



#LexiCOVID

Wika ng Pandemya



**WHAT ARE THE WORDS/PHRASES YOU COMMONLY HEAR/SEE/USE
WHICH CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PANDEMIC?**

1. Quarantine (72 responses)

The leading response for this survey question was the word *quarantine*.

In 14th Century Venice, ships suspected of bringing people afflicted with the Black Plague were kept in isolation for 40 days. This policy was known in Italian as *quarantana giorni* 'space of forty days'. It was during the 1670s that this original meaning was extended to "any period of forced isolation" in English.

Translations and alternate spellings of this entry were also found in the data, e.g. *kuwarantina*, *Kuwarantin*. Blends involving this entry were also noted, e.g. *Quaranfling/Kwaranfling*, a period of online dating initiated during the period of lockdowns associated with the pandemic, *quarantunes*, *quarant-eats*, and *Quaranthings*.

Particularly salient in the minds and experiences of many Filipinos is how different *levels* and variations of quarantine were introduced and implemented by the Department of Health and the government's Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for COVID-19.

From *self-quarantine* affecting individual travellers and small groups of returnees from Asian countries already months into their own outbreaks, to *enhanced community quarantine* which was declared by President Duterte on March 16, 2020 affecting the whole of Luzon, to *modified enhanced community quarantine*, to *general enhanced community quarantine*, Filipinos have had to grapple with these taxonomies and classifications affecting their lives in no small way.

Reference:

Harper, D. (2001-2020). *quarantine*. Online Etymology Dictionary.
<https://www.etymonline.com/word/quarantine>.

Department of Health. (2020, April 10). *Paano naapektuhan ang Pilipinas?* OFFICIAL DOH UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019. <https://covid19.healthphilippines.ph/faqs/about-covid-19?topic=paano-naapektuhan-ang-pilipinas&lang=tl>.

2. COVID (50 responses)

Coronavirus refers to a variety of illness-causing viruses which may infect human beings and animals.

The entry *COVID*, a blend of the two words *coronavirus* and *disease*, is the more specific label for the newest of these virus types. It was first discovered in Wuhan, China in December of the year 2019, hence the numeral indicator -19.

Various pronunciations for this blend have been observed: ['kow.vɪd], ['kɔ:.bɪd] typed as <cobid> in our survey, ['ku:.bɪd], and even ['kɑ:.vɪd] as exemplified by some local radio announcers.

Other blends involving *COVID* in the data are: *Covidcation*, *Covidiot*, *COVIDDS*, *covidrupsyun*, *covidligasyun*, and *Covidubidapdap*, blending *COVID* with game show host Willie Revillame's hit novelty song *Beep Beep Beep Ang Sabi ng Jeep*.

Phrases describing *COVID* were also noted such as *COVID-19 ka ghorl?*, *Nakabutbuteng ti covid* (Ilokano), *COVID ka* (concluded rather hastily when someone sneezes at home).

Using the word *COVID* itself with verbal morphology also appeared in the survey results: *Na-covid ka na*, *nagkacovid*.

References:

Camo, L. (2004). *Beep Beep Beep Ang Sabi ng Jeep* [Recorded by Revillame, W.]. On *Pito-Pito* [CD]. Manila: Universal Records.

World Health Organization. (2020, April 17). *Q&A on coronaviruses (COVID-19)*. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>.

3. Ayuda (42 responses)

The third most frequent response tallied for this survey question is *ayuda*, a copied Spanish form which literally means aid or assistance. *Ayuda* has entered the lexicons of many Philippine languages since Spanish contact and colonization, generally preserving the same sense up to the present.

However, upon the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national government's delayed response to it, pressure to come up with solutions to livelihood and jobs grinding to a virtual standstill has largely been shifted to individual agencies, Local Government Units (LGUs), and on-the-ground initiatives.

Ayuda has now taken on the more specialized, narrowed meaning of cash aid or aid in kind such as canned goods, noodles, and rice given by certain government agencies and local government officials to provide the basic needs of millions of Filipinos who have been forced to stay at home.

Reference:

Solá, D. F. (1981). *The Random House Spanish Basic Dictionary*. New York: Ballantine Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

4. Lockdown (30 responses)

The word *lockdown* was first used in 1971 to refer to the confinement of prisoners to their cells for all or most of the day as a temporary security measure. This word also pertains to a temporary condition imposed by governmental authorities (as during the outbreak of an epidemic disease) in which people are required to stay in their homes and to refrain from doing activities involving public contact.

In the Philippines, modifiers, such as *granulized*, *localized* and *total*, are commonly attached to this word to describe the scope and severity of lockdowns that are imposed in several areas.

These days, Filipinos create new words by connecting affixes used in Philippine-type languages to the word *lockdown*. One example is the term *na-lockdown* 'placed under lockdown, affected by a lockdown'.

Reference:

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Lockdown. In [Merriam-Webster.com dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lockdown). Retrieved August 15, 2020, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lockdown>.

5. Social distancing

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing", is the practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance (at least one meter) from other people. During an outbreak of a contagious disease, people are encouraged to practice social distancing in order to reduce the transmission of infection.

The term *social distancing* was first used in 1957 by a sociologist named Karl Mannheim. He used the term *social distancing* to describe how the higher ranks of a society could distinguish themselves from the plebs. It was only in 2003 that the term *social distancing* was used in an epidemiological sense.

In the Philippines, Filipinos are urged to observe social distancing as part of the minimum health standards. These minimum health standards also include wearing of face masks and frequent washing of hands.

References:

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Social distancing. In [Merriam-Webster.com dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/social%20distancing). Retrieved August 15, 2020, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/social%20distancing>

Poole, S. (2020, May 28). 'Social distancing': How a 1950s phrase came to dominate 2020. Retrieved August 16, 2020, from <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/may/28/social-distancing-how-a-1950s-phrase-came-to-dominate-2020>

Social Distancing, quarantine, and isolation. (2020, July 15). Retrieved August 16, 2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>