**Definitions for Infectious Diseases Epidemiology[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Basic Reproduction Number (R0):**The average number of secondary cases produced by a single infected case in an otherwise susceptible population. Pronounced “R naught”.

**Case fatality ratio (CFR):**The proportion of detected cases of a given disease that die as a result of it.

**Cluster:** An aggregation of cases grouped in place and time that are suspected to be greater than the number expected, even though the expected number may not be known.

**Effective Reproduction Number:** The average number of secondary cases arising from an infected case, with a given level of immunity in the population.

**Endemic:**Refers to the constant presence, and/or usual prevalence of an infectious disease in a population within a geographic area. The amount of a particular disease that is usually present in a community is referred to as the baseline or endemic level of the disease.

**Epidemic:**The occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy, usually referring to a larger geographical area than "outbreak".

**Etiology:** The causes or origins of the disease

**Exposed:**A contact between a susceptible and infected person that could potentially lead to infection.

**Fatality Rate of Infections (FRI):** The proportion of overall infections that die as a result of it.

**Incidence:** The number of new infections during a given interval of time (for example, weekly incidence).

**Incubation period:** Period between exposure and onset of clinical symptoms.

**Infectious period:**The length of time for which an infected individual is infectious to others.

**Inoculation:**  inducing a mild case to foster immunity

**Latent period:** Period between exposure and ability to transmit to others.

**Nosology:** Disease classification.

**Outbreak:** The occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy, usually referring to a smaller geographical area than "epidemic".

**Pandemic:** An epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, usually affecting a large number of individuals.

**Pathogen:**A micro-organism which can cause, or causes disease or damage to a host.

**Prevalence:** The number of infected people in a population at a given point in time.

**Vector:** An animal or insect responsible for conveying a disease to human beings.

1. Original document from *Science Matters: Let’s talk About COVID-19,* Imperical College London, Abdul Latif Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics. Augmented with material from Frank M. Snowden, *Epidemics and Society, From the Black Death to the Present*, Yale University Press, 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)