

Covid-19 Terminology

GUIDE



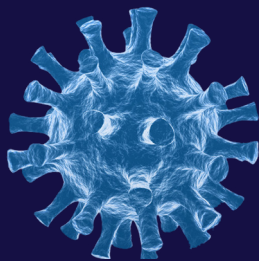
**Legal
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COVID

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What is Covid-19?

SARS (SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME)

SARS or coronavirus first infected humans in 2002 before being contained. Prior to 2019, there had been no further outbreaks since 2003. SARS causes fever, headache, body aches, a dry cough, hypoxia (oxygen deficiency), and usually pneumonia. SARS and SARS CoV-2 are related genetically, but the diseases they cause are different. (CDC,2021)

SARS-CoV-2 (SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS 2)

The new coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is believed to have started in animals and spread to humans. COVID-19 stands for coronavirus disease 2019 or SARS-CoV-2. Animal-to-person spread was suspected after the initial outbreak in December 2019 among people who had a link to China. COVID-19 appears to be transmitted more easily than SARS-CoV. One possible explanation is that the amount of virus, or viral load, appears to be highest in the nose and throat of people with COVID-19 shortly after symptoms develop. (CDC, November 1 ,2021)

The impact of COVID-19 has been unprecedented in today's modern world. Over 650 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 have resulted in over 6,675,000 deaths. The financial impact on the worldwide economy is in the trillions of dollars. (WHO, January 3 ,2023)

TERMS TO KNOW

1 AEROSOL

A tiny particle or droplet that is suspended in the air. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

2 ANTIBODY

A protein your immune system makes in response to an infection. If you have antibodies for the coronavirus in your blood, it means you have been infected with this virus at some point (even if you never had any symptoms). (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

3 ANTIBODY TEST

Also called a serology test, this checks to see if you have antibodies in your blood that show that you were previously infected with the virus. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

4 ANTIGEN TEST

A type of diagnostic test that checks to see if you're currently infected. The test looks for proteins (antigens) in a sample taken from your nose or throat. Antigen tests are faster than PCR tests, but they are less accurate and have a higher risk of false positives (meaning that they're more likely to say you have the infection when you don't) and false negatives (meaning they're more likely to say you don't have the infection when you do). This may also be called a rapid test or rapid diagnostic test. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

5 ASYMPTOMATIC

Not showing any symptoms (signs of disease or illness). Some people without any symptoms still have and can spread the coronavirus. They're asymptomatic but contagious. Fever, cough, and shortness of breath are the main symptoms of COVID-19. Call your healthcare provider or a UVA clinic if you have any of the symptoms. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

TERMS TO KNOW

6 THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

The United States' federal health protection organization. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

7 CLUSTER

A grouping of disease cases in a geographic area during a set time period. (CDC, 2021)

8 COMMUNICABLE

Similar in meaning as “contagious.” Used to describe diseases that can be spread or transmitted from one person to another. (UVA Health, 2022)

9 COMMUNITY SPREAD

The spread of an illness within a particular location, like a neighborhood or town. During community spread, there's no clear source of contact or infection. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

10 CONFIRMED CASE

Someone tested and confirmed to have COVID-19. (UVA Health, 2022)

11 CONGREGATE SETTINGS

Public places that can get crowded and where contact with infected people can happen. This includes places like malls, theaters, and grocery stores. (UVA Health, 2022)

TERMS TO KNOW

12 CONTACT TRACING

A disease control measure. Public health workers known as contact tracers work with infected people to identify anyone whom had close contact with while they were contagious. The exposed contacts are then informed that they might be carrying the coronavirus. Recommendations to quarantine, get tested, and wear well-fitting masks depend on their vaccination status and whether they've had a COVID-19 diagnosis within the past 90 days. (CDC, 2021)

13 CONVALESCENT PLASMA THERAPY

A treatment that involves taking blood from someone who has antibodies to a disease, separating out the clear liquid part (plasma), and then giving it to someone who is sick with the same illness. This technique has been used to treat many different diseases but is still considered experimental for treating COVID-19. The World Health Organization does not recommend its use for milder cases of COVID-19. The WHO says it should only be used within clinical trials for severe and critical COVID-19 patients. (CDC, 2021)

14 CORONAVIRUS

A family of related viruses. Many of them cause respiratory illnesses. Coronaviruses cause COVID-19, SARS, MERS, and some strains of influenza, or flu. The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is officially called SARS-CoV-2, which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. (CDC, 2021)

15 DIAGNOSTIC TEST

A test that checks to see if you are infected. This is usually done via a swab test, which entails taking a sample from the back of your nasal cavity so it can be analyzed in a lab to see if it contains genetic material from the virus. This test may use a saliva sample instead. It's also called a viral test. (CDC, 2021)

TERMS TO KNOW

16 DRIVE-THRU TESTING

Instead of visiting a doctor's office or other indoor health care facility, patients pull up in their cars to a specific outdoor site where diagnostic and/or antibody tests for COVID-19 are done. Health care providers stand outside and do testing through car windows. (CDC, 2021)

17 DROPLET

A tiny moist particle that is released when you cough or sneeze. You may get the coronavirus if you're close to someone who is carrying it and your mouth, nose, or eyes come into contact with droplets they have released. (CDC, 2021)

18 EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION

A ruling put out by the FDA in an emergency, allowing medical professionals to use certain products before they have the agency's full approval, clearance, or licensing. (CDC, 2021)

19 ENDEMIC

The baseline or expected level of a disease in a given community. (CDC, 2021)

20 EPIDEMIC

A situation where more cases of disease than expected happen in a given area or to a group of people. (UVA Health, 2022)

TERMS TO KNOW

21 EPIDEMIOLOGY

The branch of medicine that studies how diseases happen and spread in communities of people. A person who studies epidemiology is called an epidemiologist. (UVA Health, 2022)

22 FLATTENING THE CURVE

Controlling the rate of new cases of COVID-19.

The “curve” refers to a graph showing the number of cases of COVID-19 that happen over a period of time. Many cases happening in a short period of time create a graph that looks like a tall spike.

By using protective measures, we can slow down how many new cases happen. This is the “flattening” of the curve – on the graph, the flattened curve winds up looking more like a gentle hill.

Too many new cases happening in a short time can create a serious problem. Hospital systems only have so many supplies, like beds and PPE. There are also only so many doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers. Too many patients at one time can overwhelm these resources. This means sick and injured people may not get needed treatment.

Flattening the curve reduces the numbers of people needing healthcare at one time. This allows hospitals to treat patients throughout the pandemic. (UVA Health, 2022)

23 HERD IMMUNITY

When the majority of people in an area are immune to a specific infection, even the members of the population (herd) are protected simply by being around them. Experts estimate that between 80% and 90% of the population would have to have antibodies to COVID-19 in order for herd immunity to kick in. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

TERMS TO KNOW

24 HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE

A medication used to treat or prevent malaria. The FDA originally granted emergency use to treat patients with COVID-19 based on very limited data showing that it has activity against SARS-CoV-2. The ruling was later removed because studies didn't show that the drugs worked against COVID-19 or that its benefits outweigh the risks. (CDC, 2021)

25 IMMUNITY

Your body's ability to resist or fight off an infection. Your immune system is a network of cells throughout your body that help you avoid getting infected and help you get better when you are infected. (UVA Health, 2022)

26 IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

Also called immune-compromised or immunodeficient. This describes someone who has an immune system that can't resist or fight off infections as well as most people. This can be caused by several illnesses. Some treatments for illnesses can also cause someone to be immunocompromised. (UVA Health, 2022)

27 INCUBATION PERIOD

The time it takes for someone with an infection to start showing symptoms. For COVID-19, symptoms appear 2-14 days after infection. (UVA Health, 2022)

28 INFUSION

A procedure that puts a medicine, blood, or fluid directly into your veins through an IV or catheter over a period of time. (CDC, 2021)

TERMS TO KNOW

29 N95 RESPIRATOR

Unlike a surgical or cloth mask, N95 respirators (sometimes called N95 masks) are designed to prevent the wearer from breathing in tiny particles. When fit properly, they filter out at least 95% of large and small particles. (CDC, 2021)

30 OUTBREAK

A sudden increase of a specific illness in a small area. (UVA Health, 2022)

31 PANDEMIC

When a new disease spreads to many countries around the world. (UVA Health, 2022)

32 PCR TEST

Stands for polymerase chain reaction test (PCR). This is a diagnostic test that determines if you are infected by analyzing a sample to see if it contains genetic material from the virus. (CDC, 2021)

33 PPE

PPE Stands for personal protective equipment. This term includes masks, face shields, gloves, gowns and other coverings that healthcare workers use to prevent the spread of infection to themselves and other patients. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

TERMS TO KNOW

34 PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI)

When a health provider suspects a person has the coronavirus. But, no test has confirmed the infection. (UVA Health, 2022)

35 PRESUMPTIVE POSITIVE CASE

When a person tests positive for the coronavirus, but the CDC hasn't confirmed the case. (UVA Health, 2022)

36 PRE-SYMPTOMATIC

If you're pre-symptomatic, you have contracted the virus and may soon feel symptoms, but don't have any symptoms. It may be possible to spread COVID-19 to others during this phase. (CDC, 2021)

37 QUARANTINE

Sometimes called "isolation." Quarantines keep people away from each other to prevent the spread of disease. Stay-at-home orders are a type of quarantine.

Governments sometimes order quarantines to keep healthy people from exposure to infected people. They give rules to behavior and boundaries to movement. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

38 R0

Pronounced r-naught, this is the "basic reproductive number" of a contagious disease: the average number of additional cases that directly result from a single person bringing it into a community. COVID-19 is believed to have an R0 of 2.2-2.7, which means that the first person who has it in a community will likely infect two or three others, and those newly infected people will each go on to infect another two to three people, rapidly spreading the virus. (CDC, 2021)

TERMS TO KNOW

39 SARS-CoV-2

Stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. SARS-CoV-2 is the specific strain of coronavirus that causes the COVID-19 disease. [CDC, 2021]

40 SCREENING

This is not the same as a coronavirus test. This step helps healthcare workers to decide if you actually need a coronavirus test. It's a series of basic questions about your health condition and recent history. Screening may also include other common healthcare procedures, like taking your temperature. [UVA Health, 2022]

41 SELF-ISOLATION

Also called self-quarantine. Separating yourself when you're sick from healthy individuals to prevent spreading illness. [UVA Health, 2022]

42 SEROLOGY TEST

Also called an antibody test, this checks to see if you have antibodies in your bloodstream that indicate you had been infected with the virus in the past. [CDC, 2021]

43 SHELTER IN PLACE

An order for people to stay where they are and not leave for their own protection. A stay-at-home order is a kind of shelter-in-place order. [UVA Health, 2022]

TERMS TO KNOW

44 SOCIAL DISTANCING

Also called physical distancing. It means putting space between yourself and other people at all times. The goal is to slow down how fast an infection spreads. Stay-at-home orders are a way that the government can enforce social distancing.

The CDC recommends keeping at least six feet between you and others around you in public. Social distancing also includes avoiding crowds and groups in public. (UVA Health, 2022)

45 STATE OF EMERGENCY

A declaration made by the governor of a state because a disaster is occurring or about to occur. Allows the governor to quickly direct funds to protect the public during a crisis. (CDC, 2021)

46 SWAB TEST

A type of diagnostic test that involves taking sample from the back of your nasal cavity so it can be analyzed in a lab to see if it contains the virus. Also called a viral test. (CDC, 2021)

47 SYMPTOMATIC

When a person shows signs of illness. For COVID-19, that includes cough, fever or shortness of breath. (UVA Health, 2022)

TERMS TO KNOW

48 VACCINE

A vaccine triggers the immune system to help it build immunity to a disease. The immune system already has the capacity to react to diseases by producing substances called antibodies that remain in the body to fight them in the future. With a vaccine, you don't have to get the disease to develop immunity—the vaccine triggers the same process by providing the body with a tiny amount of a germ that has been weakened or killed, but small enough that it won't make you sick. Vaccines are introduced to the body via injection, mouth, or a nasal spray. (CDC, 2021)

49 VENTILATOR

A machine that supplies oxygen to a patient with severe lung issues. People with severe cases of COVID-19 can't provide enough oxygen to their body. Their lungs are too limited. (UVA Health, 2022)

A ventilator machine requires a specialist or respiratory therapist. It is more invasive than an oxygen mask. (CDC, 2021)

50 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

This United Nations organization monitors and protects public health around the world. (Mayo Clinic, November 30, 2020)

51 ZOO NOTIC

This means that a disease was originally was detected in animal, but is now infecting people also. (UVA Health, 2022)

COMMON DRUGS

1 REMDESIVIR (VEKLURY)

Approved for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (28 days of age and older and weighing at least 3 kilograms) with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing, who are: hospitalized, or not hospitalized and have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. (CDC,2022)

2 OLUMIANT (BARICITINIB)

Authorized for the treatment of COVID-19 in pediatric patients 2 to less than 18 years of age requiring supplemental oxygen, invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygen (ECMO). (CDC,2022)

3 SARS-CoV-2-TARGETING MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

Laboratory-produced antibodies that can help the immune system's attack on SARS-COV-2. These mAbs block entry into human cells, thus neutralizing the virus. The following SARS-COV-2-targeting mAbs are authorized for use through an EUA. (CDC,2022)

4 PAXLOVID (ANTIVIRAL DRUG)

Nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets (Paxlovid) is the first oral COVID-19 treatment cleared by the FDA. This antiviral drug from Pfizer treats adults and children 12 and older (weighing at least 88 pounds) who have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and are at high risk of the disease becoming severe. The FDA made Paxlovid available through an emergency use authorization. (CDC,2022)

COMMON DRUGS

5 IMMUNE MODULATORS

Immune modulators are a category of drugs that help activate, boost, or suppress the immune function. The immune system can become hyperactive which may result in worsening of disease. Immune modulators can help suppress this hyperinflammation. [CDC,2022]

6 ACTEMRA (TOCILIZUMAB)

Authorized for the drug Actemra (tocilizumab) for the treatment of hospitalized adults and pediatric patients (2 years of age and older) who are receiving systemic corticosteroids and require supplemental oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). [CDC,2022]

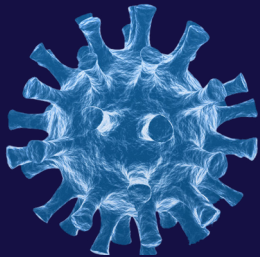
7 KINERET (ANAKINRA)

Authorized for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized adults with pneumonia requiring supplemental oxygen (low- or high-flow oxygen) who are at risk of progressing to severe respiratory failure and likely to have an elevated plasma soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor (suPAR). [CDC,2022]

REFERENCES

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C O V I D * 1 9



Covid-19 Specialists

Legal Eagle has taken steps to prepare its staff for the growing number of litigation matters surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. Legal Eagle court reporting, eDiscovery, and trial technician employees have been versed in Covid-19 terminology, taken WHO (World Health Organization) certified classes, and are experienced in complex healthcare and mass tort litigation. Legal Eagle is committed to helping you and your legal team navigate the new landscape of Covid-19 litigation.



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