

**Hon. President**  
Dr. Ikram Ahmed Tunio

**Hon. President Elect**  
Dr. Salma Aslam Kundi

**Hon. Immediate Past President**  
Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Nizami

**Hon. Secretary General**  
Dr. S.M.Qaisar Sajjad

**Hon. Treasurer**  
Dr. Qazi Muhammad Wasiq

**Hon. Joint Secretaries**  
Dr. Amir Saleem  
Dr. Saeed Ahmed

**Hon. Chairman E.B. JPMA**  
Dr. Sarwar Jamil Siddiqui

**Hon. Editor The Medical Gazette**  
Dr. Muhammad Nasir Sulaiman

# PAKISTAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



May 9, 2020

## JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

We are thankful to all of you to attend today's joint press conference. As you know that from today the Federal Government has decided in principle to ease out the corona related lockdown in the country. Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) and other health organizations, as a policy matter from day one asking for strict lockdown, educate and aware people to follow all the preventive measures to minimize the spread of the Covid-19. As far as the medical facilities and capabilities of the government are concerned, it is known to all that in case of increase in number of corona patients, the system will not be able to take care to all patients. As at the moment there are only 63 corona dedicated beds available in five public sector hospitals in Karachi only. But the situation throughout country and compare it with big cities, the situation will not be different or it can even be worst. At the moment in Karachi Expo Centre there are 1200 beds for corona patients out of which 350 beds are occupied. Though very appreciable, this facility is only providing an effective isolation and primary support. We fear that after the gradual relaxation in lockdown all over the country, keeping in view the literacy rate and level of awareness of our people, undisciplined attitude and obstinate behavior, the flood gate of Covid-19 patients will open in the society.

We need to be extremely care full and vigilant. We must prepare our self for the worst situation to come. We in all meeting at highest level have been demanding compensation to all Covid-19 victims including doctors, paramedics and health care providers. We have been demanding PPEs for our frontline soldiers. We demand Shuhda package / support money for the families of those medics who have lost their lives while fighting and saving lives of patients.

We also advice people to take this ailment just like any other diseases, and not take it as a taboo or social stigma.

We advices the government to listen the voice of WHO, which time and again calling for the lockdown as an only effective preventive measure against the virus.

In the end we jointly propose:

1. Lockdown has been relaxed in other countries when the number of cases is on declining trend; in Pakistan the cases are already increasing and any relaxation will rapidly increase them further. It is still advisable to continue with the lockdown till the cases at least slow down in a few weeks.

Page 1 of 2



**Hon. President**  
Dr. Ikram Ahmed Tunio

**Hon. President Elect**  
Dr. Salma Aslam Kundi

**Hon. Immediate Past President**  
Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Nizami

**Hon. Secretary General**  
Dr. S.M.Qaisar Sajjad

**Hon. Treasurer**  
Dr. Qazi Muhammad Wasiq

**Hon. Joint Secretaries**  
Dr. Amir Saleem  
Dr. Saeed Ahmed

**Hon. Chairman E.B. JPMA**  
Dr. Sarwar Jamil Siddiqui

**Hon. Editor The Medical Gazette**  
Dr. Muhammad Nasir Sulaiman

# PAKISTAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



2. If the government does decide to relax the lockdown with SOPs, it should take the responsibility to implement them too; leaving it to the citizens hardly expected to be successful as there is no such discipline in our population.
3. Likewise, with the expected surge of patients, the government has not given any plan to cater them as the existing infrastructure is already saturated.
4. There should be a clear dashboard or a central helpline from the governments in all major cities, to guide patients where to contact if they are sick. Only announcing designated hospitals does not help as it leads to frustration in finding a place by the sick. This helpline should be available to ambulance services so that the ambulance driver should know where to drop the patient.
5. There is no mention of the strategy to protect the healthcare workers so far; PPE shortage continues with increasing numbers being infected themselves. Screening of healthcare workers should be mandatory to avoid co-workers, their families and others from risks.

**Dr. Ikram Ahmed Tunio, President PMA Centre**

**Dr. S.M.Qaisar Sajjad, Secretary General PMA Centre**

**Dr. Qazi Wasiq, Treasurer PMA Centre**

**Dr. Sharif Hashmani, President PMA Karachi**

**Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Shoro, General Secretary PMA Karachi**

**Dr. Azeemuddin, President, PIMA**

**Dr. Atif Hafeez, Focal Person Covid-19, PIMA**

**Dr. Saad Khalid Niaz, PIMA**

**Dr. Sunil Dodani, President,  
Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan**

**Dr. Sohail Akhtar, PIMA, Chest Specialist**

**Dr. Nousheen Saif, General Secretary,  
Pakistan Chest Society**

