

AN EPIDEMIC & A PANDEMIC



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

The world is battling with the Corona virus (COVID-19) disease. Question is, is this disease an epidemic or a Pandemic?

BASIC DEFINITIONS

AN EPIDEMIC is a disease that affects a large number of people within a community, population, or region.

A PANDEMIC is an epidemic that's spread over multiple countries or continents.

An **epidemic** is often localized to a region, but the number of those infected in that region is significantly higher than normal. For example, when COVID-19 was limited to Wuhan, China, it was an epidemic.

A **pandemic**, on the other hand is an epidemic that travels. For example, when COVID-19 began spreading to other parts of the world, it became a pandemic.

A simple way to know the difference between an **epidemic** and a **pandemic** is to remember the "P" in pandemic, which means a pandemic has a 'passport'.

Other terms related to pandemic and epidemic, and often brings confusion are;

- **Endemic**
- **Outbreak**

Endemics are a constant presence in a specific location. Malaria is endemic to parts of Africa. Ice is endemic to Antarctica. A disease that is **endemic** is found in a certain geographic region or in a specific race of people and more often than not, is restricted to a certain place.

Outbreak is a sudden increase in occurrences of a disease in a particular time and place. It may affect a small and localized group or impact upon thousands of people across an entire continent. An endemic can lead to an outbreak, and an outbreak can happen anywhere.

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Use the Web to fill the table below with three (3) examples of each of the following;

	EPIDEMIC	PANDEMIC	ENDEMIC
1.			
2.			
3.			

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