

## 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/3ad0dIR

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

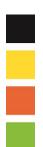
This site from the World Health Organization provides information about the COVID-19 outbreak, including how the virus spreads and who is at risk for developing severe illness.

## **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 lifethreatening, 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/211H3j7

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.

