



LEARN ABOUT COVID-19

and arm yourself with
the information to protect your family
and your community

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Antibodies

Antibodies are proteins created by your body's immune system soon after you have been infected or vaccinated. Antibodies help you fight off infections, like COVID-19, and can protect you from getting that disease again. How long the protection lasts is different for each disease and each person.

Asymptomatic

This means not showing any symptoms (signs of disease or illness). In the case of COVID-19, this means not showing signs or symptoms like fever, dry cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath. People who may not show or feel any symptoms may still have and can spread a virus or disease. They are asymptomatic, but contagious.

COVID-19

The name of the illness caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 stands for "coronavirus disease 2019."

Community spread

Also known as community transmission. This means the spread of an illness within a particular location, like a neighborhood or town. During community spread, there is no clear single source of contact or infection.

Contact tracing

This refers to identifying and monitoring people who may have come in contact with an infectious person. In the case of COVID-19, monitoring usually involves self-quarantine (staying isolated) in an effort to prevent the spread of disease to other people.

Flattening the curve

A phrase that refers to controlling the rate of COVID-19. The "curve" refers to a graph showing the number of cases of COVID-19 that happen over a period of time. "Flattening the curve" means reducing the number of people who become infected by COVID-19 and needing healthcare at one time, allowing hospitals to maintain a steady supply of supplies and resources to be able to treat patients throughout the pandemic.

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Herd immunity

Also known as community immunity, this is the reduction in risk of infection within a population, often because of previous exposure or vaccination.

Immunocompromised

Also known as immune-compromised or immune-deficient. This describes someone who has a weakened immune system that cannot resist or fight off infections as well as most people. A person's immune system may become weakened because of one or more ongoing illnesses.

Long-hauler

Long-haulers are people who have not fully recovered from COVID-19 weeks or even months after first experiencing symptoms. Some long haulers may feel continuous symptoms for weeks or months, while others feel better for weeks, then experience old or new symptoms.

Pandemic

When a new, infectious disease spreads to many countries around the world.

Symptomatic

When a person shows signs of illness. For COVID-19, symptoms include cough, fever or shortness of breath.

Vaccine

A product that stimulates a person's immune system to produce a response to a specific disease when it enters the body, like COVID-19, and protects the person from that disease.

Variant

When a virus replicates or makes copies of itself, it sometimes changes a little bit, which is normal for a virus. These changes are called "mutations." A virus with one or more new mutations is referred to as a "variant" of the original virus.