



Coronavirus: A Glossary of Terms to Help You



"Coironaviruses" got their name because they have a "crown" that reminded scientists of the corona of the sun, as seen here in a 2017 solar eclipse.

WHAT DOES COVID-19 MEAN?

COVID-19 is a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus. The disease was discovered in China in December 2019 and has since spread around the world.

The name COVID-19 was derived from the year it was first detected (2019) and using letters from CO-rona-VI-rus D-isease

outbreak / epidemic / pandemic

An outbreak is "a sudden rise in the incidence of a disease," which is usually confined to one area or group of people. When there are enough outbreaks, in places beyond that initial spot, that amounts to an epidemic. A pandemic is an epidemic that has become a worldwide phenomenon. When does something officially become "worldwide"? There's no absolute answer.

quarantine / self-quarantine / isolation / *cordon sanitaire*

If one is in quarantine, that's good news in a way. The word typically describes the confinement of people who appear healthy but could have the disease. (When someone is determined to be sick and is kept apart from others, that is known as **isolation**.)

To self-quarantine suggests that one is voluntarily confining themselves by, say, staying at home

When the Chinese government effectively cut off some 50 million people in Wuhan, the location of the first outbreak, that was most aptly described as a **cordon sanitaire**. That French term, which came into use following the flu pandemic of 1918, describes roping off a whole community, which might contain sick and healthy people, and preventing anyone from leaving in order to curb the spread of a disease.

symptom / symptomatic / asymptomatic / incubation

Symptomatic cases of COVID-19 include things like fever, cough and shortness of breath. One of the big questions health officials have been racing to answer is whether, and how long, someone might have the novel coronavirus while being asymptomatic: not showing signs that they have the disease.



This is related to a virus' ***incubation period***, the length of time between when an infection begins and when there are apparent signs of the disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is operating under the assumption that COVID-19 has a two to 14-day incubation period, based on what officials have seen with other coronaviruses.

spread / community spread / communicable / contagion

community spread in the United States, meaning the “spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown.”

morbidity / mortality

The ***morbidity rate*** is a measure of how many people have an illness relative to the population; the ***mortality rate*** is a measure of how many people have died because of an illness, also relative to the population.

social distancing

As the COVID-19 outbreak has grown, various local and national health officials have suggested *social distancing* measures to slow the spread of a disease. These are courses of action designed to limit when and where people gather.

This term can also be used to describe actions taken by individuals, like choosing not to take public transportation or opting to shop from home instead of going to the store. Social distancing measures might also include businesses telling employees to work from home or executives meeting via video call rather than in their usual conference room.

Glossary

Disease = enfermedad

Spread = propagar

Outbreak= brote (of disease)

Epidemic = epidemia

Pandemic = pandemia

Sudden = repentino

Rise = ascenso. subida

Incidence = incidencia

Confined = confinado

worldwide = en todo el mundo, mundialmente

phenomenon = fenómeno



quarantine = cuarentena

to be in a quarantine = Estar en cuarentena

isolation = aislamiento

cordón sanitaire = cordón sanitario

sick = enfermo

kept = mantenido

flu = fiebre

healthy = saludable

cut off = aislar

aptly = acertadamente

curb = frenar

symptom/ symptomatic/ asymptomatic = síntoma, sintomático, asintomático

incubation = incubación

cough= tos

breath = respirar

length = largo

morbidity = morbilidad

mortality = mortalidad

rate= tasa, proporción

measure = medida

illness = enfermedad

die = morir

gather= reunir, juntar

grow = crecer

source = procedencia

unknown = desconocido

contagion = contagio

infection = infección