

Assembly Plan

This assembly will cover:

- Feedback from previous topic
- Recent headlines
- Thought of the Week: *What do you mean?*
- What's going on?
- What could happen next?
- When will this be over?
- Call to Action
- Introduce the VoteTopic

Please Note:

While we are attempting to keep our content as up to date as possible, the situation is changing rapidly. We recommend checking the [World Health Organisation website](#) for detailed updates.

Videos:

- 1) [Social distancing](#) (Slide 11)





VOTESFORSCHOOLS

Secondary Assembly



Be informed.



Be curious.



Be heard.

Feedback: “Does the modern world make it harder for diseases to spread?”

“Now even when a virus like this is happening, we can use the internet so there is less physical contact.”

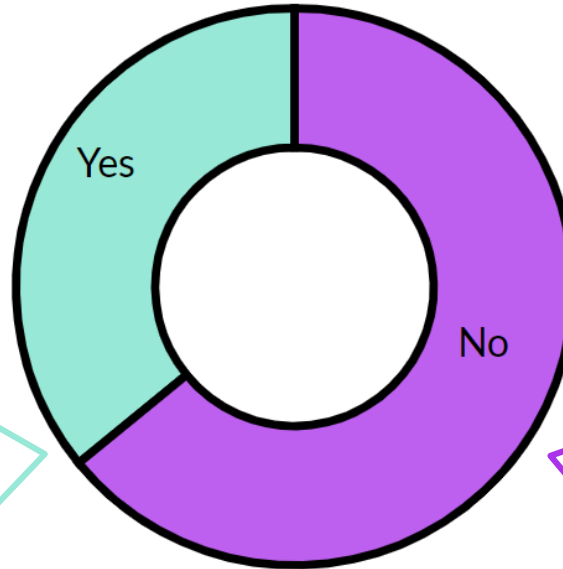
Bohunt Wokingham

“Yes because instead of people travelling and getting the disease, people can text to each other and tell each other what is happening there.”

St Wilfrid's Church of England Academy

“I think that the modern world does make it easier for diseases to spread as there are lots of modes of transport, holidays and LOTS of public gatherings. On the other hand, it doesn't because we have developed and have now got lots of medicines and the NHS and other things like that.”

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls



“Now there are trains, planes, and lots of public transport with lots of people who could have an illness that could be contagious.”

Summerhill School

“We have a larger population than ever before, & overcrowding and tight conditions makes it very easy for disease to spread.”

Uckfield Community Technical College

Have a look at the next slide to see a comment from the **PHG Foundation!**

Feedback: “Does the modern world make it harder for diseases to spread?”



phgfoundation
making science work for health



“Overall, the modern world makes it easier, not harder, for diseases to spread, mostly because of increases in global transport and travel and population sizes. However, science can help us to mitigate the risks of disease spread – identifying new disease risks early and understanding their likely spread and impact, to design the best control measures, from hygiene advice through to special tests and vaccines. Of course, stronger health systems in some countries can also offer treatment for people who do catch diseases to help them get better – but it is important that every country plays a part in **detecting and controlling diseases.**”

Dr Philippa Brice, External Affairs Director, PHG Foundation, Cambridge

Define: Mitigate¹

To make something less harmful, unpleasant, or bad (such as the spread of a disease).

Stop & think:

Do Dr Brice's comments link to any of the reasons you voted yes or no?



Be informed!



Here's what's been in the news this week...

Wales wants to ban single-use plastic



Single-use plastics like straws, cups and cotton buds are set to be **banned or limited in Wales in 2021.**

World's smallest dinosaur

Scientists have discovered what they say is the **smallest known dinosaur** – it's at least **99 million years old** and was found in **Myanmar!**



WANTED

UNKNOWN COW



A cow has been on the loose in Florida since January, after jumping a fence. Apparently it's very fast and particularly difficult to catch!



After a week of quarantine, emissions are lower and **dolphins have been spotted in the canals in Venice!**



Why did the cow cross the road?

Wildlife in Venice!

Are communities strengthened in a crisis?





closures

COVID-19

symptoms

Thought of the
Week:
**What do you
mean?**



self-isolate

at-risk

quarantine

immune system

vaccine

pandemic

social distancing



Why are we talking about this?



With the Government announcing that they will now be broadcasting more **Coronavirus news every day**, you might be wondering **what some of these words or phrases mean...**

closures symptoms **immune system** **at risk**

quarantine **self-isolation** **COVID-19**

vaccination **social distancing** **pandemic**

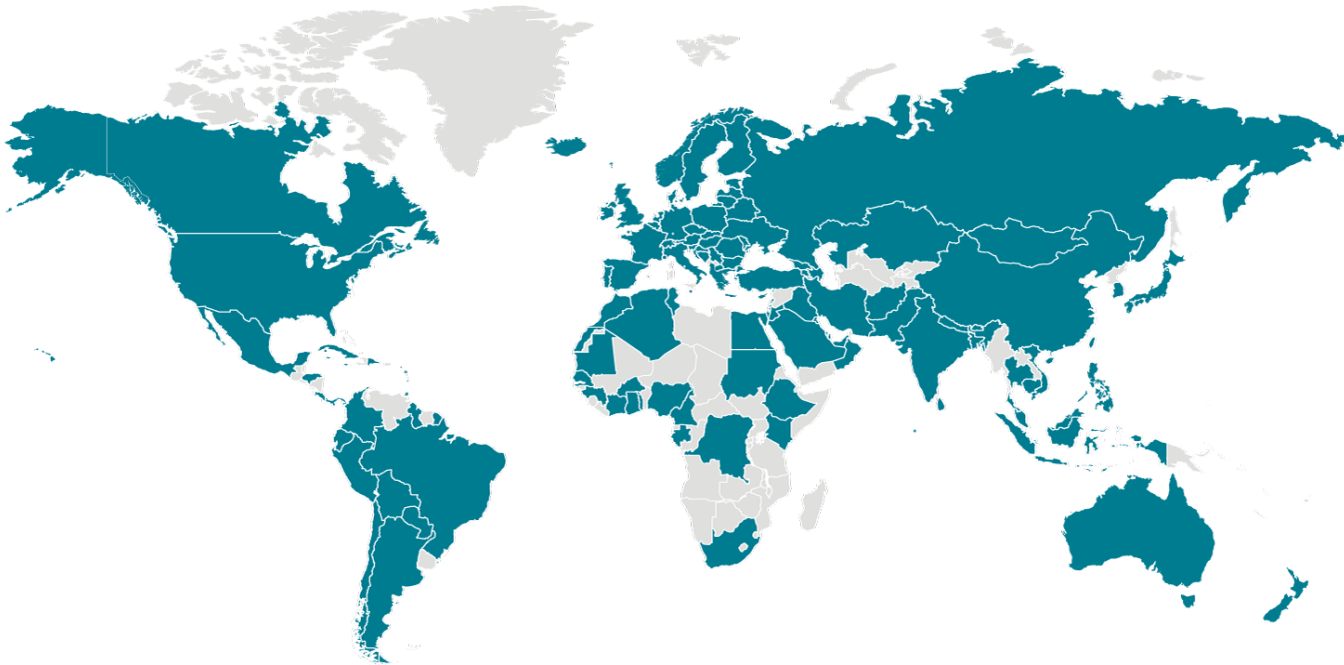
This assembly will **help you to understand** these phrases. Each time they are used they will appear in **purple**.



What's going on?



In November 2019, **a new strain of Coronavirus** was discovered in humans. Scientists called it **COVID-19**, but most people know it as “the Coronavirus”.



On 12th March, the **World Health Organisation** labelled the Coronavirus outbreak a **pandemic**.

This means that the disease is **affecting people all over the world**.



What's going on?



At the moment, the **news about the Coronavirus is changing** every day.

There have been **closures of schools across the world**, and some students are being asked to learn at home instead to **stop the virus spreading**.



Many other places have also closed, such as museums, restaurants and businesses. This means lots of **adults are working from home too**.

The Government have **promised to loan money** to businesses so they can **still pay their bills and staff**.



What's going on?



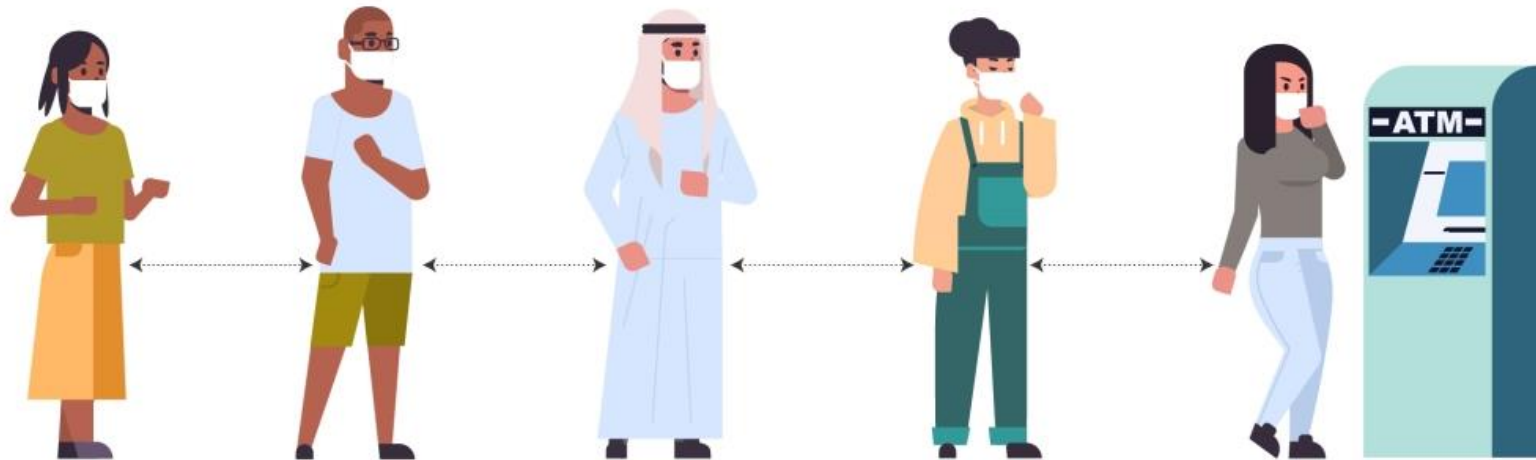
To try and stop the virus from spreading too quickly, **the Government has asked people to practise social distancing.**

COVID-19

Social distancing

0:00-
1:11

Maintain 1.8 metre (6 feet) of distance at all times if in public



Watch the video to find out **what social distancing is, why it is important and how you can do it.**



What's going on?



As well as this, the **Government** has asked everyone who has **symptoms** of the virus **self-isolate** for 14 days.

The **symptoms** to look out for are: **a dry cough, a fever (high temperature) and shortness of breath.**



Self-isolating means you must **stay at home, in a room away from people** for **14 days** to **help stop the virus from spreading**, even if you start to feel better in a shorter time than this.

If you think **you might have the virus**, you should also go to **NHS 111 online** for more information on what to do.



What's going on?



Even people without the virus are being asked to **stay at home** if they are **at-risk** and/or **have low immune systems**.

Your **immune system** fights diseases inside of your body, helping you to recover quickly. However, if you have a certain illness or disease, your immune system **may not work as well** as other people's do.



People **over 60 years old** or who have a **low immune system** are called **at-risk** and are being asked to **self-isolate**, as they are more likely to **become ill with the virus**.

Slowing down the spread of the virus means that **hospitals are less likely to become full up**, and can treat more people over a longer time.



What could happen next?



While **no one** knows **exactly what will happen next**, we can look at how **other countries** have responded to the virus.

Some countries have asked people to **quarantine** themselves to stop the virus spreading. This means **only going out to buy food or medicine during certain times**.



It is impossible to know how long countries will be **quarantined** for, but experts think it will be **until enough people there recover** and there are **more hospital beds to treat new infections**.



When will this be over?



Scientists are not worried about lots of people getting the disease, as **most people recover very quickly**. Instead, they are worried about too many people becoming ill at the same time, **as there will not be enough doctors and nurses if everybody is unwell all at once**.



This means that we might have **to behave differently for a few months** to slow down the virus. However, nobody knows for sure yet!

Scientists are also **working hard to produce a vaccine (a medication to stop infections)**, but this could take up to **a year** to be created.



Make your voice heard!

In your classes, you will be discussing the question:

Communities are working together to share information, research & advice.

Lots of people are arguing over fake news that is spreading, which isn't helping.

Are communities strengthened in a crisis?

Communities are making sure everyone has enough food & supplies.

Many people are acting selfishly, meaning shortages for others.

At the end of the lesson, **vote** to share your **opinion** with the rest of the VotesforSchools community.