

Glossary of COVID19 related words

COVID19 Term	In plain English language
Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)	A failure of the respiratory system, that comes on quickly so getting treatment fast is important. People with ARDS breathe rapidly, are short of breath and might have bluish skin. ARDS is a potential complication of COVID19.
Co- Morbidity	More than one disease or condition is present in the same person at the same time. i.e. Having diabetes or heart problems when being infected with COVID-19.
Coronavirus	A family of viruses that cause different diseases in the human species, most of them mild.
COVID19	This is the name of the disease (detected in 2019) that is caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. It can affect your lungs and airways.
Epidemic	An epidemic is an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many individuals at the same time.
Mortality (death) rate	The mortality rate is the proportion of deaths from a specific disease over the total population during a period of time.
Organ failure	The failure of an essential system in the body such as cardiovascular (heart) or renal (kidneys)
Pandemic	This is when an epidemic spreads between countries, affecting a large number of people. In 2020, we are in a pandemic with the worldwide spread of COVID-19.
Pre-existing Condition	Pre-existing conditions are health conditions someone already has that could make a coronavirus infection worse. Lung disease, asthma and heart disease are pre-existing conditions
Respiratory failure	This means breathing and the lungs that help us to breathe are failing.
Respiratory System	The organs that are involved in breathing. These include the nose, throat, larynx, trachea, bronchi, and lungs.
SARS-CoV-2	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the novel coronavirus first detected in Wuhan, China, that causes coronavirus disease COVID-19
Sepsis	When bacteria (infection) gets into the bloodstream
Shortness of breath	Difficulty breathing, and can feel like an intense tightening in the chest, air hunger, breathlessness or a feeling of suffocation.
Therapeutic (s)	Drugs that lessen the severity of disease symptoms and may keep people from getting severely sick or dying. Currently, we don't have many proven therapeutics for COVID19
Virus	Simple infectious agent, which multiply in the cells of various organisms. Needs to live in a cell from other organisms to survive.

Adapted from a crowd sourced glossary of COVID19 related terms;

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jChlafkaCGUtm7Jrg-f2IE2D6YGM0rmCtzXKYH_sHws/edit#gid=0