**ACTIVITY: COVID-19 key words and codes**

**Activity idea**

In this activity, students will become familiar with some of the terminology used in the COVID-19 pandemic. They will use and develop their literacy skills within a science context.

By the end of this activity, students should be able to:

* understand key words relating to the COVID-19 pandemic
* identify key personnel that can help during a pandemic
* describe how everyone can help.

# For teachers/parents

[COVID-19](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2900-coronavirus) is a [virus](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/591-viruses) that is causing disease in people across the world.

The world is responding in new ways because this is a new virus. It first infected humans in December 2019.

COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that usually cause diseases in animals. Very occasionally, a change in a coronavirus species means that it can infect humans.

All viruses are tiny – they can only be seen using powerful microscopes. They also can’t do anything until they are inside the cells of a host organism. They can only replicate themselves inside the host cell. This replication creates more viruses, damaging the host cell in the process. The additional viruses invade other cells of the host and can spread to others.

COVID-19 was given its name by the Director-General of the World Health Organization on 11 February 2020. It stands for ‘coronavirus disease 2019’.

The World Health Organization is calling COVID-19 a pandemic.

A pandemic is an extreme form of an epidemic. Whereas an epidemic is a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease affecting lots and lots of people, a pandemic affects more people and covers a larger area.

As the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, lots of specific language is being used. The language may be at a level above what some students can read and comprehend. Consider working through the activities as a family. This also creates an opportunity for adults, caregivers and students to discuss specifics about COVID-19 and the changes it has made to normal routines. The Ministry of Education has advice when [talking to children about COVID-19](https://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/).

## What you need

* Pencil
* Printed copies of the five activities:
* Word mashup
* Ways to protect yourself and others
* What do you know about COVID-19?
* The people who are helping
* Play your part

As an alternative to printing, download the Word document and complete it by inserting arrows, cutting and pasting text so that words match meanings and inserting text boxes to add ideas. Get creative and use different fonts, colours and add clip art to illustrate your thoughts.

## What to do

1. Download and use any of the [five literacy activities](#_heading=h.3znysh7) to introduce students to some of the vocabulary used during the COVID-19 pandemic. The activities are available in Word, so they can be modified to suit student needs and abilities and also in pdf.
2. Complete the activities on paper or on a device.
3. Check the answers below.

**Answers**

## Word mashup

1. C

2. E

3. F

4. B

5. G

6. A

7. D

## Ways to protect yourself and others

1. unwell, germs

2. cough, elbow, spreading

3. hands, soap

4. space, virus

5. self-isolate

## What do you know about COVID-19?

Students will have different knowledge – this can be used to provide discussion points between students or spark conversations about what they are curious or anxious about COVID-19.

## The people who are helping

1. D

2. G

3. C

4. A

5. H

6. F

7. E

8. B

## Play your part

BE RESPONSIBLE

BE KIND

DON’T PANIC

## For students

All [viruses](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/591-viruses) are tiny – they can only be seen using powerful microscopes. They also can’t do anything until they are inside the cells of a host organism. They can only replicate themselves inside the host cell. This replication creates more viruses, damaging the host cell in the process. The additional viruses invade other cells of the host and can spread to others.

[COVID-19](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2900-coronavirus) is a virus that is causing disease in people across the world. It is a type of coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that usually cause diseases in animals. Very occasionally, a change in a coronavirus species means that it can infect humans. The world is responding in new ways because this is a new virus. It first infected humans in December 2019.

COVID-19 was given its name by the Director-General of the World Health Organization on 11 February 2020. It stands for ‘coronavirus disease 2019’. The World Health Organization is calling COVID-19 a pandemic.

A pandemic is an extreme form of an epidemic. Whereas an epidemic is a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease affecting lots and lots of people, a pandemic affects more people and covers a larger area.

As the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, lots of specific language is being used.

## Word mashup

Match these words with their meanings:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. virus | A. A sudden outbreak of a disease that spreads quickly and affects lots of people at the same time. |
| 2. disease | B. A disease that spreads to other people. |
| 3. infect | C. A microscopic microbe that can only replicate (make copies of itself) when inside the cells of another organism. |
| 4. infectious | D. Widespread occurrence of an infectious disease across a whole country, or even large parts of the world. |
| 5. immune response | E. An illness. |
| 6. epidemic  | F. To cause an illness. |
| 7. pandemic | G. The ways in which an organism’s cells respond when something foreign (e.g. a virus) is found in the body. |

##

## Ways to protect yourself and others

People who are infected with COVID-19 generally have a dry cough, a high temperature and may have difficulty breathing. These are called symptoms. You can also have these symptoms if you are sick with other diseases.

To know if a patient has COVID-19, a test must be done. This test checks whether COVID-19 is present in the patient

Use the following words to fill in the gaps:

 space elbow soap spreading unwell

 cough germs hands virus self-isolate

1. Stay at home if you are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This helps to stop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spreading, helping to keep others well.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and sneeze into a tissue or your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – if you are carrying the virus, this will help to reduce the risk of it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Wash your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regularly and thoroughly with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – the soap breaks down the outer shell of the virus and destroys it.
4. Keep a social distance – the most common way that people are infected with COVID-19 is from person to person. By keeping \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between yourself and others, you’re less likely to come into contact with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. People who may have COVID-19 should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This means they need to keep themselves away from other people, and this includes keeping their distance from anyone they live with.

##

## What do you know about COVID-19?

Check your understanding by writing down six different facts you know about COVID-19:

##

## The people who are helping

In any significant event, people work together to help communities respond.

Match the people with the work that they are doing:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Doctors, nurses, and medical care teams | A. Keeping students and teachers safe. |
| 2. Hospital and medical centre managers | B. Responsibly sharing information to keep everyone informed. |
| 3. Government leaders  | C. Putting into place plans that will help protect those who are living in the country. |
| 4. School leaders | D. Caring for those who are sick. |
| 5. Event organisers  | E. Studying COVID-19 and how it works in order to understand how we might control its spread. |
| 6. Epidemiologists | F. Studying how epidemics spread and modelling what could happen. |
| 7. Virologists | G. Planning so that the sick can be cared for. |
| 8. Communicators  | H. Cancelling and postponing events so that people don’t get together in large numbers where the virus could easily be spread to many other people. |

## Play your part

Use the code below to find out what we all need to do:

 Y V I V H K L M H R Y O V

 \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 5 11 9 14 4

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

W 15 M ’ 20 16 Z 14 R 18

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ’\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



Using this code, create some more instructions for others to follow:

Email these to the Science Learning Hub to share with others.