What is a Pandemic?

It is defined as an epidemic that has spread over multiple countries or continents; it occurs when there is an increase in exposure and transmission of a disease in a community.

An endemic is the baseline level of a disease. This is the normal number of cases in a particular community. Examples include the opioid crisis in southern West Virginia and chicken pox.

An epidemic is a sudden increase in an infectious disease in a community, a population, or a region. Examples include typhoid fever and diphtheria.



An example of a pandemic is the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a problem that has reached a national level. Not only is COVID-19 a localized issue in southern West Virginia, but it is also an issue in different states, countries, and continents.

The epidemic of COVID-19 began in Wuhan China, in late 2019. At this point it was an epidemic. When it began spreading to more countries and eventually across the world, it became a pandemic.

History of Pandemics?

H1N1 (Spanish Flu):

In 1918 the H1N1 flu virus was the cause of the deadliest pandemic of the 20th century. It targeted those younger than 5 years old, 20–40-year-olds, and those older than 65. There were no vaccines or treatments

There were no vaccines or treatments available at the time.

The number of deaths was estimated to be 50 million worldwide.

H2N2 (Asian Flu):

In 1957-1958 a new influenza A (H2N2) emerged in East Asia. The estimated number of deaths were 1.1 million worldwide.

New Novel Influenza A (H1N1) (Swine Flu):

In 2009 a new novel influenza A (H1N1) emerged in the United States and quickly spread across the world.

This virus contained a combination of genes not previously seen in animals or humans.

The CDC estimated that 151,700-575,400 people worldwide died, and globally 80% of those deaths were people younger than 65.



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Covid-19

December 2019: First identified in Wuhan, China

January 2020: First case of COVID-19 in

the US

February 2020: First COVID-19 death in the US

March 11th, 2020: WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic

March 24th: U.S. National Guard activated in all 50 states. U.S. reaches 50,000 coronavirus cases

April 2020: CDC begins testing for coronavirus immunity. U.S. coronavirus death toll passes 50,000

June 2020: Trials for COVID-19 vaccine begin in South Africa. The U.S. acquires over 500,000 doses of Remdesivir from Gilead July 2020: WHO acknowledges evidence suggesting airborne coronavirus transmission. ICUs in hospitals across Florida and Arizona reach full capacity due to COVID-19 cases

August 2020: Moderna and the federal government negotiate a deal to supply the US with 100 million doses of its experimental COVID-19 vaccine. The FDA issues emergency authorization for plasma treatment

September 2020: US passes 7 million COVID-19 cases. Moderna's vaccine shows acceptable safety

November 2020: US becomes the 1st country to reach 10 million cases. Pfizer, and Moderna vaccine results shows more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19

December 2020: U.S. administers its first 1 million Covid-19 vaccines.

March 2021: US passes 500,000 deaths and 29.5 million cases.

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