The **COVID-19 pandemic** (popularly known as the coronavirus pandemic) is a pandemic derived from the SARS-CoV-2 virus disease.[7](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-BBC_COVID-192-10)​[8](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-Gorbalenya22-11)​ Its first case was identified in December 2019 in the city of Wuhan,[9](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-The_Lancet,_2020-12)​ the capital of Hubei province in the People's Republic of China, when cases were reported from a group of people sick with an unknown type of pneumonia. Most of the affected individuals were linked to workers at the Huanan Wholesale Seafood Market.[10](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-13) The World Health Organization (WHO) recognised it as a pandemic on 11 March 2020 (when it reported 4291 deaths and 118,000 cases in 114 countries).[11](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-WHOpandemic2-14)​

As of 9 July 2021, more than 186.8 million cases of the disease have been reported in 258 countries and territories worldwide, with 4 035 527 deaths. Moreover, by October 2020, the World Health Organisation estimated that at least 10% of the world's population had already been infected with the disease (approximately 780 million people infected), due to the large under-reporting of cases globally. [12](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-15)​[13](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-16)​

The virus is generally transmitted from person to person via small droplets of saliva, known as Flügge microdroplets, which are emitted when talking, sneezing, coughing or breathing.[14](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-17)​[15](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-WHO2020QA-18)​[16](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-CDCTrans-19) It is primarily spread when people are in close contact, but can also be spread by touching a contaminated surface and then bringing contaminated hands to the face or mucous membranes. Its incubation period is usually five days, but can vary from two to 14 days.[17](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-CDC2020Over222-20)​[18](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-pathogenesis-21)The most common symptoms are fever, dry cough and breathing difficulties.[17](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-CDC2020Over222-20) Complications may include pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome or sepsis.[19](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-22)​[20](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-23)​[21](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-24) As of February 2021, there are several vaccines being used by different countries.[22](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-25)​[23](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-26) At the WTO, a group of 99 developing countries led by India and South Africa and supported by Doctors Without Borders are calling for the temporary suspension of patents on COVID-19 vaccines for the duration of the pandemic. This call is opposed, among other countries, by most members of the European Union, the United States and Brazil.[24](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-27)​[25](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-28)​[26](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-29)​[27](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-30)​[28](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-31)​

Recommended preventive measures include hand washing, covering coughs, physical distancing between people and the use of masks, as well as self-isolation and follow-up for those suspected of being infected.[15](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-WHO2020QA-18) Age is a risk factor (> 65 years) as well as the presence of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory disease, hypertension or immunodeficiency have a much higher risk of contracting the disease and developing serious complications, so home confinement is advised as much as possible.[29](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-32)

It has also been confirmed that other animals - such as dogs, cats, tigers, lions and bats - can contract COVID-19 as well as humans. Whether animals should also take the same distancing measures as humans to prevent the spread of the virus is still under study.[30](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-33)​[31](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-34) To prevent the spread of the virus, governments have imposed travel restrictions, quarantines, confinements, cancellation of events and closure of establishments.

The pandemic has had a disruptive socio-economic effect.[32](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-NYT-20200229-35) Schools and universities have been closed in more than 124 countries, affecting more than 2.2 billion students.[33](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-UNESCO2020-36) One-third of the world's population is confined, with severe restrictions on freedom of movement,[34](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-37) leading to a drastic reduction in economic activity[35](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-38) and a parallel rise in unemployment.[36](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-39) Disinformation and conspiracy theories about the virus have been unleashed,[37](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-40)​[38](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-41) as well as some incidents of xenophobia and racism against Chinese and other East and Southeast Asian nationals.[39](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-NYT_Racism-42) Due to reduced travel and the closure of numerous businesses, there has been a decrease in air pollution.[40](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-43)​[41](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-44)

Some people have downplayed the severity of the pandemic, calling for resistance to health measures adopted by governments and staged street protests claiming that their freedom was affected, while high-income individuals have shunned common health regulations issued to prevent the spread of covid by publicly displaying their wealth.

The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is a serious global crisis that started in the early 2020s, first in China, and then worldwide, mainly caused by the spread of the COVID-19 disease. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused, among other things, a global socio-economic impact. The high viral circulation and rapid spread of the virus, as well as the measures imposed by governments to control the disease in order to avoid a health collapse, have severely affected the economies of countries as well as the lifestyles of their citizens.[555](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-585)​ There has been what is known as "excess mortality" in several countries around the world due to COVID-19.

This crisis, sometimes called the Great Enclosure, the Great Confinement, the Coronacrisis or the Coronavirus economic crisis, is causing the largest global recession in history.[556](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-586)​[557](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-587)​[558](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-588) This crisis has caused the 2020 stock market crash, a sharp rise in unemployment, the collapse of the tourism industry, the collapse of the hotel industry, the collapse of oil prices, the collapse of small businesses, the destabilisation and collapse of the energy industry, the increase in public debt, the increase in economic inequality between rich and poor, a major slowdown in consumer activity, a market liquidity crisis, the mass suspension of cultural, artistic, sporting, religious, political, entertainment and other events; as well as major protests and riots around the world.

During the first few months, when the epidemic was almost exclusively confined to China, there were widespread shortages of pharmaceuticals,[559](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-589) electronics[560](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-590) and other manufactured goods due to the shutdown of numerous factories in China.[561](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-591)​[562](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-592) In certain locations (notably in Italy and Hong Kong)[563](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-593)​[564](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-594) panic buying and consequent shortages of food and other essential supply items were observed.[565](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-595) The fall in demand for raw materials due to the slowdown first in China and then in the rest of the world led to sharp falls in prices, in particular for oil, which hurt producing countries and companies. Investors' fears led them to seek refuge in securities considered safe, in particular the public debt of countries perceived as more solvent. Collectively, the jobs destroyed represent more than a quarter of all jobs in these economies. As firms lose revenue, unemployment rises sharply, transforming a supply shock into an even larger demand shock for the economy.[566](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-596)​[567](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-597)

Global stock markets began to fall sharply on 24 February 2020 due to a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases outside mainland China.[568](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-598)​[569](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-599) By 28 February 2020, stock markets around the world had accumulated the largest one-week declines since the 2008 financial crisis.[570](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-Impacto_socioecon%C3%B3mico_de_la_pandemia_de_COVID-19_CNBC-600)​[571](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-Impacto_socioecon%C3%B3mico_de_la_pandemia_de_COVID-19_cnbc.com-601)​[572](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-Impacto_socioecon%C3%B3mico_de_la_pandemia_de_COVID-19_European_stocks_fall_12%_on_the_wee-602) Some commentators called this fall a "black swan",[573](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-603) although the inventor of the black swan concept disagrees with the label because he considers that a pandemic like COVID-19 was highly likely.[574](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-604) The sharp declines continued in the following weeks, with sharp declines on 9 March and 12 March.

In mid-March, the severity of the crisis forced governments and central banks in many countries to intervene through monetary and fiscal policy to prevent the collapse of the economy.[575](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-605)​[576](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-606) Stock markets rebounded rapidly due to the intervention of the central banks of the major financial powers, which flooded the system with liquidity and sharply reduced interest rates. The US S&P500 index regained its pre-pandemic value in June[577](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-607) and November saw a record monthly rise in the world's major stock markets.[578](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-608)​ In addition to equities, other assets such as gold[579](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-609)​ and cryptocurrencies also rose strongly.[580](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-610) The US and German markets ended the year at record highs, while those of other countries such as the UK and Spain closed 2020 with heavy losses.[581](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-611) The world's top fortunes saw their wealth increase by around 24% over the year.[582](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-612)

As the pandemic spread, global conferences and events in technology, fashion, sports, among others, were cancelled or postponed.[583](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-613) In Spain, the economic sectors most affected by the restrictions are likely to be those in which the majority of workers are women, such as the hotel and catering, tourism and hairdressing sectors. This is in contrast to the situation during the crisis, when the more male-dominated construction sector was the most affected. Therefore, many women who were already suffering from precarious conditions will lose their jobs. In addition, the limitation of public transport has affected women the most, as a large percentage of women use public transport as their only means of transport.[584](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-614)

Several studies have pointed out how the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased gender inequalities, a fact that has affected the role of women in all spheres.[609](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-:2-639)

In the world of work, due to the social stigma that unpaid work should fall on women, women have been forced to combine teleworking with housework and caring for dependents, which has increased the number of working hours in their working day. In addition, many women work in what is known as the black economy and, as a result of the prevention measures, have lost their jobs and are not eligible for state benefits.[609](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-:2-639)

On the other hand, many women and girls who are victims of abuse have had to live with their physical, emotional and sexual aggressors. This is mainly due to the economic dependence and the difficulties in reporting that the new measures of confinement and social isolation have provoked and increased.[609](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-:2-639)​ Studies by the Centre for Research and Gender Studies in Mexico show that gender violence, intimate partner and family violence, increased during the pandemic and the 2020 confinement in Mexico City, according to the figures registered in the Locatel telephone company's database and in relation to calls made to "Línea Mujeres". The second quarter was the most significant in terms of gender-based violence, lower than the family violence that had been registered in the first quarter. However, the total number of calls is higher than in the other three quarters. And although the data improves in the third and fourth quarters, there is still no significant decrease in violence against women. The 911 calls also reflect gender-based violence during the health crisis and reveal that the third quarter was undoubtedly the most significant, although there is a decrease in the fourth quarter.[610](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-640)

In the academic sphere, women have also faced considerable difficulties. According to some articles, the pandemic has widened the already latent gap in society, as teachers' family responsibilities have increased at home. Women teachers are thus being affected more than men because of the gender roles that have historically been imposed on both within the traditional family structure. In a survey, more than 50% of women with family responsibilities responded that they were responsible for teaching their children or helping a dependent family member on their own, while only 8% of men said that this was the case at home. In addition, many women in academia report having worked more hours (at least 50 hours per week, while paid hours are only 35) than they were contracted for and that, despite this increase in hours, their hours available for research have been reduced, even though, in theory, these should be 50%.[611](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-641)​

También favorece que la mayoría de la Industria Digital es dirigida por hombres, al ocupar las mujeres solo un 23%. ​

The rise in internet use has led to an increase in digital violence, and in particular digital gender-based violence. In addition to practices such as "zoombombing", women and girls are constantly subjected to harassment, threats, sexist troll attacks and other kinds of gender-based violence on gaming platforms and chat rooms. Similar acts of violence against boys or men also occur, but the digital divide between men and women (according to several studies, fewer women have access to the internet, and they tend to have poorer technological skills[612](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-642)) means that violence is more likely to be directed against girls.[613](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-643)

It also helps that the majority of the Digital Industry is led by men, with women accounting for only 23%.[614](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-644)​[615](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemia_de_COVID-19#cite_note-645)