# **COVID-19: A Never Seen Pandemic**

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### Abstract:

People have long been affected by epidemics and pandemics of communicable illnesses. The outbreaks have been around for thousands of years. Even in our modern day, epidemics have ravaged civilization till it leads people to despair. In the meanwhile, viruses have always offered huge difficulties that have ignited horrific epidemics and pandemics. A pandemic is the widespread spread of a new sickness. Viral respiratory diseases, such as those caused by a novel influenza virus or the coronavirus COVID-19, are the most likely to evolve into a pandemic. A pandemic is not the same as an epidemic. In an epidemic, many more cases of a health condition occur than would typically develop in a community or area, however the ailment does not move outside. The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for declaring when a worldwide epidemic is underway. The WHO achieves this by monitoring outbreaks of a disease and receiving advice from worldwide health experts. This paper depicts the impact of COVID-19 in globally in various fields and also visualize the current status of this pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19; Confirmed Case; Pandemic; WHO;

## Introduction

Humans have always been tormented by epidemics and pandemics of infectious illnesses. The outbreaks have been around for thousands of years. Even in this contemporary day, epidemics have destroyed civilization till it drives people to despair. In the meantime, viruses have always offered substantial difficulties that have triggered devastating epidemics and pandemics. A pandemic is the widespread spread of a new illness. Viral respiratory disorders, such as those caused by a novel influenza virus or the coronavirus COVID-19, are the most likely to develop into a pandemic. A pandemic is not the same as an epidemic. In an epidemic, many more instances of a health problem occur than would typically develop in a community or area, yet the ailment does not spread farther.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for announcing when a worldwide pandemic is happening. The WHO achieves this by monitoring outbreaks of a disease and accepting advice from worldwide health experts. Australia and other nations are, however, likely to take actions to mitigate the effects of a pandemic before the WHO issues an official proclamation. Throughout history, pandemics of illnesses such as cholera, plague, and influenza have played a vital influence in moulding human civilizations. Examples of significant historical pandemics include the plague pandemic of the Byzantine Empire in the 6th century CE; the Black Death, which originated in China and spread across Europe in the 14th century; and the influenza pandemic of 1918–19, which originated in the U.S. state of Kansas and spread to Europe, Asia, and islands in the South Pacific. Although pandemics are often marked by their presence over a short period of time, certain infectious illnesses endure at a high level of frequency, occur on a global scale, and may be transferred between people either directly or indirectly.

#### According to WHO:

The World Health Organization (WHO) previously utilised a six-stage categorization to characterise the process by which a new influenza virus progresses from the initial few infections in humans through to a pandemic. It begins when animals are infected with a virus and, in a few instances, when animals infect humans. Then it continues to the stage when the virus begins to be transferred directly between individuals and finishes with the stage when illnesses in humans from the virus have spread globally. Throughout human history, there have been a number of pandemics of illnesses such as smallpox. The most lethal epidemic in recorded history was the Black Death (also known as The Plague), which killed an estimated 75–200 million people in the 14th century. The name was not used yet but was for the following pandemics, notably the 1918 influenza pandemic (Spanish flu) (Spanish flu). Recent pandemics include TB, Russian flu, Spanish flu, Asian flu, cholera, Hong Kong flu, HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 [1].

#### **COVID-19's Impact:**

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing worldwide pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (SARS-CoV-2). The new virus was originally detected in an epidemic in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Attempts to confine it there failed, enabling the virus to spread globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared

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a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020 and a pandemic on March 11, 2020. As of April 12, 2022, the pandemic has caused more than 500 million illnesses and 6.18 million fatalities, making it one of the worst in history. It is part of a family of viruses called coronaviruses that infect both animals and humans. In the last two decades, coronavirus outbreaks have prompted worldwide concern, notably one in 2003 with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and more recently in 2012 with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) (MERS) [2].

COVID-19 may produce symptoms very similar to the flu — fever and a dry cough (the two most prevalent symptoms), exhaustion, aches and pains, and nasal congestion. As the epidemic spreads over the globe, additional symptoms such as a loss of sense of smell or taste have developed; these are not yet definite proof of infection with the novel coronavirus, and the World Health Organization is examining this. COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus, which implies that it is probable no one has natural immunity to it. MERS-CoV and SARS are on watch lists of illnesses having pandemic potential, along with Ebola and influenza. Since it started, COVID-19 has expanded globally, forcing the WHO to call it a pandemic and a "public health emergency of international concern." Announcing the statement in March, Ghebreyesus said the WHO did not use the term pandemic lightly or carelessly because if it was overused, it would lead to excessive panic. Up to that moment, COVID-19 was classified as an outbreak.

Emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) are now defined as "diseases that have recently developed in a community or have existed but are rapidly expanding in incidence or geographic range," with the emergence era remaining open to interpretation. This concept does not distinguish between distinct forms of emergence or re-emergence, and thus does not account for the extremely diverse causes and relevance of illnesses and pathogens in terms of global burden, danger, and origin. Further, it does not necessarily differentiate the relatively uncommon but concerning new diseases with pandemic impact or potential, such as SARS, COVID-19, or MERS-CoV, from those which are simply variants of old pathogens, new detections of old pathogens with new tools, or re-emergence of old pathogens in new geographies, acknowledging that these may be locally important. Thus, the phrase "EID" as it is useless at best, and at worst, readily misinterpreted [3].

#### The impact on society and the economy:

The health, social, and economic effects have touched all sectors of the population but are especially devastating to social groups in vulnerable circumstances, including people living in poverty, elderly people, people with disabilities, and indigenous peoples. Global financial

markets have been substantially influenced by the repercussions of the COVID-19 spread. As the number of instances began to climb internationally, notably in the US, Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Iran, and South Korea, the world financial and oil markets drastically dropped [4].

To begin with, the Indian government used thermal screening for tourists travelling from China as well as other nations. In the month of March 2020, the government of India offered different tips and suggestions for limiting the spread of a deadly illness. During the first phase, the government announces various shutdowns, which are followed by the general lockdown, halts visa issuance and suspends already granted visas for specified countries. The central government built an additional quarantine and treatment service across the states and produced an advisory requiring strict adherence to social distancing measures, as well as a special national hotline number for COVID-19-afflicted people. A national lockdown was enforced, and it was continued in stages until June 30, 2021. For best attention and prioritisation, the government of India divides the nation into three zones: green, orange, and red. Aarogya Setu, a smartphone application for contact monitoring and spreading awareness, was released. Attention was devoted to developing infrastructure for testing, finishing, and changing the course of treatment; interstate supply of oxygen; medication; vaccine development; and building infrastructure and resources for the distribution of immunizations.

Along with all the efforts made by the federal government, various state governments also created and implemented their own strategies to tackle the coronavirus. Some of the typical measures employed by state governments are: application of section 144; lockdown; shut down; night curfew; partial curfew; weekend curfew; declaration of containment zone; home quarantine; isolation; and limitations on outside activities. Other preventive measures include raising awareness of hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, social distance, hand sanitizer, advertising through various media, and telecasting COVID-related messages and bulletins to educate the general public. To counteract the virus, all governments have undertaken strict measures to strengthen medical infrastructure across the various states, including increasing the number of beds in private and public hospitals, opening nursing homes, trying to formulate medical surveillance teams for door-to-door visits, and providing basic facilities such as medicine, testing, and giving medical kits that include PPE kits, face masks, safety gloves, sanitizers, vitamin-zinc tablets, a thermal gun, and other goods [5].





#### Conclusion

In a relatively short time, healthcare systems and society have been seriously challenged by yet another new pathogen. Preventing transmission and reducing the number of new infections are the major aims. However, the issue of COVID-19 causing catastrophic disease and death is at the centre of public concerns. The critical care group has considerable expertise in treating severe acute respiratory infections every year, frequently from unclear sources. The treatment of seriously sick patients, in particular older adults with COVID-19, must be founded on this evidence foundation and, in parallel, ensure that learning from each patient might be of tremendous relevance to the care of the whole community.

#### **Reference:**

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