

Annexure 1

COVID-19 TERMINOLOGY

Aerosol: A tiny particle or droplet that is suspended in the air.

Antibody test: Also known as **serology test**, this checks to see if you have antibodies in your blood that show that you were previously infected with the virus.

Antibody: A protein which is made by your immune system 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).

Antigen test: A type of **diagnostic test** that checks to see if you are 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 have a higher risk of false positives (meaning that they are more likely to say you have the infection when you do not have). This may also be known as a rapid test or rapid diagnostic test.

Asymptomatic: Not showing any symptoms (signs of disease or illness).

Cluster: A grouping of disease cases in a geographic area during a set time period.

Communicable: It means “contagious.” Disease that can be spread or transmitted from one person to another.

Community spread: The spread of an illness or disease within a particular

location, like a neighborhood or town. During community spread, there is no clear source of contact or infection.

Confirmed case: Someone tested and confirmed to have COVID-19 disease.

Congregate settings: Public places that can get crowded and where contact with infected people can happen. Examples: malls, theaters, grocery stores, etc.

Contact tracing: A disease control measure. Public health workers known as contact tracers work with infected people to identify anyone, they had close contact with while they were contagious. The exposed contacts are then informed that they might be carrying the coronavirus and advised to stay home for 14 days while monitoring themselves for symptoms.

Convalescent plasma therapy: A treatment that involves taking blood from someone who already has antibodies to a disease, separating out the clear liquid part (plasma), and then administering it to someone who is sick with the same disease. This technique has been used to treat many different diseases but is still considered experimental for treating COVID-19.

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.

COVID-19: Stands for coronavirus disease-19. COVID-19 is the name of the infection caused by the novel (new) strain of highly contagious coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that was first identified in late 2019.

Droplet: A tiny, moist particle that is released when you cough or sneeze. You may get infected with the coronavirus if you are close to someone who is carrying it and your mouth, nose, or eyes come into contact with droplets they have released.

Endemic: The baseline or expected level of a disease in a given community.

Epidemic: A significant and possibly sudden increase in the number of cases of a disease in the community.

Epidemiology: The branch of medicine that studies how diseases happen and spread in communities of people.

Flattening the curve: Refers to efforts designed to prevent too many people from getting sick around the same time, which would overwhelm the health care system.

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. Anywhere from 50% to 90% of the population would have to have antibodies to COVID-19 in order for herd immunity to kick in.

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. But the ruling was later removed because studies didn't show that the drugs worked against COVID-19 or that its benefits outweigh the risks.

Immunity: Your body's ability to resist or fight against an infection.

Immunocompromised: Someone who has an immune system that can't resist or fight off infections as in most people.

Incubation period: It refers to time it takes for someone with an infection to start showing symptoms. For COVID-19, symptoms appear 2–14 days after infection.

Infusion: A procedure that puts a medicine, blood, or fluid directly into your veins through an IV or catheter over a period of time.

N95 respirator: Unlike a surgical or cloth mask, N95 respirators 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.

Outbreak: A sudden increase of a specific illness in a small area.

Pandemic: When a new disease or illness spreads to many countries around the world.

PCR test: Stands for polymerase chain reaction test. 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.

Person under investigation (PUI): When a health provider suspects a person has the coronavirus. But no test has confirmed the infection.

PPE: It stands for personal protective equipment. This includes masks, face shields, gloves, gowns and other coverings that healthcare workers use to prevent the spread of infection to themselves and other patients.

Presumptive positive case: When a person tests positive for the coronavirus, but the CDC hasn't confirmed the case.

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

Remdesivir: An antiviral drug made to treat Ebola (but never approved for that purpose), Remdesivir is the first treatment to be granted full approval by the FDA to treat COVID-19.

SARS: The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is officially called SARS-CoV-2, which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

Screening: It includes asking a series of basic questions about your health condition and recent history. Screening may also include other common healthcare procedures, like taking your temperature.

Self-isolation: Also called self-quarantine. Separating yourself when you're sick from healthy individuals to prevent further spread.

Social distancing: Also called physical distancing. It means maintaining space between yourself and other people to control the spread of particular communicable illness or disease.

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**.

Symptomatic: When a person shows signs or symptoms of illness. For COVID-19, that includes cough, fever or shortness of breath.

Trial: Short for **clinical trial**, this is when researchers study a medical test or treatment in a set group of people to make sure it's safe and effective before giving it to the public.

Vaccine: A kind of medicine or medication that prevents disease by

training your body's immune system to fight a germ that it's never come into contact with before.

Variant: It means a change or alteration in the existing one. In the case of the coronavirus, a variant is a mutation in which the original virus has taken on new characteristics.

Ventilator: A machine that supplies oxygen to a patient with severe lung issues. A ventilator machine requires a specialist or respiratory therapist. It is more invasive than an oxygen mask. Many hospitals don't have a supply of ventilators big enough for the COVID-19 outbreak.

Viral load: Also called viral dose, viral load refers to the amount of virus you are exposed to. Someone who is exposed to a relatively small amount of the coronavirus might not develop any symptoms, while someone who is exposed to a large amount is more apt to get severe symptoms.

Viral shedding: The release of virus from an infected person into the environment, where it can infect others. In the case of COVID-19, most viral shedding occurs through the respiratory tract (often via a cough or **sneeze**), but the virus may also be shed through the gastrointestinal tract and show up in the stool.

Virus: A tiny infectious organism made up of genetic material (DNA or RNA) wrapped in a protein coat. Viruses can't multiply on their own; they reproduce by invading living cells and taking control of them.