

# PAKISTAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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Dr. Alia Bano

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## Corona Alert

An emergent meeting of Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) was held today at PMA House, Karachi to discuss the covid situation in the country after the newly detected Omicron variant of coronavirus. the meeting was presided over through video link by Dr. Salma Aslam Kundi, President PMA Centre. The meeting was attended by Dr. S.M.Qaisar Sajjad, Honorary Secretary General PMA Centre, Dr. Qazi Wasiq, Treasurer PMA Centre, Dr. Syed Tipu Sultan, Former President PMA Centre, Dr. Mirza Ali Azhar, President PMA Sindh, Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Shoro, General Secretary PMA Karachi, Dr. Hamid Manzoor and senior members of PMA.

The meeting express its concern over the detection of the latest mutation of Covid-19 in South Africa namely Omicron, which has caused appalling situation all over the world, as its transmission is very high with mild symptoms and fast pulse rate.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for countries to take rational measures in response to the new corona virus strain, Omicron. The highly transmissible new variant has now been detected in at least 19 countries. The countries that have reported Omicron cases are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Reunion, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

According to Dr. Angelique Coetzee, The Chairperson of South African Medical Association and a senior Family Physician at Pretoria city for the last 33 years, the situation is not of huge concern. The cases they have observed so far are mild. Its transmissibility is more or less the same as UK Delta Variant. She is quiet confident that the severity of infection will stay low. Dr. Coetzee is the doctor who first reported the patient with Omicron. Initially she examined a dozen of patients mostly men and a six year child with raised pulse rate and with mild symptoms of fatigue, exhaustion and fever. However she does not rule out the seriousness of the illness because it will take six to seven days to observe and derive results.

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In these circumstances PMA once again warns the government to be prepared and vigilant and immediately take preventive measures to prevent this variant entering into our country. We strongly suggest the government to improve the facilities at air ports and other entry points of the country to scan and monitor the passengers and resume rapid antigen Covid-19 test or PCR at Air Ports, especially monitor the passengers arriving from high risk countries. If anybody is found with symptoms of Covid-19 should be quarantined at entry points for monitoring. The patients tested positive for Coronavirus should be kept in isolation facilities.

Government should take all the required preventive measures and immediately implement SOPs strictly. We should be very careful to avoid any untoward situation that can lead to worsen the Covid situation in the country. PMA fears that the behavior of people, believing that there is no corona in the country can, God forbid take us towards the fifth wave of coronavirus in the country.

We request public to adopt preventive measures, Wear mask whenever you go out, keep social distance, wash or sanitize your hands with proper intervals, avoid shaking hands and hugging. Moreover by preventing Covid-19 we will be able to keep on moving our trade and business otherwise government will be compelled to impose Corona related restrictions again.

PMA requests people to get vaccinated. The people who do not get them vaccinated could face the intricacy of the disease. Those who were vaccinated six months before should get booster dose of the vaccine. PMA appreciates Federal and especially the Sindh Government for providing booster dosage free of cost. We believe that unless 80% population of the world is not vaccinated we will continuously face different variants of Corona.

Dr. S.M.Qaisar Sajjad  
Honorary Secretary General  
Pakistan Medical Association (Centre)

