

Role of the WHO

Acronyms and abbreviations

ACT- Access to Covid-19 Tools

CDC- Center for Disease Control and Prevention

CEPI- Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

GPMB- Global Preparedness Monitoring Board

H1N1- “Swine flu”

IAEA- International Atomic Energy Agency

IHR- International Health Regulations

LMICs- Low-and Middle-income countries

MERS- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

PHEIC- Public Health Emergency of International Concern

SARS- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

UN- United Nations

WHA- World Health Assembly

WHO- World Health Organization

Glossary

Cordon Sanitaire- is the term for the restriction of movement of people into and out of a certain geographic area or region due to the outbreak of an infectious disease.

COVAX facility- is a global initiative that was organized by the GAVI alliance. The goal of the Facility is to bring together leaders of manufacturing and international governments to develop and share a vaccine for the Covid-19 pandemic.

COVID-19- also known as the Coronavirus or Sars-CoV-2, is an acute respiratory disease that is highly contagious. The virus was first found in the Chinese Hubei Province, with the earliest signs of symptoms found in December 2019.

Ebola- is a highly infectious disease that causes fever, sore throat and muscle pain. Ebola has had several outbreaks across Africa since 1976, with the largest taking place in West Africa from 2013 until 2016.

G-7 Summit- is an annual summit of the “Group of Seven” that consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The summit used to include Russia (G-8) until the Russian annexation of the Crimea in March 2014.

GAVI- also known as The Vaccine Alliance, is an intergovernmental global health partnership that brings together governments, the WHO and World Bank, and private corporations to help develop and distribute vaccines for highly infectious diseases.

H1N1- is the strain of Influenza A virus that is highly contagious and deadly. The H1N1 strain is responsible for the outbreak of the Spanish flu (1918-1920) and the swine flue pandemic (2009).

Intergovernmental Organization- are entities that are created via treaty that look to extend relations between nations that have a common interest in a certain area. Intergovernmental organizations include The United Nations, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, Arab League, and Commonwealth of Independent States.

Maria van Kerkhove- is the head of the emerging diseases unit at the WHO. She is the lead epidemiologist for the WHO with regards to the Covid-19 outbreak and pandemic.

MERS- the Middle East respiratory syndrome, also known as the camel flu, is a highly infectious respiratory infection and virus similar to other coronaviruses (covid-19, SARS) and features many of the same symptoms. MERS is primarily found in Saudi Arabia but has spread throughout the Middle East and had an outbreak in South Korea in 2015.

Pandemic- is a term used to describe epidemics of infectious diseases that has spread to a global scale. Pandemics that have occurred throughout human history include the Bubonic Plague (1346-1353), Spanish Flu (1918-1920), HIV/AIDS (1981-present) and Covid-19 (ongoing).

SARS- is an infectious disease and the first identified strain of the coronavirus. SARS had its first major outbreak in 2003, primarily in China.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus- is the 8th and current Director-General of the World Health Organization and as served the position since 2017. Before his role with the WHO, Tedros was the Ethiopian Minister of Health (2005-2012) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (2012-2016).