

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) JARGON BUSTER

Term	Definition
<p>Asymptomatic See also <a href="#">Symptom</a></p>	<p><b>When you don't show any signs of being ill</b>, even though you may be infected with a disease such as coronavirus. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as 25 per cent of people infected with coronavirus may not show symptoms.</p>
<p>Care Act easements See also <a href="#">Care Act 2014</a>, <a href="#">Ethical framework for adult social care</a></p>	<p><b>Temporary changes to the Care Act 2014 during the coronavirus outbreak to help councils cope.</b> If a council cannot meet everyone's needs, it can give priority to people with the most urgent care and support needs. This would affect assessments, care plans and reviews. Councils should only do this if it is essential in their area, and they still have a duty to uphold people's human rights. The Government has published an 'ethical framework' for councils to help them plan their response to coronavirus in their local area.</p>
<p>Communicable disease</p>	<p><b>A disease that is passed from one person to another</b> through people being near each other or through bodily fluids.</p>
<p>Community spread</p>	<p><b>When a disease such as coronavirus spreads within a community</b>, including people who have had no contact they know of with someone who is infected, and who have not travelled to an area where the disease is widespread.</p>
<p>Contact tracing</p>	<p><b>The process of working out who has had contact with someone who is infected</b> with a disease such as coronavirus. This means that everyone who has been in contact with an infected person can be tested for the virus and can be told to isolate themselves.</p>
<p>Contagious</p>	<p><b>When a disease such as coronavirus can be passed on by direct or indirect contact between people.</b></p>

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Coronavirus  
See also Covid 19, Novel coronavirus

**An umbrella term to describe a family of viruses that cause disease in animals.** Some of these viruses, including Covid 19, the new one that is affecting people worldwide, have made the jump to humans. Most are not serious. The virus appears in the shape of a crown under a microscope, which is how it gets its name.

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Coronavirus Act 2020  
See also Care Act easements

**An emergency law passed by Parliament in March 2020 that gives the Government new powers to deal with the coronavirus outbreak.** Areas covered by the new law include social care, the NHS, schools, police, local councils, courts and funerals. The Act is in place for two years.

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Covert spread

**When a disease such as coronavirus is spread by people who may be infected but show no signs and feel well.**

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Covid 19  
See also Coronavirus, Novel coronavirus

**The formal name given to the current outbreak of coronavirus.** It is an infectious illness that may be mild or severe that is caused by a coronavirus. It usually causes a fever, cough and shortness of breath, and may progress to pneumonia and respiratory failure. The word comes from coronavirus plus disease, and the 19 refers to 2019, the year the disease was first identified in China.

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Epidemic  
See also Outbreak, Pandemic

**A number of outbreaks of a disease in a number of different areas at the same time.**

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Ethical framework for adult social care

**Guidance for councils on how they should plan their response to coronavirus in their local area** for people who need social care and support.

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Flattening the curve

**A way of slowing the rate at which people become infected with coronavirus,** to avoid everyone becoming ill at the same time and to allow the health service to cope. It does not necessarily mean reducing the number of cases of the disease overall, and may mean that the outbreak lasts longer.

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## Furlough

**A temporary absence from work, when workers keep their job but are not working while the coronavirus outbreak continues.**

It is intended to be a temporary arrangement and workers will return to their jobs, but there is no guarantee that employers will keep everyone on when furlough ends.

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## Herd immunity

**When the majority of people in a population are protected against a disease**, either because they have already had it or because they have been vaccinated against it.

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## Incubation period

**The time before a person shows signs that they are ill, after being infected with a disease.**

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## Lockdown

**When people are told by the Government not to leave their homes without an essential reason.** Essential reasons include buying food or picking up medicine, seeing a doctor, taking brief exercise once a day close to home, or helping someone who is vulnerable. This may be enforced by the police or armed forces.

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## Mortality rate

**The number of people who have died of a disease in relation to the number of people who get the disease, and in relation to the population as a whole.**

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## Notifiable disease

**A disease that has to be reported by law to government authorities**, because it is potentially dangerous to wider human health. Covid 19 is a notifiable disease.

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## Novel coronavirus See also [Coronavirus](#), [Covid 19](#)

**The newest type of coronavirus** that is currently affecting many people around the world.

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## Outbreak See also [Epidemic](#), [Pandemic](#)

**A sudden rise in the number of cases of a particular disease** in a particular area or among a particular group of people.

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**Pandemic**  
See also **Epidemic, Outbreak**

**Numerous outbreaks of a particular disease all over the world at the same time.** It relates to the way a disease spreads, not the severity of the disease itself. The World Health Organisation decides when a series of epidemics are widespread enough to be called to be a pandemic.

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**Personal protective equipment (PPE)**

**Equipment that protects you against risks to your health or safety at work.** Care workers and health care staff such as nurses and doctors rely on things like facemasks, gloves and aprons to protect their own health while they are treating people with coronavirus, and to avoid spreading infection between people.

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**Quarantine**

**A period of keeping away from other people until it is certain that you do not have a disease.**

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**Self-isolation**

**Staying in your own home and not going out** if you feel unwell, if you live with someone who is unwell, or if you are at risk of becoming seriously ill if you are infected with coronavirus, because of an existing health condition you have.

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**Shielding**  
See also **Self-isolation, Social distancing**

**A way of protecting people who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill if they get coronavirus, by making sure they have as little contact as possible with other people.** They should not leave their homes for a set period (currently 12 weeks), and anyone they live with should follow the Government's guidance on social distancing.

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**Social distancing**

**Avoiding close contact with other people during the outbreak of an infectious disease.** It is a way of slowing the spread of coronavirus and stopping it reaching the people who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill. It means limiting when and where you can get together with people you do not live with. The Government advises that people should go to essential shops as infrequently as possible, work from home, and not meet up with family or friends or go to other people's houses. When you are outside your own home, it can help to think of it as a physical distance – you should stay at least two metres, or six feet, away from other people.

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Symptom

**A sign that you are unwell.** The early symptoms of coronavirus often include fever, a dry cough and tiredness.

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Ventilator

**A machine to help you breathe when disease has caused your lungs to fail,** to give your body time to fight the disease and recover.

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