

COVID-19 Glossary

COVID-19	Novel Coronavirus
Co: Corona	“Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface. There are four main sub-groupings of coronaviruses, known as alpha, beta, gamma, and delta.” The term novel is to indicate it has not previously been identified. Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/types.html
Vi: Virus	
D: Disease	
19: The disease was first detected in 2019.	

Antibody tests

Antibody blood tests, also called antibody tests, check your blood by looking for antibodies, which show if you had a previous infection with the virus. [Learn more.](#)

Diagnostic tests

Diagnostic tests, or viral tests, check samples from your respiratory system (such as swabs of the inside of the nose) to tell you if you currently have an infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)

Furlough

A worker is not paid, but still employed by a company. This is an alternative to a company laying off workers and can happen by either a drastic decrease in hours or an elimination of all scheduled shifts.

Flattening the curve

Typically, when there is an outbreak of a virus or diseases, there is a bell curve of infection cases. Flattening the curve means lowering the number of infections in order to avoid overwhelming hospitals and is done through such measures as social distancing and sheltering in place.

Layoff

A cost-cutting elimination of an employee that is not related to job performance.

Pandemic

A global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people and can spread easily between people. Because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads worldwide.

PPE

Personal protective equipment: used to stop the spread of illness or disease and avoid injury. Some examples are masks, gloves, face shields, hazardous materials (hazmat) suits.

Quarantine

Isolating someone who may have a communicable disease and may or may not be showing symptoms from those who are healthy. Quarantines are needed to stop the spread of the disease.

Reagents

A broadly used lab term that refers to the key chemical ingredients used in various tests and experiments. [Learn more.](#)

R0

Pronounced “R-naught,” R0 (a zero, not an “o”) represents the number of new infections estimated to stem from a single case. [Learn more.](#)

Shelter in Place

[CDC Guidelines for Shelter in Place or Stay Put orders:](#)

Get inside. Stay inside with your loved ones, and pets, get emergency food, medicine, and first aid supplies. Find a safe spot in this location. The exact spot will depend on the type of emergency. Stay put in this location until officials say that it is safe to leave.

Social Distancing

Also referred to as physical distancing. Avoiding large crowds and gatherings and maintaining a set distance (in the case of COVID-19, 6 feet or 2 meters) from other people.