

Pakistan Oilfields Limited HSE Bulletin

ASTER MANUAL SALEST SAL

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"Make it your first task to wear a mask"

COVID-19 (Omicron Variant)

What is Omicron Variant?

As we all know that COVID-19 is an infectious respiratory disease caused by a virus called "Novel Corona Virus". Omicron is a new variant of this virus



which multiplies around 70 times faster than the previous variants in the lungs airways. It has extremely high rate of spread combined with its ability to affect fully vaccinated people. However for fully vaccinated persons, evidence suggests that it is less severe and less fatal than the previous (delta) variant.

او میکرون، کوروناوائرس کی ایک نئی شکل ہے جو سانس لینے کی نالی میں 70 گذا زیادہ تیزی سے افغر اکثر کرتا ہے۔ یہ وائرس مکمل طور پرو کیسین شدہ لو گوں میں بھی بیاری پھیلانے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے اور اس کے پھیلاؤ کی شرح بہت زیادہ ہے۔ تاہم مکمل طور پرو کیسین شدہ افراد کے لیے یہ نسبتاً کم مہلک ہے۔

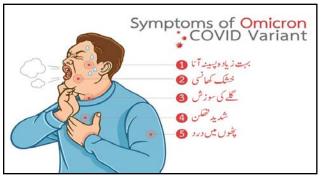
Current COVID-19 Situation

Omicron driven fifth COVID-19 wave is spreading at a great pace in Pakistan. During last few days, highest number of COVID positive cases has been reported in a single day since start of the pandemic crossing 7,100 cases in a day. As of 25th January 2022, more than 1,381,000 people have been infected and more than 29,000 deaths have been recorded in Pakistan.

What are Symptoms of Omicron Variant?

Different virus strains and variants cause new symptoms of COVID-19 to emerge over time. Similarly, Omicron variant has also slightly different symptoms than previous variants. So far, only 50% of infected people experiencing the previous three symptoms of fever, cough, or loss of sense of smell or taste. It is important to know that not all persons develop the same symptoms and some may be totally asymptomatic. Also the average time of recovery for mild cases of Omicron Variant is shorter than the previous variant i.e. approximately

05 days to 2 weeks. Following are the most common symptoms found in Omicron infected people are;

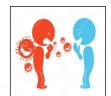


Other less common symptoms are fever, headache, sneezing, nasal congestion, runny nose, loss of sense of smell & taste and respiratory failure.

How Omicron Variant Spreads?

Till now, omicron variant is the most infectious COVID-19 variant due to its ability to replicate rapidly. Omicron multiplies much faster in the the main airways of the lungs which means that people infected by the Omicron variant have a lot more virus in their throats waiting to be expelled into the air when they exhale, cough or sneeze.

It can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak or breathe.



The virus can also spread by touching a surface or shaking hand with person that has the virus on it.



The virus can spread fast in enclosed and poorly ventilated areas.



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How to Avoid Omicron Variant?

The best way to prevent all COVID-19 variants is to avoid being exposed to this virus by observing following precautions.



Other Precautions

In addition to above, also follow these precautions:

- If you have completed the vaccination process 06 months ago, get yourself a booster dose as per guidelines of Government of Pakistan.
- Practice food safety and hygiene and consume properly cooked fresh food. Ensure that food handlers are not sick and follow personal hygiene and use face masks.
- Ensure that adequate measures are taken for medical screening and disinfection of people coming from outdoors.
- Ensure that all COVID-19 guidelines are followed in true spirit at your workplace.

What to do if you are infected?

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, seek medical attention early and get yourself tested. If your test result is positive, keep calm and follow these steps:

• Isolate yourself and stay at home.

• Get plenty of rest and stay hydrated.

• Avoid sharing personal household items.

• Monitor your symptoms.

 Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces in your room and bathroom.

• Remain in contact with your physician.

• Practice hygiene and ensure cleanliness.

