Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

What is a coronavirus? Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.

What is COVID-19? COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. COVID-19 is now a pandemic affecting many countries globally.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO) - Q&A on coronaviruses

UN Entities

- World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Health Topics - Coronavirus: [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus)
  - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak: [https://www.who.int/covid-19](https://www.who.int/covid-19)
• Situation reports: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/
• Travel advice: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice
• Advice for public / Infographics: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public
• Coronavirus Scam Alert - Beware of criminals pretending to be WHO: https://www.who.int/about/communications/cyber-security

  o Infographics and videos in over 30 languages: https://who.canto.global/v/coronavirus/folder/PQC9D

• United Nations
  o From the UN Secretary-General: https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/un-secretary-general
  o 'Verified' initiative: https://www.shareverified.com/en

• Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
  o UN COVID-19 Data Hub: https://covid-19-data.unstatshub.org/
  o Web portal for the statistical community: https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/

• Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

• Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform:
  o COVID-19 - Dispatches from the Field: Scientists, experts and policy makers addressing the Covid-19 crisis around the world: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/blog/covid19

• General Assembly
  o Resolution 74/274 “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19”, adopted on 20 April 2020: http://undocs.org/A/RES/74/274
o Resolution 74/270 “Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)”, adopted under a silence procedure on 2 April 2020:
http://undocs.org/A/RES/74/270

- Security Council
https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/meetings-2020-vtc
  o 24 September 2020: Summit-level debate on the theme “Maintenance of international peace and security: global governance after COVID-19”
    ▪ Concept note: https://undocs.org/S/2020/883
  o 12 August 2020: Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Pandemics and the challenges of sustaining peace
  o 2 July 2020: Maintenance of international peace and security: Implications of COVID-19
  o 9 April 2020 - Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
  o Joining Forces: Effective Policy Solutions for Covid-19 Response, ECOSOC Informal Briefing, 11 May 2020:

- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
  o COVID-19 Observatory: https://www.cepal.org/en/topics/covid-19

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
  o COVID-19 Response and Recovery Platform:
    https://www.icao.int/covid/Pages/default.aspx

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
  o New IFAD fund launched to help prevent rural food crisis in wake of COVID-19 (20 April 2020):

- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
  o COVID-19 and the world of work:
  o COVID-19 and the world of work: Global impact and policy responses:

- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
  o The IMF and COVID-19 (Coronavirus):
  o Europe’s COVID-19 Crisis and the Fund’s Response (30 March 2020):
• **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
  - Coronavirus (COVID-19) - advice for seafarers and shipping: [http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx)

• **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

• **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**
  - Mobility Restrictions COVID-19: [https://migration.iom.int/](https://migration.iom.int/)

• **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

• **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**
  - OCHA and COVID-19: [https://www.unocha.org/covid19](https://www.unocha.org/covid19)
  - ReliefWeb - COVID-19: [https://reliefweb.int/topics/covid-19](https://reliefweb.int/topics/covid-19)

• **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**
- UN Technology Bank
  - A COVID-19 technology sharing platform: https://techaccesspartnership.org/

- UN WOMEN

- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
  - COVID-19 Campaign: Take action with us in cities and communities: https://unhabitat.org/covid-19

- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs / UN-SPIDER

- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - Coronavirus vs. inequality: How we’ll pay vastly different costs for the COVID-19 pandemic: https://feature.undp.org/coronavirus-vs-inequality/

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
  - Africa Knowledge Hub on COVID-19: https://knowledge.uneeca.org/covid19/

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
  - Coronavirus Advisory: https://www.unece.org/covid-19.html

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
  - COVID-19: https://www.unescap.org/covid19

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
  - COVID-19 Response: https://en.unesco.org/covid19
- Visual resources to download and share: https://en.unesco.org/covid19/communicationinformationresponse/visualresources

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
  - COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.unfpa.org/covid19

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
  - Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) - What you need to know about the virus to protect you and your family: https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19
  - Protecting the most vulnerable children from the impact of coronavirus: An agenda for action (3 April 2020): https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/agenda-for-action

- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
  - UNICRI’S Work to Address COVID-19 and its Exploitation by Criminal and Terrorist Groups: http://www.unicri.it/in_focus/on/covid19_landing_page

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

• United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
  In this blog series, authors explore the uneven distribution of impacts of both the pandemic and the crisis response, as well as the social, political and economic drivers of these disparities. The series engages UNRISD’s networks and draws on its vast body of social development research to provide evidence-based responses to the current crisis as it develops and suggest viable strategies for a future where similar crises are not only less devastating, but also less likely to happen.

• United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
  o UNRWA responds to COVID-19: https://www.unrwa.org/covid_19

• United Nations University (UNU)
  o Real-time Research - COVID-19 Response: https://unu.edu/covid-19
  o UNU-CRIS: Call for Blog Contributions: Regional Dimension of the COVID-19 Response: http://cris.unu.edu/covid19discussion
  o UNU Evidence, Policy, and Interventions for COVID-19 Tracker (UNU EPIC Tracker): https://epictracker.org/

• United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
  o Current assignments: https://www.unv.org/special-calls (search by keyword COVID-19)

• World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

• Universal Postal Union (UPU)
  o COVID-19: Information and updates from the UPU: https://www.upu.int/en/Postal-Solutions/COVID-19

• World Food Programme (WFP)

• World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

• World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

• World Trade Organization (WTO)
  o COVID-19 and world trade: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm

• World Bank
Further Information


- **UN documents on the topic "COVID-19":**
  [https://digitallibrary.un.org/search?ln=en&as=0&p=subjectheading:[COVID-19]]

- **Coronavirus global health emergency: Coverage from UN News**
  This page brings together information and guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations regarding the current outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that was first reported in Wuhan, China, on 31 December 2019. Please visit this page for daily updates. WHO is working closely with global experts, governments and partners to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on this new virus, to track the spread and virulence of the virus, and to provide advice to countries and individuals on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of this outbreak.

- **United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law**
  “International Law and Infectious Disease Control”, lecture by Professor Gian Luca Burci, Former Legal Counsel of the WHO: [https://legal.un.org/avl/ls/Burci_HS.html](https://legal.un.org/avl/ls/Burci_HS.html)