیک اپ کیا جائے۔ ملک کے تمام داخلی راستوں پر کورونا کے مریضوں کو جانچنے کے انتظامات کیے جائیں۔ ہیلتھ ورکرز جلد از جلد ویکسی نیشن کرائیں کیونکہ اب تک کورونا وائرس سے 190 ڈاکٹر اور 30 پیرامیڈکس جاں بحق ہو چکے ہیں۔