**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**What is COVID-19?** COVID-19 is the disease caused by a new coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. WHO first learned of this new virus on 31 December 2019, following a report of a cluster of cases of ‘viral pneumonia’ in Wuhan, People’s Republic of China.

*Source: World Health Organization (WHO) - Q&A on Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)*

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**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) pandemic: [https://www.who.int/covid-19](https://www.who.int/covid-19)
    - The WHO Director-General determines that COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) - Statement on the fifteenth meeting of the IHR (2005) Emergency Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic (5 May 2023): [http://tinyurl.com/2j5x6wv](http://tinyurl.com/2j5x6wv)
- Origins of the SARS-CoV-2 virus: https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus/origins-of-the-virus
- COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination explained (WHO Collaborating Centre for Vaccine Safety, Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago): https://www.covid19infovaccines.com/
- COVAX: Working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines: https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax
- WHO compilation of innovative concepts to communicate science during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.who.int/teams/epi-win/scicom-compilation

- WHO Europe - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic: https://www.who.int/europe/emergencies/situations/covid-19
  - Dashboard: COVID-19 situation in the WHO European: https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ead3c6475654481ca51c248d52ab9c61
  - Infographics and videos in over 30 languages: https://who.canto.global/v/coronavirus/folder/PQC9D

- Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response: https://theindependentpanel.org/
  - In May 2021, the Independent Panel presented its findings and recommendations for action to curb the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that any future infectious disease outbreak does not become another catastrophic pandemic: https://theindependentpanel.org/mainreport/

- United Nations
  - From the UN Secretary-General: https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/un-secretary-general
  - 'Verified' initiative: https://www.shareverified.com/
  - #OnlyTogether campaign supports global vaccine equity call: https://shareverified.com/only-together/
  - Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
    - Web portal for the statistical community: https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/
COVID-19 Outbreak and Persons with Disabilities:  

- Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)
    https://dppa.medium.com/covid-19-one-war-that-must-be-fought-df34a180cf51

- Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform:
  - 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**

- High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, 20 September 2023
  - Adopting landmark declaration, General Assembly calls for strengthening high-level international coordination to improve pandemic prevention, preparedness, response (GA/12533, 20 September 2023):  
  - Resolution 78/3: Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response / Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 October 2023:  
    https://undocs.org/A/RES/78/3
  - Joint High-level Thematic Debate convened by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council on Debt Sustainability for a better recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic, 31 May 2022:  

- Informal meeting of the plenary to brief on the findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, 28 July 2021
  - HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Rt Hon. Helen Clark brief Member States at the United Nations General Assembly on pandemic response:  
  - Elevating political leadership for Pandemic Preparedness and Response Meeting with the UN General Assembly - The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response:  

- Informal Meeting on the Political Declaration on Equitable Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, 26 March 2021:  
  https://www.un.org/pга/75/2021/03/24/informal-meeting-on-the-political-declaration-on-equitable-global-access-to-covid-19-vaccines/

  - Webcast:  
    https://bit.ly/3w8Jjcl

- Special Session of the General Assembly in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic, 3-4 December 2020, UN Headquarters, New York:  

  - Summary:  

- Resolution 77/275: Scope, modalities, format and organization of the High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response:  
  https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/275

- Resolution 76/301: High-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response:  
  https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/301

- Resolution 76/257: Elevating pandemic prevention, preparedness and response to the highest level of political leadership:  
  https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/257

- Resolution 76/184: Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic:  
  https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/184

- Resolution 76/175: Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic:  
  https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/175
Resolution 76/174: Implementing the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms through providing a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and ensuring their protection, including in the context of and recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic: https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/174

Resolution 76/133: Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19): https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/133

Resolution 75/313: Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve stable and reliable international transport for sustainable development during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic: https://undocs.org/A/RES/75/313

Resolution 75/157 "Women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)”: https://undocs.org/A/RES/75/157

Resolution 75/156 "Strengthening national and international rapid response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on women and girls”: https://undocs.org/A/RES/75/156

Resolution 75/17 "International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains”: https://undocs.org/A/RES/75/17

Resolution 75/4 “Special session of the General Assembly in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”: https://www.undocs.org/A/RES/75/4


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


Security Council

https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/meetings-2020-vtc

26 February 2021: Maintenance of international peace and security
- Security Council resolution 2565 (2021) [on international cooperation to facilitate equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines in conflict areas]: https://undocs.org/S/RES/2565(2021)

17 February 2021: Maintenance of international peace and security: Follow up on the implementation of resolution 2532 (2020) - Open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity

25 January 2021: Maintenance of international peace and security: Follow up on the implementation of resolution 2532 (2020)

- Concept note: https://undocs.org/S/2020/883
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12 August 2020: Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Pandemics and the challenges of sustaining peace

2 July 2020: Maintenance of international peace and security: Implications of COVID-19
- Concept note: [https://undocs.org/S/2020/571](https://undocs.org/S/2020/571)

1 July 2020: Maintenance of international peace and security

9 April 2020 - Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

**Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

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

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

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

**International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

**International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

**International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic: [http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx)
- Seafarer Crisis Action Team: case studies: [https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/SCAT.aspx](https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/SCAT.aspx)
Frequently asked questions about how COVID-19 is impacting seafarers:
https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/FAQ-on-crew-changes-and-repatriation-of-seafarers.aspx

Testimonies of stranded seafarers:
https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Testimonies-of-stranded-seafarers.aspx

**International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)**
- Responding to Covid-19: https://www.iom.int/covid19
- IOM Releases Guidance for Employers and Businesses on Protection of Migrant Workers During the COVID-19 Crisis (7 April 2020):
- The Rights and Health of Refugees, Migrants and Stateless Must be Protected in COVID-19 Response (31 March 2020):
- COVID-19 Does Not Discriminate; Nor Should Our Response (20 March 2020):

**International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
- Pandemic preparedness: Tech for COVID-19 and future outbreaks:
  https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/backgrounders/Pages/Pandemic-preparedness.aspx
- Unleashing information technology to defeat COVID-19: Initiative builds on current efforts to disseminate health messages through the joint WHO-ITU BeHe@lthy BeMobile initiative (20 April 2020):
- 3 key areas innovative tech is helping during the COVID-19 pandemic (17 April 2020):
- Working from home: Cybersecurity in the time of COVID-19 (9 April 2020):

**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**
- OCHA and COVID-19: https://www.unocha.org/covid19
- ReliefWeb - COVID-19 Global: https://reliefweb.int/topics/covid-19
- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) - COVID-19 Outbreak Readiness and Response:
  https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/covid-19-outbreak-readiness-and-response-
- UN issues $6.7 billion appeal to protect millions of lives and stem the spread of COVID-19 in fragile countries (7 May 2020):

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

**UN WOMEN**
- In Focus: Gender equality matters in COVID-19 response:
• United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
  o COVID-19 Campaign: Take action with us in cities and communities: https://unhabitat.org/covid-19
  o COVID-19 tracker for cities: https://unhabitat.citiiq.com/

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

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

• United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
  o UNCDF Response to COVID-19: https://www.uncdf.org/article/5452/covid-19

• United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
  o COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker: https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/
  o 3 years of COVID, 3 myths to debunk (March 2023): https://www.undp.org/stories/whats-next
  o COVID-19 & Poverty: How the coronavirus is going to affect the fight against poverty: https://feature.undp.org/covid-and-poverty/
  o Coronavirus vs. inequality: How we’ll pay vastly different costs for the COVID-19 pandemic: https://feature.undp.org/coronavirus-vs-inequality/
  o Emerging stronger and better: Twelve months, twelve lessons from the pandemic: https://feature.undp.org/emerging-stronger-and-better/

• United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

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

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

• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  o COVID-19 materials from UNEP: https://www.unep.org/covid-19

• United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
  o COVID-19: https://www.unescap.org/covid19
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- 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)
  - COVID-19 situation: https://reporting.unhcr.org/covid-19

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
  - 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/COVID19_landing_page

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
  - Building a better future: https://www.unido.org/our-focus/building-a-better-future

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
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- 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 Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
  - UNRWA responds to COVID-19: [https://www.unrwa.org/covid_19](https://www.unrwa.org/covid_19)

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

- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

- World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

- Universal Postal Union (UPU)

- World Food Programme (WFP)

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

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

- World Bank
Further Information


- **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)

19 December 2023

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