



## Coronavirus: Distinguishing Fears from Facts

What is COVID-19, the newest strain of coronavirus? These resources explore the realities, responses, and impacts of coronavirus.

### Key Definitions (from the World Health Organization)

- **Coronavirus** – A large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases.
- **COVID-19** – 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.
- **Outbreak** – The occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy.
- **Pandemic** – The worldwide spread of a new disease.

### Medical Information

#### “Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)” from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://bit.ly/3ad0dlR>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides access to facts about the disease, updates, and information for travelers, healthcare professionals, and more.

#### “Q&A on Coronaviruses (COVID-19)” from the World Health Organization

<https://bit.ly/2vivwD8>

This site from the World Health Organization provides information about the COVID-19 outbreak, including how the virus spreads and who is at risk for developing severe illness.

### COVID-19 in Perspective

#### “Are You Afraid of the Coronavirus?” from NorthShore University HealthSystem

<https://bit.ly/2PrEx3M>

This podcast from the Skokie-area healthcare provider provides factual information about the disease as well as recommendations for concerned community members.



The CIVIC LAB at Skokie Public Library offers information and thought-provoking activities to support dialogue and engagement on issues that affect our community.



**“C.D.C. Officials Warn of Coronavirus Outbreaks in the U.S.”**  
by Pam Belluck and Noah Weiland for *The New York Times*  
<https://nyti.ms/3cd61Uc>

This comprehensive article investigates the recent CDC warning about potential spread of COVID-19 in the U.S.

**“You’re Likely to Get the Coronavirus: Most cases are not life-threatening, which is also what makes the virus a historic challenge to contain”** by James Hamblin for *The Atlantic*  
<https://bit.ly/2TmaqLY>

This article explores the likelihood of infection and outbreak with COVID-19 in the context of historical epidemics.

**“Coronavirus has Americans Rushing to Buy Face Masks. That Isn’t Necessary.”** by Terry Nguyen for *Vox*  
<https://bit.ly/2VodMRm>

This article explores people’s reactions to fears about coronavirus despite medical information and advice.

## **COVID-19 and Racism**

**“The Coronavirus Exposes the History of Racism and ‘Cleanliness’”** by Nylah Burton for *Vox*  
<https://bit.ly/2HWkENX>

This article explores the current instances of anti-Asian racism in the wake of COVID-19 through the lens of past epidemics and racist responses.

**“Coronavirus, the Outbreak Narrative and How Our Fear Fuels Our Xenophobia and Racism”** by Frank Shyong for the *Los Angeles Times*  
<https://lat.ms/2HYSgL2>

This editorial explores the anti-Asian racialized fears surrounding the coronavirus outbreak.





**“Chinatown Restaurant Crawl Takes Place in Response to Coronavirus Fears” by Patrick Fazio for *NBC 5 Chicago***  
<https://bit.ly/2T1H3j7>

This article covers a recent community initiative to bring customers back to Chicago's Chinatown, which has seen a massive downturn in business due to COVID-19 fears.

**“Chicagoans Come Together To Support Chinatown Businesses Hit Hard By Coronavirus Fears” by Pat Nabong for *Block Club Chicago***  
<https://bit.ly/2T24dWU>

This photo essay captures moments from the Chinatown Crawl on February 24.

### **Further Resources**

**“Must-Know Vocab for COVID-19: From Droplets to Zoonotic” from NPR**  
<https://n.pr/2T0DR7p>

This glossary provides basic definitions of terms used in coverage of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**“Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), February 2020” from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
<https://bit.ly/2PuzUG6>

This site provides information for employers regarding planning for a possible COVID-19 outbreak in the United States.

