

COVID-19 STYLE SHEET

A

Alpha variant, recommended by the WHO for the SARS-CoV-2 variant first isolated in the United Kingdom [for a complete list, see [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/tracking-info/sars-cov-2-variants)]

antiseptics, like hand sanitizer, are used to kill germs on living things. *Disinfectants*, like bleach, are used on inanimate things

B

Beta variant, recommended by the WHO for the SARS-CoV-2 variant first isolated in South Africa [for a complete list, see [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/tracking-info/sars-cov-2-variants)]

C

cases, use “known cases” or “confirmed cases” to emphasize the message of personal responsibility (not just “cases”)

CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CFR, case fatality rate (no. of deaths/no. of confirmed cases)

coronavirus, any of the Coronaviridae family of viruses that are the causative agents of MERS, SARS, and COVID-19

COVID-19, the name of the disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, short for coronavirus disease 2019

E

epidemic, an outbreak of disease in excess of normal expectancy

H

health care (2 words for both AMA and AP style)

I

IFR, infection fatality rate (no. of deaths/no. of infections with SARS-CoV-2)

M

MERS, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

MERS-CoV, the coronavirus that is the causative agent of MERS

P

pandemic, occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population (the WHO declared the global COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on March 11, 2020)

PPE, personal protective equipment



R

R, reproduction number of an infectious disease (the average number of cases who are infected by a single infected individual)

R₀, the reproduction number in a population that has not previously encountered a disease

S

SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome

SARS-CoV, the coronavirus responsible for the SARS outbreak of 2003

SARS-CoV-2, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, the virus responsible for the current pandemic

shelter in place (verb), shelter-in-place (adj)

social distancing

stay at home (verb), stay-at-home (adj)

V

ventilator, Patients are maintained on artificial respiration by means of mechanical ventilators. Avoid the jargon “vent a patient” or “the patient was vented.”

W

WHO, World Health Organization

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