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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) is very much concerned 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 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.

**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 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 (NCOC) for withdrawing its decision of relaxing corona related restrictions on PMA's request.**

According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) till today 607453 people have been affected by Coronavirus and 13537 have died so far. During last twenty four hours 2253 cases were reported positive and 29 people died of Covid-19.

**PMA once again suggests government to take immediate steps to avoid 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 worsen and **consequently the affected cities will have to be lockdown.**

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

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.

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

