

**PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC)**

**PRESS WING**

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**PR. No. 129/2020**

**Islamabad, 03 December 2020:** President Dr Arif Alvi has said that the number of COVID-19-positive patients was rising during its 2<sup>nd</sup> wave and urged the people to follow the SOPs in letter and spirit to contain the spread of the disease effectively. He expressed these views while chairing a consultative meeting with Ulema on COVID-19 at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The meeting was attended by prominent Ulema belonging to various schools of thought from all provinces including Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan also attended the meeting. President AJK and all provincial governors along with ulema from the respective areas participated through the video-link.

The meeting was briefed by SAPM on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan about the current situation of Covid-19. The President sought suggestions and support from Ulema with regard to contain the disease. The provincial governors also gave various suggestions via video-link. The President Arif Alvi said that the Ulema had played an exemplary role during the first wave of the pandemic and expressed the confidence that they would show the same spirit of cooperation in creating awareness among people about the disease. He said that Ulema could educate the people about the pandemic through religious sermons in Friday prayers.

The Ulema assured the President of their full cooperation and educating the people about the Covid-19 related SOPs and strictly adhering to all related guidelines.

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