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## The second wave of COVID-19 in Pakistan, facts and preventive strategies

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The current outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), has been declared a pandemic by the world health organization (WHO). The disease is predicted to reach the highest level again in the ongoing winter, which has been named the "second wave" of COVID-19 [1, 2]. The rise in the number of infected individuals is persistent without a substantial decrease in transmissibility. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, so far it has killed more than one million people around the world, even though the number of people directly or indirectly infected with the coronavirus has been progressively increasing, with around 32 million people presently. In the recent winter season, the second wave of the corona has hit the majority of the northern countries of the world which increased the number of infected individuals on daily basis. Until now, the United States, Brazil, and India are among the highly affected countries in the world with a total number of 1.5 million people suffering from the virus attack [3]. Recently, the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Pakistan is rising once again which has compelled the government to increase restrictions and impose a smart lockdown in various cities of the country including Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi exactly in the same manner when the outbreak was at the peak in the first wave. The authorities are highly concerned due to the second wave of the coronavirus and they are constantly observing the situation in order to take timely measures [4]. It has been observed that the new cases of coronavirus were decreasing around the world, but a new wave was observed with the arrival of winter. The abrupt increase in the number of infected individuals was considered a matter of serious concern. Based on the newly emerged situations, the government of Pakistan decided to re-impose restrictions in various cities in order to control the further spread of the virus. In Pakistan, an increase in the number of positive patients was observed in the first week of October which raised the toll of active cases to 9,135. Six new deaths were reported and the majority of the patients were kept on ventilators [5]. Presently the province of Sindh has the highest number of confirmed positive patients followed by Punjab where a constant increase in the positive patients has been observed. Keeping in mind the prevailing situation, various public places have been sealed including wedding halls, restaurants, shops and factories across the country. The government officials are constantly observing the situations and they might close the educational institutions to protect the precious lives of students and to minimize the date rates in the new wave of the pandemic [6]. Pakistan has limited resources to deal with the corona epidemic, all stakeholders of the society must add their contributions to ensure the precautionary measures. The World health organization (WHO), and other international funding agencies should continue financial assistance to Pakistan so that the new wave of the coronavirus may not influence the already weak economy.

In case, the number of positive cases continues to increase, the government will impose a generalized lockdown which will worsen the livelihood of the daily wagers. This will directly affect the overall economic situation of the country and the results will be more devastating [7]. In Pakistan, the fact is that people still did not consider the corona pandemic serious. The only solution to avoid the devastating effects of the second wave of coronavirus is to take serious and timely precautionary measures. The most important point is the people will have to live with the corona [8]. Hence, as a global epidemic, the public must change their mind and attitude towards the coronavirus and must not consider it a joke. The people need to avoid negligence and must follow strictly the standard operating procedures (SOPs) [9]. Looking at the current scenario, the government must show more responsibility and make further necessary steps in order to force the people on taking serious precautionary measures. The imposing of penalties for those avoiding the SOPs will be a good option. In case the public wants to continue their routine business activities, they must ensure compliance with the precautionary measures to minimize the spread of the virus in the winter, hence the second wave of corona can be controlled [10].

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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