

GLOSSARY

Public Health and Mobility in the COVID-19 context

This document was developed by MHD to provide guidance on health and mobility terminology as used in the COVID-19 context. Sources include IOM, WHO, UNHCR, and the US CDC.

TERMS	DEFINITIONS
Antibody testing	<i>Antibody testing (or serology testing)</i> looks for the presence of antibodies to fight a disease-causing agent (virus, bacteria...), in the blood, likely meaning that that person has been infected, even if the person had minor symptoms or was asymptomatic. It does not confirm whether the infection is still active at the time of testing and does not reveal anything about immunity to the infection.
Case definition (and contact definition)	<i>Case definition</i> is a set of standard criteria for classifying whether a person is suspected, probable or confirmed to have a particular disease, syndrome, or other health condition. <i>Contact definition</i> is the set of standard criteria for determining whether a person is considered to be a contact. <i>Case and contact definitions</i> are based on the available information and are regularly revised as new information emerges. Countries sometimes need to adapt definitions depending on their local epidemiological situation and other factors.
Case management	A series of activities undertaken once a case is suspected, to manage the person affected and prevent further transmission. These activities may include: assessment, testing, diagnosis, health education/risk communication, contact tracing, isolation, care planning, treatment, monitoring, and more.
CEBS, community event-based surveillance	Disease surveillance mechanism that uses health monitors (community health workers and volunteers) from and in each community to alert of a potential “public health event”) that may suggest that a previously agreed upon reportable disease is present and being transmitted in the community in question. This is a type of early warning system. Event-based surveillance is a demonstrated tool that has been employed in previous infectious disease outbreaks including the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa.
CFR, case fatality rate	Proportion of reported cases which are fatal within a specified time. Not to be confused with <i>infection fatality rate</i> , which is the proportion of people infected who have died. In most outbreaks,

	the actual number of infections is unknown and CFR is the indicator most commonly used.
Community transmission	Infections taking place in a given geographic area without a history of travel elsewhere and no known connection to a confirmed case.
Confinement	Confinement in a broad term that means having to stay in one location. It implies an absence of freedom of movement but is not specific to public health. This prevention measure is not to be confused with: <i>Quarantine</i> which applies only to situations where people have been exposed to a health risk; <i>Isolation</i> , which is a public health measure that applies to probable, suspected or confirmed cases; or <i>Detention</i> which is a legal term and implies a punishment component in addition to the deprivation of liberty of movement.
Contact tracing	Process of identifying, assessing, and managing people who have been exposed to a contagious disease to prevent onward transmission. Contact tracing is one of the tools to effectively break chains of transmission and control outbreaks as it allows for the rapid identification of people who become symptomatic. To do this, contact tracers map out thoroughly the places and people that a confirmed case came across, inform them of their potential risk of infection and follow their status for the amount of time recommended for a given disease (14 days for COVID-19).
Coronavirus	A family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases, such as <i>Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)</i> and <i>Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV)</i> . The novel coronavirus recently discovered that causes the disease known as <i>COVID-19</i> has been named <i>SARS-CoV-2</i> .
COVID-19	The name of the disease caused by the virus <i>SARS-CoV-2</i> , a novel (new) coronavirus, and is short for <i>COronaVirus Disease 2019</i> . The name <i>nCoV-2019</i> was initially used until WHO created a new official name in February 2020.
Detention	Refers to a deprivation of liberty in which a person is not permitted to leave/move at will, and is confined in a closed place e.g. prisons, or purpose-built, closed reception or holding centres or facilities. The place of detention may be administered either by public authorities or private contractors; this deprivation of liberty may be authorised by an administrative or judicial procedure, or the person may have been confined with or without lawful authority. Detention is not a public health measure: it is usually or should be linked to legal proceedings and is not to be confused

	<p>with <i>quarantine</i> and <i>Isolation</i>, which are temporary public health measures to prevent the transmission of a disease. It should also not be confused with the broader notion of <i>confinement</i> which doesn't necessarily carry the notion of punishment.</p>
<p>Epicentre (as related to an outbreak)</p>	<p>In an analogy to earthquakes, the <i>epicentre</i> of an outbreak typically refers to the area where the most new cases are found at a given time. As such and as a disease spreads, the <i>epicentre</i> of an outbreak can change over time. Initially, in the COVID-19 <i>epicentre</i> was considered to be Wuhan, in China, then it moved to Western Europe and the USA. Not to be confused with <i>hotspot</i>, which refers to an area experiencing a high number of new cases. There can be many <i>hotspots</i> at one time, but there's only one <i>epicentre</i> at once.</p>
<p>Epidemic</p>	<p>The occurrence in a community or region of cases of an illness, or other health-related events clearly in excess of normal expectancy. The community or region and the period in which the cases occur are specified precisely. The number of cases indicating the presence of an epidemic varies according to the agent, size, and type of population exposed, previous experience or lack of exposure to the disease, and time and place of occurrence.</p>
<p>Flatten the curve</p>	<p>The expression refers to the public health strategy of slowing down the spread of a disease to prevent too rapid a spike that would exceed the capacities of a health care system.</p>
<p>Flow monitoring point</p>	<p>The specific points at which population flow monitoring (FM) is conducted, are referred to as flow monitoring points (FMP). FMPs can be installed at points of entry, traveller checkpoints, point of control and other points identified along a mobility corridor.</p>
<p>HBMM, Health, Border and Mobility Management</p>	<p>Conceptual and operational framework designed to improve prevention, detection and response to the spread of diseases at communities of origin, transit, destination and return (the "mobility continuum") and in places where migrants and mobile populations interact with stationary and local communities. With a focus on border areas, HBMM brings together border management and health security, to support the implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR).</p>
<p>Health screening point</p>	<p>A location where a person on the move/traveller is checked for symptoms of a disease and where other public health activities are carried out (e.g., risk communication, handwashing, contact tracing). These locations, sometimes called <i>points of control (PoCs)</i> though IOM is moving away from this term, are typically</p>

	strategically chosen based on mobility trends, flows and connection to the affected area.
Hotspot	Refers to an area experiencing a high number of new cases. Not to be confused with <i>epicentre</i> which refers to the main <i>hotspot</i> at any given time. There can be many <i>hotspots</i> at one time, but there's only one <i>epicentre</i> at once.
IHR, International Health Regulations	Adopted in 2005, they represent an agreement between 196 countries, including all WHO Member States, to work together for global health security. Through IHR, countries have agreed to build their capacities to detect, assess and report public health events. IHR includes specific measures at points of entry to limit the spread of health risks to neighboring countries, and to prevent unwarranted travel and trade restrictions so that traffic and trade disruption is kept to a minimum.
IPC, infection prevention and control	Types of measures and efforts undertaken to prevent transmission of a disease. Concretely, and in the context of COVID-19, this can include for example: measures to protect health care workers, arrangements/changes made in facilities to limit contact and infection, WASH interventions such as the set-up of handwashing stations, rules created by authorities to enable or enforce physical distancing, and much more. <i>Surveillance, contact tracing, isolation</i> and <i>detection</i> are key components of IPC.
Isolation (as in "medical isolation" or "self isolation")	<i>Isolation</i> is the process of separating people showing symptoms of a contagious disease from people who are not sick, usually for a limited amount of time, to avoid further contamination and community transmission and enable safe treatment. Not to be confused with <i>quarantine</i> : which relates to people who are not showing symptoms but may have been infected are placed in <i>quarantine</i> to await the determined duration in which symptoms can appear (14 days for COVID-19); if <i>quarantined</i> people start showing symptoms during their <i>quarantine</i> , they are placed in <i>isolation</i> .
Laboratory technologist or technician	People who work in medical laboratories and analyse specimens are called laboratory technologists are more senior and may handle more complex tasks. A laboratory technician is an entry-level position.
Mobility corridor	Key route used by travellers, migrants and other mobile populations for various purposes (including but not limited to trade commerce, seeking healthcare, visiting family/friends, etc).

	Can be on land (roads, paths, informal routes) or on water (sea, ocean, lake or river).
Outbreak (as in “disease outbreak”)	A disease outbreak is the occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy. The number of cases varies according to the disease-causing agent, and the size and type of previous and existing exposure to the agent. Disease outbreaks are usually caused by an infection, transmitted through person-to-person contact, animal-to-person contact, or from the environment. Occasionally the cause of an outbreak is unknown, even after thorough investigation.
Pandemic	A <i>pandemic</i> is defined by the WHO as the “worldwide spread of a new disease”. By definition, saying that a <i>pandemic</i> is “global” or “affecting the entire world” can be considered somewhat of a redundancy. The declaration refers to the way and speed of spread of the disease, rather than the severity of the illness it causes. The WHO has not defined a clear-cut set of criteria to determine whether an <i>epidemic</i> is a <i>pandemic</i> or not. <i>COVID-19</i> was declared a pandemic on 11 March 2020.
Physical distancing	A public health recommendation to leave enough physical distance between people in order to reduce the risk of transmission. For <i>COVID-19</i> , WHO recommendations stipulate that 1 metre (3 feet) should be kept between individuals to avoid breathing in droplets of saliva and mucus that may contain the virus. This term is preferred to the term <i>social distancing</i> (initially used) as it clarifies that social interaction with sufficient physical distance or via digital means is safe and encouraged from a mental health perspective.
PHEIC, public health emergency of international concern	WHO defines a public health emergency of international concern as "an extraordinary event" that constitutes a "public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease" and "to potentially require a coordinated international response." Previous emergencies have included Ebola, Zika and H1N1. PHEICs are declared by the <i>IHR</i> Emergency Committee which includes experts from a roster, in all relevant fields and members of WHO Expert Advisory Panels.
PHEOC, public health emergency operations centre	Centralized location gathering experts, analysts, decision-makers and other key responders for the coordination of a health-related emergency response.
PMM, population mobility mapping	Approach which aims to inform public health interventions through the analysis of the dynamics and characteristics of population mobility. It has three stages:

1. *Participatory population mobility mapping exercise, or participatory mapping exercises* (PMEs) which are facilitated group discussions in which key informants share their knowledge of an area of interest, including information related to public health and population mobility.

2. *Site evaluations* which are field visits carried out at the priority sites identified during the PMEs to verify and collect additional information.

3. Population flow monitoring, which are traveller surveys carried out at specific locations based on the results of PMEs, or agreed upon with partners or the authorities, to collect data on mobility flows.

PoC, point of control

A location where a person on the move is checked for symptoms of a disease. These locations, often also called *health screening points* or, in French, *points de contrôle sanitaire*. They are typically strategically chosen based on mobility trends, flows and dynamics. *Points of entry (PoEs)* are often selected as *PoCs* or *health screening points*, but *PoCs* or *health screening points* can also simply be set up along strategic mobility corridors and pathways.

PoE, point of entry

International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) define a *point of entry* as "a passage for international entry or exit of travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels, as well as agencies and areas providing services to them on entry or exit". This typically includes all formal airports, formal/informal water ports (maritime, on rivers or on lakes) and formal/informal land border crossings. Under IHR, State Parties were expected to designate *PoEs* (all airports and ports, as well as some ground crossings) in order to strengthen the public health capacity of these locations and ready them in order to fulfil IHR objectives by 2012.

Port of entry

Terminology used by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for *point of entry*.

PPE, Personal protective equipment

Protective clothing used by health care workers and other frontline workers in an epidemic to prevent further infection. To ensure effectiveness, PPE must be put on, worn and removed following very rigorous protocols and SOPs. Depending on the epidemic, the expression can refer to surgical masks and gloves, helmets, gowns, eye protection equipment, hazmat suits, aprons, boots and more. For COVID-19, WHO's recommendations vary

	based of level of exposure and latest guidance should be checked regularly.
Quarantine	Quarantine is the process of separating and restricting the movement of people who were potentially exposed to a contagious disease usually for a limited amount of time to avoid possible contamination and community transmission. Only if people placed in <i>quarantine</i> start showing symptoms should they be placed in <i>isolation</i> . <i>Quarantine</i> is a public health measure, not to be confused with <i>detention</i> , usually linked with legal proceedings.
RCCE, risk communication and community engagement	Set of community-based preparedness and response activities with the goal of ensuring populations at risk of contracting a disease are well-informed on how avoid infection, prevent further transmission and seek care.
RDT, rapid diagnostic test	A rapid diagnostic test assists in the diagnosis of a disease, quickly (in less than two hours generally) and easily (usable in low-resource settings) by providing evidence of the presence of antibodies or parasites (“antigens”) in blood. RDTs are an alternative to diagnosis based on clinical grounds or microscopy, particularly where good quality microscopy services cannot be readily provided.
SARS-CoV-2	The name of the virus, a new coronavirus discovered in 2019, that causes the disease known as <i>COVID-19</i> .
Serology testing	<i>Serology testing</i> (or <i>antibody testing</i>) looks for the presence of antibodies to fight a disease-causing agent (virus, bacteria...) in the blood, likely meaning that that person has been infected, even if the person had minor symptoms or was asymptomatic. It does not confirm whether the infection is still active at the time of testing and does not confirm immunity to the infection.
Shelter in place	In the context of the COVID-19 epidemic, some Governments have issued “shelter-in-place” orders or recommendations to mean that people should “stay at home”. IOM does not recommend the use of this expression in its products as it is not specific enough nor is it specifically public-health related.
Shielding	<i>Shielding</i> is a public health measure to protect people who are extremely vulnerable to a disease by minimizing all interaction between themselves and others.
Social distancing	Used to mean <i>physical distancing</i> in the COVID-19 outbreak, the term was progressively abandoned. It refers to the public health recommendation to leave enough physical distance between

people to reduce the risk of transmission. For *COVID-19*, WHO recommendations stipulate that 1 metre (3 feet) should be kept between individuals to avoid breathing in droplets of saliva and mucus that may contain the virus. The term *physical distancing* is preferred as it clarifies that social interaction with sufficient physical distance or via digital means is safe and encouraged from a mental health perspective.

Surveillance (as in “disease surveillance”)

Information-based activity involving the collection, analysis and interpretation of data to assess the efficacy of measures taken to prevent the spread of a disease, adjust accordingly and detect new cases.

Triage

The sorting out and classification of patients or casualties to determine priority of need and proper place of treatment. During infectious disease outbreaks, triage is particularly important to separate patients likely to be infected with the pathogen of concern. Triage SOPs have to be developed for each specific context and medical facility.
