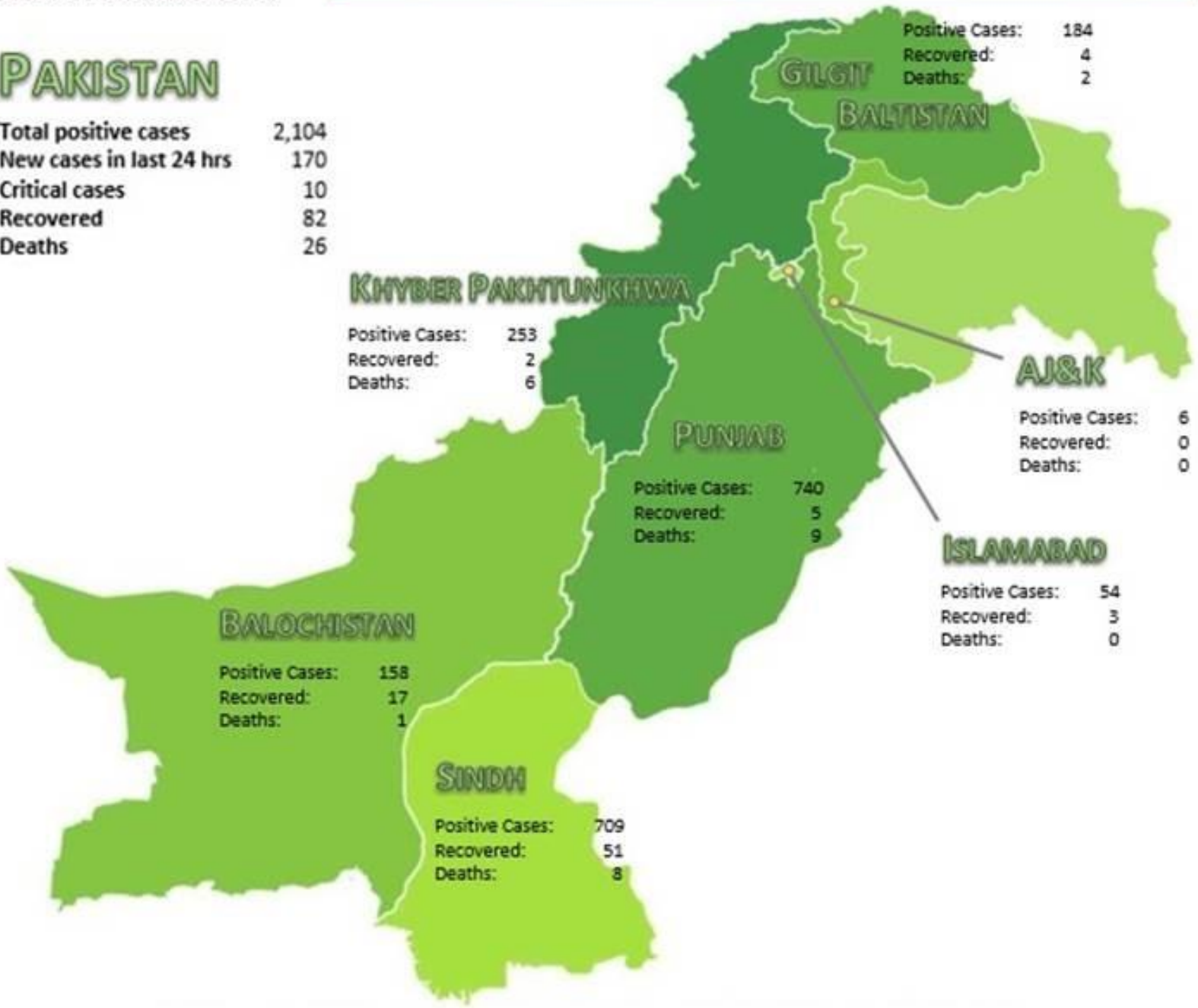


### PAKISTAN

Total positive cases	2,104
New cases in last 24 hrs	170
Critical cases	10
Recovered	82
Deaths	26



**National updates:**

- Government of Pakistan announced that the existing restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19 will remain for two more weeks until 14 April 2020.
- Government announced it will allow a special flight on 4 April 2020 to bring back stranded Pakistani citizens from foreign countries. The flight will land in Islamabad. The passengers will be tested and quarantined and will be allowed to leave after they test negative for Covid-19. However, domestic flights will remain suspended until further review.
- The Pakistani government is in the process of introducing a mobile application for journalists which will provide data to members of the fraternity that will be diagnosed with Covid-19. The government

has also created a protective kit for journalists, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and will be given only to those professionals that visit isolation centers and quarantines.

- Prime Minister of Pakistan launched the Ehsaas Emergency Cash initiative as part of the government's efforts to deal with the problems faced by citizens amid a country-wide lockdown to control the spread of Covid-19. The 144 billion PKR initiative will distribute 12,000 PKR to 12 million families across the country.
- A special Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight has left for Beijing, China, on the government's directives to bring back 52 tonnes of relief supplies including personal protective equipment (PPE), masks and testing kits.
- Prime Minister Imran Khan took serious notice of suspension of goods transport in the country despite his earlier order for its restoration and tasked Rangers in Sindh with ensuring its implementation by taking appropriate measures for movement of trucks and opening of industries amid a complete lockdown in the province.
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government announced that 121 pilgrims who had been under quarantine at Gomal Medical College in Dera Ismail Khan will leave for their homes tomorrow. All pilgrims tested negative for COVID-19.
- So far about 90,000 youngsters have registered themselves for Prime Minister Imran Khan's Corona Tigers Force through the Pakistan Citizens Portal.
- Rimsha Colony in Islamabad Capital Territory has been de-sealed after being cleared of coronavirus cases, according to a notification issued by the District Health Office.
- Attock Refinery is operating its 54,000 barrels per day (bpd) plant at 29 per cent capacity and is prepared to shut the complex in a week's time if local demand does not recover. If it closes, it would be the third refinery in the country to halt operations because of the collapse in demand as the country implements a lockdown to try to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Workers began stitching face masks, protective gear and medical clothing at a factory in Karachi as the country remains in lockdown.

### **Global updates:**

- As of 31 March 2020, three new countries/territories/areas reported cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. The countries are Botswana, Burundi, and Sierra Leone.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has updated the operational planning guidelines to help countries maintain essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The document is attached in the email. WHO recognizes the importance of addressing the needs of refugees and migrants when preparing for or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. WHO European Region has released a [guidance document](#) to assist healthcare working with refugees and migrants.
- WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he is "deeply concerned about the rapid escalation and global spread" of the coronavirus infection, seeing a "near exponential growth" in the number of number of new cases. He added that in the next few days the global number of infections will reach one million - and 50,000 deaths.
- WHO has released a scientific brief on the off-label use of medicines for COVID-19. A number of medicines have been suggested as potential investigational therapies, many of which are now being or will soon be studied in clinical trials, including the SOLIDARITY trial co-sponsored by WHO and participating countries.
- PAHO Director Dr. Carissa Etienne stressed that countries of the Americas must act now to slow the spread of COVID-19. WHO encourages countries to prepare hospitals and health facilities, protect their health personnel, and decide what social distancing measures need to be implemented and for how long, among other actions.
- The head of the United Nations has described the coronavirus pandemic as humanity's worst crisis since World War II as COVID-19 claimed more than 40,000 lives worldwide and over 30,000 in Europe alone.

- The head of the three global agencies - UN, WTO and WHO - warned that the world risks facing a food shortage if authorities fail to manage the continuing coronavirus outbreak properly. They urged that every effort must be made to ensure that trade flows as freely as possible, specially to avoid food shortages" from developing.
- A team of Chinese scientists at Tsinghua University in Beijing has isolated several antibodies that are "extremely effective" at blocking the ability of the new coronavirus to enter cells, which eventually could be helpful in treating or preventing Covid-19.
- Japan said it is struggling to hold the line against the coronavirus and is on the brink of crisis with medical experts particularly worried about preparations in Tokyo, raising the prospect of emergency lockdowns.
- Thailand launched a COVID-19 strip test, aiming to circumvent the standard test with a fast-track alternative which can provide results within 10-15 minutes. The test's main goal is to help expand the capacity of virus testing options within Thailand.
- Italy welcomed the use of Tommy — the robot nurse. It is part of a six-member team helping flesh-and-blood doctors and nurses care for coronavirus patients at the Circolo Hospital in Varese, Lombardy. Meanwhile, the Civil Protection Agency said the death toll from an outbreak of coronavirus in Italy was significantly a smaller increase than seen a day earlier and the lowest daily tally since 26 March 2020. In order to control the spread of the COVID-19, Italy announced to extend anti-coronavirus lockdown restrictions imposed last month to 13 April 2020.
- U.S. President Donald Trump and his top healthcare advisers urged Americans to follow strict social distancing measures ahead of a "tough two weeks" that could see at least 100,000 deaths from the coronavirus in the United States. Meanwhile, U.S. postponed Migrant Protection Protocol hearings through May 1 -second time since the outbreak of COVID-19 - for asylum-seeking migrants in Mexico due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- Swedish airline BRA said it was pausing all traffic between 6 April and 31 May as demand had ground to a halt amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that social distancing measures implemented to slow the spread of the coronavirus will be kept in place until April 19 and will be re-evaluated the Tuesday after Easter.
- Britain's government said it would ramp up the number of coronavirus tests amid widespread criticism that it was doing far too few, as ministers suggested that shortages of chemicals were partly to blame. Meanwhile a preliminary study showed lockdown and social distancing measures introduced by the British government has somewhat slowed the spread of Covid-19 and could soon see Britain's epidemic of infections declining.
- As many as 262 German nationals boarded a chartered Qatar Airways flight on Tuesday i.e. 31 April 2020 and departed from Islamabad. The departure of the special flight from Islamabad to Germany has sparked anger among British nationals, who are demanding that their government do more to repatriate vulnerable UK citizens stuck in Pakistan amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Outbreak experts say Europe's hospital-centric systems, lack of epidemic experience and early complacency are partly to blame for the pandemics catastrophic tear across the continent.
- Despite reporting lower number of cases, New Zealand said it was too early to assess if the lower number of cases during this week meant the nationwide lockdown measures were working.
- Authorities in Moscow, Russia, have unveiled a smartphone app designed to keep tabs on people who have been ordered to stay at home because of the coronavirus as Russia expanded its lockdown to cover more of its sprawling territory. Russia is also preparing to roll out a city-wide QR-code system where each resident that registers online will be assigned a unique code that they can show to police officers if stopped when going to the shop or the chemist.
- Additionally, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed legislation to allow the government to declare a state of national emergency in an effort to stem the spread of coronavirus. Only the president can declare a state of emergency after he has formally received the support of the upper house of parliament, but lawmakers passed legislation granting the cabinet of ministers the same emergency powers.

- Albanian schools, cafes, restaurants and other public venues will remain shut and restrictions on social and economic activity will stay in place till the end of the coronavirus outbreak
- Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned to issue order to police and military to shoot dead anyone "who creates trouble" during a month-long lockdown of the island of Luzon enforced to halt the spread of the coronavirus.
- In Brazil an indigenous woman in a village deep in the Amazon rainforest has contracted the coronavirus, the first case reported among Brazil's more than 300 indigenous tribes.
- Qatar told private sector companies in the Gulf state to direct 80% of their staff to work from home to help reduce the spread of coronavirus. The working day will be cut to six hours, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (local time), excluding grocery stores, pharmacies and restaurants.
- Nationwide lockdown in India has dramatically impacted pollution levels. Data shows that the main cities are recording much lower levels of harmful microscopic particulate matter known as PM 2.5, and of nitrogen dioxide, which is released by vehicles and power plants.
- A team of researchers in Pakistan, led by Dow University of Health Sciences Vice Chancellor Professor Mohammad Saeed Quraishy, think that the genetic makeup of the novel coronavirus may alter in a locally-transmitted case.
- Wimbledon cancelled for the first time since World War 2 due to coronavirus pandemic and instead will be staged from 28 June 2021 to 11 July 2021.
- UEFA has suspended all Champions League and Europa League matches "until further notice" due to the coronavirus pandemic, European football's governing body said. All national team games scheduled for June have also been postponed, including play-off matches for Euro 2020, which has been moved to 2021.
- Facebook activated The Community Help feature, allowing people impacted by the coronavirus pandemic to reach out for help from their community. The feature was added to the social network four years ago as a way to find shelter, food or supplies during natural disasters, and this week added the COVID-19 crisis to that list.
- Ride-hailing service Careem has launched support initiatives for its captains — a term it uses for drivers — amid a temporary suspension of services due to lockdowns to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

#### Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics as of 1 April 2020

	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Deaths	Recovered Cases
<b>China</b>	82,361	3,312	76,405
<b>Top 6 countries with most confirmed cases outside of China</b>			
<b>United States</b>	190,740	3,883	5,507
<b>Italy</b>	105,792	12,428	15,729
<b>Spain</b>	102,136	9,053	22,647
<b>Germany</b>	74,508	821	16,100
<b>France</b>	52,870	3,523	9,561
<b>Iran</b>	47,593	3,036	15,473

<b>Total stats Globally</b>	887,067	44,264	185,541
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