

## A Disease that Changed the World

COVID-19, a **novel coronavirus** has swept around the world. The **spread** began in December 2019, and by March 2020, the WHO had declared it a **pandemic**. It has disrupted lives and affected economies as countries rushed to isolate sick and those who have come into close contact with them. Some countries went into **lockdown** to slow the spread of COVID-19. People were forced to stay in their homes, work from home if possible, and could go out only to get food and medicine. Before the lockdowns, people panicked and began to **hoard** products such as toilet paper and **hand sanitizer**, fearing supplies would run out.

**Symptoms** of COVID-19 often include cough, fever, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, muscle pain and shortness of breath. Unfortunately, some people can have the virus and show no symptoms, making them dangerous to others. The disease is most likely spread through droplets in the air from infected people. To protect themselves, people should wash their hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. They should avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. They should practice **social distancing** and stay 2 meters away from others. Many people also recommend wearing a **mask** to protect themselves and others.

Countries have rushed to test their citizens. Those who **test positive** are quarantined and their close contacts notified. Such measures seem to be working as the spread appears to be slowing. Unfortunately, scientists still have many questions about the disease and its spread. But they continue to work hard to find a vaccine for it to make the world a little safer.

1. novel coronavirus (n) 新型冠狀病毒  
Schools have decided to postpone classes due to the recent spread of the **novel coronavirus**.
2. spread (n) 蔓延  
Social distancing is a good way to control the **spread** of viruses.
3. pandemic (n) 大流行病  
The spread of the virus to nearly every continent is the reason why experts are calling it a **pandemic**.
4. lockdown (n) 封鎖  
Staying home during the **lockdown** has given me more time to learn how to play the guitar.
5. hoard (v) 囤積  
When too many people started **hoarding** food, it caused a shortage of supplies in stores.
6. hand sanitizer (n) 殺菌洗手液  
Using **hand sanitizer** can kill most of the germs on your hands, and it is a good thing to use if soap and water aren't available.
7. symptom (n) 症狀  
There are many people who already have the virus but do not show any **symptoms**.
8. social distancing (saying) 保持社交距離  
When **social distancing**, just wave hello instead of shaking hands.
9. mask (n) 口罩  
Some people have tried being creative by decorating their medical **masks** with smiles or flowers.
10. test positive (phr) 檢測為陽性  
Mary **tested positive** for the coronavirus and will go to the hospital.