



Simple Meanings of Words Used in Relation to COVID-19

Coronavirus: coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illness in humans or animals. Some coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections in humans such as the common cold and more severe diseases like Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

Novel Coronavirus: a new coronavirus that has not been identified before

COVID-19: stands for Coronavirus Disease 2019 and is abbreviated as COVID-19. CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease. This disease was first referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV"

Outbreak: a sudden increase in occurrences of a disease in a particular time and place

Epidemic: the rapid and sudden spread of an often-contagious disease, which affects many individuals in an area or population at the same time

Pandemic: an epidemic that affects a wide geographic area such as entire countries, continents, or the entire world

Symptom: sign of disease or illness

Asymptomatic: not showing signs or symptoms of disease or illness; a person is sick but does not look or feel sick

Symptomatic: showing signs or symptoms that are common to a disease or an illness

Contagious, Infectious, Communicable: able to spread disease or make others sick

Contagious Disease, Infectious Disease, Communicable Disease: an illness that spreads to others

Morbidity: being sick/ill; having a disease or the symptoms of a disease

Mortality: death

Person Under Investigation (PUI): someone who may or may not be sick with the disease and is waiting for test results to come back

Presumptive Positive: when a person tests positive for the disease at the local (city or state) level, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not yet confirmed the results

Community Spread or Local Spread: when people have been infected with the virus in an area, including those not sure when or where they became infected

Isolation: separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick

Self-isolation: when a person who may be sick with a contagious disease chooses to separate from others for a period of time to see if they actually get sick

Quarantine: separation and restriction of the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick

Social Distancing: maintaining distance of at least 6 feet from others when possible, as well as avoiding mass gatherings and congregate settings

Physical distancing: similar meaning to social distancing; some prefer to use this term because it highlights that while persons need to maintain physical distance from each other to prevent the spread of disease, social interaction should continue



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Teleworking, Working Remotely, Working from Home:

working from home but remaining in contact with co-workers, customers, or a main office through use of computers, phones, and other means

Shelter in Place, Stay at Home, Safer at Home: orders given by the city, state, tribal, or federal government for residents to stay at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Lockdown: a measure that may be used during an emergency to prevent people from temporarily leaving or entering an area

Curfew: an order by the government requiring certain or all people be at home or off the streets by a specific time

Essential Services/Activities: services which businesses and organizations provide that are allowed to continue while other operations that are non-essential are ordered to cease to prevent the spread of COVID-19; check government Web sites to find the list of essential services for your area

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): masks, clothing, shoes, safety glasses, gloves, and such like, which are worn to protect a person from infection or injury

Incubation: the development of a contagious disease from when it enters the body to when symptoms appear

Incubation Period: the period of time required for the development of a contagious disease from when it enters the body to when symptoms appear

Public Health Emergency: a declaration that enables a release of resources such as funds and personnel to deal with an actual or potential public health crisis such as a significant outbreak of an infectious (contagious) disease. It can also allow public health and elected officials to restrict, enforce, and/or regulate various activities, as well as provide guidelines to protect

the public's health

Local State of Emergency: a declaration in a geographic area that enables emergency response teams to respond more quickly and resources to be released to meet local needs. It also allows government officials to restrict and/or regulate various activities and provide guidelines to deal with the issue

National State of Emergency: a national emergency is declared when a national crisis or a situation occurs, which threatens the country and call for an immediate response. It allows the president to put specialized laws into operation and for the release of funds that could not otherwise be used. COVID-19 has been declared a national emergency

Where to Get Trustworthy Health Information: there is a lot of health information about the COVID-19 on social media and the Internet, but not all may be credible (trustworthy). Web sites that normally have more trustworthy information end with .gov, .edu, or .org. Gov stands for government, edu for educational institutions like universities, and .org for organization like non-profit or medical organizations. Web sites ending in .com are normally businesses. Com stands for commercial (for-profit business)

Here are some examples of Web sites that end in .gov, .edu, and .org:

<http://www.cdc.gov/>, <https://www.ok.gov/health/>, <http://www.ihs.gov/>, <http://www.health.harvard.edu/>, <http://www.mayoclinic.org/>

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