

Covid-19 Pandemic Jargons: Literature, Media and Social Media Hunt

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Abstract

COVID-19 pandemic has become a chronic, serious challenge for all healthcare professionals at practice, universities and research institutions. Even a common place is peppered with scientific terms related to Covid-19. Also, Covid-19 has created a learning platform for every individual making them theoretically and practically more skilful with respect to numerous Covid related medical, epidemiological and organizational terminologies and abbreviations. Hence this review enlists various Covid-19 related terminologies and abbreviations in alphabetical order through a detailed literature, media and social media search.

Keywords: COVID-19; Coronavirus; SARS-CoV-2; Jargons; Pandemic

Introduction

The term Covid-19 was coined by World Health Organization (WHO). WHO, on 11th February 2020 announced the origination of the new Coronavirus disease from China abbreviated as COVID-19 (CO: corona, VI: virus, D: disease and -19: the year of detection of first case [1]. COVID-19 is a zoonotic infection, transmitted from bats/pangolins to humans. Every health care professionals may encounter suspected or confirmed patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection and they carry the duty to provide care as well as to prevent nosocomial spread of infection [2-5]. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly played a major role for every Dentist at practices, universities and research institutions. Even a common place is peppered with scientific terms related to Covid-19. Also Covid-19 has created a learning platform for all dental professionals making them theoretically and practically more skilful with respect to numerous Covid related medical and organizational terminologies and abbreviations.

Hence this article briefly narrates various Covid-19 related glossary as abbreviations and terminologies, which might be of clinical interest to a budding health care professional. A better knowledge on Covid-19 vocabulary ensures mental preparedness and decrease anxiety.

Methodology

Search strategy: Literature databases were searched namely PubMed (MeSH), Wiley online library, Cochrane Library and Oxford dictionary, including various webpages of International health organizations, media and social media using multiple key words which includes SARS-CoV-2, coronavirus disease 19, COVID-19 abbreviations, Covid-19 terminologies, Corona virus, SOP for HCW, Pandemic, to name a few.

Based on the above literature, media and social media hunt, various Covid-19 related terminologies and abbreviations was enlisted in alphabetical order for easy reference. All online publications in various National and International journals, online publications from media and social media data are included in the review.

Results and Discussion

- Covid-19 related Basic Terminologies
- Covid-19 related Abbreviations and Organizations

Covid-19 related basic terminologies in alphabetical order

- **Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS):** It is an acute life-threatening inflammatory lung injury caused due to in-

creased pulmonary vascular permeability, characterised by stiff lungs and hypoxia and almost always requiring mechanical ventilation support [6].

- **Aerosols:** Defined as solid or liquid particles measuring less than 50 micrometres in diameter. Aerosols stay airborne for a sufficient and get settled on touch surfaces or enter the respiratory tract [7,8].
- **Aerosol Optical depth (AOD):** Measure of extinction of the solar beam by haze and dust. Atmospheric particles like dust, smoke or pollution can absorb or scatter light and can block sunlight [9].
- **Airborne:** Transported or spread through air.
- **Amblygeusia:** Any impairment of the sense of taste. (From Greek amblyos dull + geusis taste + -ia indicating a condition or quality) [10].
- **Antibody tests:** Used to detect antibodies for previous/past infection. Antibodies are proteins that protect us from infections, and are disease specific. This method tests the antibodies for a previously infected COVID-19 individual [11,12].
- **Asymptomatic:** Presenting no symptoms of disease (signs of disease or illness). In an early stage of infection, a person may not develop symptoms ("pre-symptomatic") or may be asymptomatic [13-15].
- **Case fatality rate:** Among the confirmed cases of COVID-19, the number of death refers to the case fatality rate [16].
- **Clinical trial:** A clinical trial is a human experiment or a research framed/designed to answer questions regarding new treatments.
- **Containment zone/area:** A geographical zone with limited permit/access in or out in an effort to contain an outbreak [17].
- **Close contact:** A person at risk of an infectious/contagious illness due of their close proximity or an exposure to a known case [18,19].
- **Confirmed positive case:** That individual tested and is confirmed to have COVID-19 (confirmed from CDC) [18,19].
- **Congregate settings:** Crowded public places and where contact with infected people can happen. This includes places like mall, theatres, and grocery stores [18,19].
- **Contactless:** Without direct contact or touching; for example, contactless door delivery. Touch transmission can be prevented by avoidance of touching the house gate or the apartment door [18,19].
- **Convalescent plasma therapy:** It is a method of neutralising antibodies from the patient's blood who have recovered from the illness. It is used to treat infections [12,20].
- **Communicable:** Similar in meaning as contagious, explained to describe diseases that can be spread or transmitted from one person to another.
- **Community spread:** The spread of an illness within a particular location of a town. During a community spread, the source of contact of the infection is nearly impossible to trace [18,19].
- **Community transmission:** It refers to widespread of disease, when we can no longer detect how someone contracted the disease, nor the source of infection.
- **Contact tracing:** Tracking, tracing or rather identifying and monitoring the people who may have come into contact with an infectious individual.
- **Contagious:** Similar in meaning as communicable, explained to describe illness that can be spread or transmitted from one person to another [12].
- **Co-morbidities:** Systemic conditions which includes diabetes mellitus, hypertension, cancer, obesity, chronic respiratory illness, etc. Multiple co-morbid conditions causes chronic immune suppression and put patients at risk for developing opportunistic infections and hampers clinical outcomes by compromising in quality of life [16].
- **Cordon sanitaire:** A measure preventing anyone from leaving a defined geographic area, such as a community, region, or country infected by a disease to stop the spread of the disease [17].
- **Coronavirus:** A family of viruses that causes respiratory illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some strains of influenza or flu [1,21].
- **Cytokine storm:** Refers to an immune reaction initiated or triggered by the body to fight severe infections. There is enough documentation on Cytokine storm associated with Covid-19, causing hypoxia, insufficient oxygen to the body, multi-organ failure and death. The reason for the mortality is prob-

- ably due to the cytokine storm and not due to the virus [12].
- **Delirium:** An acute, disturbed state of mind characterized by restlessness, illusions, and incoherence caused due to various reasons. Delirium is commonly reported in most of the Covid patients in ICU [10].
 - **Drive through testing:** People remain in their vehicles, and medical staffs with protection come to collect the swab test for testing.
 - **Droplet transmission/spread:** According to CDC, a droplet is a mode of transmission for an infectious/contagious disease that involves larger respiratory droplets traversing to less than 6 feet of distance [19].
 - **Elective procedures:** Non-emergency procedures that are considered non-urgent and non-essential [18].
 - **Epidemic:** A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease within a community or geographic area. An increase, often sudden, in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that population in that area [12].
 - **Epidemic curve:** Refers to a graph/chart depicting the progression of an outbreak in a particular population [21].
 - **Epidemiological Triad:** This theory states that only causative agent cannot develop the disease. There are certain factors like environment, pathogens, genetic structure of host, immunity and health behaviour which are also responsible for development of disease. This model explains that there are three major components or factors which are responsible to cause a disease, which are agent, host and environment.
 - **Epidemiology:** A branch of medicine which deals largely with public health, including the incidence, how diseases happen, distribution or spread in communities of people, analysis and control of diseases. A person who studies epidemiology is called an epidemiologist.
 - **Flattening the curve:** Controlling the rate of new cases of COVID-19 pandemic or spreading the cases over a period of time. The idea of curve flattening is to ensure that the health infrastructure is not overwhelmed by a large number of cases [12,22,23].
 - **Flugge:** Smaller particles in aerosols (droplets and droplet nuclei 0.5 to 10 μm in diameter) are called Flugge, which can enter the lungs and settle at the bronchial passages and pulmonary alveoli. These droplets carry high level of risk infection transmission in the dental office [24-26].
 - **Fogging:** A technique of killing insects involving a fine pesticide spray, directed by a blower [27-29].
 - **Fomite:** An inanimate object that can serve as the vehicle for transmission of an infectious agent (e.g., bedding, towels, or surgical instruments). There is enough evidence that coronavirus spreads via fomites although, this is a less common route of transmission [18,19,27-29].
 - **Forehead thermometer:** A device that measures body temperature through contact with the forehead rather than traditional insertion [1,18,19].
 - **Forward Triage:** It was designed for response to various types of crisis scenarios such as virus epidemics and catastrophes. Forward triage is the process of determining the patients' condition before they arrive in the emergency department. Direct-to-consumer telemedicine can enable patients to connect with their healthcare provider at a distance. This virtual approach provides remote monitoring which can help reduce the risk of clinician's exposure to infections. CDC recommends telephone triaging of all patients seeking dental care [3,30].
 - **Fumigation:** A method of pest control that entirely fills an area with gaseous pesticides or fumigants to suffocate or poison the pests within [18,19,27-29].
 - **Green zone:** Safe zone which will function to provide healthcare consults but restricted to Emergency and Urgent treatment procedures only [18,19].
 - **Happy Hypoxia:** Covid-19 patients experience extremely low, otherwise life-threatening levels of oxygen, known as happy hypoxia due to cytokine storm, but without any signs of difficulty in breathing [31].
 - **Herd immunity:** Also known as community immunity, this is the reduction in risk of infection within a population, due to previous exposure or vaccination [18,19].
 - **Home isolation:** Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have been directed to stay at home until they are recovered.
 - **Hotspot:** A Covid-19 hotspot is an area in a district where six or more people have been tested positive. People would not be allowed to enter or move out/exit from the hotspot [32].
 - **Hydroxychloroquine:** A widely used antimalarial oral drug used to treat malaria, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. It is being repurposed for treatment in COVID-19. Its effectiveness in treating patients with COVID-19 disease is still highly questionable [3].

- **Ice berg concept:** John M Last first implemented the Iceberg concept to describe the pattern of identified and unidentified case of a particular disease in a community. It explains, when an iceberg floats on water, only the tip of ice is visible outside which represents only the diagnosed cases whereas major portion of the iceberg is submerged which denotes the undiagnosed cases with subclinical/pre-symptomatic phase, misdiagnosed cases, mild case and susceptible population (health workers, family members) [3,33-35].
- **Incubation Period:** The time gap between first exposure to the virus and the appearance of symptoms. For COVID-19, symptoms appear 2-14 days after infection [18,19].
- **Index case/patient:** The first documented case of an infectious disease/ in an epidemic. Interchangeable with the term 'patient zero'.
- **Infection Fatality rate:** It is the total number of deaths occurring in all infected people in a particular population.
- **Intensivist:** a physician who specializes in treating patients who are in intensive care or in intensive care units.
- **Immune surveillance:** The process of monitoring the immune system's activities, which may include detection and destruction of foreign substances, cells or tissues.
- **Immunity:** Body's ability to resist or fight off an infection. Our immune system is a network of cells throughout our body that help us avoid getting infected and help us get better when we are infected.
- **Immunocompromised:** Also called immune-compromised or immunodeficient. This describes someone who has an immune system that can't resist or fight off infections as well as most people. This can be caused by several illnesses [36].
- **Isolation:** Separating the affected individual people with an infectious/contagious disease from those who are not sick.
- **Lockdown:** An emergency measure in which people are restricted from certain areas in an attempt to control exposure or transmission of disease. In a lockdown during an epidemic, individuals are encouraged to stay home.
- **National emergency:** A state of emergency declared from the global threat of the pandemic.
- **Negative-pressure rooms:** Rooms specifically designed for infectious patients that contain any circulating air in the room and prevent it from being released into any other part of the hospital [18,19].
- **N95 respirator (face mask):** Personal protective equipment used to protect from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face.
- **Orange Zone:** Relatively safe zone which will function to provide healthcare consults but restricted to Emergency and Urgent treatment procedures only.
- **Outbreak:** A sudden increase of a specific illness/disease in a small area.
- **Pandemic:** A global epidemic or a worldwide spread of an infectious disease that has spread over several countries/continents, usually affecting a large number of people across the globe is termed Pandemic. Until Covid-19, the last pandemic was the H1N1 influenza outbreak in 2009 [1,18,19].
- **Pangolin:** According to the World Wildlife fund (WWF), Pangolins are nocturnal, solitary, mammals. Mostly they are found in Asia, though there are a growing number in Africa, too.
- **Patient zero:** The first person/patient infected with a disease during an epidemic.
- **Person-to-person transmission:** When a virus is spread between humans, including physical contact or coughing and sneezing.
- **Physical barrier:** Refers to glass or plastic windows at reception areas to limit close contact with potentially infectious patients [18,19].
- **Physical distancing:** The practice of maintaining greater space between oneself and others and/or avoiding direct contact with other people [18,19].
- **Positive Rate:** The percentage of people who test positive among all those who are tested. If positivity rate is high, it is possible that only high risk groups are being tested. A low positivity rate can also indicate that not enough testing is being done.
- **PPE:** 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 through physical contact or airborne particles. Notably, N95 respirators are considered ideal for all health care workers who may be exposed to SARS-CoV-2 [1,18,19].
- **Presumptive positive case:** An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 by a local public health lab, but not yet confirmed from the CDC.
- **Pre-symptomatic:** An infected individual who is yet to exhibit symptoms of an illness or disease.
- **PUI:** Person under investigation. Is an individual who is suspected of potentially having COVID-19 without laboratory confirmation.

- **Quarantine:** A method of preventing the spread of disease. Stay-at-home orders are a type of quarantine. Governments order quarantines to keep healthy people from exposure to infected people.
- **Red Zone:** High risk restricted area.
- **Remdesivir:** An investigational antiviral drug that is used intravenously, which inhibits viral replication. It is a promising drug for the treatment of COVID-19 disease and was first tried to treat Ebola [12,17].
- **R0/reproductive rate:** An epidemiologic metric used to describe the contagiousness or transmissibility of infectious agents. It is an estimate of the average number of new cases of a disease at a given point of time. R_0 is the basic reproduction number. This is the number of new infections caused by one infected individual in an entirely susceptible population. It helps to determine whether an epidemic can occur, the rate of growth of the epidemic, the size of the epidemic and the level of effort needed to control the infection. If R_0 is 2, then one individual will infect two others. R_0 estimates for the virus that causes COVID-19 are around 2 to 3, which is slightly higher than that for seasonal influenza ($R_0 \sim 1.2-1.3$), but far lower than more contagious diseases such as measles ($R_0 \sim 12 - 18$) [12,17,31].
- **Respirator:** A device designed to protect individuals from inhaling something hazardous in the air.
- **RT-PCR:** Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction. It is the primary test to detect Covid-19 infection. It is a sensitive test that uses nasopharyngeal swab samples to test for the presence of viral RNA. It has got better sensitivity and specificity rates in current diagnostic tests for Covid.
- **Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI):** A respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus, and spread through respiratory droplets. The symptoms (fever, cough, body ache, difficulty in breathing) are similar to Covid-19. The government is doing surveillance of SARI patients along with patients with Influenza-like Illness (ILI).
- **SARS-CoV-2:** The name of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 disease, fully defined as “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2” causes the disease COVID-19.
- **Screening:** The procedure of verifying various symptoms before testing for the virus, which involves questions about health condition, recent history, screening of other common healthcare procedures, taking temperature, etc.
- **Self-isolation:** Also termed as self-quarantine. Separating the sick from healthy individuals to prevent spreading of infections.
- **Self-quarantine:** The act of isolation/refraining from any contact with other individuals for a period of time—in the case of COVID-19, two weeks—to observe whether any symptoms of the disease will arise after potential exposure.
- **Social distancing:** Also called physical distancing, aimed to slow down the spread of contagious disease, which includes maintaining 6 feet distance, work from home, avoiding group events, closing educational institutions, calling off events, and avoidance of public transportation. Stay-at-home is made mandatory.
- **Spanish flu:** According to CDC, Spanish flu also referred as the 1918 influenza pandemic caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of an avian origin, was the most severe pandemic in the recent history with an estimated 500 million infections and 50 million deaths worldwide.
- **Splatter:** Splash and splatter, a mixture of air, water, and/or solid substances larger than 50 μm in diameter are not invisible to the naked eye and they behave in a ballistic or projectile manner. They are ejected forcibly in an arc along a bullet-like trajectory and they fall off to ground under the influence of gravitational forces [7,8,24-26].
- **Super-spreader:** A highly contagious person who can spread an infectious disease to a large number of uninfected/normal people through a network of contacts.
- **Symptomatic:** When a person elicits signs and symptoms of illness/disease.
- **Tele screening:** Initial screening or initial subject evaluation
- **Tele medicine/health:** Telehealth is the availability of varied health-related services and through electronic information or by using telecommunication strategies/technologies. It has the potential to help mildly ill patients to get a holistic care minimizing their exposure to other acutely ill/infectious patients. After all, the only infection that an individual can contact while using telemedicine is a computer virus.
- **Triage:** To decide the order of treatment of a large number of individuals [3].
- **Transmission:** The process by which a disease spreads is termed as transmission. Transmission of Covid-19 is through

respiratory droplets. This make mask wearing, hand hygiene and physical distancing as the main tools for Covid protection.

- **Vaccine:** A biological preparation of organisms to provide immunity an infectious disease.
- **Ventilator:** An oxygen supplying machine, performing movement of air through the lungs when the individual is having breathing problem/unable to breathe or who is not breathing well. COVID-19 causes severe lower respiratory infection and hypoxia as discussed earlier, hence ventilator is widely used in this pandemic era [19].
- **Viral shedding:** During a host cell infection, the virus in the body replicates and release its progeny. This process of viral emission or expulsion is termed as viral shedding.

Viral shedding refers to the expulsion and release of virus progeny following successful reproduction during a host-cell infection

Zoonotic: The disease originating from animals and infecting humans.

Abbreviation

ABHR: Alcohol Based Hand Rub; ACE2: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme; ACH: Air Changes Per Hour; ADA: The American Dental association; AGP: Aerosol Generating Procedures; AIIRS: Air Borne Infection Isolation Rooms; AOD: Aerosol Optical Depth; ASHRAE: American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers; BAPD: British Association of Private Dentistry; CDC: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; COVID: Coronavirus Disease; CPAP: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure; DCI: The Dental Council of India; DHCP: Dental Health Care Personnel; DUWL: Dental Unit Water Line; EFP: European Federation of Periodontology; EMT: Emergency Medical Team; FFP: Filter Face Piece; HEPA: High Efficiency Particulate Air; HFNC: High Flow Nasal Cannula; ICMR: Indian Council of Medical Research; ICTV: The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses; IDA: The Indian Dental Association; ISHRAE: Indian Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers; MCI: The Medical Council of India; MERS: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome; MOHFW: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; NAAT: Nucleic Acid Amplification Testing; NHI: National Health Institute; NIV: Non Invasive Ventilation; OPIM: Other Potentially Infectious Material; ORF: Open Reading Frame; OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Adminis-

tration; PPMR: Pre Procedural Mouth Rinse; PPE: Personal Protective Equipment; RH: Relative Humidity; rPCR: Reverse Polymerise Chain Reaction; SARS: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome; UVGI: Ultra Violet G Irradiation; UTR: Un-translational Regions; WHCV: Wuhan Human Corona Virus; WHO: The World Health Organisation.

Conclusion

Health care professionals are the first line people involved in holistic care and infection control. Hence, they must be equipped with sufficient knowledge during this pandemic to achieve and ensure safety to public.

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Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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