



Coronavirus

**What is it?
and**

A Glossary of Terms



What is the Coronavirus?

What is a Virus?

Viruses are tiny particles that can cause disease in people, animals and plants. Viruses are so small that they can only be seen through a microscope. Viruses can cause many diseases including measles and the 'flu.

What is a Virus?

In order to thrive, a virus needs a suitable environment in which to grow. Inside the human body, known as the “host”, a virus moves through the bloodstream and starts to make copies of itself, causing the person to feel symptoms of the illness.

Coronavirus

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illnesses in humans and animals. In humans, they can cause respiratory (breathing) illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe illnesses.

Covid-19

Covid-19 refers to the specific illness related to the current outbreak of Coronavirus. It was named by WHO and it stands for **Coronavirus Disease 2019**, the year in which it was first detected.

Covid-19

Covid-19, the current strain of the Coronavirus, was unknown before the outbreak in Wuhan, China in December 2019. It is not yet known how it started but it is suspected that it was started by an animal.



Glossary of Terms

Glossary of Terms

The emergence of the Coronavirus/Covid-19 has brought with it a lot of new terminology which you may not have heard of before. The following are some of those terms with a simple explanation:

Outbreak

An **Outbreak** of a disease is where there are two or more linked cases of the same illness or where the number of cases of the illness exceeds the expected number or where the number of cases continues to rise.

At Risk

People are considered to be **At Risk** of contracting the Coronavirus if they are older or if they have other underlying medical conditions like heart disease or diabetes, or if they are pregnant.

Symptomatic

Symptomatic means that a person is showing symptoms (signs) of an illness or virus. For Covid-19, that means that a person may be experiencing things like a fever, cough or shortness of breath.

Confirmed Case

A Confirmed Case of Coronavirus is where a person is informed that they have contracted the disease after medical tests have been carried out.

Self-Isolation

Self-isolation refers to people who are asked to isolate themselves at home for a period of 14 days because they have been in close contact with a confirmed case or if they are developing symptoms of the disease.

Contact Tracing

Contact Tracing refers to the attempts that are made by medical professionals to contact all of the people a confirmed case may have been in close contact with.

Close Contact

In the case of Coronavirus, **Close Contact** refers to someone who has spent more than fifteen minutes face-to-face contact within two metres of an infected person, or someone who is living in the same house or shared accommodation as an infected person.

Community Transmission

Community Transmission means that someone has caught the virus from another person in the community, without having travelled to another virus-hit area like China or Italy.

Person-to-Person

Person-to-Person refers to the spreading of a disease due to close personal contact between people, either through physical contact or a cough or a sneeze in close quarters.

Social Distancing

Social Distancing refers to attempts to keep yourself away from other people as a means of protecting yourself from contracting a disease.

Mortality Rate

Mortality Rate refers to the number of deaths caused by the disease in a defined population. This is usually expressed as a percentage of people who die from the overall number of people who contracted a disease.

WHO

WHO refers to the World Health Organisation, an agency of the United Nations which is in charge of directing international health across the world. WHO is leading the battle against the Coronavirus/Covid-19.

ECDC

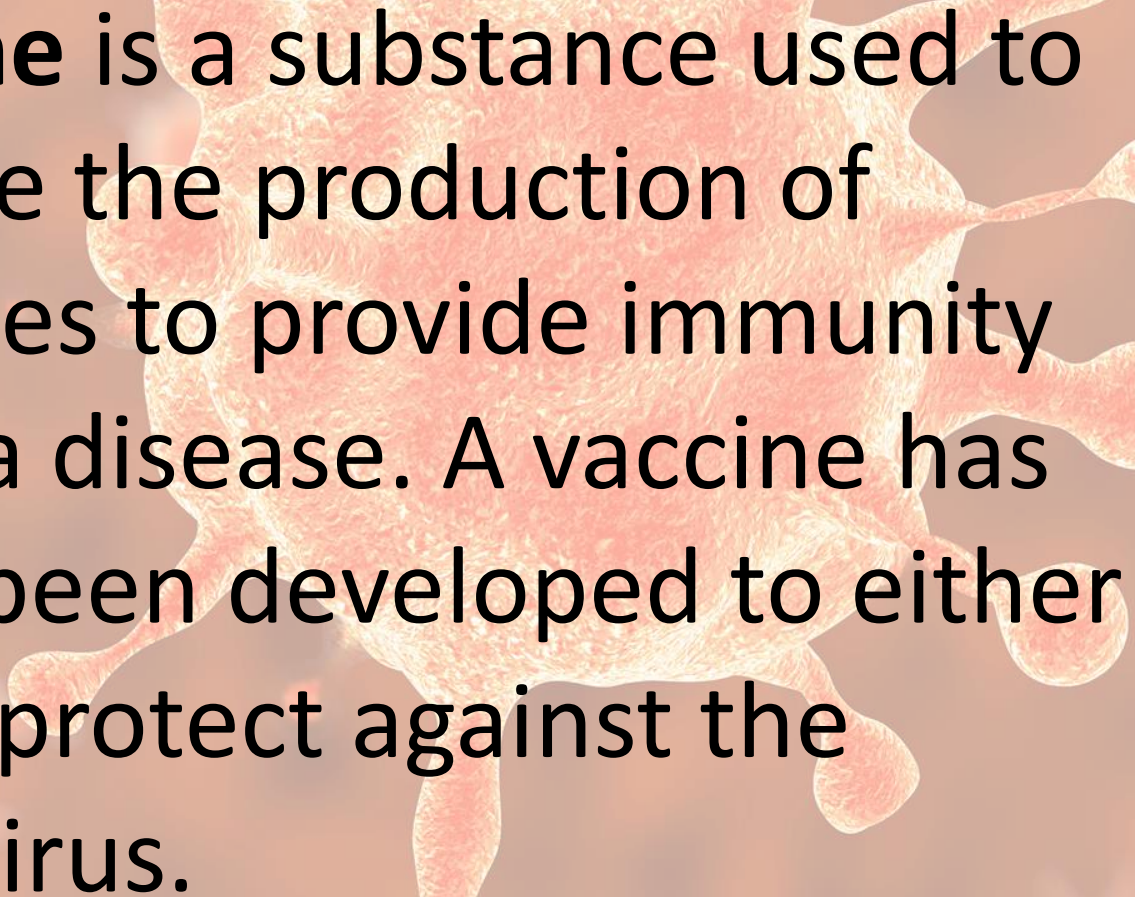
ECDC refers to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control which is like the WHO but supports the member states of the European Union in battling against Coronavirus/Covid-19.

Pandemic

A **Pandemic** refers to the worldwide spread of a new disease – as distinct from an epidemic which is an outbreak within a smaller community or country. Covid-19 is not yet considered to be a pandemic.

Vaccine

A **Vaccine** is a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies to provide immunity against a disease. A vaccine has not yet been developed to either treat or protect against the Coronavirus.



Cluster

A **Cluster** refers to the outbreak of a disease in the same area at about the same time.

Novel

Novel means new, so a novel Coronavirus refers to a strain of the virus that has not been detected in humans before.

Quarantine

Quarantine refers to isolation imposed on people that have arrived from elsewhere having been exposed to Coronavirus/Covid-19 and who might spread the disease. This period of isolation is known as quarantine.

Containment Phase

Containment Phase refers to the attempts to catch cases of the Coronavirus/Covid-19 early and trace all of their close contacts to prevent the spread of the disease.

Delay Phase

Delay Phase – if the numbers of cases of the Coronavirus/Covid-19 continue to rise, attempts will be made to delay the spread of the illness by doing things like closing schools and cancelling large-scale events.

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