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## COVID-19 pandemic

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COVID-19 was declared a pandemic on March 11. The announcement was made by the World Health Organization (WHO).

### What is a pandemic?

A pandemic is the “worldwide spread of a new disease,” said the WHO. COVID-19 is a new virus and disease. It spread to many countries around the world at the same time.

After 120,00 cases and 4,300 deaths were reported, the WHO called it a pandemic.



### What does COVID-19 mean?

- CO means corona
- VI means virus
- D means disease
- 19 means 2019

The COVID-19 outbreak first appeared in Wuhan, China in December 2019.

COVID-19 is spread when someone with the virus coughs or sneezes near you. The droplets from sneezing or coughing can enter your body through your eyes, nose or throat. Symptoms include a fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

**Adapted from World Health Organization • Photo: Pixabay/Gerd Altmann**